

# the **STOIC**

Stowe School 2016/2017

## Prodigy

*Stoics perform the  
world school premiere*

### ***GOLF ACADEMY***

*Exciting plans take shape*

## **New Worsley Science Centre**

***GRAND OPENING OF STOWE'S  
EXCEPTIONAL NEW FACILITIES***

*Stowe*





# *the* STOIC

This year's theme for the academic year, chosen by the Stoics, was 'Marginal Gains'. For those unfamiliar with this term, it is a theory that has been applied in the sporting arena for many years and is the practice of making small improvements or adjustments that, when put together, can make a big difference to an outcome. Stoics felt that this approach could be applied to their lives at Stowe, helping them to perform better inside and outside the classroom, to be more successful academically, and to be happier socially. Setting about their busy lives in the classroom, in their Houses, on the sports field, in the Arts and in Service, they have identified ways to make small improvements which will, in time, and with persistence, improve their overall achievement, happiness and lives. For some Stoics, this has meant looking at their attitudes to learning, improving the way they set about doing prep or how they respond to feedback on a piece of work and for others it has meant getting more sleep so that they could start each new day with more energy or working harder in the gym to improve their output on the sports field.

All over the School we have seen the community commit to the theme. For all, it has also meant identifying weaknesses and working on these, not looking on them as threats but as opportunities to improve; making small changes that cumulatively have made a big difference. The Stoics' commitment to continuous improvement has been impressive; not to fear mistakes but to use them as a chance to learn. This commitment has been mirrored by our teaching staff who have been embedding a 'Growth Mindset' philosophy in and outside the classroom, encouraging small changes in approach, commitment and an openness in approach which is not confined by the feeling that you must always get things right in order to learn. As the Upper Sixth Form now move on we hope that they will take the theme from their last year at Stowe and apply it to this next exciting time in their lives, and we wish them all the success as they go.

You will find in the pages of this magazine some wonderful examples of how Stoics have made huge gains in the last 12 months. My thanks, as ever, must go to our wonderful contributors to *The Stoic*, our team of proofreaders and our dedicated photographers, without this team there would be no record of yet another fabulous year at Stowe.



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

*Front cover:* The Worsley Science Centre, photograph by Alan Longworth  
*Back cover:* Gold DofE Expedition, Snowdon, photograph by Nick Piper

# the STOIC

Stowe School 2016/2017



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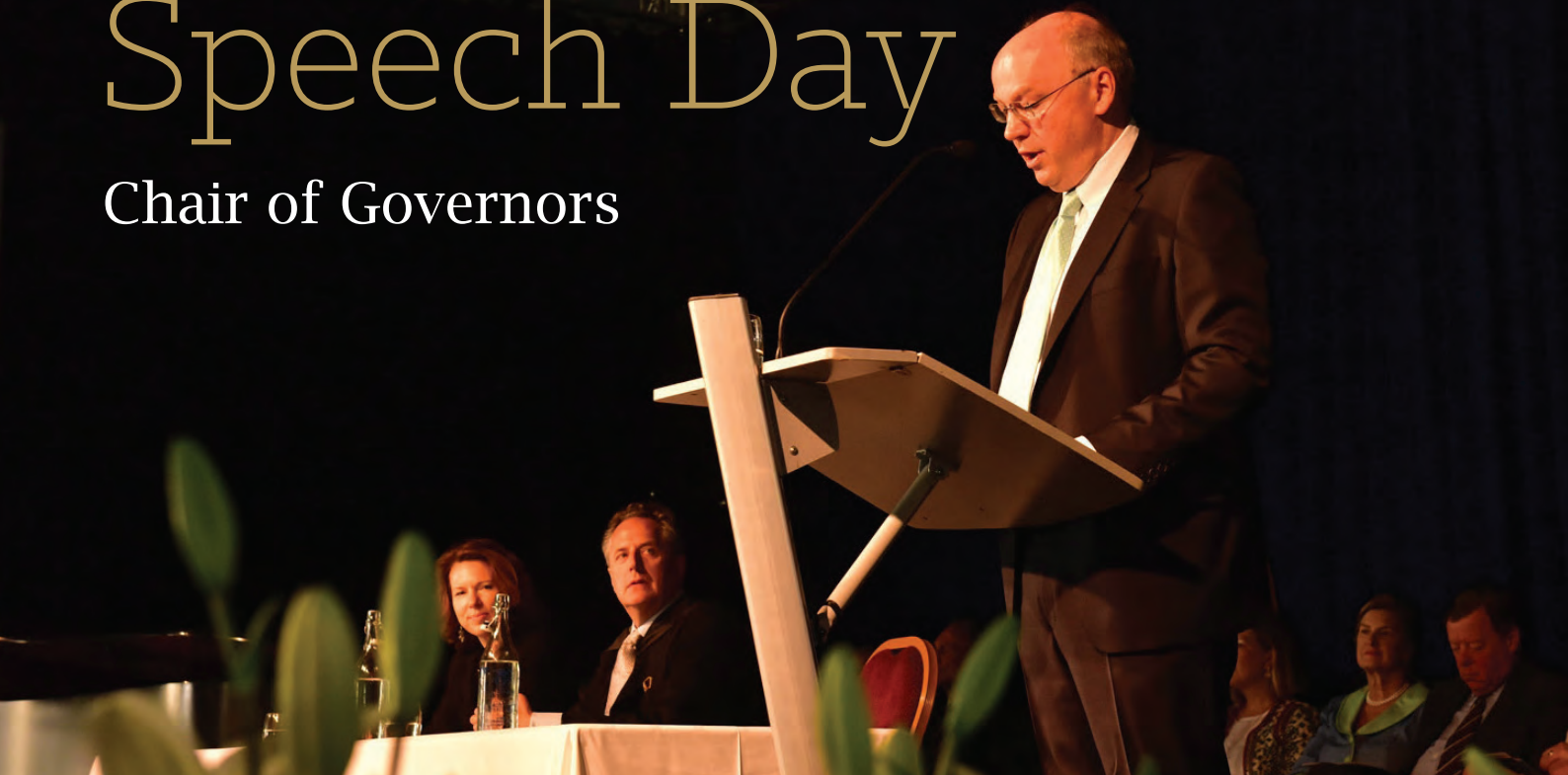


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# Speech Day

## Chair of Governors



*My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and a very warm welcome to Speech Day 2017.*

The marquee is looking and definitely sounding rather different from last night. I hope that those who attended the concert had a brilliant time. As I stand here this morning, I feel rather like a headmaster addressing a school assembly after there's been an outburst of riotous behaviour. All I can say is, we know who you are; and that's the parents not the children.

It is a long-standing convention that the Chairman of Governors acts as a warm-up act for the Headmaster - a short, formal speech delivered in a befitting manner so that after a few minutes the audience is very ready to be amused by the Head. It's a natural assumption therefore that the Head writes the Chairman's speech in order to achieve this effect. I have now learnt that that is not the case but I shall endeavour not to disappoint with any break from tradition.

When we were here last year, the world looked rather different. We were in the run up to the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union with perhaps an expectation that Remain would be the result. Donald Trump was a showman whom the Republican Party powers would never allow to be their candidate and the phrase "fake news" had not entered our daily lexicon. And the pop charts were still credible as they included acts other than Ed Sheeran. So much can change in so short a time.

*Here at Stowe, change has been a way of life for a long time. Progress is impossible without change...*

Here at Stowe, change has been a way of life for a long time. Progress is impossible without change - the School's partnership with the National Trust was established in 1989 and Stowe House Preservation Trust was set up in 1997. This tri-partite structure has provided a firm basis for the restoration of the mansion and grounds; great progress has been made in redressing what was in effect 150 years of no maintenance or preservation work other than reacting to the latest piece of masonry to crumble or roof to leak. And all of this progress has been achieved from sources other than school fees.

Great progress and change can also be seen in the School's facilities; most recently on a crisp sunny afternoon in January, we welcomed Joanna Worsley, her children and other members of the Worsley family for the official opening of the Worsley Science Centre, our refurbished and enlarged science teaching facility. We are enormously grateful to the institutions such as the National Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the World Monument Fund and the many, many individuals who share the goals and ambitions of the School and of Stowe House Preservation Trust and whose exceptional generosity has allowed for so much progress and change to take place. The passion and enthusiasm that you all show for Stowe is remarkable; I see that all the time but it is not something that journalists seem to want to write about.

I should also like to thank parents; thank you for the belief you have shown in Anthony and his team to educate your children. Whilst Stowe and its gardens are magnificent, without the fizz and buzz of 800 Stoics it could be rather grand but lacking in life and energy; rather soulless. We know that choosing your child's school is an enormous decision and we're delighted and very grateful to be given the opportunity and privilege of educating them.

There has been much written in the press over the last year or so about the stresses to which teenagers are subjected; the relentless focus on achievement of exam grades; the increased incidence of eating disorders, body image consciousness - boys as well as girls - and other symptoms of mental health issues. Education at Stowe has always been about more than exam success. I have talked about progress and change; whilst it is very fulfilling to see the restoration of the Mansion and grounds and to see the development of fantastic school facilities, there is no greater thrill for all of us here at Stowe than to see the development of your children; to see a perhaps rather shy and over-awed 13 year old change into a young adult with easy confidence that does not spill over into arrogance, an ability to talk happily and in an engaged way with the grand and the not so grand, a recognition that others are more important than the self, a sense of independence in thought and deed, a preparedness to dare to be different and take risks. That progress and change is the one of which all at Stowe are the proudest. Apocryphally, the School's first Headmaster said that the School aims to turn out young people who would be acceptable at a dance and invaluable in a shipwreck.

I have talked about progress and change; whilst it is very fulfilling to see the restoration of the Mansion and grounds and to see the development of fantastic school facilities, there is no greater thrill for all of us here at Stowe than to see the development of your children.

This is the one chance I have to thank my Governor colleagues. Last year, the Headmaster received feedback after Speech Day that the Governors looked a rather severe, humourless group; Stowe's very own Politburo. I can

assure you that that could not be further from the truth; it was just that they couldn't hear anything that was being said; and I emphasise that that was an issue of technology rather than age. I am enormously grateful to them for their time, expertise and commitment and for their support for me as I have bumbled my way through my first year as Chairman. And we do have a lot of fun together.

To everyone who works at Stowe, my thanks to you all for your continued loyalty, effort and commitment, going, as you so often do, above and beyond the call of duty.

I have talked about the fizz that the Stoics bring to this place. The world you face is pluralist, complex and competitive. No institution can hope to teach you all the skills you will need in the future. I suspect that many of the jobs you might find yourselves doing in 15 or 25 years' time haven't been invented yet. But I hope that Stowe can teach you that change is something to be welcomed as a provider of opportunity and not something to be feared. And that the buzz and energy to which I referred earlier, combined with a readiness to work hard will take you a long way. Be inquisitive about your environment, be prepared to challenge norms and conventions; Albert Einstein said "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious." Learn how to listen: even if it's old people lecturing you about the dangers of social media - some of what you hear may even be interesting to you; but then make your own mind up. Above all, think: the creation of Stowe House in the eighteenth century occurred during the English Enlightenment, when reason, logic and freedom of thought were stressed over dogma and blind faith; when ideals such as liberty, progress and tolerance were advanced. These are values whose importance have only been emphasised by recent awful events in Manchester. It is this environment which owes so much to the values of the English Enlightenment where you are being educated - so think deeply, think for yourselves and think about others.

And so let me now hand over to the Headmaster to tell you a little bit more about this last year and our plans for the future.

*Mr Simon Creedy Smith, Chair of Governors*



# Speech Day

## The Headmaster



This is totally the biggest Presidential Inauguration, sorry Speech Day, there has ever been. There must be at least 2,500 people here - or if you are Dianne Abbott, 250,000. The new school motto is We're Going to Make America British Again, ah, we tried that 250 years ago and it didn't go so well. Let's try - We're Going to Make Stowe Great Again as *Persto et Praesto* is so 1st Century. To start with, we'll dig a big, beautiful ha-ha around the estate and make Oundle pay for it. On the subject of ha-has, now that's a segue you don't often hear, a story recently surfaced in *The Corinthian* about my first attempt to get a job at Stowe in 1985. I had just returned from Eastern Europe where I was doing my best to undermine communism by supporting dissidents in Czechoslovakia. The market for specialists in Eastern European dissidents was looking decidedly uncertain by the mid-1980s, so I consulted the *Times Educational Supplement*, otherwise known as *The Teachers' Escape Manual*, and started looking for a job in teaching. There was an advert for a two-term cover teacher in the Stowe History Department and, thinking that this would buy me some time before I found something sensible to do in the City, selling Eurobonds or working for Saatchi and Saatchi, I applied.

Things went wrong from the moment the taxi dropped me off at the Corinthian Arch as the driver thought it was the main entrance to the School. There was no obvious path leading to the main house, so I crossed the field until I reached the ha-ha. Knowing that I wouldn't be able to cross the ha ha in a single leap, I decided to jump in - a rookie error as I was sucked into the bog. President Trump take note, ha-has are as effective as and far more aesthetically pleasing than walls. Running across the South Front, now five minutes late for the interview, I raced up the South Front steps where I was intercepted by a teacher who I later found out was the legendary Chemistry master, Anthony Pedder. He looked at my bedraggled state, mistook me for

a boy and asked if I had been out beagling. Thinking this might be some sort of Stowe test, I stammered: "I'm not sure... I'm supposed to be seeing the Headmaster for an interview." Not surprisingly, I didn't get the job and it took me another 18 years to pluck up the courage to re-apply. This time I made sure that I arrived early and knew where I was going. A good example, I think, of growth mind-set in action, albeit working at a glacial pace. Incidentally, the beagles will be parading at...

While not having quite the same upheavals as the election of Donald Trump or Brexit, the past year at Stowe has not been uneventful.

In 2015, our guest of honour was John Bercow, a few days after his re-election as Speaker following the General Election. This time last year Speech Day took place just before another election, the European Union Referendum, which resulted in a fortnight of memorable political mayhem which will spawn a micro-industry of PhD theses for many years to come. Speech Day and elections are beginning to feel like Groundhog Day and here we are again on the eve of another General Election.

It is a huge honour for me to welcome our guest of honour, Caroline Wilson, who in November 2016 was appointed Europe Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Before that Caroline served as HM Consul General to Hong Kong and Macao and Minister Counsellor at the British Embassy in Moscow. Caroline's current responsibilities include promoting Britain's political, economic and security interests in Europe. Caroline you are very welcome and we look forward to hearing your speech.





While not having quite the same upheavals as the election of Donald Trump or Brexit, the past year at Stowe has not been uneventful. Team sports have performed well above expectations. Among the sports highlights were the girls' hockey 1st XI team enjoying an unbeaten ten match run in the County competitions to qualify for the Regional Finals for the first time ever and they finished the season as the fourth best team in the South of England. The boys won 60% of their matches during the season and went on tour to Amsterdam, but adverse weather conditions meant that they weren't able to play a single game and they had to find other diversions, although I'm not sure why a visit to the Dutch masterpieces in the Rijksmuseum wasn't on the itinerary. The 1st XV rugby team concluded their season with a fantastic win against Eton in a match which went down to the wire and has resulted in a new block fixture appearing in next term's sports calendar. At the other end of the School, the U14s won 11 out of their 12 matches with their only loss coming in the County Cup Final. Not to be outdone, the girls had an excellent Lacrosse season with the 1st XII undefeated, finishing in the top eight in the country at the Nationals and Philly Stacey and Olivia Thomas went on to represent England in the U19As match against Japan during the Easter break. Netball had its best season in recent years with the 1st team enjoying a run of five wins in a row and the U14s ended the season as County champions and finished eighth in the Southern Region. I cannot remember a year when we have had more

Stoics playing in club, county and even national teams.

Our unbeaten cricketers are taking their inspiration from Old Stoics such as Ben Duckett, Wisden's Cricketer of the Year, for his trademark reverse sweep shot and impressive tally of 2,706 runs last season. A few weeks ago, our rowers came back from Eton Dorney with a silver medal in the Under-18 Quadruple Sculls race. They take their cue from another recent leaver, James Rudkin, who recently won a silver medal for Great Britain in the U23 World Rowing Championships, has been picked to row in the GB Men's Eight and has a realistic chance of being selected to row in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Our success at Rugby 7s, winning two trophies at Rosslyn Park, led to last year's leaver, Charlton Kerr, being signed as England Full-Back for the recent World Series in which England came fifth. Stoics have celebrated their wins throughout the year and taken note and recovered from their losses. They have shown commitment, leadership and played according to the spirit and not just the letter of the sport.

I cannot remember a year when we have had more Stoics playing in club, county and even national teams.



Drama continues to be a major strength: we enjoyed another musical, *Prodigy*, a school premiere which maintained the excellent standard of *Beauty and the Beast* and members of the Upper Sixth staged a challenging and provocative play, *After Liverpool*, which garnered rave reviews and packed houses. The most memorable concerts were *Music for Troubled Times* which filled the Chapel with some of the best singing and playing we have heard in recent years and an extraordinary spring-time concert in Trinity College Chapel towards the end of last term. It was an amazing experience hearing Stoics performing so brilliantly in those distinguished surroundings. Well done to Charlotte Brennan who was crowned Milton Keynes Musician of the Year in a competition where the top three finalists were all Stoics. Every year we hold the House singing competition and each year the standard of singing goes up. Just in case you think that this is more Trump-land exaggeration and hype, here is the Nugent part-song.

One of the reasons the best independent schools go

Well done to Charlotte Brennan who was crowned Milton Keynes Musician of the Year in a competition where the top three finalists were all Stoics.

from strength to strength is because they invest in good teachers. I would like to pay tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the teaching staff who work tirelessly on behalf of your children to ensure that Stoics fulfil their academic potential. The quality of a school cannot exceed the quality of its teaching and we are extremely fortunate in having such a distinguished and talented Common Room. Schools improve when the quality of the teaching improves and this is something we have worked tirelessly to achieve. Teachers distil the wisdom of previous generations and impart knowledge to future generations: not a bad way to make a living. As the Senegalese poet and environmentalist, Baba Dioum, said: "In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

In addition to teaching, members of the Common Room run a huge number of academic clinics, societies, coaching sessions and trips. This Easter alone Stoics went to Salamanca with the Spanish Department, took part in gold and silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to the Lake District, skied in the French Alps, played golf and tennis in Portugal, secured the prestigious Arch Cricket Trophy in Dubai and competed for the second year in succession at the World Robotics Championships held in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr Thompson's Physics classroom is festooned with a variety of Vex awards which look like they have been sheared off one of his custom built robots.

A second reason that good independent schools succeed is because we are able to focus on long-term aims, without excessive government interference, rising above short-term

political considerations and the five year electoral cycle - or in our case, the annual electoral cycle. Governments come and go, threaten VAT on school fees, challenge our charitable status, open Free Schools or new Grammar Schools and punish parents for making huge financial sacrifices to send their children to independent schools. But independent schools rise above the vicissitudes and changing fortunes of politics. Our long-term aims are reviewed and scrutinised by governors and we are fortunate indeed in having a dedicated and skilled Board of Governors who ensure that the School's resources are carefully husbanded and deployed. Decisions taken sometimes two or three years ago are now bearing fruit: the first new boys' Boarding House since Bruce moved out of the main Mansion in 1985 is being built in Chapel Court, replacing the unloved and unlively Gardeners' Compound. Valerie and I are looking forward to welcoming our new neighbours when Cobham moves into its palatial accommodation in September 2018. At the increasingly upmarket West End of the estate, Phase Five of West is nearing completion and from September we will have a new girls' Sixth Form House. Governors have also given their assent to converting the shell of the original Cobham House into a pair of day houses, Cheshire and Winton, named after two of the most distinguished and philanthropic Old Stoics.

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On your chairs, economically distributed as one between two, you will see the brochure for the next major project: the rebuilding of Design and Technology into an exciting hub of creativity as we aim to produce the next generation of designers, engineers and entrepreneurs to take their place alongside such Old Stoic luminaries as Steve Ausnit, inventor of the Ziploc Bag, Marc Koska inventor of the K1 non-reusable, auto-disabling syringe and Sir Richard Branson, current President of the Old Stoic Society. Now this isn't the place for a Bob Geldof Give us Your Money hard sell, I'm glad that I remembered to delete the expletive, but the quicker we can raise the £5.8m needed to replace our cramped and over-crowded workshops and portacabins, the sooner we can make a start on this important project.

Governors sit on a wide range of committees with oversight of Education, Finance, Building and Works, Pastoral Welfare and Regulatory Compliance. Most importantly for parents, Governors ensure that funds are spent wisely and that fee increases are kept to a minimum. One of the most significant changes I have seen in my 30 years in schools is the emergence of parents as consumers: you have



the freedom to choose schools and there are plenty of good schools to choose from: we do not take your custom or your loyalty for granted.

A third reason why independent schools have survived and prospered into the 21st Century is because they generally have a strong underlying ethos. We are fortunate that Stoics are shaped, moulded and influenced by being educated in the splendour of the ducal palace, gardens and grounds built by the Temple Grenville family. The School's values derive from the ideology of the Enlightenment. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Stowe campus itself is our longest serving teacher, a real and integral part of the curriculum and it is our great good fortune that our ambitious and far-sighted founding Headmaster, JF Roxburgh, recognised the potential of Stowe to become a world renowned centre of learning.

Every year, I highlight one of the British Worthies commemorated and celebrated at Stowe and this year it is the turn of Sir Francis Bacon. In our post-truth age of fake news and alternative facts, Bacon's insistence on scientific knowledge based on empirical data and inductive reasoning is more important than ever. This is the inscription above his statue in the Temple of British Worthies:

*Who by the strength and light of a superior genius*

*Rejecting vain speculation, and fallacious theory*

*Taught to pursue truth, and improve philosophy*

*By a certain method of experiment*

Bacon would have been appalled at the way some of our politicians distort and disregard the objective truth, proclaiming today the opposite of what was said yesterday. It is hardly surprising that '1984' tops the best-seller list in America: Orwell's dystopia where Black is White, War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength has become an everyday reality. Intellectual liberty, one of the hallmarks of western civilisation, is threatened by double-think, spin and lies. Post-truth was chosen by the Oxford English Dictionary as the word of the year. We need to re-state self-evident truths. As Albert Einstein didn't say, "don't believe every quote you read on the internet" or as Mark Twain might have said, "a lie can travel half way round the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes".

This is what we say on our website about the importance of maintaining absolute values in a sea of relativism:

There is a hierarchy of achievement based on absolute values and clear distinctions between right and wrong, good and bad: where the end does not justify the means, truth is not flexible and other people are not disposable objects; we promote success, but recognise that winning is not always the most important thing and the duty of the individual lies beyond the self. We provide opportunities for pupils to be active in volunteering and serving others in the community.

It is this final point which we will be taking forward as our key theme for next year as the School will be celebrating Leonard Cheshire's 100th birthday and adopting Leonard Cheshire Disability as the School charity for the year.

We want each and every Stoic to come up with his or her own concept of service and decide how to make a difference, either as individuals or as part of a group. The Bible tells us that it is more blessed to give than to receive: we will be remembered more for what we do for other people than what we do for ourselves. It is for this reason that we will honour Leonard Cheshire and Nicholas Winton in the naming of our two new day houses and it is for this reason that Henry Worsley has his name on the Science Building. Henry set off from the edge of Antarctica to attempt the first solo, unsupported and unassisted crossing of the continental landmass. While ultimately unsuccessful, Henry showed extraordinary courage and fortitude and raised nearly £500,000 for the Endeavour Fund which assists wounded servicemen and women who wish to undertake physical activities as part of their rehabilitation process.

The emphasis next year will be on doing, not just on raising money for charity - laudable though that is. Generosity of spirit has characterised so many of you who have supported the School over the years as we have restored the Mansion and created new facilities to benefit this generation and future generations of Stoics. Generosity should be a dominant characteristic in Stoics as well.

So, for those of you with an eye on the clock, a mercifully short speech this year and I will now ask our guest of honour, Caroline Wilson, to present the prizes.

*Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster*

# Speech Day

Caroline Wilson



Thank you - it is a delight to attend and address Stowe Speech Day and prize giving. There is no greater pleasure than returning to a place of learning. Though I should say, that my current place of work - the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, is also very much a place of learning. For the times are unprecedented and challenged. We are deploying our expertise - but also having to learn as we go along. And that is a good thing - for one must always continue to learn in life.

I have been invited to talk to you today about some of the opportunities I have seized over the years - 22 to be precise, in the FCO. And about one that I maybe didn't immediately seize, but came at me in a rather dramatic fashion in a "career chat" with a senior colleague: Brexit.

And there I have maybe been saved by the bell - in the shape of the General Election. For extremely strict rules apply to civil servants in advance of election day.

Yes - Purdah has been imposed since at least the early 20th Century, a fact which probably explains why the rule writers borrowed a term from the British Empire to describe the new phenomenon. Purdah you may know is an Urdu word deriving from the Persian for a curtain or veil used to shield women from public gaze. Anyone in purdah is out of public view. So while I decided not to come to Stowe veiled today, although it was tempting to hide under one given the unusual strength of the Stowe sun, a veil of secrecy has been drawn over government policies pending the outcome of the General Election.

The Headmaster has spoken of change since last year, of unfulfilled predictions, confounded expectations. In that connection he mentioned the word Brexit. Something that has never been done before. No country has ever extricated or unentangled itself from the web of laws, rules,

Directives, that is the EU. The Chairman has talked of a world that is pluralist, complex and competitive. That is an apt description of the world not just diplomats but you too may already be, or will - all too soon - be working in. And it's pertinent to Europe today - pluralist for Europe IS Pluralist: a Europe of nation states. Equally a Union of Member States within a European Union.

**The Headmaster has spoken of change since last year, of unfulfilled predictions, confounded expectations.**

It is complex - the EU involves cooperation in areas from agriculture and atomic research to overseas aid, medicines and maritime safety, to military operations, consumer protection and Euro clearing to common foreign and security policy.

And competitive. Where the Member States have distinct views, but may coalesce as a unity in the EU. And where the Council - that is composed of the MS - may be in a competitive relationship with the Commission. The European Commission with the European Parliament. And where the EU 27 or some in it may even seek a competitive relationship with the UK. Let us see.

We in the UK now need to navigate all of these tensions in Europe.

When I read that there is "No such thing as a typical day at Stowe - it is full of opportunities to learn and develop", I reflected that the Diplomatic Service is also full of such opportunities. And it is precisely by seizing opportunities that we progress.

I mused also on the Stowe ethos that change is something to be welcomed as a provider of opportunity, and not something to be feared. And that ethos is very much relevant to the task of Brexit. Change can generate massive opportunity. It forces reflection. Action. And that is what very many in this country, whether in public, private or indeed education and not for profit sectors, are now turning their heads and hands to.

So I return briefly to the opportunities that I have seized in my life, and my career. And as I look back, what surprises me is that some of the choices I made very early on, even at school, subsequently shaped my career. The good thing was that they were choices I made naturally on the basis of what interested me - and that is the best possible basis for a career. Do something you are interested in anyway, and hopefully get someone to pay you (A salary) or pay yourself indeed, if you generate income and establish a business.

I never missed an opportunity to learn a language.

French was the right foundation for working in “UKRep” the UK Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels - now not so permanent.

**I never missed an opportunity to learn a language.**

Russia - culture and politics - intrigued me and I moved school in order to study Russian A level, I was delighted to work in Moscow for four years. A tough assignment as Russo British relations have been through some rocky places. But I am glad to say that we did manage to elicit some positive headlines such as Russo British relations thaw in Kremlin ice skating spectacular. That particular diplomatic success involved skating on thin ice. Somewhat typical you might say. But with the help of a strong partner - in this case a Russian Olympic skater. Also a good metaphor for diplomacy. We need strong allies globally.

Chinese - I started after my last backpacking holiday as a student. Fascinating but frustrating in equal measure without a knowledge of Mandarin. And SOAS evening courses came to the rescue.

Subsequently thanks to the FCO I have had further time to brush up and improve these languages prior to postings. And to learn Cantonese, certainly the most difficult of the lot.

The best thing about languages is not the ability to dispense with an interpreter. It is the fact that you have to think differently, express yourself differently, relate to people differently - and equally they will relate differently to you. Languages open doors, cultures. They help you deliver? Why? Because you are on the way to understanding what makes others tick. And to understanding their motivation, if you speak THEIR language - literally, but also metaphorically.

So the moral of the languages story is - seize opportunities early, and follow your interests.

Second opportunity - to be part of historical trends.

The world is changing rapidly. In some obvious ways, in some as yet less discernible. Yet while we may think of ourselves as more digital and social - as in tech and social media - I fear many are less digitally-deft, and less socially able than ever before. You may think that history is the past. But what you are living now will be history in your lifetime. For me it was the fall of the Berlin Wall. The end of the USSR, the enlargement of the EU. Now talk is of more walls being built. Not to “protect” the USSR rather the USA. Talk of a resurgent Russian sphere of influence. And the contraction rather than enlargement of the EU.

**The moral there is that even (even!) those more experienced than you might not always get it right.**

All that in a few decades, not a matter of centuries.

Third opportunity - I have always been keen on having a vocation. I have to be careful how I say that - many people think I am talking about taking a vacation. I like those too. Definitely travel as much as you can. But a vocation is a cause that you want to pursue. My initial vocational calling was the law, and most valuable it has proved. I studied law at university and qualified as a Barrister in the early 90s. At the time the Bar was far more UK centric - yet when I did my pupillage I also pursued Mandarin evening classes at SOAS. My pupil master however assured me somewhat disparagingly that “it was a terrible waste of time to learn Mandarin as I would never need that at the Bar”.

The moral there is that even (even!) those more experienced than you might not always get it right. By all means listen to advice, but work it out for yourself - the advice my pupil master gave may have been right in his lifetime. It clearly was not right in mine. And since then I have to tell you that Mandarin, as well as a legal background has been invaluable in my career.

So choices now may well shape your future. A chance encounter, a new skill, a book, a social media post - any of these can influence you. The first thing any of us have to do is expand our own horizons - those in our minds.

The horizons today at Stowe are fabulous - they tell us not just of the past but beckon to the future. This glorious school has equipped you all to be Stoic in every sense of the word - to exhibit curiosity, desire knowledge and nurture independence of thought.

It has been an honour and pleasure to share in such a special day with you.

# Speech Day

## Head Boy & Head Girl



*My Lords, Ladies, Gentlemen and Stoics, we would like to start by giving our thanks to our guest speaker Mrs Caroline Wilson for her informative and very engaging speech.*

**Thalia:** As a token of our gratitude we would like to present you with a gift on behalf of the School.

With the completion of yet another school year under the leadership of Dr Wallersteiner we are able to reflect on the successes and achievements of this past academic year.

**Jarrod:** Like Roger Hodgson and his band, the roles of Headmaster and Chairman are not solo performances and cannot be carried out alone; therefore as a token of our appreciation and recognition of the commitment to this school of Mrs Wallersteiner and Mrs Creedy-Smith, we would like to present you both with flowers.

**Thalia:** This leads us neatly on to the Stoic Award. This is a prize voted for by the student body for a member of the Stowe community who consistently contributes to school life, and influences the lives of Stoics in a positive manner.

**Jarrod:** A Stoic's description of this year's winner is as follows; 'someone who sees the true potential in all Stoics, and is always willing to help if need be, no matter how busy he is. He never ceases to brighten up every pupil's day and

is a perfect representation of the School's ethos.' A very accurate description if I may say so myself.

Since arriving at the school in 2010, and becoming the Assistant Housemaster of Cobham in 2012, as well as being one of the 1st team rugby coaches for a number of years, it is with great pleasure to announce that Mr Rickner is this year's Stoic award Winner!

**Thalia:** We now would like to move on to the "Branson Entrepreneur of the Year Award". This unique accolade offers the winner the chance to spend one week's work experience at Virgin Unite and advance their business idea to the next level.

This year's winner has been able to create an exciting business opportunity on the back of his passion and support for Southampton Football Club. Having developed his online blog which then grew into the 'fanzine', 'Oh When The Saints' which is now accessed globally by Saints and football supporters alike, he has established himself as the go-to multi-media outlet for Southampton fans. For his outstanding application and commendable tenacity and drive, would Tom Brooke please come up to collect his award.

**Jarrod:** As Head Boy and Head Girl we stand before you on behalf of the prefect body. We would first of all like to congratulate those of you who have completed the course of the year with your title still intact and commiserations to



those we lost along the way... On a serious note, your work ethic and unfailing commitment to this team has been of the highest calibre and for that we thank you. And of course, we cannot forget the driving force behind the team, Mr Wellington.

**Jarrold:** As the realisation that our time here at Stowe is fast approaching its final destination, it has been a true honour to represent the School as Head Boy and Head Girl. Most Stoics will ask “What do the Head Boy and Head Girl actually do?” To which Thalia and I still aren’t 100% sure... However, it is now time to pass over the role of Head Boy.

I am sure that the new Head Boy will do a far better job than I ever did and he will overcome any challenge that he is faced with in the year to come. He is a natural leader who compliments the values of the School and inspires those around him. I look forward to seeing him grow as an individual in his new role. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to ask Adam King to come onto the stage and collect the Head Boy tie.

**Thalia:** The person who succeeds the role of Head Girl is someone who I have had the pleasure of playing alongside with on the hockey field and training with on the track. Her resilience and drive to achieve the highest of standards but also her consistent approach in bettering herself will no doubt stand her in good stead to take on this role. Your contribution to this School has been immense and may your selfless nature continue to inspire all those around you. For once I won’t mind Nugent winning this one. Please would Georgia Flawn-Thomas come up to collect her Head Girl necklace.

**Jarrold:** As our final week at Stowe draws to a close, may the Upper Sixth leavers of this year take the time to reflect

on their time spent here; treasure the happy memories and friendships made and we hope that they remain with you for years to come.

However, before you well and truly leave Stowe in the past and allow it to collect dust as a distant memory, somewhere at the back of your brain we would like to say thank you.

**Thalia:** Thank you for your contribution to the ups and downs, the smiles and the tears and the collection of memories made over the last five years.

**Jarrold:** As we finish our final duty we can whole-heartedly say that we have loved these last five years. Stowe is not only special because of its architecture and beauty but it is the people at this school that make it so special.

**Thalia:** Towards the start of our duty we were both exceptionally nervous to speak before the School yet we are thankful to all the Stoics who have made our job progressively more enjoyable.

**Jarrold:** This came from the realisation that Stoics do not pay attention on Monday mornings. Therefore, we would like to say thank you to all the Stoics for their divided attention every Monday morning of this School year.

We will forever be indebted to Stowe for the foundation that it has enabled us to lay as well as the opportunities a Stowe education provides, now and in the future.

**Thalia:** We hope that you have a lovely Half Term. We wish the best of luck to all Stoics sitting exams over the coming weeks.

Thank you for listening.

*Thalia Felton (Upper Sixth, Queen’s) &  
Jarrod Van der Westhuizen (Upper Sixth, Grafton)*

## Pete Last

Pete joined Stowe from Lord Wandsworth School in 2005 as Head of Geography and he proved to be a very strong Head as the Department grew in popularity and with significantly improved results. His own lessons were well-managed, varied and intellectually stimulating. In 2008 he took over Walpole House and ran it with customary efficiency and humour and returned Walpole to its former glory, leading the House team of staff and inspiring generations of Walpuddlians and their parents. All would agree that he was an excellent Housemaster with high expectations of himself and his pupils. In short measure, Pete was appointed Senior Housemaster and Head of Boarding and then Deputy Head (Pastoral) where he ably represented the Housemasters/mistresses and also took part in the strategic discussions at EMT and with Governors. His experience as an ISI Inspector also helped us immeasurably in very many ways over the years. His views were always candid and forceful but equally sincere and principled. Pete

often preached in Chapel, drawing on his own deep faith and religious experience, and he was listened to by Stoics with due attention and respect. His rich singing voice and leadership of Praise in the Nave were also uplifting occasions. Pete, Debbie and their family have been a supportive and active part of the Stowe Community for so many years and Debs' uplifting art with views of the Stowe landscape appear in many a Stowe and Buckingham home. We wish them all well in their new Devon home as Pete becomes Headmaster of Kingsley School in Bideford, Devon.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*



## Charlie Standley

Charlie arrived at Stowe four years ago with plenty of life experience to draw on, having served two tours of duty in Iraq with the Royal Anglian Regiment along with working as a journalist for a local newspaper. Charlie quickly settled in as Under Housemaster in Grafton House, a role he expertly carried out for three years as a resident when he became a bit of a cult figure in House. Indeed, such is the high esteem with which he is held by the Grafton community that when I sadly announced his impending departure to the new pastures of Oundle School, he received a rousing two minute round of applause followed by a standing ovation from the Grafton boys. Charlie's daily bread and butter has consisted of teaching History and Government & Politics across all year groups and he is seen as a very organised and knowledgeable teacher who is rated highly by the Stoics under his tutelage. Charlie has also coached rugby and cricket at various levels in his time at Stowe and imparts his expertise with a healthy dose of humour and sardonic wit to which the Stoics readily respond. More recently, Charlie has managed to find more of that elusive work/life balance by continuing to play his own decent level of club rugby and

cricket on Saturday afternoons when his school duties allow. Lastly, and by no means least, Charlie has been a valuable and much respected member of the CCF corps, spending many days and weeks on CCF camps and expeditions along with Monday afternoon activities, dedicating his time to helping Stoics gain a better understanding of what constitutes a career in the Army. As I said at Charlie's leaving speech, he is the very personification of a school master, rather than simply a teacher, given the numerous hats he has worn at Stowe. We all wish him the very best of luck in the next chapter of his career as Oundle's gain is undoubtedly Stowe's loss.

*Mr Gavin Moffat*





## Anthony Macpherson

When Anthony asked me to do this speech, I was honoured and quickly set about trying to find some stories I could tell. Unfortunately in my attempt to dish some dirt, my lines of enquiry kept coming up blank. To be honest, I knew this would be the case and so I've had to go for a speech more akin to a 'Father of the Bride' rather than 'Best Man'. Interestingly, Anthony's letter of application to be Temple Housemaster arrived in November 2010 and the announcement of his appointment as Deputy Head Pastoral of Swanbourne was made on the very same day six years later. What a six years it has been.

Anthony joined us from Oakham and on his interview day, was mistaken for a Sixth Former on more than one occasion. Despite his baby-faced looks and young age, Anthony was determined that he could do the job well and it was clear to all of us who were working in Temple at the time, that this would undoubtedly be the case. He certainly didn't have an easy job on his hands and during his time in Temple he has managed several difficult situations, with the care and attention any parent would wish for. Throughout, Anthony has remained a balanced, hardworking,

well-mannered Housemaster who carries out the job with great dignity and empathy.

In other areas of the School Anthony has done it all; Choir, Chapel, Swimming - In fact he has just completed a 10k swimming race in the Eton Dorney lake, Rugby, Cricket, EPQ, he is an excellent Philosophy and Religion teacher. He is also currently completing his doctorate in education.

He won't tell you this, but if you've ever been shopping in Boden at Bicester Village, you will have been faced with the beaming smiles and mesmerising eyes of his beautiful daughters, Fenn & Delphie - professional models to all the major children's outlets!

We know he will make a fantastic Deputy Head and hopefully Headmaster one day. It's an exciting year ahead as he and Caroline look forward to welcoming a little boy to their wonderful family. We wish them all the very best in September and they go with our heartfelt thanks.

*Mr Phil Arnold*

## Sue Harmon

For the past six years, Stanhope House has had the privilege of Sue Harmon's leadership. In the time I have known Sue as a fellow Houseparent, what has always struck me about her is the fact that she unfailingly put the care and welfare of the girls in Stanhope first – if ever there was a corner to be fought or a case to be made, Sue would always do it politely but in her own very determined manner! Sue's compassionate nature, together with her understanding of the need to create both a secure and homely as well as a disciplined environment in a Boarding House, made her the epitome of what a strong Housemistress should be. As an Art Teacher, Sue was equally dedicated to her pupils here at Stowe, working with all year groups and encouraging them to ever greater success to fulfil their potential. Outside of the classroom, Sue was involved with the CCF for a number of years, helping with Field Days and activity afternoons, and I am particularly grateful to Sue for her running of the Junior Social Committee this year, to ensure the Stoics were well served for disco, films and other events on Saturday nights! We are hugely grateful to Sue for all she has done for Stanhope and Stowe, and wish her every success as she takes up her new role as Housemistress at Princess Helena College in Hertfordshire.

*Mr James Peppiatt*



## Anna Chaumont

There are students you hope are going to be good Assistants, and there are those, you know will be good, almost instantly. Anna was one of those rare people you just knew would be fantastic. And she didn't disappoint. Having been educated at the very prestigious Lycée de la Légion d'Honneur in Paris and having been a boarder herself, Anna wasn't fazed by life in an English boarding school. She quickly got to know everyone in West and took to House duties like a duck to water, for which Julie and Roland Johnson are hugely grateful. She soon became an invaluable help in the French Department where her main task was to help develop the fluency of the Stoics who had opted for French at A Level. She did so with great passion and panache, engaging her students in a variety of topical discussions, which not only developed their language, but more importantly their knowledge and appreciation of the French culture. She also ran the French Ciné Club, which showed French films once a term, helped with the French Poetry Recital at Christmas, accompanied me on the German trip to Thuringia and last but by no mean least, she helped conduct the internal oral exams in the Lower School. She has been an amazing Assistant and we will miss her greatly.

*Mrs Alice Tearle*



## Carol Balfour

After eleven years at Stowe, Carol Balfour left in March to take up the position of Head Housekeeper at Hertford College, Oxford. A veritable dynamo and driving force behind the essential task of domestic cleaning, Carol had worked at Stowe for eight years before stepping up to the role of Domestic Services Supervisor. Her energy and example did much to improve standards across all Boarding Houses. Never one to ask someone to do a task that she was not prepared to do herself; Carol earned the respect of her teams and encouraged them to seek ways to work more efficiently and safely. She will be greatly missed, but our loss is Hertford College's gain.

*Mr Nick Morris*



## Russell Boulton

We are very grateful to Russell Boulton for the commitment and work ethic he has displayed within the Design and Technology Department this year. Regardless of his appointment towards the latter stages of last summer, Russell threw himself into the working ways of the Department, and within no time at all became part of the team.

With a passion for the practical aspects of the subject, along with his vast experience at a variety of schools, Russell never shied away from the hours required to allow students to access the best possible learning experience, and his practice encouraged Stoics to become independent learners and to think for themselves.

Russell's appreciation for the subject could clearly be seen on Speech Day, where some of his students from Third Form all the way through to Sixth Form had their work on display, and he played an important part in ensuring that deadlines were met and that the quality remained consistent. He even contributed to the classic car exhibition too!

We wish Russell the best of luck in his life after Stowe. He has been a complete gentleman who has won the affection of his colleagues, and his dedicated manner across the School's activity programme is one of the many reasons why he will be sorely missed.

*Mr Martin Quinn*

## Fiona James

Fiona joined Stowe from Wellington College in September 2013 as a member of the Maths Department and non-resident tutor in Queen's. It was very clear that Fiona was destined for great things and once the position of Queen's Housemistress became available – there was always only ever going to be one winner!

In 2014 Fiona became the Queen's Housemistress and she has overseen the continued development of 70+ girls in her care with empathy, compassion and a much welcomed no-nonsense approach to behaviour, school and non-school issues. The Queen's girls have valued her guidance, enthusiasm and clear unrivalled passion for their well-being and in allowing for Queen's to succeed in every area of school life, from Hockey to Debating (both of which Queen's dominated under Fiona's direction) and everything in between. Each girl is aware they are a highly valued member of the Queen's team and they realise they have been a part of a genuine family under Fiona's tenure.

Outside of the House, Fiona has continued to teach Maths and helped in the delivery of the Stowe Hockey and Athletics programme.

Fiona has been ably supported by her husband Andy, and many screams and coos of delight were generated in Queen's when their twins, Ollie and Finn, joined the Queen's team in spring of 2016. Fiona leaves Stowe to become the Deputy Head of Wellington College Preparatory School, Shanghai. From everyone at Stowe, we wish her, Andy, Finn and Ollie the very best for their move and new adventure.

*Mr Mike Rickner*



## Mandy Dawson

Mandy joined Stowe from Akeley Wood in 2008 to take up the position of Head of Careers, having been Head of Geography at her previous school. In her time at Stowe she has developed a great affinity with the Stoics. In Geography, she brought a great amount of experience and knowledge to an already very experienced team, having been an AS Principal Examiner for AQA. She also co-authored a number of successful Geography A level textbooks, and they were bestsellers for Hodder, achieving sales in excess of 100,000. Always passionate about her subject, Mandy was delighted when she was made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 2012. The Stoics have greatly appreciated her creative lessons including things like 'coasts bingo' and 'volcano top trumps', brought together with her clear knowledge of the examination requirements and the techniques vital for success. Mandy still affirms that the thing she enjoys most about Stowe is the Stoics themselves, which really reminds us why we teach in the first place.

In careers, Mandy has brought the UCAS and university preparations into the 21st Century, moving the resources onto the VLE and providing detailed support for each individual through her online bookings system. The Stoics were always welcome to visit for a discussion about career and university prospects, although many just went along to see Frankie, the greediest chocolate labrador in Britain. Mandy faced huge adversity with the loss of her husband Mike in 2014, and since then her passions have focused on new challenges, chief among which is the wish to become the Women's Masters CrossFit Champion for Europe and go to the CrossFit Games in California. Her dedication and mind boggling feats of strength and stamina continue to astound us, especially Fourth Form boys when they find out that she can do more chin ups and shift more weight than them. She is also busy crossing off places on her bucket list and has recently ticked off Indonesia, the Inca Trail and the Amazon Rainforest, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, and Memphis, Nashville and New Orleans.

As Mandy moves on from Stowe into retirement, we wish her all the best and expect to see her on ESPN 8 in the next few years competing in the CrossFit Games!

*Mr Charlie Barker*

## Sue Sampson

As the Stowe Minister for the School and the Parish Church Sue lived and communicated God's Grace in her mission, preaching and personal spiritual life.

Her work at the Parish Church attracted new young families to services and events for her enthusiasm and vision resulted in the delivery of initiatives including the 'Christmas Tree' event at Stowe Church, 'Praise in the Nave' for both Parish and School and many events at Dadford Village Hall. Sue worked incredibly hard and collaboratively to establish strong links with the local community, Church and School, and in doing so, she became a great ambassador for Stowe. She was very successful, too, in her outreach to the many National Trust visitors, drawing them into the Church not just as tourists but some stayed for ordinary or special services or joined in events which she organised. Sue has been a firm rock for Stowe's outreach to the local community for the annual Christmas party for the elderly (the organisation of which is an enormous task) and she co-ordinated regular visits of pupils to the elderly and the housebound.

In Chapel she led our worship, speaking thoughtfully to the School and on several occasions she has also been a wonderful 'fool for Christ' - dressing up for charity (her Rev' Rock Chick was and is still memorable) and leading the School in charitable actions. She is also entirely sympathetic to and encouraging of those of little or no faith and also different faiths and she indeed celebrates diversity. She organised Confirmation preparation and the respective services (Anglican and RC) and is in great demand for staff weddings in the Chapel and Church. Sue acknowledges the various liturgical traditions of the Church, treating each with respect and sincerity, and has been ecumenical in her dealings with other churches in the area. In her pastoral role, Sue was at the forefront of pastoral visits to the Boarding Houses talking and listening to the pupils and staff both collectively and individually.

Writing on behalf of both the parish and the School I know she gave unstintingly, with passion for her mission, good humour, a sincere and profound spiritual vision and a life rooted in prayer and the Bible. We wish her well in her new parish in South Buckinghamshire.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*



## Jack Palmer

When Jack joined the English Department in 2015 he had a tough act to follow as a successor to the much-loved Dr Miller. However, over his two years at Stowe he has established himself as a dynamic, inspirational and equally well-respected teacher in his own right. An acronym of his surname, drawing on the same level of obscure high-order vocabulary that he is famed for using himself, provides a useful description of his personality. P is for Pertinacious: he is diligent and uncompromising, often throwing marking 'parties' with his colleagues that begin at 11pm. A is for Amplivagant, meaning 'large in scope': he has thoroughly embraced Stowe's 'all-rounder' ethos, whether that be blowing a whistle on the football field, taking the Lower School through the Academic Scholars' programme, or building rapports with the boys in Chatham as UHM. L is for Lachrymose, meaning 'tear-jerking': he once conducted a lesson on poetry about family, which ended with him setting a prep assignment to 'call home and tell your parents you love them'. M is for Magnanimous: he is known in the Department as a 'resource dispenser', and is always willing to collaborate with his peers and provide sensitive advice and guidance. E is for Engramic, meaning 'memorable': his lessons leave their mark, such as his Atonement-themed treasure hunt around the School grounds, and he has immortalised himself through the now widespread rumour that he was a runner-up in Norfolk's Young Rapper of the Year Competition 2008 (which obviously does not exist!). Finally, R is for Recursive: he is leaving to re-join his PGCE Mentor and previous Stowe Head of English, Will Goldsmith, at Latymer Upper School in Hammersmith. Let us hope that this recursive tendency brings him back to Stowe one day. He will be missed.

*Mr George Purves*

## Geoffrey Silver

After only a year at Stowe we are sorry to bid farewell to Geoffrey and Molly as they return to their lives and careers in Washington DC. Geoffrey was appointed our Director of Music and set about working on the Choir and invigorating the Chung Music School with School music every day of the week. With his life-time knowledge as a Choral Scholar and a Singer with a professional career and many high quality recordings outside School, he has raised choral standards and really put Stowe on the musical map. The Haydn Mass in Stowe Chapel last Autumn, two beautiful Carol Services with outstanding musicality in the carols as chosen and performed and, to crown it all, an unforgettable Concert in Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge, are just three of the major Music highlights in the ears and memories of Stoics and parents this year. Geoffrey made many more contacts for Stowe with prep schools and choral foundations that will stand us in good stead for years to come and we wish him and Molly a safe return to the USA and much happiness in the future.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*

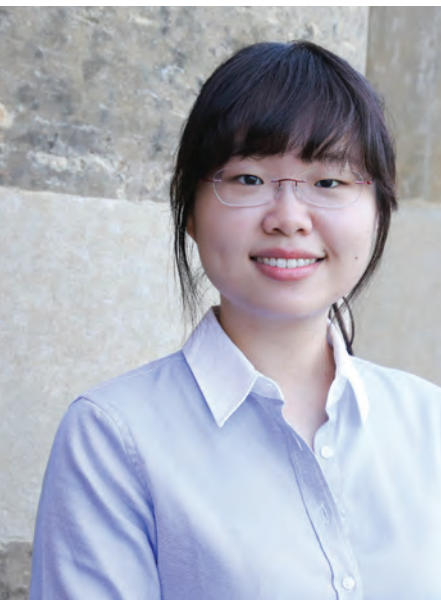


## John Morris

A Quantity Surveyor by training, John Morris joined Stowe School's permanent staff as Head of Estates Management in 2010 following a period of working here as a contractor. His breadth of experience in a wide range of high profile building projects suited John well to the complexities of managing Stowe's estate and to the significant range of projects that he would come to face. No stranger to difficult negotiations, he had already supported the School through the labyrinth of detail that had to be resolved when the contractor that had built Queen's and Stanhope was taken into administration. Over his seven years on the staff, he has overseen the complete refurbishment of the Art School, the delivery of the new athletics track, numerous Boarding House and classroom projects, managed the design and construction of the Music School and contributed significantly to enhancements of the aesthetics and accessibility of the whole site. The move of the Common Room, removal of unsightly buildings to open up the academic area and new sports pitches are further evidence of the improvements that John has brought to the Stowe estate. Overall, in eight years, he will have been responsible for projects totalling well in excess of £40m. John leaves Stowe with two projects underway, the final phase of the extension of West House and the construction of the new Cobham in Chapel Court. Less visible evidence of his contribution to Stowe will be completion of the asset exchange, allowing the move of the golf course and restoration of the Western Garden. John's meticulous approach to this, another labyrinthine process, has been instrumental in protecting the School's interests while working closely with the National Trust to secure a successful completion to the negotiations.

John will be missed for his rigorous attention to the detail of planning consents, his knowledge of construction and building regulations and his encyclopaedic understanding of the leases that underpin management of the estate. He leaves for a well-earned retirement in his native Wiltshire with plans for more travel and taking advantage of the increased leisure time.

*Mr Nick Morris*



## Sandy Wong

Sandy stood out from the other Harvard graduates who applied for the Stowe Harvard Fellowship not just for her academic brilliance and prize-winning excellence in the Medical Sciences but also for her work in contemporary art and music. Although she might have thought she was entering the world of Jane Austen (was Stowe Pemberley?), she was soon to discover that home was, in fact, West House where she rapidly became a valued member of the House team and to which she brought her knowledge and empathy to the fore with Sixth Formers almost as young as she. Thrown into Third and Fourth Form Maths teaching she faced the challenges of bottle-twirling boys who would rather master those skills than those of algebraic logic and she triumphed, though not without its challenging moments. She was ably supported by other new colleagues in Maths and a group of firm friends from the younger members of the Common Room and they ate and socialised together. After her year at Stowe, Sandy leaves us for Medical School in Stanford University and to join the many previous Harvard Fellows now in the medical profession but her cheerful disposition and willingness to help will be missed by us and we wish her well for the future.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*

## Marie Derrien

Most years we would count ourselves lucky to get one good French Assistant, so having two outstanding ones this year and last was like having all our Christmases come at once. From the moment Marie arrived two years ago, she embraced everything Stowe had to offer. Being attached to Lyttelton and working closely with Val Green, getting to know the girls so well over the last two years and being such a fantastic role model for them. Always willing to help out in the French Department, be it offering to help with marking, translating some song and poetry into French or making a playlist of French music for the VLE, nothing was ever too much work for her, and for that, we are truly grateful. Her commitment to the Department and her endless patience with students in clinics and in house made her very popular very quickly. On a personal note, I will miss our conversations about French politics, globalisation and the meaning of life in general. Marie, you have been wonderful and we will all miss you terribly.

*Mrs Alice Tearle*



## George Purves

George Purves arrived at Stowe in the autumn of 2014, having recently acquired an impressive first-class undergraduate degree in English as well as a postgraduate degree in Film from the University of Exeter. Though he spent a number of years after his studies working on short films of own – with some being screened at respected film festivals or nominated for awards – George found the pull of the classroom too strong to ignore.

When I first met him, back in the August of 2015, I was immediately struck by George's confidence in a boarding school environment: having been educated at another boarding school himself – Monkton Combe in Bath – Stowe was clearly a setting in which he would thrive. As a teacher, George passed through the PGCE and NQT teacher training programmes with distinction; in part, this is down to George's reflective attitude to his craft. Whether it be in his teaching of English or, more recently, Media Studies, Stoics have been enriched by George's dynamic and engaging lessons, where elements of visual learning are often incorporated to good effect. This year in particular, George has been heavily involved in Vanguard, the School's whole-year projects programme for Third Form pupils. George's expertise was instrumental in the effective planning and delivery of the student's summer term project, whereby Stoics had to shoot and edit an informational short film on one of Stowe's monuments.

After a successful stint in West House, George has spent the past two years as Chandos's Under Housemaster – unsurprisingly, George soon became a firm favourite among the boys. In the boarding house, he quickly ingratiated himself with his tendency for naff jokes, some of which can be found in his reports for his Fourth Form tutees. A case in point: 'much like his newly-acquired drone, [Student A's] academic progress is soaring to dizzy heights this term.' However, George's popularity reached fever pitch earlier this year when his acoustic solo album, *Songs of the Valley*, was released online. Having recently performed some of his songs at a number of School events where Stoics have sung along to the lyrics, it has become obvious that the album is a stalwart in many of the students' Spotify playlists.

During his time at Stowe, George has been an unwaveringly passionate and dedicated professional, and his remit has gone far beyond that of a teacher. He has given endless hours to Stoics in a whole raft of capacities: supporting or stretching English and Media students on an individual basis, running challenging English Extension sessions for those aspiring to study the subject at University, putting on a lively Film Club activity, and assisting in the development of budding song-writers. Though it is George who wrote an album reflecting on his years as a school-boy at Monkton Combe school, as he makes his return to the very same school (this time as a school-master), I feel that in recruiting George it is his new employer that really has something to sing about!

*Mr Jack Palmer*

## Collette Stirzaker

Collette was appointed to the Languages Faculty team as a Spanish teacher at Stowe in 2013. From the interview it was immediately apparent that she was an excellent classroom teacher capable of making even the most challenging A Level topics interactive and engaging. Collette sailed through her NQT year with us, delivering outstanding lessons as well as embracing her role as Under Housemistress in Stanhope with commitment and discretion. After just two years as a Spanish teacher, Collette was appointed as acting Head of Spanish in 2015 and, after an excellent first two terms, the post became permanent.

Through her time with us, as well as her roles in the department and the boarding house, Collette has been fully involved in all aspects of the school, running a number of trips, excursions and study tours and activities from Rounders to Zumba. She also played a leading role in setting up a thriving, vibrant and very successful Arts Award programme and she set up the Languages Open Mic night as part of the Languages Society programme. The Open Mic night is now a much anticipated event in the languages calendar and this year saw 13 acts performing song or recital in eight different languages.

Collette is passionate about Spain, the Hispanic world, the culture and the language. She is an outstanding linguist; fluent in Spanish and Catalan, and her passion and energy for language learning is contagious. Collette has never stayed in one place for more than four years and it is perhaps therefore fitting that after four successful, busy and entertaining years at Stowe she is moving on. Collette has been appointed as Head of Modern Languages at the Crypt School in Gloucester and we wish her every success and happiness in her new post and in the next chapter of her life.

*Mrs Tracy Jones*



## Chris Warde

Chris has been an exceptional schoolmaster at Stowe for the past four years. Coming to Stowe from working in the MoD, Chris specialised in chemical and biological warfare technology and this meant he was ideally prepared for teaching at Stowe. Chris has been a wonderful AHM in Temple, he has been a key cog in the wheel of the Hockey Department and served the Chemistry Department and its students with dedication, diligence and enthusiasm to get the best out of the kids.

Anthony Macpherson comments that; “The Temple House boys love him because underneath his (at times) slightly gruff exterior he is a very caring and attentive chap who wants the best for the boys and the smooth running of the House. He sets high standards and has a great sense of humour. I have always known that the House is in very safe hands when I am not around because Chris takes his responsibilities very seriously. He will be hugely missed by Temple House, even if he can be a bit grumpy before his morning coffee!”

As a Chemistry Teacher, James Tearle comments that; “He really does care about all those he teaches and he is a popular teacher and is excellent at explaining chemical theory and will be difficult to replace.”

On the Hockey front, Chris has been a great coach for the Yearlings A, which he has done for his whole time at Stowe as well as several years coaching the 1st XI boys’ team. He is an excellent coach and hockey player and will be sorely missed by the Hockey Department.

Chris leaves Stowe to join Farleigh Prep School – where their gain is Stowe’s loss and we wish him all the very best for the future.

*Mr Michael Rickner*

## Steve Rowett

Steve Rowett completed eleven years at Stowe on the hard-working Grounds Team. Initially recruited as a Groundsman, Steve set about gaining professional qualifications and soon established himself as a friendly and highly professional member of the team. His cheerful demeanour belied a strong resolve and a desire to achieve high standards in all that he did. Promoted to Head Gardener in 2016, Steve turned his attention to many of the less visible areas of the estate, applying the same quiet determination and professionalism to this new field. He left in May for pastures new, as the Site and Facilities Manager at Hanwell Fields Community School in Banbury.

*Mr Nick Morris*

## Victoria Crook

Victoria arrived in January 2015 from St Paul's Catholic College as a Business Teacher and a Stanhope Under Housemistress. It is often challenging for colleagues to start mid-year but she quickly adapted to the rigours of academic teaching and the various demands of working in a busy and frenetic girls' House.

Together with her main core Business teaching, Victoria was also willing to embrace new challenges in teaching both Economics and EPQ for the first time and she quickly adapted to new learning and teaching approaches. In Stanhope House she involved herself in the various pastoral responsibilities and she was instrumental in introducing those fun Karaoke nights particularly with the younger girls.

Victoria has also been active in the CCF within the RAF division and she has often been willing to attend and to support the numerous trips with young cadets. Her most memorable experience is enjoying the RAF flying missions from Benson. She has also been a willing sports coach in hockey, lacrosse and tennis.

In August, Victoria married Paul and we wish them a happy and joyful life together. Her husband has secured a new job role in Toronto and she looks forward to new challenges and experiences in Canada. She is also hoping to pursue a Master's degree course in Development Psychology and Education.

Finally, on behalf of the Business and Economics Department we wish Victoria every success in the future.

*Mr Panos John*



## Doug Dalloway

In 2016, the catering team bade a sad but very fond farewell to our Head Chef, Doug Dalloway, after more than thirty years of loyal service at Stowe. A very rough calculation would suggest that, over those years, Doug would have overseen the production of at least six million breakfasts, eight million lunches and six million evening meals. In the course of his service at Stowe, Doug saw enormous change in the catering provision at the School but he remained the same calm, gentlemanly professional that many Stoics came to know and love. Doug served an apprenticeship as a chef in Oxford from the age of 15, becoming Head Chef at Jesus College before moving to Stowe to enjoy life in the country. Like many, he was captivated by what he saw and he stayed. A keen golfer and caravanner, with an abiding interest in history and a lifelong supporter of West Ham Football Club, Doug retired locally and is spending his time following his many interests and, with his wife Leila, supporting the grandchildren.

*Mr Nick Morris*



## Dick Carpenter

Richard (Dick) Carpenter arrived at Stowe in January 2013 from Newington College in Sydney to take up the position of Head of Physics. Half way through an academic year Dick had the tough job of hitting the ground running both within the Department and within the School. Since then Dick has overseen GCSE and A level course changes, three new members of staff, mentored one NQT and restructured the Department admin. He saw the Department through a Practical Coursework Assessment Inspection from the exam board. He enthusiastically encouraged the successful High Altitude Balloon Launch and the development of the popular Vex robots teams, providing support and finance.

Dick was an active participant in the development of the Physics Department as part of the new Science Block project improving all the labs and work spaces. He developed excellent relationships with his students and his Sixth Form tutor group and was well respected by them. As a teacher he had presence in the classroom supported by very good subject knowledge and experience. He spent a great deal of time providing extra individual support outside his normal timetable. Alongside this he enthusiastically helped with U16 and Yearlings rugby and cricket in the summer term. As a qualified mountain leader, Dick was a key asset on DofE expeditions. On top of his busy involvement at Stowe, Dick was also a Governor at a local school and a regular visitor to the gym.

Dick now moves on to head up a larger Physics Department at Nottingham High School. We wish him every success with his new department and thank him for the excellent work he has done here at Stowe over the last four and a half years.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*



## Caroline Bagshaw

Caroline joined Stowe in 2014 in the English Department and quickly built a reputation as an incredibly committed teacher and an invaluable member of both the English Department and the wider School staff. She is deeply respected and valued by students at both ends of the achievement spectrum. She takes enormous time and care with her students and encourages them towards achieving very impressive results, whatever their starting point and levels of confidence and is the kind of teacher who is closely attuned to the needs of individual students. Her awareness and commitment to pupil welfare has often helped us to identify and intervene; to help where needed.

Perhaps a lesser known fact is that she is also a superstar when it comes to staff training. She was involved with the Buckingham SCITT programme for teacher training before she joined us and, with the Head's permission and support, she has continued to offer fortnightly professional development sessions to whole-cohort and subject specific sessions to SCITT trainees. As there are over 300 SCITT trainees in the County, this is no small feat! She has also led lots of staff training here at Stowe and has been invaluable in mentoring many of our own staff through their initial years in the profession. She has played a key role in organising and hosting several TeachMeets at Stowe and is always someone who is really committed to the culture of 'teacher as learner'.

Caroline has had a rather meteoric rise since she arrived with us three years ago. She came in as second in Department in English under Will Goldsmith and, as Will would be first to admit, was the one who really kept the Department well-organised. In her second year she was appointed Head of Media Studies - a Department she has created from scratch. Media is already very popular and has attracted a lot of students, which is again a testament to the confidence the pupils have had in her. Staff across the school are glowing in their praise, one describing her as, "A bundle of positive, determined, professional energy." She is now going on to become Senior Management (Assistant Head in charge of Sixth Form) at Furze Down School in Winslow – so not too far away and we hope she will stay in touch. We wish her every success in her future role and she will be sorely missed.

*Dr Julie Potter*



## David Critchley

As a Wykehamist and Balliol Classicist, David added to the intellectual clout of the Common Room when he came to teach in the Classics Department in 2006. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the Ancient Classical world, the History and Development of Christianity and, indeed, many world religions, let alone his forays into art and architecture, have all made him invaluable to the staff in so many ways. With a gentleman's politesse, his MA gown not far from his shoulders for Assembly and Chapel, David was also so much more than a schoolmaster and now he has decided to retire from teaching and administration, it is only with great difficulty that we can (just about) replace him for all his outstanding work in managing UCAS applications, CCF and the Governors' Administration. In all these areas he streamlined our systems, kept an eagle eye on the infelicities of language and inaccuracies of Stoics and staff in UCAS form-filling, chivvied senior colleagues for their papers in time for Governors' deadlines and wrote minutes of exemplary tact and concision. On top of this, he relished his office as CCF Contingent Commander, leading many expeditions in the Naval Section and now handing over a much more vitalised and improved CCF and David also served the School abroad by creating links with two Bangladeshi Army Cadet Colleges where he took the Salute (as much to his own surprise and pleasure). In recent years, given his own profound spiritual and moral interests, he began research on Lorimer's Stowe Chapel, piecing together, as far as he is able from School archives and records, the artists and craftsmen who worked on the building. After years of distinguished service we wish him a wonderful retirement and look forward to reading the results of his researches in the near future.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*



## Nick Morris

Nick Morris arrived at Stowe as Operations Director in August 2009 at a crucial time in the School's development. Pupil numbers were rising sharply after the opening of Queen's and Stanhope and the School required additional classrooms and improved dining, sports and social facilities to accommodate the expanding School roll.

Nick's previous career experience as Director of Logistics in the RAF and then Director of Road Network Performance at Transport for London proved invaluable when it came to looking after the needs and demands of a busy boarding school. His portfolio of responsibilities is daunting: management of all support services, grounds and maintenance, working with the National Trust to improve the visitor experience and CEO of Stowe House Preservation Trust while project managing the £20m restoration programme. His unflappable management style, unfailing courtesy, cool head under pressure and ability to see each problem from a variety of different viewpoints, make him the perfect person to oversee the delivery of multiple projects on time and on budget.

Nick's many successes include the conversion of Nugent into a 13-18 girls' Boarding House while reinstating many of the original features of the Vanbrugh building. A new Sixth Form House, West, was created by merging three residential buildings and commissioning Rick Mather Architects to produce an exciting contemporary design for the final phase. Lyttelton was given a complete make-over to blend more harmoniously with its surroundings. As I write, new Cobham is taking shape in Chapel Court and plans are being finalised to convert the original Cobham into two Day Houses, Cheshire for girls and Winton for boys. In addition to these substantial building projects, Nick's Department managed a rolling programme of refurbishing existing Houses to bring Boarding accommodation up to the standards expected by ever-more discerning and discriminating customers.

Working closely with John Morris, Head of Estates Management, the two Morris-men have dramatically improved the School's academic facilities: the Art School was completely rebuilt so that it recaptured the original intention of providing pupils with first-rate studio facilities, spacious classrooms and a gallery on the ground floor. Every Department has benefited from significant modernisation with new furniture and upgraded IT infrastructure. Nick has masterminded the strategy of working with the grain of existing buildings: for example, overseeing the three-phased renovation of the Roxburgh Theatre which maintains the charm of the original building while providing excellent classrooms and performance areas for Drama. One of the chief beneficiaries of these enhancements has been Arts at Stowe which delivers an innovative and interesting cultural programme for Stoics and the wider community. Perhaps his most impressive achievement is the Worsley Science Centre which was opened in January 2017, a significant improvement on the building's original functional design.

Nick combines the role of Operations Director with oversight of the Stowe House Preservation Trust. Historic houses are one of Nick's abiding interests and he has brought valuable insights and knowledge to the restoration of the ducal palace. He has written a new guide book to the house and is editing a volume which encompasses the evolution of the house, garden and school. It is now possible to walk through the enfilade of rooms from the Blue Room, the Library, Music Room and into the Marble Hall, experiencing Stowe as it was intended to be seen in its eighteenth-century heyday. Plans are in place to complete the final stages of the restoration programme and fundraising for the State Dining Room ceiling has begun in earnest. With the return of statuary to the South Front Portico, the installation of Laocoon in North Hall and continuing work on the Grenville and Temple staircases, 2023 will not only herald the centenary celebrations of the School, but should also mark the completion of SHPT's ambitious programme. Visitor numbers are set to rise to 20,000 a year and the new reception and display area, Enlightenment for All, has given a welcome focus to the visitor experience. Relations between the triumvirate at Stowe - the School, SHPT and the National Trust - have never been better.

As a colleague on the Executive Management Team, I have welcomed Nick's contributions which are always carefully considered and well-informed. There cannot be many jobs which require the post-holder to master the specifications of an equestrian centre, understand the IT requirements of a medium-sized business, ensure the implementation of a plethora of Health and Safety requirements covering a school and heritage centre, roll-out security arrangements which do not become intrusive, oversee the delivery of up to 2,500 meals a day, lead an equality action group and present an eighteenth century ducal palace to a knowledge-hungry public. The Operations Directorate lies at the heart of the running of the School and it is not an exaggeration to claim that Nick's intelligence, perspicacity, diplomacy and good humour have ensured the School's success in recent years.

*Dr Anthony Wallersteiner*

## Thomas Thorne

Tom came to Stowe with strong recommendations for his Mountaineering (Instructors and Leader Award) and his manifest love of the outdoors. For several years he himself had been climbing and leading others in the rougher terrains of the UK and New Zealand and we needed his practical and logistical help and leadership for 2016-17 in our DofE and Geography Field Trips although A Level sand dunes and pebble measurement he may have found less exciting than mountains and the real outward bound.

In his Geography teaching he grew through his NQT year, showing a developing practice that was both diverse and inclusive. Tom was always willing to try new teaching strategies, be it through the tenets of growth mindset and independent learning, or the use of technology to provide interactive learning.

In extra-curricular activities his previous role as a glacier guide and outdoor instructor saw him move seamlessly into an important role in the DofE Scheme, where he helped to train pupils as well as participating in expeditions. Tom's skills, knowledge of risks, camaraderie and leadership of pupils will be missed. He also put his talents to good use, supervising climbing activities at weekends. His allocated sporting activity was basketball; although this sport was previously little known to him, nevertheless and characteristically, he participated with enthusiasm.

Tom was also Under Housemaster in Grafton where he was a popular and fully immersed member of the pastoral team and much praised by his Housemaster and Graftonians alike. We thank him for his year at Stowe and wish him the very best as he leaves us for another school not too far away.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*



## Molly Jepsen

Molly joined Stowe from Washington DC to teach Maths. With her experience she ably supported colleagues in the Department and made good friends among the staff. She worked unbelievably hard in preparing her lessons and delivered them in a calm and approachable manner which was much appreciated by her pupils. She was a very much valued member of the Department and it is with sadness we say goodbye and wish her all the best with her teaching career back in DC.

*Mr Crispin Robinson*

# Obituary

## Elizabeth Chubb

It is with very heavy hearts that at the end of the summer, we learned of the unexpected death of Elizabeth Chubb (1964-2017), our much-loved Head of the History of Art. Although she had taught here only from Easter 2016, her impact on the Stowe Community was significant.

