

Stowe mail

VOL 10 ISSUE 4: 14 DECEMBER 2018
NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE

Romeo and Juliet

In last year's production of '1984', the Stowe Drama Department and pupils set themselves a very high bar indeed which saw the Congreve production go beyond any run-of-the-mill school performance - in the Congreve production of 'Romeo and Juliet' this year, they not only reached that bar but surpassed it. Set against the backdrop of 16th Century Verona, the pace of the play was established right from the start, as we are introduced to the bustling atmosphere of Veronese Society and the conflict between the warring houses of the Capulets and Montagues. As one of Shakespeare's better known plays (few will be oblivious to the tragic outcome when they take their seats), there is always a danger with Romeo and Juliet that the less dramatic scenes will leave an audience distracted, but it is testament to the hours of hard work and talent of the production team and actors that we remained gripped throughout. With slick scene and set changes, innovative and imaginative direction and a contemporary feel, the tempo and pace of the play was sustained until the very final scene, even on the last night - which is no mean feat in a two and half hour performance over four nights.

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

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

While space does not permit the personal mention that every member of the cast deserves, key to the success of any production of 'Romeo and Juliet' is of course the chemistry between the two eponymous characters - without that, it becomes another clichéd and sentimental love story with a bit of fighting along the way. Both Romeo (Dom Selvey (Lower Sixth, Chandos)) and Juliet (Sonya Sander (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)) established that chemistry with consummate skill from the outset, so that by the time Romeo seeks to 'shake the yoke of inauspicious stars from this world-wearied flesh', we genuinely felt his grief and anguish. Both actors displayed a maturity and understanding of their characters well beyond their years, which also applies to the entire cast as a whole. Special mention should also go to Emily Banks (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), whose brilliantly humorous portrayal of the Nurse injected the comedic levity needed to avoid Shakespearean tragedy weighing too heavily!

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

James Peppiatt, Teacher of English





Masterclass and Recital with Lukas Geniušas

On Wednesday 21 November, several Stoics took part in a piano masterclass with the Russian-Lithuanian virtuoso Lukas Geniušas. Lukas has performed in some of the finest concert halls around the world and with some of the world's most established orchestras as a concerto soloist. He won silver medal at the Chopin International Piano competition in 2010 and in the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in 2015. Stoic pianists Rosia Li (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Jeffrey Au (Lower Sixth, Walspole), Jessica Foxwell (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Billy Baker (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Annabel Hing (Fourth Form,

Stanhope) were very fortunate to work with such a consummate musician and they all gained a great deal from Lukas' teaching and advice. Following the masterclass, Lukas gave a stunning evening piano recital featuring some of the best playing I have ever heard. The audience were transfixed and Lukas' programme of works by Chopin, Tchaikovsky and contemporary Ukrainian composer Leonid Desyatnikov was performed with the highest level of artistry. We very much look forward to welcoming Lukas back to Stowe in the future.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard



GeogSoc Inter-House Geography Quiz

Having studied their atlases and rocks in preparation, 65 enthusiastic Stoics met to compete in the third annual GeogSoc Inter-House Quiz on Tuesday 20 November. Topics ranged from 'where's that capital' to 'geographical dingbats' (which caused more than a few groans, thanks Mrs Campbell!) as well, of course, as the obligatory music round - not sure if I'm getting old, but I only recognised three of the songs. The final scores were very close: coming in at third place were Stanhope, in second place were Bruce and the winners, by just 2 points, were West, with a team comprising Hermione Spencer (Upper Sixth), Katrina Nelson (Upper Sixth), Jess Pettit (Lower Sixth), Nina Purefoy (Lower Sixth) and Saskia Beckley (Lower Sixth). They were duly rewarded with a chocolate orange (it's not Terry's, it's theirs!)

and the shiny GeogSoc Cup! Many thanks to all the participants and the staff who gave up their evening to help out.

Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography



CRICKET

James Cronie (Fifth Form, Cobham) has been awarded the **English Schools Cricket Association Thomson Fielding Award** for 2018 for his performances in the Bunbury Festival. He has been invited to The Oval to receive his award on Friday 29 March 2019. This is yet another award for his Bunbury Festival appearance where he finished as the 2nd highest run scorer.

James Knott, Head of Cricket



GOLF

Sky Sports Junior European Golf Open 2018

Over 100 of the best Junior Golfers in Europe gathered at Alcaidesa Golf Club in Cadiz Spain during the last week of November.

Battling very changeable weather conditions on both of the two wet and difficult golf courses, Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Third Form, Queen's) managed to reach 25th position in the Girls' Division, improving her score on each of the four days played.

Most of the competitors were 3-4 years older and had mostly played the courses previously, but Chanel performed very well.

The event was filmed by Sky and highlights will be shown on Sunday 16 December. We are unsure whether Chanel will appear in their edited version but it will give viewers a good idea of how the event played out.

A huge well done to Chanel from all at Stowe!



Philosophy@Stowe

Philosophy@Stowe has played host to many intriguing and exciting events this year. It all kicked off with Dr Andrew Buskell's eye-opening talk on 'Cyborg Ethics', disclosing the possible advances in artificial intelligence in the future and problems we may encounter. This was followed Marianne Talbot's fascinating lecture on the issues of 'Cloning'. World renowned Professor Roger Crisp revealed his philosophy on 'How to be happy and morally good', something I'm sure many would aim to strive for. Dr Jonathan Beale spoke about 'Philosophy, Authenticity, and Confession' and the importance of being true to oneself. The President of Philosophy@Stowe, myself, and the Vice-President, Christiana Robinson, interviewed Dr Anna Stone on the popular topic of 'Psychology and the Paranormal'. We also interviewed Dr Laura Gow, for the final event, on 'Do objects have colours?' which highlighted a tension between science and common sense. Being President of Philosophy@Stowe has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience, allowing the opportunity for me to debate with a wide range of Philosophers and learn new concepts and ideas. Good luck to those applying to be next year's President and a big thank you to Dr Dennis for organising the events!

Jemima Priest (Upper Sixth, West)

HOCKEY

Girls' 1st XI v Old Stoics

On Sunday 11 November, the Old Stoics took on the 1st XI girls in an epic clash. It was great to see recent Leavers, Thalia Felton and Charlotte Oswald (Queen's 17), Imogen White (Nugent 17), Jack Foreman (Cobham 17), Rory Hunnable (Grafton 17), Oscar Holmes (Grafton 17), Lottie Hopkinson (Stanhope 18) and Clara Haggie (Nugent 18).

The match was even throughout and it was the girls that took the lead from a short corner after good work from Alyssia Dockerty (Lower Sixth, Queen's). The Old Stoics equalised soon after and took a 2-1 lead into half-time. Stowe pressed for an equaliser in the second half but were undone on the break. The Old Stoics won 3-1 in what was a competitive and well spirited match. There were over 60 people watching, the crowd was made up of Old Stoics, Stoics, family and friends. The OS team are looking forward to taking on the boys in the Lent Term!

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey

GOLF ROUNDUP

Stowe golfers have had an exceptionally busy and competitive Michaelmas Term with a wide range of Inter-School fixtures and National Competitions. It has been excellent to see so many Stoics from across the whole School either playing recreationally or taking advantage of our expert PGA coaching. Notable improvements this term have come from Tom Youds (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Tom Riley (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Ed Shushall (Lower Sixth, Temple), Edward Davis (Third Form, Bruce), George Carpmal (Fourth Form, Chandos) and Golf Scholar, Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Third Form, Queen's). Indeed, Chanel flew the flag for Stowe Golf when she competed in the Sky Sports European Junior Golf Championship in Spain last month. It was also good to see Golf Scholar Max Faulkner (Fourth Form, Temple) representing Stowe in the ISGA Alexander Quin Invitational (an official WAGR event) at Prince's and Royal St George's GC in Kent. It was a great learning experience for Max to play at two championship venues. We hope that these recent experiences will stand both Max and Chanel in good stead for the future.

Unfortunately, our Senior golfers were beaten in a closely contested match by a competitive and well prepared Perse School in the 1st round of the ISGA National Championship at Collingtree Park Golf Course so all attention and preparation now turns

to the annual Gerald Micklem Trophy in March at the most prestigious Woking Golf Club. This extremely high profile golf competition will feature Stowe, Eton, Harrow, Wellington, Charterhouse, Winchester, Bradfield and Rugby and our selected team of five golfers will be returning to Woking having reached the final of the Micklem last March. With a number of Stoics continuing to improve, selection for this event will prove to be very competitive.

