

# the **STOIC**

Stowe School 2021/2022

**TATLER**  
2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

## **SCHOOLS' CLIMATE ACTION**

Leading Climate Ambassadors visit Stowe to raise awareness and join our pledge to become Carbon Net Zero

## **Oliver!** A Twist in the Tale

The return of the Stowe Musical!

## **Change 100**



Giving the life-changing opportunity of a Stowe education

*Stowe*





# *the* STOIC

I am delighted that The Stoic has returned after a three-year break. I never imagined that life would be so disrupted when we put the last magazine to bed in 2019, but its return, I hope, is a welcome sign of life returning to something like normal and the global pandemic appearing in the rear-view mirror.

Since the last issue of The Stoic we have welcomed many new members of Staff into the School, as well as two cohorts of new pupils. We have said some goodbyes too. Our 2021 and 2022 Leavers have happily moved on to the next stages of their lives, and we look forward to welcoming them back to Stowe now that they are Old Stoics. We sadly said farewell to our beloved Chaplain, Tim Mullins, who died in the Summer of 2022 after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. Tim was caring, compassionate and so kind, and his ability to find the positives in any situation was incredible. He is missed by the community that he was so much a part of, and we dedicate this issue of The Stoic to him.

It is a testament to the busy place that Stowe is, that this issue of the magazine is packed full of stories from the 2021-2022 academic year. Those regular readers of the magazine will also note that it is a rather bigger issue which I think indicates that three years of restrictions and lockdowns have made the moments we have had here in this special place even more important and meaningful. School life is very much revived, and the enthusiasm for it is renewed.

I hope you enjoy reading The Stoic 2022.



Mrs Tori Roddy  
Group Director of Marketing & Admissions  
Editor, The Stoic

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# Chair of Governors

## Speech Day 2022

**My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and a very warm welcome to Speech Day at Stowe; and I cannot begin to describe how good it feels to be able to say that for the first time for three years.**

Educating your children is a privilege and a partnership - a partnership between the School, the parents and the pupils. Over the last few years, that partnership has faced the extraordinary challenges posed by the pandemic. During that time, the Stoics showed remarkable resilience and diligence, achieving excellent results in their exams and coping magnificently with the disruption to their school lives. My warmest congratulations to them. And I should also like to thank all the parents who played such a full part in this partnership and who continued to support the School. Thank you.

It is times like these that test the mettle of leaders, both their skills and their character. Whilst some leaders chose to party or take a sabbatical, others got on with the task in hand. I hope that you will agree with me that Stowe has not been found wanting. This is the first opportunity that I have had to pay tribute publicly to the way in which the Head and all the Staff, teachers and support Staff, responded to the enforced closures of Stowe - the campus not the School. With little notice, a comprehensive Distance Learning Programme was put in place to enable pupils' education to continue; contact with pupils was maintained, both in the virtual classrooms and through the extensive pastoral support that was provided. A strong wifi connection has now leapt to the top of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs; and I bet that parents never thought they'd hear their children

**“Educating your children is a privilege and a partnership - a partnership between the School, the parents and the pupils.”**

say they wanted a break from looking at screens.

As I said, the campus was closed but the School most definitely was not.

This was a truly remarkable effort by everybody involved and I know from feedback received that parents were truly appreciative of what we did in this and other regards. Anthony - it was a pleasure to work alongside you as we navigated our way through the challenges we faced. My sincere congratulations and huge thanks to all Staff for your commitment and herculean efforts which kept pupils' education and wellbeing to the fore.

But the challenges of the last couple of years have not been allowed to divert us from our longer-term plans.

A key strategic development was the formation of The Stowe Group of Schools which we were delighted to achieve in January 2021 with the simultaneous mergers with Swanbourne House and Winchester House. Our vision was the creation of a strong group of independent schools in this region, with a clear educational pathway from 3-18 for those parents who want that; and with the schools benefiting from shared strategic leadership, teaching and learning ideas and expertise, and with greater resource for Staff development. I am pleased to

be able to report that we are achieving those objectives. The power of proximity should not be underestimated; in a digital world, it's still personal relationships, founded upon a shared ethos and a shared commitment to educating children, that are so important to collaborative working. Without proximity, we wouldn't see Prep School children participating in the production of 'Oliver!' here at Stowe; subject teachers at all three schools collaborating on teaching and learning initiatives; and Stoics developing leadership and presentation skills through talking to Prep School children on, for example, what they can expect when they move to their senior schools, as well as more difficult topics such as toxic masculinity.

Our site partnership with the Stowe House Preservation Trust and the National Trust remains a strategic priority. We have seen the wonderful restoration of the Temple Room, also known as the State Dining Room, work that was done during one of the periods of lockdown, and the restoration of the ceiling in the Dining Room; this Summer will see the start of work on the restoration of the walls and fireplace in the Dining Room. To date, Stowe House Preservation Trust has spent more than £26m on the restoration of the Mansion - none of which has come from School Fees. The National Trust continues with its programme for the restoration of the landscape gardens, with ambitious plans for future projects. We are of course first and foremost a school whose purpose is the education of your children; but one of the things that sets Stowe apart is its setting; and the beauty and splendour that you see around you is only possible through the efforts of our site partnership, which has never been stronger.

Here at Stowe, we continue to progress our plans for the development of facilities, with the expansion of the Day Houses, refurbishment of Boarding Houses, a new Sixth Form Centre and, after a very difficult and protracted planning process, we can now get on with the construction of a modern Design, Technology & Engineering Centre. Donors play a key role in helping us to realise some of these developments and I thank you for your great generosity.

Three years ago, I announced our ambition to raise a game changing £100m for transformative bursaries. I acknowledge that in announcing that campaign, with the nightmares of Covid soon to follow, my timing could have been better; but I am delighted to be able to report that we have already raised £13m in donations and pledges and that there are already ten Stoics attending the School in receipt of these awards, with a further ten to arrive this coming September. We aspire to create even more of these life-changing opportunities during our Centenary year next year. Our Change 100 vision, to make a Stowe education accessible to more children for whom it would otherwise be unthinkable, is one that has resonated widely. This level of support can only be funded by donations and we are immensely grateful to all those - Parents, Old Stoics and other friends of the School - who have so generously supported the campaign so far.

**“I would also like to revisit my thanks to parents. Thank you for the trust and confidence that you have shown in the School by sending your children here.”**

Two final words of thanks. Firstly, to my Governor colleagues. We were delighted to welcome three Governors from each of Swanbourne House and Winchester House to the Stowe Board. We are one Board of Governors for all three schools and our discussions reflect that; a unified, Group approach is key to our decision-making. All Governors give their time and expertise freely and for free; their counsel and support are invaluable to me, the Head and all the other members of the Executive Leadership Team and this is the only time that I can acknowledge that publicly. Thank you.

I would also like to revisit my thanks to parents. Thank you for the trust and confidence that you have shown in the School by sending your children here. We have probably never called upon parental support more in Stowe's 99 year history as a school than over the last couple of years. We have been challenged and your support during this period has been invaluable.

And finally to Stoics whose achievements we celebrate. These are not easy times to be a teenager. In the past, teenage mistakes were not subject to the full glare of the world through social media. People can say or do things when they should have known better, but let's face it, which of us has led fault-free lives? Many of us will have made mistakes which would embarrass us greatly if they became public.

It is the responsibility of the person who got something wrong to apologise and to learn from their mistakes. It is the responsibility of everybody else to respect them for that honesty, to support them as they seek to learn from their mistakes and to forgive, to show some compassion; to let the individual concerned turn a weakness of the past into a strength of the future.

Humans are social creatures, we are built to seek social companionship and understanding; conversely, a lack of social support directly affects our potential for experiencing happiness and fulfilment - and is therefore a significant driver for mental health issues and indeed physical health issues. Anger and loneliness are deeply intertwined. It was a good friend of a Maths Scholar at Stowe who said: "If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may be that they have a small piece of fluff in their ear."

Let me now hand over to the Head to tell you a little bit more about life at Stowe since our last Speech Day.



# The Head

## Speech Day 2022

**It is my pleasure to reflect on what has happened at Stowe since we were so rudely interrupted by a global pandemic. Although this is our first Speech Day for three years, I won't be speaking three times longer than usual. First, on behalf of Stowe's teachers, support Staff and Governors, I would like to thank the parents for the support you have given us in these challenging times.**

Thankfully, Covid-19 has been relegated to the rear-view mirror, for now at least, but it is worth remembering the disruption when we were plunged into the first lockdown in March 2020 which lasted until the beginning of September before schools had to close again five months later in January 2021, finally re-opening in April. Even then a significant number of Stoics were unable to return because of travel restrictions and Covid-19 complications. It's easy to forget what it felt like in those early months of the pandemic - the struggle to stay connected, anxiety fused with a feeling of helplessness, loneliness, boredom and not many parties to look forward to unless you were lucky enough to be working in Number 10. If only we had known and I have a key to the Stowe wine cellar.

Our pandemic commitment was to ensure that no pupil got left behind. As soon as the School was forced to close, we moved all our teaching online and invented the SDLP, Stowe's Distance Learning Programme and not to be confused with the Social Democratic and Labour Party. Thank goodness for Microsoft Teams, Firefly and the heroic ingenuity and adaptability of Stoics and their

**“ We swiftly transitioned from a community based around bricks and mortar (or columns and stucco at Stowe) to a more complex virtual world in which teachers re-envisioned how subjects could be brought to life in a fully digital and remote environment. ”**

teachers. We swiftly transitioned from a community based around bricks and mortar (or columns and stucco at Stowe) to a more complex virtual world in which teachers re-envisioned how subjects could be brought to life in a fully digital and remote environment.

Wrap-around pastoral care and personal development were prioritised by House teams who ensured good mental health by checking the School's pastoral pulse. The Sports Department kept us fit and motivated with exercise videos (including one called 'Head to the Gym' which took me weeks to recover from) and the Strava App checked that I did a bit more than walk from Kinloss to the office; Chapel and Assemblies were delivered from rooftops, temples and even the World War Two air raid shelters behind Walpole.

Without wanting to sound boastful, we just about managed to meet our objective of keeping Stoics in good heart and engaged, academically and personally,



for as long as the pandemic lasted. 43,200 online lessons and tutorials demonstrate that children can learn anywhere in the world as long as they have access to an internet-enabled computer. But the experience reinforced something that we already knew: digital teaching and learning platforms cannot begin to replace the full richness, unpredictability, joy and excitement of face-to-face teaching in a three-dimensional classroom. I want to acknowledge the debt owed to parents who were called upon to support home learning while facing their own challenges of balancing work, home schooling and keeping calm in the face of great uncertainty. I also want to thank the Governors for agreeing to the most generous discount of boarding fees anywhere in the UK. Chairman, I don't think we ever had such a positive response to a letter informing parents about School Fees.

In spite of the challenge of two years of blended classroom teaching and online learning, the 2020 and 2021 GCSE and A Level results were our best ever. TAGs, CAGs and algorithms to calculate grades have now been consigned to the dustbin of history where they belong. But before we leave them, let's congratulate the Leavers of 2020 and 2021 on their achievements. A record 87% of last year's Leavers achieved grades of A\*-B at A Level and 86 pupils achieved a full house of As and A\*s. 56% of GCSE grades were between 7 and 9, the equivalent of As and A\*s. 91% of our Leavers were accepted by their first-choice universities, 5/6 of our medical applicants received offers and all Oxbridge candidates achieved their conditional grades. Imagine what our grades could have been had we gamed the system!

5 January 2021 was an auspicious day for announcements: on the same day that the Prime Minister closed schools for the second time, we announced the formation of The Stowe Group, welcoming Winchester House and Swanbourne House into the Stowe family. This is the most significant single event to happen at Stowe since the creation of the partnership with the National Trust in 1990. There are strong synergies between our three schools: we share a similar ethos, deliver outstanding teaching and learning as confirmed by excellent ISI inspection reports, strongly believe in character education and prize virtues such as determination, teamwork, compassion, courage, gratitude, humility, integrity and respect. The benefits of the merger can be seen in the sharing of educational best practice, giving parents and pupils certainty of educational pathways from 3-18, enhanced professional development opportunities for Staff, joint use of facilities, economies of scale, and collaborative opportunities in sport, drama and music. We welcome Antonia Lee and Jane Thorpe and the three Governors from each of the prep schools who have joined The Stowe Group Governing Body.

Another lockdown project was the restoration of the Temple Room and Dining Room in the Mansion. It's amazing how much gets done in the absence of pupils and Stowe House Preservation Trust has now restored the marble fireplace, including a replica Egyptian

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alabaster relief of a Sacrifice to Bacchus, and the gilt neo-classical ceiling designed by Vincenzo Valdrè, replete with nereids, tazzas and paterae. No speech at Stowe would be complete without mentioning nereids, tazzas and paterae. Sadly, we haven't been able to recover many of the original 52 paintings which hung on the walls, including works by Rembrandt, Rubens and Poussin. We have, however, recreated the orange-damask wall-covering which evokes the colours of the Mediterranean and the Grand Tour. The Dining Room ceiling has been restored to its appearance from 1817 and now everyone can enjoy the beautifully painted ceiling with its remarkable and curious menagerie of animals which would not look out of place in Aesop's Fables.

The last two years have given us a chance to refine, align and articulate our Change Maker vision and strategy which future-proofs Stoics so that they have the personal agency to be agile and ambitious, ready to face the challenges of our unpredictable and rapidly changing world. In the future, the curriculum will cover not only literacy and numeracy, but also core skills such as data and digital literacy, communication skills, physical and mental health, creativity and innovation, and the ability to solve complex social and environmental problems.



Change Makers understand that it is what we are able to do for ourselves which ultimately determines our level of success. Everyone has the potential to excel; intelligence is not fixed, learning is learnable and there are no barriers to participation. Instead of a culture of learned dependency, we encourage pupils to develop teamwork, thought leadership and take advantage of the limitless access to information made possible by advances in digital technology. Tech is neither good nor bad and not even neutral. Instead, technology reflects ourselves, our culture and society in all its complexity and ambiguity. The continued importance of uniquely human cognitive abilities - creativity, empathy, selflessness - means that the future of the workplace is unlikely to be dominated by artificial intelligence or Robots, although Stoics seem to be doing rather well in mastering robotics having qualified for the World Finals in Texas earlier this month. Future-proofed Stoics will need to harness the optimal power of human skills in tandem with artificial intelligence and digital transformations. While the UK may not be able to compete on labour costs or raw materials, we can set the pace in intellectual capital, creativity, entrepreneurial flair and digital humanities.

The Change Maker vision and strategy is at the heart of everything we do: gone is the sage on stage, instead we now have the mentoring guide-by-the-side with

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teachers enabling, engaging, empowering and expecting their pupils to be the best version of themselves. Department silos are breaking down as we explore the interconnectedness of learning across different subjects. Learning logs require pupils to self-reflect and work out what they need to do for themselves by taking responsibility for self-improvement and independent learning. The Stoic Charter is updated each year by the pupils and reflects the pluralism, promise and potential of each member of the School. The document represents their wish to be considered as equal members of an inclusive and diverse community in which their rights are respected and upheld. In return for outstanding teaching and first-class pastoral and coaching support, Stoics pledge to pursue academic excellence, contribute constructively to all aspects of School life, respect the rights of everyone who works for The Stowe Group and abide by the School rules (the final one is still work in progress).

The Stowe Award provides a pathway to embed Change Maker skills into our culture and community: The Award

encourages pupils to gain useful qualifications, skills and experiences while at School and during the holidays. We have always believed that character can be taught, sought and caught: it is the character of our pupils which makes them so uniquely well equipped to thrive in the world beyond Stowe. The Award rewards effort and achievement as well as character virtues such as resilience, resourcefulness, grit and kindness. We want Stoics to be their best, do their best and feel their best by working hard and engaging in citizenship and service as well as sport, art, drama and music. Co-curricular activities such as Service@Stowe, CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, play a vital part in enabling Stoics to find their own success and personal achievement while the Arts help pupils reach a greater understanding of the human experience.

Change Maker achievements include last Summer's unbeaten Cricket season with the 1st XI going on to win the prestigious Silk Cup for the first time. Not to be outperformed, the 1st XV Rugby team beat King's School Wimbledon 36-22 in the memorable Final of the National Plate Competition held at Saracens Rugby Club on 15 March. A few days later our seven-a-side squad was crowned Rosslyn Park Vase Sevens Champions after beating Oakham 33-5 in the Final. Continuing this golden thread of success on the national stage, our unbeaten Polo team won the SUPA National Arena Polo Championships on 6 March after beating Harrow in a tense Final and remain unbeaten this term. The girls' Hockey 1st XI finished Second in their league and the U16 girls' team reached the National Cup Quarter-Finals; after a very successful season, the 1st X Lacrosse team reached the Division 1 in the National Schools' Championships held at Aldershot in March while our U15 Netball squad reached the National Semi-Finals. Stowe's Golf team were runners-up to Wellington in this year's Micklem Cup competition, came Fourth in the World Amateur Independent Schools' Golf Tournament and last week the team beat Harrow in the Regional Final of the HMC Foursomes Championship. On Saturday afternoons more than 500 Stoics represent the School, competing in 12 different sports and 35 teams - it's a magnificent sight. Thank you to the Stoics who have been such fantastic ambassadors for the School and to their coaches for providing their time and expertise. Particular congratulations to Stoics selected to play for their nation: Henry Pollock and Archie McParland represent England U18 Rugby, Will Plessis plays for the Welsh U18 team, Eleanor Simpson is the youngest member of the GB Show-Jumping squad; Savannah King plays Lacrosse for Scotland and Izzy Kaye has joined the England U17 Netball team.

One of the highlights of the year was the first Schools' Climate Change Action Day in October 2021 when we hosted 45 schools and 1,400 pupils from across the UK. We announced our ambition to reduce the School's carbon emissions to net zero by 2040 and pledged to develop a comprehensive Environmental Stewardship Programme. We have already set in motion plans to



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reduce food, energy, water and material waste and recycle 75% of what is thrown away. Sustainability is not a stand-alone strategy, but is embedded in The Stowe Group Master Plan, informing every infrastructure and development project and shaping our partnerships with the National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust. We are custodians of a unique eco-system at Stowe and have a social and environmental responsibility to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

Live performances returned to the Roxburgh Theatre and the Ugland Auditorium. We were the first school in the UK to stage a major theatrical production and the 60-strong cast and crew of *Coram Boy* overcame immense difficulties to deliver a wonderfully evocative and relevant play with music and film to a grateful audience starved of live theatre for eight months. More recently, audiences were in turn thrilled and charmed by the musical 'Oliver!' which was the first production to feature actors from all three schools in The Stowe Group. With the lifting of restrictions, the Music Department has organised nearly 50 concerts and recitals. Among the amazing concerts were a Celebration of Baroque Music, Champagne and Jazz, performances given by recipients of Music Exhibitions and Scholarships, the Winter Concert, a memorable House Singing Competition and the return of professional recitals by leading musicians.

Whole School events included a 10k sponsored walk for Noah Cosby which raised £20,000, an inspiring talk by former child-soldier, Emmanuel Jal, and the return

of Remembrance Day and Christmas Carol Services in Chapel. Many of you will know that our Chaplain, Tim Mullins, has taken the decision to retire due to ill health. We are pilgrims going through this world to our real home and Tim has taught us to how to live our lives in this world, helping us to overcome our weaknesses and prejudices, with a vision of better things to come as we fulfil God's plan. Other leavers include the legendary Mark Wellington, Senior Deputy Head, who has decided to retire after twenty-five years of outstanding service. He was appointed by Jeremy Nichols in 1997 and has spent more than 20 years as a member of the Senior Management Team. Mark has assumed the role of Head of Design Technology at least four times, created the school administration system, Apollo, led us through five full inspections and solved more crimes than inspector Morse. Michael Righton has been with us nearly 20 years having come to us from The Dragon School where he won the Queen's Award for Bravery having rescued a person trapped inside a crane which had collapsed into Eton Rowing Lake. An inspiring Biology teacher, Michael has built up rowing at Stowe to the point where last Summer we were able to celebrate Stowe's first Olympic rower - James Rudkin - who was in the GB boat which won Bronze at the Tokyo Olympics. We also say goodbye to other outstanding teachers who leave with all our



thanks and good wishes: Emilie Danis, Luis Fuentes Olea, Georgina Pearson, Giles Cuddy and Andrea Westmoreland, Prakaash Ramnarain and Zizzy Trelawny-Vernon.

Thank you to everyone who is helping Stowe become a catalyst for change by providing generous Change 100 bursaries. Our aim is to build an endowment of £100m which will promote social mobility by allowing unprecedented access to schools in The Stowe Group, regardless of an individual's financial means or circumstances. 100 talented and deserving children from financially disadvantaged backgrounds will be able to benefit from a Stowe education and fulfil their potential, talent, character and ambition to become Change Makers of the future. Change 100 will provide not only transformational opportunities for children to thrive in our schools, but all of our communities will benefit by prioritising social impact and welcoming different perspectives. Outside the marquee you will see Stowe, the blue Mini Mayfair, first registered in 1986 and which was carefully restored for 2019's memorable re-make of the Italian Job, Stowe-style. It's got a new MOT and astonishingly only has 43,000 miles on the clock. This is your chance to drive away with a piece of Stowe's history. If you are interested in making an offer for this

**“ We are custodians of a unique eco-system at Stowe and have a social and environmental responsibility to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. ”**

unique piece of Stowe history, send me an email over the next 48 hours and it will go to the highest bidder.

Change Makers gives us a strong vision, strategy and narrative which articulates our collective purpose and provides organisational resilience. The Change Maker emblem of the martlet is a fitting heraldic symbol: always on the wing, the martlet is an allegory of our quest for knowledge, learning, adventure and self-improvement. We change ourselves, then change others and together we can change the world.

And now it is my great honour to interview our very special guest of honour: Dylan Hartley...

**Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head**

## DYLAN HARTLEY

Dylan Hartley joined Northampton in 2005 and made 251 appearances for The Saints in 15 seasons. In 2009, Dylan was made Northampton's youngest ever Captain at the age of 23 and led them during their most successful period, including winning the Club's first premiership title. He is England's most capped hooker with 97 England caps and the second most capped England player of all time. In 2016, Dylan was chosen to Captain the England team, leading England to Grand Slam victory for the first time since 2003. England won 85% of their matches with Dylan as Captain and a record run of 18 test victories and two winning Six Nation campaigns. He's reckoned to be one of the best hookers in the history of the game with a 93% accuracy rate in the four-year cycle after the 2015 World Cup.





# Head Girl and Head Boy

## Speech Day 2022

**Jemima:** Five years ago, who would have thought that we would be here, remembering a Global Pandemic, Centre Assessed GCSEs and almost a year of online lessons. And yet we made it. With the help of an amazing team of teachers and Staff without whom none of us would have turned out the way we have.

**Philipp:** Here we are. Some people have already finished their exams, university choices are in and just four weeks from now, we will leave for the Summer holiday one final time. And just like I arrived here in the Third Form, I am going to leave with mixed feelings.

I still remember that day, with a lot of proud parents and worried faces. I, for one, was extremely nervous. The whole journey from Germany I spent wondering what it would be like, if my English was going to be good enough and if this was really what I wanted to do. But all of that went when I first saw myself wearing my brand-new uniform in the small mirror on my cupboard. I suddenly didn't look like an intruder anymore. I looked just like all the other pupils and a feeling of belonging overcame me. And to be honest it is very hard to look bad in a suit, so that was one worry off my chest.

Now that I know I am leaving, I find myself wasting valuable revision time just looking around and trying to soak in this great place I have been lucky enough to call my home. Taking a glance at our year now, from a year best known for our so called "behavioural misconduct", of orange-mango and candyfloss smelling bathrooms



and many not quite voluntary holidays, to a group of fine young adults ready to conquer the world. So, to all of those leaving, we wish you all the best in your futures.

**Jemima:** To those who remain, the future Leavers, I want to ask you to make the best use of this incredible place. I know your bed can be very comfortable but the opportunities in front of you at the moment are second to none and you are unlikely to get them again. Make the most of them. Throw yourself into whatever seems fun. You will make mistakes, a whole lot of them and that is fine. But that is what being a Stoic is truly about. Try everything, find the things you love, get good at them, create change in yourselves and together change the world.



And now before we come to the two names everyone has been waiting for, I would like to end with a couple of gifts to hand out and some thanks to give:

First of all, we want to pass a small token of our gratitude to a man without whom the School would not be able run. Our thanks go to Mr Creedy Smith.

Next, we would like thank Dylan Hartley, our visiting guest of honour, who has had a great impact on sport around the School, but more importantly showed us the importance of mental health behind high performance in any area of life. We are hugely appreciative for everything you have done.

**Philipp:** I also want to thank one of the School's finest, who is leaving together with us this year. He has been an immense support to the two of us and is really the heart of the entire Prefect body. He has been here at the School for 25 years and yet when I spoke to him he said: "The best part of this job is still the conversations with the students." We are hugely thankful to Mr Wellington for all he has done for us through the years.

Staying with the theme, we owe a massive thank you to the entire Prefect body who are the pupils you see on duty every single day without fail. You have been the best we could have possibly asked for.

**Jemima:** Finally, even though he is not here today I would like to say thanks to the true heart of the School. Our very own Reverend Mullins, who unfortunately has been forced to retire due to health reasons. He has had

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a great impact on my time at Stowe and I am sure the same will be true for most of us here today. And even facing such a great deal of illness, wherever he goes he fills the place with joy, and you can't help it but smile along. He will be greatly missed here at Stowe.

**Philipp:** Now, at last the moment you have all been waiting for. We have the honour of presenting to you, next year's Head Boy and Head Girl. Both of which are truly the embodiment of a Stoic and we wish you all the best for the coming year.

Could we please ask next year's Head Boy, Paddy Potts (Lower Sixth, Chandos)

**Jemima:** and next year's Head Girl Emily Sutton, (Lower Sixth, Queen's) to come up to the stage.

**Philipp:** Finally, from Jemima and I, we hope you enjoy the rest of the day, the Half Term break and the rest of your time here at Stowe. And so, it is finally time, to say good-bye.

**Head Girl - Jemima Howden (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)**  
**Head Boy - Philipp Benedic (Upper Sixth, Bruce)**

# Obituary



## Revd Tim Mullins

Tim and Lucy Mullins joined Stowe at the start of September 2017 and immediately became an integral part of the Stowe community. In the short time that he served as Chaplain, Tim made a significant impact, revitalising Chapel, touching and changing many of our lives. He brought with him a wealth of experience gained from his time as Chaplain at Eton and Senior Chaplain at Radley as well as a spell as Associate Vicar at St Michael's, Chester Square in London where he had a particular responsibility for the teaching programme, training lay leaders as well as line managing the Curate, Ministry trainees and youth workers.

The Revd Preb. Charles Marnham, Vicar of St Michael's, accurately described Tim as "humble, prayerful and godly". One of Tim's greatest gifts was his ability to get on with everyone from all walks of life. He had empathy and sympathy, always finding time to help those needing spiritual and pastoral support. Respected and loved by all, Tim was immensely approachable, caring, thoughtful, reflective energetic and committed. He also had a mischievous sense of humour and a rare capacity not to take himself too seriously. Tim was the consummate Chaplain and it was a privilege to work alongside him at Stowe.

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A powerful spiritual presence with a commanding voice and natural authority, Stoics always took notice of what Tim was saying in Chapel - even if they did not always agree with his theology. Tim did not flinch from articulating absolute truths when preaching the Gospel - but his style was gentle and tolerant, preferring anecdotes and wry observations to sermons which threatened hell-fire and brimstone. He encouraged pupils and colleagues to see Chapel as the spiritual and pastoral heart of the School and particularly wanted Stoics to think about their faith and to make it part of their daily lives. Tim's presentation of the Christian faith was open, generous and non-judgemental. He saw his role as sowing the seeds of faith and presenting the Christian message to allow Stoics to make their own informed decisions about faith. To this end, he attracted a wide range of interesting and diverse preachers -

many of them close friends and former colleagues (I was always amazed at the breadth of his network of contacts). When he first came to Stowe, Tim wrote these words to me: "My experience has been that although, given the choice, many pupils would prefer to stay in bed instead of coming to Chapel, a large proportion of them value the time and space to reflect, think and pray. Even those who would claim to have no faith often appreciate a quiet moment in the week, away from the constant noise and demands of the School day." Tim made Chapel interesting, relevant, unmissable and enjoyable. When tragedy struck, Chapel was (and remains) our strength and refuge.

Tim instinctively knew that a Chaplain has to be more than a figurehead and that the role requires full participation in all aspects of School life - teaching, tutoring, coaching games, visiting Boarding Houses, getting to know the Academic and Support Staff, as well as finding out about each and every pupil. In May 2021, Tim wrote these words: "As Chaplain I am conscious that I have a leading role in helping with the spiritual and moral development and welfare of the Stoics, and the best way of achieving this is not so much from the pulpit (important though it is to speak well to the gathered School community), but in the Houses and in the classrooms, in the study bedrooms and on the games pitches. I feel very privileged to have this role and look forward to building on the foundations of the last four years." He was profoundly aware that when the School fully re-opened in September 2021 after the interruptions of the pandemic, half the School had had very little experience of Christian worship at Stowe. Tim was so looking forward to the challenge of rebuilding the spiritual community of the School, getting round all the Houses, forging new links with Winchester House and Swanbourne House, encouraging and supporting the next cohort of confirmation candidates.



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In the classroom, Tim knew how to engage the interest of pupils of all ages. Always well prepared and engaging, he expected high standards of himself and from his pupils. He had a deep and genuine interest in sport and understood how conversations about sport could bring people together in a relaxed and informal way - his great passions were Tennis and Rugby. Tim was so pleased to be able to watch the Stowe 1st XV win the National Schools’ Plate Competition at Saracens in March 2022 and this Summer still managed to give a running commentary on Wimbledon worthy of Dan Maskell. As a coach, he was able to draw on his skill as an excellent sportsman at Durham University where he had been Captain of the Tennis Team and played Rugby, Hockey, Squash, Fives and Cricket in college teams. The spirit of the game and the camaraderie and friendships forged in competitive sport were always more important than the results. Tim hugely enjoyed getting to know pupils outside the confines of the classroom, volunteered for everything, and diligently attended plays and concerts. He had a deep love of music of every genre - not many people know that Tim used to play piano accordion in a folk band!

Tim was aware that school Chaplains need to reach out to the entire school community. Tim and Lucy’s generous hospitality made everyone feel extremely welcome at their home, Spinney Hill, and they were always the life and soul of a party. I have a collection of cards and notes written by Tim after a dinner, concert or sermon - he was proactive and generous in giving thanks and praise. One of Tim’s initiatives was the Gratitude Attitude - encouraging us to express gratitude and appreciation for the many wonderful things that make life worth living. He wanted to protect us from cynicism, entitlement and ennui. During the pandemic, Tim would explore the grounds to film extemporised sermons, reflecting on the beauty of God’s creation, the gardens and the extraordinary architectural gems to be found at Stowe. The very fact of waking up and experiencing each brand new day was a miracle for Tim. The poet William Blake put it like this: A single life is like a universe. To see a World in a Grain of Sand And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand And Eternity in an hour.” Tim had an unerring knack for knowing when people needed encouragement and support and made sure that we all stayed connected during lockdowns - he made countless phone calls, mastered the art of prayer meetings and pastoral chats





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**We must cope with adversity and do our best to live productive lives - just as radiantly as Tim did when his star shone so brightly.**”

on Teams, invited colleagues to go on wellness walks with Digby... he was always there for everyone.

During his long illness, Tim never complained and accepted his fate with dignity and stoicism, constantly apologising for causing all this bother. He had complete certainty that death is not the end and believed that there would be no suffering or pain in the next life. One of Tim's favourite biblical verses comes from John Chapter 3 verse 16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Tim's suffering seems cruel and unfair, but God is not a puppet-master controlling every human action and regulating the natural order of things. We exist in a world where we have free will and have to accept that effects follow causes, however unjust this might seem. We must cope with adversity and do our best to live productive lives - just as radiantly as Tim did when his star shone so brightly.

Some people's lives are driven by ambition for wealth, or celebrity, or power or position. Others have a vocation

to do good, to leave the world in a better state than they found it. The Old Testament prophet Amos was a shepherd turned preacher. He was rebuked by the priest Amaziah for his prophesying and ordered to leave the kingdom of Israel and return to Judah where his style of preaching might be more appreciated. Amos retorted, "I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees; and the Lord took me from following the flock and the Lord said to me: "Go, prophesy to my people of Israel." Tim received the call to be ordained and felt compelled to respond by becoming a priest and found his true vocation as a school Chaplain. He urged us to embrace the wondrous nature of existence while confronting its finite nature. His incredible positivity, generosity of spirit and optimism live on in his congregation and will continue to reverberate in the stones of Chapel. I never heard Tim speak meanly about anyone or say anything unkind - he always saw the best in us all. We feel a profound sense of loss and will miss his warm, calm, reassuring presence in our lives. I particularly miss those uplifting conversations when we set the world to rights on the steps of Chapel after morning services - I always felt better after talking to Tim. The counterpart of suffering and grief is the compassion and love it inspires. When thinking about Tim, we can find consolation in the fact that he lived, that we were lucky enough to know him and that his presence at Stowe can never be taken away.

**Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head**



“The Schools’ Climate Action Day in October saw the whole School engaged in hosting a conference for schools focusing on what we can actually do to help slow, or even reverse, the current dangerous trajectory of climate change...”

# Academic Report

After two years of pandemic-disrupted learning bringing the dubious joys of lessons delivered on TEAMS, CAGS (Centre Assessed Grades) and TAGS (Teacher Assessed Grades), we started the academic year last September not quite sure how the year would pan out, but ready for anything!

Both pupils and Staff have risen to the many challenges of this difficult and uncertain period and the School has become stronger than ever before, with both the 2021 TAGS and the 2022 GCSE and A Level examination results together clearly showing that the School is on an upward trajectory in terms of academic accomplishments.

In the Summer of 2021, 87% of all Teacher Assessed Grades at A Level were at A\*-B, and 56% of the GCSEs awarded were at Grades 7-9. No doubt this very high percentage had much to do with the different nature of the assessment, however these results were no means rigged, as they were based on a transparent system approved in advance by the exam boards and based primarily on performances in a gruelling series of centrally-moderated Summer exams.

Then in a welcome return to normality for both pupils and Staff, 2022 saw the return of external public examinations for the first time since 2019. Of the Stoics taking A Levels, 77% achieved A\*-B at A Level, and 77% of those taking BTECs achieved a Distinction or starred Distinction. In total, 48% of all grades were awarded at A\* or A, with over one hundred A\* grades at A Level. This represents an impressive 10% increase in A\*-B grades at A Level on what was achieved in 2019 and the best performance by this measure in the School’s history, other than in the 2021 TAGs. The 2022 GCSE results were even more impressive: 59% of all grades were achieved at grades 7-9, which is a dramatic 13% leap from the last public exam results in 2019 and higher also than the same measure from the CAGs and TAGs of 2020 and 2021, which were 52% and 56% respectively. Well over a third of all GCSE grades awarded were at grade 8-9 or A\*.

Just before the pandemic, Stowe launched its vision for

creating ‘Change Makers’. One of the silver linings of the Covid crisis for Stoics has been that they have had plenty of practice in developing their Change Maker skills in the six key areas of Active Learning, Communication & Technology, Analytical Thinking, Emotional Intelligence, Leadership & Social Literacy and Creativity & Innovation! Despite the disruption and difficulties of the past two years we have continued to bring in exciting new programmes to help Stoics recognise, value and develop their skills in these areas. There have been some exciting ‘Change Maker Days’, when we take one or more Year Groups out of lessons for an alternative educational programme or event. The Schools’ Climate Change Day in October saw the whole School engaged in hosting a conference for schools focusing on what we can actually do to help slow, or even reverse, the current dangerous trajectory of climate change, and also in the Michaelmas Term the Lower Sixth were taken off morning lessons to take part in a workshop on, ‘How do you have great ideas?’ with Dr Dennis Sherwood, CEO of The Silver Bullet Machine. We have also introduced pupil self-reporting every Half Term on their development of these Change Maker Skills in eight different arenas of their life: Qualification, Academic Engagement, In the Community, The Arts, Sports/Physical Challenge, Citizenship, Thinking Differently and Beyond Term Time. This self-reporting, moderated by teaching Staff, results in the collection of points every term towards The Award, a programme designed to encourage and celebrate pupils’ commitment to challenging themselves in different areas and developing their Change Maker Skills. The highest scorers for the Award are invited to a celebratory dinner where their achievements are recognised.

There were certainly a lot of opportunities for pupils to win points towards The Award in academic arenas in 2021-22. In addition to all of the activities and events run by the academic societies (outlined elsewhere in this publication), pupils in the Lower Sixth and Third Form both had days in the Michaelmas Term devoted to training them in the art of writing a researched essay, with the prizes for the top essays this year won in the Third Form by Flora Peppiatt (Queen’s) for her essay on

**“ At the beginning of every academic year, the Academic Prefects are asked to come up with some strategies to further develop the academic profile and success of the School. ”**

the question, 'In a multi-cultural society, is there enough diversity on TV?'; and the winner in the Lower Sixth was Theo Epes (Chandos), who wrote an extremely mature response to the question, 'Does the retreat from Afghanistan mean the end for liberal interventionism?' There were plenty of opportunities throughout the year for pupils to undertake individual research projects and share their findings with their peers. Around 85 pupils last year completed Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ), 77% of which were awarded A/A\*. Pupils also have undertaken research projects outside School, for example Kimi Chen (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) had an extraordinary year. Not only did she prepare for and complete six A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics (all achieved at A\*), she also set herself the challenge of producing a computer program to simulate and improve upon the encryption technology of the Enigma Machine from World War II, and also wrote a related article based on her research titled, 'How did Polish cryptographers break the Enigma cipher?', which was published in Chalkdust Magazine. She is heading to Cambridge this year to study Pure Mathematics at the age of 16.

At the beginning of every academic year, the Academic Prefects are asked to come up with some strategies to further develop the academic profile and success of the School. The 2021-22 Academic Prefects (Sebastian Calkin, Katie Gibbs, Isobel Omotajo and Finn Tyson) came up with the idea of an Inter-House Chess Tournament, which we ran for the first time in the Lent Term. All Houses were required to put forward teams of three players and all the Houses were drawn into four Pools (with Pool D having a bye). The tournament ran across five weeks, with three weeks of Pool Games leading to the Semi-Final playoffs between the winners

of each pool and then the Grand Final, which this year saw the team from Temple: Will Nottage (Lower Sixth), Maximilian Stevens (Lower Sixth), Andrii Mamakin (Third Form) narrowly defeat Winton's team: Alex Richards, (Third Form), Josha Mital (Upper Sixth) and Mateusz Teclaw (Fourth Form). It was fantastic to see the high level of engagement from all Houses and the intense concentration and skill on display. This competition has helped to grow what is now a very active Chess Society and going forwards we will be offering Chess Scholarships in the Third Form. The Academic Prefects should be proud!

Stoics and Staff have also volunteered their help with another initiative to help develop and celebrate academic ability amongst younger children, some of whom might then apply for Academic Scholarships at Stowe. 2021-22 saw the launch of a new outreach programme titled, 'Bright Young Things', through which highly academically talented pupils in Years 4-6 from our own Prep Schools and also local state primaries are invited to participate in two-hour sessions at Stowe every Saturday morning. Each term there was a project where the children had to learn and apply new skills and information. These project sessions were led and inspired by Stowe Group teachers and pupils. The Science Department did a wonderful job in supporting the Bright Young Things' Michaelmas Term challenge to design the new International Lunar Space Station; the Politics Department and pupils took the lead with the project to design a new political party, give speeches and win support and finally the Summer Term saw the children engaged in small groups creating short films, with assistance from Film Studies teachers and pupils. This programme has been a real success and extremely enjoyable for all those involved.

Overall, it has been an incredibly busy year for academic development at Stowe, with Departments across the board offering inspiring talks from visiting speakers, opportunities for extension and for pupils to present their own work to their peers, trips and competitions. It has been pleasing to see so many Stoics engaged and inspired by their academic work!

**Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head Academic**



# Mathematics

It has been a huge relief to come out of Covid and have a full year of teaching face to face, we have all enjoyed getting back to normal and being able to socialise and interact properly again.

In September, the Department was fortunate to gain four new members of staff along with this year's Harvard Fellow, Smit Chitre; they all settled in quickly and have contributed enormously to the Maths Department.

Rebecca Brown joined us from Glenalmond College; her enthusiasm for teaching and passion for Maths really shines through, she immediately became an integral part of the Department. Her positive and kind nature made her an instant hit with the Stoics in her classes and her Tutor Group in Cheshire.

We were also fortunate to be joined by Andrew Arnold, whose technological expertise and calm presence have contributed hugely to the Department. Rebecca and

Andrew's talents have already been recognised with promotions - they will both be taking up new pastoral responsibilities in September so congratulations to them both!

Leonie Heaven moved down from the North of England with her family and her wealth of teaching experience and subject knowledge has benefited us all this year, she has thrown herself into life at Stowe with impressive energy and enthusiasm.

After a year with us, Victoria Lee-Stevens is moving onto to the Physics Department to teach the subject she holds closest to her heart. We will miss her lively intelligence and hope that she will help foster increased collaboration between the two Departments. Physics are lucky to have her.

## iGCSE Maths Review

It's been a challenging couple of years in so many ways, but the pupils coped amazingly well during lockdown, embracing remote learning and making the best of the situation. The Staff were nothing short of incredible, they worked so hard on creating exciting, engaging online lessons and quickly adapted to new working methods and increased technological demands. Many of them managed this while juggling family life and their own children at the same time.

It's been three years since pupils last sat a full Maths exam, so it has been a little nerve wracking for all concerned but with the progress they have made, we are very optimistic and excited about the upcoming results. Throughout the Summer Term, the Maths Department was full of Fifth Form pupils coming in to attend clinics and get extra support from their teachers. I am proud of how the Staff came together and grateful to them for giving so much of their time to get the pupils as well prepared as possible for the exams. Everyone went above and beyond, and this will hopefully show in the final results.

**“ ...the pupils coped amazingly well during lockdown, embracing remote learning and making the best of the situation. ”**

# A Level Maths Review

Mathematics continues to grow in popularity amongst the Sixth Form pupils at Stowe and we have had a record 68 Lower Sixth pupils studying A Level Maths this academic year. The Upper Sixth have been building towards their first ever set of external examinations and have applied themselves very well showing resilience and determination in spades. We are fortunate to have such enthusiastic learners and Departmental Staff who are so willing and able to go above and beyond in order to support the pupils in our care.

The Further Mathematicians, in particular, continue to engage brilliantly with the wide range of extension opportunities offered in the Department. I would like to express my thanks to Dr Charles Adkins for the huge amount of time and effort he puts in to preparing and delivering these sessions. A Level Maths and Further Maths are highly desirable subjects and the pupils in our care develop mathematical and statistical problem solving, data analysis and interpretation skills, which are considered valuable in a broad range of subject areas.

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”

“ It was an astonishing experience to meet someone who is able to give a meaningful answer to a question like ‘Does the universe have an end?’

”

## CELESTIAL MECHANICS PROJECTS

Benedict Hartigan (Upper Sixth, Grafton) Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham) Oscar Watson (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Kimi Chen (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) completed ambitious projects in the realm of celestial mechanics (i.e. the motion under gravity of free bodies in space such as stars, planets, moons and spacecraft). We were then honoured by a visit from Cambridge Astrophysicist Dr Duffett-Smith who reviewed their work and answered their questions. It was an astonishing experience to meet someone who is able to give a meaningful answer to a question like ‘Does the universe have an end?’ and, as a great compliment to the work of our speakers, he said afterwards that “they were very impressive presentations”.

## COMPETITIONS

In addition to the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Awards below, Alexander Gu entered the Canadian Euclid Competition, competing with 1000s of mathematicians across the world and receiving a Distinction for coming in the top 25%.

### UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge

#### FOURTH FORM

Gold and Best in Year for Gilbert Xu (Chandos), Silver for Calon Heaven (Grenville) and Ryan Zheng (Grenville).

#### LOWER SIXTH

Gold and Best in Year for Yuki Jiang, Silver for Toby Blythe (Grafton), Josha Mital, Vilina Obukhova (West), and Harvey Tian, Bronze for Wanxin Ba (West), Charlie Birch (Grenville), Daniel Boardman (Chatham), Alexander Gu, Kenneth Kim (Chandos), Tham Luanghvisut (Walpole), Willa Percy Queen’s), Isabella Pratap, Emily Sutton Queen’s), Terry Tan and Linda Wang (West).

#### UPPER SIXTH

Gold and Best in School for Gloria Sun (West), Silver for Baz Calkin, Al Deliss (Bruce), Benedict Hartigan, Benjamin Li, Isabel Omotajo (Stanhope), Bronze for Artem Balan (Temple), Susan Deng (Cheshire), Samuel Ellis (Chandos), Olanma Kalu (West), Cecilia Mao (West), Clara Tearle (Queen’s), Oscar Watson (Chandos) and Wednesday Zhu (West).

## JUNIOR ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

At the newly established Junior Mathematics Extension Class, Third, Fourth and Fifth Form pupils conduct investigations into UKMT questions and try their hand at problems set by NRICH. These are open for school pupils to submit solutions to NRICH for publication, so they can develop the skills required not just to solve problems, but also to communicate as mathematicians. Grace Huang (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Sunny He (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Ryan Zheng (Fourth Form, Grenville) submitted solutions to the June problems. We hope that the Cambridge Mathematicians at NRICH will enjoy them as much as we did and select them for publication.

## SENIOR ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

More and more universities are requiring admissions tests for Mathematics and related subjects. Forming a sea of acronyms - STEP, MAT, TMUA, PAT, NGAA, NSAA, CSAA etc - they all require pupils to assimilate and apply new concepts or existing skills to new situations. Lower Sixth Mathematicians spent Wednesday evenings learning these skills by following the STEP Foundation Course from Cambridge, and Friday afternoons testing these skills against the admissions assessments. Resilience in the face of extreme difficulty is a key mathematical skill and so Yuki Jiang and Terry Tan were awarded Commendations for their solutions to particularly challenging problems that took them several attempts, and indeed several days to solve.

## CAMBRIDGE MASTERCLASSES & SUMMER SCHOOLS

In the Lent Term, Corpus Christi College held Masterclasses for Mathematics and Engineering. Yuki Jiang, Terry Tan and Josha Mital joined, learned from Dr Daria Frank about Multiphase flows: from oil spills to disease transmission; and from Dr Qungyuan Zhao about the infectiousness of COVID-19 when it first circulated in Wuhan. Meanwhile, Alex Gu, Natachi Ogbuebile (Lower Sixth, West) and Tina Lazar (Lower Sixth, West) joined sessions on all-purpose adaptable robots from Dr David Hardman, and on urban tunnelling in historic cities from Professor Giulia Viggiani.

And finally, with wonderful news to tie of the school year, Grace Huang (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Darcey Moran (Fourth Form, Cheshire) have both been accepted onto a Mathematics Summer School for Year 10 girls, held annually at Newnham College, Cambridge. We wish them the very best as they embark on this course, and we look forward to hearing all about it next term.

### Kimi Chen Published in Chalkdust Magazine

To quote Kimi Chen, "Chalkdust Magazine are going to publish one of the articles that I sent them." This is an amazing achievement and testament to her perseverance and determination, and we hope that future Stoics will be inspired to write about the subjects that they love and also seek to be published in academic journals and magazines. Chalkdust is a magazine for the mathematically curious and Kimi's article titled 'How Polish cryptographers first broke the unbreakable cipher' can be read at [www.chalkdustmagazine.com](http://www.chalkdustmagazine.com)



## UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS BRIDGING COURSE

I have been partaking in my own Mathematics extension this term as I was invited to write a book with Steven Bishop, Professor of Applied Mathematics at UCL. The book seeks to address 'The Mathematical Problem', whereby first year undergraduates struggle with the transition to university style teaching and learning, and is designed to be an essential companion during that first year. I am very grateful to the Head for granting me several weeks of teaching leave so that I can prioritise writing, to those in the Maths Department who have covered my classes, and to Professor Bishop for the opportunity to work on such an exciting and impactful project.

## Next Year

In his year with us, Smit Chitre has made a huge impression on the Maths Department and will be missed by the Staff and Stoics. He approached every challenge and hope he will keep in touch.

Everyone in the Department will miss Smit Chitre as he returns to the States to continue his journey towards becoming a Doctor, and we wish him all the very best in the future and heartily thank him for all of his efforts this year at Stowe. Matt Thomas will be replacing Smit as the Harvard Fellow for 2022/2023.

With more pupils than ever taking some form of Maths qualification in the Sixth Form next year and the increase of Maths sets in the Lower School, we are all excited to welcome Harry Geyton to our Department, from Shiplake College, and we are so thrilled to be welcoming back Fiona James and Lucy Handley.

**Mikkel Møller**

# English

Literature holds variety in high esteem. For Samuel Johnson, variety is “the great source of pleasure”, for Thomas Carlyle it is “the condition of harmony”, for Benjamin Disraeli “the mother of Enjoyment”, and, perhaps most famously, for William Cowper “the very spice of life”. Like Cleopatra’s “infinite variety” that so dazzles Shakespeare’s Marc Antony, the breadth of the English Language and Literature experience offered at Stowe continues to shimmer forth. Vanburgh life is nothing if not varied.

Every good English student knows that an antithesis can always be found; accordingly, though rather curiously given his renowned polymathy, Leonardo da Vinci tries to persuade us that “the mind that engages in subjects of too great variety becomes confused and weakened”. Fortunately, we can let other Departments worry about him.

## Curriculum

Variety has indeed been the watchword in Third Form English this year. Before GCSE syllabus work started after Christmas, teachers enjoyed the freedom to choose a book for their class to study, with the emphasis on exploring diverse perspectives and cultures. James Peppiatt’s group read Meera Syal’s ‘Anita and Me’, a semi-autobiographical work about a British Punjabi girl growing up in a Midlands village in the 1960s. Owain McNeill’s group studied Malala Yousafzai’s ‘I am Malala’, in which the author details her childhood in Swat Valley, Pakistan, against the backdrop of the rise and fall of the Tehrik-i-Taliban, including the attempt made on her life in response to her activism for female education. My group read Elizabeth Acevedo’s ‘Clap When You Land’, an innovative verse novel in which the narrative is split between half-sisters living in New York and the Dominican Republic respectively, and which deals with themes such as loss, grief, family relationships, poverty, sexuality and identity.

The GCSE course was launched during the Lent Term with Shakespeare’s Macbeth. Stoics enjoyed a performance of the play in the Roxy by Quantum Theatre Company, and as part of their studies undertook an individual project entitled Supernatural Shakespeare, for which they researched the socio-historical contexts of the play. Following the STOWE steps helped them to conduct an effective inquiry:

**Search**  
**Think**  
**Organise**  
**Write**  
**Edit**

**“ Coursework provided the opportunity to explore personal literary interests; a set of engaging and probing essays were submitted to the Board, with teachers unable to find a reason not to award full marks in some cases! ”**

Stoics in the Fourth and Fifth Form continued their GCSE English Language study through the examination of wide-ranging fiction and non-fiction texts, including short stories such as H H Munro’s ‘Shredni Vashtar’ and Bernard Malamud’s ‘The Prison’. For pupils studying GCSE English Literature, texts read included Kazuo Ishiguro’s ‘Never Let Me Go’, Charles Dickens’ ‘Great Expectations’ and J B Priestley’s ‘An Inspector Calls’.

A Level Stoics immersed themselves in the poetry of John Donne, William Shakespeare’s ‘Hamlet’, Toni Morrison’s ‘Beloved’, and much more. Coursework provided the opportunity to explore personal literary interests; a set of engaging and probing essays were submitted to the Board, with teachers unable to find a reason not to award full marks in some cases!

## Teachers

We have recently welcomed back Sophie Rickner from maternity leave and look forward to seeing her in the Vanburgh even more next year. Congratulations to Jonathan Cook, who was appointed to the position of Examinations Officer at the start of the year, and to Fitz Smith, who was appointed as Houseparent of Grafton House for the 2022-23 academic year onwards. Both will continue to teach English in the Department and will help to ensure the Vanburgh vibe permeates many aspects of School life! Congratulations too to Vlasta Pickering Polláková, who will take up the position of

Second in English from September. Georgina Pearson has been an extremely valuable member of the Department this year, and we are sad to see her go, however, she leaves to take up an exciting opportunity in Initial Teacher Training and we wish her well.

Extra-curricular activities in English have gone from strength to strength. The Senior Literary Society has held regular Friday afternoon meetings, with Fitz Smith leading a programme of richly varied lectures and seminars. Andrew Webber's *The Waste Land* recording, featuring several members of Staff and Stoics, was 'performed' in The Roxy to great acclaim. Heather Eisenhut and her team of journalists have launched a new Stowe School newspaper; we are now several issues into the *Concord and Victory* catalogue. Special credit should go to Stoics Leia West (Lower Sixth, West), Anton Poon (Third Form, Winton), Terry Tan (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Alex Gu (Lower Sixth, Chandos), for their excellent editorial work. Another exciting development has been the realisation of Stowe Radio. Fronted by Araan Sobhan, the podcast-style show is on its third edition; regular features such as Stepan Volkov's film reviews, Stowe Vox Pop and Teachers React offer a light-hearted look at School life and the chance for everyone in the Stowe community to request a song or shout out. Find Stowe Radio on Spotify!

## Prizes

**On Speech Day, we were pleased to award English prizes to Eleanor Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's) for A Level English Literature, Emilia Scott-Copley (Fifth Form, Nugent) for GCSE English Language, Grace Barnett (Fifth Form, Cheshire) for GCSE English Literature, and Araan Sobhan (Fifth Form, Bruce) for Creative Writing. All have demonstrated immense talent, commitment and creativity.**

## Prep Schools

In March, I was delighted to attend and judge Winchester House School's Public Speaking competition. As I noted on the night, it brought with it the most pressure I had felt since starting as Head of English at Stowe, but it was a very enjoyable sort of pressure! The evening was full of quite wonderful performances of poems and rhetorical speeches, and I look forward to many more shared events with both Winchester House and Swanbourne House.

## Looking Ahead

I have greatly enjoyed my first year at Stowe and would like to offer thanks to the whole Department for making me feel so welcome, and especially to Emma Ackroyd for making settling in so easy.

The irony of my opening paragraph on the merits of variety is, of course, that the group of writers named suffers from a certain lack of variety! Look at what they have in common. One of the most important challenges ahead of us in English, as in school life, as in society at large, is to recognise, reflect and celebrate the diversity around us. We look to balance the teaching of canonical texts and authors with the investigation of new or marginalised voices. Our Literary Change Makers gallery in the Vanburgh reminds us of the huge power of the written word to effect change, and of our responsibility to interrogate which writing is valued, by whom, when, and why. Variety in Vanburgh life is key, but while Stoics and Staff are thriving on the vast array of extra-curricular activities, visits and projects, we will endeavour to keep in mind our core values and the beautiful simplicity of Malala Yousafzai's words, "One teacher, one child, one book, one pen can change the world."

**Nicola Borman, Head of English**

# THE WASTE LAND AT 100

Dr Andrew C Webber, Heather Eisenhut, Ben Weston and a cast of teachers and pupils bring T S Eliot's poem to life to celebrate its Centenary.

TS Eliot's *The Waste Land* was 100 years old in 2022 and remains as exciting, problematic, "difficult," inspirational and influential as it was when it was first published by Faber in 1922.

Originally entitled (rather clumsily) 'He Do the Police in Different Voices' and heavily edited by T S Eliot's mentor, the poet Ezra Pound, this epic poem appears to chart a journey through 1920s London, post war Europe and even the Far East (but all at the same time). It is also a modern take on the quest for the Holy Grail and a compendium of pop culture and literary references.

Along the way, the reader drops into the lives of various unforgettable characters, including a shady clairvoyant, a married couple on the edge of a breakdown, a typist and her rogue suitor, the hermaphrodite Tiresias and various city folk from different social backgrounds. These multiple voices take us through the City streets and act as our guides.

Various themes are explored throughout the poem - the "hollowness" of modern living; the emptiness of barren relationships (Eliot, most definitely didn't understand women, as Phillip Marlowe notes in Chandler's 'The Long Goodbye'); the need for renewal, ritual and a shared sense of culture - all of which make the poem feel so fresh and relevant, a century after it was first published.





It is also very much of its time and some of its attitudes (towards the female characters, especially) may make for uncomfortable reading today. But, in spite of its flaws (a messy final act, perhaps?) the poem still contains a raw power that makes it both moving and unforgettable - even when you are not really sure what Eliot is actually going on about.

In many ways, the poem can also be seen as an encyclopaedic text containing numerous explicit and implied references to other literary works - Dante, Shakespeare, Webster, Marvell, Chaucer, Baudelaire, The Upanishad and From Ritual to Romance by Jessie Weston and The Golden Bough, for example. Eliot provided detailed notes which were included in the first publication, which also make the work endlessly "re-visitible". It seems to transcend time somehow and whole lives can be spent trying to tap into its various meanings. I read it first as an eager Sixth Former, over 40 years later, I am still a passionate devotee.

Our "re-imagining" was performed in April in The Roxy (accompanied by a brilliant light-show devised by Theatre Manager Rob Parker) and attempted to give this profound work (which was certainly way ahead of its time in terms of its modernity - the "movement" it gave birth to) a slightly "fresh spin" and we adopted the central conceit of a radio being tuned in to tie the various parts of the poem together. We also added a few anachronistic pieces of music (from Wagner through to The Clash) to make the poem feel fresh and to suggest its continued influence upon popular culture in the Twenty-First Century.

The recording of the poem in the School's Stringer Studios, which was engineered by Ben Weston and produced by myself, took several months and featured an impressive cast: Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, English

“ These multiple voices take us through the City streets and act as our guides. ”

teachers Dr Fitz Smith, James Peppiat, Emma Ackroyd, Heather Eisenhut, Georgina Pearson and Sophie Rickner; Drama teachers Laura Parker and Rebecca Clark; Head of Sixth Paul Floyd, Revd Tim Mullins and Sixth Former Libby Hayes.

Our Waste Land "performance" was very well received and we are already working on a follow up for Hallowe'en next term: 'Uncanny: an Evening of Gothic Terror!' which will feature an all-new cast of teachers (including Mr Sheppe, Mr Cole and School Librarian Ms Stockley) reading Gothic poems and prose from writers including Keats, Poe and Bronte.

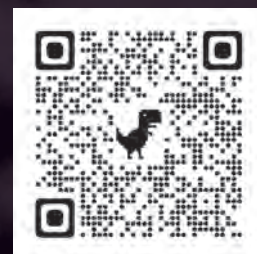
Eliot dismissed The Waste Land as a piece of "rhythmical grumbling about life," and soon after left poetry behind to concentrate on becoming a dramatist (and the creator of Cats).

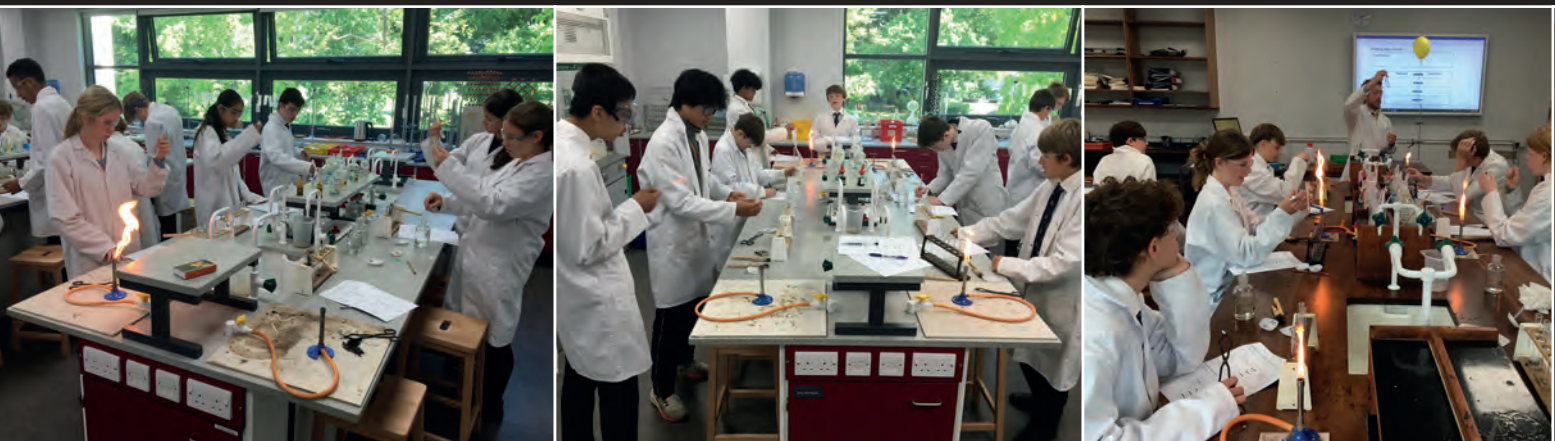
Perhaps the best way to think about The Waste Land is to imagine, as we did, that you are somehow tuning into the world's radio, overhearing to its many voices: voices which reach from across the century and far into an uncertain future.

The finished production is currently available to download on the School's YouTube channel or by scanning this QR code.

Enjoy.

**Dr Andrew C Webber**





# Science

Learning about Science should be a voyage of discovery, underpinned by hands on practical work. This made our return to in-person teaching all the more thrilling as our pupils once again had access to the laboratories. Although there is no real substitute for real life experiments, I take my hat off to the wonderful efforts of our Science Staff who during lockdown found ways to demonstrate experiments from their homes or found useful videos and simulations to help fill the gap. Mr Brian Hart is well remembered for videoing his use of a cloud chamber to show the effect of ionising radiation. I even tried a few demos from my shed from where I taught most of my lockdown lessons.

Teaching remotely during lockdown was a great stimulus that catapulted our use of digital resources and on-line working that could be seen live by teachers as pupils worked. The wealth of resources and apps exploded and we found many of them to be very effective. We have spent this past year in School reviewing the best practice and resources to identify what is most effective and how best to integrate this to further enhance more traditional practices. The experience of the past couple of years has highlighted the values of some of the more traditional elements of Science education, as well as giving us a chance to try new approaches to on-line working, especially the use of OneNote and on-line testing. This has allowed us to embed best practise that uses the most effective combination of traditional and technological approaches.

The pandemic has shown a greater need than ever for an understanding of Science and the ability to rationally analyse data to reach good conclusions. This is at the heart of what we do and we are thrilled by the number of our Sixth Formers who have embraced Science and Technology so fully. Many are going on to university to study Science-based degrees and we wish them all the very best in their future studies.

April 2022 saw the return of the Third Form CSI week in which all Science classes were combined into one big challenge - 'Who Killed Mr Tearle?' Teams examined evidence, carried out analytical chemistry, looked at DNA evidence and weapon analysis to pull all the clues together to identify the culprit. Well done to the winning team of Flora Peppiatt (Third Form, Queen's), Freddie Boardman (Third Form, Chatham) and Nada Shamsuddin (Third Form, Cheshire).

During Change Maker week, some of our Oxbridge Scientists took the opportunity to do their own organic synthesis and laboratory-based experiments. They also looked at advanced theory that took them beyond A Level. It is this sort of independent work that allows our keen scientists to really excel and to start making their mark.

The success of our Senior Robotics Team in reaching the International Final in the United States has been inspiring and those involved have learnt a great deal along the way. Good luck to all of our teams as they work on next year's challenge, as always, so wonderfully supported by Mr Thompson, whose engineering ingenuity and tireless efforts to take teams to competitions and to hold Regional Robotics events at Stowe certainly pays dividends.

Our Sixth Form Scientists have made a magnificent effort this year to rekindle our Science Societies with both the Quantum Society and Biomedical Society building up their activities and pulling in a great core of Stoics with a shared love of Science. The enthusiasm with which they planned and took part in events showed great commitment and imagination. Many have helped as Science Ambassadors to support the many events we have run for Prep Schools and other groups of young visitors to the School. This has helped spread the joy of Science beyond Stowe and been of great help to all of the children who came to take part in these activities.

This year saw the launch of both full A Level Psychology and our Pre-Med offer in the Sixth Form. Both of these have got off to a really strong start. Mrs Reinhold has inspired future Medics and been a great central support for anyone aiming to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry. They have looked at scientific papers, done extra dissections, debated ethical issues and experienced

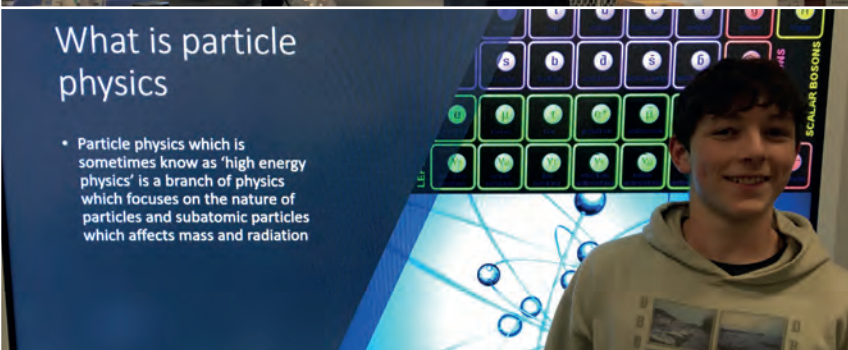
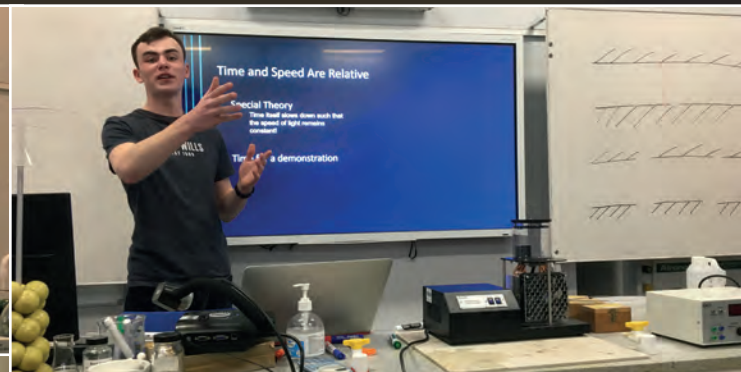
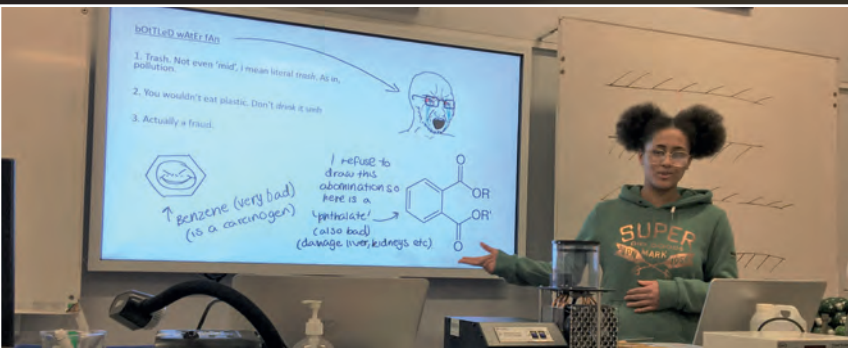


the sort of project-based learning offered at many medical schools. Medics who left Stowe last year to study at Oxford, Cambridge, Bart's and Buckingham have also come back in to speak to current Stoics and let them know what it is actually like to study medicine.

Mr Aidan Harvey-Craig joined us in September to set up the Psychology Department and launch the new A Level course which has got off to a flying start and proved very popular. This had led to the relaunch of the Psychology Society who have already had a talk from a leading criminal psychology expert and debated current controversial topics, such as the use of psychiatric diagnosis in high profile legal cases. Interest in Psychology has never been greater and both the Department and Psychology Society look set to go from strength to strength.

It has been wonderful to be back in School and for the Science Teaching Staff to be able to focus all of their efforts on teaching and preparing our pupils for real public exams without having to deal with the administration of TAGs or CAGs. The Stoics themselves have worked very hard to prepare for their exams and it has been great to see many of our Upper Sixth making use of the student rooms in Science to great effect late in the evening and at weekends. If their efforts are anything to go by, their results should be very good indeed. We wish all of our exam candidates the very best on results day and hope that they keep in touch and come back in to the Science Department to share their scientific experiences in the future.

**James Tearle, Head of Science**





# Biology

It has been wonderful to have been able to have the Biology Department back up and running, almost at the same level as pre-Covid times. This year we were fortunate enough to have two Sixth Form Biology Field trips planned, the last one taking place June 2019! The first trip this academic year was held in September, at FSC Dale Fort, Wales, with our Upper Sixth, who had missed out the year before, followed by our Lower Sixth visit to FSC Nettlecombe in June, details of which can be found later in this article.

The academic year began with a reflection of our Departmental (TAG) results, which continued on an upward trend, and we were delighted for those five candidates who secured A\* grades at A Level last August - congratulations go to Immy Bewes (Queen's 21), Rosia Li (Stanhope 21), Peter Springall (Winton 21), Chloris Jiang (West 21) and Tilly Jones (Stanhope 21). 44% of our 2020-2021 cohort gained A\*/A and 74% Biologists securing A\*-B, this marks an increase on a previously successful CAG year.

Many of our A Level Biologists have continued studying aspects of Biology at university. Sofia Batey (Cheshire 21), Biotechnology and Microbiology at York; Robert Haigh (Grenville 21), Biochemistry at Cardiff; Chloris Jiang, Anthropology at UCL; Tilly Jones, Biological Sciences at Exeter; Amy Lodge (West 21), Midwifery at Surrey; Bella Robertson (Stanhope 21), Biomedical Sciences at Edinburgh; Kiera West (West 21), Biomedical Sciences at Leicester; Grace Patterson (Cheshire 21), Medicine at Durham, Purva Shegunshi (Cheshire 21), Medicine at Buckingham; Rosia Li, Medicine at Cambridge and Peter Springall, Medicine at Oxford.

Our GCSE results were also notable with 38% graded 9/8 in 2021, 15% achieving a grade 9 and a further 23% gaining a grade 8. These results highlight our continuing success, and we are very proud of our pupil's achievements, particularly navigating their way through a very demanding examination series imposed on them due to TAGs.

Most of our Sixth Form Biologists are members of the Biomedical Society which meet every week in the Sixth Form Science Centre. Some are also members of our Pre-Med course which prepares potential Medics/Vets/

Dentists of the future. As well as guest lecturers and the pupils themselves giving talks covering their broad interests, the group have enjoyed Chinese meals and pizzas, as well as the annual croquet match with the Quantum Society members - some of whom are also Biomedical Society members - split loyalty when it came to deciding the teams! This year both teams were held to a draw. You can see from the photo just how competitive the Quantum members were when Ben Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham), from the Biomed Team, took his shot!

Four of our A Level Biologists competed in The Royal Society of Biology's annual 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 Mrs Carter, our Biologists performed well with Benjamin Li gaining a Bronze, Olanma Kalu (Upper Sixth, West) Highly Commended with Lydia Moseley (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and Charlotte Laurie (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) a Commended.

In July, we said our goodbyes to Mr Michael Righton as he retired his mortar and gown (but not his fishing rod!) after completing 34 years of teaching. Michael's career started in Ireland at Sutton Park School in Howth, after five years teaching Biology, he moved to London and taught at the American School for four years. Whilst there, he was Director of Studies, which at an American School is a huge whole school role where Michael ran student councils, international trips and even arranged the school Prom! Michael then took a break from teaching to run a Youth Hostel, back in Ireland - winning the Best Hostel Worldwide Award in 1988. Michael returned to teaching, after a spot of lecturing in Thailand, headed to Switzerland, where he was Head of Boarding; then to Germany, teaching at the International School in Dusseldorf - with a spot of ski instructing during the holidays! Michael returned to the UK, taking up the post of Head of Science at The Dragon for nine years, where he also ran Rowing. Rowing is a well renowned passion of Michael's. Whilst studying Zoology at Trinity University, Michael represented Ireland in the Universities Fastest 8 Competition which took place in Egypt 1980. His squad placed second to University of Washington, beating Leander's U21 squad as well as the Germany Youth squad. In 1994, instead of skimming the surface of water

as a rower he took to the ice to represent Ireland at the Winter World Championships in Winterberg, Germany as the 'push-man' for the 2-man Bobsleigh team!

Over the years Michael has won many titles and awards. 2002 was no exception, but this time Michael's bravery was recognised for saving a man's life. He was at Eton Dorney with three of his Dragon rowing crews during a very bleak and cold December Saturday morning. Two of the girls were having trouble with their boat, so Michael assisted, when one of them shouted that the 60-tonne digger that was on the bank had slipped into the 5m deep water. When the driver failed to appear, Michael plunged into the ice-cold water, where he tried to smash the window of the submerged cab with his feet, but he was unable to get a proper swing. A lorry driver threw a window hammer into Michael's outstretched hand from the bank, so he was able to break the window. Michael managed to reach the driver, who had sunk to the bottom of the digger cab due to his steel-toe capped boots, to haul him on to the roof of the digger. Michael gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until the driver started breathing again. The cold water in the lake had shut down the driver's respiratory system, saving him from brain damage, who went on to make a full recovery. Michael received an honour from the Royal Humane Society and the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. He appeared on 'This Morning' with Fern Britton and Philip Schofield and visited Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street as Winner of the 'Life Saver of the Year Award' and to later appear on Briton's Bravest.

In 2006, Michael moved from The Dragon to Stowe, spending the last 16 years of his teaching career with us. Not only is Michael a superior Biologist, loving all that is marine to go alongside his passion for fishing. Michael has run many trips, far too numerous to count - from climbing the Alps, Indonesia, Namibia, Berlin, Munich, Venice, Florence, Boston rowing regattas, Alaska and British Columbia fishing trips, to many many ski trips.

Michael will be missed by all those he has worked with, both inside and outside the classroom and we wish him a long, happy and enjoyable retirement.

Even though Michael is leaving us he has started the organisation of our latest Biology Trip, this time to visit the Amazon Rain Forest in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, off the west coast of South America. With the threat of Global Warming affecting habitats all around the



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world and the continued destruction of the Rainforest, it would seem to be an ideal time to help gather data on the Biological Diversity present as well as the 'Carbon Storage' associated with an area of pristine Rainforest. The Galapagos Islands are where Darwin put together his ideas which were published in his book the 'Origin of Species'. The trip is open to our current Third, Fourth and Fifth Form pupils and will take place in July 2024.

