

# Stowe mail

V13 ISSUE 8  
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NEWS FROM STOWE

## National Champions

The Stowe 1st XV put on a wonderful display of cohesion, skill, and power, playing against Kings College School, Wimbledon in the final of the National Schools Plate competition at the home of Saracens Rugby, The StoneX Stadium, on the bright afternoon of Tuesday 15 March.

The team was full of confidence, having won the Semi-Final against Stockport Grammar School 41-0 on the North Front. They did however give the 250 excited travelling Stoic supporters a bit of a scare when they conceded a try early in the match.

Stowe responded with a well-worked try thanks to a wide pass from fly-half Ewan Baker (Lower Sixth, Chatham) to send full-back Harvey Poole (Fifth Form, Winton) over in the corner. They then took the lead ten minutes later with a pick-and-go effort from Henry Pollock (Lower Sixth, Grafton) who was crashing over again a few minutes later to see Stowe take a well-deserved 17-10 lead into the break.

There was a stark contrast in attacking styles between the sides, as Stowe looked to keep the ball alive and attack at every opportunity which allowed No.8 William

Plessis (Lower Sixth, Grenville) to score from close range early in the second half to extend Stowe's lead.

KCS Wimbledon replied with a well-worked set-piece try to keep them in touch. Stowe continued to play the more expansive and entertaining rugby and another sweeping counter-attack from Stowe saw lock Henri Burditt (Lower Sixth, Walpole) power his way over to extend Stowe's lead to 29-22.

KCS Wimbledon had to throw the ball around as they searched for an equalising try and they got to within five meters of the Stowe line before 'Man of the Match' Henry Pollock won a crucial turnover and popped the ball to winger Joe Atkinson (Lower Sixth, Grafton) who showed jaw-dropping pace and sprinted 80m down the touchline for the final score of the match, as Stowe recorded a fabulous 36-22 victory to lift the trophy.

Huge congratulations go to all the squad, and coaches, for this fantastic and successful Plate journey. Well done also to all those who supported the team at the Final, the Stoics excellent behaviour and positive contribution made this a memorable day for Stowe.

## National Schools' 7s

At the National Schools' 7s at Rosslyn Park, Stowe topped their group with convincing victories over Loughborough Grammar School and Northampton School for Boys to progress to the knockout stages. Further victories came over Solihull, Dollar Academy and Leeds Grammar School to qualify for the Quarter Final against an in-form Seaford.

Having made several uncharacteristic mistakes Stowe found themselves 19-10 down with a minute to play but dug deep and scored two tries to scrape through. The Semi-Final against Monmouth was a different story with Stowe dominating possession as scrum-half Archie McParland (Lower Sixth, Temple) ran riot, scoring four tries as they ran out victorious 33-10 to set up a mouth-watering Final against Oakham.

Once again, Stowe's decision-making and execution was outstanding as Captain Charlie Maxwell-Macdonald (Upper Sixth, Grafton) opened the scoring with his blistering pace. Ewan Baker (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Henry Pollock (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Archie McParland all crossed the line as Stowe recorded a memorable 33-5 victory, to become 2022 Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools Vase Sevens Champions! Congratulations to all players and coaches involved!

**Grant Seely, Director of Rugby**





**Service@Stowe**

# ForEverStowe

During our Service@Stowe activity, we have been working together to create a Fun Day, called ForEverStowe, for Evergreen School in Warwick, which will take place on Tuesday 28 June.

Evergreen School is a school for children with special educational needs, and we are hosting 20 of their pupils at Stowe at the end of the Summer Term.

We have created a theme for the day, which is Alice In Wonderland, and we are now looking to confirm the different activities that will take place. Our plan is to have a course around the Stowe grounds, with different activities such as craft, music making, gardening and a dog parade.

To make sure we make the day run smoothly, we have had to learn about event management, as well as budgeting and catering for the demographic of people who are coming. This has involved lots of planning, particularly as some of these children will have special needs, affecting accessibility of our activities and ensuring everyone can experience all parts of the day.

As part of our preparation, we are going to meet some of the children who will be coming to Stowe on Friday 25 March at Evergreen School. This will be a great way to get to know and interact with them and understand their needs.

We are going to undertake specialised workshops in Autism Awareness and Makaton, to prepare for the day and understand more about some of the disabilities that some of the children may have.

To further support the event, we are looking for volunteers, both pupils and Staff, who could be involved with helping with the activities we have arranged, and to help set up the event the day before.

In addition, we are also organising a dog parade, so any dogs are welcome, and needed! If you are interested, please get in touch with the SEN Experience team, made up of Lower Sixth pupils Willow Kenlock (Nugent), Amelia Morgan (Nugent), Grace Hodgetts (Cheshire), Imogen Taylor (Nugent), Isabella Pratap (Nugent), and Fifth Formers Ruby Colebrook (Queen's), Jemima Dare (Queen's), Annie Flint (Queen's) and Grace Barnett (Cheshire), Miss Westmoreland or Miss Pickering Polláková.



## Chandos Fundraiser for MND

On the week of 28 February, Chandos House held a fundraiser in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. This is a charity that not only supports people who are suffering from this debilitating disease but also funds treatment and research programmes stretching across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Motor Neurone Disease is a rare neurodegenerative disorder that affects motor neurons, the cells that control voluntary muscles in the body. Currently 5,000 people are living with Motor Neurone in the UK.

In total, the week saw 59 athletes completing a total of 256 activities. We originally had sights on completing 1000km throughout the week, but after passing this by Thursday 3 March, we decided to increase our target to 1500km. Almost everyone in House from our Houseparent to our Matron got fully involved in racking up distance as well as countless others from School, and we were boosted by getting rowing machines and spin bikes in front of the TV.

The biggest mention has got to go to Darius Shirazi (Upper Sixth) who ran rowed and cycled his way to over 500km throughout the week, an unbelievable achievement Darius. Other outstanding mentions must go to Ned Goodrich (Fifth Form) for completing 160km, Josh Green (Upper Sixth) who rowed 30km in one go, as well as our Chandos Upper Sixth who in total managed 1100km.

On the final day of the fundraiser, the Sports Department kindly lent us spin bikes and rowing machines. We set them up on the South Front to help raise the awareness of the disease and some of the boys went on a night-time walk around the athletics track. In total, the House managed an incredible 2,419km across the week, further than London to Athens.

In light of these outstanding distances, we raised £3,601.30. We cannot thank you enough for all the donations we received. Most of this money will be used to provide a text to speech device, giving someone with Motor Neurone 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 MND 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, which currently doesn't exist.

A massive thank you to everyone who got involved, it will mean so much for people suffering across the UK to motor neurones disease.

**George Carpmal and Oscar Watson (Upper Sixth, Chandos)**



# Lacrosse

## National Schools' Championships

The National Schools' Championships is the high point of the lacrosse season with more than 50 schools from across Great Britain gathering at Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre on Saturday 19 to Tuesday 22 March. Over the weekend the teams competed fiercely to determine their national ranking for the 2021/2022 season.

The 1st X did very well in the pools with three wins against Lorretto, King's Canterbury and St George's Ascot, as well as a tight 3-3 draw with eventual fifth ranked St Albans High School.

Into day two and fortunes changed with a tough play in box against HABS, Westonbirt and Marlborough. The last game of the weekend was against a usually Championship division Caterham, losing 5-0. They made it to an increasingly competitive Division 1, and should be proud of their accomplishments. Hannah Bewes (Lower Sixth, Queen's) led the team in ground balls, Willa Percy (Lower Sixth, Queen's) in caused turnovers, while Lyla Mulcahy (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Rosie Grayson (Upper Sixth, Nugent) led the team in points with 14 goals 4 assists and 11 goals 3 assists respectively.

Stowe's 2nd X had a fantastic tournament. After wins against Cheltenham and Caterham, the team finished Fourth in their group. On the second day the team were drawn into a tough pool which led to a great game against Putney High School in the knockouts, which Stowe won 3-1! This confirmed we would finish in the top eight, the hard work, grit and determination from the girls was second to none!

The mighty 3rds took to the Nationals Schools' Championships on a very sunny Monday. The team led by Sabyn Maude (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Amalie Mager (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) lost three and won two games. The wins were incredible, beating both Godolphin and Caterham 6-1 each.

The group the U15As were given was extremely tough with strong opposition coming in the form of Lady Eleanor Holles (LEH), Monmouth, Queen Anne's, Walthamstow Hall and Guildford. In the pool, the Stowe side turned over LEH 7-3 with a hat trick from Mila Ratcliff (Fourth Form, Queen's), as well as Emelia Brett's (Fourth Form, Queen's) 100% success at the draw. Further wins came against Monmouth and Walthamstow Hall, plus a loss to Guildford High School and a close 3-2 loss to Queen Anne's Caversham.

Out of the group, the team played a strong Godolphin side, losing 3-1 (despite a great goal from Maddie Baker (Fourth Form, Queen's)). The take-away from this game was not the result but the fact that the girls were still smiling after the loss. This again shows the attitude and great team spirit the girls have built up over the year. One highlight which must not be forgotten is Mila breaking her stick then grabbing Mrs Duckett's stick and getting an assist with it!

The U14As had an excellent season with a Fourth-place finish in the counties, three wins and one lose in regular fixtures and an impressive display of talent against the top schools in the country at the National Schools' Championships. The girls came away with one win, two draws and three loses (all three who beat them ended up in the top eight!).

Well done to all the girls for their performance, hard work and dedication to lacrosse this year and the talent they have shown over the season.

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse**



# TS Eliot's The Waste Land @100

**Regular readers will know that the recording of a brand-new version of TS Eliot's *The Waste Land*, featuring Teachers and Pupils from Stowe, to celebrate the centenary, has been taking place throughout this term and it is now ready for its debut after Easter on Thursday 28 April at 3.30pm (for Staff and Pupils) and 7pm (for Parents and Guests).**

The performance includes live music and audio-visual "re-imagining" of the poem and it will be followed by a short Q&A with its producers Ms Heather Eisenhut and myself.

The recording (which features, amongst others, the voices of Dr Wallersteiner, Mr Paul Floyd, Ms Rebecca Clark, Mrs Sophie Rickner and Rev'd Tim Mullins), aims to help a new audience understand one of the Twentieth Century's most challenging poems and bring it to life for new readers.

Our "re-imagining" has attempted to give this profound work (which was certainly way ahead of its time in terms

of its modernity and the "movement" it gave birth to), a slightly fresh spin and we have adopted the central conceit of a radio being tuned in to tie the various parts of the poem together.

In addition, we have tried to show how Ezra Pound's input as editor certainly contributed to its overall impact. We've also added a few anachronistic pieces of music to make the poem feel fresh and to suggest its continued influence upon popular culture in the Twenty First Century. Given current events, several parts of the poem feel eerily prophetic.

The Waste Land at 100 was engineered at the School's Stringer Studios by Studio Manager Ben Weston, and is a stunning new interpretation of Eliot's verse which we hope you will enjoy.