In addition to the Micklem Trophy, we will be preparing for a very busy schedule of Inter-School fixtures against the likes of Eton, Harrow, Radley, Wellington, Bradfield and the Old Stoic Golf Society. Indeed, we will be visiting some superb golfing venues throughout the Lent Term such as Sunningdale, Woburn, Woking and Stoke Park. We also much look forward to the Stowe PGA Coaching and Development Trip to Portugal in April 2019.

NEW GOLF COURSE

We are very pleased to report that the maturation and establishment phase is well underway and ahead of schedule. The construction phase was completed in September and following a successful seeding programme, we have been very encouraged with turf establishment. More detailed information about our superb new golf course will be available in the New Year.

GOLF ACADEMY

Exciting plans continue to develop as we prepare to launch the Stowe Golf Academy in conjunction with the opening of our new golf course. The Golf Academy will include state-of-the-art coaching facilities by way of a dedicated indoor training studio and simulator.

The Golf Academy will provide Stoics with an unrivalled opportunity to combine expert golf coaching and development of the highest quality with a first-class academic education.

STOWE PUTTER 2019

We are delighted to announce that the annual Stowe Putter and Junior Jigger will take place on the iconic Stowe Golf Course on Wednesday 21 August 2019.

More information will be released after the Christmas break but in the meantime should you have any queries in regard to this event please contact Andrew Hancox.

Andrew Hancox, PGA Golf Professional & Head of Golf

North Hall Restoration Progress

The work to restore the North Hall is proceeding well towards the planned completion date of the end of February. By the end of term, a new floor will have been laid and redecoration will start over the holiday period. A Purbeck Whetson has been selected as the best stone for the floor pavement following extensive archival research and the walls will be redecorated in a pale stone colour with stone coloured woodwork. Previous layers of paint will be stripped from the woodwork to freshen the detail, but the walls will be subjected to minimum intervention in order to preserve any remaining evidence of earlier decorative schemes. Eight of the sixteen decorative schemes that have been uncovered by

painstaking analysis of paint samples contained evidence of stone colours, most notably that applied prior to and immediately after Queen Victoria's visit in 1845. This is consistent with contemporary practice of decorating entrance halls in a manner that is consistent with the outside of the building, to effect the transition from outside to inside. Meanwhile at the conservation studios in East London, moulds have been produced from the original of the Laocoon statue, ready for casting the copy of this great masterpiece that will be installed on completion of the project.

Nick Morris, CEO, Stowe House Preservation Trust



Model United Nations

Ten Stoics competed in the London International Model United Nations (High Schools) held at King's College London on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November. Representing the UK, Japan, and Ethiopia, they wrangled with other nations to make progress on rebuilding Iraq, eradicating poverty, dealing with natural disasters, sustainable financing, and the plight of children in Syria and Yemen. Garret O'Keeffe (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Ayden Anim (Lower Sixth, Bruce) were given honourable mentions during the closing

ceremony for their contributions, while Oliver Hall (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Lucas Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce) bagged Distinguished Delegate awards. Special congratulations go to Veronika Phillips (Upper Sixth, West) and Evgeniia Zen (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) who won Best Delegate awards, and were also offered Daniel Page Scholarships to compete at the university-level London International MUN next year.

Dr Peter Dennis, Teacher of Philosophy & Religion



Space Hoppers

On Sunday 2 December, Queen's House bounced their way around the athletics track for 80 laps on Space Hoppers. Roughly equating to 1 lap each for the House and House team - it turned out to be much harder than anyone could have ever imagined, but it did make the feeling of satisfaction that much greater upon completion.

We are raising money for Cystic Fibrosis this year and Space Hoppers are a fun way for young sufferers to loosen up their lungs and help with their daily physiotherapy. We chose 80 laps to mark the 80th anniversary of Dr Dorothy Anderson discovering the condition. We hope to have raised in the region of £1,500.

Mike Rickner, Queen's Houseparent



HOCKEY

Sister Act

Ellie Bewes (Upper Sixth, Queen's) has been a fixture in the 1st XI this season starting with the pre-season tour to Brussels and helping Stowe with some excellent performances against MK Ladies, Oakham and more recently Towcester. While Ellie has been an integral part of the 1st XI, sister Imogen (Fifth Form, Queen's) has been playing for the U16A team and was an important part of the U16 Cup team that progressed through to the Regional Pools at Reigate and have also enjoyed victories over Kimbolton, Aylesbury and Rugby School. On Saturday 10 November, both Imogen and Ellie represented the 1st XI against Omagh Academy and also played in an Old Stoics match on Sunday 11 November. Most recently, Imogen was selected again against Towcester Ladies, lining up alongside her sister for a third time and also scoring twice! Both Ellie and Imogen won 'Most Valuable Player' of the season for their respective teams as well!

Youngest sister Hannah (Third Form, Queen's) has enjoyed a successful season with the U14A team who have enjoyed fantastic results against Oakham, Oundle, Rugby and Trent College as well as progressing through to the Regional Pools.

A very talented family!

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



Lower Sixth Spanish Tapas Trip

The week before the flexible Exeat, the Lower Sixth Spanish contingent accompanied by Mr Morales-Shearer, Mr Dobson, Mr Smith and Mrs Peña all set off to Louis' Pizza and Tapas restaurant in Buckingham for a flavour of Spanish Tapas, following on from the recent sub-topic of Spanish gastronomy within the topic of the regional identity of Spain. No sooner had we set foot on the bus were we compelled to only speak Spanish from that moment onwards; at the restaurant to break the ice, each person took their turn to introduce themselves before we were greeted by a variety of Spanish tapas including traditional meatballs, prawns, croquettes, peppers and patatas bravas accompanied by some non-alcoholic sangria. Shortly after taking our turn to practice our Spanish with the Teachers and enjoy some typical Spanish cuisine, the whole group took part in a game of "guess who", again only in Spanish. Some of the celebrities included Pedro Almodóvar and Penelope Cruz all of whom we had looked at earlier in the term when studying the influence of idols, and the game proved to be significantly competitive amongst the group. It was a great opportunity for us all to enhance our Spanish speaking skills and many thanks go to the Spanish Department for organising a great day out for us all.

George Gauvain (Temple)



RUGBY

The Spirit of Stowe Sport award was won by Jack Colebrook (Lower Sixth, Bruce) who started the season in the 4th XV but through perseverance and hard work rose through the ranks to win his 1st XV place on Saturday 24 November.

On Wednesday 5 December, Stowe 5th team, otherwise known as the Gentlemen's XV, finished their season on the North Front with a thrilling display of champagne rugby, beating Kingham Hill 39-12. Unfortunately our U15 side didn't manage to progress past Bromsgrove as they attempted to reach the last 16 in the National Cup on Wednesday 5 December. However, they do deserve special mention for remaining unbeaten for the whole of the regular season fixtures after another win against Oakham and for their unwavering effort all season. In other matches against Oakham, there were wins for the 3rds, 4ths, U15Bs, U15Cs, Yearlings A, C and D teams. Managing a winning block against Oakham is an impressive achievement so well done to the Stowe Rugby Club for finishing the term so strongly.

Psychology Society

Once again we have had a superb term of lectures in the Psychology Society.

Milly Cranmer (Upper Sixth, Nugent) presented an excellent talk based upon her EPQ project entitled 'Should we cure Autism'. Milly described the conditions that fall under the umbrella of Autism and helped the students to understand differences between them. She took the students through Psychology based studies that attempted to change these characteristics. The students learnt a great deal from her presentation, and as with all our speakers, they were able to discuss at length the findings of these studies.

Ollie Seddon (Lower Sixth, Cobham) gave a superb talk on the subject of 'Demystifying depression'. A very detailed account of causes and potential treatments were investigated by Ollie, and to keep all of our spirits up, he kindly included pictures of fluffy cute animals! The research in his talk was detailed and extremely thought-provoking.

Mr Blackmore-Beales, our very own graduate Hockey Coach then presented to the Society. With his Master's Degree in Psychology, he not only discussed his reasons for promoting Bangor University as a place to study, but also gave a realistic insight into what a Psychology degree entails. We were then treated to a talk regarding his research project on how the brain works out a person's sex through the analysis of the male and female body shape. Mr Blackmore-Beales gave a clear insight into the formation and conduction of Psychology experiments, and we were able to discuss the conclusions that he made from his study.

Finally, Jess Potts (Upper Sixth, Nugent) gave a superb talk on 'Evil Experiments', informing the Society of fairly alarming experiments that had happened in the past that would never pass an ethics committee today. Starting from the lesser evil experiments of Pavlov and Skinner to the most evil. The Society really enjoyed Jess's talk and her outstanding knowledge and research was informative and alarming too!