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 Biology in some form or another. Olivia West (Stanhope) has applied to study Biology; Kevin Xiao (Grafton) Biochemistry; Toby Buck (Bruce) and Tom Martineau (Chatham) to read Anthropology; Olanma Kalu (West) and Lydia Moseley (Cheshire) for Biomedical Science; Philipp Benedic (Bruce) Medicine; Anastasia Fischer (West) Processing of New Medicines degree and Bo Jenkins (Stanhope) Veterinary Physiotherapy.

I am once again indebted to the vastly experienced members of the Biology Department who enable such successes to happen. This year we were fortunate to gain Miss Georgina Black from Hickstead, and she has proved a huge success, slotting into the Department with ease and I just cannot believe that she has only been with us for the year.

As this academic year draws to a close, we say our goodbyes also to Mrs Alison Allen as one of our amazing Lab Technicians who moves to Beachborough School as a Teaching Assistant and we wish Mrs Jessica Reinhold the very best as she embarks upon her new post in the Skills Department as Academic Coordinator and motherhood. In September, we welcome Miss Abbey Blatchford and Mrs Leah Abbott to join our expanding team.

**Louise Carter, Head of Biology**

# PHYSICS

**While the Physics Department enjoyed success through the last few years of virtual lessons, algorithms and Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), it has been excellent being back in the real classrooms for the whole year, able to get back to more hands-on Physics and preparing for external examinations.**

From 2021 TAGs we were delighted to get 6 A\* grades, 11 A grades, 9 B grades and 2 C grades from our excellent A Level cohort. Our Fifth Form did not disappoint either with 73% achieving grades 9 to 6, with 43% achieving grade 9-8. Overall, we were very pleased with the results the pupils earned through mini assessments and work through the year. Particular congratulations go to Barney Denison-Pender (Cobham 21), Sirui Jiang (West 21), Jack Saville-Sneath (Cobham 21), Amru Shabeer (Chatham 21), James Cronie (Cobham 21) and Olivia Omotajo (Stanhope 21) for their A\* results in OCR A Level Physics. BTEC Engineering continued with pupils benefiting from the engineering resources of Silverstone and the teaching from the Stowe Physics and Maths Departments. Thanks to Mr Steven Matthews for his excellent work on the BTEC Engineering course.

In March we participated in the Physics Olympiad with 10 Lower Sixth Stoics, Harvey Tian (Lower Sixth, Walpole) scoring the highest and two marks off a Gold result. We achieved a couple more Silver medals and more Bronzes. Overall, a strong effort for our first year back in the Olympiad. Particular thanks go to Mr Jonathan Davis who did an excellent job in coaching the Sixth Form group in preparation for the Olympiad and has also been working with our talented Lower School pupils to prepare for next year's Olympiad.

While we were unable to do many cohort trips as most facilities are not yet allowing visitors again, we got back into running Prep School days with Physics activities and Robotics. These were thoroughly enjoyed by our visitors and we certainly plan on more next year. This coming year we will look to find more opportunities for our pupils to visit Physics facilities - thanks to Mr Steven Matthews and Mr Brian Hart for their support with these days. We also plan on starting a new High Altitude Balloon project, having run the last mission in 2019.



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Our flagship activity of Robotics enjoyed huge success this year qualifying for the World Finals in Dallas, Texas. We took seven Stoics to the World Finals and the full Robotics report can be read later in this publication. Robotics has enjoyed excellent success at Stowe over the years and this was the third time we've made the World Finals in America. More importantly, it has given the pupils the opportunity to develop their real-world STEM skills and has aided many in gaining university courses.

Thanks to Mr Kamaran Fathulla for his support in running the Third Form CSI activity for science week. During the week the pupils investigated clues and evidence to determine who murdered Mr Tearle. The week ran splendidly with the Stoics thoroughly enjoying the challenge of the task and achieving some good final reports and identifying the killer.





**“ As we say farewell to the Upper Sixth cohort we wish them every success in the future, they have faced some very unique challenges and have risen to those challenges with true determination. They have been an excellent group and will be fondly remembered and missed. ”**

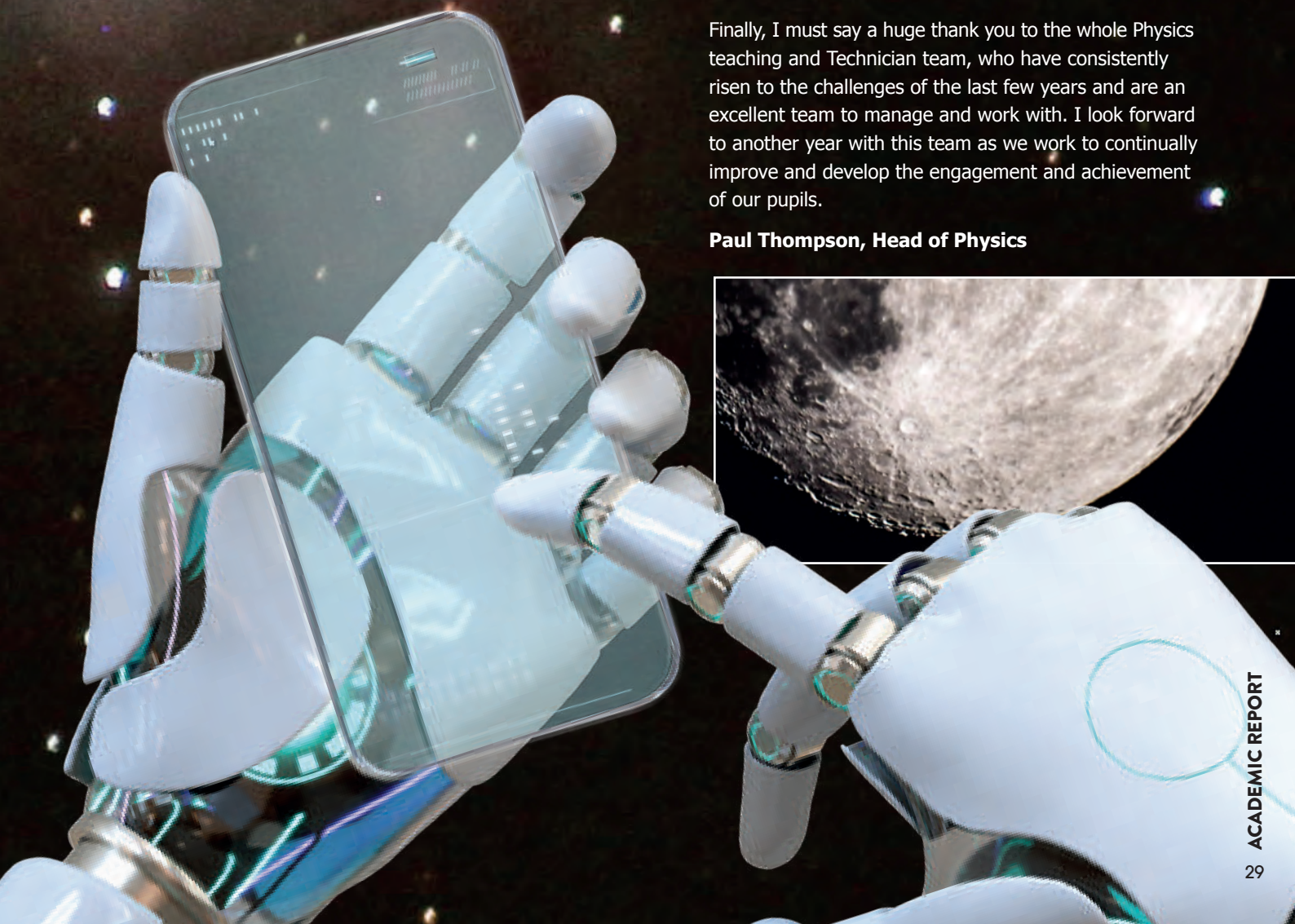
This year we said farewell Mr Simon Rose who has been teaching Physics for four years but has been involved in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Stowe for a lot longer. His skills and knowledge will be missed in the Department, he was an expert in using One-Note in his teaching and passed on much of his expertise to others. We said farewell to him as he moves to Scotland to become a Houseparent at Strathallan. The space he leaves will be filled by Mrs Victoria Lee-Stevens, who

has already been at Stowe a year in the Maths and Economics Departments. She will be shifting exclusively to Physics next year as she is a Physicist by degree.

As we say farewell to the Upper Sixth cohort who we wish every success in the future, they have faced some very unique challenges and have risen to those challenges with true determination. They have been an excellent group and will be fondly remembered and missed.

Finally, I must say a huge thank you to the whole Physics teaching and Technician team, who have consistently risen to the challenges of the last few years and are an excellent team to manage and work with. I look forward to another year with this team as we work to continually improve and develop the engagement and achievement of our pupils.

**Paul Thompson, Head of Physics**



# Chemistry

This year sees us complete the first full academic year in person for three years, and with many online lessons behind us and Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) qualifications hopefully a thing of the past, we are delighted to be back in our lecture rooms and laboratories. As Chemistry Staff we have learnt so much over the past few years and are constantly evolving our methods of delivery of our subject. When the Covid pandemic closed the School in March 2020 and saw the cancellation of that year's exams, we could not have been more disappointed for our Upper Sixth pupils. For one of our strongest A Level cohorts, we had high hopes for success. The Stoics showed resilience to complete their course online and once the A Level grades were reverted to Centre Assessed Grades we are able to celebrate their successes. Harry Mehta (Walpole 20) took up a place to read Chemistry at the University of Oxford and Rohan Sekhri (Walpole 20) went on to study Chemistry at Durham University whilst a significant number of others pursued Chemistry related degrees. Last year we again saw our pupils rise to the challenges facing them and were delighted to support many of them on their way to pursuing their interest in Chemistry in their university degrees. Three pupils who secured places to study Medicine, including Rosia Li (Stanhope 21) and Peter Springall (Winton 21) are now studying at Cambridge and Oxford Universities respectively. Now, in the Summer of 2022 we will see our first set of externally assessed grades for three years and our very first Fifth Form cohort formally certifying the IGCSE qualification. We wait with anticipation and excitement the feeling that results day will once again bring.

Stoic Chemists continue to participate in National and International Chemistry competitions. The Lower Sixth Cambridge Chemistry Challenge (C3L6) is designed to stretch and challenge interested Chemists beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus and in June 2020 a number of our pupils enjoyed success in the online paper, whilst this Summer we returned to the more formal written exam completed under exam conditions. Silver Certificates are awarded to Emily Sutton (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Terry Tan (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Linda Wang (Lower Sixth, West), and Copper Certificates to Yuki Jiang (Lower Sixth, West), Frank Li (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Paddy Potts (Lower



“**Stoic Chemists continue to participate in national and international Chemistry competitions.**”

Sixth, Chandos). The Chemistry Olympiad is part of an International Competition, the first round of which see pupils sit a written test of their chemical knowledge, based on real-world situations. Although designed to be accessible to A Level pupils, it deliberately takes pupils significantly beyond their core studies, encouraging a way of thinking more likely to be found at university, and provides an excellent experience for pupils considering taking their interest in Chemistry further. In January 2020, Harry Mehta (Walpole 20) and Boris Baros (Bruce 20) and Poom Hall (Cobham 20). Harry and Boris, with equal marks, were rewarded with Gold Awards and a score which placed them in the top 3% of more than 9,000 entries, whilst Poom received a Silver Award and a score in the top 20%. This academic year, Upper Sixth pupils Baz Calkin (Chatham), Isabel Omotajo (Stanhope) and Oscar Watson (Chandos) achieved Bronze Awards,





whilst Samuel Ellis (Chandos) achieved a Silver Award. Frank Li (Lower Sixth, Grenville) achieved a score within the top 10% of all entries and earned a Gold Award, a particularly impressive achievement as a Lower Sixth pupil. My congratulations to all those who have taken part in these competitions over the last couple of years.

This year saw the welcome return of CSI: Stowe, a week-long cross-Science activity for the Third Form linked with British Science Week, in which pupils are set the challenge of solving the (fictional!) murder of Head of Science, Mr Tearle. During their Chemistry lessons, pupils assume the role of forensic investigators, carrying out a number of different analytical chemical tests on a number of substances found at the crime scene. These activities are a fun and invaluable way in linking pupils learning to Chemistry in the real world. External Chemistry enrichment events, held for visiting Prep Schools, are again back up and running, with James Tearle enthusiastically guiding pupils through a series of impressive demonstrations and hands-on practical

activities. In addition to these and participation in prospective pupils' Taster Days, Mr Tearle also hosted a session for the pupils from Evergreen School, a Special Education School in Warwick, who were treated to a colourful Chemistry experience.

As the School continues to grow in numbers heading into September 2022, we welcome Sara Douglas to the Chemistry Department. Holding a Natural Sciences degree from Cambridge, specialising in Chemistry, Sara spent a number of years as a Research Chemist with Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline before turning to teaching. Sara joins us from Thomas Fremantle School in Winslow where she has been teaching Chemistry for the past three years and we are very much looking forward to working with her. Finally, it just leaves me to express my sincere and continued thanks to all the Chemistry Staff and Technicians for their unfailing support and their willingness day to day as we endeavour to do the very best for our pupils.

**Alix Waive, Head of Chemistry**

# POLITICS

There has never been a more exciting or important time to study Politics. Democratic backsliding and increased populist pressures mean we must be vigilant to arguments threatening our cherished way of life. Still, we must also recognise what needs to change to make our political institutions more effective. With growing inflation, weak growth, Cold War Two, and Kate Bush pumping through the airwaves, we might be forgiven for thinking we have been transported back to the 1970s, but we must now deal with these issues against the backdrop of climate change and Covid. To deal with this, we will need to pivot away from traditional ways of thinking and doing; and teaching a generation able to make these changes has never been more crucial. Fortunately, the Stoics seem well equipped for the challenges ahead, true Change Makers.

Politics continues to be a very popular subject with sixty pupils currently studying towards their A Level. Exam results continue to be superb, with almost half of our Stoics achieving either an A\* or A grade last year. Many of our pupils go on to study Politics at some of the country's most prestigious universities; the most popular destinations last year were the London School of Economics and Exeter.

With the leitmotif of Covid becoming more background noise than theme tune, we have returned to inviting guests to speak and often dine with Politics Stoics. This year saw veteran of US Politics Elliot Abrams visit the School. Elliot served as Deputy National Security Advisor to George W Bush and US Special Representative for Venezuela and then Iran under Donald Trump. He spoke at length about international relations in 2022 especially focusing on the Middle East and the current crisis in



“ We have more leading political and academic figures planned for the coming year. ”

Ukraine. His talk was learned, pithy and punchy and where Stoics challenged him due to his involvement in the Iran-Contra affair, he neither ridiculed nor abused their views but rather politely deconstructed them. Elliot then dined with the Politics Society, where I am sure many pupils learnt from his Socratic dialogue. We have more leading political and academic figures planned for the coming year.

All in all, a year which has mainly seen, thank goodness, a banishing of the new normal and a return to the old normal. This will continue next year with trips to Parliament and Washington. That said, the Department has evolved due to Covid, with all lessons now available as flipped learning lessons and online learning platforms that use smart algorithms to create bespoke content for each pupil. Whilst Westminster can often look antediluvian in its arcane practices, the Politics Department at Stowe is most definitely cutting edge.

**Simon Cole, Head of Politics**

# Geography

Those who study Geography have a unique perspective - one that emerges from the broadness and richness of knowledge and skills, that is not replicated in other disciplines. Geography is the study of places and relationships between people and their environments, and by doing so this helps us understand relationships between societies, and the complexity of our natural world. Ultimately, our geographers become more conscious-minded of the world around them, understanding of others, and work towards making a lasting and positive impact on our planet.

Indeed, the relevance of Geography only continues to grow. The world is changing and the future is becoming increasingly uncertain, gone are the days when you could predict the next course of action along the dominant ideologies. In Geography, we aim to future proof our pupils with the knowledge and skills to understand the debates of the twenty-first Century. The subject develops a whole range of skills including numeracy, teamwork through regular field trips, analytical skills, critical thinking and a certain technical savviness through using various specialist computing applications. Our geographers do these well, the department has continued to see excellent exam results with 58% of A Level Geographers gaining an A\*/A grade last year, and 62% achieving a grade 9-7 at GCSE. Geography remains a popular subject with consistently high numbers of pupils choosing to study geography at both GCSE and A Level, as well as further study at university. After two years of cancellations, GCSE and A Level exams have gone ahead this Summer and we look forward to celebrating our pupils achievements in August.

After a period of disruption and turbulence in schools, examinations are not the only signal of a return to normality, and this year we have seen the return of trips! Many topics in Geography are best studied first hand in the field, and Geography trips inspire and stoke curiosity about the world that will remain with



“In Geography we aim to future proof our pupils with the knowledge and skills to understand the debates of the twenty-first Century.”

our pupils for life. The Lower Sixth started the year with a trip to Oxford to help them understand ideas of place perception and identity and analyse the success of regeneration efforts in the city through various data collection methods. Later in the year they headed to Brenscombe Field Studies Centre in Dorset for three nights to study geomorphology and coastal systems in Worbarrow Bay and Swanage, and quality of life in Weymouth. While our pupils were excellent, we sadly could not say the same for the weather! As part of the GCSE course, the Fourth Form have been off out collecting data on the River Windrush in the Cotswolds to understand how and why river characteristics change, as well as another trip to Oxford to practice urban fieldwork methods. Other notable events from the year include the highly competitive Annual Inter-House Quiz which tested Stoics' knowledge to the maximum, as well as an active programme of events run by the Geography Society including delivering an interactive session using our Virtual Reality headsets on Ocean Plastics for younger pupils at one of our Prep Schools, Swanbourne House School.

Next year will continue to bring change. Following the departure of former Head of Department Sarah Murnane, who I would like to thank for her commitment, hard work and passion for Geography, I have been passed the challenge of continuing the good work of the Department and seeking new opportunities for the future. Geography offers a chance for pupils to change their outlook, explore contemporary issues, and can help inform decisions that will shape our future. We hope to provide more opportunities beyond the classroom to 'think geographically' next year, perhaps even venturing overseas on an international trip if we are allowed, as well as bringing a diverse ranging of speakers and events to raise the profile and value of the subject. So long as culture and the natural environment matter, geography will matter too.

**Francesca Elliott, Head of Geography**

# Business

This year in Business, the Department has seen record numbers of Lower Sixth joining the A Level and BTEC. With 75 Lower Sixth and 56 Upper Sixth studying the A Level (plus 22 BTEC's), Business pupils have been busy this year. Dr West, Mr Freeman, Mrs Bristow and Mr John were excited to welcome the new cohort into the Michaelmas Term, where we opened up the academic year with an outstanding talk from Chris Austin, Country Director for the British High Commission for South Africa. This talk helped the Upper Sixth explore a range of macroeconomic trends from the perspective of global and UK trade. This supported the Upper Sixth with their Theme 4 'Emerging Economies' unit.

Sadly, at the end the term, we said goodbye to Mr John who decided to progress another passion of his through retirement and golf. Mr John will be truly missed.

Lent Term, Mrs Wicks joined the Department, meaning that all teachers in the department are examiners for the A Level and/or BTEC qualifications we offer. Very handy when it comes to preparing Stoics for sitting exams. Mr Freeman took over the Business Society where Stoics discuss a range of current affairs and discuss how to extend their understanding of Business beyond the classroom. This year, many Business Society members decided to enter essay competitions through the John Locke Institute, Young Economist and the Times. This year's A Level Upper Sixth Theme 4 research theme was 'International sporting events and UK Sports retail'. Pupils started the research theme after the half-term break where Dr West used this time as a revision course. This was focussed on the research theme, the advance information topics, and gave pupils lots of opportunities to practice their contextualized essay technique. For the top performing pupils, and those who progressed the most, there were some themed prizes. Most notably was to Greta Burnell (Upper Sixth, Queen's) who was awarded a Sports Direct mug. An outstanding award for a Newcastle United fan!

Our BTEC pupils have had an outstanding year in both the Lower and Upper Sixth. The Lower Sixth sat their Unit 3 Business and Finance paper in May and have gained the utmost respect from their A Level peers. This is because some of the Upper Sixth A Level pupils decided to complete some BTEC Business Finance questions for fun. Their feedback was that they were glad they chose the A Level as some of the BTEC finance questions were harder than those found in the A Level paper. Mrs Bristow's connections to DHL returned further dividends this year with 87.5% of the Unit 1 pupils achieving a Distinction (equivalent to an A grade). The Upper Sixth sat their Unit Two Marketing three-hour controlled assessment in

May and seemed to enjoy their Unit 22 Market Research project on creating a researched-based business plan for a business start-up.

The Summer Term, as always, focused on preparation for the Upper Sixth summative assessments and Lower Sixth end of year progress exams. This time of year, is always exciting as we see our pupils mature, gain confidence and progress towards their full potential in Business. With the end of year exams behind us, Mrs Wicks, Millie Hine (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Ewan Baker (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and Evie Brooks (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) visited Winchester House for two days of business-related activities. They delivered an enterprise event and a Fair-Trade day. I think the Fair-Trade activities were an excuse for pupils (and Mrs Wicks) to eat chocolate! We hope to see some of the Winchester House School pupils in the Business A Level or BTEC in a few years' time.

After another successful year in Business, we are excited to announce that Mrs Tompkins will be joining the team in September. Mrs Tompkins was a Head of Department in her previous school and will be teaching and mixture of Business and Economics. With extra teachers comes the need for extra classrooms. Politics will move to their new home for the next academic year and the Leoni Building has now been exclusively allocated to Business and Economics. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the new Lower Sixth in September and supporting the Upper Sixth towards outstanding grades.

**Anthony Ashfield, Head of Business**



# History

In the past two years, we have had regular conversations in the Department about where the period we are currently living through will sit in the GCSE History courses of the future. In 50 years, when pupils learn about 2022, will it fit at the end of a course about changes in the early 21st Century or will 2022 be part of the causes of something far larger to come? It feels as if we are living through something historically significant, but how this will be viewed in the future is still very much up for debate.

Our year began with the appointment of Mr Owain McNeill, who has an extensive background in a variety of corporate businesses and was recruited as a result of our work with the Buckingham SCITT, for which the Department provides mentors and 'Subject Champions' from among our established teachers. Sharing Owain with the English Department has inspired cross-curricular conversations and fascinating discussions about how education could benefit from some of the ideas of those in other sectors.

September also involved extensive reflection on the benefits and drawbacks of TAGs, which had presented pupils and Staff with a unique challenge after the cancellation of exams in 2021. Pupils responded brilliantly, working exceptionally hard to prepare themselves for assessments and came out with some excellent grades in the Summer of 2021. The Upper Sixth did especially well, with 53% scoring A\* or A grades, matching our previous recent record from 2017. Switching our focus back to the more established format of learning and exams, while integrating new techniques pioneered in the previous two years, has been the main aim in the department this year and Stoics have risen to this challenge admirably.

The 2022 Leavers, who are possibly the year group most affected by the pandemic, engaged with their first set of external exams with particular hard work and determination. The Department has been constantly occupied during study leave by pupils making their final preparations and picking over essay plans or notes with their teachers. These incredible efforts made picking the recipients of the History Prize an unenviable job. We eventually settled on choosing three excellent historians but could easily have chosen 20.

Our first winner was Jodie Brogden (Upper

**“Pupils responded brilliantly, working exceptionally hard to prepare themselves for assessments and came out with some excellent grades in the Summer of 2021.”**

Sixth, Queen's), whose work ethic throughout the course was exceptional. Her insatiable appetite for feedback and improvement led to full marks on her History coursework, which considered various historians' interpretations of the violence experienced during the partition of India in 1947. Eleanor Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Caitlin Gilmore (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Isabella Lloyd (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton), Izzy Prothero (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Josh Green (Upper Sixth, Chandos) were also among those who wrote to an undergraduate level on topics spanning Mary I, Thomas Cromwell, the American Civil War, the Haitian Revolution and the Holocaust.

Finn Tyson was the second winner of a History Prize and showed enthusiasm for all aspects of the past, reading especially deeply into the Battle of Trafalgar. He is easy to spot in the annual History Department photo given his rather striking historical naval uniform. His wider enthusiasm for the material culture of the past even led to him building a forge in his back garden during lockdown. He made a Viking-style brooch, shield, spear and a short arming-sword based on a 13th Century design. Some visitors to Stowe House were lucky enough to have Finn take their tour after he volunteered with the Stowe House Preservation Trust.

Finn is one excellent example of the interest shown for early modern history by those following that A Level pathway, which is expertly led by Julie Potter and Rhea Stafford-Smith. This period was the focus of the McElwee Lecture this year, which was taken by Dr Tracy Borman. Speaking on 'The Private Lives of the Tudors', she brought alive her book on this topic and considered different ways of approaching seemingly well-known topics by using new sources and perspectives in her research. Her descriptions of the activities of the 'groom of the stool' were especially vivid and memorable. We were also treated to talks by Alice Loxton from History Hit focusing on the under-appreciated work of James Gilray and Stephen Wass on the fascinating archaeology of Stowe.

Our final History Prize winner was Grace Barnett (Fifth Form, Cheshire), whose exemplar work benefited the entire cohort. This year group also had a tough time with revision, having learned substantial portions of the course on Microsoft Teams in diverse time zones. After one entertainingly incorrect answer about the Berlin Airlift, for which the operational name was Operation Vittles, the department engaged on 'Operation Gumdrop' to systematically review and improve our GCSE pupils' knowledge of the course that they might have, understandably, missed. Extensive time was spent by this Year Group on a variety

of revision resources, pioneered by Dominic Green, who also established A Level 'Essay Club' for revision. The Department was impressed by the Fifth Form's extensive efforts and hopeful for strong outcomes this Summer.

It has also been heartening to see excellent work from the Lower School. To pick just one example, Andrii Mamakin (Third Form, Temple) completed an extra-curricular research project of his own devising on the Unification of Germany. With over half the Lower School taking GCSE History, it is excellent to see such promising historians coming up through the School.

To complement their extensive classroom efforts, Stoics enjoyed a return to academic trips, with the Third Form going to the Imperial War Museum for a project on the First World War and some of our A Level pupils heading to Hampton Court for an educational session and tour that focussed on the royal court of Henry VIII. These external sessions were in addition to some excellent work completed in the History Society and 'ExComm', where pupils presented and discussed topics beyond the confines of the standard curriculum. We particularly enjoyed hearing about pupils' 'Historical Heroes', with several previously unknown characters selected by Stoics. Many of the same pupils devoted their activity time to debating and MUN, run by Rhea Stafford-Smith; an excellent forum for further developing many of the skills we prize in the Department. I am also very grateful for the work of Simon Cole and Fran Shah, whose work across both the History and Politics Departments brings an additional cross-curricular dimension to our courses.

We were also delighted to see pupils engaging in external essay competitions, with submissions to the Harvard Crimson Essay Competition, the John Locke Competition, the History of Totalitarianism Essay Prize and the Julia Wood Prize. Maximillian Steven's (Lower Sixth, Temple) submission for the Harvard Competition was especially strong and he is one of many in the Lower Sixth cohort hoping to read History at a top university next year. We also enjoyed submissions to the internal Lower Sixth essay competition, which asked pupils to consider whether "Changes in the course of human history are more often inspired by the actions of the 'ordinary people' than by the actions of decision-makers."

The History Department have been pleased by the efforts of Stoics this year and look forward to the School's upcoming Centenary next year. At the end of this year, we will sadly say goodbye to Mr Giles Cuddy, who leaves Stowe to take up a position as a Houseparent at Westonbirt School. We are exceptionally grateful for everything Giles has given to the Department in the last six years and delighted to see his development from a trainee teacher to an experienced member of Staff ripe for development and promotion to his new role. To replace his teaching, we are pleased to welcome Mr James Bonomi to the Department and look forward to Stoics gaining from his expertise in the classroom from September.

**Paul Griffin, Head of History  
& Faculty Chair-Humanities**



# EAL

The EAL Department has continued to play a significant role in the academic and pastoral experience of international pupils at Stowe. At the end of another challenging year for our international pupils, it is uplifting to reflect on their many achievements and the hugely positive impact they have made on the Stowe community as a whole.

In spite of two years of Covid disruption, and online learning, the iGCSE ESL pupils passed their final examinations with flying colours in June 2021, with all candidates securing grades 6-9 and two thirds of the cohort achieving a grade 7 and above. This is a significant achievement in light of the additional challenges faced by our overseas pupils. It is hoped that this year's cohort will experience similar success in the June 2022 examination series. In the Sixth Form, pupils have also continued to excel, with 100% of Upper Sixth IELTS candidates meeting or exceeding their university entrance criteria and 75% of all IELTS candidates achieving an overall score of 7.0.

Speech Day provided another opportunity to recognise many of our International Stoics publicly for their outstanding achievements and contributions.

### **Scientific and Mathematical**

**excellence:** Terry Tan (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Kevin Xiao (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Jamie Leelapojsan (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Gloria Sun (Upper Sixth, West). **Outstanding achievement in Modern Languages:** Mariia Domina (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton). **Art and History of Art:** Wednesday Zhu (Upper Sixth, West).

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs Pickering Polláková, Ms Pearson and Mrs Carter for so ably supporting the EAL Department this year.

**Julie Johnson, Head of EAL**





# French

The last couple of years have been challenging for teachers and pupils alike, and a return to normality at the start of the academic year was welcome by all. Last Summer was most strange for Stoics as they did not get the chance to sit external exams as planned. Instead, they had to go through a very complex and thorough TAGs system. Although it was advantageous in a way, it was also a very gruelling process as pupils had to be tested more regularly to gather enough evidence for the Exam Board. However, the tough gets going when the going gets tough, and our 2021 cohort lived up to expectations and gained outstanding results: 66.6% of A Level French linguists gained an A\*/A grade and 34% of our GCSE French pupils achieved a grade 8 or 9, no mean feat after two years of interrupted learning due to Covid. They had every reason to be proud of their achievement as they all worked so diligently throughout the year in the most inauspicious circumstances. Needless to say, that the opportunities to travel and practise French have been limited due to all the restrictions.

The French Department has put in place many strategies to enable Stoics to have a taste of French culture. Indeed, one of our first Languages Societies back in

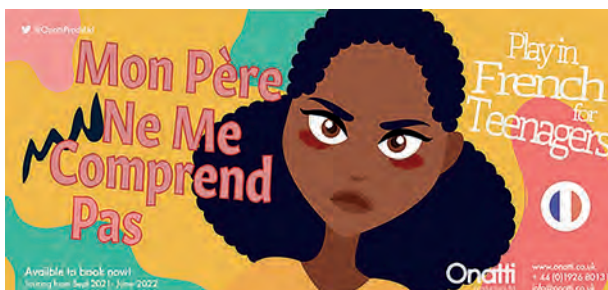
“ The French Department has put in place many strategies to enable Stoics to have a taste of French culture. ”

October was dedicated to Literature and pupils shared their favourite foreign books trying to encourage their peers to read them. From Queneau’s ‘Les Fleurs Bleues’ to Sartre’s famous ‘Huit Clos’, pupils were exposed to a wide range of distinguished French authors and it was most encouraging to see so many of them keen to share their literary recommendations. In the same vein, Miss Windett, one of our French Assistants, has created, and frequently updated, our French playlist to broaden Stoics’ musical horizons and introduce them to iconic artists in the French-speaking world such as Dadju or Angèle. To keep pupils abreast of French news, Miss Thevenet has regularly published French newsletters highlighting current affairs in the francophone world and providing pupils with a clever insight into politics, culture and society. She also did a presentation to all Upper Sixth Stoics, sharing her grandfather’s experience in the resistance in Occupied France during the Second World War. It was a gripping and vivid account of a young man who ended up prisoner in a German camp and cheated death on multiple occasions. This talk enabled Stoics to understand better a very difficult and painful moment in French History. Our Lower School pupils were not forgotten and had the chance to attend an Onatti Play



entitled 'Mon père ne me comprend pas'. For 45 minutes, they witnessed the tribulations of Héléne who does not get the birthday celebrations for which she was hoping. Although challenging, pupils rejoiced the opportunity to develop their skills in applying the language they already know to enable them to follow the plot. No matter how good our cultural provision has been, nothing replaces a school trip.

Following a two-year delay caused by Covid and the travel complications that it has caused, the Languages Homestay trip to Nice, Côte d'Azur, will finally be going ahead this year. In the first week of the October Half Term, 18 Stoics, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Dobson, will be travelling to Nice to stay with host families and to attend morning lessons at the Alpha-B Language School in the centre of the city. Afternoons will be taken up with visits to Eze, Monaco and Monte-Carlo, Antibes with its Picasso Museum, as well as guided tours of Nice and the old town of Nice. Stoics will be returning in the evenings to the host-family accommodation where they will experience first-hand life *à la française*. They will be eating French food, dining with their hosts and testing their language skills and, hopefully, making some great friends in the process. This will be the ninth year that the trip will have run and it has been a roaring success on each occasion, with many Stoics over the years choosing to continue with French not just to A Level but even further along at university. The end of a school year is also time to say thank you. For a couple of weeks, many pupils wondered why I had put the Dutch flag on the cupboard next to Mme Podesta's classroom. Little did they know that it was the beginning of an Art project. Indeed, Jemima Hammond (Fifth Form, Nugent) has brightened up the French Department with



**“Stoics will be returning in the evenings to the host-family accommodation where they will experience first-hand life *à la française*. They will be eating French food, dining with their hosts and testing their language skills and, hopefully, making some great friends in the process.”**

a mural depicting a typical Parisian scene. There are a few *clins d'oeil* and a lot of cultural references. She did a wonderful job and Mme Podesta and myself are lucky enough to admire her artwork on a daily basis. I would also like to thank Gavin Moffat, one of the big guns of the French Department who is leaving Stowe at the end of Summer Term 2022 to take up the post of Deputy Head Pastoral at Rossall School. Over the years, he has established himself as a first-rate classroom practitioner with an impressive record of results behind him. He has made a colossal contribution to the success of the French Department and he has been most supportive since I took over the Department back in 2019. He is an assertive teacher who is prepared to trim the sails of the more exuberant individuals and encourage them back into appropriate behaviour. I knew that no matter what set he had, he would make a success of it. I wish Gavin and his family the very best as they move on from Grafton. Finally, as I head off to pastures new myself, I wanted to thank very much my colleagues in MFL and Stoics for their support and *bonhomie*. I could not have wished for a better team in my first middle-management position, and I shall look back at my time at Stowe with great fondness for the years to come. However, I am sure that the Department will continue to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Fanny Leluan, who has taught at St Paul's Catholic School in Milton Keynes prior to joining Stowe.

**Emilie Danis, Head of French**



# SPANISH

This year, we can genuinely say that it has been a typical year without being interrupted by the unpredictability of the last two Covid years. Our Stoics have been exemplary in transitioning from the virtual Stowe Distance Learning Programme to the physical School environment. Yet, another year has gone by, with a myriad of language accomplishments.

Last Summer, we had the most robust Spanish A Level results ever accomplished under the Teacher Assessed Grades. Stowe achieved its best-ever set of results from the Upper Sixth Hispanists, achieving a staggering 85.7% A\*- A grades. Many of them have continued to study Languages at university, and we wish them all the best. The fantastic results were also replicated at the GCSE level achieving 85.2% grades 9 to 5. This year, we hope to raise the bar with our results after previous start-stop years with Covid. We have all enjoyed the physical classrooms and teaching face-to-face, and we expect another fantastic set of results for both our GCSE and A Level cohorts.

Unfortunately, travel restrictions meant that during the past two years, we have been unable to have the fantastic opportunity to travel to Spain on our annual trips to Cádiz/ Seville and Granada with the GCSE and A Level Stoics. Nevertheless, these trips will run next academic year, depending on travel restrictions.

In May, the Lower School welcomed a brilliant play written by Onatti Productions to complement Spanish language learning. This year's play was 'En el campamento' (In the campsite). This crazy theatrical piece depicts two friends that went on a camping trip.

After a train and taxi ride, they arrived at the campsite and realised it was not exactly what they were expecting and they were totally unprepared. No mobile reception and no food turn friendship into friction! The Staff and Stoics loved the performance. We look forward to the following hilarious theatre production next year, 'Mi Personalidad'.

In March, the Upper Sixth, accompanied by Dr Ferrero, Mr Fuentes Olea and Ms Peña, travelled to London to sample a wide variety of Spanish tapas on the Southbank before viewing a Spanish play at the Cervantes Theatre in London. We were also very excited to take our A Level Hispanists to the acclaimed production of 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba' (The House of Bernarda Alba). During our A Level course, we studied one of Lorca's masterpieces in-depth, and our Stoics had the good fortune of meeting the actresses backstage. It was an excellent opportunity to develop and analyse the symbolic values that the author acquired concerning the difficult historical, social and political moments in Spain.



(Cervantes Theatre) *La Casa de Bernarda* cast with our A Level pupils

This year's highlights included bringing the Spanish culture alive and enjoying the essence of Spanish gastronomy. The Languages Society enjoyed some unhealthy treats with the demonstration and sample of 'Churros con Chocolate'. The Stoics enjoyed a



presentation on the influences of the Arab world on Spanish cuisine, finishing with the art of cooking the traditional churros with our resourceful Languages Assistants, Ms Peña and Miss Lamrabat.

We are also sad to announce that our Spanish teacher, Mr Luis Fuentes Olea and our Language Assistant, Nour Lamrabat, will be moving to new pastures. All who have had the pleasure of working with Luis Fuentes Olea and Nour Lamrabat will sorely miss them, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Next term, Sonia Ramos from Guadalajara, Spain, will join us as our new Language Assistant, and Aime Arroyo (BA Hons in Spanish and Italian) will be our new Spanish teacher. Our former Spanish Language Assistant, Andrea Bernal, finished the SCITTs teacher training qualification with outstanding results in June. I am delighted to announce that Andrea Bernal will join us as an Early



Career Teacher (ECT) next academic year.

Working alongside formidable and talented Stoics and Staff has been an absolute pleasure. The Spanish Department is looking forward to grasping the opportunities and facing new challenges next year to bring the Spanish language and culture alive at Stowe.

**Julio Morales-Shearer, Head of Spanish**

# German

Two and a half years of Covid may have hampered our ability to travel abroad, but it certainly hasn't dampened our love of learning a foreign language and nothing could be more true of learning German here at Stowe. With twice as many Stoics sitting the German A2 exam in 2022 than in 2021, my only wish is for them to do as well as the 2021 cohort and manage a 100% A\*-B pass rate. German has been and remains the most lucrative foreign language to know for British workers, and Stoics know that. Whilst it may have a grammar that is as rigorous as its political system and a lexis as precise as a BMW engine, let's not forget that German is still English's "Großvater" with 26% of English vocabulary having shared roots with German.

This year, despite the restrictions we had to face, we tried to celebrate German in all its glory whenever we could. We toasted the new German Chancellor Olaf Scholz with a glass of non-alcoholic beer with the Sixth Form, celebrated German 'Wurst' with the Third Form, and indulged in German 'Weihnachtsgebäck' just before Christmas, alas shop-bought, not homemade this year. We may not have been able to take our Fourth Form to our partner school in Schondorf, Bavaria, or our Sixth Formers to Berlin, but we made up for it by bringing Germany to Stowe. With the creation of The Stowe Group, we have also started to bring German to Winchester House School, in the form of a weekly after School Club led by our very own Sandra Wheeler. It quickly gained popularity and we are delighted that pupils from Winchester House can now be introduced to German ahead of arriving at their senior school,

especially since learning a foreign language comes a lot easier to the young. At Stowe, we are lucky to have so many talented and enthusiastic Germanists. The Third Formers in particular have shown a real eagerness to delve into German this year, producing wonderful leaflets on various German cities, putting together oral presentations on German festivals and traditions delivered to the Lower Sixth and the Head, and generally embracing every opportunity to stretch themselves. I cannot wait for them to experience Germany 'for real' next year in Landheim.

Our Upper Sixth have also delighted us with a splendid rendition of 'Hans Hucklebein' by Wilhelm Busch in the Languages Open Mic Night in May. It also gives me great pleasure to hear that some Stoics will continue with German at university. Whether Stoics learn German in the classroom or in Languages Club, whether they have an innate ability or have to work hard at it, what matters at the end of the day is them enjoying the German language and its culture. For as long as we manage to share our love of German, we will have succeeded in our jobs as teachers, and good exam results normally follow. At this stage I would like to give my most sincere thanks to the whole German team. Mrs Wheeler, for her patience and always getting the best out of every Stoic and Mrs Hutchin, our most wonderful German Assistant for tailor-making bespoke individual conversation lessons. The German Department may be small, but it is mighty, happy and successful. What more could a Head of Department want!

**Alice Tearle, Head of German**

# Sports Science & PE



Much has changed in Sports Science since the 2018/2019 publication of *The Stoic* and I am delighted to report that Sports Science is thriving and continuing to grow.

2021 saw some excellent exam result achievements at A Level and GCSE.

94% of pupils achieved A\*-B at A Level, with outstanding performances from Immy Bewes (Queen's 21), Jacob Ford-Langstaff (Winton 21), James Cronie (Cobham 21) and Logan Brown (Bruce 21) who all achieved A\*s.

At GCSE all pupils achieved grade 9-4 and there were outstanding performances from Emily Sutton (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Ewan Baker (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Harry Rose (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Edward Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Clara Capella (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Will Jenden (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and Lizzie Knott (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), who all achieved a Grade 9 overall.

2020/2021 also saw the introduction of the BTEC Sport Extended Certificate, which is available to our Year 12 and Year 13 pupils. The first cohort through have set the bar incredibly high, with all candidates scoring a Distinction\* - the highest grade possible for the course.

At the 2022 Speech Day, the Sports Science prizes were awarded to Oscar Blunsom-Washbrook (Upper Sixth, Temple), Luke Holland-Bosworth (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Phoebe Haynes (Fifth Form, Cheshire).

The Third Form Core Physical Education programme has continued to run in the Michaelmas Term, with a focus on four key areas; athletic development, strength and conditioning, swimming and racket sports. 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.

This year, we have also seen the return of 'live moderations' for the GCSE pupils. All involved with the moderation this year need to be credited for the excellent manner in which they conducted

themselves and also for the high-level performances that they put on show. The A Level pupils also worked incredibly hard in putting together their performance portfolios for their video moderation day.


There have also been other changes to the Sports Science Department, I took the reins as Head of Sports Science and PE, following Mr Jackson's departure in 2020. We have also welcomed in four new members of Staff; Miss Simeone Compton, Mr James Freeman (SCITT) Miss Ruth Taylor and Mr Paddy Dias. The addition of these Staff reflects the growing interest and subsequent numbers in Sports Science. The Fourth Form is made up of four sets and the Lower Sixth have three A Level groups, as well as a BTEC Sport set. Another pleasing statistic is that 16 of our current Lower Sixth are looking to apply for Sports Science/Sports courses at university next year.

Fleur Fenwicke-Clenell (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Eleanor Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's) put themselves forward to re-establish the Sports Science Society, which kicked off with a lovely pizza night on a Summer's evening in September. Emily Sutton and Hannah Bewes (Lower Sixth, Queen's) have taken on the running of the Society and we have recently enjoyed some thought-provoking talks on Nutrition in Sport, by Mr Dingley, and Strength and Conditioning, by Mr Logier. These talks have provided an excellent opportunity for our Sports Scientists to further their knowledge outside of what is taught in the curriculum.

We have also been lucky enough to have, former-England Rugby Captain, Dylan Hartley come in and deliver sessions to our A Level pupils. There was a particular focus on getting inside the mind of an elite performer and understanding what makes an elite performer tick. The sessions with Dylan were incredibly insightful and really helped bring to life some of the theory that the pupils learn.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Staff who have contributed to the running of the Sports Science courses; their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm for the subject is fantastic. As I have been on maternity leave for the majority of the year, I would like to especially thank Mr Dias for running the Department in my absence. I would also like to thank the pupils for their efforts in what has been a challenging few years - they have got stuck in, worked incredibly hard and they have been a pleasure to teach.

**Vicki Dias, Head of Sports Science & PE**



**The difference between long and short vowels in Latin became a matter of greater import to members of the Third Form as elements of the Lingua Latina course entered their lives.**

# Classics

Like so much else in what we hope is the post-Covid era, the Stowe Classics Department has been in creative flux over this last academic year. On standby for further Covid-imposed exam improvisations, we've also managed the staggered introduction of two new members of Staff and a slight expansion of numbers of pupils.

Michaelmas Term saw the arrival on the scene of James Blenkinsop, not long out of university, and bouncing with energy and outstanding professional commitment. Simultaneously juggling the demands of teaching Latin at all levels, managing all other aspects of school life and dealing with the heavy workload of his University of Buckingham PGCE course, he rapidly established his authority and competence as a classroom teacher and enthusiast for all things connected to Mediterranean Antiquity. The Upper Sixth quartet (Charlie Crabbie (Grafton), George Hopkinson-Woolley (Chandos), Clara Tearle (Queen's) and Olivia West (Stanhope)) and the Lower Sixth duo (Max James (Cobham) and Imogen Taylor (Nugent)) as well as shoals of pupils in the Lower School, quickly came to value his guidance and sense of humour.

Yet, as the Poet has taught us, the gods seldom give blessings unmixed to us mortals. November brought its darker evenings and intimations of sad tidings. John Murnane, for seven years the expert helmsman of all things classical at Stowe, deftly managed transitional arrangements in the Department pending his departure at Christmas. With characteristically meticulous planning and attention to detail, he prepared the way for his successor in January. It is important to pay due tribute to his immense contribution to Classics at Stowe over the years and to the astonishingly humane and learned efficiency of his tenure. So much of what the Department is, remains a testament to his hard work, planning and flair.

In Lent Term, James Sheppe, the new Head of Department, unpacked a few books in the Classics Office and kept most of the circus plates spinning. The Sixth Form attended a series of talks on Latin Literature at Mr Blenkinsop's nursery, Magdalen College School, in Oxford. The programme ranged usefully over set texts and reminded the Stoics, amidst pupils from other

schools, that they were not alone. A visit to Blackwell's and an amiable lunch concluded an agreeable day. The Sixth and Fifth Formers busily prepared their set texts and language papers towards possible TAGs data points across the term, but all were relieved when we eventually learnt that life would return to normal! The difference between long and short vowels in Latin became a matter of greater import to members of the Third Form as elements of the Lingua Latina course entered their lives. Greek continues in the Lower School. George Smith (Fourth Form, Winton) has been achieving great things and in Carlo Galliani (Third Form, Bruce), Greek has gained a promising recruit. He and his colleague Sebastian Hughes (Third Form, Grenville) performed a couple of Archilochean elegiac poems for the Language Faculty Open Mic night in May. On Speech Day, the J F Roxburgh Prize for Classics was won by Clara Tearle (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and the Quentin Bertram Prize for Classics was won by Alejandro Sanchez Podesta (Fifth Form, Winton).

The Summer Term began with an engaging talk from Dr Tristan Franklino of Wolfson and Oriel, about the mediaeval Latin Carmina Burana. It was pleasing to see how many younger pupils attended alongside their Sixth Form peers, and even more encouraging to note their engaged excitement at what the speaker had to say. The Sixth Form and continuing members of the Fifth Form (Jemima Pearson-Gee (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Jasper Calkin (Fifth Form, Cobham)) attended an evening called Exelauno Day in the garden of Lamport Lodge, each presenting an artefact of Classical interest to the assembled company. The routine of exam preparation otherwise dominated the day-to-day business of the term.

With fingers crossed for the exam results of this year's cohort, we look forward to Cicero's harangues (and puppet show) to Ovid's sweet tales of love and transformation, to Catullus' torments and imprecations, to Plato and Homer and to the renewed excitement of collectively breathing the breath of life into their old ghosts next year. With trips abroad now possible, Ephesus, Agrigento or Tipasa await.

**James Sheppe**

# Economics

I have always thought it unfortunate that Economics carries the label of 'The Dismal Science', a label given to it by the writer Thomas Carlyle in response to the writings of Malthus, who grimly predicted that starvation would result as projected population growth exceeded the rate of increase in food supply. However, Malthus did not foresee improvements in the technology of production which has meant food supply matching demand with fairness in distribution (logistics), whilst avoiding waste, perhaps the key challenge here. The events of these past two decades, the systemic failure of the financial sector with a consequent sovereign debt crisis and then a global pandemic, has challenged conventional economic thought more so than at any other time in its modern history. Economics is certainly not 'Dismal', and brought the subject to life for a new generation and reminded us of its relevance and importance to support our understanding of the world around us.

Economics is now one of the top two choices, alongside Business, at Sixth Form and then university level and the Economics Department at Stowe has doubled in size over these past four years. Department results are very strong and our Keynes Society provide Stoics with an ideal platform to explore the subject away from the constraints of the exam board curriculum. Pupils have led talks, for example this past year, on

“ This academic year we have also welcomed outside speakers who are specialists in their respective fields. ”

Ukraine's transition from Communism to Capitalism, Cryptocurrency, Quantitative Easing, Derivatives and Futures, UK Budget Deficit and the UK National Debt, Gentrification and Housing Affordability and Exchange Rate Theory.

This academic year we have also welcomed outside speakers who are specialists in their respective fields. We have been fortunate enough to welcome Brian Sturgess for his talk on the UK Energy Market, Professor Phillip Booth for his talk on Inflation, Dr Kristian Niemi for his talk on Social Health Insurance (an alternative to the NHS) and Julian Jessop for his Free Market Perspective on Climate Change. Pupils also are given the opportunity to enter national competitions, such as The Dorian Fisher Memorial Prize and the Young Economist of the Year in association with the Financial Times.

I would like to thank Mr Corthine, Mr Austen and Ms Lee-Stevens for all their hard work and support this year as we continue to move the Department forwards.

**Anthony Ashfield, Head of Economics**

## EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) has had another hugely successful year. The most recent exam results were 77% A\*/A and 95% A\*-B with 78 pupils having completed their EPQ at end of June 2021.

The Stoics have once again showed skills of independence, research, analytical thinking and most importantly creativity and genuine academic passion and interest in their chosen topic.

There was a huge array of subject matter ranging from whether or not nuclear weapons should be removed to designing sustainable fashion and everything in between.

A huge thank you to all the Staff who have guided and supervised the Stoics to achieving excellent results and projects.

**Mike Rickner, Head of EPQ**



# History of Art

The 2021-2022 academic year brought both excitement and trepidation for the History of Art cohort, as it saw not only the return to exams following the pandemic, but also the first sitting for Stoics of the new Edexcel exam specification, first introduced nationally in 2019 but adopted by the School shortly before the pandemic.

With a more global outlook and incisive, thematic approach, this syllabus has helped to foster Stoic Art Historians into engaged and critical visual thinkers. Change Maker attributes feel ever more relevant in our current tumultuous social and political global contexts.

Looking in turn at artists' responses to personal identities, the natural world, the Italian Renaissance and European Modernisms, the conversations in the History of Art classroom this year were far-reaching and reflective, with pupils pulling threads from both current events and their other subjects into the rich tapestries of their analyses.

In this vein, a particular highlight of this year was the workshop held at Stowe with Cambridge University MEd Researcher, Esen Kilic. Focusing her research on curriculum reform with a particular look at post-colonial and de-colonising approaches, Esen worked with both Lower and Upper Sixth Stoics in undertaking a deep examination and critique of the Edexcel specification. Stoics questioned the meaning, validity and success of the exam board's design of the syllabus to include works from 'beyond the European tradition', but the discussions that ensued prompted discussion of many aspects of our educational system and society, and a thoughtful (and at times challenging) consideration of what and why we learn what we do in school. Esen also spoke eloquently about her own experiences of studying at an English boarding school, having come from abroad, and how studying the History of Art at university has impacted her.

Both last year and this have been very rewarding, in terms of the number of Stoics carrying on their studies of the subject at university and seeking out opportunities to enrich their study with wider reading, work experience, independent research (with the revival of the Elizabeth



Chubb Essay Prize which will be awarded early next term) and participation in essay competitions such as the ArtUK and Paul Mellon Centre's Write on Art Prize. Stoics have been especially successful at securing highly competitive offers to read undergraduate Art History at the Courtauld, widely regarded as one of the best programmes in the world, and we seek to continue this very encouraging trend of producing scholars of the highest calibre.

Looking towards next year, we hope that a return to normality and easing of travel restrictions will see the revival of invaluable European study trips. We hope to resume our programme of travel with a visit to both Rome and Florence in the Spring, where Stoics will be able to appreciate first-hand the works we have studied from our syllabus in the rich original contexts for which they were made.

**Meredith Atkinson-Wood, Head of History of Art**



# Computer Science

This year promised to be the year we all went back to a level of normality, but defining what is normal has become more difficult than ever. The negative impact of the pandemic has given rise to an astronomical positive impact of technology in every person's life. It will take a long time and a constrained effort by governments before we clean up social media, but I can say confidently that we are now in a new paradigm for technological change. People have realised the use of technology can make work flexible and provide the much-needed work-life balance. We are finally getting to understand the vision and positive social impact of video calling introduced by many like Amstrad E-mailer and phones from Sony Ericsson in the early Millenium, then technology ahead of its time. The time is upon us to cater to the growing demand for Computer Science in schools and deliver the next generation of Computer Scientists who will develop intuitive ways to make this planet a greener and safer place to live.

The start of the 2021/22 year saw a strong performance by our pupils, with the vast majority (83%) scoring A\*/B at A Levels and nearly half (45%) scoring A\*/A in GCSE. I was extremely pleased with the results despite the interruptions caused by the lockdown both during and the year before. Many of the pupils chose to continue with the subject at the university, joining King's College and Cardiff amongst other universities.

The Computer Science Department continues to grow with the highest number of GCSE and A Level pupils expected to receive their grades in the Summer of 2022 for the subject. There have been some encouraging coursework scores already accomplished for A Level and we await results in August with hopeful anticipation.

The Department again saw an increase in pupil numbers taking both GCSE and A Level in the subject this academic year. This year-on-year progress is providing improved opportunities for pupils and Staff to explore the subject.

This Summer the Department will receive its last set of results for the AQA A Level Computer Science curriculum as the new Lower Sixth switched to the OCR examination board. The changes to the curriculum are minimal, from the content point of view, but it is felt the structure will be more suitable for Stoics. The main difference is in how the programming element of the course is assessed. In OCR, pupils will not have to do live programming in the exam, instead they will be required to master the logical understanding of programming principles while writing detailed structured

**“ The time is upon us to cater to the growing demand for Computer Science in schools and deliver the next generation of Computer Scientists who will develop intuitive ways to make this planet a greener and safer place to live. ”**

algorithms in the paper. There is a strong belief in the teaching team that this will provide strong foundations for anyone wanting to take Computer Science at university.

The Computer Science GCSE curriculum was revised by AQA in 2020, replacing the programming project component with additional topics and restructuring papers one and two. This year we will see our Fifth Form taking the first set of exams for this curriculum. Pupils enjoyed the addition of Relational Databases as a topic, along with other minor changes to the curriculum. The main step-change was in the way computational thinking and programming skills paper was restructured. Pupils will be taking a two-hour paper compared to an hour and a half, with a stronger focus on skills and techniques learned to program solutions. The revision for the new curriculum was good and we look forward to the results in August.

We welcomed a new Computer Science teacher in Mr Ramnarain, an experienced teacher born and brought up in South Africa before moving to the UK in 2004 with his family. Mr Ramnarain delivered the introductory curriculum to all our Third Form pupils enthusing them with skills of logic, computational thinking and introduction to programming using PyGame a game library developed for Python language to create basic 2D games. Nearly a quarter of the Third Form cohort picked to study Computer Science GCSE in January, the highest number for the Department.

Though there was no customary Department excursion this year, there were many opportunities for the Stoics to explore the curriculum. Our annual trip to the Music Department to learn about digital sound remains positive with Mr Weston doing a stellar job in demonstrating the impact of bit depth and resolution on digital waves to our pupils. The Department also supported two departmental extracurricular programs in the shape of the Coding and Cybersecurity Club. Coding Club focused

on developing and challenging pupils in their application of programming skills whereas Cybersecurity focused on principles and preparation for Cyber Centurian competition using the Cyber Start program. The Cyber Club team is looking forward to the competition in the 2022/23 academic year.

As this year closes, we say goodbye and thanks to Mr Ramnarain, who is taking the position of Head of Department in a school near to his home. Mr Ramnarain will be replaced by an experienced teacher Mr Sivalingham, who brings with him a wealth of teaching experience both in the UK and abroad.

Finally, I would like to give my sincere thanks to all the pupils and Staff who have made my tenure as a Head of the Department in the past four years a memorable one. As I move to a new role within the School, I leave the Department in the capable hands of our new Head of the Department Mrs Colette Babe, who will be starting her role in September 2022. Colette is an experienced

teacher and Department Head. She has worked in many schools with a notable eleven years spent at Bromley High School delivering a successful Computer Science Department and a STEAM ambassador. I look forward to continuing in the Department as a teacher next academic year.

The Upper Sixth team from left: Daryna, Mr Martin, Mr Gupta, Harry, Daniel, Elliott, Jamie, Kimi and Artem.

#### **Adi Gupta, Head of Computer Science**



# Philosophy & Religion

After two years of lockdowns combined with periods of online teaching, it has been wonderful to return to the physical classroom for the entirety of this academic year. We were immensely proud of the Stoics and their creative and inspiring efforts in the online classroom but it is in the physical classroom that Philosophy & Religion, a subject centred on debate and discourse truly comes to life.

It has been a year of change in the Department. After eight successful years as Head of Department, Colin Bray stepped down in January 2022, but he remains an integral part of the team as a classroom teacher.

It is also with great sadness that we said goodbye to our Chaplain and Departmental colleague Tim Mullins. Tim was an infectiously enthusiastic and kind individual, many Stoics benefited from his excellent teaching and we all benefited from his unwavering support. He is greatly missed.

2022 saw the return to the first public exams since 2019, and we were immensely impressed by the dedication and drive shown by both our Fifth Form and Upper Sixth exam cohorts. Both year groups worked tirelessly in the run up to their exams.

We have welcomed new cohorts at both GCSE and A Level this year and it has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm for the subject. It was wonderful to see 50 Third Form opt to begin the GCSE in January, demonstrating the subject's continuing appeal.

The Philosophy & Religion Society continued

this year and we explored a range of topics and texts that went beyond the A Level syllabus, including the relationship between faith and reason, philosophical challenges around the attributes of God and the Old Testament text of Esther.

January 2022 saw the return of the annual Holocaust Memorial Day event, which took place in the Music Room. A number of items of Music and Drama were presented by the Stoics, based around this year's theme 'One Day'. We were also fortunate to be recipients of a video recorded second generation testimony by Yifat, the daughter of Thomas Geve, a Holocaust survivor. Thomas' story is told in Old Stoic, Charlie Inglefield's (Temple 95) book 'The Boy Who Drew Auschwitz'. The evening was very moving and reflective and I would like to thank the support offered by the Music and Drama Departments in bringing the evening together.

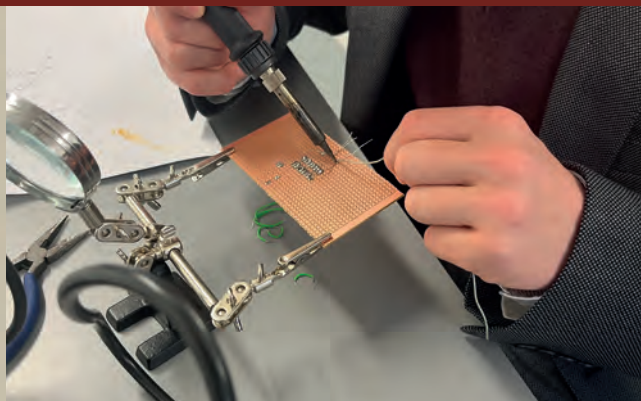
The year ended with a great success when Paul Ostroverhy (Third Form, Chandos) received a commended mention in the Independent Schools' Religious Studies Association's annual essay competition. His essay was a highly sophisticated piece of work reflecting on the nature of freedom and drawing on a varied range of philosophers including Thomas Hobbes and Hannah Arendt.

I would also like to congratulate this year's internal prize winners, Darius Shirazi (Upper Sixth, Chandos), William Eastwood (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Jemima Pearson-Gee (Fifth Form, Nugent).

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Bray and Dr Adkins for their support this year. The academic year of 2021-2022 was a memorable one and it has been a pleasure to take on the leadership of such an exciting, varied and forward-thinking Department.

#### **Francesca Holloway, Head of Philosophy & Religion**

# ENGINEERING



This academic year has seen Engineering at Stowe continue to develop and flourish. We have had our largest cohort of Engineering pupils so far and reinforced our strong links with our partnership school, Silverstone UTC. The delivery of the subject has shown the benefits of inter-school and inter-department collaboration, making the most of the strengths within Stowe's Physics, Maths and DTE Departments, and capitalising on the Engineering facilities and expertise at Silverstone UTC. Mr Matthews has worked tirelessly to produce outstanding lesson resources for the Physics unit of this new specification to support the teaching of this major section of the course at Stowe, with all teaching of this unit being delivered at Stowe next year. Thursday afternoons for the Engineering pupils are for visits to Silverstone UTC, based just up the road from Stowe at the Silverstone circuit. At UTC the pupils have been working on a team-based electronics project, where they have designed, simulated, prototyped and manufactured a counting circuit board for automotive applications. They have also been getting to grips with Fusion 360 computer-aided design software, which they

“ This year has seen a significant milestone for the course with it being the first year that pupils have sat external Engineering BTEC exams. ”

have used to construct a 3D virtual model of the chassis and body of a radio controlled car.

This year has seen a significant milestone for the course, with it being the first year that pupils have sat external Engineering BTEC exams. Prior to this year, grades have been allocated by teachers based on internal assessments and coursework, so it has been a real positive for pupils to get the full experience of the course and show what they are capable of under the rigour of external national exams. Congratulations go to Alexander Goodhart (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Maximillian Markham (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Aaryan Aswani (Upper Sixth, Temple) for successfully completing the two-year Level 3 Extended Certificate course, with a particular 'well done' to Alex for winning this year's Engineering Prize.

**Sam Williams, Head of Engineering**

## F1 in Schools

This season's 'F1 in Schools' team, Martlet Racing, have been working hard all year on their entry to the upcoming Regional Finals. Federico Riojas Ordorica (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Harry Rose (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Freddie Smith (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Oliver Halsey-Wright (Lower Sixth, Bruce) have successfully raised sponsorship, marketed their team through various social media channels, and designed and manufactured a range of car designs using CAD-CAM. They have also designed their own team kit,

produced a 'pit' display and two portfolios outlining all the engineering and enterprise work they have produced this year.

Working alongside DT Senior Technician, Victoria Treen, the Stoics have manufactured four different cars, testing each one on the Department's test track and making developmental improvements based on their findings. The final car has been produced to an impressively high standard and has recently been submitted to 'F1 in Schools' HQ for technical scrutineering before the racing and judging take place in October. A big thank you goes to sponsors Intent2Improve, Churchill Motors and Max Value for supporting the team this season.



# THE PSHE

Whilst we now feel that we are moving away from the restrictions of pandemic lockdowns, reviewing the year as a whole, the PSHE Department certainly continued to feel the impact of Covid, with the curriculum being adapted to meet issues arising as a result of the lockdowns and visiting speakers still having to rearrange talks to work around Covid.

Despite this, we had a full year of innovative teaching and outreach, continuing to react and adapt to current issues, listening to pupils who highlight any concerns and additional educational requirements allowing us to provide a bespoke programme where needed.

A highlight of the year has to be the Third Form. Working on a wide variety of topics relating to personal health as well as developing an increasing awareness of the concept of community and their actions within those communities, they were encouraged to complete a wide



Artwork by William Heaven

range of independent teamwork projects that resulted in us seeing some original artwork and presentations.

Other highlights included a variety of speakers covering topics that included male health, diversity and inclusion, the ethics of war photography, various forms of addiction including gambling. Patrick Foster, a regular speaker to the Sixth Form, visited whilst on his book tour and was, as always, a popular and engaging speaker.

This year the School launched its first outreach programme for Parents and whilst we are reviewing the format, it is a service that we will continue to offer going forward. As ever, we worked closely with other Pastoral leads in the School, ensuring a comprehensive pastoral programme.

**Liz Huxley-Capurro, Head of PSHE**

# Psychology

This year has seen the launch of the full Psychology A Level. A popular subject from day one, we have three groups of Lower Sixth Psychology pupils who have been learning about concepts as diverse as memory function, the biological basis of OCD, the role of fathers in attachment, and the processes of conformity.

Along the way, we started up the Psychology Society, and elected Lilly King (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) as our first ever President. The inaugural address was given by David Wilson, the founding Director of the Centre for Applied Criminology at Birmingham City University. During his long career in criminology, David has dealt with virtually every contemporary serial killer and regularly appears on TV as a commentator and presenter. His talk was about ways to reduce murder and serial murder, pointing out that this should start by looking at who the victims are. The vast majority of murder victims are older people, gay people, sex workers and women who are murdered by their partners. These are people often living on the margins

of our society and the best way to combat murder is to work against this and ensure that no one is left isolated and vulnerable in our culture.

Another notable Psychology Society event was a discussion about the use of psychiatric diagnosis in the legal system. This was inspired by the high-profile case of Jonny Depp vs Amber Heard, during which Amber Heard was diagnosed with PTSD by psychologists hired by her legal team, and Histrionic Personality Disorder by psychologists hired by the Depp team. A heated but constructive discussion ensued about the weaponising of psychiatric diagnosis to silence and control people.

Next year we look forward to welcoming a new Psychology teacher - Talia Barbeli is a highly experienced teacher, currently working in St David's Marist Inanda. As the Department continues to expand, we look forward to raising the profile of this important subject throughout the School.

**Aidan Harvey-Craig, Head of Psychology**



# Library

It has been wonderful to get back to the new normal at Stowe this year, and actually have some events and loan books without having to quarantine and clean them all.

Over the Summer, new pupils joining Stowe in the Third Form in September were set a task to read and create a Vlog about a book. It was great to see that so many of our pupils spent time thinking about how they would review the book without giving the plot away and also which visual effects they added. Choosing the top three and overall winner was very difficult as there were so many fantastic entries. The top three Vlogs: First Prize - Anton Poon (Winton) for his review of 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' Second Prize - Paul Ostroverhy (Chandos) for his review of 'Jane Eyre' Third Prize - Annabel Hussey (Nugent) for her review of 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' Congratulations to all the pupils who sent in their vlogs in!

In the Michaelmas Term we helped host the research and essay competition day for the Third Form. They had a series of lectures from: author Rhian Tracey on how she researched her book on Bletchley Park; the Library on how to use it, where the resources are and referencing; and, Dr Potter who set a task to research and write an essay on one of a set titles. Following that they had two lessons and lunch to complete the task set and upload it to the VLE. This was a pressure event as timings were tight, all pupils rose to the challenge of the topics that were set by Departments. Highlights were Niamh Gilmore, Tomisin Ibitoye and Paul Ostroverhy - 'Do human beings possess free will?' Harrison Newman, Nada Shamsuddin and Sebastian Hughes - 'Is climate change a real emergency?' Arabella Williams - 'Was Leonardo da Vinci more of a scientist than an artist?' Freddie Boardman - 'To what extent did the ancient Greeks and/or the Romans shape the modern world?' Grace Nasmyth - 'Are villains more interesting than heroes?' Kaito Mbanefo - 'The future of artificial intelligence and its specific use in robotics' Sofia Comino - 'What are the benefits of

**“ In the Michaelmas Term we helped host the research and essay competition day for the Third Form. They had a series of lectures from: author Rhian Tracey on how she researched her book on Bletchley Park; the Library on how to use it, where the resources are and referencing; and, Dr Potter who set a task to research and write an essay on one of a set titles. ”**

learning a foreign language?' But the overall winner of the competition this year is Flora Peppiatt, who received a Bene for her essay on the title, 'In a multi-cultural society, is there enough diversity on TV?'

Following swiftly on before half term we hosted an Inter-House Literary Challenge each for the Upper and Lower Sixth, then the Fifth Form after Half Term. Every Year Group competes this year and there was a cup for the Upper School and the Lower School. Each House entered two from each Year Group on different days. The first round was for the Upper Sixth in the State Music Room. There were five rounds including one challenge round that was constantly on the go during any breaks. Each House was given a menu at the beginning with the round choices, choosing one to use their Joker on which would double their score for that round. Most Houses chose the Characters round, which was the right choice it seems, as most scored very highly. In the end, following a scramble to get the marks in, it was Stanhope who prevailed, closely followed by Queen's and then Bruce. The Lower Sixth Challenge was a few days later, with the Books to Film round, mainly chosen by teams for their Joker. This

round again involved two from each House. The prevailing House in this round was Queen's with a massive score of 50 points, closely followed by Lyttelton and then Chandos. This meant that the overall winners of the Upper School Cup were Queen's, followed by Lyttelton, Stanhope and closely followed into Fourth place, Chandos.

The Lower School Challenge first round was held just after Half Term, again with two players from each House, this time in the Fifth Form. Most Houses opted not to choose a 'picture round' for their 'Joker' this time, proving costly in some cases, as the 'classic authors' round was the highest scoring round of the night. The overall winners were Queen's with 27 points, followed by Nugent with 25 and Stanhope with 23. Chatham, Cobham, Grafton, Grenville and Lyttelton were joint Fourth with 21.

The finale of this year Lower School Inter-House Literary Challenge took place on Thursday 3 March on World Book Day. Each House sent two representatives from Third and Fourth Form, they were challenged with five different rounds, from 'general knowledge' to 'picture round' where they had to use their wits to work out the name of the book and author. It was a close competition but in the last round the winning House was decided. As this was the finale event, the scores from the Fifth Form and Third and Fourth challenge were added, overall winner of the Lower School Inter-House Literary Challenge, were Cobham with 98 points, Second Nugent with 94 points and Third Queen's with 84 points.

Harry Potter Book Night was held on Thursday 3 February in the Library. Pupils from all years were invited to join in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of publication of 'Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone'. During the evening, Stoics had their wizard photographs taken and were then sorted into Hogwarts Houses. A quiz was undertaken, with five rounds, to see which House had the most Potter knowledge. It was tightly contested but the winning House was Ravenclaw. Joint Second was Gryffindor and Hufflepuff, and Fourth was Slytherin.

In the Lent Term, Stowe Third Form entered two teams for the regional qualifiers for the National Reading Challenge Quiz, run by the National Literary Trust, took place on zoom on Friday 11 March. Like our Inter-House quiz, they had eight rounds of 10 questions to answer, facing 28 other schools in the Regional Quiz and were faced with some difficult question. Team A (15th overall) consisted of Grace Nasmyth (Third Form, Queen's), Annabel Hussey (Third Form, Nugent), William Heaven (Third Form, Chatham) and Harrison Newman (Third Form, Winton). Team B (20th overall) consisted of Tabitha Acher (Third Form, Queen's), Kiaan Fesharaki (Third Form, Winton), Sofia Comino (Third Form, Stanhope), Max Hopkins (Third Form, Temple) and Marina Goje (Third Form, Cheshire).

National Poetry by Heart Competition, also in the Lent Term, Josephine Parker, Imogen Embley, Arthur Daymond, Beatrice Floyd, George Smith and Isabella Fuller took the time to learn their poems by heart and performed them in front of judge. Their poems were filmed and sent



**“ This is the first full year of the Stowe Reading Colours programme where the pupils read books and do a set task on the books to achieve their badge or tie; the following Stoics have achieved their Stowe Reading Colours this year. ”**

into the National competition, unfortunately none were selected for the finale at the Shakespeare globe in June but many of our pupils received Highly Commended for their performance.

Following that we also ran a Stowe Poetry By Heart competition alongside and the following pupils were awarded prizes: First place was awarded to Imogen Embley for her performance of 'Dulce et Decorum Est' by Wilfred Owen; Second place was awarded to Nikki Atife for her performance of 'Conscious' by Wilfred Owen; and Third was awarded to George Smith for his performance of 'Invictus' by William Ernest Henley.

This is the first full year of the Stowe Reading Colours programme where the pupils read books and do a set task on the books to achieve their badge or tie; the following pupils have achieved their Stowe Reading Colours this year: Bronze Colours have been awarded to; James Wilson, Poppy Wates, Nada Shamsuddin, Bertie Scott, Lola Richardson, Andrii Mamakin, Layla Keable, Rufus Bullock, Isabelle Harris, Charlie Ighani, Tom Glynn-Smith, Brooks Stevens, Saeed Badeeb, Harrison Newman, Rebecca Holanda, Oliver Dickmann-Pena, Leo Clare, Leander Sautter, Pierre Fraser-Allen, Katherine Howard, Elvin Ozkazanc, Marina Goje, Poppy Bailey, Romayo Seaton and George Smith; Silver Reading Colours are awarded to Andrii Mamkin, Caroline Bartoszewski and Tasmin Cusiter, and the first Gold Reading Colour is awarded to Paul Ostroverhy, this is an incredible achievement which consisted of reading 24 books and doing a reflection piece on each book.

**Lyn Foden, School Librarian**



# FILM AND MEDIA

**"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."**  
Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Even though Bueller skips school in the movie, I stand by his advice. This first full year since the pandemic has whizzed by faster than a Stoic who has seen the pizza delivery arrive! The Film and Media pupils have packed in their usual academic commitments, taken advantage of some great extra-curricular activities and should now take time to "stop and look around" too.


In 2021, 73% of our Film Studies A Level candidates gained A/A\* and 100% of them scored A\*-B. The Creative Digital Media Production BTEC course saw 86% of pupils scoring Distinction and Distinction\* and every Media candidate gained a Merit or higher - a fine set of results and richly deserved by our hard-working pupils. After Stowe, Film, Media and related degree courses continue to prove a popular choice;

almost half the cohort go on to study Film or Media at university and many pupils from the wider School community opt for a Film or Media-related degree.

This year, we have been able to run the enrichment that we had to pause throughout the pandemic. The Film and Media Society, FLiX, has screened films on marginalised lives, with a programme curated by the incomparable Dr Webber with his encyclopaedic knowledge of film. Read more about FLiX in Dr Webber's article in the Clubs and Societies section.

One of the exam texts for Film Studies is the documentary, 'Amy'. To enrich the pupils' contextual understanding, pupils visited the Design Museum in Kensington to see a fabulous exhibition of Amy Winehouse memorabilia. The Exhibition charted the development of Amy Winehouse from a young girl who wrote great lyrics, to a global star with the ensuing problems that stardom brought. Other trips throughout the year included the Arthouse cinema visit to see Wilder's 'The Apartment', supporting the Hollywood section of the course.