Tickets for the evening performance on Thursday 28 April are available [here](#).

Please note that whilst tickets are free, we will be collecting donations for the Stowe Changemakers 100 Fund.

**Dr Andrew Webber,**  
Teacher of English

The Waste Land  
@100

Thursday 28 April 2022  
The Roxy 3.30pm & 7pm

## Gaussian Society

### Paradoxes, Creativity and Beauty in Imperfection

Alexander Gu (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Terry Tan (Lower Sixth, Chandos) introduced an audience of 26 Stoics to paradoxes that can be neither true nor false, such as "This sentence is false", before demonstrating Zeno's paradox of impossible motion in which Achilles (a.k.a Alexander) cannot catch a tortoise in a race. This led nicely to Gabriel's Horn, which is a three-dimensional object with a volume of pi units - you could, for example, fill it with a pi units of paint. However, a bit of calculus later and it turns out that its surface area is infinite, and it is not possible to coat the interior with the paint that fills it. A paradox indeed (!).

Yuki Jiang (Lower Sixth, West) ambitiously introduced Stoics to the famous P=NP problem, a solution to which would win a prize of a million dollars. Yuki left the audience pondering this quotation from MIT scientist Scott Aronson about the consequences should P=NP be proved: "there would be no special value in 'creative leaps,' no fundamental gap between solving a problem and recognizing the solution once it's found. 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."

Finally, Isabella Pratap (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Vivianna Johnson (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) derived phi, the golden ratio, which can be found in art, in architecture and in the natural world. Having derived its value with some skilful board-work, Isabella and Vivianna applied phi to optimizing the proportions of faces and, just as in artistic renderings, optimised proportions can be pleasing, but there is in fact more beauty to be found in imperfection.

**Dr Charles Adkins, Senior Academic Scholars Coordinator  
& Teacher of Maths**



# GOLF



## The Gerald Micklem Trophy

Gerald Micklem was one of the most remarkable Amateur Golfers in the history of the game of golf in which he served with great distinction as player, captain, selector and administrator. Gerald was in his prime as a golfer in the post-war years of the late 1940s and 1950s when he won The English Amateur Championship in 1947 and 1953.

He played four times in The Walker Cup and many times for England. In the late 1950s he captained a wide number of representative teams, including The Walker Cup.

Gerald was an outstanding member of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, serving on many of its principal Committees from 1946 to 1971.

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 five top 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) (Upper Sixth, Temple), Edward Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Elliot Strickland

(Fifth Form, Grenville) and Miles Dickinson (Fifth Form, Grenville).

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 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 sportsmanship.

Many thanks to Cheryl Davis, Ross Deyzel and Craig Sutton for supporting our endeavours, along with all the Parents who came to support our players.

We eagerly anticipate next year's Gerald Micklem Trophy.

**Andrew Hancox, Head of Golf**



# Equestrian



**Lily Taylor** (Fifth Form, Cheshire) competed on her pony Towie at Aston-Lee Walls in the British Eventing 80cm class on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 March.

Lily competed in show jumping, cross jumping and dressage, finishing overall fourth, a fantastic achievement!



**Cassidy Jorritsma** (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) and Huckleberry competed in the Senior BS show at Cherwell on Sunday 20 March. They placed sixth in 1.05m Open (out 35) and second in 1.10m Open.

Class prizes were split between the Newcomers and 1.10m Open class, meaning she ended up fourth overall out of 55. Well done Cassidy.

**Isabelle Harris** (Third Form, Nugent) won the Final of the Winter 138cm Grand Prix of the year on Sunday 13 March at Arena UK, securing her second ticket on Rockin Roxie for the The Longines Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead in July.

Isabelle was first to go in the jump-off meaning she had set a time that couldn't be beaten so she didn't disappoint. Congratulations Isabelle.

**Lucinda Stockley**



# The Inaugural Stowe Interhouse Chess Championships

Stowe's active and talented Chess Club meets every week throughout the year and in order to promote awareness of the Club and to provide them with new challenges, in addition to playing several online 'fixtures' against other similar schools, we have this year launched the first-ever Stowe Inter-House Chess Championships.

The tournament started back 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. 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.

Pool A saw Lyttelton, Cheshire, Winton and Chatham battle it out. Pool B contained Queen's, Grafton, Nugent and Bruce. Pool C had Walpole, Grenville, Temple and Cobham and Pool D had West, Stanhope and Chandos.

It was fantastic to see so many players concentrating over their boards in A003 during the course of these rounds, and especially exciting given that Chess is really no respecter of either age or gender, and therefore this is perhaps, the one truly 'all-Stowe' Inter-House competition!

Winton came through to the Semi-Finals from Pool A, with Third Former Alex Richards (also currently the top board in the Stowe Chess Club) leading the way, ably supported by Josha Mital (Lower Sixth), Mateusz Teclaw (Fourth Form), Patrick Wilmot-Smith (Fifth Form), Charlie Ighani (Third Form) and Alejandro Sanchez-Podesta (Fifth Form), who all played in the Pool rounds.

In Pool B the winners after the three rounds were the Bruce team of Xavi Nylaende (Fourth Form), Carlo Galliani (Third Form) and Stepan Volkov (Fourth Form), all strong chess stalwarts and the team many considered favourites for the trophy.

Pool C was perhaps the most competitive, as it contained strong teams for both Walpole and Temple Houses. In the second round they came across each other and Walpole took the honours, however after three rounds they had

equal number of points and as per the tournament rules the team to progress was decided by an extra play-off between the top boards from each House. In a reverse of the result from Round 2, Temple's Will Nottage (Lower Sixth) defeated Walpole's Nikita Nedoshovenko (Lower Sixth) to take the Temple team of Will Nottage, Max Stevens (Lower Sixth) and Andrii Mamakin (Third Form) forward as winners of Pool C.

The final Semi-Finalists were the Chandos team of Michael Shpurik-Eronat (Fifth Form), Paul Ostroverhy (Third Form) and Hardy King (Fifth Form).

The two Semi-Finals were played concurrently on Wednesday 2 March. Winton faced Bruce and after 1st board Alex Richards from Winton defeated Xavi Nylaende from Bruce in a very high-quality game and 2nd board Carlo Galliani from Bruce defeated Josh Mital from Winton. Everything came down to the 3rd board game, which was the longest lasting. Although Stepan Volkov from Bruce established the early advantage, a mistake saw him drop a piece and from there Alejandro Sanchez-Podesta from Winton was able to press home his attack and win the game to secure their place in the final.

In the other Semi-Final, Temple's team won all three games against the Chandos team.

The final between Winton and Temple was played in the Marble Hall on Wednesday 9 March. Alex Richards (Winton) protected his reputation as top board in the school by defeating Will Nottage (Temple), but then Max Stevens (Temple) played a strong game to defeat Josha Mital (Winton), once again meaning that the result came down to the third board game. This was an epic contest between the two Third Form players Andrii Mamakin (Temple) and Mateusz Teclaw (Winton), which was won by Andrii to make Temple House the first-ever Stowe Inter-House Chess Champions.

It has been fantastic to see Chess flourishing so well at Stowe, especially with so many top players in the younger years and we are hoping to keep up the momentum by taking Stowe teams to the Northamptonshire County Championships in May, as well as by hosting our own inaugural Stowe Chess Tournament in the Summer Term.

**Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)**

## Languages Society Salsa Night



Tuesday 15 March saw the long awaited, and twice postponed, Language Society Salsa Night organised by Mrs Peña. Due to the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, we had to wait for two years before rejoicing in a night of dance and all things Latin American.

The evening was kicked-off by a presentation by Mrs Peña on Colombia, her home country. Through her infectious love for the country we got a flavour of all that Colombia has to offer, which is very different from what is portrayed in the Netflix series "Narcos", i.e. the drugs trade that has plagued Colombian society for decades.

We then enjoyed a sit-down meal, giving us an opportunity to unwind and chat to other members of the Society.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the crash course in Salsa dancing, led by two professional dancers who taught us the basic steps needed to Salsa in style. The joy of seeing Stoics dance together after two years of social distancing is hard to put into words! If you want to get a glimpse of the event, click [here](#) and see for yourself.

My thanks go to Mrs Peña for organising such a wonderful evening, her enthusiasm and immaculate organisation made it a night to remember!

**Alice Tearle, Head of German**

# CAREERS



## Gap Year Award & Myles Henry Award

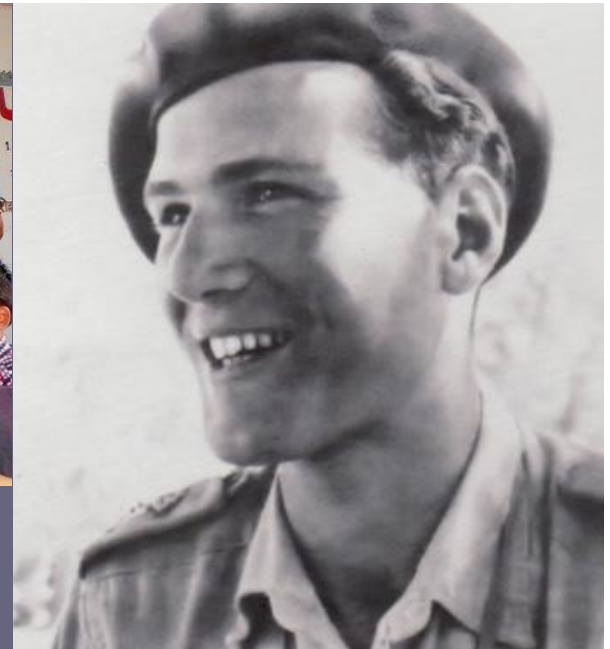
Towards the end of the Lent Term, pupils of the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Form presented their gap year plans to a panel of Staff as part of their application for the Myles Henry Award and Gap Year Award.

The two awards are given to the Upper Sixth (Gap) and the Lower Sixth (Myles Henry) with the aim of supporting pupils in their quest to carry out voluntary work at the end of their respective years.

There are criteria set down which pupils have to follow if they are to be considered for an award, for example, the organisation/company the pupil is volunteering for MUST be a Non-Profit organisation.

Individuals must spend a certain amount of time doing voluntary work (depending on the award), preferably at the same project. The project should support a community and there is no preference whether it be environmentally based or humanitarian in nature.

Pupils submit a comprehensive and realistic spreadsheet of costs



to show where they are getting their funds from and how they intend to spend them.

The Sixth Formers this year have chosen a variety of volunteering opportunities in different parts of the world including:

- Empowering women in India
- Volunteering at theatre projects for deaf children in Australia
- Conservation projects in the Amazon
- Teaching English in Nepal
- Providing health care support to children in Sierra Leone

To raise funds, some Stoics are working in café's and do odd jobs to earn money for their trips, as well as doing sponsored runs, bake sales and organising a mini music festival.

We wish all participants a fabulous time and safe travels!!