The Psychology Society welcomes any students in the Fifth Form and Sixth Form who have interest in this amazingly diverse and thought-provoking subject. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Natasha Blake, Teacher of Biology

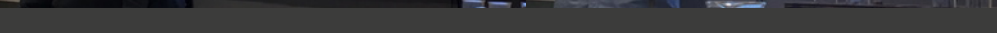
Rowing

Stowe competed at the Evesham Head of the River on Saturday 24 November. Well done to Archie Morley (Upper Sixth, Walpole), who won the Open Single Sculls event and was the fastest sculler on the day over the 4km course. The Senior Quad of Oscar Hill (Upper Sixth, Temple), Theo Finlan (Fifth Form, Temple), Barnaby Peppiatt (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Archie Morley came second and were the third fastest crew of the day which included entries for adults as well as students.

Josh Green (Fourth Form, Chandos) and Fixy Hill (Fifth Form, Queen's) completed their first race in single sculls showing great promise for the future.

Fencing

Congratulations to Stefano Beni (Upper Sixth, Chandos) for winning a Silver medal in both the Foil and Épée competitions, beating fencers from Aylesbury, Luton, Bedford and Welwyn-Hatfield Schools.



StoweSport.co.uk

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

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A Level Drama

On Monday 10 December, five students from Furze Down - a speech, language and communication specialist school - visited Stowe for an inclusive drama workshop alongside one of our A Level Drama groups. The workshop was a huge success. An introductory exercise that involved using memory, physical and vocal skills, warmed everyone up and unified the group. The workshop focused on characterisation, the students pushed themselves to step into the minds of people from all walks of life. Within this, the students worked in mixed groups for a 'hot-seating' exercise in which they asked thought-provoking questions to each other, adding depth and understanding to develop their characters. Using the setting of the London Tube, all these intricately created characters came

together in one scene, improvising an enactment of the hustle and bustle of a commuter's day. All students approached the work thoughtfully and imaginatively, making it a thoroughly rewarding and enjoyable experience for all involved. We hope to organise another drama workshop in the New Year with Furze Down School. Many thanks to those Stoics involved: Mia Dettori (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Georgia Glenser (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Rosie Ludlow (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Ruby Redfern (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Sonya Sander (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Flora Walters (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Juliana Ziemele (Lower Sixth, Queen's).

Louise Wiseman, Graduate Assistant - Drama

CLAYS

The Inter-House event saw some remarkable competition; Bertie Keane (Lower Sixth, Walpole) led for most of the day with 43/50, but was unseated latterly by Archie Irvine's (Lower Sixth, Grenville) 45/50. Ultimately he narrowly lost the Swan Cup to this year's top gun, Hugo Robinson (Upper Sixth, Grenville), with a score of 46/50.

Hermione Spencer (Upper Sixth, West) led the girls with a 31/50, only to be overtaken by last year's Pen Cup winner, Kianti Subowo (Upper Sixth, Queen's), who shot an impressive 33/50. However, Kianti's lead was short-lived: with a decisive score of 38/50, Lexie Cook (Upper Sixth, West) won this year's Pen Cup.

Film Studies

MJ Delaney

On Thursday 29 November, Film Studies students were lucky enough to meet Film director MJ Delaney. Graduating from Oxford University in 2007 with a Double First in English, MJ Delaney quickly moved on to film and video to explore and explicate a wide variety of subjects of interest to her, from punk pioneer Vivienne Westwood to the comparative challenges faced by thirteen-year-old girls in the United Kingdom, Thailand and Mali. At 26, she created Newport (Ymerodraeth State of Mind), which went on to become a YouTube sensation, and one of the biggest viral hits of 2010. Since then MJ Delaney has been busy with a string of high profile projects for including the 'Global Goals' campaign and Films such as Morgana Robinson's Summer which won the 2018 Bafta for Short Form Programme. After talking with Sixth Form students and watching some of their Film Studies coursework, Ms Delaney's advice was practical and varied. Top tips included:

1. If you want to be a producer, get a job as a runner.
2. If you want to be a director, get a job in a department that allows you to watch the director, such as the costume department.
3. To ensure the best sound quality for voiceovers, fill the smallest room in your house with every soft furnishing you can find and stick egg boxes to the walls, it'll make all the difference.
4. Keep your budget in mind when planning your film, fit your ideas to the budget and make them look amazing rather than attempt something ambitious which won't look as good.
5. Film in 100, 75 or 50 frames per second to improve your ability to manipulate speed in post-production.
6. Make films, use your friends, be inspired... you can make great films on digital technology.

Emma Ackroyd, Teacher of English and Film Studies



HOCKEY

Stowe Hockey ends with a bang!

On Saturday 8 December, the Stowe girls took on Bloxham in the last set of fixtures before Christmas. In what was a hugely competitive block, Stowe performed extremely well, winning six of the seven fixtures. The U14A won 3-0 and the U14B won 1-0. The U15A had a solid 2-0 away win before the U15B won 5-0 ending their season unbeaten with 10 wins and 1 draw! The 3rd XI lost at home 1-0 thanks to a last minute winner from Bloxham before the 2nd XI won 1-0. The 2nd XI dominated the match but only found the net once but luckily this was enough to seal victory. The 1st XI were involved in a very competitive match with a lot of support for both teams on the side line. Stowe started well and took the lead through Charlotte Would (Lower Sixth, Queen's) before Bloxham equalised from a short corner. Alyssia Dockerty (Lower Sixth, Queen's) restored Stowe's lead with a thunderous reverse stick strike to take Stowe into half-time with a narrow lead.

Stowe didn't let up and worked extremely hard in the second half to keep Bloxham's chances to a minimum. Alyssia scored her second from a well-worked short corner after receiving a smart pass from Would and Una Barclay (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) swept in Stowe's fourth goal.

It was a great way to end another very enjoyable season. The girls finished above Trent College and Bromsgrove and 6th overall in the Midlands ISHL Super League, their highest-ever finish.

Thank you to all parents for your ongoing support and to the brilliant hockey staff.

Ben Scott, Head of Hockey



The U14As have gone from strength-to-strength this half of term, developing as a cohesive team and enjoying much success. They had an impressive 4-0 win against Rugby School in the lead up to the Regional Heats. At this tournament they drew tough opposition in their group but showed real character and determination playing extremely competitively against Surbiton High School (1-2), Wellington College (2-0) and St Edward's, winning 1-0, making us coaches very proud! Since then, they have played some superb hockey to defeat Trent College 8-1 and Bloxham 3-0 to end the season.

Sarah Sutton, Hockey Coach

Fives

This year's Junior Inter-House five's Champions are Queen's (Girls) and Chatham (Boys).

Cycling

As well as road cycling and spinning, the Stowe Cycling Club also took part in races called cyclo-cross. This is racing around a cross-country course which also involves hurdles, so at points you run, carrying your bike, before jumping back on. On Sunday 25 November, Round 11 of the Central Cyclo-Cross League took place at Swanbourne House School. Larissa Campbell (Third Form, Nugent) was on the podium in third place in the Under 14 girls category, Daniel Roberts (Fifth Form, Grenville) came 6th in the Under 16 boys category and Harry Kirby (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Ethan Collins (Lower Sixth, Temple) came 12th and 15th respectively in the U18 category. If you would like to have a go at this sport please get in contact with Mr Grimble.

Badminton

A young Stowe team played a triangular against Bromsgrove and Wellingborough on Saturday 24 November. Stowe came 2nd, Rosia Li (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Ben Li (Fourth Form, Cobham) as 1st pair won 7/8 matches; and well done to those who represented the School in their first match.

Inter-House badminton results:

Boys - Temple beat Grafton 2-1 in the doubles final.

In the final of the singles competition, Michael Spencer (Third Form, Temple) beat George Owen-Thursfield (Third Form, Temple).

Girls - Queen's beat Stanhope and Nugent to win the doubles competition.

In the final of the singles competition, Emily Sutton (Third Form, Queen's) beat Tallulah Morris (Third Form, Queen's).

In a match against Rugby School, the Stowe 1st VI won 6-3 and 2nd VI won 5-4. The 1st pair of Eleanor Butler (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Rosia Li and the 2nd pair of Ben Li and Oliver Butler won all three of their matches each against Rugby without dropping a single game.

Football

Congratulations to Chatham who are this year's winners of the Senior Inter-House Football League Trophy.

Lacrosse

On Wednesday 28 November the 1st XII won 12-10 against a very strong Tudor Hall side and on Saturday 1 December had a more comfortable win against Uppingham 19-1. The 2nd XII also had a good afternoon in a quadrangular tournament at Oakham, beating Uppingham 2nds, Oakham and Denstone.