Our yearly StOscars event is the culmination and celebration of two years of work by all Film and Media pupils. This Easter, it was wonderful to be able to hold a full event, rather than the scaled down one forced by Covid. The pupils were decked out in their best bib 'n' tucker and enjoyed a talk on 'What makes a classic film?', followed by dinner and prizes. Despite (or perhaps because of) the alcohol-free wine, a fun time was had by all.



This year's worthy winners were:

**Best Screenplay** - Ella Ivanovici (Upper Sixth, West) and Amber Anderson (Upper Sixth, West)

**Best Storyboard** - Benedict Henderson (Upper Sixth, Bruce)

**Best use of Sound** - Sofia Wright (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Jet West (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)

**Best use of Editing** - Emma Wright (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)

**Best Mise-en Scene** - Kia Winnington-Ingram (Upper Sixth, West)

**Best Plot Twist** - Mark Babiner (Upper Sixth, Cobham)

**Best Setting** - Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

**Best Film** - Henry Goodwin-Hudson (Upper Sixth, Bruce)

**Best Audio Fiction** - Vann Daly (Upper Sixth, Temple)

**Best Portfolio** - Sophia Southwick (Upper Sixth, Nugent) & Jess Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)

Although Film and Media courses are exclusively Sixth Form options, the Department often works with the Lower School and one example of this is the Third Form Film School. This Summer, Third Form pupils worked together to plan and make short films based on the theme of "Myths and Magic." They enhanced their Change Maker skills of collaboration, creativity, technical competence and, in some cases, leadership. In addition, several Staff and Sixth Form pupils worked with the 'Bright Young Things' Saturday morning enrichment team, helping talented local children from years 4-6 make their own short films.

It has been a busy year and the events listed above are just a few of things we have done. I've enjoyed the opportunity to 'stop and look around', that drafting this article has afforded me and I look forward to doing it all again next year.

**Emma Ackroyd, Head of Media and Film Studies**





# Design

It gives me great delight to submit a Stoic entry for Design and Technology after the recent disruptions experienced by us all. When the workshops closed on that Friday in March 2020, there was both a mix of sadness and pride. Sadness for the Stoics who would not have the opportunity to complete their practical aspects given the pending lockdowns, and pride in the spirit of the Stoics, who still wanted to complete their manufactured outcomes to the best of their ability, even after the days' lessons had completed. That day and the weeks that followed will stay with me for a long time to come, and whilst this year's exam cohorts were only required to produce 'mock ups' of their final ideas we were happy to see the department build towards the busy and thriving environment that helps to bring the success year upon year.

As a Department, we are blessed with a such strong staff, and the new additions of both Mr Thomas Webster and Mr Stephen Whitby have added further dynamics to what can be achieved in the department by the Stoics, and beyond. Following on from Mr William's 'maiden voyage' for a 'Stowe F1 in Schools' Team, 'Photo-Me' Racing, August's successful exam results at both GCSE and A Level paved the way for our Third Form 'Change Makers Week', where our new Third Form Stoics aim to develop their problem-solving skills whilst being encouraged to empathise with their clients through a series of challenges. This has always provided us with an opportunity to see how pupils can engage in lateral thinking tasks to overcome obstacles, and there were some fantastic outcomes to celebrate.

Outside the classroom it was wonderful to open the workshops back up for practical sessions, and in particular for activity sessions. Whilst cardboard prototypes were deemed to be the order of the day for the exam entries, it didn't stop Stoics from engaging in extracurricular practical sessions to hone their skills and broaden their understanding of the manufacturing processes and techniques available to them. With the recent additions of new 3D printing, and additional CNC software Stoics were able to engage in a lot of industrial practice and make good use of the facilities available. This building on

**“ The after-school club offering continues to broaden, and we look forward to the development of our Girls in Engineering Club at the start of Michaelmas, where our Stoics will look to redesign and develop a motorbike, with an extensive engine rebuild. ”**

from Mr Whitby's Mini Restoration Club last year, where he and a dedicated crew of budding Engineers restored the Stowe 1 Mini to working order. Amongst the team of pupils tasked with restoring the car to its former glory was Barnaby Titmus Mather (Fourth Form, Cobham), William Woodmansee (Fifth Form, Winton) and Max Cowper-Hart (Fifth Form, Chatham).

The after-school club offering continues to broaden, and we look forward to the development of our Girls in Engineering Club at the start of Michaelmas, where our Stoics will look to redesign and develop a motorbike, with an extensive engine rebuild. Coupled with the upcoming hovercraft project, where Stoics will aim to reinstate a Hovercraft to its full working order, it's an exciting time to be in the Design Department.

This was the first year of the Stowe School Design Scholar, and we were delighted to award Design Scholarships to Harrison Newman (Third Form, Winton), Bertie Scott (Third Form, Chatham), and an Exhibition awarded to Thomas Hampson (Third Form, Winton). Thomas and Harrison have been using their allocated activity well, utilising Stowe Yew that was felled following the Great Storm of 1987, putting it to good use. We look forward to seeing how their efforts unfold in the coming term, as well as welcoming our next crop of Design Scholars to Third Form in September.

Another highlight of the previous academic year and a celebration of the merger of The Stowe Group was welcoming the Swanbourne House's Design and Engineering Scholars to the Saturday morning enrichment activity in the Design Department at Stowe. Going back



to the Summer Term of 2021, the Scholars have worked hard completing a woodwork project, using the School Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and laser cutter, to design and manufacture keyrings. They also explored 3D printing and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) routing to give them a wide and varied insight into the potential of Design and Engineering.

We were also pleased to welcome back Charlotte Bird (Lyttelton 18) who returned to Stowe having achieved a First Class Honours degree in Architecture at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Charlotte spoke to our current and future GCSE and A Level pupils about achieving their potential on their chosen design pathways, whilst retaining their love for the subject. We wish her well in her academic journey which will take her to Harvard University.

With so much activity in the Department, it was with huge disappointment that the annual exhibition did not take place over this year's Speech Day. With the focus being on concept ideas, Stoics were excused marks in quality and accuracy. However, we are pleased to already be planning for next year's Exhibition in the Sixth Form Centre, and we look forward to celebrating the success of the Stoics with their families and friends once more. Whilst there was no platform to present the work this year, I must take the time to highlight some of the exceptional ideas that were produced by this year's Upper Sixth Form groups, notably Maximilian Markham (Upper Sixth, Chatham) who was one of the very few to manufacture a fully working prototype to sit on the back of his client's Gator, designed to store equipment suitable for a day's Shoot. Max was awarded the John Holland Prize for Design in recognition of his original and iterative approach to his project. Alongside this were a number of Architectural responses this year, with submissions of Merit from Louis Ford (Bruce) and Alexander Dens (Grenville) whom I was delighted to see awarded the Worsley Prize for Design.

At GCSE, special mention must go to Amelia Storer (Fifth Form, Queen's), Lily-Anne Moon (Fifth Form, Nugent), Toby Bursnall (Fifth Form, Grafton), Pia Glynn-Smith (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), and Henry Claire (Fifth Form, Winton) for their outstanding coursework grades this year. Lilly-Anne was also the deserved winner of the Friends of Stowe Prize for Design.

As we move towards the next academic year, we have a number of things to be excited about. Alongside the re-emergence of the Design exhibition at Speech Day, the Department will see its first overseas trip with the Lower Sixth embarking on a Design, Technology and Engineering tour of Munich, Germany, over the October Half Term. The trip will give each pupil the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in Design, Technology and Engineering through a variety of

visits to the Deutsch Museum, The Olympic Stadium, and BMW's Manufacturing plant to name but a few. Munich is Germany's third largest city and undisputed technology leader, home to around 22,000 high-tech companies in the fields of electronics, telecommunications, aviation, and aerospace, with automotive engineering being the single most important industry so we anticipate a very worthwhile experience and look forward to documenting it in Stowemail, as well as through our Instagram account @stowe\_dte.

Whilst we edge closer to our new build and herald a new Design, Technology and Engineering Centre, as a Department we are sad to be losing a valued member in Mark Wellington. We have valued his input tremendously, and the selfless work and effort that he gave to the pupils of the Design and Technology Department sit fondly in the memory of all those he taught. He was promised the new Department when he started at Stowe over 25 years ago, and whilst he may not experience the disruption, he knows that if he can be lured out of retirement once he gets his golf handicap established and he's bored of his hobbies, he is always welcome home.

**Martin Quinn, Head of DT&E**

# Art

The impact of the 1918 Spanish Flu on Western Art has had an unsurprising re-examination over the last couple of years, given our own disrupting and devastating pandemic since 2020. Munch's self-portraits, with and after surviving the Spanish Flu, give a fascinating insight into the artist's battle with his loneliness and entrapment, something that we all felt to various degrees. Their lurid, almost fauvist colour palette adding to the sense of fever, fright and frustration.

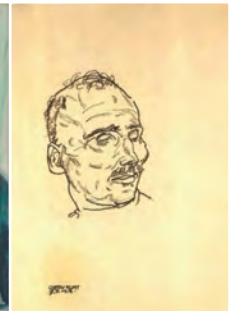
Munch was lucky to survive. Less fortunate was Gustav Klimt, who died days before his friend and disciple Egon Schiele was due to paint his portrait. He ended up painting him anyway on his death bed in the Vienna General Hospital, producing a series of subtle line drawings showing his head distorted by the fateful stroke.

Tragically, Schiele and his family were also victims of the disease that same year, falling while the artist was painting a large group portrait called "The Family" - a visceral and fleshy work which was hugely influential on the young Lucian Freud.

Edvard Munch's  
"Self-Portrait  
after the Spanish  
Flu," 1919  
Munchmuseet



Egon Schiele's  
"Gustav Klimt on  
his death bed,"  
1918 Public  
Domain



Egon Schiele's "The Family," 1918 Belvedere Museum

Stowe's own artists, featured in the 2022 Speech Day Exhibition, certainly expressed many of these concerns and qualities based on their own experiences. Emma Wright's (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) monumental body casts produced a triptych of hauntingly beautiful expressions of emptiness and 'the void within'.

Personal stories of battling with disabilities were told by Kia Winnington-Ingram (Upper Sixth, West) and Sophie Williams (Upper Sixth, West), standing alongside topical reflections of the Ukrainian conflict expressed by Rose Blomfield (Upper Sixth, West) and Henry Goodwin-Hudson (Upper Sixth, Bruce).

Interestingly, the true legacy of the Spanish Flu wasn't a complete eruption of dark and introspective styles, it was something quite different, the playful expression of the absurd, personified by Dadaism and Surrealism. Strange, imagined landscapes and ideas derived from the unconscious mind.

We saw this also in our own pupils work with Jet West's (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) comical and non-sensical journey into the world anthropological museums, Sebastian's Campbell-Preston's (Upper Sixth, Grafton), museum of curiosities and Wednesday Zhu's (Upper Sixth, West) other worldly animated landscapes.

Equally true is that clean, clinical styles started to emerge in the 1920s, led the Bauhaus and other modernist painters and sculptors, searching for order and logic in a time of great unrest.

A similar band of work prevailed in our exhibition with Cassidy Jorritsma (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) huge swirling op-art sculpture inviting the audience to bend light and line, Poppy Goaman (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) contorted swirls of bright colour dancing in a virtual reality environment and Alexandra Gridneva (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) monumental interconnected geometric sculpture - all of them exploring different aspects of the distorting of space.

But the last word must go to Noah Cosby (Upper Sixth, Temple), who's own battle with his spinal injury became the basis for an extraordinary journey exploring physical feelings and sensations. His final sculpture was showcased in the Marble Hall for Speech Day and was a profoundly moving talking point for all that witnessed it.

Personal stories, individual hardships, expressions of freedom - the lessons and reflections of 100 years ago are clearly still felt today.





Emma Wright



Noah Cosby



Wednesday Zu



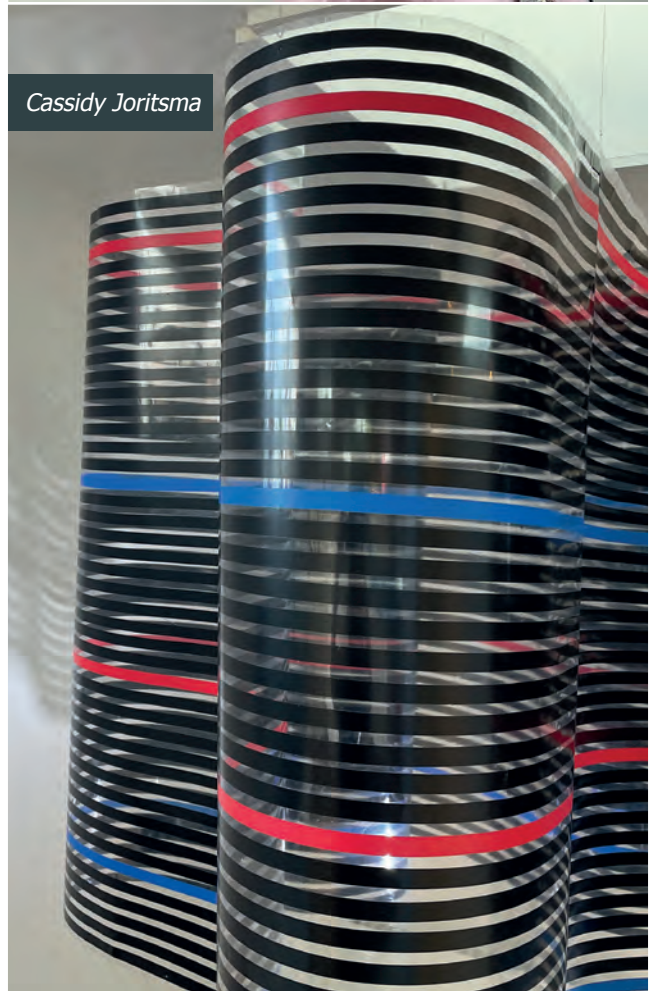
Sophie Williams and Fitz!

The Watson Gallery enjoyed a busy programme which was led by Old Stoic Toby Michael's (Temple 15) strong, well-observed oil paintings depicting friends and figures from politics.

Ewing Paddock's 'People Underground' showcased an enormous selection of characters from the Tube in all their varied glory. Punks and grannies sat next to businessmen and bored children in a colourful snapshot of London life. Ewing's work was also used as a GCSE Drama stimulus and we were delighted Ewing spoke so generously to all our Stoics about his process and method.

Former teacher at Stowe, Chris Atkinson delighted us with his playful creatures made from recycled materials and this provided the perfect environmentally conscious stimulus for the Stowe Art School Festival, now in its fourth year. Over 80 Prep School pupils from 15 different schools joined us from across the country, learning how to sculpt and etch in a very busy series of workshops and demonstrations, culminating in a huge exhibition of their artwork at the end of the day.

Key to the success of this event was Zizzy Trelawny-Vernon, who sadly leaves us this year to take up a position at Oundle School. Zizzy joined us three years ago and in that time has transformed from a training



Cassidy Joritsma



PGCE student into a confident and dedicated teacher in all mediums. She has been instrumental in setting up a vibrant Textiles activity and has been core to our success at GCSE over her time. We wish her the greatest of success in her new position.

But with every exit comes a new space and we are delighted to welcome Amy Walsh in September, joining us as our new Artist in Residence for the year.

We also say goodbye to Pete Brown who leaves us after over 25 years of service to the Art School and beyond. Pete has worked as Technician, Houseman and Security Guard over the years and his gentle manner, abstract sense of humour and willingness to help wherever needed will be widely missed. We wish him a happy retirement.

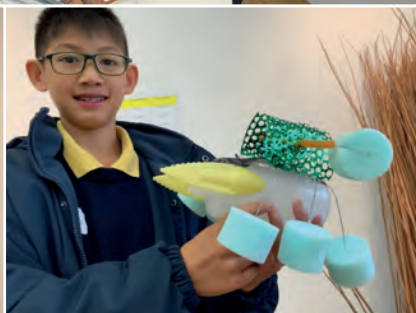
In his absence we look forward to welcoming Nicola Webb who will help support Melanie Greenwood in the ever-increasing demands of our large multimedia department. Much of our success over recent years, especially expanding our 3D programme, has been due to Melanie's technical support and we are indebted to her commitment.

None of this would be possible without the professionalism and creativity of our two other full-time members, Chris Grimble and Cheryl Syrett, who have both taken up the call to be ambitious and expansive in their direction of Stoics work. This could not have been more visible in the GCSE exhibition which showcased life size lino prints, Vivienne Westwood-esque textile, pewter castings and powerful large scale observational drawings to name but a fraction.

This crucial creative and technical foundation has been pivotal for driving excellent results over the last few years and we congratulate our 2021 and 2022 A Level cohorts for both achieving an 85% A\* or A grades.

The year ahead looks like another exciting and eventful year, with highlights including a full programme of exhibitions commemorating our Centenary, the now fully working new Kiln and ceramics room in operation and over 12 A Level pupils wanting to study Art and Architecture at university, there certainly won't be any time for resting on past successes.

**Daniel Scott, Head of Art**



HELLO  
Привет  
CIAO

HELLO

Привет

## Additional Foreign Languages

The Department of Additional Foreign Languages (AFL) currently offers GCSE and A Level Russian, Mandarin, Italian and Japanese, which gives native and semi-native speakers the opportunity to complete an additional qualification alongside their other subjects. Most of the time, this can be achieved in one year and most of the Stoics complete their AFL GCSE at the end of Fourth Form and their AFL A Level at the end of the Lower Sixth. This allows them to focus on their other subjects in the following exam year. The A Level Language qualifications are accepted as part of the UCAS requirements by the vast majority of British universities for native students and it will also help these Stoics to continue improving their native language skills, increasing their future career prospects at an international level. On top of the GCSE and A Level tuition, we also offer beginners classes open to all Stoics who wish to learn any of these four languages. AFL pupils regularly gain top grades at GCSE as well as A2, and last year we had again a 100% A\*-B pass rate in AFL.

During this academic year, we have welcomed a new Mandarin Tutor, Mrs Xuan Zhang, as well as a Japanese Tutor, Mrs Yumiko Schumacher, to the team. They have joined our Italian Tutor, Mrs Andrea Savage, and our Russian Tutor, Mrs Elena Bolton.

**Sandra Wheeler, Head of AFL**

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CIAO

# Careers and Higher Education

With an unprecedented level of competition for university places, which is forecast to become even more competitive over the next few years, the Careers Department has been busier than ever. Too much to list here, but below are some of the highlights of the year. This year there have been four core themes to our provision: 1) UK Universities, 2) European Universities, 3) US Colleges/Universities and 4) Talks from Industry Specialists.

The majority of our talks and workshops are pupil led, facilitated by Dr West and Mrs Guntner-Jones who lead the Careers and Higher Education Department, working closely with the Heads of Oxbridge, Medicine/Vet/Dentistry and Law applications. We have delivered 36 careers and HE talks this year, a four-day Careers Week, a networking workshop for the entire Lower Sixth, Third and Fourth Form Careers talks, individual Careers/pre-A Level meetings with the Fifth Form and facilitated nine mentoring relationships between current pupils and Old Stoics.

From preparing and writing a competitive personal statement, applying to elite athletics programmes, to applying to highly competitive courses, Stoics have had the opportunity to hear from leading universities on how they can position themselves to secure places at their first-choice universities.

We were honoured to welcome UK universities from Warwick, Edinburgh, Oxford Brookes, Birmingham, Loughborough, Leicester, Lancaster, St Andrews, Stirling and Glasgow.

During the Summer Term, Stowe held its annual International University Roadshow where a range of US, Canadian, European and universities from the Middle East took over the Sixth Form Centre and helped Stoics explore various options beyond the UK.

Our Careers' calendar culminated with the Careers Week where we heard from universities and industry leaders. The highlights of the Careers' Week were Hugh Dickerson (Personal Branding), Tim Dew (Adapting to Change in the Workplace), Orla Harper (The Importance of Work Experience), DHL (Degree Apprenticeships) and Dr West's favourite Yuki Soga on 'Investment Banking and how to be a Successful Woman in a Male Dominated Sector'.

**Dr Gordon West, Head of Careers**



# The Award

This year we see the Fifth Form and Upper Sixth complete the first full cycle of The Award, which was introduced in September 2020. The Award process is designed to track and encourage engagement and participation in eight key areas of a Stoic's life as they move through the School:

**Academic Achievement, Achieving, Beyond Term-Time and Citizenship. Engagement; Sport and Physical Activity; The Arts; In the Community and Thinking Differently.**

Citizenship is scored by Houseparents, whilst Academic engagement is scored according to APG averages. Points are awarded for individual Qualifications and achievements Beyond Term Time.

The other areas are scored for participation in the afternoon Sport and Activities programme, we use entries from the Personal Reports written each term to generate scores based upon three levels of engagement: **Basic Participation, Improving and Representing and Leadership.**

Stoics are eligible to achieve different levels of the Award at three stages of their Stowe career based on the scores they achieve: at the end of the Third Form, and at the end of the Lent Term of the Fifth Form and the Upper Sixth.

## Who are we seeing out on top?

As scores are awarded for participation and engagement, rather than levels of expertise and focus in one area, the top scorers are really showcasing the breadth of experience and opportunity on offer at Stowe.

In the Community our top scorers are involved in

initiatives from Dementia Friend training to acting as Climate Change Ambassadors. Involvement in the Arts features strongly and ranges from performing on stage in the production of 'Oliver!' and supporting the backstage and production teams, to offering solo performances in the Music School as well as performing for Orchestras and other Ensembles both at Stowe and beyond.

Alongside representing the School and captaining teams in all manner of sports at a wide range of levels, the best Personal Reports also highlight leadership roles within the CCF, participating in DofE expeditions, writing and taking photography for the Stowe Journalism project and leading Robotics teams, as well as a host of other activities.

It is particularly interesting to see the range of experience Stoics are gaining when they are not at School. Alongside the more traditional LAMDA and Music Exams, qualifications Stoics are gaining range from Food Hygiene certificates to PADI open water diving courses, with Stoics also learning the trade of bar tending, helping to build houses, as well as taking advantage of all manner of work experience opportunities.

In fact, the list of opportunities that Stoics are taking advantage of seems to be only limited by their imagination and ambition!

## What are the rewards?

It is clear that the true reward is finishing time at Stowe with a personal profile that demonstrates a true breadth of experience, however there are more tangible rewards for such admirable participation and engagement in School life.



Pins are awarded to all Stoics who achieve a points threshold at the end of each stage, with the top twenty scorers at each level awarded ties or brooches. We hope that the majority of Stoics will achieve all three pins by the time they finish their Stowe career.

In the Michaelmas Term the Award Celebration Dinner is attended by the top 15 achievers from the Fourth, Fifth and Upper Sixth Forms in the Music Room, which is a great opportunity to come together and celebrate the wide range of achievements across multiple year groups. In the Summer Term Staff nominate the most committed Stoics in their areas of involvement to attend a celebration BBQ, both events this year have been a really enjoyable celebration of the best that Stoics are achieving in all aspects of School life.

Congratulations to all from the Fifth Form and Upper Sixth who have achieved the requisite scores this year and we would, particularly, like to recognise the top twenty from each of those year groups for their exceptional engagement in School life.

**Gwilym Jones, Head of Co-Curricular**

### Fifth Form

- Grace Barnett (Cheshire)
- Jemima Pearson-Gee (Nugent)
- Ned Goodrich (Chandos)
- Annie Flint (Queen's)
- Joseph Barnett (Winton)
- Will Crabb (Winton)
- Natalie Nylaende (Queen's)
- Alice Bryant (Queen's)
- Jemima Hammond (Nugent)
- Sophie Lloyd (Nugent)
- Jasper Calkin (Cobham)
- Alejandro Sanchez Podesta (Winton)
- Ed Ellison (Cobham)
- Archie Jacobs (Winton)
- Joshua Parker (Winton)
- Freya Embley (Queen's)
- Lottie Moffat (Nugent)
- Jasper Hayes (Bruce)
- Elliot Strickland (Grenville)
- Conall Clarke (Bruce)

### Upper Sixth

- Jessica Foxwell (Lyttelton)
- Baz Calkin (Chatham)
- Finn Tyson (Winton)
- Sebastian Foxwell (Walpole)
- Sophia Southwick (Nugent)
- Poppy Goaman (Lyttelton)
- Grace Hurrell (Cheshire)
- Teagan Ralph (West)
- Amalie Mager (Lyttelton)
- Rafi Mahmood (Walpole)
- Philipp Benedic (Bruce)
- Jemima Howden (Stanhope)
- Olanma Kalu (West)
- Alexander Dens (Grenville)
- Paris Broughton (Queen's)
- Antonia Bartoszewski (Nugent)
- Benjamin Li (Cobham)
- William King-Eccles (Walpole)
- Caitlin Gilmore (Cheshire)
- Johnny Sutherland (Chatham)





“ This pioneering initiative lies at the heart of our future vision for Stowe. It is a mission that seeks to give the life-changing opportunity of a Stowe education to children whose circumstances mean that they would simply never otherwise get that chance. ”

# CHANGE 100

**The last three years, since *The Stoic* was last published, have been momentous at Stowe for so many reasons. Stowe has emerged strongly from the multiple challenges we have all faced - and as we celebrate and enjoy our new status as the Tatler Best Public School for 2023, and our largest-ever School Roll, we mark too the second year of the transformative Change 100 programme.**

This pioneering initiative lies at the heart of our future vision for Stowe. It is a mission that seeks to give the life-changing opportunity of a Stowe education to children whose circumstances mean that they would simply never otherwise get that chance. Through a series of charity partnerships, locally, regionally and nationally, and the dedicated work of our Admissions team, we were thrilled to welcome our first ten beneficiaries in September 2021 and, earlier this academic year, have been delighted to open our doors across The Stowe Group to ten more children.

There can be few people able to articulate the value and importance of Change 100 better than Marilyn Okoro (Lyttelton 02) and we invite and ask you to read her short testimony below. In the coming months we will be publishing our second Annual Report in which we reflect

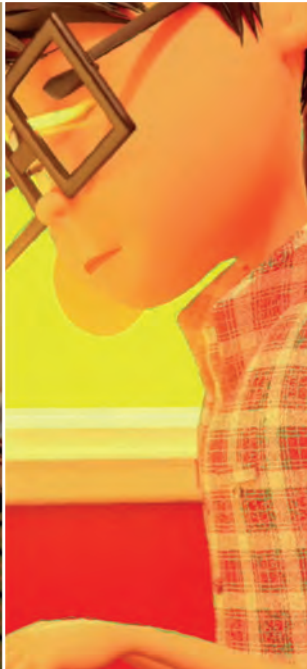
on the progress already made and the next steps we wish to make.

Change 100 would be nothing, of course, without the quite extraordinary generosity of members of our own community: Old Stoics, parents, current and former Staff and other friends of the School who have so far donated and pledged nearly £16 million, in gifts of every size. To them all, we extend our sincere and most heartfelt thanks, not only for their contribution to supporting Stowe but, more especially, for the difference they have made to the lives of talented and deserving children.

We also take this opportunity to thank all those who have so kindly given their support to other important projects that we have been raising much-needed funds for, most particularly the final stages of the restoration of the House (more about which you will read elsewhere in *The Stoic*) and the superb new Design, Technology and Engineering Centre, the construction of which will very shortly begin.

We would be delighted and very grateful to hear from you if you would like to learn more about or become involved in our fundraising aims and aspirations: please do get in touch with us in the Development Office.

**Colin Dudgeon, Director of Development**



"I believe that everyone has a superpower - sometimes, even more than one. Mine are speed and determination, and coming to Stowe helped me unlock those dual strengths and become a medal-winning Olympian. But there are so many deserving children who need help to unlock their full potential and set their sights on extraordinary goals.

The world is full of children with natural talent, but they do not always get the nurturing support or resources that they deserve. Stowe is well placed to provide this for those whose circumstances might otherwise conspire to work against their innate ability. Change 100 not only hopes to raise the funds needed to give a Stowe education to many deserving children in the future, but is also committed to seeking them out, whether with bus stop adverts in Wembley, where I grew up, or partnerships with schools, youth groups, charities and outreach groups across the country.

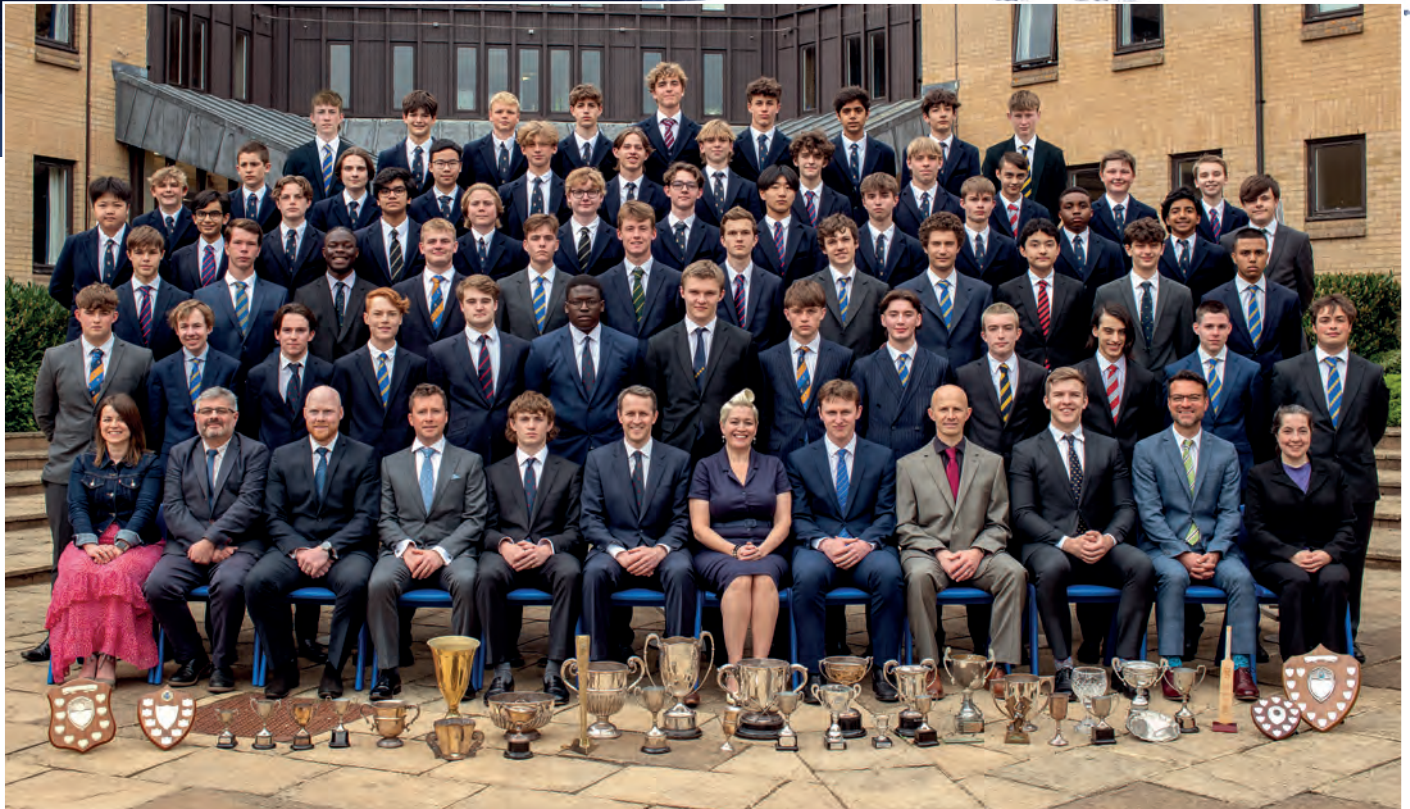
No one can say that supporting talent that might otherwise be overlooked by society is not a worthwhile goal in itself. But Change 100 is also an ambition that unites us as a community, give us confidence in the future of education and fosters an immense pride in us all that we are Stoics and that Stowe is different and special - a cultivator for independent thinkers, mould breakers and Change Makers whatever their background and where ever they come from.

I am so proud to be an ambassador for Change 100 and excited that Stowe has set about this amazing mission.

**Marilyn Okoro (Lyttelton 02),  
Olympic Bronze Medallist**

*Marilyn Okoro*

# Bruce



**It has been a huge relief to finally get back into a normal School routine this year and the boys in Bruce have once again made the most of all the activities on offer to them. The family atmosphere that we treasure so highly is front and centre of all the boys do and as Staff members, we really feel that too.**

The boys have been very welcoming to the new Brucites as they have joined in their various Year Groups, as well as any guests or Staff that they meet on a daily basis. The Prefects have been at the heart of this atmosphere, ably led by Head of House, Wilf Wyatt and Deputy Head of House, Henry Goodwin-Hudson. The whole Prefect team have been excellent role models and the boys have been lucky enough to have had this year's Head Boy, Philipp Benedic to look up to too. I am pleased to announce that next year's Head of House will be Jacob Wells. Congratulations also go to Harry Rose, Miles Davis and Ed Davis who have been appointed School Prefects.

The year started out very well as Harry Rose and Matthew Ryland were awarded their Academic Honours Ties for their fantastic GCSE results. The academic drive has continued throughout, with some excellent APGs and internal exam results across the House. We wish those waiting for external exam results all the very best and we look forward to seeing how they have got on.

A clear highlight from this year has been our consistent performances in the Inter-House Debating Competitions.

**“ A clear highlight from this year has been our consistent performances in the Inter-House Debating Competitions. ”**

The Senior team of Matthew Ackroyd (Upper Sixth), Toby Buck (Upper Sixth) and Federico Riojas Ordorica (Lower Sixth) were superb throughout, losing in the Semi-Final. The intermediate team of Hemish Rajguru (Fifth Form), Araan Sobhan (Fifth Form) and Xavier Nylaende (Fourth Form) also narrowly lost in the Semi-Final. This left the Junior team of Zeb Hodgson, William Gorton and Carlo Galliani (all Third Form) and the duly delivered a win in the Final to round off an excellent year behind the lectern.

There have been several successes on the sporting front starting with a win for the Lower Sixth team in the inter-House Football tournament. In Rugby, we were delighted to cheer on the 1st XV as they won the National Schools' Plate Competition at the StoneX Stadium. Josh Hutchings, Imran Tinubu and Jacob Wells (all Lower Sixth) were all members of this squad throughout this excellent season. The Senior boys then swiftly moved their attention to the prestigious Rosslyn Park 7s tournament. This time, Jacob Wells (Lower Sixth) was the sole Brucite in this squad and his invaluable contributions helped the team to remain unbeaten and win the National Schools' 7s Vase Competition.





**Houseparent:** Philip Arnold

**Matron:** Joelene Beardon

**Assistant Houseparent:** Ben Scott

**Under Houseparent:** George Coote

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Julie Potter, (Fifth Form) Luis Fuentes Olea, Emilie Danis, Michelle Matthews, Miles Nottage and (Fourth Form) Chris Grimble

**Head Boy:** Philipp Benedic

**Head of House:** Wilf Wyatt

**Deputy Head of House:** Henry Goodwin-Hudson

**House Prefects:** Murtala Muhammed, Matthew Ackroyd, Al Deliss, Louis Ford and Robert Cullens

**School Prefect:** Henry Goodwin-Hudson

“ Our Senior Cricket side had an excellent run of form in the Inter-House competition. ”

In the House Hockey tournaments, the Senior team was not the favourite on paper, but their determination and team spirit saw them through to the Final with some fantastic performances, including a sudden-death win against Grafton. They held their nerve in the Final and won the Senior Cup. Next it was the turn of the Third Form team and they followed the Seniors' lead with determined defence and great team spirit; showing the value of playing as a team as they also swept into the Final via a sudden-death win. Zeb Hodgson (Third Form) scored the winner in both the Semi and the Final to take the Junior Cup.

In the Finals of the House Swimming Competition, the Bruce boys did very well and showed great determination in all their races, including some admirable last-minute volunteers who stepped in due to injury and illness. Ed Davis won the individual 100m freestyle cup.

Our Senior Cricket side had an excellent run of form in the Inter-House competition. Opening batters Wilf Wyatt and Brendan Coetzee didn't lose a wicket until

the Final and had excellent partnerships throughout.

Thirty boys from the House competed in a variety of events as part of the 'Stowe Challenge'. We put out a really strong team and were rewarded with coming second overall. The 'tractor tyre flipping' team of Matt Ackroyd, Josh Hutchings (Lower Sixth), Mikey Oduguwa (Fifth Form), Alfie French (Fourth Form) and Carlo Galliani won that particular event with an amazing 72 flips in 90 seconds. The boys who competed in the assault course, the log carry and 2.5 km run, the problem-solving task, the 1km row and the laser Clay Pigeon shooting performed brilliantly, and their consistently high finishes were the reason for our impressive Second place.

We had a very successful Sports Day, where we came second in the Senior Competition and third overall. Our final position was a credit to everyone who competed, as they all contributed points and it was our consistency of top five placings which made the difference. Congratulations must especially go to Woody Hamilton Hurst, Tarka Goodwin-Hudson (Fourth Form), Alfie French (Fourth Form), Harry Rose (Lower Sixth) and Rhys Jordan (Lower Sixth) for convincingly winning their events. In addition to this, Harry and Tarka also won their respective races in the annual House Cross-Country competition.





Ed Davis and Miki Khursheed (Fourth Form) have had a superb season competing in several National competitions in Golf and have been part of the very successful School team for this year. In Clay Pigeon Shooting, Matthew Ryland won the prestigious Swan Cup. Our Chess players, Carlo Galliani and Xavier Nylaende, have enjoyed the re-introduction of more competitions, both winning various accolades throughout the year.

Another highlight was Stowe's F1 in Schools team, which was made up solely of Lower Sixth Brucites. Federico Riojas Ordorica, Harry Rose, Freddie Smith and Ollie Halsey-Wright worked tirelessly on this project. It was brilliant to see the Stowe Radio show blossom from Araan Sobhan's 2020 Bruce Show, with the popular addition of Stepan Volkov's (Fourth Form) Film Review. Henry Goodwin-Hudson also won the 'Best Film Award' at the StOscars.

On the music front, the House Singing competition saw Neel Collin (Upper Sixth) coordinating both the Unison and Part Songs. There has been a large group of Brucites in the rapidly growing School Choir and several

boys have performed superbly in a huge array of School concerts and performances. We were also treated to a wonderful set of major School productions this year; with Matthew Ackroyd playing a very convincing Bill Sykes and Matt Ryland as one of the market sellers in 'Oliver!', as well as Woody Hamilton Hurst featuring in Treasure Island.

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. We are very lucky to have had such an experienced and stable team of Tutors for the past few years, who contribute so much of their time and effort into the House. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to three of the team this year. To the wonderful Mr Fuentes who has been the Fifth Form's Tutor and an amazing presence in the House on a Tuesday evening; we will all miss his words of wisdom and calm authority. Ms Danis has been a brilliant Sixth Form Tutor and supporter of her Tutees through thick and thin. Our final farewell is reserved for Mr Coote, our Under Houseparent for the past four years. As an Old Stoic, his first-hand knowledge and supportive nature has been invaluable for so many of the boys. We are pleased he is not leaving Stowe and excited for him and Becky as they move down to run the Equestrian Centre.

My final thank you is to my wife, Jo, and our family for their continued support which allows me to enjoy the job that I do. We were especially lucky to welcome baby Iris Arnold into the Bruce family this Summer, born in Bruce private side and ready to play with her 62 big brothers!

**Mr Philip Arnold, Bruce Houseparent**





# Chandos

**Houseparent:** Anthony Ashfield

**Matron:** Clare Hill-Hall

**Assistant Houseparent:** Stephen Whitby

**Under Houseparent:** Steven Matthews

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Sharon Carter, Steven Matthews, Francesca Shah, Paul Thompson, (Fifth Form) Robert Ingham Clark, (Fourth Form) Alice Tearle and (Third Form) Stephen Whitby

**Head of House:** George Carpmael

**House Prefects:** George Carpmael, Samuel Ellis, Joshua Green, George Hopkinson-Woolley, Jack Simpson and Oscar Watson

**School Prefects:** George Carpmael, Samuel Ellis, Joshua Green, George Hopkinson-Woolley, Jack Simpson and Oscar Watson

**This year has yet again seen another very successful spell for Chandos in a variety of areas. One of the major highlights came in the Lent Term with a memorable effort from the boys to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association; Chandos were awarded the Cheshire Cup for Service at Speech Day.**

In the words of Oscar Watson (Upper Sixth), writing the final update for Chandos Parents: It has been a tremendous week for Chandos House. We cannot thank you enough for all the support you gave the boys to help make this week so amazing. In the end we managed to raise £3,601 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Most of this money will be used to provide a text to speech device, giving someone with Motor Neurone

**Chandos were awarded the Cheshire Cup for Service at Speech Day.**

Disease the ability to continue to communicate with their friends and loved ones. The ability to speak is one of the first things that tends to break down after developing Motor Neurone Disease, so providing people with a form of communication is vital for maintaining their quality of life. The money will also be used to provide funding for treatment and research into producing a cure.

There were so many outstanding efforts from all the Year Groups but thought it would be great to mention a few to you. Starting with the Third Form. Throughout the week the constant noise of rowing and cycling machines echoed around the House as the Third Form got their distances in. Gabriel Shakoor and Paul Ostroverhy completed over 55km combined on the rowing machines alone. Rufus Bullock also rowed 14.2km and cycled 18.2km throughout the week. Prizes were awarded to the top in each Year Group using a point system with cycling being worth one, rowing three and running four points. The top three in the Third Form were Paul Ostroverhy with 61.8 points, Jerry Liu with 69.2 and finally Gabriel Shakoor with 105 points claiming 1st place. In total the Third Form completed 246.5km.

In the Fourth Form we had some great performances. Gilbert Xu and Rupert King cycled 108km and 47.5km respectively during the week. Elsewhere Harry Langford, Harrison Debbage-Price and Andre Davis also put in some impressive distances running on the treadmill and around the Grounds. The top three in the Fourth Form were Rupert King 3rd with 113.9 points and then tied for 1st place were Gilbert Xu and Harry Langford, both with 148 points. As a year group they completed 218km.

The Fifth Form were outstanding throughout the week.

**“ Chandos have competed well in all number of Sports and Inter-House competitions this year. ”**

Ned Goodrich completed 100km in one session on the exercise bike. Finlay Nasmyth managed to do 46km and Joe Albertella did 42.6km on the bike in the week. Hardy King ran 17.4km showing great grit and determination. In their standings Finlay Nasmyth finished third with 105.2 points, Joe Albertella came second with 128 points, and Ned Goodrich topped it off with a massive 230.7 points overall putting him second in the House overall. The Fifth Form managed a massive 418.6km.

The Lower Sixth also put in some great efforts. Kenny Kim cycled 42.4 km and Alex Gu followed swiftly behind him with 25.7km completed in the week. Theo Epes and Will McCullough ran 7.7km and 6km as well topping up their tallies. In their Year Group standings Will McCullough finished 3rd with 45.3 points, Alex Kozlov finished 2nd with 54.8 points and well done to Theo Epes who won with 60.8 points in the week. The Lower Sixth managed to complete 168km.

Finally, the Upper Sixth who led the way everyday showing a great example to the House. Thanassi Ghertsos completed a trio of amazing distances running 14.6km, rowing 31.7k and cycling 64.4km. Charlie Crofts also ran 39.1km and cycled 35.4km throughout the week. Joshua Green managed to row 30km in one session, spending a whole afternoon rowing on the rowing machines, this topped up his rowing total to 47.7km. Jack Simpson did 40km in one sitting in the gym on the cycling machines. The top three in Upper Sixth were Thanassi Ghertsos with 217 points, Oscar Watson with 442.1 points and finally Darius Shirazi who won overall in Chandos with a humungous 613 points. Darius Shirazi who ran, rowed, and cycled his way to over 500km throughout the week, an unbelievable achievement. He spent every activity slot and prep session peddling away and acted as an inspiration to the whole House and others to get them involved in this cause.

It was great to see the House on the South Front on

Sunday, the final day of our fundraising effort, as we rowed, ran and cycled our way to a total of 2,419km as a House in the week. We got a chance to speak to passers-by about Motor Neurone Disease and what we were doing to help. The Head even completed a few kilometres on one of the exercise bikes. Thank you to Rory Calvert and Milo Xing who gave up an hour of their well-deserved Sunday break to raise money on the South Front for such a great charity.

Chandos have competed well in all number of Sports and Inter-House competitions this year: Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Debating, Basketball, Badminton, Lacrosse, House Singing to name but a few, with Inters retaining Badminton and Seniors retaining Lacrosse for now the third year in a row. As Captains of Sport, Jack Simpson (Rugby), Oscar Watson (Cricket), Joshua Green (Rowing), Thanassi Ghertsos (Fencing) and George Foster (Athletics) have all led their teams admirably by example. Sports Colours have justifiably been awarded to: Sam Ellis (Sailing), George Foster (Rugby), Thanassi Ghertsos (Fencing, Rowing and Water Polo), Joshua Green (Rowing), Darius Shirazi (Tennis), Jack Simpson (Rugby) and Oscar Watson (Cricket).

Academically the House remains strong with the following boys receiving a number of commendations across the year for their work: Paddy Potts, Arthur Koomen, Paul Ostroverhy (who has also been commended for his essay on Liberty in the Independent Schools' Religious Studies Association Annual Essay Competition), Tomisin Ibitoye, Terry Tan, Kenny Kim, Hardy King, Gilbert Xu, Archie Grant, George Carpmael, Oscar Parsons, Gabriel Shakoor and Harry Langford. In addition, Gilbert Xu was also awarded a Bene for coming top of his year in all three Sciences - Biology, Chemistry and Physics; an achievement described as truly outstanding and incredibly rare - maybe only once or twice a decade.





Darius Shirazi was awarded the Robert Barbour Prize for Philosophy and Religion, Terry Tan the Anthony Pedder Prize for Physics, Theo Epes the David McDonough Prize for Politics, Samuel Ellis (who also led Chandos in House Singing this year) the Gilling-Lax Prize for Woodwind and Jack Simpson the Head's Special Prize. A Senior Academic Scholarship was awarded to Oscar Watson, with Academic Colours awarded to George Carpmael, Samuel Ellis, Darius Shirazi, Charlie Crofts, Joshua Green, George Hopkinson-Woolley and Mark Sorokin. The entire Chandos Upper Sixth and Fifth Form is also to be commended too, for their focus and hard work in preparation for their final exams this year.

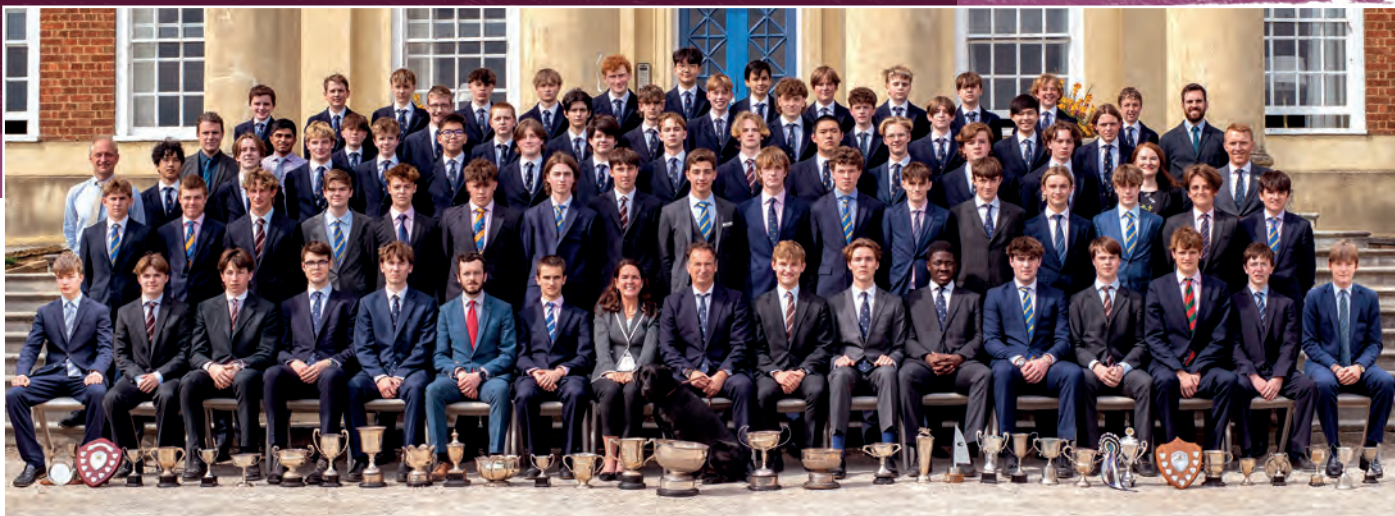
I would like to thank all of the Chandos Staff for supporting the boys so well this year. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated Housekeeping team in place and I would like to thank Natasha, Annabelle, Eleanor, Penny and Cody for all their hard work. The Chandos Tutor team are equally dedicated and I would also like to thank Stephen, Steven, Alice, Rob, Sharon, Fran and Paul for all their hard work too. Finally, I would like to thank, on behalf of all the Staff and boys, Clare who continues to provide all the boys with the very best of care as our Matron.

I offer my congratulations to Paddy Potts, our new Head of School and Fourth Form Prefect, to Kenny Kim, Chandos' new Head of House, to Terry Tan, Chandos' new Deputy Head of House, Theo Epes, Academic Prefect, Alex Kozlov, Third Form Prefect and Alex Gu, Sports Prefect. I also offer my congratulations to: Rory Calvert, Arthur Gee, Ned Goodrich, Finlay Nasmyth and Michael Shpurik, as Chandos' new Third Form Mentor team. I look forward to working with them next year.

Finally, Chandos' current Upper Sixth; a truly exceptional Year Group who have led the House extremely well and set the benchmark for other Year Groups to now follow. George Carpmael (Head of House and Senior School Prefect), Darius Shirazi (Deputy Head of House), Oscar Watson (Academic Prefect and School Prefect), Jack Simpson (Sports Prefect and School Prefect), George Hopkinson-Woolley (Third Form Prefect and School Prefect), Joshua Green (Fourth Form Prefect and School Prefect), Charlie Crofts (House Prefect), George Foster (House Prefect), Samuel Ellis (School Prefect), Thanassi Ghertsos, Mark Sorokin and Oscar Parsons. I wish you all the very best.

**Anthony Ashfield, Chandos Houseparent**

# Chatham



**The boys have made Chatham a wonderful environment in which to live and work over the last nine years. Rachael, Mr Austen and the House Team endeavour to create a home from home in Chatham and I know the boys share this sense of community and pride in this special building we call home.**

At the beginning of each year I speak to the House about my expectations over the coming year. I outlined the misperception of education being a 'preparation for life'. In a School such as Stowe, each day should be amongst the most colourful, exciting, fulfilling days of one's being. Regarding school as merely a preparation for life underestimates the richness and the intrinsically worthwhile nature of what you can and should achieve here. I quote Eleanor Roosevelt; "Do one thing every day that scares you", and off they go to challenge themselves, mentally, physically and socially.

I am delighted that Chatham boys are particularly cordial and their social skills are their greatest assets. I am incredibly proud of them, for opening doors, greeting visitors, looking smart, offering to help and above all, trying their best in whatever they are doing. I want them to succeed of course, but I want them to enjoy themselves doing something worthwhile, with or for other people. Isaac Newton's comment, "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants" resonates with the House ethos. There have been many giants in the House this year and many that may not yet be, but we have many that are growing in courage to become giants of this community. I hope you will indulge me in sharing some of their achievements.

In the House there are giants that are well known, those who achieve accolades in the academic sphere, on the sports fields, by acting, singing and performing and I will come on to them. But there are also equally impressive groups who gain awards for effort if not achievement, volunteering to help, raising money for charity and

**“In the House there are giants that are well known, those who achieve accolades in the academic sphere, on the sports fields, by acting, singing and performing and I will come on to them. But there are also equally impressive groups who gain awards for effort if not achievement, volunteering to help, raising money for charity and supporting others in the House. They never seek recognition but without them we would be a significantly poorer community. Their achievements are recognised each week on what is known in Chatham as 'Donut Friday'.”**

supporting others in the House. They never seek recognition but without them we would be a significantly poorer community. Their achievements are recognised each week on what is known in Chatham as 'Donut Friday'.

Academically Chatham boys have worked hard throughout the year and there is a scholarly ambience in the House, with healthy competition to succeed in the classroom. As I write this report, the table for merits awarded sees Bertie Scott (Third Form), Orlando San Bonifacio (Fourth Form), Oliver Jenden (Fifth Form), Carlo de Vivo (Lower Sixth) and Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth) leading their Year Groups.

In the first half of the Michaelmas Term, Baz Calkin, Tom Martineau (Upper Sixth) and Luke Holland-Bosworth (Upper Sixth) had the challenging task of leading the House Music, singing a version of Bastille's Pompeii. Despite not winning, we were the top placed boys' House. The Senior boys' House Rugby team, Captained by Teide Lokpobiri (Upper Sixth), did well to reach the

**Houseparent:** Liam Copley

**Matron:** Rachael Scott-Copley

**Assistant Houseparent:** Mark Austen

**Under Houseparent:** Smit Chitre

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Michael Righton, Ben Andrew, Emma Bryden, Andrew Arnold, (Fifth Form) Mikkel Møller, (Fourth Form) Samuel Williams and (Third Form) Mark Austen

**Head of House:** Baz Calkin

**House Prefects:** Luke Holland-Bosworth and Johnny Sutherland

**School Prefects:** Luke Holland-Bosworth, Sebastian Calkin and John Sutherland



Semi-Final, but were surpassed by the Junior boys who under the guidance of Oscar Dunipace (Third Form) won the Cup. In the final major House competition of the term the spoils went to Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth) who won the Senior House Cross Country. Continuing in a sporting vein, Chatham had a good spread of boys across the array of School teams and many playing at 'A' team level. On the Rugby field; Teide Lokpobiri and Ewan Baker (Lower Sixth) secured regular slots in a very strong 1st XV; Sam Cousins (Fourth Form) and Oscar Dunipace had a very successful year, which earned an invite to join The Academy Rugby Elite Performance Group. Luke Holland-Bosworth and Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart (Upper Sixth) Joint-Captained a talented Squash team whilst Arseny Savrasov (Upper Sixth) Captained the School Water Polo team. There was also success in the Senior House Basketball and Football under the watchful guidance of our Sports Prefect, Teide Lokpobiri. The Lent Term brought further success for Chathamites

**“ Academically Chatham boys have worked hard throughout the year and there is a scholarly ambience in the House. ”**

on the Sports field. On the Hockey pitch it was most satisfying to see Bertie Fountain (Upper Sixth) making regular selection for the 1st XI. This was carried forward into the Senior House Hockey Competition where the squad led by Bertie fell at the last hurdle losing in the Final. The trophy cabinet gained a plethora of additions thanks to the success of our Senior swimmers who won both the freestyle and individual medley relay events and the overall boy's Senior Swimming Cup (Senior squad: Johnny Sutherland, Archie Atkinson, Baz Calkin, Conrad Spencer, all Upper Sixth). Johnny and Baz also also won trophies for their individual events. Our strength in the pool was underlined with victory in the



House Junior Water Polo league Captained by Klim Rotov and in the Seniors Captained by Arseny Savrasov. Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart, Luke Holland-Bosworth and Conrad Spencer dominated the Senior House Squash to bring even more silverware back to the Chatham trophy cabinet.

It was pleasing to have Will Jenden (Lower Sixth), George Palin (Upper Sixth) and Gus Howard (Lower Sixth) all selected for the 1st XI Cricket. With a large number of players in the 2nd team we had strength in depth going into the Senior House Competition. With an excellent cricketing connoisseur in George Palin as our Captain we had a clean sweep bringing even more silverware to the cabinet. The Junior House Tennis team Captained by Luke Tomkinson (Fourth Form) were unlucky to lose in the Semi-Final of the House competition.

I would like to acknowledge several other boys' performances. The extraordinary musical talents of the Head of House, Baz Calkin, are magnificent. His performances at many of the House events have been a pleasure and greatly appreciated by all. The acting performances in the major School plays of Oliver Jenden were glorious and I hope next year we will see another Chatham House play. Arthur Irvine (Lower Sixth) and Henry Tavistock's (Lower Sixth) ability to lead the Beagles throughout this academic year and recruit several young Chathamites is wonderful to witness. Likewise, the ability of Ewan Baker and Noah



**“ Finally, I would like to congratulate the Senior boys on completing their days in Chatham in such fine spirit and thank them all for helping shape the character of those in the younger years. ”**

Cowan (Lower Sixth) to balance their time between School and Northampton Saints/London Irish Academy commitments is astounding. I am pleased to say Ewan has also been appointed Captain of Rugby next year. The incredible achievements of Johnny Sutherland who was made the Lord Lieutenant Cadet of Buckinghamshire and was awarded a flying scholarship from the RAF where he received his wings as a solo pilot.

The highlight of the year for me, after three years in the wilderness, has been being able to share a leisurely Sunday afternoon with friends and family at the House picnic. This fabulous occasion offered an opportunity for the extended community of Chatham House to come together in the splendour of our gardens.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Senior boys on completing their days in Chatham in such fine spirit and thank them all for helping shape the character of those in the younger years. Baz Calkin and Luke Holland-Bosworth have proved an excellent team as Head and Deputy Head of House and they have been ably supported by their Prefect Team of Tom Martineau, Johnny Sutherland, Max Markham and Teide Lokpobiri. The Chatham Upper Sixth have shown great dedication to the House and I also thank Archie Atkinson, Elliot Derville, Bertie Fountain, Rupert Fox, George Palin, Arseny Savrasov, Conrad Spencer and Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart. It was the great leader Nelson Mandela who said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The giants of Chatham House who leave us, live amongst us and those still yet to emerge will, I hope, do exactly that.

Rachael and I have greatly enjoyed our time as custodians of this incredible part of the Stowe community. We wish Patrick Dias the best of luck as he takes on the honourable task of guiding the boys of Chatham. And to next year's Senior boys and Prefects, I wish you the best of luck.

**Liam Copley, Chatham Houseparent**



# Cheshire



**At the end of its third year, Cheshire is very much established in the School as a House of 'doers'; of girls who are thriving in all aspects of Stowe life, enriching the community; who are happy and who are, above all, kind. I am immensely proud of all they have achieved this year and welcome this opportunity to reflect on some of their highlights and successes.**

The Inter-House Football served as a perfect ice-breaker at the beginning of term, adorning their Cheshire House Shirts, the girls had great fun! The 5km Inter-House Cross Country event saw top three placings for Cassidy Jorritsma (Upper Sixth) (Second), Matilda Neuhoff (Upper Sixth) (Third), Izzy Kaye (Fifth Form) (First), Phoebe Haynes (Fifth Form) (Second), Isobel Cox (Fourth Form) (Second), Charlotte Hall (Third Form) (First), Isabella Russell (Third Form) (Third) with the Upper Sixth winning overall. Cheshire retained their title in the Inters Inter-House Hockey with another nail-biting sudden death finish! In the Lent Term, the Inters also regained their Cup by winning the Inter-House Netball competition in an exciting Final against Queen's. The Inter-House Swimming provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our committed swimmers with individual wins for Phoebe Haynes, Isobel Cox (Inters' Champion Cup), Charlotte Hall (Juniors' Champion Cup), all leading the Cheshire team to win the overall Junior and Intermediate competitions. On Sports Day, Cheshire dominated in so many events to win the Junior and Intermediate Competitions, with notable performances from Marina Goje (Third Form) (First 100m, 200m), Charlotte Hall (First 1,500m NSR 5.07.08, 800m), Isabella Russell (First Steeplechase), Jonelle Famutimi (Third Form) (First Long Jump), Théa Gross (Third Form) (First Javelin), Isobel Cox (First Shot Put), Ari Hay (Fourth Form) (First Discus), Jojo

Parker (Fifth Form) (First Open 100m), Phoebe Haynes (First Steeplechase, Triple-jump), Izzy Kaye (First 800m, Javelin), Charlotte Laurie (Upper Sixth) (First High-jump). We also enjoyed competing in the Inter-House Lacrosse, Tennis and Cricket and I appreciate the contribution by all those who take part in the Inter-House sport events, representing Cheshire in our true House spirit - fun yet competitive!

In the House Singing Finals we performed a great rendition of Runaway Baby by Bruno Mars, ably led by Harriet Hines (Upper Sixth) and Martha Blake (Fifth Form), then fantastically won the Part-Song competition with a superb arrangement of 'Read All About It' by Emeli Sandé. The Choir is well supported by Cheshire girls and our musicians practise tirelessly to play in the Orchestra, along with Lunchtime and School Concerts, a particular mention to Nikki Atife (Fourth Form) and Emily Garwood (Fourth Form) for their contribution, with Emily recently achieving a distinction in Grade 8 Cello.

Cheshire are at the forefront of Stowe Drama, with 15 girls in the cast of 'Oliver!' A spectacular production, worthy of the West End, with notable performances from Martha Blake (Fifth Form) (Nancy), Bee Harvey-





Craig (Lower Sixth), Mimi Price (Fifth Form), Jasmine Sakyiama (Fifth Form), Lilia Møller (Fifth Form) and Camille Thornton-Izzard (Fifth Form.) In *Treasure Island*, Junior Congreve, there were ten of our girls cast in this energetic play with lead roles from Amélie Chue Neverton (Fourth Form), Tamsin Cusiter (Fifth Form), Nikki Atife and Isabella Fuller (Fourth Form). Well done to Isabella who achieved a distinction in her Grade 7 LAMDA exam and to Amélie for a distinction at Grade 6. We wish Jasmine all the best in *Bugsy Malone*, touring the UK!

On the academic side, the girls in Cheshire are very successful in their studies, creating a culture of working hard and striving for their best. Well done in particular to those invited to the Head's APG Supper for their consistent effort across this year, Katarina Zant-Boer (Lower Sixth), Jojo Parker (Fourth Form), Isabella Fuller (Fourth Form), Isobel Crabb (Fourth Form), Nada Shamsuddin (Third Form), Niamh Gilmore (Third Form), Marina Goje and Théa Gross (Third Form).

“Cheshire are at the forefront of Stowe Drama, with 15 girls in the cast of ‘Oliver!’”

I was impressed with the way the Upper Sixth and Fifth Form calmly prepared for their first ever external exams and I am sure their extraordinary efforts will be justly rewarded in the summer. Well done to those who were awarded with a prize on Speech Day in recognition of their achievement: Matilda Neuhoff (JF Aimer Prize for Art, James Mayne Prize for Business and the Cummings Prize for Good Citizenship); Connie Adams (Upper Sixth) (Friends of Stowe Prize for Spanish), Mimi Price (Fifth Form) (Friends of Stowe Prize for Drama), Grace Barnett (Fifth Form) (Basil Aimers Prize for English and Friends of Stowe Prize for French), Allero-Dawn Priestley (Fifth Form) (Friends of Stowe Prize for Spanish), Phoebe Haynes (Fifth Form) (Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science), Nikki Atife (Fourth Form) (Gilling-Lax Prize for



**Houseparent:** Sarah Sutton

**Matron:** Fern Parker

**Assistant Houseparent:** Cheryl Davis

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Lorraine Campbell, Paul Floyd, James Tearle, (Fifth Form) Victoria Dias, Rebecca Brown, (Fourth Form) Desirée Podesta, Georgina Pearson and (Third Form) Cheryl Davis

**Head of House:** Harriet Hines

**Deputy Head of House:** Caitlin Gilmore

**House Prefects:** Connie Adams, Susan Deng, Grace Hurrell, Cassidy Jorritsma, Charlotte Laurie, Lydia Moseley and Matilda Neuhoff

**School Prefects:** Harriet Hines and Matilda Neuhoff



Keyboard) and Annabel Hodgetts (Third Form) (Gilling-Lax Prize for Brass).

It is fantastic to see so many of the Cheshire girls representing the School Sports' Teams in Hockey, Netball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Equestrian, Swimming, Rowing Harriet Hines (Upper Sixth) and Lily Jackson (Lower

Sixth), Cricket, whilst also enjoying considerable success out of School, notably Izzy Kaye (England U17) and Phoebe Haynes in Netball; Cassidy Jorritsma, Elizabeth Knott (Lower Sixth), Ari Hay, Jojo Parker, Darcey Moran (Fourth Form) and Isobelle Blount (Fourth Form) in Hockey; Charlotte Hall in Swimming and Triathlon; Isobel Cox in Swimming; Connie Adams, Isabella Russell, Mimi Price, Cassidy Jorritsma in Equestrian.

It is hard to capture just how much the girls have accomplished in one year, with Duke of Edinburgh's Award and CCF being well-supported and much enjoyed, with the opportunity for leadership, problem-solving, and going beyond the comfort zone. Thank you to those who represented Cheshire in the Inter-House Debating, Lani Shah (Third Form), Théa Gross, Niamh Gilmore (Martha Blake, Phoebe Haynes, Lilia Møller, Ella Georgakis (Lower Sixth), Daisy Chadwick (Lower Sixth), Lily Jackson. The Award recognises those who have fully engaged in all aspects of School life and in the Upper Sixth was achieved by Grace Hurrell, Caitlin Gilmore, Matilda Neuhoff, Harriet Hines and Connie Adams and in the Fifth Form by Grace Barnett, Martha Blake, Phoebe Haynes, Ela Shah, Isabella Reeder, Allero-Dawn Priestley, Jasmine Sakyiama and Lily Taylor.

Thank you to the fabulous Cheshire House Team who enable the girls to flourish. Fern, has been an incredible Matron, always so kind and good natured - nothing is too much trouble. Our Tutors have inspired, nurtured and guided the girls and we are fortunate to have such an experienced team in Cheshire. We are hugely grateful to our cleaning team of Katie, Hayley and Dawn, and our Handyman, Lee. In particular I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Davis for taking the helm in the Michaelmas Term and for her continued support throughout this year. Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful Cheshire Upper Sixth for all they have done to continue to grow and shape Cheshire House, acting as superb ambassadors, especially Harriet Hines as Head of House, and Caitlin Gilmore as Deputy Head of House - we will miss you all!

**Sarah Sutton, Cheshire Houseparent**

# Cobham



**Cobham's House motto is 'quo non ascendam' - roughly translated as 'To what heights may we not climb?' and this has very much been the theme for the year.**

Being in Cobham is about effort and participation, with the emphasis on self-improvement and aspiration, rather than just success. We do have a very full trophy cabinet (more of which later), but I am just as delighted by a heroic fourth place as I am by an easy first. The House Singing is a nice case in point. Cobham is not currently blessed with a strong choral tradition, but what we lacked in finesse, we tried to make up for in volume.

Although a Boarding House is so much more than its bricks and mortar, we are very blessed in Cobham in this respect. This academic year is actually the first time that the present building has been used for the full three terms, and the boys have continued to enjoy the smart new facilities. The back grass has taken its usual pounding from football (along with some rather bizarre piggyback polo and even old school French cricket), and the 'Italianate' courtyard has been enhanced by beautiful olive trees donated by last year's Leavers as well as the new barbeque and pizza oven.

In terms of personnel, we are saying a sad goodbye to Assistant Houseparent Mr Rose, but wish him all the best for his promotion to Houseparent of Freeland House in Strathallen. Dr Imogen Adkins will be taking over as Assistant Houseparent next year, and Mr Kamaran Fatullah is stepping up to Under Houseparent. Mr Rose will be a huge loss, but his Tutees are sending him off with a lovely firepit as a present, something he will almost certainly need in those northern climes.

This year's Head of House, Harry Bryant (Upper Sixth), will be sorely missed, but his big shoes are being filled by Milan Choudree (Lower Sixth). We were also delighted that Milan and Luke Evans (Lower Sixth) have been made School Prefects, with Max James (Lower

Sixth) being elevated to Senior School Prefect.

First and foremost a Boarding House is about the boys, so over to them:

## Head of House

Since joining Cobham in 2017, much has happened both within House and around the School. Very early on the 2022 Cobham Leavers felt the move from 'Old Cobham' to 'New Cobham', alongside the change of Houseparent from Mr Peppiatt to Mr Corthine. This move was significant, not only because it represented a change in the mentality of the House, but also, it moved Cobham considerably closer to the Tuck Shop! Since then, Covid took away a little over a year of School life, and the effects of which remain and are felt to this day. Regardless, I know I can speak on behalf of the whole year in saying that Cobham has remained core to School life.

Having been honoured to be Head of the House this past year, I have particularly enjoyed seeing the House spirit grow, most obviously in the many House events over the past 12 months. From House Singing, more colloquially known as House Shout (due to the lack of singing ability in Cobham...!) to House Debating, all Cobhamites have made efforts to get involved, regardless of their ability. Cobhamites are also encouraged to seek their own goals and persevere in whatever fields they choose, and throughout the year success has been had by many in a wide range of areas; from Robotics to Polo and it has been a real pleasure to lead the House.

**“ The House Singing is a nice case in point. Cobham is not currently blessed with a strong choral tradition, but what we lacked in finesse we tried to make up for in volume. ”**



Looking towards the future, Cobham's motto; 'Quo non ascendam?' ('To what heights may I not ascend?') seems particularly apt. My time at Stowe seems to have not moulded me, but rather, enabled me to take my own path, in which the School has supported. This, to me, has been through the CCF and towards the military, of which leadership is a core pillar. Capt Eatwell (OS) at the annual CCF Dinner suggested there are four principles to being a good leader; professional competency, the ability to actively listen, emotional intelligence and integrity. These last two have been particularly developed and encouraged by Stowe and Cobham.

In summary, Cobham has played the foremost role in developing and guiding all those leaving this year. The freedom to follow one's own path and persevere to success has been exemplified by the many triumphs of Cobhamites, in a breadth of fields over the past three terms. Finally, it's been a huge pleasure, to lead Cobham this year and I know that Milan, whom I'm handing the Head of House role over to, will give his all to a House that has instilled the idea that we all, in Cobham, bleed blue and brown.

**Harry Bryant**

### Lower Sixth

Life in Lower Sixth, Cobham has been eventful to say the least. From the diverse activities to the flourishing academics, Lower Sixth, Cobham has had an extremely successful year. Each individual has represented the School in some manner. This year we have had the transition to the Sixth Form, this change involves increased freedom and responsibility, we feel as if every one of us has grasped the opportunity and has thoroughly loved the first year in Sixth Form.

**Houseparent:** Richard Corthine

**Matron:** Jo Dalrymple

**Assistant Houseparent:** Simon Rose

**Under Houseparent:** Dr Charles Adkins

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Charles Adkins, Simon Cole, Dr Isabel Ferrero, (Fifth Form) Dean Gardner, (Fourth Form) Simon Rose and (Third Form) Dr Imogen Adkins

**Head of House:** Harry Bryant

**House Prefects:** Harry Bryant and Benjamin Li

**School Prefects:** Harry Bryant and Benjamin Li

We welcomed two new members into Cobham, Nikita and Kirill. They have enjoyed their first year with us and have gotten involved in every opportunity available such as House events. Academically Cobham have been prosperous, earlier this School year in September Max, Valentine, Will and Jonathan received academic ties due to their high GCSE grades. Max and Valentine have also been part of the Senior School Academic Scholars' programme.

On the sports fields Cobham has represented at the very highest level in multiple sports. Jonathan and Theo have represented the 1st team for Basketball. Max and Edward are part of the 1st team quad in Rowing and have had an incredible year of regattas. Milan has represented the 1st XI in Football and Cricket. Some Cobhamites have been a part of some more unusual activities, for example, Sam and Valentine being founders of the Stowe Fishing Society.

There have been plenty of triumphs outside the classroom and off the sports fields. Congratulations to Max who has been selected for an RAF Leadership course running in the Summer at Cranwell military base. Well done to Luke and Milan for becoming School Prefects and Max for becoming a Senior Prefect.

This year has been an incredible year for the boys. We are all looking forward to celebrating the School's Centenary next year, but this year will always be one to remember.

### Fifth Form

After a well-deserved rest Fifth Form Cobham went into the term refreshed and relaxed. As we entered into the term as head of the Junior School we went looking for some new opportunities in all areas of Stowe life. Many of us started trying new activities and volunteering work either helping the elderly and conservation projects. Others tried some of the activities in the thinking differently activities such as the School Mock Trial.



As we got down into working mode, some started putting in lots of effort in the academic side of things, with congratulations to Daniel Flames for consistently coming in the top 10% of the year in APGs. As we approached the mock exams, lessons started to become more intense though this did not put too much pressure on any of us as most of us were well prepared. As a House our grades for the mocks were decent, giving us confidence for the next term for the real exams.

Even though the Summer Term is the shortest of the three, it has felt like the longest. The stress of exams mounted up as we got closer to them, though after about three days of exams the stress went away as we started to crack down on our revision. I'm sure a large reason that as a Year Group we have been able to keep our sanity, is Tennis and Cricket. Fifth Form came second and third in the Inter-House matches. Other sporting achievements by Fifth Form Cobhamites are Wilf Pickard getting seven wickets and a hat-trick for the 1st team and Jonty Fraser and Daniel Flames as a pair playing for the 2nd team and U16As, showing a very strong term of sports. More notable achievements from this term are; Jasper Calkin, Ed Ellison, Daniel Flames and Will Durnell all receiving The Stowe Award, an achievement given not just for academics, but sports and the arts as well showing our Form to be a very well-rounded House. Barbecues provided by Mr Corthine at the weekend, as well as the Tuck Shop being within 50m of the House, have been very welcome.

As a Year Group we'd like to give a huge thank you to Mr Corthine, Matron, Drs Adkins, Mr Gardner, Mr Fathulla along with Sue and the rest of the cleaning Staff for everything they do in Cobham. Finally, we'd like to thank Mr Rose and give him the best of luck as Housemaster in his new school in Scotland.

