

the STOIC

Stowe School 2013/2014

LESLEY GARRETT AND THE RNO

A concert extravaganza

The Chung Music School

*Stowe celebrates a special
day as Stoics perform at
the opening ceremony*

INTERNATIONAL SPORTING SUCCESS

*Stoics represent England
and Great Britain*

Stowe

the STOIC

The Stowe Community has been extremely busy again this year. I would like to say that the whole year is captured here, but not even this increasingly weighty tome manages to record everything that has happened in the last 12 months. However, the highlights are reflected on here, in reports from our Academic Departments, the sports fields and the wide range of articles from our academic and extra-curricular societies and activities.

As part of this community, I am constantly amazed by the ability, commitment and achievement of our pupils and staff. No two Stoics are the same, they bring to the School a variety of interests, talents and ambitions and it is always fascinating to watch them go about their lives here. Equally interesting is to watch them develop over time – those pupils who joined with me in 2012 are now in their GCSE year and have become so comfortable in their surroundings. The Fifth Formers disappear at the end of the Summer term and return for the beginning of their Sixth Form experience suddenly appearing older and wiser, this change seems more dramatic than with any other year group. Of course, it does not happen overnight, or over the course of just the Summer, much of this precious development is down to the community that is Stowe, to their House teams, tutors, teachers, friends and, of course, to their families. It is reassuring to see each Stoic go through this process, to see them finding what they love and enjoy and being encouraged to develop those passions which will help them on their journey after Stowe. It is what the School exists for, but it is no less spectacular to witness.

As always, I must thank all those who have made putting this magazine together possible, from its authors in the staff and Stoic teams to the photography by Chapmans, Alan Longworth, Johnny Millar, Fiona Corthine, Ade Segun and Olly Knight among many others. There is a patient (and persistent) team of people who help to proof – Arron Quainton (my right-hand woman), Crispin Robinson, William Goldsmith and Susie Wigginton – all of whom deserve a medal. I am grateful to Paul Edson Print Management and Zenith Media for the production of the magazine and finally, our designer, Christine Carr at turtle-soup, who is particularly tolerant of her very demanding clients!

Thank you to all who have made the last year so memorable.



Mrs Tori Roddy, Editor
troddy@stowe.co.uk





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Chairman of Governors

Speech Day

My Lords, Governors, Headmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to our 2014 Speech Day.

First, some highlights of progress with our Development Plan. Yesterday was a Red Letter Day for Stowe as HRH Prince Michael of Kent opened our new Chung Music School. We can rightly claim to have one of the best Music teaching facilities at any school in the country.

The Roxburgh Hall is coming to the end of a complete overhaul. Plans for the new Science building are near completion and ready for redevelopment next year – I say new because the overhaul is so substantial it will look and feel like a new building.

My grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed, and to those who are soon to contribute, so generously, to help us make these three projects a reality.

And what of our current plans? The Governors' agenda over the last year has been full. Apart from the core matters of regulatory compliance and financial prudence we have been focusing hard on the future.

The adult world is constantly encroaching on young people. Drugs, alcohol, social media abuse and pornography are all real and present dangers against which we all have to be constantly vigilant. In common with other schools our approach to safeguarding children is constantly evolving and improving.

The competitive horizon is confused – Academies and Free Schools are ideologically promoted by the political intelligentsia, yet problems with budget and standards are increasing. Who knows what the next government will promote? Changes in curriculum, examination standards and structures, and marking policy come along like London buses, creating a difficult environment in which to deliver an effective and stable education experience for Stoics.

Affordability of private education is a constant concern and changing demands of parents and pupils alike mean that

we must constantly think about what a Stowe education should look like.

We are deciding how best to upgrade the standard of our boys' boarding accommodation, but with eight boys' houses to upgrade, the programme will take some time to complete.

“The School is in exceptionally good heart and Stoics, as you will hear later from the Headmaster, are regularly achieving notable success in the classroom, the performing arts and on the sports field.”

Two other key questions are: how should we best use the main mansion and what should our day offer look like? There are no simple answers and what we do today must be sustainable for the foreseeable future.

The School is in exceptionally good heart and Stoics, as you will hear later from the Headmaster, are regularly achieving notable success in the classroom, the performing arts and on the sports field.

Our international strategy is finally coming to life. In our biennial Governors' and Campaign Report I explained why we wanted to develop international schools and what we were doing about it. I am delighted to welcome Ben Lee who joins us today; Ben is the Chief Executive of our partners Evolve Knowledge Investments. I know that our international strategy is as important to Evolve as it is to us and we share ambitious plans for the future.

And what of our other responsibilities?

Restoration of Stowe House continues unabated. Now that the key elements of the structural restoration are complete we can concentrate on the interiors. The Music Room will soon see the original Valdrè centre piece rehung with

a grand new central chandelier. The spectacular Egyptian entrance now looks very much as it did when first created.

Soon you will see the Blue Room, the structure of which was restored last year, refurbished in a decorative scheme that traces back to the mid-19th Century; the wonderful ceiling of the North Hall will be cleaned and brought back to life, although it will be another year before the floor and walls are restored.

On 13 June the World Monuments Fund celebrates the start of its 50th Anniversary year with a dinner at Stowe. Together with our anonymous benefactor the WMF has played an immense part in helping the Stowe House Preservation Trust, which we established in 1999, to achieve all that it has in completing so quickly so much of the restoration programme. There is a very real chance that we will complete the restoration of Stowe well before our centenary in 2023.

You may not know that the first Stowe House, built in the 17th Century in Kilkhampton in Cornwall, was demolished in 1749. The School can be very proud that it has prevented this Stowe House from suffering the same fate.

Next I would like to touch on the communities which serve Stowe. Stowe is an ever-evolving community – pupils, teachers, operational support, Governors, parents past, present and future, and our alumni. Old Stoics are perhaps our most important ambassadors as they make their way in the world, demonstrating so very well the value of a Stowe education.

Through the work of its Committee, the Old Stoic Society is a highly supportive community providing opportunities for Stoics, with interview practice, work experience and occasionally employment, and for Old Stoics with an ever expanding programme of events, some general gatherings and some for special interests or sports.

My grateful thanks go to the Chairman of the Old Stoic Society and his Committee colleagues for all their hard work; and to all Old Stoics, many of whom have been, are or will be parents of children at the School, and many of whom have been amazingly generous to our Campaign. Thank you all for all your support for our School.

This is the only moment of public recognition of the work which Governors do, so please allow me that moment to express my warmest thanks to my colleagues who have, as ever, given their time and commitment most generously and have been a tremendous support to me – I really could not do what I do without their support.

We have a great governing body of people who work as a team, enjoy working together and do whatever has to be done whenever they are asked. No one could ask for more.

Let me spend another moment giving our thanks to Professor Sarah Gurr, who retires as a Governor today, for

her exceptional contribution over the last nine years.

We welcome the Reverend Peter Ackroyd, Mrs Andrea Johnson and Mrs Elizabeth Phillips who have joined us in recent months. Peter has a ministry in Wootton, Andrea is a serving Headmistress in Oxford, and Elizabeth recently retired from her successful 25 year Headship at St Marylebone Grammar School.

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There are two elements of our community though which are perhaps more important than any other.

First, we could not do any of this without all of you, and all those who cannot be with us today – parents and pupils who choose Stowe as a place of education, heritage aficionados who want to see the restoration of fabric and landscape, and those who just want to help the School to provide first class facilities. To you all let me just say – thank you, thank you for your continued belief in us.

Secondly, to everyone who works at Stowe, I offer as always my grateful thanks for your continued loyalty, effort and commitment, giving so often as you do above and beyond the call of duty and out of your own time.

Finally – let me congratulate our Headmaster. Anthony Wallersteiner has been at Stowe now for 11 years – 11 years which have seen some pretty fundamental change.

Full co-education, improved academic results, two new girls' boarding houses, a Music School, refurbishment of other facilities, clear strategic direction, the introduction of a highly effective executive management team – the list is endless and is a testament to the leadership, commitment and energy of our Headmaster.

There is as ever more, a lot more, to do as the programme of change goes on unabated both in terms of our educational offer, as we seek ever better academic results and our fabric, as we plough on with our development programme.