For more information on planning a gap year, please email [me](mailto:me).

**Mrs Guntner-Jones, Careers Advisor**

**unifrog's**  
**SAVE THE PLANET WEEK**  
21ST - 25TH MARCH

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**Come up with a project you can run in your community that will have a positive impact on the planet. It can take any form - a poster, a video, a speech... you name it!**

We'll select two winning project plans to receive £100/\$150 to expand their impact.  
The winners will also have 25 trees planted in their names in the Brazilian rainforest.  
The students behind three runner-up project plans will each have 25 trees planted in their names in the rainforest too!

Need some help getting started with your plan? Your teacher will be able to download a 'Save the Planet' lesson pack to take your class through the steps of designing a project plan.

Get inspired by joining our webinars! Register by logging into your Unifrog account and clicking on the Webinars tool.

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# MUSIC



## Vocal Masterclass with Rachel Nicholls

It's always a privilege and a pleasure to welcome a performer of international repute to Stowe, and on Wednesday 16 March we had just that, in a visit from Rachel Nicholls, one of Europe's leading dramatic sopranos. Rachel worked wonderfully with six Stoic singers, Abi Roberts (Upper Sixth, West), Ruby Cooke (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Grace Hodgetts (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), 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 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, and I add my own thanks to not only Rachel, but to our pupil musicians for giving a very polished account of themselves during the afternoon.

**Jonathan Kingston, Choral Director**

# Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts 2022

Over the weekend of Saturday 5 March, a number of 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.

Congratulations to all who took part, with a special mention to the following prize winners:

Sophie Lloyd (Fifth Form, Nugent) 1st place Folk Song

Gaia Mesonero-Perez (Third Form, Lyttelton) 2nd place Advanced 20th Century Piano

Milo Xing (Fourth Form, Chandos) 3rd place Advanced Baroque Piano

Emily Garwood (Fourth Form, Cheshire) 3rd place Strings Recital

Nikki Atife (Fourth Form, Cheshire) 3rd place both Advanced Classical and Advanced Romantic Piano

Annabel Hodgetts (Third Form, Cheshire) 3rd place Disney Theme Vocal category 11-13 years

Ruby Cooke (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) 3rd place Disney Theme 14-18 years and 3rd place Musical Theatre Vocal categories

Many thanks to Craig Greene, Director of Music and Jeffrey Au, Gap Assistant, for their assistance with accompanying the Stoics to the Festival.

**Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard**







# Hockey

Stamford on Saturday 19 March proved to be a tough final block fixture across the board.

Their Senior teams were impressive and got the better of ours despite Stowe playing well and rising to the challenge.

Our U16B and U15As did get wins and the Yearlings B got a strong draw.

**Ben Scott, Head of Hockey**



# Basketball

The 1st team finished the season on a high, beating Bradfield 34-27 in a hard fought and thrilling match on Saturday 19 March. Once again Teide Lokpobiri (Upper Sixth, Chatham) top scored with 11 points, but it was the five 3-pointers scored between Captain Dmitrii Fedko (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Gilbert Xu (Fourth Form, Chandos) which turned the match in Stowe's favour.

Having already beaten Oundle and Bromsgrove, the U16 team rounded off the season in style beating Abingdon 50-48 on Thursday 10 March and Bradfield 41-25 on Saturday 19 March, to finish the term unbeaten. Top individual scorers over the two matches were: Nemo Yi (Fifth Form, Temple) 24 points, Max LaGrande (Fourth Form, Temple) 12 points, Michael Oduguwa (Fifth Form, Bruce) 12 points and Gilbert Xu (Fourth Form, Chandos) 10 points.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Basketball**



## Stowe link with Buckingham Hockey Club going from strength to strength

Buckingham Hockey Club is a Premier Hockey Club that trains and plays at Stowe. For the last few years, the Ladies' 1st XI has competed in the National Premier League under the guidance of coach, Zak Jones. The ladies often compete in the end of season play offs and recently returned from the European Indoor Championships in Turkey after winning the National title in 2020. Three Staff members have represented the Ladies' 1st XI in the last couple of years as well as a Stoic making a competitive debut! The Ladies' 2nd XI compete in one of the top regional leagues and Mr Blackmore-Beales is the Coach.

The men's section of Buckingham Hockey Club was formed in 2019 and has really taken off leading to the formation of the Men's 2nd XI this season. Both teams sit near the top of their respective leagues.

The Club is extremely welcoming and a very friendly place to train and play with some outstanding players and coaches. Over 30 Stoics have represented Buckingham in the last two years whether that be at the odd fixture or playing more regularly. We have also seen many Old Stoics come back to the area and play and currently, there are eight Staff and four parents involved with the running of the Club.

If you or your child are interested in finding out more, please contact [me](#).

**Ben Scott, Head of Hockey**

# Badminton

On Saturday 19 March, five teams played against Oundle; the 1st & 2nd VIs at Stowe and the 3rd, 4th & Girls' VIs away at Oundle.

There were wins for all four boys' teams and a spirited effort from a very young girls' team in their defeat.

The 1st VI won 7-2 with 1st pair Ben Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Joshua Mital (Lower Sixth, Winton) and 2nd pair George Owen-Thursfield (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Arin Chatsuwana (Fifth Form, Grenville) winning all of their matches.

The 2nd VI had a resounding 8-1 win. 2nd pair Terry Tan (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Harvey Tian (Lower Sixth, Walpole), and 3rd pair Graham Bentley (Fifth Form, Temple) and Thomas Bicknell (Fourth Form, Winton) won all of their matches.

In the 3rd VI matches, 1st pair Milo Xing (Fourth Form, Chandos) and Harry Langford (Fourth Form, Chandos) and 3rd pair Daniel Lau (Fourth Form, Bruce), Xavier Nylaende (Fourth Form, Bruce) and Sam Zhang (Fourth Form, Walpole) beat their counterparts.

In the 4th VI matches, 1st pair Zac Willner (Fifth Form, Cobham) and Solomon Grant (Fifth Form, Chatham), 2nd pair Sasha Mazurek (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Jack Riley (Fourth Form, Walpole), and 3rd pair Romayo Seaton (Fourth Form, Grenville), Max Ng (Third Form, Grafton) and Martin Zhang (Third Form, Grenville) all won their matches against their counterparts.

**Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton**

## Sports In Brief

### Football

All three Senior football teams had competitive fixtures away at St Edward's on Thursday 17 March, we didn't manage to beat them but it is good to see the level of Stowe football develop as we challenge established football schools.

The girls' team played Bromsgrove on the North Front on Saturday 19 March. Their experience told in the end, but it is great to see the enthusiasm we now have for the game.

### Netball

The U15A and B teams and our U14B and C teams all had great wins against Stamford on Saturday 19 March. Our 1st team battled hard in a tight match against Stamford on Thursday 17 March but just lost 25-28 in the end.



## International Rivals

William Plessis (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Archie McParland (Lower Sixth, Temple) both represented their countries to get their first International caps on Sunday 20 March.

Archie and Will played for opposing sides in the England vs Wales U18s match at Taunton, in which England came out on top, 37-20.

A fantastic achievement for both boys and another step in their rugby careers.



## WATER POLO

### A love for the Sport

A genuine love for the game is what this year's Stowe Water Polo team have shown 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 practicing together.

The Team is composed of a mix of Stoics from various year groups. Avid water polo player Michael Shpurik-Eronat (Fifth Form, Chandos) recruited numerous new additions to the team from Chandos House including Third Formers Gratian Yatsevitch IV, James Wilson, and Paul Ostroverhy as well as fellow Fifth Form Housemates Rory Calvert, Joseph Albertella and Sam Watson.

Arseny Savarov (Upper Sixth, Chatham) captained the First team and was joined in the pool by fellow Chatham Housemates Johnny Sutherland (Upper Sixth), Baz Calkin (Upper Sixth), Archie Atkinson (Upper Sixth), Elliott Derville (Upper Sixth), Carlo de Vivo (Lower Sixth) as well as Thanassi Ghertsos (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Stepan Muravskiy (Lower Sixth, Bruce).

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 ends Arseny 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, Head of Water Polo**



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

# National World Book Day Reading Week

As part of Thursday 3 March World Book Day celebrations, pupils in my Fourth Form English class were tasked with writing a persuasive piece about the joys of reading in preparation for their English Language examinations next year.

The articles reflected the group's interest in reading for pleasure – especially as we have been enjoying regular library lessons all year, where we are all given the chance to put life on hold for a while and lose ourselves in a good book for an hour or so.

Daniel Goje (Fourth Form, Winton) produced a particularly engaging piece of writing on the topic. Enjoy.

**Dr Andrew Webber, Teacher of English**



## Why Read?

Reading, reading, reading.

Why even pick up a book?

Recent studies show that the average person reads about ten books a year – which sounds like good news for English teachers. So, why are people still reading in the Digital Age?

First let's talk about the joy and need to read. The Victorians thought it was so important that a child should have the right to read and write, that they opened free schools. Through books, you learn to understand people, you learn to stay calm, you become intelligent and smart, you improve your communication and vocabulary, increase your confidence levels. You also learn from mentors how to deal with problems and obstacles and move towards the journey of success, and your imagination creativity. Reading opens your mind.

People might say that people that read are boring. But there are many benefits in your social life that come from reading. Reading improves your concentration and patience when talking to others and enhances your social problem-solving skills too.

Is reading a book still enjoyable? Our younger generations have definitely substituted reading for video games, movies, and social media, which are much easier than using your imagination. But surely, it's better for me to imagine things in my head than watch them on TV? The world may have developed and modernised into more types of entertainment but studies still show that whilst most teenagers prefer social media and visual entertainment, there are still many who are extremely interested in reading a book every day, thank goodness.

The experience of opening a book is still seen by many to be a worthwhile exercise. People who read use phrases like "a stress-free escape", "a subtle way to relax", "I read because it's not work", "diverting, entertaining and educational" and "It draws me away from reality."

There are many different forms of reading. You can read novels, magazines, sports papers etc. You can read off line or on and you can always find a book to suit your interests – fiction or non-fiction.

So, what do you think? It is all entirely up to you and your preference. Is reading a waste of time?

I would love you to finish reading this, that is for sure.

Reading doesn't have to be boring. Reading is a beautiful thing and is there for everyone to enjoy.

After all, people who tend to read look outside the box, try new things and find new hobbies and are much better at communicating with others, and are much more exciting to be around and talk to.

If you don't tend to read – maybe now is the time to turn the pages.

**Daniel Goje (Fourth Form, Winton)**



## Stowe Radio on Spotify

**Listen to this episode from Stowe Radio on Spotify. Our first edition includes Araan Sobhan (Fifth Form, Bruce) playing the songs you've requested to celebrate the end of term, Adaora Okoye (Lower Sixth, West) speaking on what Amnesty International is doing to help the situation in Ukraine and Stepan Volkov (Fourth Form, Bruce) providing an in depth film review of brand new film 'The Batman'. Happy Easter!**

# PHILOSOPHON

## Philosophon Final Comes to Stowe



The first ever National Final of the 'Philosophon' came to Stowe this term and we were delighted to welcome teams from eight schools: St Helen and Katharine, King's Taunton, Bristol Grammar, New Hall, Brighton College, Solihul School, and eventual overall winners South Hampstead High and Kingswood School.