Swimming

Our strong and enthusiastic Junior and Intermediate boys and girls all beat Bloxham comfortably at Home on Tuesday 20 November.

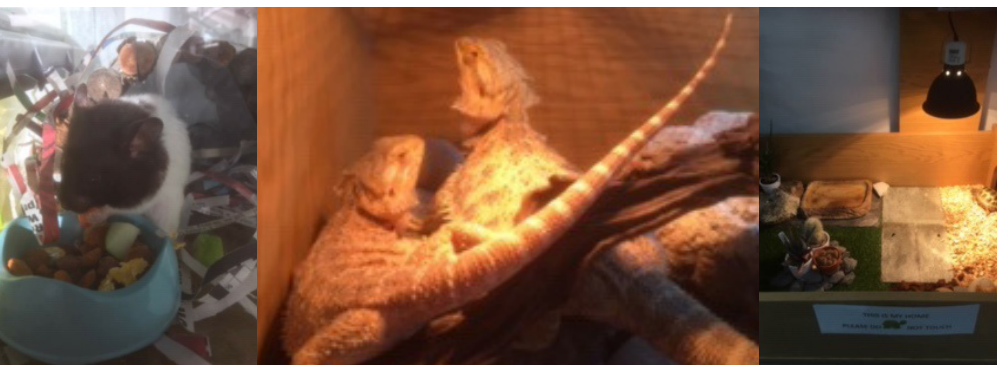


Choral & Orchestral Concert

On Sunday 25 November the Chapel Choir, String Orchestra & Symphony Orchestra staged a concert featuring a number of masterpieces from both the baroque era, and the late classical era. The String Orchestra opened proceedings with an impressive interpretation of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.3. They performed without a conductor and were led with confidence by Poppy de Salis (Upper Sixth, Stanhope). The range of technical and musical skills on display demonstrated the depth of talent within the string playing community at Stowe. The choir were next up performing Schubert's Mass in G. The ensemble produced a beautiful sound and delivered an assured and

polished rendition of the work. The performance was further enhanced by star solo turns from Tallulah Goldsmith (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Helena Vince (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Oscar Hill (Upper Sixth, Temple) and Peter Entwisle (Upper Sixth, Temple). The concert concluded with the School's Symphony Orchestra performing Mozart's Symphony No.40 in G minor. The Stoics involved rose to the challenge of performing this mature, late work of Mozart's with commitment and dedication which delivered an enthralling performance from start to finish!

Craig Greene, Director of Music



Biology - New Arrivals

After living outside for the summer, the Tortoise and the Chameleon have returned to the warmth of the Science Building. The Tortoise has a new home in the Biology Study Room on the ground floor and can be seen through the window.

Regular visitors to Science will also have noticed some new arrivals, we have been donated six Syrian Hamsters and three Bearded Dragons. You can find a hamster in the Hamster Palace in the foyer and another in the Prep Room. Mrs Rawlins also has one in her classroom, Mrs Bond has adopted one which her children adore, and the remaining two were adopted by pupils.

Avocado the lone Bearded Dragon, along with George & Mildred the pair of Bearded Dragons have all settled well into their new homes. All three enjoy being handled and are very popular with both Staff and Stoics.

Mr Righton's fish have also had babies over the summer which are thriving. These can be seen in the tank by the Prep Room and are of varying sizes.

If you wish to see the animals please pop along to the Science Building for a look.

Rachel, Gail and Alison, Biology Technicians

For weekly reports
on all Stowe Sports
visit our website

www.stowesport.co.uk



David Choo - Piano Recital

On Sunday 2 December, Music Scholar David Choo (Upper Sixth, Chatham) gave an outstanding piano recital which featured some of the most well-known and demanding works in the piano repertoire. Following on from his recent Diploma success, David's performance was of an exceptionally high standard and it is a huge achievement to play a full-length programme of this level of difficulty, especially given that it was delivered with such panache and musical accomplishment.

David began his concert with Bach's Prelude and Fugue in D minor (book 1 from the Well-Tempered Clavier), a wonderful opening choice and David's playing was full of clarity and energy. This was followed by Mozart's Sonata in B flat major K.333 which was well-shaped, elegant and full of exuberance, particularly in the outer movements.

After a short interval, fellow Music Scholar and cellist Toby Thorpe (Lower Sixth, Chatham) joined David on stage, performing 'The Swan' from Saint Saëns' Carnival of the Animals and Elgar's Salut d'amour. The communication and balance between the two performers was excellent.

David ended his recital with three wonderful works written for solo piano, Sonetto 123 del Petrarca by Liszt, Ballade no.3 by Chopin and the 2nd Scherzo also by Chopin. The latter two of which are fiendishly difficult and demand a great deal from the performer both technically and musically. Nonetheless, David delivered his recital with effortless aplomb.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard



GB LUGE TEAM

Old Stoic Elsa Desmond (Lyttelton 15) has recently started her first season with the GB Luge team and competed in her first Senior event in Germany where she was able to produce a Personal Best. We wish her the very best of luck in her competitions and look forward to hearing about her progress with Team GB.



EQUESTRIAN

Stowe competitors have been out representing the School in Dressage, Show Jumping, Cross Country and Eventing.

There have been numerous placings and a great team spirit shown across all disciplines.

Achievements of particular note:

Chloe Livesey (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) won her Elementary Dressage Class at Bury Farm on 16 September.

The Stowe Team achieved 1st place at the Beachborough Eventers Challenge on 14 October in the 100cm class. The riders were: Josh White (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Jemima Howden (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Sofia Wright (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Rosie Grayson (Fourth Form, Nugent). The team qualified for Hickstead, which is a very prestigious event to be held next year.

Josh White was also placed individual 2nd which qualifies him for Hickstead individually too. This is the 3rd year in a row that Stowe has won the 100cm class, well done to all, what a fantastic achievement.

Lila Hill (Third Form, Lyttelton) won the 90cm & 100cm class at the Akeley Wood NSEA Show Jumping on Saturday 10 November.

The Stowe Team achieved 1st place in the 100cm Show Jumping, the riders were: Lila Hill, Jemima Howden, Sofia Wright and Polly French (Upper Sixth, Nugent).

Some truly fantastic results, well done to all.

The Ernest Dillon clinics are still running successfully and training for the BHS exams has also increased in popularity. If you are interested in taking part in any equestrian events, please do contact a member of the team.

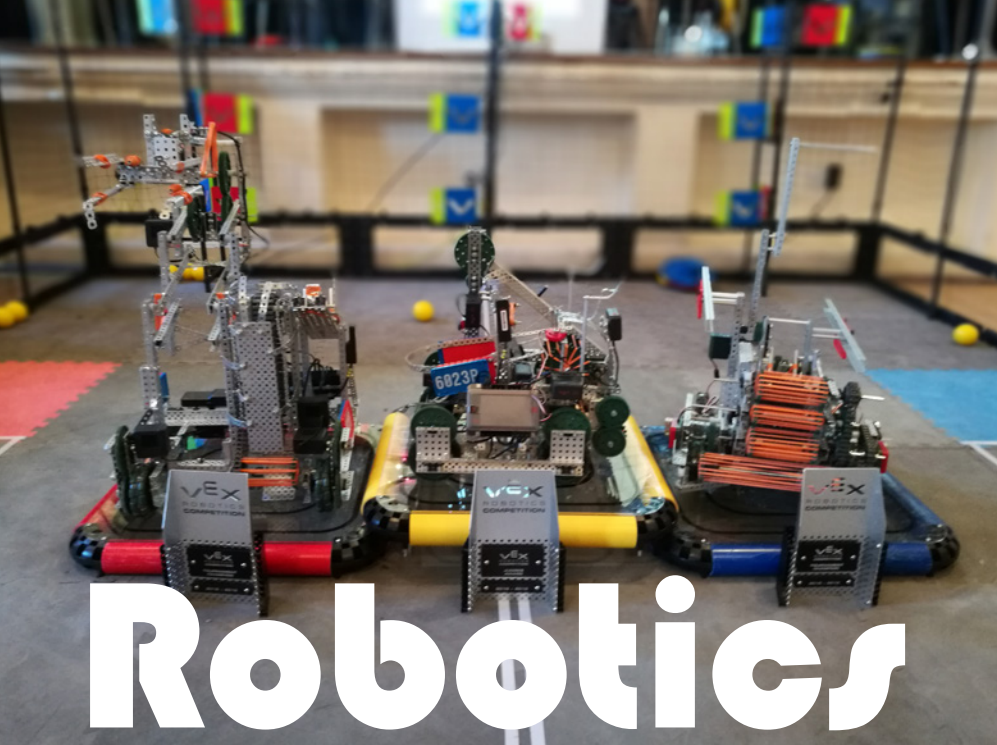
Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager



Lower School Academic Scholars

This term, Third and Fourth Form Scholars have been thinking about cooperation. Starting with a lift and carry challenge, they pursued this theme by investigating social choice theory, free trade and exploitation, mutualisms in biology, the Internet of things, and the right to share intellectual property (thanks to an excellent guest lecture by Dr Pawson). Their programme also included a trip to New Scientist Live, where they witnessed at first hand the importance of collaboration in the advancement of knowledge. The students rounded off the term by submitting articles to the first number of the LSAS Review - a compendium of student work on each term's theme. Copies available on request!