For 10 years (1983-1993), Liz was a commissioned officer in the RAF which provided her with a rich fount of anecdotes and stories – some unrepeatable in public. With her UCL Geography degree, she moved into teaching, but always with a passion for art, Italy and travel, food (her baking and especially her blueberry cheesecake made one weep with pleasure). She taught at Sir Henry Borlase's Grammar School as Head of Geography. Then she moved to Aylesbury High School in 2002 where she was Head of Sixth Form, taught Geography and the EPQ and also was a highly successful and popular Head of the History of Art. Indeed, for the Summer Term, 2016, she continued to mark revision essays and coach her former AHS pupils for their A Level exams. Such was her personal loyalty to and professional concern for the successes of her pupils. More recently, she received Oxford's Advanced Diploma in the History of Art with a prize-winning dissertation on an Italian fascist building. She loved the art and architecture of 20th and 21st Centuries especially its architecture and in teaching this subject, she had finally discovered her true passion. Arriving at Stowe, Liz immediately invigorated the History of Art team and with her energy, enthusiasm and sense of fun, let alone the endless supply of cakes, pies and buns, she thrilled her students and encouraged (and fattened) her colleagues. She attended absolutely everything at School – talks, concerts, plays, services, lectures, opera, cricket matches (she was a qualified umpire and a scorer) - all in support of the life of the School. Liz was widely valued and respected as a Sixth Form Tutor, not just by her tutees but also other Stoics who sought her wise counsel and advice. She was notably present very early on A Level Results Day to help with advice and contacts at universities. The HPQ Course in the Junior School could not have run without her experience and guidance but for Liz, equally importantly, were the times she could follow her other passions: Test Cricket and listening to classical music.

Under her leadership, numbers in the History of Art Department started to return to their former status and our Stoics enjoyed their trips to Galleries and talks given by important speakers from across the artistic and art historical spectrum. Last summer's Department picnic for the leaving Upper Sixth at Compton Verney to see an important exhibition on Landscape, was typical of her thought, planning and care. Truly *une fête champêtre*.

A Service of Celebration for her life was held on 7 September 2017, followed by a Reception in Marble Hall and many who knew and loved her attended: fellow AQA Examiners, former colleagues and pupils from Aylesbury High, Sir William Borlase's Grammar School and the RAF, plus family and friends. From the moment her death was made public, her friends on Facebook wrote paeans of praise alongside thoughtful reflections on how much she had contributed to their educations and lives. She was devoted to her parents, Peter and Joan, in Canterbury, her brother, Matthew, and her three nieces far away in New Zealand. We mourn her loss with them.

We will miss Liz, her positive and generous view of life, her deep and sincere Christian Faith and her warm empathy with all. Her constant refrain was, "What can I do to help?" and she did just that. She loved not just her teaching and tutoring roles but also the beauty of Stowe, the laughter and teasing/banter in lessons and she supported many of her colleagues and all her pupils. She was simply wonderful.

*Requiescat in Pace.*

*Mr Crispin Robinson, Second Master & Teacher of the History of Art*





# Academic Report

It has been another lively and successful year of academic achievement at Stowe. The 2016 exam session saw half of GCSE grades (50%) awarded grade A\* or A, with particularly strong results from the Biology, Physics, EAL, Latin, Philosophy & Religion, Drama and Music departments, which all helped over 60% of their students to A\* or A grades at GCSE. Twelve students entering the Lower Sixth were awarded Honorary Academic Scholarships for achieving eight A\* grades or more at GCSE, with five students achieving an impressive total of ten A\*s. Our Sixth Form leavers also did very well last summer, with over a quarter of all grades awarded at A\* or A and a total of 68 Stoics were accepted at Russell Group universities. At time of writing our 2017 cohort have also been extremely successful with their university applications. 92 students have received either unconditional offers or offers from all the universities they applied for and 120 students have received offers from Russell Group universities.

2016-17 has been a challenging year, with the changes continuing to roll in from the Government's educational reforms. Both students and teachers at Stowe have had to learn both new material and new skills. The 2017 leavers have been the first cohort to sit the reformed, linear A Level exams in some subjects and the changes will roll out across all subjects for those starting this September. The 2017 GCSEs were the last that were completely in the old-style with letter grades and over 2018-20 all subjects will become graded 9 to 1. At both GCSE and A Level the changes have brought in more content to cover and increased difficulty, so that material once reserved for university is now in the A Level and material that used to be in the A level is now in the GCSE.

I am pleased to say that Stoics across the year groups have embraced these new challenges with determination and energy. It has been great to see them not only recognising that struggle is a necessary step towards learning and bringing a healthy learning mindset to their exam work, but also continuing to seek academic challenges around and beyond the taught curriculum. Stoics are increasingly

taking the lead with their learning. By popular demand, a Junior Academic Student Council has been formed in addition to the Senior Academic Council to look at how to better generate and support academic endeavour across the school. Many of those on these councils have also volunteered to be trained up to sit on pupil panels that help with interviewing those applying to teach at Stowe. This experience has not only given the students a greater say in who teaches them, but many of those involved have also commented on how much they have learned about interviewing from being on the other side of the table.

Stoics have also been taking the lead in running academic societies. In 2016 -17 they have had access to a broad selection of talks and trips. Societies have hosted numerous specialists in their field to give talks at Stowe, such as Dr Matt Lodder on, 'How to Burn a Million Pounds' to the Art Historians, 'Nazi Looted Art and Provenance Research' by Dr Adriano Aymonino, also to the History of Art Society and Professor Chris Hawes on 'Jellyfish Genes, Lasers and Big Microscopes: Revealing the Secret Life of Cells' to the Biomedical Society, to name just a few. Stoics themselves have also presented to their peers in these extension societies, such as Sophia Sanders' excellent lecture on 'Discovering Kenya' to the Languages Society and Oliver Vince's lecture on, 'The Lays of Ancient Rome' to the Classical Society. The History, English, Economics, Politics, Gaussian (Maths) and Quantum (Chemistry and Physics) Societies have also been thriving and have hosted a number of speakers and there have been Economics, Politics and Law conferences hosted here at Stowe. In an exciting recent development, students have been both writing and producing magazines for Science and more recently for Maths. There have been day trips out to Chedworth Roman Villa for Classicists, Sixth Form Physicists have visited the Aston Martin factory and the Art Historians went to the National Gallery and attended a talk at Buckingham University by Alex Farquharson, OS, Director of Tate Britain. Our Art students have visited exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts and the Tate Modern in London. All of these societies, magazines and trips have reflected and added to a real sense of excitement

around learning and an academic buzz.

Although many of these trips and lectures are more specifically for those in the Sixth Form, most are also open to those in the Lower School who wish to attend. This is part of the 'Open Minds' programme to ensure academic extension is available to all interested students. Extra 'Open Minds' seminars have also been arranged particularly for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form students. As part of Open Minds, PhD student Nasir Ahmad from the University of Oxford came to speak about 'Neural Networks: Simulating Pieces of the Brain' in January, and our own Mr Donoghue (Physics) and Mr Aitken (Music) gave one of the year's most entertaining talks on, 'The Physics of Music', which amongst other things involved a tune being played on a carrot!

The most academically able and ambitious students at Stowe can also apply to join the Lower School Academic Scholars' (LSAS) group, or the Headmasters' Essay Society (HMES) in the Sixth Form. Applicants are expected to attend weekly sessions and also to be active members of academic societies and to embrace extension opportunities across their subjects. Themes for the year in LSAS have been 'Wars and Conflicts' in the Michaelmas Term, where students in small groups chose a topic to research and present to others on, and 'Trip to Mars' in the Lent Term, where groups were challenged to choose and try to explore solutions around the various problems that stand in the way of a successful mission to Mars. Those in the HMES were engaged in a rolling programme of structured group discussions, student presentations, debates, seminars and lectures.

Stowe is not and never will be a school that prioritises exam results above all else. Instead, what we take pride in is being a school that encourages students to develop confidence and to identify and pursue their own individual interests and goals. We are more interested in training students how to learn than in cramming them with facts or figures to regurgitate in

the unnatural setting of high-pressure exams. One of the best ways to do this is through project work and indeed many of the new A level and GCSE specifications have increased the use of project work in their assessments. This allows students to develop their own titles around their areas of interest and also explicitly rewards the demonstration of learning skills such as effective planning, accurate and critical research and redrafting.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) has been a popular option for Sixth Form Stoics for a number of years. Over 80 students completed an EPQ in 2016 and over 90 are on course to complete in 2017. 2016-17 has also seen the introduction of the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) in all students in the Fourth Form, due for completion in the Fifth Form. Not only is this an excellent vehicle for training students in key learning skills, but will also mean that when they are putting together their university applications in the Lower Sixth, they will have a better idea of what they are interested in studying and will have also be able to discuss their independent reading and research. This provides evidence of genuine enthusiasm for their subject and the ability to work independently, which are exactly the qualities most prized by universities in applicants. Without doubt one of the academic highlights of the year was the EPQ fair in November 2016, where Sixth Form students presented to all comers on their work. 2017 will not only see an EPQ fair, but also the first HPQ fair – and there are some fantastic titles and projects in the making.

It has been a very busy and exciting year and it just isn't possible to sum up the whole of the wide range of academic endeavours and successes at Stowe over the past twelve months, but if it needed to be done in just three words they might be: aspirational, creative and invigorating!

*Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)*

# Mathematics

This has been another exciting year for the Maths Department at Stowe. We were lucky to have several new members of staff in September: Reva Cope who joined us from Akeley, Molly Jepsen who came from America, along with this year's Harvard Fellow, Sandy Wong. All three hit the ground running and have worked hard to help us provide an excellent education in Maths across the board. They rose to the challenges posed by life at Stowe and quickly settled in to the Department. We were sad to say goodbye to Rosemary Trace (for at least the fourth time running) and Patricia Bennett who both kindly stepped back in when they were needed again. Last year's Harvard Fellow Alejandro Jaramillo went back to the USA

at the end of last year and was sorely missed, and Toby LeLacheur left for Australia to build a life with his fiancée at Christmas. We wish them all the best.

The Maths Department has grown yet again, with even more students choosing to take the subject for both AS Level, A Level and Further Maths. This is surely partly because they can see the results we have achieved. Last year our A Level results were very good with 74% A\*-B and only one student achieving less than a C grade – one E grade and no Ds at all so another year with 100% pass rate – this is something we are extremely proud of. Students deserving special mention include: Camilla Harvey-Scholes

(Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Dot Holt (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Emily Woodhead (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson (Upper Sixth, Grenville) who all achieved A\*s in their A Levels overall.

Our AS results were exceptional with a record number of A grades (42%), and 73% with an A or a B, and 95% achieving A-D. This is the best set of results at AS the Department has achieved and bodes really well for next summer. Skye Longworth (Upper Sixth, Nugent), George Adams (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Angus Parsonson (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Toby Lawrance (Upper Sixth, Cobham) deserve special mentions as they all scored 100% in at least one module. This was the last year of GCSE Mathematics before we change to the international GCSE specification (iGCSE). The results were slightly down on last year (39% to 35%) A\* and As. We also saw a small drop in the pass rate, from 98% to 96%. This was obviously a bit disappointing.

The Maths Department has also introduced two other new activities this year, the 'Vertical Stretch' sessions which are an introductory course that runs every week. It aims to give an insight to maths at undergraduate level. The course also fills the gap between A level and university. It is designed, just like a shock absorber, to reduce the amount of crash when students proceed from 'just apply the principle' A levels' to 'derive and prove' expected of undergraduate mathematicians. The 'Vertical Stretch' includes a range of topics from number theory to vector calculus. We hope that, as well as stretching Stoics to meet their potential, this early introduction to different disciplines of mathematics will help students to make the right choice of modules at university. The other group is called Local Maximum and focuses on, 'How to question a question to find the answer.' These sessions also run through the academic year on a weekly basis. Here we aim to improve the problem-solving skills of Stowe's mathematicians. From Oxbridge entry exam papers to modified undergraduate test papers, we use a broad range of materials to enhance learning and develop the skills necessary to think outside the box. Our main aim here is to teach Stoics to step back and think after reading a question rather than reacting to it immediately. In addition, we also focus on how to write the given information in the language of mathematics before we try to solve it.

We have also offered a wide range of extra support groups which are open to all students in Lower School to give them the chance to come and sort out any problems they were having with the syllabuses. They were run every Wednesday afternoon by Sharon Carter, Head of Skills, and Mikkel Møller, Head of Maths. They became increasingly popular over the year peaking at 20 students after Christmas and were invaluable to pupils who find Maths difficult. We have continued last year's very successful sessions for Sixth Formers, where the Department is open in the afternoons for them to come and study; a member of staff is on hand to support them when they need it. These were offered by Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, Tony McDaid, Richard Knight and Sandy Wong. All of this was in addition to the daily hour-

long clinics, on offer to all pupils.

Sixty students participated in the Senior Maths Challenge this year, and 80 from Third, Fourth and Fifth Form took part in The Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. Third formers who did particularly well were Rosia Li (Third Form, Stanhope), Sam Birch (Third Form, Grenville) and Ned Ellison (Third Form, Bruce), who all qualified for the European Kangaroo Maths Challenge. Toby Lawrance (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Hattie Webb (Upper Sixth, West), Dilyara Adilkhanova (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Freddie Woods (Lower Sixth, Chatham) took part in the Wendover regional final of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge, which was organised jointly by the UK Mathematics Trust and the Further Mathematics Support Programme. The team did really well but lost out to some extremely strong opposition. This year's inaugural Inter-House Mathematics competition was organised by Tony McDaid. It was fiercely fought and a very close contest with great spirit from all Houses. Grafton came third with 76 points, Bruce came second with 78 points and Stanhope took home the honours with an impressive 94 points, winning the Mike Dawson Mathematics Shield. Puzzle Day in October offered the Third Form the chance to explore Maths in a fun and interactive way. They had to work in groups to find strategies and work towards the best possible solutions. Our Oxbridge candidates had the chance to visit Oxford University to find out more about studying Maths there. Edward Harding (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Oliver Vince (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Hugo Barnett (Lower Sixth, Bruce) attended a day of introductory talks and advice on a range of inspirational degree courses, including Mathematics with Philosophy, Mathematics with Computer Science.

Another exciting event was the publication of Stowe's first ever maths magazine, The Maths Review, which is available to read online for anyone who is interested in mathematics, mathematical sciences and philosophy. Hakan Yadsan put together this impressive showcase of mathematics at Stowe, from advanced mathematical proofs, to jokes, it provides a fascinating insight into the historical and philosophical aspects of the universal language of mathematics.

As we look forward to the new academic year, there is a lot we are excited about, but we have sadly had to say farewell to our two American colleagues, Sandy Wong and Molly Jepsen. We also wish Fiona James all the best with her new life in Singapore with Andy and the boys. She has been such an important member of the Department - energetic, innovative, full of ideas and expertise, she will be sorely missed by pupils and staff alike. In September we will be welcoming two new members of staff: Alec Stanworth who is joining us from just down the road in Buckingham, and Tasnim Ahmed, who is the Harvard Fellow for 2017/2018, after Christmas we will also be joined by Serkan Karakus. We look forward to working together, inspiring each other and taking the Maths Department to even greater heights in the future.

*Mr Mikkel Møller, Head of Mathematics*

# Science

This has been a most significant and exciting year for the Science Department with the opening of the new Worsley Science Centre. Having taken possession of the new part of the building in August, work moved on to refurbishing the old building which was returned to us in October. We are thrilled with the results as not only does it look fantastic but it has given us more space and extra facilities within the building.

We have six extra laboratories – two in each the three disciplines, which allows us to do more extensive practical work and put on more Science events for our continually expanding numbers of students who choose Science. The extra space also allows us to put on more enrichment sessions to help students look beyond the syllabus and prepare for ambitious applications to top universities.

The Sixth Form Science Centre has provided a comfortable environment that fosters scientific discussions amongst students. There are hot drinks available throughout the day, along with a library of modern Science books and space to both work, as well as relax, in the company of fellow scientists. The centre is also a home for our thriving Quantum and Biomedical Societies, both of whom meet on a weekly basis. I'm thrilled with the way in which this has already worked so well to stimulate a broad interest in Science beyond the classroom and allow our students to enjoy the fellowship of other students with similar interests.

The large lecture room has already hosted some lectures, including those from Marc Koska (Bruce 79) who told us about his development of the K1 non-reusable syringe which has already saved many millions of lives and Dr

Mike Rossiter (OS) – medic to the UK athletics team and from other leading scientists in fields as diverse as Quantum Mechanics and Epigenetics.

We had the official opening of the building in January which was made particularly special by having many members and friends of the Worsley family including Henry's wife Joanna and children, Max and Alicia, who opened the building. Ben Saunders, a friend of Henry's and fellow Polar explorer, gave an inspiring lecture during which he announced that he would be attempting the same solo expedition that Henry had been attempting when he died just 30 miles short of his goal.

Following the opening, everyone had a chance to see the new building for themselves and our Sixth Form Scientists put on many demonstrations and were on hand to guide the guests around. The Quantum Society producing many flashes and bangs, the Biomedical Society shared their adventures in Indonesia and the Stowe Science Review's editorial team had their latest edition. Visitors also saw the impressive EPQ projects that our Sixth Form scientists had completed and there were demonstrations by Medical Detection Dogs, a local and nationally renowned charity that uses dogs to detect signs of cancer and malaria in urine samples.

Embedded in the new building is the latest technology, including interactive LED touch screens and the facility to work collaboratively both in lessons and their own time. During the opening Mrs Louise Carter (Head of Biology) ran sessions to show visitors how it all works and to give an insight into how it is used in lessons.

**Handwritten Chemistry Notes: Aromatic Chemistry**

**Electron Donating:**  
 direct substitution to C: 2, 4, 6  
 eg. OH & NH<sub>2</sub>  
 overlap orbitals with benzene ring & increase electron density  
 - particularly @ 2, 4 & 6  
 more reactive @ these points

**Structure of Benzene:**  
 direct substitutions @ 3, 5  
 - NO<sub>2</sub> is example of withdrawing group  
 - withdraws @ 2, 4 & 6

**1) Kekulé model:**  
 - benzene exists as 2 isomers & swaps between them due to mobile double C=C bonds. ∴ Benzene = planar ring

**2) Delocalised model:**  
 - planar molecule  
 - formed of 2 rings, one above & one below plane of C atoms  
 - H atoms stick out of the plane  
 - electrons in the p orbitals are delocalised and form a π system with electron density spread around the ring

**Reactions of benzene:**  
 (1) NH<sub>2</sub> & conc HCl  
 (2) NaOH

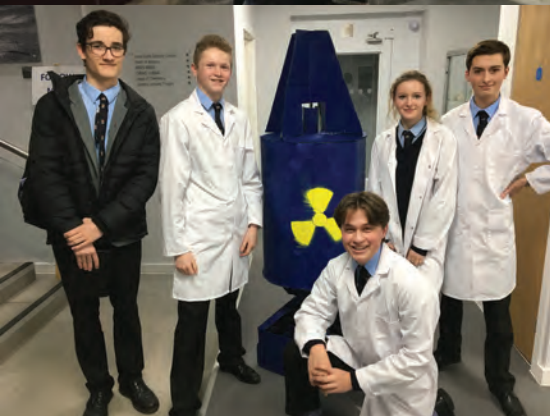
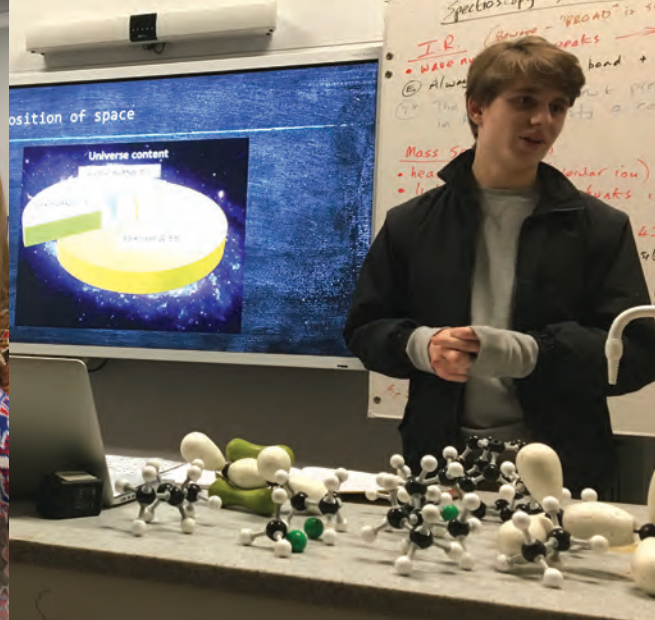
**Halogenation:**  
 1) Alkenes: decolourise bromine @ RTP because Br adds across double bond - C=C high electron density - attracts nucleophile.  
 2) Benzene: benzene ring is stable & unreactive & electron density spread around π system. benzene doesn't readily undergo addition.  
 Electrophilic substitution: benzene reacts with halogens (Br<sub>2</sub>) in the presence of a halogen carrier (AlCl<sub>3</sub>) to form a halobenzene and HCl.  
 - electrophiles are strengthened by reacting with halogen carrier  
 - alkyls react with benzene ring  
 - accept lone pair from an electrophile

**Nitration:**  
 Benzene + conc HNO<sub>3</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> forms nitrobenzene (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> = catalyst)  
 - NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> is formed - nitronium ion

**Evidence for delocalisation:**  
 I. Structure: Benzene is planar - Kekulé would be bent  
 II. Bond lengths: benzene is not explained by density spread - bond lengths are equal - all bonds of same length  
 III. Heat of hydrogenation: more exothermic than expected due to high stability of the π system which means harder to break  
 IV. Enthalpy of hydrogenation: if Kekulé model was correct the enthalpy of hydrogenation would be 3x that of nitrobenzene

**Other notes:**  
 - compounds derived from benzene  
 - Friedel-Crafts reactions  
 - Acylation: adds acyl group  
 - Alkylation: adds alkyl group  
 - Benzene reacts with an acyl group from acyl chloride to form a phenyl ketone or benzaldehyde  
 - Benzene reacts with an acyl group from acyl chloride to form a phenyl ketone or benzaldehyde





During the day there was also a ceremony to open a chemistry laboratory named after Charlie MacDonald (OS, Second Master, Housemaster of Lyttelton and Head of Science) who set such a fine example to Stoics and staff alike in the calm precision and dedicated commitment needed to pursue Science. He planned the original building and spent many years at Stowe inspiring students in his Chemistry lessons.

The whole day was a true celebration of Science and a chance to say thank you to the many donors who made the building possible. Their generosity has enabled Science at Stowe to embark on a new chapter and provide the best possible facilities to inspire and support Stoics in becoming the top scientists of the future which the country so desperately needs.

Since the opening there has been a real buzz around the Department and it is clear that the new building is already having an impact. When designing the building, we were not just creating a new Science building but also fostering a Science community. Central to the design are areas where students can work and collaborate. The summer revision period saw our Sixth Form scientists working in the building late into the evening and over weekends. Revision summaries have constantly appeared on the whiteboards in the communal areas - created by Stoics and visible evidence of the lengths they have gone to prepare thoroughly. A fine example to set to junior students.

Our Science Societies continue to be very active and membership is ever increasing. The Quantum and Biomedical Societies continue to go from strength to

strength and the range of topics presented by their members is impressive. As well as providing their members with the chance to present topics they have been looking into, they provide an enjoyable social element as well as attracting external lecturers who share what they are doing, often on the cutting edge of their fields. Our Robotics teams have had great success, again getting to the International final in America. This fosters skills in engineering, design and computer programming which is already shaping the future aspirations of Stoics and supporting their applications to competitive universities.

The Stowe Science Review editorial team have been very active and successful in getting Stoics to write articles and the editions they have produced this year have been first class. Their publications look superb with wonderful graphics to showcase articles, but they also have an excellent scientific content. I congratulate the editors Skye Longworth (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Georgina Skinner (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Fabiola Koenig (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) on their outstanding editions this year.

So, an exciting year indeed with the great new facilities but as always, it is the Stoics and Science staff who make it such a special place to work in. I thank them all for their great efforts and look forward to seeing another excellent set of results in August for their endeavours deserve no less. If the impressive university offers our Upper Sixth scientists have received is anything to go by, Stowe is launching many Stoics into exciting careers in Science.

*Mr James Tearle, Head of Science*



# Biology

We started off the year in high spirits with our GCSE and A level students achieving another successful set of examination results, with 64% of GCSE papers being awarded A\*/A and 46% of A level scripts gaining A\* /A. Our Speech day Biology Prize recipient Siana Griffiths (Queen's 16), gained the coveted A\* and has gone on to continue her Biological studies at Imperial College London. Our results were certainly something to celebrate and pave the way for high expectations for what is to come with our current talented GCSE and A level cohort.

The Michaelmas Term found the Biology Department squirreled away in the bespoke portacabins situated outside Science with the promise of moving into the Henry Worsley Science Centre at the October Half Term. Our accommodation had certainly served us well, but we couldn't wait to start our next chapter in our new home.

The purpose built labs, equipped with state-of-the-art digital technology, the independent study spaces along with the beautiful and inspiring photographs which adorn the corridors have resulted in a bright and rich environment for both staff and Stoics to work and learn. The pictures have had such a huge impact and don't fail to gain a gasp here and there as Stoics make their way to lessons. We, as a Department, are very grateful to Dr Alexander Mustard (OS), one of the world's leading underwater photographers, for donating many of his wildlife stills. His photographs have won many awards including the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

In January, along with the Chemistry and Physics Departments, we helped to host the official opening of the Science Centre and laid on exhibitions to enable the Stowe community to gain a taste of what Biology has to offer its students. We had our Indonesia Operation Wallacea Stoics giving presentations covering their summer adventure, our



EPQ Biologists discussing their projects, our Jr Biology Society demonstrating the PCR machine which they were constructing (see article below) as well as demonstrations of the latest digital technology learning resources in use in the classroom. By far the most popular activity was the dissection class led by Judy Gracie. This was a particular hit amongst the guests with many re-familiarising themselves with a dissection kit, taking control of a scalpel after many years, to re-live their dissection lessons.

This year we started a number of new Societies as Biology enrichment opportunities. The Jr Biology Society run by new recruit, Dr James Popplestone, has been a popular choice amongst many Third and Fourth Form Scientists. The Anatomy Society for Sixth Form Biologists, learning to appreciate the adaptation of organisms through dissection as well as the Psychology Society to support Stoics interested in pursuing Psychology or Neuroscience at university.

Through our Societies we have been very lucky to have had a number of highly regarded Biologists come and talk

to our students throughout the year, taking advantage of our new Science Lecture Theatre. In March, Dr Thomas Miller from the Crick Institute came to see our Upper Sixth Biologists to discuss his work in Epigenetics, a relatively new field of Biology. From this it was clear that our understanding of the human epigenome is proving all important in our appreciation of a wide variety of diseases and potential treatments. The uptake for all our Societies has been high and we hope to continue to enthuse our Biologists with trips to the Sanger Institute, The Crick Centre, as well as Oxford University to look at Microscopy next year.

At the end of June as Dr Mary Lakin and Mr Michael Righton along with our Lower Sixth Biologists departed to Pembroke, Wales on our annual Biology Field Trip (see article below) while the rest of the Biology Department entertained the Fourth Form during Fun-In-Moderation, seizing the opportunity to express the importance of conservation and biodiversity. A number of environmental

activities took place, ranging from designing hedgehog hides to setting up traps to catch crayfish which gave rise to discussions on how the introduction of such an aggressive and invasive species can cause such devastation to the environment.

As another busy year in the Biology Department draws to a close, I would like to thank my amazing colleagues for all their hard work and dedication. Next term we shall be welcoming Mrs Nathasha Blake into the Department and will make use of her vast experience as an AQA A level examiner. We also say goodbye to Mrs Judy Gracie who started her teaching career with us in 2000. Thankfully she will not be too far away as she takes on the role of Senior Science Laboratory Technician from September.

We are all looking forward to starting September in our bright and shiny new laboratories and to all the exciting developments to come.

*Mrs Louise Carter, Head of Biology*

## Biology Field Trip 2017

This year 21 intrepid Biologists set off for the Orielton Field Centre in Pembrokeshire on the hottest day of the year. After a long bus journey we arrived at the Field Centre and quickly began what was to be an intensive few days' work. We were introduced to our excellent tutor Kim, who was on hand throughout our visit to guide the students through the practical investigation which is a requirement of the new A level course. The next day found us in the dunes on an even hotter day but all the necessary measurements were made and we returned to the Field Centre for a welcome shower. On the last day the students organised their own research projects and spent the morning gathering data which was written up in the afternoon and evening. Our time at the Field Centre was very productive and enabled the students to become fully immersed in their work and to complete the whole project before returning to School.





# Chemistry

I joined the Chemistry Department in September last year, and what a time to join. Within a few months the Worsley Science Centre was fully open and Chemistry lessons were firmly established in six new or refurbished lecture rooms and laboratories, occupying the majority of the top floor. The Stoics have made the most of the facilities available to them which have included not only the Sixth Form Science Centre but also the Chemistry Student Room, where students can be found engaged in group work, independent study or sharing revision techniques.

On the academic front, this year's outgoing Fifth Form are the last cohort to certificate under the old syllabus as the current Fourth Form finish their first year on the new 9 to 1 specification. The latter have generally coped well with the increased demand, both scientific and mathematical, placed on them by these new courses and it will be interesting to see how the exam board assesses such an increase in content next year. Our outgoing Upper Sixth represent one of our largest ever A Level cohorts and will also be the first year of students who will certificate under the new linear A Level Chemistry qualification. Many of our students have fully embraced the challenges that this brings and will benefit from the hard work they have put in as they embark on their university courses next year.

Practical work remains at the heart of our Chemistry lessons. Internally assessed coursework is no longer a part of either the GCSE or A Level qualifications and instead has been replaced by a number of required practicals designed to ensure students are familiar with fundamental experimental techniques. This has the added benefit of meaning all experimental work is fully integrated into the teaching scheme and allows all practical tasks undertaken to support the theoretical concepts being taught at the time. Both GCSE and A Level students have benefited from the increased space and facilities that the new building has provided. In a number of practicals we have made use of our new temperature sensors and pH probes which are linked via Bluetooth to departmental iPads. This allows for fast and accurate documentation of data. Furthermore, a full and comprehensive stock of 'quickfit' equipment for organic synthesis allows us to carry out these extended A Level practicals and to a certain extent prepare students for how these investigations are carried out at university.

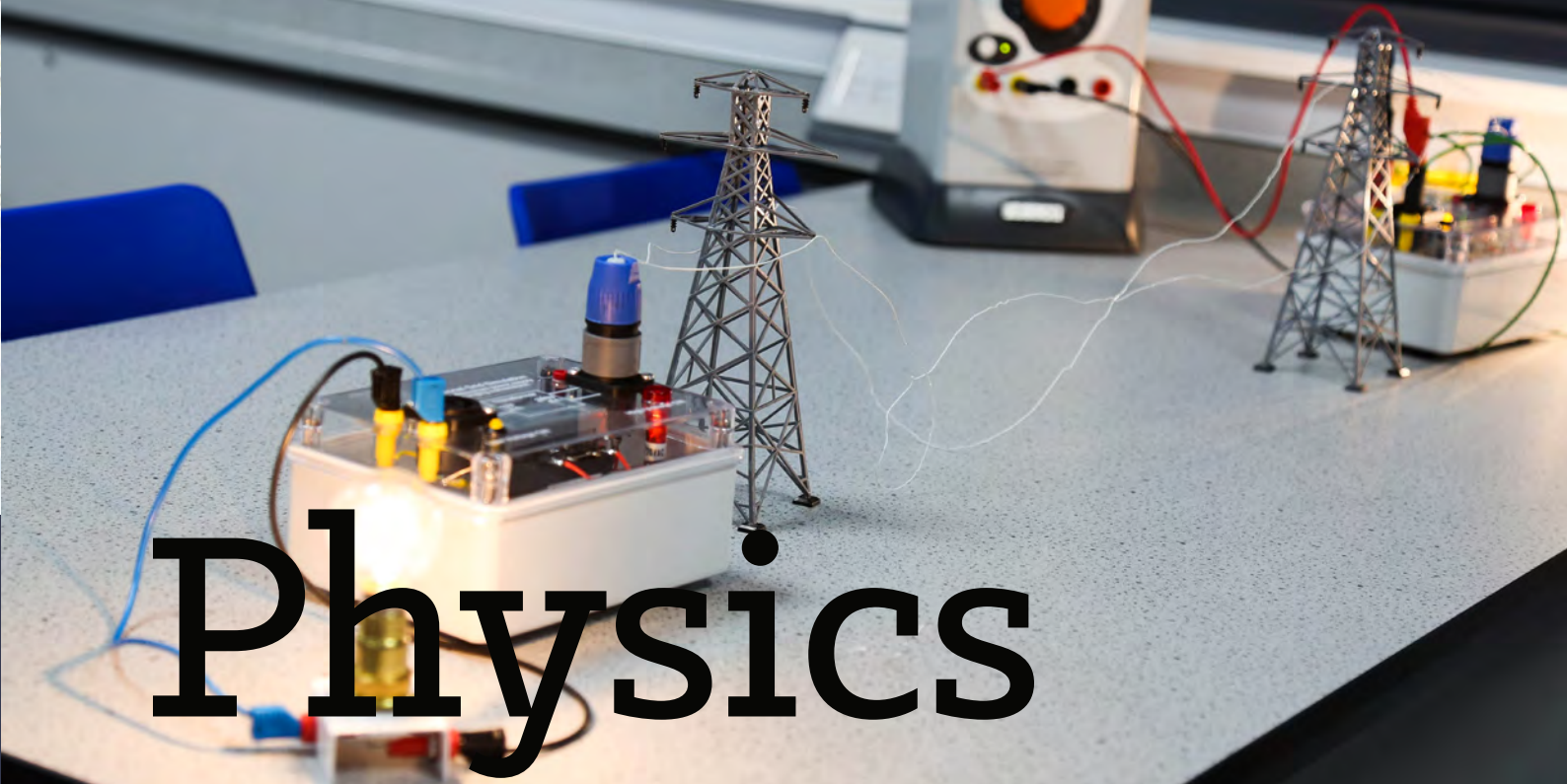
On a cold and damp February day, myself, Mr Tearle and fifteen Lower Sixth chemists headed to Birmingham to 'A Level Chemistry Live', a series of talks from chemists at the very top of their field. Among them were Professor Andreas Sella from University College London, who was recently awarded the Michael Faraday Prize for excellence in science communication, and Dr Peter Wothers from Cambridge University, who gave the Royal Institution's Christmas Lectures in 2012. All five of the eminent scientists who spoke on the day gave us an insight into the work that they do and all were notable for their ability to communicate their chemical knowledge in a hugely interesting and engaging way.

During the Lent and Summer Terms a group of Lower Sixth students have been working towards the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in Chemistry and, on a very hot summer's day, five of our students sat this demanding paper. Although designed to be accessible to first year A Level students, it deliberately takes them significantly beyond the syllabus, encouraging a way of thinking more likely to be found at university. This provides excellent experience for those considering taking their interest in Chemistry further.

Chemistry enrichment events, held for local Prep School pupils, continued to take place on a regular basis throughout the year. Mr James Tearle, Head of Science and highly experienced Chemistry teacher, never ceases to wow and amaze our future scientists with his enthusiastic demonstrations, hands-on practical activities and inspiring talks. This year we have benefitted from these events being held in the wonderful large Fedotov lecture theatre which has certainly added a sense of drama to proceedings. Exploding hydrogen can be heard from some way off!

As this academic year draws to a close, I must express my sincere thanks to the staff and technicians in the Chemistry Department for the help and support they have shown me as I settle into life at Stowe. Finally, at the end of this year we say goodbye to Mr Christopher Warde, to whom we wish all the very best as he begins a new job at Farleigh School in Andover.

*Dr Alexandra Waine, Head of Chemistry*



# Physics

In last year's Stoic, it was mentioned that the Physics Department had had to cope with the trials and tribulations of the construction of the new Worsley Science Centre. Well, the ribbon has officially been cut and we are now enjoying the many benefits of this fabulous new space. In my opinion, the greatest feature of the new building is the space dedicated for student use. The new Physics Project Lab has provided a wonderful area for Physics students to collaborate, and it has been so gratifying to see the Sixth Form Science Centre so full of activity.

This summer saw the nation's first experience of the new, linear A Levels. These tougher, more demanding specifications required more from our students than ever, and we are so proud of the achievements of the Class of 2017. The new A Level brought with it a completely new method by which practical skill is assessed and I am pleased that all of this year's Upper Sixth have left Stowe with their Practical Endorsement, which has far better prepared Physics students for the demands of practical science at university.

This coming year, we are looking forward to further developing the delivery of these A Level required practical experiments with greater use of the most recent advancements in school science ICT equipment. A refresh of our Data Harvest kit has enabled wireless datalogging, analysis and display using iPads. These technologies will soon be regularly seen in Physics lessons in the Lower School also.

2018 will be the year of the first Physics 9-1 GCSE exams. The new course has done away with some of the slightly more out-dated content, and replaced it with far more scientific, rigorous and advanced material that is not only much more relevant, but more interesting and stimulating as well.

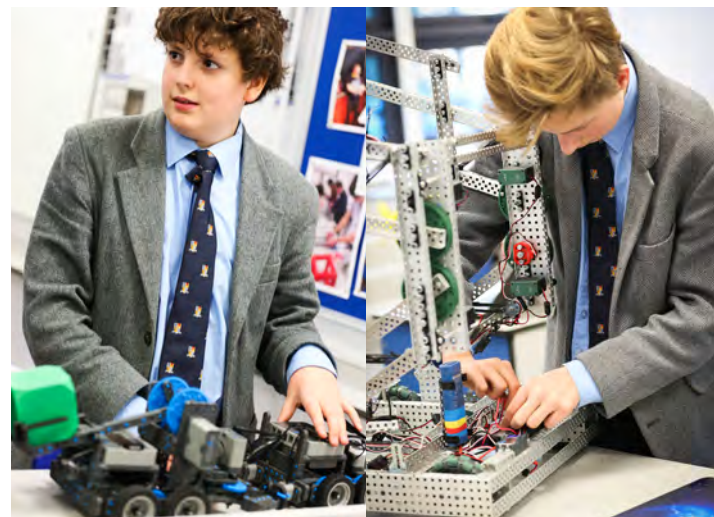
The Department has continued to flourish outside the classroom as well. Mr Thompson and the VEX Robotics Team succeeded in making it to the World Robotics Finals

in Kentucky for the second year in a row, an astonishing achievement. We wish them the very best of luck in the coming year, as once again they have to completely rebuild their robot to tackle an entirely new game (possibly the hardest yet!).

I am very excited to confirm that Michaelmas 2017 will see another High Altitude Balloon launch. There have been numerous improvements made to the available technology in the years since the BoSS (Balloon of Stowe School) launch in December 2014, and we cannot wait to undertake this challenge again. We hope to launch by Christmas 2017.

The Department is very sad to say goodbye to our phenomenal Head of Department, Dick Carpenter. Dick leaves us to take up a new post at Nottingham High School, and will be missed by the staff and students of the Science Faculty greatly. We are immensely appreciative of his teaching and management of the Department and wish him the very best for the future. We look forward to welcoming Mr Ciaran Malanaphy to the Department in September 2017.

*Mr Craig Donoghue, Head of Physics*



# Computing and ICT

As curriculum change begins to bed down a little, the subject of Computer Science has established itself more prominently at Stowe. The Upper Sixth have just completed their coursework projects and produced highly creative and creditable working systems, including simulation style games - Adrian Koch (Bruce) and Rob Barclay (Walpole); a cricket app - Olly Clarke (Chandos); a network support system - Toby Lawrance (Cobham) and a boating app - Jonny Reading (Grenville). These five Stoics have a very bright future ahead of them as all of them are, or will be, applying for computing-related courses; we wish them every success with University applications. In the Department, Dr Pawson joined us in January and brings with him a wealth of industry experience. His expertise in programming is already benefitting the students in Sixth Form and we have planned a Masterclass in Object Oriented Programming to be hosted at Stowe at the end of this academic year. This event will support teachers from around the country and forge links with groups such as Computing at Schools, as well as Exam Board representatives. The Lower Sixth group in particular have benefitted from Dr Pawson's input as they are now grappling with the re-factoring of significant programs using the industry standard Visual Studio programming environment. The GCSE group all worked very hard this year and I am delighted that we are currently taking seven pupils through to Sixth Form next year to study Computer Science at A Level. Included in this group will be our first girl to continue into Sixth Form; Jess Potts (Nugent): we hope that Jess will encourage more girls to take up and continue with the subject. Congratulations to Larry (Ze Xin) Zhao (Fifth Form, Walpole) and Hugo Robinson (Fifth Form, Grenville) for winning the Academic IT prizes this year: both pupils have worked very hard indeed and we look forward to their company in Sixth Form. Lower down the school in Fourth Form we are getting to grips with the new Linear Spec and the more rigorous content: the Summer Term has seen pupils build some useful apps in Python and tackle more complex algorithms such as Insertion, Merge and Bubble sorts. The Third Form group have some talented coders amongst them as pupils arrive each year with greater exposure to Computing in Prep Schools. They have just completed their first programming project, a fantasy adventure game, where much creativity married functionality to produce engaging programs that are fun to play. They are hot on the heels of the Fourth Form with coding but have some way to go yet with improving their report writing skills! We say goodbye to the last of the Fifth Form taking the European Driving Licence (ECDL) qualification, most of whom have secured passes in all their modules. A big thank you to Mr Mellor who has supported all of us as Head of Centre and we hope to continue the qualification in some shape or form next year, as a Sixth Form elective.

*Mr Adam Gabriel, Head of Computing & ICT*

## RUNNING

"Challenges are what makes life interesting and overcoming is what makes life meaningful" -Joshua Marine

A soft breeze flows through the silent night of London. The occasional car goes by. It's unusual how whole cities can be asleep. I like being alone, especially when it's quiet, it's because when you are with no one to talk to, you can only think to yourself. I sat in my warm bedroom, looking out my clear window. The night sky stared at me. Starlight covered my bedroom. I look at the dark sky, at all the stars, which were glowing. I felt the warm stars shine in my eyes. A car passed on the vast empty street, illuminating the darkness of the area.

My eyes grew heavier and heavier, and my vision slowly started to blur. I was tired, so I decided to go to sleep. I wheeled myself back into bed, lifted myself off my wheelchair and got into bed.

Running. I was running. I could see the water from the top of the bridge, I could see London's ostentatious skyline showing of to me as I sprinted through past the bridge, into the busy London street. I look back to the people behind me; with their printed number at the front of their chest. I could feel the pugnacious wind roaring at me as I glided through a city of dreams.

The track blurred below me as I felt a rush of adrenaline; I felt my legs sinking into the course of the famous London

Marathon. I pushed myself into a feel of awkwardness into a sense of relaxation, the sound of my stiff legs beating the ground, dissolving into a musical rhythm. I crossed the street and up a steep hill, only one mile to the finish, my fidelity for running at its peak, as my blistered feet smashed the ground faster and faster, energy released from my body and I forced myself to run I kept my speed. I could see an aged tree in the centre of a roundabout, of which I diligently curved around. My body was drowning in sweat and I pushed myself through. Finally, I saw a distinct sight of the relieving finish. I came across to the finish, transitioning into a sprint to the end of the marathon. I ran across the road, turning my head to see a car. Blackout.

I woke up. My heart was pounding. I was breathing loudly, inhaling heavily, until slowly calming down. I was upset; I was still having nightmares about my accident. That was not only a dream, but also a scarring memory. That was the day I lost my legs, that I could not walk again because I could not feel them. It destroyed my life at 34, ruined my dream of running the London Marathon again. I sighed, and went back to sleep. Before I shut my eyes, I vowed that I will never give up.

One year later.

A man walks through a calm London morning. He reads the newspaper title: "Man does the London marathon in a wheelchair by pushing himself through."

Lucas Farleigh (Third Form, Chatham)

# English

'My mind rebels at stagnation,' declares Sherlock Holmes in 'The Sign of the Four'. Well - stagnation is certainly not on the menu in the English Department with the fast-paced new GCSE courses (graded 9-1) having now been introduced. The Third Form have led the way with the transition to the new English Literature course, starting with Arthur Conan Doyle's 19th Century novella of greed and deception in the British Empire, while the Fourth Form were the first to tackle the new English Language course which also served up large dollops of 19th Century language, this time through non-fiction texts. By 2019, all pupils in the Lower School will have made the transition to the new, more rigorous GCSEs. Fourth and Fifth Form pupils in 2016-17 continued to study English Literature through the Cambridge IGCSE exam board, which offers a more international flavour in its text choices. In last Summer's examinations, there were some very pleasing IGCSE results in Language and Literature, with a bumper crop of A\* grades.

Government driven changes were also a hallmark of the new, linear A Level courses; this year's Upper Sixth pupils are the first cohort nationwide to sit the new-style exams. A range of speakers and events through the Senior Literary Society added breadth and a bit of spice to the classroom experience (see separate report). University level extension classes were attended by enthusiastic students throughout the Sixth Form; we not only ran Oxbridge preparation sessions but we also enjoyed discussing and debating a range of texts from different periods.

English Department staff ran a host of enrichment activities: Mr Purves initiated an English/Music collaboration with a Songwriter's Club, Mrs Ackroyd raised the bar with a vibrant Debating Club, and Mr Palmer took the Junior Literary Society. I introduced a nationwide poetry

competition, 'Poetry by Heart', in which fifteen Lower Sixth Form pupils recited challenging poems by well-known poets off by heart in front of an audience including the Headmaster, renowned poet Patience Agbabi, and their peers. Inez Banson (Queen's) won the competition with her recitation of 17th Century poet Katherine Philips' poem, 'Epitaph'. The Third Form also made use of the 'Poetry by Heart' format to choose their poems for The Headmaster's Poetry competition; Dr Wallersteiner praised the quality of this year's entries, and Marlow Turner (Cobham) was a worthy winner with his recitation of 'A Psalm of Life' by Henry Wadsworth-Longfellow. Grateful thanks go to Lucy Miller, who has been a stellar addition to the English Department from her main role as a Drama teacher, and who organised the competition beautifully.

Without a doubt, one of the most enjoyable and unique aspects of the Stowe English Department is the cooperation within the wider School and English Faculty. Our School Librarian, Lyn Foden, brought in the fantastic Young Adult novelist Lucy Christopher, who delivered an inspiring talk to the Fourth Form which evolved into a Creative Writing Competition for Third and Fourth Form pupils. Winning entries are published in this magazine. Working closely with Arts at Stowe, pupils also enjoyed performances by outside theatre companies of 'Holmes and Watson', an 'Oddsocks' production of 'Macbeth', and a reading from performance poet Ash Dickinson. In terms of collaboration, the most rewarding was the Arts for Holocaust Memorial evening, for which the English Department contributed readings and readers.

It has been a pleasure to work with such enthusiastic students and colleagues, and I am very much looking forward to leading the department in the years to come.

*Mrs Allison Puranik, Head of English*





The word geography comes from the Greek derivation of *geōgraphia*, from *gē* 'earth' + *-graphia* 'writing', so can be translated as 'writing about the Earth'. This is certainly what we do within the Stowe Geography Department. The physical landscape and human interactions with it provide a myriad of challenges which range in scale (from local to international), time (minutes to millennia) and type (from natural disasters to sovereignty and political borders). Never has there been a more pertinent time to understand our relationship with our Earth, be it in the understanding of the potential problems we will face following the withdrawal of the USA from the Paris Climate Change Agreement or the implications, closer to home, of the UK leaving the EU. All of these topics are considered within the specifications of the new GCSE and A Level courses, which provide pupils with a broad understanding of world issues and the knowledge and skills to be the future leaders who will have to tackle these challenges.

As we embrace the new specifications, pupils face the trials of several new topics and understanding ideas of 'Space and Place' – how they identify with locations and the 'players' that make a place, a place; 'The Changing Economic World', both from a UK and Worldwide perspective, considering the issues of inequality and development, as well as 'Climate Change' and its short and long term implications.

What better way to understand the world around you though, than to immerse yourself within it. To enable pupils to gain first-hand experience of what otherwise remains a classroom concept, we have undertaken a number of fieldwork trips over the course of the year. Fieldwork began in September, with the Upper Sixth visiting Preston Montford Field Studies Council Centre near Shrewsbury. The two-day residential course allowed pupils to investigate downstream changes in the

# Geography





Carding Mill Valley near Church Stretton, wading in rivers to measure their characteristics, as well as the impacts of human intervention. This was vital part of their course, enabling them to write a project on their work, which was an essential part of their A2 Skills paper (worth 40% of their A2). Fun was had by all, as warm temperatures and low water flow allowed for successful data collection and exposure to the beautiful scenery and river processes.

In contrast to this, and working to the new A Level specification, January saw the Lower Sixth visiting the Cowley Road in Oxford – their aim to assess their sense of ‘place’ there, how they felt, what they saw, the social structure of the area and its influence upon the built environment. It was contrasted by a visit to the sleepy rural village of Woodstock in the afternoon: similar observations were made, but with vastly different outcomes. Skills gained on this trip were then utilised on a two day residential course in Dorset, based near Weymouth. This course allowed pupils to practise data collection in different environments (a pebble beach, sand dunes and an urban area) as the foundation for data collection for their own independent projects. Some pupils chose to collect their data whilst there and others will select locations of their own choice over the summer and collect data then, but the project will form 20% of their A Level next year. The location was perfect to consolidate their understanding of coastal environments and the Jurassic Coast did not disappoint us. From spectacular scenery and the marvel of Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door, to the contrasting environments found in Weymouth with its Olympic legacy and contrasting areas of deprivation; it is hoped that we will be able to return to a similar location next year.

*Mrs Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography*



# History

In a year where so much has changed, there is a feeling in the History Department that we may well be teaching many current events as they enter the historical canon in the coming years. As historians have assessed these turning points, we have spent another busy year preparing resources and lessons for our exciting new A Level courses, which will be examined externally for the first time. The Wars of the Roses, the development of the British Empire, liberalisation in the 1960s, Mary I and the Partition of India have all been studied for the first time by our Upper Sixth students. We await the outcome of these new style of A Level examinations in hopeful anticipation of another set of strong results. Looking back to summer 2016, we saw every student score at least a C grade and 70% score A\*-B grades at A Level. At GCSE, over half (54%) of our students achieved A\* or A grades; a pleasing result, which we hope to continue improving through the 'Marginal Gains' made this year.

To complement our new courses, we have enjoyed visits from a range of outside speakers. Prof. John Watts from Corpus Christi, University of Oxford, spoke to students about the Wars of the Roses, Professor Ian Talbot from the University of Southampton enlivened our pupils' understanding of the Partition of India and Mark Earney shared his PhD research about John Ponet. We were also excited to begin a partnership with The History Masterclass who hosted a public session entitled "Henry VIII: in love and war" at Stowe, led by Dr Suzannah Lipscomb and Dr Sam Willis. We look forward to welcoming them for future public talks, giving our pupils access to some of the best historians in the country. Finally, our Third Form historians enjoyed an interactive and informative session with Andy Robertshaw, who explained life for the average 'Tommy' during the First World War using props and artefacts. He also spent time with the Sixth Form, discussing his role as consultant for the film 'War Horse'.

History students were treated to a range of trips, with the Third Form going to the Imperial War Museum to further their studies of the First World War. Some of these students (ably assisted by Mr Cuddy, Dr Standley and Miss Penrhyn-Lowe) also travelled to Berlin to explore the Cold War and life in Nazi Germany. Visiting sites from this era provided pupils with an insight into the lives of ordinary Berliners under two appalling regimes and was enjoyed by all who attended. Olivia Flood (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Georgie Vallings (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) also attended a trip to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust's "Lessons from Auschwitz" project. On their return, they took charge of two Fourth Form lessons to explain their trip and answer questions about their experience. They also presented their ideas to the History Society, which continues to provide weekly meetings for pupils who want to take their interest in the subject further. Highlights this year included preparing for the various talks by visiting historians, a talk by Old Stoic Daniel Capurro (Chandos 12) about studying History at undergraduate level and Charlotte Brennan's (Lower Sixth, West) participation in the Historical Association's Great Debate public speaking competition.



Our smaller Oxbridge preparation group (ExComm) also continued to be an enjoyable forum for pursuing higher level debate and ideas. In the Michaelmas Term, both Emily Osborne (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Josh Dolder (Upper Sixth, Bruce) did incredibly well to get through a tough application and written History paper (the HAT) to get to interview at Oxford. In January, we were able to celebrate with Emily, who received an offer to study History at Lincoln College; an impressive achievement.

I also continue to feel privileged to be involved in the McElwee Award, which provides travel scholarships to pupils in the Lower Sixth. This year, four awards were given to pairs of pupils travelling to explore the following themes: Jean Henri Durrant and the origins of the Red Cross, Arnhem and Operation Market Garden, The Dutch Golden Age and the impact of Islamic architecture and design on Spain. Our eight winners made it through a very competitive process and we look forward to seeing the outcome of their trips in their report back in the Michaelmas Term.

As we complete the academic year, we say goodbye to Dr Charlie Standley, who trained at Stowe and has been here for four years. In this time, he has certainly earned the respect of Stoics and will be missed as he takes up a new challenge at Oundle. He has an obvious passion for the subject, super-human marking efficiency and has contributed across the life of the School; I am certain that his new department will value everything he has to offer. To replace Charlie, the Department welcomes Francesca Shah, who we very much look forward to working with. As ever, we hope that next year brings another varied programme of events, academic success and chances for extension, as the Department attempts to show every Stoic how important and enjoyable History can be.

*Mr Paul Griffin, Head of History*

# PROJECTS

## Introduction

It has been an incredibly busy but successful year in the Projects Department. The School now has all three facets of the Department up and running. The Vanguard is in full swing in the Third Form, whilst the School's first HPQ cohort is nearing the end of their qualification and the EPQ is more established, this year saw the School's largest ever cohort (88) Lower Sixth (and into their Upper Sixth) pupils complete the EPQ.

With another Third Form group set to embark on their Vanguard lessons in September, a new Fourth Form group to begin the HPQ, the Fifth Form finishing their HPQ off and we are already halfway through the EPQ with another 90 Lower Sixth Formers - the Project Department really is the flagship department for embedding learning through project based work, creating independent, creative workers and allowing Stoics to generate the skills that will see them succeed in all areas of their school and post-school life.

## EPQ

Firstly, I would like pay a huge thank you to all the EPQ supervisors who have and continue to work tirelessly in the Department, delivering the taught course element to help Stoics produce high quality EPQs. There was a huge variety of projects this year, ranging from paintings to help raise awareness for student mental health, to essays on the rise of ISIS to amazing documentaries and short films. The EPQ allows for Stoics to show the very best of themselves and it really does encapsulate that we cater, academically, for the individual. The EPQ always ends with much excitement at the presentation fair in November, where the whole School and parents are invited to look round each candidate's project and to ask them questions and discover what they have been working on. With nearly 1,000 people going round the presentations it was a fantastic morning and the EPQ students did superbly.

## HPQ

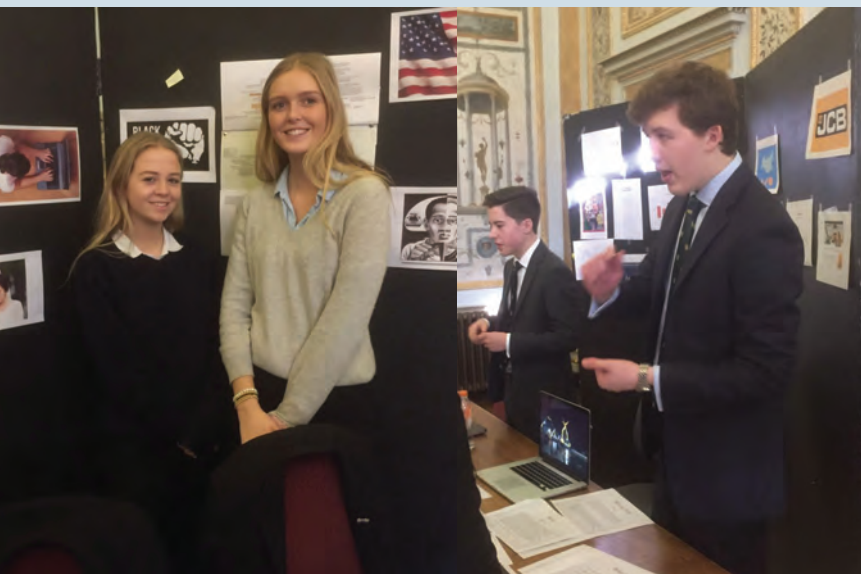
The HPQ was superbly managed this year by Liz Chubb and her team of supervisors. The Fourth Form have gained a great deal from the taught course aspect: learning how to research, reference and compose an academic piece of work. The titles currently in progress range from 'Serial Killers: nature or nurture?' to 'Are adolescents more vulnerable to addiction?' and 'Do supernatural forces really exist or are they simply a myth?' The HPQ students will also have the opportunity to present their ideas and to show off all their hard work and research to the whole School in December.

*Mr Mike Rickner*

## Vanguard

The Third Form have had a great year in Vanguard, building some sound foundations in growth mindset, study skills, the use of the VLE, digital and visual skills and in developing their individual interests and research. Highlights have included the highly-competitive 'Stowe: The Game' in the first term, some superb individual research essays in the second term and the VisEd Game and Temple Film Challenge in the summer.

Best of Vanguard 2017



# Sports Science and PE



It certainly does not seem like a year ago that we were reflecting on yet another successful year. Since then we have seen the 2016 A2 cohort produce some good results. The stand out performance was by Oliver Woodward (Grafton 16), who achieved an A\* and maintained his perfect record in our subject.

We are looking forward to this year's exam results, as the 2017 A2 cohort have been the most impressive group we have taught for a long time. They have spurred each other on to higher levels and alongside some very impressive written pieces of coursework; their performances in the practical element of the course were generally superb. Particular highlights in this area were Bubby Upton (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Philippa Stacey (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Thalia Felton (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Jack West (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Imogen White (Upper Sixth, Nugent). The worthy winner of the A2 Speech Day prize for this year was Bubby Upton.

The AS students have also impressed, carrying on from their successful GCSE studies. This group is the first to go through the new specification and the more applied nature of the course has been well received so far. They face the challenge of linear exams next summer and we hope they are able to manage their revision appropriately. The winner of the Lower Sixth Speech Day prize was Adam King (Lower Sixth, Bruce), with notable mentions going to Olivia Thomas (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Yasmin Mama (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Jessamy Money-Kyrle (Lower Sixth, Nugent).

The GCSE candidates produced some very impressive coursework results and we hope that the exam paper was a favourable one so they are all able to reach their potential. The GCSE Sports Science Speech Day prize went to Zoë Pollock (Fifth Form, Nugent) for her consistent dedication to the subject over the past three years. The end of year internal exams for both Third and Fourth Form emphasised what strength we have coming up through the school. Commendation worthy performances came from Imogen Joyce (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Edward Snushall (Fourth Form, Temple), Jack Mercer (Third Form, Grafton), Joshua Clarke (Third Form, Bruce), Alexander Man (Third Form, Walpole), Sam Birch (Third Form, Grenville) and Emily King (Third Form, Lyttelton).

The Sports Science Society has met regularly and highlights included the fascinating talk by Dr Mike Rossiter (Cobham 85) who was the Chief Medical Officer for the Gold medal winning Team GB hockey team. He gave the pupils an insight into how Stowe has changed, what is required to go into the sports medicine profession and what it is really like in the Olympic Village.

This year has seen us develop a strong relationship with the Porsche Human Performance Laboratory based just up the road at Silverstone. We have now taken three different year groups to the Centre and our students have had the chance to look at the practical application of the subject, including carrying out tests in the heat acclimation chamber at 40°C, completing the VO2 max test, lactate sampling, Wingate Power test and Batak reaction time test. The Centre is regularly used to test F1 and Le Mans drivers as well as various endurance athletes. A selection of Lower Sixth students who are looking to study the subject at degree level have also managed to carry out some work experiences with the Exercise Physiologists.

The new Third Form core PE programme has been a success and the pupils have experienced many different activities as well as completing a personal survival qualification and a leadership course. It just remains for me to thank my department for all the hard work they have once again put in throughout the year – the pupils would not be where they are without them.

*Mr Phil Arnold, Head of Sports Science and PE*



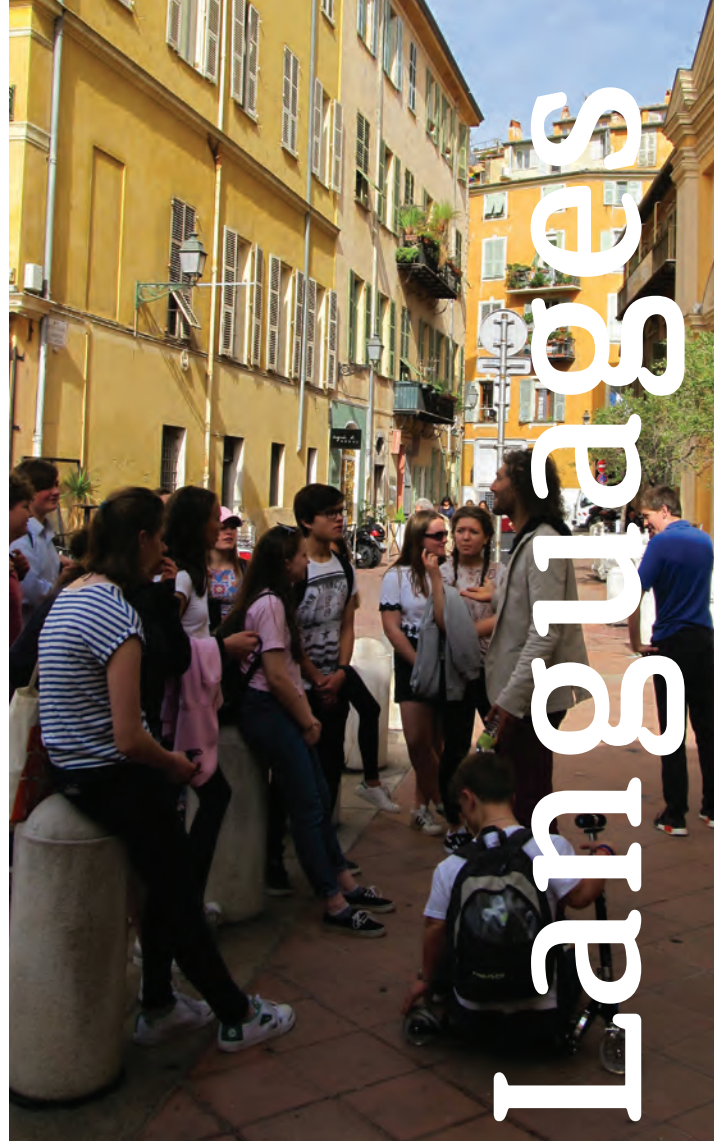
# French

While numbers studying French nationally remains in decline, the French Department at Stowe continues to be an expanding and popular subject. Our 2016 GCSE cohort raised the bar again with 53% securing A\*/A. There were notable performances from John Balcon Perez (Walpole), Harry Weiss (Walpole), Lucy Sutherland (Nugent), Flora Moreau (Lyttelton), Charlotte Bird (Lyttelton), Tom Mayhew (Grafton), Jack Polturak (Chatham), Vicky Beglin (Nugent), Tom Purdon (Grenville), Ellie Trotman (Queen's) and Henry Gauvain (Temple); all scoring full marks on at least three of their four GCSE modules. Our 2016 leavers also excelled with 40% scoring A\*/A at A2 and Siana Griffiths (Queen's) and Natse Jemide (Bruce) both achieved the very elusive A\* at A Level; a considerable achievement and testament to their linguistic accomplishment across all skills.

My congratulations go to our 2017 prize winners who were recognised for their achievement in French at Speech Day. This year's winners were Amy Jorgensen (Upper Sixth, Nugent) awarded the John Webster Prize for French (Upper Sixth), Issy Leondiou (Lower Sixth, Queen's) awarded F.O.S prize for French (Lower Sixth) and Esme Foster (Fifth Form, Stanhope) who was awarded the Capel Cure Prize for GCSE French. A special mention must also go to Lisa Battilomo (Upper Sixth, Nugent) who after a rigorous application and selection process secured a place at Oxford to read French from September. This is a quite outstanding achievement and recognises Lisa's excellence as a linguist and her commitment to language learning.

## French Club

As we have taught one final year of the current specifications at A2 and GCSE our attention has turned to the new challenging specifications where the focus is more on true grammatical understanding (translation) and spontaneous speech and communication; a return to the old days! As such we continue to offer considerable language enrichments off-timetable. Our afternoon French Club has grown and evolved this year with a fun, varied, and enriching programme. In the first term the students studied the French series, "Disparus", packed with suspense and excitement. Each episode was discussed with themes and issues debated as we tried to unravel the murder mystery. This was especially aimed at helping them develop their listening skills and grow more confident with their spontaneous spoken language. In the second term through the acclaimed French series, "Résistance", based on true events during Occupied France in the Second World War,



and subsequent discussion, our aim was to give students the historical background to the Upper Sixth topic "Occupation et Résistance". In the final term students were encouraged to identify areas of their language that they wish to develop and reflect independently on their learning. French Club offers invaluable language, cultural and historic enrichment.

## DELFL

We have now introduced a more formal course for those students who have had the opportunity to live in France or who have been exposed to a greater extent to the language at home. These students are now able to join our DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) programme which prepares students for diplomas awarded by the French Ministry of Education. The DELF examinations are recognised around the world and Tessa Kach (Fourth Form, Queen's) completed her DELF course this year and took the B2 level exam in June. We look forward to hearing how the exam went.

It has been a particularly busy year in the French Department with more trips, excursions, society events and visits than ever. As the year draws to a close my thanks go to my gifted, dedicated, diverse and supportive colleagues and to our talented, energetic and ambitious linguists who make our job so rewarding.

*Mrs Tracy Jones, Head of French*



## LOWER SCHOOL TRIP TO NICE 2016

On the first Sunday of the October Half Term, seventeen Fifth Formers jetted off to Nice in the south of France to spend a week attending morning lessons at the Alpha b language school and explore the culture through number of planned excursions along the beautiful Côte d'Azur in order to sample the climate, tastes and sights of this lovely part of the world.

Stoics stayed with host families, pretty much all of whom spoke little or no English, so had no choice but to use their GCSE French to communicate. Meals were served en famille, with many Stoics encountering niçoise specialities for the first time, such as pissaladière, socca, pain bagnat, poutine and daube niçoise – all met with varying degrees of approval!

Our French teachers, Martine and Patrice, were so helpful in the lessons, suggesting improvements in our French GCSE work and organising linguistic treasure hunts in the old town followed by some very spirited conversation sessions where Stoics of all abilities and bravery were able to join in and make the most of their newly-learned vocab.

Our guide for the afternoon excursions, Nicolas, was very well-clued up on the Riviera and its customs and gave us a wealth of information on our guided tour of Nice and the old town. We were shown the Place Massena, leading on to the Opéra and the famous Cours Saleya with its Antiques and flower market. We then went up to the castle and waterfall, with its breath-taking views over the Baie des Anges and the port and then around to the Confiserie Florian, a sweets and chocolate factory where Stoics were very quick to put their language to good use in the factory shop!

We also went east along the coast to the medieval walled town of Èze where we visited the tropical cactus garden and went on a guided tour of the Fragonard perfume factory where all of the products are handmade from natural ingredients. We took the train to Antibes visiting the old market town and the Picasso museum and spent a little time on the beach! We also went further east to Monaco and the town of Monte Carlo, taking in the Casino, Café de Paris, Hotel de Paris and the starting grid of the Formula 1 Grand Prix. We visited the Oceanographic Museum with its spectacular underground aquarium and then on to Prince Rainier's collection of exotic cars.

Esme Foster (Stanhope) and Helena Vince (Queen's) won the prize for the best involvement in the French lessons and Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley (Stanhope) was recognised for her politeness and consideration for others.

*Mr Simon Dobson, French Department*

## THIRD FORM RECITAL

In December, we again enjoyed the Third Form Christmas Recital Competition. Our brave finalists (10 acts) performed a variety of poetry and song all with a Christmas theme to their peers and teachers. Congratulations go to Evgeniia Zen (Lyttelton) and Isabella Henderson (Lyttelton) who took the coveted first place and to Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Walpole) and Marlow Turner (Cobham) who were runners up. We are very grateful to Monsieur Perronet (Head of French at Beachborough School) who was our guest adjudicator for this colourful, entertaining and eclectic event.

## L'AVARE IN LONDON

On the 8 May, 44 Stoics from the Lower Sixth, students of Drama and French, went to the Garrick Theatre in London's West End to see the latest updated adaptation of Moliere's hilarious farce 'L'Avare.'

Gryff Rhys Jones, Matthew Horne, Lee Mack and Katy Wix were hilarious in their respective roles and the standout performance was from Gryf Rhys Jones in the main role as Harpagon, balancing farcical comedy with some absolutely brilliant dramatic pathos. It was great to see how cleverly the play had been brought into the 21st Century but how it had still managed to retain the farce and the slapstick that had its 16th Century audience howling with laughter.

Without exception, our students loved it and were talking about it non-stop on the journey back to Stowe.

# Onatti Play



*Colette is a teenage girl starting her first day working in a local café.*

*After five minutes her boss leaves her to run the café on her own – not quite what she had in mind for her first day!*

*Her boyfriend comes to the café to see her because he received a text from her saying she wanted to finish with him. Colette has to cope with running the café and dealing with her distraught ex-boyfriend. But this is just the start of the day – and the day just gets worse for her.*

On Thursday 4 May, The Onatti Theatre Company sent two native French actors, Paul and Marion, to perform this year's French play in the Roxburgh Hall for Third and Fourth Form French sets. The play is scripted very carefully to fit in with the level of language of the students and

vocabulary sheets were provided before the event so that students could get the maximum from the show. What I particularly liked this year was the range of grammar and language structures that made up the script, catering for all levels of understanding and stretching some of our high-flying linguists to the limit. We have invited the Onatti Theatre Company to Stowe every year since I have been here, the plays are always very cleverly written and performed, with this year's play being no exception. All of the Stoics were captivated from the start, and our visiting actors wasted no time in plucking nervous Stoics from the audience to make up the numbers on stage! Needless to say, next year's performance has already been booked and, as ever, I am sure that it will be just as great a success.

*Mr Simon Dobson, French Department*

## Spotlight on Languages

A group of eleven Stoics, accompanied by Mr Dobson, attended the Spotlight on Languages taster day at the University of Bath in November in order to get a clearer idea of what it involves to study a language post A Level.

Our students benefitted from a presentation on entry requirements, course content for the range of language courses on offer and of course, reinforcement of the very real advantages of leaving university with the ability to communicate in two or more modern foreign languages.

After a very brief pause, Stoics were treated to a session entitled 'Does where I am from determine what I am?' in which participants were encouraged to participate in what was a very interesting focus on multiculturalism and the way in which the world and its inhabitants are changing as a direct result of technology, cultural exposure, communication and philosophy, and it was great to see the Stoics contributing so enthusiastically throughout.

After lunch, there was a language lesson in which all of the students (from a number of schools across the UK) sat down for a French-language quiz which was rendered all the more enthusiastic when it became clear that the prizes were immediately edible and very sweet! This was a great session which showed just how wide-ranging the course content can be at university, once students have embarked upon their chosen direction of study and have worked out exactly which aspects of language, society and grammatical structure really fire them up.