Our centenary looms a mere nine years away and what a fine deadline that is by which to have finished the complete overhaul of Stowe and its establishment as the leading independent national, co-educational boarding school in the United Kingdom, with a thriving network of international schools developed in the Stowe tradition. What a testament that would be. Now there's a challenge... Headmaster.

Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown



The Headmaster

2014 has correctly focused on the solemn commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. However, another anniversary is capturing the popular imagination – the tercentenary of the Hanoverian succession with the ascent of George I to the British throne in August 1714, closely followed by the sequels, George II, III and IV. It's said that the film, 'The Madness of George III' had to be repackaged as 'The Madness of King George' when American audiences wanted to know what had happened in George I and II. And what did the Georgians, that bunch of jumped up Germans, ever do for us? Well, apart from securing parliamentary democracy, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, glorious achievements in science, art, architecture, literature and music, they also gave us Stowe and there can be few other acres of ground, anywhere, from which so many important ideas have germinated and changed the world. Even the BBC acknowledges Stowe's claim to be considered the cradle of modern civilisation – although I detected left wing bias in the decision to relegate the programme to the relative obscurity of BBC4.

The Georgians certainly knew how to flatter their subjects: George II once said, "The British are the Handsomest, the Best Shaped, the Best Natured People in the World." Now substitute the word British for Governors and you'll understand why I have such an excellent working relationship with the people who give their time and expertise freely to ensure that the School upholds its statutory and regulatory obligations. Margaret Thatcher was once asked whether she believed in consensus. To everyone's surprise, she replied, "Yes, I do believe in consensus; there should be consensus behind my

convictions." At the time people thought this was incredibly witty, it was only later that people came to realise that Mrs Thatcher didn't have a sense of humour. You'll be pleased to know that our Governors do reach a consensus, but they are certainly not yes-men or women and serve as critical friends in helping the executive to develop the strategy which moves the School forward.

The Georgians certainly knew how to flatter their subjects: George II once said, "The British are the Handsomest, the Best Shaped, the Best Natured People in the World."

There is a myth that private schooling is an exclusive luxury for the super-rich, like yachts or jets. Now I don't want to denigrate the ownership of yachts and jets and after seeing the display on the North Front I'm suffering from classic car envy. Neither would I denigrate the sort of parents who feature on a website called Conversations Overheard in Waitrose:

"Darling, do we need Parmesan for both our houses?"

"Daddy, does Lego have a silent 't' like Merlot?"

"Scheherazade, you've had quite enough Manchego for one day."

The reality is that the majority of our parents are part of the squeezed middle, deciding to be less comfortably

off for a few years in order to give their children the best possible start in life. The historian Niall Ferguson, in his 2012 Reith Lectures, described British independent schools as “the best institutions in the British Isles today”. They contribute almost £10bn a year to GDP, more than the city of Liverpool or the BBC, support more than 227,000 full-time jobs, 1% of all employment in Britain and add more than £3.6bn to tax revenues, the equivalent of building 460 new Free Schools every year. They consistently top the PISA education tables. PISA, for the uninitiated, is not the Italian city, famous for its leaning tower and the birthplace of Galileo, but the acronym for the Programme for International Student Assessment, a set of tests in literacy, maths and science taken by 15 year olds and the international benchmark for school standards. Every Stowe parent should have received a letter of thanks from Michael Gove and George Osborne for reducing the number of pupils entering state funded education and helping our battered economy to recover. I know the postal system is unreliable, but surely even the Royal Mail can't have mislaid more than ½ million letters?

“The historian Niall Ferguson, in his 2012 Reith lectures, described British independent schools as “the best institutions in the British Isles today”.

Instead, the Secretary of State for Education burns with indignation that money can still buy an education which opens doors to the top jobs in Britain today. He says that it is ridiculous that the Prime Minister's inner circle all went to just one private school: of course it's ridiculous – there should be social diversity in having more Old Stoics represented in Cameron's inner circle. Our solitary Old Stoic MP, Oliver Colvile, MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport, should immediately be promoted to Secretary of State for Education.

Meanwhile, Mr Gove's wife, Sarah Vine, a journalist, accuses parents who pay for private education of “snobbery”. “Let's be honest”, says Mrs Gove, “parents who pay for their children to attend fee paying schools are paying for their child to mix with the right kind of kids”. Perhaps Mrs Gove is thinking of the 202 pupils at Stowe who depend on scholarships and bursaries or the Stoics receiving 100% remission of fees? Or perhaps the Stoics who managed to raise £45,000 for charitable causes last year? Perhaps she is referring to Oliver Plunket, a 2012 leaver, who last summer single-handedly raised £100,000 by motorcycling from South America to North America, covering 24,000 miles in eight months for The Fisher House Foundation, a charity which provides a home away from home for military patients and their families? The

charitable initiative continues with our effort to raise funds for this year's school charity, Children in Crisis, and my sincere thanks to everyone who has so generously donated lots for today's silent auction. Please bid generously for this very worthwhile cause. And where are the Goves educating their children? The eldest has just been accepted into The Greycoat Hospital Church of England School in Westminster, a state school which has its uniforms supplied by Peter Jones in Sloane Square. Maybe we shouldn't take Mrs Gove too seriously as she wrote that her husband finds Angela Merkel as hot as Jennifer Lopez and once returned from a holiday in Austria with a pair of swimming trunks in the style of lederhosen. Need I say more?

Alexander Pope, another famous Georgian, immortalised at Stowe as one of our British Worthies, once said that “a little learning is a dangerous thing”. Fortunately, Stoics have “drunk deep of the Pierian spring” (Drayton), the metaphorical source of knowledge in the arts and sciences. In a year when fewer top grades were awarded nationally, Stoics bucked the trend and secured outstanding exam results. We celebrated our best ever GCSE results with a record 99.3% passes and just under half the GCSEs were A* or A grades. We posted our second highest A Level scores with nearly 70% of last summer's leavers achieving A*-B grades and more than 80 took up places at Russell Group universities, with five going to Oxford or Cambridge.

Education is the most important thing that society does; it is the soul of society passing from one generation to the next. Schools like Stowe should be beacons of civilisation in a darkly utilitarian world. As Tony Blair used to say in a phrase unwittingly lifted from Lenin – the Russian revolutionary, not the Beatle – “Education, Education Education”. I agree with those sentiments, although not necessarily in that order. Schools prepare young people to live life to the full, developing their personalities and character so that they can take responsibility for their own progress. Intelligence and ability are not fixed as the brain constantly makes new connections. Parents know that there are few things in life more rewarding than seeing children's curiosity grow as they acquire new skills and build confidence.

“Education is the most important thing that society does; it is the soul of society passing from one generation to the next.”

The reason why Stoics enjoy being here is because in some ways the environment is more akin to a university than a school – although at Stowe you do have to get out of bed before 1.00pm. Our understanding of teenage development improves all the time. Instead of seeing

adolescence as an aberration, young people's brains are merely under-developed (admittedly some more so than others). The frontal lobes which are used for impulse control and hypothetical reasoning are not fully formed until later. It's why crazy, impulsive actions seem like such a good idea when you're 15 or 16. The teenage brain is a cauldron of highly charged synapses all waiting to be shaped by diverse experiences and challenges. There is an evolutionary reason for this – let's not forget that some of our most vivid and emotional experiences – the ones that create lasting memories – required a degree of recklessness, impulsivity and naiveté. Otherwise how can you explain falling in love, getting married and having children – none of these things is rational, but without them the human race becomes extinct? Adults don't have a monopoly on common sense. It was Benjamin Franklin who in 1752 flew a kite into a storm cloud on his quest to prove that lightning is a massive form of static electricity. He then accidentally touched the metal key inside the primitive

capacitor that his son was holding. Ouch. Imagine the risk assessment form for that experiment. Then there was Marie Curie who, in the 1890s, exposed herself to more gamma rays than it took to turn Peter Parker into Spiderman. Curie's exposure to radiation eventually killed her – but not before she had become the first woman to win the Nobel Prize.

If teenagers are deprived of opportunities to branch out and experiment, they become stuck in permanent docility and learned dependence. As Nietzsche said, "it is a poor teacher whose pupils remain dependent on him".

It is sometimes said that an education is what's left behind when you've forgotten everything else. Biologists tell us that our ability to remember the past and envision the future distinguishes us from the rest of the animal kingdom.

The older we get, the more precious our memories of past experience become.