### Fourth Form

Ahhhh, Fourth Form what a Year Group! This was a year in preparation for GCSEs for the Fourth Form, the year was successful as they adjusted well to their new roles not only in House but in the School. They had many achievements in House competitions such as House Tennis where they came first with outstanding

contributions from Archie Trotman and Bear Hewlett, Sports Day where they competed against the year above coming in a close second with victories from Archie Trotman Luca Natella, and Talal Zahid in their individual events and House Hockey where they came short of first place due to a golden goal. The Year Group had many individuals who triumphed in their fields, Barney Titmus Mather who made it to the World Robotics Competition, and Luca Natella and Archie Heseltine who won the National Polo Competition or as Mr Corthine likes to call it horse hockey. By far the most impressive achievement was Sam White who almost got the tally of his head injuries to double digits. George Turner managed to both get his half House Colours first and have the messiest room. Tudor Berciu joined this year, he settled in incredibly quickly and found his second home in Cobham. Despite having a wide range of characters, Cobham still manages to pull together, stay motivated and perform throughout the year

### Third Form

During the holidays we all had mixed emotions about joining the School. But when we got here in September we settled in quite quickly, and on the first weekend we won House Football. We were given the opportunity to do a lot of activities that helped us make friends with a lot of people outside of the House, which helped us settle in. We had House Singing but we think it was rigged because we were better than the other Houses even with changing the song a couple days before.

Then during Lent Term, we won House Swimming with Amory helping a lot. In the second half of term we had House Hockey which we just missed out on the Plate Final.

We all think the Summer Term has been the standout term as everything is so relaxed and the weather is nice, even if it is too hot at times, but at the end of the term we get to relax and do activities. We won the Junior House Tennis with the Fourth Form and Sam Percy was the only Third Form player. We have all won most of our matches for Tennis and Cricket this term, which is much better than the last two terms

### Combined Year Group authors

# Grafton



**It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the academic year at Stowe flies by. Perhaps it's because as I'm writing this report, the Fifth and Upper Sixth Formers have already left for a well-earned Summer holiday after the end of their respective public examinations. Subsequently, we've gone from fifth to first gear within the blink of an eye as term begins to wind down to a more sedate conclusion after an incredibly hectic Summer Term.**

House life hasn't been an all-together straight-forward journey this year. It has been noticeable how Covid has affected the socialisation and inter-personal relationships of the new recruits who missed out on some of the essential and formative years of their final years at their previous schools. However, over time I'm confident that they will blossom into a crack commando unit which will do the House proud.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, I tip my hat to the Upper Sixth who've embraced Stowe and ridden it for all its worth. In House, they are a tight-knit band of brothers who know how to work and party hard in equal measure, be well-mannered, respectful of the House traditions and are a lovely group of young men to be around. They tell me their Leavers' trip to Marbella, viewing Andalusian fincas and exploring the Moorish architecture of the Arabic churches, was a real success. The leadership team of Sheriffs Ben Hartigan, Barney Cunningham and Deputy Sheriff Charlie Crabbie and the Prefect Team has led the House with great élan and energy, being wonderful role models to the younger boys and great ambassadors for the House within the Stowe community.

The end of season highlights reel would be a montage worth watching, especially the whole House events. Obviously, the Inter-House Cross-Country had to be

retained and duly was, as was the overall Sports Day trophy, along with the return of the Stowe Challenge after a two year pandemic-induced hiatus. I congratulate the boys on their togetherness, proud sense of House identity and belonging, which are the key ingredients for success on a whole House level. House Singing brought its annual challenge of getting 55 tuneless adolescent

**“...the Prefect team has led the House with great élan and energy, being wonderful role models to the younger boys and great ambassadors for the House within the Stowe community.”**





boys to unite as a harmonious choir, especially when their maniacal Houseparent decided it would be fun to sing in Italian (singing in a foreign language is great for masking unmelodious and discordant voices!). But rise to the challenge they did, once again being one of only two boys' Houses to make the final with the Part Song, led by Seb Campbell-Preston, living long in the memory for its entertainment value. The Senior House Debating trophy, a very tough piece of silverware to win, sits proudly in the cabinet along with a plethora of others - Tennis, Cricket, Rugby (all of them!), Basketball... the list goes on and my appreciation is wholesome to all of the boys who gave up their time to represent the greater good over the course of the past year. Particular mention should go to the acting feats of Ed Mercer who had a plum role in the School musical, 'Oliver!' and royally

entertained the audiences both in The Roxy and on Speech Day.

The strength of the House lies in the leadership that the House Tutorial team provides. I would like to pay a particular parting thank you to Under Houseparent, Mr Radley who has tutored his Fourth Form with a blend of optimism, firmness and ambition and who now heads across the road to Grenville as their new Assistant Houseparent. Grafton's loss is undoubtedly Grenville's gain. My continued thanks to my ever-reliable Assistant Houseparent, Mr Burch, along with Third Form Tutor, Mr McNeill, for their unstinting commitment to all House matters. Not to be outshone, the Sixth Form Tutors, Mr Green, Mrs Reinhold, Mrs Pickering Polláková and Miss Rowley have all offered such wise counsel to their



**Houseparent:** Gavin Moffat

**Matron:** Emma Goulding

**Assistant Houseparent:** Matthew Burch

**Under Houseparent:** Luke Radley

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Dominic Green, Vlasta Pickering Polláková, Jessica Reinhold, Shelley Rowley, (Fifth Form) Matthew Burch, (Fourth Form) Luke Radley and (Third Form) Owain McNeill

**House Prefects:** Charlie Crabbie and Benedict Hartigan

**School Prefects:** Charlie Crabbie and Benedict Hartigan



“ The strength of the House lies in the leadership that the House tutorial team provides. ”

charges this year. Lastly, but by no means least, to the ever patient and compassionate Mrs Goulding who is the rock on which the pastoral care of Grafton is built. I owe them all a huge debt of gratitude for helping Grafton to be such a caring, kind and fun community in which to live. As my 12 years at the helm of HMS Grafton draws to an end, I'd like to put on record my sincere thanks to Mrs Moffat for all her dedication to the Grafton cause, having worn many non-remunerated hats including cook, part-time counsellor, receptionist, therapist and pot washer over the last dozen years. Thank you Bex, and from the two of us, it has been a pleasure to serve.

We wish Dr Fitz Smith and his family all best wishes and good luck as they take over the reins and if they have half as much fun along the way as we have had, then their lives will certainly be enriched by the experience.

**Gavin Moffat, Grafton Houseparent**



# Grenville



**It seems a very long time ago that I took over at the Grenville helm from Alan Hughes back in 2019, and it has been my absolute pleasure this year to have been able to experience three terms in a row with a full House of boys in Grenville following the lockdowns and the distance-learning programmes of the previous two years of my tenure as Grenville Houseparent.**

It was great fun at the start of the year in September to listen to the boys as they prepared for the House Singing, working on their interpretation of Labrinth's song 'Beneath Your Beautiful'. After the initial discordancy of more than fifty boys all singing in a different key at the same time, Xander Brett, Rocky Farquhar, under the musical direction of Samuel Stephens-Liddell (all Upper Sixth), moulded the performance into a spectacular piece and the boys sang their hearts out in the Chapel on the night. Sadly, the judgement did not go our way but this did not diminish the boys' spirits - they returned to House that night still singing and the song remained a mainstay in the House for weeks to come!

Part Song was performed by Samuel Stephens-Liddell, Rocky Farquhar, Xander Brett, Alex West and Aaron Hudd (Upper Sixth) - an interesting version of 'Tequila' performed on five guitars. Again, we may not have come away with the trophy on the night but we definitely got the loudest applause and the highest level of audience participation. The boys have already been getting together to discuss strategy for the House Singing for the upcoming year and we shall put Grenville back on the winners' board where we belong. More recently, it was wonderful to see Sebastian Harper (Third Form) perform alongside his fellow orchestra members with the Stowe School Orchestra in the Uglan Auditorium. Congratulations on a great performance, Sebastian!

We have enjoyed our fair share of sports glory this year. In Badminton, Arin Chatsuan (Fifth Form) has shown the rest of us just how to wield a racquet and his

results have been fantastic, beating Oundle School in the Michaelmas Term and getting to the Final of the Inter-House competition. Arin played an absolutely blinding match after getting all the way through, but in the end it was a really tough, close match and victory was conceded to Temple House after the two slugged it out to the bitter end. For the Junior Inter-House Badminton, Tristan Dickinson (Third Form) played some stupendous matches and made it all the way to the Final, only to be pipped at the post by Winton House. Arin's tennis skills have also been a joy to behold and it has been a privilege to have spectated matches against Watford Grammar School, Bloxham, Rugby, Bradfield and St Edward's this term and to see just how far Arin's game has improved.

In Rugby, William Plessis and Xander Brett put in some sterling performances for the Stowe 1st XV, beating Oundle 29-0 in a fantastic match played in the most miserable conditions back in October. All credit to William Plessis who was signed by the Welsh Rugby Union team The Scarlets. William has played already for the team and is enjoying an ongoing training programme and looks set to enjoy a great future. William also enjoyed a double success with the 1st XV as they won the National Schools' Plate as well as the Rosslyn Park Vase.

Grenville's Golfers have enjoyed a good year, with the School coming in fourth place at the Independent Schools' Golf Competition. All credit to Elliot Strickland (Fifth Form) and Poon Prachakrit (Fourth Form) who played alongside our other Stowe Golfers in the competition. Earlier in the year, both Elliot Strickland and

**“ ...we may not have come away with the trophy on the night but we definitely got the loudest applause and the highest level of audience participation.**



**Houseparent:** Simon Dobson

**Matron:** Sue Zundel (Senior Matron)

**Assistant Houseparent:** Patrick Dias

**Under Houseparent:** Peter Shepherd

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Emma Ackroyd, Richard Paxton, Daniel Scott, (Fifth Form) Alec Stanworth, (Fourth Form) Patrick Dias and (Third Form) Peter Shepherd

**House Prefects:** Alexander Dens and Sam Wardlaw

**School Prefects:** Alexander Dens and Sam Wardlaw

Miles Dickinson (Third Form) were selected to compete in the Gerald Micklem Trophy, the most prestigious of all of the schools' tournaments. The boys had to concede victory on a contentious technicality, but they came back to Stowe smiling and determined to succeed in future attempts! Tristan Dickinson played brilliantly in the Laddie Lucas Competition, coming second in the Handicap competition and the Plate has made its way to join the other silverware in the Grenville trophy cabinet! At the time of writing this report, Poon Prachakrit has been selected to represent Stowe in The HMC National Finals Championship and we wish him all the best in this prestigious challenge!

I watched a thrilling Inter-House Basketball competition earlier in the year, with our Grenville Junior team Captained by Daniel Isaac (Third Form). Not having seen this side to Daniel's character before, it was great to see some real team-management and skill in the game. Our team made it all the way to the Final, but we lost in the dying seconds of a gripping neck and neck final to the Grafton boys. It was a great afternoon and the boys have added some serious fuel to Grenville Basketball!

Lucas Stern (Fifth Form) has been playing some spectacular Polo this academic year and this has culminated in the Stowe Polo Team winning the SUPA National Competition, once again adding another level of lustre in the Grenville trophy cabinet!

The Stowe Cross-Country was once again a great success this year and at the top of the leader board for Grenville was Arsenii Grebenshchikov (Lower Sixth), who finished in fourth place out of the entire Stowe Lower-Sixth Form. Xander Brett showed great resilience in tackling the Three-Peaks Challenge back in the Michaelmas Term along with Luke Holland-Bosworth (Chatham), Ben Hartigan (Upper Sixth), Trennon Bettany (Upper Sixth) and Archie Burnett (Grafton), Savannah King (Stanhope). All completed the challenge in 22 hours in the most treacherous weather conditions. At the time of announcing the completion of the challenge, over £14,300 had been raised for the charities that were being supported and I am sure that that sum will definitely have risen since then.

Grenville Football has come on in leaps and bounds



this year, thanks to some very enthusiastic players in the Upper Sixth - Lewin Mullarkey, Rocky Farquhar and Xander Brett got so much mileage from the 4-0 victory over the teachers earlier this year - they were beaming afterwards at the thought of despatching my colleagues in such spectacular fashion!

From a whole-House perspective, it was such a relief at the end of the Michaelmas Term once again to have been able to have a Grenville House Christmas Party like we used to in the pre-Covid-19 days. The boys loved the opportunity to get together to celebrate at the end of the longest of the three terms - I am so glad that I had been able to vet the video before the event. Note to self for Christmas 2022...

Again, from a House-unity angle, the Stowe Challenge earlier in the Summer Term was a roaring success. Our vertical teams brought together boys who would not under other circumstances have collaborated and the whole afternoon was a celebration of the boys' natural tendency to work together, to support each other and to revel in each other's company. It was, quite simply, one of the best days I can remember in all of my years at Stowe.

Sports Day on the 27 May was blessed with great weather and an equally great turnout of participants from the House. Notable successes came in the Juniors' 100 metre sprint, which was won by Martin Zhang (Third Form). Also, for the Juniors, Kaito Mbanefo (Third Form) won the triple-jump. For the Intermediate boys, Charles Smith (Fifth Form) Fosbury-flopped his way into first place in the high-jump and then hopped and skipped his way to a very respectable second place in the triple jump.

The GCSE and A Level years needed to let off steam after the weeks of exam-preparation and the reminders to revise, so the Fifth and the Upper Sixth boys in Grenville each had their own Leavers' trips to mark the end of timetabled lessons. The Fifth Form, accompanied by myself and Mr Stanworth, went for an evening's ten-pin bowling over in Northampton, followed by a feast in McDonalds, surrounded by Northampton's great unwashed! The boys loved it and I dare say that





“...we were treated to some of the great songs from the Congreve cast of ‘Oliver!’ from earlier in the year...”

that will not be the last visit that we make there, but I have to say that it would not be my first choice for a sophisticated night out. It was a case of pedal to the metal, foot to the floor for the Upper Sixth boys. Accompanied by yours truly, our Grenville Leavers went go-karting over at Formula Fast in Milton Keynes for a Grand Prix race evening. After our race briefing, we had a 10-minute qualifier followed by a 20-minute grand prix in our racing machines. I cannot resist making it known that I actually won the race (terrifically bad manners, given that it was the boys’ night out and not mine) and the boys’ collective noses were somewhat out of joint as a result, but life is all about competition, when push comes to shove... After the racing, the boys enjoyed a lovely pub meal out at the Red Lion in Evenley, where the upcoming appointments for the Grenville House Prefects were discussed. I have to say that it was most enlightening to hear what the boys had to say!

Speech Day was a great success after two years of not being able to take place for social-distancing reasons. Having been treated the previous evening to some great music from our own Stoic Musicians, we were treated to some of the great songs from the Congreve cast of ‘Oliver!’ from earlier in the year, as well as a fabulous, enlightening and highly entertaining conversation between Dr Wallersteiner and Dylan Hartley. From Grenville House, Archie Blake (Upper Sixth) won the Friends of Stowe Prize for Film Studies and Media, Alex Dens (Upper Sixth) took the Worsley Prize for Design, Samuel Stephens-Liddell (Upper Sixth) collected the Andrew Croft Prize for Drama Performance as well as the Patricia Roxburgh Prize for Singing. To top it all, Xander Brett (Upper Sixth) and Sam Wardlaw (Upper Sixth) both scooped the Head’s Special Prize.

I would like to bring this article to a close by recognising the great team that has supported the boys in Grenville House this academic year. Mr Shepherd, Mr Stanworth and Mr Dias have all been a fantastic presence in the House and I simply cannot imagine a better team. Sue continues to be the most empathetic, compassionate and caring Matron for the boys in Grenville and I hope that they realise just how valuable she is. The Grenville House Prefect Team has been consistent and reliable in their management of the younger boys in the House and I thank them for their reflections on how things are done and could be done better in Grenville.

It is with huge sadness that we bid farewell to Mr Dias as he moves on to become Houseparent to Chatham House in September. Paddy has been just the best support that we could have wished for in the House these last two years and his will be some tough shoes to fill. We wish him the very best for a what will be undoubtedly a great future in Chatham - our loss is very definitely Chatham’s gain. We also bid a tearful farewell to Mr Stanworth, who will be taking up the role of Sixth Form Tutor in Winton House. Mr Stanworth has provided, over the five years that he has been a member of the Grenville House Team, great support in the House and he has been terrier-like in his pursuit of some of the less-straightforward boys in his Tutor group. I am sure that they will all join us in wishing Alec every success in his new role and I hope that it allows him some greater flexibility in managing his time between work and domestic commitments.

For the new academic year, we welcome Mr Radley (Chemistry) into Grenville as our new Assistant Houseparent and we will also be joined by Mr James Bonomi (History), who will be taking up the role of Third Form Tutor. I am thrilled to be welcoming them both into the House and I look forward to a great new academic year in September.

In summary, this has been the best year yet for me as I come to the end of my third year as Grenville Houseparent. The boys have bonded so well and the House is such a happy environment in which to live and learn. Having just met the boys who will be coming into Grenville in September, I am supremely confident that the Grenville profile at Stowe will be the one to watch.

**Simon Dobson, Houseparent**



# Lyttelton



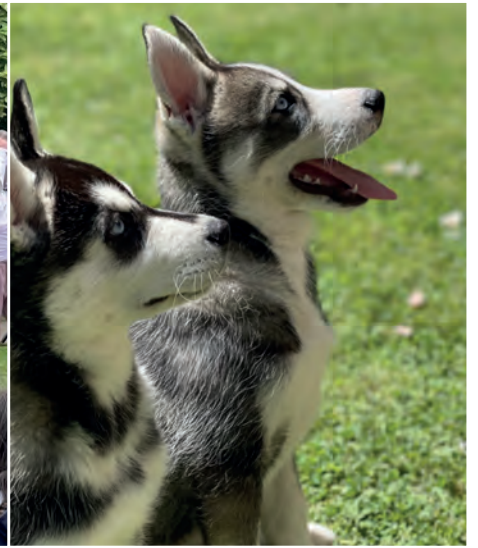
**It has been an eventful and rewarding academic year for all in Lyttelton. With Covid an increasingly distant memory, the girls embraced one of Stowe's most infamous competitions "House Song" and in truly colourful and dramatic fashion secured the trophy for the cabinet.**

The girls were successfully directed to victory by the amazing leadership of their Heads of House, Poppy Goaman and Issy Cuerden and the musical talent of our Music Prefect Jess Foxwell. Jess followed up this inspiring win with successfully securing a position in the Royal Northern College of Music as well as winning the Mozart Trio Prize; rewarding her immense dedication, ability and hard work. Ross and I are further grateful for the relentless hard work of the wider Prefect team; Amalie Mager whose humour has always guided the Third Form and brought the whole House together, Kiera Haines for her unwavering academic focus and support for the Juniors, Sabyn Maude who as Sports Prefect has always ensured full participation in events, and Precious, Mariia and Alex who have guided our international pupils through difficult times this year as well as supporting their academic studies and A Level decision making. The Michaelmas Term culminated in both celebration and sadness as Ross and I (third time lucky) finally celebrating our wedding; much to the excitement of all the girls in House, while as a House we concurrently said goodbye to our amazing Matron Penny McClean as she retired to enjoy life with her grandchildren.

The excitement was not to end in the Michaelmas Term, as the Lent Term marked the arrival of two husky puppies; making Lyttelton the first House with its own sled team for Sports Day next year. This year's Sports Day saw some incredible performances; many of whom are just beginning to recognise their incredible

**“...our incredible Charity Prefect, Tilly Poole who this year alone completed her first ever skydive for the charity Tommy's...”**

talents. Celebrations included Lulu Goaman winning 1,500m, Rosie Allchurch (Third Form) first place in the shot putt, and Rosie, Amber Gaskell Brown, Jemima Roberts and Precious Wakhungu securing Second place in the high jump, 300m, 200m and javelin respectively. For their unrelenting dedication to Lyttelton and their sportswomanship, Jemima Roberts and Harriet Perris were awarded the highly sought-after Cheshire Award for their incredible participation in the Inter-House Swimming competition; which saw them complete all events. They continue with their competitive desire to complete all the Inter-House events possible before leaving Stowe. This mentality and drive will ensure that Jemima and Harriet inspire others in the House over the next academic year as they embrace their roles Third/Fourth Form and Events Prefects. 2022 will see Ella Gray-Cheape at the helm of this new Prefect Team as Head of House. Ella herself was awarded the Curwen Print Studios Bursary for Art allowing her to attend a three-day residential course. In addition to Jemima (School Prefect and Third Form/Events House Prefect) and Harriet (Fourth Form/Sports House Prefect), Ella is supported by Deputy Head of House Olivia Brown, and Ava Hill, Ines Bell, Kristy Achmann Mwanza, Ruby Cooke and our incredible Charity Prefect, Tilly Poole. This year alone Tilly completed her first ever skydive for the charity Tommy's. Our Music Prefect, Ruby Cooke has successfully released four singles on Spotify including the very popular "Serenity". The musical talents of



the House don't end there with Alicia Wilson and Izzy Prothero also enjoying success on the release of their compositions on Spotify and other platforms and all three pupils have been invited to perform on stage during Change 100 events and Chapel services this year.

For many girls in Lyttelton, 2021/22 saw them achieve many personal targets. For example with the climate at the forefront of conversations more now than ever, many of our girls have put themselves forward as Climate Action Ambassadors including Amalie, Precious,

Jemima, Poppy, Megan Lai, Lulu, Grace Huang, Sabyn and Pia. This has involved being at the forefront on new initiatives that will ensure Stowe is working towards a common goal to reducing climate change. Grace also successfully caught her first fish this year during her weekly fishing activity at the lake; releasing it back afterwards. Grace topped off a wonderful academic year with a jaw dropping performance in Treasure Island accompanied by the equally impressive Lulu, Olivia Hillier, Amber Gaskell Brown and the incredibly talented Yeva Solop who took a huge step out of her



comfort zone and to School wide acclaim. Kimi Chen, a keen Lacrosse player and goalkeeper with ambitions of playing for her country; has at the age of 16 been admitted to study Pure Maths at Cambridge this coming September having secured A\*s in all her five A Level subjects.

The year drew to a close with the arrival of Speech Day and Change 100 week which saw awards for Poppy Goaman - Prize for Art, Sabyn Maude - Prizes for Economics and Politics, Kimi Chen - Prizes for Computer

**Houseparents:** Sinéad Lyons Deyzel and Ross Deyzel

**Matron:** Deborah Blake

**Assistant Houseparent:** Elspeth Newlin

**Under Houseparent:** Andrea Bernal Guerrero

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Colin Bray, Craig Green, Victoria Lee-Stevens, Francesca Elliott, (Fifth Form) Elspeth Newlin, (Fourth Form) Simeone Compton and (Third Form) Jessica Nichols

**Heads of House:** Isabel Cuerden and Poppy Goaman

**House Prefects:** Jessica Foxwell, Poppy Goaman, Amalie Mager and Sabyn Maude

**School Prefects:** Jessica Foxwell, Poppy Goaman, Amalie Mager, Sabyn Maude and Precious Wakhungu



Science, Mathematics and Academic Achievement, Mariia Domina - Prize for French, Jessica Foxwell - Prize for Music, Amalie Mager - Prize for Commitment to Community outside Stowe and finally Bea Axe - Prize for Lighting Design. This was all topped off with Lyttelton crowned the winners for the girls' Houses in the Alternative Stowe Challenge which included events such as welly throwing, the three-legged run, orienteering and more. We have been incredibly privileged to lead such an amazing group of girls with the support of an outstanding House Team. Going into 2022/23 year we welcome our new Matron Debbie Blake, as well as wishing our Tutor Simeone Compton the best of luck in her new role as she leaves Stowe and Lyttelton for pastures new. We couldn't possibly have foreseen all the momentous adventures of the last year, so who knows what memories lie ahead of us in 2022/23.

**Dr Sinéad Lyons Deyzel, Lyttelton Houseparent**

# Nugent



**How wonderful it has been to have Nugent open and thriving for a full academic and the girls really have embraced every opportunity and made the very most of their year. We have enjoyed sharing in the successes and journey of each of the girls throughout the year and seeing them give their all in so many aspects of School and House life.**

As you reflect back on the year in the House and the year draws to a close, it is always bittersweet as we are very sad to be wishing our Upper Sixth farewell. They have all been great fun, excellent role models and contributed so brilliantly to Nugent this year and over their five years in House, and we are so delighted they have been able to end their time with a full year with us. Our enormous thanks to Bella Lloyd (Head of House), Otilie Hewlett (Deputy Head of House) and their wonderful House Prefect Team for their kindness, excellent stewardship and House spirit.

The Michaelmas Term saw us welcome 14 new girls to the Nugent family and they were quick to settle, with the support of their Lower Sixth mentors and the House Team, and are a wonderful addition. They made their mark on the first weekend winning the Inter-House Football festival alongside our combined Fifth/Lower Sixth team, while both our Fourth and Upper Sixth finished Runners Up on penalty shoot-out. Our Third Form continued their Inter-House sporting success winning the Badminton and Hockey competitions before the Half Term break.

The second half of term kicked off with the sometimes-feared Cross Country competition, but despite the cold

**“As the first term drew to a close, the House enjoyed watching Minty Orchard and Jemima Pearson-Gee perform in the Congreve production of ‘Oliver!’.”**

conditions the Nugent girls ran hard and showed true House spirit to help the House take top spot on the podium with our Third, Fourth, Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms all winning their individual competitions. Next up was the much-anticipated Inter-House Singing term and our girls certainly did not disappoint with their costumes and energy earning themselves an excellent second place overall and third in Part Song. We also welcomed Mr William Foden (son of our fabulous Sixth Form Tutor Mrs Foden) who came to talk to our Fourth and Fifth Form about Nutrition, giving an entertaining, factual and supportive insight into the importance of nourishing our bodies and minds - with lots of time for questions! The girls' success continued on the sports field as our strong Senior Hockey team took first place in their Inter-House Competition and our Juniors finished second in the Inter-House Badminton. Congratulations must go to Dominie Dubsy who retained her singles title. As the first term drew to a close, the House enjoyed watching Minty Orchard and Jemima Pearson-Gee perform in the Congreve production of 'Oliver!'. The term ended with the much-anticipated Christmas Dinner and chance to celebrate the term - the girls looking wonderful for the occasion.

Our Third Form started their 2022 in Nugent with an





Escape Room tutor outing with Miss T-V and we must thank all our Tutors for their support of their girls both academically and pastorally. They have enjoyed many Tutor evenings from Mocktails, Mug Painting and Sushi in House to meals out and Bowling and we are incredibly grateful for the care and commitment that our tutors show to the House and their girls. With the Lacrosse season now in full swing and 1st X Captain Rosie Grayson on the side lines our Third Form added the Inter-House Lacrosse title to their tally and our fabulous debaters, Lily-Anne Moon, Mimi Scott-Copley, Sophie Lloyd and Lucy Willmott started and successfully completed their campaign to retain their intermediate Inter-House Debating title. Success continued in the pool with Nugent being crowned over Champions of Inter-House Swimming and our Seniors taking the title in their completion. Congratulations to Larissa Campbell who won the senior freestyle, individual medley and butterfly, Tatiana Riviere for her victory in the Junior backstroke and Hannah Campbell for taking top spot in the breaststroke. The Spring sun of late March shone on a fantastic afternoon of Inter-House Netball and Lacrosse and our Seniors impressively led the way with victories in both competitions and our Third Form followed their example adding more silverware with a victory in the Netball and an impressive fifth Inter-House title for our Third Form. The Spring Term also saw a first for the School with our first ever girls' Football teams playing

**Houseparents:** Tracy Jones and Zak Jones

**Matron:** Marian Gallick

**Assistant Houseparent:** Meredith Atkinson-Wood

**Under Houseparent:** Zizzy Trelawny-Vernon

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Meredith Atkinson-Wood, Jonathan Cook, Lyn Foden, Dr Andrew Webber, (Fifth Form) Katie Potts, Lucinda Stockley, (Fourth Form) Mathilde Herrbach and (Third Form) Elizabeth Trelawny-Vernon

**Head of House:** Bella Lloyd

**Deputy Head of House:** Otilie Hewlett

**Senior School Prefects:** Bella Lloyd, Izzy Moffat and Sophia Southwick

**House Prefects:** Tilly Dubsky, Rosie Grayson, Otilie Hewlett, Bella Lloyd, Izzy Moffat and Sophia Southwick

**School Prefects:** Rosie Grayson, Otilie Hewlett, Isabella Lloyd, Isabel Moffat and Sophia Southwick



fixtures and a special mention must go to Calypso Riviere the 1st XI Captain as a driving force to making the team come together.

The Summer Term saw our Junior team of Jemima Gross, Coco Bartoszewski, Annabel Hussey and Lara Hughes take up the Debating baton and impress as they lost by just one point to eventual winners Bruce in the Semi-Final of the Junior Debating competition. The Stowe Challenge returned under glorious May sunshine and girls had great fun running, carrying, rowing, jumping, flipping, shooting and climbing to joint first place. The whole School came together again for Sports Day on the eve of Half Term and we were so proud of how many of the girls wanted to compete, how much effort they put in and how much support there was for everyone who took part. The girls were delighted to win the event overall. After a two year absence, Speech Day was much anticipated and did not disappoint and we



**“It has been a great year in Nugent and the girls never cease to amaze us with their array of talents, their dedication and achievements.”**

were proud to see the following Nugent girls recognised with prizes.

On the back of their win in Sports Day our Seniors finished their time in the red shirt of Nugent in fine form winning the Inter-House Cricket and Tennis in style, ably led by 1st team Tennis Captain Bella Lloyd. In the final week of the Summer Term we were treated to watching Kezia Hammond, Annabel Hussey and Izzy Harris all perform in the Junior Congreve performance of Pirates of the Caribbean - the future of Drama in Nugent is certainly in safe hands.

It has been a great year in Nugent and the girls never cease to amaze us with their array of talents, their dedication and achievements. However, our greatest pride comes in seeing them uphold and display the Nugent family values of kindness, respect and honesty in all aspects of their lives.

**Tracy Jones, Nugent Houseparent**



# Queen's



**We continue to be incredibly proud of being able say we are the Houseparents of Queen's and; therefore, the Houseparents of all 72 souls that make up the House.**

We suppose, 'one' gets into teaching because of the ability to help influence someone's growth and development. Being able to live with 72 very special young women and watch their growth, not only as individuals but as a community, is exactly why we are in this job.

**“ The Queen's girls continue to relish representing the House, and for us, that is the most important thing - the desire to take part and fly the Queen's flag. ”**

The efforts and achievements of all the girls astound us and we remain in awe of everything they do and who they have become.

This year, it has been wonderful to shake off the shackles of Covid-19 and have a full and 'normal' year. Queen's continues to be hugely successful in all areas of School life. That success is not only measured by trophies (of which there have been many) but by the number of girls we have participating in events, activities, sports fixtures, music concerts and drama productions, to name but a quick list.

The Queen's girls continue to relish representing the House, and for us, that is the most important thing - the desire to take part and fly the Queen's flag.

From Football to Badminton, House Singing to Sports Day, Literary and Geography quizzes to Debating, Queen's has represented (and has done pretty well if we say so ourselves.)

Of course, saying goodbye to the Upper Sixth cohort is always sad; however, this year is particularly so because, the 2022 Leavers were the Third Form when







**Houseparents:** Sophie and Mike Rickner

**Matron:** Louise Davitt-King

**Assistant Houseparent:** Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

**Under Houseparent:** Megan Lewis-Williams

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Lucy Miller, Julio Morales-Shearer, James Sheppe, Laura Parker, (Fifth Form) Leonie Heaven, Megan Lewis-Williams, (Fourth Form) Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe and (Third Form) Rhea Stafford-Smith

**Head of House:** Ele Blane

**House Prefects:** Violet Arkwright, Eleanor Blane, Jodie Brogden, Paris Broughton, Tilly Hawkings-Byass and Clara Tearle

**School Prefects:** Violet Arkwright, Jodie Brogden, Paris Broughton, Matilda Hawkings-Byass, Eleanor Blane and Clara Tearle



we took over in Queen's back in 2017. To say that this group of young women have been on a journey would be an understatement. We know that they leave with wonderful memories, a whole host of extremely strong friendships and a legacy to the House that will be hard to beat. Thank you 2022 Queen's Leavers for everything you have done for the House and us personally over the past five years. You have been superb, loyal Queenies and we really do wish you the very best of luck in your post Stowe endeavours.

But, as we look back with much fondness, we look forward with excitement to what the next academic year will bring as we launch into Stowe's Centenary year. Knowing Stowe, it will be one heck of a party!

**Sophie and Mike Rickner, Queen's Houseparents**

# Stanhope



**Stanhope's Upper Sixth Leavers once again had another impressive year academically. 83% of grades achieved were A\*/A, with all our girls being accepted by their first-choice university. This is testament to all the hard work that they put in over what was a very uncertain two years in the Sixth Form.**

Notable successes came from Rosia Li A\*A\*A\*A\*, now studying Medicine at Cambridge; Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini A\*A\*A\* studying Architecture at Architecture Association School of Architecture; Emilia Havard (Natural Sciences at Durham); Tilly Jones (Biological Sciences at Exeter), Olivia Omotajo (English at Oxford); Sydney King (History of Art at Edinburgh) each securing two A\* and one grade A. Our GCSE results also continue to go from strength to strength. Many congratulations go to all, but special mention must go to Phoebe Achmann-Mwanza for amassing a total of eight grade 9s and two grade 8s; Clara Capella and Casey Lo were both awarded three grade 9s and three grade 8s amongst their total of 9 GCSE taken. Fifty-five grade 9 and 8s were awarded between all of our current Lower Sixth which amounts to an impressive 35% of all grades.

The morale and confidence of the girls within Stanhope has never been so high, and that can be attributed to the level of camaraderie and cooperation between the girls, as well as a fantastic relationship between House Staff and the girls. The House Prefects have taken a hands-on approach with day-to-day activities and commitments, but most importantly, the work ethic has been sensational and I am certain that our outgoing Prefects have set the tone for many years to come. With Jet West at the helm of the House Prefect group and

Jemima Howden leading the School Prefects as Head Girl (ten in all from Stanhope this year - a staggering number), I sometimes question would I be missed!

Academic success was acknowledged across this academic year at Speech Day. Once again many of our girls' talents were recognised: Jemima Howden (Drayson Head Girl Prize); Savannah King (Head's Special Prize); Annabel Hing (Reiss Prize for German); Jet West (Friends of Stowe Prize for Film Studies); Emma Khrypko (The Bell Quaich for Drama); Eliza Wilson (Anthony Pedder Prize for Chemistry); Jamie Leelapojan (Friends of Stowe Prize for Biology); Emma Wright (Richard McDougall Prize for Art).

Scholarships this year have been awarded to Jet West and Annabel Hing who won the McElwee Award and are travelling to Bruges and Budapest to compare the historic art of repressive and democratic governments. I look forward to hearing back from the girls when they return in September to talk about their adventure.

This has been another fast paced, action-packed year and I have enjoyed returning to normality with regard to activities, events and competitions. Thankfully there have been countless opportunities for the girls to shine, show courage and perseverance. They have enjoyed a busy but rewarding year, contributing once again

**“ Academic success was acknowledged across this academic year at Speech Day. Once again many of our girls' talents were recognised. ”**

**Houseparent:** Louise Carter

**Matron:** Shona Cannon

**Assistant Houseparents:**  
Emma Windett and Tash Blake

**Under Houseparent:** Georgina Black

**Head Girl:** Jemima Howden

**Head of House:** Jet West

**House Prefects:** Annabel Hing, Bo Jenkins, Savannah King, Sonia Steffanson, Olivia West, Eliza Wilson and Sofia Wright

**School Prefects:** Annabel Hing, Bo Jenkins, Savannah King, Isabel Omotajo, Tiffany Osibanjo, Jet West, Eliza Wilson and Emma Wright



widely to the Stowe community. The range of talents throughout the House and across the year groups has meant that Stanhope has had another fine year of achievements as individuals, as year groups and as a House.

For me and many of the girls, Inter-House Singing is our favourite whole School competition. I really look forward to the start of a new academic year with rehearsals in the main Common Room. This is such a special moment for the girls, particularly those new to Stanhope as they have fun working together as a whole. As usual, this year was no exception with rehearsals starting the first week of the Michaelmas Term! This year Upper Sixth Formers Jet West, Annabel Hing, Sonia Steffanson and Emma Wright were key in organising the girls and perfecting their moves. We performed a mash up of 'One Way or Another' and 'Teenage Kicks' (Blondie and The Undertones). Unfortunately, we didn't regain the title that our Upper Sixth had won when they were in the Third Form, four years prior. Our current Lower Sixth has already chosen the Unisong for the 2022-2023 competition, so I imagine rehearsals will commence as soon as we return in September!

Debating remains one of Stanhope's strengths. Senior Debaters - Jemima Howden, Isabel Omotajo and Sofia Wright's journey came to an end in the Quarter-Finals. Inter-Debaters Neve Ntumba, Alessia Capella and Nicole Yonan and Junior-Debaters Alba Sunderland, Bel Williams and Sofia Comino all took to the podium for the first time.

Our Musicians continue to play a major part in the numerous bands/quartets/choirs that rehearse on a regular basis throughout the working week, on top of other commitments. Musically we continue to shine through the talents of Annabel Hing, Clara Capella, Isabella Elliott, Sienna Bettany, Florence Hooper, Alessia Capella, Neve Ntumba, Aurora Flanagan and Olivia Vipond. Over the course of the year, I have had the privilege to listen to all the girls perform, whether it be at a Lunchtime Concert in the Music Room or on stage in the Ugland showcasing their talents. The huge amount of time and dedication they have does not go unnoticed.

The annual Stowe Challenge Cup is very important to Stanhope, particularly the Assault Course competition as we have won this event every year since 2017. Bo Jenkins inherited Captaincy of this year's team, as Bo has been involved every year since the Third Form. Bo put together a very talented and strong squad of girls for what was a very demanding course. This year an external company set up a bespoke course, so we had no opportunity to practice before the event. The girls (Bo Jenkins, Clara Capella, Aurora Flanagan, Alessia Capella and Bel Williams) were particularly up for the challenge, winning with the fastest time across all girls Houses and even smashed some of the boys' Houses' times! Clay Pigeon Shooting this year was updated with Lasers - this meant that all events could take place at the Bourbon. Our shooters Savannah King, Lilly King, Bel Williams, Yum Yum Cecil and Lola Richardson secured first place for the girls' competition - with our King sisters accurate shooting topping all other Houses except Temple. For the 5km run and log carry, Command task and tyre flip we came a respectable third. Overall we placed second, all the girls involved must be congratulated for the teamwork and comradery shown on the day. Special mention goes to Stanislava Tokareva for taking on the run with little training, Bella Elliott for flipping one of the two tyres solo and to Bo Jenkins for bringing home the Assault course cup for the fourth year running.

Sports Day was another successful afternoon, with medals won across the Year Groups. Kitty Howden won the Inter girls' high-jump competition jumping 1.5m; Flo Hooper's winning time of 5.23.93 for the 1,500m was particularly outstanding as she dove for the line stealing the win from West House; Clara Capella sprinted the 100m with 12.96s - taking the title for the second year running; Jemima Howden won both the long-jump and triple-jump as she has done so for the past four years. Our fastest senior sprinters: Jemima Howden, Savannah King, Bo Jenkins and Clara Capella won the 4x100m relay sealing a very successful afternoon of Athletics.

At the end of June, we enjoyed fine performances of this year's Junior Congreve production of 'Treasure Island'. Each of the performances was fabulously funny and it was fantastic to see Bel Williams at centre stage,



taking the lead role of Jim Hawkins as well as Lola Richardson (Flexi Bexi) and Annabel Lloyd (Peg Trueblood). Sienna Bettany was of huge support backstage as part of Mrs Parker’s Creative Team.

The Stanhope House team has been as valuable as ever in guiding and encouraging the girls. I would like to thank Miss Windett and Mrs Blake for being of great support as Assistant Houseparents as well as our dedicated team of Tutors, Alice Kenny, Georgina Black and Pauline Thevenet and Matron, who is a constant reassuring presence.

With thanks and bidding a fond farewell, I would like to wish my Head of House, Jet West and her Prefect Team the very best of luck as they depart from Stowe. Jet has led the House with care and friendship to all those in Stanhope. As a team the Upper Sixth have pulled together and delivered strong guidance and leadership, serving as sound role models and loyal supporters and more importantly being a joy to live and work with. Our Upper Sixth Leavers are my first set of girls through Stanhope - from Third Form in 2017 to Upper Sixth in 2022. Next year will be my first year in Stanhope without them. I will miss you all dearly and hope that you will all come to visit me often.

**Louise Carter, Stanhope Houseparent**





# Temple



**The Temple year started on a very high note with the introduction of our new Assistant Houseparent and Lacrosse maestro, Giles Cuddy and the lovely Andrea Westmorland who have been incredible additions to the House but are sadly leaving Stowe so soon and we wish them luck in their new ventures.**

The first weekend of term, saw the first Inter-House event of the year, House Football. It wasn't our year this year but we still had some success with the Upper Sixth placing second and narrowly missing out on silverware due to a 2-1 loss in the Final and the Fifth Form just about losing on penalties in the Final. The weeks seemed to be going quickly and the next big event was the whole School walk for Noah Cosby. This walk was especially important for us in Temple as we helped to raise money for a close friend who we have lived alongside for a lot of the time we have been at Stowe. The 10km walk was completed in great spirit with Parents and pets getting involved as well. Overall, £21,662 was raised and it was a great day out for all.

Archie McParland (Lower Sixth), Oscar Blunsom-Washbrook (Upper Sixth) and newcomer Jamie Annand (Upper Sixth) represented the Rugby 1st XV this year who won the National Plate Final at the StoneX Stadium. Other sporting achievements this year include: winning the Senior Badminton competition, Inters reaching the Semi-Final of House Rugby, second place in the Senior House Water Polo, narrowly losing out on the last day of fixtures, and finally numerous successes in Chess both Inter-House and out of School competitions from Dengiz Primkul, Andrii Mamakin and Harris Chan of the Third Form and William Nottage and Max Stevens in Lower Sixth. We also again excelled in House Debating competitions with the Seniors losing to Grafton in the Semi-Finals. However, a lot of experience was gained,

**“ We also again excelled in House Debating competitions with the Seniors losing to Grafton in the Semi-Finals. However, a lot of experience was gained, and the future of Temple Debating seems in good hands. ”**

and the future of Temple Debating seems in good hands. The sporting year culminated with Sports Day which although was not the most successful for us it was a great afternoon for all.

Aside from Sport we have also had lot of Templars partaking in different extracurricular activities. Max Faulkner (Upper Sixth) didn't disappoint in the School's production of 'Oliver!', Vann Daly's (Upper Sixth) performance on the guitar at Southside 22, and the annual House Singing competition was a fun opportunity for all the House to do something together. Although rehearsals proved stressful and slow progress was made we still put on a performance for everyone to be proud of.



**Houseparent:** Brian Hart

**Matron:** Melloney Owen

**Assistant Houseparent:** Giles Cuddy

**Under Houseparent:** Tom Webster

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Paul Griffin, Aditya Gupta, Sandra Wheeler, Andrea Westmoreland, (Fifth Form) Giles Cuddy, (Fourth Form) Martin Quinn and (Third Form) Thomas Webster

**Head of House:** Jayden Preko

**House Prefect:** Oscar Blunsom-Washbrook

**School Prefect:** Oscar Blunsom-Washbrook





The Temple House Staff, although different from previous years, continued to make living in Temple the best experience. Mrs Hart's rocky road never failed to put a smile on everyone's face along with Mr Cuddy and Ms Westmorland's huge enthusiasm towards celebrations from many different cultures, always providing us with great food and fun activities. Our new Matron who joined at the start of the year makes it seem like she's been here for decades. Also, our House Tutors, Mr Griffin, Mr Quinn, Mr Gupta, Mrs Wheeler and Under

Houseparent, Mr Webster have really played a huge role in ensuring academic successes and the smooth running of the House.

Overall this year has been a very successful one filled with lots of different but enjoyable experiences. A perfect way for the rest of the Leavers and I to end our time at Stowe.

**Jayden Preko (Upper Sixth),  
edited by Brian Hart, Temple Housparent**



# Walpole



**As the Summer Term draws to a close, Walpudlians celebrate the many successes of the 2021-22 academic year, a period marked by overachievement and tenacity in all facets of School life.**

Walpole's academic eminence has once again shone through with both Tham Luanghvisut and Max Burlingham achieving eight A\*s and above at GCSE, resulting in the awarding of Academic Scholarships. Academic Colours were awarded to Ruairi Massie, Alex Gu, Oscar Floyd and Harvey Tian for mutually stellar results of seven As and above at GCSE, rendering Walpole's current Lower Sixth among the most academically decorated Year Groups in the School. Newly, both Harvey Tian and Alex Gu have acquired Maths Colours for sustained independent research into their respective realms of interest, one such being the "application of differential equations in Physics and Chemistry". Our Junior Debaters have performed spectacularly, articulating cogent arguments despite the novelty of debating to them. Mentions go to Ari Lewis, Munro McLeish Philippos Konstantopoulos (all Third Form), Jack Riley Theo Ankarcona and Simon Ren (all Fourth Form) for their efforts.

House ties were awarded to many of our Seniors, including Rafi Mahmood, Will King-Eccles, Seb Foxwell (Senior Prefect), Nikita Nedoshovenko and Charlie Cole (Senior Prefect) for phenomenal levels of School-wide involvement and representation. Charlie Cole was additionally bestowed the Head's Drayson Award for contributions to the School, a feat that aroused boisterous applause from the boys on Speech Day. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia did little to shake Walpole's thriving cosmopolitan community. The House rallied together to raise £4,500 for the Ukraine Crisis Appeal, as well as an extensive collection of clothing and

**“ The Michaelmas Term saw forceful efforts from both our Junior and Senior teams in Inter-House Rugby, while the Summer Term saw our Senior Water Polo team very narrowly fall short of 1st place. ”**

supplies for displaced refugees. Congratulations to Nikita Nedoshovenko for demonstrating great enterprise in the promotion and superintendence of his Ukraine Appeal.

Still, our successes have stretched far beyond the perimeters of the classroom. The burlier among us have ably represented Walpole on the rugby pitches, with Henri Burditt playing an integral role in the 1st XV's ascension to National Plate Championship. Both Tobias Ellson and Toby Smith attend the prestigious Northampton Saints Academy when not representing the School's Colts A team, demonstrating an admirable commitment to the sport, while Christopher Dali and Sasha Howell have shown promising starts to their Rugby careers at Stowe, entering into the Yearlings A team. The Michaelmas Term saw forceful efforts from both our Junior and Senior teams in Inter-House Rugby, while the Summer Term saw our Senior Water Polo team very narrowly fall short of first place.

On the AstroTurf, Ewan Hughes-Rowland has attained both Most Valuable Player and Coach's Player, by virtue of exceptional performance in the 1st XI Hockey team, while Ruairi Massie and Connor Lawford have too shown a knack for handling sticks in their respective 1st teams. On the Cricket pitch, Walpole has been represented by Ewan Hughes Rowland in the 1st XI team, Connor Lawford in the Colts A team (Country Cup winners), Brooks Stevens and Theo Ankarcona in the Junior Colts



**Houseparent:** Gwilym Jones

**Matron:** Paula Montgomery

**Assistant Houseparent:** William Freeman

**Under Houseparent:** James Blenkinsop

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) William Freeman, Aiden Harvey-Craig, Prakaash Ramnarain, (Fifth Form) Elizabeth Huxley Capurro, (Fourth Form) Dominic Blackmore-Beales and (Third Form) James Blenkinsop

**Head of House:** Alfie Darling

**House Prefects:** Sebastian Foxwell and Joseph Pullin

**School Prefects:** Sebastian Foxwell and Joseph Pullin



B team, and Sasha Mazurek in the Junior Colts C team. Walpole has seen a number of boys assume leadership roles in their chosen sports, with Dmitrii Fedko heading the Basketball 1st team and Rafi Mahmood Captaining the Polo 1st team through an unbeaten season. Under Nikita Nedoshovenko's guidance, the School's novice Polo team earned bronzeware in the Polo Nationals.

role of Oliver while Munro McLeish and Charlie Cole also took on major roles in the cast. Jack Riley also took centre stage in the School's production of "Treasure Island" while Charlie Cole withdrew from the spotlight, trialling his directive capabilities.

All in all, Walpole continues to thrive both externally and internally and I am sure that the stellar standards achieved in 2021/2022 year will be inspiration for similar outperformance in the Centenary year under the stewardship of Max Burlingham as Head of House and a strong Prefect team.

**Gwilym Jones, Walpole Houseparent**

Walpole has continued to excel at the Arts, with Sebastian Foxwell, member of the National Schools' Symphony Orchestra, delivering an array of first-class performances - one such being the "Erik Morales" Concerto, alongside Ruairi Massie, winner of the Stormont prize for percussion. Tham Luanghvisut has been awarded the Anthony Bolton Music Scholarship for unparalleled contributions to the Music Department, while Peter You has shown commitment to his role in the School orchestra. Former Walpudlian Mr Au has become a familiar face around the Music Department, nurturing the boys' talents as a Gap Assistant. After many arduous auditions, the School's production of 'Oliver!' saw Jack Riley champion the principal



# West



**With the era of lockdowns behind us, it has been wonderful this year to see all the activities that make a House “tick” taking place once again. From the House Singing to the various Inter-House competitions, to socials and of course Speech Day!**

This academic year, West House has once again burst into life after the strictures of lockdown, ably led by Head of House, Sophie Williams. The first term is always a blur of busy-ness, and this year was no different. After a fine showing in the Inter-House Football, West went on to really give everything to the Inter-House activities. The West House Senior Debating team of Katie Gibbs, Varvara Romyantseva and Tabitha Ash went all the way to the competition Final before losing in an agonisingly close competition to rivals Grafton House. Skye Leather took First place in the Senior Girls’ Cross-Country while our thespians, most notably Delia Supple in the role of Nancy, took on lead roles in this year’s Senior Congreve production of ‘Oliver!’

The welcome return of the House Singing competition gave the West girls yet another opportunity to shine. A scintillating performance of an Abba medley (with vivid costumes to boot!) saw the House placed Third overall in this wonderful whole-School event, while a dazzling performance of ‘Stand by Me’ by our Part Song singers wowed the whole crowd. The stand-out singer of the West performances was Tamia Sibanda, who went on to be chosen to sing a solo for Speech Day - well done Tamia! Returning to a full House Christmas Dinner was another refreshing sign that Covid had been left behind, and the shift in House spirit has been palpable since the Upper and Lower Sixth have been able to come together as one House without having to form into individual

**“ This academic year West House has once again burst into life... ”**

bubbles. Long may the absence of Covid continue!

As well as the whole-House efforts, this year has seen some outstanding individual achievements. Tina Lazar came top of the entire Lower Sixth in the Michaelmas Term while Adaora and Natachi topped the leader-board in the end-of-year Lower Sixth exams. Tina also represented Stowe at the World Robotics Championships, reaching the World Final in Dallas, Texas - one of the few girls to take part in the Stowe Robotics Society. Leia West, also in the Lower Sixth, this year took charge of running the Junior Photography Club and has also become an Editor of the Stowe newsletter. Leia’s photographs now regularly feature in all manner of Stowe publications, rivalling those taken by the School’s professional photographers. Leia received a Cheshire Award for her outstanding photography activities. Amelia Hine also excelled for West, this time in Rowing.





Amelia and Leia rowed at both the Ball Cup Regatta and the Henley Regatta, representing Stowe in fine style. Amelia, Leia and Tina all join next year's House Prefect team, ready to lead West House to all kinds of new and exciting achievements!

The Inter-House competitions this year saw West once again deliver powerful performances to rival the other girls' Houses. Whether in the athletics on Sports Day, Tennis, Lacrosse, The Stowe Challenge or even Netball, West tirelessly fielded teams that once again put this House on the Stowe map. This year, the girls' Inter-House calendar also for the first time included Cricket and Chess, both of which West tackled with the same grit and determination as all the other myriad competitions. Sports Day saw a number of power-house performances in all the events, from Tamia Sibanda with the javelin to Maddie Long in the... wait for it... long-jump! A report on sport would not be complete without mentioning Kiara Grobler in the Lower Sixth, who has competed in just about every single sports event the House has undertaken this year. Kiara has been a fabulous competitor and has set the standard in House sports for next year. Well done to the whole House on a fabulous year of sport!

As well as sports, West girls have been an integral part of all that goes on in the School from Drama to House Chapels to appointments to become new School Prefects. A great example of this has been our artistic girls, who have quietly worked away to produce incredible masterpieces across the course of the year. It was wonderful to see at the Speech Day exhibition works by Wednesday Zhu, Maya Lopes-Wilson, Sophie Williams, Kia Winnington-Ingram and Rose Blomfield. We were also thrilled to see a number of West House girls receiving Speech Day prizes this year - Grace Newton-



McCann (Spanish), Ola Kalu (Biology, Headmaster's Special Prize and Stowe Award), Gloria Sun (Maths), Delia Supple (Drama), Angelina Morton-Cutt (Design and Drama), Wednesday Zhu (History of Art and Art) and Teagan Ralph (Stowe Award).

Charity fundraising has once again been high on the West House agenda. Varvara Rumyantseva and Angelina Morton-Cutt ran a charity stall at Sports Day (one of the staples of West's charity calendar) in aid of the Angel MLD Trust. With the return of more Parents' events in the coming year (another post-Covid revelation), we look forward to making a good deal more of the charity side of the House activities in the coming year.

West House is all about inclusion and belonging. It was therefore fantastic to see the girls decide to hold a new event in the form of a Chinese cookery evening in April, organised and masterminded in the main by our





**Houseparents:** Julie and Roland Johnson

**Matron:** Ilona Harding

**Assistant Houseparent:** Dr Gordon West

**Under Houseparent:** Francesca Holloway

**House Tutors:** (Sixth Form) Nicola Borman, Rebecca Clark, Heather Eisenhut, Francesca Holloway, Ruth Taylor, Dr Gordon West

**Head of House:** Sophie Williams

**Deputy Head of House:** Teagan Ralph

**House Prefects:** Olanma Kalu, Katie Gibbs, Maddie Long, Varvara Rummyantseva and Cindy Xu

**School Prefects:** Katie Gibbs and Olanma Kalu



International Prefect, Cindy Xu. The girls ordered in food and prepared this evening of culinary culture entirely by themselves (with adequate supervision when it came to the cooking of course!). With the return of trips out, games evenings and events such as the dumpling-laden Chinese dinner, it really does feel like the House has risen once again after the doldrums of the Covid era. The barbeque season especially (in other words, every weekend of the Summer Term!) is a wonderful reminder that West so often comes together as a whole House, and the ability of the two Year Groups to mix as equals is such a strong part of the House ethos.

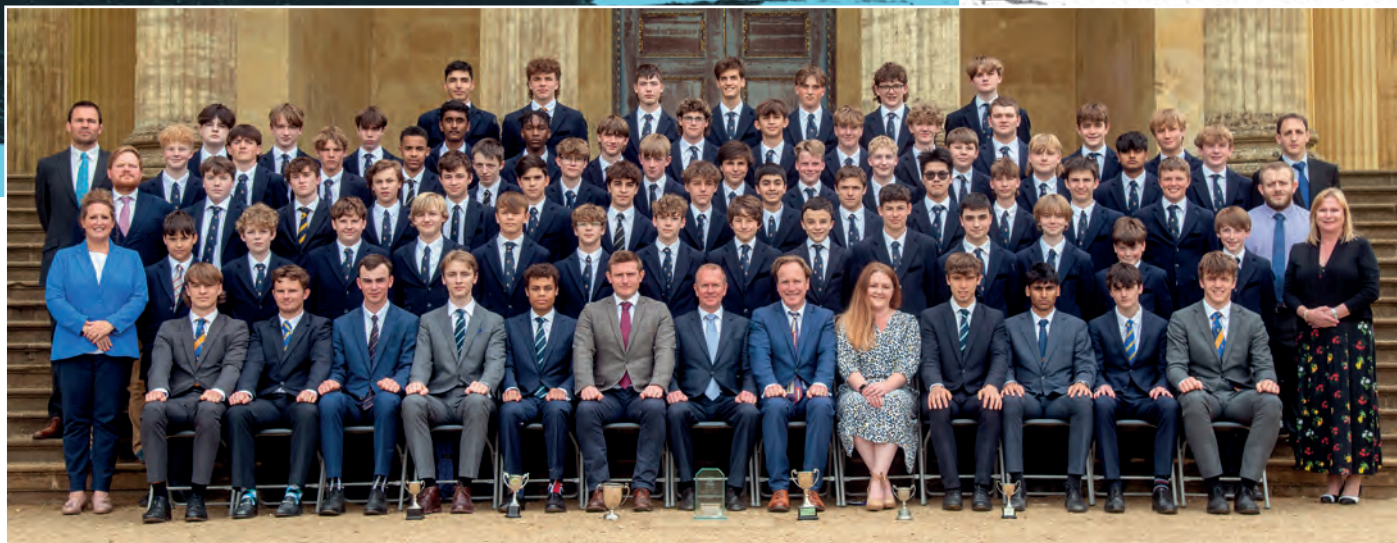
As ever, it is sad to be saying goodbye to half the House in the form of the leaving Upper Sixth, but they go with all the best wishes of the House for the amazing futures that surely await them. This year the Upper Sixth have enjoyed a surfeit of university offers, with girls taking up a huge range of undergraduate degree courses. We look forward to hearing of their successes and adventures, and we as Houseparents are always keen to receive communications (and even visits) from our ex-Westites. Every girl makes her mark on West, and there is no

doubt that every girl who has been a part of West has contributed to the outstanding ethos that her successors enjoy year by year. At the moment we are getting ever-closer to the ten-year reunion of West, which will see all the generations of West thus far invited to a celebratory gathering at Stowe to mark a decade of this thriving Boarding community. For those Old Stoics reading this article - mark the year 2024 in your diary as one to come and celebrate the founding of West!

With a successful year behind us, we look forward to September and a new year of achievements for West. We offer our congratulations to Adaora Okoye on her appointment to the position of Head of House, and we are certain that she and her team of able House Prefects will bring the House to yet greater heights!

**Julie and Roland Johnson, West Houseparents**

# Winton



**At the beginning of September 2019, Winton House became the first boys' Day House in the history of Stowe, and I was delighted to welcome the 38 inaugural Wintonians to the Third Form, Fourth Form and Lower Sixth.**

Only three years on we have expanded our numbers significantly, and we look forward to swelling the ranks even further next year. Having been cheated of a Stoic report by Covid for 2019 and 2020, it is a delight to be reporting on Winton for 2021-2022 - and what an outstanding year it has been in so many ways.

As ever, the year kicked off (forgive the painful pun) with the School's Inter-House Football competition, and Winton began their sporting campaign in promising style, winning both the Fourth and Fifth Form trophies. On the team House competitions front we started as we meant to go on, winning the Inter-House Hockey, the Senior boys' Cross-Country and the Junior Cricket, as well as coming first for the intermediate Athletes on Sports Day. Notable second places this year were the intermediate Rugby, Junior Tennis, House Chess (special mention for Alex Richards, who also achieved the title of Northants County Chess Champion) and in Sports Day second place for the House overall - I have no doubt these will be converted to top of the podium next year! For our individual competitions, congratulations to Josha Mital and Oliver Dickmann-Peña, both of whom were overall singles winners in the Junior and Senior House Badminton competitions, and to Harrison Newman, who brought home Winton's first ever Swimming trophy for the 50m breaststroke. There were some outstanding performances in the Cross-Country, with Ben Sutton, Josh Kingston, Harvey Poole, Oscar Dimpleby and Alex Sanchez Podesta all placing in the top five for their year group. And we should also acknowledge the part that the two Harveys, Julyan and Poole, played in the 1st XV's victory in the National Plate Competition, beating King's College Wimbledon in a hard-fought Final.

“ Only three years on we have expanded our numbers significantly, and we look forward to swelling the ranks even further next year. ”

Winton have been equally impressive beyond the field of sport this year. In the House Singing Competition, while there may have been more melodious Houses than Winton for the whole House entry, the Part Song more than made up for it, with Freddie Kelly-Greaves, Finn Tyson, Rafe Gordon, Will Crabb, Archie Jacobs, Joe Barnett, Harrison Newman, Hayden Smith, Charlie Ighani and Ali Short (conducting) giving a seriously impressive version of 'Lean on Me'. In the Inter-House Debating, all of our teams acquitted themselves admirably, especially as some of the boys had not debated before, with the Seniors (Finn Tyson, Rafe Gordon and Josha Mital) reaching the Final and the Inters (Archie Jacobs, Joe Barnett and Alex Sanchez Podesta) and Juniors (Raphy Viecei-Mellor, Anton Poon and Harrison Newman) progressing well in their competitions.





It has been excellent to see so many budding thespians in Winton this year, with James Smith, George Smith, Freddie Kelly-Greaves, Oliver Acors, Zoraiz Mohmand, Daniel Goje, Shree Chintapalli and Jack Robbins taking part in either 'Oliver!' or some very strong self-devised GCSE performances. But, of course, Finn Tyson must be singled out in this bracket for his outstanding performance as Fagin in 'Oliver!' (although I will never forgive him for targeting me as his dance partner in one of the performances...). Both Freddie and Finn performed in David Hare's 'South Downs' at the Edinburgh Fringe 2022, and it is wonderful that they are showcasing their talents beyond Stowe. And, finally, we should certainly acknowledge the exceptional academic achievements of so many Wintonians over the course of this year, particularly George Smith, Oliver Dickmann-Peña, Leo Clare and Will Eastwood, who were invited to the Head's APG Supper at the end of the Summer Term for consistently outstanding effort over the year. This doesn't include the Fifth and Upper Sixth who I know will perform brilliantly in their exams - results not yet out at the time of writing!

**“ While it is right to celebrate the numerous successes of individual Wintonians, a House is only as strong as the sum of all its parts. ”**



While it is right to celebrate the numerous successes of individual Wintonians, a House is only as strong as the sum of all its parts. As I am constantly reminding the boys, culture is not something that just happens - it is created by the people who make up the environment they are in, and those people have the ability to decide what that culture looks like. The culture that Winton aspires to is effectively encapsulated in our Mission Statement, reproduced in the Michaelmas Wintonian. 'Respect' 'Resilience' 'Integrity', 'Companionship', 'Selflessness', 'Self-belief', 'Stoicism' - these are just some of the words that stand out in that statement. Of course, none of us is perfect and just as in any family we can all fall short of these ideals, either collectively or individually. But I firmly believe that striving to meet these values, in the small as well as the bigger things,



creates a culture in Winton where everyone feels a valued member of the House they are in.

And on that note, I would like to say some very big 'thank-yous' to all those who have led by example throughout this year to create that culture. Firstly, to our small but perfectly formed Upper Sixth team of Freddie Kelly-Greaves, Finn Tyson and Ali Short. I could not have hoped for a more mature, helpful and good-natured trio, and Freddie has led the House exceptionally over the past year, going above and beyond in his management and pastoral care of the Junior years and supporting the House Staff. Thank you also to our Tutor team of Grant Seely, Sheilagh Rawlins, Tom Elwell, Jonny Davis, Kamaran Fathulla and Angela Bristow, all of whom have worked tirelessly to support their charges both academically and pastorally. Matt Teasdale has, as ever, been a pleasure to work with as Assistant Houseparent, always willing and ready to step in at short notice to cover and successfully navigating his Third Form tutees through the sometimes, rocky straits of their first year. This year saw Winton take on two other new members of Staff, our Matron, Lisa West and our Deputy Houseparent, Fitz Smith. Lisa has been nothing short of outstanding, baking cakes, organising trips, providing dinner nights for each Year Group, as well as being a generally sympathetic and supportive presence for the boys. Unfortunately, we say farewell to Fitz as he moves onwards and upwards to take on the Grafton Houseparent role, and I know that he will be much missed by the boys, as will his inspirational quotes at our morning stances! We are very fortunate though to be welcoming Andrew Arnold from September, who I know will be another tour de force in the team Winton arsenal. And last but by no means least, my enormous gratitude to the people who really keep the House going, our cleaning team of Katie, Hayley and Dawn, and our handyman Lee. I am extremely grateful for all the work they do in the House, and I know it is much appreciated by the boys as well (although they may not always show it...).

I wish our 2022 Leavers the very best of success with their studies and beyond, and look forward to the year ahead as Winton continues to flourish in all areas of School life.

**James Peppiatt, Winton Houseparent**

**Houseparent:** James Peppiatt

**Matron:** Lisa West

**Deputy Houseparent:** Fitz Smith

**Assistant Houseparent:** Matthew Teasdale

**House Tutors:** Grant Seely, Matthew Teasdale, Jonathan Davis, Kamaran Fathulla, Tom Elwell, Sheilagh Rawlins and Angela Bristow

**Head of House:** Freddie Kelly-Greaves

**Deputy Heads of House:** Alistair Short and Finn Tyson

**House Prefects:** Freddie Kelly-Greaves, Alistair Short and Finn Tyson

**School Prefects:** Freddie Kelly-Greaves, Alistair Short and Finn Tyson



# Gallery



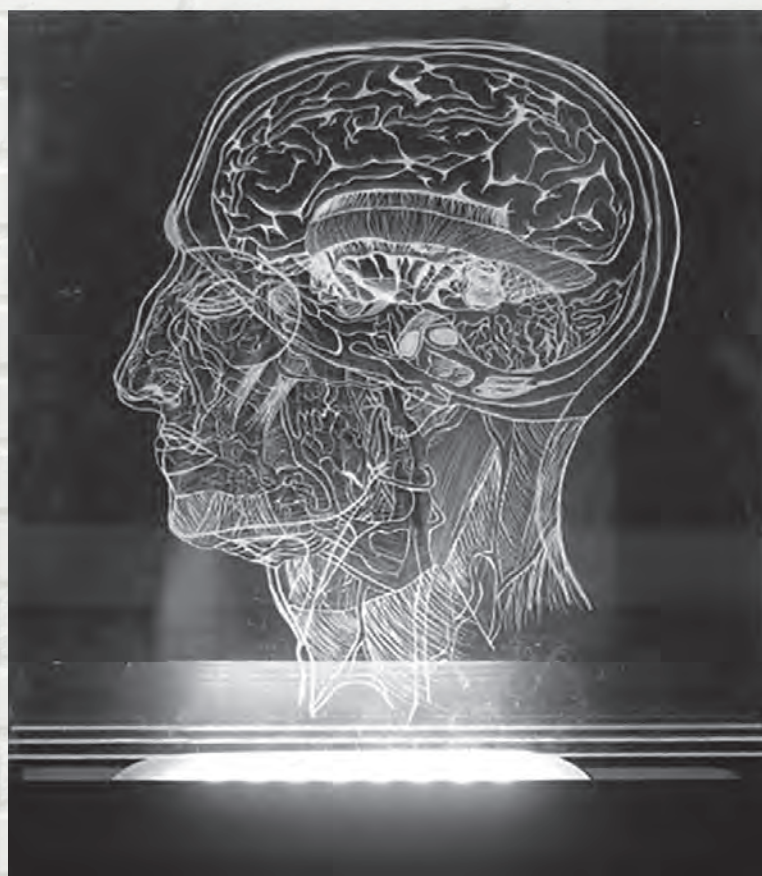
**Alexandra Gridneva**  
(Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



**Maria Tutus**  
(Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



**Ceara Cusiter**  
(Fifth Form, Cheshire)



**Amy Brogden**  
(Fifth Form, Queen's)



**Wednesday Zhu** (Upper Sixth, West)

# FLiX

## 2022 ROUND UP!

### THE COMING OF AGE

"*Cinema is life*," once claimed French film director Jean-Luc Godard and these words have always shaped how I feel about the medium of film and its importance in shaping the ways we see the world.

The FLiX Film Society at Stowe has gone from strength to strength over recent years and much of this is down to the scheduling of the films we show - something we take very seriously in our neck of the woods. Movies we watch are carefully themed and "curated" by FLiX members and myself in order to ensure that we cover a range of different types of movie (almost never wandering into the poplar realms of the blockbuster). The general principle is to show films which stretch and challenge our members (we are especially keen on showing films from other countries and to experience films which deal with "tough" topics - FLiX members are prepared to shed the odd tear or two).

This year has been a very busy one for FLiX and our members have been enjoying a season of films entitled *The Coming of Age* - films which celebrate the diverse ways cinema can tell us stories about childhood. They have also been to the cinema to see Billy Wilder's brilliant *The Apartment* at the Ultimate Picture Palace in Oxford; joined in with the hotly contested StOscar evening in May and we even teamed up with the Pride group for a memorable evening of pizza and Celine Sciamma's masterly debut - the same-sex romance *Water Lilies*.

In *The Coming of Age* season, we screened films dealing with growing up from a variety of cultural perspectives. Topics covered by the films chosen included gender issues, ethnicity, mental health and abuse and rebellion as well, of course, as first love.

Films included in the season included drug addiction drama *Beautiful Boy* (Van Groenigen, 2018); Australian true-life tale *Rabbit Proof Fence* (Phil Noyce, 2002); the unusual animated film *My Life as a Courgette* (Barras, 2016); literary adaptation par excellence *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Mulligan, 1962); Studio Ghibli's *When Marnie Was There* (Yonebayashi, 2014); the little-seen but brilliant *Short Term 12* (Cretton, 2013); "hipster" comedy *Juno* (Jason Reitman, 2007); powerful British realist film *Nowhere Special* (Uberto Passolini, 2020) and 80's "Brat Packer" Ferris Bueller's *Day Off* (John Hughes, 1986).

We are currently planning next year's season, which we have entitled *BritScreen Now (and Then)* which is a season of films from the UK: already in the diary (amongst others) are David Lean's "classic" war movie

*The Bridge on the River Kwai* (featuring one of Alec Guinness' most brilliant performances) and Guy Ritchie's surprisingly enjoyable "geezer" gangster drama *The Gentlemen*.

FLiX meet on Mondays at 15.30 in V002. New members are always welcome.

### and... ACTION! an Invitation to Contribute to a 100 year celebration of all things film and media in 2023

Although we are still nearly a year away from it, as most of you know, 2023 is the School's 100th birthday and we at FLiX are already making plans to celebrate that momentous event with a few momentous events of our own.

In addition to a weekend of films made by or with the assistance of Old Stoics in March next year, plus a conference for local Film and Media students, we are also collaborating with both the Art Department, the Old Stoic Society and hopefully yourselves on mounting an exhibition of Film and media memorabilia which will be displayed in the school's Watson Gallery at the same time to be entitled **and... ACTION!**

We are hoping that Stoics and their parents, old Stoics, friends of the school and staff will be willing to get involved and loan us any film or media related items that they have and which they think others might like to see. These might be, for example, autographs, props, posters or programmes; costumes, newspaper cuttings, copies of scripts, photographs and anything else that might be gathering dust in the attic but which would be of interest to film fans.

Although I will be curating the exhibition and writing notes etc., I am delighted that Anna Semler from the Old Stoic Society has also agreed to initially co-ordinate any offers from readers to contribute and also promote the project to her members.

Therefore, if you or someone you know does have access to anything they might be prepared to loan us from February next year through to the end of March, which is roughly when the **and... ACTION!** Exhibition will run (and don't worry - we will be insuring all items, as you would expect) then please could you let Anna know with a quick email. We'd love to hear from you. She can be contacted at: [centenary@stowe.co.uk](mailto:centenary@stowe.co.uk)

**and... ACTION!** will be a unique, one-of-a-kind exhibition and we are certain that it will be a high point of the birthday celebrations.

I will be bringing along my recently "requisitioned" (from the set of Sam Mendes' new film) poster for Terry Gilliam's *Time Bandits*; Ms Eisenhut is promising Goldfinger's original Aston Martin!

**Dr Andrew C Webber**

# QUANTUM SOCIETY

**The Quantum Society has made the most of being able to meet throughout the year. Things got off to a cracking start with a presentation on 'How Cosmic Rays can rig a General Election' by Benedict Hartigan (Upper Sixth, Grafton). Benedict was duly elected as President. His inspiring leadership so ably supported by Secretary, Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Treasurer, Paris Broughton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) as well as all of the members, has seen the Society go from strength to strength.**

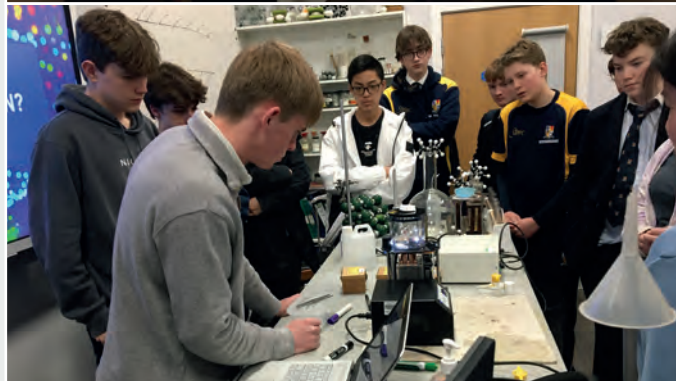
During many of our meetings, members presented a wide array of topics from aerodynamics in motor sport, to how time and speed are relative, the problems with bottled water, to anti-matter and many more. Such presentations open up many new fields of potential interest to others as well as showing the great depth of understanding that members can discover themselves when looking in to any chosen field. We hope that departing members will come back to present to the Society in future years as Max Bishop (Grafton 18) did - he explained the quantum effects that cause gold to be the colour it is and why mercury is a liquid, despite being a metal.

Guest speaker, Dr James Crosby from Cambridge University, gave a fascinating talk about 'The Cretaceous-Palaeogene Extinction. What killed the dinosaurs and parallels with modern environmental and climatic change'. This was assisted by his friend and member of our Physics Department, Mr Kamaran Fathulla. The breadth of Science this covered and how they interlinked was astonishing.

Senior members also gave presentations to Junior members where they demonstrated their wide range of interests in Science and how it can be applied. This is key to stimulating interest in younger Stoics and showing them that there is more to Science than just that covered in the syllabus. The quality of presentations by our Senior members was inspiring in itself - I thank them all.

We were once again able to enjoy the now traditional social highlights of the year as members enjoy each other's company as well as their shared interest and love of Science. We had our formal dinner in March which was preceded by the annual lecture which I presented on 'How Quantum Mechanics Underpins the Structure of the Periodic Table'. Quantum mechanics is just as central to Chemistry as it is to Physics, indeed it is central to our interpretation of reality and everything around us.

We had termly book reviews on book titles selected by members. After enjoying reading the book, the reviews



happened over a Chinese take-away in the Sixth Form Science Centre - the perfect opportunity to discuss the books in a relaxed environment, whilst enjoying a meal in the company of fellow enthusiasts. These are always well attended and it is so interesting to see what different aspects or information everyone takes from the books. We ended the year in traditional style with the annual BBQ and croquet match against the Biomedical Society. There was fierce competition as well as a chance to say goodbye to our departing members on their last ever Friday night at Stowe. A fitting way to celebrate what has been marvellous year for the Society.