Dr Peter Dennis, MiC LSAS



Robotics

Stowe has competed in the International VEX Robotics Competition. This is a sports style robotics competition in which robots must compete for control of the game objects. Along with some of our experienced students carrying on from last year, we had a strong group of Third Form students who began the competition. In order to accommodate the growth in numbers, we started a third robotics team. This year we have also seen a major upgrade in equipment, however this caused some delay and slowed the start of the teams' build work. The new equipment sees the arrival of object recognition abilities and more intelligence available across the robots.

On Wednesday 21 November, Stowe hosted one of the first of the regional competitions. This saw 18 teams from different schools come to Stowe to compete for a place in the national final. The competition went well, with some strong robots and tough challenges, both the more experienced Senior teams were eliminated in the finals by the eventual winners of the regional. The Third Form team made the quarter-final and learnt a lot from their first event. After a rebuild and a tweaking of their designs, we then attended a friendly event in Bedford in which the robots performed well and showed real promise for future events. Whilst there, we were also able to assist a number of teams that were new to

the competition with building tips and coding assistance.

This week, we attended a London regional competition and again competed for a place in the National Finals. This was a tough event, as many London schools are well-established in the competition and traditionally strong teams compete at this event. However, through the day our robots performed well and won the qualifying matches to finish ranked first. We then had first pick of a partner going into the play-offs and went in as the favourites. The robot was consistent and won its way through to the final. Sadly however, the Third Form team were eliminated in the quarter-finals and the other Stowe team in the semi-finals. After a bruising final match, the Stowe team, led by Valentin Rummel (Lower Sixth, Temple), were victorious and have now gained their place at the National Finals. Our second team, led by Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Fifth Form, Walpole) picked up the judges award for a quality design that showed real promise, this team will have another chance to qualify for the Nationals in January. Stowe will also be hosting a bigger international competition in February; this will see teams from Europe, China and Dakar come to Stowe to compete against UK teams.

Paul Thompson, MiC Robots



Romeo and Juliet

Congratulations to the cast, crew and directors of the recent Congreve production of 'Romeo and Juliet' - it was a real pleasure to see such a powerful and well-acted performance. Audiences will know that Stowe allowed me the opportunity to raise funds for the Syrian Refugee School in Lebanon, at which I volunteered last summer, by having a cash collection at the end of each night. I am very grateful to Dr Wallersteiner, and to Rebecca Clark and the rest of the Drama Department, for allowing me this opportunity, and I am delighted to say that we raised £266.80. Many thanks to all who donated.

If you would like more about the charity, and our quest to adapt a storeroom into a multi-purpose hall, click on the link [here](#). This also gives you the chance to see a two-minute video about the production we put on there.

Chris Walters, Former Teacher, Stowe Drama Department



Stowe Careers Fair

The Stowe Careers Fair took place on Saturday 24 November, for the Lower and Upper Sixth. This year, the Fair was held in the Drayson Hall due to the large number of representatives in attendance. In addition, we also welcomed a number of universities that manned stands alongside Old Stoics and parents from 50 different industries including: Property, Banking, Advertising, Landscape Design, Retail and Marketing.

Stoics were encouraged to speak to as many different people as possible, to find out about industries that might interest them, as well as speaking to a range of institutions to find out about higher education options. The representatives who took part in the Fair were extremely impressed with the engagement and insightful questions asked by the Stoics. I would like to thank all those who took part for getting into the spirit of the event and making the most of the opportunity to get help and advice from Old Stoics and Parents.

I end with a reminder: the OS Office can help with contacts, work experience and mentoring, all you need do is ask.

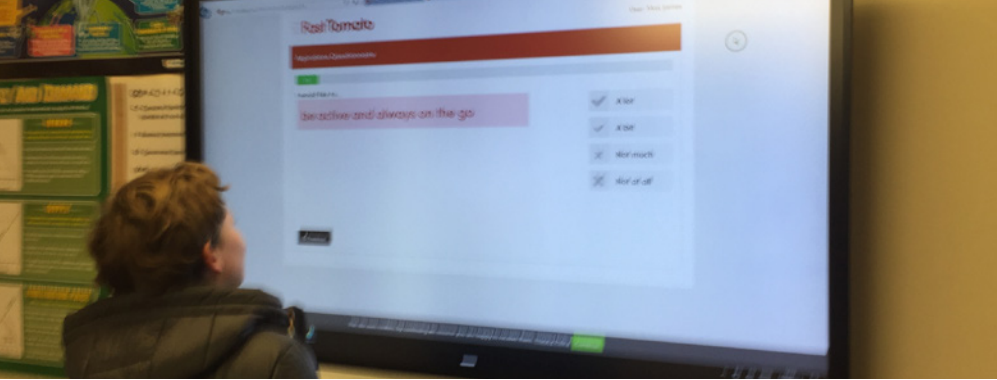
Anna Semler (Nugent 05), Old Stoic Society Director

Fifth Form Learning Groups

This year in Fifth Form, the Lower School Academic Scholars (LSAS) have taken a new approach to academic work and were split into individual learning groups, each with a Tutor specific to a subject we chose to expand our knowledge in. All groups met once and week and engaged in thought-provoking discussions about their specific subject. These talks ranged from general topics to more specific readings such as "The Biography of Cancer" by Siddhartha Mukherjee for students interested in medicine, or "Think" by Simon Blackburn for the philosophy students. This kind of detailed discussion has helped us increase our capacity for independent working and has prepared us for the detailed academic research that will come when we enter the Sixth Form. Overall it has been a great term for LSAS and we all look forward to what will come next.

Theo Finlan (Fifth Form, Temple)





FAST TOMATO

At Stowe we use the Fast Tomato careers and higher education tool as part of the support programme for the Third Form in relation to GCSE option choices and to start discussions around careers and the changing labour market. The Fast Tomato sessions are delivered by the Head of Careers to individual tutor groups. This allows us to get to know the Third Form and introduce them to the Careers Department during their first term at Stowe.

These fun and interactive sessions are an engaging way to encourage students to start exploring future ideas about careers. Most importantly, the careers session enables Third Form students to see the educational pathway they need to follow to achieve their goals. Students find the specific subject options section especially helpful, as by selecting and de-selecting subject options choices, they can assess the likely impact on future careers. The resources found on the site are a collection of labour market intelligence and we actively encourage students to log on with their parents to both review their results, and to explore the A Level, careers and higher education information.

After a quick sign-up, students answer 72 simple questions relating to work, which normally takes less than 8 minutes. Stoics were then shown their 'Career Profile', based on their answers. This includes information on their most suitable career interests, work styles and work places. Most students identified careers that resonated with their initial ideas and/or aspirations. Some asked to do the questionnaire again, taking more care over their answers.

Each student was presented with their unique profile, which is analysed against more than 600 careers and the closest matches are highlighted for further investigation. They can be 'favourited' by the student or replaced with closer matches, to help students complete further research in

their tutor groups and back at House. Any qualification discrepancies are shown, e.g. some careers and degrees require specific A Levels to be taken. Students then entered their own expected grades for their GCSEs. Reassuringly students chose grade 8s and 9s. This process illustrates to Stoics how important their school qualifications are in achieving their goals and career aspirations.

As part of the careers session, we explored the extensive careers information including entry routes, video case-studies and salary, which are provided for each career.

All students have access to the Fast Tomato tool until the end of the Upper Sixth year, allowing them to explore post A Level options if they want to take a peek into the future. Most students are destined for university, but with the growing amount of high quality higher and degree apprenticeships, students can explore alternative routes into professional careers along with traditional options. The suggestions are calculated from the student's 'Career Profile' and can be adapted based on future A Level choices and grades. As with careers, subject suggestions link through to extensive background information.