The day was rounded-off with a presentation from three separate Bath graduates from the last ten years who all made very clear the considerable advantage that they enjoyed as a result of their language studies, and who spoke with passion and sincerity on both their time at university and their subsequent careers.



# GERMAN

As Caroline Wilson CMG, our guest speaker at Speech Day said: “Learning a language enables you to think differently, express yourself differently and reflect upon the world differently.” I couldn’t agree more with her statement, and I am delighted that this year has seen a considerable increase in the numbers of Stoics opting for German at GCSE and our Sixth Form has never been as big as it will be next year. It may not be the easiest of languages, but it certainly is a very useful one that opens many doors, especially in the business world. In this time of uncertainty, being able to communicate in another language brings us one step closer to forging meaningful relationships with countries all around the world.

With another 100% pass rate at GCSE and A2, I am incredibly proud of all our Germanists and the staff who have enabled them to do so well. Brigitte Hutchin, our extraordinary German Assistant, has once again worked her magic with our Stoics to help them get top marks in the speaking exam at A Level, with 75% gaining an A and the remaining 25% a B. This is even more impressive when taking into account that 17% of those sitting the exam nationwide are native or semi-native speakers. With increasing numbers of students, she has kindly agreed to teach one Sixth Form class next year, for which I am very thankful. I would also like to thank Ed Smith who stepped in at the last minute to teach an extra Third Form set with passion and patience, as well as Gwilym Jones for embracing a new Sixth Form syllabus as well as embarking as Housemaster of Walpole in January.

On the trips front, this has been a quiet year, as our bi-annual trip to Rossleben is taking place in October 2017. We are also hoping to get a Lower School exchange with a school near Munich off the ground for 2018. Landheim Schondorf is a small boarding school by the Ammersee in the heart of Bavaria and I very much hope we can offer a small group of Fourth Form Germanists the opportunity to experience life in a Bavarian boarding school at the beginning of the Summer Term next year.

Many of our highlights this year have been culinary, from our Sixth Form German Christmas cookie (Weihnachtsplätzchen) day in December, to our German Third Form Tasting Day in June, via our Fifth Form Oktoberfest day complete with sausages and (alcohol-free) beer, the Stoics’ willingness to try different kinds of food such as spelt bread and quark never ceases to amaze me. Or maybe it is sheer hunger! We have also had great academic events, of which the talk of Professor Sarah Colvin of Cambridge University at Oundle on the rise of extreme right ideology amongst young Germans, was most certainly the highlight. By explaining how the Germans have coped with their identity crisis since WWII and how this newly found identity is, by some, felt to be threatened by the sheer volume of foreigners now settled in Germany, she managed to explain a very complex issue in relatively simple terms understood by all. We also held our first ever Sixth Form German Oral Day on Monday 27 March. A group of Northamptonshire schools came together to exchange ideas, debate and have a taste of creative story telling in German. This was hugely beneficial to all the Sixth Formers who took part and we look forward to organising this event again next year.

*Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German*





# Spanish

Last summer, Stowe's Upper Sixth Hispanists secured outstanding A Level results, with 91% of pupils achieving A\*-B grades at A Level. Many of them have since gone on to study Spanish at university and we wish them all the best for the future.

In September we welcomed Mr Smith, Teacher of Spanish (and now German), Under Housemaster of Grenville, grammar devotee and general sports aficionado. In October, Mr Smith kindly agreed to accompany Dr Ferrero and the Fifth Form on their annual Spanish trip, which again saw Stoics studying in Cuenca during October Half Term. Pupils were completely immersed in Spanish culture, staying in pairs with local host families, studying at a local language school and exploring the city and surrounding area. Thanks go to Dr Ferrero for organising two successful study trips in consecutive years.

In February, the Fourth Form welcomed Onatti Productions' cast of '¿Cuántos me gusta tienes?', a play about the pitfalls of bending the truth on social media, performed entirely in Spanish. Memorable moments included Paul Purdon's (Grenville) cameo and Cyrus Shirazi (Chandos) storming the stage!

In April, Mr Donoghue, Teacher of Physics, stepped in at the last minute to accompany me and fourteen Sixth Formers on the study trip to Salamanca. Every morning pupils attended intensive revision sessions tailored to their A Level courses and in the afternoons they took part in a range of cultural activities including a guided walking tour of the city, chocolate tasting con churros at the Casa Lis Art Deco Museum and dancing 'Sevillanas' in a lively dance class. (Cami Hay (Grafton) and Philip Birdwood's (Walpole) silky moves stole the show!) The pupils stayed with host families which was daunting but fantastic for their Spanish. Huge thanks must go to Mr Donoghue for agreeing to go on the trip and for taking care of the pupils in Salamanca.

In May, Mrs Peña had a surprise for the Languages Society



as she had arranged for a salsa duo to lead a dance class following her entertaining and informative talk on her native Colombia. The Society members were up dancing for around an hour and great fun was had by all. I am sure that all who attended would agree that Mrs Peña knows how to party!

This year's Languages Society events have been brilliantly organised by Mrs Podesta and Miss Vidal. Their tremendous efforts have meant that the programme of talks, events and dinners was both varied and engaging.

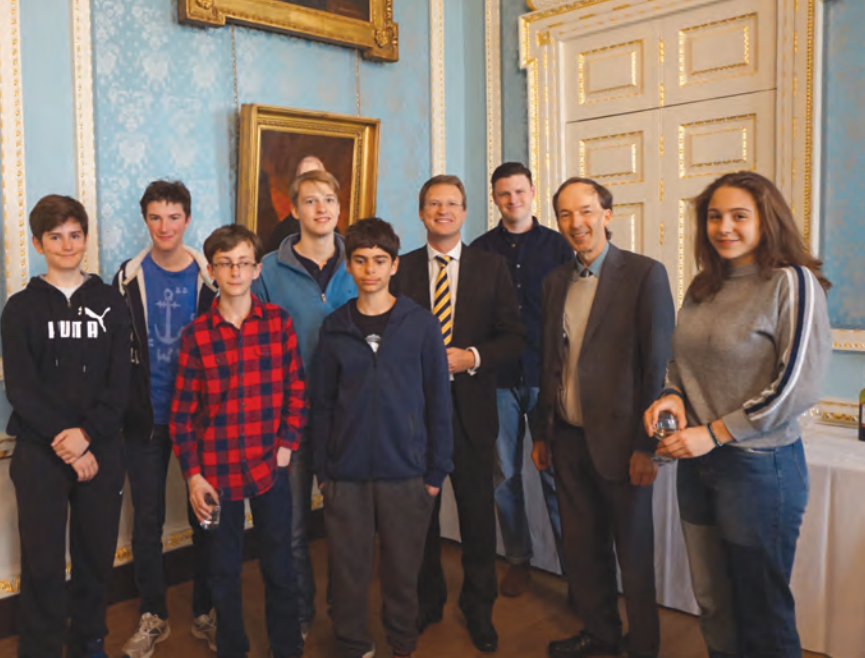
Next term, Julio Morales Shearer, currently Head of MFL at Champion School and Language College in Northamptonshire, will take over as Stowe's new Head of Spanish. I am moving to Gloucestershire to take up the post of Head of Languages at The Crypt School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dynamic and dedicated colleagues in the Languages Faculty for their support and for the laughs we have shared over the last four years. I feel extremely fortunate to have worked alongside you all.

*Miss Collette Stirzaker, Head of Spanish*



# Classics



The Classics Department again celebrated yet more excellent results last summer. In the Fifth Form at Level 2, the equivalent of GCSE, 92% scored A\* or A in Latin Language. In Classical Greek at GCSE results were all A\*, with Matthew Barnes-Murphy scoring 100% in three out of his four papers. There were also two 99-100% paper scores in the Sixth Form at AS.

On 20 September 2016 the Fourth Form Latinists visited Chedworth Roman Villa near Cirencester. We explored the fascinating remains of the bath complex and triclinium in the west wing, using the new walkway suspended over the original mosaics. Later we were able to handle original pottery fragments, bone and tesserae. It was a worthwhile experience which brought their literary studies to life.

On 13 October we visited Cambridge for the Greek play. This was a double bill, with Sophocles' powerful tragedy "Antigone" on the conflict between individual religious rights and the political demands of a state, followed by Aristophanes' "Lysistrata". Subtitles helped elucidate the original Greek and some modern touches, such as someone with the characteristics of Boris Johnson as Foreign Secretary for the Athenians and someone called Trump acting for the Spartans with forthright views on women.

On 19 October Martin Pickles talked to the Third Form Greek set about the famous Old Stoic, Michael Ventris, whose life he is researching for a possible documentary. As a 14-year-old pupil in Temple House who was studying Greek, Michael Ventris was taken by his Classics teacher, Patrick Hunter, to visit an exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1936 on archaeological finds from Knossos in Crete. There, Ventris asked the excavator, Sir Arthur Evans, whether anyone had deciphered the Linear B script. On being told that no one had done so, Ventris in 1953, by then an important architect, became the key person in showing that Linear B was an early form of Greek, thus extending Greek history by hundreds of years in what was called the 'Mount Everest of Archaeology'. John Peatfield, a Sixth Form Latinist whose family have been in Temple House over many generations, showed Mr Pickles a Colonnade study which could have been the one shared by Ventris and Christopher Robin Milne (of Winnie the

Pooh fame) in the Michaelmas Term of 1939. And perhaps Ventris' story of his inspiration as a 14 year old Classics student will inspire Stoics of a similar age today.

A group of young and older Greek learners visited the Iris Festival of Ancient and Modern Science at the Cheney School, Oxford, on 7 February 2017. Along with hundreds of others, we enjoyed lectures from Dr Kyle Grant on NASA's plans to grow plants on Mars, and also from Dr Ben Kane, a veterinary surgeon turned historical novelist and researcher, on Archimedes and Ancient Weaponry.

We welcomed back Ben Harris (Chandos 84), at present the Editor in Charge of the Cambridge Latin Course, published by Cambridge University Press, on 16 March. He gave a fascinating account of how he first met Julia Donaldson, the author of The Gruffalo storybook, and was later persuaded by his Chandosian brother to compose the poetry for his translation of The Gruffalo into Latin, published by Macmillan.

The final meeting was on 9 May when Ollie Vince (Lower Sixth, Cobham) recited from memory the first half of "Horatius", the most famous of Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay's English poems, the "Lays of Ancient Rome", published in 1842. Ollie's father, Mr Tim Vince, then finished the poem, evoking the bravery of Horatius in defending Rome while the bridge behind him, over the River Tiber, was demolished. This poem used to be very popular for recitation in schools and Winston Churchill apparently memorised it at Harrow and later recited part of the Horatius poem to inspire the government cabinet ministers in the darkest days of WWII. The audience in the Blue Room were swept away by the vigour and empathy of the declamation, making it a memorable half hour of heroic endeavour and invincible triumph.

I have much enjoyed my 30 years as Head of Classics, aiming to keep Latin and Greek alive and thriving at Stowe. I wish Jon Murnane every success when he takes over in September 2017. I am sure that Stowe's Classics will go from strength to strength under his able leadership. In fact Stowe has had just three Heads of Classics over the last 88 years. In 1929 Patrick Hunter became Tutor of Side 1, the Classics Sixth Form specialist group, replacing Timberlake and Simmonds who had jointly held this post for a year. Brian Stephan replaced Patrick Hunter in 1962, and I took over in 1986.

*Mr Michael Bevington, Head of Classics*

## Prizes:

The Roxburgh Prize for Classics (VI):  
John Peatfield (Upper Sixth, Temple)

The Quentin Bertram Prize for Classics  
(GCSE): Jamie Baillie (Fifth Form, Cobham)

# Philosophy & Religion

I am often asked why I chose to study and teach Philosophy and Religion and the answer I always give is that Religion and Philosophy have always been, and continue to be for us today, powerful driving forces in society – for good and ill. It affects us all, whether or not we are believers. A knowledge of religion is needed to inform our own political and social understanding, to enlighten the subtleties of literature and to aid our understanding of history.

What encourages me is that the Department continues to be popular with Stoics and our numbers rose by 96% this year. We have been privileged as teachers to have worked with a department of engaged, questioning and I have to say charming Stoics! The new specification facilitates enquiry into, and develops insightful evaluations of, ultimate questions about the purposes and commitments of human life, especially as expressed in Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. The subject encourages students to make connections so that in each field of study they understand the influences, over time, of developments in religious beliefs and practices, the philosophy of religion, religious ethics and textual interpretation. They also develop valuable transferable skills for progression to the next level of their education – they use ideas from a range of approaches to the study of religions and beliefs in order to research and present a wide range of well-informed and reasonable arguments, which engage profoundly with moral, religious and spiritual issues.

“This year the Philosophy and Religion (P&R) GCSE course has been amazing. For the Fourth Form we have been focused on various topics, and next year for the Fourth Form we will study the religions of Islam and Christianity. The topics we have studied are: religion and life, the existence of God and revelation, religion, peace and conflict, and religion crime and punishment. I have found studying matters such as abortion and euthanasia thoroughly attention grabbing as they are so relevant to today’s society, which makes P&R one of my favourite subjects! Not only have we learnt what they are, we also look into the problems and contrasting beliefs on the topics which inevitably have led to great debates within our class, in which everyone gets involved. Most people have an opinion on philosophical matters such as life after death, and in P&R we get the chance to explore common opinions and decide our own. I cannot wait for next year as Christianity is the main religion in England and we get to study its main beliefs, also Islam is a major world religion and I would love to build on my knowledge of it. All in all, the GCSE course has captivated me and as a result I am always excited to go into my next P&R lesson.” (Mia Dettori, Fourth Form, Nugent).

“Studying the Philosophy course for A Level has opened my eyes to our community and made me think about questions and debates that have no answers. I believe studying Philosophy isn’t just an A Level but a method of thinking and understanding life.” (Daniel Jolker, Lower Sixth, Cobham).

Our A Level Religious Studies students will frequently go on to study subjects such as Theology or Philosophy. We have had successful Oxbridge candidates in recent years, but other common choices are English, History, Law, PPE, Languages, Drama, Geography, History of Art - and even subjects such as Engineering when Religious Studies has been the ‘third’ or ‘fourth’ A Level. Religious Studies graduates frequently move into careers in the Media, Publishing, Banking, Management, the Civil Service - and even Teaching! We wish our Upper Sixth leavers this year a very happy and successful future as they open a new chapter in their lives.

We say goodbye to Mr Macpherson this term who leaves us to take up the position of Deputy Headmaster of Swanbourne Prep School. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the Department and we all wish him the very best for the future.

In September we look forward to welcoming Dr Peter Dennis as a full time member of the Department who will be joining us from the LSE, and the Revd. Tim Mullins, our new School Chaplain, who will be working with our Third Form pupils.

To end the year, we took a group of Stoics to the Nagarjuna Kadampa Buddhist Meditation Centre in Kelmash, Northants, a special place of relaxation, reflection and friendship. In the past representatives of the Centre have visited the Department and so we thought it was time to visit them. The Centre is set in beautiful and peaceful countryside where we were invited to join a class of guided meditation and a practical talk about how to use meditation to solve daily problems. We were also given an opportunity to ask engaging questions and discuss, over light refreshments, Tibetan Buddhist beliefs and practices with the Centre’s Chaplain and a newly ordained Buddhist nun. We were made very welcome and treated to a delicious vegetarian lunch in the Centre’s popular restaurant.

Overall, a very challenging but enjoyable year, where as always outstanding, engaging and inspirational teaching and learning has been our major focus and we offer our sincere thanks to the Stoics who make this possible.

*Mr Colin Bray, Head of Philosophy & Religion*



# Economics and Business Studies

The Economics and Business Department has continued to grow this year, with numbers for next year following the national trend of even further expansion.

In the classroom, students have enjoyed studying a variety of topics, with ever greater focus on the 'fuzzy' boundaries of the topic. Behavioural Economics is a growing area, and we have been looking at how it can impact on government policies. Economics as a discipline is beginning to try and move away from models of perfectly rational agents, and is starting to look into the psychology of decision making under conditions of bounded information and intelligence. Each student carried out independent research into how the UK government can use recent breakthroughs to help increase the health of the nation. We have also continued to look at the changing ways in which the City of London is being controlled by the monetary authorities, discussing whether this is a good move or just a short-sighted, knee jerk reaction to the financial crisis. As ever, the UK's relationship with Europe has been a backdrop to all teaching.

Outside the classroom the highlight of the year was the day-long conference held at Stowe, given by the Institute of Economic Affairs, an organisation described by Andrew Marr as "undoubtedly the most influential think tank in modern British history". We were treated to three excellent lectures from members of the institute. Dr Steve Davies opened with a talk on 'Globalisation and the impact on China', starting his address by pointing out that, apart from the relatively recent rise of countries of the North Atlantic, China has long been the centre of world economic power and the driver of globalisation. He asked students to consider various points, including whether China or India represented the future. This was followed by Professor Philip Booth discussing 'Taxation, Productivity and Economic Growth in the UK'. He produced thought-provoking, comparative statistics on tax and growth rate differentials between Western Europe and Australia, and questioned whether the growing tax burden in the UK has resulted in increased economic growth. Follow up discussions in class have inevitably focused on the effect of Jeremy Corbyn's apparent success in moving the debate more towards large government. Finally, Dr Kristian Niemietz tackled the thorny issues surrounding 'Market and State Failures in Healthcare'. At the end of his talk (summarised by the quote that 'empirical evidence does not tell us the best way to provide healthcare, but it does tell us that state provision is not it'), he posed several questions. The one that probably provoked the most debate looked at why rising healthcare costs were seen as inevitable (and acceptable) given technological advances, whereas similar rapid breakthroughs in the mobile phone market did not see parallel price rises. It was interesting to note that Dr Niemietz then prominently featured in the weekend press, fronting stories about unnecessary deaths in the NHS, caused by an inappropriate approach to healthcare provision.

The 'Stretch and Challenge' Economics Group has continued to meet weekly. Initially discussions tended to revolve around up to date newspaper articles, with Mark

Littlewood's Times column being a firm favourite. As the Lower Sixth became more proficient in economic theories (and as the Upper Sixth became more exam focused), the nature of the group changed, and the reins were handed over to Thomas Mayhew (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and John Balcon-Perez (Lower Sixth, Walpole). They marshalled their troops well and will be publishing the group's first newsletter in September, which will be focused on the UK's 'productivity puzzle'. They have also managed to secure a visit from the aforementioned Mark Littlewood, who will be our guest of honour in the Autumn.

Studying the Business A Level at Stowe this year has been enriched through various guest speakers, visits to employers and focused revision events. The aim of guest speakers is to help students contextualise business theory with real business examples. This year's guest speaker talks started with Dr Richard Fairchild from the University of Bath discussing behavioural economics and how companies try to influence our buying behaviour to maximise opportunity. Later, talks focused on Marketing (Simon Sproule – Chief Marketing Officer of Aston Martin), Entrepreneurialism (Ollie Forsyth & Paul Oberschneider) and Corporate Law (Mike Hayward - Woodfines Solicitors).

In the new Business curriculum there is a larger emphasis on globalisation and emerging markets. Stoics were able to gain multiple perspectives of the opportunities and threats of global trade. Further guest speakers helped Stoics gain a better understanding in finance and investment (Anthony White, the MD of Raymond James), emerging markets (Chris Austin CBE – DFID Country Director/British Embassy) and cyber security (Professor Glees – University of Buckingham).

A challenging requirement of the Business A Level is that each January the awarding body releases a research theme. Students are required to research a specific sector and research aims are given to help students focus their research. This year's theme was the UK and global fitness and leisure industry. In March, Stoics attended a talk by David Minton of The Leisure Database Company, a specialist research company in the sector. David's research had previously been used in class and the talk helped students gain a deeper understanding of the sector in the UK, globally and how technology and the emergence of low cost gyms has helped the sector to grow.

This year's employer visit was arranged by one of the Lower Sixth Business students. Dominic Jessel organised a trip to the River Island regional distribution centre, where students could see first-hand how this technology led packaging and distribution centre processes deliveries to millions of customers each year.

To finish the academic year off, in preparation for the summer exams, Ian Marcouse (ex-chief examiner, author and consultant on the new Edexcel Business A Level) hosted a revision day at Stowe School.

*Mr Richard Corthine,  
Head of Economics & Business Studies*



# Politics

This year has been unusually tumultuous in Politics, and the pupils have had the rare benefit of a presidential election and a snap UK general election in the same academic year. Inevitably, this has created a highly stimulating environment in which to learn about government and politics and the pupils have progressed tremendously well, having to navigate through the endless barrage of current events that have been thrown at them.

The Lower Sixth started the year with an exciting trip to Westminster to visit the Houses of Parliament, where they got to see, first-hand, the cut and thrust of parliamentary democracy. Robust questioning of Justine Greening in Education Questions was a fitting event to watch from the gallery and the Secretary of State was forced to justify the government's policy of allowing new grammar schools to open. There is no substitute for seeing politics in action and the pupils took a great deal from the day. Later that same month the Lower Sixth were treated to an audience with the Government Minister for Trade, Mark Garnier MP, where they were able to ask a range of questions spanning from Brexit to... Brexit.

The Upper Sixth followed later that term with a Congress to Campus event at George Washington's ancestral home, Sulgrave Manor. They listened to lectures from leading scholars before engaging in a question and answer session with ex-Congressmen Phil Gingrey (Republican-Georgia) and Martin Frost (Democrat-Texas). This was supplemented by another Congress to Campus event at Wellington later in the year where, approaching 100 days of Trump, the debate between Texas Republican Randy Neugebauer and California Democrat turned Washington lobbyist Vic Fazio was markedly different from take one in December.

Overall, this has been one of the most dizzying years in memory to learn politics, and the pupils' enthusiasm and engagement with the subject has made for a very stimulating year. Nearly half of all Upper Sixth Politics students are continuing to study Politics at university, which is a testament to their deep interest in the subject but also to the subject itself. We wish them all the best in their undergraduate degree programmes and look forward to the next cohort and the challenges that await us with Theresa May's minority-DUP government and the approaching mid-term elections in the US next year.

*Mr Charlie Barker, Head of Politics*





# THE PEER SUPPORT GROUP

All pupils are taught PSHE in the Lower School curriculum, however two of the most important endeavours beyond the classroom, stemming from our provision for pupil welfare, are the Peer Support Group and the annual Kidscape weekend.

## PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Over the course of the past year, eight Stoics have been members of the Peer Support Group. This group aims to help younger pupils, many of whom were new to the School, to adapt to the busy life we all lead here at Stowe. This could range from helping them to cope with homesickness, to encouraging them to pursue new aspirations, whether it be in the classroom or on the sports fields. Some pupils may just want a listening ear to unburden their worries, whether they be struggles at home, or having a difficult time with their friends. We have learnt a lot as a result of our time as Peer Mentors, and now feel that we can provide the sufficient support to anyone who needs it. We have learnt to develop empathy and to put ourselves in the shoes of others in order to truly understand what they are feeling, and the difficult circumstances many people are enduring. Being part of the Peer Support Group this year has been a fantastic experience. It has been very rewarding being able to offer my services to fellow Stoics, even if it is just a listening ear. It has also been nice to know that anyone could come and speak to me whenever they have wanted.

*John Balcon Perez (Lower Sixth, Walpole)  
& Rosanna Smith (Lower Sixth, Queen's)*

The Peer Support Group 2016-2017 were:  
 Jack Polturak (Lower Sixth, Chatham)  
 John Balcon Perez (Lower Sixth, Walpole)  
 William Garrett (Lower Sixth, Cobham)  
 François Pearce (Lower Sixth, Temple)  
 Lara Oswald (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)  
 Amalia Aitchison (Lower Sixth, Nugent)  
 Maya Tearle (Lower Sixth, Queen's)  
 Rosanna Smith (Lower Sixth, Queen's)



# KIDSCAPE RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND

This term the Peer Support Group and six other Stoics took part in the Kidscape programme at Stowe. The Kidscape Weekend is an annual occasion where Stowe hosts a group of teenagers, ranging from 12 to 16 year olds, who at some point in their life have braved some degree of severe bullying. The torment that they have all been through means that many of them cannot face going to school, or have had to disconnect themselves from social media, as a result of cyber bullying - a growing cause of depression within many teenagers these days. The responsibility was a big step up from peer mentoring at Stowe as these children are being severely bullied and some don't live with their parents. The weekend was the perfect opportunity for them to have some time out and forget about any stress or worries that they have. It was such a heartwarming and rewarding experience. It was clear to see each individual grew hugely over the course of the weekend. Each Kidscape child is partnered with a Stoic mentor, forming a 'buddy' relationship. There were thirteen Stoics in all, and with the help of Peter Bradley, Director of Kidscape, we all enjoyed an intense and eye-opening weekend. Over the course of two days we braved the assault course, conquered the Jacob's Ladder and Leap of Faith (or Leap of Death as it became known!), enjoyed a Drama Workshop, horse riding and even went on a walk with our pack of Beagles here at Stowe. Coming to Stowe definitely opened so many doors for the children as they could try new things and push themselves out of their comfort zones to build their confidence. From the Leap of Faith to cuddling Beagle puppies, everyone threw themselves into everything even if they were unsure of doing it at first. All the children were a pleasure to have and they were so grateful to all of us as well as the other Stoics not doing the programme who got everyone on the dancefloor on the Saturday night in Stowebucks. Both Stoics and Kidscape children took away many accomplishments from the weekend. In between activities we attended sessions where we discussed bullying and the stigmas surrounding this difficult but prevalent

topic. With the help of each other in workshops we learnt how to be more assertive. By the end of the weekend our buddies had really grown in confidence and seemed unrecognisable compared to how nervous and insecure many of them were upon arrival. The courage and valour of our buddies over the course of the weekend was truly commendable and the manner with which they embraced everything that was thrown at them is a true testament to the strength they possess. Upon arrival some of the children could barely talk in front of people and they were so shy. This was completely understandable, turning up somewhere you have never been before and not knowing anyone is a very daunting thought. By the end of the weekend they were all standing up in front of everyone and talking with confidence about how much they had enjoyed their time at Stowe. As a whole group we got on very well and played lots of games, which allowed everyone to get involved. The children didn't want to leave by the end, which was a good sign, and there were lots of tears of both happiness and sadness. It was an amazing experience for everyone with many proud children, Stoics and parents.

It was a weekend that we'll cherish in our hearts and minds, and the resulting memories are unforgettable. We would like to thank Peter Bradley for his immense support over the weekend, and for his training over the past year. The Peer Support Group wouldn't be what it is without Ms McLintock, and we are all very grateful for her unwavering support and encouragement.

*John Balcon Perez (Lower Sixth, Walpole)  
& Rosanna Smith (Lower Sixth, Queen's)*

Fellow Stoics who volunteered to be Kidscape mentors alongside the Peer Support Group were: Megan Winter (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Felicity Plunket-Checkemian (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Annalise Muirhead (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Alice Maclure (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Joshua Landau (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Kyale Mwendwa (Lower Sixth, Temple).



# ART

We have seen some highly ambitious work produced in the Art Department this year, as our students push forward with their creative concerns and look for evermore original ways to communicate their personal vision. The quality, scale and level of challenge has been incredible, and as teachers we have enjoyed facilitating the evermore exciting ideas our students bring to the Department.

In our Upper Sixth year we saw everything from the smallest and most delicate mixed media constructions and collages ((Amy Theron (West) and Katie Harmon (Nugent)) to large scale installations made using a wide range of materials sourced from all kinds of unusual locations. Most notable was the piece made by Georgia Charlton-Briggs (Lyttelton) under the title 'Boxes' which both delighted and disturbed the viewer with its dripping organic surfaces and mould-like textures. The contrast achieved between the clean whiteness of the studio environment and this almost living organic cave was a fantastic achievement, and was the culmination of many creative experiments carried out by Georgia over the course of the year. As well as pushing her work to extreme corners, Georgia established our first ever Arts Society this year, organising events for all those in the Sixth Form with an interest in the visual arts. We thank her for her dedication to the Department. She has pushed herself and all those around her to step outside of their comfort zone, and we wish her the best of luck with her continued studies at Art college next year.

We have enjoyed working with all of our Upper Sixth students over the past year. The dedication they have shown to their work has been incredible. The Department

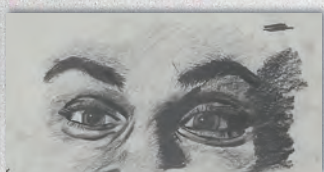
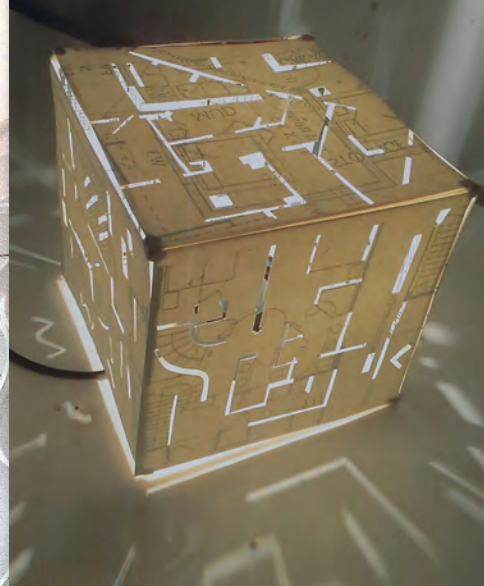
has been a base where some have spent many hours of their activity time, most notably Tom Carne (Grafton) and Archie Dixon-Smith (Chatham) who have been excellent company, and also Isabel Jessel (Lyttelton) and Francesca Moseley (Lyttelton) who are heading off to study Art and Architecture respectively. They, and all the other students in the Upper Sixth, have made the year exciting with their desire to push their ideas and gain as much as they can from their time in the studios at Stowe. We have enjoyed many hours of thinking and planning alongside them, and we wish them the best of luck as they leave us for the next stage in their education and careers.

Painting has always been a strength in the Department and again, we enjoyed seeing works emerge on all kinds of scales, from the most delicate detail to large scale expanses of rich colour. In the Sixth Form, Mar Martinez-Tomas (Lyttelton) impressed us with her large scale portrait of Jemima Cecil (Stanhope), and Jemima herself made some impressive textured pieces under our title 'Sense of Place'. We have seen excellent work across the Lower Sixth year, and they're very much looking forward to taking their spaces on the top floor next year.

At GCSE we also saw some very highly adventurous work, again in a range of materials, and we are looking forward to working with a very talented Sixth Form next year. With everything from printmaking to sculpture made from parts of an old piano (Tom Fras (Walpole)) we enjoyed working with our students during this very busy year and like the Upper Sixth group, many of them spent considerable amounts of time in the studio creating stunning sketchbook pages.







We are sad to say goodbye to our colleague Susan Harmon this year, who has guided many GCSE pupils through their course to achieve the highest grades, as she takes up her new role at Princess Helena College. We wish her well and hope that she will have time for some of her own creative projects over the next few years.

Through our association with Arts at Stowe we have enjoyed workshops and exhibitions again this year, and I would like to thank Deborah Clarke and Deborah Howe for all of their organisational skill and support for the Department. It was wonderful to welcome Keith and Cindy Janz to the gallery back in the Michaelmas Term, and we were also very pleased to help Archie Dixon-Smith (Chatham) and Sam Montgomery (Temple) with their EPQ exhibitions. More recently the gallery became a workshop for our carnival puppet making project with artists Tony Mason and Iola Weir, as we created large scale pieces for the Aylesbury Vale Whizzfizzing festival parade. The student team leaders gave a huge amount of time and energy to the project during the penultimate week of the year, and they made the project fun and successful. Many

thanks go to Anastasiia Nazarova (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Mar Martinez-Tomas (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), James Bridgewood (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and Jessamy Money-Kyrle (Lower Sixth, Nugent), and Nicholas Wood (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Matilda Bonham Carter (Lower Sixth, West) who led the creation of each puppet both at the design stage and throughout the production of each piece.

We are looking forward to working with the very talented pupils in our junior groups as they move forward next year, and we anticipate great things as we can already see the potential and commitment they have towards their creative work. Brian Johnson, Chris Grimble and I are pleased to be taking the department forward again next term, and my thanks go to them for making the Art Department at Stowe such a fun and stimulating place to work. Thanks also to Peter Brown and Sally Purves our technicians, and Jo Banks with her textiles activity, which provides a wide range of help for all kinds of projects that require her specialist skills in fashion and fabric.

*Mrs Amanda Jorgensen, Head of Art*



# HISTORY OF ART



The History of Art Department at Stowe has had a busy and successful year. We started the Michaelmas Term with very good numbers of Lower Sixth opting for the subject and very healthy numbers in the Upper Sixth; this was probably due to the outstanding examination results in the 2016 summer examination series. These were our best for many years and much credit goes to the hard work of Stoics and the extra time and effort put into revision sessions run by members of the Department. As a result of these super results, many Stoics have the grades to continue with the study of the subject at university level. We are thrilled that five Stoics (2016) are reading the History of Art at British and US universities and ten have applied for a History of Art degree course in 2017.

In December, the Upper Sixth visited the 'Beyond Caravaggio' Exhibition at the National Gallery. This made important links to our study of the Seventeenth Century and it was good to see the influence that Caravaggio had on the artists of the rest of the century. The highlight was the seeing work of Artemisia Gentileschi, a rare female artist whose self-portrait had been kindly loaned by HM The Queen. In February, the Upper Sixth complemented their study of the art of Twentieth Century by a day's visit to Tate Modern and the Estorick Collection. It was interesting to see the contrast between a large public gallery with a smaller private one. Both contained work which was vital for examination questions and Stoics found that seeing Modern art, first hand, really demystified it. We rounded off the course for the Upper Sixth with a celebratory picnic at Compton Verney in Warwickshire where we were privileged to have a private view of the collection. The Lower Sixth made an important visit to the National Gallery to look at artworks which they had been studying in class. Comments such as "it's so small" or "it is so detailed" showed that there is nothing like seeing the artworks themselves rather than just relying on images in textbooks. Whilst being taught in front of the 'Rokeby Venus', Stoics found themselves joined by an appreciative audience of the general public. One of the great pleasures of being at Stowe for an art historian is using the house and the grounds as a resource; Stoics have studied sculptures around the site and have been able to identify architectural features during walks around the grounds.

We have enriched students' experiences of the subject with visits from various speakers. In September, we welcomed Dr Matt Lodder (University of Essex) who spoke about

conceptual art in his presentation 'How to burn a Million Pounds'. Dr Oliver Cox (University of Oxford) gave an entertaining talk on the Country House in the Twentieth Century. We were grateful to him for his advice on university applications.

We have also been lucky enough to be able to participate in talks given at the University of Buckingham, including a colloquium on Careers in Art History and a highlight for the Department, Alex Farquharson (Chatham 87) talking about his new role as Director of Tate Britain. Dr Adriano Aymonino (University of Buckingham) gave a fascinating talk on Looted Art during the Second World War. It gave an important insight into the role that art historians can play in restitution of stolen artworks. Catherine Howe from the Courtauld Institute and who is just completing her PhD, gave the Upper Sixth an engaging insight into the world of Francis Bacon and how his image-making was influenced by artists of previous generations. Our final event in a busy year was an illustrated talk from Dr Geoffrey Tyack (University of Oxford) on the origins of Modern Architecture which was a super introduction to the subject for the Lower Sixth who have just started their course on the art and architecture of the 20th Century. Thank you to all Stoics and members of staff who attend our talks. It is good to see how many non-Art Historians further their knowledge and understanding through our meetings.

As part of our outreach to prep schools, Elizabeth Chubb delivered a talk to Orwell House School in Suffolk on 'Tudor Images of Power' and we participated in the Winton Cup day. We believe that the History of Art is a love to be shared with younger students and we look forward to helping again next year.

Next year's Upper Sixth will be the last cohort to study the A Level in History of Art. The Lower Sixth will be embarking on their studies in the Pre-U Course which we look forward to teaching. We are the first Stowe Department to switch to this highly-regarded and rigorous course and so, in September, we shall be welcoming Dr Alice Inasley (University of Nottingham) to the Department to help teach the increased numbers that we have attracted and to broaden our teaching areas and work with Stoics on the Pre-U course and trips abroad.

*Miss Elizabeth Chubb, Head of History of Art*

# MEDIA STUDIES

This year Stowe were proud to introduce their first new A Level in a number of years: after careful consideration Media Studies was chosen as a subject which was highly relevant to Stoics. It has given them a strong sense of the influence which Media has on their own lives, together with an academic study of the ways in which it no longer just reflects the interests of our societies but now is active in driving change in ideologies and attitudes as well as influencing political decisions with world-wide consequences.

As Head of Media Studies, Caroline Bagshaw brought her wealth of experience running a Media Studies department in a grammar school for over 10 years, together with her detailed knowledge of the A level as a Senior Examiner for a major exam board. The teaching team also comprised George Purves and Emma Ackroyd. Both brought a huge enthusiasm for the subject, and were key to supporting Stoics to develop critical understanding of the media through engagement with media products and concepts, preparing them for the AS exam taken in June.

Stoics fully embraced the opportunity which this A level offers to develop a spirit of critical enquiry, key skills in working collaboratively, and the self-confidence needed for independent work. This meshed well with the School's aim for autonomous learning: Stoics studying the media were encouraged to think deeply, for themselves.

Coursework produced in this first year showcased the Stoics' creativity and willingness to learn some complex, industry-standard software packages for film and print production. Work included creating the second series of a previous popular TV series: here it was 'Stowe, a Very International School' (Kristian Kay (Chandos); Sean Chiu (Temple); Tom Wallace (Temple); Freddie Tufnell (Chandos)) which included interviews with the Headmaster and showcased the international nature of Stowe's community. Other coursework ranged from creating promotional material for some of our own Stoic musicians (Megan Winter (Stanhope); Francesca Cooper (Stanhope); Lara Oswald (Stanhope); Max Campbell-Preston (Grafton); Kezia Clark-Jones (Queen's)), to a documentary on Rhino Conservation (Matilda Fitzjohn (Stanhope); Imogen Fitzjohn (Stanhope)) and another on Paris post the terrorist attacks, aimed at educating young people in a relevant and engaging manner (Emma Gray (Nugent)). Further work included a documentary designed to engage young people in the Brexit debate (Murray de Klee (Grafton)) and a documentary about what it takes to become a para-olympic sportsman featuring Stowe swimmer Will Perry (Cobham) ((Ed Huser (Grenville); Ralph Williams (Cobham)), as well as a film which fictionalised contemporary issues around teenage depression (Molly Hopkinson-Woolley (West)) and a campaign created to raise awareness of mental illnesses in teenagers (Matilda Bonham Carter (West)). Stowe made a really suitable backdrop for the work of two groups (Taju Atta (Temple), Arthur Margetson (Cobham); Dominic Jessel (Chatham), Arthur Fenwicke-Clennell (Cobham)) who created films in the 'noir' genre which included a femme fatale committing a murder in the Blue Room and detectives puzzling over mysterious happenings in the temples!

One of the highlights of this first year was when Stowe's Media Studies students hosted a visit from 40 Media and Film Studies students and their teachers from the Christianshavns Gymnasium of Copenhagen. As part of this, Stoics were asked to judge the Copenhagen students on documentaries they had created and were able to offer thoughtful and useful feedback. They chose the winning documentary - on issues about refugees in Copenhagen - because they felt it was well-constructed, very relevant and highly effective at conveying the issues.

On Speech Day, Kezia Clark-Jones (Queen's) was awarded the first 'Stowe Prize for Media', having shown an incredible enthusiasm for the subject and the academic commitment as well as the creativity which A Level Media studies allows students to embrace. This coming year Stoics will study genre theories, advertising, the British press, and new media technologies as well as engage in media debates surrounding issues such as regulation and censorship, identity in the media, and postmodernism. They will produce further coursework including a 2000 word essay and a linked practical production on a media topic of their choice.

*Mrs Caroline Bagshaw, Head of Media Studies*



# Design and Technology

What a wonderful way to showcase the hard work of the students this year by displaying the best of the craftsmanship from Third Form all the way through to Sixth Form in Stowebucks this Speech Day. It is quite easy to forget that the GCSE and A Level work is produced by young Stoics, such is the calibre of the exhibitions on show. The work that has been completed this year, in both the portfolios and practically, represents the countless hours and consistent enthusiasm from the Academic staff in Design and Technology. The efforts displayed by Stoics is testament to the high esteem in which they consider their Design teachers, who with their high expectations, have delivered a fantastic learning experience yet again, for which I am also incredibly grateful to them.

This academic year started with our Fifth Form making the trip to Warwick University to experience 'Product in Action', a series of informative talks from a variety of guest speakers on the importance of Design. From the most inspiring speakers such as Daniel Charny, the internationally recognised curator who gave our students an engaging and practical look at social design; all the way through to James Roberts, winner of the 2014 James Dyson award. Following the excursion, the Department managed to form links with Daniel Charny's group 'Fixperts' and look forward to incorporating their positive approach to design through our developing curriculum in the new GCSE and A Level Syllabus.

We were delighted to welcome Old Stoic Seb Johnson (Grafton 14) and his team from UBRacing to the School this year to inform students of how a qualification in Design and Technology can lead to a variety of paths and disciplines. Seb was generous in his time with students and even brought in his car to demonstrate the high level of engineering and also consideration towards the aesthetics. Seb was the last student to be awarded with

the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship from Design and Technology at Stowe, and I'm incredibly proud to write that Benedict Shaw (Fifth Form, Temple) has recently been successful in his own application and interview for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Ben's application was supported by his own project in Kenya, in which he explored the possibilities of using a local water source to generate and store hydroelectricity for a nearby village. As a result of his success, Ben has been awarded the title of 'Arkwright Associate', a considerable accolade in its own right and an achievement that demonstrates that Ben has the potential for a future career as a leader in an Engineering profession. The Design and Technology Department is incredibly proud of Ben's dedication and success, and we look forward to seeing how well he uses his understanding of technology and science to provide future solutions.

In our exam groups, Jamey Lewis (Upper Sixth, Cobham) collected this year's Worsley Prize for Design for the dedication he had demonstrated over the completion of his controlled assessment project, in which he produced a wonderful and luxuriously designed picnic hamper. He achieved 100% for his coursework and was a thoroughly deserved winner of the Design Prize. Once again, this was a fantastic year for A2 coursework with Alfie Kingham (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Algernon Stanley (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Roddy Bannister (Upper Sixth, Grafton) receiving commendation for the manufacturing of their practical pieces. Tom Bownes (Upper Sixth, West) collected the commendation for Most Creative Resistant Materials Solution and it was thoroughly deserved for his inspired approach towards the conventional design of a working office desk. At GCSE, special mention must go to Rowan Brudenell (Fifth Form, Grenville), Archie Morley (Fifth Form, Walpole), Paolo Alvigini (Fifth Form, Grenville), Jamie Moir (Fifth Form, Grenville), Oliver Pritchard (Fifth Form, Temple), Oscar Brett (Fifth

Form, Chatham), Thomas Chamberlain (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Louis Hink (Fifth Form, Walpole) for their outstanding coursework grades this year.

The Graphic Products course, now in its penultimate year, continued to deliver some fantastic pieces of work. Thomas Carne (Upper Sixth, Grafton) produced a stunning architectural piece to win the Andrew McAlpine prize for Graphics with his design for a conversion of his family's barn. He was not alone in producing impressive architectural portfolios, with Isabel Jessel (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) creating a visually spectacular model of a tree house proposal, Claudia Carbutt (Upper Sixth, Nugent) redesigning her family's existing pool house and surrounding area, and Emily Baring (Upper Sixth, Queen's) for her proposals for an interactive social space but a variety of different scaled aspects. Rory Smith (Upper Sixth, Cobham) was awarded with the best Graphic Products folder at A2 for his product which aimed to improve a golfer's swing, and his investigation into the smart materials along with completed packaging meant he was a deserved recipient of the commendation. At AS Level, Charlotte Bird (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) was awarded the John Holland Prize for her scaled version of Le Corbusier's Shodan House, which complemented her thoroughly concise and communicative design

portfolio. At GCSE, Lydia Taylor (Fifth Form, Stanhope) received the Friends of Stowe Prize for Design with her architectural model of stables with supporting terrain, and Tatiana Page-Turner (Fifth Form, Stanhope), who was among the students who achieved full marks for her coursework.

We were incredibly proud to also display the work of our Third Form, whose Product Design GCSE course is a new addition to the Department. In Stowebucks there were a number of items on display where the Stoics had shown high-level skills on their Branding projects such as dye sublimation printing and the CAD CAM skills that had been included on the development of their point of sale stands and additional 'merchandise', and as they completed the year with their metal work project of individual candle holder, the future Speech Day displays promise to continue in their quality.

The Department is incredibly proud to celebrate and share the achievements of all those Stoics studying Design and Technology. We now look towards our potential new centre for Design, Technology and Engineering, which we hope will help to satisfy our Department's ambition, as well as provide some fantastic facilities for the Stoics to explore their design skills.

*Mr Martin Quinn, Head of Design*



# INTERNATIONAL

The International Department has continued to play a key role in supporting the pastoral well-being and academic success of international Stoics. Academic achievement and university prospects have been enhanced by the range of academic English Language courses and tuition offered by the Department and students have also enjoyed the social events and supportive community of the International Society.

The achievements of the pupils in the Department in 2016/17 have been the highest on record to date. Results have been outstanding with 83% of candidates achieving A\*/A grades in the IGCSE ESL (English as a Second Language) course in 2016. In a similar fashion, the IELTS students exceeded their university requirements with 100% of candidates securing top scores of 7.0 or above overall. Some of our more ambitious students have opted to study for the CAE examination (The Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English). This technically-demanding examination is intended to challenge students linguistically at an advanced level. The diligence of our Fifth Form Stoics was certainly rewarded as all candidates successfully secured strong pass grades in CAE, further enhancing their grade profile and adding to their repertoire of qualifications in an ever-more competitive university environment.

Speech Day was another enjoyable opportunity to celebrate excellence and we were delighted to see many international Stoics receiving prizes for a range of significant endeavours in all areas of School life, from exceptional musical performance (Jeffrey Au (Fourth Form, Walpole)) to the Duke of Edinburgh's Cup (Timothy Guan (Upper Sixth, Temple)). The following students also received awards for their outstanding performance in academic subjects: Alexandre Yonan (Upper Sixth, Chatham), John Balcon Perez (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Larry Zhao (Fifth Form, Walpole), Lisa Battilomo (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Maria del Mar Martinez-Tomas (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Maria Sharipova (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Avijit Nair (Upper Sixth, Cobham). Many congratulations to all prize winners who have been recognised for their achievements and wonderful contributions to the Stowe community.

The annual International Society Dinner in March 2017 proved to be another resounding success as members of the international community at Stowe gathered in the Music Room to enjoy an evening of entertainment and cuisine with a distinctly intercontinental flavour. Acts throughout the evening included songs by Mina Haas (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Camille Gibson (Third Form, Lyttelton), a stunning rendition of 'Hatikvah' on viola and piano by Audrey Au (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Jeffrey Au (Fourth Form, Walpole), an entertaining Afrikaans-themed sketch by Reaboka Ramakoalibane (Fourth Form, Queen's) and Ishiqa Singh (Fourth Form, Queen's) followed by the South African National Anthem with Jonah Gasura (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Matthew Alberts (Fourth Form, Grafton). The international quiz, masterminded by the International Prefects, Sophia Sander (Upper Sixth, West), Lisa Battilomo (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Gleb Shcherbakov (Upper Sixth, Grenville), proved to be a popular activity, hosted with flair and panache by Anton Kondrashov (Upper Sixth, Grenville). It is wonderful to see a flourishing and vibrant international community at Stowe represented by such talented individuals.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the International Committee, the International Prefects and all pupils in the Department whose efforts and enthusiasm have contributed to what has been another outstanding year.

*Mrs Julie Johnson, Head of International*



The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of an ornate, gold-colored ceiling with intricate scrollwork and circular patterns. The word 'Library' is written in a large, dark, serif font across the middle of this image.

# Library

It has been another busy year for us in the Library where we are continuing a programme with the help of Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers, of enhancing areas, the look of the current stock and moving the books around to create more display. We have needed more space in the History of Art area particularly because of the new Pre-U qualification which starts in September, as well as all the research projects that the students are doing in all areas with Vanguard and the HPQ and EPQ qualifications.

This year we have also managed to establish a Science Library in the new Sixth Form Science area, and are well on the way with one in the English Department.

We have had a carpet put down in the Ante Library to help with the noise of students and staff having to walk through, which has been a huge asset. Following the reading survey last year, the Third and some Fourth Formers have been given a time in the school day to read in the Ante Library and discuss their reading, both in a lesson and in Book Group.

Events organised during the year started in October, we had the co-curricular day for the Third Form where the students did a carousel of activities. During the day they had a lecture on key help with study skills, Maths active activities with an outside speaker and creative writing with two poets Lewis Buxton and Cecilia Knapp where they created their own poem about themselves.

In March during World Book Day, we had a visit from Dr Lucy Christopher the author of the Young Adult novel 'Stolen', and lecturer of creative writing at Bath Spa University. She did a creative writing workshop with the Sixth Form in the afternoon and gave a talk on the importance of setting the scene of the novel in the first stages of the book, to the whole Fourth Form. Following this she set all the students a challenge to create their own first 500 words of a novel as a competition over the holidays. This competition was also set for the Third Form through the English department as a separate competition. Following this Dr Christopher has agreed to be the Stowe Writer Not-in Residence for the year of 2017-18.

On the evening of World Book Day we had the annual

Inter-House Literary Quiz Challenge where one member of each year group from each house and three from West House, compete to win house points over 10 rounds of General Literary Knowledge questions, cheered on by their colleagues in the audience who also got to compete with spot questions that counted towards the total.

In the Lent Term we said goodbye to Karen Chapman who had been at Stowe in the Library for nine years, she has played a key part in helping to catalogue and organise the original library stock and worked in the Library during the evening prep sessions.

In June, working with the English Department, we had a celebration of literature along with Dr Christopher again. During the afternoon there was a creative writing workshop with her for a selected group of Fourth Formers.

Following that, in the early afternoon there was the Headmaster's Poetry by Heart competition for the Third Form where two pupils from each English set had learned poems off by heart over the Half Term holiday. During the judging deliberations, Dr Lucy Christopher gave the top students in the 500 Words Competition feedback and the results of the Third Form competition. The winners were, first Lucas Farleigh (Chatham), second Keira West (Lyttelton) and third Theo Finlan (Temple).

During the summer before they started at Stowe, the Third Form had been set a task to create a piece of persuasive writing on why a book from a selected list of 18 should be studied by the Third Form of 2017. The winner was announced after the 500 Words Competition as:

Kitty Dutton (Queen's) for 'Buffalo Soldier' which is now on the incoming Third Form Challenge, second was Rosia Li (Stanhope) with 'The Book Thief' and third Mimi Pearson-Gee (Nugent) with 'Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time'.

The winners of the Fourth Form 500 Words Competition was announced in Assembly, the winners were first Harry Heathcote (Grenville), second Marika Guguberidze (Lyttelton) and third Alfie Cliff (Chandos).

*Mrs Lyn Foden, Librarian*



# Old Stoics

We've had yet another busy year in the Old Stoic (OS) Office, having hosted a myriad of social and networking occasions, redesigned *The Corinthian*, the magazine for Old Stoics, and bid farewell to a loyal and long serving employee. It's a pleasure to elaborate on this year's activities for your interest. I have included a selection of our best photographs for enjoyment, which hopefully capture the fun, frivolity and friendship which exists among our members.

I must start with a heartfelt thank you to Caroline Whitlock, Old Stoic Events Coordinator, who retired in March, after nearly 10 years of service. Her hard work and dedication have been instrumental in the growing success of the OS Society. Caroline's favourite event is, of course, the Classic Car Display at Speech Day. During its first year in 2010, 32 cars formed the display. This year, Caroline managed to pull in 115 classic cars, making her

final display our largest to date! She will be greatly missed by our team but you may see her at OS events in the future because she has been granted Honorary Membership of the OS Society.

Happily, Sasha Moss has now joined the Old Stoic Office, taking over the role of Old Stoic Events Coordinator. Sasha knows Stowe inside and out having worked in a different department within the School over the last four years. I am sure Old Stoics far and wide will join me in wishing her every success in her new role.

This year, we have redesigned *The Corinthian*, and launched a brand new online magazine, [www.corinthian.online](http://www.corinthian.online) - from now on, each edition of *The Corinthian* will be focused around a theme. This year's copy was based on "Exploration" and was dedicated to the memory of Lt Col Henry Worsley (Grafton 78), who sadly lost his life after a heroic expedition to cross the Antarctic, solo and unaided.





Once again, we've been working tirelessly to improve our Careers programme for younger members. We held our annual Careers Fair for Stoics in the Lower Sixth in November. Old Stoics from 40 different industries took part. Recent Leavers were invited to attend a Networking Drinks Reception to meet Old Stoic Mentors, working in a range of industries, at the Lansdowne Club in June. We finished the Summer Term with a Dragons' Den themed workshop at Stowe, with eight Old Stoic 'Dragons' imparting entrepreneurial advice to 40 Stoics. The Stoics worked in groups to pitch a presentation to the 'Dragons' and were then grilled on their business acumen.

Our events programme has been full to the brim, particularly with events themed around wines, given the growing popularity of the OS Corkscrew Club. Over the course of the year, we have hosted a Champagne tasting dinner; Chablis wine tasting; South African wine tasting and an Italian wine tasting, all of which have been sell out occasions.

We hosted our biennial Old Stoic Dinner at the Hippodrome on Leicester Square and welcomed Old Stoics from around the Country for an evening of fine dining, followed by an excellent cabaret act. Old Stoics over the age of 70 were once again invited for our SOS Lunch at the Savile Club. This year, we welcomed our largest number to date. In the run up to Christmas, we held a Networking Lunch for Old Stoics working in the Property Industry, which was so popular, we ran out of places.

Our regional activities took us to Cambridge in March, for a day at Trinity College, including a phenomenal concert given by the Stowe Music School. In June, we gathered a group of Old Stoics living in the South for a Gin Tasting Dinner in Petersfield. Over the coming year, we are hoping to hold events in Edinburgh and Yorkshire. We welcome suggestions for suitable venues.

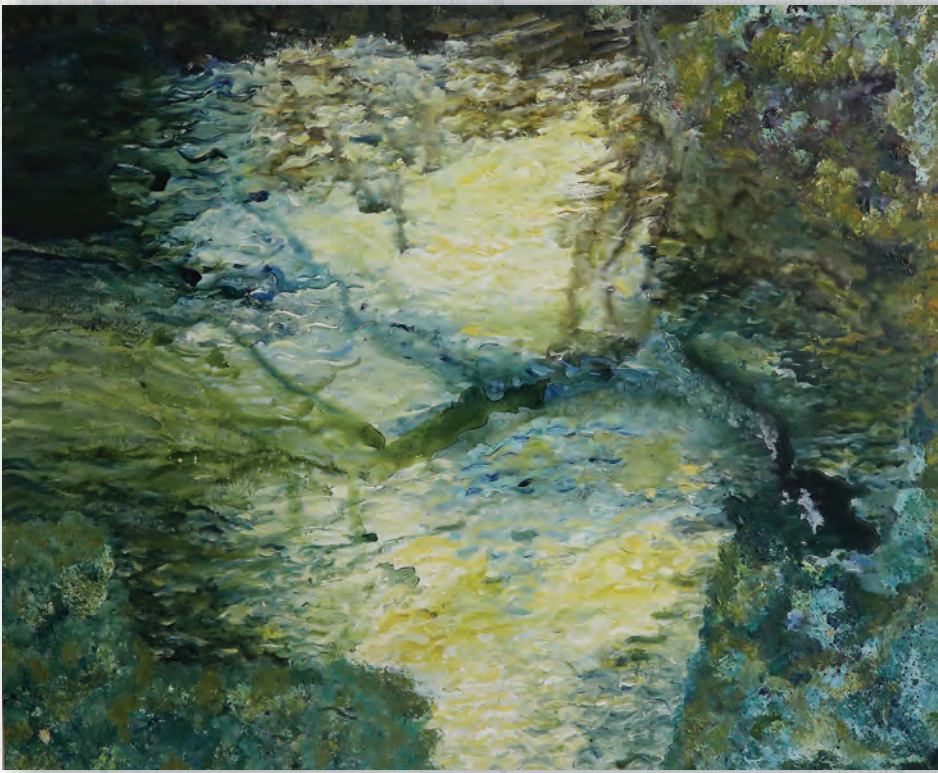
Once again, our events at Stowe have been a resounding success, with Old Stoic Day in September 2016 attracting 335 Old Stoics and guests for the day, our largest number for many years. We welcomed Old Stoics who left in 2006 for their 10th Anniversary Reunion in October. We managed to gather 80 Old Stoics for an afternoon at Stowe, which included an extremely entertaining speech from the Headmaster. In March, we held our Old Stoic Sports Day and hosted a number of Old Stoic v Stoic matches at the School. Once again, this event was a huge success.

The Old Stoic Sports Clubs continue to flourish and I am delighted to announce the formulation of two new teams: the OS Fly Fishing Club and the OS Polo Club. At the time of writing, we are busy making the arrangements for the first Old Stoic Polo match at Kirtlington Park; we hope it will be the first of many.

As I near my fifth year working for the Old Stoic Society, it continues to be a great pleasure to work at Stowe and see so many Old Stoics on a regular basis.

*Miss Anna Semler (Nugent 05), Old Stoic Society Director*





Florence Fox  
(Upper Sixth, Stanhope)



Amy Jorgensen  
(Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Tom Carne  
(Upper Sixth, Grafton)



Olivia Yan  
(Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



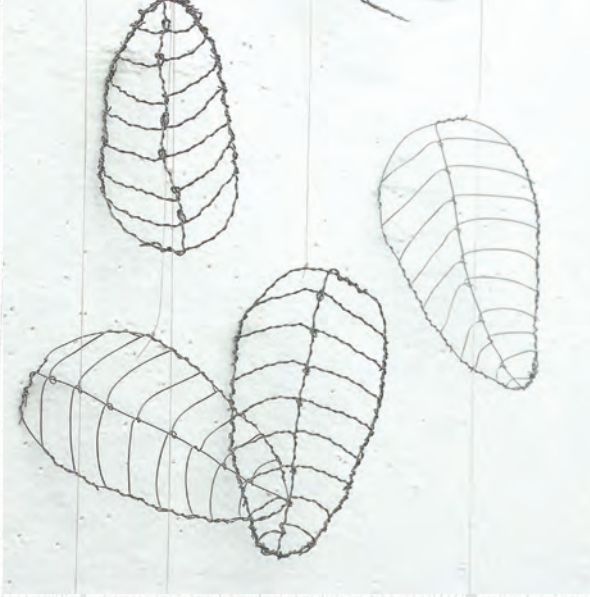
Eugenia Barclay  
(Fifth Form, Stanhope)



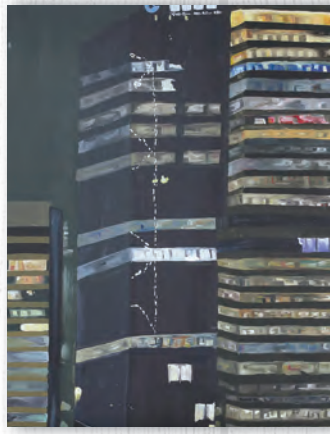
Alfie Kingham  
(Upper Sixth, Walpole)



Alfie Kingham  
(Upper Sixth, Walpole)



Ella Dettori  
(Fifth Form, Nugent)



Estelle Akeroyd Hunt  
(Fifth Form, Nugent)



Benedict Shaw  
(Fifth Form, Temple)



# Gallery



Maddy Havard  
(Upper Sixth, Stanhope)



Pip Vickers  
(Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

Mina Haas  
(Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

# Bruce



© R & H Chapman Photography 2017

Housemaster: Mr Craig Sutton  
 Matron: Miss Amanda Penner  
 Assistant Housemaster: Mr Craig Donoghue  
 Under Housemaster: Mr Andrew Jackson  
 Mr James Popplestone

Head of House: Ben Solomon  
 Deputy Head of House: Oliver Pell

School Prefects: Joshua Dolder, Oliver Pell  
 and Ben Solomon

House Prefects: Tom Cowley, Joshua Dolder,  
 Daniel Kilmister and Edwin Rimlinger

So this is what the current Bruce Upper Sixth looked like when they started five short years ago...



And this is them now... boys to men! And what fine men the Bruce Leavers 2017 are.

Along the way we have seen much water under the bridge. GCSEs were successfully negotiated, 29 sets of APGs have been celebrated (for most), the odd sanction has been required and of course they have eaten lots of pizza!

In Bruce we like to get together as a House for mass games of football or touch rugby fuelled by BBQ food. We play inter 'family' games such as tug of war and 'beer pong' (yes.. without the beer!)





A second place in the Inter-House singing was creditable ▲

But what we really enjoy is the vast array of Inter-House events:

The Bruce seniors here proudly display the trophies picked up from a hugely successful year having won the Rugby, Cricket, Football, Swimming, Athletics & Basketball competitions.

The rest of the House supported them well so that we won the overall House Swimming and Athletics events ▼



◀ ..and the Juniors won the Basketball, Badminton and Football ▼



We were runners up in the Senior Debating, Inter-House Maths and surprisingly won the 'pumpkin carving'...

We combined with our neighbours in Queen's House to put on a great play titled - 'The nine worst break ups of all time'.

But one thing we are not very good at... is Punting... The newly formed Bruce 1st XI vow to train harder for our next outing.

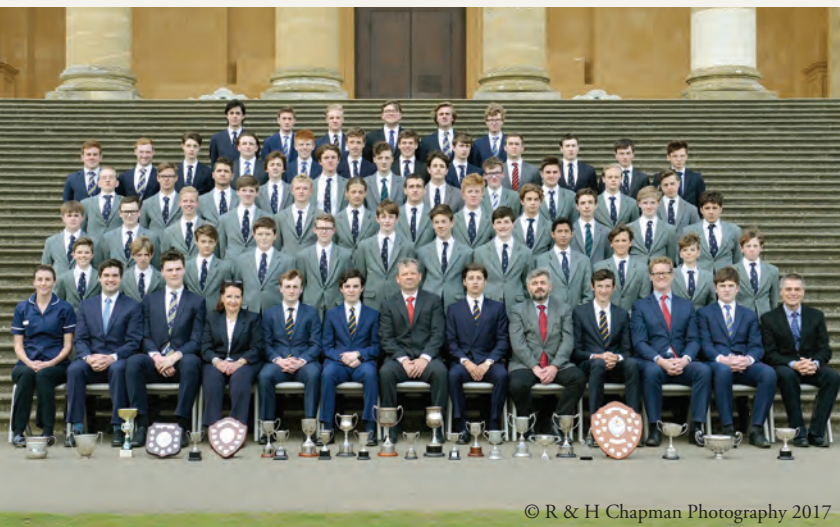
Huge thanks go to our wonderful Assistant Housemaster - Mr Donoghue, a man with a quite amazing array of talents, Miss Penner - the Bruce Matron - whose enthusiasm and cheeriness helps us through each day, and our Tutors Mr Lloyd, Dr Popplestone and Mr Jackson. I would also like to thank our tireless cleaners and our very handy 'handyman'.

*Mr Craig Sutton, Housemaster*



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# Chandos



© R & H Chapman Photography 2017

Housemaster: Mr Peter Deakin  
Matron: Mrs Clare Hill-Hall  
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Brian Hart  
Under Housemaster: Mr George Purves

Head of House: Archie Forsyth  
Deputy Heads of House: Kurt Leimer  
Robert Turness

School Prefects: Archie Forsyth, Henry Larkin  
and Kurt Leimer

House Prefects: Henry Larkin, Olly Clarke  
and Jasper Gibbons

## CHANDOS

Chandos has enjoyed significant success in all areas of School life this year. It is always tricky to pick out the main highlight, partly as there have been so many, but House singing clearly features strongly. Chandos chose 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' as their film-themed song and a real team effort saw them secure victory in the boys' unison song category. Arguably, this is the ultimate team event of the year for all Houses and it was great for Chandos to yet again feature in the top three, and this year with a win! Uniquely the House also doubled up this year securing the top boys' part-song spot with a spine tingling version of 'I won't give up' featuring Matteo Pangherz, Cyrus Shirazi, Arthur Marriott, Hugo Cliff, Philip Ilinich and Head of House, Archie Forsyth. The group performed this beautifully at the October 'Chandos at Home' lunch, when a School Record of 220 people attended, and the performance had many Mums shedding a tear. Equally impressive was the commanding and incisive performances that saw Max Moseley, Alex Hamilton Stubber and Alfie Cliff, clinch the Junior House Debating title in style. The trophy cabinet has also been healthily replenished thanks to many wins in sporting competitions such as Junior House Football, Hockey, Swimming, Golf and Athletics. The House is proud of encouraging and celebrating a diverse range of talents and interests, as other successes bear witness to.

Firstly, we say congratulations to Kristian Kay after gaining international representative honours playing rugby for Scotland U17s and Adam Williamson for representing the Irish Exiles U19s. Olly Clarke represented the senior Oxfordshire Minor Counties Cricket side, taking four wickets on his debut and toured South Africa with Sussex U19s at Christmas. Honourable mentions must also go to Fourth Formers, Ed Don for his international level fencing success and Chipper Shore-Hollingworth for his U15 Northants CCC involvement. Third Formers George

Hooper and Rhys Noble both represented Northants and remarkably made their debuts for the Stowe 1st XI as Third Formers in the second half of the season. Rhys has also been training with the England Midlands U15 Pathway programme for hockey and Third Form skier Matteo Pangherz secured victory in the Independent Schools' U14 giant slalom and went on to compete at the Great British Championships.

Other achievements include Henry Larkin playing rugby for Northampton Saints Academy and being appointed School Prefect (alongside Archie Forsyth and Kurt Leimer). Between Christmas and New Year, Deputy Head of House, Rob Turness, teamed up with Eliza Dubois of Nugent to run the entire perimeter of the Isle of White, following the coastal path which is 108km long (67 miles). This was to help raise funds for Winston's Wish, a charity which deals with child bereavement by helping the families through counselling and support. This was incredibly personal to Rob and Eliza who have both lost their fathers in recent years and they raised an astonishing £11,000 in the process.

Six members of the junior years were involved in the Lower School Academic Scholars' Group and this year also saw some strong academic performances. Three of the Upper Sixth Form have university offers from Loughborough and one from Exeter, Edinburgh and Bristol. Special mention must go to Alfie Cliff, Chipper Shore-Hollingworth and Ilya Riskin who have generated superb and consistent APGs throughout the year. Alfie also received the Brian Stephan Junior Scholar award on Speech Day and further Speech Day prizes went to Ian Payne for Business Studies and a special Headmaster's prize was presented to Archie Forsyth for his chairmanship of the Academic Council. The Junior Debating team coached by Matron, Claire Hill-Hall, Archie Forsyth and Henry Larkin, were a dominant force in the competition and secured victory over Lyttelton in the final.



With Max Moseley, Alex Hamilton-Stubber and Alfie Cliff, our debating talents will remain very healthy in the House for years to come.

Sporting success featured heavily this year with the Third Form winning the Junior House football on the first weekend, followed with a win over Grafton in the hockey final and Adrian Subowo claiming three trophies and joint overall best swimmer in the Lent term. The Senior rugby team bounced back to secure the Plate Trophy, the Senior Soccer players came second in the league and golf also featured strongly this year, with over a third of the House playing regularly. Drew Youds and Toby Stocks won the father and son honours respectively, amongst a field of 30, at the inaugural Chandos Golf day. Olly Clarke, shooting a remarkable two under par for nine holes, led Chandos to a memorable House golf win on the same day the Junior House team secured the Fives trophy. The Senior basketball team got to the final and Fourth Former, Josh McCallum, ran with real maturity and tactical prowess, beating the best runners in the Fifth Form to win the Cross Country Intermediate age category with over 160 participants. In the summer Josh also secured the 1,500m on Sports Day and strong first place performances from Freddie Tufnell, Adam Williamson, Archie Barnes and Augustus Keppel helped Chandos secure third place overall.

We say a fond farewell to the leaving Upper Sixth, many of whom were Mr Deakin's first Third Form intake, and two members of the House Tutor team this year. Mr Purves moves to his alma-mater, Monkton Combe School, to be nearer family. He has served as Under Housemaster and has always aimed to instill academic rigour and a love of music and we are grateful for his two years of service. Mr Hart also leaves Chandos after six fantastic years in the House Tutor team. For the last three years Mr Hart has been a hugely popular and respected Assistant Housemaster. His humour and competitive spirit will be missed but we are delighted he is taking on Housemaster of Temple House. Finally, myself and James Gill, our incoming Head of House for 2017-18, would like to thank the outgoing Upper Sixth Form prefect team, House Tutors Mr Nottage, Mr Griffin and Mr Dobson, and hugely committed and caring Matron Claire Hill-Hall, for all their hard work this year.

*Mr James Gill & Mr Pete Deakin, Housemaster*



# Chatham



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Housemaster: Mr Liam Copley  
Matron: Dr Rachael Scott-Copley  
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Thomas Elwell  
Under Housemaster: Mr Jack Palmer

Head of House: Archie Dixon-Smith  
Deputy Head of House: James Creedy Smith

School Prefects: Archie Dixon-Smith, Edward Good and James Creedy Smith

House Prefects: Edward Good, Jamie Metson, Angus Parsonson, Caspar Wallersteiner and Sacha Yonan

# CHATHAM

We aim to provide Chathamites with the skills to live happy and fulfilled lives in an evolving society. Our outgoing Head of House, when reflecting on his time at Stowe, said "The School and House helped guide me and I leave ready face the world and the challenges ahead." A Boarding House is fashioned by the people that live in it and the character they leave behind. At Stowe, Aristotelian values are instilled through the House community you live in, shaped by the shared values of those around you. Aristotle said that when you forget everything you learnt at school it is character that remains. So one may ask what the values Chatham instils in its boys are.

## 1. Compassion

The sponsored run to raise money for the charity Diabetes UK was a personal highlight of the year, raising an incredible £14,123 for this organisation, with Ben Sarraff (Third Form) individually raising over £5,000 - a hugely generous response from parents and pupils. However, it is the compassion that the boys show for each other that is the most important value of the House. The 'academic peer support' and 'buddy system' create a watchful eye of support from the year above and this prevails through the house group/family system.

## 2. Curiosity

It has been wonderful to see pupils try new things and involve themselves in the wonderful societies that Stowe has to offer. Lucas Farleigh (Third Form) continues to show his entrepreneurial spirit in his design and marketing of computer app games. A highlight of the year for me was Lucas winning the externally judged Novel writing prize which was open to entries from the entire Third Form. George Adams (Upper Sixth) and Olamikun Olarewaju (Upper Sixth) have both assisted in the publication of the school Science Review. Jamie Sharp (Lower Sixth) produces his own well followed blog offering new inspirational art each day which can be purchased by his thousands of followers on t-shirts. Chatham's established reputation with horses, Henry Frisby (Lower Sixth), Beau Carter (Upper Sixth), Algy Stanley (Upper Sixth), Jack Nesbitt (Fourth Form), Tom White (Fifth Form) and Wilf Fine (Lower Sixth) are all becoming accomplished polo players, whilst Henry Hobby (Third Form) pursues national recognition in equestrianism. Xan Kenlock (Third Form) ensured Chatham had a representative in the Stowe ski team, whilst Jack Polturak (Lower Sixth) and Hugh Fox (Fourth Form) have excelled in sailing. Maxi McNally (Third Form), Henry Hobby (Third Form) and Ben Sarraff (Third Form)







have all represented the unbeaten Under 14A rugby team and Ben has been selected by Northampton Saints to join their EPDG squad. Henry Saunders Watson (Fourth Form) and Ben Shamash (Fifth Form) are progressing in the county hockey system, whilst Oliver Taylor (Fourth Form) moves through the ranks in the county cricket teams. Theo Coley (Third Form) is an outstanding climbing leader. Music encapsulates our core values and Theo Hayes (Fourth Form), Caspar Wallersteiner (Upper Sixth) and James Bridgwood (Lower Sixth) all continue to amaze and entertain us with their talents, whilst John Patang's (Lower Sixth) rapping skills offer an alternative genre. The house drama production of 'There's a leak' gave many pupils an opportunity to be involved in something that is somewhat out of their comfort zone.