A Philosophon invites participants to take part in a variety of discussions with a philosophical focus, which are judged by a team of judges who award points for the participants who move things forward most effectively. As Dr Potter noted in her welcoming address, what is great about this competition is how it puts emphasis upon participation and inclusion - the attendees discussing and sharing ideas, not debating from very fixed positions. This meant that there was a greater emphasis upon listening and participation than you might expect, and the discussions were all the better because of this.

Topics discussed at the event included Fast Fashion, Freedom of Speech, Vaccination Conundrums and Vegetarianism.

The winners (prizes were also awarded to best Junior and Senior contributor as well as best overall school) were certainly keen minds and philosophers par excellence but more importantly their listening skills and ability to move conversations forward lead to their prizes - not their individual skills as orators.

We were delighted that we also had so many Stowe Lower Sixth Formers involved as facilitators India Baillie (Queen's), Max Burlingham (Walpole), Charlie Cole (Walpole), Hugo Comerford (Chatham), Max Cranmer (Temple), Will Eastwood (Winton), Oscar Floyd (Walpole), Josha Mital (Winton), Max Stevens (Temple) and Imogen Taylor (Nugent) - all who have been awarded Commendations for their efforts by Mr Floyd and several of our Teachers were judges (both Dr Adkins', Mr Cole, Ms Eisenhut and Ms Holloway) who all expanded their knowledge and appreciation of all things "philosophical".

The Final winners were South Hampstead High who were awarded the prestigious National Trophy by Julie Arliss from Philosophon UK, the company organising the competition.

It was an exhausting but highly stimulating event and we hope to hold both Heats and Finals again over the coming years (provided funding continues) as well as ensuing a team of our best Philosophers compete.

**Dr Andrew Webber, Teacher of English**

## Senior Academic Scholars' Society Morality, Foreign Policy, Novel Therapies and Formula 1

This half term, responsibility for leading the SSAS Academic seminars was passed to the Stoics themselves. Will Eastwood (Lower Sixth, Winton) turned to Nietzsche's theories on the matter of morality as anchor for his own thought process. Questions such as 'Where should we get our morals from today?' or 'Does conflict change our take on morality?' stood out in the follow up discussion which naturally evolved and bridged over into the second topic. This was introduced clearly and comprehensibly by Theo Epes (Lower Sixth, Chandos): 'Has US foreign policy been good for the world?'. Concepts such as Liberal interventionism and a critical commentary of the Cuban Missile crisis or the Iraq War featured prominently in this latter part of the Seminar.

On the science, technology, engineering and mathematics side, Malika Rashid (Lower Sixth, Cheshire) talked us through potential new stem-cell technologies that could be used to treat cerebral palsy. A patient's own cells can be reverted to a pluripotent state using Yanamaka factors, and thereby differentiated into neuronal cells that can potentially heal damage and lesions in the brain. Paddy Potts (Lower Sixth, Chandos) presented new genetic therapies for the treatment of Sickle Cell disease, giving an overview of the key experiments required to develop and test this potentially transformative



technology. In the final session, Toby Blythe (Lower Sixth, Grafton) talked about the new aerodynamic rules in Formula 1 racing and the thinking behind the designs of key components such as wishbones, underfloor tea-trays and sidepods.

The Lent Term Seminars concluded with a final debate in which SSAS members attempted to decide whose university aspirations were most worthwhile. The motion 'This house believes that students should be encouraged to study the arts and humanities instead of STEM subjects' was narrowly won by the opposing STEM group - so that's settled once and for all, this year at least (!).

Sr Fuentes, Mr Chitre and I would like to thank of this year's Senior Academic Scholars for a most exciting, engaging, enjoyable and thought-provoking series of seminars. We wish all the members well with their University aspirations and we now look forward to turning our attention to supporting Oxford and Cambridge applications in particular next term.

**Dr Charles Adkins, Senior Academic Scholars' Coordinator**

# CHASING THE LIGHT

## Kite-skiing across Antarctica



**Justin Packshaw MBE DL is a Stoic Parent, he is an entrepreneur, philanthropist and adventurer committed to raising awareness and money for important causes and making the world a better place.**

**He is also a very strong campaigner for highlighting the importance of conservation and protecting our environment and planet. As an adventurer, Justin has skydived, skied, sailed, and climbed widely and met phenomenal people along the way.**

Where possible his trips have carried out important scientific research where data gathered has been used to help us have a better understanding of climate change and conservation in general. As well as scientific research his trips have raised millions of pounds for charity.

Late in 2021, Justin embarked on a Kite skiing adventure across Antarctica. Here Justin talks about his trip, and his ethos for living. An abridged version of Justin's words, the whole article can be found [here](#).

Our aim was to do a 2,500 km crossing of Antarctica through the interior to the 'Geographic South Pole'. Unlike my previous trips where we raised money and awareness for important causes, on this one we wanted to tie it into science and research. The overall objective was two pronged on us doing some stellar research around the environment and human physiology and psychology as well as flying the sustainability flag.

Antarctica is unique for many reasons but one of them is that once you are on the plateau, which is at around 10,000ft, it is completely pristine, meaning, not a single living entity exists, no viruses, no bacteria and needless to say, it makes for a fantastic petri-dish for all sorts of research around us humans. From an environmental perspective too, the land mass of Antarctica which is 1.5 times the size of North America, with an ice cube sitting on the top of it which represents 90% of the world's fresh water, is a vitally important part of the stability and balance of the worlds ecosystem. Amazing really. From a climate change perspective this is terribly relevant today and the information we could gather on our crossing will be extremely useful to the scientific community.

My partner in crime was a super talented individual, Dr Jamie Facer-Childs. A Doctor with the NHS and a reservist in the Army. Charming to boot and as fit as a fiddle. Our mode of travel was kite-skiing and man-hauling, so we really were properly sustainable. Our pulks weighed in at over 220kg at the start as we were going to be totally unsupported. This included 70 days of food, fuel, sleeping bags, cooking and personal equipment, communication and navigational kit, charging panels and batteries, 8 Ozone kites, research apparatus, spares, a drone and medical supplies.

We set off at the beginning of November 2021 from the Russian research station Novolazarevskaya in Queen Maud Land with a spring in our step and a glint in our eye as to the challenge of what lay ahead of us. Mother Nature was particularly grizzly and we often had days with winds over 100mph and temperatures below -50 degrees Celsius, remember, your freezer at home runs

at -16. It was a proper baptism of fire and we ended up having to spend ten days hunkered down in our tent as it was too dangerous to get amongst it!

We soon resorted to a very formulaic way of living, whereby everything becomes very methodical – up early, eat & hydrate, break camp, kite for six to eight hours, set-up camp again, eat & hydrate, carry out our research, charge & repair kit, recover & sleep and repeat it all again the next day. Groundhog day...! This existence is extremely one dimensional and certainly sharpens your mind as to what is important, you have to become very adaptable at operating efficiently yet still be totally flexible/respectful to the power and fluctuating moods of the brutal conditions around you. It's a simple language where our priority was looking after yourself, your teammate and our equipment. It's a cathartic code of living and certainly makes one appreciate all the things we take for granted in our normal day-to-day life.

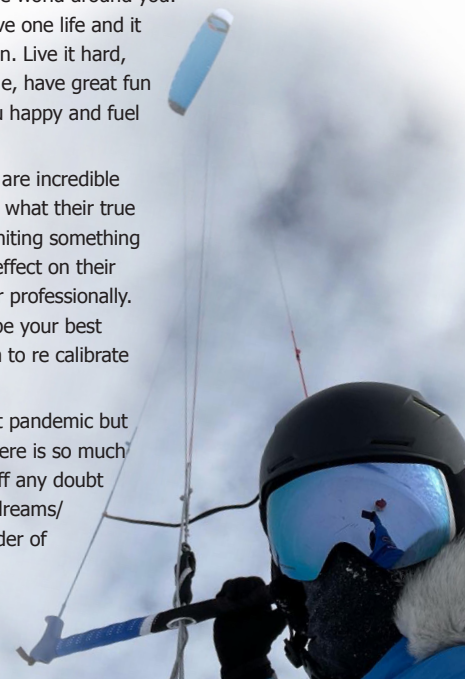
After 57 days and one hell of a magnificent yet gritty journey, we kited into the South Pole on a very windy day with little visibility. What an insane adventure it had been! We were battered, had each lost 8kgs of weight, but were totally elated. Not only had we achieved our aim in crossing the interior, but we had also done some phenomenal science along the way collaborating with our amazing research partners and I am sure that research is going to be of significant help to the scientific community once it has all been analysed.

The beauty of human endeavour is that it takes one out of our comfort zone and breaks the monotony of what the norm is. You confront risk and challenge yourself. In the process, you learn more about yourself and what you're capable of and about the world around you. I live by the adage that you only have one life and it is imperative that you really pack it in. Live it hard, give it your best shot, be accountable, have great fun and try and do things that make you happy and fuel your soul.

Expeditions and travel on the whole are incredible at showing the individual and teams what their true potential is, more often than not, igniting something in them which will have a dramatic effect on their outlook in life, whether personally or professionally. Trips/expeditions demand that you be your best and allow one an incredible platform to re calibrate and strive for excellence.

It has been a difficult few years post pandemic but I feel positive about the future as there is so much to go and get stuck into, so shake off any doubt you may have, ignite your deepest dreams/aspirations and go and see the wonder of this magnificent world first-hand.

Carpe diem.



# Senior International Dinner



On Tuesday 8 March fifty International pupils from the Sixth Form, along with some of our Matrons, came together to enjoy a Continental Dinner. The menu started with chicken skewers, and corn fritters with a spicy dip, followed by the South African dish "Bobotie" and finished with a delicious chocolate cake.

The evening was filled with good company, jazz music, delicious food and a thrilling quiz to end the night. It was fun to test our collective knowledge of different countries with various rounds from national dishes and the locations of lakes, to the country of origin of Santa Claus.

It was a lovely opportunity to not only acknowledge, but also to celebrate how truly diverse the Stowe Community is, and this was just the Sixth Form alone. The whole night was enjoyable and it would be lovely to come together again as an International Community in the future.

We would like to thank Mr Floyd for hosting the event in lieu of Miss Shah, who unfortunately was unable to attend due to illness.

**Olanma Kalu (Upper Sixth, West)**



## Fifth Form Pupils - Are you considering going to university or college in the USA?

On Thursday 10 March six Lower Sixth Form pupils were able to discuss their forthcoming US university application with David Hawkins (The University Guys), who guided the Stoics through the maze of well-known and niche university and college choices.