Lastly, students were encouraged to start to use the 'Notes' section of Fast Tomato to record their achievements whilst at Stowe. There are so many opportunities for students to attend guest lectures, participate in extra-curricular activities, volunteer, enter competitions and achieve academically beyond expectations. These achievements should be recorded to help students reflect on their personal and academic journey. This will also help them to plan and support outstanding personal statements in the Sixth Form.

*Dr Gordon West, Head of Careers
& Deputy Head of Sixth Form*

Duke of Edinburgh

In the first week of the October Half Term a group of Lower Sixth Formers headed to the Brecon Beacons to complete their Silver Assessed Expedition. Needless to say the conditions in mid-Wales in October were a far cry from the heatwave conditions they experienced in Snowdonia for their Practice Expedition. Re-located indoors on the day of arrival to shelter from gale force winds overnight, the groups had been promised clear skies for the first two days by the Mountain Weather Service – unfortunately that proved to be an optimistic forecast and the groups did not really see much further than the person in front of them for the next few days, although one group was treated to the rare sight of a Brocken Spectre on Day 1 on the top of Pen y Fan. The expedition routes take in the entirety of the Beacons ridge and staff and assessors were very impressed with the determination of the groups to push through and compete each day successfully; the conditions in the evening certainly challenged campcraft skills and it is a credit to the groups that they were all ready each morning with a smile on their faces to take on the next challenge. All participants were pleased to hear that they had passed their assessment at the end of Day 3, although I suspect that they were less impressed that the sun chose the moment they were handing in kit to come out and shine over their routes of the previous three days. The expedition will certainly have provided excellent experience and training in preparation for the Gold programme which will see the participants in the Yorkshire Dales for their Practice and on to a four day expedition in the Cairngorms for their assessed expedition in June. Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to seeing you out on the hills again very soon.

Gwilym Jones



Cadet Forces Uniformed Services Competition

Stowe CCF attempted to enter the Cadet Forces Uniformed Services Competition at Windsor last year, but the event was hugely popular and heavily over-subscribed. Fortunately, those of us who just missed out last year were offered first refusal for entry this year and Stowe CCF were delighted to be able to send an entrant.

The aim of the event is to provide an introduction to military equitation and to assess how a rider adapts to riding an unfamiliar horse, how competently they ride and their ability to deal with any horse issues that may arise.

Cecily Hopkins (Fourth Form, Queen's) was Stowe CCF entrant this year and writes:

'On Sunday 25 November I attended the CCF Uniform Service Competition at The Light Cavalry stable Windsor. There were 20 competitors selected from across the country. The competition was judged by the Group Captain of the Kings Troop and it was held in five groups of four and we rode cavalry horses that had been used in this year's Royal Wedding. We had to ride parade style and show balance, position, control and dressing. I was the highest place Army cadet and overall came 2nd.'

Going forward, we hope to enter more CCF equestrian competitions like this, as there are a good number of able horse riders in our ranks.

Jan de Gale, CCF Contingent Commander



Keyboard Concert Showcase

On Wednesday 31 October, a large number of Stoics took part in an evening concert featuring music written for both the harpsichord and piano. The concert showcased a huge variety of musical genres and each Stoic performed to a very high standard. The professional manner in which the Stoics engaged with the audience was most impressive and their confident and communicative performances made for a very enjoyable concert.

Jeffrey Au (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Sebastian Foxwell (Fourth Form, Walpole) opened the concert with an elegant and seasonally appropriate performance of Tchaikovsky's 'Dance of the sugar plum fairy', arranged for two pianos. This was followed by a stylish and accomplished performance of Bach's Prelude and Fugue in D minor (book 1 from the Well-tempered Clavier) given by David Choo (Upper Sixth, Chatham). Josie Shuker (Lower Sixth, West) then gave a performance of another piece by Bach, Preambulum in D minor, only this time it was on one of the School Harpsichords. This instrument, built by Daniel Meyer, was very generously donated to the School local pianist and Steinway Artist, Ingrid Jacoby and her husband Stephen Gray. It was thoroughly enjoyable to hear Josie play Bach on this beautiful instrument. Following Josie's performance, Boris Baros (Lower Sixth, Bruce) gave an impassioned performance of Bach's Toccata in E minor and Audrey Au (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) performed a Scarlatti sonata with poise and finesse. Clara Capella (Third Form, Stanhope) then performed a piano duet with myself, by composer Jeroen Speak. The piece titled 'Troll Dance' is rhythmically complex as it regularly changes time signature. Nonetheless, Clara did justice to the music and gave a confident performance.

Performing music from the romantic period, Annabel Hing (Fourth Form, Stanhope) gave a lively and engaging performance of Chopin's 'Grande Valse Brillante in E flat major' and Billy Baker (Upper Sixth, Chatham) gave a strong performance of Rachmaninov's 'Prelude in G minor', which was full of gravitas. Jessica Foxwell gave an enjoyable performance of music from the film 'The Greatest

Showman' and this was followed by 'Marigold' by Billy Mayerl, brilliantly performed by her brother Sebastian (Fourth Form, Walpole).

Jeffrey Au captured the colour and vibrancy of Debussy's 'Feux d'artifices' (fireworks), whilst Sebastian Calkin (Fourth Form, Chatham) conveyed the dance-like feel in the 'Gigue' from Bach's French Suite in G major. Craig Greene (Director of Music) and I gave a performance of Bach's 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' arranged for two pianos.

In addition to the published repertoire, it was wonderful to hear some original works composed by Stoics featured in the concert. 'When The Earth Met Space', composed by Theodore Hayes (Lower Sixth, Chatham) was a fusion of progressive rock and funk. Featuring fellow Stoics Oliver Seddon (Lower Sixth, Chatham) on bass guitar and Sean Carslaw Tricot (Lower Sixth, Grenville) on drums, the piece was full of sophisticated cross-rhythms and time signature changes. In what was a complete contrast in terms of style, Clara Tearle (Fourth Form, Queen's) then accompanied herself singing an original song 'Chemicals' which was very sensitively performed. Mimi Pearson-Gee (Fifth Form, Nugent) also performed one of her own original songs 'Peace', which featured lots of variety and colour, both vocally and pianistically. Helena Vince (Upper Sixth, Queen's) also accompanied herself singing the contemporary Christian worship song 'It is Well' and again, this was a highly engaging performance.

To conclude the concert, Samuel Ellis (Fourth Form, Chandos), Annabel Hing, Jeffrey Au, Audrey Au, Sebastian Calkin, Sebastian Foxwell, Jessica Foxwell, Skyla Wakeman (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Nina Purefoy (Lower Sixth, West) performed my own arrangement of 'Havana' by Camilla Cabello, for three pianos nine hands.

Huge congratulations must go to all the performers for such a wonderful concert.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard



Lower Sixth Spanish

On Monday 10 December, our Lower Sixth Spanish class visited Bourton Meadow Academy School in Buckingham to help teach a Spanish lesson. Each of us had a group of 5 or 6 students in Year 6 (10-11 years old). We used cards and memory games to teach the students numbers 1-20 and schoolbag objects. The classrooms were full of life and it is safe to say the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Liliana Peña, Teacher of Modern Languages

National Theatre Live

NT Live Broadcasts have had a great first season here at Stowe bringing the best of British Theatre to the cinema screen in The Roxy for Stoics and our local community. The Arts at Stowe team spent a fantastic day at The National Theatre with fellow broadcasting venues from across the UK and Europe learning about the creative process of filming each production, the technical process of each broadcast, marketing, design and how NT Live is becoming a new genre of art in itself.

A highlight of the day was the Kirsty Lang interview with Director of 'Julie' Carrie Cracknell and Director of Filming Matthew Amos exploring how they work together on each production and how NT Live creates a wonderful collaboration between cinema and theatre giving audiences the best seat in the house for each performance, every time being able to witness every nuance of the "internal" performance and emotion the actors give during their performances, unedited, up close.

In January 2019, we have three wonderful productions being screened in The Roxy starting on Wednesday 9 January at 7pm with 'The Madness of King George' by Alan Bennett starring the fabulous Mark Gatiss and Adrian Scarborough, brilliant performances as the King unravels and how the fine line is exposed between King and man - "A stand out production" The Times.

On Tuesday 15 January at 7pm we will screen 'The Tragedy of King Richard the Second' by William Shakespeare starring Simon Russell Beale as the vain, irresponsible and foolish King. Witness how the ambitious Bollingbroke challenges the throne and the King's divine right to rule.

On Thursday 31 January at 7pm we will show 'I'm Not Running' by David Hare, which tells the story of a doctor, an inspiring leader of local health campaign having to make an agonising decision as to sacrifice her private life for something more than a single issue - "David Hare's Labour play hits political bulls eyes." Guardian.