“If teenagers are deprived of opportunities to branch out and experiment, they become stuck in permanent docility and learned dependence. As Nietzsche said, “it is a poor teacher whose pupils remain dependent on him”.





This year's sports results will give Stoics plenty to reminisce about in years to come. Stoics have secured national, regional and county representation in a plethora of sports. Assemblies have included news of success in cricket, swimming, water polo, equestrianism, tennis, rowing and polo as well as the new kids on the block, skiing and karting. Perhaps we should add a snow-dome to our list of development projects? The 1st XV reached the quarter-finals of the NatWest Cup while the Junior Colts got to the same stage in the Vase competition and along with the Colts enjoyed an outstanding season in school matches. Last term saw our best ever Rugby Sevens results with the Colts winning the Newark tournament and securing the Stowe trophy for the first time after beating Wellington on the North Front. Both Seniors and Colts teams played exceptionally well at the National Rosslyn Park competition: the Colts only lost in the semi-finals to the eventual winners. Hockey also had a good season with the Yearlings reaching the Regional heats of the National Competition while the U16s and U18s finished third in the County rounds. Not to be outdone, the girls' U14 hockey players finished third in the South of England and the Senior girls won the majority of their matches. We had the best netball season anyone can remember with the 1st VII representing Buckinghamshire in the National Schools' Regional Finals and the U14s finishing fourth in their Regional Finals. The 1st lacrosse team remained undefeated in school fixtures and progressed to the championship division at the National Lacrosse Competition. They would have gone further had it not been for my pre-match pep talk: I should have promised them champagne instead of

Mars Bars: a rookie error. Anthropologists describe sport as "activity dependent development". The more complex the cognitive processes of a species, the greater the importance of games. By this reckoning, Stoics must be among the planet's pre-eminent learning species. We strive to do our best, but no one is made to feel inadequate for not being an expert and we encourage and applaud participation as well as competition.

Stoics tend to think the world and the School revolves around them... and they are not entirely wrong. But Stoics are like actors who perform for their allotted time, while behind the scenes they are supported by a highly dedicated and talented crew of not just teachers, but support staff: there are finance assistants, technicians, housemen, gardeners, caterers, security staff, maintenance men, cleaners, receptionists, those working in Stowe Enterprises, the shop and tuck shop, volunteers for the National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust. I'd like to mention four who are leaving: Tony Lambourne in the Maintenance Department, George Burgess, one of our gardeners, Ursula Harrison who co-ordinates everything from APG grades and parent-teacher meetings to the organisation of prizes for Speech Day and Anna Coates, Housekeeper, a job title which could have been lifted from Downton Abbey, but the place would grind to a halt without her. They are the unsung heroes who take a quiet pride in their work, but seldom get the limelight. They are part of Stowe's soul, seeing change and continuity over decades, while keeping the place ticking over as reliably as the North Front clock which chimes the passing hours.



We are stewards of a legacy that stretches back to our foundation in 1923 and beyond that to the Age of Enlightenment. Stowe was and always will remain a work in progress. Progress is impossible without change and we evolve and adapt to make our future worthy of our past. Speech Day is an act of thanksgiving for all that we as a School have received. I want to thank all those who have helped to make the Stowe Parents' Association such a lively and vibrant organisation with a diverse and interesting range of activities proving that we can have just as much fun as our children. Thank you particularly to Rowena Wild and the committee members for their unflagging enthusiasm and dedication to the cause. And for those of you who went on the recent Battlefields Trip, "what happened in Bruges, stays in Bruges!"

I also want to thank everyone who has supported the Campaign for Stowe for their immense generosity. A list of everyone who has donated to the Campaign can be found at the back of the recently published Governors' Report. These gifts and donations are greatly valued and appreciated, helping Stowe to remain one of Britain's leading educational establishments, attracting the best pupils and offering outstanding teaching with excellent facilities. As a comparatively young school we have a modest endowment and your support allows us to admit pupils who would not otherwise be able to access a Stowe education, including boys and girls from the Dominican Convent School, our sister school in South Africa. The new Chung Music School, perhaps Stowe's most ambitious building since the opening of the Chapel in 1928, would not have been built without your generous support. Architecture affects the way we engage with our surroundings and the way we engage with other people. The Chung Music School, carefully designed to sit within the landscape, will enable Stowe to rival the specialist music schools in raising aspirations while heightening the motivation and morale of staff and pupils alike.

To give us a taste of what is to come, here's Tom Dixon to play a short piece of trombone by Serocki.

Next up is the re-facing of Lyttelton to complement the Music School and the refurbished Roxburgh Theatre, now home to Stowe's Drama Department. After that we move to that unlovely carbuncle, the Science building, which is home to some of the most exciting and innovative teaching at Stowe that deserves better than this relic of the 1960s (and that isn't a poorly coded reference to any of our science teachers).

The saddest part of any Speech Day is bidding farewell to departing staff, distinguished among much else for their dedication to teaching and for their pastoral care. Jane Hamblett-Jahn is moving to Brighton College having served with huge distinction in her first incarnation at Stowe from 1991 to 2001 as an Economics teacher and

Housemistress of Lyttelton, before her reincarnation as the outstanding founding Housemistress of Queen's when she returned in 2007. Myles Nash, Head of DT and Assistant Housemaster in Grenville, left at the end of the Lent term to take up his position as Housemaster and Head of Department at Leighton Park School. Andy Murphy, an energetic, committed and hugely enthusiastic Housemaster of Grenville, has been appointed Deputy Head of Stamford. Bob Roberts, an inspiring English teacher and supreme fundraiser for Durrell, leaves to run the English Department at Tudor Hall; Jonathan Peverley, a gifted Chemist who has transformed rowing at Stowe, takes up his new post as Head of Chemistry at Oundle. Tony Chan, the man who really does know every pupil – a Wikipedia of Stoics – joins the second most beautiful school in England, my *alma mater*, King's Canterbury. Hannah Knott, DT teacher, girls' 1st XI coach and Nugent Assistant Housemistress, takes up her role as Deputy Head of the DT Department at Bradfield which is a great achievement for someone who has only been teaching for three years. Lucy Ashe, a superb English teacher, choreographer and marathon runner (she posted a time of 3.02 in this year's London marathon), leaves us for Harrow. Steve Dachtler and Emily Sinclair, gifted directors of a multitude of plays including Senior and Junior Congreve, move to Oakham and Cranleigh respectively. Amanda Hobrow leaves after a year to complete her post graduate work with the Open University and we say fond farewell to this year's Harvard Fellow, Zachary Sherwood and au revoir to our Modern Languages assistant, Daphné Moret as well as our lacrosse coach Kate Clark. I would also like to pay tribute to the matrons who are leaving, Helena Sundstrom and Pam Dennison and thank them for all their hard work and pastoral care.

There is a traditional African greeting, Umbutu, when different tribes get together and it means "How goes it with the children?"

There is a traditional African greeting, Umbutu, when different tribes get together and it means "How goes it with the children?" It's recognition that our children are the future as one generation is succeeded by the next. Umbutu, Mike and Tara Thiel, our guests of honour, this morning. Mike has been the inspirational Headmaster of the Dominican Convent School for the past decade and he was instrumental in setting up our South African Scholarship programme. It is with great pleasure that I call on Mike to present the prizes.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

Mike Thiel and Lungelo Shelembe

Dr Wallersteiner, parents, friends and the young men and women of Stowe School – it is a privilege today to be able to address you all and to share with you some reflections on the meaning of the partnership between Stowe School and the Dominican Convent School. Luckily for you, what I have to say is punctuated by other input, a video clip and some of the wonderful music for which Stowe is so rightly well known. Over seven years the Stowe

Scholar programme has grown in ways we would never have imagined when we first tentatively reached out as schools to find a way of working together. Today we cannot believe the doubt and concerns we raised in our initial conversations, and it is the willingness of taking a step into the unknown that has enriched both our schools and is a sign of what makes them great.

I will admit to being somewhat of a fraud at present,



This year's South African Scholars with their Stoic hosts

billed as I am as the Headmaster of the Dominican Convent School, a post which I left recently after a ten year headship, but perhaps a new-found distance from the programme allows me to reflect more honestly, and the friendships built over these years are cherished and important. In Africa there is a saying that if you are going somewhere fast, go alone, but if you are going somewhere far, go together. It is by reaching out, by engaging with ideas that may seem foreign (and in this case foreign they definitely are!) and coming to a mutual understanding and agreement on the best way forward that the best lessons are learned. Similarly, by looking inward, by adopting an insular approach and by avoiding new and challenging concepts, we forget the true purpose of any great school.