With nearly 6,000 universities and colleges to choose from, research and course selection is more complex than UCAS. Each pupil received a detailed resource pack and action plan to help them continue their research on how to write successful applications and on various university destinations.

For more information about international university applications, contact [me](#).

**Mrs Guntner-Jones (Careers and International University Admissions Advisor)**

## Sitting The SATs

Beginning in 2024, the SAT will be taken on laptops or tablets at American Testing Centres. The switch will happen in other countries in 2023.

For those who are thinking about an application to universities in the US or Europe, and need to sit the SAT exam, there are important changes for those sitting exams in 2023.

The major changes are:

- The SAT will be completed on line, rather than the current paper-based system and the time of the test will be reduced from 3 hours to 2 hours.
- All mathematics questions will be allowed a calculator.
- There will be shorter reading passages.
- Results will be available much sooner.

The good news is that the content and scoring system will be remaining the same.

If you need any further information or have any questions about the SATs, please see anyone from the international applications team **Mrs Matthews, Mr Chitre** (Harvard Scholar) or **Mrs Guntner-Jones**.

If you would like to try a SAT test, please follow this [link](#) to some free sample tests from the College Board.

**Mrs Shelly Matthews, SAT/ACT Maths preparation**

# ROWING



## The Schools' Head of the River Race 2022

On Monday 14 March 2022 schools from across the country returned to the Boat Race course on the tidal Thames at Putney for the first time in two years. The Tideway can be very challenging when wind, weather and tide come together. Fortunately, on Monday, we were blessed with mild temperatures, light winds, flat water and even some sunshine - perfect conditions for the big day! The sight of 314 school crews marshalling for the start at Chiswick Bridge on London's River is something to behold.

The Stoics have been preparing for this competition since last September, so we were delighted to boat a boys' 1st VIII and girls' 1st IV. The boys' crew, almost entirely Sixth Form, is the strongest 1st VIII Stowe has ever boated. But the girls' 1st IV is something new, it is the first time a girls' crew has represented Stowe at this National event.

The event attracted 2,272 school competitors. It is an event that every school rower wants to be a part of. The boys 1st VIII, led by Josh Green (Upper Sixth, Chandos) put in a solid performance beating two schools, Perse School Cambridge and Yarm Teeside and were in contention with a number of schools with strong rowing traditions.

We are really pleased that the girls' crew, led by Harriet Hines (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), came together for this major competition. They managed the challenging four and a quarter mile championship course well. Racing at this level is a real achievement for all of them.

### Boys' 1st VIII

Hugo Comerford (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Max James (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Charlie Cole (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Ed Whitbread (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Rafe Gordon (Lower Sixth, Winton), Will Crabb (Fifth Form, Winton), Finn Tyson (Upper Sixth, Winton), Josh Green (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Harrison Newman (Cox) (Third Form, Winton) - 20:36 (placed 24 of 27 in School 1st VIIs)

### Girls' 1st IV

Harriet Hines (Upper Sixth, Cheshire), Amelia Hine (Lower Sixth, Cheshire), Sienna Bettany (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Leia West (Lower Sixth, West) - 24:36

The team are grateful for support from the Bettany and Hines families. They are now practicing for the Birmingham Regatta at the start of next term on Saturday 23 April, ultimately aiming for Henley Royal, at the end of term.

**Andrew Rudkin, Rowing Coach**



## HMC Foursomes Championships

On Thursday 17 March, Stowe competed against a strong Brentwood School in the Regional Semi-Final match of The HMC National Foursomes Championship.

Our team of six players consisted of Max Faulkner (Captain) (Upper Sixth, Temple), Edward Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Chanel Fontaine-Geary (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Elliot Strickland (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Miki Khursheed (Fourth Form, Bruce).

In the opening foursomes match, Max Faulkner and Edward Davis unfortunately failed to find their best golf and were beaten 5&3 by Brentwood's top two players.

In our second match, Elliot Strickland and Miles Dickinson played some excellent foursomes golf and dovetailed extremely well to win the match 4&2.

With everything evenly balanced, the final outcome was left to our deciding match, and Chanel Fontaine-Geary partnered Miki Khursheed in a thrilling and nerve-jangling match.

After finishing All Square after regulation play, the match went to extra holes by way of a sudden death playoff. Chanel and Miki worked extremely well to hold their nerve and win the match on the 19th green.

We now progress to the Regional Final, which will be played next term.

## Golf Scholar

Golf Scholar Edward Davis (Lower Sixth, Bruce) continues to impress and will be flying the flag for Stowe Golf over the forthcoming Easter period.

Edward will be competing in The Scottish Boys' Open Championship at Murcar Links, Aberdeen, from Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 April, followed by The French International Boys' Championship (Michel Carhian Trophy) at Golf des Aisses from Thursday 14 to Monday 18 April. We wish Edward all the very best.

**Andrew Hancox, Head of Golf**

# ROBOTICS



## Robotics National and World Finals

Having been able to get back to full competitions for Robotics this academic year has seen great success for the Stowe teams.

The first team qualified to 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 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 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, they lost their Quarter-Final match to the eventual Winners of the event.

Our Fourth/Fifth Form 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 1 minute and then running an autonomous code for 1 min. The team's performance ranked them Fourth in the UK (out of the approximately 250 teams that compete) for Skills runs. This performance was enough for them to gain one of the 11 places available to the World Finals in Dallas, Texas.

The World Final sees 800 teams from around the World come together to compete for the World Champion title. The game will be the same game that has been played all season where they must collect heavy bases, add rings to them and balance robots and bases on a see-saw platform. All three teams are now rebuilding and improving their robots for the National Finals with the Fourth/Fifth Form team also preparing for the World Finals a few weeks later in early May. We will be flying out with Senior members of the team supporting William and Barnaby.

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. Through the process, they learn to use the engineering process, design, problem-solving, coding and building to best compete. They also must work with other teams from different schools forming alliances and team strategies.

After the World Finals, the new game for the 2022-2023 season will be revealed and the design and building process begins again. This is an ideal time for new team members to join, and like our current members, they too will have a shot at the Robotics National and World titles on offer.

**Paul Thompson, MiC Robots**

## Spanish Theatre Trip

On Thursday 3 March, the Spanish Department took the Upper Sixth pupils to watch 'La Casa de Bernada Alba' by Lorca at the Cervantes Theatre in London. This was an invaluable opportunity to revise and visualise the play before sitting the essay paper in June, whilst also pushing the non-native speakers to watch the performance with no scripts.

The day was filled with Spanish treats as we enjoyed eating Tapas at Brindisa, after looking

round Borough Market and trying some delicious Paella.

The actresses put on a spectacular performance and with just 80 seats in the theatre, it was a particularly unique experience to be able to sit so close.

Thank you to Dr Ferrero, Señora Peña and Mr Fuentes for taking us, we are all so fortunate to have been given the chance to watch the play live.

**Connie Adams (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)**







# OS Sports Festival Sunday 20 March 2022

We were blessed with a glorious Spring day for the long awaited return of the OS Sports Festival, which provided the perfect setting for welcoming Old Stoic sports men and women back to the School for a myriad of matches against the Stoics. For the first time in a number of years, we are delighted to report a clean sweep of victories – with Old Stoics winning all of the matches that took place.

We began the day with the OS v Stoic Cross Country match which took in a route around the Landscape Gardens. We had a bumper turnout of OS runners, returning to Stowe to mark the occasion of Richard Weston's (Chatham 65) 50th Cross Country Run at Stowe! Richard has always been a dedicated member of the OS Cross Country team and it was an honour to celebrate his 50th race and cheer him over the finish line. Hannah Durden (Nugent 01) presented him with a celebratory gift to mark his achievement.

As ever, the race was hotly contested with all the runners completing the four-mile route with extremely quick times. Diggory Slee (Grafton 17) came in First, with Second and Third places being tied as two pairs of OS and Stoic runners crossed the finish line in union – it was lovely to see such comradery at the end of an incredibly fast race.

We were also delighted to challenge Stoics at Football, Hockey, Fives and Squash, with matches taking place at various times throughout the afternoon.

After the matches, players gathered in the Music Room for match teas and to thank Stoics for excellent games. We had a good number of supporters also in attendance taking the opportunity to join us at Stowe for an afternoon in the sunshine catching up with OS friends who were participating in the festival.

We would like to thank the Stowe Sports Department for all of their help with organising matches and logistics for the day, along with the Food Services Team who looked after our guests so brilliantly and laid on a delicious feast for us all to enjoy. Lastly, we would like to thank the OS Sports Captains for gathering their teams to play and enticing them back to Stowe for the day.

We have exciting plans for the next OS Sports Festival: we hope to bring together as many OSs sports men and women as possible for a sports Luncheon to mark the Centenary and celebrate Stowe Sport. Matches against Stoics will take place in the morning, followed by lunch in the State Rooms for everyone to enjoy. Further details will be published soon, and as ever, everyone is invited to take part.

**Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director**





# Model United Nations Weekend

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)**

# The Mozart Trio Prize

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 was 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 performers who prepared a mini-recital for this competition – no mean feat!

The competition included performances by Tham Luanghvisut (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Sebastian Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Emily Garwood (Fourth Form, Cheshire), Jessica Foxwell (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Tamia Sibanda (Lower Sixth, West), Neel Collin (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Benjamin Li (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Ruby Cooke (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Sophia Southwick (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Matthew Ryland (Lower Sixth, Bruce).

We were also 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 of Beethoven's Sonata in C minor 'Pathetique' and Chopin's Nocturne in D flat major.

Well done and congratulations to our top three performers! I would also like to say a huge thank you to every one of our participants, all of whom gave us an extremely enjoyable musical experience.

These performances, of course, could not take place without the support and expert accompaniment given by Head of Keyboard Ben Andrew, Director of Music Craig Greene and Gap Assistant Jeffrey Au. Our thanks to all three as well as to our expert adjudicator Mr Patterson and to our Visiting Music Teachers who helped prepare our musicians for this competition.

**Katie Potts, Head of Instrumental Studies**





## Children's Mental Health Week 2022

Children's Mental Health Week took place from 7-13 February. This year's theme was Growing Together. Stoics were encouraged to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow.

The week started with a message from two of our pastoral prefects Clara Tearle (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Bo Jenkins (Upper Sixth, Stanhope). They urged the School to talk more about issues.

"Children's Mental Health Week explored the theme 'Growing Together'. Growth can take different forms. Physical growth is easy to see as we grow from babies to children, teenagers to adults.

Another way that we can grow is emotionally. Things that upset us when we were younger may no longer overwhelm us as we grow and learn to cope with life's ups and downs. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt. Trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential.

Think about a time when you have grown to be able to do something that you couldn't when you were younger. Don't just focus on academic, sport and musical achievements but include personal achievements too. This could include things like joining a society, managing friendships difficulties, or even managing your emotional wellbeing.