We are thrilled to announce that on Tuesday 14 May at 7pm we will be broadcasting live from The National Theatre the wonderful 'All my Sons' by Arthur Miller starring the incredible Sally Field and Bill Pullman with cast members including Jenna Coleman and Colin Morgan. This production celebrates 200 years of the Old Vic. NT Live here at Stowe gives audiences the opportunity to lose themselves in stories from every time, place and viewpoint imaginable.

Tickets for all NT Live performances are £12 and £10 (concessions).

For more information, please email hearts@stowe.co.uk and to book NT Live tickets visit www.artatstowe.co.uk or call our box office on 01280 825710,

Mel Wallis, Arts at Stowe Project Coordinator



Careers

Inspired students to gain insight into their career and higher education options

Before Half Term, Fifth Form students completed the COA Preview questionnaire. This careers and higher education tool, analyses individual student responses to 300 questions and produces an interest profile based on over 40 broad career areas.

At Stowe School, we use this tool to:

- Stimulate thought and lively discussion around careers.
- Give students information on the top key career areas that may be of interest.
- Provide a personalised A Level subject selection chart needed according to different career areas.
- Stimulate further careers research along with a structured way for students to investigate their options and ask the right questions.

On Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 December, COA delivered in-depth one-to-one interviews with 138 Fifth Form students, to help them explore potential A Level options linked to higher education trajectories and future careers. Speaking with many of the students, they found the report pack and interview extremely useful as for some it confirmed aspirations and plans. For others, the assessment and follow-up interviews helped to stimulate discussions about potential options after their A Levels. All students were given advice on how to make their university applications stand out through extracurricular activities and further work experience during the Lower Sixth summer break and potentially October Half Term.

Fifth Form parents are encouraged to discuss their son or daughter's report pack with them over the Christmas break by exploring the additional careers directory and work experience booklet that was issued to each student during their interview.

Gordon West, Head of Careers & Deputy Head of Sixth Form

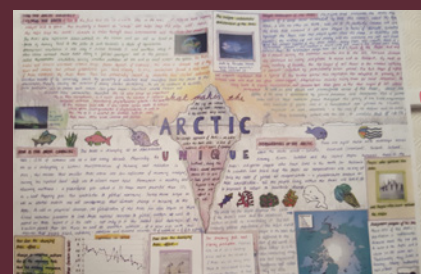


Geography

Young Geographer of the Year Competition 2018

In October 2018, Rosia Li (Fifth Form, Stanhope) created an amazing poster on the theme 'Why is the Arctic Unique' to enter into the National Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Young Geographer of the Year Competition. Her poster was truly outstanding, combining factual information on the Arctic ranging from its flora and fauna, to its structure and the threats it currently faces due to climate change. Filled with amazing information and detail, it was also beautifully presented with illustrations and mini-booklets to provide extra information and answers to questions. One of 1,150 competition entries, Rosia did extremely well, being selected as one of just three Highly Commended entries in her age category. She was therefore invited to the RGS Award Ceremony in London on Wednesday 28 November, where she was awarded her certificate and prizes by Steve Brace, Head of Education and Outdoor Learning at the RGS and guest speaker Henry Burgess, Head of the NERC Arctic Office.

*Sarah Murnane,
Head of Geography*



CCF



Tug of War Competition

2018's CCF Inter Section Tug of War competition saw no snow this year, but the mud was good and greasy for those Army boots.

This event is a popular one and Sections were flexing muscles and 'talking the talk' as they psyched themselves up for the physical challenge ahead.

Army, Navy and RAF pitched themselves against each other with biceps straining, boot heels desperately digging in and some teams displaying some cunning tricks for an early 'heave'. I may be wrong, but I think a few teams need to work on their maths, as the occasional ninth person appeared on the end of a rope.

Sections gradually eliminated each other, against a fantastic atmosphere, as supporters' vocal chords got hoarser and pride took a few dents, but the worthy runners up were Cheshire Fourth Form H Section, (Army), led by Sgt Tom Abbott-Drake (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and the delighted RAF section were the proud winners of the pre-Christmas calorie overload in the form of the mother of all Toblerone Bars, weighing in at a not so dainty 4.5kg.

Congratulations to the RAF Section, led by Flt Sgt Rowan Brudenell (Upper Sixth, Grenville), on a fantastic effort and indeed to all those who took part. Happy Christmas!

Major Jan de Gale, CCF Contingent Commander



Languages Society

On Wednesday 14 November, Emma Sproston came to Stowe to give a talk to the Languages Society about careers as a linguist in the military. As a flight lieutenant in the Royal Air Force, she explained to the students how studying a language at A Level can help them in the future, and presented jobs in the military that are available for people who speak a foreign language. She explained how many people from the RAF are deployed all over the world for different operations that are currently going on in the military, such as in the Baltic States, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. She then went into further detail on what the linguist job involves, from Signals Intelligence, which involves listening in to intercept enemy communications, to Human Intelligence, which focuses on communication and interpretation between the foreign nationals and the soldiers on patrol. The students learnt how to count from 1-10 in Pashto, and thus deciphered a military code. They also observed an intercepted radio communication and had to interpret the type of attack it was by learning different Pashto terms. By the end of the talk, it is safe to say that everyone was impressed by their new-found knowledge of the importance of languages in the military.

Laura Lux (Upper Sixth, West)

A Christmas Collaboration

Over the last month, Stowe House Preservation Trust has been getting into the festive spirit by working on a creative partnership project with the Stowe School Photography Club and the National Trust.

Every year the National Trust transform the beautiful gardens of Stowe into a giant advent calendar trail for families. Hidden across the landscape, are 24 advent 'doors,' behind which are creative installations. Door 24 of the advent calendar is a grand Christmas tree display held in Concord and Victory. This year, the National Trust invited SHPT to decorate a small tree representing our organisation along with other local organisations and partners.

SHPT approached the School Photography Club to work in collaboration to create a set of bespoke baubles, around the theme - Inside Out. This focused on taking elements of the inside of the House outside into the garden, so that visitors might get a taste of what lies within Stowe's impressive walls. We invited the students to a short introductory talk on the history of the House by one of our experienced tour guides. Armed with a little historical knowledge and context the students

then set off on a photography challenge. Over three sessions the group took and edited photos before joining us in Concord and Victory to help decorate the tree.

The project received a lot of positive feedback from both teachers and Stoics, whose comments highlighted how the project enabled them to take the time to look at the House in a new way, see areas of beauty they miss in their daily comings and goings around the main mansion and finally to hear fascinating stories about Stowe's past owners.

We would like to thank everyone who took part on the project and made it possible. It was pleasure to work with all our partners on site and the result is an undeniably captivating tree! We encourage you to take a trip down to Concord and Victory to see it. It is a magical experience and the National Trust have done a great job with the space.

For more information about the trail click [here](#). For more information about Stowe House Preservation Trust click [here](#).

Carmen Hoepfer, Learning and Community Outreach Officer



Volunteering Projects

This term there have been a variety of volunteering projects available for Stoics to offer something back to the world around them. There are opportunities to be involved in a range of projects, with various organisations in the local community and it is not just the recipients of our help who have benefitted. Stoics have learnt a lot about themselves over the course of the term, alongside gaining an understanding that supporting the local community is not just about fundraising, but also being involved with people and the environment.

Gwilym Jones, Co-Curricular Co-ordinator

Stowe National Trust

This term we have started working with a team from the National Trust on conservation projects within the Stowe grounds. This term's project has been to plant and box in lime trees along the Course (the drive up to Security), in order to open up this area and help the National Trust achieve its aim of restoring the Gardens to their original form. This has not only helped the National Trust progress one of its major projects, but has also helped Stoics understand the importance of the Stowe Grounds as a community asset and the work that the National Trust achieves nationally.

"I chose to do the National Trust gardening section, which entailed clearing the weeds from the sectioned-off tree guards then planting new ones. Once all of the trees were planted we as a group nailed the guards down so the livestock wouldn't eat away at the saplings. Personally I found this very relaxing and even though it was a lot of work, I am looking forward to returning in 40 years to see the trees that I planted back in my youth. It really does make you appreciate one's work."

Louis Hink (Upper Sixth, Walpole)



Riding with the Disabled

This term Mrs Rickner, Mrs Cecil, Jennifer Hizli (Lower Sixth, West) and myself have been going to a yard in Silverstone to help their Riding with the Disabled program. We have been helping the volunteers running the yard by mucking out stables and fields, lunging and training the horses to be safe for the disabled riders. Next term, we will be riding a greater range of horses acting as disabled riders to ensure that they can be used for a variety of riders. It has been rewarding to see the difference we have made and to help such a generous cause.