A great school's purpose is to prepare young people to be leaders of tomorrow, to be citizens of a world that will need combined and negotiated solutions, and we forget the skills that this will take – the ability to look beyond the background of people and to listen, to really listen, to their perspectives and their ideas.

The Stowe Scholar programme (or the South African Scholar programme as it is known here) has brought together young people from two sides of the world, from a variety of backgrounds, with a wealth of conflicting experiences and ideas, and it puts them into an experience where they are required to grow together rather than apart, where they understand that irrespective of backgrounds they come together with similar aspirations and dreams for tomorrow.

It was during a conference call between Dr Wallersteiner, Mr Colin Dudgeon and myself in December 2007 that we decided on an experiment which has grown into a remarkable partnership on many levels, and I would like to introduce the programme by sharing with you a clip from the beginning of a documentary made on the 2011/2012 exchange year...

(Video clip)

I have not come alone, but brought with me Lungelo Shelembe, who you have just seen describe her home life in South Africa. Her comments then were made in June 2011 prior to coming to Stowe and much has happened in her life since, but I have asked her to reflect on the meaning of such a link, the value and importance of such a partnership. Lungelo...

Lungelo: Before I came to Stowe my life was very different. I was an ordinary girl from rural Kwazulu Natal, who had moved to an informal settlement in the city of Johannesburg with her father to try and build a better future. In general I had a monochromatic view of the world at the time and I also happened to be very opinionated. I have realised I wasn't aware that other people were bound by their experiences and expectations to have opinions that differed from mine.



Two years later, since my illuminative and deeply transformative experiences in the Stowe Scholar programme, I am now in my last year of High School. I still draw upon, and grow from, these experiences as a student, person and global citizen.

I came to Stowe with one or two expectations, but what the programme offered was far more than I could ever have imagined. I built and maintained new friendships, I learnt how to play the piano and electric guitar and I learnt how to play a new and complicated game – the rural girl developed a killer instinct!

The way I saw the world was challenged, I learnt to tolerate other people's differences and respect their beliefs. I learnt that sometimes people's experiences often led to expectations which resulted in opinions that differed from my own. That is the bedrock of understanding diversity.

Above all, I learnt that leadership can only develop in a context of pride for one's self, for the nobility of one's purpose, for family and for country. There can be no greater achievement in one's quest for leadership skills than an international exchange experience such as is offered at Stowe. I am proud and I am still growing as a leader because of this experience. I understand how to listen, to interpret, to tolerate and to connect with other people and all dimensions of myself.

It was a period of immense transformation and the benefits will reverberate for the rest of my life.

(Oboe soloist)

Mike: Thank you, Hannah Dixon, for that beautiful music, and thank you also to Lungelo for your input that reminds all of us of the value of personal reflection in our lives. Lungelo has clearly grown through this experience and will matriculate at Dominican Convent School in December, and like the thirty previous Scholars is able to share many important life lessons with those she will lead in the future.

So what then is the value of such a partnership?

You will have noticed in the video clip some appalling statistics ranking the South African education system amongst the poorest in the world, and in many instances

it is apart from a small group of exceptional schools who can rival the best in the world. The tide is starting to turn in others, but it is a slow process that will take much effort and political will. We are currently celebrating twenty years of democracy in our country following decades of institutionalised and legislated racism, and centuries of human relations that were amongst the worst in the world. With his passing in December, we are also celebrating the life of Nelson Mandela as a global icon, a man who reminded us all that we can break the negative expectations surrounding us and be the force for good that another global icon who spent much of his young life in South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi, encouraged us to be when he said – “Be the good you want to see in the world.”

How fortunate South Africa is to have the wisdom of these two deep thinkers of the 20th Century to guide our new democracy, but how difficult it is to guide our daily lives by the principles of great men of their times, whether we live in South Africa or the United Kingdom. How can schools lift achievement levels? How can schools be relevant to the world they are preparing children for? How can they break free from the negative-speak of their environment and really become a force for change, a force for good? Mandela’s classic saying that “Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world” falls flat when you have an education system that for the most part is unable to break free from the institutionalised inequalities of an apartheid past. Life for the majority of South Africans is better than it was twenty years ago, substantially better, but the successes of our country are threatened by the hiccups that inevitably come when the gloss of new beginnings wears off. Corruption needs to be tackled, and service delivery demanded so that the miracle that was a new South Africa can be sustained.

The history teachers among us can find parallels in other countries emerging from repressive regimes, but I believe

that the South Africa story will have a different ending to most. We are a people blessed with the diversity of different backgrounds, we are a people blessed with innovative thinkers, with programmes such as this one, where people can grow and become the leaders we need, and we are blessed with the understanding that the solution is often less important than the discussions on the road to outcomes.

South Africa over the past twenty years has come to be a place of aspiration for those who live in it, and leaders such as Mandela and Desmond Tutu have inspired a new and innovative way of talking to each other and encouraged us to aspire to greater things. In the broader continent of Africa where it is difficult, and often dangerous, to speak truth to power, we have a constitution that protects our rights to do so. Yes, civil liberties are threatened every day, both by forces wishing this freedom was not in place, and by our own weakness and desire not to speak out when we see things heading in the wrong direction. Using radio talk shows as an admittedly selective barometer of public opinion, we are creating a culture of openness where we can, and do, listen to each other, really listen to the thoughts and feelings of those around us who differ. This is never easy and brings a level of discomfort that we would prefer not to have to deal with, but it also brings the progress that we need to create a vibrant and special country out of the ashes of a system that stopped us being ourselves and weakened our ability to see others as human.

Stoics, you have welcomed the South African Scholars to Stowe, and we thank you for that. You bring with you to this school the wealth of privilege, but your greater privilege is in what you can experience here and in the programmes of Stowe that stretch well beyond your academic lives. In a social world driven by connections and technology, you have the capacity to offer the world a new style of leadership, one rooted in collaborative discussion,



with your actions and decisions flowing from a shared understanding of the diversity of this planet. My challenge to you is not just to talk, but to listen to each other, really listen... and let your actions flow from a desire to share your strengths with all around you.

I would like to offer a specific thank you to the headmaster, Dr Wallersteiner, for his courage in developing this programme, and to the Board for supporting an initiative which had the potential to be either a spectacular failure or a shining success – happily this speech today seems to signify that it was the latter! Also, I would like to thank Mr Colin Dudgeon, who is a master of making the impossible happen, who has embraced the challenges of a different way of doing things and coped so admirably with keeping this programme alive, in terms of fundraising, people management and of course dealing with the alternative way of thinking that we have often thrown his way. The many staff of this fine school who have taken up the challenge of making the logistics work, supporting the children and growing the programmes that have developed alongside the original Branson Scholars for the Stowe Scheme have all played their part in reaching out in new ways to a world that will continue to reach back to this school in this beautiful part of England.

If South Africa is an aspirational place, what is it that our two schools should aspire to in this partnership heading into the future? Our schools are special places, not simply because of beautiful facilities or grounds (and I must compliment Stowe on the way the campus has been developed since my first visit in 2008), but because our primary concern is the people of our schools. As long as we seek to place people first, to seek programmes that allow people to grow, to nurture people, then we have the solution to being not just good schools, but indeed great schools.