Emotional growth is often a gradual and non-linear process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'. We can even feel like we are sometimes taking a few steps backwards – especially when we come up against a difficulty and feel overwhelmed. However, this is just a signal that reminds us of how much we need others in our lives to help us to keep growing.

Think about the people in your lives who help you to grow and flourish, even during challenging times. This could be a sports coach, a pet, friend, teacher, parent, extended family, an online community, a faith-based group or people you share interest with. We all grow from sharing with others."

## Q&A on Mental Health with Dylan Hartley, Chloe Oldfield, Dave Nicoll and Rob Shotton

On Thursday 10 February, Children's Mental Health week at Stowe culminated with a Q&A session in the Wellbeing Centre at the Queen's Temple. The afternoon was compered by Angus Savage from NextGenXVw with questioning led by Jemima Howden (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Philip Benedic (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Annie Flint (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Wyatt Fell (Fifth Form, Chatham).

Guests on the panel included Stowe Mentor Dylan Hartley (Ex-England and Northampton Saints rugby union player. The Captain of England from 2016 until the end of his career in 2018, Dylan is England's most capped hooker of all time. He is now a sport commentator and Sports Mentor at Stowe. Dylan discussed how he dealt with disappointment and adversity in the pressure cooker of the media spotlight.

Chloe Oldfield, registered Sport and Exercise Psychologist also joined the session. Chloe offers psychological support services to individuals and teams wishing to improve performance or wellbeing across various domains including sport, exercise, business, and general wellbeing.

Our next panelists were Rob Shotton and Dave Nicoll, co-founders of 'LooseHeadz' a charity aiming to put a mental health lead in every Rugby Club. The charity tackles the stigma around mental health and their goal is to start the conversation that inspires a movement towards better mental wellbeing.

LooseHeadz also brought along Jonathan Bentley from GoVox a partner of LooseHeadz. GoVox mission is to provide a proactive solution regularly engaging with users to keep their mental health and wellbeing at the top of the agenda.

The discussion focused on the science behind mental health, the signposts that signal somebody may need support, and what we can all do to help each other. This important topic was discussed in various different domains and context. Our experts took us into multinational businesses, sports teams of various levels, the changing rooms of international sport and of course the classroom and the Boarding Houses.

The key concept that underpinned all that we discussed was the concept of 'Mental Fitness'. This idea focuses on keeping your emotional health in good shape. Just as physical fitness is important we must acknowledge that mental fitness is important to work on. It's good for us to keep our brain active and exercised but it is just as important to allow time for rest and relaxation. Actively managing stress and developing resilience can improve mental fitness.

Clearly the most important message that came out of the afternoon was the importance of talking. Not just talking but also really listening to the responses. Not just asking 'how are you?' and moving on, but recognising body language, tone and doing something about it. Finding tools to gauge somebody's mental wellbeing, and being there for each other and 'Growing Together'.

**Liam Copley, Deputy Head (Pastoral)**

*Stowe*  
WELLBEING CENTRE

# Charly Tyson

(WEST 2021)

Old  
Stoic  
Spotlight



## Why should you consider a gap year experience?

### An interview with Charly Tyson (West 2021) and Dr Anthony Wallersteiner

Charly left Stowe with an impressive set of A Levels to cap her amazing time at Stowe School.

On Monday 14 March, Dr Wallersteiner spoke to Charly about her reasons for choosing a gap year instead of accepting her place at Durham to study Music. The Head started by recapping Charly's time at Stowe, during the Covid years, where Charly's musical talent brought joy to many Stoics, Staff and Parents and allowed us to toe-tap our way through the disruptive times we all witnessed.

With an offer to the prestigious Durham in the bag, Charly decided to apply for a gap year at Swanbourne House School as General Gap student, helping out in all areas of school life (boarding, games, swimming, drama, academic, pastoral duties plus the Music Department); next year she takes on the more specific (non-Gap student) role of Musician-in-Residence.

Charly had initially planned to take a gap year in China to tour the country, learn how to play Chinese instruments and teach English. However, this was not possible for some unknown global pandemic-related reason (!). So instead of going directly to university, Charly decided to teach for a year. With no plans to be a teacher, Charly felt she could experience life, learn new skills, grow up a little and meet new people. Charly's Father noticed the advert for a Gap Year Assistant on Stowe Connect and suggested Charly should apply. As we know, Dads are always right, and later Charly was appointed.

When asked, "what are the benefits of a gap year at Swanbourne House School?" Charly first reflected on the joy and challenges of teaching younger children in prep schools. The long holidays, the pay, free meals, and all expenses paid accommodation included in the package were also an incentive. "The accommodation is similar to university accommodation, but it's free. I share the gap lodge with other gap year students and have made some wonderful friends, some of who I am travelling with this Easter."

Overall, Charly advises pupils to carefully consider a gap year as the time to be sure about your next step is valuable time that you might not have, if you go directly to university after your A Levels."

To watch Charly's interview click [here](#).

For more information from UCAS on a gap year click [here](#).

To apply for a gap year placement at Swanbourne House School click [here](#).



# Economics

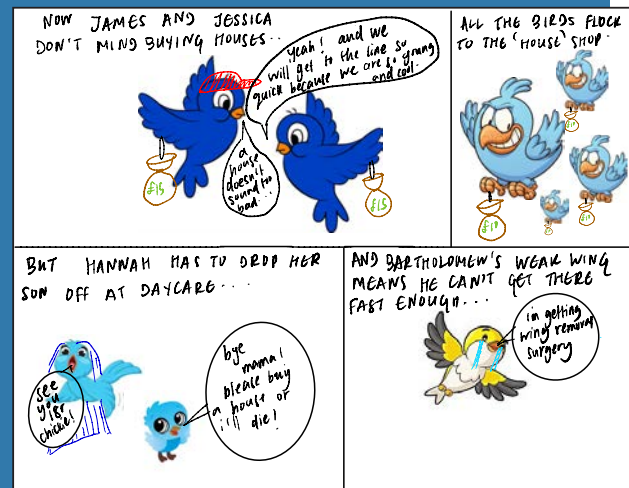
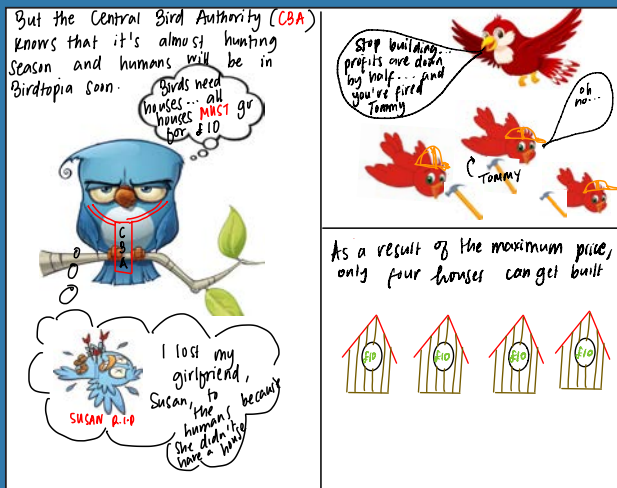


Adaora Okoye (Lower Sixth, West) completed this A Level Economics prep for Richard Corthine.

Pupils were asked to explain a piece of economic theory (maximum price controls imposed by a government) in the style of a child's story. Adaora clearly spent a lot of time on this piece of work, creating **Hannah the Homeless Hummingbird**, buying into the spirit of the task and certainly going the extra mile.

The work is a wonderful example of how some teachers use different forms of prep to get the pupils thinking, and engaging beyond essays.

**Gordon West, Head of Lower Sixth**



# Ensembles Concert

Wednesday 23 March saw our Ensembles Concert take place in the Uglund Auditorium. 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.

We must not forget that we could not hold events like these without our inspiring teachers who encourage and drive our pupils on to achieve their musical goals. Particular thanks must go to Sarah Watts, Chris Windass, Sally Adams, Miles Nottage, Ben Andrew and Emma Bryden for helping prepare these groups for this concert.

**Katie Potts, Head of Instrumental Studies**



# CCCF

Stowe Combined Cadet Force  
- 20 March 2022



As the Fifth Form CCF training year reaches a conclusion, Army, RN and RAF Sections enjoyed a refreshing and complete change of scene from the intense academic arena, before they switch focus firmly to their approaching GCSEs.

We look forward to welcoming them back as our future NCO Lower Sixth Leaders at the start of the next academic year.

With current events on the world stage, our planned RAF Section visit to 422nd Air Base Group at RAF Croughton was inevitably postponed, but we look forward to building strong links with them in the future.

Lt Zammit, Head of the RN Section, kindly enabled the RAF Fifth Form to join the RN trip to Portsmouth and the Fifth Form Army Section deployed onto local farmland, thanks to the National Trust and Tilehouse Estate.

The ability to use the wonderful woods and generous grounds and land so close to Stowe provides a perfect backdrop to a very impressive repertoire and range of military training within a 24 hours period.

**Lt Colonel Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander**

## CCF Military Skills Competition

The 11th Security Force Assistance Brigade Military Skills Competition organised by the Brigade's Cadet Training Team was held at Longmoor Military Training Camp in Hampshire over the weekend of 12 and 13 March. This was the first occasion the competition had been held since 2019, with 28 teams from CCF Schools and Army Cadet Forces within the South East region entering the competition.

Despite being an Exeat weekend Stowe School CCF entered a team of eight Cadets, Harry Atkinson (Fourth Form, Chatham), Oscar Nichols (Fourth Form, Bruce), Jack Robbins (Fourth Form, Winton), James Smith (Fourth Form, Winton), Thomas Smith (Fourth Form, Temple), Ben Sutton (Fourth Form, Winton) led by Rafe Gordon (Lower Sixth, Winton) assisted by Max Burlingham (Lower Sixth, Walpole). They were joined by Lieutenant Fran Shah and SSI, WO2 Geoff Abbey.

The team performed admirably, showing great enthusiasm and determination to complete all the tasks set. Overall an enjoyable experience for all.

On Friday 11 March, eight eager members of Stowe's CCF embarked for Longmoor Army Training Camp in Hampshire to take part in the 11 Brigade Annual Military Skills Competition.

The team, headed by Rafe Gordon (Team Captain) and Max Burlingham (Team Second in Command), had undergone a series of preliminary training sessions to well prepare them for the competition, including but not limited to, weapons handlings tests, reaction to effective enemy fire, radio communication and casualty evacuation.

Upon arrival at Longmoor Camp, the team were briefed by Sergeant Major Abbey and Lieutenant Shah on the next day's activities, followed by a hearty ration-pack meal and multiple servings of hot chocolate. The team then excitedly settled into their accommodation - a derelict yet dry building in which they enjoyed a substantial and preparatory night's rest.

The following day, an invigorating 06:00 start and breakfast preceded the first of eight rotating tasks: Scorpion Air Rifle Shooting. The team's firing accuracy and weapon handling abilities were tested as they attempted to garner points by firing a specialized rifle at a small target, a task in which they excelled.