**James Tearle, Head of Science**



# CORKSCREW

Corkscrew continues to enjoy its status as Stowe's longest running Society. This year, celebrating its Golden Anniversary, having been founded in 1972 by an enthusiastic group of Stoic oenologists and an equally enthusiastic Master in Charge (Antony Lloyd), it carries on its mission to give 30 eager Stoics an opportunity to learn something about wine.

The year started, as ever, with the application process which saw an unprecedented 60 letters received for half that number of spaces. It is really tough not to be able to give everyone the chance, but we were pleased during the year to let some on the waiting list into the Blue Room for our six tasting sessions.

Pre-existing knowledge (perhaps reassuringly!) is not a factor in joining - but much more so a willingness to approach the year with sufficient sobriety and open-mindedness.

The year's tasting took a now well-established course:

starting with an 'Introduction to Wine Tasting' (three reds and three whites), we were then delighted to welcome visiting speakers who introduced us to wines from South Africa, France, other 'New World' countries. The year culminated in a wonderful Black Tie Dinner in the Music Room to which we were delighted and very grateful to welcome back Charles Hopkinson-Woolley (Temple 82), a current parent, who led a tasting of a wonderfully eclectic set of wines.

We were pleased too to remember the late Philip Gray (Temple 66) and his generosity in gifting the Society two cases of Ch Latour 98, with a bottle to be presented to the two winners of the annual blind wine-tasting challenge. Our special thanks go to John Williams (Cobham 58) for hosting the evening and congratulations this year to Xander Brett (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Lily Almeйда (Upper Sixth, Queen's)!

**Colin Dudgeon, Corkscrew Society**

# GAUSSIAN SOCIETY

Eight Lower Sixth Stoics were awarded Mathematics ties for their thoroughly researched and rehearsed academic talks. Terry Tan (Chandos) and Alexander Gu (Walpole) told us about paradoxes in Mathematics, taking a trip back to Xeon's time and the idea that you can never complete a journey, as in order to do so you have to get halfway to the finish, and then halfway to the finish, and then halfway to the finish... Yuki Jiang's (West) talk on the P=NP problem was as challenging as it was inspiring. She discussed whether the set of problems that are easy to check is the same as the set of problems that are easy to solve. If this were to be true then, to quote MIT scientist Scott Aronson, "Everyone who could appreciate a symphony would be Mozart; everyone who could follow a step-by-step argument would be Gauss; everyone who could recognize a good

investment strategy would be Warren Buffett." Vivianna Johnson (Cheshire) and Isabella Pratap (Nugent) told the story of the golden ratio and showed us how modern apps can manipulate faces to a creepy ideal of beauty - but true beauty lies in imperfection. Harvey Tian (Walpole) and Frank Li (Grenville) led a joint session in which Harvey used differential equations to model his own experimental data from capacitors, and Frank derived key equations for work in Thermodynamics. Finally, Josha Mital (Winton) gave a very entertaining talk on how the shape of a glass changes the movement of bubbles in Guinness, and how the Drake equation for finding the probability that there is extra-terrestrial life can be applied to the problem of finding love.

**Mr Mikkel Møller, Gaussian Society**



# CHESS CLUB

**There has been a real energy around Chess at Stowe this past year, with a very exciting future ahead.**

A strong group of players signed up for the weekly Chess Club in September and, as we were eager to test our mettle against an even wider field, but challenged by the restrictions of Covid, we began the year with fixtures and 'Chess battles' played online against other schools. Our first match was in November against Repton using chess.com, which we narrowly lost, only to beat them in a rematch in February. We also won an online 'Chess battle' against Oundle in January, and more recently we hosted a team from Bedford Modern at Stowe in June, which again saw a Stowe victory.

What really helped the Club take off this year was the creation of the inaugural Stowe Inter-House Chess Championships. This started in January, with all Houses drawn randomly into four pools. Over the course of three pool rounds, each House played the other Houses in their pool, with Pool D containing the bye. Each House was required to field three players as their first, second and third boards, to face their counterparts from the opposition House. This saw lots of Stoics dusting off their Chess skills and brought a new wave of players to the weekly club! Tournament rules applied and each player had a total of 15 minutes on their clock. A win gained two points, a draw one point, and the top scoring House from each pool was to progress to the Semi-Finals. The tournament was played out over five weeks and culminated in an exciting Final between the teams from Winton and Temple, played in the Marble Hall on Wednesday 9 March. Alex Richards (Third Form, Winton) protected his reputation as top board in the School by defeating Will Nottage (Lower Sixth, Temple), but then Maximilian Stevens (Lower Sixth, Temple) played a strong game to defeat Josha Mital (Lower Sixth, Winton), once again, meaning that the result came down to the third board game, which was an epic contest between the two third form players Andrii Mamakin (Third Form, Temple,) and Mateusz Teclaw (Fourth Form, Winton), which was won by Andrii Mamakin to make Temple House the first-ever Stowe Inter-House Chess Champions.

With engagement and enjoyment running high after the Inter-House competition, we then took the team to compete as individuals in the Northamptonshire County Championships held at Wellingborough School



on Saturday 14 May. The Stoics covered themselves in glory, with Alex Richards (Winton, Third Form), competing in the U18 open category and winning as the overall County Champion, and Maximilian Stevens finishing as runner up. Xavier Nylaende (Fourth Form, Bruce) won the trophy for the U16s, and Dengiz Primkul (Third Form, Temple) won the U14 section, with Andrii Mamakin the runner up.

With the help of the Northamptonshire Youth Chess Association, we played host to our first Stowe Invitational Chess Tournament in the Marble Hall and Music Room on Sunday 22 May. The tournament attracted over 70 players across the 6-18 age range, including ten Stoics, a number of younger players from our own two Prep Schools (Swanbourne House and Winchester House), and players hailing from local state schools and also independent schools such as Winchester College and Bedford Modern. The competition was fierce and although the Stowe players didn't come away with any age group trophies, Stowe's Xavier Nylaende finished a close second in the U16 age range competition.

Based on their commitment throughout the year and after strong performances in this tournament and across the year, five Stoics were awarded Chess Colours for the first time in Assembly. These colours were awarded to Alex Richards, Xavier Nylaende, Maximilian Stevens, Andrii Mamakin and Carlo Galliani (Third Form, Bruce). Other players who also made a significant contribution to the Club's success this year have included Robert Layter (Fourth Form, Chatham), Nikita Nedoshovenko (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Michael Shpurik-Eronat (Fifth Form, Chandos), Mateusz Teclaw, Stepan Volkov (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Dengiz Primkul.

We are looking to build on the success of this first year of competitive Chess at Stowe by hosting two open Chess Tournaments at Stowe next year, one in October and one in May, as well as setting up a series of fixtures against other schools and once again running our Chess Inter-House competition. We are also offering a new Chess Scholarship for entry into Year 9 and Year 12 and will be bringing in external coaching to improve the level of play. We have a great set of young players coming through and the aim is for Stowe to become a real centre for Chess excellence in the UK!

**Dr Julie Potter, Chess Club**



# Debating, Public Speaking & Model United Nations

**House Debating this year has seen 132 Stoics debating in 42 debates over three competitions. They have debated everything from 'This House believes that the Pope should be elected by Catholics around the world' to 'This House believes that all citizens ought to perform a period of national military service' and the standard has never been higher. Grafton claimed the Seniors' trophy by defending 'Government funding of the BBC', Nugent won the Junior Competition, arguing that 'Vaccinations should be required before children can enter education', and Bruce Third Form edged out Queen's to win a debate about the future of the Monarchy. Huge thanks and many congratulations go to all the Debaters who spend so much time and energy preparing for their debates and who prove the value of this important skill.**

Stowe has also had a successful year in various external competitions. Our Senior Debaters reached the second round of the English-Speaking Union (ESU) Schools' Mace competition and acquitted themselves admirably, opposing the motion 'This House would prevent MPs from holding any other paid employment', and our Junior Public Speakers took part in the Regional Final of the ESU's Public Speaking competition, which was held at Stowe. Stowe's team of Annie Flint (Fifth Form, Queen's) Emilia Scott-Copley (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Flora Peppiatt (Third Form, Queen's) had won two previous branch rounds to qualify and were joined by the best public speakers in the region. Annie spoke eloquently on the need to remove plastic packaging from supermarkets and answered questions put to her, by the team from

Magdalen College School, Oxford (MCS), with aplomb. Emilia and Flora were a great team in being the Chair and questioner for the speaker from MCS, bringing great thoughtfulness to the topic of whether justice is too weak. Unfortunately, we did not progress to the National Final, but the team acquitted themselves brilliantly and should be congratulated for their excellent performances over the course of the competition.

Model United Nations started the year with a greatly anticipated return to conferences in person. We attended MUNCH21 at Cheadle Hulme School in Manchester in November where a team of eight Stoics represented Japan in various committees such as Disarmament, Health and Human Rights and debated on a huge range of topics. It was amazing to be allowed to attend these events in person again and all the Stoics enjoyed the opportunity to meet other MUNers as much as they enjoyed the debating. We also attended HMUN22 at Haileybury School in March. In the words of Max James (Lower Sixth, Cobham), "The trip to Haileybury for our Model United Nations' Conference was a trip that will be remembered by all. Each member of the team of ten was assigned to a committee and our aim was to pass as many resolutions as we could. The highlights of the conference had to be all the new friends that were made, the standing ovation given to the delegate of Mozambique who gave a speech to everyone at the age of only 12, and finally, carpool karaoke on Saturday night. Overall, this weekend was an amazing finish to the term."

**Rhea Stafford-Smith, Debating, Public Speaking & Model United Nations**



The trip to Haileybury for our Model United Nations Conference on Friday 18 to Sunday 20 March was a trip that will be remembered by all.

Each member of the Lower Sixth team of ten, consisting of Max James (Cobham), Norrie Macdonald (Stanhope), Theo Epes (Chandos), Sofia Tangsrud (Stanhope), Kenneth Kim (Chandos), Olivia Otter (Stanhope), Hugo Comerford (Chatham), Alice Scheffey (Queen's), Alex Gu (Chandos) and Grace Newton-McCann (West), were assigned to a committee and our aim was to pass as many resolutions as we could. When we arrived on Friday evening, we were introduced to all other delegates of the Model United Nations, and, after signing copious amounts of resolutions, we made some very good alliances.

Saturday morning started with an early wake up, and, after a few cups of coffee and a full English breakfast, we were ready to begin day two. Everybody got involved, whether it was in the form of points of information, amendments, or speeches for, or against, the resolutions. By the end of the day, around 30 resolutions had been passed which was a fantastic

achievement for all involved.

Saturday night was also very eventful; who knew a game of 'Tesco Secret Santa' could be so much fun?

Sunday was a wonderful close to what had been an incredible weekend away. The morning was taken up by the final few resolutions being debated and then the afternoon finished with a general assembly and a closing ceremony.

Next year, we now have the challenge to try and win the Best Country Prize, which by no surprise, was won by the USA this year. The highlights of the conference had to be all the new friends that were made, the standing ovation given to the delegate of Mozambique who gave a speech to everyone at the age of only 12, and finally, carpool karaoke on Saturday night (to the delight of Miss Stafford-Smith's ears!).

Overall, this weekend was an amazing finish to the Lent Term and thank you very much to Miss Stafford-Smith and Miss Shah for making this weekend possible.

**Max James (Lower Sixth, Cobham)**

# LSAS (Lower School Academic Scholars)

**The Lower School Academic Scholars (LSAS) at Stowe meet once a week to take part in topic-based learning designed to stretch and challenge them. These sessions are run by a range of different teachers from different Departments and the sessions are often based on that teacher's interests outside their everyday teaching - making for some particularly exciting sessions. These sessions are introduced with a university-style lecture which is then followed by five or six classroom-based sessions.**

This year, LSAS members have discovered the pleasures of children's fiction with English Teacher Ms Eisenhut; how the League of Nations operate with History Teacher, Ms Stafford-Smith; the meaning of "Resistance" with Head of Philosophy, Ms Holloway; how to break codes with Maths Teacher (and newly appointed Head of Projects) Mr Paxton and, finally, the significance of Romantic Science - with English Teacher Mrs Pickering-Polláková.

Each term LSAS members are taken on trips to extend their knowledge and in 2021/22 these have included visits to Oxford's Book Museum where they took part in a workshop looking at how to curate an exhibition at the Museum (we also visited the brilliant Ashmolean Museum as a bonus). They also went to London to tour the recently renovated Imperial War Museum - particularly the harrowing Holocaust exhibition (this resulted in some excellent work produced by the pupils on the theme of resistance) and recently went to the beautiful Blenheim Palace, where they were charged with producing their own piece of Romantic writing. The best bits of work produced on these trips have been published in *Stowemail* and the School newspaper *Concord and Victory*.

LSAS members next year will be looking at (amongst other topics) Botany and the Science Fiction genre with a trip already planned to visit one of London's "hidden treasures" - the Chelsea Physic Garden.

New members joining us next year have much to look forward to.

**Dr Andrew C Webber, LSAS**

# The McElwee Award

**After a hiatus during the pandemic, the McElwee Award has been back in force this year with much to catch up on. The Award seeks to offer Stoics the opportunity to travel with a cultural or academic purpose and then report back on their findings. Pupils travel in pairs, usually during the Summer before their Upper Sixth year.**

The fund from which awards are made, was initially established by former pupils of the long-serving Bill McElwee, who taught at Stowe either side of the Second World War. He was well known for taking pupils on trips during the Summer, so it is fitting that pairs of Stoics undertake these exciting adventures in his memory.

Given that our four pairs of 2020 winners missed their trips due to travel restrictions, we are delighted that most will be able to travel this Summer. Although they have now left Stowe, they will report their findings back to the Committee at a dinner in September at the East India Club in London. With our winners currently finishing their first year at university or completing gap years, we are looking forward to hearing where their post-Stowe lives are taking them, as well as what they discovered on their McElwee trips.

At Stowe, the Committee took applications from the Upper Sixth for the first time in order to ensure that this cohort did not miss the opportunity that was denied to them last year by national restrictions. Five excellent pairs were chosen to travel on a range of diverse trips: Sabyn Maude (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Amalie Mager (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) plan to investigate the attitude of young people towards democracy in former communist states; Henry Goodwin-Hudson (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Wilf Wyatt (Upper Sixth, Bruce) will go to Crete to re-trace the steps of Patrick Leigh Fermor's famous escapade capturing a German General; Eleanor Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Isabella Lloyd (Upper Sixth, Nugent) will consider how the legacy of ancient Rome affects the city's modern politics and culture; Benjamin Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham) will make a philosophical study of ancient Greece; and Annabel Hing (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Jet West (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) will head to both Bruges and Budapest to compare the historic art of repressive and democratic governments. These pupils will also return to present their findings this Autumn before their further studies, work or travel commence.

The Lower Sixth are normally the primary audience for the McElwee presentations but, due to the inability of winners to travel last year, the McElwee Committee stepped in ably in November to inspire the Lower Sixth with their own tales of McElwee travel. David White (Temple 11) gave an engaging account of his McElwee trip to Kyiv in 2010, a talk that took on even more resonance in recent months. He was followed by Mark Goodwin-Hudson (Grafton 88), who relayed his exciting journey across the Sinai Desert in 1987. Both brought out the drama of their trips brilliantly and were also able to reflect on the profound impact that the award has had on their lives beyond Stowe. The McElwee Award hopes to help Stoics have confidence in taking on any challenge and to see a far larger purpose in their education beyond the taking of exams and entrance to university. These themes came out poignantly from Mark and David's excellent talks.

The event clearly inspired the Lower Sixth, as 12 pairs applied to the Award with excellent propositions. We hope that they are all able to undertake these at some point, even if they were not able to secure funding from the McElwee Award. From this cohort, there were four pairs of winners: Deborah James (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Imogen Taylor (Lower Sixth, Nugent) are heading to Iceland with a focus on linking history and sustainability; India Baillie (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Alice Scheffey (Lower Sixth, Queen's) will travel to Barcelona for an architectural study of Gaudi; David Stirling (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Max Cranmer (Lower Sixth, Temple) will study continuing cultural divisions in former Yugoslavia; and Josha Mital (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Daniel Boardman (Lower Sixth, Chatham) will consider the development of philosophy, mathematics and logic in Athens. These are all exciting trips and will no doubt excite a future crop of winners from our Lower Sixth next year.

There has been much to catch up on as life returns to more regular rhythms and it has been exciting to see several cohorts of Stoics win the McElwee Award and plan for trips this Summer. Assuming that they are all able to travel as planned, there will be 26 Stoics and Old Stoics travelling in pairs across Europe this Summer. I hope that they gain as much from their trips as the generations of Old Stoics that have gone before them.

**Paul Griffin, McElwee Committee**



# Lower School Geography Society

In January this year, some pupils decided to set up a new Lower School Geography Society at Stowe. Many pupils were keen to join and every Monday the group met to watch documentaries about different topics, such as climate change and ocean plastics, and use the Virtual Reality headsets to develop knowledge.

The group also worked on an ocean plastics project, to help spread the word about this global issue and the impacts it has on marine wildlife. On Thursday 21 April, the Geography Society visited Swanbourne House School to run interactive activities and deliver a presentation to Year Four and Five children about the effects of plastic in our oceans.

We used VR headsets to educate the younger pupils and to make the experience exciting for them. We also presented our ideas about what they

could do around their School to reduce plastic use. They came up with many great ideas such as using glass bottles, picking up litter, recycling more and using re-usable cups.

Following this event, the Swanbourne pupils are looking to create a mural made from ocean plastic waste to spread the word across the School. We are also looking forward to them coming to visit us here at Stowe at the end of June.

The Stoics were able to develop their presentation skills and enjoyed raising awareness of this global issue during this trip.

Stowe Geography Society: Henry Roberts (Fourth Form, Chatham), Lulu Goaman (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Beau Deacon (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Iona Clarke (Fourth Form, Queen's).

**Francesca Elliott, Geography Society**





# SSAS

## (Senior School Academic Scholars)

### INTRODUCING SSAS

The Senior School Academic Scholars (formerly known as HMES, the Headmaster's Essay Society) participate in an annual cycle aimed at providing our best academics with the opportunities, guidance and support they need to develop their skills and successfully apply to the UK's most competitive universities. Having worked closely with Jonathan Murnane for three years in my capacity as the lead for HMES STEM applications (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), I was very pleased to take the helm as SSAS Coordinator in September. By my side were Luis Fuentes Olea as Deputy and lead for Arts & Humanities and a newly formed team of subject specialist Oxbridge Mentors.

### 2021-2022 COHORT

In the Michealmas Term, thirteen Stoics elected to apply for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This is an extremely competitive process. For example, there are thousands of A Level students who will achieve A\*A\* in Mathematics and Further Mathematics but only 220 places for Mathematics at Cambridge. It is a tough race to enter, particularly following two years of grade inflation which have congested the university system, as well as a marked decrease in the number of places for pupils from independent schools.

We are absolutely delighted therefore for Kimi Chen (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) who received an offer to read

Mathematics at Christ's College, Cambridge. This is an immense achievement, and we are very proud of her success - as we are of all members of SSAS who gained offers from other highly competitive and high-tariff universities. Offers were received from Bath, Bristol, Courtauld Institute, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Goldsmiths, Imperial College, KCL, Lancaster, Leeds, Leicester, LSE, Nottingham, Queen Mary, Sheffield, Sussex, UCL, Warwick and York.

2021-2022 SSAS applications were supported by Jonathan Davis, Simon Cole, Jessica Reinhold, Smit Chitre, Paul Floyd, Aiden Harvey-Craig, Paul Griffin, Meredith Atkinson-Wood, Mark Austen and Charles Adkins.



Meanwhile, the Arts & Humanities Group took an introspective journey in Sociology, reviewed key articles and considered the renaissance through such questions as the following.

- What is Renaissance humanism?
- What is the difference between scientific Renaissance and scientific revolution?
- How did the Crusades prepare Europe for the Renaissance?
- How did the Renaissance impact European politics?

## 2022-2023 COHORT

Looking ahead to the 2022-23 application round, a new cohort of 32 Lower Sixth Senior School Academic Scholars was recruited in December. The focus of the Lent Term was on academic enrichment seminars. The STEM groups presented the latest research presented in Nature, including:

**Engineering:** magnetic zigzag graphene nanoribbons, electron beam modulation by photons, jumping robots

**Mathematics:** unrepresentative big surveys, the effect of rainfall on the global economy and AI-driven mathematical intuition

**Biomedical:** cancer cell lineages, microbes converting crude oil into methane, transporter proteins and alphaviruses

**Physics:** Matter-antimatter symmetry, strange metals and superconductors

There was also a very entertaining debate, chaired by Rhea Stafford-Smith, judged by Alice Kenny and Smit Chitre, that pitched the two groups against each other

with the motion 'This House believes that students should be encouraged to study the arts and humanities instead of STEM subjects'.

Going into the Summer Term, the twenty three SSAS members who expressed their desire to apply to Oxford and Cambridge, benefitted from an interview workshop with Rebecca Clark, and have begun preparing in earnest: UCAS forms for the earlier deadline, example submitted work, pre- and at-interview admissions tests, and ambitious reading, writing and projects that will confirm their commitment to intense and sustained learning at top universities. Most SSAS members have also attended Masterclasses in their chosen subjects with Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Underpinning the broad remit of SSAS is the concerted extension work routinely undertaken by Departments to optimise subject-specific development throughout the year. I should like to conclude with my thanks to the new team of Oxbridge Mentors, our Harvard Fellow, Smit Chitre, and Luis Fuentes Olea at the helm of the SSAS Arts & Humanities group.

**Dr Charles Adkins, SSAS**





# International Society

**The international community at Stowe has been through a tumultuous time in the past two years. With Covid preventing many of our Stoics from returning home to see family and friends, swiftly followed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, life for our pupils come to Stowe from across the World has certainly been more challenging than usual. Despite this, they have demonstrated great resilience when facing these difficulties, and have continued to thrive whilst at School.**

With the easing of Covid restrictions, we were finally able to resume celebrating a number of cultural events from a wide range of different nations. The year began with a celebration of Mid-Autumn festival, which is typically celebrated in nations such as China and Indonesia. As the year progressed, meals and events were held to recognise Thanksgiving, Orthodox Christmas, Chinese New Year and also Eid. These festivities allowed Stoics from all Year Groups to come together with others from a similar cultural background, and celebrate as they ordinarily would with family, allowing them to truly see Stowe as a home away from home. Alongside this, the School hosted two International Society Dinners, one for Junior pupils, and one for the Seniors. Both of these events were well attended and provided an opportunity for the School to celebrate and be thankful for the diversity which the international community brings to the School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Olanma Kalu (Upper Sixth, West),

our International Prefect this year, for supporting these events and welcoming Stoics from all nations into our School. Our international Stoics have also thrived academically, with a great number of them opting to sit examinations in their native tongue and gaining some excellent grades. These pupils have been well supported by Ms Wheeler within the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Department to ensure they make great progress within these qualifications. Alongside this, Mrs Johnson has been working diligently with a number of our international pupils to support them in gaining strong grades within the IELTS qualification, which allows Stoics to truly demonstrate their capabilities within the English language.

The School works hard to demonstrate its commitment to internationalism and has thus been fully accredited by the British Council with the International School Award. To achieve this, not only did we demonstrate a commitment to supporting international pupils within the School, but also that we teach a range of topics which were related to this theme within the curriculum. The School also had to develop a strong partnership with another school abroad, which we successfully did with Daly College in India, holding a virtual exchange for the past two years. We hope that next academic year we are able to continue to see the international community within Stowe thrive, and also begin to see this spread within other schools in The Stowe Group.

**Fran Shah, International Society**







# LANGUAGES SOCIETY

**Part of the fun of learning Languages at Stowe is being able to become a member of the Languages Society. Every year, Sixth Form linguists elect their President and Vice-President to represent them, organise events and write articles for Stowemail. Competition is fierce, but never more so than September 2021, when Varvara Rumyantseva (Upper Sixth, West) and Thomas Gibson (Upper Sixth, Cobham) received exactly the same number of votes. So, for the first time ever, we had two Presidents - as despite Stoics urging me to choose one over the other, a bit like in 'Sophie's Choice', I couldn't bring myself to do it. I am glad I didn't, as both Tom and Varvara were exceptionally pro-active, reliable and enthusiastic Presidents and my thanks go to them for all the hard work they have put into Language Society this year. This is a Stoic-led Society and the pupils make it as successful as it is; without them, there would not be a Languages Society.**

We had many exciting contributions this academic year. Among the most memorable events was the sign-language workshop zoomed to us by Stacey Stockwell all the way from Scotland. She gave us a fascinating insight into the world of deaf people and how they

communicate, teaching us the BSL alphabet and basic signs. The Colombian & Salsa Night, kindly organised by Mrs Peña, was also a night to remember. Who knew that so many Stoics had Latin American blood in their veins! We also enjoyed a whistle-stop tour of Arabic from our very own Jim Sheppe (Head of Classics), Stoic and Staff presentations on international literature, an international food and drink night and talks from Old Stoics on where studying a Language at University has led them to.

As always, we had one whole School event organised by the Society, the Languages Open Mic Night on Wednesday 18 May. In all, 13 acts took part, ranging from Third Formers to Sixth Formers, singing, rapping, reciting poems and tongue twisters in French, German, Spanish, Ancient and Modern Greek, Russian and Chinese, to name but a few of the Languages represented that night.

As Head of Languages at Stowe and a true International myself, it fills me full of joy to see so many young Stoics have the confidence to stand up and perform in a foreign language, sharing their love of Languages in front of an audience. I have no doubt that these Stoics will be the Change Makers of tomorrow and I can't wait to see what they have in mind for next year.

**Alice Tearle, Languages Society**



# STOICS ROBOTICS

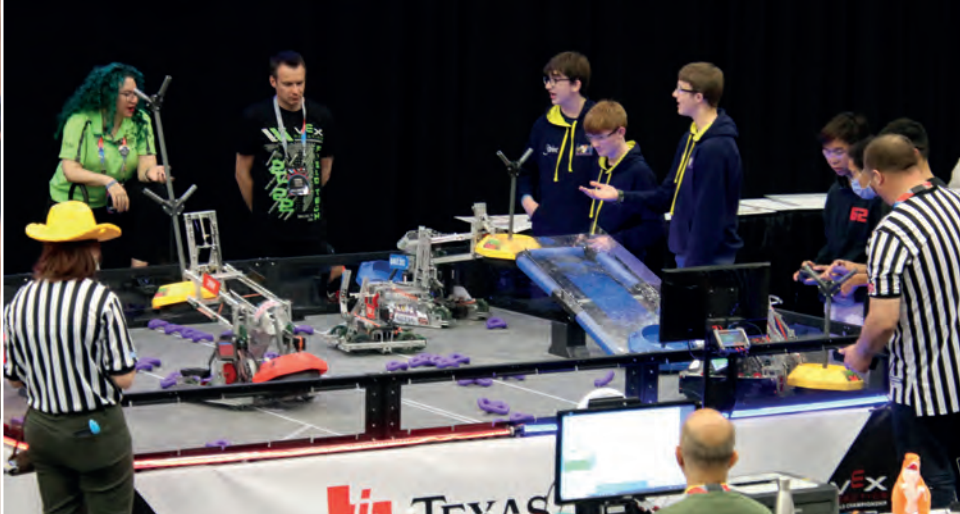
**After two seasons of virtual competitions and limited live events, we finally got back into a full year of Robotics and were able to rebuild the Stowe teams and activity. Pupil numbers are on the rise again and we had four teams competing over the year.**

Being back to full competitions for Robotics this year has seen great success for the Stowe teams. The first team qualified for the UK National Finals through the Regional Competition at Stowe. The second and third teams qualified through a win and an Excellence Award (Best Robot) at a regional event in Nottingham, setting us up to take three of our four teams to the National Finals in late April. These wins also allowed us to attend the World qualifying event for the UK. This event was the toughest event we had this year, and the standard of the competition was extremely high. Our teams did well and ended up paired with each other going into the playoffs, but they lost their Quarter-Final match to the eventual winners of the event. However, our Fourth/Fifth Form team led by William Woodmansee (Fifth Form, Winton) and Barnaby Titmus-Mather (Fourth Form, Cobham) scored extremely well in the skills side of the competition. This is where the team must score as many points as possible playing solo, driving for one minute and then running an autonomous code for one minute. The team's performance ranked them fourth in the UK for Skills runs. Roughly 250 teams compete in the UK.

This performance was enough for them to gain one of the 11 places available in the World Finals in Texas.

In May, we took one of our Robotics teams to compete at the World Finals of the VEX Robotics Competition in Dallas, Texas. The team of William Woodmansee and Barnaby Titmus Mather had qualified for the World Finals by being in the top three in the country for the competition's driving and programming skills aspect at a qualifying event. Joining them in the trip was our group of Lower Sixth pupils - Tina Lazar (West), Benjamin Anderson (Temple), Jack Hughes (Chatham), Matthew Ryland (Bruce) and Maximilian Stevens (Temple), as these Stoics had all worked together to bring the success of Barnaby and William. They were one of nine UK teams that qualified out of about 250 UK teams who participate in the UK National competition. However, the competition worldwide is much larger, with closer to 15,000 teams involved. With 813 teams qualified and attending the World Finals in Dallas, it is a huge event and was an excellent experience for the pupils involved. They and the other three Stowe Robotics teams have spent the past year building, programming, testing, practising and competing in regional events and the National Finals before the World Finals.





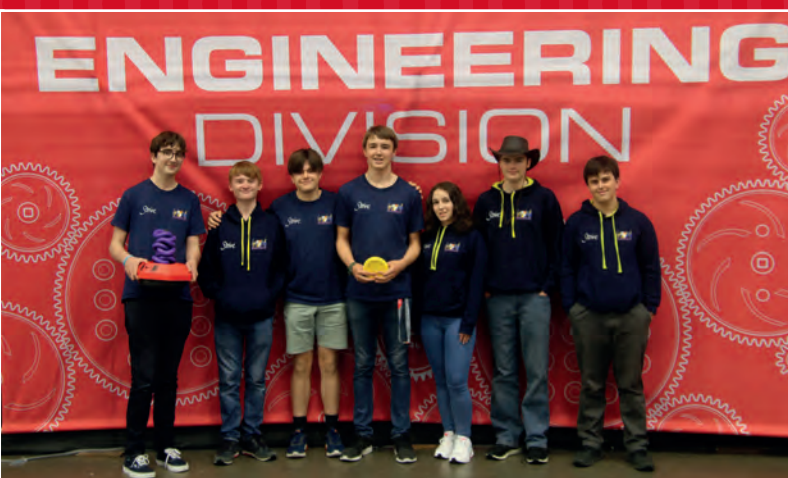
After a day of set up in Dallas and the excitement of seeing the new game reveal for the 2022-2023 season, the competition began with qualification matches, in which teams are randomly allocated a partner to play against two other teams in the game. We had an excellent start through qualification, winning three matches in a row and ranking in the top 20 out of the 81 teams in our group (1 of 10 groups). This showed us our robot was very competitive and the team could hold their own on the World stage. We then suffered one loss in a tricky, but close, matchup then came back again to win another match, before losing the last game of day one of the competition. Still, we went into day two hopeful, with our four wins and two losses from day one, but unfortunately, a couple of mechanical issues and tough matches meant the team lost the remainder of their games. However, they were always competitive, and all their games were close. Their placing meant they sat just outside of the selection process for the group playoff matches and so ending their competition. However, they did themselves and the School proud through the competition and not by just the outstanding achievement of making it to the World Finals. Overall, it is a huge event as we were involved in just the High

School division with 813 teams, there is also a middle school and a university level competition, along with prep school level smaller robot-style games, it makes for the largest Robotics competition in the world and was an outstanding opportunity for our pupils to be there and compete. The Finals were played in a stadium and it was an amazing atmosphere and experience to be part of.

The 2021-2022 game involved picking up heavy bases (with rings placed on them), moving them to your zone and placing them on a seesaw balance, or packing with them on the seesaw with your robot for more points, all while the opposition tries to stop you and take the bases for themselves.

The 2022-2023 is an entirely different challenge, in which the robot must be able to pick up small discs and fire them into baskets to score points. As soon as we returned from Dallas the robots were disassembled and planning and designing has begun for the next season with regional events beginning in the UK in September. Our Senior teams are well underway building prototype launchers for the discs and drive chassis focused on manoeuvrability. With our experienced programmers, we'll be looking at code-assisted aiming, and tracking field positions more accurately.

We say farewell to the Upper Sixth team and Benjamin Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham) will be sorely missed. He has been one of the best drivers we've ever had as his skill and calm nature in matches was unrivalled. We still have three solid teams of pupils set up for the new season who will be joined by a new Third Form team in the Summer. All pupils are welcome to join, but it is a commitment to a year-long competition. Pupils involved learn to design and build robots through engineering principles. They code these robots to behave as desired and respond to inputs, but they also learn life skills of teamwork and communication, interacting with other teams at events. We also keep engineering logbooks that track their design and programming progress, which, if done well, support UCAS applications and Physics, Design and Computer Science courses. This is a huge opportunity for our pupils and sees them competing at the forefront of STEM subjects on a World stage, in the largest international robotics competition, with over 30,000 teams worldwide.



**Paul Thompson, Robotics Club**



# Old Stoic Society

**It's a joy to bring news that Old Stoic events and activities have now returned to form following the enforced hiatus due to Covid. It has been wonderful to be able to bring together members of the Old Stoic Community once more for a range of events around the country and, what fun we have had. I am overwhelmed to report that nearly 2,500 Old Stoics and guests have attended our events during the course of the year - one of our busiest years to date. 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.**

We began the year with a special occasion for the 2020 Leavers who missed their Leavers' Ball at Stowe. We laid on a Festival on the North Front, for Leavers and their Parents. It was a raving success, with nearly 300 guests attending for afternoon drinks and live entertainment late into the evening. We've continued to bring together our recent Leavers throughout the year with a number of university reunions and networking evenings, including Careers Mentoring Drinks in October and drinks at Oxford and Exeter universities. We were also delighted to bring together nearly 90 members of the 2021 year group for an exclusive premiere of Matthew Vaughn (Chandos 89) latest film, *The King's Man* in December 2021, with kind thanks to the Vaughn family for their hospitality. We are continuing our efforts to engage recent Leavers with a number of new initiatives through the OSS Committee, including setting up a Committee for recent Leavers so they can influence the activity laid on for their Year Groups.

We haven't forgotten Old Stoics of earlier generations and were delighted to bring together a number for reunions during the course of the year, including those

**“ We haven't forgotten Old Stoics of earlier generations and were delighted to bring together a number for reunions during the course of the year, including those celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th 40th, 50th and 60th anniversaries of their departure from Stowe. ”**

celebrating their 10th, 25th, 30th 40th, 50th and 60th anniversaries of their departure from Stowe. The majority took place at Old Stoic Day in September, with over 200 guests attending. Old Stoics who left in 2011 returned to Stowe in October for the ever-popular Stowe 10 Years Out.

We also laid on a lunch for Old Stoics aged 70 and above at The Savile Club in April, an annual occasion affectionally named the SOS Lunch (Senior Old Stoic). It was a wonderful occasion following a two-year break and we were delighted to welcome over 50 guests. Late in the Summer Term, we were honoured to host a special reunion lunch on the South Portico at Stowe for Old Chandosians who have celebrated their 80th birthdays during lockdown. This group have been meeting up regularly since they left Stowe and have remained firm friends ever since.

A number of OS v Stowe sporting fixtures have taken place this year, most excitingly we managed to raise an OS Lacrosse Team to challenge the Stoics in September and March. A great many thanks must go to Jayne Duckett (Stowe Lacrosse) for her help in encouraging the OS ladies to form a team. The OS Sports Festival



took place in March 2022 with Old Stoics challenging Stoics at Cross Country, Clay Shooting, Fives, Hockey and Football. The Old Stoic Racing Club continues to go from strength to strength with two active syndicates enjoying racing throughout the year and plans afoot for a special syndicate to run during the Centenary. During the course of the year, we hosted a Cheltenham Festival Preview Evening, yard tour and a special lunch in the Blue Room at Stowe for the members of the Club.

We have returned to our regional programme during the course of the year, with lunches held in Cheshire and South Devon. Both occasions brought together 20 Old Stoics living nearby for an afternoon in good company. Our activity also took us further afield, as the OS Corkscrew Society ventured to Champagne for a three-day tour of the region led by expert and enthusiast, Guy Boursot. This long-awaited trip has been in the offing for a number of years and was a huge success. We hope it will be first of many overseas trips run for our members.

We were also delighted to be able to deliver our Unsigned Bands Night in September 2021, following a long delay. It was a raving success with five Old Stoic Bands and performers taking to the stage and nearly 90 guests in the mosh pit! Huge thanks go to Nigel Milne (Chandos 68) for his ever-enthusiastic efforts to ensure we support OS Musicians. Old Stoic musicians were also celebrated at the OS Carol Concert in December 2021. We returned to Chelsea Old Church for our annual service of festive readings, Christmas carols and performances. It was nothing short of a joy to see Old Stoics gathering once more for our most festive event of the year.

March saw the publication of our Change Makers edition of The Corinthian, celebrating Old Stoics making a difference in their industry or community. Our cover story was an inspiring article from Justin Anderson (Cobham 85), an inspirational Change Maker who offered advice to members on how to navigate digital transformation as the world changes around us all. We are now looking ahead at our content for the coming year as the next edition will be a special collectors' edition for the Stowe Centenary.

We have had to say some very sad farewells during the course of the year, most notably to Jeremy Nichols (Former Headmaster 1989-2003). A Thanksgiving Service was held in his honour in September 2021 and brought together Old Stoics and Old Etonians, as well as family and friends from all other areas of his life. It was an honour to see the Stowe Chapel busting at the seams to remember such a passionate and inspiring Headmaster.

**“ We welcomed 125 Classic Cars for the OS Display on the North Front and Old Stoics attended from far and wide. We cannot recall a busier Speech Day in recent years and hope it was the warm-up for our Centenary Speech Day next year. ”**

Speech Day in May was a real showstopper. Huge numbers of Old Stoics and parents flocked to Stowe, helped by the glorious sunshine, which encouraged the Stowe community turned out in droves. We welcomed 125 Classic Cars for the OS Display on the North Front and Old Stoics attended from far and wide. We cannot recall a busier Speech Day in recent years and hope it was the warm-up for our Centenary Speech Day in 2023.

We were sorry to lose Sasha Moss from our team in the Summer Term, as she departed to take on an exciting new role at another school. The OSS Committee continue to work tirelessly to lead the direction of our activity for our members as we work towards the Centenary, which is now just months away. We hope our plans will unite the Stowe Community for wide ranging celebrations at Stowe, around the country and overseas to celebrate 100 years of our fine school. Full details of the Centenary Programme will be published for members in the Michaelmas Term.

Following the challenges of Covid, it has been a pleasure to see our members meet again during the course of the year. It continues to be a great honour to work for such a thriving Society and spend time in the glorious surroundings of Stowe. I hope as many Old Stoics as possible can return to Stowe during our Centenary Year.

**Anna Semler (Nugent 05),  
Old Stoic Society Director**





# SHPT

(Stowe House Preservation Trust)

## Restoring the 'State' to the Drawing Room

Since Nick Morris, SHPT's CEO for 10 years, reported on the finished restoration of the North Hall in the previous 2019 edition of *The Stoic*, much has happened in terms of the next restoration project. At the time the article was written, we were fundraising for the restoration of the State Drawing Room (known colloquially as the Temple Room) and the State Dining Room, with an aim to start in April 2020. And we all know what happened just before that date!

With the UK in lockdown, and governmental advice trickling through as to which industries could carry on working and in what capacity, the project team began to discuss the Art of the Impossible - could the restoration of the Drawing Room go ahead regardless?

Since the scope of works needed to have the room mostly closed at any one time, with the School away due to the pandemic it meant that the whole room could be worked on at the same time. The work started in April 2020 and continued until April 2021.

The decorative choice that we finished with went under much debate, months before the project started. SHPT aims to restore the State Rooms to circa 1800, give or take ten years either side. This was the height of the financial and political power of the Temple-Grenville family under the Marquess of Buckingham and to a certain extent, the State Rooms were finished by then. Since 2000 and the start of the restoration, we have been able to use that date for most of the other rooms.

“ In the 1970s, a watercolour from a local private collection came to light showing the room around 1800, depicting paintings on the wall, and elegant Georgian furniture. The colours appear to be gold and peach and the ceiling to be silvered and gilded. ”

A majority of our descriptions of the rooms at any one time comes from the historical guidebooks, known as the Seeley Guidebooks after a local publisher and bookseller. Dating from between 1744 until 1838, they are invaluable in helping us to understand the evolution of both the house and gardens. Updated every five years or so, they show that Stowe was one of the earliest tourist destinations in the country, bringing the idea of the Grand Tour to the British middle-classes. For the State Drawing Room, the guidebooks show that before the extension of the South Front in the 1760s, this space had been three small rooms, eventually turning into one. By 1777 it was known as the State Drawing Room, with the State Gallery (later the State Dining Room) next door.

By 1790, the State Gallery containing the important collection of paintings had been turned into a dining room and the painting collection moved next door to the State Drawing Room. Now the damask walls were covered with beautiful paintings by Ruben, Rembrandt and Titian. In the 1970s, a watercolour from a local private collection came to light showing the room around



**“ We are fortunate that Queen Victoria admired the Drawing Room so much that after her three-day visit she engaged her court painter, Joseph Nash, to paint a oil painting of the room, an artefact still held in the Royal Collection today. ”**

1800, depicting paintings on the wall, and elegant Georgian furniture. The colours appear to be gold and peach and the ceiling to be silvered and gilded.

In the 1797 book, the 'walls are hung with orange coloured damask'. The guidebooks jump from 1798 to 1817, so we have to assume that not much changed in the room during this period. Three more guidebooks were published before they ceased in 1838 but still mentioning the orange walls. The next description comes from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's visit in 1845 - covered in many national newspapers - and then the sales catalogue of 1848. We are fortunate that Queen Victoria admired the Drawing Room so much that after her three-day visit she engaged her court painter, Joseph Nash, to paint a oil painting of the room, an artefact still held in the Royal Collection today. By this date, this is the iconic image of the room - crimson silk damask walls covered in famous paintings, red and gold furniture, gilded ceiling. The 1848 sales catalogue mentions 'conspicuous among the ornamental furniture of this room were several very superb specimens from the Doge's Palace at Venice' after its own sale of 1834.

The near-bankruptcy of the 2nd Duke - caused partly by the Royal visit - led to the sale of the contents of the house and garden, and the estate was mothballed in 1848. With his death in 1861 his son, now the 3rd Duke, inherited what was left of the Stowe estate. With the house stripped out during the sale, the 3rd Duke made very few changes to the State Rooms - although he did install a gas plant where the swimming pool is

now to light the house, and created his own fire service - and photos from the 1870s onwards show the faded elegance.

With the death of the 3rd Duke in 1889, although the estate was solvent, it was left to his daughter, Lady Kinloss, to carry the family's fortunes forward. Unfortunately, with very little spare money she tried to sell Stowe over the next 20 years. With the death of her heir at the beginning of World War I, the sale was stepped up. At the risk of the house being to be pulled down for building material, the estate was bought by Harry Shaw in 1921, a property developer who wanted to give Stowe to the nation. But without an endowment, it was turned down. Within nine months, the estate and contents had been separated and sold.

By the time of the 1922 sale, when it was purchased by the Martyrs Memorial Trust to create a new boarding school, the house and the gardens had been stripped out of any remaining furniture, art, artefacts, statues, fabrics and lighting. Very little remained of the impressive room that Queen Victoria had commented on.

With the arrival of the School in 1923, it was used as the House Room for one of the original Boarding Houses - Temple. The fireplace surround showed the first ten Prefects of Temple House.

In 1965, a group of Sixth Formers, upon leaving Stowe, raised money to have the ceiling regilded, but unfortunately only raised enough for it to be silvered. And this is how it stayed for many years. It stopped being a House Room in the 1980s and became a



“ For restoration purposes, while we were enticed to return the room to the Victorian red damask scheme as per the painting, we were also intrigued by the c.1800 scheme ”

multi-purpose room, used for teaching, lectures and dinners. With the introduction of year 13 girls in 2007, the School's rollcall greatly increased and the Temple Room was needed as another dining room, which it has remained ever since.

For restoration purposes, while we were enticed to return the room to the Victorian red damask scheme as per the painting, we were also intrigued by the c.1800 scheme. The paint analysis of the ceiling showed something rather unusual - three shades of pink as the ceiling bed with the main decorative moulding picked out in gold. To add to the oddity, the decorative eagles in the four corners were silvered. By recreating this scheme, we would be showing the architectural world how the Georgians like to contrast colours that may seem a little clashing to our modern tastes. With the death of the 1st Duke in 1839, one can only assume that his son was keen to rid himself of the old-fashioned scheme for something more up-to-date (and more expensive), hence the later red silk damask scheme.

One fantastic addition to the restored room has been the recreation of the late 18th Century chimneypiece by Piranesi. The original, curved in marble and in the room by the 1770s, was sold in the 1922 sale and is now in the Santander Bank headquarters in Madrid, Spain. Although we were unable to reclaim the original, we were able to take a 3D scan and have it curved in wood. Initially, the pattern is machine cut and then it is finished by hand, for a finer finish. The result provides a beautiful focal point to the room and enables us a glimpse into the elegant, Georgian period of the house.

We were given permission by Historic England to replace the historic floorboards with new oak, as long as we

retained a proportion of the originals to use elsewhere in the house. A new floor means that the boards will wear evenly and last longer.

The room is missing a cut glass chandelier from the central ceiling rose. We were able to commission a chandelier for the Music Room based on Victorian photographs, and we are aiming to do the same for the State Drawing Room, once we've raised the money.

The walls are adorned with the portraits of the Marquess, the 1st Duke, the 1st Duchess and the 2nd Duke, all of whom would have recognised this room as it is today. We look forward to welcoming future Stoics, their families, guests and visitors to view the State Drawing Room as an unusual but modish example of the stateliness of Stowe House.

Stowe House Preservation Trust would like to thank all the amazing and dedicated craftspeople, contractors, specialists, Trustees, donors, and grant-givers who believed in keeping the project going, and most of all to the School for allowing the project to go ahead despite the restrictions.

The next article will be on the restoration of the State Dining Room, which will be completed next year.

**Anna McEvoy, SHPT House Custodian**





# MUSIC

**The academic year 2021-2022 is one in which music lovers will have rejoiced. Stowe has been fortunate to stage an exceptional programme of diverse events this year, a particularly pleasing accomplishment as we get back to enjoying live music after a difficult few years.**

On Wednesday 22 September we had the honour of welcoming world-renowned oboist Gordon Hunt to take a Woodwind Masterclass and then give an Evening Recital. Four of our highly talented Upper Sixth woodwind players; Jessica Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), flute, Sophia Southwick (Upper Sixth, Nugent), oboe, Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham), bassoon and Samuel Ellis (Upper Sixth, Chandos), bassoon, performed in the Masterclass. What an enlightening experience it was for these pupils, and the audience to see how skilfully Gordon guided them to push their musical potential to the full. It was such a pleasure to see how quick and ready our pupils were to respond to Gordon's advice and take new ideas on board. There is no doubt that they benefitted immensely from his feedback.

Gordon Hunt has had a highly distinguished career as Principal Oboe of the Philharmonia and London Philharmonic Orchestras and, in 2010, he was designated a UNESCO Artist for Peace. He has performed as concerto soloist with conductors including Sir Simon Rattle and Riccardo Muti. In 1986, he was the original 'Gabriel's Oboe', performing the now legendary Morricone soundtrack for the film 'The Mission'. How fortunate we were therefore to have been given a recital by a musician of such international acclaim.

Wednesday 13 October was the date of a fantastic evening of music from the Baroque era, performed in the magnificent Stowe Chapel. This performance featured various concerti items delivered by a mix of Stoics and Staff. The concert opened with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 which featured Samuel Ellis (recorder) alongside Music Staff Katie Potts, Chris Windass, and Danny Mills. Sebastian Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Walpole) then expertly performed Handel's Suite in D major for Trumpet & Strings. Jessica Foxwell and Head of Chemistry Alix Waine then gave a wonderful rendition of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 which was swiftly followed by our Chapel Organist Jonathan Kingston performing Handel's Organ Concerto in F major 'The Cuckoo and the Nightingale'. The concert concluded with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 which featured Sophia Southwick and Jessica Foxwell as recorder soloists, joined by recent leaver Audrey Au on the violin. A great evening all round.



On Friday 12 November, a highlight of the Stowe musical calendar, Champagne & Jazz, made a triumphant return after a year away. The event was a dazzling affair with splendid catering and music of the highest order. The Stowe Big Band (capably directed by Miles Nottage) led the line-up, performing a wide array of jazz standards. The sound produced was sparkling and illustrated the immense talent of a large number of Stowe pupils. Many solo singers also took to the stage with rousing performances of classics through the ages. The event was particularly poignant in that we were raising money for The Brain Tumour Charity, a link organised by two Lower Sixth Formers, Isabella Elliott (Stanhope) and Grace Hodgetts (Cheshire). We are extremely grateful to them for the hard work that they put in. Overall, the evening was a fine celebration of Stowe music and a fantastic event to host having not been able to for such a lengthy period.



**“What a joyful evening this was as we were finally, for the first time since Covid, able to showcase our wonderful new Award Holders. The audience of family, friends, and Staff enjoyed an eclectic programme ranging from Mozart to Taylor Swift!”**



Our annual New Music Award Holders' Concert took place on Wednesday 17 November. What a joyful evening this was as we were finally, for the first time since Covid, able to showcase our wonderful new Award Holders. The audience of family, friends, and Staff enjoyed an eclectic programme ranging from Mozart to Taylor Swift! We couldn't have asked for more polished performances from Flora Peppiatt (Third Form, Queen's), James Delap (Third Form, Temple), Sebastien Harper (Third Form, Grenville), Annabel Hodgetts (Third Form, Cheshire), Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Third Form, Lyttelton), Jasmine Zhang (Third Form, Lyttelton), Grace Hodgetts (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) and Tham Luanghvisut (Lower Sixth, Walpole). This event highlighted just how fortunate we are here at Stowe to have welcomed such a talented group of musicians this year. It was evident to all that their enthusiasm and ability point to a very

exciting and inspiring future in our Music Department as they thrive and grow in their musicianship and performance skills.

The annual House Singing competition was a thrilling occasion as always, with each House putting in a great deal of time and effort to produce performances of an exceptional standard. Lyttelton House won the Unison Song category, with Cheshire taking their first ever House Singing win in the Part Song competition. We were fortunate to welcome Christopher Potts to adjudicate this event and thank him for his insightful feedback, in addition to tackling the challenging task of choosing winners.

Fast forward a couple of weeks and we hosted our Winter Concert in the Ugland Auditorium. This concert was a great opportunity for our larger ensembles to take



“All were hugely impressed by Christina’s encouraging and motivational style as she gave the musicians lots of useful tips on how to improve their performances.”

to the stage. The event opened with a rousing couple of pieces from Wind Band. This was swiftly followed by the Big Band playing 'Autumn Leaves' before our newly formed Saxophone Ensemble made their debut performance. Bassoon Trio gave a fabulous rendition of music from 'Swan Lake' before the Chamber Choir put us in a more reflective mood with John Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'. The concert concluded with the Symphony Orchestra performing extracts from Bizet's enduringly popular opera, Carmen. Star turns from Coco Bartoszewski (Third Form, Nugent) harp, Jessica Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) flute, Sophia Southwick (Upper Sixth, Nugent) oboe, Seb Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Walpole) trumpet, and our three bassoonists, Samuel Ellis (Upper Sixth, Chandos) Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce), gave the performance an extra dimension and all of them demonstrated their supreme musical skills. The whole orchestra produced an amazing sound, expertly led by Abi Roberts (Upper Sixth, West).

On Wednesday 1 December, concert pianist Christina McMaster visited Stowe to give a masterclass to a number of aspiring Stoic pianists. All were hugely impressed by Christina's encouraging and motivational style as she gave the musicians lots of useful tips on how to improve their performances. Christina is a highly

creative concert artist who has made appearances on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4 and Classic FM. She is the pioneer and creator of the hugely popular Lie Down And Listen which focuses on the meditative aspects of music and the therapeutic effect relating to intentional listening. The concept of listening featured strongly in the masterclass and as performers, we can all be guilty sometimes of simply 'going through the motions' when we play. Christina's focus on the seemingly obvious, but hugely important point of listening to one's self during a performance, was a very useful reminder to all those present. The following Stoics took part in the masterclass and responded superbly to the direction they were given during the session: Nikki Atife (Third Form, Cheshire), Emily Garwood (Third Form, Cheshire), Milo Xing (Fourth Form, Chandos), Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Sebastian Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth, Chatham).

Following the masterclass, Christina gave an outstanding evening piano recital which was a real auditory treat for the audience. Her chosen repertoire included Fazil Say's 'Black Earth' which featured some highly creative use of the piano, whereby Christina muted the strings by placing her hand inside the instrument. This piece deliberately imitates the sound of the Saz (a Turkish lute). Christina clearly did an expert job of recreating the



sound of the Saz on the piano as an audience member and former Turkish resident remarked that she instantly recognised it as the sound of this traditional Turkish folk instrument. Christina also gave highly individual and sensitive performances of works by Scarlatti, Debussy and Satie.

On 10 February, the Chapel Choir performed a concert of dazzling choral music ranging from the Baroque to the present day. There was plenty to enjoy in this hour-long celebration with highlights including a professional string quartet accompanying the Choir in a collection of numbers from Ola Gjeilo's Winter Songs. The choir were expertly directed by Choral Director Jonathan Kingston and displayed the enormity of their development over the past couple of years.

After the Half Term break, Old Stoic Audrey Au (Lyttelton 21) returned to Stowe to perform a Violin Recital alongside her brother Jeffrey (Walpole 20). Audrey displayed virtuoso technique in a thrilling concert with music by Beethoven, Bach and Saint-Saëns. In September, Audrey is taking up a place at the world-renowned Royal Academy of Music in London and we wish her the very best as she continues her musical studies.

On Saturday 5 March, Stowe's resident professional orchestra took to the stage of the Ugland Auditorium for a feast of orchestral classics. The highlight of the concert was undoubtedly the rendition of Richard Strauss's phenomenally difficult Oboe Concerto which was performed with style and sophistication by our Head of Instrumental Studies, Katie Potts. Miss Potts, a former ABRSM Scholar at the Royal College of Music in London, set pulses racing with her technical mastery of this notoriously challenging instrument. The programme also included works by Mozart and Haydn, concluding with the latter's Symphony No. 97.

On March 9, Stowe hosted pupils from visiting Prep Schools for a fun-packed day of Keyboard related activities. Twenty-four pupils from The Dragon, Spratton Hall, Swanbourne House and The Grove Independent School took part in various sessions throughout the day. These included an improvisation workshop with

animated graphic scores, which encouraged the young pianists to freely roam and explore the huge variety of colours and sounds that can be made by the piano. In addition, pupils explored the blues scale and came up with some excellent and unique ideas! There was also a demonstration of Stowe's immense Chapel organ, a Stoic Lunchtime Concert, a piano masterclass and of course a trip to the School's tuck shop! The highlight however was working with the talented young musicians throughout the day on multi-piano music of famous themes specially arranged for the event. The highly enjoyable event culminated in an afternoon concert featuring both solo and ensemble performances.

Following the Keyboard Festival Day, during the evening over thirty Stoics took part in a piano extravaganza. Performing all together on nine pianos, Stoics gave impressive performances of well-known music from films such as Pirates of the Caribbean and Shrek (the latter of which composed by Old Stoic Harry Gregson-Williams (Chatham 80)). In addition, the evening would not have been complete without a rendition of arguably one of the most famous pieces of all - Chopsticks - only this time in a nine-piano arrangement. From three-piano, semi improvised arrangements of pieces such as Jacob's Bakery, expertly performed by Baz Calkin, Seb Foxwell and Samuel Ellis - to the sensitive duet performance of the song 'Over & Over' given by Jemima Pearson-Gee (piano & vocals) and Ben Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham) (viola), the Stoics showcased the richness and versatility of the piano in all of its guises. There was a wonderful sense of group collaboration and enjoyment which came through in all of the performances.

It's always a privilege and a pleasure to welcome a performer of international repute to Stowe, and in March we had just that, in a visit from Rachel Nicholls, one of Europe's leading dramatic sopranos. She worked wonderfully with six Stoic singers, Abi Roberts, Ruby Cooke (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Grace Hodgetts, Sam Stephens-Liddell (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Sophie Lloyd (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce) during an enlightening and vibrant afternoon. Rachel commented: "I was so very impressed with the pupils. They are very talented and were very well



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prepared, but what most excited me was their openness and willingness to try new things in front of each other. That’s very brave. I wish every one of them the very best for their future singing and I’m sure they will all go far.”

That evening an audience of Stoics, Staff and members of the public were treated to an exceptional recital by Rachel, which covered a wide range of musical periods and genres including Lieder, Musical Theatre, Opera and songs of the Baroque. A wonderful conclusion to a hugely worthwhile afternoon.

On Sunday 20 March, we were delighted to celebrate the return of our Mozart Trio Prize. The competition has been given this name because its benefactor John Yard was a member of an American vocal group known as The Mozart Trio which once performed at Stowe in the Temple of Concord. Understandably, he felt Stowe to be an ideal environment for music making, so he had the idea of funding a prize for our young musicians which would also serve to keep the name of their Trio alive. To widen the scope for our musicians, he suggested the competition should include advanced performances of works by any composer. Indeed, on the day, our

highly appreciative audience were able to enjoy a whole range of musical genres from Beethoven to Alicia Keys. All of our musicians are to be commended for their impressive performances. We witnessed the enthusiasm and commitment given by each of our musicians who prepared a mini-recital for this competition - no mean feat!

The competition included performances by Tham Luanghvisut (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Sebastian Foxwell, Emily Garwood (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Jessica Foxwell, Tamia Sibanda (Lower Sixth, West), Neel Collin (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Benjamin Li, Ruby Cooke, Sophia Southwick and Matthew Ryland. We were most fortunate to welcome Robert Patterson, Director of Music at Putney High School, to adjudicate this competition. So impressive was the standard of our players that no-one envied Mr Patterson having to decide on a top three!

Third place was awarded to Sophia Southwick for her sensitive and innately musical performance of the Overture from Telemann’s Concerto in A minor and the 1st movement of the York Bowen Sonata.

Second place was awarded to Tamia Sibanda who gave an impressively powerful performance of ‘If I Ain’t Got You’ by Alicia Keys and ‘Mixed Signals’ by Ruth B. Finally, First place was awarded to Jessica Foxwell, who stunned us all with both her technical skill and quality of tone in her performance Gaubert’s Nocturne, and the final movement of the Sonata for Flute by Georgian composer, Otar Taktakishvili.

To conclude a successful Lent Term, our Ensembles Concert took place in the Uglan Auditorium on 23 March. Our audience was treated to performances by some of our large ensembles as well as our smaller chamber groups. This wide variety of groups is testament to the commitment of our musicians who have worked together on a weekly basis to make this concert as exciting and musically diverse as possible. What an entertaining evening ranging from our 13 pupil strong Saxophone Ensemble performing a groovy arrangement of Dusty Springfield’s ‘Spooky’ to a charming performance of Mozart’s Flute Quartet in D major! It was wonderful to see so many of our musicians performing in such an array of ensembles including Wind Band, Big Band, Bassoon Ensemble, Recorder Group, Piano Duo and String Ensembles. A great deal of praise and thanks have to go to all of our talented musicians who took part in this memorable event. Their dedication and enjoyment for music making was evident for all to see.

Throughout the year we have also enjoyed a great number of Lunchtime Concerts. These events, planned and promoted by Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew have provided an excellent form of midday entertainment and have been the source of many fabulous Stoic performances. These concerts take place multiple times a term on a Thursday lunchtime so do consider joining us at these in the new School year!



Early in the Summer Term, on Friday 6 May, the Stowe School Orchestra presented a Concerto Concert featuring several solo performances by many of our talented Upper Sixth cohort. This event was a particularly special moment for us as a Music Department as it was our final large-scale concert to feature the 'Class of 22'. To have such a large number of incredibly gifted Music Award holders in one cohort is really quite unusual, and we are really going to miss them all when they depart Stowe at the end of the academic year.

The performance opened with a rendition of the wonderful Concerto for three Pianos by J S Bach which was capably delivered by Annabel Hing (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Ben Li, and Baz Calkin. All three have played such a key role in shaping Stowe music over the past five years, whether that be as pianists or as instrumentalists playing in the orchestra. Annabel and Ben are both exceptional violists, and Baz is a masterful bassoonist and we have been very lucky to have them all within our amazing team of Music Scholars.

Sophia Southwick then took the stage to perform Telemann's demanding Overture for Recorder and Strings. Sophia has been the best role model for our younger pupils that you could ever hope to have, and her talent and ability is respected by all. Sebastian Foxwell performed the Morales Concerto for two Trumpets alongside George Easton, a friend and colleague of Sebastian's who currently studies at the Purcell School and the Junior Royal Academy of Music. Sebastian is a phenomenal trumpeter and pianist and has made the most enormous contribution to our music programme since arriving in the Third Form.

Jessica Foxwell then took us through the Chaminade Concertino for Flute & Orchestra. Jess is off to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester next year, an outstanding achievement which reflects her exceptional ability and commitment to her art. Our final soloist was Abigail Roberts who performed Vaughan Williams' staggeringly difficult romance, 'The Lark Ascending'. Abi is taking up a place at the Trinity Conservatoire of Music next year and we wish her all the very best as she embarks on this exciting new chapter.

The concert concluded with a rousing rendition of William Walton's 'Orb and Sceptre'. Composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, this march embodies a quintessentially British style and hopefully served as a fitting nod to this year's Platinum Jubilee. All members of the orchestra have worked incredibly hard to prepare this technically demanding and musically complex work.

Overall, the Stoics staged a staggeringly good concert, and it was a fitting way to send off an incredible year group of young musicians.

It was wonderful to host the first Stowe Choral and Instrumental day since the pandemic in a slightly revised form. Singers and instrumentalists joined an action-packed day with strong representation from Ashfold, Beachborough, Winchester House, Swanbourne C of E, St Mary and St Giles Stony Stratford and Buckingham Primary Schools. Around 140 children worked with great enthusiasm, focus and enjoyment tackling previously unseen music which was then presented in concert to a capacity audience of Staff and Parents in the Ugland Auditorium. Nick McNulty's guitar group and Ben Andrew's ensemble pianists delighted the crowd with their performances, all of which contained elements of improvisation, while the large instrumental ensemble were a great credit to Katie Potts, as she directed young musicians in four contrasting and engaging pieces. The audience left very happily and with huge admiration for all that the children achieved after two 'full company' songs were presented, including 'The Rhythm of Life'.

On Wednesday 8 June the Music Department welcomed back Old Stoic, James Larter (Temple 12) who brought this year's highly successful and enjoyable series of masterclasses and recitals to a close. How particularly poignant and befitting it was to end this series with such panache - a former pupil expertly passing on his knowledge to present Stoics.

James spent the afternoon holding a masterclass with some of our talented percussionists, inspiring them with his enthusiasm, expertise and encouragement. What a fantastic opportunity it was for our percussionists to gain feedback and work alongside such an accomplished musician as James! Indeed, our wonderful Percussion Ensemble consisting of Poppy Lawson Johnston (Fourth Form, Queen's), Edward Mercer (Fourth Form, Grafton), Barnaby Titmus Mather (Fourth Form, Cobham), Ruairi Massie (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Will Nottage (Lower Sixth, Temple) opened the evening recital with a piece they had worked on with James in the masterclass. They gave a brilliant performance, won over the audience and set the tone for the evening!

James went on to present us with an innovative and eclectic programme ranging from his own compositions and arrangements to improvisations on Tibetan Singing Bowls, highlighting his impressively wide set of skills. James' recital was incredibly energetic as well as captivating - a completely unforgettable performance.



“ Jeffrey displayed exceptional technical dexterity and performed with a genuine sense of musicality and passion. We look forward to observing Jeffrey’s rise to international pianist stardom over the coming years. ”

Our final concert of the year saw Old Stoic and current Music Gap Year Assistant, Jeffrey Au present a demanding recital of music for solo piano. Jeffrey displayed exceptional technical dexterity and performed with a genuine sense of musicality and passion. We look forward to observing Jeffrey’s rise to international pianist stardom over the coming years.

Linking to Jeffrey’s recital, it is a challenge for any school to have a pupil win a place at a prestigious music conservatoire but to have five pupils attain such an achievement from the same school in a single academic year is practically unheard of. However, this is exactly what five of our standout musicians have managed to do in the recent audition season. Audrey Au who is currently on a Gap Year has been accepted to study violin at the Royal Academy of Music in London. The

Royal Academy is the oldest music college in the UK and has an enviable reputation worldwide. Jeffrey Au, who is currently working with us as a Gap Year Assistant, will be taking up a place with scholarship to study piano at the Royal College of Music in London, currently ranked top conservatoire in Europe. Abigail Roberts (Upper Sixth, West) is off to study violin at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance, an institution that counts many notable musicians and dancers amongst its alumni. Recent Leaver Poppy Baker (Cheshire 21) is taking up a place at the prestigious Royal Birmingham Conservatoire from September and last, but certainly not least, Jessica Foxwell has accepted a place to study flute at the world-renowned Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. These exceptional achievements by all four pupils are a result of significant dedication and commitment on their part and we are extremely proud of what they have accomplished!

Further pupil successes came over the weekend of 5 March when several talented Stoics took part in the annual Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts. The festival hosts competitive classes across all instruments and ability levels and it was fantastic that Stowe was represented so well at the festival this year following the restrictions faced over the past two years. The following pupils won prizes in their classes: Sophie Lloyd (First place folk song), Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Second place advanced 20th Century piano), Milo Xing (Third place advanced Baroque piano), Emily Garwood (Third place strings recital), Nikki Atife (Third place both advanced classical and advanced romantic piano), Annabel Hodgetts (Third place Disney theme vocal category 11-13 years) and Ruby Cooke (Third place Disney theme 14-18 years and Third place Musical Theatre vocal categories). Additionally, Emily Garwood and Nikki Atife were both prize winners at the Northampton Festival of the Arts held several weeks later.

There were over 800 applicants in Song Academy’s Young Songwriter competition and Ruby Cooke, after making it through several elimination stages, has been shortlisted as one of the final ten performers. The Young Songwriter Competition is for both aspiring young songwriters (aged 8-18) who already have some experience as well as young people who want to write their first song. At the Final, Ruby will get to perform at a live showcase at The Tabernacle, Notting Hill on Saturday 25 June, where the top three, and the subsequent winner will be announced. Judges on the evening consist of industry professionals such as Tom Odell and Amy Wadge (who wrote the UK Eurovision entry this year). Well done to Ruby on such a fantastic achievement.

Stoics have produced an inspired calendar of musical events this year and it has been great to get live music back on track after a difficult couple of years. Many exciting events are planned for next year, not least the formation of the new Stowe Group Choral Society which will give its first performance in November.

**Craig Greene, Director of Music**



# Stowe at EdFringe2022

Stowe's Drama Department staged a production of 'South Downs' by David Hare, at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. For the first time ever, Stowe participated in this, the biggest Arts Festival in the world.

Directed by Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama at Stowe and a professional actress, who also played Belinda Duffield, alongside a cast of powerful young actors. Daniel Scott (Head of Art) performed the role of Basil Spear in this new production which was a fast moving, astute, and emotional exploration of the joys and challenges faced by young men growing up in an ever-changing world.

In this 2011 response to Rattigan's 'The Browning Version', David Hare explores life in an Anglo-Catholic public school on the South Downs in 1962. Written mainly from the perspective of the pupils, the play follows John Blakemore: a lonely, solitary boy who cannot accept the ways of the school as he earnestly demands change. Hare exposes the insecurities and frustrations of youth, whilst challenging the expectations of teachers whose own journeys have left them unprepared for a new world. A beautifully crafted depiction of teenage anxiety set against traditional institutional values.

Hare's play has been a favourite of mine over the last decade. His ability to present characters who are simultaneously recognisable as archetypes, and yet

profoundly real, is disarming. He gently ribs the public school system of the 1960s, largely drawing on his own experience at Lancing College, and despite the fact we are 60 years in the future, much of what the system represented still rings true today.

In the play, Rev Dewley reads out a list of proposed debates drawn up by the pupils, with titles including: 'This House believes that Public Schools should be abolished' and 'This House believes the monarchy should be abolished'. Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton) delivered the list with a hilarious sense of astoundment, and his slightly pompous and privileged response of: "Really, Duffield, it appears that if you have your way there's going to be very little of this country left standing", is a perfect illustration of Hare's ability to make socio-political commentary through his well-drawn characters and observational dialogue.

Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart (Upper Sixth, Chatham) brought a truly refined, method performance as Senior Prefect Jeremy Duffield. Hare sets him up to be the 'ideal' public school boy, with Blakemore, played compellingly by Freddie Kelly-Greaves (Upper Sixth, Winton), lamenting "If I could come back a second time, I'd come back as Duffield", yet in tragi-comic fashion, he reveals how in reality, Jeremy has the same insecurities as all the rest: "You know Blakemore, it occurs to most of us quite early that we're going to have





“

Good writing will always pay, and David Hare is one of the best. This play, set in a public school in the early 60s deals sensitively with the angst of growing up in a world in turmoil. It is performed well by its confident cast with some standout performances. Well worth a visit.

”

David Newton

to slug through life in the company of someone we don't particularly like. Meaning ourselves.”

Freddie Kelly-Greaves, brought a disarming quality in his portrayal of John Blakemore, a Scholar who struggles to fit in to a system designed for an elite. In my scene with him where Duffield and Belinda have invited him to tea, I enjoyed playing against him on stage as I felt real sympathy through Kelly-Greaves' heartfelt exasperation at his lack of a voice “I wasn't allowed to wear my CND badge”, in a system that favours tradition over progress. As Head of Inclusion at Stowe, Belinda's lines hold a poignancy as we strive for equity in a system built in another time and for another age: “You're right. It's a funny time, isn't it? They build these places for a reason and now that reason's gone, Empire! So, we all become curators of what people used to believe.”

The talented cast included Samuel Stephens-Liddell (Upper Sixth, Grenville) who leaves Stowe to take up a career in acting and a place at Guildford School of Acting. Stephens-Liddell is just one of those actors who inhabits a character to the extent he is endlessly watchable and entertaining. As the troublemaker, Tommy Gunther, he brought the house down with his hilariously boastful and braggish delivery of the sketch about Dirk Bogarde's tool being 'eighteen inches long'.

Matthew Ackroyd (Upper Sixth, Bruce) joined the cast as Colin Jenkins, who befriends the outsider, Blakemore.

He was at once vulnerable in his insecurity about homosexuality and sin, whilst equally relentlessly unkind in his attitude towards his friend. Ackroyd delivered one of Hare's cruellest lines about Blakemore's absent father: “I know why he went. To get away from you. And your so-called mum I expect”, with devastating effect. In Hare's coup de theatre, the classroom scene, Ackroyd elicited sympathy as he unwittingly insighted the wrath of Basil Spear, played brilliantly with erratic verve by Scott. When Scott delivered the line: “When they handed out brains, Jenkins, it's clear you were at the back of the queue. Or were you entertaining yourself in some other queue altogether?” with mockery and a scathing disbelief, I think the audience were all reminded of such moments in their own school careers where they would have liked the classroom floor to have swallowed them up!

I hope that this new and exciting venture becomes an ongoing tradition, as it truly was an inspirational experience for all the Stoics, many of whom have had their first experience of performing professionally in front of a paying audience.

Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama



# Oliver!

## A Twist in the Tale

Can there be a more joyous celebration of villainy than the musical *Oliver!*? While the eponymous waif, Oliver, gets to perform memorable songs such as 'Where is Love', Lionel Bart reserves the catchiest numbers and most memorable lines to people who usually inhabit the shadows of Victorian London: Fagin, Bill Sikes, the Artful Dodger, Nancy and colourful characters such as Mr Bumble, Widow Corney, and Mr and Mrs Sowerberry.

When Charles Dickens was 12, his father was bankrupted and sent to the Marshalsea prison for debt. Dickens was sent to work ten-hour shifts in Warren's Blacking Warehouse, a rat-infested factory near Charing Cross railway station which produced bottles of liquid shoe polish. This experience of witnessing social injustice, deprivation, child exploitation and hunger left an indelible impression on the young Dickens and helps to explain his strong interest in the fate of orphans and abandoned children. This unstable and traumatic childhood sheds light on Dickens' plot-lines which occasionally stray into the territory of magic realism and improbable fairy-tale endings.

Lionel Bart's book, music and lyrics for *Oliver!* respect Dickens' "clutching eye" and the musical successfully brings to life characters eschewed in the pages of polite Victorian novels. Bart captures Dickens' mix of bleak melodrama and savage humour which can be recognised as authentic by anyone who attended boarding schools before the arrival of OFSTED and Safeguarding. *Oliver Twist's* alternative title, 'The Parish Boy's Progress', alludes to Hogarth's series of caricatures produced a century earlier and the musical moves forward in a series of Hogarthian tableaux (which the filmmaker Alan

**“ We were introduced to the world of the workhouse and the cruel treatment of orphans in the mid-nineteenth century with the rousing Food Glorious Food. ”**

Parker has described as the ancestor of the modern storyboard).

Stowe's 2021 Senior Congreve production of *Oliver!* successfully fused Dickens' social commentary with Bart's crowd-pleasing show-stoppers. We were introduced to the world of the workhouse and the cruel treatment of orphans in the mid-nineteenth century with the rousing 'Food Glorious Food'. *Oliver Twist*, played with wide-eyed innocence and plausible lack of guile, by Jack Riley (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Archie MacGowan (Third Form, Cobham), has the audacity to ask for another portion of gruel ("please, sir, I want some more") which provokes Mr Bumble, a parish workhouse beadle expertly played by Samuel Stephens-Liddell (Upper Sixth, Grenville), to explode into a paroxysm of self-righteous bluster. The inspired pairing of Stephens-Liddell as the pompous Mr Bumble and Bee Harvey-Craig (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) as the matronly Widow Corney, delighted audiences with their "Bumble-Wumble" of saucy, sea-side cartoon flirtation: 'I Shall Scream!' was delivered with panache, strong voices, brilliant comic timing and genuine empathy for those engaged in the awkwardness of late-middle-aged courtship.