It is really very simple... but because of its simplicity it

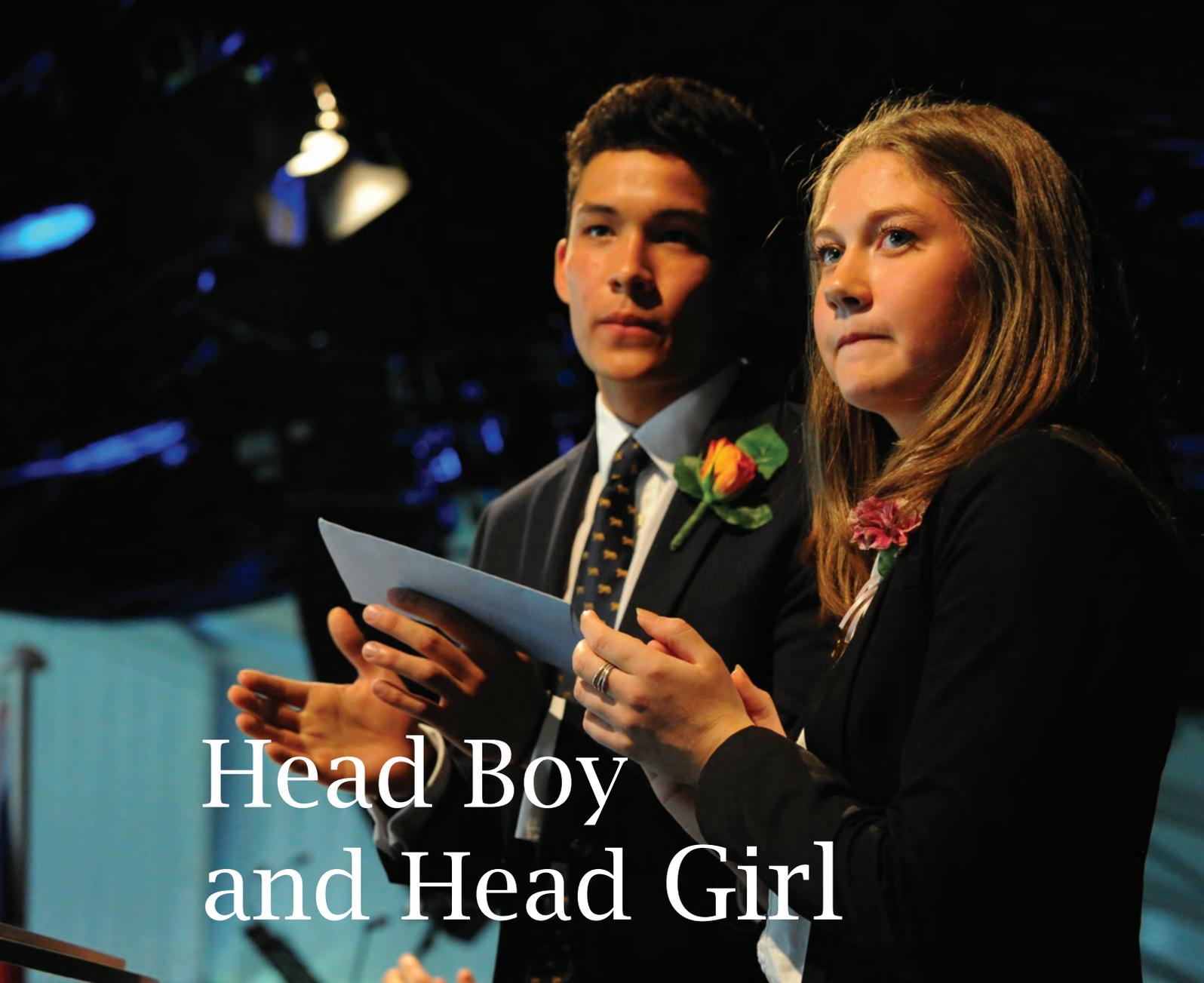
is hugely complex... if we are to be the great schools we aspire to be, we need to keep our focus on the people, and we need to provide learning moments for people to come together, to learn from listening to each other, and to become adults who have the skills not to impose their thinking on the world as the Cecil Rhodes of their day did, not to use strong-arm power tactics like the apartheid Prime Ministers of South Africa and indeed some British Prime Ministers in their day did, but adults able to listen, to reflect and to find solutions grounded in the collective will. If the first twenty years of a South African democracy have taught us nothing else, it is the power of the collective, the weakness of a win/lose paradigm, and the joy that comes with promoting human dignity in our lives, in our planning, in our decisions, and in our subsequent actions. This should not be a secret, but something we spread to the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the partnership between our schools is a programme which has done all of the above, it is a programme which ticks every box of what all great schools aspire to do – it promotes thinking across our world for all involved, it teaches children (and adults) at both schools to challenge their preconceived ideas, it builds habits of looking outwards and it fosters human links that will endure as friendships and as the building blocks of a future interconnected world. It may seem like a small contribution to tomorrow's world, but the ripple effects of teaching and learning these lessons at this age mean that young people like Lungelo (and indeed all the children at Stowe and Dominican) build habits which will have a disproportionate effect on the world. Backgrounds become irrelevant and the future becomes brighter. Together then, as that African saying exhorts us, we will go far!

Thank you for this wonderful programme and for your attentiveness to me today. We are all truly blessed!

Mr Mike Thiel, Dominican Convent School Headmaster





Head Boy and Head Girl

Will Chatamra and Lucy Horan

Lucy: Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, Governors, Headmaster, distinguished guests, a very warm welcome to Stowe.

I would like to thank Mr Thiel for his inspirational speech today.

Will: “Better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid, than to open it and remove all doubt”, was wise counsel offered by my Tutor, Mr Crispin Robinson, and at this precise moment, extremely tempting...

Since Lucy and I arrived at Stowe the time seems to have passed so quickly. Stephen Sutton, a remarkable 17 year old, died a few days ago of cancer having selflessly raised three million pounds for research into the disease that killed him. Knowing that he had just months to live, he knew that he was measuring his life, not in time, but by what he could achieve in that time.

Our theme this year has been aspiration. We wanted to encourage Stoics to push beyond their comfort zones and to set new personal goals of achievement, measured not by the standards of others, but by their own standards. We were overwhelmed by the response.

Here is an example of an aspiration from a Fifth Form boy. “Dear Will and Lucy, my target is to be in at least the B team for hockey, hopefully the As, and to give it all I’ve got, I know I will be shattered, but I will also know that I could not have done more.”

We have heard a great deal about the inspiring life of Nelson Mandela, who I’m sure, would impel Stoics, in the time that we have, not to settle “for a life that is less than the one we are capable of”.

Courage, so astutely described as ‘grace under pressure’, can be elusive. Fear of failure, lack of confidence and a tendency to procrastination means that we don’t always fulfil our potential.

Benjamin Franklin’s claim that “he didn’t fail, he just had 10,000 ideas that didn’t work”, is a comforting thought. Picasso, likewise, appears to have been fearless in his approach to work; his sketchbooks show he never hesitated, never rubbed out, never began again. To develop that kind of confidence, to just ‘have a go’ in life, pushing beyond the boundaries of self-doubt, is daunting, but surely what Roxburgh’s ethos for Stoics is about.

Hopefully, like Mandela, we can foster the perseverance,

the wisdom and the integrity, to be the authors of our own destiny and to have the courage to stand up and do the right thing, rather than do things right.

Lucy: How it is applied at Stowe...

Stowe is a school which offers a host of opportunities. We are part of an unbroken chain that connects teachers, pupils, support staff and parents making this is an inspiring community to belong to.

In my time here we have experienced the diversity of Stowe life and we have witnessed how the School and pupils both grow and adapt in tandem. We could not imagine a better place to have spent our education and we feel privileged to have been at a school that provides an environment in which any Stoic can thrive.

Whether you are an academic, or an athlete, a 'drama king or queen', a musician, poet or painter, Stowe helps you to realise your potential and accomplish anything you set your mind to.

The extensive range of extra-curricular activities enables pupils to both discover and enhance new talents. Whether on the sports pitch, in the Chung Music School or on stage in the Roxy, the opportunities available have allowed countless Stoics to aspire and be successful and this is what makes Stowe, Stowe.

These activities provide pupils with an outlet for their various talents, and they equip them with a broader perspective and quiet confidence.

Knowing that we will soon be leaving the place that provided us with so many invaluable opportunities is saddening, but I know that Stowe has prepared me for any challenges I may face.

I have loved every minute at this school; it has, without a doubt, been inspirational. Time here is precious and you are presented with so many opportunities, we have tried to take every one, and you, the Stoics, should also take advantage of everything the School has to offer.

Don't think it is all about results; whether in exams or on the sports field, it is the journey that counts and not just the destination, Stowe is an experience you will never forget.

Will: There is an incredible calibre of staff, who make up the fabric of Stowe and who have often gone the extra mile for all of us and to whom we are very grateful.

We also thank the brilliant Prefect team who Mr Wellington has praised to be the best he has seen during his time at Stowe.