### 3. Resilience

We have taken our fair share of highs and lows in the House competitions this year. Despite all the hard work of Caspar Wallersteiner (Upper Sixth) in preparing the house for the singing competition the success of the past few years was not to be forthcoming this year, but it was a Stirling effort. However, the disappointment of Saturday brought the elation of Sunday, when Henry Hobby (Third Form) won the dressage, cross country and the House Equestrian cup for Chatham. This was followed by some outstanding performances in the cross country and the senior swimmers winning both the freestyle and Medley relay events and the overall boy's senior swimming cup. Guy Woodhouse (Lower Sixth) also won the trophy for the 100m backstroke and Jack Polturak (Lower Sixth) the 100m freestyle. Also in the pool, our intermediate House polo team won the House leagues captained by Alexander Girling (Fourth Form). The summer term brought success in the house sailing for Jack Polturak (Lower Sixth) and Hugh Fox (Fourth Form). The senior house tennis team lead by Edward Good (Upper Sixth) won the senior trophy without dropping a set, a feat Edward has achieved in all five of his years here at Stowe. Edward also won the whole school singles competition the 'Pope Shield'. Chatham won the Senior House badminton captained by Freddie Woods (Lower Sixth) and the Junior House tennis captained by Henry Saunders Watson (Fourth Form). But, with success

comes disappointment. This was none more so evident than in the 'Stowe Challenge' where we came 2nd overall. The House Athletics only offered glimpses of success with Maxi McNally (Third Form) winning the Junior 800m and coming second in the 1,500m, Dominic Saghri (Fifth Form) coming second in the intermediate 100m and 200m, Tom Olsen (Fourth Form) winning the long jump, 400m and leading the Intermediate 4x100m relay team to victory.

### 4. Responsibility

Teamwork, duty and accountability are required to hold any community together. From the junior house duty in the common room, to the kitchens, mail duty and settling in prep, all the boys play their role in helping make the house run smoothly. Archie Dixon-Smith (Upper Sixth) and James Creedy-Smith (Upper Sixth) have proved an excellent team as Head and Deputy Head of House and they have been ably supported by their Prefect team of Jamie Metson (Upper Sixth), Caspar Wallersteiner (Upper Sixth), Edward Good (Upper Sixth), Angus Parsonson (Upper Sixth) and Sacha Yonan (Upper Sixth).

### 5. Integrity

The boys are often told that it takes courage to do the right thing, no matter what the consequences will be. Building a reputation of integrity takes years, but it takes only a second to lose. Our tutor team try to set the right example and I would like to thank a young man of great integrity that leaves us this term, Jack Palmer who has been a resident in Chatham for the last two years. He has developed into an excellent boarding schoolmaster and the boys will miss him.

### 6. Independence

And so to the Chatham leavers - they have all helped shape the character of the House and their younger Chathamites and I thank them for the character they installed in the House. It was the great Martin Luther King who said "Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

*Mr Liam Copley, Housemaster*

# Cobham



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Housemaster: Mr James Peppiatt  
Matron: Ms Jo Dalrymple  
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Mike Rickner  
Under Housemaster: Mr Chris Grimble

Head of House: Brandon Lee  
Deputy Head of House: Jack Foreman

School Prefect: Brandon Lee  
House Prefects: Nikko Elliott, Stuart Milner,  
Toby Lawrance, Rory Smith and Miles Bell

COBHAM

This year has been a particular milestone for me as Cobham Housemaster, as it marks the end of five years with the current Upper Sixth, who have been with me on the 'Cobham journey' from the start. It is therefore fitting to begin this report with an acknowledgement and thank you to them all – I could not have hoped for a better group of boys to share the past five years with, and they have been exceptional in leading the House from the top, and setting the positive tone and culture which is so important in any House. Without exception, each of these boys have played their part in contributing to the life and success of Cobham. Space does not allow me to mention them all individually, but debating, academic results, shooting, House drama, hockey, cricket, rugby, football, robotics, and the Stowe Challenge are just some of the areas in which they have all contributed to the House. I am hugely grateful to all the departing Upper Sixth for all they have done, and I know that the benchmark they have set for the junior years and the current Lower Sixth in particular will mean that we continue to be a House characterised by its sense of community and support, warm atmosphere and commitment. My thanks and best wishes to them all for the future.

Following the success of our first Cobham House play last year, Charlie Seddon and Mr Rickner took up the dramatic reins this year to produce 'Pandemonium', a one act comedy set in hell where the demons are unhappy

with their lot and mount a rebellion against Satan. While House plays often look straightforward to produce, they are anything but, and my thanks to both Charlie and Mr Rickner, for all the hard work they put in to produce such an excellent performance. The plays are a wonderful opportunity for Cobhamites who have not been involved in whole school productions to bring out their thespian talents, and it was excellent to see so many new performers on stage this year, together with the old hands from last year – I look forward to Charlie's next production in 2018!

For our House charity, Cobham decided to continue to support Rainbows Children's Hospice, which does so much extraordinary work in providing palliative care for children and support for their families. This year, we organised a 10 hour charity football match, with the House rotating teams to providing uninterrupted play throughout the day. The boys certainly didn't thank me for waking them up at 7.00am on a Sunday morning to get started, but all their efforts paid off – we managed to raise over £3,000 for the Hospice, which has used the proceeds for some much needed refurbishment work.

In the House competitions, the Seniors once again put in a superlative performance in the hockey, with their year group taking home the trophy for the fifth year running. We also put up a spirited fight at senior level in both football and cricket, reaching the final for both competitions, but not quite managing enough for the





silverware this year. At the junior level, we emerged victorious in the plate final for cricket, and all years put in a commendably determined performance in the annual Stowe Challenge, where the Command Task team took first place in that element of the competition. As ever, I am loath to single out individuals for specific praise, as all the boys make their contributions to the House and the School in their own ways. However, special mention should go to two individuals who have both shown extraordinary resilience and determination this year. Firstly, to Will Perry, who leaves us to take up a place at Mount Kelly School to further his swimming ambitions. Will joined Cobham in 2014, and since that time he has pushed himself ever harder in his swimming, winning gold in the 50m Fly at the Para Swimming World Series. Secondly, to Daniel Jolker (Lower Sixth), who earlier this year suffered a severe diving accident that left him with a broken neck. Daniel has made a remarkable recovery since the accident, largely due to his sheer drive to recover in intensive physio sessions. Both boys are testament to all that can be achieved through hard work and focus – we are extremely proud of them both.

My thanks, as always, to the wonderful and hard-working team that makes Cobham run so smoothly. To our Matron, Jo Dalrymple, and our team of cleaners, Julie, Sue, Donna, Maxine and Gordon. To our Assistant Housemaster, Mike Rickner, who has done so much for Cobham in the past seven years, and leaves us to take up the Houseparents role in Queen's with his wife Sophie. And to the exceptional team of Tutors, Chris Grimble, Matt Teasdale and Paul Thompson, for their tireless dedication to the pastoral and

academic welfare of Cobhamites.

I'd like to leave you with the words of this year's Head of House, Brandon Lee, who sums up life in Cobham so eloquently!

"Cobham has been my home for the past five years, and you don't get the sense of togetherness and friendship in many other places. There is a perfect balance between the elements of tradition that are so important to Stowe but also a modernity about the House.

With boarding for long periods throughout the year, it's the small things that make a difference, whether that's simply a pizza on a Sunday night or a cake at break. That's what Cobham is all about - as a whole everyone is on the same page and we try to live in a positive environment where we all get on and understand everything about each other, good or bad.

For each of the years I have been in the House, there is a constancy about the place. No matter which group of boys are in the Upper Sixth, no matter how different in personalities, the goals are always the same. It's the kind of place where everyone is accepted and where we don't believe in separation or alienation.

The main factor I have always taken out of being in Cobham for this long is that no matter where you go in the House, there will always be someone to talk to and that is something I have felt since the first day I came into Cobham House. I hope that continues long after I leave!"

*Mr James Peppiatt, Cobham Housemaster*



# Grafton



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Housemaster: Mr Gavin Moffat  
Matron: Ms Terri Bosman  
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Richard Corthine  
Under Housemasters: Dr Charlie Standley  
Mr Tom Thorne

Head Boy: Jarrod Van der Westhuizen  
Head of House: Fabian Bevan  
Deputy Head of House: Oscar Holmes

School Prefects: Oscar Holmes, Tom Carne, Charles Granby and Fabian Bevan  
House Prefects: Charles Granby, Luke Wace, Finn Shillington, Diggory Slee and Tom Carne

## GRAFTON

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

The new Third Form pupils arrived in September and it quickly became apparent that they were both talented and lively in equal measure. They have contributed hugely to all aspects of School life with all of them representing School on a Saturday afternoon whether on the sports fields or within the beagling fraternity. Academic progress has been slightly more mixed and the challenge for this cohort is to channel their vim and energy into both work and play; should they achieve this then they have the potential to be

a vintage Grafton year group. The Fourth Form is the cool, calm and collected year group within the House. Often horizontal, never in a hurry for any school commitment but always full throttle when it comes to representing Grafton in the myriad of House and School events. Moving from the large dorms into the smaller studies next year will certainly help them to push on with their academic endeavours. The Fifth Form boys have once again proven themselves the eclectic and slightly dysfunctional group in House. Some left their sprint for the GCSE finishing line in June quite late whilst others were super-organised and took the all-important public exams very much in their stride. I look forward to seeing them grow and mature in the Sixth Form. The Lower Sixth has a real blend of mischief-making, fun, diligence, sporting and artistic prowess and a healthy streak of generosity of spirit running through it and I suspect that they will lead the House with distinction in their final year. Lastly, and certainly by no means least, I tip my hats off to a



wonderful Upper Sixth who've embraced Stowe and ridden it for all its worth. Despite the sleepless nights they've given me in their A Level journey, outside the classroom they are a tight-knit band of brothers who know how to party hard, be well-mannered, be very respectful of the House traditions and are generally a lovely group of young men to be around. They tell me their leavers' trip to Magaluf, viewing Majorcan tapestries and exploring the Romanesque architecture of the Spanish churches, was a real success.

The end of season highlights package would be a montage worth watching. The boys achieved 'la decima' back in October, winning House cross-country for the tenth consecutive year, whilst the Stowe Challenge was retained in May and perhaps could be the start of a similar streak of success? Coming second at Sports Day and in the House swimming proves once again that Grafton seem to be the House to beat, with numerous House competitions in the bag – junior cricket, basketball, swimming, cross-country, rugby and racketball worthy of mention whilst the seniors won their entertaining volleyball league to name but a few. Many Graftonians trod the boards over the course of the year with special mention to Archie Strong and Dave Dooley for their stellar performances in Junior Congreve, Max Campbell-Preston and Dan Biss who lit up the stage in 'Prodigy' and Nico Montgomery for cutting his directorial teeth in one of the Congreve plays. Finlay Sutherland once again led the way in the concert hall and his third place in the Mozart Trio competition was a source of great pride to all of us in House. Debating plays a large role in House life, and it always gives me great pleasure to watch the boys

in action in the debating arena. The senior team of Josh Landau, Tom Mayhew and Alex Harris lost narrowly in the senior final whilst Archie Chisnall, Harry Arkwright and Archie Strong proved the House's strength of depth making it to the semi-final of the junior competition with special mention to Archie Strong's outstanding performance which earned him his debating colours.

The strength of the House would not be possible without the leadership that the House Tutorial team provides. I would like to pay a particular parting thank you to two excellent House Tutors. Firstly, to Tom Thorne who has been a very dedicated, calm and unflustered Third Form Tutor and Under Housemaster in his time at Stowe and we wish him the best with his new job at The Grove Prep School in Milton Keynes. Secondly, to Dr Charlie Standley, as he embarks on the next stage of his career at Oundle School. Charlie spent three years as resident Under Housemaster in Grafton and has tutored junior year groups in this time. The greatest of many compliments that I can pay him is that he really knows his tutees so very well and has expertly guided them all through the trials and tribulations of life in and outside the classroom. My continued thanks to Mr Quinn and Mr Corthine for their unstinting commitment to all House matters and lastly, but by no means least, to the two ladies of Grafton who both put so much time and effort into looking after the Grafton boys – to Mrs Bosman and Mrs Moffat. I owe you both a huge debt of gratitude for helping Grafton to be such a caring, compassionate and fun community to be in.

*Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster*



# Grenville



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Housemaster: Mr Alan Hughes  
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Philip Arnold  
Under Housemaster: Mr Edward Smith  
Matron: Ms Julie Brenner

Head of House: Benjamin Skinner  
Senior Prefect: Benjamin Skinner

School Prefects: Lewis Bell, Anton Kondrashov, and Gleb Shcherbakov

House Prefects: Ned Hiley, Anton Kondrashov, Ollie Milne-Skillman, Tosin Segun, Gleb Shcherbakov, Dom Strong and Arthur Vickers

## GRENVILLE

They say, as a Housemaster, it takes two years to bed in, the House isn't yours until the third year and to be fair those words are not too far from the truth. This year in Grenville the rhythm has been smoother and the boys have got used to the standards and demands of, "The new guy."

The new Third Form have made their mark for all the right reasons and they have a breadth of talent I am impressed with. They have done their bit to help us retain the academic salver for two terms, we have won sports trophies at a canter, particularly athletics. I have three wanna-be Muskateers fencing every week, artists and musicians. They have benefitted from the introduction of the "Family System" where they are attached to a Prefect and a Mentor who act as their big brothers, having hot chocolate once a week, dinners and a Christmas treat at Prezzo. This new system was adopted by the Sixth Form who have steered them through their first few weeks, making them feel secure and confident in their own environment in the House. They have a sense of humour too.

The Fourth Form had a couple of new additions who have brought an extra dimension to the year group. They are an irrepressible bunch with characters jumping out from all dorms. My hunting, shooting, fishing brigade give a different meaning to the word chaos. Confiscating fishing rods, rabbit traps, catapults etc suggests I have my own

underground terrorist cell within Grenville and my office has its own security for fear of arms going missing. They certainly are the most untidiest year group collectively. It is quite an art form balancing all your clothes on the back of one chair but certain individuals seem to have made this an art form!

Well the Fifth Form all made it to the finishing post and we now await their GCSE exam results with interest. For several I am expecting outstanding performances as they have worked terribly hard. Watching them evolve from the Third Form, they have proved an interesting bunch. Individually they are all engaging and good company and yet when left to polarise in their groups, they defy logic in their approach. I look forward to them returning in their suits; young men with the Sixth Form ahead of them, new challenges and new horizons.

The Lower Sixth have got to grips with their subjects and I am genuinely pleased at the response they have shown, demonstrating more individual initiative and I suspect next year when the House is "theirs" so to speak they will flourish as a year group and come out from the shadow of this year's Upper Sixth. Three of them, Sam Flint, James Pocklington and Kit Rigby have all been made School Prefects, our congratulations go to them.





I had always great hopes of this year's Upper Sixth and they have not disappointed. They have great depth of character and maturity and they have led the House in a manner I would expect from all top year groups. They have understood the setting of standards, dress code, punctuality, courtesy, respect and have all demonstrated a work ethic that they can revert to when they hit the big wide world. They leave Stowe and in particular Grenville with a wonderful legacy and we all keep our fingers crossed for their results in August and that they get to the Universities of their choice. Some will go abroad, some will take a year out. They were ably led by Head of House, Ben Skinner, and his appearance and standards will be a hard act to follow but in Tom Purdon, I think we have a young man who can step up to the challenge.

Successes have been many, our retention of the academic salver is my pride and joy and is for me reflective of a bunch of boys who are tuned in to achieving, all I ask is that they graft. Sports wise Ollie Garson finished equal top try scorer in the School. Junior Rugby plate winners comprised of Oscar Wiseman, Toby Moore, Hugo Paynter Bryant, Ollie Garson, Garret O'Keeffe, Freddie Manners and Sam Birch. Junior Sprint Relay winners were Ollie Garson, Toby Moore, Sam Birch and Oscar Wiseman. The same seven won the Junior Hockey plate. Ben Edeh, Ollie Garson and Toby Moore all either equalled or beat previous track records in their years. Intermediate Rugby Cup winners were, William Osei-Poku, Federico Giesler, Paolo Alvigini, Tom Percy, Hugo Robinson, Elliot Mullarkey, Jamie Moir, Egan Brosnan, Ben Edeh and Sean Carslaw Tricot. Intermediate Rugby Leagues winners were Federico Giesler, Paolo Alvigini, Rupert Mathers, Alex Jones, Elliot Mullarkey, Charlie Miller, Cameron Chambers and Hugo Robinson Coldstream Cup winners were Hugo Robinson and Alex Jones. Badminton Singles winner was Henry Eleyin-Bingham, Shooting Singles Champion Ben Skinner, House shooting winners were, Ollie Milne-Skillman, Ben Skinner and Will Trumper. Geography Quiz winners were, Ben Skinner, Will Trumper, Hugo Robinson, Rupert Mathers and Robbie Haigh and the Universally Challenged winners were Gleb Shcherbakov, Ben Skinner, Ollie Milne-Skillman, Tom Purdon and Hugo Robinson. Speech Day Prize winners were awarded to Ben Skinner, Hugo Robinson, Myles Ryan, Lewis Bell with two, Cameron Chambers and Rowan Brudenell.

Around the boys I have been blessed with a fantastic staff team. Julie Brenner joined us as Matron and what an addition she has been. The boys are left in no doubt as to



where the boundaries are and if they step out of line they know about it, and for some this comes as a shock but a very necessary one. On the other hand, she demonstrates such compassion and empathy when they need it and it is justified and the boys know they can go to her as another voice of reason. She goes out of her way baking them their own personalised birthday cakes and the occasional treats when they least expect it. Our new Under Housemaster, Ed Smith, has also been a superb signing and whilst he claims to be a linguist, he still hasn't mastered Yorkshire yet. He has been another reason why the Third Form have turned out to be such a success. The guy can't stop smiling no matter how many times I tell him his native Worcestershire is a minor cricketing county. He has shown unbounded enthusiasm for his new role and the boys have responded accordingly. Mr Arnold as Assistant Housemaster is my right hand man, he covers in my absence and has such a terrific feel for the House and the School and the boys know there is a seamless continuity if I am not around. He and his wife Jo expect their second child in the summer so further additions to the Grenville family are due shortly. Sadly this year we have to say good bye to Judy Gracie, our non-resident Tutor. Judy steps away from the classroom to return to her original role as a Lab Assistant. Judy is particularly special, she was my eldest daughter's Housemistress when she was in Lyttelton and has offered worldly advice not just to the boys but to myself in her three years in Grenville. She is being replaced by Alec Stanworth, a Maths teacher, who will become next year's Fourth Form Tutor.

Finally, many thanks to you as parents who put your trust and your sons' welfare in our hands – they are boys to be proud of.

*Mr Alan Hughes, Housemaster*

# Lyttelton



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Housemistress: Mrs Valerie Green  
Matron: Mrs Tup Bertley  
Assistant Housemistress: Ms Kaitlan Griffin  
Under Housemistresses: Mrs Sarah Sutton  
Miss Marie Derrien

Head of House: Franny Moseley  
Deputy Head of House: Fabiola Koenig

School Prefects: Franny Moseley, Fabiola Koenig, Bella Coldstream, Clarissa Llanaj and Poppy Moore  
House Prefects: Poppy Moore, Georgia Charlton-Briggs, Savannah Courtenay, Celia Marment and Ellie Smith

## LYTTELTON

Recently I was asked a question by a new parent. What are Lyttelton girls known for? It was difficult to reply because I could fill a whole page with the response. The girls in Lyttelton are talented, successful, friendly, diverse, competitive, supportive of each other, collaborative and have many other qualities that don't win cups per se but which are incredibly important for the morale and spirit in House.

The beginning of term started with a bang. The GCSE results were fantastic and the envy of the School. Well done to the Fifth Form, their tremendous hard work paid dividends. Incredibly five of them have just been appointed School Prefects for next year which is a huge feather in the Lyttelton cap. During the year this very talented group of girls has led the way winning Myles Henry, McElwee and Warriors Scholarships. I am just waiting to see all

the photographs of their exciting adventures. Special mention must go to Evgeniia Zen in the Third Form who has astounded us with the sheer volume of merits, commendations and benes that she has been awarded.

The first Inter-House competition of the year, football (not our best!) found us winning accolades for sportsmanship but unfortunately we didn't score any goals so moving swiftly on! The singing competition result placed us second, not bad out of 13 Houses and definitely brought us all together during the many hours of rehearsals. We are determined to win back the top slot next year and preparations are already under way.

We are a musical House, alongside the wealth of other talents. There are singers, performers, both instrumental and drama, particularly Audrey Au, an extremely talented violinist, who was a finalist in the Musician of the Year.







Markia Guguberidze won a creative writing prize and Keira West came second in another writing competition.

At Speech Day the displays of DT projects and art work were fabulous and a credit to their creators. Seeing the quality of their finished pieces always makes me very emotional as I witness the heights they reach. The list of prize winners is very long: Franny Moseley - Physics, Art, public speaking; Ingrid Galler - English, Spanish; Myles Henry award; Savannah Courtenay - Spanish; Clarissa Llanaj - Geography, Gap Year Scholarship; Fabiola Koenig - Chemistry; Charlotte Bird - Design; Arabella Coldstream - Singing; Emily Banks - Drama; Alex Orton - Harvard Book Prize, Myles Henry Award; Celia Marment - Headmaster's Award. Congratulations must go to these very special young women of whom we are very proud.

We have girls representing the School in the majority of sports, hockey, lacrosse, fives, netball, swimming, riding, rowing, tennis, athletics, cricket, basketball, beagling to name but a few! Special mention must go to Clarissa Llanaj who was chosen for SE Lacrosse and Eleanor Butler who plays badminton at international level. The Inter-Girls were very impressive at Sports Day being pipped at the post by only two points.

Academically, Lyttelton continues to thrive. We have retained the academic salver all year and head the Headmaster's Supper lists for achievement. The Junior debate team lost in the final to Chandos following on the superb tradition of the Senior girls.

Again this year, we continued our support of the Drama Department, with girls performing in both Junior Congreve, 'The Prodigy', a musical and producing very thought provoking GCSE and A Level pieces.

Next year we have a superb Prefect team in place that will be ably led by Georgina Vallings as Head of House with Alex Orton and Ellie Dudgeon as her deputies. They will be joined by Lily Muirhead (Third Form, Sport) Charlotte Bird (Lower Sixth, Art, Photography and Interior Design), Alice Pryse (Lower Sixth, Academic/Girls in Science), Ingrid Galler (Lower Sixth, all things musical), Taisiya Danilitskaya (Lower Sixth, Overseas), Alice Hastie-Smith (Lower Sixth, Drama) and Hannah Venner (Lower Sixth, Social Secretary/Events Manager).

I would like to thank Franny and her team for their support throughout the year and wish the Upper Sixth all the best out in the big, wide world. They will be sadly missed.

We say goodbye and thank you to Marie Derrien who is moving back to Paris. She will be replaced by Kate Ware (the new Lacrosse Coach). The rest of the team will continue: Kaitlan Griffin as Assistant Housemistress, Sarah Sutton as Under Housemistress, Kim McMahon (Chemistry Teacher and Artist) and last but not least Tup Bertley (our Matron) and Trixie (her dog) who help to make Lyttelton a home.

*Mrs Valerie Green, Housemistress*

# Nugent



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Housemistress: Mrs Jayne Duckett  
Matron: Ms Marian Gallick  
Assistant Housemistress: Mrs Lyn Foden  
Under Housemistresses: Mrs Cheryl Davis  
Mrs Lucy Miller  
Miss Sally Whyte  
Head of House: Imogen White  
Deputy Head of House: Eliza Dubois

School Prefects: Georgina Skinner, Skye Longworth, Amy Jorgensen, Carmel Hobbs, Annika Ormerod, Imogen White, Eliza Dubois and Lisa Battilomo  
House Prefects: Claudia Carbutt, Skye Longworth, Lisa Battilomo, Amy Jorgensen and Katie Harmon

## NUGENT

Our first 13 year olds have reached the Upper Sixth and are about to leave, having been an outstanding group of talented academics and great role models for the girls who remain, hoping to fill their shoes.

‘Success means doing the best we can with what we have’ Zig Ziglar and it would be easy to give you a list of the cups won this year. However, it is the whole House competitions that speak volumes for the passion, competitive spirit and loyalty of the Nugent girls and it is these that should be mentioned:

House singing – unison, part and overall  
Overall House cross country  
Overall House swimming  
Overall Challenge Cup  
Overall Sports Day

The first term proved to be slightly more stressful than the last as we had six girls who were part of the Oxbridge process; Personal Statements, practice interviews and entry tests were slotted into everyday School life. Despite the night time revising, the whole House came together to sing our Unison Song Mash up as well as the Part Song – The Climb by Miley Cyrus. Mali Aitchison took control of House rehearsals and it was obvious from the start that she wasn’t going to accept second best! Little did we know that two terms later our Part Song was also going to be performed on the big stage in the Marquee on Speech Day to over 2,000 people.

Cross Country on a new date in October brought House and individual success with Zoë Pollock (Fifth Form) winning the Inters and Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Lower Sixth) winning the Seniors and setting a new course Record of 21 minutes 39 seconds.

Eliza Dubois ran the 68-mile perimeter of the Isle of Wight

for Winston’s Wish (our House charity). She and Rob Turness (Upper Sixth, Chandos) ran 16-19 miles a day and managed to raise £11,958.

The Lent Term started with the realisation that Lisa Battilomo had been offered a place at Oxford to read Languages. Meanwhile the remainder of our Upper Sixth were frantically waiting for offers from universities around the UK and fortunately they didn’t have to wait too long. This year’s chosen school musical was ‘Prodigy’ featuring Mali Aitchison, Annika Ormerod, Lucy Sutherland and Karimat Adebayo-Karim. There were regular rehearsals and the commitment and effort put in by the whole cast was truly amazing. We quickly moved on to House swimming where our junior, inter and senior teams all won their year trophies. Jemima Laurence was the Junior Champion, Zoë Pollock the Intermediate Champion and Kira Evans the Senior Champion. We joined forces with Chatham for the first time and staged a House Play entitled ‘There’s a Leak’ which follows a story of a little girl called Elsa (Amber Brogan) and her cat Igor who discover a leak in the pavement which just gets worse and worse. Martha Combe and Emma Grayson are to be congratulated for their first time role of Play Directors.

The Summer Term brought the Challenge Cup - a gruelling competition that certainly tests the faint hearted. Our Assault course team, ably captained by Emily Bourn (Lower Sixth), were phenomenal (again) - to produce a time of 3.26 minutes and beat every single House apart from Grafton is amazing. I wonder if they realise we have them in our sights for next year...

Nugent At Home, which happens every two years, is a great opportunity to showcase the talents of the girls as well as for parents to meet up and socialise. We are fortunate to have the talents of many musicians and dramatists and it



was superbly compered by Imi White as Head of House.

Before exam season hit us we finished the first half term with Sports Day. Again, it has to be a whole House effort and the one point that a girl achieves is as important as the eight points you get for the win. School records were broken by Jemima Laurence in Shot (9.44 metres), Zoë Pollock in Hurdles (11.7 seconds), Georgia Flawn-Thomas in 1,500 metres (5.06 minutes), Olivia Thomas in Javelin (35.16 metres) and Alice Maclure in Long Jump (4.82 metres). Our Inters and Seniors took the titles and then with the combined score from the Juniors, who only lost to Stanhope by four points, we won the overall trophy with 369 points.

The last half of term saw the Nugent common room taken over by initially the Fifth Formers and then the Upper Sixth as they all buried their heads in books and files. This gives me the opportunity to bid farewell to the departing Upper Sixth as they begin their lives in the outside world. I wish them the best of luck for their results in August. Imi White and Eliza Dubois have led the House impressively

throughout the year and in fact 'hot off the press' is the fact that Imi has been selected with her horse Emill for the Junior British Eventing team to compete in the Europeans in Ireland in July.

As always I would like to express my thanks to the Nugent staff team who keep me sane and support me in everything that we do. Lyn Foden has had a wonderful year as Fifth Form Tutor and Assistant Housemistress. Sally Whyte and Cheryl Davies have been excellent Under Housemistresses and Third Form Tutors – who would have thought this was their first year! Lucy Miller has remained loyal to Nugent despite other Houses trying to 'buy her in the transfer window' and she is one of the reasons why we have so many drama girls in Nugent. Rebecca Donaldson and Richard Knight for their evening duty nights and their very good humour. Marian Gallick who works tirelessly for the girls and staff, and manages to always make sure there is enough money in the budget to allow us to reward the winning teams and seemingly never goes off duty!

*Mrs Jayne Duckett, Housemistress*



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# Queen's

# QUEEN'S

This year has passed at a rate of knots and as I reflect on the House I am struck by a vast number of individual and collective achievements within Queen's. The supportive and ambitious atmosphere generated by your daughters is a pleasure to live and work in.

December saw the annual House Singing Competition in full swing. India successfully led and choreographed our House Song of 'The Pointer Sisters' 'Jump (For My Love)', a fun and energetic routine that saw us placed third in the competition. For this year's Part-Song, Starzie rearranged the iconic 'Up Where We Belong' into a beautiful merge of harmonies. The Part-Song choir sang wonderfully and were placed second. As Halloween approached there was success in the pumpkin carving competition with Amelia and Annabel taking the top spot – whose talents are truly endless. The crowning achievement of the Michaelmas Term was the House winning the Academic Salver, showing Queen's to be the best performing House academically, thus building on some strong GCSE performances by Issy, Lauren, Ellie, Thea, Emily, Libby and Luli, amassing 62 A\*s and As between them.

It has been so brilliant to see much of the House flourish in the arts events put on in the School throughout the year. Rosie and Libby dedicated countless hours to organising and directing the Queen's House Play, 'The Nine worst Breakups of All Time', in conjunction with Bruce. It was a resounding success, with many Queen's girls treading the boards, including Helena, Inez, Maya, Tessa, Fixy, Gracie, Zara, Niamh, Ellie, Coco, Rhea, Caroline, Koty and India. Phoebe, Hattie and Sophia were indispensable as the tech crew. Furthermore, the girls have thrown themselves into the dramatic performances produced by the Drama Department, with Helena taking a lead role in the whole school musical, 'Prodigy'. Junior Congreve produced four plays this summer with Coco, Niamh, Sophia, Fixy, Tessa, Juliana, Chloe, Amelia, Rea, Ruby and Alyssia taking to the stage.

The year has seen fantastic sporting endeavours from every year and House team. The spirit and determination of the teams saw us carry home victories for the Seniors football team, both Senior and Third form Hockey, Senior Lacrosse, Junior Tennis, Inters Netball to name some of the outstanding team performances. Sports Day – Zara broke the high jump, 100m and relay School Records, Thalia broke her own hurdles School Record. One of the House sporting highlights of the year was the Sprint Relay in the Challenge Cup, where the team dug deep to claw back an 80m lead from Nugent to see Thalia overtake Nugent's last runner in the closing 50m of the race, leading the team of Kitty, Amelia, Helena and Luli to victory.

Our previous Lower School debating team of Maya, Issy and Eleanor who championed the competition last year went on this year to win the Senior competition, in a fiercely fought final against Bruce. We look forward to watching them going on to do great things again in next year's event.

My time in Queen's has really flown by and I will miss the excitement, energy and most of all the girls in the House. Emily Osborne has been a faultless Head of House, ably supported by Charlotte Oswald and Izzy Baillie. This year's Upper Sixth have been exceptional they have led from the front, organising House events, supporting the House and each other and have contributed to a brilliant House atmosphere. I would also like to thank the team that have made my time in Queen's memorable: the Tutors, the amazing cleaners who somehow manage to keep the place looking spotless, the handymen, and all the support staff. Anne Reading deserves a special mention for her commitment and care she offers every girl in the House. I know that Mr and Mrs Rickner will enjoy this fantastic House and I wish them all the best as they embark on their new role.

*Mrs Fiona James, Housemistress*



Housemistress: Mrs Fiona James  
 Assistant Housemistress: Mrs Emma Ackroyd  
 Under Housemistresses: Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe  
 Miss Emma Wheatley  
 Senior Matron: Mrs Anne Reading  
 Head Girl: Thalia Felton  
 Head of House: Emily Osborne

School Prefects: Emily Osborne, Isabella Baillie, Isabelle Upton, Holly Wightman and Anna Wilson

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# STANHOPE



## STANHOPE

*"The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not fighting the old, but building on the new."* Socrates

As we come to the end of the academic year 2016-17, I sadly write my last reflections of the year gone by for *The Stoic* magazine. For those who now leave Stowe, and the home we have known as Stanhope, we undoubtedly leave with a mixture of emotions; a sense of sadness as the Stowe door now closes behind us one final time, but also excitement at the opportunity of new adventures and experiences ahead. I hold nothing back, when I state that Stanhope has been a very special home, where happiness abounds, and I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing in the lives of all the girls who I have had the privilege to support over the past six years as Housemistress. Stanhope, as a Boarding House, sits at the top end of boarding provision in the UK, with wonderful light and airy rooms and full ensuite facilities, but it is the girls who live there that make the House so special. I have been very fortunate to end my final year with an outstanding Upper Sixth year group, ably led by the wonderful Prefects: Savanna Elliott, Florence Fox, Amelia Bowder, Alice Hawke, Lydia Hope, Lucy Shamash, Sophie Tilleard and Milly Watkins. My sincere

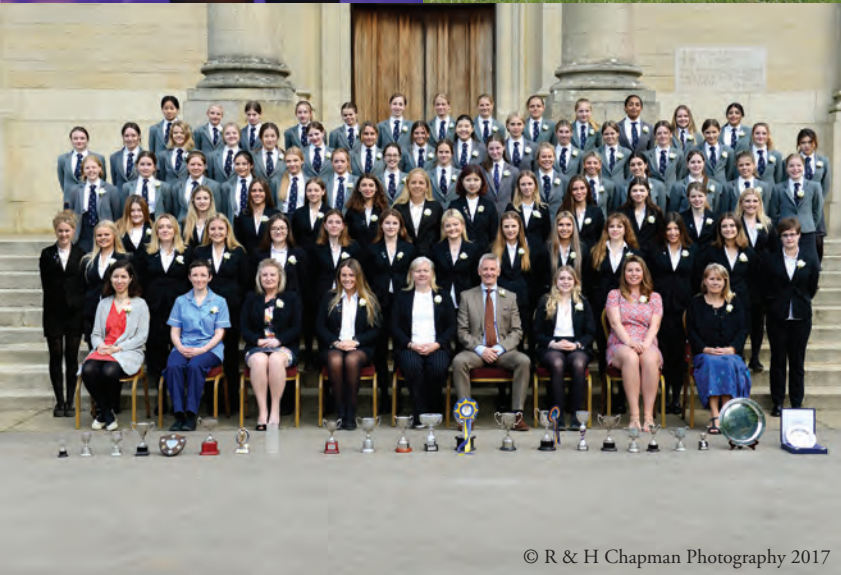
thanks go to them all for their hard work, reliability and wonderful sense of humour.

At the start of September, we officially welcomed our thirteen new Third Formers, who had already made their mark as winners, during the New Pupil Weekend. This enthusiastic and highly gifted group made light work of the complex de-coding competition around the school grounds in late June, each winning a prize for their victorious efforts. Emilia Havard and Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini added further successes in the cross country competition, coming first and second respectively, with the remainder of the Third Form not too far behind, giving Stanhope the overall first place in the junior race. Emilia set a new course record, which given her lightning speed to the finish line, will be a hard time to beat for future runners. Closer to the end of the year, this competitive group, accumulated enough points in the various events on Sports Day, to again take the winning position amongst the girls' Houses. With sights set high I hope this bodes well for future success in sporting events, as the girls now move into the Fourth Form.





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Housemistress: Mrs Sue Harmon  
 Matron: Mrs Shona Cannon  
 Assistant Housemistresses: Mrs Elena Hughes  
 Miss Lauren Ellis  
 Under Housemistresses: Miss Ana Vidal García  
 Miss Victoria Crook

Head of House: Savanna Elliott  
 Deputy Head of House: Florence Fox  
 School Prefect: Florence Fox

House Prefects: Amelia Bowder, Alice Hawke, Lydia Hope, Sophie Tilleard and Milly Watkins

In mixed year group competitions, Stanhope once again brought home the coveted Maths Challenge Trophy with a convincing win against all twelve other Houses. Whoever once said boys are better at Maths, needs to meet the illustrious team of Rosia Li, Maria Sharipova, Lauren Brigden and Dilyara Adilkhanova. Success also came our way, with a win in the ‘run’ element of the Stowe Challenge Cup, cementing second place overall for Stanhope. My thanks to all who took part in this tough competition:

Run: Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini, Emily Wilson, Una Barclay, Jemima Cecil, Lucy Shamash.

Assault Course: Bella Robertson, Emily Wilson, Tattie Page-Turner, Jaimie McIntosh, Lucy Shamash.

Swim: Tilly Jones, Zara Vickers, Tattie Page-Turner, Pip Vickers, Amelia Bowder.

Sprint: Emilia Havard, Zara Vickers, Esme Foster, Lottie Hopkinson, Amelia Bowder.

Command Task: Olivia Omotajo, Maria Sharipova, Esme Foster, Dilyara Adilkhanova, Cristina Topa.

Music and Drama remain strong pursuits for many of the girls in Stanhope, and performances this year from many of our gifted musicians and actresses have been exceptional.

Academically, the internal merits system afforded the juniors top spot in the Lent Term, recognition for which, now sits on the trophy shelves, in the form of the glistening Academic Salver.

Whenever I am asked about the type of girl who joins Stanhope, I am proud to reply that it truly is an ‘all round’ House. We have regularly celebrated achievement in all shapes and forms, with 2016-17 being typical of the successes achieved year on year, whether that be passing numerous individual grades in music or LAMDA exams, being selected for nationals in sport, coming top of the year in Maths, winning a Gap Scholarship Award, achieving first and second place in the Public School’s Fencing Championships, receiving rosettes for riding, being appointed as CCF Sergeant, being awarded ‘colours’ for tennis or recognition for being the most valuable player in hockey, or recognition for outstanding work on Speech Day, these are just a few examples of the diversity of talent amongst the Stanhopian cohort. All, without exception, bring something individual and special to the community.

I say my final thank yous to the staff for their support; I wish Stanhope the very best of luck, as the House now looks forward to “building on the new”.

*Mrs Sue Harmon, Housemistress*

# Temple



# TEMPLE

As I write my sixth and final summary of the year for Temple it is inevitable that it takes on a slightly different tone. I feel very privileged to have lived and worked in this extraordinary School. As I said in my farewell speech to the boys, as a Housemaster you gain a strong vicarious pleasure from the boys' achievements. Just as any parent, if you are going to take a certain portion of the blame when things go wrong, then you are only too happy to share in the credit for the successes. Running Temple House has provided me with so many wonderful memories and has given me the opportunity to take great pride in what the boys do. I thought that I would use this opportunity to reflect on some personal highlights from the past year.

Hearing that Sam Montgomery, George Williams, Bertie Alexander, Sebastian Wood and Hugh Buxton (the "Vanbrugh Boys") had successfully completed their 3 Peaks Challenge, raising a significant sum for the House charity, Heaton Ellis Trust. I also enjoyed them presenting an account of their endeavours to the School in the House Chapel service; Carlie Tufnell performing in the Sixth Form play, After Liverpool; Sean Martin singing in the Open Mic Night; Savva Zaytsev's outstanding performance in the Inter-House water-polo; Oleg Solovyev, George Williams, Louis Redfern, Tommy Cranmer and Willoughby Clarke amongst those making the APG trip for "most improved";

Tom Brooke's Christmas Dinner Quiz; Hugo Warner coming an impressive 9th in the U16 Independent Schools' Skiing Competition; Ethan Collins raising a significant amount of money and awareness for his rhino charity by embarking on a gruelling seven-day cycle challenge along the South Coast; George Gauvain continuing to get more Merits than most of the rest of the House combined; Josh McKelvey piping in the haggis for Burns Night Supper; and Tom Fox rowing in the School's 1st VIII. All of the Wednesday morning talks have been amusing, interesting or both: Kamsi Mbanefo on his school in Nigeria; Jonathan Dale on 'The origins of Life'; Ed Snushall on Marcus Rashford; Nathan Dana on the Holocaust; Henry Gauvain on Trump (on the morning of his election victory); Will Murray on Sports Relief; Harry Amorntein on Chapercoense plane crash, Kyale Mwendwa on Graphine; Ben Shaw on the myth of Coca Cola and the red Santa; Valentin Rummel on the role of ex-Presidents in the USA; Tim Guan on world population figures; Sean Chiu on the science behind workouts in the gym; Albert Preston on beagling; James Studholme-Colver on Nuclear fusion powerplants; Adam Twining on the Higgs Boson; Ed Ives on sleep paralysis; Aidan Chiu on a short history of Hong Kong; Matt Twining on interesting facts about China; Hugo Thomas on 10 things we didn't know about Trump; Tommy



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Housemaster: Mr Anthony Macpherson  
Matron: Mrs Julia Greenwood  
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Chris Warde  
Under Housemaster: Mr Ali Last

Head of House: Dominic Shaw

School Prefects: Bertie Alexander, Samuel Montgomery and Carlie Tufnell

Senior Prefects: Dominic Shaw and John Peatfield





Cranmer on interesting facts about cricket; Adam McKelvey on the Anthony Joshua Fight; Henning de Salis on Taiwan; Seb Wood on strange and interesting facts; Harrison Le Sueur on the Manchester bombings; Theo Finlan on British Brands; François Pearce on French politics; Taju Atta on Brioche! Other memorable events included: Louis Redfern getting to the final of the Inter-House badminton; Babalola Bakare and George Williams dancing to Night Fever at the front of the Chapel with the Headmaster in front of the whole School for Comic Relief; Kyle Mwendwa, Henry Gauvain and François Pearce getting their academic colours for their outstanding GCSE results; Dom Shaw leading the House's rendition of 'It's Raining Men' for House singing; Pete Entwisle and Oscar Hill performing in the School musical, 'Prodigy'; Taju Atta being selected to play rugby for England and equalling the 1964 School 100m Record of 10.8 seconds; Kitili Mwendwa's exemplary dress sense and his constant generosity; Oliver Pritchard and Nathan Dana representing the School in polo; Kyle Mwendwa being made a School Prefect; Patrick Beglin and Harry Amorntien's extraordinary skills playing indoor football on Saturday nights; Rory Trotman's determination on the rugby field and his dramatic and inexplicable conversion to tidiness; Nathan Lavelle and Will Murray providing the mainstay of the Inter-House water-polo; Tom Wallace taking on the editorship of the House newsletter; Mikhail Fedotov performing well in the Inter-House golf; Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan and Sebastian Wood winning the House Fives; John Peatfield captaining the team to victory in the Literature Quiz; Harry Kirby cycling in a 70 mile race in the morning and running in the Stowe Challenge in the afternoon; Luke Aust winning his cross country colours and running the 1,500 metres for the House on Sports Day; Taju Atta, Luke Aust, Sean Chiu and Francois Pearce

winning the 4x100m relay on Sports Day; Theo Finlan winning the Third Form recitation prize for his Kubla Khan.

This list is merely a snapshot of what has gone on during the year and of what I will remember the boys for. Thank you to them and to the magnificent team of Julia Greenwood, Chris Warde, Ali Last, Howard Hoare, Andy Wilson and Carolyn Capella for all their hard work and dedication towards the House. I wish Brian every success as he takes the House forward.

*Mr Anthony Macpherson, Housemaster*



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# Walpole



Housemaster: Mr Gwilym Jones  
Assistant Housemaster: Mr James Knott  
Under Housemasters: Mr Fergus Parnaby  
Mr Giles Cuddy  
Matron: Mrs Jean Dufort

Head of House: Piers Edinborough  
Deputy Head of House: Gabriel Chauveau  
Senior Prefect: Piers Edinborough

School Prefects: Gabriel Chauveau and Oliver Norton  
House Prefects: Alfie Kingham, Hamish Murray, Jack Jenkins, Jack West and Hamish Graham Campbell

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## WALPOLE

Once again this has been a very exciting and eventful year for Walpole, not least because we started in September knowing that Mr Last would be handing over the House in January after eight years at the helm. I am really pleased that the boys made sure that his last term as Walpole Housemaster was one to remember, for all the right reasons obviously!

As always this year we have celebrated the diversity of Walpole, with the boys really stepping up and ensuring that we are represented in a wide range of events throughout School life, be that academically, musically or on the sports field.

Music and drama have been particularly notable this year with fine performances from Walpudlians in a wide range of events, not least a fantastic whole-House performance in the House Singing Competition which saw us achieve third place with a haunting rendition of Ed Sheeran's "I see Fire", a performance which really reflected the community spirit of the House. It is no surprise that we perform well in this area given the amazing talent in the House; Alex Grinyer continued his success this year playing on various tours with the National Youth Orchestra and we have also seen countless exceptional performances from Jeffrey Au on the piano. Jeffrey has also seen success in a range of competitions this year including making it to the Finals of the Buckinghamshire Young Musician of the Year Competition. In the Michaelmas Term we were given another opportunity to see Tom Frasier in action on stage in this year's Congreve production of 'Prodigy', another fantastic performance from Tom and I am sure we are due to see more of his talents as he moves into the Sixth Form. Henry Pearson made a very accomplished appearance in this year's Junior Congreve productions when he took a lead role in a very moving production of 'Blackout'.

On the sporting front our limited ability to bring home

the silverware from Inter-House events does not really reflect the sporting talent within the House and it has been very pleasing to see the boys enjoying success in so many areas. In the winter sports Jack West and Hamish Murray had a very successful season playing for the 1st XV, whilst Piers Edinborough and Gabriel Chauveau took to the Hockey pitch playing for the 1st XI. Jamie Hungin's experience playing for the 1st Squash team helped us to bring back the Junior Inter-House Squash trophy, whilst Hamish Graham-Campbell and Daniil Samiev helped us hold our own in the Inter-House Swimming competition with Daniil winning the 100m Freestyle in the finals. Alex Man and Oliver Reed both started their Stowe sporting careers in style with Alex showing real promise on the rugby pitch for the Yearlings A team and Oliver following suit on the cricket pitch. Sports Day demonstrated that Walpudlians may not be the quickest, however we are good at 'throwing things' with Mark Kanjana winning the IM boys Javelin and Harry Reed winning the IM boys Discus, indeed Harry's throw would also have won the Senior competition! However none of these performances can match the power of Walpole Water Polo, with a third of this year's Senior Boys Water Polo team being made up of Walpudlians led by Alfie Kingham, unsurprisingly they had a fine undefeated run to become Inter-House Senior Water Polo champions. These are just a fraction of our sporting achievements and it is fantastic to see such a large proportion of the House representing the School every week in all manner of fixtures.

Academically Walpole has continued to go from strength to strength and boys from all year groups have seen notable success in the classroom over the course of the year. In the Third Form, Crispin Marshall-Rowan and Alex Man have regularly topped the APG charts, whilst further up the School, Piers Edinborough, Gabriel Chauveau, Oliver Norton, Jamie Hungin, Rohan Sekhri, Harry Mehta,



Larry Zhao and John Balcon Perez have done a fine job setting an example for the rest of the House. A focused and conscientious approach to academic endeavour has ensured that we have now retained the Senior Academic Salver for four terms in a row! Walpole was well represented in the prize giving on Speech Day with Larry Zhao winning the Robert Houghton Prize for Internet Achievement, Alex Grinyer the Leslie Huggins Prize for Excellence in Music, John Balcon Perez the Anthony Pedder Prize for Chemistry and Piers Edinborough the James Mayne Prize for Politics. This is a great reflection of the talent and focus within the House and sets the bar high for the years to come!

After a roller-coaster first two terms as Housemaster of Walpole, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to

Piers Edinborough, Gabriel Chauveau and the rest of the House Prefect team for their unwavering support this year. They hand their positions over to a very strong Prefect team for the coming year with John Balcon Perez, Jamie Abbot-Davies and Max Shannon at the helm. With two Senior School Prefects (John Balcon Perez and Thomas Leach) and a School Prefect (Harry Pullin) on the team, I am sure that they will be setting a fine example to all Walpudlians over the coming year. Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to the staff team of Jean Dufort, James Knott, Giles Cuddy and Fergus Parnaby for all of their hard work and support over the course of the year.

*Mr Gwilym Jones, Housemaster*



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# West



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**Houseparents:** Mrs Julie Johnson  
Mr Roland Johnson  
**Matron:** Mrs Ilona Harding  
**Assistant:** Dr Gordon West  
**Under Housemistresses:** Miss Anna Chaumont  
Miss Sandy Wong

**Heads of House:** Tom Bownes  
Sophia Sander

**School Prefects:** Tom Bownes and Sophia Sander

# THIS YEAR

This year the West House Stoics have continued to innovate and excel in all areas of the School. The arrival of this year's new Lower Sixth was followed very quickly by the arrival of a rather large building site in the middle of the West House complex. The Stoics worked around the presence of the development site with great maturity and aplomb, no doubt as curious and excited about the next evolution of this boarding community as the staff team have been!

The new Lower Sixth brought with them talents and accomplishments in so many different areas, joining with our existing Upper Sixth to complete a powerful and determined house. Joshua Armstrong exploded onto the rugby scene here at Stowe as soon as he arrived in September, representing Stowe at the very highest level and earning his 1st XV tie. Joshua Clipsham equally took no time at all in demonstrating his abilities in the Senior Debating competition, winning Speaker of the Evening two rounds in a row. On the girls' side, Charlotte Brennan this year won the Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year Award with her incredible harp playing, while Ellen Arnall won the Gilling-Lax Prize for Woodwind and was voted the outstanding performer of the evening by the audience at the Mozart Trio competition. Molly Hopkinson-Woolley, Muthoni Kibaki and Tilda Bonham Carter astounded and amazed with their contributions to Drama this year, with Molly being awarded the Bell Quiaich for Theatre Crew for her outstanding contribution

to the Senior Congreve performance of 'Prodigy'. These are only a few of the exploits and achievements of this year's Lower Sixth!

This year was characterised by West House making its mark in the Inter-House competitions. The year began with a fantastic performance by West in the House Singing competition - the Westites' version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah (with harp accompaniment) was without a doubt the most touching and emotionally charged offering of the evening. The Inter-House competitions then flowed thick and fast, with excellent challenges being made in the Senior Debating, Inter-House basketball (boys and girls), badminton, swimming, netball, cross-country and athletics. This year, for example, the West House girls' team brought home West's first ever Stowe Challenge Cup for the Command Task - well done to the girls! Equally impressive were a number of individual performances, including Hattie Webb's outstanding win in the girls' freestyle swimming.

While we are so proud of the West House Stoics for coming together and demonstrating the kind of commitment and teamwork that most Houseparents can only dream of, there are also a number of outstanding individual achievements that deserve a mention. Oscar Sanchez Zurita this year became the first ever West House Stoic to be selected for a national team. Oscar was selected to play for the Spanish U19 Rugby team, and competed





in a televised European Championship. Oscar also won his 1st team tie this year, to round off a highly successful Sixth Form playing career. Kyryll Burkynskyy in the Lower Sixth also competed regularly in national BMX qualifier events, reaching a highest national ranking of seventh in his age category. Emily Ulmann co-captained the Stowe 1st Lacrosse team this year, attending a number of national competitions. Emily's success has contributed in no small measure to the name of Stowe being synonymous with top-class school lacrosse achievement.

We should never underemphasise in the annual report how dedicated the West House Stoics are to their academic work. Against a background of intense Inter-House competition, dramatic performances and musical events, the West House Stoics have also been making incredible strides in their A Level studies. This year, Sophia Sander gained two offers of university places to read Medicine, which is a wonderful achievement. Isobel Dykstra finished her Stowe career with a 100% A grade record in her APGs, and was awarded a Headmaster's Special Prize at Speech Day for the outstanding academic progress she has made. The Upper Sixth in West have earned an incredible array of top university places this term, with a number heading to UCL, St Andrew's, Bristol, Durham, Imperial, among others.

One of the most exciting events of the West House calendar this year was our annual charity event. Born of an inspiration from our very own Kanav Bhatnagar and organised by the Heads of House, West House undertook

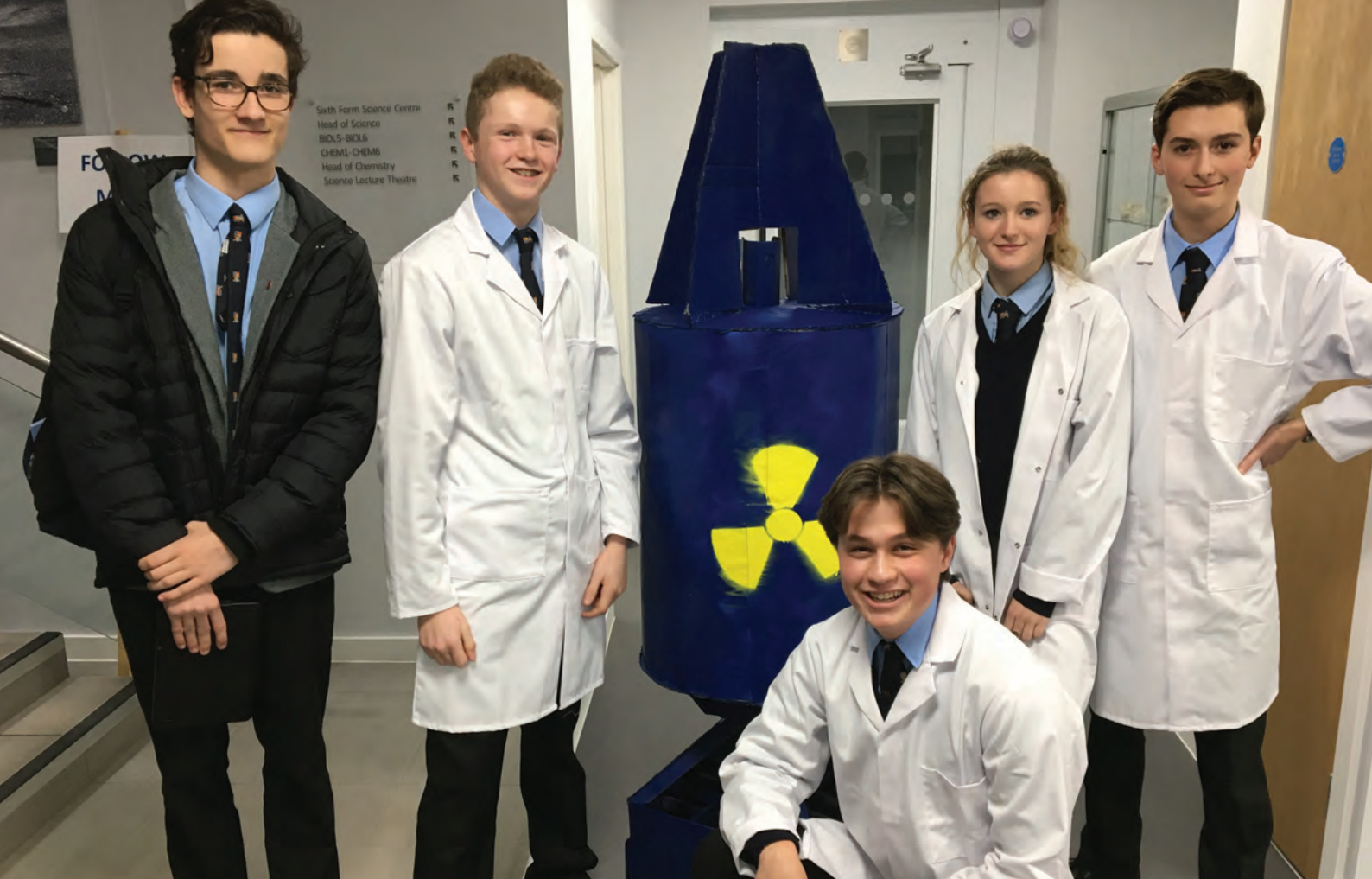
the organisation and delivery of a whole-school charity quiz by the name of Universally Challenged. Teams from across the other Houses battled it out in the name of fundraising for the Starlight charity to be crowned the 'know-it-alls' of the School, with Grenville House emerging victorious on this occasion. With a seriously shiny cup dedicated to this event, the West House leadership team are hoping to make Universally Challenged an annual school event.

With one fifth of the House winning a prize on Speech Day (Sophia Sander, Thomas Bownes, Harriet Webb, Isobel Dykstra, Molly Hopkinson-Woolley and Charlotte Brennan), it is clear that West House is going from strength to strength. As West moves into a new future as an all-girls House from this coming September, there is no doubt that the same enterprising, passionate and dedicated House ethos will endure.

We as Houseparents are so grateful to Sophia Sander and Thomas Bownes for jointly leading the House this year. Sophia and Thomas are succeeded by Muthoni Kibaki, who will take on the role of sole Head of West House next year. Muthoni will be supported by Charlotte Brennan and Lee-Ann Sule as Deputy Heads of House. We also offer our thanks and best wishes to the wonderful and gifted West House Stoics moving on to pastures new at the end of this term, and we look forward to hearing of their successes in the years to come.

*Mr Roland and Mrs Julie Johnson, Houseparents*





# LOWER SCHOOL

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARS

This year, the Lower School Academic Scholars' Group underwent a bit of a change. Rather than focus on individual weekly sessions, we instead looked at broader themes or topics running throughout a term. This allowed each LSAS group to sink their teeth into a topic, and go deeper – researching and investigating the areas that were of interest to them.

The Michaelmas Term saw us turn our attention to the theme of 'War and Conflict'. A broad theme encouraged individuals and small groups to really make of it what they wanted - and we saw a terrific range of final products. From a discussion on the evolution of weapons, to essays covering *Mental Conflict* by Samai Lamberti (Fifth Form, Queen's) to *The Illusion of Control in War and Conflict* by Alfie Cliff (Fourth Form, Chandos). A particular highlight for me was the work of Will Fox (Fifth Form, Bruce), Cameron Chambers, Hugo Robinson (both Fifth Form, Grenville), Hannah Laurence (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Ben Shamash (Fifth Form, Chatham) who, having identified a shared interest in the science of the atomic bomb, set about building a scale model of a nuclear warhead (thankfully, without the uranium). This accurate model now adorns the back of my lab in Physics, and I am looking for a location where it can be proudly displayed in the Science building for all to see. The Michaelmas Term also saw the group head off to visit the historic home of the World War II codebreakers at Bletchley Park, where we got hands on with a real Enigma machine captured from the Nazis in 1941.

Lent Term saw us shift our focus to a (slightly) futuristic endeavour - colonising Mars. With climate change affecting our planet, perhaps it's not too unrealistic to start to plan for Earth 2, and where better to begin than our solar neighbour. However, the challenges we would face are numerous, and the LSAS students spent the term identifying the various problems inherent in getting to Mars, living there, and getting back. We had designs for spaceships that would limit the effects of muscle degradation and designs for living quarters on the Red Planet that would make life as similar to Earth as possible. We have even had groups looking at the various theories regarding possibly terraforming Mars – from nuking the poles to productive pollution, LSAS members have again impressed with their ability to think laterally (and rely on nuclear weapons).

Speech Day saw the awarding of the Brian Stephan Junior Scholar Prize, which this year was awarded to Alfie Cliff (Fourth Form, Chandos). Congratulations to Alfie, and my sincere thanks to all the Stoics who have contributed so heavily to the Lower School Academic Scholars' Group this year.

*Mr Craig Donoghue, MiC LSAS*



# HEADMASTER'S ESSAY SOCIETY

This academic year has seen continued Oxbridge success for the School. The sizeable membership of the Headmaster's Essay Society (HMES) yielded eleven calls to interview at the end of the Michaelmas Term, with Lisa Battilomo (Nugent) and Emily Osborne (Queen's) subsequently receiving offers from Oxford respectively to read French at St Hugh's College and History at Lincoln College.

The Lent Term saw an influx of new aspiring applicants in the Lower Sixth keen to hone their intellectual edge during the seminars, discussions, debates and interviews that comprised the majority of the Society's weekly meetings. With a membership broadly comparable in number to 2016, the HMES retained the model of splitting the cohort into separate seminar groups concentrating on Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities. In addition the team from Oxbridge Applications made a popular return with their highly accessible and well-tailored session on the nuances and demands implicit in the Oxbridge application process. We look forward to welcoming them back in September to help this year's candidates add the finishing touches to their application campaigns.

Stoics have also undertaken a significant number of independent visits to a broad range of Colleges and Faculties throughout the year in order to gain brief but valuable first-hand insights into what an Oxbridge degree entails. Maximising the logistical opportunities offered by the Stowe Music concert at Trinity College Cambridge, several Stoics managed to clock up a grand total of eight separate College tours in three hours, an exhausting but invaluable way to gain first-hand comparative insight into the university.

The HMES continues to deliver its remit to prepare candidates for the rigours of submitting a university application to Oxbridge as well as for all medical, veterinary and dental degrees. A key adjunct to this role has been the maintenance of a significant element of subject-specific activities, whereby Stoics have routinely engaged in Departmental enrichment sessions tailored to develop an in-depth and intrinsic knowledge of their degree subjects over and above the standard A Level curricula. I should like formally to record my thanks to colleagues in all Departments who have gone out of their way throughout the year to help the School's Oxbridge candidates broaden their intellectual horizons and prepare themselves for admissions tests and interviews.

Mr Jon Murnane, MiC Headmaster's Essay Society



## Songwriters' Society

This year marked the establishment of a formal Songwriters' Society, open to all the budding musical talent in the School who pen their own material. In the weekly meetings, students discussed their artistic process, demoed new songs in a safe and supportive environment, and provided constructive feedback in the manner of other creative writing programmes. You did not need to be a singer or performer to join the society, and all those with a passion for writing songs were welcome. The Group held its first major concert in the

Summer Term, with a number of artists from all year groups performing their own songs, including Bella Coldstream, Mali Aitchison, Max Campbell-Preston, Helena Vince, Sofia Atkinson-Hieber and Mimi Pearson-Gee. The event was highly successful and demonstrated the impressive level of songwriting talent at Stowe, which I hope will continue to be nurtured and showcased in the years to come.

*Mr George Purves, MiC Songwriters' Society*

# Biomedical Society



This has been another busy year in the Biomedical Society. The topics ranged from the dinosaur era to the present day. Matthew Barnes-Murphy's (Lower Sixth, Bruce) encyclopedic knowledge of dinosaurs has produced some fascinating talks and we were very fortunate to have Professor Sue Fuggle from the University of Oxford give an up to date summary of the problems faced by transplant groups all over the country. Many of the students have given thought provoking talks, too many to mention individually but Jonny Dale has presented some excellent work on recent scientific developments and Stuart Milner's talks always promote heated discussions! It is a good forum for students to try out ideas and gives them an opportunity to defend their (sometimes radical) views amongst their peers. The year ended with the Quantum versus Biomedical Society croquet match. This annual event is fiercely contested and this year I am delighted to report that the Biomedical Society were the victors!

This year, eight students entered the Biology Olympiad. This is a national competition for students in their A2 year. The questions, which are completed on line, cover a whole range of Biology topics and are not confined exclusively to the A Level syllabus. The results were outstanding; one commended, one highly commended and four silver medals, going to Jonathan Dale (Upper Sixth, Temple), Fabiola Koenig (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Stuart Milner (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Beth Ackroyd (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) who only missed gold by one mark!

*Mrs Louise Carter, MiC Biomedical Studies*



## Junior Biomedical Society

This was the inaugural year of the Junior Biomedical Society, set up to provide an opportunity for members of the Junior School to explore the diverse areas of Biology away from the confines of the curriculum. Students attending have had the opportunity to discuss the areas of Biology that interest them, ranging from curing cancer to biological warfare. On the practical side, members helped to demonstrate the uses of gel electrophoresis to visitors at the opening of the Worsley Science Centre and built a new PCR machine for the Department.

The PCR machine that the students built (using parts from a kit shipped from the USA) will be a crucial bit of equipment as we hope to make progress in some new projects next year. The machine allows for the rapid copying of specific segments of each person's DNA, and will allow us to look at our own genome and analyse the differences. From this we hope to go on and build our own 'DNA self-portraits' showing the genes that code for different characteristics.

The Society was also used to launch the Biology Challenge for the first time at Stowe. This is a national competition open to members of the third and fourth form, that tests the student's knowledge of all areas of Biology, not just what they have covered in School! There were successes within the group with three Silver Awards (Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Third Form, Walpole) (missed gold by one point!), Rosia Li (Third Form, Stanhope) and Hannah Laurence (Fourth Form, Stanhope)), and three Bronze Awards (Adam Twining (Third Form, Temple), Theo Finlan (Third Form, Temple) and Paul Purdon (Fourth Form, Grenville)), a great achievement given that this was the first time this competition has been run in School.

I look forward to running the Junior Biomedical Society next year and invite new members to attend in September from the Third and Fourth Form.

*Dr James Popplestone, MiC Junior Biomedical Society*







# Corkscrew Society

The year started with Ben Mercer at the helm and our first wine tasting experiencing was very enlightening and a great first insight into the world of wine. Stoics were divided into small groups and asked to present on different grapes, the growing areas, technique, colour, aromas, tastes and individual qualities. There followed tastings of some very fine wines Stoics had just learned about.

Over the course of the year, we had many fascinating speakers, all giving us an extensive education about wine. In March, Jerome Harlington of Trailblazing Wine gave one of the best presentations which was an informative and helpful guide for young people learning about wine. We tasted Nyetimber English sparkling wine from West Chiltington (West Sussex); Champagne Deville Carte Noire Brut from Verzy; St Nicolas Michon Rose Reflets, Loire; Carterton Elegance Cotes de Provence Rose 2015; Domaine de Leyrissat 2014, Monbazillac and finally, Azienda Agricola Gamba, Recioto 2006, Valpolicella.

The highlight of the year was the annual Corkscrew Dinner organised by Clare Hill-Hall with Chris Wightman (OS) as our guest speaker. With a delicious assortment of wines and the presence of the Headmaster and Second Master, we celebrated a wonderful end to our oenophilic year. There was also a very challenging quiz which resulted in Sam Montgomery and Amelia Bowder (with an honourable runner up, Rory Smith), both winning a bottle of 1998 Chateau La Tour each, which was kindly donated by Philip Gray (OS). The Corkscrew Society would very much like to thank the Stowe staff, all our visiting speakers for enhancing our knowledge, Janet King for all her behind the scenes assistance, the staff of the General Office and particularly, Clare Hill-Hall, for going to such lengths and organising truly lovely evenings for us all. We look forward to another splendid year of learning and enjoying good wines and company.

*Charles Granby (Grafton), Eliza Dubois (Nugent) and Mr Crispin Robinson (Second Master)*

# Debating

It's been an exciting year for the Debating Society with some nail-biting competition and strong House spirit. The Senior Competition ended with a Bruce versus Queen's final, debating the motion 'This House Believes that a protest vote is not a progress vote'. Although the final scores were close, the Queen's team of Eleanor Trotman (Lower Sixth), Issy Leondiou (Lower Sixth) and Maya Tearle (Lower Sixth) were the worthy winners. The Junior Debate Competition was then an opportunity for the Sixth Form to learn to organise and chair the Debates. Stuart Milner (Upper Sixth), Chairman of the Debating Society was ably assisted by Ingrid Galler (Lower Sixth), John Peatfield (Upper Sixth), Issy Leondiou (Lower Sixth) and Eleanor Trotman (Lower Sixth) as they chaired a strong junior competition. The able winners were the Chandos team who won the Debate 'This House Believes that Science is more important than the Arts', with just a few points on the

runners up from Lyttelton. The Chandos team comprised Max Moseley (Fifth Form), Alex Hamilton Stubber (Fifth Form) and Alfie Cliff (Fourth Form). Special Debating colours were awarded to the winner of the prize for "Speaker of the Competition", Archie Strong (Third Form, Grafton); Archie spoke with impeccable poise, humour and logic and it will be interesting to see how he performs in future. Special mention should also go to Jess Potts (Fifth Form, Nugent) who has supported the Debating Society consistently and we look forward to hearing her debate in the Senior competition next year.

*Mr Craig Donoghue, MiC Debating*



# Literary Society

This year's Senior Literary Society proved to be entertaining and popular, with a stimulating range of events and speakers for Sixth Form Literature students throughout the year. We kicked off with a visit from the crime novelist Leigh Russell, who captivated her audience with stories that had inspired the dastardly deeds that make up her fiction. She then spoke at length about the writing process, and we proceeded to take our notebooks to the South Front where everyone had a go at creating their own mystery setting, which revealed some budding writers lurking in Stowe's corridors! It was fun to think of the Blue Room and the grounds as murder mystery locations rather than the many other uses to which they are put!

Later in the term we welcomed performance poet Ash Dickinson, who likewise spoke about what inspired his work and delivered a range of poetry, old and new, from his collection. This event was open to the whole School, but enjoyed good attendance from members of the Senior Literary Society. In January, we enjoyed a formal Burns Night Supper – an event organised by our resident Scot, Mr Donoghue, and the ever-enthusiastic John Peatfield, who put together a memorable tribute to the great Scottish bard. The Headmaster's address to the haggis was particularly striking, and members of the Upper Sixth were impressive in their delivery of the traditional elements of the celebration.

Another highlight of the year was Stowe's first entry into the national Poetry by Heart competition, an initiative created by Sir Andrew Motion to promote the genuine appreciation of great poetry in schools. Competitors chose a poem from an anthology of 200 pieces starting with Anglo-Saxon verse right up to contemporary poetry. Twelve Lower Sixth students accepted the challenge to compete in front of their peers,

and if that wasn't enough pressure, the event was judged by the Heads of Drama, English and the Headmaster. The renowned poet Patience Agbabi delivered a riveting talk and performance; as a national competition judge, it was pleasing to hear her praise the high standards reached by Stowe's performers, a number of whom she said were on a par with the highest competition standards.

We were delighted to invite a writer from our own teachers to address the Upper Sixth Leavers' Dinner in May. In his after-dinner speech, Dr Richard Pawson spoke about the ways in which we can all relish the stories of our own lives. At first glance, his 40 year career working in and around the IT industry - including spells in product management, technology journalism, toy design, management consultancy and software development – do not immediately suggest that he is a gifted storyteller, but that was just the point. Everyone has stories to tell. Each pupil left with a signed copy of his book 'Reflections', a collection of vignettes about interesting people and places that he has encountered over the years. Other highpoints of the evening included a speech and poem from Mr Palmer and Mr Purves' performance of a song from his new album.

In the Summer Term, Senior Literary Society members Dilyara Adilkhanova, Ingrid Galler and Alex Orton gave generously of their time and skills to assist our visiting Italian students in writing their own murder mystery based at Stowe School, bringing the literary year full circle. It has been wonderful to experience the enthusiasm and energy that our pupils brought to each and every event, making the Stowe Senior Literary Society continue to thrive.