Advancing in arranged rank order, the team then utilized their cooperative

and creative skills to tackle two taxing tasks involving the transportation of materials. Here, Rafe Gordon led the team with an orderly and methodical approach, enabling them to make good headway despite the novelty of the tasks.

Prior to a brisk lunch break, the team immersed themselves in a mock reaction to effective enemy fire. Armed with blank rounds and Cadet GP Rifles, the team were beset by rapid enemy fire. Strong and quick communication saw Max Burlingham's Delta Team make effective use of a ditch (and smoke grenades) to flank the enemy while Rafe Gordon's Delta Team provided covering-fire, enabling all to fulfil the objective and regroup at the site of enemy fire.

Quick-thinking and collective medical knowledge then enabled the team to flourish in the casualty evacuation exercise - a mission that entailed tending to and evacuating live (and dummy) casualties strewn around a wrecked helicopter. The team nursed and escorted the casualties to an extraction point with impressive speed and competence. Special mention goes to James Smith for thoughtfully assisting and saving a casualty with two broken limbs.

This was followed by an intricate radio communications exercise involving deciphering Morse Code. Perseverance and teamwork saw both the Alpha and Delta teams make impressive progress - something that was bolstered both by Thomas Smith's stellar comprehension of radio signals and features and Lieutenant Shah's sustained support.

The competition concluded with a series of tests comprising map reading and compass navigation. Here, the team split into three. Max Burlingham's unit prospered, correctly matching most map symbols with their corresponding names. Oscar Nichol's unit too succeeded, making effective use of their navigation skills to rapidly mark and pinpoint a variety of distant objects.

Accomplished, the eight-man team returned to Stowe School at 19:00 on Saturday 12 March in high spirits. Unwavering unity and morale facilitated unabating efforts throughout the competition, leaving Stowe's team in good stead. A massive thank you to all those who participated and for Sergeant Major Abbey and Lieutenant Shah for enthusiastically overseeing the competition.

**Max Burlingham, (Lower Sixth, Walpole)**

# CCF March Field Exercise



Peering out from under canvas on the second morning of exercise, Cadets and Staff breathed a sigh of relief as the blue sky made sure that rain was falling in enemy terrain and Stoics could enjoy a morning of fresh and breezy sunshine. Stepping out from under their 'bashas' with the exuberance that only a night of good sleep in the fresh air can provide, everyone quickly packed away their gear and mustered at Company HQ ready for the most important phase of the operation so far.

If an Army marches on its stomach, CSM Abbey made sure that the Stoics would be able to march the full breadth and depth of all of Stowe's 800 acres when he served up Stowe's finest sausage and bacon butties (veggie alternatives provided), washed down of course with a selection of hot drinks to put your nearest favourite barista to shame.

Once the cam-cream was applied, the Stoics then stepped off to take on the worst of Buckinghamshire's enemy forces in operations against a well-trained and motivated enemy (thanks Upper Sixth!). Manoeuvres included ambushing the enemy patrols, rolling advances to contact, section attacks, reconnaissance patrols and reorgs.

1 Platoon impressed particularly with their assault straight up one of Stowe's steepest hills while the enemy 'didn't know what'd hit'em' when 2 Platoon had

them pinned against the stream in the thickest of woodlines.

After a quick 'rat-pack' lunch and weapon cleaning, the Cadets then moved onto the final phases of the exercise, testing of a steady trigger-finger on the Cadet Target Sprint air-rifle range before finally finishing off with some fun with the laser rifles where the Cadets were put through a complement of scenarios including 'The Convoy' and 'Rabbitoid', finishing off with the typically understated 'Team Deathmatch'.

The final scenario the Cadets faced was to close with and destroy a very large stack of Dominos pizzas. Needless to say, that was one operation that needed little co-ordination and ended with smiles on faces all round, the only collateral damage being the pile of empty boxes.

Thanks especially to Lt Col De Gale for her inspiration for these incredible experiences, Major Corthine (Cobham Houseparent) and Capt Heaven (Swanbourne D&T Department Head) for the perfectly planned exercise, CSM Abbey for keeping the show on the road, the Staff for bringing their good cheer, and most importantly, our excellent Cadets, who in each of their own special ways, thrive on experiences such as these, growing as leaders and young adults who have the strength of character to step off from Stowe and be the Change Makers that our World demands.

## Captain Andrew Arnold



## DAY ONE - 8 March

Stowe CCF Fifth Form Army Section (and Sixth Form volunteers) took part in our last field exercise of the year, before the stress of GCSE exams.

We started off with a friendly competition at our .22 shooting range, with a concurrent activity involving a somewhat impossible quiz which inflicted a lot of laughter and teamwork amongst our groups.

After receiving intel that the much sought-after enemy had invaded our stables (the currently vacant Equestrian Centre), we were given grenades (tennis balls), and using the cadet GP rifles firing blank ammunition, we were sent to 'clear' the area. Minor casualties were sustained as one of our targets (Upper Sixth Form enemy NCOs) jumped out of a bin and somehow the lid landed back on his head. He popped up once again and we completed our mission.

We then proceeded to set up our luxury accommodation for the night, (a basher and a roll mat), then the highlight of the whole trip, the food! The team were generous enough to supply us with CCF pasta

and meat balls "à la carte" which proved to be almost as good as our favourite ration packs. Dinner was finished quickly and we prepared for the more active part of our night.

The Team went out patrolling for the enemy, and succeeded in safely firing blank ammunition at the moving enemy lights across a nearby field as we withdrew, during contact. The night proved to be slightly warmer than we had first thought and incredibly beautiful to walk in when the stars came out.

Our second night mission was to complete an ambush in a nearby wood. We all advanced, helping one another to follow the right path, and once again drove the enemy away. After a long day and the prospect of another long day to follow, it was time to get some rest. There were a lot of struggles trying to slip into the bashers, and a lot of giggles that were no doubt prompted by a lot of the day's events.

**Aurora Flanagan B34  
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)**

## DAY TWO - 9 March

Following an enjoyable afternoon of activities on the first day, we woke up on the second day looking rather tired having enjoyed a luxurious night's sleep in the bashas. We began the day with some 'CCF A la carte cuisine' as Lt Colonel de Gale called it.

Feeling energised, we started with blank firing section attacks. Taking hold of an abandoned 'enemy ammunition crate' we watched with suspense as a company member prised it open to reveal the Haribo spoiling's which we shared amongst our platoon. With the Haribo incentive we persevered with Platoon 1 provided covering fire while platoon 2 (myself included) rushed the enemy in a final assault, successfully taking their position and securing yet another Haribo prize.

After a full morning of activities, handing in our equipment at the equestrian centre was quite a relief. It felt, in more than one way that we had had a tonne lifted off our shoulders.

Feeling very hungry from a morning of fun, I excitedly opened my ration pack to reveal a spicy sausage and potato wedge pack, alongside some

'hot doggy' sauce.

Next, we advanced to the Bourbon to take part in 'March (Army tab) and Shoot'. Archie Smail (Cobham) and Henry Clare (Winton) won overall. Ed Ellison (Cobham) and Hemish Rajguru (Bruce) came joint worthy second. Best shots were Ed Ellison (Cobham), and Aurora Flannagan (Stanhope), with 74 points and Ela Shah (Cheshire) with 73 points.

Finally, much to everyone's delight we did Laser Tag where we had to transport a 'nuclear package' from one end of the wood to the other, against the Upper Sixth NCOs who unsurprisingly, beat us in 2 of the 3 rounds. With morale wavering in the final game, and with covering fire from my teammates I ran through the middle of the warzone and threw the 'nuclear package' to safety.

The day then ended perfectly with Dominos (although it didn't compare to the spicy sausage and potato wedge pack which I had previously consumed!).

**Lydia Woodmansee  
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)**



# HMS Collingwood

On Wednesday 9 March, the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Fifth Form cadets combined, to have a brilliant day in Portsmouth with three excellent instructors.

We started with an obstacle course, where we had to climb ropes, jump walls and swing across water hazards, all whilst working as a team to make sure everyone completed all the activities and that no one missed any of the obstacles.

As we were on an operational Royal Navy Training Base, HMS Collingwood, it was necessary to march to and from activities, and lunch. Max Cowper-Hart (Chatham) and myself took charge, and both RN and RAF cadets were commended on our marching and our turnout.

The afternoon session started off with a low ropes course, where we worked as a team to get around a number of obstacles, whilst providing support for the entire team. We were then thrown a curveball being split into two groups, but operating as one team with two leaders, Freddy Wildblood (Grafton) and Isabella Reeder (Cheshire).

The Spider's Web task involved the team going through a netted web, where if any part of the web is touched the whole team had to start again. In addition, we weren't allowed to go through any sections which we had previously gone through. The Cadets found this challenging. The second task was to walk across lines in the middle of the low ropes, only holding onto another rope. The Instructor tried to lead us off the path of how to complete the challenge easily by saying that they were our ropes, but in fact we had to swap ropes to allow us to stabilise and complete the task.

The final task was completely reliant on trust, with two lines that got further apart from each other, requiring two Cadets to trust each other. This was then made into a small competition with myself and Alejandro Sanchez Podesta (Winton) achieving the furthest distance. The task was very challenging, requiring leadership and team work throughout.

Overall the Cadets had a brilliant day and would like to thank all the Instructors and Teachers that allowed us to have this great opportunity.

**Isabella Reeder (Fifth Form, Cheshire), RN Section**

On Wednesday 9 March, the Fifth Formers in both the Navy and RAF sections went to Portsmouth to take part in physical team-building challenges in HMS Collingwood. HMS Collingwood is the Royal Navy's largest training establishment. It is the headquarters of the Maritime Warfare School and Surface Stream. They deliver training in Warfare, Weapon Engineering, Diving, Physical Training, Chemical Biological Radiation Nuclear and Damage Control, Sea Survival, Seamanship and Military skills.

After a two-hour drive, we arrived at the Naval Base had a quick briefing about what they expected from us in terms of uniform and behaviour. There were many high-rank officers around, so we had to behave well and move around the base marching in 3 ranks. After a briefing we went to the obstacle course. At the start, we slowly made our way through the obstacle course, so that we knew the risks that were involved and how to complete the course.

We jogged between the obstacles in pairs, so we were organised and didn't bunch up. We also worked well as a team and left nobody behind. Some of the obstacles involved crawling through pipes and under ropes in the mud and walking on thin planks surrounded by water. The experience was fun, and we learnt about discipline and order required to survive and succeed in a harsh environment.

After the obstacle course, we were exhausted and enjoyed our lunch break. We marched to the lunch hall and had some packed lunches. We could also buy our own food which was lovely.

After lunch, we went on the low ropes. The course was designed to test teamwork and cooperation. We had to make our way around a series of

obstacle like climbing on hanging tires and going on a seat swing. After a slow start, and a bit of advice we realised that it was essential to work together and have 'spotters' to ensure nobody hurt themselves. It was a brilliant task to push us to the limits mentally, too.