Henrietta Gendler (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

Woodlands Project

This term, on Monday afternoons, Mr Morales-Shearer and Miss Ellis have been taking a group of pupils from the Fifth Form and Lower Sixth to the Thornborough Community Woodlands, 10 minutes away from the School to participate in the 'Woodlands Project'. The aim of this project is to make the woods more accessible to the public and allow them to visit the forest so that it can play a more important part in the community. At the start of term we were assigned a section of the woods with the aim of removing the dead branches toward the bottom of the trees that prevented people from walking through them. Removing them permitted visitors to visit larger areas of the forest. We were also asked to stack up the branches as animals would use them as shelter during winter. We all thoroughly enjoyed this activity as volunteering for community projects is not something we often have the opportunity to do at School. We found that working on this project outside of School was both fun and somewhat therapeutic, we are all looking forward to coming back next term to find out what are next contribution to this project will be.

Paul Purdon (Lower Sixth, Grenville)

Greatworth Primary School

Every Wednesday afternoon a small group of Stoic girls visit Greatworth Primary School. The School consists of boys and girls from Reception to Year 6. The first week we visited the school, we worked with younger groups and taught them the lyrics and the dance moves, to 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' for their Harvest Festival. We have also helped them create art based on Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' and helped younger years with their spellings.

As part of their literacy work, Years 5 and 6 have been reading a story called the 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne. We took a green screen, to take a photograph of each child and create backgrounds of themselves in interesting places based on ideas of adventuring from the story. Using our laptops and cameras we are able to do this in a few weeks, printing out these photos for the children to write their own stories to and hang in the classroom. We have taken photographs and videos of the children doing various activities and whilst they work hard in the classroom. We plan to turn it into a promotional video to publish on their website.

The Year 5s and 6s visited Stowe on Monday 10 December and we showed them around the House and did various activities with them, such as portrait games with

the beautiful portraits in the main mansion, as well as Mr Sayers' puppet show which was thoroughly enjoyed not only by Greatworth children but the Staff and Stoics as well.

Feedback from Stoics has been very positive:

"We particularly enjoyed teaching the children how to use the green screen and putting their ideas and imagination into real life, we have also learned how to use the green screen app on our laptops. It has been a very enjoyable experience and we can't wait to carry it on."

"The skills we are developing through helping and working with these children are really fulfilling. Knowing that we are giving back to the community as well as making them smile is great. As we return weekly the children get excited and are always pleased to see us, eager to get on with something we plan or do with them."

Olivia Elliott (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)



Community Celebrations

This term, on a weekly basis, forty-three students from Fifth Form to Upper Sixth have visited six homes for the elderly in the surrounding areas.

The students have enjoyed the experience of meeting people with so many interesting life stories to tell. They have, in most cases, lived through WWII and have been delighted to have interested students with whom they can share their memories.

The residents of the homes really look forward to their visits as sadly for many this is one of the few visits they receive every week and it gives them a chance to see a new face and to have some time with somebody who is interested and able to give them their full attention.

On Sunday 2 December, our students hosted the annual Christmas Party and Concert at Stowe for residents of local care homes, which was a resounding success. The visitors really enjoyed the day and were very impressed with the Stoics who went out of their way to make them feel welcome. They also enjoyed the concert in the Marble Hall where many of the musically talented Stoics entertained them before moving on to the Dining Room for tea. The Headmaster's Bingo was, as always, popular and the raffle a great success. The highlight of the tea was Reverend Mullins leading a rousing rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' followed by a visit from Santa where all of the guests were treated to a gift.

Dr Mary Lakin, Teacher of Biology





OS Christmas Carols at Chelsea Old Church

On Monday 3 December, 385 Old Stoics, Current and Former Parents and Friends of Stowe crammed into Chelsea Old Church to welcome in the festive season. Once again, we were overwhelmed with the popularity of the occasion and were thrilled that the Church was full to the brim for our second Christmas Carol Concert!

Tallulah Goldsmith (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) opened the proceedings with a beautiful solo verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', before the Choir and Congregation joined the throng. The concert was led by the charismatic Reverend Canon David Reindorp TD DL and included a number of popular congregational carols, readings and performances, including a spectacular rendition of Elgar's 'The Snow' performed by Tallulah Goldsmith, Emily Banks (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Emily Wilson (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Poppy de Salis (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Audrey Au (Fifth Form, Lyttelton). Audrey Au, Ben Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Rosia Li (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Toby Thorpe (Lower Sixth, Chatham) also performed 'Largo from Concerto No.4 in F minor' and 'Winter' (The Four Seasons) by Antonio Vivaldi. The Old Stoic Choir gathered for a second year and delivered an excellent performance of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' led by the fantastic Jonathan Kingston (Former Staff).

This year's concert remembered Tristan Voorspuy (Former Parent). Tristan sadly lost his life on 5 March 2017, after he rode his horse into an ambush on Sosian, a 24,000 acre ranch he co-owned in Kenya's Laikipia region, which was occupied by armed warriors and their cattle. We were delighted so many of Tristan's family and friends were able to join us to remember him. The concert had an African theme and Tristan's son, Archibald Voorspuy (Chatham 10), read 'The Call of Africa' by C. Emily Dibb in his father's memory. Adrian Dangar (Temple 81) read an extract from his recently published biography of Tristan's life, 'Life on the Edge'. Nick Bayley, Teacher of Drama assembled a troupe of Old Stoic thespians to perform an adaptation of Noel Coward's 'I Wonder what Happened to Him'. James Musgrave (Grenville 08), James Sindall (Bruce 08), Alasdair Shaikh

(Walpole 06) and Hugh Viney (Grenville 06) delighted our audience with their 1920s characters and excellent expressions, which tied in perfectly thanks to Nick Bayley's wizardry of adapting the piece to our African theme.

Daisy Gomme (née Lawson, Nugent 01), kindly illustrated the cover of this year's programme. Her design was inspired by Kenya's wildlife, which was the focus of Tristan's passion, and featured species which are important in Kenya, including: a Lilac-Breasted Roller - the national bird of Kenya; a Dark Blue Pansy Butterfly; a Reticulated Giraffe; an Orchid - indigenous to Kenya; and a Bird of Paradise Flower - an important African flower.

The concert ended with a festive note, with Voorspuy family friend, Daisy Ussher (Nugent 12) delighting the congregation with her charming rendition of 'A Visit from St Nicholas' by Clement Clarke Moore, before our guests were asked to take to their feet to hear the Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallerstein, read John 1:1-14.

At the end of the service, a collection was taken in aid of The Tristan Voorspuy Conservation Trust, a charity that has been set up to cherish the memory of Tristan and continue his philanthropic legacy towards protecting Kenya's wildlife, both flora and fauna, for the future. We are delighted to announce that the collection raised £1,425.00.

Following the service, the crowds spilled into Petyt Hall and its charming fairy-lit courtyard for delicious mulled wine and mince pies. The atmosphere was festive and jovial: it was a delight to see so many Old Stoics and friends of Stowe coming together to catch up with friends before Christmas.

It would be impossible to hold this concert without the dedicated support of the Stowe Music School, Chelsea Old Church, our readers and performers and helping hand of Jonathan Kingston. A huge thank you to all those who made this year's concert such an enjoyable occasion for all.

We intend to make this concert an annual fixture on the OS Events Calendar, so please do join us again next year.

Anna Semler (Nugent 05), Old Stoic Society Director

Be ready to grab your glitter and put on your dancing shoes for the amazing sounds of ABBA at SOUTHSIDE19. We are excited to announce that 'Bjorn Again' will be the main act for next year's concert for the eve of Speech Day. Tickets will be released shortly from Arts at Stowe and are limited to 9 tickets per party. Further details to be announced.

Deborah Howe, Director, Arts at Stowe

Enrichment Classes

In our Monday Enrichment Class, we enjoy learning about Etiquette and Good Manners, with Mrs Hill-Hall in her flat. This term we have learned to tie a bow tie, deportment and body language, life skills and ironing (as you will see hanging on the door handle behind us, the evening shirt we ironed taking great care). We have also learned to use various high-class cookery utensils, that exercise was very amusing and great fun, this has been throughout this Michaelmas Term.

We look forward to covering a great deal of other skills which will be so useful in Life after Stowe.

Matthew Twining (Upper Sixth, Temple), Esme Foster (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), might I add, are amongst the most polite, delightful, well-mannered students at Stowe, and I certainly don't think I can teach them anything they do not already know, they are all a pleasure to have around and great fun.

Clare Hill-Hall, Chandos House Matron



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