*Mrs Allison Puranik, MiC Literary Society*

## Junior Literary Society

The two Junior Literary Society sessions that were laid on this year captured the imagination of all students who attended. The first, which took place back in the Michaelmas Term, close to Halloween and was fittingly themed as a literary 'Fright Night', filled with ghoulish tales and fiendish stories. Students from all three Junior year groups sampled spine-chilling extracts, ranging from Bram Stoker's *Dracula* to Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, before arranging themselves into groups to pit their analytical skills against one another in a horror-themed Kahoot quiz. The second Junior Literary Society meeting, in the Lent Term, was a little different in tone. A group consisting of Third and Fourth Form pupils, who had demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning in their English lessons,

were invited to attend a group reading of D.H. Lawrence's macabre and humorous story, 'The Rocking-Horse Winner'. The students that afternoon were eager and ebullient in their discussion of Lawrence's detailed descriptions, compelling characterisations, and odd oxymorons. The session closed with an opportunity for students to craft their own creative piece which could be entered into a competition where, aptly, the prize involved a day at the races. As I say farewell to Stowe, and to the Junior Literary Society, I feel certain that those students who engaged meaningfully and appreciatively with the given texts will continue to be enriched when the Society begins again, under new guidance, in September.

*Mr Jack Palmer, MiC Junior Literary Society*

# Languages Society

Once again it has been an immense privilege to co-ordinate, alongside our President, Lisa Battilomo (Upper Sixth, Nugent), our Vice-President Kurt Leimer (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Ms Ana Vidal García our Spanish Language Assistant, all the exciting events and talks which have taken place this year to celebrate the wonderful cultural and linguistic diversity at Stowe. This is the second year running and I can truly say it has become the most popular and faithfully attended societies with more members than ever before. Allow me to present to you some of the highlights this year.

On the 6 October, the Languages Society organised the first event of the year where Staff and Stoics alike, enjoyed a fascinating talk about Mandarin. Ms Connie Chen explained how important Mandarin is in the world, as almost 16% of the world's population currently speaks it and many countries are encouraging their students to go and study in China. We also learned that Mandarin has no genders, verb forms or tenses and thus, although difficult to write, is a far easier language to grasp than we originally thought. We were all keen to learn a few phrases and even acted out a dialogue thanks to Connie's visual cues to aid our memory, as well as repetition of pronunciation. We can now say some simple sentences such as "wo ai bin qi lin", meaning "I love ice cream!" and ask questions by adding "ma" to the end of a phrase. The talk was very refreshing and we all left feeling that we would like to learn this amazing language.

In November, the Languages Society was fortunate enough to enjoy once again, an evening dedicated to discovering and tasting the finest wines and cheeses that Tuscany has to offer. Everyone involved had a fantastic time with over twenty Stoics and several members of staff participating in the event. The savouring of the wines and cheeses started with some rosé, followed by white wine and finished with the region's speciality: the red wine; accompanied at all times with a plate of a variety of delicious cheeses and honey. Whilst we tickled our taste buds, we learnt a great deal about how the wines and cheeses are made in this famous region of Italy, renowned for its beauty and gastronomy. It was an unforgettable evening.

In the second term, The Kenya night was a glorious celebration of Kenyan culture. It was presented by Muthoni Kibaki (Lower Sixth, West) and Sophia Sander (Upper Sixth, West) the first ever "Kenyan Night". Many took part in the

celebration, where we learnt about all aspects of Kenyan life, dress, tribes, music, dance and food. During an hour long presentation where we got to enjoy special Kenyan coffee and tea, as well as chapati, mukimo and a lot of amazing dishes. The Languages Society would like to thank Muthoni and Sophia for the truly exceptional event they put on and for giving us such a great insight into what Kenyan culture is all about.

In the third term, the second annual Languages Society open mic night was a monumental success, with Stoics describing the evening as original and a glorious celebration of music and poetry from all around the world. The event saw 13 different performances, by the many talented Stoics and members of staff, in eight different languages, ranging from Norwegian poetry about love to the well-known and beloved by all, Scottish classic: Auld Lang Syne. However, none of this would have happened if it weren't for performer and organiser, Miss Stirzaker who once again delighted us with yet another unforgettable evening full of music and magic.

Last but not least the Languages Society closed its season with an engaging talk about Colombia from Spanish Language Assistant, Liliana Peña. Señora Peña delighted Stoics with her colourful presentation, which touched on Colombian literature, sport, music, geography and more. Señora Peña also organised a surprise for the Society members and they were greeted by salsa instructor Rudy and his partner Jena after the talk. No fiesta is complete without some dancing; it lifts the spirit and is yet another way of celebrating life and bringing people together. Stoics practised some basic (and not so basic!) salsa steps and were up dancing together for almost an hour before a sumptuous supper was served in the Blue Room. The evening was a roaring success and a huge thanks goes to Señora Peña.

I am really proud of what we have accomplished as a Society and I am confident that with Tom Purdon (Lower Sixth Grenville) and Alice Maclure (Lower Sixth Nugent) as 2017-18 President and Vice-President respectively, the Society will go from strength to strength. I would like to finish by thanking all the Committee members for all their efforts and passion in making the Languages Society a huge success.

*Mrs Desirée Podesta, MiC Languages Society*





# QUANTUM SOCIETY

This has been a busy year for the Quantum Society enthusiastically led by our President George Adams (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Secretary Stuart Milner (Upper Sixth, Cobham). Formed seven years ago to promote an interest in the physical sciences and with a larger and more diverse membership than ever, it has done just that. Members are encouraged to look into areas that interest them and present what they have discovered to their peers. The broad range of topics this year have included Aerodynamics, The Science behind Art Restoration, Space Travel and The Development of the Atomic Bomb, not to mention Weapons - Past and Present and What is Time.

Our book reviews continue to be very popular and are accompanied by a Chinese take away and now take place in the new Sixth Form Science Centre. The most popular books were "Quantum Science Cannot Hurt You" by Marcus Chown and "Seven Brief Lessons on Physics" by Carlo Rovelli - highly recommended by anyone with an interest in Science. The Society also had a trip to Blackwell's Bookshop in Oxford to stock up the new Science Library.

We have joint meetings with the Gaussian Society, as the crossover between the Sciences and Mathematics is self-evident but which sparks lively debate over whether Science is, at its core, just Mathematics or if Mathematics is just a tool for Scientists! There is much Philosophy involved in both, and our meetings looked at the Philosophy of Science, What is an Atom? and saw Mr Yadsan from the Mathematics Department give a most entertaining lecture on Quantum Science and the Mathematics behind it.

The social element is a core part of the society and members enjoyed the annual dinner and the Christmas party and quiz night. As has now become tradition, we ended the year with a croquet match against the Biomedical Society and the accompanying barbeque provided a great occasion to say goodbye to our Upper Sixth leavers, many of whom have chosen a scientific degree to pursue at university. We wish them all the very best and hope that they will be coming back in the future to share with us the research that they get involved with.

*Mr James Tearle, MiC Quantum Society*



# TEXTILES

This has been another busy year for Textiles and especially for the Third Year pupils. They are an enthusiastic, talented group who have been busy designing and creating numerous projects including colourful block printed tote bags, dream catchers, large patchwork and tie dye throws and t-shirts. It was great to welcome more boys who have produced imaginative designs for fashion and interiors. Also I have been pleased to help the Drama Department by producing heat press t-shirts for 'Prodigy', and to donate t-shirts for Ethan Collins' (Fourth Form, Temple) team

for his cycle ride in July. This year I am introducing two prizes one for Fashion and another for Creative Textiles. These are awarded to Myles Ryan (Third Form, Grenville) for showing such talent and skill in design and production, and to Camille Gibson (Third Form, Lyttelton) for the most creative textiles projects respectively. Congratulations to them and all my other pupils who have learnt new skills and worked hard to create successful designs.

*Mrs Jo Banks, Textiles*



# HeartStart

There are over 1,700 Heartstart schemes across the UK supported by the British Heart Foundation where individuals or groups can attend a two-hour training course and learn how to:

- deal with an unconscious person
- recognise a heart attack and a cardiac arrest
- perform CPR
- deal with choking
- respond to serious bleeding.

Stowe has just completed its third year of providing this invaluable life-saving course. This year we have had 12 Lower Sixth Stoics who completed their six hour training.

As Heartstart trainers they have delivered the Heartstart training to all Third Formers, Fourth Formers who attend DofE and an evening session has been offered for all staff and members of the general public.

Stoics have enjoyed the hands-on practical training delivered by their older peers and the trainers have developed important life-saving skills (please see their comments below):

*Mrs Debbie Jenkins, Senior Nurse Manager*

The training has benefitted my awareness of the world we live in and most importantly how to save someone's life.  
*Rosie Smith (Queen's)*

I have really enjoyed and benefitted from doing HeartStart as it has let me become more confident with speaking in front of people and has allowed me to interact with lots of different types of people and different ages. It is such a valuable skill to have as it could lead to you saving someone's life which I find really special and I am hoping to carry on giving presentations back home in Kenya, hopefully to help spread the skill that I believe is so vital and useful.

*Kira Evans (Nugent)*

Heartstart has been a very useful skill that I am glad I have developed. It's also given me confidence when speaking in public.

*Megan Winter (Stanhope)*

Heartstart has been an invaluable experience for me to develop not only my knowledge of basic life saving skills, but also helping others to develop their skills, which has been very helpful in my pursuit of medical work experience to aid my medical degree applications. It has also been a great opportunity to learn how to manage often large groups of people, and convey a decisive message despite challenges.

*Isabella Leondiou (Queen's)*

Heartstart taught me many things; not only ways to deliver first aid, but also being responsible for others and staying calm in extreme conditions.

*Dilyara Adilkhanova (Stanhope)*

It's an incredibly rewarding skill to have, and despite the fact we may never have to perform these procedures in real life situations, being taught, and teaching these skills to the younger years is extremely useful in case of any emergency. Being a qualified trainer allows us to withhold the abilities to deal with anything that comes our way and has allowed us to be confident in doing so.

*Jemima Cecil (Stanhope)*

# Film Society

This brand new activity coincided with the launch of Film and Media Studies at Stowe, serving to introduce some of the theoretical and practical elements of the A Level course to members of the Lower School as well as those who have a passion for Film but were not formally studying it. Over the course of the year the students, who ranged from Third Formers to Sixth Formers, enjoyed developing their own scripts and turning them into fully fledged films, learning through experience the various cinematic disciplines of directing, cinematography, sound, music and editing. They also underpinned their practical filmmaking skills with analysis of various Directors' work, including Stanley Kubrick, David Lynch and Alfred Hitchcock, as well as carrying out targeted investigations such as the art of Silent Cinema and the history of effective opening sequences. In the Summer Term, the Third Formers were able to demonstrate their newly-acquired knowledge and skills in their Vanguard Film Projects, which were a resounding success.

*Mr George Purves, MiC Film Society*

# Robotics

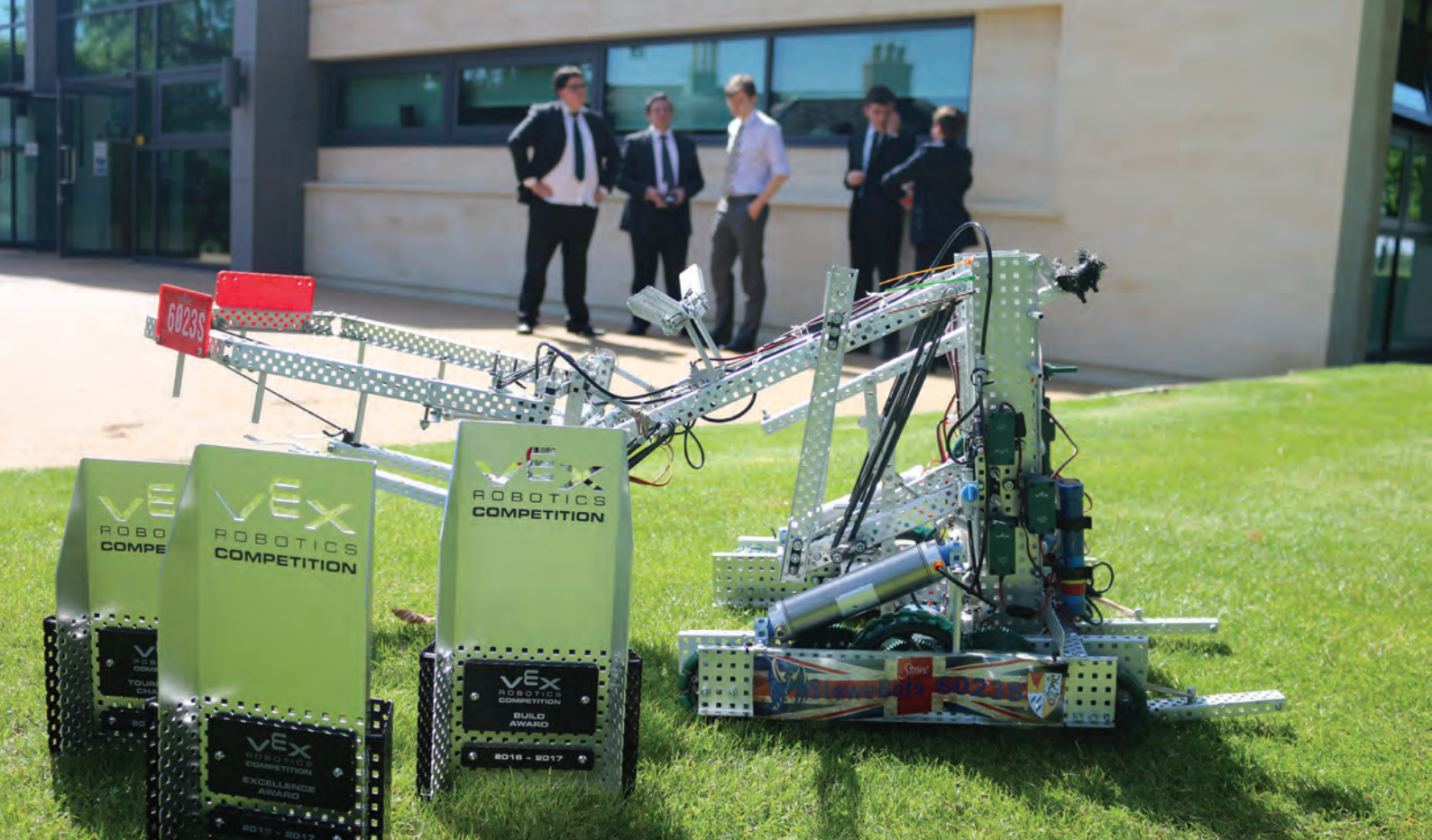
The StoweBots had another successful year of competition in the International VEX Robotics Competition. Off the back of last year's success and experience gained from competing at the 2016 World Finals, the Senior team returned inspired and ready for the 2016-2017 season. The new season brought a new game which this year saw the rival teams separated by a fence over which large game objects needed to be thrown in order to gain points. As always, the game brought some difficult challenges for the teams and saw some development of different ideas.

Initial ideas and robot builds of both StoweBot teams didn't work out so well but improvements and changes quickly came. The Senior team's robot came together quickly and promised to be a strong competitor but Regional Final after Regional Final they struck difficulties and very often dropped out in the final matches having performed well all day. The Junior team struggled to come together with a solid plan and, although they enjoyed some success, ultimately, they didn't manage to create a consistently strong robot. As the season progressed the Seniors' plan developed further and although they did not win a Regional, their consistent high ranking and finalist placings earned them a National Final place. The team were also consistently in the top few teams in the running for Regional Design Awards. These awards are given for the documentation of the design process and engineering that has gone into the robot. The Design Award is also a key component in the awarding of Excellence Awards that go to the best overall robot at four regional events and carries a World Final place. The Seniors' perseverance and the quality of their work and build saw them pick up one of the four Excellence Awards on offer and gain their World Final place before the National Final.

The Senior team performed well at Nationals being placed 4th out of the 40 teams in attendance after the qualifying matches. The competition was tough and the team was knocked out in a quarter-final match against strong opposition. However, the team was awarded the National Build Award. The Build Award is given to a team that has built a well-crafted robot and that also shows a clear dedication to safety and attention to detail. The robot must have solid structure with robust systems that are well thought out and purposeful, showing efficient use of mechanical and electrical components. To win the Award the robot must also demonstrate reliability on the field. It is a great Award to pick up and an excellent recognition of the team's efforts this year. This year was particularly tough and close competition, with the 1st and 2nd ranked robots losing out in the final. It was a little disappointing for the team to stumble in the quarter final, but they left with heads held high having picked up the Build Award. They also already had their World Final spot from the Regional Excellence Award.

The team travelled to the World Finals in Kentucky, US during the Easter break to compete with 564 of the world's top teams for the title of VEX Robotics World Champions.

Each team competed in 10 qualifying matches with random pairings and opponents within a subgroup of 94 robots. The competition didn't start particularly well for the team, losing their first game 15-26 with a couple of teething issues with the robot. After a couple of quick fixes, the team came back with a 25-20 win but then finished the first day with a 14-45 point loss. After the first day, we were positioned well down the rankings and needed some strong performances to bounce back. The team started the second day with high hopes and knew a few wins would put us back in contention



for an alliance selection. With the robot performing well and some good partnerships, we had three strong wins in a row (scores of 41-15, 27-14, 46-8) which lifted our rank up to 18/94. Sadly the next game did not go our way against a tough pairing and we lost 8-46 but we bounced back to win the fifth and final match of the day 39-6. At the close of play on the second day we sat ranked 27th with two final games to play: one win would keep the Stowebots in contention. However this was not to be, as in our first match despite a strong start, our partner fell over and pinned us in the corner; we were unable to score any game objects so lost the match 10-47. In the final game, the competition had taken its toll on the robot and we suffered drive issues narrowly losing the match 21-28. This left us ranked 40th out of the 94 robots in our group and overlooked for an alliance selection therefore signalling the end of our competition. Our overall ranking for the World Final was 248th out of 564. However, simply making the World Final as one of seven UK teams out of around 250 was a huge honour and ranking 248th in the World Finals from the best of the 10,000+ teams that compete worldwide is an achievement we are incredibly proud of. The result was also an improvement on the team's 2016 World Final performance.

This year the team bids farewell to Jonny Reading, Stuart Milner and Toby Lawrance. All three have made an outstanding contribution to the team and without each of them, the team would not have got as far as they did. Jonny was Chief Engineer and kept the logbook up to date, he also



was one of 19 World Finalists who entered a competition to design a new part. Stuart Milner was the team's Mechanic and Driver, gaining in confidence over the season with the robot and leading us to some excellent victories. Toby Lawrance was the team's Programmer and has written some excellent code over the past three years allowing the robot to be easily controlled and to perform superbly in the fully autonomous section of matches.

As always with the end of one season comes the beginning of the next, with this year's new game being revealed at the World Finals. Although we lose some outstanding individuals, we still have some talented young engineers and programmers staying on with the two Stowe teams.

Planning and building is already well underway for the new 2017-2018 game.

*Mr Paul Thompson, MiC Robotics*

# The Gaussian Group

The Maths Department has continued to push pupils to improve their mental resilience and creative thinking with the aim of empowering them to explore topics and bring issues to the classroom for discussion. This is part of our philosophy of encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own learning so that they feel in control of their academic progress and are able to flourish. We have seen exciting evidence of this in a significant increase in participation in extra-curricular Mathematics. Hakan Yadsan has inspired and challenged many of the students from all year groups with his afternoon and evening sessions, these include: The Gaussian Group, Vertical Stretch and Local Maximum.

The Gaussian Group continued to flourish during this academic year and has become one of the leading intellectual societies at Stowe. Aided by presentations and

guest speakers, Stowe's Gaussians demonstrated the beauty of mathematics as well as the fundamental problems in mathematics and mathematical sciences. The reliability of mathematical reasoning was seriously challenged within the content of the lecture series "The loss of the truth". From Russell's paradox to the Axiomatic approach to the set theory, mathematics seemed to have gone through a battle of survival. It was both thought provoking and fascinating to witness the trials endured by mathematicians and the issues they still face today. We also explored the laws of motion at the subatomic level. In the talk, 'Machine versus soul: on the interpretation of quantum mechanics' we questioned both the common notion of the laws of the universe being purely determined by mathematics and the validity of the picture of an entirely mechanical universe.

*Mr Mikkel Møller*

# SHIPT

## The year of the unexpected

Last year's report in *The Stoic* outlined work to restore Francesco Sleter's painting *Fame and Victory*, a work on plaster over the eastern (Grenville) grand staircase. As that work was drawing to a close, the conservators involved sought to identify the correct colour for the cornice that runs around the top of the wall beneath the painting. This might sound like a detail but nothing could have prepared us for the discovery that would emerge from this seemingly innocuous question.

Three colours were identified in the area of the cornice, pale stone, pink and grey. The conservators confirmed that all were of the same date as the painting itself (1730-40). In isolation, neither grey nor pink made sense in relation to the painted ceiling, but the pale stone seemed the most appropriate to maximise the *trompe l'oeil* effect of looking up through the ceiling to the skies above. There remained, however, the question as to why there was evidence of traces of different colours. Added to this, the conservators had noted that, under certain lighting conditions, it was possible to discern the outline of floral patterns and larger architectural frameworks along with what looked like lines demarcating rusticated masonry beneath the surface paint layers. It would have been easy to dismiss these traces as brush strokes or plaster repairs. However, Hirst Conservation, our appointed contractors, were sufficiently convinced that this was not the explanation, that they asked for permission to remove some of the upper layers. That very cautious but enlightened work revealed enough for us to agree to more detailed analysis. Within a relatively short space of time, the presence of a floral pattern between the cornices had been confirmed (Figure 1).

The sceptics might still have been forgiven for assuming that this was a one-off piece of decorative embellishment to soften the line between the two cornices.

The sceptics might still have been forgiven for assuming that this was a one-off piece of decorative embellishment to soften the line between the two cornices. Hirst were commissioned to carry out further investigation, both by physical removal of painted layers and surveys under raking light. Early on, the work revealed the presence of architectural details, first uncovered on the western side of the upper landing (Figure 2). This confirmed that there was, in fact, a significant discovery beneath the layers of magnolia. Remarkably, the walls had only been painted five times after the decorative scheme but the first layer of overpainting appears to have been applied within a relatively short time after completion of the decoration. Whether this was because further building work cut into and rendered the scheme useless, or because it simply fell out of fashion, remains to be discovered.

Further examples of architectural devices were confirmed on other walls but the week ended with the discovery on Friday 4 November of a clear and remarkably intact female figure on the upper landing western wall (Figure 3).

Eighteenth Century guidebooks record the presence of "warlike pieces" on the walls but also refer to three ceiling paintings by Sleter (*Fame and Victory*, *Plenty and Constancy* and *Justice and Peace*). Later documents and histories of art state that the emblems and the other two paintings have been "destroyed" so it is significant that some of the works are now set to be rediscovered. The female figure appeared to be framed within a niche and, at first, it was thought that she might be holding a cornucopia, which led to speculation that she represented "Plenty" from *Plenty and Constancy*, but it now seems more likely that she is Minerva, the goddess of war.

Other designs are also apparent over the doors and between panels, as in the example (Figure 4) from the north wall of the second flight of stairs, which also has shades of blue grey and amber.

Hirst Conservation consider this to be a very significant find – possibly the most exciting Baroque painting





Figure 1

discovery of the twentieth and twenty first centuries. That view has since been confirmed by Historic England, the regulatory body for all listed buildings, without whose agreement further work would not be permitted. Our plan is to uncover at least one wall to confirm that the scheme features a number of figures in niches, as the lines beneath the surface layers of paint seem to suggest. As to how it fits within the history of the building, two hypotheses are currently being explored. The first is that this is the work of Sleter and his partner Brunetti. There are remarkable similarities to the work that they carried out elsewhere, not least at St Lawrence Church in Little Stanmore, Middlesex, Moor Park in Hertfordshire and Mereworth Castle in Kent. The coved ceiling in Stowe's State Dining Room has also been attributed to Sleter and the stylistic similarities are notable. A second hypothesis is that this was the work of William Kent, contemporary with his ceiling in the North Hall, and that it decorated the staircase that rose up through this area before the current grand staircase was constructed further to the east in one of the building expansion programmes of the 18th Century. Either way, this discovery is likely to enhance our understanding of Stowe's architectural history and stands to confirm once again Stowe's pre-eminence in artistic developments at the height of the 18th Century. Research has been commissioned in the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, to confirm the artists, to situate the scheme in the history of the building and, who knows, possibly to confirm the reason for it having been overpainted in such a short space of time.

*Mr Nick Morris, CEO SHPT*

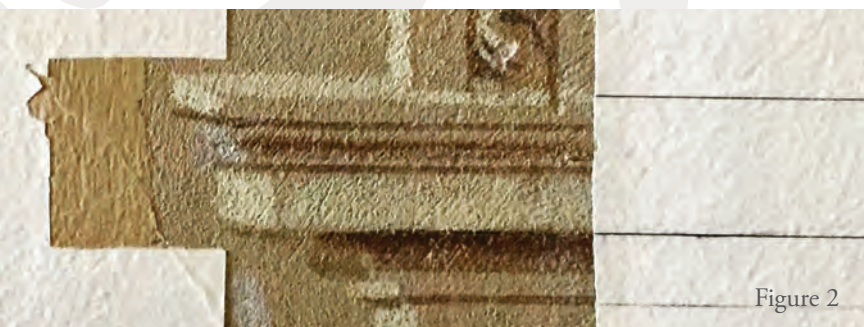


Figure 2



Figure 4

Figure 3

The Stowe House Preservation Trust is an independent charity formed in 1997 to raise funds for the restoration of Stowe House, to conserve and restore the building and to present it to visitors. It relies on fundraising to finance its work and is currently raising funds for the restoration of the State Dining Room, Temple Room and Small Dining Room. Further details are available from Nick Morris, CEO, [nmorris@stowe.co.uk](mailto:nmorris@stowe.co.uk) or Anna McEvoy, House Custodian, [amcevoy@stowe.co.uk](mailto:amcevoy@stowe.co.uk).



It's been a strong year of excellent music making at Stowe. Across the board we have had strong solo performances, strong ensemble work, and new collaborations and inspirational experiences for Stoics. Broadly speaking, the year can be reviewed in terms of singing ensembles and collaborations including on-stage partnerships and inspirational masterclasses from colleagues in the wider profession.

**“The voice is the most natural of instruments, and everyone, despite protestations, can sing.”**

The voice is the most natural of instruments, and everyone, despite protestations, can sing. Michaelmas kicked off with Friday morning School Shouts to help get voices in gear for House Singing. The competition had strong entries, supported beforehand by workshops given by our season collaborators, vocal ensemble Apollo5, and on stage by Miles Nottage's House Band (Miles Nottage, Ben Andrew and Dave Richmond). The theme of this year's competition was 'Music from the Movies' and we were treated to a selection of highly original and skilfully executed interpretations of classic songs from the big screen. A huge amount of work had been put into the entries by Stoics, and the adjudicator, hot off the heels from his own school's

competition at Shrewsbury, complete with a shout out to the extraordinary Mr Gibbon, must have had a difficult job to find a clear winner. In the end it was Chandos who took both boys' House prizes, with Hugo Cliff (Upper Sixth, Chandos) leading a rousing rendition of the Jason Mraz hit 'I Won't Give Up'. The House also excelled with their unison performance of 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' by Deep Blue Something. Nugent took both trophies for the girls' Houses, in no small part down to Mali Aitchison's (Lower Sixth, Nugent) stunning musical arrangements. Their unison song featured a mash-up of songs from 'Rocky III', '8 Mile', 'Pretty Woman', 'The Breakfast Club' and 'Coyote Ugly' and their part-song was Miley Cyrus' 'The Climb' - to be repeated to a thrilled audience on Speech Day. Nugent also took the overall prize. Entertainment was provided by Mali and Henry Gauvain (Lower Sixth, Temple) along with Charles Rivington (Lower Sixth, Bruce) on guitar. In the boys' Houses, a tremendous effort was seen, and some inventive costume and tongue in cheek choreography with 'It's Raining Men'. In order to celebrate the huge effort each House undertook preparing their entries, Studio Manager Ben Weston recorded Houses in the following weeks.

Stowe's particularly strong tradition of singer-songwriting was given more of a platform this year at Monday Morning Headmaster's Assemblies with performances from newcomer Sofia Atkinson-Hieber performing a moving song in memory of a close relative; Natasha Woods



performing a song that she had premiered (and completed writing) the previous day at the Mozart Trio competition; Caspar Wallersteiner performing with his band, Prestige; and Max Campbell-Preston appearing with his band. In the Headmaster's words, 'Once you've performed on a Monday at 8.30am in front of the entire School, everything else is easy'. In addition, the packed Open Mic Nights led by Head of Rock, Pop and Jazz, Mr Miles Nottage, provided a platform for twenty acts on each occasion, with original works being most favoured by the crowd. Mr Ben Weston's out of hours recording sessions give something of the real world music industry for our singer-songwriters, and a taste of university societies was provided through my formation of a cross-curricular effort between English and Music established by Music Prefect, Bella Coldstream and Mr George Purves from English. Meeting on a fortnightly basis, this group explores song-writing and creative ideas, from the starting point of lyrics. One of the leading lights of this group was Mali Aitchison, an extremely gifted and passionate storyteller, who, with Mr Weston's support, launched her own album on Stowe Records at the end of the Summer Term of material entirely conceived and recorded at Stowe – including a track previewed on BBC Radio. On Speech Day the studio was graced with the presence of Roger Hodgson from Supertramp, who recorded a song in the room named after him; and he was treated to recordings by Natasha Woods and Caspar Wallersteiner. We are lucky to have such industry-standard facilities to encourage both staff and Stoics, and help forge careers in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Following on from the success of last year, Stowe marked the International Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January with a beautiful event presented by Arts at Stowe and the Music Department. The event honoured the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and Old Stoic, the late Sir Nicholas Winton (Grenville 23), who was responsible for saving 669 mainly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia during the Second World War. The theme of this year's event was 'How can life go on?', a broad

and open-ended question to which there are few answers in the face of such barbarity. As Deborah Howe (Arts at Stowe) so aptly conveyed on the evening, it is important that we bear witness to the unprecedented atrocities that took place during the Second World War and we all have a responsibility to keep the memories alive and to educate future generations. In an attempt to answer the question posed by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Stoics and staff recited poetry, performed music and gave readings to help preserve the memories of the victims of the Holocaust through the arts. Rachel Sherry (Head of Vocal Studies) worked fantastically with the singers, who performed works deemed as Entartete (degenerate) by the Nazi regime. These included songs by Jewish composers such as Mahler and Mendelssohn. The evening featured special guest appearances by fortepianist Sylvia Berry and Baroque cellist Juliana Soltis from the East Coast of the USA, who presented workshops on the lead up to the evening, and incorporated the kind of music that was banned under the Nazi regime. Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew, arranged the famous 'Hatikvah' (the hope) for the evening, performed by Audrey Au on the violin.

One of the leading lights of this group was Mali Aitchison, an extremely gifted and passionate story teller, who, with Mr Weston's support, launched her own album on Stowe Records at the end of the Summer Term of material entirely conceived and recorded at Stowe.

Jazz is blooming under Head of Rock, Pop and Jazz, Mr Miles Nottage (OS). At the annual highlight of the



calendar, Dinner and Jazz, guests were treated to a pre-dinner jazz rendition of 'House of the Rising Sun' in the Music Room and after dinner the entertainment was provided by the Big Band, who played two 40-minute sets, and Dave Richmond's Jazz Combo. The more that people danced, the better the Big Band performed. At Champagne and Jazz, all our performers wowed the audience with their songs. A collaboration between the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, Aylesbury Music Centre Big Band and the Stowe Big Band was an inspiration to everyone, and the collaborations have, as elsewhere in the Department, dramatically raised the bar. Many thanks go to Dan Francis (of the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust) for his work in coordinating this event.

## Jazz is blooming under Head of Rock, Pop and Jazz, Mr Miles Nottage (OS).

Particular highlights of Michaelmas were the traditional Remembrance Sunday service where the choir sang 'For the Fallen', and tenor Finlay Sutherland (Lower Sixth, Grafton) played 'The Last Post' on a World War I bugle with a degree of calm professionalism and accuracy heard at the Cenotaph; Music for Troubled Times on Sunday 20 November saw the massed ranks of the Choir, Choral Society and Orchestra joining together with our season's collaborative partners, Apollo5 and The Adderbury Ensemble, to perform works by Beethoven, Tavener and Haydn. Beethoven's 'Egmont Overture' opened the concert and filled the whole building with an exciting and vibrant orchestral texture - the scoring of which reflects two decades of Napoleon's seemingly unstoppable armies. There followed an oasis of calm, 'Mother of God, Here I Stand' by the late John Tavener - performed by Apollo5 and VOCES8 Scholars. Haydn's 'Missa in Angustiis', (Music for Troubled Times) was a high bar to set but the combined voices rose to the occasion. The military brass and drums that invade the choral textures were an ever present reminder of Napoleon's expansionist tendencies. Vocal fireworks and exquisite reflection was provided by the stunning Leipzig-based soprano, Julia Sophie Wagner,

with Clare Stewart, (alto) Alex Haigh, (tenor) and Greg Link, (bass) joining us again from Apollo5. It was a fun afternoon of rehearsals and a memorable concert of bombast, aspiration, collaboration and success and I was particularly moved by just how supportive and encouraging Administrator Sarah Searle and Head of Percussion Nigel Gibbon were for this huge Departmental effort to celebrate excellence in Beethoven and Haydn. What they do behind the scenes is extraordinary. The Carol Services had the Choir singing primarily a cappella to a hushed congregation. The Choir led the congregation in their favourite carols and were delighted to raise a good sum for charity.

At the end of Spring Term, we took over Trinity College, my old college at Cambridge, in March, a Russian themed



concert with a stunning performance of the Montagues and Capulets from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and the first movement of Rachmaninov's second piano concerto by Alex Grinyer (Upper Sixth, Walpole), possibly the musical high point of the year. The Choir, fresh from their masterclass with Dr Philip Moore of the Royal College of Organists, was joined by Apollo5 and performed unaccompanied works by Tallis, Bruckner and Stanford - in the acoustic in which Stanford and Vaughan Williams' wrote and worked - inspirational stuff! Charlotte Brennan (Lower Sixth, West) performed her winning number from Milton Keynes, Mr Aitken played a favourite Bach work on the internationally recognised organ, and Mr Windass and the String Orchestra reminded us of Vaughan Williams' time at Trinity with its beautiful rendition of *Greensleeves*. The brass ensemble, ably assisted by many additional players, opened the concert with an arresting performance of Grieg's *Funeral March in Memory of Rikard Nordraak*. The Master and Fellows of Trinity College were most gracious in permitting our take-over of College, which, out of term time, enabled Stoics to safely roam its hallowed halls and enjoy the Backs. I was very proud of the excellence of everyone's work that day.

In the Summer Term, the 25th Annual Stowe-Harvard Dinner was an incredible celebration of Stowe's vocal talent, with Alex Aitken and Rachel Sherry creating a musical review with vocalists to fit the theme of the music of America. Favourites BEN<sup>2</sup> played the after dinner set, and their hits, particularly the Simon and Garfunkel with people singing along, were extremely effective. How two people can manage to play not only the piano and guitar, but bass drum, melodica and strings, all at the same time, is an incredible thing to witness. It was an inspiration to all who attended.

In the Summer Term, the 25th Annual Stowe-Harvard Dinner was an incredible celebration of Stowe's vocal talent...

There's a huge diversity of vocal activities at Stowe. In March, it was the turn of our classical vocalist soloists (many of whom sing in non-classical styles too) to showcase their skills under the oversight of Rachel Sherry, Head of Vocal Studies. Isabella Leondiou (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Oliver Taylor (Fourth Form, Chatham), Oliver Vince (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Emily Wilson (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Peter Entwisle (Fifth Form, Temple), Mina Haas (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Emily Banks (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Lula Goldsmith (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Georgie Vallings (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Helena Vince (Fifth Form, Queen's) all sang. There was a varied programme of both sacred and secular music spanning four centuries from Dowland to Debussy, with songs and arias in English, French, Latin, Italian and German. Most voice types were represented and we had sopranos, mezzos, a countertenor (the first time a pupil has sung countertenor in the Uglend Auditorium), baritone and bass voices. The Stoics set a high standard of performance and showed great professionalism. Thanks must go to Mr Andrew and Mr Aitken for their sensitive accompaniment and to Mr Badley and Mr Mansfield for preparing their pupils for the concert, as well as to Deborah Howe of Arts at Stowe for co-ordinating the event.

Our Music Award Holders work incredibly hard, many of them being persuaded to take up an instrument in every Department as they progress through the school. A gratifying thing for all musicians is the ability to see one's progress through recorded performance, ensemble playing, exam taking, or competitions. On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 March, around twenty Stoic musicians took part in the annual Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts. We were delighted that many came away with a prize including: Audrey Au (Third Form, Lyttelton), 1st prize, advanced strings class; Jeffrey Au (Fourth Form, Walpole), 1st prize, piano recital class (17 and under); Rosia Li (Third Form, Stanhope), 1st prize, diploma romantic piano and 2nd prize, advanced strings; Poppy de Salis (Fifth Form, Stanhope), 1st prize, strings recital (17 and under); Charlotte Brennan (Lower Sixth, West) 1st prize, plucked instrument class; Arabella Coldstream (Upper Sixth,





Lyttelton), 1st prize, 'Song from a Musical'; Helena Vince (Fifth Form, Queen's), 3rd prize, intermediate strings, 3rd prize, aria class (18 and under) and 3rd prize, 'Song from a Musical'; Emily Banks (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), 2nd prize aria class (18 and under); Isabel Ward (Fifth Form, Stanhope), 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, advanced recorder, advanced flute and woodwind recital classes respectively. Following on from these successes, Charlotte Brennan, Jeffrey Au and Audrey Au were invited to take part in the prestigious Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year competition held at Walton High School. They comprised 50 per cent of the entrants, and winning 100 per cent of the prizes: Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year was awarded to Charlotte Brennan, second prize went to Jeffrey Au and third prize went to his sister Audrey Au. Congratulations to all finalists for their fantastic performances and for representing the School so impeccably.

Performing in ensembles is crucial for developing as a musician. Stowe does this really well, particularly demonstrated this year by String groups, Orchestra, Wind Band and the smartened up and branded Big

Performing in ensembles is crucial for developing as a musician. Stowe does this really well, particularly demonstrated this year by String groups, Orchestra, Wind Band and the smartened up and branded Big Band.

Band. Ensembles Concerts this year have featured main ensembles, the String Orchestra and Wind Band, along with smaller groups. The work of Mr Windass and the String Orchestra has been exemplary this year, and the faithful support of new Head of Chemistry Dr Alix Waine must be acknowledged. Elgar's Serenade for Strings and Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Greensleeves have been firm favourites, featuring Charlotte Brennan (Lower Sixth, West) on the harp and Ally Jordan (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Izzy Ward (Fifth Form, Stanhope) on flutes. Alex Grinyer (Upper Sixth, Walpole) has joined string players for Mozart's Horn Quintet on many occasions, and Audrey Au (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Rosia Li (Third Form, Stanhope) have perfected their Mozart duet for violin and viola, which is like observing a fascinating musical conversation. The contributions of everyone are simply first class. Providing a musical platform for the bagpipes with the wind orchestra has delighted audiences and rewarded hard work.

As an All Steinway School, we work hard to embrace the piano and the highest standards in all genres, and Ben Andrew works very hard to do so many external events with Stoics: performance opportunities abound, as do influences from outside professionals. This year we had masterclasses from internationally acclaimed composer and educationalist, Christopher Norton, famous for his popular 'Microjazz' series of books; international concert pianist and Steinway Artist Ingrid Jacoby; international concert pianist Murray McLauchlan returned to Stowe for the third time to give a piano masterclass and evening recital; President of the Royal College of Organists and former Master of the Music at York Minster, composer and organist, Philip Moore; internationally recognised fortepianist, Sylvia Berry. Memorable events for solo keyboard included Dinner and Jazz - with performances



by Anastasiia Nazarova (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Poppy de Salis (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and 'In Session with Lewis Bell' where Lewis and Mr Andrew performed Rodney Bennett's Suite for Two Pianos.

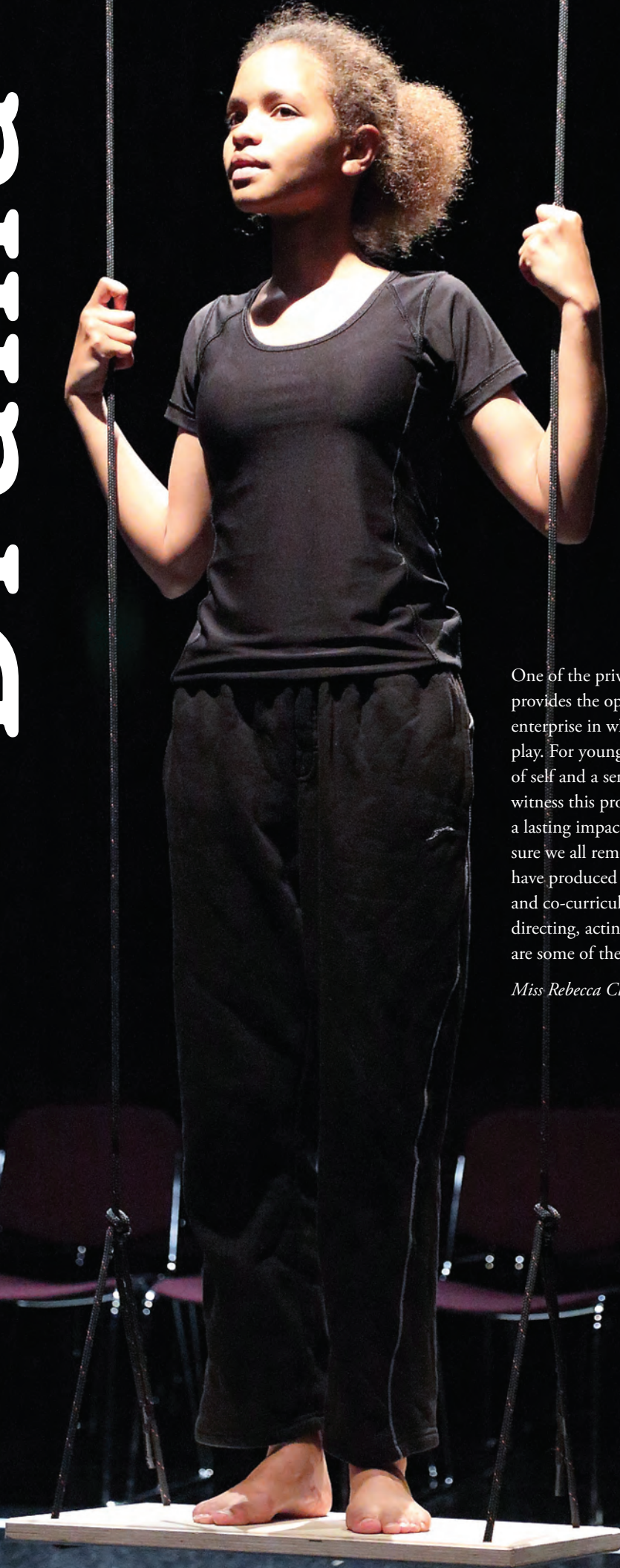
The Leavers' Concert was a touching opportunity for Upper Sixth musicians and their ensemble partners to perform together before going on exam leave. From Bach to Wallersteiner, Mozart to Gershwin, the event captured the sweep of styles and genres of music beloved at Stowe. Both Prefects for Music demonstrated what they have learned at Stowe, with this year's Mozart Trio Prize winner Arabella Coldstream (Lyttelton) singing 'Loose Ends' by Dempsey and Rowe from 'The Witches of Eastwick' and last year's winner, Lewis Bell (Grenville) performing solo Bach on the piano and doing most of the day's

accompanying. Fabiola Koenig (Lyttelton) performed Beethoven's Spring Sonata beautifully, and Alex Grinyer (Walpole) was effortless in his performance of the first movement of Mozart's Horn Concerto in D Major. Impressive ensemble work from Mr Howse's clarinet quartet followed, Poppy Moore (Lyttelton), Adrian Koch (Bruce), Sam Flint (Grenville), and Guy Woodhouse (Chatham) with works by Gershwin. The event finished rousing with songwriter Caspar Wallersteiner's band, Prestige (Caspar Wallersteiner (Chatham), Theo Hayes (Chatham), Fabian Bevan (Grafton), Charles Rivington (Bruce)), performing 'Monster'. Each Leaver has made an indelible mark on Stowe and has helped shape and build the new Music Department. We shall miss them terribly.

*Mr Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music*



# Drama



One of the privileges of working in theatre is that it provides the opportunity to participate in a collective enterprise in which every person has a vital role to play. For young people the experience brings a sense of self and a sense of empathy. It is rewarding to witness this process and it is one that I believe has a lasting impact on the lives of young people. I am sure we all remember our own school plays. Stoics have produced a varied programme of curricular and co-curricular drama this year, developing their directing, acting, design and technical skills. Herein are some of the highlights.

*Miss Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama*



# If teenagers ran the world!

This year Junior Congreve offered Stoics and their parents a four-day festival of entertainment! Four plays, four nights and over 50 Stoics involved as cast members, technicians and assistant directors. On the Wednesday and Friday evening, audiences enjoyed performances of 'Too Fast' by Douglas Maxwell and 'Rabbit', by David Foxtan.

'Too fast' was hilarious and moving in equal measure and the whole cast sensitively handled some difficult subject matter. It is set at the funeral of Ali Monroe, a popular school girl who has recently been killed in a car crash after driving 'too fast'. 'Sensation Nation', a newly formed vocal group with their sights on 'Britain's Got Talent', gather to sing their first gig. Coco Cottam (Third Form, Queen's) gave a stand out performance as the band leader with questionable motives, 'DD'. Oliver Seddon (Fourth Form, Cobham) was excellent in the role of Callum Hunt and Archie Strong (Third Form, Grafton) gave a very humorous performance as Sean. Nicholas Montgomery (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Alex Orton (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) assisted Mr Nick Bayley in the direction of this production.

'Rabbit' offered audiences a powerful exploration into a dystopian world where all the adults have died in an horrific explosion. Only the children have been saved and they form their own community with its own language and its own rules. Sonya Sander (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) stepped into the main part after another cast member was unwell and delivered an outstanding performance. Emily Banks (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) was also very strong in her role and Juliana Zielmele (Fourth Form, Queen's) was equally engaging. In fact, the whole ensemble cast delivered focused and thought provoking performances. Megan Winter (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Kit Rigby (Lower

Sixth, Grenville) supported Miss Rebecca Clark as assistant directors.

On the Thursday and Friday evenings, audiences were entertained by Davey Anderson's 'Blackout' and Dennis Kelly's 'DNA', two equally powerful and poignant pieces delivered by exceptional, dedicated casts. Henry Pearson (Third Form, Walpole) gave a very controlled performance as a boy who falls off the tracks and ends up in prison facing an attempted murder charge. His mother, played superbly by Tallulah Goldsmith (Fourth Form, Stanhope) was the unfortunate target of his outburst. However, the real strength in this performance lay in the highly engaging, physical storytelling of the ensemble cast, who handled some disturbing and sensitive themes with great maturity. Phoebe Hill (Fourth Form, Queen's), Olivia Flood (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Charlie Seddon (Lower Sixth, Cobham) worked alongside Mrs Lucy Miller to direct the play.

Last but not least, 'DNA' stunned audiences with its poignant portrayal of teenage relationships. When Adam, who was sensitively played by Camille Gibson (Third Form, Lyttelton), goes missing after a bullying incident, the rest of the gang have to contemplate what to do next. Alfie Cliff (Fourth Form, Chandos) gave an incredibly disciplined and mature performance as the strong and silent Phil, alongside Emilia Havard (Third Form, Stanhope), who handled Leah's thoughtful monologues with great flair. Miss Clark also directed this piece, with the help of Molly Hopkinson-Woolley (Lower Sixth, West).

*Mrs Lucy Miller, Drama Department*





# Prodigy

'Prodigy' is a wonderful and cautionary tale of what happens when reality TV meets competitive classical music, with competitive contestants and, even more competitive, their families. It was impressive and unifying undertaking for Stowe, an explosive tail of intensive hard work, vanity, love, betrayal, pride, hypocrisy and humility. Brought to Stowe by our new Director of Drama, Rebecca Clark, and Head of Academic Music, Alex Aitken, this show (a new school's version) gave us a glimpse of what a drama company looks like: after only a few short weeks of intensive rehearsals, Stoics rose to the challenge of creating something from nothing, and building a team where none had previously existed. This enabled them to react and respond to the unexpected in performance, and communicate a fresh and spontaneous original artistic event at each of the four shows. Originally commissioned by National Youth Music Theatre, 'Prodigy' gave many opportunities for ensemble acting and singing, solos, duets and trios, plenty of choreography, a fight scene, and a minimal set with maximum lighting and bright costumes.

What was really impressive was how music award holders, choristers, actors, rugby specialists, those with no acting experience, those with no singing experience – all blended together to form a seamless and cohesive whole, and gave the School a real demonstration of a positive, shared endeavour based on genuine challenge and growth.

*Mr Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music*

In the Autumn Term the Roxburgh building thronged with singing, dancing and an abundance of creative activity - all hours of day and night! Something certainly was afoot. The school musical 'Prodigy' was on its journey and all involved were cranking up for the show! The cast and crew excelled themselves and delivered a truly entertaining and engaging piece of theatre. The main roles showed contrast in their delivery, sensitivity and comedy in equal measure. The ensemble work was the highlight - all members of the cast supported each other. They delivered a powerful and ordered performance which communicated their enjoyment to the audience. Sitting in the audience one could palpably feel the enthusiasm and attack all the cast put into creating this production. I left the theatre reminded how powerful theatre is and what a unique privilege we have to work with such students. Whilst school productions are created for the students to experience and grow; it can't be ignored that all the staff involved had cast a magic spell over them – one that few will forget, as Dan Biss reflected: "I will never forget the feeling you get when you walk onto the stage to see a full audience waiting for you to perform. 'Prodigy' will always have a special place in my heart and so will the people associated with it."

*Mrs Carole Dore, Drama Department*





# After Liverpool

Following hot on the heels of the whole School Musical 'Prodigy', staged with such exuberance and panache at the start of December, it was a pleasure for me to be involved with Directors India Spencer (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Florence Berner (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and their superb cast of fellow Upper Sixth actors in producing 'After Liverpool' by James Saunders.

This gripping and at times very challenging 'adult' piece, was staged with imagination, simplicity and a good deal of style in the intimate surroundings of the Dobinson Studio Theatre on Friday 9 December. Two packed houses, made up of families, staff and Stoics were treated to some superb performances from Carleton Tufnell (Temple), Lucy Alderton (Stanhope), Florence Fox (Stanhope), Isabella Mullarkey (Stanhope), Isabel Avery (Lyttelton), Fabian Bevan (Grafton), Charles Granby (Grafton), Thomas Cowley (Bruce), Eliza Dubois (Nugent) and Annika Ormerod (Nugent).

*Mr Nick Bayley, Drama Department*



# Drama

# GCSE

GCSE drama students performed their devised pieces in the Lent Term to packed audiences of teachers, friends and parents. The pieces were diverse, edgy, political, humorous and creative, making for a terrific collection and an inspiring sharing of pupil voice. It was wonderful to witness the sense of purpose, generosity and professionalism shown by our Fifth Formers. The pieces tackled issues including coming of age, radicalisation, war, addiction and loss and were performed in the style of physical theatre and naturalism. There were many moving and pertinent moments with standout performances from Ben Jorgensen (Grafton), Gloria Carvalheira- Mobaraki (Stanhope), Tom Frás (Walpole), Polly French (Nugent), Ally Jordan (Lyttelton) and Mark Rapoport (Cobham); and particularly effective creative lighting design by Tavish Struthers. A real celebration of drama.

*Miss Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama*



## GCSE Drama Plays

At the start of the summer public examination season, GCSE Drama students presented a collection of extracts from playwrights including: Chris O'Connell, David Hare, Caryl Churchill, David Mamet, Jo Brand and Polly Teale.

Highlights included: 'The Zoo Story' by Edward Albee (1958), featured Mark Rapoport (Cobham) and Jamie Baillie (Cobham).

This one-act play concerning two characters, Peter and Jerry, who meet on a park bench in New York City's Central Park, was well executed by the cast, who captured the rather strange set of circumstances and unnerving edge to what seems a fairly innocent chance meeting. 'Oleanna' by David Mamet (1992), about the power struggle between a university professor and one of his female students, featured Elizaveta Zakon (Lyttelton) and a particularly convincing, Tom Frás (Walpole).

'Mental' by Helen Griffin and Jo Brand (1996), featured Emilia Pacia (Lyttelton) and Lydia Taylor (Stanhope).

'Mental' is the story of two women with the same name but very different outlooks on life. One is a patient in a psychiatric ward and the other is the nurse. This is their first meeting.

'Journey's End' by Robert Cedric Sherriff (1928), featured Patrick St Pierre (Walpole) and Ivan Titov (Chandos). Set in the spring of 1918, Captain Stanhope



is struggling to keep his men's morale up before the big German push that is expected to hit in a few days' time. One of Stanhope's fellow officers Hibbert, pretends to be sick and demands to be allowed to leave the trench for the comfort and safety of the Field Hospital further away from the front line.

'Hymns' by Chris O'Connell (1999) was performed by Oscar Brett (Chatham), Ben Jorgensen (Grafton), Arthur Luard (Bruce) and Edward Rød-Larsen (Chatham) with Lighting Design by Tavish Struthers (Bruce).

Four men reunite to mourn the loss of a close friend but time and events have had a corrosive effect on this once tight-knit bunch. From beneath the surface bravado, a brooding animosity emerges. Their struggle to deal with grief and guilt brings them to breaking point where the truth lays waiting.



# A Level Drama

## **A Level Theatre Studies students present: 'The Weir 5 Ways' by Conor McPherson**

"There's something unsatisfying about a certain type of ghost story. Like a card trick or a sparkler, it dazzles but leaves no impression; momentarily spooky, then gone. But McPherson's stories express something deeper."

You may be familiar with Conor McPherson as the screenwriter for BBC Drama, *Paula*, a three-part thriller that creepily occupied our screens recently. In June, audiences prepared for a spooky ride with a twist as

A Level Theatre Studies pupils developed their own theatrical responses to McPherson's play *The Weir*, discovering 'it is not just about things that go bump in the night'. It is a play about loneliness, grief and community.

Stylistically each reinterpretation was distinct, offering a diverse and intriguing evening including immersive theatre, promenade, physical theatre, and the integrated use of digital technology and special effects. Each piece showed a strength of ensemble as pupils worked collaboratively to script, direct, design and perform their work.





It has been another exceptionally successful year for our DofE participants and it has been very pleasing to see our completion rate exceeding the national average and seven Gold Awards awarded this year. In recognition of our achievements, we were invited to St James's Palace where Mr Liversage was introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh on what turned out to be one of his last Award Ceremonies. Apparently the Duke was surprised we didn't run our expeditions in the Stowe grounds! Our focus this year has been to try and introduce our participants to the very best wild country experiences that the British mainland can offer. I think that they have all taken much from their experiences and stories of some of their adventures will be told for many years to come.

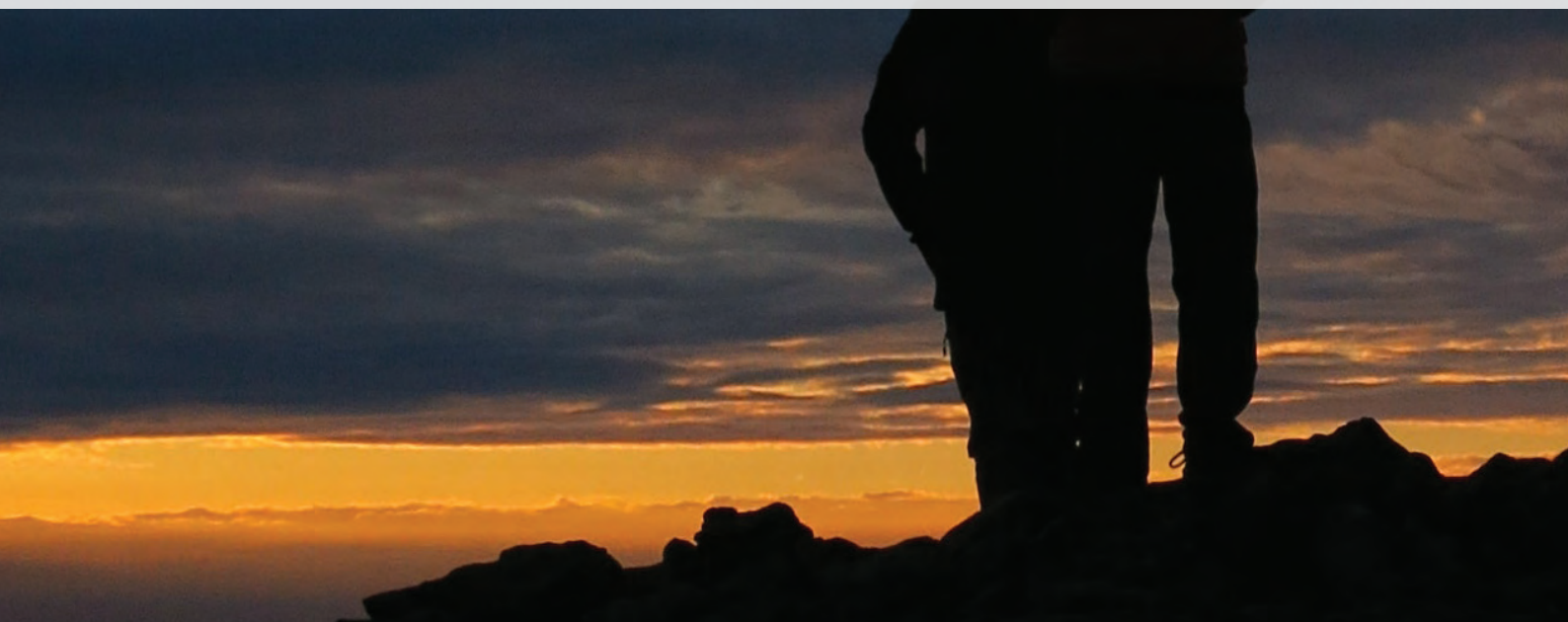
October's Silver Assessed and Gold Training Expedition turned out to be one of the most breathtaking and eventful expeditions of the year. The Silvers completed their expedition over the stunning summits of Catbells, the Langdales and Sca Fell, whilst the Gold training expedition put the 'newbies' through their paces in the stunning autumnal beauty of Eskdale, with navigation training and adventures over Hard Knott and a final day over Sca Fell. The weather was particularly kind during the day, however I am not sure many of the participants were quite prepared for the plunging temperatures at night.

The Bronze Expedition programme always highlights how far our participants come over the course of their DofE journey and this year was no exception. The weekly

training programme at School can offer core skills and advice, however there is only one way to really gain the experience that makes later expeditions more comfortable and that is to participate in a training expedition. In the Cotswolds, participants established that footpaths are not always clearly marked on the ground, that it gets quite cold at night and that if you don't plan your menu properly, you can get quite hungry whilst walking with 17kg on your back. Fortunately, by the time the Assessed Expedition came round, lessons had been learned and the 82 Bronze participants acquitted themselves magnificently on the Long Mynd and the Stiper Stones in the finest weather the Shropshire Hills can offer.

The main Silver and Gold programmes started in April with a joint Practice Expedition on Dartmoor. Whilst Dartmoor does not necessarily present great challenges in terms of height gain, it certainly highlights the need for participants to be able to navigate effectively in relatively featureless terrain - particularly if they want to keep their feet dry! Fortunately we managed to avoid the infamous Dartmoor mires and participants enjoyed some peaceful days and nights camping out in the wilds of the moor around the Princetown area, returning to our farm campsite for a delicious home cooked meal on the final night.

Neither the Silver nor the Gold Assessed expeditions at the end of the Summer Term quite enjoyed the heatwave conditions prevailing in the rest of the country at the

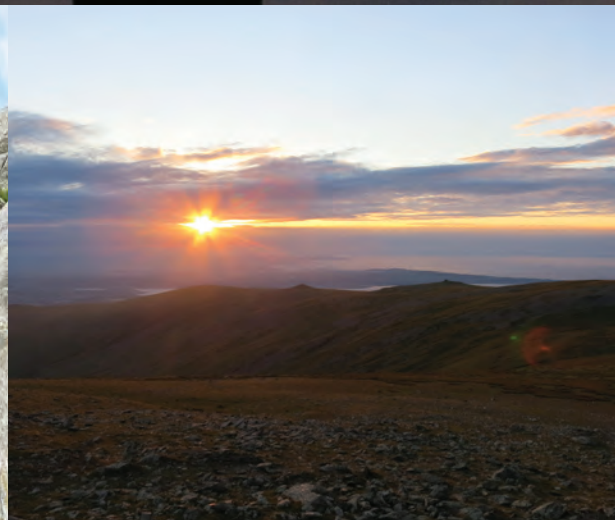


# Duke of Edinburgh's Award

time. The Silver expedition to the Brecon Beacons was challenged by some low visibility as they traversed the Brecon Ridge, taking in the summits of Pen y Fan and Corn Du along the way. This year we only had two groups for Silver which meant that they benefitted from much more intensive training from their supervisors and instructors which will hopefully set them up perfectly for the challenges of Gold next year. The Gold Assessed expedition to Snowdonia in the first week of July proved to be particularly challenging and the Gold participants can be very proud of their achievements, completing some of Snowdonia's iconic routes in very challenging conditions. Day one saw two of the groups tackling the challenging ridge of Y Lliwedd to gain the summit of Snowdon, whilst the other group took on the Glyders - all in very limited visibility. For the next few days the weather was kinder, but the midges fiercer, however the groups acquitted themselves well over the less-travelled summits of the Carneddau range. There is no doubt that the Silver and Gold groups really earned the Expedition section of their Awards this year and they are to be congratulated on their organisation, perseverance and most importantly, their good-natured approach to the challenges they faced!

It would not be possible to run this programme without the unwavering commitment and support of our staff team, so particular thanks are due to Mr Hoare, whose support has been invaluable this year, to our transport experts Mrs Roddy, Mr Donoghue and Mr Nigel 'Goose' Gibbon, to Miss Jepsen, Mrs Ackroyd and Mrs McMahon for their help both on expedition and in training, to Mr Grimble for his nutritional expertise, to Mr Møller, Mr Wilson, Miss Penrhyn-Lowe, Mr Thompson, Mr Griffin and Mr Thorne, to Mrs Davis for her healing hands, to Mrs Searle for keeping us all running and not least to our external team of Mountain Leaders Simon Rose, Steve Rogers, Nick Piper, Richard Pickersgill, Philip Pitcher and Tim Hunt. Finally, as always, special thanks to Fraser Liversage for making sure we all get where we need to be!

*Mr Gwilym Jones, Head of DofE*





This year we welcomed Miss Hutchings and 2nd Lieutenant Popplestone to the Army Section and the contingent numbered 135 cadets, of whom 23 were Sixth Formers. The RN section numbered 13, the Army Section 105, and the RAF Section 17.

## July 2016

### Army Cadet Expedition to the Kwazulu Trail, South Africa

Alex Harris (Lower Sixth, Grafton) recalls: Following a selection process and two weeks training in the Lake District, we were on our way to our first destination, Zingela game reserve. The first week was spent acclimatising, and working on our bush craft. Then onto the Zulu Trail, following some of the Army tracks from the Anglo-Zulu war. The first and longest day covered 27 km. Our final week was rest and recuperation in Elandskraal, an eerie place as the storms rolled in. We took part in Zulu pottery classes and dancing, and visited Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift - deeply moving places – and the Twin Streams Eco-Reserve, where we learnt, visited a crocodile sanctuary, and went on a river cruise. An amazing time!

### CCF RN's Cross Channel Sail

Rowan Brudenell (Fifth Form, Grenville) writes: We set off early one misty morning on our 45' former police launch. The conditions, as we made our voyage across to Cherbourg, were better than we could have hoped for, but over the next couple of days the weather deteriorated causing us to seek shelter in the well-protected Saint Peter Port in Guernsey. Despite stomach upsets and frequent visits to the heads, everyone was able to achieve the qualification and have a great time whilst doing it.

## October 2016

### Army Section Visit to Bramley Training AREA, Hampshire

Harry Burnet (Fourth Form, Grafton) wrote: When we arrived, we walked to our base, put up our Bashes and cooked our food. It soon became dark and that's when the fun started. We played a game in the woods of trying to stay away from the hunters whilst having to get to two checkpoints and not trying to get caught. It was pitch black but that made it better. After we got back that night, we moved towards the Fifth Form who were waiting to ambush us. A red flare shot up in the air and the gun fire started, then we had to act dead. It was one of the best nights ever. After breakfast the next day, we learnt how to stalk, use a gun, and read a map. Stalking was the best fun.

### RN Section Visit to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

The RN Section stayed overnight on minehunter STV Hindostan, finding their way past bulkheads and up companionways, took part in leadership exercises suspended above ground on ropes, visited the Beagles, drove power boats on the River Dart, and tried to steer a destroyer into port on the Bridge Simulator. The harbour wall took a number of hits!

### RAF Section Visit to the RAF Museum, Hendon

Cadets got a fascinating tour of the rapid innovations and developments of RAF aircraft throughout history, and were mesmerised by the simplicity and vulnerability of some of the very early aircraft.



## **Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training Basic Climbing Course**

Maria Khalfun (Fifth Form, Queen's) writes: Over Half Term I completed the Basic Climbing Course. The training included how to set up all the equipment, ensuring that the participant is quite confident at setting up belays, all the gear placement and protection, rope management etc. We got to meet lots of new people and make friends, and the food was pretty good. An amazing experience!

## **December 2017**

### **Army Section Visit to 4RLC Abingdon**

Fifteen cadets took part in an inter-section military skills competition organised by 4 Regiment, RLC. During an observation stand, they attempted to identify an unknown number of objects cunningly hidden, as they patrolled along a winding woodland lane. A camouflage and concealment stand assessed their varying degrees of camouflage skills. In a 'voice procedure' exercise using military radios and headsets, cadets had to send a series of operational messages as accurately as they could. A cerebral command task challenged our Section Commanders, but Cpl Dily Adilkhanova calmly and mathematically worked out a solution, and her team completed the task in an impressive time. All cadets shot in the DCCT, with Sgt Alex Harris and L/Cpl Tavish Struthers matching some of the regular soldiers' scores in a couple of very competitive, adrenalin fuelled 'scenario' shoots. Finally there was an imaginative and physically demanding indoor obstacle course, followed by a fiercely competitive race round the outdoor obstacle course with the Regiment's physical training instructors.

### **Cadets visit the RNs Sea Survival School**

Eleven RN cadets, led by Oscar Hill (Fifth Form, Temple), visited the Sea Survival School to develop their self-reliance and initiative. They started with a talk on fire, how it happens and how to kill it. First task: use extinguishers to put out chip pan fires. Second: form teams of two – one equipped with a thermal imaging camera and one with a hose – and enter an engine room compartment in which one of the engines has caught fire, identify the seat of the fire, and put it out. Then onto the Damage Repair Instructional Unit – imagine the set for Titanic or The Crimson Ocean, but in this case your task is not to act out a drowning passenger, but to stop the water coming in and so save the ship! Meanwhile the deck is rocking and the free water is hurtling from one side of the compartment to the other. Stowe's team hammered wedges into holes in the bulkhead, and held their breath while dealing with holes in the deck several feet below the water. The cadets emerged bedraggled but enthused, with the highlights photographed by Zara Vickers (Fourth Form, Stanhope).

## **February 2017**

### **RN Leadership course at Rosyth**

Oscar Hill (Fifth Form, Temple) recalls: On the first evening, a bit of drill turned out to be great fun as each cadet got to lead and fall the group in. On the second day, we went to the world's largest climbing centre and went on the high ropes course which was awesome, and absolutely jaw-dropping at around 100 feet, and then we went orienteering up the fake ski slope. Then home for a group presentation on leadership and an account of a recent cadet expedition to Norway. On the final morning, there was more drill, followed by breakfast, snap talks, and practical leadership tasks. A great experience!

### **Seb Clarke OS (Cobham, 2012) talked to our Army Section about the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst**

When Seb visited Stowe he was mid-way through his Commissioning Course. He kept 80 Fourth and Sixth Form cadets captivated as he spoke about life as an officer cadet at RMAS, with its highs and lows, the camaraderie and physical challenges, not least the lack of sleep. He spoke with humour and a light touch, inspired those considering a career in the Forces and held the interest of everyone else.

## **March 2017**

### **Army Section Visit to Swynnerton Military Training Camp**

Thomas Fox (Fifth Form, Temple) writes: We took part in tactical laser tag, OBUA (Operating in Built Up Areas), DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Trainer), CQBR (Close Quarter Battle Range) and an obstacle course. The exercise consisted of arrival, a quick kit drop and meal, then straight into the first activity. There was no time for hanging about for the rest of the evening, as it was filled by another two hours of activities for each section, then lights out at 11pm for several hours of blissful sleep which were richly deserved. The following morning it was up early, a jog to breakfast then another three activities, after which everyone was exhausted and ready for the hot stew that was then provided at lunchtime. Finally, it was everyone's favourite – weapon cleaning! Thankfully, we only brought 10 rifles with us as a contingent, so we made quick work of this task. We then had to tidy our sleeping areas and were loaded on a bus bound for Stowe (a further opportunity to catch up on some more sleep!). The results of the DCCT shoots and the obstacle course were combined, with section 6, under the command of Hugo Robinson and 2IC Alex Jones, winning the highly coveted 'Coldstream Cup'.



### **Cadets Visit Bletchley Park**

On Wednesday 8 March, the RN and RAF Fifth Formers visited Bletchley Park; the code-breaking hub of the Allied forces during the Second World War. We learnt why we need to break codes in the first place and all the stages of doing so, how the messages were carried, and had a look around the Huts where the famous Alan Turing worked. Finally we heard a fascinating talk on how the Bombe machine worked, and saw a rebuilt machine in action.

### **Lt Cdr Critchley and Major de Gale visit Joypurhat Girls' Cadet College, Bangladesh**

Lt Cdr Critchley recalls: Major de Gale and I visited Joypurhat Girls' Cadet College, Bangladesh, to look at possibilities for pupil exchanges and other joint activity. We were welcomed to this all-girls' boarding school with just over 300 pupils in six year groups with immense hospitality and soon found that Punjabi and Shalwaar Kamees or Saree was the best clothing to wear in the heat. We were guests at an extraordinary cultural show, "Flutes of Bengal", and we shall never forget the displays of classical and traditional dancing – quite out of this world. This was followed first by presentations, including the gift of two splendid paintings of Stowe by Cadets Faita and Mustarin (soon to hang proudly on our walls) and a formal dinner with multiple welcomes of assalaamu aleikum as we entered. The following morning, while it was still cool, we witnessed an 0700 march past complete with band. We agreed that the marching was top quality. We are hugely grateful to all who made the journey possible: Dr Wallersteiner, for authorising it; Principal Md. Hedaytun Nabi for welcoming us to his school, Major Himel Samiul for escorting us everywhere; Mr Jahid Reza for explaining so much to us; and to Medical Officer Major Charmin and Miss Tanveer Sultana for so much else!