*Oliver* is punished for his impudence by being offered for sale for £5 to anyone wishing to take on an apprentice. Stephens-Liddell captures the appalling inhumanity of



Boy for Sale, as Oliver begins his journey through the underworld of Victorian society, before redemption comes in the form of adoption by the middle-class Mr Brownlow. Oliver is bought by Mr Sowerberry, an undertaker, memorably played by Oliver Jenden (Fifth Form, Chatham), who spots the boy's potential as a doleful mute coffin follower at children's funerals. Mr Sowerberry is unhappily married and his wife, played with great gusto by Lauren Hawkins, frequently berates him for drunkenness. Their daughter Charlotte, played by Amalie Mager (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), torments Oliver by mistreating him and feeding him scraps of food in a dog's bowl. 'That's Your Funeral' is a danse macabre of coughs, wheezes and diseases... a fitting song for the mask-wearing audience in this Covid-age.

Oliver is forced to sleep in one of the undertaker's coffins and becomes a more rounded character and less of a cipher with his first wistful solo, a lament to his lost mother. Although the lyrics do not merit pay close examination ('Where is love?' 'Does it fall from skies above'... 'Where is she?' 'Who I close my eyes to see?'), Jack and Archie hit the high notes and won over the audiences on both nights I saw the play. For all its grim reflections on social inequality and Victorian vice, Oliver is about the triumph of good over evil and Oliver's quest for his mother's love is the narrative lodestar (just as it was for Dickens when he was working in the blacking factory).

Oliver is tormented by an older apprentice, the violent and oafish Noah Claypole, a classic bully played

**“ Oliver is about the triumph of good over evil and Oliver's quest for his mother's love is the narrative lodestar... ”**

with unnerving conviction by Max Faulkner (Upper Sixth, Temple), and by Charlotte, who has formed an attachment to Claypole: Charlotte dropping rashers of greasy bacon into Claypole's mouth acts as a revoltingly stark counter-poise to Oliver's starvation rations of gruel and dog food. Noah insults Oliver's mother, calling her "a regular right-down bad un'" with the inevitable result that Oliver retaliates and a fight ensues which brings some welcome light-relief and slapstick to the proceedings. The cast is to be congratulated on the Buster Keaton chase scene - it's not easy to convey chaos and spontaneity in the confines of the theatre.

Oliver escapes from the clutches of the Sowerberrys and runs away to London to find a better life. He is intercepted by an adolescent gang known as The Dodgers. This excellent ruse, creating a trio out of the character of Jack Dawkins, the Artful Dodger, allows Ed Mercer, Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart and James Smith, to channel the vaudeville comedy of The Three Stooges. The well-known number 'Consider Yourself', heralds the arrival of the ensemble cast on stage who execute the song and dance joyously.

The gang take the unsuspecting Oliver to meet an elderly





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**Tyson plays Fagin as a lovable, unctuous, music-hall rogue and sensibly avoids the coarse anti-Semitism of Dickens' original.**”

gentleman who will “give him lodgings for nothing and never ask for change”. We are then introduced to Fagin, an infamous criminal, who controls a gang of juvenile cutpurses, ne'er-do-wells and thieves. The trio of Dodgers is joined by Fagin's gang and it's not surprising that Oliver falls in with this lively group of charismatic and acrobatic performers who exude positivity and optimism: the attraction of a makeshift home, a ready-made family, non-judgemental friends and communal living has never been stronger.

The production bursts into life with Fagin, brilliantly played by Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton), giving Oliver his first lesson in picking the pockets of Victorian gentlemen on the streets of London in 'You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two', delivered with well-executed choreography, strong vocals and impish charm. This is the backbone of the musical as Bart (like Dickens) is much more interested in the humanity, warmth and camaraderie of the seedy under-belly of Victorian England than the stiff conventions of middle-class mores.

Tyson plays Fagin as a lovable, unctuous, music-hall rogue and sensibly avoids the coarse anti-Semitism of Dickens' original. While still obsessed by his jewels (“ruby meet pearl, pearl meet crystal”), Tyson gives poignancy to Fagin's criminal activities (“old age is a terrible thing”) and brings out a kindlier, more caring Fagin (which would be classified as grooming by the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead). I cannot recall seeing an actor more completely at home in this part than Finn Tyson: he sings, moves and commands the stage like a professional and his rendition of 'Reviewing the Situation' stole the show and brought the house down. Having taught Oliver the rudiments of the pickpocket's craft in 'You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two', a playful rendition of 'Fine Life' with a particularly

eye-catching Annie Flint (Fifth Form, Queen's) as Bet is followed by a sweet, sentimental 'I'd Do Anything', before the whole stage fills with the well-drilled platoon of Fagin's Gang for the rousing 'Be Back Soon' which was choreographed and sung with military precision and razor sharp accuracy.

While Carol Reed's 1968 film version of Oliver is remembered for its saccharine sentimentality, Stowe's 2021 production brought out the full darkness of Bill Sikes' psychopathic character. Superbly played by Matthew Ackroyd (Upper Sixth, Bruce), dressed like Lemmy from Motorhead and sporting a full beard instead of the three days' growth in the novel, Ackroyd brings the right amount of menace and physical intimidation to the part of a man who knows that “in hell, I'll be there a-burning” and there is no redemption for him.

Sikes's girlfriend, Nancy, brilliantly performed by Martha Blake (Fifth Form, Cheshire) and Cordelia Supple (Upper Sixth, West), is the most interesting character in the musical. Her free and agreeable manners strongly suggest that she is a prostitute who has fallen in with Fagin and Sikes. Yet Nancy's morally ambiguous character shows that the boundary between virtue and vice is not always clearly drawn: she is in a self-destructive, co-dependent and violent relationship with Bill Sikes (“though you sometimes do come by the occasional black eye, you can always cover one while he blacks the other one, but you don't dare cry”). Her torch song ballad, 'As Long As He Needs Me', stands out as a great musical number which expresses Nancy's love for Sikes in spite of the brutality and mistreatment she suffers at his hands. Nancy also shows an admirable acceptance of her fate in 'Fine Life' (“although diseased rats threaten to bring the plague in... it's a fine life”). The uplifting 'Fine Life' and 'I'd Do Anything', delivered with fine choreography and rousing vocals, reveal Nancy as a character who walks the tightrope between good and evil. It is no accident that things turn much darker when Fagin joins in the final stanzas of 'Fine Life': “would you risk the drop... though your eyes go pop...”.

Nancy's life-affirming presence is best expressed in the Three Cripples pub where she strikes up the Oom-Pah-Pah song to the delight of the low-life patrons (and

cast members who were clearly enjoying themselves enormously in this rendition of “the old school song” about prostitution and destitution). In the end, Nancy chooses goodness and redemption by rescuing Oliver from the gang and delivering him into the caring hands of his patron, Mr Brownlow, played with admirable conviction by Freddie Kelly-Greaves. Nancy pays the ultimate price in a gruesome scene in which Sikes commands Nancy to “stop staring... close your eyes” while battering her to death. Sikes gets his come-uppance when he is shot while attempting to escape in a scene reminiscent of Orson Welles scurrying through Viennese sewers in Carol Reed’s *Third Man*. Fagin’s moral bankruptcy and hollowness are exposed in his final piece of useless advice to the Dodgers to “dodge about” to evade capture. The audience is left in no doubt that the answer to Fagin’s rhetorical question in the final reprise of *Reviewing the Situation*, “can a man change...?” is a resounding, no.

There were some wonderful cameo parts: Charlie Cole (Lower Sixth, Walpole) as the kind but ineffectual Dr Grimwig, memorably declaring, “I only know two sorts of boys. Mealy-faced boys and beef-faced boys”; Jet West (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) as the maternal, nurturing, Mrs Bedwin, in an affecting reprise of ‘Where is Love’ and joining Oliver in a duet of ‘Who Will Buy’ as he recovers his strength in Mr Brownlow’s house; Grace Reilly (Fourth Form, Cheshire) and Mimi Price (Fifth Form, Cheshire) as Matron and Old Sally, helpfully bringing the narrative denouement with a stolen locket which reveals that Oliver is the child of Agnes, Mr Brownlow’s daughter who died in childbirth. Improbably, but forgivably, Dickens, ties up the loose ends when Mr Brownlow recognises the portrait in the locket as an image of his daughter and then embraces Oliver as his long-lost grandson.

A special mention must go to Amélie Chue Nevertton (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Lilia Møller (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Jemima Peason-Gee (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce) for the technical precision of ‘Who Will Buy’ which was one of the musical highlights of the evening. It was wonderful to see children from Swanbourne House and Winchester House playing the parts of orphans, waifs and strays with such alarming conviction.

Rebecca Clark showed her characteristic ingenuity and

amazing creativity in being able to breathe new life into familiar material by adding strikingly apt contemporary touch-points and references to make this production feel timeless. Mobile burner phones, selfies and a scooter made an appearance and the wardrobe seems to have taken its inspiration from the 1987 rom-com-vampire classic, ‘The Lost Boys’. The energy of the cast, even on the last night, was faultless and their timing was immaculate with slick set and scene changes.

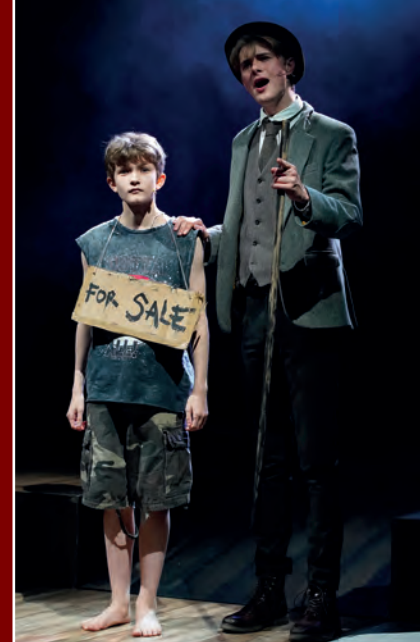
It was particularly noticeable how the cast worked as an ensemble, supporting and encouraging each other throughout the show.

Dan Scott’s imaginative production design was an arrangement of stairways and bridges and a backcloth of hessian material which recalled the sacks and sails of the docks and wharves lining the Thames as well as more contemporary mixed media art works by Anton Tapies and Anselm Kiefer. The versatility of the set and the creativity of the lighting design by Keith Baker meant that we moved seamlessly from squalid workhouse to Fagin’s lair to the Three Cripples Pub and then to the brilliant whiteness of the elegant square where wealthy Mr Brownlow lives.

The musical direction was nothing short of superb and we are extremely grateful to Paul Peglar for travelling from America to coach the cast in the second half of the Michaelmas Term. The orchestra was so good that the person sitting next to me thought that we were using a backing tape from the 2008 Drury Lane production which featured Rowan Atkinson as Fagin.

Night after night, the entire ensemble of performers and those working incredibly hard backstage successfully transported audiences from the Roxburgh Theatre in the heart of Stowe to the teeming, tumultuous life of Dickens’ London, fusing music and drama into an unforgettable and hugely enjoyable production.

**Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head**





# Upper Sixth A Level Drama

On Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 January, Upper Sixth A Level Drama and Theatre Studies pupils performed their scripted exam pieces to an appreciative audience of Parents, Staff, and Stoics in the Dobinson Studio.

Abi Roberts (West) and Izzy Prothero (Lyttelton) gave a compelling performance of an extract from 'People, Places, and Things' by Duncan Macmillan; an intoxicating play about surviving in the modern world. Emma, played with insightful precision by Izzy, is in rehab for addiction, but she can't see the point. Abi performed the role of the doctor with a measured superiority, her moments of hesitation and self-doubt particularly convincing, allowing us to contemplate Macmillan's message about survival in a contradictory world.

Set in a Sussex Downs school in 1962, Hare's play draws from his first-hand experience at Lancing College, depicting boarding school life from the pupils' viewpoint. In particular, 14-year-old John Blakemore, sensitively played by Freddie Kelly-Greaves (Winton). Isolated by class (his father is a sailor and they live in a semi-detached house), Kelly-Greaves elicited sympathy from the audience as he is rejected and struggles to play by the unspoken rules. Ed Mercer (Fourth Form,

Grafton), reading in for Alfie Darling as Jenkins, offered an exceptionally intuitive and well-drawn performance of a public school boy who only knows privilege and is therefore, inadvertently cruel to Blakemore.

Finn Tyson (Winton) multi-rolled as Housemaster Dewley and Classics Teacher Sprule. Both fail to engage with the pulse of the 60s generation of young men they



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Set in a Sussex Downs school in 1962, Hare's play draws from his first-hand experience at Lancing College, depicting boarding school life from the pupils' viewpoint. ”

have in their care, and Tyson's frequent bamboozled expression at the efforts of the boys is hilarious. Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart (Chatham) gave a truly stellar performance as Duffield, a magnificent Prefect who takes Blakemore under his wing, offering him a lifeline and advice on how to survive. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the comedy Sam Stephens-Liddell (Grenville), a consummate actor, brought to bully, Gunter through his languid physicality, plaintive tones and typical imbecilic school-boy behaviour.

In 'The Memory of Water' by Shelagh Stephenson, Caitlin Gilmore (Cheshire), Amalie Mager (Lyttelton) and Cordelia Supple (West) are animated in their portrayal of Teresa, Mary and Catherine, taking command of the chaotic stage set which, akin to Tracy Emin's 'My Bed', reflects their fractured relationship and state of mind. Documenting the eve of their mother's funeral, the role of Catherine, is played brilliantly by Cordelia, who captures the youthful, self-centred and spoilt nature of the youngest child, whilst engendering our sympathies through moments of poignancy. Amalie as Mary is hilarious, sarcastic, dry and acerbic as she suffers the frustration of managing Teresa's fractured mental state, portrayed with a nervy fragility by Gilmore.

**Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama**





# LOWER SIXTH DRAMA

On Wednesday 2 March, the Lower Sixth Drama pupils brought the Dobinson Studio to life with their moving devised performances inspired by Michelle Obama and Emma Watson. Created in the style of the Complicité Theatre Company, both casts delivered powerful performances, eliciting laughter and tears, and provoking important questions about what it means to be a woman today.

The evening began with 'Is Michelle Obama Dead', stunningly performed by Sophie Taylor (Lyttelton), Isa Reed (Stanhope), Bee Harvey-Craig (Cheshire), Sienna Bettany (Stanhope) and Bella Elliott (Stanhope). This unique performance unfolded in the form of a live-podcast, and included discussion about intersectionality, cultural appropriation and the importance of educating women across the globe. With stand-out performances from Sophie Taylor and Isa Reed, the cast captivated us with their use of spontaneous-improvisation, while encouraging us to consider our understanding of feminism.

This was shortly followed by a cleverly designed piece which posed questions about the true meaning of feminism. Structured around Emma Watson's 2014 United Nations Speech 'I am a feminist', this piece examined Watson's experiences as a young woman growing-up in the public-eye. Katarina Zant-Boer (Cheshire), Angelina Morton-Cutt (West), Lily Taylor (Fifth Form, Cheshire), Lila Hill (Lyttelton), Honor Macdonald (Stanhope) and Charlie Cole (Walpole) ingeniously used a combination of drama and humour which left us thinking about the importance of gender equality. Perhaps the most powerful moment of the evening was when this brilliant cast reinforced the message that we must all be brave enough to stand up for equality, and when confronting adversity, we must ask the question; "If not me, who? If not now, when?"

**Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama**





# FOURTH FORM DRAMA

Just prior to Half Term, Fourth Form GCSE Drama pupils produced an eclectic and electric mix of devised work in response to Jules Verne's 'Around the World in 80 Days'.

The work included hard hitting and topical issues, handled with sensitivity and maturity, such as abortion and adoption, with one piece offering a clever "Sliding Doors" type experience where a teenage mother envisioned alternate futures for her new-born daughter.

Another moving piece focused on the glory and devastation of war as a young "Band of Brothers" had their lives turned around overnight when war was declared and they decided to enlist, with tragic consequences.

Other more comic pieces were very much in the spirit of Verne's novel, one featuring a character going on a

quest to find his long-lost brother, with the help of two hilariously suspect twin soldiers.

George Smith (Winton) wrote a brilliant piece focussing on a mission to find a cure for war, whilst one group went on a hilarious adventure to the Pyramids to "find themselves".

The Fourth Form performed to packed audiences in the Dobinson Studio, and demonstrated that there is certainly a great deal of talent to watch amongst these young players!

**Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama**



# GCSE Drama

## Devised Performances

On Wednesday 10 November, the Fifth Form Drama GCSE pupils, treated a select audience of their peers, teachers and Parents to a wonderful twilight performance of their original devised work. These pupils have shown incredible work ethic and resilience, having had their performance date changed twice, due to the unprecedented challenges presented by Covid.

The performances shared a common stimulus, the observational, documentary-style paintings of Ewing Paddock, whose London Underground Project captures the spirit of contemporary culture and the diversity of London life. The drama pieces took on a range of urgent modern-day themes, from consent to racial discrimination, mental health, grief, and our obsession with technology. Pupils gave emotive and powerful performances, eliciting both laughter and tears from their audience.

Oliver Lane (Temple), Jasper Calkin (Cobham), Sophie Lloyd (Nugent), Lily-Anne Moon (Nugent) and Katie Dens (Stanhope) kicked off the evening in style with a funny and poignant piece loosely based on The Story of Creation, cleverly replacing Eve's tempting apple with an Apple iPhone.



Despite having one of their group members missing, Jemima Pearson Gee (Nugent), Annie Flint (Queen's), Sophia Beglin (Nugent), Freya Embley (Queen's) and Lilia Møller (Cheshire) then presented an equally thought-provoking and dynamic piece, urging us to re-evaluate the way we make first impressions about people.

Joseph Barnett (Winton) gave a highly amusing performance, alongside Lily Taylor (Cheshire) and Graham Bentley (Temple), in a piece that touched on the climate crisis, while also encouraging us, through a group therapy session, to focus on 'the journey' of life, rather than 'the destination'.

One of the real highlights of the evening for me, however, was Amina Aldabergenova's (Lyttelton) heartfelt and mature monologue about identity, grief and mental health. This beautiful piece of original spoken word poetry, written by Amina herself, revealed both the fragility and resilience of the central character, Susan, in a highly effective way.

Later, Lily-Grace Stewart (Queen's), Camille Thornton-Izzard (Cheshire), Stanislava Tokareva (Stanhope) and Jemima Hammond (Nugent) gave punchy performances in a piece with the message of "girl-power" at its heart. Through a clever blend of physicality and monologue, the celestial 'Four Graces' identified a number of society's faults and set about putting them straight.

As the evening drew to a close, Amy Brogden (Queen's), Ariella Moore (Lyttelton), Martha Roberston (Stanhope) and Sam Watson (Chandos), again combined comedy with poignancy in a clever piece drawing together the disparate lives of four troubled people.

Finally, the evening ended on a high with an extremely moving and thought-provoking performance by the highly talented Martha Blake (Cheshire), Jemima Dare (Queen's), Finley Simpson (Grenville) and Alicia Wilson (Lyttelton). This piece tackled the topical issue of sexual assault and consent in a mature and sophisticated way



that managed to blend humour with its fundamentally serious message.

The following evening the entertainment continued with Jasmine Sakylama (Cheshire), Oliver Jenden (Chatham), Mimi Price (Cheshire) and Zac Willner (Cobham) performing a poignant and comic 'Squid Game' inspired piece where 'players' were trapped on a secret underground line and were presented with a series of challenges to pass to pay for their bad behaviour on social media.

Our costume designers, Bea Axe (Lyttelton), Emma Khrypikova (Stanhope), Agatha White (Nugent) and Gretel Jarman (Cheshire) designed and made skilful costumes that hugely enhanced their respective performances, while Rory Calvert's (Chandos) lighting design, similarly provided an imaginative platform for the final group's piece.

The Drama Department all felt incredibly proud of these talented pupils, who, despite setbacks and challenges, threw themselves wholeheartedly into their work, making this a memorable and impressive showcase of their strong abilities.

**Lucy Miller, Drama Department**





# Junior Congreve Treasure Island

On Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 June, the hearty, talented cast and crew for last year's Junior Congreve 'Treasure Island' braved the changeable British Summer weather to bring entertainment outdoors!

Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of piracy and loyalty was freely adapted by Phil Wilmott, and further adapted by us. With permission of the playwright, ten extra characters were created, and we ensured all comic lines were updated and ship-shape. The natural arena behind the Chung Music School was transformed, first into The Shipwright's Arms Tavern, then, as a coup de theatre, into the good ship Hispaniola, with billowing sail, and flags. Our thanks go to Mr Parker and Mr Baker for this artfully designed set.

The star of the show, our driving force, who set the standards high right from the first rehearsal, was Arabella Williams (Fourth Form, Stanhope) playing the

part of Cabin Boy Jim Hawkins. Or should we say... Cabin Girl Jane Hawkins! The message of "women being every bit as good as men" ran clearly throughout the show, as "Jim" sought his fortune, enlisting a crew to find the buried treasure of the notorious Captain Flint.

Carrying the story forwards with energy and sparkling wit, were Lulu Goaman (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) as blunderbuss-toting Lady Jacqueline Trelawney, and Tamsin Cusiter (Fifth Form, Cheshire) as the no-nonsense Dr Lucinda Livesey. The most stuffed of stuffed shirts, Captain Smollett was captured perfectly, with great enunciation, by George Smith (Fifth Form, Winton).

The story within the story of the sad end of Billy Bones was brought to life by the dastardly Blind Pugh (Jack Riley (Fifth Form, Walpole), who frightened poor, rum-soaked Billy to death! Accolades must go to our villain,





“...these young performers formed an incredibly strong ensemble, with every member fully focused, providing piratey reactions throughout the show.”

Tomisin Ibitoye (Fourth Form, Chandos) gamely limping, smiling and snarling as the enigmatic one-legged man Long John Silver. The most hilarious highlight was provided by the posturing, and completely bonkers Ben Gunn, played with panache by Romayo Seaton (Fifth Form, Grenville). He brought the house down singing the “Cheese Medley”, artfully composed by Mr Parker, with well-known anthemic songs adapted to include almost every type of cheese imaginable.

With a cast of 31, it is impossible to mention everyone individually, but these young performers formed an incredibly strong ensemble, with every member fully focused, providing piratey reactions throughout the show. They were supported ably by our older pupils Finley Simpson (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Angelina Morton-Cutt (Upper Sixth, West), and, in their first roles as Drama Prefects, Charlie Cole (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Sienna Bettany (Upper Sixth, Stanhope).

We were delighted to welcome Swanbourne House School to our matinee show, and the young audience members remained fully engaged even when the rain came down!

I thoroughly enjoyed directing this show, especially as part of a team with Miss Alice Kenny, who has now moved on to pastures new.

**Laura Parker, Drama Teacher**





# Duke of Edinburgh's Award

**This year saw 52 Bronze, 23 Silver and 29 Gold participants enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme at Stowe. We are also pleased to see two current Upper Sixth gain their Gold award, alongside two ex-Stoics, and another four current Upper Sixth are awaiting their final sign off from DoFE HQ.**

The Bronze Award expedition training programme on a Monday afternoon provides the basis for our Fourth Formers to prepare for their two expeditions in the Summer Term. The programme incorporates four navigation sessions, three sessions on stove training and preparing expedition menus, a refresher of the HeartStart programme and a session on emergency situations as well as a session on kit preparation and rucksack packing. The October Field Days allow the Bronze Participants to plan a two-day Practice Expedition along the Ridgeway and a two-day Assessed Expedition in the Shropshire Hills as well as affording the opportunity to practise navigation skills near Silverstone and learn team-building skills on our high ropes course.

The Expedition programme started in earnest back in October 2021, with a Gold qualifying expedition for the 2020-21 cohort, due to delays caused by Covid, to the Yorkshire Dales. The expedition was based in the shadow of Whernside, one of the Yorkshire Three Peaks. Conditions throughout the expedition were tough, low temperatures and strong winds giving wind chill temperatures of well below freezing on the tops, added to the physical challenge of moving in these conditions and driving rain. Views of the Ribbleshead Viaduct,

where the Hogwarts Express would not look out of place gave some form of highlight to the expedition. Over the course of the next few days the groups completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks (Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent) and really had the skills they had learnt in training put to the test as they navigated their way over the summits. It was very pleasing to see our groups demonstrate excellent navigational skills in poor visibility and sub-zero conditions on the tops; hopefully in the years to come they will remember the skills they have learnt and continue to be well-equipped in the hills, particularly as one group experienced their leaders offering assistance to members of the public on the summits who were not equipped for the conditions.

This year's Gold cohort embarked on their expedition programme in late March completing their practice expedition in the Dartmoor National Park. One day of intense navigation training was followed by a three-day expedition where training was provided in all skills required to successfully complete the expedition and ultimately thrive while being self-sufficient in the mountains. The groups were strong and enjoyed favourable weather conditions, embracing the learning, and acting like sponges absorbing the over 110 years of experience on offer from Staff.

The Bronze Practice Expedition along the Ridgeway in Oxfordshire in April also provided the participants with the experience of spending time in the outdoors in very unseasonable temperatures. For some, it is their first time camping under canvas, and following routes of around 21km per day, it can be an exhausting



experience. Indeed for many of the participants, this is the first time that all of their training comes together and leads to eye-opening moments when they encounter the power of successful team work when faced with challenging conditions.

The Bronze Assessed Expedition to Shropshire enabled Stoics to enjoy views right out to the West coast of Wales and Snowdonia from the top of the Long Mynd and the Stiperstones, as they encountered more rugged terrain for the first time. This trip involves two nights of camping immediately following their end of year exams, and so success relies even more heavily on determination and maintaining their energy levels. The extent of the challenge was made greater still by excessively high temperatures on the first day of walking, and the prospect of torrential downpours on the second day. Nevertheless, all of the Stoics showed exceptional character in completing this expedition.

The Gold Assessed Expedition returned to the Cairngorms this year, for what will probably be once in a lifetime conditions! Wet, windy and cold conditions on the first day, leaving the rivers in spate and initially uncrossable, gave way to blue skies and temperatures of 20 degrees plus on the final three days. Two of the four groups were lucky enough to enjoy the summits of Cairn Gorm and Ben Macdui in breathtaking conditions with views afforded across the Cairngorm range and beyond. Once again our Staff and external instructors were very impressed with the way in which all groups acquitted themselves out on the hills.

With the cold weather truly out of the way, early July saw the Silver Assessed Expedition take place in heatwave conditions. The expedition ventured into a new area, walking the Southwest Coastal Path between Clovelly and Bude. Terrain and height gain proved challenging in the heat and Staff were particularly impressed with the sensible approach that participants took to the conditions, everybody completed their expeditions tired and sun-kissed but having taken the high temperatures quite literally in their stride. After the expedition the group took part in two days of adventurous activities, including, surfing, climbing and coastering. The pupils and the Staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience with highlights of the trip being, Stoics cooking a gourmet meal on the final night of the trip and watching the glorious golden sunset from still silvery sea.

It would not be possible to run this programme without the unwavering commitment and support of our Staff team, so particular thanks are due to Mr Stanworth, Mrs Davis, Mrs Roddy, Mr Møller, Mrs Pickering Polláková, Miss Penrhyn-Lowe, Mr Jones, Miss Nicholls, Mr Paxton, Mrs Matthews, Miss Thevenet, Mr Shepherd, Miss Shah, Mr Chitre and Mr Grimble. In particular we are very sad this year to say goodbye to Mr Rose and Mr Cuddy, who have both offered invaluable support to the expedition programme over their time at Stowe. Finally, as always, special thanks to Fraser Liversage for making sure we all get where we need to be!

**Gwilym Jones, Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

With an interrupted 2020-2021 season, I am pleased to say that we had a very strong and continuous season in 2021-2022.

We kicked off the season in early October every Saturday with a full minibus and many new faces excited to see what we did in the local country. With Covid prevalent all around, we had to sadly cancel our trip to Northumberland during the October Half Term. Nevertheless, we made the most of the Saturdays in our country, using a smaller pack than previous seasons we were able to keep the hounds in a tighter area, ensuring we stuck to the pre-laid trails.

After Christmas, the days became longer, and we started to have more successful days finishing with more and more smiles on people's faces. Many thanks to Freddie Rolt (Grafton 08) who was an enormous help on his quad bike, laying longer trails than we are able to on

foot, and helping to keep the hounds together. Once the Lent Half Term came around, we headed up to Yorkshire for our annual trip to the stay with an Old Stoic family, who have continuously provided much support to the Beagles over many decades, the Bannisters. The trip was chiefly organised by Roddy Bannister (Grafton 17), and the social highlight was a dinner at the Coniston Hotel hosted by his Grandfather, Michael Bannister (Walpole 51). Two days of trail and rabbit hunting tested both the hounds and whips against the wind, rain (Storm Dudley) and terrain. We were also very pleased to welcome Mr Sheppe on his first Stowe Beagles trip.

As all good things come to an end, we had a lovely end of season dinner at the Crown Hotel in Brackley to say thank you to all the supporters and whips who make all the difference in a good day's hunting. Many thanks go to Patricia Rush, our Supporters' Club Secretary for organising the event.



# Beagles



Like many of the events that had to be put on hold due to Covid, we were finally able to hold our annual Hunter Trials competition at Primrose Hill, Gawcott, from the kind invitation of the Strangmans. With many thanks going to Laurie (Bruce 57), Alicia and their daughter Mrs Jane Jones (Stanhope 91) for organising and allowing us to hold the Hunter Trials on their land.

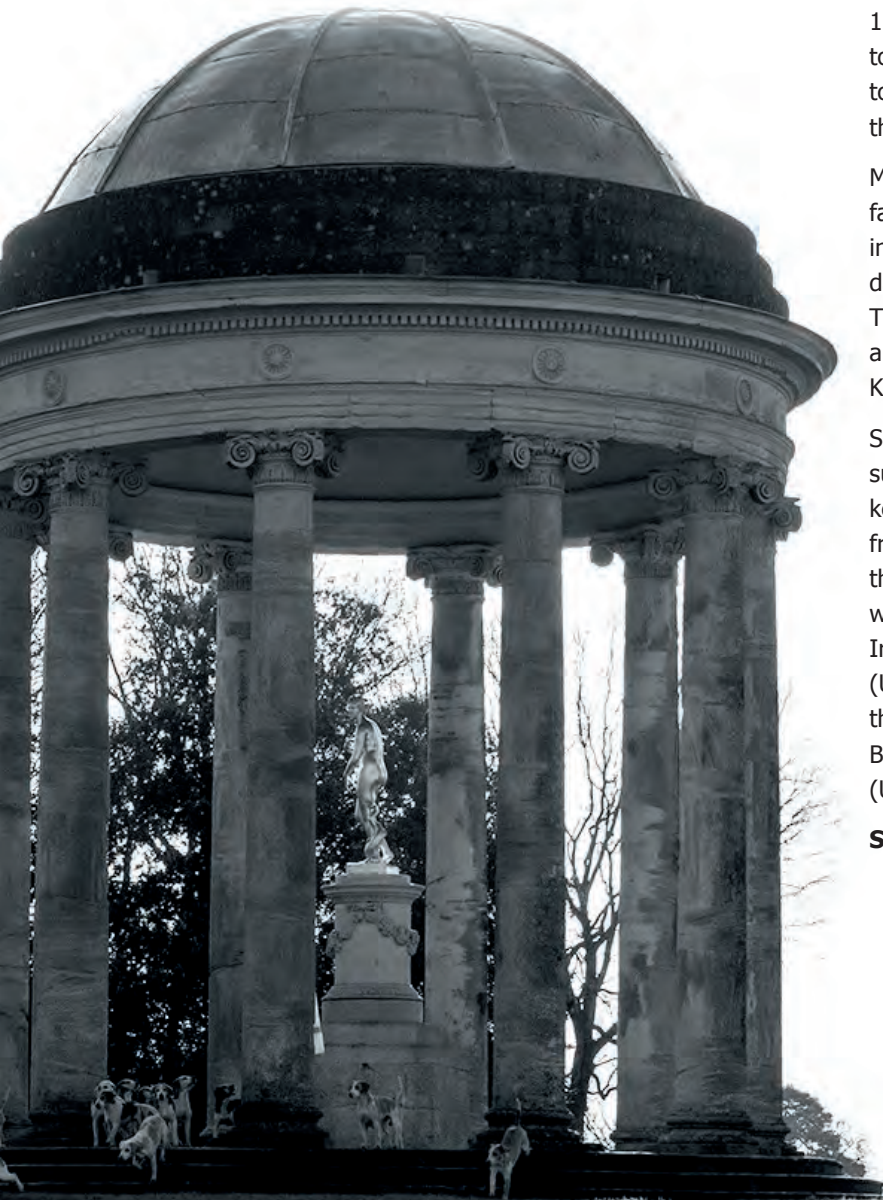
**“ My biggest thank you however must go to the Kennedy family, for the continuous support and time that they put into the Beagles. ”**

Shortly after that, we had our Puppy Show out on the South Front with hounds on show from the last three years. With our judges Roddy Bannister (Grafton 17) and Bertie Alexander (Temple 17) making the tough decisions before the glorious sunshine became too much. I thank them for their time and patience throughout the day.

My biggest thank you however must go to the Kennedy family, for the continuous support and time that they put into the Beagles. Without them events, hunt days and day to day running of the Beagles would not be possible. The kennels are a great place to detach from School and the academic pressure which is all thanks to Phil Kennedy.

Similarly, it is not often that you will be able to work with such a great team than the one we created down at the kennels, through the mixing of Year Groups and great friendships makes the early Sunday morning kennels that much easier. The hard work that was put in by the whips was never unnoticed. I wish the Masters, Arthur Irvine (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Henry Tavistock (Upper Sixth, Chatham) all the very best carrying on into the next year and good luck to the new Masters Daniel Boardman (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Fred Watson (Upper Sixth, Grafton).

**Sam Wardlaw (Upper Sixth, Grenville)**



# Chapel

**It has been a challenging year for the Stowe Chaplaincy. Revd Tim Mullins went into hospital on the first weekend of the School year and was subsequently diagnosed with a brain tumour; Tim sadly passed away in July 2022. In his absence, the Chapel has been run by Mark Austen and a team of Teaching Staff. As Tim wanted, the work of the Chapel continued throughout the year, though without the blessing of the hours of time Tim gave every week to supporting the Stowe community on an individual basis.**

The Michaelmas Term saw the usual programme of services return for the first time since before the pandemic; the Chapel was full for Remembrance Sunday, and Parents were invited back for the customary Carol Services at the end of the term.

A particular highlight for many in the School was the brief service of reflection held on Remembrance Day itself: the whole School gathered on the North Front for a prayer led by Tim Mullins. Tim also felt able to step in to lead the final Carol Services of term, making them a particularly special moment for many.

The start of the Lent Term was disrupted by the tightening of Covid restrictions, meaning Chapel services were put on pause; instead, a Bible thought and prayers were read in House meetings twice a week. Although it was a sadness not to be able to gather as a whole School community, many pupils and House Staff found these times to be thought-provoking as they considered together the truths of the Christian faith in the smaller context of a House meeting.

**“Chapel continues to prove to be a valuable chance for Stoics to develop key skills of communication and public speaking, and some of the Chapels delivered entirely by pupils were of impressive quality.”**

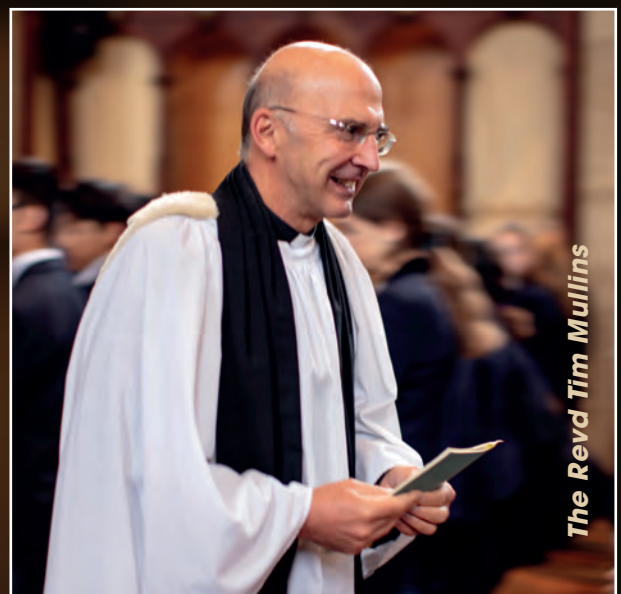
Later in the Lent Term, Chapel services resumed, and we welcomed the Revd Rich Duncan (Tim Mullins' son-in-law) to deliver three Lent Addresses, speaking on passages from John's gospel. These talks were well-attended, with several Stoics asking thoughtful questions of Rich. Rich is the Parish Minister of St Peter's in Brackley, and generously gave his time during a working week to prepare talks and come to Stowe.

Plenty of those attending the Lent Addresses were confirmation candidates, preparing for their confirmation at the end of the term. The Confirmation Service was conducted by the Bishop of Buckingham, and nineteen Stoics were confirmed into the Anglican faith. Four Stoics took part in a service of Roman Catholic confirmation at St Bernadine's in Buckingham.

The Summer Term included the last few House Chapels; throughout the year, every House has the chance to deliver a Chapel based on the term's theme. Chapel continues to prove to be a valuable chance for Stoics to develop key skills of communication and public speaking, and some of the Chapels delivered entirely by pupils were of impressive quality.

Despite the challenges of the year, Chapel has continued to be a place of huge significance for the Stowe community: it is the place where the whole School gathers, and it has given many Stoics this year the chance to seriously consider life's greatest questions for themselves.

**Mark Austen, Chapel**



*The Revd Tim Mullins*

# CROSSFIRE

**Crossfire is Stowe's Christian meeting, an informal gathering outside Chapel for Stoics who are interested in questions of faith to come and explore the claims of Christianity for themselves. We meet once a week and welcome a wide range of Stoics.**

This year has featured talks from a range of visiting speakers on a variety of topics and Bible passages. We've been fortunate to meet in the North Front Pavilion, enjoying a relaxed atmosphere on a Friday evening, often with pizza. Highlights have included a question and answer panel where Stoics had the chance to ask questions of Christian Staff, discussion sessions off the back of the Lent Addresses given by the Revd

Rich Duncan, and a series of talks in the Summer Term addressing big questions about faith chosen by Stoics.

Lots of our regulars have spoken particularly warmly about their experience of Crossfire this year: many have found it to be the friendliest gathering at Stowe, as pupils across different Year Groups and Houses have the chance to gather together and build friendships across different ages and stages. In addition to the regular Friday meeting, a weekly Bible study group runs for Stoics who want to consider more carefully the teachings of Jesus, which has been a real highlight for the handful who attend.

**Mark Austen, Crossfire**





# Service@Stowe

This year the Service Programme at Stowe has expanded significantly, reforging links with the community following the Covid Pandemic and introducing a new cohort of Stoics to volunteering. The number of programmes available for Stoics to join increased, allowing them to explore all the different ways that they could give back and help the community around Stowe. These programmes have also been supported by the Staff and together, this year has seen the most participation to date.

Among these new projects were the allotments, situated down at Home Farm by the Equestrian Centre and led by Grenville Matron, Susan Zundel and Alice Kenny. Stoics have reclaimed ground, designed new beds for plants, including herbs and vegetables, of which the new shoots of some can already be seen. The Stoics returning in September will look to enjoy the fruits of their labours and further expand the allotments.

The Stowe Student Commission for Educational Aid was created by Max Stevens (Lower Sixth, Temple) with the aim of aiding charities and organisations around the world who are trying to improve educational opportunities for all. This year they have partnered with Mrs Tori Roddy and the Romanian Schools' Project (part of Talita Kum) and will be travelling to Romania in March 2023 to help support children there.

Will Eastwood (Lower Sixth, Winton) approached the Fundraising team to help organise the end of term "Ice Bath Challenge" which saw the Head fully immersed, in one of his finest suits, in a bath of freezing water!

Many other Staff, including several Houseparents, took the plunge as well and this was, unsurprisingly, a very popular event with the pupils. The proceeds of this ticketed event all went to the Charity Street Child, of which Dr Wallersteiner has long been associated.

The Conservation Society and Climate Action Group joined forces to host three fantastic, separate events. The Community Cook Up at Buckingham Youth Centre, Wild Stowe Nature Day and the immensely popular "Casino Royale Fundraiser Ball". Each of these events was a great success, the Community Cook Up saw fifteen Stoics prepare and cook a two-course meal to feed forty members of the Youth Centre. The menu of Shepherd's Pie followed by Bread and Butter Pudding was created by the Stoics from donated items that would have otherwise been thrown out by food stores in the Buckingham area.

The Wild Stowe Nature Day took place during Change Makers Week. The Society invited local primary school children and members of the local elderly community to engage in a range of environmental activities including nature themed art workshops, falconry displays, building 'bug hotels' and much more.

The Casino Royale Fundraiser was a ticketed event with a huge uptake from the pupil community with over 270 tickets sold and raising over £7,000. The money raised was given to the National Trust to help fund projects in the area.

The Forever Stowe Project planned an incredible event



to be held in Change Makers week at the end of the Summer Term. This event was designed to be an inclusive experience for pupils of the Evergreen School, a SEN school based in Warwick. All the activities on the day were devised, created and organised by Stoics around the theme of Alice in Wonderland. As part of the preparation for this event, Stoics travelled to the Evergreen School to meet the students, to learn about Autism and practice Makaton sign language. The event itself was a huge success and will now become an annual fixture in the calendar with plans for further events including celebrating disability awareness week in December.

This has been a special year for the Service@Stowe team, raising the profile of volunteering at Stowe and helping Stoics work towards their Stowe Award and Duke of Edinburgh accreditations. The positivity and goodwill that has come as a result of seeing all their efforts bring so much to the community has been profound, and it has encouraged the continued expansion of the programme at Stowe.

**Andrea Westmoreland, Service@Stowe**

“ This has been such a special year for the Service@Stowe team, raising the profile of volunteering at Stowe and helping Stoics work towards their Stowe Award and Duke of Edinburgh accreditations. ”



# Schools' Climate Action

**Stowe hosted the inaugural National Schools' Assembly on the climate crisis on Friday 15 October.**

**The Schools' Climate Action event aimed to raise awareness of the detrimental impacts of climate change, and we encouraged schools all around the UK to pledge to join Stowe in becoming Carbon Net Zero.**

400 students from across the UK joined us for the day; to listen to speakers, take part in exercises and to embrace practical solutions that will ensure we achieve a greener, more sustainable planet.

Opening the proceedings in the Main Tent on the South Front, with 1,500 pupils, Gregory Nasmyth (Event Sponsor and Environmental Philanthropist) introduced the thinking behind day and the need for action. John Sauven (Executive Director, Greenpeace UK) followed, speaking about the need for change. He delivered some thought-provoking statistics, and spoke of the actions required by us all as individuals, as well as on a national and international scale.

Throughout the day, visiting students, teachers and Stoics formed breakout sessions in the Mansion rooms and across the School. With guest environmental specialists leading sessions, the students took part in activities supported by Sixth Form Stoic Climate Ambassadors.

For some pupils, lunch was a do-it-yourself affair, with the Climate Ambassadors being treated to a talk and demonstration by zero-waste chef, author and TV presenter Max La Manna. Max is an advocate for

**“ The Schools' Climate Action event at Stowe was a real game changer. I have always believed in the power of young people to make a difference. I believe their voices are critical to get the change we need. The energy and enthusiasm on display at Stowe will hopefully spread out across the UK ahead of the crucial climate summit in Glasgow next month. ”**

**John Sauven, Greenpeace UK**

sustainability, educating people on how to reduce food waste and how to be more reliant on the food they already have. Following the cooking demonstration, the pupils re-grouped in the breakout rooms where they tried to re-create the lunch recipe they had been shown.

The Head, Dr Wallersteiner, interviewed one of UK's best-loved wildlife television presenters, Michaela Strachan. Michaela talked about her journey as a presenter and her experience of dealing with the impact on that natural world and of the climate emergency.

To finish the conference, John Sauven gave the closing keynote speech, reinforcing the important messages that had been delivered throughout the day. A party atmosphere to mark the end of the event, on the North Front lawn, with live music, in the Climate Change Concert featuring Stoic performers as well as Old Stoic Mali Aitchison (Nugent 18) (Mali Mae). Food trucks



(Carbon Net Zero companies creating vegetarian or vegan sustainably sourced food) served supper to all.

Stowe Parents were invited to join the day for a key part of the event, the closing interviews, speeches and the concert, before being served dinner in the Music Room. Dinner was created by zero-waste chef, Max La Manna.

Closing the Dinner was a talk by explorer Justin Packshaw, who shared details of his next expedition which involves skiing 2,000 miles across the 'White Continent' from coast to coast, through the Geographic South Pole, relying solely on manpower and kites. During his voyage, Justin will be conducting research for NASA, the European Space Agency and Stanford University.

Whilst the event had to be limited in the number attending, we are pleased to say the message of the day was shared by the media who covered the day with interest, spreading the word nationally. The Schools'

Climate Action event appeared on ITV's Good Morning Britain, the BBC and Sky News, only helping to highlight the issues and raise awareness of the aim of the day. All the resources from the day are available to all UK Secondary State Schools so they can run their own event in their Schools for their pupils.

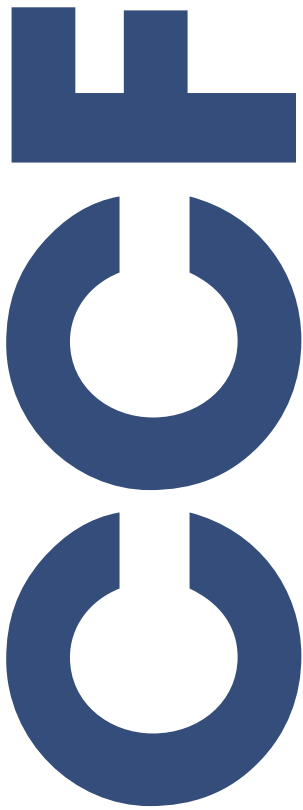
Was the aim of the day achieved? In receiving the following, in an email from one of our visiting schools after event, we think the answer is a resounding YES!

'We want to say a HUGE thank you for an unforgettable day. We are honoured to be invited and to be part of this movement Stowe has created. You really are all Change Makers!'

Thank you to all who gave so much, in so many ways, to contribute in incredible day, especially Gregory Nasmyth and Samantha Rowe-Beddoe who made it all possible.

**Tori Roddy,**  
Group Director of Marketing & Admissions





This year we welcomed new Teaching Staff to CCF: Captain Andrew Arnold (ex RE), Captain Heaven and 2Lt Rebecca Brown to the Army Section, and Miss Nour Lamrabat, Benkacem-Ziani and latterly, Mr Steve Whitby and Mr Owain McNeill to the RAF Section. We are also grateful for the generous support of (Parent) Major Duncan Boardman and Ross Deyzel who have assisted the Army Section on field exercise.

CCF Cadets, along with every other youth organisation, very much missed the face-to-face training resulting from Covid lockdown. The Lower Sixth Form NCOs managed to run a successful series of online Lockdown Challenges, as breaks from screens at home. These included individual Camouflage and Concealment challenges, with entries from Cadets living all over the world; Cadets were photographed concealed in snowy landscapes, dusty sand dunes, dense woods and even precariously hiding in swaying palm trees. There were some excellent and varied shelters too. The largest event, run by Cadet Sgts Philipp Benedic (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Chatham) was the whole

**“...we can now offer all our Cadets the use of seven kayaks, one Pico, four Argos, five Toppers and a safety boat.”**

School Physical Challenge, when Cadets, Stoics, OS, Staff and Parents got competitive, logging runs, walks, and cycles over a cold two-week period from homes around the globe, on STRAVA. A spirited and well-run event, enjoyed by all who took part, with some excellent distances and efforts achieved.

Nothing is the same as the Cadet experience in person though, and we made up for lost time this year, with a busy, active and high-achieving year across 188 Cadets from RN, Army and RAF Sections, with numbers for all three Sections growing a pace next year.

### **New Kit - more fun**

In addition to the purchase of nineteen Laser Assault Rifles, (AR15s, AK47 and 1 AWP Special Forces Elite Sniper Rifle) and six Cadet Target Sprint Rifles, where running and marksmanship skills are of equal value, CCF grant money enabled the purchase last year, of six stand up paddle boards and with further grant money, this year we have added two monster stand up paddle boards.

In the meantime, Nick Zammit, OIC RN Section has





built the RN/CCF water sports equipment inventory up significantly, and we can now offer all our Cadets the use of seven kayaks, one Pico, four Argos, five Toppers and a safety boat. We have liaised with MOD and put together a Memorandum of Understanding, whereby CCF are now able to offer this equipment to all pupils of The Stowe Group, so they too can enjoy the benefit.

## THE STOWE CADET EXPERIENCE MICHAELMAS TERM

### Army Section Field Exercise

#### Cheshire (Junior Company)

Everyone was so excited! The Field Day was very eventful, filled with excellent activities, games, challenges, lessons and tasks. We learned so much about the Army; what we need to do to defend ourselves, how to hide from the enemy and how to act smart in difficult situations. Evening activities included trying night vision goggles, an attack around the Equestrian Centre, laser gun patrol to the obelisk unnoticed by the sniper team guarding it and so much more fun! Overnight we stayed in bashas in Stowe woods followed by a busy morning of lessons about the Army, using guns, and navigation techniques.

#### Lulu Goaman and Leyla Baser, (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)

Everyone was ready and excited to embark on the adventures of the first CCF Field exercise of the year. I am the Section Commander of 5 Platoon. It was a delight; getting to know and lead a group of Fourth Formers and being able to lead them through the exercise was such a pleasure and I gained so many valuable skills.

#### Emily Sutton (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

#### Anderson (Senior Company) Piddington, Bicester Military Training area.

The Cadets patrolled towards their first possible harbour area, checking for pursuers, they set up a snap ambush along the path and took out their unsuspecting enemy... Cadets were later introduced to FIBUA (fighting in built up areas) tactics. The attack was initiated from natural high ground and the sections moved one by one to clear a building each, successfully taking the compound with no casualties then regrouping to pull off a final attack on a small enemy resistance that had held the compound to finally wipe out all enemy forces.

#### Jasper Hayes (Fifth Form, Bruce)

**CCF finished Michaelmas Term with the annual hotly contested Inter-Section Tug of War competition, heels digging firmly into grass with the last heat taking place directly outside the Gothic Library to much chanting, in the fading light of a December afternoon. This year the event was held in fond memory, honour of and affection for former fellow Cadet LCpl Ed Bush, a strong, very able and much missed NCO.**



**The RN Section** enjoyed a day of sailing the new CCF Argos and using Stand Up Paddle boards at Great Moor Sailing Club, Buckingham. Mr Symes taught everyone something new on what was a blustery, overcast day. RN Cadets were put through their paces manoeuvring around with the wind picking up speed and strength throughout the day, rising well to the challenges the weather presented, an active day on the water.

**The RAF Section** visited RAF Shawbury in Shropshire, the home of Helicopter and Flying Training for the UK Armed Forces. They were introduced to the different types of helicopters used at the base and were fortunate enough to try out the flight simulators, an experience they thoroughly enjoyed.

#### Remembrance Service

Reverend Tim Mullins led a short and poignant Remembrance Service on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, from the North Front steps with all the Stowe School Community gathered together. The three Services were represented by the Senior CCF Cadet of each: RN Cadet Petty Officer Bo Jenkins (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Army Cadet CSM Harry Bryant (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and RAF Cadet Flying Sgt Johnny Sutherland, all of whom saluted smartly during the two minute silence. It was wonderful to have Reverend Tim Mullins leading us together in prayer.

Stowe's annual Sunday Service of Remembrance in Chapel was preceded by an inspection of the CCF Contingent by the Head, visiting preacher, Brigadier (ret'd) David Russell Parsons and the Chair of the Governors. The Cadets worked hard on their turnout, despite the Fourth Former's relatively recent arrival in CCF and the Contingent stood smartly to attention for the twenty minutes of the Inspection; no mean feat for those so new to such a task. Cadets carried out roles as wreath escorts, flag bearers, leading prayers, and the Ode of Remembrance, with dignity and pride.

#### Tug of War

CCF finished Michaelmas Term with the annual hotly contested Inter-Section Tug of War competition, heels digging firmly into grass with the last heat taking place directly outside the Gothic Library to much chanting, in





the fading light of a December afternoon. This year the event was held in fond memory, honour of and affection for former fellow Cadet LCpl Ed Bush, a strong, very able and much missed NCO.

## LENT TERM

### Roxburgh Scholars

Every year CSM Abbey and I enjoy setting up and running the Leadership Challenge morning for those Year 8 pupils coming to Stowe in pursuit of the Roxburgh Scholarship. Assisted by Sports Staff, we put the potential Scholars through a variety of leadership and engaging teamwork challenges.

### .22 Shooting

CCF continues to build up shooting, with two teams of Cadets taking part in the Country Life National .22 shooting competition (postal entries) and more shooting opportunities on offer to Cadets next year.

### March - Fifth Form Field Exercise/Visit

The Fifth Form Army Section had the opportunity over a couple of days, to build on their fieldcraft and shooting skills; shooting on the .22 range, ambushing, patrolling and rolling advances to contact, Blank Firing Section Attacks and Recce patrols against a well-trained and motivated enemy (thanks Upper Sixth!) Cadets were then introduced to a mini 'March and Shoot', using the air rifles, before finishing off with some fun with the CCF Laser Rifles, where the Cadets were put through a complement of scenarios including 'The Convoy' and 'Rabbitoid', and the typically understated 'Team

**“Their team building and communication skills were put firmly to the test, and they rose well to the challenges, learning the value of communication, cooperative and collaborative skills, working together to achieve the tasks set before them.**

**”**

Deathmatch', finishing off with ever popular weapon cleaning and piles of pizza.

RN and RAF Fifth Form Cadets combined to enjoy an excellent day at the RN's largest training base and HQ of the Maritime Warfare School, HMS Collingwood, in Portsmouth. Here, they took part in a series of competitive, cerebral and physical team-building challenges over a low ropes course and obstacle course. Their team building and communication skills were put firmly to the test, and they rose well to the challenges, learning the value of communication, cooperative and collaborative skills, working together to achieve the tasks set before them. A stop at the 'Golden Arches' on the long journey home was a welcome journey-breaker.

### 11th Security Forces Assistance Brigade Military Skills Competition

Longmoor Military Training Camp. A team of eight Army Section Cadets joined 27 other CCF and Army Cadet Force teams from the South-East area, and over the Exeat weekend were tested on a wide range of the military activities and skills from the Army Cadet training syllabus; blank firing battle exercises, air rifle shoots, map reading, casualty evacuation and close quarter battle, military radio and leadership and teamwork exercises, led by Cadet Cpls Gordon and Burlingham. Despite their relative inexperience due to most of the team still completing their Basic Army Cadet Training syllabus (Fourth Form), the Cadets showed great determination and enthusiasm to complete the tasks

### CSM Abbey



## SUMMER TERM

### Army Fourth Form and Lower Sixth Field Exercise

Deploying locally, Lower Sixth NCOs were given the opportunity to lead Junior Cadets through a range of activities, developing their leadership skills, team dynamic and competence. The Fourth Form enjoyed their first opportunity to fire the Cadet GP rifle, and after a brief and demonstration, took part in staged blank firing Section attacks; Ghurka Cadet Training Team Sgt Rai gave an excellent session on 'Dynamic footprint', teaching Cadets how to identify height, sex, numbers and speed of enemy personnel moving through an area (Equestrian Centre arena - sand!) from angle of foot pronation, length of footprint and the spacing between footprints. Cadets were also introduced to military voice procedure and fired a group and zero air rifle shoot, where some excellent Fourth Form shots were identified.

**RN Fourth and Lower Sixth** A visit to Portsmouth Dockyard including HMS Warrior, with its cannons; a rare sighting of HMS Queen Elizabeth and finally The Mary Rose with remains of weapons and cutlery, to see how the RN has developed and changed over the centuries.

**RAF Fifth Form** A visit to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Here, they learned about airborne warfare over the years, looking at Concord, German World War Two planes, D Day Landings on the Normandy Beaches and the American Air Force hanger.

**Upper Sixth NCOs** A Regimental Dinner for Stowe CCF. Upper Sixth Form NCOs were delighted to invite OS Captain George Eatwell RM, currently a Batch Officer at Royal Marine Commando Training Centre, Lymstone, who spoke inspiringly about Leadership, from his personal perspective. As ever, a formal, enjoyable evening, providing the opportunity to bid our Upper Sixth Form NCOs a fond farewell.

### Mid-June Fourth Form Adventure Training Day 1:

All Army and RAF Cadets enjoyed a day of kayaking, high ropes, indoor climbing and axe throwing at Kempston Activity Centre, Bedford. The RN, meanwhile, travelled to Portsmouth where they spent the day at sea, motor cruising and learning navigation skills.

### Mid-June Fourth Form Adventure Training Day 2:

All three Fourth Form sections took part in an impressive range of activities on site - Raft Building, Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Boards, Laser, Sub Aqua, Archery, Target Sprint Air Rifle and Ration Pack 'Bake off'.

### Fourth Form and Lower Sixth Form Summer Camp

The week consisted of a two-day field exercise for the Army Section Cadets, with RN Cadets heading to Great Moor Lake for water sports activities and RAF cadets successfully getting up in the air to glide at Edgehill.

Army and RAF Cadets enjoyed a day of paint ball matches, whilst the RAF Cadets were hosted by (US) 422nd Air Base Group where they enjoyed a fascinating day at RAF Croughton. The final day was spent on the Bourbon, taking part in laser games, mobile phone orienteering and ultimate frisbee. Prizes, farewells and pizza rounded off an excellent Cadet year.



## INDIVIDUAL CADET EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Air Cadet Pilot Scheme

Cadet Flight Sgt Johnny Sutherland successfully acquired a rare place on the two-week ACPS, working hard at ground school and flying theory, lucky enough to receive 12 hours of flying and achieving exhilarating solo flight on completion. All Top Gun dreams fulfilled, and an unforgettable experience gained.

### Lord Lieutenant Cadet - Buckinghamshire County

Cadet Flight Sgt Johnny Sutherland has been exemplary in role to The Countess Howe over the course of this year, assisting her in a variety of formal engagements. He has been a wonderful ambassador for Stowe School and CCF. We have been fortunate enough to have had further success with our application for another Stowe CCF Lord Lieutenant Cadet appointment confirmed for next year - Cpl Max James (Lower Sixth, Cobham), RAF Section.

### RN Junior Leadership Course

Cadet Cpls Martha Blake (Fifth Form, Cheshire) and Isabella Reeder (Fifth Form, Cheshire) were accepted onto the RN Leadership Course at HMS Sultan, returning having successfully passed and learnt much about their own leadership skills to bring back to Stowe to benefit the RN Section.

### RAF Air Cadet Leadership Course

Cadet Cpls Max James and Angus Kennedy (Lower Sixth, Temple) attended the RAF Leadership Course, and in turn, also gained much value and benefit from the week-long course which they will be able to pull upon and use to the benefit of the RAF Section.

### City and Guilds Institute of Leadership and Management, Level 3

Last Summer a successful cohort of ten Lower Sixth NCOs passed this nationally recognised adult Junior Management Qualification, which provides the opportunity to reflect upon and develop personal leadership, management and motivation skills - useful in all manner of workplaces and of great benefit as leaders

in CCF and School. Results are coming in shortly for this year's group.

### CCF Staff Commissioned

Congratulations to Sub Lt Jonathan Cook for passing the Royal Navy Cadet Force Commissioning course at Britannia Royal Navy College. He wrote "Everything - the uniform, the drill, the activities and classroom sessions, the messing about in boats on the Dart, even the sailor's own language, of Jack Speak - kept coming back to that idea of ethos, expressed by the RN as Courage, Commitment, Discipline, Respect, Integrity and Loyalty... It takes courage to stand up, and speak in front of a group perhaps; commitment to turn up each week; self-discipline to polish your boots... Along with the respect for both self and others, the integrity not just to say the right thing, but to do it as well and the loyalty that inspires and encourages the maintenance of those other values, this ethos amounts to something very much more in keeping with the wider educational aims and values which Stowe champions."

These are values across all three CCF Sections that we in CCF aspire to instil in all our Cadets.

### CCF Staff take up Adventure Training Courses

There are so many opportunities for CCF Staff and our Cadets to take up a huge range of adventure training qualifications. 2Lt Ziz Trelawny Vernon enjoyed sea kayaking in Snowdonia and the Menai Straits in October engaging and having fun with CCF adult volunteers from other school CCF's. Last Summer, Lt Fran Shah went on three of the Cadet Centre for Adventure Training (CCAT) courses - The Basic Mountain Biking Course, the Foundation Mountain Walking Course and the Basic Canoe Course, thoroughly enjoying these phenomenal, heavily subsidised benefits of being a volunteer in CCF.

### Head Cadets

Our grateful thanks go to Cadet CSM Will Bursnall (Upper Sixth, Grafton) whose (Covid) year was curtailed somewhat and to Cadet CSM Harry Bryant (Upper Sixth, Cobham), this year, both of whom acquitted themselves with pride and professionalism in their roles as Head





Cadet, leading by example, last year and this year, respectively.

Over the course of this year, CSM Harry Bryant has demonstrated leadership, commitment, focus and enthusiasm in spades, with a good dose of style thrown into the mix.

#### **Army Officer Selection Board Success**

Further congratulations go to CSM Harry Bryant who achieved an Army Officer Scholarship and will go to RMA Sandhurst direct from university.

#### **Upper Sixth Form Leavers**

We wish all our departing Upper Sixth Form NCOs success and fulfilment in the next chapter of their lives. Many will go onto join University Officer Training Corps in their university towns, and some will go on to join those Stoics before them and pursue a career in the Services. We wish them all well.

Thanks, and farewells go to 2Lt Martin Johnson who left Stowe last year, and Flight Officer Jon Murnane and Flying Officer Sarah Murnane, who with their treasure trove of ex-regular RAF experience brought so much to the RAF Section. They will be much missed. As will Ms Nour Lamrabat Benkacem-Ziani pluckily stepped up to care take the RAF Section, which is now handed over to Mr Steven Whitby, who along with Ms Syrett and Mr

Owain McNeil are all keen to get commissioned and take the RAF Section to the next level, and get the RAF Cadets up in the air. We bid a fond farewell to Captain Matt Heaven, Lt Ziz Trelawny Vernon, and our inimitable Mr Fraser Liversage, who as Admin Assistant in CCF for the last ten years, has been the lynch pin; an invaluable, hardworking, pun-tastic, valued and valuable member of the team.

My personal thanks go to CSM Geoff Abbey for stepping up during my period of ill health, along with Lt Nick Zammit, and keeping us all on the road, with humour and a dry sense of humour, and of course to our fabulous dedicated and hardworking team of Officers and adult volunteers, without whom CCF would not happen; Major Richard Corthine, Captain Anthony Ashfield, Lt Fran Shah, Lt Fitz Smith, Lt Ziz Trelawny Vernon, Ms Elspeth Newlin, Captain Andrew Arnold, 2Lt Rebecca Brown, Captain Matt Heaven, Lt Nick Zammit, S/Lt Jonathan Cook, Mr Graham Easson-Basset, Mr Duncan Syme, Ms Nour Lamrabat Benkacem-Ziani, Ms Cheryl Syrett, Mr Jonathan Davis and Mr Steven Whitby.

This has been an extremely busy year, making up for lost time, and the Cadet experience that the team has provided has been outstanding.

**Lt Colonel Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander**





# Rugby

## 1st XV

The 1st XV had an excellent season which started with a comfortable home victory over a physical Stamford side. This was backed up by an impressive win away to Bromsgrove for the first time in many years. New recruit Jamie Annand kicking a pinpoint accurate cross field kick for winger Charlie Crabbie to score in the corner was the pick of the tries with scrum half Archie McParland's solo 50m effort not far behind!

Bloxham and Oundle were then swept aside with the Stoics superior pace and skill level before the meeting with Rugby School in the National Cup. Having shown great composure to execute a try from a lineout drive by hooker Oscar Blunsom-Washbrook to tie the scores late on which would have seen Stowe progress, Rugby scored deep into injury time to break Stowe hearts and send us into the National Plate.

The Half Term break gave the boys a chance to recharge their batteries and St Edward's were put to the sword with a 43-22 home victory which was backed up by beating Uppingham 26-6. Sadly, Dean Close and Oakham cancelled the final fixtures of the regular season so we had to wait until the Quarter-Final of the Plate which meant a long journey up to Leeds Grammar School looking to avenge defeat of the previous season.

Stowe were in control of the match and scored four

class tries but with two conversions hitting the posts and the officials ruling Stowe to be infringing several times, Leeds were always in the match and it was a nail-biting ending with Stowe hanging on 20-15 which brought about a huge sigh of relief. The Semi-Final against Stockport was a great occasion on the North Front despite the appalling conditions. Stowe ran the ball at every opportunity and were simply a class above the opposition running out 41-0 victors to set up a final against KCS Wimbledon at the StoneX Stadium, home of Saracens. Fifth Former Harvey Poole crashed over to give Stowe the lead before flanker Henry Pollock dominated the match by scoring two tries himself and stealing possession at the death before offloading to winger Joe Atkinson who ran the length of the pitch to seal a memorable 36-22 victory with the Stowe Sixth Form supporters storming the pitch to celebrate!

The boys have been a fantastic group to work with this season - so dedicated to not only training sessions but doing the extras in the gym, and individual skill sessions which has resulted in several players being recognised by Academies and National teams: Ewan Baker, Henry Pollock and Archie McParland all played for the Saints U18s' side who lost narrowly in the Academy Final to Bristol in March. Will Plessis represented Wales U18s and has been awarded with a professional contract



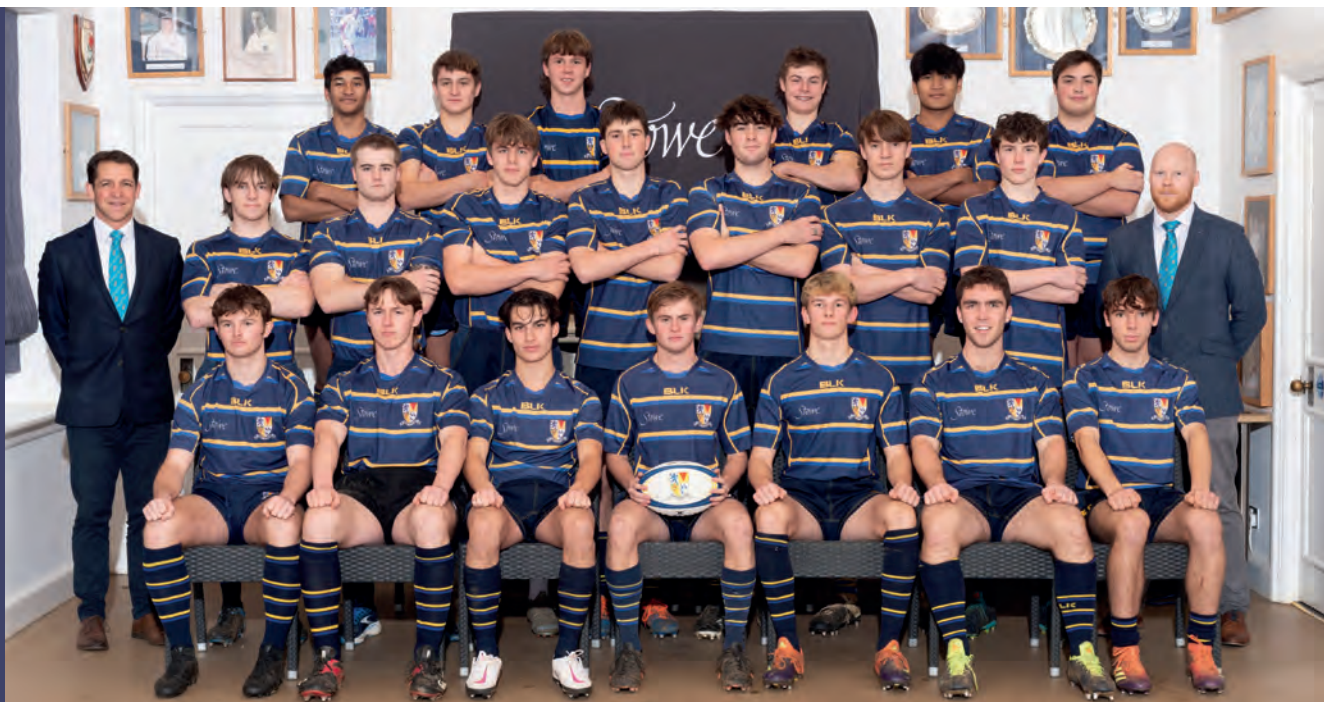
with the Scarlets. Archie McParland played against Will for England U18s and will tour South Africa in August with Henry Pollock. Noah Cowan has represented London Irish, and Jacob Wells, Henri Burditt and Josh Hutchings have trained with the Saints academy all season. Oscar Blunsom-Washbrook and Jamie Annand have represented Wasps U18s in the league and we are delighted Jamie has been awarded a professional contract at the end of this season, which is testament to his hard work and dedication.

We wish all the departing Upper Sixth the best of luck as they leave us, with particular thanks to Captain Jack Simpson who has steered a very successful ship and helped make this a very special season which we will all remember for years to come.

**Grant Seely**



**2nd XV**



I can honestly say that having coached at Stowe for 26 years, this was one of my all-time favourite teams to be involved with. The 2nd XV are known as the 'Lions' at Stowe and are distinct from the 1st XV, with a clear identity and playing style.

A hugely important role is of course the Captain and in Ben Hartigan we were lucky to have one of the best leaders in the School, both on and off the field. Ben played in a sizeable but very mobile pack. Once we

got a solid first phase base secured at the line out and scrum, we were able to use our second row and back row as extra options as ball carriers in open play. Their ball handling and athleticism was so good that they did not carry straight and hard in the normal style, instead they simply played like extra backs. This created real problems for the opposition and was a significant reason for the team scoring a total of 29 tries in just seven games. Will Jenden, Harvey Julyan, Charlie Cousins and Angus Howard were outstanding in this environment

and relished opportunity to take on defenders with the ball in hand in open spaces. Of course, this style of play cannot work unless we win the ball in the first place and that is where the power houses of the Team played such a valuable roll. Will Eastwood, Oscar Parsons and Nikita Nedoshovenko secured the front row and Max Markham and Henry Goodwin-Hudson commanded the line out and did much of the heavy work in the rucks.

Once the ball had been won, the most talented 2nd XV back line I have seen, went into overdrive. Ali Short was a great game player at scrum half and he fed the ball to the impressive Noah Cowan who normally plays at 9, but did a superb job playing at fly half. His passing game allowed two extremely sharp centres, Ollie Hartigan and Ed Collins to carve their lines using wonderful pace and power. They created many opportunities using straight footwork and athleticism, we did not need fancy moves. Once the half break was made, the back three had all the attacking abilities to finish off. Barney Cunningham's sidesteps were mesmerising and memorable, Rhys Jordan and Billy Brodrick used their flat-out speed to good effect and it also helps when you have a winger

who can run 11.1 seconds for the 100m, Joe Atkinson was outstanding and fully deserved to be the scorer of the 1st XV winning try in the National Plate Final later in the season.

In the end, the try count was 29 tries for, 12 against. Ollie top scored with six and Joe ended with four. A telling indicator of the style we played was that a total of 14 players managed at least one try. The team started slowly with our only losses of the season coming in the first two games. Once we settled on our 'Barbarian' style, we found our winning ways and had victories over Oundle, St Edward's, Bloxham and Uppingham and a draw at Rugby. It was shame that the last two matches were cancelled due to Covid. It was one of those seasons when myself and co-coach George Coote, who, as Head of Strength & Conditioning at Stowe, who did a wonderful job in making the team fit and strong, thoroughly looked forward to match days.

Thank you to all the players who contributed to this superb season!

**Craig Sutton**



## 3rd XV

The 3rd XV had a mixed season with an impressive opening victory over Stamford but this was followed by a thumping at the hands of a very physical Bromsgrove side.

George Cunningham was pivotal at scrum half as the boys bounced back to scrape a 12-7 victory over Oundle with the pace of Milan Choudree and Sebastian Campbell-Preston proving to be the difference.

A narrow loss to Rugby was followed by two comfortable wins before we came unstuck against Uppingham and Radley to finish with a playing record of four wins and four losses.

Archie Burnett and Conrad Spencer led the squad with passion and determination all season, and they have been a pleasure to work with.

**William Freeman**



## 4th XV

The 4th XV Rugby Team had an excellent season overall, with notable wins over rivals Oundle, Oakham and Rugby. The squad had a powerful mix of experience and enthusiasm which proved too much for some of our opposition. A number of players stood out and have now made the progression to this year's 2nd and 3rd XV teams, such as Sam Collins, Theo Hahn James, Will Hamilton Stubber and Guy Warman. Freddie Farrell was an ever-present and has now been promoted to 4th Team Vice-Captain, and we look forward to his rousing pre-game speeches this season.

**William Freeman**





## Colts A

The Colts A season ended up being 10 games played, 5 wins and 5 losses. However, that is not a fair representation nor outcome of the Colts As playing ability or passion and enthusiasm for the game of rugby.

Early losses to Stamford, Warwick and Oundle (all close games) could have easily derailed the side; however, marshalled superbly by George Turner they knuckled down, worked hard and were rewarded with an excellent run in the middle of the season. A comprehensive 45-0 victory away to Bloxham ignited the season into action and wins over St Edward's, Rugby School, Uppingham

and Bedford Modern followed.

What has defined this team is not the wins vs losses ratio; but, their desire to work hard for each other, train with a smile on their face and still glean a huge amount of genuine enjoyment from playing rugby with their mates. These are key traits we sincerely hope they take with them as they enter senior and adult rugby.

A huge thank you to all the players this season for their efforts and especially to Mr Radley for his efforts and energy this season.

**Mike Rickner**



## Colts B

After a tough opening few fixtures against competitive opposition, the Colts B XV made significant progress in their attacking rugby. Highlights include an incredibly physical victory against Rugby School and a rampant 47-0 final game of the season versus Dean Close.

Credit to Captain Wyatt Fell for leading and driving high standards for all and Patrick Wilmot-Smith as the most consistent player of the season.

**Matthew Teasedale**

## Colts C

It was a frustrating season for the Colts C team with a number of schools cancelling fixtures against us. In the games that we did play, our best performance came in a thrilling game against Oundle, with the boys just falling short of claiming a much-deserved victory.