Lucy: Finally, those leaving this summer; have the courage to find meaning in the places you will move on to in the future.

For those who remain, show courage in the face of inertia, and invest in the people sitting either side of you.

Stowe is not defined by the beautiful grounds or the number of years that it has existed but by the pupils who pass through the Marble Saloon.

Presentations:

Will: As we draw to a close we would like to present a small token of gratitude on behalf of the School...

Lucy: These go to Mrs Wallersteiner, Mrs Honeyman Brown and finally to Mr and Mrs Thiel.

Will: It is tradition to award the Branson Award every year at Speech Day. This is an award that highlights entrepreneurial innovation and success. Sir Richard Branson is a remarkable role model for aspiration, combining productive business models with altruism. This year Magnus Sligo-Young and Joss Fitch did a fantastic project on their Empire clothing company.

Congratulations to you both. Please come forward and collect your prizes.

Lucy: We would also like to present The Stoic Award. This is for a member of staff who has contributed across the whole School and has enriched the lives of Stoics.

This year the award goes to Mr Chan who joined the School English Department in 2008. He has been Under Housemaster in Temple and is currently a Sixth Form Tutor.

Based on the School's unanimous vote, please will Mr Chan come up to collect his award.

Will: I will greatly miss Stowe and the life I have had here. May I present my family's parting gift to Stowe, the new Head Boy tie. The silk ties represent the best of the East and the Medici Lions, drawn by Olivia and Charlie Wentworth-Stanley, which show the beauty of the West. It is a gift to accompany the next generation of Stoics through their time at the School.

I would like to announce next year's Head Boy, James Macdonald-Buchanan. James, I know you will do brilliantly well next year and I wish you all the very best. Please come up and collect your tie.

Lucy: This also leads me on to handing over to next year's Head Girl.

This goes to a fellow Stanhopian who I know will also do a fantastic job and I wish her all the best. Shannon Devlin, please come up and collect your flowers.

Will: Thank you, we hope you enjoy the day, the Half term break and hopefully good weather. Somerset Maugham's comment may speak for many a Stoic, "It was such a lovely day I thought it a pity to get up."

Will Chatamra and Lucy Horan



Magnus Bashaarat

Magnus Bashaarat arrived at Stowe as Deputy Head (Pastoral) in September 2009 after teaching English for fifteen years at Eton where he also served as a Housemaster. He succeeded Dr Rosemary Masters and the Common Room took a little time to adjust to the new regime as Magnus was determined to make the role his own. While he is too well-rounded as a schoolmaster and as an individual to be

described as a technocrat, he intuitively saw how structures and systems can be reformed and possessed the drive and determination to steer a project through to its conclusion. Perhaps his greatest achievement at Stowe was to guide the School through a highly successful ISI inspection in 2012.

Magnus is a boarding schoolmaster to his core. We attended the same Prep and Senior Schools (King's Canterbury) and, although four years older than Magnus, I remember him as an inquisitive and likeable prep school boy, in possession of a well developed sense of right and wrong and a wry sense of humour. His experience of teaching at Sherborne, Sydney Grammar and Eton helped to form an educational philosophy rooted in the belief that every pupil has unique talents waiting to be discovered and it is a teacher's moral duty to burnish and nurture this potential. Magnus has a rich hinterland of sport, literature and theatre which gives him a facility for engaging with young people: more often than not he can find a common interest with even the most recalcitrant and truculent individual (a devoted supporter of Chelsea, he has instant recall of a plethora of football trivia). His various enthusiasms are passed on to his pupils and tutees and he encourages them to get involved and make the most of their opportunities. In the classroom, Magnus is an outstanding English teacher who establishes an atmosphere in the classroom which is purposeful and challenging. He reads widely and is not afraid to introduce pupils to challenging contemporary literature. His profound interest in theatre found an outlet when he joined the Board of Trustees of The Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton. Stoics benefitted from a number of stimulating drama workshops and talks from leading directors.

Magnus was a very effective member of the Executive Management Team. Among the structural changes which Magnus oversaw, perhaps the most complex and challenging was the restructuring of the boarding houses into streamlined and coherent teams.

The natural corollary to pastoral reform was the restructuring of academic tutoring which saw the return of more specialised Sixth Form tutors. This was accompanied by the creation of a new layer of senior management, the Faculty Chairs, an innovation which did not meet with universal acclaim when first introduced. However, the School benefits from having more robust academic leadership and clearer career pathways for members of staff serving pastoral apprenticeships before becoming Housemasters or aspiring to become Heads of Departments or Faculty Chairs.

Magnus also undertook a reform of Stowe's games provision which brought in a more diverse range of sports. The rise of soccer and rowing at Stowe is in no small measure a result of Magnus' enthusiasm for these sports. He plays cricket, soccer, runs and rows regularly. He kept his own sculling boat at Stowe and when not in his office could be found coaching and training on the Eleven Acre Lake. His own life reflects his belief that education should be holistic and that pupils and staff should be involved in the broader life of the School.

We always knew that Magnus would not be with us for long as he was always destined for headship and there is a sense of completion in the work that he did at Stowe. He and Camilla have returned to the West Country and all the reports from Milton Abbey have been very favourable indeed. Looking at the Milton Abbey website, it is already possible to detect the winds of change sweeping in from the East. It is clear that Magnus has lost none of his reforming zeal, championing the primacy of the individual while working with the grain of the institution to achieve a consensus and espousing values rooted in faith and humility. Our very best wishes to Magnus and Camilla – Milton Abbey could not be in better hands.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

Kate Clark

Kate came to us fresh out of Exeter University, with an energetic personality and drive to make a difference to all whom she crossed paths with. She did just that. On the lacrosse field, Kate was adored by her 3rd, U15B and U14B teams.

We had outstanding performances by her teams and the 3rd lacrosse team saw the best season that we have had at Stowe in a very long time. In addition to lacrosse, Kate was the graduate member of the Politics Department. Kate helped in classes as well as tutoring pupils outside the classroom. She also took on the role of deputy head of rounders in the Summer term. Kate's most outstanding achievement this year however, came both off the lacrosse field and out of

the classroom. Kate raised over £900 pounds for the charity International Service. When she hit her fundraising target of £800, she chopped her hair off and donated it to the Little Princess charity. This is a charity which makes wigs for children with Cancer. Kate will be heading to Bolivia with International Service this summer to help in the local zoo with animal rehabilitation. Kate then hopes to attend Graduate school at the University of Birmingham. Although she will be sorely missed all over campus, we wish her the best of luck on her next life adventures.

Miss Kaitlan Biondi, Head of Lacrosse



Myles Nash

We all wish Myles the best of luck in his new appointment as Housemaster and Head of Department at Leighton Park School in Reading. Myles has yearned to be a Housemaster for quite some time and it is wonderful that he, Sarah and Poppy can realise that dream after five fantastic years at Stowe. Myles has been an excellent Assistant Housemaster in Grenville having decided to take the gamble and give up his Faculty Chair position in favour of pursuing the Pastoral dream.

Here in Grenville Myles learnt the ropes, embraced the colour orange, and provided great amounts of time and care to the 'Villains' and invaluable support to me. Myles has been an exceptional Head of Department instructing and guiding new teachers and obtaining the best from his more established colleagues, while pushing the Stoics to

achieve Design and Technology's best ever grades. I hope that Myles' creative plans for the new DT building will come to fruition soon. Myles has been an enthusiastic hockey coach providing energy and succour to numerous girls' teams. Myles loves his sport in all guises and was always ready to represent the Stowe Staff with pride and passion in hockey, cricket, football and rugby. Somewhat surprisingly the rugby was the only match that Myles finished without needing to be stretched off! On the golf course Myles has learnt to enjoy all the magnificent grounds laid out by Capability Brown as he searches in vain amongst the trees, shrubbery and temples for his errant golf balls sliced wildly away from the fairway. Myles, you will be missed and I hope that you remember fondly your time in this very special place that is Stowe School.

Mr Andy Murphy, Grenville Housemaster

Emily Sinclair

Having graduated from Loughborough University in the summer of 2012, Emily joined us at Stowe as part of the Graduate Teacher Scheme, run in association with Buckingham University. In her two years as a trustworthy and reliable member of the Drama Department she has taught across the age range and coped admirably this year with the demands of both the GCSE and AS exam syllabus.