### **Exercise Iron Maiden visits the CCF**

Major Nics Wetherill talked about her team's attempt to cross the Antarctic under their own power this October. They will be the first ever all-female British military team to attempt this feat. They will trek 1,700km in temperatures as low as -80 and will battle winds of over 60mph, carrying all the supplies and equipment needed to survive for up to 600km at a time. The trek will take 75 days, returning February 2018. They hope to inspire a new era of female expeditionary spirit, and Nics certainly inspired Stowe cadets and CCF staff with her spirit and understatedness. We all learnt much about living and surviving in the Antarctic. Nics said she was nothing special or out of the ordinary, and stressed that life is there for the taking and never to be intimidated by the scale of a challenge, but to have faith and commitment and dare to give it a go...

## **April 2017**

### **Contingent Photograph**

The great majority of cadets were excellently turned out and did us proud; the (very small) minority who could not get their uniform together will have to wait for Summer 2018 in order to get into the photograph.

### **RN Cadets Exercise on the Solent**

A small group of RN cadets started very early on Sunday 7 May and made it to Portsmouth in time to receive their safety brief, acclimatise themselves to the functioning of their yacht or powerboat, and get out before the tide turned and trapped them in the harbour. STC Amaryllis, crewed by Bertie Keane (Walpole) and Charles Garment (Chandos), STC Cornish Air, crewed by Rosie Ludlow (Lyttelton), Phoebe Hill (Queen's) and Kora Haigh (Nugent), and MV Blue Swan, crewed by Henry Howard, Ian Hsu, and Alex Girling (all Chatham) made it across to Cowes where we all tied up for the night. Monday was spent exercising, recovering practice man overboards, and figuring out how to get back to Portsmouth without running aground. Happily all passed the test and a tired but cheerful group returned to Stowe.

## June 2017

### RAF Section Gets Airborne at RAF Benson

On Saturday 17 June the RAF section visited RAF Benson in Oxfordshire to conduct their annual air experience flying training. Cadets all received introductory briefings and undertook practice parachute drills before taking to the sky for a 30 minute sortie each in an RAF Grob tutor aircraft. Weather conditions were perfect and all the cadets landed with broad smiles on their faces. Number 6 Air Experience Flight did us proud, making the most of the June heatwave conditions by offering each cadet a 30 minute flight in their Grob Tutor aircraft. Sortie profiles included familiarisation with flying controls and local area navigation, while the hardier cadets were rewarded with enough steep turns and wingovers to put a smile on everyone's faces. In addition, we met the crew of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance Helicopter service and had a close look round their EC-135 helicopter before the crew were scrambled on a real call-out. All in all this year gave a very rewarding series of air experience visits and the cadets are already looking forward to more opportunities next year.

### RN and Army Section Adventure Training in Cumbria

On Thursday 15 June, 38 cadets slipped happily away from Stowe and the last of their end of year exams and headed up to Preston for a few days to enjoy Cumbria's rivers and caves. RAF Cadet Training Centre INSKIP provided comfortable accommodation and excellent food and was the base from which we set out early each day to enjoy adrenaline-fuelled, refreshingly cold, watery fun.

Amber Capurro (Fourth Form, Nugent) writes: After our first night on camp we set off early in the morning to a river in Cumbria where we spent the first half of our day learning how to paddle board. This activity was by far my favourite and we have all taken away a skill that will come in handy again at some point in our lives. We also got to jump off rocks on the side and climb through the rapids to give us a taster for the next day's activities to come. Caving was challenging for some and exhilarating for others but was rewarding for all. Some struggled to fit through the small gaps due to their fears but with the help of others we all managed to complete the tasks and move through a total of four caves all with their own challenges.

Thor Mager (Fourth Form, Bruce) recalls: To start off with we got used to the freezing temperatures of Cumbria's rivers and built up our confidence jumping off some low lying rocks. We then scrambled our way up the river, falling over a rock every time we decided it was too cold to swim. This beginning part was personally a tricky task, trying to get my stepping right with the dark water not helping. The first challenge was trying to swim right through a waterfall with tonnes of water pounding down from what felt like miles high. All the boys faced up to to the challenge but in the end realised we had no chance. After some walking in our heavy wetsuits with the cloud blocking the 10am morning Cumbria sun, we were soon back in the water. We tackled many jumps, plunging in from heights of buses into the fresh water with our buoyancy aids bouncing straight into our necks as soon as we hit water. The jumps were popular with everyone and we all were brave enough to tackle the finishing and most challenging jump. Everyone also took part in some abseiling down a vertical slope that was thoroughly enjoyed not just by the experts but also by the beginners. An unforgettable trip!

Major de Gale, who organised the trip, reflects: all 38 cadets rose to every physical challenge set, from squeezing through tiny gaps in cool, clammy, watery caves, to leaping from the safety of firm rock faces to deep, chilly, unknown water below. They were an excellent group with a positive attitude and as well as enjoying the adventure of the activities, were all pushed, mentally and physically, to varying degrees (some firmly, out of their comfort zone.) A very rewarding two days of character development and personal achievement.

### Military Heritage Day at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Tom Leach (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Stewart Johnston (Fifth Form, Chandos) seized the opportunity presented by this event to learn more about Sandhurst and the Army. There was a wide range of stalls displaying the latest weapons and armour, with soldiers at hand keen to explain the finer points, while the Leach Catapult was an interesting discovery. Finally, Beating the Retreat with the sunset in front of the iconic portico brought a lump to everyone's throat. It was a wonderful atmosphere and an event not to be missed.





**11 Infantry Brigade Cadet Leadership Course:**

Sergeants Alex Harris, Tom Leach and Mar Martinez-Tomas attended and passed this challenging course, returning more confident in their military knowledge and leadership skills.

**Senior Promotions over the year:**

to Leading Seaman, Oscar Hill; to Colour Sergeant, Alex Harris and Tom Leach; to Sergeant, Ben Shamash (Fifth Form, Chatham), Hugo Robinson (Fifth Form, Grenville), Cameron Chambers (Fifth Form, Grenville), Stewart Johnston (Fifth Form, Chandos) and Max Whitehead (Fifth Form, Grenville); to Cadet Sergeant, Matthew Barnes-Murphy (Lower Sixth, Bruce).

**July 2017**

**RAF Camp in Gibraltar:** Harry Kirby (Fourth Form, Temple) broke new ground for Stowe by taking part in this camp. He writes, "It was one of the best weeks of my life! I have learnt so much about the CCF, drill, and most of all Gibraltar; as well as meeting some really nice people."

**Thanks and Farewells:** We say a particular thank you to Mr Patrick Gilson for his work with the RN Section, to Lieutenant Eason Bassett RNR, to Mr Bray of Stowe Sub-

Aqua Club, to Colour Sergeant Parkin RM, to 11 Brigade Cadet Training Team, and to Sergeant Ray Cooper of Test West area Squadron.

My personal thanks go to Major de Gale for keeping us all on the road; to our dedicated and hard-working team of officers and adult volunteers, Captains Standley, Corthine, and Wilson, Lieutenant Peppiatt, 2nd Lieutenants Le Lacheur, Popplestone, Ms Hutchings, Flying Officer Murnane, Mr Parnaby, and Ms Crook; to Mrs Donaldson and Mrs Penner; and to our Admin Assistant, Mr Liversage. Last year was busier than any of the preceding 10 and this year has been even busier, and the cadet experience that the team has provided has been outstanding.

2nd Lieutenant Le Lacheur left us at the end of December; Captain Standley, Ms Crook and Ms Hutchings leave us at the end of June. We wish them all the best in their new lives.

After 11 years with Stowe CCF, I am standing down as Contingent Commander and am pleased to say that Major Jan de Gale will be the new Contingent Commander and that Alex Sprules, a former Royal Marine, will be our new School Staff Instructor. I wish them every success.

*Lt Cdr David Critchley, CCF RNR*





# Beagling

As our final season hunting with the Stowe Beagles has drawn to a close, my Joint-Master Bertie and I have been reflecting over some of the fantastic moments throughout our five-year hunting career. With many spectacular tours hunting in any imaginable corner of the kingdom, combined with some wonderful days hunting in our own country, without a doubt, beagling at Stowe has been very special. This season, starting in Northumberland with a kind invitation to stay with last year's Master, Annabel Wailes-Fairburn, we got off to an excellent start, hunting over some beautiful country around Mindrum, which lines the border between England and Scotland. Bertie showed the hounds to some fantastic runs around this country, which we were highly fortunate to be invited to by past Stowe Master, Adam Waugh. After this we moved down to the Tynedale country to hunt over Charlie Shirley-Bevan's Estate, which due to Bertie slipping an ankle, I was fortunate enough to hunt hounds. The fantastic country showed various terrains from moorland and bracken to fantastic arable country, where we were able to lay and hunt some incredible trails. With the first Northern tour over we headed down to School where hunting started in earnest, with some great days early on, and hounds coping beautifully with difficult conditions and circumstances meaning huntsman alternating on an almost weekly basis. We were also able to visit deepest Wales near Llandeilo in Carmarthenshire where the combination of incredibly tough weather and immense landscapes, meant we struggled on our trails until our hounds became comfortable in their new surroundings. We also made trips to Dorset to the Alexanders' Hemsworth Farm, and to have such a successful day over your own home farm, I am sure is something that Bertie will remember all his life. Then onto Yorkshire and the wonderful moors of Kildale where the splintering winds made things very hard for Bertie and the hounds. We then moved across Yorkshire to Coniston Hall, where I too was lucky enough to hunt hounds over familiar turf and had a very enjoyable yet frustrating day. Once hunting was well and truly underway and Bertie's

injury restrained, our hounds gained momentum and we enjoyed some fantastic days at Greens Park, Weston and Crockwell as well as many more throughout the year. We held hugely successful Hunter Trials this year with a great turn out of horses and riders to Primrose Hill at Gawcott. Mr Strangman as ever had organised a superb day and managed to raise a sizeable amount of money towards the beagles. Our other major fundraiser, our annual Hunt Ball, was held on the March Exeat, with some fantastic food, dancing, auction and raffle prizes. The evening was a great success with plenty of money raised. This year's Puppy show was a triumph. 'Grateful' won champion hound and was judged by Charles Frampton MFH of the Heythrop and Nicholas Bannister MFH of the Pendle Forest and Craven. Next year's Masters will be Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Freddie Richards (Fifth Form, Bruce) and we are sure that with the continued support of all those involved, these two Masters will have the greatest of fun and hopefully much success. All in all, I speak for both the Joint Masters and all involved with the beagles, when I thank Philip Kennedy our KH whose tireless efforts in kennels and out hunting have made our five years very special indeed.

*Roddy Bannister, Master of the Hounds*





# WARRIORS

Over the October Half Term, 18 Stoics embarked on a trip of a lifetime, pushing us fully out of our comfort zones.

We arrived in Johannesburg after the 11 hour flight and were greeted warmly by the Warriors team. We then headed to the Warriors base camp in Tzaneen, which was a five hour drive from the airport. We spent the evening getting to know everyone and enjoyed a delicious supper. After supper we headed to bed, all feeling rather tired; we slept in cabins that night.

On our first day, we ventured on a 25km hike and stopped on the way to slide down a waterfall into a pool of water. Our morale was kept high by singing and laughing and at the end of the day, we all felt very satisfied with what we had achieved.

The next day we headed to Lenyenyee to visit a Creche. From the moment we entered to the moment we left the children just wanted to be picked up and hugged. It was the most heartwarming experience and I think it all showed us how different life can be for others and how lucky we are. After this we went to Kinyongo reptile centre where every Warrior held a python around their necks! We ended the day by driving to Swadeeni campsite where we set up our tents around beautiful scenery and had a Braai.

The following morning we went to Moholoholo Animal Rehabilitation Centre where we got to stroke a cheetah and see the famous honey badger! We then headed to Nyani cultural village where we watched an outstanding performance of African dancing and learnt about the history and the lifestyle of the tribe. We also shared a meal with them which was delicious and all the people were lovely. After an enjoyable day we went back to the campsite and got introduced to a Warriors belly

that we then had to cook in teams.

The next day we started off our morning with a walk to see some amazing waterfalls and we had the pleasure of swimming in the pool at the bottom of one. After this we travelled to Panorama where we set up basecamp. We then psyched ourselves up and went to do the big swing. This was a tandem jump off a cliff into a valley with a 68m free fall at 180km/h. Everyone completed the big swing with fear but great excitement as well. That evening we cooked a traditional South African poykey.

The next day we set off to 'Elephant Whispers' where we learnt about African elephants and got to feed them and hug them. We then had a five hour journey to Rustenburg. When we arrived we set up our tents and had a relaxed evening. The next morning we woke up all feeling very excited to do our skydive falling out of an airplane at 11,000m. That evening we enjoyed another poykey cooked by South Africans at the skydiving base in Rustenburg and had a fun evening with them.

On the last day, a few more people still had to skydive then we packed up all our belongings and went to Ishigeki fighting academy where we learnt self-defence. After this we returned to Johannesburg airport where we had our last supper as Warriors. We said our final goodbyes, which was very sad and left for our flight home.

We all had the most amazing week and it lived up to everything we hoped it would be. I think everyone would agree that we would all love to go back to repeat this experience and we would recommend this to anyone considering it.

*Rosie Smith (Lower Sixth, Queen's)*





# Chapel

The Chaplaincy was reconfigured in 2016, when the Revd Sue Sampson became the Stowe Minister and Priest-in-Charge of Stowe Church to minister pastoral care and services to both communities. Midweek Chapel themes ranged from the major Christian Festivals and topics such as: peace in our time; the refugee crisis; World Aids day; science and religion; religion and politics; and Tabernacle or Temple. House-led Chapels also proved very popular.

Sunday Preachers included: The Rt Revd Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington; Major General Peter Williams on Remembrance Sunday; and on Advent Sunday - Jodie Collins (Beyond Ourselves Charity). There were solemn, yet deeply moving and importantly good-humoured down-to-earth commemorations too – the poignant and significant Remembrance Day and the joy of community singing and prayer in our two Christmas Carol Services at the end of term. The music and choir, conducted by Geoffrey Silver, our Director of Music, achieved a high standard of musicianship and harmony plus an exquisite choice of carols not heard in Stowe for a few years.

From the New Year the vibrancy and more positive atmosphere continued to build with many more students keen to be involved. Stoics' participation in reading, dramas/sketches, singing/playing songs and House Chapels actively engaged the students and staff alike. The Praise in the Nave service has proved increasingly popular with the Junior School and this is offered once every half term (but with some students requesting more). Some House Chapels continued with the collective theme of 'Fruits of the Spirit' while the others focussed on 'Young People in the Bible called to serve God'. In this term, the Houses were looking at 'Faith in and through music' and, in other Chapels, 'Faith in and through the News'. We have also had Chapels on Fair Trade, World Poetry Day and the Medical Detection Dogs Charity. The School engaged with Red Nose Day for the first time, which included a photographic competition and nearly £2,000 was raised for this charity.

The Sunday services were much more flexible this year,

with the use of different liturgies and ways to pray and as much student involvement as possible. Sunday Preachers included: Revd Will Pearson-Gee (Vicar of Buckingham); Revd Danny Rodgers; James Righetti (Lent addresses); Revd Andy Strajnic (Highway Christian Church); and Revd Andrew Wingfield Digby.

The Service of Confirmation took place on the 30 April led by Bishop Alan of Buckingham with 44 confirmands. Staff led the Confirmation groups with great success and all took part in a Quiet Day at Ripon College, Cuddesdon to begin the process. In addition, 350 people came forward to receive Holy Communion with an additional 40 for a blessing. This made for an extended service but many parents commented on how moving and personal the service felt.

Summer Preachers were: David Critchley (staff); and, in June, His Eminence, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, the former Archbishop of Westminster. In his homily he spoke of the importance of making right decisions here on earth, the importance of virtue and the Christian faith. He was listened to attentively by Stoics and staff and afterwards dined with Sixth Form and interested staff in the Music Room. Sadly, it was to be his last visit to a school as he died in September 2017. May he Rest in Peace.

The Upper Sixth Leavers' service took place in May with the theme 'Life is life, fight for it' (from a poem by Mother Theresa) and all leavers received the full poem as a bookmark as they left.

At the end of the summer, we bade a sad farewell to Revd Sue Sampson as she moved to the exciting challenges of a new parish in Burnham, Buckinghamshire. We thank her for all her energy, vitality and prayerful support of the Stowe community and wish her well in the future. We now welcome Revd Tim Mullins (formerly of Radley, Eton and St Michael's, Chester Square) as our new Chaplain from 2017.

*Mr Crispin Robinson, (Second Master)*

# CROSSFIRE

'Come and see', is what one of the disciples once said to his brother when telling him about his experience of meeting Jesus Christ. And the same invitation is extended via Crossfire each week to the Stowe community!

There has been a warm atmosphere on Friday evenings in StoweBucks this year with pupils enjoying Geoff's biscuits and a short but thought-provoking talk from the Bible from a range of engaging speakers. The Michaelmas Term's series, 'The King and I', produced an exhilarating race through Mark's Gospel, exploring the major events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Into the Lent Term and a series

on 'Jargon busting: making sense of Big Words', and some very helpful talks on what the Bible says about such things as love, joy, hope and eternity. The Summer Term's series, 'Words from a Friend', took us through the first Chapter of the book of 1 Peter and the Apostle's teaching on the joys, challenges, assurances and purpose of the Christian life.

Other notable highlights included the Summer Term BBQs and the Lent Addresses, led this year by James 'Riggas' Righetti, a charismatic Aussie youth worker who spoke engagingly on the theme of 'Satisfaction'.

*Mr Henry Swayne, MiC Crossfire*

## CREATIVE WRITINGS

### TRIPPY WIRES

The wind thrashed at the trees above him as he inhaled the heavy smell of pine and felt the delicate forest bed decorated with leaves. Over to his right there were the cords. Crisscrossed from tree to tree, hundreds of different colours. They tempted him. They had a certain elegance to him, a certain amount of intricacy seemed to have gone into them. He strolled over to them, and struck one with his hand. A sting shot up his arm and sent tremors up his spine. He backed away from it and stared at it in astonishment. Upon further examination, he saw there was a dim light which surrounded each cord. He stepped back, stumbled and hit his head. Hard.

He woke up to the forest above his head. He felt the warm breeze whispering through the trees, its rays gently heating him up. He heard the splash of water over to his right. He tried to sit up but couldn't. He lay there looking from side to side. Over to his left were more of the colourful wires. He tried to get up again and this time was successful. He spun around, slowly taking in his surroundings. The forest was very similar to the one he last recalls being in, the wires were still there, yet the floor wasn't damp leaves, it was sand. He inhaled deeply and the sharp scent of fresh salt pierced through his nostrils. Over to his right was a beach and at the end was a turquoise sea, the tide lapping in and out as if nothing had happened. He strolled over and as he did he felt the cool sand underfoot turn into hot sand as he came out of the forest and onto what seemed to be an empty beach. He continued down until the warm water tickled his toes, and unhurriedly spun

around to take in his surroundings. Over to his left the beach continued round in a bend, and to his right, obscured by another protruding beach front. He left a mark on the sand and headed out to his right. It took a long time to head round the second beach, but once he did, he was met with what seemed like another beach and a hill. Judging by the amount of time it took him to pass the first beach, he decided to climb the hill. Once at the top he was met with a magnificent sight. Until now he thought he was alone.

He stood on the hill, the tall grass gently thrashing against his legs. Before him he saw a very large collection of rooftops, spires and pop up stores. To his left, he saw a beach and upon further inspection, a large fortress, surrounded by terraced gardens with tumbling bougainvillea, and briefly he was pleased he didn't follow that route, although his tranquillity did not last long. He heard shouting down at the fortress and saw men with dogs charging towards him. The only thing he could think to do was charge back to the wires. He sprinted back down the hill, almost stumbling several times, with the growling of the dogs growing ever nearer. He felt sand being thrown from his feet up his back. Eventually, after what seemed like forever, he could see the mark he had left earlier, and began to slow down, but not too slow as the danger of being caught was ever present. He found the wires and sprinted to them and struck many at the same time. Nothing happened. He tried again, the dogs now in the forest. He felt himself fall and woke up in a forest, only this time, the floor was not sand, and he could not hear the dogs. He escaped.

Harry Heathcote (Fourth Form, Grenville)





# Arts Award

Arts Award enjoys its most successful year yet!

Provided by Trinity College, London, the Arts Award programme offers students the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification and UCAS points, while exploring any area of the arts in which they have an interest. It encourages them to develop their leadership skills, independence and sense of initiative by developing their interest through research, sharing their passion with others, attending exhibitions and theatre productions and organising arts events. In the past couple of years it has emerged as a fast-growing alternative to CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Stowe.

Mrs Lucy Miller and Miss Collette Storzaker have continued to lead the programme over the past year through many notable successes. Congratulations go to the following students who have successfully achieved their Bronze qualifications:

Tabbi Candler (Fourth Form, Queen's), Nathan Lavelle (Fourth Form, Temple), Maria Sharipova (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Flora Walters (Fourth Form, Nugent), Kitty Wemyss (Fourth Form, Queen's), Sophie Yeowart (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Hannah Gill (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Eleanor Haggie (Fourth Form, Nugent), Gahsem Dorji (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Elizaveta Zakon (Fifth Form, Lyttelton).

Our visiting moderator was hugely impressed with the quality and diversity of their projects in areas as wide

-ranging as textiles, oil painting, film-making, drama and music. We hope that many of them will continue to pursue their journey in the Arts and join the other individuals in school who are currently working towards their Gold and Silver qualifications.

The students have enjoyed participating in a range of exciting and cultural field days this year. We ventured to Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford Upon Avon, in the autumn, to explore behind the scenes at the Royal Shakespeare Company and investigate the eccentric and highly entertaining Museum of Mechanical Art and Design. We also took part in a day-long scriptwriting workshop in Milton Keynes, where the students created original drama pieces in collaboration with a professional theatre director. In the Summer Term, the students worked with a professional choreographer and singing coach on a Billy Elliot themed day, before getting a chance to see the professional touring production in the evening. We even managed to get a backstage tour, which gave the students a fascinating insight into the 'behind the scenes' world of large scale touring productions.

Next year I will continue to run the Arts Award alongside Mr Nick Bayley and we are looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of Fourth Form Stoics onto the Bronze Award and helping them to develop their creativity and interest in the arts.

*Mrs Lucy Miller*





# Development Office

Stowe's new Science Centre was officially opened on Tuesday 24 January 2017 by the family of Henry Worsley, MBE (Grafton 78), the Polar explorer who tragically died on his solo attempt to cross the Antarctic in January 2016. His wife, Joanna, and children, Max and Alicia, joined with other members of their family, friends, donors to the building, pupils and staff to mark the opening of this outstanding new facility. Boasting 18 laboratories, a Sixth Form Science Centre and six lecture theatres, the building has been named the Worsley Science Centre, in celebration of Henry's life.

Henry was the only person to have completed the two classic routes of Shackleton, Scott and Amundsen to the South Pole. Henry died while attempting the first solo unsupported and unassisted crossing of the Antarctic landmass. He was just 30 miles from reaching his target.

On the first anniversary of Henry's death, we were delighted that Edward Hall, a close friend and contemporary of Henry's at Stowe, and Ben Saunders, a leading Polar explorer and friend of Henry and his family, agreed to be our guest speakers. Ben spoke of his

connection and friendship with Henry and of the late explorer's kindness and generosity. Ben hinted that he hoped to return to Antarctica to finish Henry's solo and unsupported crossing of Antarctica.

After Ben and Edward's inspiring speeches, Joanna Worsley and her family opened the Worsley Science Centre and guests were able to view an exhibition of Henry's Polar equipment and images from his adventures. Guests were also treated to a series of experiments, all conducted by pupils at Stowe. Dr Claire Guest of the local charity Medical Detection Dogs gave a talk about their work and guests saw a trained Detection Dog in action. During the afternoon, guests were also given the opportunity to meet 'Stowe', a puppy that has been sponsored by our pupils' fundraising efforts and that has just begun his training to be a Medical Detection Dog.

The day was a celebration of this wonderful new facility but also of Henry's life: it was an inspiring day for all involved.

*Miss Hannah Al-Anazi, Development Manager*



## 1st XV

Coming off a very successful pre-season – having hosted St John's from Harare, spirits were as high as the expectations.

Unfortunately the first two games of the season were going to prove a baptism of fire: RGS High Wycombe and Warwick. RGS was played in the same conditions as the Cup match the previous year and sadly the lessons from that day were not carried forward and a desire to run the ball in wet, windy conditions, although applaudable, were simply the wrong tactics. Warwick saw an improvement but a fortuitous bounce snatched the result from our grasp. Two narrow losses after frustrating performances meant the 1st XV had to regroup and fast if they were to salvage their season.

And this is what they did: A superb victory over Stamford, Bedford Modern (in the NatWest Cup) and Oundle – showed the class that this team did possess. A dominant lineout and a strong midfield were potent threats and both were prevalent in what followed which was perhaps the best performance of the season with a mature, controlled and clinical victory over local rivals Northampton School for Boys in the NatWest Cup: 24:13.

Unfortunately, the energy and emotion expelled in this performance proved too much for the players who then lost to Bromsgrove on the following Saturday, where yet again tactical naivety was the undoing of the side and having taken a 3-0 lead with only a couple of minutes left failed to clear their line from the resultant kick off and conceded a soft try losing 7-3.

A two week Half Term forms a gap in fixtures extending to four weeks and here began a downward spiral as the players struggled to replicate their form from the previous weeks. The side returned to a Cup match against Warwick and what should have been an opportunity to avenge the earlier defeat turned into a disaster starting at the very first kick off where Warwick were allowed to collect their own kick and score under the posts. The side never really recovered and went

down heavily which added to a loss of confidence and the following two matches that should have been guaranteed wins were both lost to Cheltenham and Uppingham.

The regular fixture with Bedford was lost to a Cup Final clash for the opposition and as coincidence would have it, Eton found themselves free and a fixture much sought after gave the side an opportunity to get its teeth into a meaty fixture. It turned out to be one of the best games of school boy rugby I have seen in a long time and what an advert for the school boy game. In the end, Stowe won a thriller 26-24 with the Eton centre just knocking on over the line as the last play of the game.

A rejuvenated Oakham team were the final opposition of the season and they had a terrific season. Sadly in a game that was eventually abandoned after a long injury delay in the second half, Stowe can be proud of the performance and effort that had expended up until that point – as they led 10-7 in difficult conditions – Stowe 1st XV stayed true to its desire to play attractive running rugby no matter the circumstances or opposition.

Mr Hughes and I would like to pay a special thank you to Tosin Segun for not only leading the team so well this year but also his effort and commitment to Stowe Rugby over the past five years. Jack West has earned himself a contract with Moseley whilst studying at Birmingham University. Player of the season and hooker was Ben Soloman who, like both his props Hamish Murray and Oscar Sanchez, will be moving on next year. Henry Larkin completes a whole front five who leave us for pastures new. Archie Dixon-Smith and Nick Quirot de Poligny will be sorely missed in the back row. In the backs Jarrod van der Westhuizen and Sol Boyd join Tosin in the list of regular Upper Sixth players who we say goodbye to and we thank them all for their effort and contribution over the years. Equally - a thank you must be paid to the whole Upper Sixth 1st XV cohort who served the first team and Stowe rugby so passionately over the years that they have been here.

*Mr Alan Hughes*



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## 2nd XV 'Stowe Lions'

The newly named Stowe Lions had a magnificent season, only losing two matches out of 11 played. A tremendous team spirit was cultivated immediately in the first match of the season at a soaked RGS High Wycombe. Traditionally strong opposition, the boys were clinical in their finishing and finished off their opposition in style with tries from Garrett, Wallace and skipper Adejobi. The next fixture saw another tight affair edged out by Stowe against a strongly fancied Warwick. Ollie Pell scored two conversions, a penalty and a lovely individual try to secure a man of the match performance. Two more convincing victories against Stamford and Loughborough, brought us to perhaps the crunch match of the season against Oundle. Both teams were unbeaten up to this point and unfortunately Oundle edged it in a tight fixture on the North Front. Clearly the boys (and coaches) were bitterly disappointed by this loss, but the Lions showed huge resilience and character to bounce back with five straight wins in their next matches. A highlight was the visit to Cheltenham, where we beat a former Stowe History teacher's XV. Celebrations were long and extended and rightly enjoyed after this fixture! Unfortunately, the last match of the season against Oakham was played in horrendous conditions, which hampered our fast running game. The big Oakham pack dominated, and

they played clever 10 man rugby, scoring 3 pushover tries from lineouts. Frustratingly, their backs did not receive a pass all game, and played to their strengths. It meant so much to some of the Upper Sixth, playing in their last match for the school, that some tears were shed at the end.

The standard of rugby this season has been superb, and the team spirit cultivated has been the standout attribute. It is therefore difficult to pick out players individually, but a few do need to be mentioned. Edwin Rimlinger made a seamless transition from scrum half to openside with aplomb, and was always first to the breakdown making a nuisance of himself. Brandon Lee, a natural reader of the game at full back whose constant commentary kept us all entertained for long periods. Dom Shaw scythed through defences on a regular basis, and showed occasional glimpses of sheer out and out speed! However, Adebambo Adejobi skippered the team with a quiet authority, often putting his shoulder through excruciating pain for the team, has been the standout man this season. Quite simply, the Lions looked up to him and listened in times of crisis and watched in awe as he led from the front.

It has been a pleasure to look after this team this year, and all the boys who represented the Lions in 2016-17 should be extremely pleased with all their efforts.

*Mr Brian Hart & Mr Craig Sutton*

## 3rd XV

The season started very well for the 3rd XV with strong victories against RGS High Wycombe and Warwick. Both games saw Stowe go behind in the early part of the match and the players showed real grit to eventually come back and overcome tough opposition. The team bounced back after a disappointing loss to Stamford to record three undefeated matches, with a chip and chase try of the season coming from Georges Tasker during an impressive 43-7 victory at Bromsgrove. From a neutral's perspective, the match of the season would be the 11-10 loss to Cheltenham College and

Stowe were bitterly unlucky not to come out the victors in a match that showed schoolboy rugby at its best. Had this result gone the other way, Stowe might have carried more momentum into the final fixtures of the season. However, the team came up against top class teams from both Bedford and Oakham. My thanks to the 3rd XV players who have contributed to the team over two seasons with an excellent spirit, with Fabian Bevan captaining the side this year. The Lower Sixth players who are moving up have shown a lot of talent and should be in a good position to have a successful season in 2017.

*Mr Matthew Teasdale & Dr Charlie Standley*



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## 4th XV

The 4th XV began their 2016 journey at home to Warwick. After a series of in-house friendlies, it was nice to see this cohort of boys assemble into what would eventually become a challenge for any school that they would face.

Tries from Rob Turness, Billy Vesty, Harry Middleton and a two try brace from Dom Strong ensured that the first outing would boost confidence. With two conversions from fly-half Jamie Jackson, a marker was laid down and a message was sent to all schools: we were no pushovers. Unfortunately, that message didn't reach Stamford who arrived at Stowe the following week and triumphed 46-0. A result such as this would be difficult for many teams to counter, and an unfortunate set of circumstances against Oundle in week three meant that four points would be a narrow margin to taste consecutive defeats, but it offered hope that this team still had the drive to succeed.

The training sessions that followed this game offered new hope and reflection, as well as an onus on the quick feet and the rucking prowess of the forwards, along with the versatility of the backs, and this began to form each session's training plan.

The three away games that followed ended in victories, first in an away match against Bromsgrove where Jackson converted all tries from Mikhail Fedotov, Miles Bell and two from Charlie Leefe and Sam Montgomery and the game ended in 42-12. The following week saw the 4ths travel to Cheltenham, with tries from Avijit Nair, Leefe and Bell allowing two conversions from Jackson to close the game out at 19-5. Confidence and belief grew amongst the players, and they knew that they were exercising the demons of defeat, alongside demonstrating that as individuals they all counted for the success of the team. The final away game proved to be a tense affair at Uppingham, a converted try from Fedotov was matched by the opposition after half time, and with the teams tied at 7-7 going into the last ten minutes, the game was there for whoever wanted it most. A moment of sheer grit and determination on behalf of Harry Middleton meant he would deliver one of the tries of the season as he scurried his way through what seemed like a full field of players to cross the whitewash, and a further try from George Williams closed the game out at 17-7. Two final home games against strong opposition in Bedford and Oakham saw Stowe's 4th team triumph once more, 45-7 and 12-0 respectively, with a sense that this was the senior scalp most schools would have wanted, but few claimed.

To be the sole coach in charge of the 4th team this year was both an honour and a privilege. One of the personal highlights was the rallying calls by team captain Miles Bell, often encouraging his players to dig deep and perform when they needed to, and prove that they were more than just an assigned number to a selection of very talented and determined young men. Well done boys, Michaelmas 2016 certainly was the term you took over.

*Mr Martin Quinn*



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## 5th XV

The Mighty 5th XV had two blips in what was otherwise another fine campaign. Defeats to Marlborough and Oundle in the early season helped galvanise the players to produce some outstanding rugby and results. This began with the 48-0 win over Bedford where 5 first half tries gave the hosts

a strong 31-0 lead at half-time. There were 3 second half tries with all 21 players getting a good share of playing time.

A combined 4th/5th XV then took on Kingham Hill 2nd XV. The team ran in 3 tries and led 22-7 at the break. There were 4 further tries scored in the 2nd half as the team eased to a 55-12 victory.

In the final game of the season it was fitting for Captain Piers Edinborough to score his first ever try at Stowe to seal a 42-12 victory. Over the course of the season 38 Boys played 5th XV rugby. Appearances as follows:-

All 5 matches: N Montgomery, H McQuitty, M Campbell-Preston, M Shannon, A Fenwicke-Clennell, H Pullin. 4 matches: A Holmes, L Aust, P Edinborough (Capt), J Carley. 3 matches: P Odell, T Brooke, A Perez-Buchanan, A Forsyth, M Omlie, J Polturak (Capt), R Williams, V Topa, M de Klee, T Chinawongwatana; D Kilmister, O Muhoho. 2 matches: P Birdwood, T Jemide, J Leyte, J Gibbons. 1 match: T Mayhew, J Patang, A Albanawi, A Perez-Buchanan, J Lewis, G Woodhouse, A Nair, J Jackson, J Abbot-Davies, F Shillington, A Harris, S Milner.

*Mr Isaac Michael*



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# Colts A

## Played 10, Won 1, Lost 9

If results were the barometer for the success of a team during the season then the final statistic of played 10, won 1 and lost 9 would be a rather depressing tale of woe and strife on the pitch. However, never judge the proverbial rugby book by its cover as this season the Colts A team showed a great deal of endeavour, courage and no little skill in their performances. Indeed, of the 9 losses, two were incredibly tight defeats (losing 15-14 to Stamford and 27-25 to Bedford) whilst with a little bit more composure and belief in the key moments of tightly fought matches, the defeats to Oundle (17-10), Cheltenham (21-7), Uppingham (15-5) and Oakham (23-12) could have quite easily seen Stowe taking the spoils. There were seminal moments in each of these games when there was little to choose between the two teams either in terms of performance or on the scoreboard and yet Stowe somehow kept managing to find ways to lose matches that they'd fought extremely hard to compete in. However, sport is a great leveller and the 'ifs and buts' mentality cannot detract from a season of frustration and hardship. Only Warwick, RGS High Wycombe and Bromsgrove can feel that they had the better of Stowe and credit to these schools with huge numbers of boys to select from, and whose strength and conditioning programmes are light years ahead of Stowe's, resulting in an uphill struggle for the Stowe A team. The solitary victory came on a fine autumnal afternoon at Cokethorpe School when Stowe's backline played with real conviction to run in several impressive scores to win 55-24.

Of the playing roster, many of the boys spent considerable time injured on the touchlines which really disrupted preparation and training and ultimately affected the results. The key men of Anderson, Saghri, Moir and Kanjana all missed several matches and credit should therefore go to Ollie Bowder and Jayden Brooks-Hurst for being ever-present members of the team throughout the season giving their all for the cause. When fit and firing, the midfield trio of Hewlett, Anderson and Saghri proved to be a real handful whilst Watkins has the natural ability to thrive in the game. The elevation of Easdale and Worrall in the latter half of the season gave the team some real presence on the wings and I hope that they continue to enjoy their rugby at senior level next season. In the forwards, Moir, Kanjana and Bowder gave the team real direction and go forward whilst Brooks-Hurst often ran himself into the ground for the team – a true warrior.

Looking ahead to senior rugby, I would be surprised if any of the team threatened to make the 1st XV next season and it is therefore imperative that they use their time in the 2nd and 3rd XVs to ready themselves for the opportunities which come their way in their Upper Sixth year. Many of the boys must take their strength and conditioning more seriously as they were simply over-powered by bigger and stronger opponents. I hope this is an area that the school takes more seriously to give these players the chance to compete on a level playing field in future years.

*Mr Gavin Moffat*

## Colts B

The Colts B team endured a tough season, unfortunately playing some of the best teams on the circuit in the first two games. The opening fixtures against RGS High Wycombe and Warwick led to chastening defeats, but did allow us to show the beginnings of a settled team with some aggressive forwards and slick handling in the backs. Our third game of

the season against Stamford was a much closer affair, Stowe dominated possession and field position, but were just unable to break the resolute Stanford defence. Unfortunately, with a contentious decision to disallow an obvious try, Stowe went down 10-7 in defeat. We had more joy in the following fixture against Oundle, this time coming away 19-15 victors in a closely fought tussle. A very frustrating loss against



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Bromsgrove was next, with Stowe 12-5 down at the break, we dominated the second half and looked like edging ahead. Unfortunately three injuries to the A team decimated our attacking force, and a late consolation of a Louis Redfern try was not enough to bridge the gap between the teams. The following weeks a convincing 44-10 victory over Cheltenham and 41-10 win over Uppingham showed what an attacking threat we had out wide. Ben Shamash, Max Moseley, Will Osei-Poku, Ivan Titov, Ben Jorgensen and Tom Worrall all

## Colts C

After the initial trials and tribulations of finding 15 players, I must confess to being impressed by Stowe's performance in their first outing against Warwick. Warwick played Bromsgrove the week before and lost quite heavily, but having played one game before this match, definitely gave them the early advantage. Stowe made several solid breaks, one especially good by Oliver Pritchard, but our lack of match play meant he was lacking support and Warwick managed to close down the play and score several tries. I must mention here a superb tackle by Ivan Titov which did prevent a certain try. In the first half Pritchard fought his way through to score a great try and returned heart to a somewhat bruised Stowe. The score at half time was Stowe 5, Warwick 33. The second half saw a tired Stowe walk out, but respect to them, they were straight back on task and worked hard with 15 Stowe men playing 19 Warwick men and their rolling subs started to take their toll on Stowe. Pritchard struggled through for a second try and I was really impressed by Paolo Alvigini putting his body on the line tackling a man twice the size of him - that took guts! Eventually Warwick squeezed in a few more tries to finish with 59 points.

The next game was equally impressive, WOW what a game! The team gave a superb performance against a team that were well-drilled and keen to win. Stowe battled their way to an early try by Alvigini to lead 5-0. Stamford then put on the pressure and scored three tries quite quickly to lead at half time 19-5. Stowe started the first half slowly and Stamford popped in another unconverted try to lead 24 to 5. Stowe then came on the attack to break through Stamford to score three amazing tries making the score 24-20 to Stamford with

scoring in our two best games of the season. Worrall was then promoted to the A team for the remainder of the term as a result of a couple of excellent performances. Our season ended with two more close defeats against Bedford and Oakham; with long term injuries in the A team, promotions meant that the Colts Bs were playing with many fresh faces, and just didn't manage to gel despite some excellent effort. Lochie Shillington led the team with class all season and played every game despite being the target of every opposition defence. His distribution and combination with Louis Redfern was essential to our progress. Josh White headed the pack courageously, and improved with every game. Max Satchell was instrumental at hooker and ferocious in every moment of the game. It was, however, the back row who stole the show week in, week out. Cameron Chambers, Rollo Jacobson and Hugo Robinson lined up most regularly and must be congratulated for their attitude during training as well as on the pitch; they represented the characteristics rugby most cherishes.

Although a tough season, I would like to congratulate all the boys for their effort and engagement and hope to see them representing the senior teams next year.

*Mr Ray Dawson*

five minutes to go. Stamford put on the pressure and nearly scored twice, but the boys held them off and eventually kicked out of our 22 to touch with a few minutes left. Despite a heroic effort they did not manage to get that extra score and Stamford won by virtue of two conversions. An excellent game Stowe - you were a pleasure to watch.

The next game against Oundle was equally impressive with the commitment level of the players being second to none. Stowe took an early lead and then Oundle bounced back with a series of plays down the centre of the pitch exploiting our weaknesses. In the second half we battled our way down the sides of the pitch and nearly squeezed a win but unfortunately lost 27-29. We then lost quite heavily to a very strong Bromsgrove team.

Next came Cheltenham and all the boys' hard work paid off with Stowe almost queuing up to score and leaving with an impressive 50 points to nil victory. This was followed by another impressive win against Uppingham. Unfortunately we lost the last two games of the season.

The Colts C are a great group of young men who were a pleasure to coach and spend time amongst. They have a truly (if somewhat over used expression) stoic attitude to playing: the School and the boys should be proud of their performances, often against very strong opposition. We often had players who could not come to training almost begging to play on a Saturday towards the end of the season. There were many impressive performances and I would especially like to mention Arthur Luard, Elliot Mullarkey and Paolo Alvigini, however Man of the Season must be awarded to Mr Oliver Pritchard.

*Mr Richard Carpenter*





# Junior Colts A

Our season started on Tuesday 30 August with a pre-season tour to Cornwall and Devon. Stowe played Truro School in their first match, playing out a well matched 25 – 25 draw. We then travelled up to West Buckland School, playing the hosts and Wellington School in a triangular tournament. On a soaking wet day, the Junior Colts squad continued to show evidence of the pre-season training, winning both matches. Tour highlights included fitness training in a farmer's field, surfing in north Devon, an ice cream on Perranporth beach and of course the rugby!

When back at Stowe the first game of the season was an encounter with RGS High Wycombe. The team continued to put into practice lots of new elements of the game but we struggled for consistency. RGS remained patient and then gaps were found wide due to disorganisation in the Stowe defence and a tendency to defend too tight around the ruck, this led to our first loss. Next up the team came across a very talented backline at Warwick School, who had the ability to go from side to side on the pitch accurately and then open us up through the midfield. All their backs were quick and accurate with their passing which meant Stowe had to defend for long periods. In the second half, Stowe themselves put together some devastating back play to get a seven pointer on the board. That try was probably the best I witnessed all season from Stowe.

A frustrating encounter with Stamford followed. It should have seen the boys walk away with the win, however Stowe created many opportunities but a real lack of passing accuracy saw us squander our chances. The highlight of the game was Ben Edeh racing in from half way beating at least five Stamford players in the process. This was really a game of 'what could have been', the team were starting to gel and were on top for the majority of the game, but were edged out 9-7.

Our only victory of the season came against Bedford Modern in the NatWest Cup 1st round. At home on the North Front,

the boys played with real quality and structure, earning a well deserved and needed confidence boost. The boys ran riot scoring several quality tries to win 53-0. Further close losses to Oundle and Bromsgrove left the Stowe team coming away from matches with nothing to show for their good work. A common theme was beginning to emerge, the team was able to piece 10 to 20 minutes of good rugby together, dominating possession and territory, but in a 60 minute match this was proving not good enough to beat opponents on this circuit.

Strong Cheltenham College and Uppingham sides were welcomed to the Bourbon fields in late November. Unfortunately the boys were not able to make use of home advantage and get into their opponents early in the matches. Once they found their rhythm both teams had big strong runners who we took too long to bring down. We were seeing glimpses of progress, with good continuity and possession being kept by the Stowe pack. Theo Kyriacou was hard to stop in full flow and with Rohan Sekhri doing the basics very well, Stowe were producing enough ball to be dangerous. The arrival of Egan Brosnan from Ireland had aided the backline hugely. He gave real direction and accuracy in everything he did from the midfield. He is definitely a player to watch over the next few years.

The final two games saw Stowe piecing together all the major facets of the game. We looked much more deadly in attack, and with our more direct and simplified approach from the forward pack, it provided a platform for Brosnan, Edeh and full back George Holmes to exploit space. Christian Linton gave great service all season from both scrum half and fly half, and grew in confidence as the season progressed.

The last game of the season saw us pitted against Oakham. In messy and wet conditions both teams managed to produce some entertaining running rugby. Unfortunately, Stowe succumbed to a four point loss. The boys had their tails up in

the final fifteen minutes and the final whistle definitely saved Oakham. The really pleasing thing was our ability to cross the try line on four occasions, having struggled for clarity of decision making in the opponents' danger zone all season. And even though it was a loss, it was a positive way to end

the season. Well done to all those who committed to training hard and putting their bodies on the line all season. I hope to see them continue to develop as rugby players in the coming years as much as I witnessed this season.

*Mr Andrew Jackson*



## Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B team had great success this year; they developed into an effective team that delivered key performances that enabled us to beat our biggest rivals Uppingham, Bedford and Oundle. The year has focused on performance of core skills and techniques, forgetting the score in the game and focusing on the delivery of the performance. The approach is based around the 'Standard of Performance' of Bill Walsh, Head Coach of San Francisco 49ers in the 1980s.

The year started with some very close losses to tough competitors including Stamford and Warwick. But the boys remained relentlessly focused on the elements of the performance and the turning point was a gut-wrenching one score loss to Bromsgrove, where a fantastic solo try from Matt Alberts put Stowe just one try behind with five minutes to go. The pressure was not enough, but the boys identified that the game was not lost in the last five minutes but in the first 20 minutes. Since that point, the first 20 minutes was the best part of our game, and star performers in the team's brand of 'go forward' rugby included Harry Mehta, Khaya Magubane and Ivan Quirot

de Poligny. With this solid forward dominated base, more flamboyant forwards like Fin Dickerson and Will Murray were able to exploit space and feed backs into gaps. Lyle O'Brien and Matt Alberts were dangerous all term with their running skills, fed well by half backs Jack Colebrook and Max Smith.

The outside backs also saw their fair share of tries, as once forward dominance started to be established, the backs found more space. Jonah Gasura, Oliver Taylor, Harrison Le Sueur and Archie Chisnall all contributed to the try tally throughout the term. This was all underpinned by solid hard work done by the unseen heroes of the team: Sam Holloway, Harry Reed, Alex Girling and Ener Ozturk were all vital in securing possession and tackling ferociously. The performances after Half Term showed the huge development of the squad, with wins against Cheltenham, Uppingham, Bedford and Oundle. A close 10-5 loss to Oakham away finished the season, but the score was irrelevant, again it was the performance where Stowe were the dominant side, but just were not able to convert pressure into points on the day. It was an outstanding season and the boys were a pleasure to coach.

*Mr Ray Dawson & Mr Charlie Barker*

## Junior Colts C

This season has been a tale of two halves for the Junior Colts C team. The season began with a run of frustrating defeats, narrowly losing out to RGS High Wycombe, Warwick and Stamford despite having more possession and building skilful phases of attack. Having spent time working on some of the basics in training and getting the boys to focus on switching on right from the starting

whistle, they got their first win under their belt with a convincing 34-0 win over Cheltenham. This was the beginning of a much better run of form with additional wins over Uppingham and Oakham, and an extremely hard-fought draw away against Bedford. The boys have shown a great deal of progression throughout the season and their results in the latter half of the season show much promise for next year.

*Dr James Popplestone*

# Yearlings A



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This year's crop of Third Formers produced some outstanding results on the back of some all round team play without depending on any one individual, even the top try scorer was a shared event between Ollie Garson and Udo Ekpecham.

The team had played a couple of County Cup matches in the first term but kicked off their Spring Term season with a comfortable win against The Leys. Along the way they also claimed the scalp of Oundle, Uppingham and Stamford and cruised to a County Cup Final against RGS High Wycombe. As it turned out this proved to be the only fixture they lost all season. It came as a huge disappointment to them and they found it difficult to hold a huge pack but as the game wore on, the side dealt with the problems posed and were on top for the whole of the second half but couldn't find a way to cross their opponent's line. It acted as a tremendous source of inspiration for the final tournament of the year held at The Perse School where they beat Oundle again on their way to play the hosts in the final to win the trophy for the first time. The side has some hard working forwards ably led by the Captain, Archie Strong, and the back row is blessed with pace and aggression which complements a very able set of backs who have pace a plenty and at this stage, a good deal of physicality and skill. The great thing is that this is a side that does rely on team work and although Garson and Ekpecham scored the most tries, they were ably assisted by a myriad of others who thoroughly enjoyed a very successful season.

*Mr Alan Hughes*

# Yearlings B

The U14B team started the year with an early match against The Leys after just a couple of training sessions. On a cold day the boys battled to a 5-5 draw, but showed some early promise. A midweek game against QES Barnet then gave us our first win and showed what the boys were capable of. With Tommy Cranmer organising the team from fly half, most of our points came from Hamza Arbab and Xavier Treacher in the pack. Close losses against Oundle and Uppingham followed, in which our defensive organisation was exposed. The boys worked hard in training, and with some change in personnel thanks to promotions to the As, our season was back on track with a fantastic 24-5 win over Shrewsbury. Freddie Would was now finding his rhythm from the tee, and slotted a staggering conversion from the very edge of the field. After a very closely fought win against Stamford, in which Treacher scored a hat trick, the boys went over to The Perse School for our most resounding win of the season. Sam Birch scored a couple of excellent tries from the centres, scything through the opposition, and Alex Hamilton Stubber showed his power with a classic second row's driven try. With the team more settled, and the boys growing used to each other's style of play, we sadly lost a rematch against Uppingham, before playing Stamford once again. In this final match of the season, the boys played



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some Champagne rugby in cold conditions and ran out 45-19 winners. Tomi Akinyemi, a stalwart at prop scored two tries from close range, and Josh Clarke rounded off an effective season at flanker with two tries too. It was also pleasing to see Theo Finlan's hard work on the wing for the season rewarded with a try late in the game. Freddie Would's kicking was again imperious, converting five tries, and giving us a safe points buffer. Mr Hart and I very much enjoyed working with the boys this season, and are certain we will see them all representing the School in the future. Special mentions go to Frankie Atkinson, for hooking all season and working consistently hard. George Hooper's service was quality from scrum half, and Arthur Dobbs tackled everything that moved.

*Mr Brian Hart*



## Yearlings C

**Played 8, Won 6, Lost 2, Points for 204, Points against 102!**

A great term for this talented bunch of rugby players.

Term started well with a great win away at The Leys 0-48. Many of our lads were then promoted. Still, our next match resulted in a good win at Home v Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet 29-5. Sickness at School took its toll and we went down badly to Oundle on The Bourbon 7-60.

Back to a very good game and win against Uppingham, at Home, 19-12. Another close result v Stamford, us at Home winning 12-5. We next played The Perse away, Stowe winning 5-29. Uppingham got their own back on their grounds, Stowe came second 0-15. We saved the best to last and beat Stamford away 0-60. A fantastic result for our team. Some of the best rugby I've seen in 24 years at Stowe. All in all a very good term for these boys. Our find of this term; Oscar Koomen. Best player: Barney Denison-Pender. Most conversions: Max Vesty.

*Mr Ray Dawson*

## Yearlings D

A short season for the D team which started with a big 35-0 victory over Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. A promising season was ahead until the might of a very strong Oundle team brought the Ds down to earth

with a crushing 55-0 defeat. Back to the drawing board and improvements in training ensured a win against Uppingham (36-19) and The Perse (50-12). We finished with a defeat to Uppingham in the final game, however the team developed well over the season and played some very nice rugby to watch.

*Mr Steve Malling*

# Colts 7s

**Played 16, Won 12, Lost 4**

Whilst the 15-a-side season before Christmas proved tough going, the 7s season in the Lent Term gave cause for real celebration as the Stowe team regularly won matches against teams who had beaten them before Christmas. The team trained hard, paying real attention to the tactical awareness imparted by the coaches to this format of the game and also the need to be physically ready to play many matches in quick succession en route to the knockout stages of competitions. This was much in evidence in the season's opening tournament at Oakham when the team defeated Oundle (15-5), Bedford (29-0), Stamford (17-7), Culford (17-5) and Leicester GS (19-12) to set up a final against Uppingham School. Stowe started ferociously scoring four tries before half-time to give them a comfortable 31-12 victory and the silverware. At our own tournament, the team again showed genuine class to defeat Marlborough College (12-5), Shrewsbury (28-0) and RGS High Wycombe (26-0) before losing to a last gasp Aylesbury GS try in the quarter-final to go down 19-17.



The National Tournament at Rosslyn Park saw the team dealt a very tough group and despite victories versus RHS Ipswich (28-12) and Ysgol Bro Teifi (27-5), narrow losses to Portsmouth GS (24-19) and QEGS Wakefield (20-12) saw the team unable to progress beyond the group stage. This should not detract from a highly successful team, boosted by the arrival of Fourth Formers Edeh, Comyn and Brosnan, who all added a great deal to the quality in the squad. Anderson, Saghri and Hewlett all shone throughout the season whilst Horlick, Moir, Worrall and Kanjana all made valuable contributions to the overall success of the team. My thanks go to Mr Copley for his expert coaching and assistance in helping with the Colts A 7s team.

*Mr Gavin Moffat*



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# Senior 7s

With the fantastic news that last year's 7s Captain Charlton Kerr had been selected to represent the full senior England side on the IRB circuit fresh in our minds, the squad began the season with the customary heavy fitness training that is required to build the foundations upon which the important games later in the season would be decided. 16 players attended each session, with intense track work including sprints and longer intervals on Saturday afternoons and team skills on Thursdays. The boys went to the gym in their own time and I threw in some early morning hill sprints due to popular demand (actually, the boys didn't ask for these at all, but they work wonders for team building!)

Our first tournament was at Oakham, where 20 schools met to test their early season form. We made heavy weather of the group stages, although we won each match against Stamford, Leicester Grammar, Oakham and also beat the perennially strong Bedford team, which was encouraging. The knockout stages saw the team hit top gear and we recorded particularly impressive performances against St Joseph's College 41-7 and against Rugby in the semi-finals which saw us win 31-0. Unsurprisingly, we met Bedford again in the final and for the third year running which we narrowly lost, so ended up as runners up. This was a strong start, so spirits were high. Tosin Segun, Archie Dixon-Smith, Josh Armstrong and Adam Williamson were looking sharp.

The next tournament was at Windsor. The schools we meet there are not on our normal circuit, so we seem to struggle to get fully up for the encounters, perhaps some complacency was evident. This was the case as we beat Emmanuel School, but only just and then surprisingly lost to St. Benedict's. We went through to the knockout stages and again met Bedford. Suddenly we woke up making a

dramatic start going 14-0 ahead. However, they are a fit and confident side and again it came down to three points and again we were on the wrong side. Nicolas Quirot de Poligny, Ben Solomon and Kristian Kay were the standout players on this day.

The time had arrived for the pinnacle in the 7s season, Rosslyn Park. The draw saw us take on a touring side from South Africa called Michaelhouse. We managed a comfortable win against them and moved on to beat Royal Hospital School, Brynteg School and Richard Huish College. Whilst we were finding the way to the line on many occasions, with Taju Atta, Calum Renshaw, and Ollie Pell running with the ball to great effect, one aspect that was holding us back was a lack of discipline and getting on the wrong side of the referees. This was worrying as we knew later matches would be closer affairs. After our traditional night at the Premier Inn, we took on Kingswood School in the knockout rounds. This was our best performance, Kristian Kay was virtually unstoppable on our way to a pleasing 29-14 victory. We progressed to the quarter-final group, where Cheltenham awaited. An extremely close match saw them score first and then Stowe responded. They scored again and Stowe equalised. With a minute left however, we were hit with a second yellow card of the match and then gave away a penalty on our own line. They scored and our tournament was over. Stowe were again strong enough to compete at the top level of the national competition. However, we must recognise that managing the game and the referee during the match is as important as all the physical work and team training we do and in the end this proved our 'Achilles heel' this season. However, there were many 'highs' again and our record of played 14, won 10, drawn 1, was impressive.

*Mr Craig Sutton & Mr Mike Rickner*

# Swimming



Group



Senior Boys

## Inter-House Swimming

The junior sections saw our newest Stoics take to the water and they did not disappoint, with an extremely high level of competitive swimming on show. The Boys led the way with Angus Pollock (Grafton) and Adrian Subowo (Chandos) both winning two and coming second in their individual races selection, meaning they shared the title of Junior Champion. The Girls' Junior Championship went to Jemima Laurence (Nugent), closely chased by her twin sister Imogen (Nugent) and Tilly Jones (Stanhope). Both relays were won and Junior team Champions won by Grafton and Nugent.

The Intermediate boys hailed displays of chest and thigh slapping and the rivalry lines were drawn! The main competition between House mates Julian Ma and Lucas Davis (Bruce), which saw Julian take the 50m Backstroke record in 32.38 secs. It was hard fought and came down to the 100 Individual Medley (IM) and we all waited for the swim for the title. Sadly Julian fell foul to cramp and we saw the title go to Lucas. The Intermediate girls' event saw a new swimmer in our midst, Holly Stradling (Lyttelton) joining us this year and a keen competitive swimmer. Could she knock the Nugent girls off the block! Again the Inters went down to the last race 100IM, seeing Zoë Pollock (Nugent) touch in 0.02 secs faster than Holly, taking the crown for the 2nd year running. Bruce were the Intermediate Champions, breaking the freestyle relay record in 1 minute 57.83 seconds and Nugent won for the girls.

Next came the Seniors, the most competitive lot, well the boys! Again Bruce came out on top with Oliver Muhoho (Bruce) taking three individual races comfortably and taking the overall Seniors title. The Senior girls saw an impressive number of girls take to the water, with Hattie Webb winning West House's only cup this year and Clara Haggie

(Nugent) winning the 50m Breaststroke, Kira Evans (Nugent) dominated the rest of the events winning and claiming the Senior Champion title. The Senior boys team cup went to Chatham, after dominating the relays with Guy Woodhouse, Jack Polturak, Sacha Yonan and Tudor Williams, breaking the Freestyle record in 1 minute 53.93 seconds and the girls' cup again went to Nugent.

Joined by the Headmaster to spectate, the highlight of the afternoon was the 50m boys open Freestyle where the fastest boys in the school took to the blocks. It was a hard fought race, seeing Oliver Muhoho taking the crown, Jack Polturak (Chatham) second and Lucas Davis (Bruce) coming in third place with an Intermediate boys' record of 27.61 seconds, giving the rest of the field a run for their money.

Records were taken in the Freestyle relays by Chatham Senior boys and the Bruce Intermediate boys (Julian Muhoho, Julian Ma, Lucas Davis and Sascha Clark-Jones).

## Winners

- Junior Girls' Champion – Jemima Laurence (Nugent)
- Junior Boys' Champion – Angus Pollock (Grafton) & Adrian Subowo (Chandos)
- Intermediate Boys' Champion – Lucas Davis (Bruce)
- Intermediate Girls' Champion – Zoë Pollock (Nugent)
- Senior Boys' Champion – Oliver Muhoho (Bruce)
- Senior Girls' Champion – Kira Evans (Nugent)
- Overall Girls' Winners – Nugent House
- Overall Boys' Winners – Bruce



Senior Girls

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Junior Girls

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## The swimming year

The U18 boys had a good season winning over 70% of their matches, with great wins over Bradfield, Stamford and Repton. The U18 boys also represented the School at the Bath Cup, just missing out on the final in the 4x100m Freestyle relay. The event was amazing and a fantastic opportunity for Jack Polturak, Guy Woodhouse, Oliver Muhoho and Lucas Davis to swim in the Olympic pool.

The U16 boys saw success over Marlborough, Oundle, Bradfield and Akeley Wood, losing a tough draw with both Stamford and Bromsgrove.

The U14 boys had a great start to Stowe swimming, winning again over 70% of their fixtures. Great wins over Bradfield, Repton and Oundle, but the triumph beating our biggest competitor was Bromsgrove, showing their talent in the pool and the glimpse of what was yet to come.

The U18 girls had a tough season with many fixtures cancelled by opposition unable to raise a team; the girls continued training and won against Bradfield, narrowly

losing to Marlborough and Oundle.

The U16s and U14s had a 50/50 season, with great success against Marlborough and Bradfield College. they started the season with gusto, then losing to Stamford and Oundle, but finishing with a win across the board against Tudor Hall.

We took both an U18 & U16 team to this year's Independent Girls' Relay Championships held at Downe House where both teams came seventh.

Highlights of the swimming year saw Lucas Davis compete in five events during the Ox and North Bucks County Championships. Will Perry S6 Para swimmer went from strength to strength, with the pinnacle of his year qualifying for the Para World Series in April, winning Gold in the 50m Butterfly becoming the fastest GB S6. Holly Stradling (Cayman Islands) represented her country at the CARIFTA Championships, her team coming second in the 4x200m relay and third overall.

*Mrs Cheryl Davis, Head of Swimming*



Will Perry

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U16 Inter Boys



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# Basketball

## Inter-House Competitions

In the Third Form Inter-House competition held in the Michaelmas Term, Nugent beat Queen's, Stanhope and Lyttelton, to win the girls' competition and Bruce beat Temple in the Boys' final.

With two years combined (Third & Fourth Form) in the Junior Lent Term Inter-House competition, Nugent were victorious, once again beating Queen's in the final. In the boys' competition, Grafton were far too strong for Temple and ran out easy winners in the final.

In the Senior Inter-House competition, also played in the Lent Term, Queen's and Nugent could only be separated by goal difference after both teams drew with each other and beat Lyttelton, West House and Stanhope. In the end Queen's came out victorious. In the boys' competition it took two periods of over-time before Bruce and Chandos could be separated with Bruce just edging it 24-22.

## U17 Girls

It is never easy playing the National Champions, however, the girls stuck to their task well and never gave up at any stage in the match against Aylesbury High School (AHS). We had debuts for Sander, Thomas, Filippska, Banson and Sule. With the score 49-3 at half-time, the girls had two second half targets: stop AHS hitting 100 points and get into double figures. Both targets were reached and Thomas, Kanjana and Marriott showed a great deal of self-discipline to remain on 4 fouls and not foul out. Lily Marriott top scored with 5 points.

In their other game, the girls completely outclassed Thornton College 81-35 playing against their former team-mate Blosson Opuala-Charles. Charlie Brennan was devastating at close range scoring 24 points and was well

supported by Lily Marriott (17) and Vicky Beglin (12).

## U17 squad

Thea Chisnall (Captain), Sothida Kanjana (Vice-Captain), Tallula Douglas Miller, Lee-Ann Sule, Olivia Thomas, Charlie Brennan, Helen Vince, Valerie Filippska, Alex Harrison, Lily Marriott, Sonya Sander, Ines Banson, Rhea Vankova-Martin, Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki, Kianti Subowo, Alice Prysens, Chloe Hechle and Victoria Beglin

## U16 Girls

The U16 girls travelled to Aylesbury High School to play in the County Cup competition. The team had a nervous start and trailed 13-9 after the 1st quarter. The girls soon realised that they were equal to the opposition and increased their intensity on defence to win the 2nd quarter 8-5. Their dominance continued and completely outplayed their opposition in the 3rd quarter to win 10-3. Unfortunately the girls picked up team fouls early in the last quarter which enabled AHS to claw their way back into the game to take a 4 point lead going into the last minute. Stowe replied in the closing seconds to bring the score back to a 2-point game but alas it was too little too late and this pulsating game finished in a 34-32 defeat. Captain Lily Marriott (6 points) worked tirelessly in both offence and defence and controlled the game well from the point-guard spot. Toyah Mowat was equally impressive at both ends of the court and top scored with 10 points. Liza Zakon was very clinical with her shooting when she was given the opportunity and hit 6 valuable points. Ruby Redfern (2 points); Sonya Sander, Kianti Subowo, Rhea Vankova-Martin and Alexandra Harrison (6 points); all played their part for the team and collectively they should all be proud of what they achieved.





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### U14 Girls

The U14 Girls had a superb start to their Stowe basketball careers, narrowly losing both their matches against strong AHS opposition 13-29 and 23-30.

In their first game, the girls were in high spirits and very excited but nervous, as for most, this was their first ever game of basketball. All 12 players were given court time. They certainly matched their opponents for intensity and commitment but did not have enough finesse.

In the second match the girls trailed 20-6 at half time. The team maintained an excellent team spirit and completely outplayed their opponents in the second half in every aspect of the game. Everyone played their part in this superb come-back. The girls should be proud of their achievement in their first season of basketball.

### U14 squad

I Case, C Prestwich (Captain), K Lee, E King, H Phillips (Vice-Captain), T Sole-Scarpellini, M Roberts, F Macleod Matthews, E Havard, I Laurence, L Butler, T Clarke, J Laurence, M Jones, H Page, G Potts, A Preston.

### U18 Boys

The U18 team led by Ollie Pell had an excellent season winning 7 of the 8 friendly matches played. They had two hard fought victories against Abingdon 50-46 and 60-51. The trip to Stamford was also a tricky affair with the opposition having a significant height advantage, however, the team showed much resilience to dig out a 51-42 victory. In the next game against Rugby School, the team played arguably their best basketball of the season in the second quarter of the game. Garrett (31), Payne (21) and Pell (16) saw the team to a comfortable 78-44 victory. In the Pangbourne game, the team produced a defensive masterclass to restrict the opposition to just 4 points for the whole game to win 86-4. Ollie Pell bagged himself 60

points to claim the individual scoring record for the School. The team finished off their string of victories with another impressive performance against Uppingham to win 67-22. Pell, Payne, Garrett and Tufnell have been exceptional all season and fully deserve to have been awarded their basketball colours.

### U18 squad

O Pell (Captain), I Payne, W Garrett, F Tufnell, D Biss, J Jackman, M Alberts, A Sviridov, A Williamson, R Williams, E Anderson, D Dooley, I David, K Mbanefo, U Ekpecham, M Omlie, Z Guan, A Nair.

### U16 Boys

The U16 team won both their friendly matches but had to work hard for their victories. The team played with a lot of energy. In their first game they beat Pangbourne 24-22 and then beat Bradfield 45-37 in their final match of the season.

### U16 squad

E Anderson (Captain), T Crane-Robinson, D Dooley, J Halabi, W Murray, M Alberts, I David (Captain), V Amornien, P Entwisle, K Mbanefo, J Muhoho.

### U14 Boys

This newly formed team had just the one game in the County Cup and have the making of a very good side. The team lost narrowly 13-15 to Dr Challoner's whose players have been together for at least two years.

### U14 Squad

Udo Ekpecham, H Arbab, T Cranmer, C Flint Wood, T Fongho, A Gabison, O Garson, A Hatzistefanis, F Mulcahy, A Subowo, X Treacher.

*Mr Isaac Michael*



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# Indoor Hockey

Stowe entered two indoor sides this season, U16 and U18 Boys and both age groups made the Regional heats. Monday training sessions were shared between the age groups as well as the girls' U18 practice and so the performances of both sides were outstanding given the preparation time.

The U18 Boys lost their first group match against an impressive RGS High Wycombe who specialise in indoor hockey in the first term. However the Stowe boys bounced back with a fantastic 3-3 draw against Kingston and a dramatic 4-3 win against John Hampden. Special mentions to Brandon Lee (Captain) for some excellent goals, Jim Jackman was solid throughout and scored two vital goals in the last match and Jack Dickerson who proved to be a top class indoor GK as well as outdoor.

Due to the indoor hockey timetable, the U16 Boys had one training session to prepare for their indoor tournament at

MCS Oxford and were equally as impressive as their U18 teammates. A tight 0-0 draw in the first match proved to be the calm before the storm as Stowe U16s had a thrilling 3-3 draw against RGS with Captain Ben Jorgensen scoring a hat-trick. Next up, Stowe faced MCS who had won all three of their matches so far. Stowe took the lead through Ben Jorgensen and Harry Arkwright and had the chance to go into the break 3-0 up, but unfortunately Stowe missed from the penalty spot. This proved a pivotal moment in the match as MCS rallied to win 4-2. Again, a great performance against an indoor specialist side. Ben Shamash impressed in goal throughout.

The girls did have entries into the indoor tournaments but due to their excellent run in the outdoor competition (see Girls 1st XI), were unable to enter the indoor tournaments.

*Mr Ben Scott, Head of Hockey*

# Badminton



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This has been a good year with the boys' team performing to a high standard, reporting wins over Wellingborough, Bloxham, Magdalen College Oxford (MCO) and Rugby School.

In the Inter-House Tournament, Captain Henry Eleyin-Bingham was victorious for the third year running in the Senior boys' Singles. Hector Smiley dominated in the Junior boys' singles for the second year running.

Clarissa Llanaj won the Senior girls' singles whilst Una Barclay won the Junior final.

We have two new superstars in Third Form – Rosia Li and Eleanor Butler who both played once for the Senior boys' team. Congratulations to Eleanor who was also selected for England U16 and has had many successes on the circuit this year. Next season we hope to get a girls' team up and running and several fixtures have already been arranged.

We also hope to shortly appoint a new badminton coach for the upcoming season.

Senior colours were awarded to: Henry Eleyin-Bingham, Freddie Woods, Sam Flint and Peter Wang. Peter Wang is our player of the season for his continuous courteous attitude towards his opponents and his constant display of good sportsmanship.

I would like to thank the staff team, Mr Hoare and Mr Dobson, for their invaluable help throughout the year.

*Mrs Hazel Browne*



# Polo

It's been another fantastic year of polo at Stowe, with record numbers of players involved in all levels of polo. We took four teams to the SUPA Arena Nationals in March and came second overall, winning Novice divisions. This term we have been blessed with perfect Polo weather enabling us to compete in the Copenhagen Cup at Guards Polo Club, Windsor. This was an invitation only match, seeing the top schools competing. Although we did not win, it was a real privilege for our A team which was Captained by Isabella Bailliee (Chatham) to play at such an amazing ground. In June we were invited to play against the Sandhurst Officers in front of the historical Academy on a beautiful sunny afternoon. This particular match had been two years in the organising and with fantastic opponents, was a tough game. The team Isabella Bailliee, Henry Frisby

(Chatham), Billy Hawkings-Byass and Beau Carter played a superb game and won 4-3. As usual the last date in the polo calendar was SUPA outdoor Nationals. We took 3 teams competing in each division and came 2nd in the country after a tight match against Millfield. I am looking forward to continuing and building on this year's performance and hope to encourage more girls to join us in learning to play polo! We are incredibly grateful for the fantastic job that Isabella Bailliee did as Captain and with her leaving Stowe it is now over to Henry Frisby to take on the Captaincy. In September we will be encouraging anyone with an interest to come and try their hand at this exciting sport, minimal riding experience necessary! Please contact [fcorthine@stowe.co.uk](mailto:fcorthine@stowe.co.uk) if you wish to join in our beginner session in the new term!

*Mrs Fiona Corthine*



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# Boys' Hockey

## 1st XI

The 1st XI Boys had a very good season in the Lent Term. A pre-season friendly against Northampton Saints men's 1st XI was great preparation for the weeks ahead as none of the boys had played at this standard before and all had to up their game and work rate. This experience proved invaluable when they faced local rivals Bloxham and blew them away with a 4-1 win.

The Stowe boys soon got used to the new system as high work rate off the ball became the theme each week.

Stowe drew Dr Challoner's in the first round of the National Cup and were very unlucky not to progress. They dominated the match but could not find a winner as normal time ended 1-1. It then came down to the lottery of strokes and after Jack Dickerson (Upper Sixth, Cobham) saved to give the advantage to Stowe, three missed strokes meant Stowe lost out and were entered into the Plate competition.