Despite the losses to both Bromsgrove and St Edward's, the boys had incredible spirit and never gave up. Their efforts were valiant, and I was extremely proud to watch them give their all for the side.

I would like to thank all the boys who turned out to play for us this season and thank them 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

The U15s season started with a tough and productive pre-season training camp at School, where the boys were able to blow away the cobwebs and prepare for the competitive fixture list that lay before them. The training camp finished with a useful pre-season game against Towcester Rugby Club; there were many good individual performances but it was clear that we were going to have to work hard on our defensive and attacking structures.

An away trip to Warwick School was the first match on the fixtures list; a tough prospect, but a challenge which the team rose to well. In the dying seconds, Warwick scored a winning try with the match finishing 20-17. The team were clearly disappointed, but they gave a great account of themselves and there were a lot of positives to take from the match, particularly from the defensive effort.

The following weekend we hosted a physical Stamford outfit. Another loss was recorded (15-8), with the difference between the two sides being the exchanges in the opening minutes; Stamford were able to take advantage of a disorganised defensive line and scored early on. As was the case throughout the season, the boys were determined and didn't let their heads drop. We were starting to realise the fine margins between winning and losing.

To their credit, the squad continued to work hard in training, setting themselves high standards to conform to in their defensive structures and also on their breakdown skills. The Royal Latin School were next on the list and proved a difficult team to break down in the first half. Undeterred, the team continued to work hard and, in excellent conditions, moved the ball around well. Combined with some excellent running from Sam Cousins, Ifesi Ejim and James Bristow this proved to be too much for the opposition to handle with Stowe

finishing up deserve 46-10 winners. This was the win we needed.

Confidence was up and a difficult fixture away at Bromsgrove was next. This match was one of the highlights of the season. Once again, we conceded early but the determination to stay in the match and the level of fitness on show was excellent. Powerful running from Oliver Bataller-Pearce put the final nail in the coffin for the physical Bromsgrove team, with Stowe finishing worthy 21-5 winners.

With the Bloxham game cancelled, we had to wait two weeks before the next fixture against Oundle, arguably the toughest of the season. The weather conditions were atrocious and played in to the hands of a big and physical Oundle side. The game finished 27-0, with the boys fully aware that they hadn't given the best account of themselves.

A sign of a good performer and team is when they respond well to a loss or set-back and this certainly applies to the squad. Three wins were recorded against Rugby School (20-17), Bedford School (19-12) and St Edward's (14-5). The match against Bedford was a further highlight of the season as it was the first game in the National Cup and was played at home on the North Front. The team gave an excellent account of themselves; they were patient in defence and they moved the ball really well. Ben Sutton was pivotal in keeping the game at a tempo that Bedford couldn't handle. James Bristow also showed good game management with the boot.

The winning streak came to an end with an away trip to Uppingham. As had been the case all season, it was another tight match; final score 19-17. The general consensus was that this was a game that we should have won and that it was lapses in concentration that let us down.

The team's reaction to this loss was a good one; we hosted Bedford Modern in the third round of the National Cup. Again, we were able to play on the North Front. It was a cagey opening to the match, with both teams defending resolutely. Continued pressure from the Stowe attack in the second half proved to be the difference between the two sides. There was strong individual running from Sam Cousins, as well as a patient team attack. Stowe ran out worthy winners 38-7.

Dean Close arrived on a crisp November afternoon for our next fixture, again on the North Front. There were plenty of good individual performances; George Turner ran excellent running lines in the centre and James Bristow controlled the game well in windy conditions. It was the collective team effort that was the most pleasing aspect of the game, with the score line finishing 36-10 in Stowe's favour.

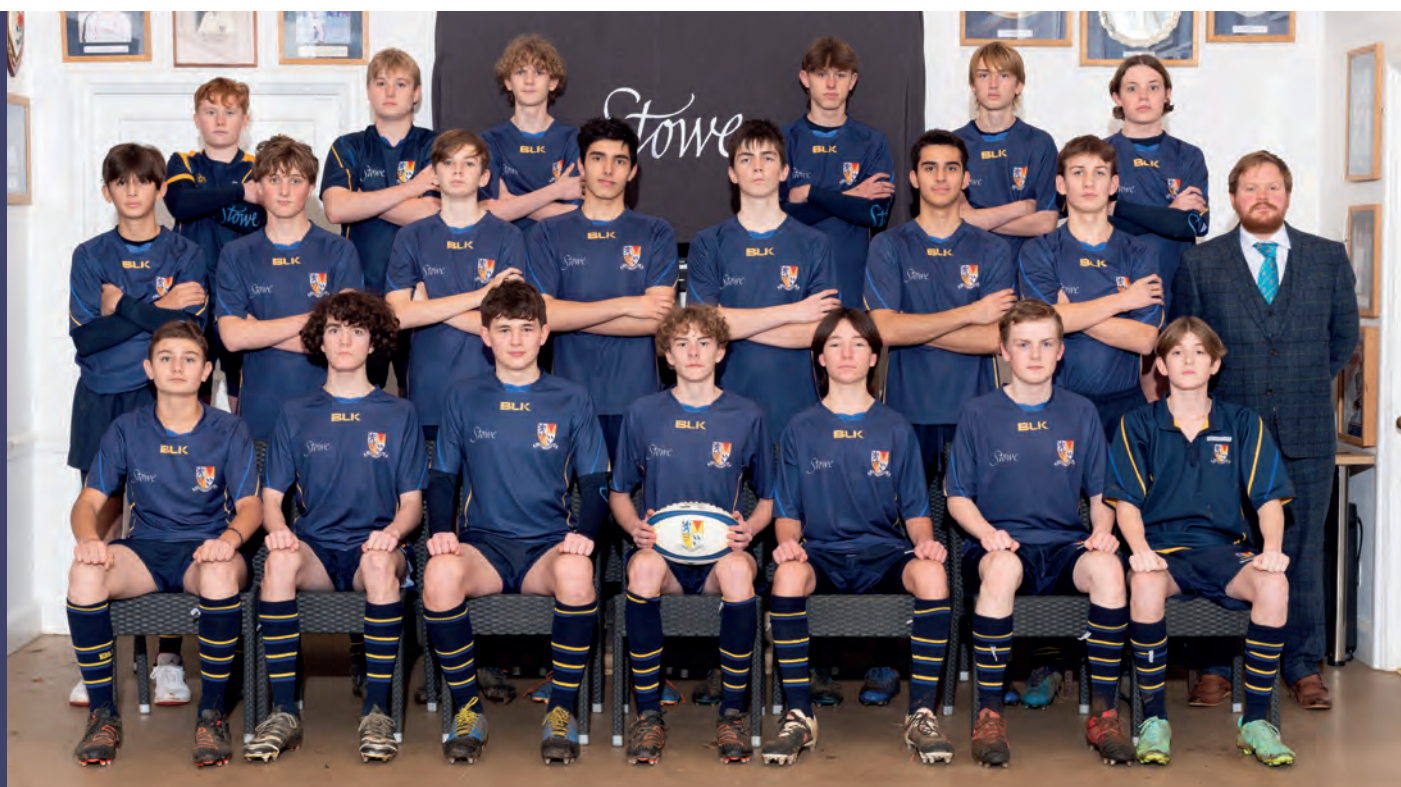
The National Cup fourth round game against Haileybury turned out to be the final game of the season for the U15s. This was a very close encounter with both sides very evenly matched. One score separated the sides,

with Haileybury progressing into the fifth round 24-17 winners.

The U15s should take a huge amount of pride from this season; they have worked hard in training, they have been a pleasure to coach and their development as a team has been very good. Despite being one of the physically smaller sides on the circuit, they have punched well above their weight and, as coaches, we have nothing but admiration for their efforts. Overall, the team won seven of their 12 fixtures, with six results finishing with one score or less separating the sides; an incredibly close and competitive season and one which the boys will have learnt a lot from.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the boys for the way they have conducted themselves this season; they have been a pleasure to coach and, provided they continue to work hard next season, will undoubtedly enjoy plenty of success playing rugby at Stowe. George Turner should also be commended for his efforts in Captaining the side this season; he did an excellent job.

**Patrick Dias & Liam Copley**



## Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B rugby team had a very successful season, winning five, losing three and drawing one. Able led by Captain Lleyton Moss, the boys grew through the season and showed heart and spirit to record excellent victories and begin playing flowing, running rugby.

The season began with a comprehensive victory over Warwick with both forwards and backs carrying the ball well and making ground. A good win against Bromsgrove helped the boys to settle in their positions and Sam Shortridge to begin his try scoring ways.

After a very close 5-5 draw with Oundle in blustery conditions, and a close loss against Rugby, the boys bounced back with a convincing win against Bedford Modern with lots of players getting on the score sheet.

Another tight loss to St Edward's set up a crunch game against Uppingham, in which the boys played some beautiful rugby and defended like trojans to win comfortably. All of the boys contributed well to the team and training sessions, and they should be proud of their achievements and improvement.

**Tom Elwell**

## Junior Colts C

The season started with a narrow loss to Stamford despite Daniel Goje's powerful running down the wing throughout the match!

A fantastic victory against Bromsgrove followed before we suffered a late defeat against Oundle. The boys rallied after Half Term and went unbeaten with great performances against Rugby and St Edward's before the season was ended short through Covid.

Archie Grant has been outstanding all year, along with Huw Wilson's accurate kicking and Zoraiz Mohmand try



scoring, and several boys have earned promotion to the B team.

**Ray Dawson & Kamaran Fathulla**



## Yearlings A

After two years with no competitive Rugby due to Covid, our Third Form Yearlings faced an uphill battle with their first fixture against Warwick only days after they started at Stowe and had met each other for the first time. Despite the lack of preparation, the courage and defensive efforts were encouraging and made up for the loss, with several players already starting to stand out. This was further confirmed in our second outing against Stamford, where a tough loss was mitigated by some brilliant running out wide by wing Martin Zhang, some strong carries by forwards Will Heaven and Oscar

Dunipace as well a huge defensive effort by Zac Julyan, chopping anything that came towards him and then earning penalties or turnovers with brilliant jackaling technique.

Our solitary win of the season came against local rival The Royal Latin School, when our young Stoics, marshalled by scrum-half and goal-kicker Tristan Dickinson, ran and offloaded themselves into a solid lead (half time 22-0), before letting RLS back into the game early in the second half (22-10), before fronting up defensively and closing out the game (39-10). We

then faced another tough test against Bromsgrove off the back of a few injuries, which gave an opportunity to a number of new players to step up and show what they were made of, with Blake Macleod and George Rutherford both performing well.

Our away trip to Oundle resulted in our best on-field performing yet the most heart-breaking result. Despite playing in the most awful conditions (horizontal rain and gale force wind) our Stoics managed to contain Oundle to a 12-5 half time lead through ferocious defensive work-rate. With the wind at their backs, half-back Tristan Dickinson and fly-half Harvey Hughes were able to kick accurately to earn us field position which then resulted in two tries to reclaim the lead. With the score 12-17 in our favour going into the closing minutes, two defensive lapses in quick succession let Oundle reclaim the lead 22-17. With one restart still to play before time was up, our forwards were able to reclaim the restart and drive forward before Tristan Dickinson snipped from a ruck to score on the line, only for the referee to rule a double-movement, and end the game on an agonising note. The courage and resilience shown by our Stoics was remarkable, nonetheless.

The second half of the term saw us face a tough block of fixtures with defeats against Rugby, St Edward's and Uppingham as well as a cup loss against Dr Challoner's Grammar School. Despite the tough run of results, the boys never gave up and their never-die attitude should be commended as well as their efforts at training. All team members deserve huge amounts of praise for all their hard work and determination through this tough season. Special mentions go to Captain Zac Julyan for his defensive work rate (tackling, winning turnovers and earning penalties), Will Heaven and Luke Mayo who both showed great leadership and grit in defence whilst Harry Charlton and Oscar Dunipace both ran hard and provided momentum in attack.

There has been a clear improvement in skill level, game awareness and fitness since the start of term and the boys will keep improving during their time at Stowe. Coaching them has been a pleasure and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them. A special thanks to Alan Hughes, Phil Arnold and Tom Webster for all the hard work they put in this year coaching the U14As and Bs with me.

**Stuart Logier**



## Yearlings B

The Yearlings B started slowly with defeats against more physical sides including Warwick and Bromsgrove. The boys held their heads high as we travelled to Oundle in search of our first victory and we were treated to a fantastic match in the sun!

Layth Elmrbati and Alex Richards made several powerful runs and proved difficult to stop which laid the platform for our backs to expose the holes in the defence. Tomisin Ibitoye was a real handful but they were all upstaged by Kaito Mbanefo who scored four tries!

A further victory came against Bedford Modern, and the squad battled hard in their remaining fixtures, but too many missed tackles proved costly in the defeats to St Edward's and Uppingham.

The boys have been a pleasure to coach this year and had we not suffered so many injuries, and boys being called up into the Yearlings A team, we would have had a few more wins under our belt!

**Tom Webster & Phil Arnold**



## Yearlings C

**Played 6 | Lost 6**

The Yearlings C struggled to match the physicality of our opposition this season. It started with a battling performance against a strong Stamford side where the Stoics managed four tries but then suffered a heavy defeat to Bromsgrove.

The boys responded well with a nail-biting 10-5 loss to Oundle, in a match that could have gone our way. Further defeats came against Rugby, St Edward's and Uppingham but the boys showed some much-needed grit and determination, and genuinely improved over the course of the season.

**Owain McNeil & Stephen Whitby**

## Yearlings D

**Played 5 | Won 1 | Drew 1 | Lost 3**

The season started worryingly with two heavy defeats to Bromsgrove and Oundle.

A very tight match against Rugby School saw us perform at a much higher level, and had the match against St Edward's not been a touch match we would have won comfortably, instead having to settle for a 25-25 draw.

The last match of the season saw us finish on a high, with a comfortable win over Uppingham, which was just rewards for the efforts the boys have shown throughout the season.



The boys have been a pleasure to coach and have really given their all for the School. Special mentions to Alex Humphreys, Leo Clare and Zeb Hodgson for their tireless efforts along with Isaac Butler's big hits!

**Andrea Westmoreland**



## Senior 7s

This was an outstanding season for the Stowe 1st VII. The squad committed to training twice a week throughout the term and balanced this with the demands of having to prepare for the latter stages of the 15-a-side Plate competition.

The first tournament saw us travel to Pangbourne College where a strong Stowe side powered to victory over Eton in the Final. The tournament at Haberdashers' Aske's saw Stowe win their group with some comfortable victories with Henry Burditt strong tackling and the pace of Ollie Hartigan and Wilf Chisnall on hand to finish off the tries. A narrow 21-17 loss in the final to Hurstpierpoint College was a tough ending to the afternoon.

The tournament at Oakham saw an under-strength

Stowe squad struggle to find the consistency needed in these all-day tournaments. Mistakes were punished as we ended up recording three wins and three losses but this provided a good grounding for us.

Having won the National 15-a-side Plate tournament the week before, the squad were brimming with confidence as we headed to Rosslyn Park for the National Sevens. The boys exploded out of the blocks with comfortable victories in the first two pool matches before facing local rivals, Northampton School for Boys, to decide the Pool winner. After a niggly start, Captain Charlie Maxwell Macdonald and Jamie Annand executed their skills under pressure to ensure Stowe scored every time they had possession as they recorded a 38-7 victory. The elimination match against Dollar Academy saw another

impressive display as Stowe qualified for Day Two and headed to Epsom for a well-deserved stay in a hotel.

Day Two saw Stowe in a group with Solihull and Leeds Grammar School, and once again Stowe had too much firepower as they eased passed 47-0 and 36-12 to qualify for the Quarter-Finals against much fancied Seaford. This was nearly an early exit as Stowe found themselves 19-10 down with less than two minutes on the clock, having made handling errors and missed tackles. However, the squad showed great character by scoring two tries to clinch a nail-biting 20-19 victory with the last play of the game.

This gave all the team a reality check on keeping their focus as they played Monmouth; a huge physical side in the Semi-Final. Archie McParland was on fire as he scored a hat trick of tries as the Stoics were clinical in their execution of keeping the ball alive as we ran out

33-10 victors to set up a mouth-watering Final against Oakham.

After a nervy start Charlie Maxwell Macdonald opened the scoring. Ewan Baker finished off a well worked try for our second, before Henry Pollock teamed up with Archie McParland to score tries from well-placed kicks in behind, to open up a 28-0 lead. Stowe finished with a convincing 33-5 victory, scoring again as the final whistle went. The boys will remember the scenes of joy, for years to come, as Captain Charlie Maxwell Mcdonald lifted the trophy.

Huge thanks to Mr Moffat who was a big driving force in setting high standards and making the squad believe we could win the tournament. This was a fitting send off for his 12 years of outstanding commitment to rugby at Stowe.

**Grant Seely**

## Junior Colts 7s

The goal we set ourselves at the start of the season was to reach the second day of the Rosslyn Park tournament, which is the National Schools 7s and always the highlight of the season. I'm pleased to report that we did achieve our aim and also picked up a trophy in another tournament on the journey towards Rosslyn Park, so on reflection this was a successful season.

The squad assembled in January for our weekly training, which needed to fit alongside the other commitments the boys have, which may include Hockey or Football. 7s is a notoriously difficult sport, so it was good to see a keen group take up the challenge of necessary fitness sessions as well as learning to play a style of rugby that is significantly different to what the boys were used to during their 15 a-side season.

It was clear early on that there was a nice balance of talent in the squad with real pace, an essential for 7s, in the form of Tom Mayo, Josh Parker and Ed Ellison, good ball players like Harvey Poole, Arthur Clayton and Rory Adams and boys who were willing to give 100% in every match including Zachary Tse, Bradley Tyrer and Toby Smith. It was a shame that several players who would have strengthened the squad were unavailable this season and particularly frustrating for Jamie Crabbie and Tobias Ellson who were unfortunately injured during the campaign.

Our very first match was a rude awakening as we met a red-hot Eton side, they were outstanding this year and went on to get to the Final at Rosslyn Park, so we couldn't have faced a tougher start. However, this gave the squad a clear benchmark to aim towards and helped motivate the training in order to make up the gap.

Following some training matches at Stowe, we began to find our rhythm and most importantly, our confidence started to grow. We travelled to the big tournament at Oakham, where we came a respectable third out of five in the tough pool, meaning we went into the Shield

Competition. We were now finding our style of play, with good first phase possession, won by Harvey and Zach providing plenty of ball that Rory and Arthur could use to set the attacks up and then feed the very effective finishers of Josh, Ed and Tom. We went on to win the Semi-Final and the Final, so won the trophy and took big steps forward in our confidence and understanding of the game.

We travelled to Rosslyn Park with high hopes. Mr Radley and myself had organised many of the small but important factors that contribute to success on long tournament days like this. Nutrition, shelter, warm clothing, optimal warm-ups and enforced rest periods had all been planned. Stowe carries a very strong reputation at Rosslyn Park having had so many strong performances and the boys stepped up to build on that perception of ability. We won all three of the pool matches, so faced the elimination game right at the end of the day. It was against Durham School, and at this stage of the day, the many hours of training and fitness work, along with desire and belief in our ability were the telling factors. Stowe were up to all these challenges and players like Rory Adams, Josh Parker, Harvey Poole and Tom Mayo shone through when the going got tough. We beat Durham and secured our place in the second day, where the top 48 schools continue to play and the rest of the 216 teams who entered, go home.

The standard on the second day was high and we lost to King's College Taunton, and then faced Wellington College in our last match. An extremely close game ended with both sides scoring two tries, but Wellington converted theirs, so we came to the end of our campaign.

Many thanks to Mr Radley, who is an excellent Rugby 7s Coach and well done to the whole group for coming through a demanding but ultimately successful season.

**Craig Sutton**

# HOCKEY



## 1st XI

The 1st XI boys had a very enjoyable first season in the Midlands League. The season started with a 2-2 draw against Buckingham Hockey Club Men's 1st XI which set them up nicely for a serious test away at Repton on the first Saturday. Although the team lost the match, it was fiercely competitive and set the standard for the next few games.

The 1st XI went on a three match winning streak beating John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe in the National Cup, before defeating rivals Rugby School 2-1 at home, with Wilf Chisnall scoring a last minute winner.

A convincing win against Cokethorpe before the Exeat break was enjoyed. The team came out second best in their next few matches with three out of the four following fixtures all being decided by a single goal.

A 6-2 win against Northampton School for Boys preceded another loss by a single goal against Oakham. The boys will hope to turn these narrow losses into wins next season!

The term ended with two very enjoyable games against the Old Stoics and the all important Staff match!

Wilf Chisnall ended the season as top goal scorer and Ewan Hughes-Rowlands won the Players' Player Award.

**Ben Scott & Dominic Blackmore-Beales**



## 2nd XI

The boys' 2nd XI hockey had a strong season, starting with some tough games against Repton and Rugby. These results only strengthened the teams' willingness to improve, as they then had an impressive 1-1 draw against Bedford School followed

by a 3-3 draw with St Edward's.

The boys then fought brilliantly but lost 2-1 against a strong Uppingham side, before getting their first win of the season against Oundle, where they came out on the right side of a tight 2-1 score line.

After Half Term the boys' 2nd XI had an even greater spirit about them, and in their first match back they won another tight game 2-1 against an impressive Oakham side.

Unfortunately, the following week Bromsgrove were just too strong and the 2nd XI suffered a tough loss, they did well to keep their heads up for the few remaining matches. Midweek they took on Cokethorpe's 1st XI and had a thriller of a game, winning 4-3, before finishing the season with a tough loss to Stamford.

All in all, a highly productive season that saw the team improve game to game and never let themselves down, always giving a full account of themselves.

**Dominic Blackmore-Beales**





## 3rd XI

The team had an enjoyable but challenging season against some strong opponents.

Neel Collin Captained the team through the season and Will Jenden was our Most Valuable Player with the highest goal count. However, the whole team were excellent and a committed group who worked well over the season and showed good improvement.

It was also good to see a number of Lower Sixth players in the team who will bring good development through to next year's season.

**Paul Thompson**

## U16A

The boys' U16As had a mixed Lent Term playing hockey, starting with tough fixtures against Repton and Rugby before they found their feet with good wins against St Edward's and Uppingham, whom they then lost to in the first round of the Cup.

Having lost to Uppingham they dropped into the Plate where they continued their winning run with a 6-0 win over Kimbolton. This saw an away trip to Culford School

in Bury St Edmunds in the next round, where they came second to a very organised side.

The boys really showed what they were capable of, to round of the season with a 7-1 win against Bromsgrove.

Most Valuable Player: James Bartle-Jones, Top goal scorer: Wilf Pickard, Most Improved: Jonty Fraser, Player's Player: Joshua Parker. Unsung heroes for their commitment: Rory Adams, William Durnell and Jamie Crabbie

**Georgina Black**

## U16B

**Played 9 | Won 6 | Drawn 2 | Lost 1**

The U16Bs enjoyed a very successful season which started with a goal in the first 20 seconds against a very strong Repton side. We eventually went on to lose 2-1 but the boys battled hard throughout the match against a superior skilled team. The following week, we faced Rugby and once again we lost by just one goal, through not taking our chances, but this was to be the last time we would taste defeat.

Victory against St Edward's was followed by a convincing 5-0 demolition of Uppingham with Tom Mayo routinely outpacing the defence.

The defence of the team was rock solid with Captain Archie Jacobs working with Lucas Stern, Conall Clarke and Luke Ralph to help protect a brave Leo Clare in goal who produced several saves at key points of the matches.

The team's work rate was never beaten by the opposition as Alex Sanchez Podesta and Freddie Timmis controlled the midfield and provided chances for Harvey Poole, Tobias Ellson and George Whowell to latch on to.

Further victories followed against Kimbolton, Stamford, Bromsgrove and Oakham, as the side finished with the best playing record of the Term.

Player of the Season: Archie Jacobs

**Grant Seely**



## Junior Colts A

The boys' Junior Colts A had a successful season, with some fantastic wins along the way. The team made steady improvement over the term, working on fast passing between each other and stronger communication.

All their hard work came together and was particularly showcased against Oakham, with a 5-1 win against the strong opponent. The boys had a wonderful end to the season with a 1-0 win over Stamford.

Well done to Captain Ben Sutton for leading the team.

**Megan Lewis-Williams & Phil Arnold**



## Junior Colts B

The U15B Junior Colts battled well in each match this season. Some highlights of the season include their 2-2 draw with Oakham and the smashing 5-2 win against St Edward's.

Their victories are a testament to how the team worked together and steadily improved over the season.

Other close triumphs by the boys were 1-0 against Rugby and 2-1 over Kimbolton and a 0-0 draw with formidable opponents Oundle.

**Andrew Pynegar**



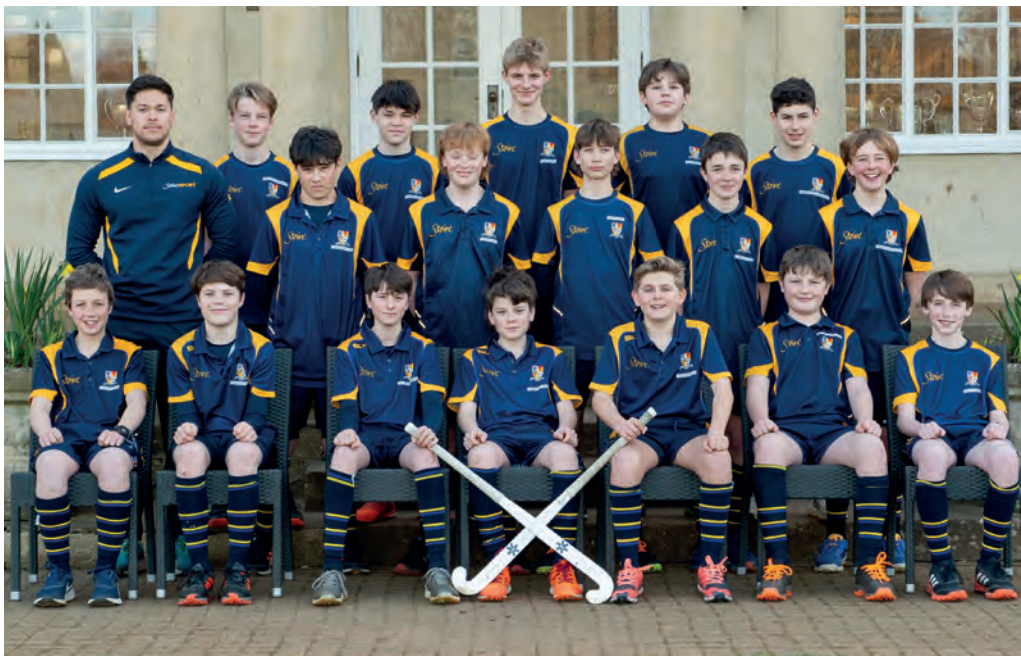
## Junior Colts C

The U15C Junior Colts showed consistent improvement throughout the season and great determination to do so.

Starting with a tough match against Repton, the boys did not let this deter them and they continued the season with some fine wins.

The highlight for the term has to be their 4-1 win over Oundle, followed by their 3-1 win over Kimbolton. A 2-2 draw with Bromsgrove proved a great end to the season.

**Andrew Pynegar**



## Yearlings A

The boys U14As had a tough start to their Hockey careers at Stowe. A series of defeats against much more experienced teams gave the team an early wake up call. Despite this, the team finished the season as one of the most successful U14A teams in recent years.

After a hugely successful day at the County Cup, the boys advanced to the Tier 1 Regional Finals for the

first time in seven years.

Two gritty 1-0 wins against Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe and Sir William Borlase, Marlow, followed by a 0-0 draw against Dr Challoner's Grammar School was enough to secure their place in the Tier 1 competition with the best schools in the region.

Hosted at Eton, the team travelled with good spirits and competed closely with every team they faced. The final game against Eton was won on penalty flicks which secured a seventh place finish, a remarkable achievement when

considering their overall hockey experience at the start of the year.

Every player on the team made great contributions throughout the season. Top Goal Scorer, Harvey Hughes scored crucial goals in big games. Most Improved Player, Luke Mayo played a key role in midfield. Most Valuable Player, George Rutherford made every effort and sacrifice for the greater good of the team, often playing in several different positions in each match.

**Bailey Dingley**

## Yearlings B

Stowe now play on a very competitive boys' hockey circuit, having stepped up from playing smaller schools, to joining the Midlands School League and taking on more established Hockey schools.

With a new team to assemble and limited training time we gathered the squad and made sure our attitude to training and playing was correct. Our aim was to enjoy playing hockey, to play without fear of failure and look to develop as a team and as individuals.



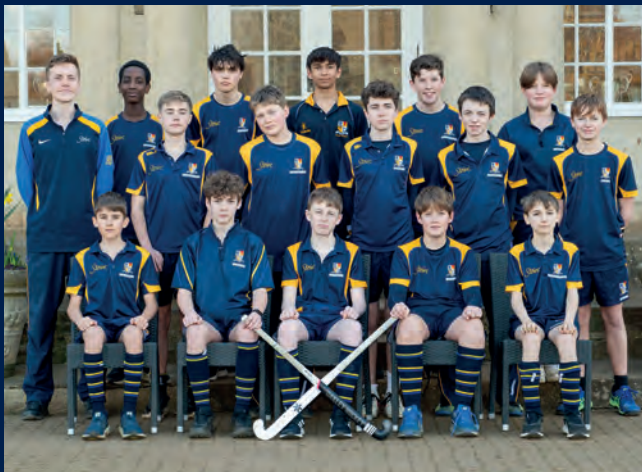
A promising early start saw us beat Repton 3-1 at home and gave us confidence that we were had the firepower to take anyone on. In the end, the list of schools beaten includes: Bromsgrove, Oakham, Royal Grammar School High Wycombe and Repton, with a draw against Stamford. That is a good return and the players can be satisfied that they achieved their goals of developing both as individuals and as a team.

The player of the season was Sam Percy who was hugely influential in the midfield. Top scorer was Edward Posnett whose rocket shot off short corners was mighty impressive! Alfie Lucas was an excellent goalie and kept

us in many of the games. The Most Improved Players were Alex Richards, Archie Lazarus-Ingman and Will Heaven. There were several players who were utterly dependable in terms of play on the pitch and also their excellent attitude, these included, Zac Julyan, Romulus Flanagan, Blake Macleod and Matisse Paternot.

The highlight of the season came when the Yearlings B team were crowned County Champions for the Bucks B Team Division. A fitting and worthy honour at the end to this very good development season.

**Craig Sutton**



## Yearlings C

This was the boys' U14C team's first term playing Senior School Hockey, and their determination to learn cannot be faulted. They adjusted well to playing with new people and had some thrilling results.

They had an unfortunate tight loss to Bromsgrove 1-0 but had two fantastic results against Uppingham drawing 1-1 and with Oundle 2-2.

Well done to the boys!

**James Blenkinsop**



## Yearlings D



## 1st XI

The 1st XI girls kicked off their season with a pre-season camp based at Stowe. The girls beat Northants County 4-0 as well as winning away at Oxford Hawks Ladies 2-0. On the Sunday of pre-season, the girls took part in an 11-a-side tournament held at Stowe and played three matches against club sides. The girls drew 0-0 against Oxford Hawks, lost 1-0 to Bedford before bouncing back with wins against Thame (2-0) and Northampton Saints (1-0).

The first three Saturday fixtures saw two wins and one loss. After being 2-1 up at home to Denstone, Stowe had to play without a goal-keeper for a 15 minute period, and unfortunately went down 4-2. There were 3-1 and 3-0 wins against Stamford and Bromsgrove.

Two cup fixtures followed either side of exeat - a comprehensive 9-0 win against Beaconsfield was followed by a 4-0 loss to Bedford in the second round. Stowe travelled to Oundle on the Saturday for their

next league game and this ended up being a real nail biter. Despite being 1-0 down, Stowe pressed for long periods of the game and eventually equalised with three minutes to go. Unfortunately, Oundle won a penalty corner in the last few seconds and converted this to win the game.

A trip to Rugby School for Friday Night Lights was next. This is one of the most anticipated games of the season with 100s of spectators watching. The Stowe girls were fantastic and goals from Bella Lloyd (x2) and Deborah James sealed a

memorable 3-0 win.

Following Rugby was the Plate second round and a trip away to Great Marlow School. In a tight game, Marlow edged out Stowe 3-1 to progress.

Five wins in their next six games saw the girls bounce back in style! 3-1 victories against Wellingborough and St Edward's came before three further wins in the county cup against Royal Latin, Sir William Borlase's Grammar and Aylesbury High School. The girls ended their league season with a 1-1 draw away at Uppingham before ending the season with a 1-0 win against Magdalen College, and a nice 6-0 win over local rivals Bloxham in front of a big crowd at Stowe.

A huge thank you to Sabyn Maude who Captained the team with excellent leadership throughout the season. Congratulations to Deborah James for being awarded Player of the Season and to Bella Lloyd who became the Stowe 1st XI all-time leading scorer.

### Ben Scott



## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI enjoyed a successful season overall finishing with a record of eight wins and five losses. The team started the season very well with some new faces moving into the Lower Sixth. The team put together a

five match winning streak including some difficult wins against Bromsgrove School and Denstone College. A series of narrow losses followed in games against Rugby and Oundle that were particularly tight and could have gone either way.

The girls showed great spirit throughout the season, even during periods of defeat. Their effort in training proved worthwhile as the team finished the season with the best goal difference on record for a 2nd XI at Stowe. After an emphatic win against Bloxham to end the season the 2nd XI finished with over 50 goals scored. Top goal scorer Violet Arkwright had a large role to play in the overall number despite missing several games with a wrist injury. Most Valuable Player Clara Tearle was solid in defence throughout the season, Coach's Player of the Year, Poppy Goaman also made an impact each week in the forward line. Most Improved Player Poppy Mowat made great contributions to every game from midfield alongside Fleur Fenwicke-Clennell.

### Bailey Dingley & Ruth Taylor

## 3rd XI

After a tough warm-up game against a club team the girls went on to have a very enjoyable season peppered with solid wins among some tough matchups.

Most notable wins were against Stamford (9-1), Bromsgrove (8-0), Magdalen (7-1) and, of course, our final match of the season against Bloxham (2-0).

Tilly Poole and Amelia Hine were our standout players from the season, however the attitude and effort of the whole team was excellent and they were a fantastic group to coach and manage.

**Paul Thompson**



## U16A

The girls' U16A Hockey team had an incredible season, the culture that developed within the squad meant no matter what the score line or situation, every member of the team trusted themselves and their teammates to achieve whatever was set out in front of them.

In Saturday fixtures, Stowe began with strong wins against Stamford 2-0, and Bromsgrove 5-1. Goals against Stamford came from Lottie Moffat, with Martha Robertson as Most Valuable Player (MVP), and against Bromsgrove Isabelle Kaye was MVP, as she bagged herself two goals.

In astonishingly poor conditions, Stowe were held to a 0-0 draw with Oundle as the rain bucketed down, displays from Ruby Colebrook and Sophie Lloyd were excellent in this game, with Captain Lottie Moffat awarded MVP. Despite a goal from Natalie Nylaende and an MVP worthy display from Alice Bryant, Stowe saw themselves toppled by Uppingham 2-1.

With several players absent, one of the most extraordinary games of the season came against St Edward's as Stowe went up 4-0, to then hold onto the win thanks to the team's phenomenal character to battle the lack of available players. Goals came from Annie Flint (2), Phoebe Haynes and Isabelle Kaye, with MVP awarded to Ceara Cusiter.

The County Cup competition saw Stowe narrowly missing out to Great Marlow School 2-1 to finish Second overall. The Cup was an enjoyable day, including resounding wins

against the Royal Latin, Beaconsfield High, Wycombe High, Sir William Borlase's and Aylesbury High. MVPs included Pia Glynn-Smith, Arianna Hay, Isabelle Kaye, Alessandra Jahina, Phoebe Haynes, and Milly Robertson, with plenty of goals shared around the squad.

The squad also had a record-breaking run competing in the Tier 1 Schools National Cup, earning a spot in the Quarter-Finals. The incredible run started with a comeback victory against the King's High School, winning 2-1. Goals came from Sophia Beglin and Milly Robertson, and MVP was awarded to Arianna Hay.

Another tough draw saw Stowe go against Rugby School where, after going 3-0 down, Stowe brought it back to 3-2 at half time, and then pulled the last goal back with only minutes remaining. The match then went to a tense penalty flick competition, with Darcey Moran in goal saving the crucial flick to put Stowe into the next round. Arianna Hay was once again awarded MVP for her two goals.

In the third round, Stowe faced Headington School where they again pulled off an incredible comeback, going 2-0 down and drawing 2-2 at half time, winning 5-3 at full time. Four goals came from Isabelle Kaye, earning her MVP.

The next round saw Stowe drawn away for the first time in the competition, to the formidable Sir William Borlase's Grammar School. Here Stowe showed exactly why they deserved their spot in the competition, running out 4-1 winners and putting themselves into the Quarter-Final round. Isabelle Kaye, Jojo Parker, and Milly Robertson were the scorers. As the Quarter-Final draw was conducted Stowe were drawn away to Epsom College, where they were undone by an exceptionally strong side 4-1. Nevertheless, this was a fantastic achievement for the team, going two rounds further than any Stowe team ever has before.

The side won 12 of their 17 games, scoring 51 goals in the process, whilst only conceding 26. Isabelle Kaye was awarded the season's MVP, as well as the Top Goal Scorer award, with 10 goals in 18 games.

**Dominic Blackmore-Beales**

## U16B

The U16B girls' team had a tough season and battled well in each match they played. One highlight of the season was their 1-1 draw with Rugby School, a strong opposition. The girls showed great determination in this match, as they were able to win three short corners all towards the end of the game, but unfortunately couldn't convert these.

Another highlight was their match against Bromsgrove, in which they drew 3-3. This is an extremely positive result, as the girls were 2-0 down at half time! Well done to the girls this season.

**James Knott**

## U15A

The U15A girls' team had a very successful Hockey term playing 17 fixtures across the Michaelmas Term, winning 15 and losing only two. In doing so, they score 61 goals!

Pre-season started with a 6s tournament held at Stowe, the girls held their own within the club circuit to beat Northampton Saints U15 in the Final.

The first game of the School term was against Kimbolton where they had a cautious start,

before pulling away as 7-3 winners. From there on they produced some beautiful flowing hockey to beat Stamford, Bromsgrove, Wellingborough, St Edward's, Rugby and Uppingham. Oundle and Repton were their two toughest opponents. The girls showed the great character throughout the season and should be very proud of how they conducted themselves both on and off the pitch.

Most Valuable Player went to Dominie Dubsy and the Captain's Award went to Gwen Grovit.

**Megan Lewis-Williams & Georgina Black**



## U15B

The U15B girls' team had a fantastic season, starting with a 3-0 win against Kingham Hill School's A team, and the girls continued with this momentum. They worked well as a team using good communication to create an attacking pressure in each of their games.

Despite a tight 1-0 loss to St Edward's, the girls were able to bounce back the next week to beat Uppingham 1-0.

They ended the season on a 1-1 draw with Repton, an outstanding result against a strong school, and a wonderful end to the season!

**Andrew Pynegar**



## U15C



## U14A



## U14B

The girls' U14B had a season of highs and lows but one characterised by enthusiasm, determination, good humour and a love for playing hockey. What more could a coach ask for?

With no fixtures on the first weekend of term we had time to gel as a team and for the girls to get accustomed to now playing on a full-size pitch. The first match was away to Stamford, and after a long bus journey the girls were excited to play their first match, coming out on top with a 1-0 win! This set the tone and we won our next

match against Kingham Hill School 1-0.

Throughout the term the girls played 11 matches, winning five, drawing one and losing five. Which is a very encouraging start for their first year of hockey at Stowe. I am incredibly proud of all the hard work the girls put into training as well as the matches, smiling and working hard even when the match was not going our way.

We ended the season with an awards ceremony to celebrate all the girls and their contributions this term. Special mention to Hebe Hanson who Captained the team and received the Most Valuable Player award.

Also, to Olive De Courcy-Ireland who received the Players' Player award, Kezia Hammond who received the Best Defender award, Paula Sanchez Podesta who received the Best Midfielder award and finally Niamh Gilmore who received the Best Forward award. Furthermore, I have to say thanks to Flora Peppiatt our goalkeeper, who had many clean sheets throughout the term and was an integral member of the team.

It has been a joy to coach the girls, to see them improve their hockey skills, and week on week to watch them still try and nail their short corner routine.

**Rebecca Brown**



## U14C

The U14C girls' team had a wonderful season that had a thrilling start with a 4-0 win over Stamford. They only continued to build on this winning streak with another 4-0 win against Bromsgrove.

There were only two tight losses against Oundle and Repton with one goal between them both times. One specific highlight will have been the 3-2 win against local rivals St Edward's.

The girls ended the season with a goal difference of 13 in their favour, reflecting the fantastic season they had in their first year at Stowe.

**James Blenkinsop**



## U14D

It was good for the U14D team to gain some experience of competitive fixtures during the Michaelmas Term 2021. As well as training twice a week the girls played matches against Bromsgrove School and Rugby School.

The season started on a positive note with a 3-0 win against Bromsgrove. This was the girls first experience of a full pitch match and for some players (on both teams) their first ever hockey match! It was a brilliant learning experience for all. Honor Henry scored two goals to get the season off to a winning start. Marina Goje broke free of the defence scored an impressive third and was voted Most Valuable Player (MVP).

The second and final match of the season was against Rugby. Their team was well organised and proved a challenge too far for the U14D team. Rebecca Holanda was voted MVP. The girls faced the defeat with smiles on their faces and ultimately enjoyed the experiences they had during the term.

Team awards went to Chloe Paterson-Brown for the team's MVP, Coco Bartoszewski for Most Improved Player and Elaine Liang was given the Coaches' Player Award for always working hard, taking on board advice and always giving 100% effort.

**Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe**



# SAILING

Sailing at Stowe has seen an influx of new sailors this year and goes from strength to strength.

During the Summer Term, we have also been taking pupils who are newer to sailing and "teaching them the ropes". It has been a great pleasure to see the smile on the faces of pupils as they helm a boat for the first time.

In September, we are due to be taking 12 sailors onto a 75ft ketch for a weekend of sailing. I know all the sailors are looking forward to the trip - for most of them this will be their first time on a large yacht. I hope they will enjoy the experience so that it won't be their last!

Our race squad has new potential, and I am looking forward to getting back into sailing competitions from September, both in matches with local schools and in National events.

Inevitably, we have lost some sailors who've now completed their studies at Stowe and I wish Sam Wardlaw and Sam Ellis (SW and SE), fair winds in the next stages of their life "passage". Both of them were involved in sailing throughout their years at Stowe and rose up to be Captain and Vice Captain of Sailing respectively – a role which they executed impeccably and which I thank them whole heartedly for doing. They will be a difficult act to follow, but I'm sure that Hugo Plessis and Max Cowper-Hart are up to the job.

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 Mr Liam Copley, Mr Gwilym Jones, Mr Stephen Matthews and Mr Giles Cuddy for their help and support in delivering Sailing at Stowe.

**Duncan Syme**





# SQUASH

The Squash team were ably led by Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart and Luke Holland-Bosworth, who shared the Captaincy.

Highlights were wins over Oundle, Wellington College, Uppingham, Rugby, Bromsgrove, Bedford, Oakham and Abingdon. The only overall loss was to Eton, but Michael Spencer had a fantastic individual win against their number one. Eitan O'Grady is a very promising Fourth Form player coming through and already in the 1st V. Michael Spencer also won a Berkshire County Tournament.

A big thank you to all of the squad for their hard work this term. The courts have been busy with a good crop of Juniors coming through who also played four fixtures.

Full Colours were awarded to Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart and Luke Holland-Bosworth, with Junior Colours going to Eitan O'Grady and Max Broom Smith. A special mention must also go to our Squash Coach - Tricia Malliff - who provided excellent technical and tactical support to the players and improved their all-round play and understanding of the game.

**James Knott**

# Cross Country

Quality took priority over quantity this term as Stowe Cross Country entered two fixtures and performed well in both. The Senior boys' and girls' teams placed second in the Buckinghamshire Schools' Cross-Country Championships hosted here at Stowe in February.

This was followed in March by a long journey to Worksop College to compete in the East Midlands Schools' League where Charlotte Hall came Third overall in the girls' race, with both teams racing well.

**Andrew Arnold**



# Basketball

## 1st Team



### Played 11 | Won 7 | Lost 4

An inexperienced 1st team took part in the annual Wellington College Tournament on the first Saturday of the Lent Term. Unfortunately, defeat against Wellington College, Bishop Wordsworth's School, Exeter and Bradfield meant the team was unable to progress further in the competition.

The team had two heavy losses, 51-11 and 49-18 to Abingdon in the Michaelmas Term but the players continued to work hard in training and made significant improvement over the course of the season, and were rewarded with an impressive 50-35 win against Abingdon in the Lent Term.

The 1st team finished the season on a high, beating Bradfield 34-27 in a hard fought and thrilling match. Once again

Teide Lokpobiri top scored with 11 points, but it was the five 3-pointers scored between Captain Dmitrii Fedko and Gilbert Xu which turned the match in Stowe's favour.

Player of the Season, Teide Lokpobiri top scored in nearly all the matches and was well supported by Captain Dmitrii Fedko, Alex Gu, Paddy Potts and Gilbert Xu. Every squad member played their part in training and matches to ensure we had a very enjoyable and successful season.

**Squad:** Dmitrii Fedko (Captain), Teide Lokpobiri (Vice-Captain), Paddy Potts, Gilbert Xu, Imran Tinubu, Alex Gu, Jayden Preko, Jonathan Tung, Theo Hahn James, Freddie Farrell, Ugen Dorji, Max Cranmer and Oliver Letts.

**Results:** v Abingdon Lost 51-11, v Rugby Won 50-42, v Abingdon Lost 18-49, v Radley Won 50-39, v Uppingham Won 50-36, v Oundle Won 86-21, v Abingdon Won 50-35, v Stamford Lost 55-37, v Radley Lost 47-36, v Bromsgrove Won 52-47, v Bradfield Won 34-27.

**Isaac Michael**



## Girls' Inter-House

In the Third Form Inter-House competition, Stanhope came through as Girls' Champions beating Queen's 8-2, Nugent 4-2 and Lyttelton 10-2.

In the Junior girls' competition Queen's beat Nugent in the deciding match, having already beaten Stanhope and Lyttelton, to be crowned 2022 Champions.

All in all, this has been another excellent season for Stowe Basketball with numbers bulging in training sessions at every level and excellent results in matches reflecting the talent and hard work of the players. The Coaches have worked hard to deliver an excellent basketball programme, so a huge thanks to Mr Mikkel Møller, Mr Julio Morales-Shearer and Mr Adam Williamson.

**Isaac Michael**

## 2nd Team

Whilst our 1st team were at the Wellington College Tournament our 2nd team took on Rugby School's 1st team and went down narrowly 34-40 with Henri Mueller scoring an impressive 17 points. In their only other match a young team put up a good fight against Stamford but eventually lost 53-34.

**Squad:** Freddie Farrell, Theo Hahn James, Max LaGrande, Bradley Tyrer, Henri Mueller, Yi Lin Wan, William Hamilton Stubber, Andre Davis, Nemo Yi, Charles Smith, Oliver Letts, Ifesi Ejim.

**Results:** v Rugby 1st team Lost 34-40, v Stamford Lost 34-53.

**Isaac Michael**



## U16 Team

Having already beaten Oundle and Bromsgrove, the U16 team rounded off the season in style beating Abingdon 50-48 and Bradfield 41-25 to finish the Lent Term unbeaten. Leading scorers were Nemo Yi, Max LaGrande, Michael Oduguwa and Gilbert Xu.

**Results:** v Abingdon Lost 49-20, v Abingdon Lost 48-36, v Oundle Won 62-18, v Bromsgrove Won 47-37, v Abingdon Won 50-48, v Bradfield Won 41-25

**Squad:** Gilbert Xu, Ifesi Ejim, Michael Oduguwa, Max LaGrande, Yi Lin Wan, Andre Davis, Charles Smith, Isaiah Rugasira, Talal Zahid, Bradley Tyrer, Kaissar Kuanys and Michael Cullens.

**Isaac Michael**



## Boys' Inter-House

In the Semi-Finals of the Third Form Inter-House competition Grenville beat Cobham 24-4 and Grafton beat Temple 10-8 to set up a Grenville/Grafton Final. With the scores level Grafton went to the 'foul' line knowing that a score would clinch the title and a miss would send the match into over-time. Max Ng stepped up and 'calm as you like' scored the 'foul shot' only to be mobbed by his ecstatic Grafton teammates in celebration. All credit to Grenville who took the disappointment of losing in good grace.



## U15 Team

The U15 team had a fantastic 58-29 victory against Uppingham with most of the team playing their first ever game for the School. Top scorers were Max LaGrande (13 pts) and Gilbert Xu (12 pts).

**Results:** v Rugby Won 50-42

**Squad:** Gilbert Xu, Ifesi Ejim, Max LaGrande, Andre Davis, Talal Zahid, Julian Smith, Harry Langford, Edward Tyrer, Martin Zhang, Henry Roberts, Joel Kim and Ranbir Saluja.

**Isaac Michael**



In the Junior boys' competition at the Semi-Final stage Grafton beat Cobham and Chatham beat Grenville to set up a Grafton/Chatham Final which Grafton won by the narrowest of margins to be crowned 2022 Champions.

In the Senior boys' competition Chatham beat Chandos and Cobham beat Grafton in the Semi-Final stage. Although trailing for the majority of the Final, Chatham remained calm and clawed their way back to beat Cobham by 3 points to be crowned 2022 Champions.

**Isaac Michael**



# Badminton

## 1st Team

**Played 15 | Won 10 | Drew 1 | Lost 4**

The stand out result in the Michaelmas Term was the victory against a strong Cheltenham College side. With the scores level 4-4 going in the last match, all hopes were pinned 1st pair Ben Li and Josha Mital against their Cheltenham counterparts. Cheltenham took the first game 18-21 but the Stowe 1st pair dug deep and came back to win the next two games 21-19 and 21-17 to help secure a fantastic 5-4 victory to add to their other victories against Oundle, Rugby, St Edward's and Uppingham.

The team had a convincing 8-1 win against Rugby in the opening match of the Lent Term and then went on to record excellent victories against Uppingham, Radley, Cheltenham and Oundle.

**Results:** v Bromsgrove Lost 4-5, v Oundle Won 7.5-2.5, v Rugby Won 8-1, v St Edward's Won 14-2, v Abingdon Drew 8-8, v Uppingham Won 8-1, v MCS Oxford Lost 10-6, v Cheltenham Won 5-4, v Rugby Won 8-1, v Uppingham Won 5-4, v Radley Won 8-1, v Cheltenham Lost 6-3, v Cheltenham Won 5-4, v Bromsgrove Lost 6-3, v Oundle Won 7-2.

**Boys' 1st Team Squad:** Ben Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham) (Co-Captain), Josha Mital (Lower Sixth, Winton) (Co-Captain), George Owen-Thursfield (Lower Sixth, Temple), Arin Chatsuwan (Fifth Form, Grenville), Gilbert Xu (Fourth Form, Chandos), Alexander Gu (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Oliver Dickmann-Pena (Third Form, Winton), Michael Spencer (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Terry Tan (Fourth Form, Chandos).

**Isaac Michael**

## 2nd Team

**Played 11 | Won 4 | Lost 7**

A young 2nd team improved hugely over the course of the season which was evidenced in their last match of the season. Having lost to Oundle 6-3 in October they went on to beat Oundle 8-1 in March with 2nd pair Terry Tan and Harvey Tian, and 3rd pair Graham Bentley and Thomas Bicknall winning all of their matches.

**Results:**

v Bromsgrove Lost 8-1, v Oundle Lost 6-3, v Rugby lost 5-4, v Abingdon Lost 15-1, v Uppingham Won 5-4, v Rugby Won 6-3, v Uppingham Lost 6-3, v Radley Won 6-3, v Bromsgrove Lost 9-0, v Cheltenham Lost 7-2, v Oundle Won 8-1



**2nd Team Squad:** Alexander Gu (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Ned Goodrich (Fifth Form, Chandos), Will Harrison (Fifth Form, Winton), Terry Tan (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Harvey Tian (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Graham Bentley (Fifth Form, Temple), Thomas Bicknell (Fourth Form, Winton) Yuki Jiang (Lower Sixth, West), Tham Luanghvisut (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Milo Xing (Fourth Form, Chandos), Harry Langford (Fourth Form, Chandos).

**Isaac Michael**



## 3rd Team

**Played 2 | Won 1 | Lost 1**

The 3rd team had just the two matches both against Oundle. The team lost 7-2 in their first match but did incredibly well to beat Oundle in the second match.

**Boys' 3rd Team Squad:** Ned Goodrich, Graham Bentley, Thomas Bicknell, Milo Xing, Harry Langford, Daniel Lau, Sam Zhang, Freddie Bühler, Tham Luanghvisut and Xavier Nylaende.

**Isaac Michael**



## 4th Team

**Played 2 | Won 1 | Lost 1**

The 4th team, similarly, had just two matches both of which were against Oundle. They lost the first match 9-0 but their hard work over the course of the season saw them beat Oundle in the return match.

**Boys' 4th Team Squad:** Yuki Jiang, Wanxin Bai, Lucy Walduck, Lily Almeyda, Zac Willner, Solomon Grant, Jack Riley, Sasha Mazurek, Romayo Seaton, Max Ng and Martin Zhang.

**Isaac Michael**

## U16A

**Played 4 | Won 4**

In the Michaelmas Term having lost their previous two matches against Bromsgrove and Uppingham, the U16 team had a fantastic 9-7 win against Magdalen College School, Oxford. The 1st pair of Oliver Dickmann-Peña and Ned Goodrich won all four of their matches.

**Boys' U16 Squad:** Graham Bentley, Thomas Bicknell, Solomon Grant, Harry Langford, Sam Zhang, William Harrison, Milo Xing and Zac Willner.

**Isaac Michael**

## U16B

**Played 1 | Lost 1**

The B team had just the one match losing 8-1 against Uppingham

**Boys' U16B team squad:** Daniel Lau, Mateusz Teclaw, Jack Riley, Sam Zhang, Romayo Seaton, Rupert King and Sasha Mazurek.

**Isaac Michael**



## 1st Team

**Played 4 | Lost 4**

In the Michaelmas Term we were delighted to have been able to put out a girls' team against Cheltenham College even though it resulted in a loss. In the crucial last round of games our 1st and 3rd pair matches went to three games. Had we won these then the team would have edged the match 5-4, but Cheltenham held their nerve and came through in both those matches to leave the final score 6-3 in Cheltenham's favour. The girls went on to play two further matches in the Lent Term which was excellent experience for a very young team.

**Results:** v Uppingham Lost 9-0, v Cheltenham Lost 6-3, v Cheltenham Lost 7-2, v Oundle Lost

**Girls' 1st team squad:** Yuki Jiang (Captain), Wanxin Bai, Deborah James, Lucy Walduck, Lily Almeyda, Katherine Liu, Madya Liu, Emma Khrypko and Stanislava Tokareva.

**Isaac Michael**

# Inter-House

## Girls' Inter-House

### Third Form Doubles

Nugent beat Stanhope 2-1

### Third Form Singles

Madya Liu (Stanhope) and Layla Keable (Queen's) 21-17

### Junior Doubles

Queen's beat Nugent 3-0

### Junior Singles

Dominie Dubsy (Nugent) beat Madya Liu (Stanhope)

### Senior Doubles

Queen's beat Nugent 3-0

### Senior Singles

Yuki Jiang (West) beat Wanxin Bai (West) 21-10

## Boys' Inter-House

### Third Form Doubles

Grafton beat Chatham 2-1

### Third Form Singles

Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Winton) beat Tristan Dickinson (Grenville)

### Junior Doubles

Chandos beat Winton 2-1

### Junior Singles

Gilbert Xu (Chandos) beat Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Winton)

### Senior Doubles

Temple beat Winton 2-1

### Senior Singles

Joshua Mital (Winton) beat Michael Spencer (Temple) 21-17

It has been another incredible year for Stowe Badminton with record numbers of boys and girls taking part at all levels of the game. It is very encouraging to see the development of fixtures for the girls and participation at all Year Group levels.

The boys' 1st team has once again been one of the strongest on the school circuit with Co-Captains Ben Li and Joshua Mital having an outstanding season as a formidable 1st pairing.

The programme has been made possible through the hard work and constant encouragement from the Teaching Staff during training and matches, so a huge thank you goes to Mr Rose, Mr Dobson, Mrs Blake, Mrs Ackroyd, Ms Lee-Stevens and Mr Fuentes Olea.

**Isaac Michael**

# Water Polo



## Stowe Water Polo - A love for the sport

A genuine love for the game is what this year's Stowe Water Polo team showed week after week. After a year without matches and only individual Year Group training sessions due to the pandemic, it has been great to have Water Polo back with all the Year Groups practising together.

The team composed of a mix of Stoics from various Year Groups. Avid Water Polo player Michael Shpurik-Eronat recruited numerous new additions to the team from Chandos House including Third Formers Gratian Yatsevitch IV, James Wilson and Paul Ostroverhy, as well as follow Fifth Form Housemates Rory Calvert, Joseph Albertella and Sam Watson.

Arseny Savarov Captained the First team and was joined in the pool by fellow Chatham Housemates Johnny Sutherland, Baz Calkin, Archie Atkinson, Elliott Derville, Carlo de Vivo as well as Thanassi Ghertsos and Stepan Muravskiy.

Unfortunately, due to pool closures and last-minute cancellations by the opposition the season consisted of only a few friendly matches. Coach Andrea Westmoreland said of the team, "These players have shown great dedication to the sport of Water Polo. Many of them attended training in 2020-2021 knowing they would not be competing against other schools. They have shown up all last term, despite all matches being cancelled by the opposition.

They encourage others to attend training sessions and often bring friends who are unfamiliar with the game to come along to training to give Water Polo a try. They have competed fiercely and with pride this term against Bedford, Abingdon and Harrow. They have all grown as players and have improved their skills and Water Polo fitness over the years. They have a genuine love of the sport and I truly have enjoyed coaching this team."

As the season ended, Captain, Arseny Savrasov reflected on being part of the Stowe Water Polo programme, "Being the Captain of the Stowe Water Polo team was an incredible experience. I learned a lot about leadership and team organisation since the team was made up of pupils from different Year Groups. Most importantly all players were very enthusiastic about the sport and I am proud to have been their Captain over the course of last year. From a young age I have always loved playing and watching Water Polo and it is truly a dream that I was able to play for the Stowe Water Polo team for the last two years."

**Andrea Westmoreland**





# Lacrosse

## 1st X

The 1st Xs season has been one of marked success. Despite two early losses to the Old Stoics and then Haberdashers' (HABS) it would not be until January until they lost a full game, turning over Tudor Hall, Radley College, Cheltenham Ladies' College (for the first time since 2018), Dadford LC, Oxford Brookes University and St James Senior Girls' School. The County Tournament saw two very close matches with Bedford Girls' School (2-2) and St Albans High School (4-3), with some great grit and determination on display against championship powerhouses like Berkhamsted, HABS and St George's Harpenden.

Moving on to the Lent Term, the team recorded a 9-4 loss against a well drilled Marlborough side, but followed up with victories over St Albans and a robust 9-6 over St Helen and St Katharine. Away at the now annual Cheltenham Spring Quadrangular, the team couldn't quite outlast the hosts, but roundly defeated Malvern St James and Heathfield. King's Canterbury and Haileybury both also fell to the 1st X with sizable score-lines in favour of Stowe, and then in the lead up to National Schools, the Old Stoics faced the 1st X once more, with a much closer score line than when they had matched up in the Michaelmas Term.

National Schools was a beautiful sunny weekend with some real highlights. The first day saw us in a pool with Loretto, Benenden, St George's Ascot, St Swithun's, King's Canterbury and St Albans High School. Confident wins were recorded against Loretto, St George's and Kings Canterbury, a sound defeat at the hands of a strong Benenden side, and with two close games against St Swithun's (5-3) and a 3-3 draw against St Albans High School (who had defeated St Swithun's and would go on to the Championship and finish Fifth in the Nation).

On day two, the team faced tough play in games against Marlborough College, HABS, Westonbirt and lastly Caterham in the knockouts (who would go on to the Division One Final). Though a challenging second day of matches, the Stowe 1st X played with confidence and never let up, and competed in a manner that made myself and Jayne Duckett proud as their coaches.

The Most Valuable Player was Rosie Grayson for a high number of both goals and assists over the season. Senior Colours were awarded to Savannah King, Rosie Grayson and Kimi Chen. Savannah represented Scotland U19As at the recent Home Internationals in Edinburgh, Rosie leaves us to play Lacrosse (and, of course, study) at the University of Arizona, and Kimi has had an incredible season as goalkeeper, aged just 16 and has averaged a 66% save percentage this season, with the average in the game being just 36%. We wish all our Leavers the very best in their future endeavours and hope to see them back soon for Old Stoic matches.

The 1st team's culture has been exceptionally positive, with firm friendships that will stand the test of time being forged on the Lacrosse field, and it has been a real pleasure to have seen players like as Rosie, Savannah and Violet all the way through from the U14As throughout their careers at Stowe and now on to even brighter futures.

Overall, the team has played 20, won 14 and lost 6, scoring 181 goals and conceding 108. Well done to every player who has represented the 1st X this year, your deeds are your monuments, and I will remember them fondly as I hope you will.

**Rob Ingham Clark**



## 2nd X

Stowe's 2nd X had a stellar season, going further in the National Schools' Competition than ever before. They were a force all season long, their determination to build and improve driving them on. A competitive fixture list demanded a lot from the squad and the girls rose to the challenge. An already talented group in every position became stronger as they formed into a team that out hustled the opposition and worked for each other. One of

the real joys of coaching this team was how they pulled together as a unit, the girls worked so hard for each other, the respect and camaraderie across the squad was exemplary. As this talented squad of individuals formed in to a unified 'team' the wins kept coming, and the manner of them, the quality of Lacrosse they displayed, rose significantly. In the home fixture against Uppingham, a 15-2 victory for Stowe, Freya Embley remembers;

"I loved that match, because it was probably the first match, we all played, wholly, as a team and settled the ball (in attack)."

The unselfish play that became the mantra of the offence was mirrored by a stifling defence that was quick and physical. Led by goalkeeper Lizzie Knott, the defence made a sterling effort, limiting the number of shots she faced and quickly clamped down on any that threatened her goal. Speed was a resource we had in depth, across the field. When teams struggled to break us down with set plays, their resorting to a foot race was a strategy they quickly regretted.

Victories against Cheltenham Ladies' College (twice!) Marlborough College, Tudor Hall, Haileybury (after a draw earlier in the season) Uppingham and King's School Canterbury all gave heart to the squad as the National Schools' Competition got closer. A desperately close game which saw the girls lose 3-2 to perennial powerhouse, Berkhamsted, was the final preparation for which the squad took a lot of heart.

A very tough group stage of the Nationals saw Stowe pull out the stops and put on a good performance but miss out on the results they wanted, getting enough wins for the "nicer" group play the next day. Unfazed, determined to do better and with Mr Shepherd's call for them to "win the battles that don't require talent" the girls out-hustled and out-fought their opposition,



recording a notable win against St Albans among others. The best compliments came from the opposition though who all commented on the determination and fight from the girls, and how the whole team fought together for every scrap of possession.

This "can do" attitude saw the girls get through the group stage to the knockouts, where a spirited match saw Stowe defeat Putney, a result that everyone but the squad and Coaching Staff had already decided on. A game that Stowe dominated, with performances across the field, that fully embodied the spirit that this squad had shown all season long. With that victory, St George's Harpenden waited in the wings for Stowe. Having faced them on day one of the tournament and losing 7-2, many had already decided that this game was over before it started. Again, they would be wrong. The girls dug deep to produce a performance of the highest quality, leading the scoring before eventually going down 3-2 in the closing stages of the game. St George's were very complimentary of the girls as both sides left the field, us to head home, them to be National Champions. The girls left the field with their heads held high and the joy of a job well done, a great performance to round out a great season.

And it was a great season. I have never been so proud of any team that I have worked with. The character and fortitude that they displayed all season long and over the Nationals leaves my heart bursting with pride. I alone knew going in to the competition that this was my last trip with Stowe, and I couldn't have a happier memory of my time, than this squad, its Captain Cordelia Supple, and the Coaching Staff that supported them.

A heartfelt thank you to all the players of the 2nd X this year and best wishes in all your future fixtures.

**Giles Cuddy**

## 3rd X

The 3rd X Lacrosse team has shown excellent strength this year, with their first trip to National Schools in March. In the season we had three wins, two draws and two losses, this is an excellent result considering some girls had never played Lacrosse and others had come out of retirement post covid.

The girls had a hard-fought game at Haileybury before going to National Schools, but that didn't deter them. Amalie Mager and Sabyn Maude lead the team across the day, showcasing some of their best Lacrosse and incredible team-work. The girls won two games, against Caterham and Godolphin, and held off top schools such as Berkhamsted and Wycombe to one goal games, unfortunate to not come out on top. It was an incredible day to end a wonderful season, the girls work ethic and



perseverance is commendable and I wish our Leavers, Sabyn, Amalie, Poppy Goaman and Izzy Prothero all the best and excited to see what the future holds for the 3rd X.

**Bex Ailles**



## U15A

The U15A Lacrosse team have shown fantastic ability and outstanding play throughout the 2021/22 School year. A leadership group of Emelia Brett, Maddie Baker and Milly Davis were incredible in leading the team in all three areas of the pitch. They helped guide the team to an unbeaten season which is no easy feat. A particular highlight of the regular season was the comprehensive win against a strong Berkhamsted side. This typified the ability of this team as well as the grit and determination from all players involved.

The two major tournaments that the U15s were involved in were the County Tournament where the girls played absolutely phenomenally and fell at the very last hurdle losing out in overtime to Berkhamsted. The 2nd tournament was National Schools; the team were drawn into a very strong group. They managed to

pick up points in every game and progressed into the championship bracket and finished as a top 16 school in the country.

Throughout the year, in training, they were consistently challenged with new drills and set offensive play. It was clear that every single player has increased their Lacrosse IQ and ability on the pitch. The offence successfully implemented plays and practiced them so they were effective in games. Defence focused on working as a unit and perfecting their slides as well as making decisions on when to apply pressure to an offence.

Overall the U15As were a pleasure to coach and I sincerely look forward to seeing them all take part in the Senior teams in the following years. Well done to all!

**Peter Shepherd**

## U15B

The U15Bs have had a strong year, with a great group of players, working hard while keeping in mind the fun of playing sport with some of their best friends.

The County Tournament had some tight games with some excellent spells of Lacrosse, with Araminta Orchard, Alessia Capella and Beau Deacon playing well and scoring some great goals, while Rosie Blythe made some fantastic saves. Moving into the main Lacrosse term, the season was opened up properly with a great win on the road against Marlborough College, winning 6-4, followed up with a 9-5 defeat at the hands of St Helen and St Katharine.

After half term the U15Bs hosted Tudor Hall U15As midweek, losing 7-3, however the second half finished 3-3, with Freddie Hodges netting the first two goals. The last game saw the U15Bs host Oxford City Lacrosse Club 15As, ending in a 7-7 draw. This was a very close game from start to finish, with plenty of spectators from both sides.



It has been a pleasure to coach the U15Bs, watching them grow and develop as players and people, and I look forward to many of them featuring heavily in Senior Lacrosse.

**Rob Ingham Clark**



## U14A

A very large percentage of the girls who represented the U14A team this year had never picked up a Lacrosse stick before joining Stowe and this makes their record even more impressive.

Our first game was against St James U15A, and despite playing a team that were a year older, we fought hard to win 4-3. At this point we started to appreciate that we were coaching a special group of talented girls! The Lent Term started with the upsetting news that Lara Hughes (our one defender who had played the game before Stowe) had broken her ankle and would miss the entire season! This, however, gave others a chance and our defensive unit of Imogen Embley, Imogen Smith, Gina Longsdon, Domino Flint Wood and Hannah Campbell rose to the task. They learnt how to tackle, slide to the ball and double team and before too long they were winning possession back with regularity. Coupled with this we had found a fantastic goalie in Annabel

Lloyd who made a staggering 65 saves throughout the season!

During the season we beat Marlborough (10-4), Tudor U15A (7-3) and suffered a narrow loss to St Helen and St Katharine by 6-8. In tournament matches we notched up some incredible wins beating Berkhamsted 3-1 and Dunottar 10-0 and drawing with Queen Anne's (3-3), Haberdashers' (2-2), Lady Eleanor Holles School (2-2). These are top Lacrosse schools who all play from the age of 11 and equally play for two terms.

The combined attack of Millie Colebrook, Ruadh Mccarthy-Wyper, Hannah (who ended the season as our midfield defence proving that she was equally talented in both attack and defence), Layla Keable, Bella Timmis and Sofia Comino scored an incredible 73 goals with top scorer Layla recording 25 of these. Bella, Sofia and Layla shared the centre with Bella named as Most Valuable Player after the Nationals having scored three goals, two assists, won nine possessions and made 22 draw controls. Millie and Ruadh created an exciting partnership behind goal using plays that our 1st team also scored from.

At the end of the season, six girls were invited to attend The England Talent Pathway trials at various centres around the country. Layla, Bella and Millie impressed the coaches and have been invited to the next stage. Sofia, Ruadh and Hannah have all been invited back for a retrial and we feel confident that they will also be successful.

**Jayne Duckett**

## U14B

The U14B team has come along in leaps and bounds playing Lacrosse this year. From absolute novices in September they learnt the game over the Michaelmas Term, to be serious competitors come the Spring. Led by Captains Chloe Paterson-Brown and Izzy Harris, the team played nine, won six, drew one and lost two. They opened the season with a fantastic result of 7-5 over Marlborough College, followed up with a 3-9 loss against a strong St Helen and St Katharine side. Then at the Stowe Junior Tournament recorded wins of 9-4 against Abbot's Hill and 4-2 against Tudor Hall U14, a 3-3 draw against St George's Harpenden and a 0-9 loss against Tudor Hall U15s. They then travelled to St Hugh's School and outlasted the hosts to a 6-5 victory against tense competition, and then saw Tudor Hall again in a full game to win 11-5.



The County Tournament was one of real promise, with tight games across the board, including an historic 2-2 draw against perennial power-house Berkhamsted. After six games, the U14Bs finished Fourth in the County, playing with tremendous sporting conduct throughout the day. The team has worked very well together with great enthusiasm over the year, and I am excited to see what the future holds for them.

**Rob Ingham Clark**



## U14C

The large U14C squad under the watchful eye of Mr Shepherd has had its first taste for Lacrosse over their first year at Stowe. With two games unfortunately cancelled, their season was cut somewhat short, however they won half of their matches, with a particular highlight winning against Tudor Hall 5-4 towards the end of the Spring Term. They will look to consolidate their skills as they move up into the U15s, and gain more experience as they go. A great start for the team!

**Rob Ingham Clark**

## 1st X Mixed

The mixed Lacrosse players of Stowe are Change Makers to a fault. Upon the introduction of Inter-House Lacrosse for boys in the Autumn of 2018, there grew a greater appreciation and understanding of a sport that until now had been the preserve of the girls at Stowe.

These boys saw annual competition over their Stowe careers, and now with the introduction of mixed Lacrosse, the best and brightest have been able to showcase their skills alongside their female counterparts for the first time. Training weekly in the Summer Term, they honed their skills and tightened up their tactics ahead of the first Inter-School mixed game in history. The game was against Haberdashers' Aske's Girls' School in Elstree, and the team, which started at a healthy eighteen but dropped to a bare ten due to injuries, illnesses and the odd academy rugby session, knew that the 60 minutes ahead of them on the hottest day of the year would be tough. Despite the hosts scoring the first goal, the Stoics scored four in quick succession in the first quarter. Five more unanswered goals followed in



the second quarter, and as legs started to tire (and fluids lost through sweat!), the Stowe side scored three in the second half, conceding only one more. The girls and boys worked effortlessly together, assisting one another for goals throughout the game. Thanks must go to the intrepid ten - Lizzie Knott, Lyla Mulcahy, Maria Hamilton, Hattie Goodrich, Alex Aswani, Will Jenden, Drake Selby Boddy, Henry Tavistock, Milo Chauveau and Arthur Irvine. You have paved the way for future generations of mixed Lacrosse players at Stowe and in other schools.

**Rob Ingham Clark**

# ATHLETICS

The Stowe Athletics teams have had a successful season which started with over 50 Athletes representing the School at Uppingham. The Athletes also travelled to Oundle, Bromsgrove, Marlborough College and we hosted our own meeting. There has been great camaraderie within the group, and I've been so pleased to see the pupils happy to enter into events which they don't specialise in for the good of the team.

The athletes have worked incredibly hard at the track, completing circuit training sessions, technical running sessions as well their chosen specialist event of sprint, long distance, throwing or jumping.

Highlights included the Track & Field Cup where the Inter-girls came second and the Inter-boys won and progressed to the Regional Finals.

There have been some excellent individual performances - most notably Woody Hamilton Hurst in the hurdles, Harry Rose in the 800m and 1,500m, and Jo Jo Parker and Marina Goje in the 100m.

**Boys' Athlete of the Year: Harry Rose**  
**Girls' Athlete of the Year: Jo Jo Parker**  
**Grant Seely**





# Tennis

It has been a pleasure to work alongside Paul Robertson with the Senior girls this term. They have been such a positive group coming to each training session with enthusiasm, willingness to learn and good humour, making the atmosphere at the Shop Courts thoroughly enjoyable for everyone. The season seemed short especially with the public exams starting before Half Term, but they have enjoyed some competitive fixtures and have all improved their performances, especially their "volley winners!"

## 1st & 2nd VI

The 1st VI had a fantastic start to the season, at home, against St Edward's winning 5-4. There was some excellent tennis on display with Willa Percy and Hannah Bewes having a strong set against the 2nd pair 6-4. Emily Sutton and Jemima Roberts had a great start winning 6-2 against the 3rd pair, and Annie Flint and Ruby Colebrook impressively won all three of their sets.

Bloxham was a very friendly fixture with Stowe proving to be stronger on the day winning 9-0 with Bella Lloyd and Willa commanding all three sets 6-0; Emily and Hannah won 6-1, 6-1, 6-3; and Annie and Ruby won 6-2, 6-0, 6-3.