Having completed the exercise in time, we then split into three groups. One group had to cross from one side of a spider web (made from ropes) to the other without touching the ropes or the frame, and once one gap was used it could not be used again. It was a tough exercise that required a lot of thought. It tested our ability to communicate well, a quality which is really important in the armed forces.

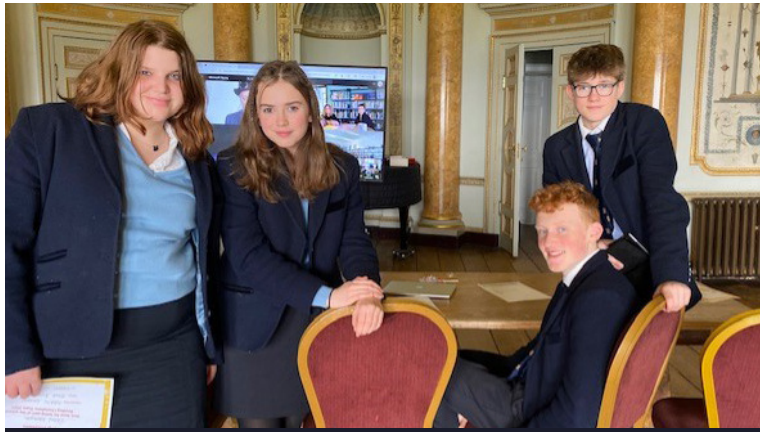
The second group did an exercise that had two ropes going out from one point. Two people had to go as far as possible holding hands and hanging over the gap. It required strength and teamwork as we had to communicate to stay balanced. The duo who made it the furthest won.

Finally, the third group went back to the 'hexagon low ropes' to do a similar exercise where ropes had to be used to go across the obstacles. We learnt that people can manipulate what you do through what they say. We were told we each had one rope, so immediately we didn't think of swapping ropes to make our job easier.

After thanking the RN Staff we headed home. Overall, the outing was a fantastic experience for the RAF Cadets as we were able to join the RN Cadets and go somewhere not everyone can visit. We also enjoyed a delicious McDonald's on the way back to make the long journey a little bit more bearable!

**Alejandro Sanchez Podesta (Fifth Form, Winton), RAF Section**





## National Reading Challenge Quiz

The Regional qualifiers for the National Reading Challenge Quiz, run by the National Literary Trust, took place on zoom on Friday 11 March.

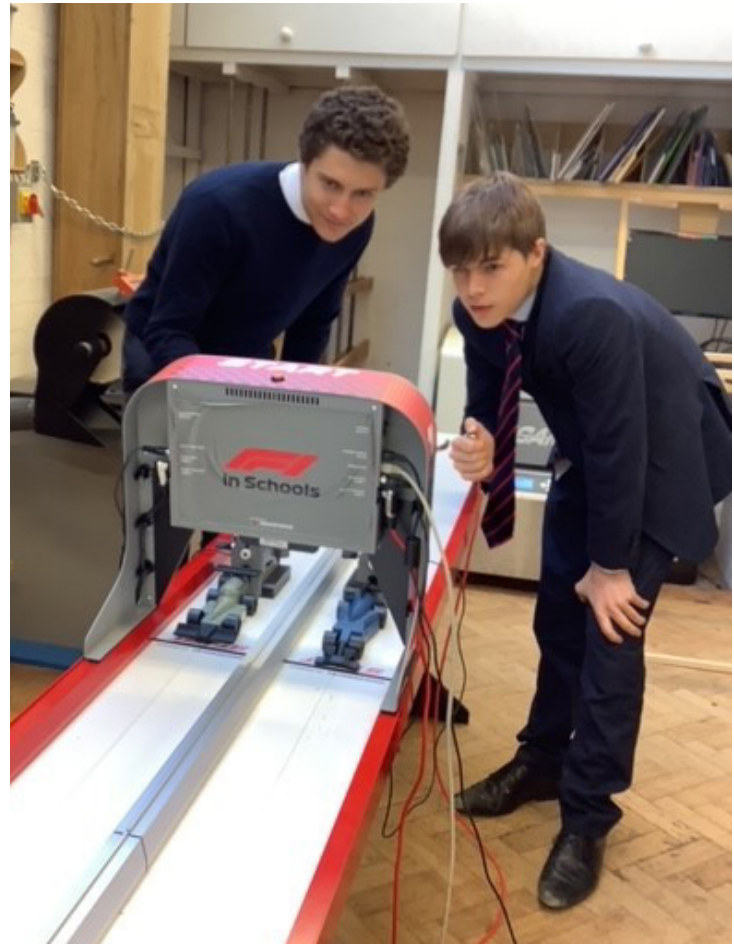
Similar to our Inter-House quiz they had eight rounds of 10 questions to answer. Facing 28 other schools in the Regionals quiz, Stowe entered two teams and were faced with some difficult question.

Both our teams did well, finishing in the top 20. 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).

Congratulations to both teams and thank you for volunteering to take part.

**Lucinda Stockley, Assistant Librarian**



## F1 in Schools

This season's Stowe's F1 in School's team, Martlet Racing, have been working hard to finalise their entry to the Regional Finals.

The Lower Sixth, Bruce team of Federico Riojas Ordorica, Harry Rose, Freddie Smith and Oliver Halsey-Wright 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 most recently been testing their designs out on the track, where the cars reach a top speed of 50mph. Thanks goes to sponsors Intent2Improve, Churchill Motors and Max Value for supporting the team this season.

They can be followed on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

**Sam Williams, Teacher of Design and Engineering**

## Medical Detection Dogs – Billy makes the grade!

Stoics aren't the only ones completing assessments this academic year! Our handsome Lyttelton-sponsored Medical Detection Dog (MDD), Billy (now three years old), has successfully mastered the skills to reliably detect different odours from human samples and has passed his scent training assessment with flying colours; this means Billy is now a qualified Bio Detection Dog.

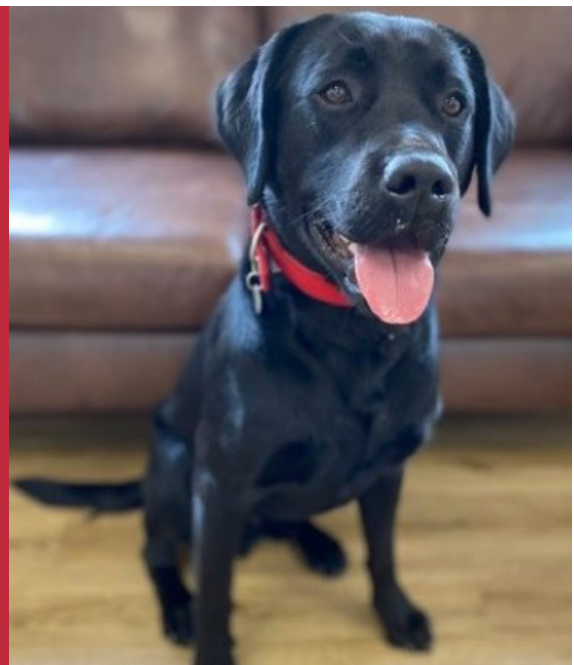
Having completed some early training in the MDD ground-breaking Covid-19 scent detection trials, Billy is now being assigned to a disease project to do 'proper work' sniffing out the scent of either cancer, Malaria or Parkinson's Disease.

You can see Billy in action demonstrating his amazing sniff-ability at Crufts Dog Show earlier this month [here](#).

We're very proud of Billy and continue to follow his progress with interest.

For more information on the amazing and ground-breaking science being undertaken by MDD (literally just down the road from Stowe), visit their website [here](#).

**Sheilagh Rawlins, Teacher of Biology and Chemistry**



WINTER NIGHT SHELTER MK

# BIG SLEEPOUT 2022

FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2022  
8PM AT CRANSWICK FOODS

Our Big Sleep Out event is back!

This time it's for the kids as well as adults and will take place in the secure surroundings of one of our amazing corporate supporters, Cranswick Foods.

Will you join us in asking family and friends to sponsor you to sleep rough for a night so that others don't have to?

We ask that all participants seek to raise sponsorship for the charity, aiming for a minimum of £100. or whatever you can raise.



**SIGN UP NOW!**



Please note participants under 18 years must be with an adult or group with a responsible adult in charge.



# STOWE CONNECT



Stowe Connect is going from strength-to-strength with users growing on a daily basis. If you haven't yet registered, please do so and enjoy all the platform has to offer.

## Re-connect

Find and re-engage with fellow Old Stoics

## Give back

Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students

## Expand

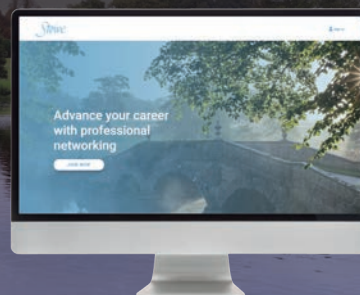
Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know

## Advance

Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies and access to exclusive resources

## Find jobs

Post openings and find job leads



[stoweconnect.co.uk](http://stoweconnect.co.uk)

**Connect now!**



# Safeguarding at Stowe

At Stowe we take Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence very seriously. In the wake of Everyone's Invited and the (re)focus on Peer on Peer abuse, we know this is an issue that needs to be tackled both at a local level and nationally.

One organisation helping to educate on this topic is [www.stopitnow.org.uk](http://www.stopitnow.org.uk)

For further reading about looking at for signs of unacceptable harmful sexual behaviour please click on the below links:

**Preventing harmful sexual behaviour in children.**

**How to tell if a child's sexual behaviour is age appropriate.**

If you ever have any concerns about this topic and/or you feel a young person is not safe please don't hesitate to contact **Mike Rickner** as soon as possible.

**Mike Rickner,**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Stop It Now!**

UK & IRELAND

Helping prevent child sexual abuse

# Old Stoic Racing Syndicate

**One Share Available in our Old Stoic Racing Flat Syndicate.**

Come and join in the fun and success of our school racing syndicate with two horses in training on the flat with OS trainer Jonathan Portman (Chatham 83) in Lambourn.

One of the horses is Sweet Reward. He was Jonny's top earning horse in terms of prize money last season with three victories and a second at the famous Glorious Goodwood Festival. We have every reason to think he can give us more excitement.

As an OSRC member you will receive:

- Invitations to Jonathan's yard to watch the horses work on the famous Lambourn gallops with

- a private tour of his yard
- Owner's badges when the horses run
- Box hospitality at certain races
- A share of the prize money
- Social events both on and off course including an annual lunch back at Stowe
- The chance to rekindle old school friendships with fellow Old Stoics

£459 deposit and then £179 per month is all inclusive for a share in two horses that will give fun and excitement for two seasons up until October 2023.

If you have a connection to Stowe and have wanted to become a racehorse owner, here's your opportunity!

Please contact **Henry Kimbell** (Chandos 04) for further information.



SOCIAL MEDIA

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*Stowe*