The next day Stowe bounced back with a huge win over Northampton School for Boys, Jack Foreman (Upper Sixth, Cobham) scoring four goals. After the Exeat weekend Stowe played against Harrow in the National Plate. A massive game with a big crowd against one of the biggest schools in the country. Stowe scored after two minutes through Jim Jackman but immediately conceded an equaliser and the score was locked at 1-1 after 30 minutes. Captain Brandon Lee stepped up with two fantastic individual goals to give the Stowe boys a 3-1 half time lead. Stowe continued to control the game against an impressive Harrow outfit and went on to secure a deserved 3-1 win.

Stowe travelled to Abingdon for their next match and with

tired legs produced arguably the performance of the season. Stowe reverted to a counter attacking style and after going into half time 1-0 down, they bounced back to lead 2-1 with five minutes remaining. A break away Abingdon goal levelled the score but this was an excellent draw against a top school.

A frustrating loss away to a physical Stamford side came before a fantastic win against Uppingham. Next up cup a game against Merchant Taylors'. This was a great game of hockey and the highest standard match seen at Stowe for a long time. The away side took an early lead before skipper Brandon Lee equalised. Merchant Taylors' scored twice more for a 3-1 lead. Stowe piled on the pressure before half time and were rewarded when Lee converted a short corner and the momentum was definitely with Stowe coming into the break. The second half began very evenly before controversy followed. A Merchant Taylors' forward was allowed to take the ball from a Stowe centre back before he'd taken the 16 and slotted the ball home - all eyes on the umpire who decided to award the goal. From then on the game became scrappy with both sides seeing yellow cards. A 4-2 loss and a feeling of what could have been but Stowe can hold their heads up high after another excellent performance.

Over the Half Term break, the Senior boys travelled to Amsterdam for what promised to be a competitive and entertaining tour. Unfortunately, the adverse weather conditions meant that all training and matches were cancelled due to snow so the trip was filled with social and sightseeing activities. Although no hockey, it was very much a fun trip away and great for team morale.

A five-match unbeaten run followed after Half Term with draws against St Edward's and Kimbolton and wins against John Hampden (5-0), Warwick (2-1) and the Old Stoics

(4-3). Brandon Lee continued to run the midfield along with Dom Shaw, Jim Jackman and Alex Perez-Buchanan. Foreman found the net most games and the Stowe wingers, Rory Hunnable, Gabriel Chauveau, and Jamie Metson continued to work hard off the ball to create scoring opportunities. A particular highlight was Stowe's short corner defence. Led by GK Jack Dickerson, Archie Dixon-Smith, Dom Strong, Piers Edinborough, Georges Tasker and Oscar Holmes provided a very sturdy defence. Calum Renshaw broke his way into the squad midway through the season and a special mention to Ashwin Batey for his performance, also to Rhys Noble who made his 1st XI debut

as a Third Former - a very exciting prospect.

The season finished with a disappointing 3-2 loss away to Bromsgrove, a game in which Stowe should have won, and then a convincing win over the staff in a competitive match.

Overall the Stowe boys' 1st XI won 9, drew 4 and lost just 3 of their 16 matches – a very decent return.

MVP – Rory Hunnable, Players' Player – Brandon Lee, Most Improved Player – Piers Edinborough, Top Goalscorer – Jack Foreman.

*Mr Ben Scott & Mr Chris Warde*



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## 2nd XI

The Senior boys' second XI had somewhat of a mixed season this year. They played a total of nine competitive matches with four wins and five losses, 22 goals for and 21 goals against. Highlights of the season were wins over our local rivals winning 3-0 against Bloxham, 3-0 against St Edward's School and 7-2 against Cokethorpe School. We also had a fine 4-1 win against Bromsgrove. The second XI put in a remarkable performance against Uppingham, losing narrowly 3-2 in a tense and competitive match.

A similar close result came in our fixture against Kimbolton with the team losing 1-2. There were individual highlights for players with Calum Renshaw being given the opportunity to play in the 1st XI squad. The 2nd XI MVP was Ed Good who was also the team's top goal scorer with a total of seven goals. The goals that the team have scored this season have come from a total of seven different players showing how well they have played as a team. This team has a lot of potential to build on the success they have had this season and I look forward to another competitive season in the Lent term 2018.

*Mrs Lorraine Campbell*

## 3rd XI

A challenging, but enjoyable season for a dedicated core of Sixth Form students who competed well with the big wins over Bloxham, Magdalen College and Bedford. The team lost three other games and drew one. However, the team always played with good spirit and the majority of the games were close and competitive matches. Ben Holloway finished the season as the top goal scorer and received the player of the season award. Max Shannon picked up the most captaincies, followed by Nicholas Montgomery, both of whom did an excellent job of bringing the team together. Many thanks to Josh Landau who agreed to step

in as our goalkeeper as the need arose, he did a fantastic job in goal and was instrumental in keeping us competitive in our matches. Josh Riley showed excellent effort and good skill during the season to keep the midfield and attack working well together. Murray de Klee showed great commitment and worked hard all season for the team. Luke Aust joined mid season, but quickly proved himself a valuable attrition in midfield and attack. Sam Flint was an effective defensive anchor and co-ordinated well with the U16 boys who joined the team for matches. Many thanks to the U16 boys who stepped in and filled spaces in many of our matches, often making outstanding contributions.

*Mr Paul Thompson*

# Colts A



Though not one for the record books in terms of victories alone, this was nevertheless one of the more enjoyable seasons in recent memory, helped by entertaining, if terrible, banter throughout the team and two excellent victories on the first and last days of the season. At Bloxham on a freezing early January Saturday and Bromsgrove in brilliant spring sunshine surrounded by daffodils, Stoics provided some slick hockey, full of passing, enterprising work off the ball and an ability to move the ball on quickly. The weeks in between? Let's just say lots was learnt...

There were plenty of reasons accounting for the struggle: a strong fixture list; a team lacking confidence (one victory in the first two years of their Stowe careers?!); a Rufus Easdale broken nose after a particularly strong tackle at St Edward's; an ability to play excellent hockey all the way

up the pitch and then freeze in the five yards between the penalty spot and goal; too much terrible banter.

Mentions in dispatches should go to Ashwin Batey, new to the school this year and 'the silent assassin' of our midfield, who in spite of emitting no noise from his mouth during the course of the match provided skill and quality throughout and earned a call up to the 1st XI; also to the tirelessly energetic Captain, Ben Jorgensen; to Most Improved Player of season, Louis Redfern, for some excellent goal scoring and running up front; and last but not least to Gemma Blane, frequently the calmest player on the pitch, one of the most technically accomplished and, as the only girl having to deal with the terrible banter of Fifth Form males for a whole term, certainly the most patient.

*Mr Henry Swayne*

# Colts B



A difficult season for this lively and sometimes head-strong team, who suffered some unfortunate losses, but they played with heart and secured some significant victories along the way. At their worst, a lack of cohesion between the team members and a clash of egos prevented the side from maintaining their positivity, but at their best, their matches were exhilarating to watch. An early example of this was their breathtaking performance against Abingdon, which culminated in a last-minute end-to-end drive that resulted in a staggering (emotionally and literally) finish from Hector Smiley, who launched the ball – and himself – into the back of the net to win the match 4-3. Other standout players included Oliver Pritchard, Louis Hink and Captain Max Mash in the outfield, as well as Stewart Johnston in goal, who improved considerably and always impressed me with his positive and dedicated attitude at all times. The Most Valuable Player award went to Rollo Jacobson, whose enthusiasm and skill in midfield, kept the team afloat, even on the roughest of seas.

*Mr George Purves*

## Junior Colts A

This was an excellent season for a team who had a mixed season in the first year of hockey at Stowe. The first game against Bloxham was a sign of what was to come as the boys secured a thrilling 4-3 win. They followed this up with a resounding 8-0 win over Northampton School for Boys (NSB). They then suffered their first defeat, losing 2-3 to Abingdon due to a late breakaway goal. Stamford were next and the U14 National Finalists proved too strong, despite a brave effort by the boys, they lost 5-0. Uppingham then followed and this was one of the closest matches of the season, with neither side managing to snatch a win in the 2-2 draw. Stowe got back to winning ways with an impressive 3-1 win against St Edward's, with Chris Linton scoring the goal of the season. A 4-1 loss to Bedford was the most disappointing result of the term, but the boys bounced back well with a resounding 8-0 victory against John Hampden. Stowe then beat Kimbolton 3-0 and finished the season with an excellent 2-1 win against a



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strong Bromsgrove team. It was a fitting end to an excellent season and I look forward to seeing the boys representing the Senior hockey sides soon.

Player of the season – Josh McCallum

Top goal scorer – Bertie Bryant

Squad – Max Butler (GK), Finn Dickerson, Henry Saunders Watson, Rhys Noble, James Trumper, Albert Bryant, Thomas Fountain, George Holmes (C), Christian Linton, Joshua McCallum, Tom Scott, Lucas Davis, Charlie Maclure, Hanson Le Sueru and Oliver Taylor.

*Mr Phil Arnold*



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## Junior Colts B

This U15B team should be incredibly proud of their achievements this season, finishing with the second best overall winning percentage across the boys' teams. The team started in earnest with a strong 2-0 win against Bloxham. From this first game, the team demonstrated a good level of individual skill and real potential. Unfortunately, the next two consecutive games against Abingdon and Stamford, the U15Bs lost, however with an up in intensity in training and placing emphasis on working as a unit, the team very quickly returned to their winning ways. The U15B team finished with an impressive

season winning 7 out of 9 games. Special mentions go to Charlie Maclure (Fourth Form, Chandos) for being a great Captain and keeping a cool, calm and collected role in the vital central midfield position. Monty Fenwicke-Clelland (Fourth Form, Cobham), Harry Burnet (Fourth Form, Grafton) and Toby Stocks (Fourth Form, Chandos) consistently found the back of the net and were the team's top goal scorers this season. Praise should go to Sam Holloway (Fourth Form, Grafton) and Oliver Taylor (Fourth Form, Chatham) with both demonstrating strong defensive skills this season and Sam, in particular, being the vital communicator organising the back four throughout. A fantastic season for the U15Bs, well done all!

*Miss Sally Whyte*

## Junior Colts C

The U15Cs hockey team enjoyed an excellent season in field hockey this year. The lads enjoyed a winning start to the season, beating Bloxham 6-0 and Uppingham 5-1 away from home in the first two weeks of Lent Term. This winning start formed the foundation of an almost unbeaten season, going right until our first defeat, in the last match. Mr Boulton and myself enjoyed every minute working with the boys, they formed a close-knit team

led by Captain and top-goal scorer Louis Newman. Our MVP of the season was Jack Colebrook who covered huge amounts of ground every match and worked tirelessly to get the ball back from the opposition. A special mention also goes to Ethan Phillips who bravely took up the job of GK when no-one else wanted to, and during the season developed massively to a reliable presence between the sticks. I hope to see as many of the boys as possible next year so we can work together again to achieve the perfect season we so nearly had this year!

*Dr James Popplestone*

# Yearlings A



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*“We played better than the scoreline suggests...” “We didn’t deserve to lose today...” “I thought we matched the opposition for the whole game except for a few key moments...”* These are all too commonly muttered refrains heard the length and breadth of the country from hard-up coaches and managers fighting to maintain their positions. The U14A boys heard these clichés on a regular basis from their coaches over the course of the season and, for once, they were true.

The fixture list is a smorgasbord of high quality hockey schools and, with each team faced twice, negative results can stack up quickly. One of the highlights of the regular season was the 4-4 draw against The Perse in the opening weekend of the season: a real battle in which both teams showed quality up front but frailty in defence. The main disappointment during the regular season was the 2-3 loss away at Stamford: quite how Stowe did not come out on top shall never be adequately explained. The draw in the return fixture was a paltry salve.

Rhys Noble led the team with extremely high levels of skill,

either scoring or setting up the majority of the goals scored. He is an extraordinary talent and went on to make his 1st XI debut in the Lent Term. He was helped by some willing lieutenants in the likes of Ned Ellison and Archie Barnes, and Archie Holmes continued the tradition of the Holmes boys in being seemingly fearless and willing to work harder than anyone else on the pitch. Oliver Garson was extremely keen to learn. Having never played in goal before, he beat off competition from more experienced keepers and was instrumental in the team staying in touch in matches and ultimately going on to win some of the cup matches.

The boys battled extremely hard over the course of the season and, despite some tough losses by the narrowest of margins (and some by slightly wider margins), never lost their team spirit. This is a much more talented group of boys than the results of the season suggest and I am sure that they will have far more success in the years to come.

*Mr Chris Warde*

# Yearlings B



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On the face of it the YB XI did not have a good season, however, there was good progress and steady progression made in the term and out of all the Yearlings' sides, the team had the best goal difference! Early in the term it was Will Bursnall and Arthur Dobbs who were the standout players and both were duly rewarded with call ups to the A team. Archie Strong was excellent in goal all season and Frankie Atkinson worked tirelessly in midfield and on the wing. Xan Kenlock had several good games and showed off his skill on the ball.

Theo Finlan was probably the most worked player on the pitch at left back and Jack Mercer did well in central defence, having only just started playing the game. Oliver Reed scored a great flick goal against Stamford and Captain Charlie Chick was unlucky not to score – coming close on several occasions. Archie Page needs a special mention for his return to the side after a nasty injury earlier in the term against Oundle. Hamza Arbab and Freddie Would also worked hard all season.

*Mr James Knott*





## Yearlings C

As always the Yearlings C team had a steep learning curve playing some tough, experienced opponents. This meant that for the season, they managed one win from their eight matches. However, unlike previous years, they kept all the matches close and managed to score a very respectable 11 goals over the season. The team's win came in our second to last game against Stamford where the team won 3-1. Sam Birch was the top goal scorer for the season with Flynn Mulcahy picking up the MVP for the season,

demonstrating good skill and teamwork throughout the season and was instrumental in many attacking plays. Alex Ross had an excellent season as the YC goalie developing well over the year. With many players in the team being relatively new to hockey, there was excellent improvement over the season. The team came together well and their strength in games was always how they worked together in attack and defence. It was an enjoyable season and encouraging to see the determination and positive attitude of the team throughout a tough season.

*Mr Paul Thompson*

## Yearlings D

The team took a while to coalesce but by the end of the term, there was more teamwork and they found that with determination and careful passing they could hold their own and win matches.

In their home game against Oundle some excellent play by goalkeeper Lucas Farleigh, including defending a penalty flick, kept the opposition score down in the second half. The Stowe forwards worked well together with Oscar Wiseman leading some promising attacks aided by James Studholme Colver and George Hamilton Stubber. Against younger and more skilful teams at Berkhamsted, they rallied in the last 10 minutes. In a home fixture Stowe shared the play equally with The Leys for most of the match, even dominating at times, but the opposition were successful in all three of their sudden attacks.

At Akeley Wood against Uppingham, Stowe was very

unlucky to come away with only a nil-nil draw, since we earned more short corners and several times narrowly missed the Uppingham goal, whereas the Stowe goalkeeper only touched the ball once. In the return away match against Oundle, Stowe lost heavily in the first half but rallied in the second with a powerful goal from James Studholme Colver. The final match of term was a convincing victory against the Girls' U14C. Robbie Haigh scored twice from short corners and in the second half Logan Brown, James Studholme Colver and George Hamilton Stubber all scored in open play. The season is a story of a squad growing in confidence, personal skills and teamwork.

Most Valuable Player: Oscar Wiseman (Captain)

Goal Scorer: James Studholme Colver

Most Improved Player: Robbie Haigh

Best Support: Max Mashall-Lee

Best Defender: Crispin Marshall-Rowan

*Mr Michael Bevington & Mr Russell Boulton*

# FIVES

Another good year for Fives playing only in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Although the match results don't show many wins, the standard and number of players is certainly higher than last year.

George Adams and Savannah Courtenay who have done a fantastic job as Captains over the last two years sadly leave us, but their enthusiasm for the game has passed down to the younger Stoics. It was great to see two new Third Form girls take to the courts (Mimi Pearson-Gee & Evgeniia Zen). They were selected to play twice for the School in the Lent Term. Both the Senior and Junior Inter-House competitions were very competitive with some very close matches. Our termly match against the Old Stoics is always an education to the younger players and they appreciate the help given by the Old Stoics on how and what to work on to become a better player. It was also great to see a couple of last year's leavers (Frankie Knight and Anna Platz) back in the Fives courts.

*Mr John Skinner*

# Girls' Hockey

## 1st XI

The Girls' 1st XI had a hugely successful campaign. Despite a heavy defeat in their first league match away at Oakham, the girls bounced back with a convincing victory at home to Wellingborough with goals from Yas Mama and a hat-trick from Charlotte Oswald. Another hard fought win away at Beaconsfield helped give Stowe the confidence and momentum needed going into the North County Cup. With the matches being 20 minutes one way, quick goals were crucial. 1-0 victories over Akeley Wood and Royal Latin after an impressive 9-0 win against Thornton College including a hat-trick from Bubby Upton sealed the North County Cup for the girls and a place in the full County Cup round the next week. Incredible work rate from the 1st XI Captain, Thalia Felton, set the benchmark for all future performances from the girls.

The Saturday league match against Rugby School the Saturday after the tournament could have gone either way but the girls went down 4-1 with Bubby Upton getting on the score sheet again.

The County Cup drew Stowe against Aylesbury High, Royal Latin and Sir William Borlase's what would prove to be a tough competition. Stowe won their first match against Aylesbury 3-1 with goals from Vicky Beglin and a brace from Bubby Upton. Stowe cemented their place in the Regional Heats by beating The Royal Latin 4-0 with

Georgia Flawn-Thomas scoring her first goal of the season along with further goals from Charlotte Oswald and Bubby Upton. In the County Championship decider Stowe beat Borlase 2-1 with goals from Charlotte and Bubby.

A 2-2 draw with St Edward's followed before the Half Term break, but it was back into things on the first Tuesday in the Regional Heats. Stowe had previously never won a match at this stage before but ended that run with a fine 2-0 over Godolphin and Latymer with goals from Libby Flood and Charlotte Oswald. A 1-1 draw with Surbiton High followed, Alice Maclure scoring the equaliser. Stowe needed a draw against St Edward's to progress into the Regional Knockouts and after going 1-0 down, Libby Flood equalised. The Stowe girls hung onto progress through to the Regional Quarter Final for the first time in history.

A very unfortunate loss to Uppingham followed with Stowe creating numerous chances and being hit on the break three times but they had their Regional Quarter Final to look forward to.

Stowe travelled to St George's, Weybridge in their biggest match of the season. Stowe had the better of the first half and were unlucky to go into half time 1-0 down. In a very even second half, Stowe equalised through a Charlotte Oswald wonder goal. With the match nearing penalty flicks, Vicky Beglin pounced on a loose ball to fire Stowe in front and send them to the Regional Finals.



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Another tight league match ended in a narrow loss to Oundle but again the girls were looking ahead to the Regional Finals. Stowe were drawn against Cranleigh, St John's and Ardingly in what was a very high quality tournament. Stowe narrowly lost the three matches but were excellent throughout. Particular mentions to Yas Mama and Isabella Leondiou for their performances against Cranleigh and Ardingly respectively and Imogen White against St John's; Bubby Upton scored the goal of the tournament against Cranleigh.

It was back to the league and Stowe finished the season on a high. A thrilling 3-2 victory against Trent College on a cold Thursday night at Stowe was perhaps the performance of

the season with Bubby Upton claiming her second hat-trick of an impressive campaign. Stowe ended the year with a fine 3-2 away at Repton with goals from Olivia and Bubby.

A fantastic season led by their inspirational and hardworking Captain, Thalia Felton.

Players' Player and Captain - Thalia Felton  
 Top Goalscorer - Charlotte Oswald  
 Most Improved Player - Lottie Hopkinson  
 Goal of the Season - Bubby Upton v Cranleigh, Charlotte Oswald v St George's  
 Highlight of the Season - Vicky Beglin's goal v St George's

*Mr Ben Scott*



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## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI team had a busy and competitive season. With a large squad of 16 players, we had a lot of participation in matches throughout the season. The squad played a total of 13 competitive fixtures, winning seven, drawing two and losing four, some of which were very close and really could have gone either way. In total, the girls scored a total of 37 goals, conceded 25 giving them a plus 12 goal difference.

Each member of the squad contributed to the winning season and Milly Watkins as team Captain led from the front, finishing as the team's top goal scorer with a total of seven goals. Tallula Douglas Miller was our Most Valuable Player and improved so much that she made appearances in the 1st XI in the last few fixtures of the season. The Most Improved Player of the season went to Jaimie McIntosh who developed her core skills and first touch significantly over the season.

After a disappointing 2-0 loss to Oakham in the first match of the season, the girls stepped up their game and went on to have a series of three wins against Wellingborough, Mill Hill and Cokethorpe, who they beat 8-1. Disappointing losses against St Edward's and Rugby School were followed by two draws against Kimbolton and Uppingham. The Uppingham draw was very frustrating as Stowe were 2-1 up with a minute to go but allowed a turn over and counter attack to happen which let Uppingham equalise. The week following this disappointment Stowe lost to Oundle.

After this mid-season blip, Stowe bounced back to win the last four matches of the season against Bloxham, Trent, Magdalen College School and Repton 3rds. It has been a winning season and next year the 2nd XI will be looking to build on the success of the 2016-17 season.

*Mrs Lorraine Campbell*

## 3rd XI

Played 10, Won 5, Drawn 1, Lost 4

The 3rd XI had by far their best performance in recent years, going five games unbeaten against Mill Hill, Rugby School, St Edward's, Kimbolton and Uppingham. This was a huge

achievement for a dedicated and enthusiastic squad of girls. The girls then had a tough, wet and windy encounter against Bloxham, losing 1-0. Another thrilling win came against Magdalen College School towards the end of the season with nine goals scored. Megan Winter captained the side fantastically and we look forward to the 2017-18 season.

*Miss Lauren Ellis*

# U16A



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**Played 17, Won 6, Drawn 4, Lost 7.**

This was a tale of two parts to the season. The Independent Schools Hockey League (IHSL) competition placed the girls against some of the strongest teams and players in the country. They always gave a good account for themselves and most importantly they improved as the season went on. Their win against Uppingham and draws against Repton and Trent were the highlights in this particular competition. In the regular season fixtures, Stowe were much more successful, winning five of these and drawing three.

The team was ably led throughout the season by Annie Roberts, whose tireless efforts off the ball and in attack were evident in every game played. Bella White was a stalwart in goal and kept us in many of the close matches.

The defence was commanded by the ever reliable Zoë Pollock who swept up any opposition's breaks with calm assurance. Connie Barnes, Ellie Bewes, Samai Lamberti and Imy Oliver ensured that our defence was our strongest area and many successes were built on their reliability. The midfield of Helena Vince, Sophie Grant, Georgie Leefe and Esme Foster were our engine room, all adept enough to play up front too. The top goal scorer and target player Una Barclay was a real handful for any defence we came up against and her pace will undoubtedly make her a key player for the 1st XI, in the years to come.

It was a pleasure to coach these girls and I look forward to seeing them carrying on with their hockey in the next few years.

*Mr Phil Arnold*

# U16B



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The U16Bs had a challenging season against some tough sides but although the matches did not always go in their favour, the grit and determination they showed on the pitch was admirable. The side grew more cohesive as the season developed, honing their technical abilities and their communication skills, and they eventually secured two significant wins over Kimbolton and Bloxham, both U18 teams. Before her season was cut unfortunately short by a broken thumb, Tabi Sinclair played with heart and enthusiasm, alongside Estelle Akeroyd Hunt and Cosima Sage in attack, forming a formidable trio. Charlotte Platz and Chloe Hechle were particularly dedicated members of the side who trained hard and provided a stable base in the centre of the field. But it was Isabel Ward in goal who really shone this season, improving exponentially in her goalkeeping skill and keeping the oppositions' score-lines down to a minimum, which earned her the Most Valuable Player Award.

*Mr George Purves*



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# U15A

'Good to fair' would be the best description of a lengthy season and to extend the slightly odd racecourse metaphor, there were plenty of thrills and spills along the way to keep the spectators interested and the coach on his toes...

A strong start to the term saw us unbeaten by the Exeat, with three comfortable victories, plenty of Imogen Joyce goals and a spirited draw against Oakham in the first league game of the season promising good things to come. There was clearly a feisty edge to the team which made up for a slightly

unorthodox playing style.

With the onset of colder autumnal weather, our fixture list heated up rather and the next few weeks saw us coming second to decent sides from Rugby School, Uppingham and Oundle. We had a frustrating draw against St Edward's despite dominating the match. We were missing playmaker Alyssia Dockerty who had earned an exciting call up to the 1st XI that day.

Plenty of good hockey was played in the final third of the season, including a pleasing win over local rivals Bloxham and thanks to Mr Scott, Miss White and others for covering my paternity leave.

*Mr Henry Swayne*

# U15B

What a fantastically awesome Autumn 2016 Hockey season for the U15B girls. With a rather unusually large squad of girls, we had just the right balance of skill, determination, precision and true grit to get us through the 14 matches played. This season we were the most successful girls' Stowe hockey team coming 4th in the League (won 8, drew 4 and lost 2) and I owe this to the positivity, passion, and commitment shown by all the girls. Each and every member of the squad wanted to play, come rain or shine and worked hard for each other. Team work and communication was the key to our success and I am immensely proud of what we achieved. There was always an addictive buzz that kept us going, even when against our toughest rivals, Uppingham and Oundle, which resulted in well-deserved draws against both oppositions. Cecelia Mayne and Caitlin Thomas were joint top goal scorers closely followed by Sophie Yeowart at right wing. The defence were unitedly strong, featuring Chloe Daniel, our MVP of the season, Izzy Hopkins our valiant Captain who displayed her true Stoic spirit playing with a broken finger against Trent! Eleanor Haggie, Kora Haigh and Jasmin Smith made up our back line of defence and due to their

determination and skilful tackling, very few balls went passed our magnificent goalie, Emily Banks. Our midfield was, no pun intended, central to our attacking play with Cecelia Mayne and Kitty Wemyss taking centre stage, forever battling for balls, making crucial passes and runs to create and score goals. Ruby Redfern and Tilly Howard came into their own towards the end of the season and I was impressed by how well their skills and precision in passing had developed. Caitlin Thomas, Ollie Elliott and Stephanie Ross were disciplined enough to keep to their positions wide on the wing and had many driving attempts towards goal, with all three scoring at least one goal each this season. Connie Dutton and Alike Andriienko played multiple positions throughout the course of the season and they were our most versatile players. Some matches are more memorable than others. For me, returning home with a draw after the controversial abandonment of the match due to 'poor lighting' against Uppingham and the nail biting final home match against Repton, are hard to forget. Many lessons have been learnt this season and I am sure that the girls will continue to grow and go from strength to strength as they move onto the U16 squad next season. It has been a real privilege to coach the 2016-17 U15B squad and I know that they will be a hard act to follow next season.

*Mrs Louise Carter*



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## U15C

The U15Cs have had a tough season, playing against some very strong teams with mixed results. Despite heavy defeats at the start of the season, the girls played with energy enthusiasm and determination. Their commitment, hard work and training soon began to pay off. As they settled

into the hockey and fitness levels increased, they were able to close the gap between themselves and the other teams.

The girls fought hard in every match this season keeping the pressure on until the final whistle.

A special mention to Hannah Gill, the team's goalkeeper who has had particularly tough season. The team couldn't have done so well without her. Her perseverance, determination and resilience set the precedent for the rest of the team. And the Captain Mimi Pearson-Gee who always worked hard getting to where she needed to be maintaining morale and displaying excellent leadership.

Unfortunately, goals evaded the U15Cs this season with results not reflecting the true closeness of their games. However, it all came together for the girls in the final match, starting with a goal rush, resulting in a 6-1 victory over Repton (the School's biggest rivals).

The girls played their socks off this term and this cracking end to the season truly reflects all the hard work and effort they have put in this term.

Shout out to Rosie Ludlow, the team's top goal scorer and MVP.

*Ms Abigail Hutchings*

## U14A

The U14A team of 2016-17 were notably a delight to coach as they made every training session and match a really enjoyable experience for all involved. They had high energy levels, a willingness to improve and an extremely positive team spirit. These were excellent qualities to work with and quickly they developed into a cohesive unit who played for each other on the pitch, working tirelessly to perform their best, led enthusiastically by the Captain Gracie Potts. Overall, they had a great season, playing 18 matches with seven wins, four draws and seven losses. The competition



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in the Midland League was tough but it helped set a benchmark and gave a real purpose and focus to our training sessions. The highlight of the season was being crowned County Champions and going on to represent Buckinghamshire in the Regional Heats at Cranleigh. The Player of the Season was awarded to India Case for her performance at Right Defence where she galvanised possession to create strong attacking breaks; The top goal scorer was Holly Phillips at Centre Forward who scored a hat-trick against Bloxham; The Most Improved Player was Maisie Roberts who became such a key decision maker at centre midfield; a special mention also to our fantastic goalkeeper, Alexandra Trumper, who certainly had plenty of action and made many incredible saves. Both Alexandra Trumper and Luciana Butler are to be congratulated on being selected to represent their County, playing JAC, alongside their School hockey.

We look forward to following their progress as a team as they move up through the School – well done!

*Mrs Sarah Sutton & Mrs Tracy Jones*



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## U14B

**Played 9, Won 5, Drawn 1, Lost 3.**

Our season started with Oakham, which was a challenging fixture but gave the girls their first proper taste of 11 a side Hockey. Goals from Captain Niamh Dudgeon and Annie Preston put Stowe ahead at half time but as the girls tired in the second half, Oakham were able to make a comeback. There were lots of positives to take from the match with strong defending led by Celest Lamberti and good wing play from Emilia Havard who was voted Most Valuable Player (MVP).

A Monday afternoon fixture away at Akeley Wood produced our first win, which proved to be a real confidence boost. MVP Caroline Leach demonstrated solid defending and great passing from right back. Our most exciting game of the season was a very competitive fixture away at Rugby School. Despite plenty of attacking opportunities in the first half, Stowe found themselves 2-0 down. The second half was an excellent 25 minutes of hockey that saw Annie Preston, Emilia Havard and Bella Robertson all scoring goals. Stowe defended very well with a MVP performance from Celest Lamberti and we only conceded one more goal which was the result of some good set play work. Overall, it was an impressive performance and to make such a strong comeback and earn a 3-3 draw shows wonderful character.

## U14C

With many of the team never having played hockey before, we started our season from scratch. But the girls stood up to the mark and gave determined performances throughout and our progress shone through. Our first game was home to Oakham, our inexperience on the field and goalkeeper kit that was too small, led to a 4 -1 loss. We then travelled to Rugby School and battled our first match on Astro. The girls excelled with the score 0-0 at half time, sadly the fast pace

Further wins against Tudor Hall (7-0), St Edward's (3-0) and Bloxham (6-0) really helped the girls grow in confidence. A 2-0 win away at Oundle was a brilliant result and showed the progress that the girls had made since September. Although we were part of a challenging league, including tough matches against Uppingham and Repton, the girls held their own and learnt lessons from the defeats as much as the victories.

Special mentions go to Annie Preston for being the MVP of the season. She is an exciting and influential player who should aspire to aim for the A team in the Fourth Form. Most Improved Player, Emilia Havard, really grew into her role in left midfield and was behind a lot of our positive attacking play. The unsung hero was Bella Robertson, she worked tirelessly all match and scored a fair number of goals too. The goal of the season came from Mimi Pearson-Gee (nice strong hit into the corner from just inside the D against local rivals Bloxham) and Celest Lamberti was the best defender, she was solid at the back with strong passing play. Niamh Dudgeon was a brilliant Captain and was a positive influence and vocal presence in midfield.

This was a really promising term of hockey for the U14B side and I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching them. All 13 of our regular squad players contributed and I look forward to seeing them progress further next year.

*Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe*

and our lack of fitness led to a 2-1 defeat. Our next match was home to St Edward's and the girls had settled into their roles on the pitch, this led to a whopping 9-0 win. The rest of the season saw us lose to Uppingham, draw to Oundle and our final game a 2-1 win over Repton.

Thanks to our keeper Koty King. The top goal scorer was Emily King. Player of the season goes to Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini and a big thank you to Captain Harriet Page for guiding the team.

*Mrs Cheryl Davis*



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# Cricket

## 1st XI

This has been a bumper year for cricket at Stowe. Beginning with a Junior cricket tour to Cape Town during February half term and culminating with the Bunbury Festival during the summer holidays.

The Junior tour was a resounding success with the U15s winning 4 out of their 5 matches and the U14s winning 2, tying 1 and losing 1. Both teams worked hard and developed a lot in a short space of time. George Hooper was the pick of the players for the U14s - leading the run scoring charts and developing into a fine all-rounder with his leg spin and wicket keeping. For the U15s, Louis Newman was the player of the tour having scored the most runs and also taking a few wickets with his left arm spin.

A pre-season Easter tour to Dubai followed for the 1st XI to compete in the Schools' Arch Trophy. The squad worked incredibly hard in the build up to this tournament and it paid off as the team went 5 matches unbeaten to win the Trophy, which included wins over local rivals Oakham and Bedford. It is the second time the School have won the Trophy and are now the only English school to have won it twice. Captain Brandon Lee was the leading run scorer and Charlie Leefe, the leading wicket taker.

Following on from these tours, the teams all had winning seasons. The 1st XI won 16 of their matches, only losing 3 and there were big wins over Uppingham, Bradfield College, Bromsgrove, Bedford and the MCC amongst many others.

The Captain hardly won a toss, but fortunately this rarely affected the result as the side bowled so well as a unit and then were clinical in the run chase. Tom Olsen, on many occasions, knocked over the opening batsman and his century was a high class knock. Spinners Olly Clarke, Albert Johnson & Charlie Leefe offered great support and the top five of Olly Clarke, Adam King, Brandon Lee, Calum Renshaw and Tom Olsen fired all season.

Well done to Adam King who won the batting Cup with 775 runs, averaging 45. Adam also won the fielding Cup with 15 dismissals behind the stumps. Olly Clarke just pipped Tom Olsen for the bowling Cup with 32 wickets.

Three weeks into the summer holidays the Bunbury Festival came to Stowe. As Bunbury's main man, David English, would quote this is the world premier Junior cricket festival, and it certainly lived up to that billing. The grounds looked stunning and 56 of the best U15 cricketers thoroughly enjoyed their mix of 50 over and T20 cricket on the North and South Fronts.

Extra special mention must go to Steve Curley (Head Groundsman) who pulled out all of the stops for the festival after such a busy Summer Term. Thanks also to Phil Arnold for all of his support throughout the tours and season and of course to our umpires, Mike Harris and Graeme Frost, and our scorer, Lynn Allen. A very busy 2017 but a very successful and enjoyable one.

*Mr James Knott*





## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI has had a great 2017 cricket season. The team was able to field for the majority of the season, a largely Upper Sixth side – which stood us in excellent stead as far as team morale and team spirit went.

Led by the South African thunderbolt – Jarrod Van der Westhuizen, Stowe went into their first game against Bradfield College (a renowned Cricket School) in high spirits and the team did not disappoint. Stowe hit 172-7 off 30 overs, with Jarrod and Sam Holland-Bosworth scoring 55 and 44 respectively. It was then over to the bowlers and Josh Landau stepped up to the plate and did not disappoint: providing figures of 6-8-3, meaning Bradfield College were bowled out for 39 runs off 13 overs!

The next fixture was Abingdon away and this thrilling encounter ended in a tie as both teams finished on the same score in a 20/20 game – with Stowe sadly unable to hit the winning 3 runs required off the final ball to win the game.

Probably the most impressive performance of the whole season followed and Stowe played an experienced RGS High Wycombe 1st XI. Our opponents hit an impressive 227 off 35 overs. However Stowe, though slightly battered and bruised, were most definitely not out. Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan (57), Ben Solomon (38), Piers Edinborough (31\*)

and Sam Holland-Bosworth with the performance of the day (90\*) allowed Stowe to chase down 227 to win by 7 wickets.

A much changed team then struggled to get past a strong Bedford outfit in the first game back after Half Term as exam leave took its toll both mentally and physically on the players. Stowe allowed the visitors to get to 175 off 20 overs, and then only managed to get to 155 off their 20 overs.

The following week saw another study leave affected Stowe team take on Oakham on the North Front. One of the best bowling and fielding performances of the season did limit Oakham to 159/9 off 20 overs, but sadly it was the batting that let the team down, despite good knocks from Archie Dixon-Smith and Jack Foreman.

A midweek fixture on the hottest day in June, since records began, saw a depleted 2nd XI take on a touring team from Perth, Australia: Kent Street School. A sloppy fielding and bowling display allowed the visitors to hit 179 off 30 overs. Stowe valiantly stayed at 7 an over, throughout the innings, to make it a very close game – but ran out of batsmen in the end to lose by 20 runs.

I would like to thank Mr Lowe for his help this year in coaching the 2nd XI and to all the players – especially the Upper Sixth who have served the School valiantly during their time here.

*Mr Mike Rickner*

## 3rd XI

Frustrating but ultimately successful is how the 3rd team's 2017 season might best be characterised.

Inclement weather in the first half of term, a heatwave in the second half, added to the pressure of exams, meant a couple of fixtures were abandoned and momentum could not be built up.

However, of the four matches played, three were won – in convincing fashion against Bradfield College, Wellingborough 2nds and Bedford – while the only defeat was a 10-run reverse against Oakham suffered by a team depleted by exam leave and 2nd XI call-ups.

As with the previous year, it was Cobhamites who provided the backbone of the batting: skipper Jack Dickerson (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Georges Tasker at the top of the order and Arthur Fenwicke-Clennell coming in first wicket down, whose consistency was rewarded with a 2nd XI team

call up. From the same House, Jamie Jackson performed tidily behind the stumps and Arthur Margetson belied his horizontally laid-back demeanour to produce some hostile bowling.

Indeed, few 3rd XI teams had the antidote to Stowe's well-balanced attack. Seb Wood with the new ball, shared at times with Ollie Pell or Adebambo Adejobi, was usually too quick for opponents. Subsequently the likes of Dickerson, with his unorthodox spin, Fabian Bevan (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Dominic Jessel – who also contributed useful runs – and Guy Woodhouse, had the wiles and the variety to keep opponents guessing.

Thanks must go to Mr Floyd who bore the brunt of coaching and umpiring duties. While the season was too sporadic to be called vintage, it contained gratifying glimpses of excellent cricket in the Corinthian style befitting a Stowe third XI.

*Dr Charlie Standley*



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## 4th XI

The 4th XI cricket team had a short but enjoyable season, with two fixtures against Oundle and RGS. The game against RGS was closely fought, resulting in a one wicket victory, and the Oundle fixture was drawn after rain stopped play. During training, the team enjoyed short games against the Colts and showed considerable skill, demonstrating strength in depth in the cricket set up at Stowe. Despite the pressures of exams, the 4th XI showed commitment to representing the School and ended the season unbeaten.

*Mr Paul Griffin*



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# Colts A

Penny loafers and Schoffel gilets were the order of the day for the latest cadre of Colts cricketers who enjoyed the pleasures of being outside in the English countryside just as much as they did playing cricket in some rather mixed climatic conditions against opponents of similarly mixed ability. The results were not quite the whitewash of success that was enjoyed in previous Colts' seasons, mainly because the weather meant that training time was at a premium. As a result, none of the boys were able to play with any consistency.

Freddie Horlick (Fifth Form, Bruce) was named Captain and gamely corralled the team throughout the season, although he did not contribute on a personal level as much as he might have liked. Max Moseley (Fifth Form,

Chandos), a real student of the game who is never happier than regurgitating inane statistics about lesser-known IPL cricketers, yet is a devout advocate of Test match cricket, started the season with some very good performances with the bat before tailing away somewhat. Ed Wentworth-Stanley (Fifth Form, Chatham) played a similar hand to Moseley, albeit without the statistics. Enigmatic James Watkins (Fifth Form, Grafton) is a cricketer that delights and frustrates in equal measure but has to be picked for that rare match-winning performance, which he provided against Abingdon.

The bowling was led by Louis Redfern (Fifth Form, Temple) who did not get the commensurate rewards for always sending down some extremely tight line and length, and

# Colts B



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Lochie Shillington (Fifth Form, Grafton) was consistent despite inconsistent availability. Oscar Brett's (Fifth Form, Chatham) right arm off break proved too subtle for many opposition batsmen and he led the wicket taking along with Watkins, who was effective when his radar was calibrated and operational.

The Champagne moments are dominated by a pair of golden ducks which act as neat bookends for the season. James Watkins (Fifth Form, Grafton) secured the first of the season against Bedford School – a catch that he argued had been grassed and, when questioned by his teammates about the choice of shot, declared that the ball had been “in the slot”. The final golden duck of the season was secured by Harry

Arkwright (Fifth Form, Grafton). Harry had contributed manfully to the team as a specialist fielder, never actually batting until the final game when, as glory beckoned against Oundle, he played all around a straight one and was castled first ball.

This is not a season that will live long in the memory in terms of the matches that were played but there were certainly some memorable moments and the boys played with good humour throughout. There are some skilled cricketers in the team who can potentially push towards the 1st XI next year, particularly if they can focus on their cricket a little more than their country clothing.

*Mr Chris Warde & Mr Ben Scott*

The Colts B season comprised two matches only due to exam leave and one fixture abandoned for rain. With one victory and one loss, it is hard to make too many generalisations about this team but the boys have approached their cricket this term with a great sense of enthusiasm and fun and all of them should be looking towards playing a big part in the Senior squads next season.

Match 1: We won the toss and elected to bat but then only managed to make use of 17 of our allotted 30 overs as we were bowled out for 92. Bradfield can certainly testify to the familiar adage that ‘catches win matches’ because 8 out of the 11 Stowe batsmen were caught out. James Hungin (Fifth Form, Walpole) batted very well for 25 but he quickly ran out of batting partners. 92 never looked like a total we could defend, except at the end of the 1st over of Bradfield's innings, when we had them at 3 for 2. Unfortunately, the 3rd wicket then didn't fall until their total was 57, and thereafter it was simply a matter of time. Whereas Bradfield held their catches, we dropped 4 simple chances but, in the

fielders' defence, it was not exactly warm on The Bourbon that afternoon and this definitely made fielding conditions harder. Bradfield finished on 96 for 3.

Match 2: Quinton batted first and scored 115 for 5. Ben Shamash (Fifth Form, Chatham) bowled brilliantly with figures of 4 overs, 2 wickets for 12 runs. In the chase, Stowe progressed steadily with Ben Shamash and Joss Walker (Fifth Form, Cobham) contributing the most significant number of runs, 21 and 27 respectively. A flurry of middle-order wickets put the pressure on around the 11th over when Stowe were on 88 for 6. Overs were never going to be the issue but had we lost further wickets at that stage, things would have started to become awkward. Fortunately, the 6th wicket partnership steadied the ship and took us past the 100 mark and from then, on victory looked assured. This was a good game of cricket that the boys clearly enjoyed and well done for a fine performance.

*Mr Anthony Macpherson*



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## Junior Colts A

After a successful pre-season tour to South Africa, the Junior Colts As were primed for a tough season ahead in terms of an extensive and difficult fixture list which included competing on many fronts: the County Cup, National Cup and regular Saturday afternoon matches.

The team managed to maintain a very good level of consistency in all formats with most notable performances coming in the excellent victories versus Uppingham (by 41 runs), Abingdon (10 wickets), Harrow (8 wickets) and MCS Oxford, along with retaining the Bucks County Cup for the 5th consecutive year after defeating Chesham and Dr Challoner's in the knockout rounds before resoundingly winning the final against RGS High Wycombe on the North Front. On the flip side of the coin, the team lost to Bradfield and Radley who were simply better on the day whilst the most disappointing defeats came against Wellingborough, when the team simply didn't turn up, and versus Tonbridge in the fourth round of the National knockout.

On the batting front, the runs were equally shared around. Louis Newman is a class act and can hit the ball very hard when in the mood whilst George Holmes played his finest innings versus Bradfield with a superb 80. Both of these batsmen have the potential to score heavily and

will be looking for greater consistency of performance as they develop their game. The two dashers in the team, Monty Fenwicke-Clennell and Ollie Taylor, both had their moments when they made the scoreboard seriously rattle along, most notably when Taylor scored his wonderful maiden hundred in the County Cup and if they can turn their 20s and 30s into big scores, then they will become even bigger threats to the opposition. Several other batsmen contributed to the cause; George Gauvain and Tom Youds are technically accomplished players whose target is to now develop a positive mindset at the crease, hit the ball hard and put the opposition bowlers and Captain under greater pressure, rather than simple crease occupation. They certainly have the game to do so. Toby Stocks, who loves to play his shots, played a couple of lovely cameo innings in the lower middle order, to bring the team home in close cup matches.

The bowling attack was certainly the team's strength. Shore-Hollingworth and Taylor were an excellent opening pair and both have a very bright future ahead of them. They are fit which allows them to maintain their pace throughout their spells and always attack the stumps which offers a constant threat to opposition batsmen. New recruit Max Flawn-Thomas is a Captain's dream, bowling a lovely line and length and he often proved the most miserly bowler in the T20 matches. The spin department was well-stocked with Ed Broughton being the most improved player as he learnt to bowl his flighted off-spinners with more pace whilst Tom Youds bowled a tight off stump line with good control. Behind the stumps, Ed Snushall proved himself a very tidy wicket-keeper with an astute cricketing brain and he will want to develop his batting in the mould of the modern keeper-batsman.

George Holmes deserves great credit for developing his captaincy skills throughout the season and now understands the art of when to attack and defend depending on the state of the game. George Hooper and Rhys Noble were welcome additions from the Third Form to the T20 team both making valuable contributions throughout the season. Lastly, a big thank you to Mr Smith for his expert coaching of the team in his first year at Stowe.

*Mr Gavin Moffat*

## Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B team are a talented bunch who have all contributed to a balanced result sheet. It is a shame the team was only able to play 5 out of the 8 scheduled fixtures and they finished with 2 wins and 3 losses. The season started with a thriller at home to Bradfield, with the team unlucky to lose by only 6 runs in a fiercely contested match at the Bourbon. This was followed by a comprehensive victory by 8 wickets at Abingdon School. After a few weeks of training, the JCB chaps pitted their skills against The Oratory's 'A team' and were really unlucky to lose by 6 wickets in another competitive fixture. The low point of the season was definitely the fixture against Bedford,

which was too bad to describe in detail here – but the boys bounced back with brilliant character to finish the season with a strong all round performance at Bromsgrove, winning by 21 runs.

The team comprised of many good, all round sportsmen and was always much more assured with the bat when J McCallum, M Butler and C Linton were on form. L O'Brien, J Comyn, F Holland-Bosworth were all lethal bowlers when the conditions were right. The team was also supported by good contributions from H Burnet, F Dickerson, H Howard and A Chisnall, with A Irvine vying for the most improved player of the season.

*Mr Matthew Teasdale*



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## Junior Colts C

Captains James Trumper (Fourth Form, Cobham) and Bertie Bryant (Fourth Form, Cobham) were stalwarts for the squad through this season's fixtures with both of them picking up big hits of 70 plus runs during the season, Trumper against Oratory and Bryant against Bromsgrove. As a combination with the ball, James Trumper was among the lead wicket takers for the team, his range of deliveries bamboozling the batsman and Bertie Bryant taking catches

and stumping many of them as the wicket keeper in this partnership. Other notable contributions came from Alfie Cliff (Fourth Form, Chandos) who knocked 97 before going out to the finest of edges and George Bonham Carter (Fourth Form, Bruce) for his 5 wicket haul against Bradfield. The catch of the year went to Charles Garment (Fourth Form, Chandos) whose safe hands plucked the ball from the sky whilst diving forward and to his right, a superb take which inspired a team onward to victory.

*Mr Giles Cuddy*

## Yearlings A

The performances of Yearlings A teams often tend to resemble the grand old Duke of York - when they're up the ingredients are there for some excellent cricket; when they are down they can be terrible... This season was no exception with nine wins, eight losses and two(!) ties about par for the course in this age group.

After an enjoyable tour to Cape Town which this coach had to miss for family reasons (an easy decision on one level if made slightly galling because of the destination!), we started with a very pleasing, if scrappy, victory over Uppingham on the first day of the season, a run chase marked by Holly Phillips' calm accumulation after Archie Barnes' 5 wickets preceding it. Other highlights of the term were a convincing 8 wicket win against a decent Dr Challoner's side in the County Cup Final on the South Front; a thrilling tie with Oakham with three of our regular side missing (Rhys Noble and George Hooper impressively earning call ups to the 1st XI that day); the right handed version of a Langer/Hayden opening partnership in Sam



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Birch and Jack Mercer and an excellent finish to the term with another quality run chase against St Joseph's at an increasingly wet Ardingly festival.

While there were plenty of less good moments along the way, this was a team who certainly improved as the season progressed, most notably in the fielding department and contains some excellent cricketers for the future.

*Mr Henry Swayne*

## Yearlings B

The Yearlings B team have had a fantastic season winning all but one of their games. Many of the boys have had chances in, and made impressions on, the A team squad and all have developed their games. The season started with a tight but quality win over Bradfield. Jack Brown (Third Form, Chandos) opened the bowling economically, picking up 4 wickets. Arthur Dobbs (Third Form, Grafton) rescued

victory with a fine 53 NO, but was promptly poached by the As, never to return. The team won by 3 wickets with Somerset Fell (Third Form, Chatham), scoring the necessary in the final over. The following week a chastening defeat by Abingdon saw our batsmen struggle against good bowling; we couldn't quite chase down their total and lost by 38 runs. This spurred the team onto a 5 game winning streak which started with a confident victory over The Oratory, Somerset Fell and Freddie Smith (Third Form, Cobham) chasing down 91 runs without loss. Tommy



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Cranmer (Third Form, Temple) came into his own with the ball, gaining 4 wickets, all in one over! DCGS were our next victims and after some excellent bowling (Brown 4 more wickets, Akinyemi bowling well to gain 2), we were chasing just 66 runs. After an initial worrying collapse, Josh Clarke (Third Form, Bruce) and Tommy Cranmer steadied the ship to see out the victory.

Bedford was the game of the season. Having been put into bat, a middle order collapse left Flynn Mulcahy (Third Form, Grafton) (who had opened batting) with Tommy Cranmer – our no7. Again, Cranmer was there to steady the ship and held onto his wicket to see us to 102 all out. A monumental bowling and fielding effort followed.

Willoughby Clarke's (Third Form, Temple) spin bowling bamboozled the opposition, taking 2 wickets for just 9 runs off 5 overs. Jack Brown (Third Form, Chandos), Angus Pollock (Third Form, Grafton) and Tommy Cranmer all chipped in with consistent bowling performances to keep Bedford's score down. Some excellent fielding by Conrad Flint Wood (Third Form, Cobham), left Bedford needing 5 runs from the last 6 balls. The fact that they didn't get them speaks volumes of the desire from the Stowe boys. On a small pitch at Oakham, we gained our high score of the season, chasing down 140 and only losing 2 wickets. Tristan Montague (Third Form, Cobham) scored a season's best 54 runs, and was aided by Somerset Fell who hit the winning runs for the 3rd game of the season. The final match was against Bromsgrove; with our best bowling performance, leaving us just 87 runs to chase, but possibly our worst batting performance, led to an 8th & 9th wicket partnership by Jack Brown and ever the saviour, Tommy Cranmer winning the day.

It has been an enjoyable season, with some excellent moments. My thanks to Freddie Smith (Third Form, Cobham) for keeping all season so well, Freddie Would (Third Form, Cobham) for opening the batting and returning from injury so swiftly and to all of the 17 boys who have represented us this term.

*Mr Tom Elwell*



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## Yearlings C

Firstly, can I say what a pleasure it was coaching the Yearling Cs this season, they made it very enjoyable.

We did not have the best season as far as wins were concerned - being the feeder team for the As and Bs made consistency difficult but it was a fun and enjoyable season.

The Yearling Cs did have a fantastic away win against Oakham. The boys scored 97 runs in 20 Overs and bowled Oakham out for 80 runs in only 15 overs. Top Scorers Ned Ellison 20(19) 3 x 4s, Henry Hobby 17(13) 1 x 6, 1 x 4 and Tebi Fongho 15(14) 2 x 4s. For the Bowlers Hugo Thomas took 5 wickets for 7 runs off only 3 overs.

Well done on making the season so great.

*Mr Steve Malling*

## Yearlings D

Although this was a tough season for the Yearlings D cricket team with only 1 win over 4 matches, the boys played very well this season. It was a rough go for the boys playing against a very strong Bedford side twice and a very strong Bradfield side. The win came against Oakham where the boys stayed alert and after bowling their opponents

87 for all out, the boys were able to hang in there and win by 2 wickets, 88 for 8. Special mentions go to: Harry Gallagher, Griffin Mills and Barney Denison-Pender, on an outstanding cricket season and hard work in the nets. Special mention also goes to Amru Shabeer, who was the most improved cricketer on the D team, for his season. Well done to the boys on a solid season.

*Mrs Kaitlan Griffin*



## 1st XII

The 2016-2017 calendar year proved to be a very successful season for the 1st XII lacrosse team, in fact one for the record books. With a young but experienced team on the field, led by Philippa Stacey, the girls pushed the boundaries this year and saw fantastic results. The girls opened up the season with a strong 12 all draw with Moreton Hall and never looked back. The girls kept the momentum and secured wins over big name schools: Guildford High School, Berkhamsted School, Putney High School and Wycombe Abbey. The girls also claimed a win over Moreton Hall later in the season, beating them 13-8. The girls went undefeated in the two term regular season and finished off with a record of 12 wins, 0 losses and 3 draws. The attack this year was led by Philippa Stacey, who finished the year with an impressive 125 goals and 65 assists. We also saw outstanding performances from Olivia Thomas, Zara Vickers and Emily Ulmann. Our attack again this year was a force to be reckoned with, and with discipline and determination the girls fought through to constant victory. In the Lent Term, we continued our momentum and the 1st XII had a record breaking weekend at the Rathbones English Lacrosse National Championships. Friday saw an excellent first day at National Schools, as the 1st lacrosse team came out of their group in second place and were placed in the Championship division for day two. Day two saw us into the strongest pool bracket and some very tough competition, including the eventual Nationals' winners Benenden. We came out strongly in our first match against Benenden and with some superb ball work from Philly Stacey, we pulled ahead and beat Benenden 4-3. We then played National powerhouse Lady Eleanor Holles (LEH) and played one of the best games of the tournament. We led the score for most of the game, however a late goal from LEH left us with a 3-3 draw. A fantastic achievement

for the girls. Our final pool game was played against St Albans and the girls played to a 7-0 win. This meant we tied for first place in the pool and would play St Helen and St Katharine in the knockout round. With total draw control from Philly Stacey, we controlled the pace of the game and moved onto the quarterfinals where we would again meet Downe House. Although we played well, Downe House got the edge on us scoring first and we were never quite able to regain the lead. Downe House beat us 2-1. The Stowe 1st XII finished top eight in the country and have put the Stowe Lacrosse name on the map. The defence was led this year by Clarissa Llanaj, who stood out this season. Supported by Co-Captain Amelia Bowder, Imogen White, Annabel Simpson and Jessamy Money-Kyrle. We have placed six girls on the U18 Super Counties teams and two on the U15 Super Counties teams. Philly Stacey, Olivia Thomas, Amelia Bowder, Clarissa Llanaj, Annabel Simpson and Emily Ulmann were selected for the U18 Super Counties. Georgie Mercer and Zara Vickers were selected for the U15 Super Counties. Philly Stacey, Olivia Thomas, Amelia Bowder and Clarissa Llanaj were all selected for the South East Regional Squads who went on to win the entire Regional tournament. Philly Stacey and Olivia Thomas had an outstanding year playing with the England U19 team. They represented their country at multiple tournaments and matches and Philly was selected to Captain the team on two separate occasions. Olivia and Philly will play with England U19 at the World Cup Festival this summer at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford, Surrey. An impressive year for many of the girls on the team. We are very much looking forward to hitting the field in September and will be Captained in the 2017-2018 season by Olivia Thomas and Jessamy Money-Kyrle.

*Mrs Kaitlan Griffin*



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## 2nd XII

The 2nd XII had a tough season, playing against the premier sides in the country, consistently having to face off against the lacrosse powerhouses each week. Despite a losing record of 7 wins, a draw and 11 losses, the girls should be proud of the quality of the lacrosse they played. With several girls pushing for spots in the first XII, maintaining regular faces in some key positions on the field was difficult but allowed the girls to develop their own skill sets further. Captains Charlotte Bird and Lily Muirhead

were exemplary all season long and certainly the linchpins of the offence and defence. Alongside their Captains, the other standout performances came from Thea Chisnall who harassed the opposition tirelessly and Lily Marriott and Tattie Page-Turner, who helped co-ordinate the offence with Martha Scott Knight. Gloria Carnevali-Mobaraki was the most improved player of the year, a very technical defender who went from strength to strength, putting in the extra hours to improve her footwork and cementing her place in the squad as a key defender.

*Mr Giles Cuddy*



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## 3rd XII

The 3rd XII had a fantastic season and ended the year with a 5-4 record. The girls had a slow start with losses against Moreton Hall and the TASIS 1st XII but picked up momentum and beat strong programmes such as Tudor Hall's 2nd XII, Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in a nail biting 13-12 victory and Oakham School. We were very impressed with the dedication and hard work that came from this team this season and their overall record

is a direct result of that. The 3rd XII were led by Hannah Venner in goal, who stepped into the cage for the first time this season and in her first match saw 17 saves. The girls scored 65 goals this season and although it was a total team effort, we saw strong performances from Georgie Leefe, Imogen Oliver and Helena Vince. An impressive season and one the girls should be proud of. With these notable results, we look forward to watching what the Senior 3rd XII produce in the 2017-18 season.

*Mrs Kaitlin Griffin*





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## U15A

The U15As may have had a 3-5 season but the progression they made under the influence of Coach Brian Potter and the Canadian style of lacrosse he brought to the squad cannot be underestimated. Coach Potter introduced the girls to a high tempo version of the game and his reshuffle amongst the squad encouraged the girls to test themselves and play outside their comfort zone, producing some very exciting results along the way.

The girls faced a terrifically difficult schedule but put in



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## U15B

The U15s played an aggressive brand of lacrosse, its high tempo unsettling most of the opposition they faced. This style of play was demonstrated throughout the team from hockey goalie convert Rosie Ludlow, who attacked the ball in cage and quickly fed it back out to Emily Banks, Maria Sharipova and Rhea Vankova-Martin in

resolute performances week in and week out. The squad, led by Captains Lucy Bourn and Maddie Marriott, inspired performances from their teammates who demonstrated their flexibility to adopting the new techniques they had learnt under Coach Potter. As the season progressed, they became more proficient with the Canadian brand of lacrosse he had brought to the School and their team and individual performances were markedly improved from the beginning of the year; a year that saw the girls develop as a group and individually.

*Mr Giles Cuddy*

## U14A

**Played 9, Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 6, Goals For 40, Goals Against 52, Goals Difference -12.**

Though the U14s record of 3 wins from their 9 games might suggest a poor performance this season, upon closer inspection however, the details reveal a much more successful season: victory against perennial powerhouse Wycombe Abbey, a Haberdashers' Aske's programme on the rise and a close loss against the Haileybury's U15A team. At Nationals, the U14s recorded the best ever performance by an U14 Stowe team and picked up some prized scalps in their group performance. With a mixture of experienced players and girls entirely new to the sport, competition for spots in the A squad was fierce, with twenty one girls representing Stowe in the first team at this age level which only bodes well for the future. The stand out performances of the year came from Frankie Macleod Matthews (centre) who controlled the draw all year long, receiving praise from many an opposition coach along the way as well as scoring a fair few goals as well. New to



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lacrosse Holly Phillips quickly established herself as one to watch for the future and was the run away top goal scorer for Stowe, scoring in almost every game she played, breezing past opponents with ease and rifling shots into the goal with aplomb. At the other end of the field, Amber Brogan transferred her hockey goalkeeping skills to the lacrosse field, and quickly established herself as a premier shot-stopper, recording a 60% save average or more in her first year, more than any coach could ask for. We are devastated to lose her but wish her all the best at her new

school. Captain Maisie Roberts continued the Roberts' family tradition of tight aggressive defence and in the future, the proposition of the Roberts sisters on the field together is one that opposition attackers will not relish. Bella Brown was the most improved player of the year, starting from an already impressive footing, Bella continued to impress and come Nationals was a dervish, harrying opponents across the field. This squad will be one to watch in the future, all of the girls deserve more recognition and I cannot name them all here but I cannot wait to see them take to the field next season.

*Mr Giles Cuddy*



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## U14B

The U14Bs had a terrific season, winning all but two of their matches with a 66% success rate. This included playing against some very strong opposition teams. The girls have come a long way since the start of the year, when many of them picked up a lacrosse stick for the first time. They have all played with tons of energy, enthusiasm and determination throughout the year. Towards the end of the season, they were able to beat formidable sides, namely Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls and Marlborough College; teams we have been competing against for several years. They are now playing with the skill and confidence of a seasoned, professional team. This is testament to their hard work, commitment and dedication to improve.

A special mention must go to the team's goalkeeper, Sofia Atkinson-Hieber, who stepped up to help the team out each week. She performed brilliantly in the last match of the season, where she saved over 70% of the shots to secure the team an impressive 10-4 win over Marlborough College.

The Awards this season are as follows: Player of the season: Camille Gibson for her enthusiasm, communication and countless goal set ups.

Most improved player: Caroline Leach, who is ever eager to improve and practise her skills. Her excellent positioning and tireless work rate place her consistently in the right place to make an impact on the game. Caroline is well on her way to becoming a strong, all-round player.

One to watch for the future: Sydney King - she is always right where she's needed and often in the middle of the action. Sydney's midfield transitions are brilliant. She is one of the first to push up in attack and the first back to defend.

Special mentions also go to: Luciana Butler for her robust performance in the final game of the season, and to Sophia Batey and Antonia White for their exceptional defensive work.

The team have all played amazingly well this season, and their results truly reflect all the industrious work and effort of a very successful year of competition.

*Ms Abigail Hutchings*

## U14C

The U14Cs had two games this year, although all the girls enjoyed their matches they played and were keen to play more, they would have benefitted from the extra game time.

Always keen, energetic and enthusiastic in training, the team quickly picked up the more complex aspects of lacrosse. As their confidence on the pitch grew and they developed team intuition that comes only with working together, their game play improved dramatically and they

were able to give the strong B team a series of competitive practices as part of their match preparation.

It's fair to say what the girls lacked in experience, they made up for with enthusiasm and passion. I hope they have enjoyed lacrosse this year and will continue next year.

A special mention goes to Emilia Havard, the team Captain, who did a brilliant job leading the team by encouraging communication across the pitch at all times, and, Eloise Taylor, player of the season, for her excellent defensive work and midfield transitions.

*Ms Abigail Hutchings*

# Girls' Cricket

Played 4, Won 4, Drawn 0, Tied 0,  
Lost 0, Abandoned 0.

This is the first season we have run a girls' cricket squad and it has been a huge success. Not only because we have played 4 and won 4 but the fun and enthusiastic atmosphere which has been created by around 20 girls has been tangible! Our debut match was against Thornton College winning by 5 runs. We went onto win against Ousedale and Kimbolton. Holly Phillips (Third From, Nugent) scored 65 NO in the Kimbolton game which gave the girls a huge amount of confidence. We look forward to developing the programme next year to two teams.

*Miss Lauren Ellis*



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# Karate

At Stowe, Karate lessons are unique in that they are the only place in the School where fighting with your friends is allowed - in fact, it is actively encouraged. The objective of the lessons is to promote and practise the traditional style of Shotokan Karate, whilst supporting fellow members, developing techniques, character, mutual respect and showing dignity to ourselves and to others.

Training ranges from basics and kyon-ipon sets to kata, bunkai and sparring, plus many more exercises to improve our strength and skill. The intense training has led us to be a closely-knit group, encouraging everyone to perform well and have a lot of fun in lessons. The self-defence skills, which we develop alongside Karate are undeniably useful in the long term, and raise our confidence. Past students of the Stowe Club have gone on to train internationally and chair university Karate teams. We regularly grade, visit other clubs to develop our training, and next year Mar Martinez-Tomas will be competing in Kata Tournaments.

Sensei David Smith approaches teaching Karate with humour and dedication and this is reflected in the enthusiastic attitude of his students. Whilst Karate is hard work, the challenge is exciting and a lot of fun: it has made us into strong individuals, and an even stronger team.

*Karate Captain Mar Martinez-Tomas, Karate Secretary Alex Orton*

The past year at Stowe teaching Shotokan Karate to the students has been an enjoyable time. The Karate students always do me proud and are a very close knit unit but welcome all newcomers with open arms, giving them encouragement and support no matter from what year or House.

This spills over into the general population of the School with respect and etiquette shining from them. This last term there have been big changes but their support has made the transition easier with their help, Mar Martinez-Tomas, retaining her Dojo Captain's rank, and Alex Orton, becoming my new Karate Club secretary.

Next term with the help of the Independent Martial Arts Sports Association (IMASA), I will be arranging both Kata (set forms) and Kumite (free style sparring tournaments) against other association members.

Tutors always tell me how Shotokan Karate has helped their students become more confident and more easily integrate easier into the social structure of the School. We all look forward to greeting new students in the new term and welcoming back the old.

*Sensei David Smith*



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# GOLF

Following the appointment of Andrew Hancox as our PGA Golf Professional and Head of Golf, golf at Stowe is now enjoying a significantly higher profile at all age and ability levels across the School. As a PGA Qualified Golf Professional, PGA Level 3 coach and former PGA European Challenge Tour player, Andrew brings with him an illustrious playing and coaching career having competed across the globe on numerous professional tours, along with nurturing many top young golfers from both the UK and overseas. Having also played at the highest level of amateur golf by competing in the Peter McEvoy Trophy, British Boys' Championship and English Amateur Championship, Andrew has an excellent understanding of the level that is required in order to successfully forge a career within the professional game.

Expert PGA coaching is now readily available during the golf activity programme throughout all three terms and in addition to this, private golf lessons can be arranged with Andrew. There really are exciting times ahead for Stowe golf as we launch the Stowe Golf Academy and welcome the arrival of our inaugural Golf Scholar.

*Mr Isaac Michael, Director of Sport*

I have been delighted with the way in which golf at Stowe has developed during the course of the academic year. With a significant increase in the number of both Junior and Senior golfers opting either to learn or play the game, performances in our varied School fixtures have been very encouraging indeed. We have been fortunate to visit a number of superb golfing venues including Sunningdale, Stoke Park (courtesy of Chester King, OS), Woburn, Woking, Luffenham Heath, Hanbury Manor, Broadway and many more. Our Junior team recorded comprehensive victories against the likes of Caldicott, Bedford, Haileybury and Radley, with fine performances coming from Tom Youds, Tom Riley, Jack Nesbitt, Ed Snushall and Toby Stocks.

Led by Captain Olly Clarke, our Senior team have claimed some very good scalps this year with victories against Eton, Harrow, Charterhouse, Warwick, Cheltenham, Haileybury and the ever competitive Old Stoic Golf Society. Particular mention must go to Piers Odell, Lochie Shillington and Max Smith, who have all played exceptionally good golf throughout the campaign. Although narrowly defeated, we enjoyed an excellent match against Warwick in the annual HMC Foursomes.



On Sunday 5 March, Inter-House golf returned to the sporting calendar and we had a fantastic turnout with 32 golfers participating in the event. Chandos were convincing winners in the team event with Bruce finishing as runners up. In the inaugural 'Laddie Lucas Cup' 18 hole scratch competition, Olly Clarke (Upper Sixth, Chandos) won with a superb gross score of two under par - rather fitting given that both Clarke and Lucas belong to the left-handed persuasion.



## Gerald Micklem Trophy

The highlight of the competitive year, however, came in March when we travelled to Woking Golf Club for the annual Gerald Micklem Trophy. The Micklem is a traditional and extremely prestigious invitational golf tournament, played at Woking every year, between eight of the most exclusive public schools in the country and has been running since 1954. I am delighted to report that Stowe were crowned Champions of the Gerald Micklem Plate following thrilling and close fought victories against Harrow and Charterhouse. Led by Olly Clarke, the team consisted of Piers Odell, James Watkins and two debutants – Lochie Shillington and Max Smith.

Both Lochie Shillington and Max Smith played outstanding golf throughout the tournament with Max recording a remarkable five wins out of a possible five. Following such an outstanding performance at the Micklem and in recognition of an exceptional season, Max Smith was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Sport Award at the Sports Awards Dinner. Piers Odell was awarded his Golf colours in recognition of his contribution to golf at Stowe and will now step up to captain the Senior golf team next year.

## PGA Coaching & Development Trip – Portugal

During the first week of the Easter break, I led the inaugural Stowe PGA Coaching & Development Trip to Portugal and was delighted to see 14 Stoics participating.

Throughout the trip, Stoics were able to take advantage of unlimited expert PGA coaching, along with the opportunity to experience some of the finest golf courses in the Algarve. The trip was a resounding success and I eagerly anticipate our return to Portugal next Easter.

## USA Swifts

The American Swifts Exchange Programme was inaugurated at Stowe when Blair Academy, New Jersey, first brought a team of budding golfers to compete against Stowe in 1968. This remarkable initiative has expanded to include schools from across America and Great Britain but Stowe still holds the record of the highest number of participants from a single school. Following a hiatus period, I have restored Stowe's historic link with this initiative and on Friday 30 June, we took a mixed team of Stoics and Old Stoics to compete against the travelling USA Swifts team at Sunningdale Golf Club. Our team was led by Captain Olly Clarke and featured Piers Odell, James Watkins, Lochie Shillington, Max Smith and Tom Riley. The Old Stoics were represented by Stewart McNair (who went on the American Swifts Tour in 1969), Haydn Brooks (who also went on the American Swifts Tour whilst at Stowe), Stephen Wilcox, Simon Chilton and Peter Comber. The whole day was an incredible stroll down memory lane and although we were defeated, much enjoyment and camaraderie was had by all. Following the golf, our American visitors resided at Stowe and played the iconic Stowe Golf Course prior to their departure.

With golf at Stowe now beginning to thrive, I very much hope to be able to nominate a Stoic to represent the British Swifts team in the coming years. Special thanks must go to the Old Stoic Golf Society for showing such generous support and to Peter Comber – without all of your hard work, the event would not have taken place.

*Mr Andrew Hancox, PGA Golf Professional & Head of Golf*



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# Bunbury Cricket Festival

## The 31st ECB Bunbury English Schools Cricket Festival flourishes at Stowe

I remember watching a small left-handed batsman standing out and starring at my 2012 Bunbury Festival. He had enormous flair, very good hand eye contact co-ordination and fast hands through the ball. He swept, reverse swept, drove through the covers and danced down the wicket, driving the ball with great glee and the cheekiest of smiles.

His name was Ben Duckett who had advanced his game thanks to James Knott, Master in Charge of Cricket at Stowe School and later David Ripley, Head coach at Northants CCC.

It was Monday 17 July at 9am, when "Benny Boy" strolled up wearing his England suit and Bunbury Tie with great panache... five years had passed and he had gone from Stowe, via Bunbury and Northants, to play for England with great distinction.

"Great to see you Benny Boy," I said enthusiastically... "Likewise!" laughed Ben as he presented this year's Bunbarians with their regional Caps.

From that moment on, I can honestly say we were to experience the happiest, most joyful Bunbury Festival of them all, thanks to the organisational skills and welcoming character of Stowe's cricket boss, James Knott. Knotty has that rare ability of making everybody he speaks to feel extra special.

The 56 best young cricketers in Britain, aged just fourteen and a half, were allowed to contest their skills in the most magnificent of surroundings of quite the most idyllic School, on two of the most beautiful cricket grounds in the World!