There was a superb standard of tennis on display at Oundle and the girls all enjoyed some excellent matches, having to really build their points. Bella and Emily won all three sets 6-1, 6-3, 6-2. Willa and Savannah King took four games from their 3rd pair and Ele Blane and Olivia West were great together, becoming more assertive throughout the afternoon.

The mixed matches away at Rugby drew quite a crowd and it was exciting to watch such a high standard of Tennis - well done to Annie and Arin Chatsuwon, Willa and Michael Spencer, Bella and Archie Burnet for their performance, with all pairs winning against the Rugby 3rd

pair. A particular mention to Bella and Archie, the Tennis Captains, for their support of Stowe Tennis, playing in the middle of their A Level exams.

The 2nd VI hosted St Edward's for the first fixture with fairly mixed results. The second pair of Olivia West and Hattie Goodrich won two out of their three rounds, Ottilie Hewlett and Poppy Mowat picked up a 6-4 victory against their 3rd pair and Fleur Fenwicke-Clennell and Violet Arkwright had three close sets.

Bloxham was next with some much-appreciated parental support creating a lovely atmosphere to the match. Stowe won all their sets with Ele Blane and Olivia working on ball placement to win 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; Fleur and Violet enjoying some great 'volley winners' to win 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 and Hattie and Jemima Roberts playing consistently to win 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

At Oundle it was a treat to play on such quality courts in the sunshine and the girls all enjoyed having some excellent rallies to play their best tennis. So many games went to deuce but Oundle got the better of the result, although I was delighted that Fleur and Violet won their final set against the first pair 6-3, a great way to finish their Tennis at Stowe.

The 2nd VI mixed team had some closely fought matches against Rugby, especially after we had warmed up after our first set! Well done to Ben Hartigan who played his final game for Stowe, partnering Emily Sutton, with a notable performance against their 2nd pair taking it to 5-7. Well done to Hannah Bewes and Atticus Cobb for

winning against their own pair and a particular thank you to Attica for saving the day with the bus! Thank you to Ele Blane and Ben for making the effort to represent the School in the middle of A Level exams - some great Tennis on display!

**Sarah Sutton**

## 3rd & 4th VI

The season got off to a flying start for both the 3rd VI and 4th VI, recording wins against St Edward's and Bloxham. The results against each school could not have been more different, with close 5-4 victories for each Stowe side just edging St Edwards, while a confident 9-0 clean sweep was recorded against Bloxham for the 3rd VI and 8-1 for the 4th VI.

Away at Oundle the 3rd VI were dealt a tough set of matches, however a particularly close game was played by Sonia Steffanson and Amalia Mager, who competed all the way to the end.

Both teams have fielded a variety of players from across three Senior Year

Groups over the season with players like Aurora Flanagan, Sophie Lloyd, Martha Robertson, Milly Robertson and Lottie Moffat competing from the Fifth Form often against more experienced Sixth Form players and doing so with finesse and determination. It has been a real pleasure to coach these players and take them to fixtures on Saturdays, and I am sure in the coming seasons we will see a good few of them climbing up the teams to represent the School in the 1st VI and 2nd VI. Great job all!

**Rob Ingham Clark**



## U16 A, B & C

2022 has seen the start of a new era regarding girls' tennis at Stowe with the introduction of three U16 girls' teams. In the past, the U16s have always been part of the Senior tennis programme. This now means more girls can represent the School in matches. (Continued over.)

It was however a challenge this year to find four schools before Half Term with the same format. The 16A team finished the season unbeaten with Annie Flint and Ruby Colebrook finishing the season without dropping a set. Lottie Moffat and Milly Robertson were also very successful only dropping one set. With these pairs moving to Senior teams next year, exciting times are ahead.

The U16B team also finished the season unbeaten, Molly Muhoho and Sophia Beglin also finished without dropping a set, as did Freya Embley and her partner, Alice Bryant.

The U16C team fought very hard during the matches, and although they did not have an outright win, they did pick up some sets.

In summary, this Year Group have all worked very hard. Let's not forget that in 2020 they were not in School in the Summer Term due to Covid, so some very strong partnerships have been formed in a fairly short time. The commitment to and the enthusiasm for tennis that they have shown during off season has been first class, and I congratulate them all on their achievements this season.

Junior Tennis Colours were awarded to: Annie Flint, Ruby Colebrook, Lottie Moffat, Milly Robertson, Aurora Flanagan, Sophie Lloyd, Sophia Beglin, Molly Muhoho, Freya Embley and Alice Bryant.

**John Skinner**



## U15A

The girls have had an excellent season winning six of the seven matches played throughout the term. The team has been consistent with Maddie Baker and Frederica Hodges playing 1st pair in every match. Out of 21 sets played they won 19 with some excellent battles against Oundle, Bradfield and Rugby in particular. The 2nd pair of Dominie Dubsy and Tara Fox contributed to the victories with some ferocious serves and volleys and clinching an important set in the Oundle fixture to give us a 5-4 win. Gwen Grovit and Emelia Brett were an incredible 3rd pair producing their best tennis when they defeated the Bradfield 1st pair 6-4. Their understanding on court made them tough to play against and they were always willing to try out skills learnt in training. It has been a pleasure to coach them all!

**James Freeman**



## U15B

The girls have had a good season with some great victories over St Edward's (9-0), Tudor, Bloxham (9-0), Rugby and Marlborough. All three pairs (Ally Ter Haar/ Leyla Baser, Milly Davis/Arianna Hay and Mila Ratcliff/ Poppy Lawson Johnston) have contributed at crucial times; they have worked hard at training, and it has been fantastic to see them all improve over the course of the term.

They had a tough 4-5 loss against Oundle but bounced back to beat both Rugby and Marlborough showing their competitive spirit. All six girls are good tennis players and will be valuable next year as U16s.

**James Freeman**





## U15C

The girls started the term with strong wins against St Edward's, Tudor and Bloxham.

Eleven girls have made up the C squad over the various matches, although as the term progressed we generally produced a team of Orla Wates/Erin Perez Quane, India Gordon/Minty Orchard and Iona Clarke/Sandrine Van Grembergen.

They had a tough encounter with Oundle losing 0-9 but bounced back with an excellent victory over Rugby beating them by the same score. I hope that they will all carry on playing at U16 level.

**John Skinner**



## U15D

The squad comprised of seven players and although there were only two fixtures, some of the girls also played some C team tennis throughout the term. They had a tough match against Oundle but were superb in the game against Rugby when they won 8-1. They have trained well and all girls have noticeably improved throughout the season.

**John Skinner**

## U14A

The U14A team have had an excellent season, finishing their season at 40-32 which is an impressive result. The team consisted of Tabitha Acher, Millie Colebrook, Rose Dubsky, Poppy Wates, Tatiana Riviere, Layla Keable and Sassy Hall.

The girls started their season with an impressive 7-2 win over St Edward's. Millie and Tabi won all three games 6-0, Poppy and Tabi also didn't lose a game. The following weekend, the girls travelled to Bloxham where Layla and Rose kept up the winning streak and didn't lose a set; 6-3 to Stowe. They had narrow losses (5-4) to both Tudor and Oundle, but Millie and Tabi kept their winning streak not losing a game. Poppy and Tati had two outstanding games against Tudors 1st and 2nd pair and Oundle's 3rd pair, as did Layla and Sassy against Oundle's 2nd pair.

Winchester House then came to Stowe for a friendly and the girls won 8-1; impressive games all around for the girls. Next, away to Bradfield, the girls displayed excellent strength and determination but couldn't come away with the win, losing 6-3. Another excellent performance from the girls, Layla and Tati held their 1st pair to 6-4 and Millie and Tabi's winning streak came to an end losing 6-4 to their 1st pair as well.

The last two fixtures were noteworthy, a 5-4 win over Rugby, with Millie and Tabi back on winning ways and Tati and Laylas a notable win. Finally, a loss to Marlborough, although Millie and Tabi came back from 0-4 to win 6-5 to end the season. Well done to all the girls for their great season.

**Rebecca Ailles**



## U14B

The U14B team had a tough fixture list but it didn't faze them, having three impressive wins over St Edward's (6-3), Bloxham (9-0) and Rugby and narrow losses to Tudor, Oundle, Bradfield and Marlborough.

As the U14A team did, they lost out to both Tudor Hall and Oundle 5-4, but there were notable games such as Layla Keable and Sassy

Hall's unbeaten streak, and Bella Timmis and Kezia Hammond beating Tudors 1st pair in a tie break as well as Rose Dubsy and Tillys Speir's wins at Oundle.

The Bs then faced Bradfield; Arabella Williams and Bella Timmis had three incredible games all ending in a tie break and Sienna Wilson and Annabel Hussey beat their 2nd pair 6-2. Sadly, Bradfield came away with the win. Rugby came to Stowe for an incredible fixture game. Bella and Kezia produced a notable victory over their 1st pair and all three pairs recorded wins over their 3rd pair, giving Stowe the victory 5-4. Bel and Bella had an impressive win over Marlborough's 1st pair 6-5 but the other games were close losses meaning we couldn't finish the season with a win.

Well done to all the girls this season.

**Rebecca Ailles**



## U14C & D

The U14C team had tough a start against Tudor losing 8-1 but Amber Gaskell-Brown and Elena Rickmers picked up an impressive victory of 6-1. They then faced Oundle where they just came short again, but Kezia Hammond and Izzy Harris had a big win against their 3rd pair as did Jemima Gross and Amber.

Next, they faced Rugby in the heat and won 5-4, Sofia Comino and Gina Longsdon won 6-1 against their 2nd pair and all three pairs beat their 3rd pair. Finally, the girls faced Marlborough with notable wins from Phoebe Gartside and Elena beating their 1st and 3rd pair as did Layla Keable and Amber. Leaving their score at 4-5 to Marlborough. Well done to all the girls this season.

The D team were the only team to face Oundle and win, beating them 5-4. This was an incredible victory as they played one game per round as American doubles, well done to Nada Shamsuddin and Evie Mae Meades for beating their first pair 6-4, Alba Sunderland and Immy Smith for winning 2/3 and Gaia Mesonero-Perez for stepping up and winning two games.

The U14Ds later faced Rugby which was a test in the heat, but it did not phase them, Domino Flint Wood and Izzy Harris only dropped two games all day winning (6-0, 6-1, 6-1). Immy who was paired Alba (6-0, 6-0, 6-3) and Nada who was paired with Evie Mae (6-4, 6-1, 6-4) won 9-0.

Congratulations to all the girls who played.

**Rebecca Ailles**



## 1st VI

Archie Burnet Captained the team superbly this season and played at 1st pair with Ben Hartigan and occasionally Milo Riviere. Archie and Ben had contrasting styles, with Archie always on 'full throttle' and going for his shots with enthusiasm and Ben being more measured and a wonderful scrambling player. They ended the season with a winning scoresheet and led the Senior tennis training sessions with good humour and positive energy.

The second pair was made up of Michael Spencer and Atticus Cobb. They finished with the best win:loss ratio this season and were an impressive sight when they were in the zone, with both players favouring baseline shot making and with good reason, as they could hit winners from any position at the back of the court. Being good friends, they had a strong bond and will go on to be a real force on the circuit next season.

The next pair in the 1st team saw Fifth Former, Arin Chatsuwon and Fourth Former, Bear Hewlett team together to great effect; capable of dazzling tennis when they were on form. Both players hit a very heavy ball and have well balanced games. They have excellent potential and will be part of the 1st team for another two years at least, so we look forward to seeing what heights they can reach as they harness their raw power and add further tactical understanding of doubles tennis.

In the end the 1st team had a winning season, beating Radley, Watford Grammar and Bloxham and losing a close game to St Edward's and being second best to Bradfield.

**Craig Sutton**



## 2nd VI

The 2nd VI should be congratulated for having an unbeaten season, winning away at St Edward's, then beating Bradfield and Bloxham at home. Well done to Jayden Preko and Ben Li, George Hopkinson-Woolley and Darius Shirazi and the Fifth Form pair of Daniel Flames and Jonty Fraser. These pairs trained on the lovely Shop Courts with the 1st team, so were very much involved with the daily training programme and they all contributed significantly to a great season overall.

In the second half of term the boys' teams combined with the girls to play mixed tennis, which was a great success, and allows a somewhat more gentle atmosphere to the Inter-School matches.

**Craig Sutton**



## U16A & B

With GCSEs on the horizon, the U16 boys' tennis squad faced a short block of three home fixtures before taking their study leave.

First up, the U16As were up against Watford Grammar School for Boys, which they convincingly beat 4-0, with

both pairs playing some dominant tennis, (including a tie-break) in glorious conditions.

Our Stoics then faced a strong Bloxham School outfit, with more tightly contested matches between evenly matched teams ending in a 2-7 loss for the U16As but a 6-3 win for the U16Bs. Our Stoics were on the wrong side of a few tie-breakers, showcasing the competitive nature of this fixture, unfortunately our players lacking the composure at times to finish game and match points.

Finally, Stowe faced one of the top tennis schools in the country, Bradfield College. Once again, we were able to stay close but ultimately faded away in key matches and lost 3-6 in U16As (three pairs) and 1-5 in U16Bs (two pairs). Despite the somewhat mixed results, there was some quality tennis on display and several players impressed by their attendance and playing style. Our wider U16 squad is detailed below, with several pupils also featuring for the 1st and 2nd VI at Senior level.

Squad: A Chatsuwon, B Hewlett, D Flames, J Fraser, M Broom-Smith, N Goodrich, R Goldie, A Gee, K Rotov, V Klet, Z Willner, M Cullens, B Read, N Gaichenia and J Hayes.

**Stuart Logier**



## U15A

**Played 6 | Won 4 | Lost 2**

The U15As had a successful tennis season. They comfortably beat St Edward's to start the year on the front foot and continued to show dominate displays against Bloxham and Watford Grammar.

The players then faced Bradfield College, who gave the pupils a completely different challenge, both physically and mentally. I believe the experience of playing Bradfield benefited the development of these young players who rose to the difficult test.

The final fixture against Radley on Saturday 25 June showcased how far these players have developed this year. It was a fantastic spectacle with all matches being competitive and the Stoics showcasing their Tennis in front of a good home crowd.

**James Freeman**



## U15B

**Played 4 | Won 2 | Lost 2**

The U15Bs had some tough fixtures this year and did themselves proud against tough opposition. As the season progressed the level of tennis visibly improved and was highlighted through a massive performance against Radley.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching the U15Bs this year as every match was entertaining to watch. As the season progressed the team gained more consistency in their performances. All pupils involved in the Bs represented the School brilliantly.

**James Freeman**



## U14A & B

A formidable tennis season from a highly committed, dependable and skilled team.

As the season progressed so did the quality of the games played both home and away.

Amongst the highlights were the fixtures against Bedford, Bradfield and Rugby Schools. Impeccable sportsmanship was a constant from everyone in both the A and the B teams, but was even more prominent when dealing with our heavier losses like the one against Radley College.

A special mention goes to Sam Percy who clearly has a promising tennis future ahead of him.

I wish to express my thanks to all the players that took part and made Tennis such an enjoyable Summer Term fixture at Stowe.

**Luis Fuentes Olea**

# Cycling

Mountain bikers returned for the Michaelmas Term 2021 enthused and ready to develop their skills further. An intensive set of technical sessions took up most of the term and we worked on vital skills such as cornering and body weight distribution when negotiating different off-road terrains and features. These certainly had the desired effect as both confidence and abilities improved.

After several years of seeking a suitable venue and trying out different locations, an unused area at the Bourbon was identified for mountain biking. External professional advice helped design a technical course with a return lane using the earth from the constructed Golf Course. Bit by bit, a team of dedicated Stoics, Oliver Bicknell, Henry Clare, Jack Robbins, Toby Tyler and Oscar Dimpleby, with the help of Mr Jones, have worked hard to construct features such as tabletops, berms and rollers using hand tools and wheelbarrows. The jumps and features built so far have already been put to good use and helped prepare riders further for courses elsewhere.

Accompanied by Mr Rose, Stowe's first ever mountain bike trip took place at Rushmere Country Park, in Leighton Buzzard in February where riders explored all

the trails and the jump park. The venue provided an excellent and local opportunity to do video analysis as well and for Henry Clare to demonstrate his impressive skills.

Stowe's very own purpose-built studio is now completed and up and running with the recent purchase of five more spin bikes and the installation of strip lighting. Stoics across all age groups have been making great use of this facility on a daily basis, led by a range of Staff, all of whom have been motivating the spinners with the help of some loud music. Dr Ferrero has set the standard as Stowe's very own professional Spin Instructor, creating her own spin sessions, playlists and positive enthusiasm that has inspired Stoics to come back for more.

The longer daylight hours of the Summer Term enabled Stoics to also enjoy social rides on the roads in the area while practising the ability to ride safely and in groups. Alex Gu, Albert Wang and William Harvey have flown the flag for the road cyclists in the Summer Term and have become more accomplished riders as a result.

**Chris Grimble**



# Cricketer

## 1st XI & U17 XI

The 1st XI's season kicked off with a pre-season tour to Eastbourne with fixtures against Harrow, Eastbourne College, Trent College and Dauntsey's. The Harrow match was abandoned and there was a narrow loss off the last ball to Eastbourne College, but the team put in good performances against Dauntsey's and Trent College. Against Trent College the team were indebted to a 124 run opening partnership between Oscar Watson and Ewan Hughes Rowlands - both scoring fifties. There was also a 20 ball fifty from Aadi Sharma to help set up an imposing score of 226. In reply, Trent scored 154 with Wilf Pickard and Oscar Watson taking three wickets each.

Also, as part of the pre-season matches Stowe played Marlborough and a thrilling, if scrappy contest, saw the 1st XI win by 5 runs. Oscar Watson was again in the runs, but it was Captain Ali Short who scored the major score of 73. In reply, Angus Howard proved the most effective bowler taking four wickets, with Will Jenden and Oscar Watson also taking a couple each.

The first Saturday of term brought Uppingham in the first game of the newly formed David Capel Cup. A good bowling performance saw Stowe bowl out Uppingham for 149 with Aadi Sharma taking three wickets, Harvey Julyan two, Angus Howard two and Oscar Watson two. In reply, Oscar Watson and Wilf Pickard both scored fifties and the 1st XI won by 4 wickets despite a couple of late wickets.

In the first round of the National U17 competition the team comfortably beat Bedford School, after Stowe racked up 223 for two in their 30 overs, thanks to fifties from Aadi Sharma and Ewan Hughes Rowlands in a 115-run opening partnership. In reply, Bedford were bowled out for 151 - Aadi Sharma was the pick of the bowlers with 4 for 26. Bedford would return the compliment a week later when the 1st XI's met in the National T20 competition.

Stowe picked themselves up after this defeat to comprehensively beat Rugby the following day. On a green wicket at Rugby, Stowe bowled first and dismissed Rugby for just over a hundred runs with wickets shared between Aadi Sharma, Wilf Pickard, Angus Howard and Milan Choudree. In reply, the Captain saw the team home with a well-made fifty. There was also a memorable win over Abingdon where Stowe scored an impressive 249 for 5 declared, with a fifty for Aadi Sharma, 80 for Ali Short and 40\* for Will Jenden. In reply, there were three early wickets for Wilf Pickard and one for Harvey Julyan but heading into the last hour the game looked destined for a draw until Will Pickard was re-introduced into the attack. In his first over back he took a hat-trick and turned the game on its head. He picked up one more, Harvey Julyan one and Milan Choudree one to set up victory. Wilf Pickard finishing with 7 wickets for 42 runs.

To finish off the Half Term Stowe beat the Old Stoics

on Speech Day. The 1st XI restricted the Old Stoics to 125 in their twenty overs and these were knocked off in 12 overs thanks to a 33 ball fifty from Ewan Hughes Rowlands. The first Saturday after Half Term the team travelled to Bedford Modern School and, after winning the toss and electing to bat, scored an impressive 350 from their 40 overs. Aadi Sharma scored 132, Ali Short 98\* and Ewan Hughes Rowlands also scored a fifty. BMS were never in the chase and reached 165 for 8. Wilf Pickard broke his finger in this game to add to a long list of injuries to the Stowe seam attack with Ewan Hughes Rowlands (stress fracture), Angus Howard (broken wrist) and Will Jenden (side strain) all unable to bowl.

The Saturday fixture against Oakham was washed out after six overs but Milan Choudree had taken two wickets in this time. Stowe did travel to Oakham the following Tuesday to play the Regional Final of the U17 National Plate. A brilliant century from Ewan Hughes Rowlands set up a large innings total of 219 in 30 overs. In reply, Oakham were reduced to 37 for 5 with Harvey Julian (3-21) and Milan Choudree (2-21) doing the damage. Aadi Sharma completed the job taking 4 for 30 in his six overs.

Despite losing to Oundle, Stowe learned during this week that they had won the first edition of the David Capel Cup, with six points gained from the wins against Rugby and Uppingham. Fortunately for Stowe, Uppingham beat Oundle in the last game of the tournament to hand Stowe the overall win.

After a couple of years with no overseas teams visiting the UK, Stowe played Paarl Boys' High School from South Africa, in a T20 match. A good bowling performance restricted Paarl to just 128 in their 20 overs. In reply, Stowe opened with Brendan Coetzee, a Paarl High pupil, who had been over for the Summer Term. He scored a useful 20 and put on 74 with Ali Short who made a 35 ball fifty. Aadi Sharma (21\*) and Will Jenden (24\*) saw the team home.

The last Saturday of term was a narrow loss away at

Berkhamsted. Stowe bowled Berkhamsted out for 158 thanks to 6 for 27 from opening bowler Harvey Julian. In reply, Stowe could only manage 136 but there were good contributions from Will Jenden (26), Aadi Sharma (47) and Ali Short (33).

During the last week of term the U17 XI started the week with a two-day game versus St Joseph's College, Ipswich. The match started late due to rain and the Stowe XI were inserted on to a damp green pitch. Batting was tough and Stowe lost regular wickets as they battled up to 169 all out. St Joseph's ended the day well placed on 68 for 1 at the close of play. Stowe knew they needed early wickets the next day and this they got through Harvey Julian (3 for 48), Milan Choudree (2 for 20), Will Jenden (2 for 37) and Third Former - Archie Lazarus-Ingham (2 for 11). St Joseph's 145 all out and Stowe had a first innings lead. Quick runs were the order of the day in Stowe's innings to try and set up a chance of a win. This they got with a fifty run opening partnership between Freddie Timmis and Ewan Hughes Rowlands and Will Jenden (36) and Aadi Sharma (25\*) also contributing. Stowe scored 185 leaving 35 overs for St Joseph's to chase 210. In the end it was a stalemate, with St Joseph's finishing on 106 for 6. Aadi Sharma the pick of the bowlers with three wickets.

The next day the U17 XI took on Shenfield in the Quarter-Final of the National Plate competition and another brilliant century from Ewan Hughes Rowlands set up a commanding innings total of 230. Shenfield didn't get close and Stowe now progress to the Semi-Final against The King's School, Worcester which will be played in September.

On the last day of cricket week the U17s played in a 100 ball competition. Their first game was against Harrow and a destructive opening partnership between Ewan Hughes Rowlands and Aadi Sharma set Stowe up for their total of 137 in their 100 balls. Stowe then put in one of their best bowling and fielding displays of the Summer. With opening bowlers Will Jenden and Harvey Julian taking five wickets between them in their opening



burst. Good spells from Milan Choudree and Aadi Sharma followed and, despite a late rally from Harrow, Stowe won comfortably. Stowe couldn't quite hit the same heights again versus Malvern College in the Final with some very tired legs, but they fought hard to the end.

The first week of the holidays saw Stowe at Shrewsbury School for the prestigious Silk Trophy Competition. Stowe got off to a great start by beating Shrewsbury in the first game. Stowe scored 282 for 6 in their fifty overs. Openers Oscar Watson and Ewan Hughes Rowlands added 60 for the opening partnership and this set the stage for Aadi Sharma to play the knock of the season with 112 from just 123 balls. Ali Short also played an aggressive hand scoring 63 off 54. Freddie Timmis (10\*) and Harvey Julyan (13\*) added some useful runs at the end. In reply, Stowe kept it tight early and there were wickets for Harvey Julyan (2-25), Milan Choudree and Wilf Pickard. A partnership developed at over a run a ball but Aadi Sharma came on just before drinks and took two quick wickets to leave Stowe in control. Off spinner Oscar Watson then took three for 46 as the batters came at the Stowe attack with Stowe eventually bowling out Shrewsbury for 208.

Eton followed the next day with Stowe bowling Eton out for 206 with Harvey Julyan taking four wickets. In reply, Stowe couldn't quite get a significant partnership together and fell 30 runs short. Ali Short (28) and Wilf Pickard (38) were the pick of the batsman. It was a similar batting story in the last game against Rondebosch with Stowe bowled out for 126 on a difficult

pitch. Stowe made Rondebosch work for their win though taking five wickets.

Between the U17 XI and the 1st XI there was 27 matches played with Stowe winning 17, drawing 2 and only losing 8 (with two abandoned). Only two Upper Sixth played regularly in the 1st XI, there were a plethora of injuries, so the team did well with a young side, and Captain Ali Short must take immense credit for the way he marshaled the troops throughout the Summer. His brilliant wicket keeping also needs a special mention. The team has the U17 National Plate Semi-Final to look forward to come September.

In terms of individual performances, Aadi Sharma finished the season with over a thousand runs, including two centuries, and he also took 42 wickets. Outside School, Aadi also made his Northants 2nd XI and Bucks 1st XI debut and has been selected for the Midlands' U17 XI a year young. Ewan Hugh Rowlands fell just short of a thousand runs - scoring 980, and Harvey Julyan took the most wickets with 44. Ali Short himself scored 733 runs and averaged over 40.

I am indebted to Phil Arnold, who somehow fitted in the 1st XI training and matches around his Houseparent commitments and to Andy O'Connor who assisted with the U17 XI. Steve Curley, Kevin Beasley and the Ground Staff Team must take huge credit for the quality of the squares and the nets - they have never played better, and it was good to see Northants 2nd XI back playing on the North Front.

**James Knott**



## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI enjoyed a successful Summer of cricket with several highlights throughout the season.

Starting with an emphatic win away at Uppingham the team found form early and displayed their abilities with both the bat and the ball. The star of the show on this occasion, not for the last time, was Fifth Former Will

Harrison. The left arm off spinner took a five-wicket haul after cleaning up the middle order, just when they looked like taking control of the game. Harrison delivered more of the same in the next match with a second five wicket haul in as many matches, this time in a win against Oundle.

Batting highlights throughout the season often came from top order batsman Ollie Hartigan. Hartigan would often leave his mark on the opposition while in the field with some light verbal contributions. Thankfully these would be backed up when taking to the crease. A number of scores in the 60s and 70s contributed to wins against Abingdon and Rugby.

Will Durnnell and Wyatt Fell also chipped in with runs in a more patient fashion. Captain George Palin and opening bowler Conrad Spencer bowled efficiently and took crucial wickets throughout the season.

Debuts from 3rd XI players such as Wilf Chisnall, Charlie Cousins, Noah Cowan and Henri Burditt were very welcome towards the end of the season. Henri Burditt with a particularly special piece of fielding, running out the on form Berkhamstead batsman, may be up there as one of the highlights of the season.

**Bailey Dingley & Gavin Moffat**





## 3rd XI

The 3rd XI had an indifferent year. It started in the nets looking over at Mr Floyd and Mr Peppiatt's nets and thinking "there's a player there I'll take him, and him, and him..." Unfortunately, Mr Dingley (2nd XI) then saw these players and said I'll take them please!

We comprehensively lost our first match followed by a comprehensive win, but then our remaining matches

all hung on a knife edge until the dying embers of each match. A drop catch here, a run out there, every match was on the wire, however unfortunately, we couldn't quite get the winning momentum.

There were certainly a few stand out moments for me, Charlie Cousins apologising for not being able to hit the ball, yet still ended on a run a ball 50. Joe Atkinson complaining a ball that flew over the batsman's head by nearly a meter shouldn't have been a wide. Ed Collins 3 wickets in 4 balls, but most of all I enjoyed the smiling faces at all training sessions and matches even if someone's salmon sliders were never the best catch of the day.

For Player of the Season, I couldn't choose between George Carpmael and Joe Atkinson. Most Improved Player was Charlie Cousins but a special shout out to Luke Ralph and Ollie Lane in Fifth Form who didn't look out of place.

**Andy Pynegar**

## 4th XI

The 4th XI played five fixtures up to Half Term in the Summer Term with their best result coming against Uppingham where they won a very tight match by 5 runs. Charlie Cousins was the star with the bat - scoring 56. He also took 3 wickets from his four overs. Special mention also goes to Luke Ralph who only conceded 7 runs from his four overs and also took a wicket.

There were also close games versus Oundle and Rugby, but these games went the way of the opposition.

Many thanks to all of the players who represented the 4th XI during the Summer.

**Paul Floyd**



## 5th XI

**Played 4 | Won 1 | Lost 3**

After two long years, the 5th XI were finally let loose on some competitive games and it is fair to say that the statistics do not accurately reflect the enthusiasm and commitment that this squad showed in the four matches they played, all against some big name opponents.

The season got off to a flying start with an away fixture against Uppingham, and this really was a nail-biter. Things didn't look good when Stowe found themselves on 27-3 after 7 overs, despite some solid runs from Henry Burditt, Josh Hutchings and Henry Goodwin-Hudson. However, David Stirling and Paddy Potts came in to steady the ship and put on 57 runs between them, contributing to our final score of 115-7. After some excellent bowling from Toby Buck, Nathan Meens and Henry Burditt, the game ended with Stowe ahead by seven runs.

Alas, we were not to reach these giddy heights again, and Oundle, Radley and Abingdon proved too much for the team. Oundle and Radley, it has to be said, won

fairly convincingly (although Wilf Wyatt's 58 against Radley is certainly worth a mention), but Abingdon was a much closer affair. Will Garrett, Tom Martineau and Valentine Smiley all put in a good stint on the bowling, and Abingdon finished 141-8 after 20 overs - a stretch, but doable. There were solid batting performances from the team but it was Bertie Fountain who led the charge, scoring an impressive 49 runs. In the end though it wasn't quite enough, and Stowe finished 137 all out, with Abingdon winning by four runs. What made this match so memorable though was the inclusion (I believe for the first time) of two female players, Elizabeth Knott and Izzy Goldrick. It was excellent to see both of these players out there and the positive spirit in which the boy and girls worked together - perhaps a precedent set for the future?

Thank you to all the 5th XI players for their contributions, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the crease again next year!

**James Peppiatt**



## Junior Colts A

The Junior Colts A cricket team had a very busy Summer playing 19 matches across a nine week period. The boys kicked off their season with an impressive double win against St Edward's during the Easter break. The first match was played over 40 overs which they won by seven wickets, they then took a nail-biting win the following day in a T20, winning by one wicket.

The first Saturday match of the season saw Stowe

travel to Uppingham and claim an impressive away win. James Bristow was excellent with bat and ball and Miki Khursheed bowled a brilliant last over to seal the win. The JCA boys lost to Magdalen College School, Oxford in a T20 midweek fixture but bounced back after the Exeat break to beat Chesham Grammar School in the first round of the county cup. Stowe struggled against Abingdon the following day but picked themselves up to win six matches on the bounce.

The first of these was in the County Cup Semi-Final against The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe and next was a very close T20 win against local rivals Rugby School. Ed Mercer excelled with the bat. Stowe then defeated Wellingborough and Bedford Modern before winning the County Cup Final against Dr Challoner's Grammar School.

As the season drew to a close, the JCA XI played three matches in three days and narrowly lost all three! A huge effort from a fantastic group of players led by Captain James Bristow. Ed Mercer also had a great season as an all rounder and behind the wicket.

**Ben Scott**

## Junior Colts B

Finally, the Cricket season arrived at the start of the Summer Term, with a lot of anticipation and a full schedule. The boys were ready and keen to get going. For the Coaches, it was time to observe and decide the teams. Junior Colts B works closely with the As and Cs, with players often being promoted or going to the lower tier for game time.

The first game of the season was contested on a perfect afternoon away at Uppingham, in slightly overcast conditions with a bit of swing on the pitch. Stowe bowled Uppingham for 66, with Huw Wilson and Louis Holland-Bosworth doing the primary damage. Huw put a stellar batting performance with Theodor Ankarcrona to win the game without losing a single wicket. This was an excellent performance from a good team who played well together, the best attitude I have seen on the pitch by any previous groups. This set the tone for the season, with Huw Wilson leading the team as a Captain.

The win in the first game was followed by another brilliant win in a T20 at home against Bloxham, beating them by 91 runs. This was exciting, two out of two wins, the questions were already being thought, "Can we win them all?", "How well will the team improve?", "Can this be one of the great seasons?".

But things did not materialise as expected, and we lost the next game, and the next, with two more losses to follow. The game against Magdalen College School was close, whereas, in others, it felt like we did not turn up, or we were beaten by a more organised and skilled team. We turned around our fortunes, winning two more games before losing the season's final match to Berkhamsted School.



There were many notable performances throughout the season, William Otter and Louis Holland-Bosworth both managing a half-century each, four-wicket hauls by Huw Wilson and Louis Holland-Bosworth, memorable performances on the field by Calon Heaven, Zoraiz Mohmand inspiring wicket-keeping by Harrison Debbage-Price with two stumpings and the catch of the season by Louis Holland-Bosworth in the final game.

The Junior Colts Bs finished the season with four wins and five losses. They started and ended the season well, developing with each game and gaining valuable experience to take forward to the next season. This was a good team with many talented individuals who played every game with a solid attitude to play this beautiful game of Cricket.

**Matthew Burch**

## Junior Colts C



The boys U15C cricket team enjoyed a strong, if mixed, season.

After the season began with a hefty loss to mighty Marlborough the team bounced back well, with fantastic characters to turn to everywhere on the pitch. Under the beaming positivity of Captain Oliver Acors, the team was comprised of not only quality, but great personality, with each teammate making their own stamp on each match to create a fantastic team spirit. Shree 'no-drops' Chintapalli, Sam 'whispering' White, Sasha 'stone-faced' Mazurek, and Maxwell 'always there' LaGrande were just some of the exceptional individuals all pushing toward the same goal.

Narrow losses came against Rugby and Abingdon, but the team put in some commanding performances to take big wins against Bloxham, Bedford and St Edward's.

Within a formidable team, Amirkhan Adyrbek and William Otter managed to stand out with their respective wicket and run hauls.

**Dominic Blackmore-Beales**



## Yearlings A

**Played 21 | Won 12 | Lost 7 | Abandoned 2**

This was an action-packed season for a strong and committed Yearling A team and we were lucky enough to complete 19 out of our 21 fixtures. The season was bookended with two excellent festivals; there was a pre-season 'round-robin', held at Stowe, with St Edward's and Overstone Cricket Club joining us, and we finished the season with an enjoyable trip to Haileybury.

The main aim for the squad was for everyone to enjoy their cricket, with a focus on continual improvement and high effort levels in training and in matches.

This group of players were a pleasure to coach and displayed excellent commitment throughout the term. The knock-on effect of this was some excellent team performances; there were convincing wins against Oundle, Bloxham and Bedford Modern, all by over 100

runs. There were also many tightly fought encounters, with wins against Rugby (by 8 runs), The Royal Grammar Schools High Wycombe (by 9 runs) and Northants U13 (by 6 runs). During each of these matches the teams strength-in-depth really told.

The excellent team performances were complimented by many excellent individual performances with the bat, ball and in the field. Connor Lawford should be commended for two excellent centuries; he scored 125 against Bedford Modern and 111 against Sherbourne in the Haileybury Festival. Probably our most consistent batsman was Zac Julyan, who scored three half centuries as well as

one for the U15 team in the Cup. Archie Lazarus-Ingman should also be credited for his Captaincy of the team; where he led by example with bat and ball. There were many impressive bowling performances throughout the season, with a notable effort from Tristan Dickinson, taking a five-wicket haul against Haileybury.

This is a group of players who have a very bright future as a team and as individual players. Their strength in depth is excellent and they should be credited for the impressive way that they have conducted themselves throughout the season; they have lost gracefully and have been humble in success. Not only this, but they have been great group to coach. Mr O'Connor and I look forward to seeing how they develop and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the boys for making the season so enjoyable.

**Paddy Dias & Andrew O'Connor**

## Yearlings B

The Yearlings B team had a fantastic season and with a bit more luck and some tighter bowling would have gone unbeaten!

The first games were against Uppingham, Bloxham and Magdalen College School in quick succession and the Yearlings B team took lofty opposition in their stride. With solid batting by Brooks Stevens and Felix Bentley opening and being Captained by Zeb Hodgson the boys won all three games convincingly (97 runs, 6 wickets and 6 wickets). The team played well together, and an effective unit was coming to the fore.

Selection is always fluid in this age group and several players gained the chance of being promoted to the A team. Whoever represented the Bs however, played well and earned their place. Luke Letchford, Toby Browne, Tom de Glanville and Hayden Smith bowled consistently well and bagged wickets regularly.

After a very narrow loss to a well-drilled Abingdon, the Yearling Bs then went on a five-game winning streak, culminating with an incredible display at Bedford Modern. Stowe were bowled out for just 88 and it looked like the writing was on the wall. On a small pitch, an epic fielding and bowling display, led by wicket keeper Oscar Dunipace, emerging pace bowler Tomisin Ibitoye



and the ever-reliable William Heaven. Bedford were eventually bowled out for 78 and celebrations erupted in the field.

A narrow defeat in the last game of the season was undeserved after the quality the boys showed throughout.

Special thanks should go to Mr Smit Chitre who showed that some Americans understand and love the game of cricket and who put huge amounts of time and effort into coaching and improving each individual player.

**Tom Elwell**

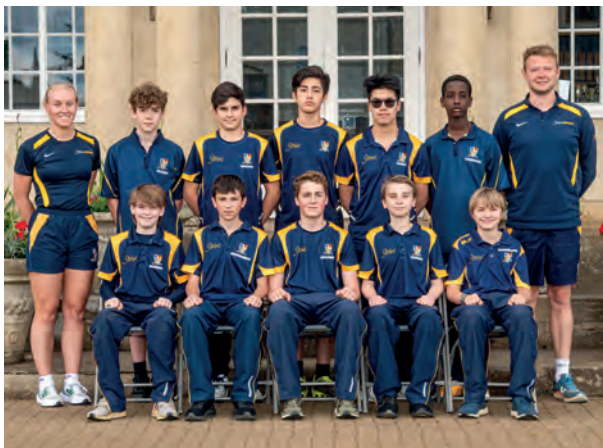


## Yearlings C

A successful season for the Yearlings C XI, winning over 50% of fixtures and playing the game in a good spirit. Highlights include victories over Uppingham and Oundle. Good all-round performances this season from George Emerson, Layth Elmrbati and Oliver How. Standout batting from William Gorton and Harry Fane alongside bowling from Algy Camroux-Pearmund and Charlie Hodges.

**Matt Teasdale & Stephen Whitby**

## Yearlings D



The Yearling Ds Cricket Team in the 2021/22 season was a learning experience for all. Even though the boys never quite got a win, their spirits were always high.

Stand out performer Archie MacGowan always led from the front as a steady batter, always helping out his partner. He also stepped in at the wicket and commanded his field.

Anton Poon had success bowling and was reliable to get a couple wickets each game.

Several matches went right down to the last over. The boys will hopefully take the experience gained this year into the Fourth Form and have success in whatever teams they may play for.

**Peter Shepherd**

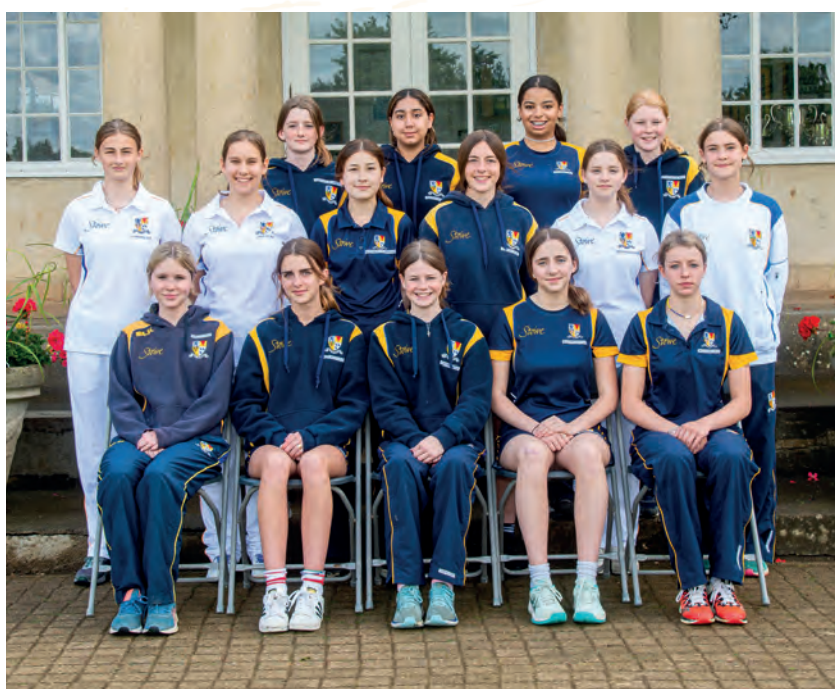


## Senior Girls

The Senior girls' Cricket in the 2021/22 season brought a lot of fun and learning with some tough results throughout the Summer Term. Many of the girls were new to the sport and gave their all and were willing to try their hand at bowling and batting. Some of the stand out performances were as follows: Emily Sutton scoring a half century against Bloxham, Freya Embley consistently batting and bowling, and Lizzie Knott being a very supportive and ever-present wicket keeper.

The team should look forward to the 2022/23 season and will have the experience of this season to draw on and hopefully they can help build an ever-growing girls' Cricket programme at Stowe!

**Peter Shepherd**



## Junior Girls

The Junior girls' season was a truncated due to several games being cancelled due to bad weather. However, each game they did play was a thriller with home and away wins versus Bloxham and a 2 run loss to Kimbolton.

The whole team did really well - often playing against girls older than they were. Special mentions to Bella Timmis and Kitty Howard. Well done girls!

**Simeone Compton**



# GOLF



The past year has been outstanding, with Stowe Golf reaching new heights, the Stowe Golfers have performed at the highest level by winning every regional competition and subsequently progressing to fly the flag in National Final Championships. We also witnessed the official launch of The Stowe Golf Academy when our new state-of-the-art indoor Teaching Studio was unveiled.

The Teaching Studio features the very latest TrackMan radar ball

flight analysis and GASP high-speed cameras and video analysis software.

In September 2021, Stowe qualified to compete in The ISGA World Amateur Independent Schools' Golf Championship at Celtic Manor Golf Club, a former Ryder Cup venue. With our team consisting of Captain Max Faulkner (Upper Sixth, Temple), Ed Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Elliot Strickland (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Miles Dickinson (Fifth Form, Grenville), we performed extremely well and finished in Fourth position out of a total of 19 competing schools from across the UK.

In October 2021, we saw another landmark achievement with Stowe's inaugural female Golf Scholar, Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Lower Sixth, Queen's), receiving an invitation to compete in a Ladies' European Access Tour Professional Golf Tournament at El Prat GC in Spain, whilst still being a 16-year-old amateur golfer. Chanel was also crowned winner of The Sir Nick Faldo Junior Golf Championship.

## The Gerald Micklem Trophy 2022 (March 2022)

The Gerald Micklem Trophy was established in 1954 and is a traditional and extremely prestigious invitational golf tournament played annually at Woking Golf Club, between eight of the top golfing public schools: Stowe, Eton, Harrow, Wellington, Bradfield, Winchester, Charterhouse and Rugby.

Each school team consists of their top five golfers and the format of the event is individual matches of scratch singles matchplay. Since the Championship's inception in 1954, Stowe has won The Micklem 15 times, and we are very proud of such a distinguished record. Stowe's 2022 Micklem team consisted of Max Faulkner (Captain), Edward Davis, Chanel Fontaine-Geary, Elliot Strickland and Miles Dickinson. After a comprehensive victory against The Old Stoic Golf Society, we entered the Championship in high spirits and defeated Bradfield 4-1 in the first round. We then progressed to the Semi-Final and defeated Eton College 4-1, playing some outstanding tournament golf. We were drawn to play Wellington College in the Final and unfortunately were unable to see victory over the line as we lost 3.5 – 1.5. There were some excellent performances throughout a very intense three-day Championship and, as always, Stowe Golfers upheld the true characteristics of the game of golf: honesty, integrity and sportspersonship.



## April 2022

Stowe won the ISGA Regional Championship and progressed to the National Finals at Formby GC in Lancashire where we finished in Sixth place out of a total of 22 competing schools.

## May 2022 - The Stowe Putter

On Sunday 22 May, we were absolutely thrilled to see the return of The Stowe Putter to the sporting calendar. The Putter has a long and distinguished history as being the oldest and most prestigious Prep School Golf Tournament.

The tournament was inaugurated in 1967 when Headmaster, Bob Drayson, conceived the idea of hosting an annual Prep School Golf Tournament. He received instant support from two of Stowe's legendary Walker Cup players, P.B. 'Laddie' Lucas and John Langley, who represented Great Britain and Ireland in the Walker Cup whilst still a schoolboy at Stowe. 'Laddie' Lucas kindly presented The Putter - a classic Andrew Kirkaldy putter of St Andrews design. Over the years, thousands of young budding golfers have locked horns in friendly competition to contest the highly coveted trophy. In 2004, an additional trophy was introduced, the Junior Jigger, for the leading Under 11 competitor.

The Head, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Andrew Hancox and Jeremy Robinson (Guest of Honour) led the Tournament Presentation. The event was a huge success and we eagerly anticipate the return of The Putter next year.

This year's event marked a very special occasion indeed as it was the inaugural Stowe Putter to be played on our new golf course, which was officially opened for play on 17 May 2020. The new course measures over 6,400 yards when played as an 18-hole course and has been carefully designed to nestle into the historic Landscaped Gardens. It covers the area once occupied by the lost village of Lamport: across the rolling hills you will catch glimpses of Cobham's Tower, Stowe Castle, The Gothic Temple, the Temple of Friendship, and the Bourbon Tower (where the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry trained before The Battle of Waterloo). The golf course provides an excellent challenge for golfers of all abilities, with significantly longer and more demanding holes, along with greens constructed in accordance with USGA guidelines.



## June 2022

Stowe won The HMC Regional Foursomes Championship and progressed to the National Finals at Little Aston GC where we finished Fourth place out of eight competing schools.

## Golf Scholars

Edward Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce) competed in the French Boys' Championship, German Boys' Championship, Lagonda Trophy, the English U18 Mixed Championships, the England Boys' U18 Championship (The Carris Trophy), the R&A Boys' Championship and the Peter McEvoy Trophy.

Elliot Strickland (Fifth Form, Grenville) competed in the England Boys' U18 Championship (Carris Trophy), the R&A Boys' Championship and the Peter McEvoy Trophy. Elliot also won the U18 Northamptonshire County Championship, the U18 Northamptonshire County Match Play Championship and was the youngest player ever to be selected to represent Northamptonshire County Men's 1st Team.

Miki Khursheed (Fourth Form, Bruce) won the Stanmore Golf Club Championship to become the youngest champion in the Club's 129-year history.

Miki also won the U18, U21 and U30 categories at The Middlesex County Golf Championships. This led to his selection to compete in England Golf's U18 National Champion of Champions Tournament at Woodhall Spa.

**Andrew Hancox, Head of Golf**





# Netball

This year has been the first year Stowe Netball entered the Midland League, which was a fantastic opportunity and an increase in level of competition. Each weekend across the netball term, five Senior teams represented Stowe. The introduction of Megan Thorne (Old Stoic and Wasps Super League Training Partner) created an insight into the Elite Performance Pathway and brought knowledge of the tactical side.

The Junior sides had a fantastic trip to a Super League game watching Wasps versus Manchester Thunder, which was a fantastic opportunity to watch six England National team players perform. The Stoics have taken part in many tournaments including the National competitions of Sport Magazine and 'Sisters in Sport', alongside County and Regional tournaments.

Because of Stowe's netball success, the U16s have been invited to the U16A competitions with the nationally run competition 'Sisters in Sport', which only the top ten school teams in the country are invited to. For those Seniors leaving Stowe, I wish you the best and hope you continue to enjoy playing netball.

## 1st Team

The 1st VII team had their best season to date. Entering into the Midland League provided new opposition and a higher standard of play. This did not phase the 1st team, beating Rugby School for the first time and having convincing wins against Repton and Oundle. The 1st team was led by Captain Ele Blane who challenged the girls in training and put on extra sessions to run through key plays. The girls led the way, start to finish, at The England Netball County Rounds finishing as County Rounds. The team took on local schools including: Aylesbury High, Sir Henry Floyd and 5 Dimensions Academy. This saw the team into the Regional Rounds in Southampton. The team worked tirelessly together coming Fourth in the group stages. There were also some individual stand out performances from Isabelle Kaye representing England U17s at the European Championship. Along with Phoebe Haynes and Lottie Moffat representing U17 Wasps and taking part in the National Club Competition.







**4th Team**



**U15B**



**U15C**

## U15A

U15As had an outstanding Netball term from start to finish. The U15s started their success in October with their first matches in the National Competition. More success was to follow with the U15s making their way through six rounds to reach the Quarter-Finals. This was against The Godolphin and Latymer School and was hosted at Stowe in The Drayson Hall. Both teams were evenly matched going goal for goal right until the final whistle leaving the score as a tie. As it was a draw the teams went straight into golden goal, with the next goal scored taking that team into the Semi-Finals. Stowe came out on top winning 37-36. Stowe once again were the home team for the Semi-Final against Hurstpierpoint College. Stowe were drawing up until half time then Hurst went up another gear and took the win in the second half.



The girls had shown some fantastic team spirit throughout the term and were the Winners of the Midland League coming top ahead of: Oakham, Uppingham, Oundle, Rugby, Repton and Stamford.

## U14A

The U14A team was also involved in the 'Sisters in Sport' competition making it to the second round. They travelled to Cambridge to play against the Stephen Perse School. Working tirelessly for the whole game and working as one defensive unit to overturn the ball from a strong opposition attack, the U14s had a good solid first half, which unfortunately tapered off due to injury and pupils playing out of position. This did not deter the Stoics who were diligent with their attacking play, however it wasn't enough to take them further in the competition.



The U14s had a mixed season with some very close games, in particular against Oundle School with a two-goal deficit. The Stoics showed much improvement throughout out the term and should be proud of the steps they have made.

### Simeone Compton



**U14B**



**U14C**



**U14D & E**

## 1st XI

The 1st XI season was a tale of great promise wounded by cruel misfortune. Twice fixtures were cancelled at the last minute, once on account of tempestuous British weather, and once due to the opposition forgetting to book a coach! Those fixtures that went ahead highlighted the immense attacking verve that exists within the squad, and also betrayed the need for Stowe squads to embrace the maxim that simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.

Our first fixture, on a biting January morning in Bromsgrove, was cause for great optimism. A 1-1 draw against a school whose football tradition outweighs our own is testament to the growth of the sport at Stowe. With the resolute defensive unit of Aaron Hudd, Maxi Pascal, Toby Buck, Tom Martineau and Charlie Keane transforming our goal into a Gibraltar, the more cerebral talents of Lokpobiri, Calabro and Brett were able to weave their subtle magic. Sadly, a last-minute penalty miss was seized upon by the Bromsgrovians, who swept in an equaliser with the last kick of the game.

Shaken, but not stirred, the boys entered the cauldron-like atmosphere of a derby against local rivals Akeley Wood with redress on their minds. What unfolded was a performance of astonishing attacking intent, spearheaded by arch goal-poacher Milan Choudree. The 5-0 score-line was a fitting tribute to their performance, but the boys were left to reflect on what could have been, had their finishing been conducted with a more ice-veined compartment.

Regrettably, the theme of prodigal finishing returned in twin 3-1 defeats to St Edward's and Cokethorpe, with the creative talents of Drake Selby Boddy and Thomas Gibson unable to compensate for the opposition's greater ruthlessness in front of



goal. These fixtures saw the injection of fresh blood into the 1st XI's arteries in the shape of Rory Adams, Wilf Pickard and Artem Kondrashov, players who promise to lead the vanguard of Stowe football's ongoing forward march next season.

The final two fixtures of the season saw the squad engage in more convivial contests against the Old Stoics and the illustrious Staff XI. Whilst the physical advantages enjoyed by the Old Stoics allowed them to squeak to a narrow 5-4 victory, the 1st XI put their beloved teachers, who enjoy no such physical advantages anymore, to the sword and wallowed in the darker arts of the sport in so doing.

Throughout the ups and downs of the season, two players shone as beacons of skill and leadership above all others: Lewin Mullarkey was a paragon of industry and courage in the heart of midfield, striking fear into his opponents with his insatiable appetite for tackling, whilst Jayden Preko served both as the moral compass of the team and its beating heart of technical excellence. These players, as with many mentioned above, will doubtlessly go on to greater things at university and beyond; I thank them for their service and wish them the best of luck.

None of this could have been achieved without the help of Head Coach, Will Gore. His expertise in organising training sessions suited to the needs of the squad have been invaluable, and his willingness to engage in the more prosaic elements of team admin have been greatly appreciated by all.

**Dominic Green**

## 2nd & 3rd XI

The 2nd XI had a beaten season, unfortunately losing five of their six games. Despite this, the boys trained hard and played their hearts out each week but just couldn't get themselves over the line until the final game against Akeley Wood, the local rivals, where they were comfortable 4-0 winners.

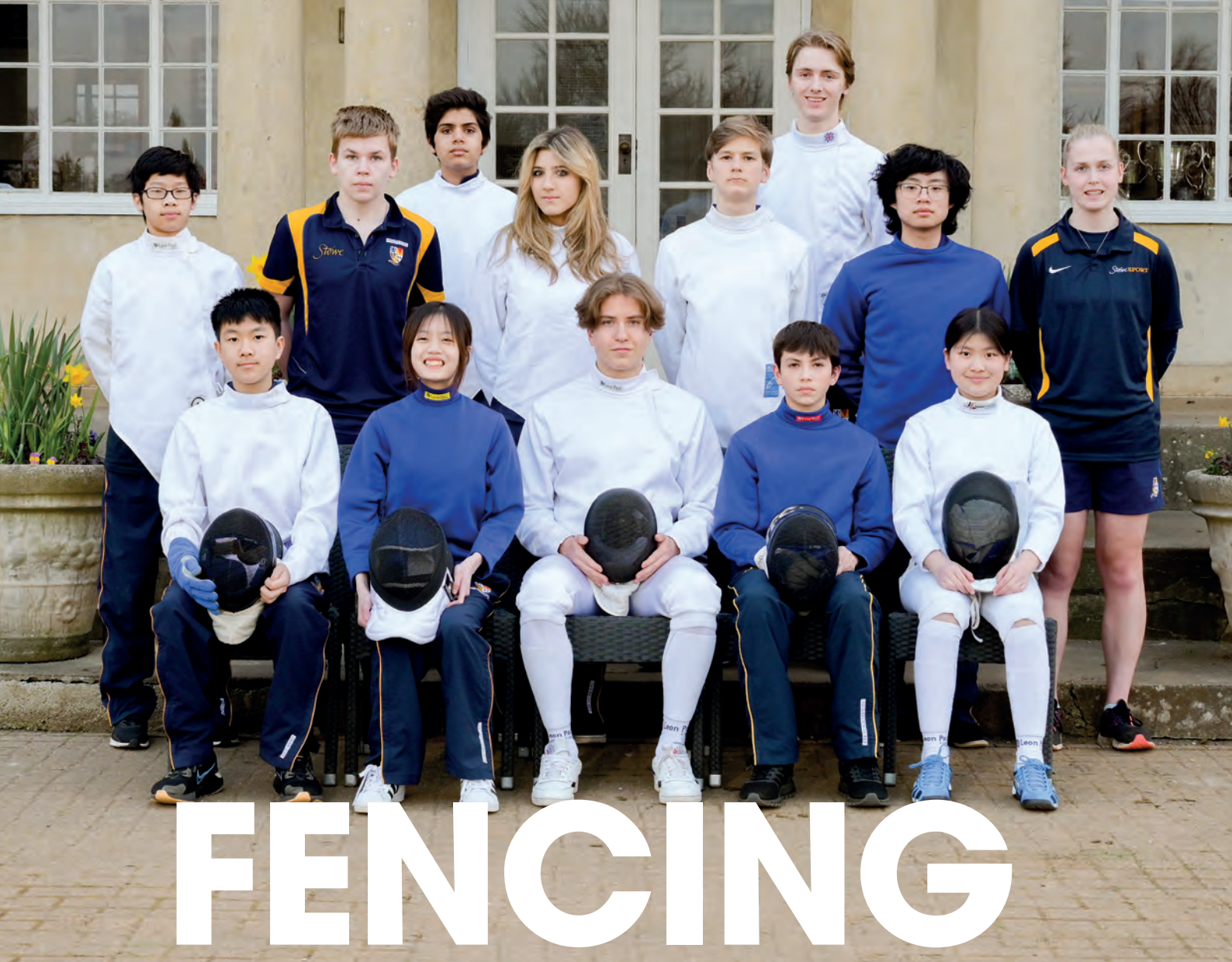
A great way to end the season. Captain Alexander Goulet led the side well and was in charge of a mixture of boys from Fourth Form to Upper Sixth.

There is lots of talent coming through the ranks, and we are looking forward to seeing the 2nd XI's results next season! Well done to all of the boys who represented the team and thank you for all your hard work both on and off the pitch.



The highlight of the 3rd XI football season was surely the thriller at Radley College, where the team secured a last-minute winner to grasp a 3-2 victory against a highly skilled opposition. The team trained well throughout the season and showed excellent ambition and passion for the game.

**Matthew Teasdale**



# FENCING

This year our Fencing team saw a great increase in popularity, much to the delight of Mr Sahota and I, as we were regularly able to put out a girls' and boys' team to each fixture. With consistent training put in by Thanassi Ghertsos, Paul Ostroverhy, Gratian Yatsevitch IV, Grace Haung, and Sofiya Ptychikna, the team were able to improve at each fixture we attended.

One February afternoon, we travelled down to Eton College, Windsor, to see what we were made of. However, Eton's dedicated Fencing salle made it very clear that the Etonians were going to be tough competition. The two Épée teams were up first and trailed by a few hits against a strong side. Both teams thoroughly enjoyed the match, so much so Eton remarked that it was one of the closest they had had for a while. The foilists initially made light work of the competition, scoring numerous hits. There were impressive individual efforts by Rania Embiricos, who took one for the team and stepped up to the piste having never fenced foil before, Paul, who showed an incredible amount of improvement since his first match in November, and Thanassi, whose leadership was exquisite once again.

The highlight of the year was finally being able to showcase our skills in the Marble Hall with an intense

Stowe versus Stowe competition. With the pressure mounting minute by minute as Stoics gathered to watch, the team excelled and put their best foot forward. Our final fixture, against Marlborough College, showed us that hard work and dedication does in fact pay off. Despite suffering a loss, we showed great improvement since our first fixture against Abingdon, and the girls finally got their chance to fence other girls.

Mr Sahota and I have been very impressed this year by the teams' efforts and we are very excited to go into the next academic year with a large team of promising fencers.

2021-2022 Squad: Thanassi Ghertsos (Captain) (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton), Gratian Yatsevitch IV (Third Form, Chandos), Grace Huang (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Jacky Wang (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Rufus Bullock (Third Form, Chandos), Paul Ostroverhy (Third Form, Chandos), Jamie Leelapojsan (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Rania Embiricos (Lower Sixth, West), William Pigott (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Coco Bartoszewski (Third Form, Nugent), Harris Chan (Third Form, Temple), Arsenii Grebenshchikov (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Sofia Ptychikna (Fourth Form, Lyttelton).

**Charlotte Davis**



The Michaelmas Term kicked off with a bit of catch-up, competing in competitions postponed due to Covid from the year before. The squad headed with Bradfield College to Marlborough School to compete in the Tri Cup. Marlborough had a five-year strong hold on the Cup, but with grit and determination Stowe was able to lift the Cup. That was a great coach journey home!

Stowe hosted its annual Stowe Relays and it was delightful to welcome over 100 swimmers to compete in this prestigious event. Success for Stowe came from our U16 girls' team of Phoebe Haynes, Molly Muhoho, Isobel Cox, Charlotte Hall and Hannah Campbell winning Silver in both the Freestyle and Medley Relays.

In February, we saw County representation from Isobel Cox placing Third in the County in the 200m and 400m freestyle. Charlotte Hall qualified for 12 races, winning Gold in both the Freestyle and Medley relays. Hannah Campbell qualified for ten races, Larissa Campbell for two races and Angus Kennedy qualifying for three races.

Showing the strength of the team this year, Charlotte Hall and Isobel Cox both qualified for the South East Regional Swimming Championships.

## Inter-House Swimming

During the months of January and February, Stowe held the Heats and Finals of the Inter-House Swimming Competition, the Stoics after two years of disrupted Swimming, had been training hard and lots of trophies were up for grabs. Over the last five years we have seen an increase of competitive Swimmers joining Stowe and the Squad is growing from strength to strength.

The Junior Competition highlighted this with overall winners being very tight in some categories. Cheshire House had Junior success with Charlotte Hall winning the Junior Girls' Overall Cup and gaining the points for the Cheshire Juniors to take the Team Cup. The boys' competition was thrilling with Amory Baxter taking the Overall Cup and again securing the Junior House Cup for Cobham.

The Intermediate boys' Competition saw the battle between Charles Smith and Sascha Bodnaruk, both winning two individual cups and the overall Intermediate boys' Swimming Cup going to Charles after a second

placement in his third race, not surprising Grenville took the Intermediate Boys' Overall Winners' Cup.

The Intermediate girls' saw Isobel Cox take the Overall Girls' Inter Champion Cup, and with the help of Phoebe Haynes winning the Individual Butterfly, secure the Intermediate House Cup for Cheshire.

The Senior boys had something to prove, and the competition was high! In training for months, they kicked off with the 100m Front Crawl, which Ed Davis won. Luke Evans won the 50m Backstroke, Baz Calkin the 50m Breaststroke, Ben Hagger the 50m Backstroke and Johnny Sutherland the 100 Individual Medley. With a lot of calculations of places, it was very close, and the overall Senior Champion Cup was awarded to Ben Hagger, with the Overall Senior Cup going to Chatham.

The Senior girls' saw Larissa Campbell showcase her talent, taking three individual cups in the 50m Freestyle, 50m Fly and the 100 Individual Medley securing the Senior Cup win for Nugent.

**Cheryl Davis**



# ROWING

It has been a challenging year for Rowing in the wake of the Covid pandemic. It took a while for the regatta and race programme to settle down and for pupils to get back into the routine of training on land and water. Despite this, we had a number of successes.

For the third time we managed to get a boys' Senior 8 entered into the Schools' Head, which follows the same course as the Boat Race. We also entered a Senior girls' quad, which was a first for Stowe. Both crews performed well against very strong opposition.

In May we entered the Ball Cup, and we managed to get some medals for both the boys' and girls' crews:

**Silver - the girls' quad:** Sienna Bettany, Amelia Hines, Lily Jackson and Leia West.

**Bronzes - the boys' quad:** Max James, Charlie Cole, Hugo Comerford and Ed Whitbread.

In June, we managed another first by entering the girls' quad into the qualifiers of Women's Henley Regatta.

This was to expose the girls to a level of competition never before experienced. Steering this difficult course is a serious challenge and was done brilliantly by Sienna Bettany. We are hoping that this may form the basis of a crew and we hope to enter a women's 8 into the same competition next year.

As for the Senior boys, we have a good core of young men returning in September who again could form the basis of a good eight for September. If pupils are interested in Rowing at Stowe and they put the effort in, it is possible, even within a year, they could be racing in this crew.

**Michael Righton**



# SPORTS AWARDS



On Friday 20 May, 120 Stoics and Staff came together to celebrate Sport at Stowe.

Netball - The U16s and 1st team all won their county rounds, taking them to compete at the Regional Finals. The U15s reached the Semi-Final in the National Cup.

Girls' Lacrosse - Teams competed at the National Schools' Tournament with the 2nd X making the top eight in the UK. The U15As were runners up in the County Championship Tournament.

Hockey - The girls' 1st XI team had an excellent season winning 16 of their 24 matches. The boys' hockey squads joined the Midlands League Circuit, and met the challenge of the higher-level opposition they faced. All teams were competitive and performed well.

Golf - The team achieved Second place in the Gerald Micklem Trophy, finished Fourth in The World Amateur Schools' Championship and finished Sixth in the National ISGA Championships, a fantastic season.

Football - We have seen a surge in the uptake for football and this year Stowe fielded our first girls' team.

Cricket - The 1st XI have had a good start to the season with pre-season tour wins over Trent College and Dauntsey's. Wins over Marlborough, Uppingham, Wellingborough and Abingdon have followed.

Rugby - The 1st XV had a fantastic season, winning nine out of ten of their matches including lifting the National Vase trophy. At the Rosslyn Park 7s tournament the Senior team won all nine matches to take the title.

The Awards Dinner culminated in the awarding of the top prizes to the Player of the Season in each sport by our special guest, Dylan Hartley (Former Northampton Saints and England Captain), who then gave an excellent after-dinner speech encouraging the Stoics to make the most of the extraordinary opportunities to play and develop in their Sports at Stowe.

Stowe's Heads of Sports and Coaches want to thank all the Stoics for their dedication and commitment to representing the School with pride, we are immensely proud of them all.

**Cheryl Davis**





# Awards & Winners

**Sailing** - Samuel Ellis (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

**Rowing** - Harriet Hines (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

**Football** - Lewin Mullarkey (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Jayden Preko (Upper Sixth, Temple)

**Football** - Calypso Riviere (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

**Boys' Tennis** - Archie Burnet (Upper Sixth, Grafton)

**Girls' Tennis** - Isabella Lloyd (Upper Sixth, Nugent)

**Badminton** - Josha Mital (Lower Sixth, Winton) and Yuki Jiang (Lower Sixth, West)

**Boys' Hockey** - Ewan Hughes Rowlands (Lower Sixth, Walpole)

**Girls' Hockey** - Deborah James (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

**Squash** - Michael Spencer (Lower Sixth, Temple)

**Basketball** - Teide Lokpobiri (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

**Rugby** - Henry Pollock (Lower Sixth, Grafton)

**Netball** - Ele Blane (Upper Sixth, Queen's)

**Swimming** - Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

**Golf** - Ed Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce)

**Cross Country** - Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

**Lacrosse** - Rosie Grayson (Upper Sixth, Nugent)

**Polo** - Rafi Mahmood (Upper Sixth, Walpole)

**Equestrian** - Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Fourth Form, Stanhope)

**Cycling** - Henry Clare (Fifth Form, Winton)

**Water Polo** - Arseny Savrasov (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

**Fencing** - Thanassi Ghertsos (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

**Winners of the 'Triple Crown'**

(three major 1st team sports in three separate terms) - Isabella Lloyd, Rosie Grayson and Emily Sutton





**Stoics have been extremely busy and successful during this academic year in Equestrian competitions. These are some of our highlights of this academic year.**



# EQUESTRIAN

Stoics have been extremely busy and successful during this academic year in Equestrian competitions.

A number of eventer challenges and British Eventing have taken place. The Bloxham Eventer Challenge series took place from November 2021 to the Championship Final on 13 February. The competition was strongly supported by Stoics: Araminta Spencer-Churchill, Kitty Scott, Cecily Holland, Olive De Courcy-Ireland, Lucy Willmott, Ellie Martindale, Lily Taylor, Cassidy Jorritsma, Ella Gray-Cheape and Toby Bursnall.

Only 30 riders from each class across the series qualified for the Final. We were very proud that we ended up with six riders qualifying, and three that were able to compete in the Championship. Olive De-Courcy Ireland finished in Seventh and Cassidy Jorritsma finished Fourth in the Championship and Fourth overall in the series. Araminta Spencer-Churchill won the individual title for the 100cm class on her pony Ned's Legacy. An incredible achievement considering she competed against 25 riders across the series.

In British Eventing, Lily Taylor competed at Aston-Le Walls in the British Eventing 80cm class in March finishing in Fourth. Kitty Scott finished Tenth at South of England BE, with a 32.8 dressage and a double clear inside the time in April. At Swalcliffe, Araminta Spencer-Churchill came Fourth, jumping a double clear and scoring 33.25 in dressage. Olive De Courcy-Ireland qualified for the Hunter Trial Championship at Eland Lodge, and the Eventing Championships at Calmsden in October.

Stoics have also represented the School at several National Schools' Eventing Association (NESA) competitions over the year. Isabella Russell, Equestrian Scholar, has represented Stowe at several NSEA events over the last academic year.

Isabella qualified both her ponies for the Hickstead Elite 1.10m class in July and in November at the County Finals at Hickstead. Isabella came Third in the 1.10m individual, which was an incredible achievement as only one school from each county in the UK qualified.



*Royal Windsor Horse Show 2022  
U25 140  
Constance Adams & Jaqger III*



On Friday 3 June, Isabella won the 1.20m class in Wales qualifying her for a Grand Prix at the end of July and on the Saturday she was Second in the Foxhunter. Isabella and her sister Phoebe kindly brought their horses down for demonstration at the Equestrian Centre Open Evening on Saturday 11 June.

Cassidy Jorritsma competed in the NSEA Eventers Challenge and 1m Show Jumping at Bury Farm in April. Cassidy and Huck placed Fourth in the Eventing, which qualified them for the Hickstead Finals in the Summer and went on to win the Show Jumping.

Stoics have also represented the School in Show Jumping this year. Isabelle Harris had a fantastic result at the Pony of the Year Show "POYS" held at Arena UK, 13-18 April. After two days of qualifying Isabelle placed both of her ponies in the POYS 138cm Grand Prix. A fantastic jump-off left Izzy three seconds faster than her competition but with an unfortunate four fault pole she finished in Third and Fourth place. Furthermore, she was the highest point scoring rider over the weekend winning her Leading Rider. Isabelle also finished Second in the British Show Jumping Winter 138cm Grand Prix, landing her one of only 25 places to compete at The Longines Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead in July.

Eleanor Simpson had a successful three weeks of jumping competitions at Oliva, Spain this Spring. Eleanor and Galinka were selected to be part of the U18 Great Britain Nations Cup Show Jumping Team Squad at the FEI Youth Nations Cup Competition held at Fontainebleau, France. They were competing in the 1.40m class. This is an outstanding achievement given that she is three years younger than any other competitor, and this height is only 20cm lower than the adults jump in the Olympics.

At the Cedars Upper School Inter-Schools Team and Individual Show Jumping Competition at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre, Mimi Price and Isabella Russell represented the School. Mimi won the 1.10m horse class and Isabella was Second in the 1.10m pony class. They have both qualified for the County Finals at Hickstead in August. Isabella Russell also had a fantastic weekend at Onley Ground EC in May. Isabella came Third in the Foxhunter and then was Second in the 148cm, jumping a 1.15m Handicap.

Connie Adams and Rafe Gordon competed at Royal Windsor Horse Show. Connie had the opportunity to compete in the main arena in the Under 25, 1.40m British Team Viewing Trial class.

Our last event of this year takes place at Hickstead for The Hurst College National Championship on the 1 July 2022. Six pupils will be representing Stowe at this Finale in the Senior 1.05m class - Connie Adams, Mimi Price, Isabella Russell, Cecily Holland, Cassidy Jorritsma and Araminta Spencer-Churchill. Isabella Russell will be also be jumping in the Elite 1.10m individual Final representing Stowe. Best of luck team.



Looking forward to the next academic year we are excited for the Equestrian Centre to reopen in September 2022 under the new management of Becky Coote and two new grooms working alongside her. We are looking forward to welcoming new horses and riders to the stables, and are very excited about the future of Equestrianism at Stowe.

**Lucinda Stockley**



# POLO

Stowe Polo has had a fantastic Summer season. We have welcomed many new players to our teams and it has been extremely encouraging to see the growing interest in the sport at Stowe.

Wednesday and Friday polo lessons have been fully booked, and this has meant a very large group of players keen to represent the School in matches. This term we have played, and won, matches against Wellington College, Eton College and Oxford University.

On Sunday 19 June we took three teams to compete in the SUPA Summer National Championships held at Cirencester Park Polo Club. This was a huge event with 18 teams competing from across the UK, including two teams from Scotland.

Our C Team took part in the Novice Division. Archie Vernon Miller (Captain) (Third Form, Chatham), Nikita Nedoshovenko (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Tilly Poole (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Bear Hewlett (Fourth Form, Cobham), played some tough matches, coming third overall out of six teams.

The B Team of Rafi Mahmood (Captain) (Upper Sixth, Walpole), India Baillie (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Charlie Hodges (Third Form, Chatham) and Leander Sautter (Third Form, Cobham), played in the Open Division 2. They had an incredibly fast set of matches against Rugby School, sadly losing in the final chukka to come second. They played beautifully as a Team, and there were some impressive performances by Third Formers Leander and Charlie.

The A Team, Captained by Lucas Stern (Fifth Form, Grenville), with Luca Natella (Fourth Form, Cobham) and Archie Heseltine (Fourth Form, Cobham) and substituted player Tegan Bristow, had experienced two very tricky and fast chukkas against Radley (who started with a several goal head start, due to a lower handicap than us), and they struggled to beat them in the last few minutes of play.

The Final of the Subsidiary was a much cleaner, and collected match against Harrow, which Stowe won after an impressive 60-yard flying penalty from Luca Natella.

Overall Cheltenham won the Final and Stowe came Third. Everyone very much enjoyed the day, which was extremely well organised by SUPA and our match was televised on PoloLine by the sponsors.

In September, we will welcome two Captains of Polo. Congratulations to India Baillie, Captain of Winter Polo and Lucas Stern, Captain of Summer Polo.

## Fiona Corthine





Yi Lin Wan (Fifth Form, Bruce)

# Gallery



Isabella Reeder  
(Fifth Form, Cheshire)



Jemima Hammond  
(Fifth Form, Nugent)



Sophie Williams  
(Upper Sixth, West)



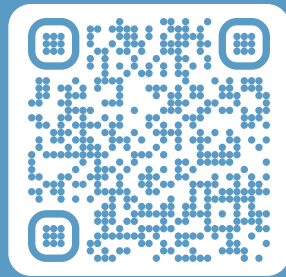
Max Cowper-Hart (Fifth Form, Chatham)



Sebastian Campbell-Preston  
(Upper Sixth, Grafton)



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