Emily's talents as a Director were clear for all to see in her excellent Junior Congreve production of 'After Juliet' in the summer of 2013 and in her thought provoking production

of the Fifth Form play 'Find Me' in March 2014. Her creative and organisational skills were used most effectively in helping to set up and run the Arts Award programme and she has been an excellent Third Form Tutor for the girls in Queen's throughout the past academic year. Although we are sad to say goodbye, we would like to wish her all the very best in her new job at Cranleigh.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Tony Chan

Tony Chan has been our 'Renaissance Man' since he joined the staff in April 2008, excelling in an astonishing variety of fields.

Nobody makes more effort to get to know Stoics and, among a pupil body of up to 770 per year, it seems that there is never one whose name he doesn't know and with whom he hasn't chatted at length by the end of the Michaelmas term. He has been strongly committed to the pastoral side of Stowe life: being a Tutor for various year groups

and an Under Housemaster in Temple; supporting the Chapel programme and faith-based activities; and running Service@Stowe for two years. He was even Housemaster for the Darren Gough Sports Academy in 2010.

He is an accomplished communicator. Although he has coached several sports (football, cricket and hockey) during his time at Stowe, it will be for his rugby commentary that he will be most widely remembered. When Stowe reached the semi-finals of the Daily Mail Cup in 2014, Tony's instant blog, recording events minute by minute in the various matches, was keenly followed by families, Old Stoics and

friends of Stowe all over the world. He brought the games to life with detailed, exciting, witty and thoroughly entertaining reportage. In addition, he has brought the history of Stowe House and Gardens to life for hundreds of visitors in his capacity as a tour-guide for the National Trust.

Academically he has excelled, teaching Language and Literature throughout the English Department and latterly lending his academic expertise to teach Latin up to GCSE Level. His talent for ICT has been invaluable to his colleagues: for example his revision packs for GCSE and A Level pupils are legendary in the English Department. In addition, for four years, he organised the Third Form XX Group for select pupils, directing their research and producing a string of memorable presentations of their projects.

Tony's nineteen terms at Stowe have been exceptionally varied and fruitful. We are losing a valued colleague to whom we wish success and happiness as he moves on to King's School, Canterbury.

Dr Paul Miller, English Department



Andrew Murphy

Andy Murphy has been an energetic, enthusiastic and proactive Housemaster. In his tenure as Grenville Housemaster he has worked really hard to increase the sense of belonging that his 'Villains' feel.

The Grenville House ethos is a very strong one and Andy has helped to nurture this with the help of a very strong House team, all of whom have worked with dedication and commitment to the cause alongside Andy. He has certainly made the most of the colour orange in helping to forge and strengthen the House ethos; orange dorm rooms, orange pens and orange 'Villains' T-shirts have all been introduced by Andy. Grenvillians are rightly proud of their House and Andy has worked very hard to ensure that this is so. He has also been widely admired within the school community and will, I hope, be responsible for two new traditions here at Stowe: the annual

pancake race held round the North Front triangle (think 'Chariots of Fire' quadrangle race but with a higher fat content) and the very impressive Caledonian Society reeling events that Andy organised. Apparently, he has also taught some Biology along the way as well as completing a Masters' Degree at Oxford to stop himself getting bored.

Andy and Gabi (who has done a brilliant job as a key member of the team in the Development Office) arrived as a young married couple and now leave us with Fletcher and Aurora (Ru) in tow, along with Holly the dog. There will always be a big part of their life here at Stowe, not least because this is where their faithful dog Seamus saw out his days. We will miss them all hugely and our loss is very much Stamford's gain, where Andy moves to become Deputy Head of the Girls' school. Goodbye Murphys and good luck.

Mr Pete Last, Senior Housemaster

Bob Roberts

Bob joined Stowe after being Acting Head of Department at his previous school; he immediately settled into Stowe life and has contributed to almost all areas of School life over the last nine years. Bob worked as a valuable member of Bruce House until he became a Sixth Form Tutor; he has also coached Yearlings and Junior Colts rugby teams as well as maintaining incredibly high standards of teaching and being second in the English Department.

Bob has also set up and run the School's link with the Durrell Trust on Jersey and with the help of the Stoics has raised thousands of invaluable pounds to help the conservation trust. Perhaps Bob's greatest legacy will be his

work with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme; using his previous experience Bob guided the scheme into new territory as it grew beyond recognition here at Stowe. I know that the Stoics who have gained from Bob's expeditions number in the hundreds! I have no doubts whatsoever, that Bob will be a fabulous Head of Department at Tudor Hall and we wish him the very best of luck. Bob is certainly one of life's nice guys and I am sure that many will keep in touch.

Mr Richard Pickersgill, PE & Sports Science Department



Jonathan Peverley

Jonathan came to Stowe in 2009, from ten years spent in industry and having decided that, when he eventually looked back on a long career, he would like his time and energies to have enhanced something more than sales figures. In short, he wanted to make a more positive difference and Stowe was the place that he chose to begin this journey. The road to ineffectual teaching is paved with good intentions and, as I'm sure Stoics will agree, a teacher's altruistic lifeplan will ultimately have little bearing on their reception if they cannot explain anything, nor engender respect from their pupils. As we now know, Jonathan had the determination and skill to match his ambition.

He quickly became an integral member of the Department, instinctively understanding its aims and the communication

and teamwork required to achieve them. Thanks to his willingness to commit, hundreds of Stoics have now benefitted from his talents, many of whom Jonathan did not officially teach. Those pupils who have found the Chemistry Department staffed near-permanently, particularly in the run-up to examinations, will know the role that Jonathan played in enabling this and we are all grateful to him.

Embracing the wider life of the School, Jonathan also became pivotal to the running of rowing and CCF, both of which he has strengthened considerably in his five years at Stowe. He leaves to become Head of Chemistry at Oundle, which is only as it should be and leaves many holes to be filled; one can only hope that the next incumbent has Jonathan's ability to be so simultaneously amiable and effective.

Mr Daren Jeffreys, Head of Chemistry



Steve Dachtler

Steve arrived at Stowe in September 2012 as part of the Graduate Teacher Scheme, run in association with Buckingham University. Steve took to teaching like the proverbial duck to water and with his firm, organised and charismatic approach he quickly immersed himself in the many facets of Stowe life from

the classroom to the sports field. He has been a most supportive and effective member of the Drama Department.

Steve's directing credits include some great work on the Senior Congreve production of 'Cabaret' in November 2013 and on the Junior Congreve production of 'Tonight at 8.30' in June 2014. Away from his commitments in Drama, Steve has been heavily involved with coaching rugby and cricket and he has been an excellent Third Form Tutor in Grenville throughout the past academic year. Steve leaves us to join Oakham School and we wish him a fond farewell.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama

Daphné Moret

We normally welcome French Assistants who come to us for a year in order to improve their English, and rarely do we get someone whose English is as good as Daphné's from the onset. Whilst this is not essential, it certainly helps to integrate much faster in this busy community that is Stowe.

Very quickly Daphné established herself as a reliable member of the MFL Department whose main task was preparing Lower Sixth Form French pupils for their oral exam. She did this with great professionalism, preparing wonderful interactive lessons that enabled Stoics to develop their oral fluency and knowledge of the French culture. Her patient and encouraging approach meant Stoics were able to communicate with her openly, without feeling intimidated. Her job didn't end there though; she was also allocated

a number of Fifth Form sets where she assisted the class teacher in preparing pupils for their Controlled Assessments. Again, she did this very efficiently; always making sure pupils understood what was required of them and showing them ways to improve their spoken work. Having worked with her in our newly formed Languages Club, I was most impressed by how composed she always was, helping pupils to formulate what were often complex ideas in a language that wasn't their own. She will also be remembered fondly by all the girls in Queen's, where she did regular duties alongside Jane Hamblett-Jahn. On behalf of everyone in the French Department, I would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Lucy Ashe

Lucy arrived at Stowe from Oxford University four years ago and, from the moment she started, was the epitome of professionalism. Having studied English at St Hugh's College, she came to Stowe with an outstanding grounding in an impressive range of English Literature and brought high academic standards to her teaching. She has also been very active in running the Junior Literary Society and hosting the Sixth Form Book Club, all of which would have been much duller without her enthusiasm.