Our whole Festival week was encapsulated by magic. After Ben's stirring words of encouragement, the young Buns

displayed and showcased their talents to the hierarchy from Lords who were with us every day.

England's Director of Cricket, Andrew Strauss, was highly impressed by the standard of play. Michael Atherton watched his son, Josh, captain London and The East, with great flair. Rishi Wijeratne of London and The East, was unsurprisingly named the Best Batsman at the Awards Dinner that followed the week's events, receiving his prize from the inspirational England Assistant coach, Paul Farbrace. Harry Sullivan, a left arm spinner from Yorkshire, really caught my eye. He reminded me of a young Phil Tufnell, with the skip and jump in his run up to the wicket. Harry took 6 wickets in his three matches for the North. Harry Houillon, wicket keeper/batsman for London and The East, scored a cracking 80 from 79 balls. Ben Mills, from the same region, was named the Best Bowler and there was a big cheer from the majestic Edwardian pavilion as it was announced over the tannoy on Hawksbee & Jacobs talkSPORT Radio programme that Mason Crane had just been selected as the 84th Bunbury to be picked for England!

As we left our Festival on the Friday, I looked back to see the mists sweeping up the long green valley and I thought of all the lifelong friendships forged by the boys and the memories gathered, that will never leave them from their magical Stowe experience. Knotty, and all my Bunbarians send you our heartfelt thanks for the opportunity and privilege of being able to play their hearts out in the game they love... just like Bunbury, Ben Duckett, had so proudly displayed, just five years before.

*Dr David English CBE, Bunbury Founder*



U18

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U15

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# Water Polo

The Inter-House Water Polo leagues made Saturday afternoons in the pool the best place to be. With some Inter-House fighting for the title from day one, it was a tough competition and led to some high tension games.

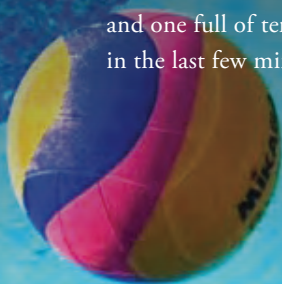
The Juniors and Inter competition was dominated by Grafton and Chatham, with Chatham scoring 32 goals over the seven games and beating Grafton into second place by week six. It was a lap of victory just playing in the last round. Great play from Alex Girling and Edward Akeroyd Hunt, showing great sportsmanship in the water.

The Senior battle went down to the wire and was closely fought between Walpole and Chatham, where they met in the last match to fight for victory. In a high energy game and one full of tension, the cup went to Walpole scoring in the last few minutes.

The U18 team was undefeated and started the season with an 11-3 win over Oundle. Our next game saw us take on Harrow in a high tension match, where we had to take our play to another level and with great tactics from Captain Alfie Kingham, we pulled the game back to a draw. Our last game of the season saw us beat Bedford School 10-2. Great attacking from the team saw the goals flying in and Guy Woodhouse score four in total, taking the title for the most goals scored this season.

U15 & U14 teams had a mixed season but with help from our Water Polo Captain, Alfie Kingham, stepping into coach the team, things improved and by the end of the year, the team is looking in great shape for next season. Big thank you to U15 Captain, Alex Girling, for motivating the team and organising the training sessions.

*Mrs Cheryl Davis*



# Netball

## Seniors

This year it has been a delight to be able to offer four Senior netball teams once again! We were also fortunate once again to be invited to three major tournaments by Bedford Modern School, Bradfield College and St Helen and St Katharine and had much success in the England Netball National Schools' Competition. There has been a truly determined approach by all the girls this season. I wish all our leavers well and hope they continue to enjoy playing netball as they have considerable potential.

## 1st VII

The 1st VII this season have been a truly fabulous squad led wonderfully by Captain Celia Marment. They are to be applauded for having a fantastic season with, once again, masses of potential for next season. We have played ten fantastic matches of high level netball coming away with some fruitful wins which saw over 180 goals scored by Stowe, winning 8 of our 11 fixtures in addition to tournament play. This smashed our target set at the start of the season.

We started the season at the England Netball County Rounds finishing 3rd in the county after an extremely tight game against The Grange School. This was shortly after the girls' very successful hockey cup run so they were not playing on full steam but a fantastic effort.

In the Lent Term, the most thrilling fixture of the season came in a triangular tournament against St Edward's and Dean Close, where we came away victorious 10-6 and 11-10 respectively. The afternoon was an extremely tight and exciting affair and a fantastic victory. The 1st VII's new found experience paid off in their final game of the season to beat Cheltenham College 12-11. This was a true indicator of just how far the team had come over the course

of the year. This game was completely goal for goal with superb movement and composure from the whole team who implemented new attacking tactics.

## 2nd VII

The 2nd VII have shown fantastic progress this season, gaining their first win of the season against Bedford Modern School 28-6. 227 goals were scored over the course of the season over 12 matches which is testament to a strong shooting trio in Annabel Havard, Eleanor Perriam and Jemima Laurence. They ended the season with an exciting run of 4 wins against Tudor Hall (42-24), Bloxham (12-8), St Edward's (15-11) and Cheltenham College (27-11). A really fantastic achievement! A special thank you goes to Mrs Sarah Sutton who has constantly guided the 2nd team with new tactics all season.

## 3rd VII

The 3rd VII have had an exhilarating season playing 8 very competitive matches and coming away with a win against Bedford Modern School (12-6). They kept a strong team spirit up all season and most definitely made sure they enjoyed all of their netball.

## 4th VII

The 4th VII had the opportunity to play 3 competitive fixtures this year. They unfortunately didn't manage to come away with any wins but showed fantastic grit and determination throughout all of their games. This is a young and unexperienced team who will no doubt improve next season with the amount of enthusiasm they have shown. This is the second 4th VII Stowe has ever put out which is a superb achievement.

## Juniors

This year, we took the opportunity to enter both the U14 County Tournament and the U16 County Tournament



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once again. The U14A team didn't have a massive amount of preparation for the County Tournament but that did not stop them on the day. As a squad, they each put in a sizeable effort to continually turnover the opposition's centre and score a total of 45 goals across 4 matches. Amazing shooting from Jemima Laurence and fantastic link up play between her and twin sister Imogen who got the ball to goal with pace. After an extremely close fought game with Aylesbury High (the eventual winners), the girls lost 10-9 to go through to the regional rounds as runners up held in Hampshire and there was an absolutely amazing atmosphere at the 2017 South Region finals. This talented squad really stepped up to a much higher level of play than they had ever experienced before. Across 6 hard fought games, the girls played with passion and determination to achieve 2 wins, a draw and 3 losses. Jemima Laurence missed around 5 shots in the entire competition which is a phenomenal stats. All the girls demonstrated fantastic court discipline which can be really tough at this level. A 4th finish in the group and 6th in the whole of the South Region!! Amazing! We look forward to building on this in the coming years.

During their Tuesday and Thursday netball activity, 6 teams across the U14s and U15s had an opportunity to play in fixtures against some local schools in the North Bucks Schools League. All teams showed brilliant improvement.

### U15A VII

The U15A team had a fantastic start to the season with a 3 match unbeaten record. Wins came against Sir Thomas Fremantle and Waddesdon CofE School alongside a thrilling 22-22 draw against The Grange. They couldn't quite grab another win but finished the league in 3rd place.

### U15B

This has to be our most hard working and resilient team in the School! This squad worked hard every minute of every game played, even when on the back foot. They started the season with their closest score line of 13-14 loss against Buckingham School and couldn't quite secure a win. This was despite relentless hard work. Special mention must go to Iseobel Hopkins and Amelia White who continually put in 100% effort.

### U15C

The U15C team played the season with much determination and resilience. They had the opportunity to play 2 competitive fixtures this year. The team unfortunately didn't manage to come away with any wins but showed fantastic grit and determination throughout their games against

Wellingborough and Tudor Hall and only lost by 3 goals on each occasion. With more training next year this team will be sure to develop.

### U14A VII

The U14A team opened the league with a thrilling win against Thornton College, winning 36-35. They finished the league in 3rd place after two very tight losses. Going into the end of season County Tournament, the girls were really determined and were crowned the winner! It was fantastic for them to finish the season as County Champions.

### U14B VII

The U14B team has been one of the most successful B teams in recent Stowe history. They have won all but 2 of their games this season. The first of those defeats was a highly fought 18-19 loss against Sir Thomas Fremantle School. Wins came against Buckingham School, The Royal Latin and Thornton College to finish the league in 2nd place. In non-league fixtures, they secured another 3 wins against Wellingborough, Tudor Hall and Bedford Modern. 164 goals over 9 matches is a superb achievement! A truly fantastic squad of girls.

### U14C VII

The U14C team played the season well with much enthusiasm. Unfortunately they didn't manage to come away with any wins but showed fantastic attitudes throughout in all their games against Wellingborough and Tudor Hall. A few of these girls had never played netball before coming to Stowe so this is an excellent achievement.

It has been a pleasure to coach all of the Senior and Junior girls this year alongside Mrs Sarah Sutton. Many thanks to Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, Mrs Lucy Miller, Mrs Reva Cope and Ms Valerie Green for their umpiring assistance. I wish all our leavers well and hope they continue to enjoy playing netball as they have considerable potential.

*Miss Lauren Ellis*

## Inter-House Results

The winners of the 2017 Inter-House Netball Competition were:

Seniors - Queen's

Intermediates - Nugent

Juniors - Nugent



## 1st XI

The 1st XI squad started the season with a handful of players who had experienced 1st team football last year, paired with some quality new arrivals. Therefore, the MK Dons coaches and I were optimistic for the season ahead. In their first match they put together a mixed performance against Wellingborough who looked hungry for the ball and displayed a grit and determination to win the 50-50s not matched by Stowe. Having gone two goals down, credit went to the Stowe boys, who rallied and managed to score two; however, Wellingborough were the better side that day. Next up was Bedford Modern, a game played in great spirit and on a lovely surface for free flowing football. The team went down early to a set piece move, with Stowe lacking physicality once again. Stowe came close on a few occasions to drawing level but not enough clear cut chances were made and the Stowe attackers are guilty of waiting for that perfect opportunity to shoot which never came. The team deserved at least a draw out of the game, but further lessons were learnt moving forward. Already Sam Montgomery and Miles Bell were putting their hands up as the centre back partnership for the season with some solid defending and communication. Another frustrating affair was played out against Uppingham at home. Once again Stowe were not performing to potential, losing out on too many 50/50 balls and allowing their opponents to dictate the game, resulting in a 1-0 loss. Our biggest defeat of the season in the following match compounded things. A weakened Stowe team travelled to Cokethorpe, the strongest side we played all year. They had three players on national league side's books; this was evident with real quality on show, which allowed the Stoics to see what the next step up is like. Anton Kondrashov had a great game in goal, making lots of vital saves, it could have been more than nine conceded had it not been for him!

So it was with excitement that we travelled to Lisbon for our

Half Term Football tour. The touring side, made up of 1st and 2nd team players, showed great camaraderie and team spirit to put on a show out in Portugal. The matches were typical England vs Portugal scenarios, the Portuguese with amazing skill and great work rate vs. our more direct and physical approach. We suffered two losses but the boys never let their heads drop and alongside some really high quality coaching from the Benfica Academy, it was a very worthwhile experience for all, with Dan Biss and Ben Solomon proving to be particularly strong tourists.

After four losses at the start of the season, it was time the players put in a performance to be proud of and with many of the players learning the 'Benfica way' on tour, Bedford were the unlucky recipients resulting in a 4-1 victory. The team never looked back and went on a winning run beating Oundle (7-3), Oakham (3-2) and a MK Dons BTEC side (1-0). Players were oozing confidence by this point and it was clear they had all come a long way in a season. Totse Jemide was on fire in front of goal and with Daniel Jolker and Edwin Rimlinger doing serious damage with the ball at their feet, everything had finally come together. However, the boys were abruptly brought back to earth against St Edward's. Players were complacent and let their effort levels drop, it took only 20 minutes for the St Edward's team to capitalise. Stowe then came to life, but they were always chasing the game and therefore leaving themselves vulnerable at the back, and they suffered a bitter defeat. The team was asked to respond and Captain Ade Adejobi rallied the troops. They duly put on two more great performances beating Old Stoics (4-2) and Akeley Wood (4-1), once again showing their best.

The team finished with 6 wins and 6 losses, a season of what might have been, but certainly an enjoyable one. Thank you to all the 1st team players who committed completely to training and matches, I hope you feel your game progressed as much as I think it did.

*Mr Andrew Jackson*



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## 2nd XI

This season has been a mixed one for the Stowe 2nd team; we started well with a convincing win in our first game of the season against Wellingborough, winning 4-0. However, this good form was not to last, we did not win another match for the rest of the season. We had some great performances, drawing several of our games against tough opponents and at times were on the brink of a win with the only thing stopping us from winning - time. The team were strong throughout the season, never letting their heads go down, even when they were losing, fighting hard to the very end. I felt that as a team we played well and developed a good spirit with everyone able to give feedback and help others out.

The team played well together and benefitted from training as a joint squad with the 1st team. This allowed myself and Mr Jackson to chop and change formations and try different players in different squads during training, developing different styles of play. It also meant the 2nds got some input from the coaches from MK Dons which helped them to learn more about positional play. It also allowed for some more focused work with other members of the squad who were on the sidelines, giving me a chance to talk with players and develop

different aspects of their game.

A special mention must be said for the Upper Sixth who are leaving our ranks and moving onto bigger and better things. Thank you to Dan Kilmister (GK), Rob Turness (LW), Fabian Bevan (CAM Capt.), Archie Forsyth (CAM), Arthur Vickers (CAM), Sam Goodwin-Hudson (RB), Josh Goodall (CB) and Kurt Leimer (ST). These gents played hard and were real role models for the Lower Sixth. I hope that all of them continue to play football and enjoy the sport as much as they have done at Stowe.

Special thanks goes to Dan Kilmister for his outstanding performances in goal, his shot stopping and ability to deal with penalties were unmatched, and also to Fabian Bevan for an extremely mature and well-rounded captaincy, a truly great leader, who led by example and never shirked his responsibilities.

I look forward to seeing the returning players and hope they can show that Stowe's 2nd team is a team to be reckoned with, key to this is the new Upper Sixth taking up the mantle from the old guard and continuing as they have. Thank you all for a great season, it's been a pleasure to train you all and to stand in the freezing cold and watch you play hard for your School.

*Mr Ali Last*

## 3rd XI

Very rarely in a football coach's tenure, one comes across a crop of dedicated, passionate and hungry young men, and the vicissitudes of their season together will be indelibly etched into the memory long after the team is gone. The 3rds 2016-17 football season, with its heady mixture of despair, elation and unexpected hilarity, must surely go down as one of those hallowed years. The 3rds' tally of results was respectable: 2 wins, 1 draw, and 4 losses, with the latter seeing Stowe lose by only a one-goal margin on each occasion. But, as is often the case in life, numerical achievements alone cannot convey those moments that the players themselves experienced along the way. So allow me to pen a few here. The season kicked off with a 6-2 win at home to Wellingborough, with the highlight of that afternoon being a 25-yard chip from Finn Shillington which flew, grouse-like, into the top right-hand corner of the visitor's net. The following game was perhaps Stowe's toughest fixture of the season, away at Bedford Modern School. This

technically slick side put three past Stowe by half-time with no reply, yet a spirited fight back (along with some heroic goalkeeping by the 3rds' 'vice'-captain, Harry Weiss) earned Stowe a flattering 3-2 score-line. Cokethorpe away told a similar story: whilst Wilf Fine gave a defensive performance befitting of his name, and Shillington proved irrepressible up front, it was unfortunately the home side that snatched the accolades. The slanted pitch of Bedford School proved more favourable turf, with Stowe delivering their best performance of the season on this ground. As Jack Jenkins showed himself to be a man of all trades at the back, and the duo of John Balcon Perez and Henry Larkin patrolled the midfield, a 3-1 victory saw Stowe put this Bedford team to bed with ease. It was a typically sharp-beaked finish from Phil Birdwood, curled in from the edge of the box, which sent Stowe flying that afternoon. Even losing their goalkeeper could not derail the mighty 3rds, as defender Gleb Oshchepkov heroically donned the gloves to grab the win. Two matches against Oundle and Uppingham soon followed, but, despite Harry Pullin pulling the strings on the right-hand flank, Stowe went on to suffer

two narrow losses. And so, while an impressive core of Stowe players will carry forward into next season, we must also wave goodbye to two Upper Sixth students who have been 3rds stalwarts these past two years. Named 'silver-shins' by teammates owing to his defensive tenacity, Olamikun Olarewaju's absence will be strongly felt at centre-back. Stowe will also be hard-pressed to find a replacement for their talismanic Captain

and striker, Tom Brooke: pugnacious, committed, and a true sportsman on the football pitch, I will certainly remember his driven finish to take the lead against Bedford School. As I say farewell to the 3rds' football team, and indeed farewell to Stowe, I have only one thing to say – boys, it has been a pleasure.

*Mr Jack Palmer*

## U16

It was a tough start to the season coming up against strong opposition as the side was still settling. A spirited and tiring performance in the first game against Bedford Modern School ended in a 4-2 defeat, with solid performances from Tom Percy and centre Will Osei-Poku. However, the boys were not too disheartened as a few of their players were missing including their Captain Ivan Titov. The team had to wait a while for their first win which came just before Half Term. The motivation came from their two coaches Mr Deakin and Mr. Hoare who developed a new tactic and formation for the team and it was clear to see that the team were aiming for a win right from the start as Tom Percy played a beautifully weighted ball from the half way line to the main striker Elliot Mullarkey who calmly placed it in the bottom right hand corner. Although centre forward Elliot didn't convert as many chances as he would have liked, he contributed to the team well and kept us alive in games with most of his shots hitting the posts, making us believe that we could score. The tally was added to by Egan Brosnan, and a 40 yard screamer from Peter Wood, who modestly never talked about the goal, much. After the 3-1 win away against Cokethorpe the boys went on a winning streak going right up until the end of the season, the only hiccup coming against Bedford School where there were some questionable decisions from the referee towards the end of the match which led to 2 goals in the space of two minutes. Tom Percy was the team's top goal scorer with four goals; even though he played in the midfield, he could strike the ball well and from long range. One of his best moments came up against our rivals Oundle where Tom seemed to be capable of doing anything. Stowe won a free kick at around 30 yards and Tom stepped up. He curled the ball beautifully into the top left corner of the goal. This really got the team going and in the end the match was won 4-2 and went on to be the performance of the season. In this spectacular match, Alex Bernard-Bell and Ivan Titov really showed what they can do on the pitch as they controlled the midfield and made magnificent passes left, right and centre and won possession back for their team. Over the season there have been notable performances



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from Peter Wood and Will Osei-Poku, leading the back line. Gaelic footballer Egan Brosnan who had never played football before, gave great energy to the midfield and flanks and proved himself a very worthy player. The two Branson scholars, Jonah Gasura and Matthew Alberts, contributed massively, scoring five goals and getting three assists between them. The two star players throughout this season were Tom Percy and Ivan Titov who lead the team to victory from one game to the next. Captain, Ivan Titov scored one goal but assisted the team enormously from deep in midfield with some excellent defensive work and a number of crucial passes throughout the term which ended up with him getting the most assists this season. Tom's and Ivan's performances for the U16As didn't go unnoticed as they played two games for the U18A team, where Tom grabbed a goal and Ivan an assist. The future looks bright for them and for the U16As as there were a lot of young players in the squad this year. The season ended with seven games played, 4 won and 16 goals scored, a good season which showed a lot of promise for next year. Special mentions must go to Jonah and Matthew who will sadly leave at the end of the year; the cat in goal, David Kann, for some superb shot stopping moments and Alex Bernard-Bell who in the second half of the season proved himself as a worthy central defensive midfielder. Al-Ameen Atekoja equally showed his class in the back line and some well-timed tackles and intervention. There were several promising Fourth Form boys who got involved. Harry Amorntien grew in confidence and Joseph Nuttall showed great versatility and commitment, all gaining valuable experience ready for next year.

*Mr Pete Deakin & Mr Howard Hoare*

# Squash

1st V: Played 6, Won 4, Lost 2

2nd V: Played 2, Won 2

With every year, the number of Stoics playing squash goes up and with that we see an incremental improvement in the standard of play. There can be no doubt that squash at Stowe is on an upwards trajectory and with fresh blood and ideas at all levels of the game, Stowe's squash future has never looked brighter.

Junior Inter-House Squash returned to Stowe and towards the end of Michaelmas Term, Grafton met Walpole in the final of what proved a hard fought competition from the very first serve. It was a fitting finale to an excellent contest with Walpole eventually coming out on top, 3-0. Many congratulations to all Junior squash players and to those Senior players, especially Hugh Buxton and Charlie Leefe, who took on the weight of the organisation and running of the competition. We look forward to extending the competition to the Girls' Houses next year.

Walpole Team: Jamie Hungin (Captain), Johnnie Law, Louis Hink

This year also saw many of those involved in the Inter-House Cup take on Buckingham Squash Club in a one-off fixture that in the end involved 24 players! It was a close run thing with Stowe coming out just on top but much more important than the result was the exposure those involved got to competitive squash, experience that will come in useful down the line.

With so many strong players having left the School, the competitive season was approached with managed expectations. A real nail-biter against Uppingham saw the 1st V narrowly shaded out at the start of term but a strong performance from a redoubtable 2nd V made sure that Uppingham went home with honours even. After that, things settled down and though Abingdon were to prove extremely strong (again), the squad had a great season. The highlight was undoubtedly the victory over Bedford, traditionally one of strongest schools on the local circuit and a real force nationally. This was an exceptionally played and fought victory that established clearly the squad's ability and tenacity.

If the technical highlight was Bedford, the most fun was the Stoics versus the Common Room. This was a tremendous competition with razor tight battles at every level and it was fitting that in the end it all came down to the rubber between Mr Smith and Hugh Buxton, next year's MiC and this year's skipper respectively. With no quarter given, the battle went right to the wire but Hugh came out on top – a fitting end to a wonderful season during which Hugh led the squad to success and with great distinction.



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Next year things change again; despite letting down the Common Room and, most of all, himself with his performance in the CR Open, Mr Smith will be taking over the reins, with Mr Liversage of course remaining on hand to impart wisdom, encouragement, coaching insight and tactical nous. The support of both this year has been in no small part responsible for the squad's growth and achievements. Mr Johnson has also been an invaluable source of support and driving ability and I thank them for all they have contributed this and previous years. With Lottie Hopkinson leading the players from the front, the squad is sure to go from strength to strength and I wish all well for the coming year.

*Mr Paul Floyd*



# Rowing

The past year has seen some significant steps forward for rowing at Stowe. For the first time in the School's history, a 1st VIII raced at the Schools' Head, and the 1st IV raced at National Schools' Regatta and Henley Royal Regatta. It is the first time, for many years, that the School has been able to send a full team to Henley.

This has been mainly due to the enthusiasm of a small group of boys of similar age, who have been determined to make rowing their sole sporting ambition at Stowe. Although small in number, compared to rival schools, they are learning to compete in this tough and demanding sport.

The Stoics began their year at the Isis Sculls at Oxford in singles, doubles and quadruple sculls. Gleb Shcherbakov and Ilya Riskin recorded an early win in double sculls. At Cambridge, they raced in sculling boats and also an eight, where Elliot Patel had his first experience of coxing the big boat round the tricky Cambridge bends. Their final race of the Michaelmas Term was the traditional Pangbourne Sculls on the Thames, where the 1st IV put in their best

performance, beating a Hampton School crew.

The Lent Term began at Peterborough, where Finlay Sutherland joined the eight. The long and demanding Norwich Head, rowed against wind and tide, provided a good learning experience for the crew, but at none of these races had the eight performed to its full potential, which would be needed for the Schools' Head. It was therefore splendid that they got it right on the big day, at the Schools' Head in London, producing an inspired row and beating the 1st VIII from King's Worcester, an established rowing school.

At the start of the Summer Term, a very generous parent helped the Club purchase two brand new quadruple sculling boats, giving the Stoics the opportunity to race with top-class equipment. At the first regatta at Dorney Lake, the 1st IV of Ilya Riskin, Oscar Hill, James Pocklington and Archie Morley put in a superb performance, to win the silver medal. Gleb Shcherbakov, Tom Fox, Will Fox and Ayrton Patel raced in the 2nd IV. Archie Morley won a bronze medal in Junior-16 singles





and Ayrton Patel put in an excellent effort, to take fourth place in Junior-17 singles.

The Third Form crew of Charlie Chick, Theo Finlan, Alex Ross, Barnaby Peppiatt and Frankie Atkinson delighted their supporters with a spirited row. Many of the Stoics then raced at Stratford Regatta, where the Third Formers scored a notable win over Monkton Combe School. Theo Finlan, Ayrton Patel and Archie Morley also made the finals in singles.

National Schools' Regatta at Dorney Lake on Speech Day is a huge event, and was a steep learning experience for the 1st IV, preparing them for Henley. At the Royal Regatta itself, the 1st IV put in a spirited performance and are learning to compete at this level. Sam Anderson (Chatham, 11) raced for Tideway Scullers in the Thames Challenge Cup and James Rudkin (Walpole 12) raced in the Great Britain eight in the final of the Grand Challenge Cup. Ted Bainbridge (Walpole 69) coached a Leander eight. Although we say goodbye to Gleb Shcherbakov, who has made a fine contribution during his time at Stowe, all the

other Stoics will be available to represent the School next year at Henley, so hopefully they can progress at the most famous regatta in the world. In the Michaelmas Term, the plan is for the 1st IV to race at the Head of the Charles in Boston, Massachusetts, and then for the 1st VIII to race at the Schools' Head.

A wider group, of 30 or more young Stoics, have enjoyed learning to row on a recreational basis at Stowe. Several of these have been girls, but as they are required by other sports, few have been able to continue their rowing. The superb boathouse and convenience of the 11-Acre Lake, in the school grounds, with its fleet of trainer single sculls, provides an ideal introduction to the sport of rowing. On a typical summer afternoon, dozens of Stoics can be seen honing their skills on the water.

Over the course of this year the Stoics have been coached by Ms Jepsen, Mr Wilson, Mr Parnaby, Mr Jones, Mr Rudkin and Mr Righton. We are all grateful for the unstinting support of the Stowe parents.

*Mr Michael Righton*





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# Boys' Tennis

## 1st VI

The 1st VI enjoyed a very successful season, with an 80% win rate. In fact, the only loss was to a 'semi-professional' Bradfield team 93-6 and there were victories over Oundle, Oakham, Abingdon and Bedford. At first, Captain Gabriel Chauveau and Jamie Metson were a little erratic, especially against weaker opposition, but won the majority of their sets. Freddie Woods and Henry Eleyin-Bingham our second pair, provided real consistency and backbone and were the most successful pairing of the season. The third couple of Ed Good and Nico Montgomery played entertaining tennis and pulled off crucial last set victories against Oundle and Oakham to secure 5-4 wins for the team, despite having the added pressure of players, parents and coaches all looking on. Throughout the season, the team played at a high level, adopted a competitive, yet sportsmanlike approach, and really looked like they were enjoying themselves; which is the main point after all!

*Mr Rory Akam*

## Colts

A core group of keen tennis players emerged early in the season and although the pressures of coursework for exams made whole team training tricky, we managed to galvanise a solid A team to take on Oakham away, in the first match of the season. On astro courts that bounce even lower than Stowe's do, the team found themselves in a tight battle for overall honours, with two sets going to tie break. Our first pair of Harry Hewlett and Tom Percy, made a promising start by winning all of their three sets comfortably and Hector Smiley and Tom Chamberlain beat their opposite number, so all we needed was to take one of the tie breaks. Unfortunately, they both went to Oakham so the result was 4-5. We then played on each Wednesday afternoon and each Saturday in order to get as many matches as possible before the looming GCSE exams. The matches tended to follow a familiar path as Harry and Tom would sweep away all before them, ending the whole season having won every set they played. Particular congratulations to them for this impressive achievement! We would then tend to pick up one more set, but often just missed out on getting that crucial fifth set, so that



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the final score in all matches against Abingdon, Oundle and Bradfield also ended as 4-5. The boys enjoyed the matches and fought hard through to the end. Other boys who played for the A team included Julian Muhoho, Paolo Alvigini, Max Satchell and Ed Rød-Larsen. A key point to take from this is to play every set as if it is the match decider, even though it may be the first set of the afternoon.

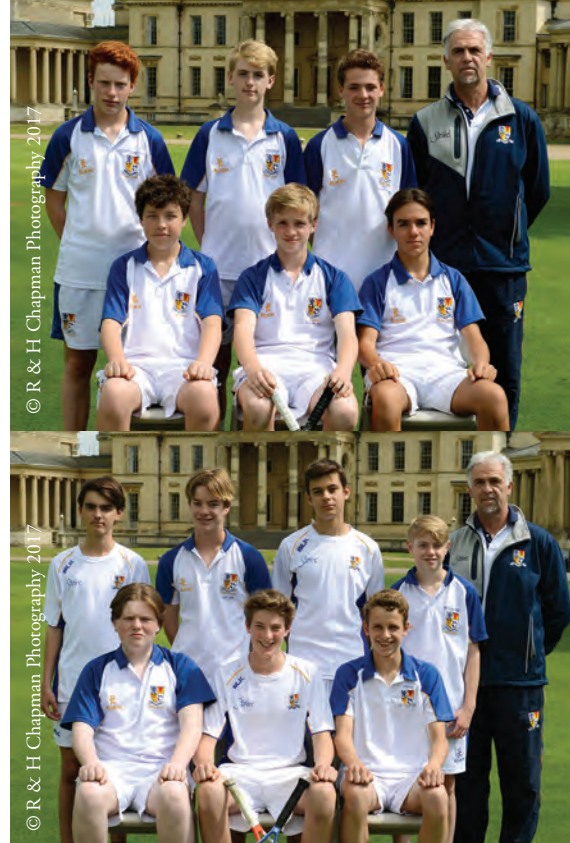
*Mr Craig Sutton*



## Junior Colts A and B

This year the U15 boys were once again able to field a strong A and B team. Both teams experienced a challenging season in which they competed on a par with some of the biggest and most competitive (in tennis terms) schools in the South and East of the country. Captained by Thor Mager, the U15A team fought hard in a number of closely-matched encounters. While the individual pairs managed some outstanding performances at various points in the season, bringing an overall win against the likes of Abingdon and Bedford proved a step too far. With these high-class individual performances in mind, the U15A team should be proud of the tennis they have played this season. The U15B players faced similar challenges but equally, managed to hold their opponents to account, including a highly satisfying win over Abingdon, one of the top schools for racket sports in the South of England area. Striking performances by the individual pairs at both U15A and U15B level promise great things for the future of tennis at Stowe. Congratulations to all who represented Stowe at U15 level this season.

*Mr Roland Johnson*



## Yearlings A

**Played 8, Won 3, Lost 5**

This year's U14A team comprised of Sebastian Smart, Max McNally, Hugo Manners, Oli Horton, Kamil Benjelloun Perez-Carballo and Theo Finlan.

The boys played some excellent tennis this season, appreciating the need to focus on the more attacking aspect of their game and coming into the net in order to dominate and to win points. As the term progressed, the boys tightened up on their service games and it was great to note the increase in both pace and determination to get ahead, whoever the opponent may have been and however tough the match situation was. Numbers were low for the tennis teams this year, but out of the eight matches that we played, the boys won three and lost five. A good season and I am sure that the Fourth Form will see these boys pairing up again and developing their game yet further. A great season of gamesmanship and tough competition – well done boys!

*Mr Alan Hughes*

## Yearlings B

**Played 5, Won 1, Lost 4**

The U14B team this year comprised of Oscar Wiseman, Frankie Atkinson, Matteo Pangherz, Augustus Keppel, Carter Stewart, Archie Strong, Logan Brown and Albert Preston.

As with the A team, numbers were limited this year, but the boys' pairings worked well together in training and it was gratifying to note the steady improvement through the Summer Term that the boys made at each of their training sessions. Much attention was paid to the consistency of the boys' service games, while accuracy in returning and covering the court was a real focus that paid off towards the end of the term. The boys played five matches, winning one and conceding the other four. That said, much of the match play that I observed at both home and away matches, was fierce and determined and it was great to see the boys play with such sportsmanship and good grace. As ever, it was a pleasure to see them represent the School so positively.

*Mr Alan Hughes*

# Girls' Tennis



## 1st VI

This year's squad consisted of Kira Evans (Captain), Bubby Upton, Vicky Beglin, Alice Maclure, Lottie Hopkinson, Yasmin Mama, Ellie Bewes and Gemma Blane. In the Michaelmas Term, the girls played in the Senior Schools' Competition which starts with local fixtures against three other schools in a round robin format. Kira, Bubby, Vicky and Yasmin were unbeaten so finished top of the group. The girls had a very positive approach to the knockout stages in the Lent Term, winning their first match. Having made it to the last 16, they were one match away from making National Finals in Bolton. Unfortunately a defeat by Beauchamp College stopped any further progress, however Kira must be congratulated for her 6-1 win in her

singles match against Beauchamp College.

The Summer Term saw some very exciting tennis fixtures with the girls winning three out of their four fixtures. Some of their success is down to the commitment they made during the winter, when they were able to have extra training sessions indoors. Some of the squad also took part in the pre-season training trip to Vale do Lobo in Portugal. The last two fixtures of the season were mixed against Bloxham and Rugby, where they won one and lost one.

All but one of the squad will return next year and hope to go from strength to strength. Finally, tennis colours were awarded to Kira Evans, Bubby Upton, Vicky Beglin, Lottie Hopkinson and Yasmin Mama.

*Mr John Skinner*



## 2nd VI

A very good season for the second team with a 100% record, winning all four of their matches. Their fifth fixture was abandoned part way through due to a very heavy rain storm that flooded the courts. This year's main squad was Lily Marriott, Georgie Leefe, Emily Bourn, Martha Combe, Flo Berner, Savannah Courtenay and Milly Cranmer. One or two others made an appearance when required. Their training sessions alongside the first team have certainly made a difference and similar to the first team, only two leave us this year, so the future is looking good for next year.

*Mr John Skinner*



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## 3rd VI

How amazing it was to start the term playing tennis in the snow! Battling such conditions on the Bourbon astro is no mean feat and the girls should be commended for their resilience in some weird weather conditions at the beginning of term. Once the selection headache was solved, the 3rd team played their first game against Oakham slipping to a narrow defeat. Samai Lamberti and Clarissa Llanaj should be highlighted

though for winning all their sets in a tight encounter. The team then went to Tudor Hall and were punished by a particularly strong side. The girls' match against Oundle was sadly abandoned halfway through, due to ridiculous rain. I would like to thank the girls for their hard work and dedication this season and I look forward to seeing how they develop next year.

*Mr Brian Hart*

## 4th VI

The 4th team only managed two games this season with a 50% winning ratio. Oakham unfortunately edged us at home by one set, but the girls went down fighting with Milly Cranmer and Charlotte Platz, in particular, displaying resilience, winning all their sets. The next match saw Stowe convincingly beat Tudor Hall with some excellent performances across the board.

Isabella Leondiou and Hannah Venner won all three of their sets, wearing cool sunglasses to great effect! Chloe Hechle and Esme Foster should also be commended for their hard fought wins in two of their sets, winning by one game in both. My final word this term is to thank the Fitzjohn twins for their support and cheerfulness on the court. Thanks for another great season girls!

*Mr Brian Hart*



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# U15A

The A team has played 7 games and won 5 of them and if it weren't for a heavy defeat at the hands of a talented Rugby School side, we would have had one of our best seasons. Both first pair – Alyssia Dockerty/Lucy Bourn and third pair – Maria Sharipova/Izzy Hopkins, won 11 sets and second pair – Toyah Mowat/Maddie Marriott, won 9 sets.

The second half of the season was affected by exams, CCF, DofE and the Congreve production, and I think we all felt that the focus disappeared after Half Term. Up until then, the tennis played by them all was impressive with two strong wins against Oakham and Bedford.

*Mrs Jayne Duckett*



## U15B

Our B team should be pleased with their efforts this year with excellent wins over Oakham, Tudor Hall and Bedford. The standout pair was Charlotte Would and Ruby Redfern

with 14 sets won from the 18 they played. In addition Connie Dutton and Georgie Mercer contributed with 12 sets, making them a difficult team to overcome.

*Mrs Jayne Duckett*

## U15C and D

There was quite a bit of movement between the C and D teams this season and it was probably only in the second half of the term that we settled on pairings. When playing together, Amber Capurro and Kitty Wemyss won eight of

the nine sets they played as first pair of the C team. There was significant improvement made in stroke play and service as the season went on. Overall 18 players formed the squad and although the only real successes came in the Tudor Hall fixture, there were some notable performances along the way from Tilly Howard and Mia Dettori.

*Mrs Jayne Duckett*



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## U14A

Squad: India Case, Willa Hodson, Eliza Percy, Imogen Bewes, Katie Stafford and Celest Lamberti

The U14A have had a fantastic season, proving to be a very competitive tennis team with great strength-in-depth. We made an impressive start, enjoying an 8-1 win in the first

fixture away against Oakham. We developed confidence from this, adopting a focused approach to training, working well with partners, to improve our doubles play. We defeated Tudor Hall 5-4 with notable performances from Eliza and Imogen, who won against Tudor Hall's first pair. The next big match was away at Oundle on a blustery, wet afternoon where we had some close games winning 5-4 overall. Our first loss was against BHS 3-6 but India and Willa had a great set, winning against their opposite numbers. In the intense heat at Bloxham, on hard court, we won 6-3 with Eliza and Imogen winning the match when they defeated Bloxham's first pair 6-1. The final fixture of the season against Rugby School was a nail-biter with two tie-breakers taking us level at 3-3 going into the final round. Each played their own pair and Katie and Celest were first to finish winning 6-3... we just needed one more! The level of tennis was outstanding and enjoyed by all but finished 4-5 to Rugby School. During the season, we also played some local Prep Schools; Beachborough and Winchester House who gave us some really competitive games, especially against their first pairs and we played Thornton College winning 9-0. Eliza won our singles competition and Celest is representing the school in the 'Road to Wimbledon' competition. Queen's won the Junior Inter-House tennis match. To play this level of tennis at an U14 level is exciting for the future of Stowe tennis and I look forward to following their progress in the years to come – well done!

*Mrs Sarah Sutton*



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## U14B

Squad: Maisie Roberts, Luciana Butler, Atlanta King, Sydney King, Mimi Pearson-Gee, Gracie Potts

It has been a successful season for the U14B team, starting with a superb win against Oakham 5-4 with Luciana and Mimi winning all three of their sets. Against Tudor Hall, we won 6-3 overall with each pair defeating the second and third pair, all narrowly losing 5-6 in the sets against the strong Tudor first pair. Mid-week we enjoyed some friendly games against local Prep Schools, Beachborough and Winchester House and also against Thornton College with

successful outcomes. Oundle proved to be a challenging fixture, we lost 6-3, but credit to Atlanta and Sydney who defeated their first pair 6-4. Mimi and Gracie had a great afternoon at Bedford High, winning against the first pair and the team won 6-3 overall. The final match of the season was against Rugby School where we dominated winning 8-1. Maisie and Luciana were particularly impressive winning 18 games and conceding only six. This team has been extremely positive throughout the term, playing an excellent level of tennis and were a pleasure to coach – well done!

*Mrs Sarah Sutton*

## U14C

The U14 C team have had a strong season; playing six games, winning four and only losing two. The season began with a close encounter against a strong Oakham side but the girls managed to record, a deserved, 5-4 win. The team went on to secure a solid 8-1 win against Tudor Hall but struggled in the next two fixtures against Oundle and a

strong Bedford team. The girls were determined to re-focus for their last two fixtures of the season and their dedicated training paid dividends with strong performances against both Bloxham and Rugby School. They won both these games 9-0. The girls should be proud of a strong first tennis season at Stowe and the standard achieved bodes well for next year.

*Miss Sally Whyte*

## U14D

The U14D team had a very impressive season. Their standard of play has improved steadily throughout the season and they should be proud of this as well as the results achieved. This is a particularly strong year group and as a result, the pairing within the team has tended to vary week to week. However this did not faze the girls who readily adapted to these changes and finished the season with a very impressive set of results by playing 4 and winning 3. After a shaky start, losing 3-6 to Oakham in

their first fixture, the girls settled into the season, regained confidence through dedicated training and stepped up to gain a strong 7-2 win in the following match against Tudor Hall. In the next game, they faced Oundle and the girls played exceptionally well winning 8-1. The girls were now in their stride and put in another great performance in the last game of the season against Bedford, to continue in their winning streak with an 8-1 victory. I hope this improving momentum continues next year and, if it does, we can look forward to another successful season.

*Miss Sally Whyte*

# Skiing



This year has seen the Stowe Ski Team go from strength to strength and thanks to regular training sessions at the local Milton Keynes Indoor Slope, the pupils have managed to prepare throughout the autumn and winter.

Over the January Exeat, two teams of ski racers left Stowe to compete in the British Schoolgirls' and Schoolboys' Skiing Championships. The girls' team of Bella Hobby, Jaimie McIntosh, Jessamy Money-Kyrle and Chloe Livesey travelled to Flaine in France. Following a day of intense gate and pole training, they completed in their first competition, the parallel slalom. This is where two teams of three race off side by side against each other, down an identical slalom course. Stowe beat Mayfield in the first race, but unfortunately got knocked out by Sherborne due to a missed gate in the second round.

In the giant slalom competition, Bella came 21st in the Under 18 race and Chloe 28th in the Under 16 race. In the slalom, Bella sadly missed a gate on her first run, Chloe ended up 22nd and Jessamy 28th in their respective age groups. Overall in the combined results, the Stowe team finished 30th out of over 50 schools who competed and Chloe was the most successful Stowe skier, finishing 57th out of 150 racers.

The boys' team consisted of Captain Cami Hay, Georges Tasker, Louis Hay, Tom Scott, Hugo Warner, Oliver Reed, Xan Kenlock and Matteo Pangherz. They were competing in Wengen, Switzerland and were lucky enough to race and train on the world famous Lauberhorn Downhill World Cup course.

The parallel slalom competition took place under floodlights in the town and the Junior team progressed to the quarter-finals, getting knocked out to the eventual

winners, Reed's School. The Senior team went one better, by getting to the semi-finals, where they too were knocked out by Reed's who won this competition too. In the slalom competition, Georges won a silver medal in the U21s and Matteo, a gold, in the U14s unregistered category. Cami and Louis both did very well in the registered category.

In the giant slalom races, further success came for Georges and Matteo with another silver and gold medal respectively. Hugo had an excellent second run and Tom maintained his 100% finish rate.

At the presentation evening, the Stowe racers were busy collecting various accolades. Matteo won the combined U14 unregistered competition, making him the best racer for his age group in the whole competition. Georges was awarded the same medal for the U21 age group. To add to these incredible achievements, Cami was given the British Association of Snowsport Instructors (BASI) Award for his contribution and commitment to ski racing and Matteo won the EDGE Award, something set up by Team GB skier, Chemmy Alcott. This was by far and away the most successful championships by a Stowe team and the boys and girls have put Stowe School well and truly on the ski racing map.

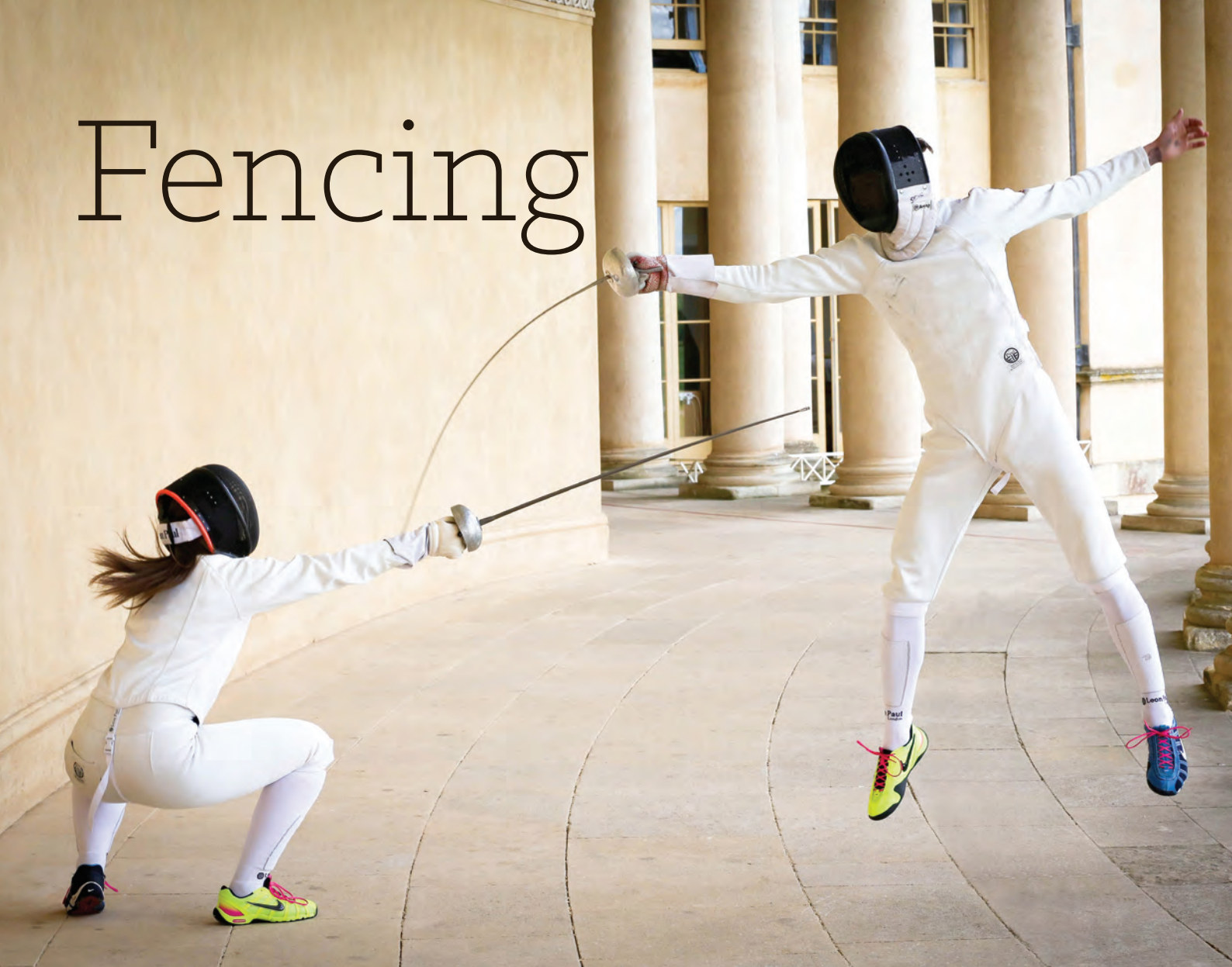
Later on in the season, Matteo went on to compete in the British Skiing Championships in Tignes where he achieved some very impressive results in his first full competition, coming 15th in Giant Slalom, 19th in Super G and 14th in the Slalom.

If anyone is interested in ski racing and wants to give it a go, please contact Mr Arnold – [parnold@stowe.co.uk](mailto:parnold@stowe.co.uk).

*Mr Phil Arnold*



# Fencing



In December 2016, Hannah Laurence, Cameron Chambers, Hugo Paynter Bryant and Oscar Wiseman competed in the Luton Sword Club Foil Competition with the technical support of Hugo Robinson and Lauren Brigden on piste side. All the competitors had a fantastic first round of pool bouts, with all of them advancing into the semi-finals. Three of the four Stoics made it through the second round of pool bouts, to fence in the finals. In the final set of pool bouts, Cameron Chambers came fourth, Oscar Wiseman came third and with an excellent performance on the piste, Hannah Laurence came second.

In the Public Schools' Fencing Championships, held at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ed Don came 24th in the Junior Boys' foil and Hugo Robinson 45th out of 106 fencers and in the Junior Boys' épée, Ed Don came 31st out of 134 fencers. In the Junior Girls' foil, Hannah Laurence came 11th and Lauren Brigden 15th out of 39 fencers and in the Junior Girls' épée, Hannah Laurence came 19th and Lauren Brigden 32nd out of 50 fencers.

Hugo competed at the British Youth Championship Qualifiers and came 3rd in the U18 Men's foil. Hannah and Lauren also competed and Lauren came 1st in the U16

Women's foil and Hannah came 2nd in the U16 Women's Épée.

Ed Don and Hugo Robinson performed at the British Youth Fencing Championships in April/May 2017. Ed came 14th in the U16 boys' épée and Hugo came 43rd in the U18 boys' foil. Lauren Brigden (U16 girls Foil) and Hannah Laurence (U16 girls Epée) also competed and gained some very useful experience.

With some of our fencers now able to train 3-4 times a week with coach, Baldip Sahota, we are starting to see significant improvement in performance levels and our more advanced fencers attend Towcester fencing club on Wednesday evenings. Members of the Stowe fencing club include Hugo Robinson, Hannah Laurence, Cameron Chambers, Lauren Brigden, Will Fox, Hugo Paynter Bryant, Oscar Wiseman, Luc Katyar, Jack Saville Sneath, Ed Don and Garret O'Keeffe.

Fencing is most definitely on the up at Stowe and we look forward to seeing our fencers starting to compete for major honours in the big competitions next year.

*Mr Isaac Michael*

# Sailing

We have a great group of sailors at Stowe and I have joined the staff to develop their abilities. My first term in charge of sailing has, I hope, been as rewarding for our pupils as it has been for me.

This year our sailing club met three afternoons a week for competition, training and cruising respectively. This approach has allowed a good number of Stoics to have time on the water.

Wednesdays are primarily focused on racing and we're developing a good squad of enthusiastic racers. We won the first team racing match away, against Bloxham with two race wins out of three. Will Trumper was our lead helm in the event, but Jack Polturak and Alex Holmes battled hard to gain the places we needed for the overall win. A helm though is nothing without their crew, so credit for the win needs to be shared with Hugh Fox, William Warde-Norbury, Theo Coley, Octavia Comerford and Jack Saville Sneath – all of whom put in good performances to secure our win.

The format of the Helmsman's Trophy has changed from a one-off race to a series of 10 races on a Wednesday. We have also introduced the Crew Cup in this series of races to recognise the impact that a good crew can have on the performance of a boat. Both cups are being hotly contested in the Wednesday Sailing sessions.

On Thursdays, we have a number of Third Formers who are learning to sail and develop their skills and confidence. We are following the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Youth sailing scheme with these sailors and they are gaining confidence and skills with every session. All sailors have developed their skills and started helming by session three. I hope these sailors will form the backbone of our racing team in the years to come – they all have the potential.

Fridays on the lake are aimed at developing sailing skills through different activities and games in boats. They have proved popular to those who've signed up and we hope will continue to attract pupils with little or no sailing experience as a taster for this fantastic sport. Perhaps if (when) Ben Ainslie wins the Americas Cup this summer, we'll see many more sailors at Stowe next academic year.

The Inter-House sailing competition saw nine teams enter from seven Houses. The light winds contributed to a few upsets during the heat stages but in the end, two boats from Chatham, plus teams from Grenville, Walpole, Stanhope and Grafton, went through to the winner takes all final. Chatham led the Medal Race from start to finish, winning the overall competition. Behind them the places changed throughout the race, but in a tight fought battle that tested both sailing skills and tactical experience, it was Grenville that took second, followed by Chatham B crew and in fourth, was Stanhope. All sailors showed great patience and skill during the heats and I hope that we might see some more of these sailors at our regular afternoon sessions.

Lastly, at the end of this year, we are sending a team to the Schools' Week Regatta at Itchenor Sailing Club to compete against other schools. I hope that this experience will provide opportunity for our sailors to prove their ability and further their skills.

I am indebted to Mr Gwilym Jones, Mr David Critchley, Mr Liam Copley and Mr Tom Thorne, who have supported me in delivering sailing at Stowe.

I'm keen to develop sailing at Stowe further in the 2017-18 academic year and look forward to seeing more sailors (of any or no experience) next year.

*Mr Duncan Syme*





Captaining the shooting team for two years, Ben Skinner, in his final year at Stowe and the Stowe School Clay Pigeon Shooting team have had an impressive year home and away.

This year Stoics have had a new dimension added to home practices with an investment in a looper and rabbit trap. This has helped the teams prepare for competition and may have contributed to a better year in competition.

Stowe played regular friendlies against Kimbolton School this year, at home and at Riseley Shooting School, Bedfordshire. The experience the team gained from shooting at Riseley came in handy as this year the Nationals were held there.

On 6 May, Stowe travelled to the British Schools and Young Shots Championship at Riseley. Captain Ben Skinner led the Stowe A Clay Shooting team to an impressive third place with 217 to Strathallan's 218 and Bloxham's 230. Ranked 12th in the UK, Ben Skinner individually performed outstandingly on the red course where he achieved 41 out of 50 clays. The top score in the UK was 46. Georgina Skinner captained the B team to



an overall 7th place with a respectable 186. Georgina also came 11th in the ladies individual class. Max Whitehead, in Stowe's B team, came joint 13th place on the blue course with 38 out of 50. Max also entered for the Cadet category and came equal 1st place, losing at the sudden death shootout. This resulted in Max coming second place in the individual cadet class.

*Dr Gordon West*

## Cross Country

**Chiltern League:** Oliver Vince and Georgia Flawn-Thomas represented Milton Keynes Athletics Club in their League fixtures that happen once a month. In the U17 age category, Oliver finished 20th and Georgia finished 3rd in the first fixture at Oxford. In the second fixture, Georgia finished 7th at Keysoe and continued her good form finishing 10th in the last fixture in Milton Keynes.

**Buckinghamshire Club County Championships:** Held at Stowe for the first year, Georgia had already run the course for our Inter-House competition and this played to her advantage, as she paced the race extremely well coming through to win the U17.

**Old Stoic Race:** This race proved to be another close encounter for the current Stoics against the Old Stoic team, but the race was won by Simon Gardner for the Old Stoics comfortably ahead of the rest of the field with Freddie Woods finishing in second place and Oliver Vince finishing in third for the Stoics' team. The Old Stoics won 32-46.

**Buckinghamshire County Schools' Championships:** Georgia won the Senior girls' race in a dramatic sprint finish and is the first Stoic ever to win an individual Gold medal at the County finals. The team also won a fantastic Gold medal which is our second year in a row. Congratulations go to Georgia, also to Rosie Smith for finishing in 12th position and is currently a reserve for Nationals, to Georgia Glenser who bravely stepped up to compete in the Senior race with athletes two years older than her, finishing in 13th and to Eliza Dubois finishing 16th.

In the Senior boys' race Oliver was first home in 9th position and is in the mix to be selected for Nationals. The team

of Oliver (9th), Freddie (15th), Diggory Slee (16th), Billy Vestey (19th) and Luke Aust (22nd), finished in second place overall.

First home in the inter-girls' race was Sonya Sander in 28th position, followed by Amber Capurro 39th and Charlotte Would 43rd.

In the Inter-boys' race, first home was Ed Don in 36th position, followed by Max Butler 46th, Cameron Chambers 51st, Max Satchell 52nd and the team finished in fifth position.

In the Junior girls' race, Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini was the first runner home in 33rd position, followed by Luciana Butler 41st, Atlanta King 48th, Emilia Havard 49th, Maisie Roberts 52nd, Charlotte Morgan 53rd, Imogen Laurence 55th, Bella Robertson 60th and the team finished in 7th position.

In the Junior boys' race, Angus Pollock was first home in 13th position, only one place off being in line for the Buckinghamshire team for Nationals (top 12) and the team finished in ninth place with Maxi McNally 45th, Henry Hobby 60th, Theo Coley 61st and Charlie Chick 81st.

**English School National Championships:** Held at the Norfolk Showground, Norwich, this is the biggest race that students can hope to compete in and it was great to have two athletes qualify for the Buckinghamshire team. Georgia finished 124th in the Senior girls and Oliver finished 290th in the Senior boys, both were bottom years in their races so will hope to come back stronger next year.

*Mr Kyle Bennett, Head of Athletics & Cross Country*

# Athletics



## Track and Field

**Harrow:** The boys' season started at Harrow as usual in the Guy Butler Shield. The Senior boys finished in seventh position with top two finishes for Adam Williamson (Lower Sixth, Chandos) in the 100m in 11.89 seconds and Freddie Tufnell (Lower Sixth, Chandos) in the high jump with 1.70 metres. The Inter boys finished sixth with top three finishes for Dom Saghri (Fifth Form, Chatham) in the 100m with 12.00 seconds and the 200m in 23.90 seconds, Matthew Alberts (Fourth Form, Grafton) in the high jump with 1.65 metres and Ed Anderson (Fifth Form, Bruce) in the triple jump with 11.91 metres. The Junior boys finished in eighth place.

**Bromsgrove:** The girls started their year off in Bromsgrove where the Senior girls finished in an impressive third place with top three finishes in their event for Zara Atta (Lower Sixth, Queen's) in the 100m in 13.3 seconds and the high jump with 1.50 metres, Olivia Flood (Lower Sixth, Queen's) in the long jump with 4.26 metres, Tallula Douglas Miller (Lower Sixth, Queen's) in the triple jump with 9.34 metres and Olivia Thomas (Lower Sixth, Nugent) in the javelin with 33.05 metres. There were wins for Thalia Felton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) in the 100m hurdles in 16.9 seconds and for the 4x100m relay team. The Inter girls finished in 7th place overall and there was a top three finish for Lucy Tilleard (Fourth Form, Stanhope) in the high jump with 1.35 metres and Junior girls also finished in 7th position with a fantastic win in the shot by Jemima Laurence (Third Form, Nugent) with 8.56 metres.

**English Schools' Track and Field County Cup:** This competition is just for the Third and Fourth Form and all comes down to team points. The girls did very well and finished in second position overall but just missed out on qualifying for the regional round later in the season. Stand out performances came from Kitty Dutton (Third Form, Queen's) with a time of 48.2 seconds in the 300m and 4.41 metres in the long jump, Olivia Omotajo (Third Form, Stanhope) and Jemima Laurence in the shot with distances of 7.80 and 7.40 metres respectively.

The boys finished in 3rd position with standout performances coming from Ben Edeh (Fourth Form, Grenville) in the 100m with a time of 11.8 seconds and throwing 10.10 metres in the shot, Josh McCallum (Fourth Form, Chandos) in the 1,500m with a time of 4.49 minutes, Rory Trotman (Fourth Form, Temple) with a time of 12.8 seconds in the hurdles, Jack Comyn (Fourth Form, Grafton) in the triple jump with 11.42 metres, Oliver Garson (Third Form, Grenville) in the shot with 10.43 metres and Harry Reed (Fourth Form, Walpole) in the discus with 27.09 metres.

**Buckinghamshire County Schools' Championships:** This was the students' chance to qualify for the National Track and Field Championships later in the year where the students have to achieve a qualifying standard in their event. In the Inter-boys, Ben Edeh finished third in the 100m in 11.3 seconds, just 0.1 outside of the English Schools' Athletic Association (ESAA) qualifying standard but being in the bottom year in the age group Ben has every chance of achieving the standard next year. Matthew Alberts finished third in the 400m in 56.6 seconds and second in the high jump with 1.70 metres and Tair Udovenchuk (Fourth Form, Bruce) finished third with 1.65 metres. There was a first and second combo in the triple and long jump, Ed Anderson winning both with jumps of just 12.40 metres and 5.73 metres with Jack Comyn behind him with 12.03 metres and 5.53 metres respectively, Harry Reed finished second in the discus with 30.06 metres.

For the Inter-girls, Zoë Pollock (Fifth Form, Nugent) won the 200m in 25.7 seconds and finished second in the 80m hurdles in 12.00 seconds which qualified her for the ESAA Nationals on the 7 July in Birmingham. There was a joint third place for Kianti Subowo (Fifth Form, Queen's) and Helena Vince (Fifth Form, Queen's) in the 100m in a time of 14.1 seconds.

In the Junior boys, Oliver Garson finished second in the 300m in 41.4 seconds and in the shot with 10.23 metres, Augustus Keppel (Third Form, Chandos) also finished second in the 80m hurdles in 12.7 seconds and in the triple



jump in 10.60 metres.

In the Junior girls, Jemima Laurence (Third Form, Nugent) finished second in the shot with a throw of 8.83 metres and third in the high jump with 1.35 metres.

**Sports Day:** This must be everyone's favourite day of the year and the students did not disappoint anyone, putting on some sensational performances.

**Senior boys:** Performance of the day for the boys went to Athletics Captain Taju Atta (Lower Sixth, Temple) who equalled the School record of 10.8 seconds which has stood since 1964 by N K Rice; and he will enjoy smashing it next year. Taju also won the high jump with 1.85 metres so will also have his sights set on the record of 1.93 metres set by N Paine in 2013. Hugo Barnett (Lower Sixth, Bruce) ran an impressive 400m and 800m double in 53.7 seconds and 2.11 minutes respectively. Dominic Shaw (Upper Sixth, Temple) also completed a double in the 110m hurdles with 17.1 seconds and in the triple jump with 12.55 metres.

**Senior girls:** Athletics Captain Thalia Felton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) started the obliteration of seven School records off by breaking her own 100m hurdles record in 15.5 seconds. Zara Atta broke three records: the 100m in 13.0 seconds, the high jump in 1.52 metres, which stood since 2000 by R S Cheetham, and the 4 x 100m relay record along with Thalia, Tallula Douglas Miller and Olivia Flood in 52.5 seconds. Georgia Flawn-Thomas broke the 1500m School record with 5.06 seconds which had stood since 1997 by K Chambre. In the field, there were also School records for Olivia Thomas in the javelin with 35.16 metres and Alice Maclure in the long jump with 4.82 metres.

**Inter boys:** Ben Edeh broke the 100m record in 11.1

seconds and is only a Fourth Form student, the old record stood since 1987 by P J Clarke. Ben also won the 200m in 23.4 seconds in a great race against Dom Saghri who ran 23.5 seconds. Tom Olsen enjoyed his term over from Australia by winning the 400m in 55.8 seconds and the long jump in 5.81 metres. Matt Alberts wrapped up a great year as part of the South African Scholarship programme by winning the high jump in 1.75 metres and we wish him and Jonah Gasura all the best for their future.

**Inter girls:** Zoë Pollock broke the 80m hurdles record in 11.7 seconds and will run this event in the National Championships. There was a tie in the high jump between Lucy Tilleard and Coco Brooks in 1.35 metres, Lou Bannister stormed away in the 300m in a time of 44.8 seconds. The day finished off with a dramatic 4 x 100m relay where Queen's just pipped Nugent to the line by 0.2 seconds.

**Junior boys:** Oliver Garson equalled Taju Atta's School record in the 300m in a time of 39.5 seconds. Toby Moore completed the 100-200m double in 12.00 and 25.1 seconds, Udo Ekpecham won the shot with 11.45 metres. Archie Holmes won the high jump with 1.55 metres on count back over James Studholme Colver and Sam Birch won the triple jump with 11.04 metres, all three have bright futures in the jump events.

**Junior girls:** Three School Records were broken. Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini started off with 5.35 minutes in the 1500m, Emilia Havard then ran 2.37 minutes in the 800m, also winning the 200m in 30.2 seconds, and Jemima Laurence in the shot with 9.44 metres. Jemima also won the 100m in 13.5 seconds and the high jump in 1.45 metres.

*Mr Kyle Bennett*



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# Cycling

The increased variety of cycling disciplines this year have helped to enrich the different sessions that have taken place throughout the year. While Harry Kirby (Fourth Form, Temple) decided to pursue his competitive timetrialling, Ethan Collins (Fourth Form, Temple) prepared for his epic charity adventure cycle from Plymouth to Dover raising money for Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, home to the final three Northern White Rhino and is the largest Black Rhino sanctuary in East Africa. Meanwhile, the likes of Harry Middleton (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Oliver Garson (Third Form, Grenville), Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and William Bursnall (Third Form, Grafton) have been using indoor training or cycling on the road to develop their general fitness. Mrs Cope has also added her own enthusiasm and encouragement on a regular basis.

The Michaelmas Term is always the most mentally demanding term for anyone on a bike when evenings close in and the weather really starts to test mental resolve and

resilience. With the help of YouTube and indoor trainers however, the Stoic peloton were able to cycle in Australia and take on some climbs in Majorca at their own pace aided by accompanying music. Such is the increased standard and competitive nature of cycling in the UK now, that for Harry Kirby (Fourth Form, Temple) this was an important time to establish a good aerobic base. Following some target setting, the plan was to make timetrialling Harry's main aim for the year. The Michaelmas Term was broken up with various cyclo-cross events, involving off-road racing round a circuit, helping him to develop bike and racing skills. Results included: eighth at Winchester in the Wessex CX league, and he also completed the 86 mile Wiggle Circuit Breaker sportive and starting at Turweston, in a time of 4 hours 43 minutes, averaging 18mph.

As sessions became more interval based, time trial events provided Harry with opportunities to practise his time trialling abilities over various courses and distances from 10 to 20 miles and the occasional team time trial. Initial





results invariably placed Harry some distance off his rivals but faith in the programme, combined with earnest training started to pay off in the Summer Term as times and positions improved. Banbury Star, Hillingdon and Weston on the Green provided regular events for referencing. In April, Harry achieved 33 minutes 32 seconds for the 20km timetrial improving his previous time by almost 40 seconds. By the summer, he had whittled this down to 32 minutes 15 seconds. Equally, he achieved his personal best in May at Weston on the Green's 10 mile course in a time of 24 minutes 36 seconds. Harry's most noteworthy achievements this season was his second place at Hillingdon's 15 mile course averaging 25.6mph in a time of 34 minutes. The year however was capped off in style when Harry posted a time of 23 minutes 30 seconds in Stowe colours in the timetrial qualifications for the nationals. This was not only a PB but the winning time in the qualifiers.

For Ethan Collins, the year's objective to prepare for his charity adventure was very different: time in the saddle, endurance riding and logistical planning for this impressive feat. Ethan started his training perhaps slightly unaware of what such a challenge would involve. However, he has never been daunted by any of it and indeed has remained calm and steadfast in his approach, even when it became clear that Ethan would have to complete the distance by himself without a fellow cyclist to accompany him. Bit by bit, Ethan tailored the equipment to help him achieve the task ahead, most significantly from an old mountain bike to a road bike that would enable him to achieve a higher return for his efforts. Preparation off the bike was as, if not more

important, from accommodation to nutrition and refinement of each day's route. Ethan even had time to complete the Icknield Sportive and his first timetrial at the Weston on the Green which proved to be a big hit and has inspired Ethan to challenge himself further.

The expedition itself certainly lived up to its challenging nature, kicking off with perhaps the most demanding part of the whole journey, cycling up the unrelenting climbs and through blustery winds of Dartmoor. Ethan completed the 300 mile trip over the course of a week and has so far raised over £2,500 for Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.

It has also been very rewarding to see the presence of Old Stoics on the local cycling circuit. Freddie Paling (Temple 16) has increased the specificity of his training and racing, competing at Milton Keynes' bowl every week and Pierre Scrase (Walpole 12) has been representing Baines Racing Cycle Shop in Silverstone at various time trialling events.

This year a small peloton of Stowe staff took on some of the biggest climbs in the Pyrenees at the start of the summer holidays. Mr Jackson, Mr Sutton, Mr Arnold, Mr Durrant (former Housemaster of Chandos 12), and Mr Grimble, took on two mountains a day, clocking up a total of 4,440 metres climbed over the course of three full days.

September will see a new addition to the list of cycling activities at Stowe with weekly spinning classes that are not subject to weather conditions and which will enable every Stoic to access another form of cycling irrespective of abilities or the need for a bike.

*Mr Chris Grimble*





# Equestrian

Having held the post as Equestrian Centre Manager for maternity cover and then as Acting Manager as Mrs Price and her family moved to begin a new exciting chapter, I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to develop the plans for Stowe School's Equestrian Centre.

We have had such an exciting academic year competing at Stowe Beagles Hunter Trial where Joshua White (Fifth Form, Cobham) was awarded with the Trophy for the highest placed Stoic. Then again, Joshua White, Sophia Galione (Fourth Form, Queen's), Charlotte Morgan (Third Form, Nugent) and Katie Lee (Third Form, Nugent) came back with another Trophy as the winning team at the Beachborough Eventer Challenge.

We have also taken part at Bloxham Eventer Challenge, Quainton Studs combined training and Swalcliffe Hunter Trial, often bringing back rosettes.

At the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) competitions, we have had great success with Bubby Upton (Upper Sixth, Queen's) qualifying for the 'NSEA Eventers Challenge Final' at Hickstead and Francesca Macleod Matthews (Third Form, Nugent) qualifying in arena eventing and show jumping as an individual at the National Schools' Championships next term.

In January, Stoics had a full day's hunting with the Grafton Hunt meeting at Stowe School, with a record number of pupils attending and having Mary Connor raising a glass to us at the meet. Mary's father ran the yard, at the Corinthian Arch, when it was a private stables for Stowe in 1925.

Along with organising our Inter-House equestrian competition, the team and pupils have ventured out on

educational trips such as the Abi Hutton Dressage clinic at Moulton College and Addington Manor to watch the 'High profile dressage to music championships'.

Charlie Seddon (Lower Sixth, Cobham) has been awarded the Halcyon Cup this year for improvement in Equestrianism. Charlie has not only made a vast improvement in his riding skills but has taken it upon himself to learn more about equine husbandry.

There is now an Equestrian Interest link available on the intranet (VLE) for all pupils to add themselves to a mailing list, updating them on competitions, events, clinics and other educational trips.

We also welcomed 'Millie' to the riding school this year who belongs to a Stoic. Riders at the Equestrian Centre have had great fun training her to go through the water jump on our cross-country course. There will be a photo gallery of horses available on the VLE.

As of September, we shall be offering the British Horse Society Progressive Riding Tests to all Stoics. This is a great way to increase pupils' knowledge and confidence in riding and stable management. Once all six tests have been completed, the candidate will be able to gain direct entry into the British Horse Society (BHS) Stage 2 examination. We shall also be offering the 'Essential Horse Knowledge' courses of which there are two levels.

Finally, we are busy organising a team to show jump for Stowe School at Hickstead in August for the Hurstpierpoint College National Schools' Jumping Championships.

*Miss Angela Churcher*



# Gallery



Una Barclay (Fifth Form, Stanhope)



Rollo Jacobson  
(Fifth Form, Chandos)



Holly Wightman  
(Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Isabella Baillie  
(Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Martha Scott Knight  
(Fifth Form, Nugent)



Mar Martinez-Tomas  
(Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)

Francesca Moseley  
(Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)

## Governing Body

Correct as of 1st September 2017

Simon C Creedy Smith, BA, ACA (Chair)

The Rev Peter Ackroyd

John R C Arkwright, FRICS

Jonathan M A Bewes, BA, FCA

Ms Julie C Brunskill, BSc, MRICS

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, KCB, CBE, MA (Cantab)

David Carr, MA (Cantab)

David W Cheyne, MA (Cantab) (Vice-Chair)

Ms Juliet Colman, BA, Dip Arch, RIBA, SCA

Professor Guy Goodwin, BA, DPhil, FMedSci, FRCPsych

Mrs Joanne Hastie-Smith

David Hudson, MA (Cantab)

Mrs Andrea Johnson, BSc, PGCE

Robert A Lankester, MA (Cantab)

Mrs Catriona Lloyd, MA (Cantab)

Mrs Elizabeth Phillips, OBE, BA, MA, AKC

Lady Stringer, BSc, MB, BS, LRCP, MRCS

Christopher J Tate, BA, MIMC

Michael B M Porter, BA, MSc

(Secretary to the Governors)

Jonathon Hall, FIDM

(Chairman of the Old Stoic Society)

**Headmaster:** Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



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