As well as her role as a highly valued member of the English Department, she was also a crucial member of the team in Queen's House, latterly taking on the Assistant Housemistress role with gusto. She soon formed an excellent relationship with the staff in the House and, more importantly, with the girls who were extremely fond of her, especially her most recent Fourth Form Tutor group.

Taking on two such important roles was not enough for Lucy, however, as she is a driven and highly motivated person. Firstly, her passion for dance – honed in her years at the Royal Ballet School – meant that she single-handedly

started ballet as an activity for the first time at Stowe, even taking some pupils as far as public examinations. She was also a regular aerobics instructor, sitting her qualifications in the summer before coming to Stowe and her sessions were always packed. She was also the go-to choreographer for any performances which needed a dance element, most notably in the recent School production of 'Cabaret' and the annual Luffield Festival. Finally, she was the staff member who made last year's charity fashion show possible in February, bringing her usual glamour and sophistication to proceedings.

Lucy leaves Stowe to take up a position as English and Drama Teacher at Harrow School, a position where she will, no doubt, continue to flourish. As a successful marathon runner, she will miss her regular runs through the grounds of Stowe, particularly as the area around Harrow is far less picturesque. We will miss her energy, intellect and constant good cheer, but wish her well in the knowledge that this is an ideal time for her to progress and gain experience of a quite different environment.

Mr William Goldsmith, Head of English



Ursula Harrison

After 15 years at Stowe, Ursula Harrison retired in June 2014. Working with the Senior Tutor, Ursula filled the vital role of issuing APGs, reports and co-ordinating a plethora of academic administrative issues as well as looking after parents meetings and the minute detail of arrangements for the distribution of prizes on Speech Day.

Ever alert, with enormous capacity for detail and an eagle eye, Ursula will be greatly missed by everyone at Stowe.

On an unseasonably cold and windy day in June, members of staff from all areas of the School gathered to wish her a long and happy retirement. The numbers present and their various roles at the School were testament to the affection in which she is held by everyone at Stowe. We know Ursula will be back as she is a regular supporter of the School's music events and has promised to return for these. We look forward to seeing her often.

Mr Nick Morris, Director of Operation

Tony Lambourne

We are fortunate to have many long-standing loyal staff at Stowe and February marked the retirement of Tony Lambourne, who has been an electrician in the Estates Department for over sixteen years.

Tony's diligence and commitment to an unsung but essential role were acknowledged at a gathering in the Marble Saloon attended by many members of the teaching staff in addition

to Tony's colleagues from across the support staff. As well as enjoying having more time with their grandchildren, Tony and his wife Lydia will be continuing their contribution to their local community, where they help in managing a voluntary day centre. We wish Tony a long, happy and enjoyable retirement.

Mr Nick Morris, Director of Operations



Jane Hamblett-Jahn

Appointed in 1991 as an Economics teacher and Under Housemistress of Nugent, Jane rapidly made her mark on Stowe. Even as a young and inexperienced teacher, she was described by the then Headmaster, Jeremy Nichols, as 'articulate, slightly cautious but enthusiastic'. By the way, she also cited an interest in falconry on her CV which surely secured her the post in a school housed in a ducal mansion. She rose to be Head of Economics and Politics in 1994 but also found the time to marry

Micha who was also working at Stowe.

But it was to the post of Housemistress of Lyttelton in 1996 that she was appointed and where she learned her skills as a very fine Housemistress of, eventually and uniquely, two Stowe girls' Houses. She was rightly praised for her commitment to the girls' academic success; her good and caring rapport and strict discipline. She coped magnificently with the gamut of problems to be encountered in every boarding house, but, in 2001 it was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Jane when she left Lyttelton and Stowe to support Micha in his career and to have her family.

But she could not stay away. We had a temporary substitute in the form of her sister, Leah, but Jane returned to see her initials back in The Blue Book. So she was appointed the founding Housemistress of Queen's House in 2007 and it was to her that HM The Queen was presented. Jane created a true House spirit, much in the mould of her Lyttelton days, working with her excellent team of House staff and a superb symbiotic relationship with her Matron. She has been characterised as being like a Cadbury's Cream Egg – tough on the outside with a completely soft centre. To put it more simply, Jane knows her girls inside out – their strengths and weaknesses. She is fully supportive of them, organising and encouraging, especially in their exam preparation. As a fine teacher of Economics and Politics she was respected for her challenges and high expectations of her pupils.

We are sad to lose Jane yet again and we wish her and her family all the very best for their futures in Brighton but given the cyclical nature of history I have no doubt that Jane will return to Stowe.

Mr Crispin Robinson, Deputy Headmaster (Academic)

Academic Report

We began and celebrated the new academic year (2013-14) with our second-best A Level results: 69.4% A-B. Also, we were further encouraged by the high numbers of Stoics who move on to the Russell Group universities as well as those attending other, equally important Higher Education institutions of Art, Drama and Music. Stowe's Academic Departments with outstanding Value Added at A Level (acc. ALPS data) were: Art; Chemistry; DT (Resistant Materials); Theatre Studies; English; History; History of Art; ICT; Music and Spanish. Similarly, AS results improved on last year with 55.5% AB and GCSEs came in with 46% A*A. These were very good results. Stoics and staff should be congratulated for their excellent efforts and achievements.*

As ever, the Department for Education is promulgating Michael Gove's changes which are trickling through to take us back to his halcyon days of the gold standard A Levels. It would also appear that the impending General Election will make little difference to the introduction of these reforms. AS exams are to vanish as the first part of the A2 exam, to become a discrete exam which few pupils will take as most independent schools are likely to return to three A Level choices taken over two years and examined in the final June. Very few of the new specifications (to be taught from September 2015) are available yet but those that are have been made tougher, content heavy and clearly present a greater challenge and leap from GCSE, which are themselves being revised. The new A Levels are being introduced over three years – 2015-17 – which will provide Stoics with a melange of exam types (linear and modular) and new and old specifications whilst these reforms bed down.

After the successes of this year's Upper Sixth, we are looking to introduce more Stoics to the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) as a chance for them to research independently a topic or project of personal interest to them. Some of the projects covered included: planning and showing of an exhibition of 20th Century prints; planning and executing a cycle ride around Buckinghamshire Historic Monuments and Designing Route Cards; Researching and designing a booklet aimed at adolescent Diabetics, to help them to manage their condition through a time of growing independence and vulnerability; Researching, designing and selling (!) a computer game. Long essays included: 'Was Religion the primary cause of the English Civil War?' and, 'Is Jersey more French than English?'

The most exciting development on the boarding front is the creation of West House, named after the minor



18th Century poet, Gilbert West who wrote the little remembered poem entitled, 'Stowe, the Gardens of the Right Honourable Richard, Lord Viscount Cobham (1732)'. This new Sixth Form House is formed from the three former staff houses in Home Park, with the girls and boys and their resident Tutors living either side of the central house, to be occupied by the Housemaster and Housemistress (Roland and Julie Johnson) with the central Common Room and huge gardens behind. We have had a lot of interest in this Sixth Form House and House colours have already been chosen (based on West's own coat of arms) and an official House Badge will be obtained (as we did with both Queen's and Stanhope Houses), from the Windsor Herald at the College of Arms.

2013-14 saw the opening of the Chung Music School by HRH Prince Michael of Kent whose speech in English and Russian endeared him to his international audience, which included the finest musicians of the Russian National Orchestra. There can be no doubt that Stowe now possesses a Music School which is outstanding not just in its scale but in its facilities. Populated with Steinway pianos, the latest in music technology, the building holds twelve teaching studios, eight practice rooms and a further seven specialised classrooms, plus the fine Ugland Auditorium for concerts, chamber recitals etc. Stoics have the finest provision in which to make all types of music and become musicians of the highest standards for many years to come.

Next door, and not to be forgotten, is the Roxburgh Hall with its three years of transition and refurbishment completed. The fine theatre space is now much more flexible with the main stage allowing for smaller spaces and additional seating. Additionally, the old music and drama rooms have been transformed into exciting and challenging theatrical spaces. The old Dobinson Theatre has had to be converted to accommodate two new classrooms for the Philosophy and Religion Department, whose shabby single-storey classrooms will be demolished this summer and the space opened up to restore the back of the Maths Building and create a more visually attractive route through the academic avenue.

All these renewed or new buildings host the new Arts at Stowe programme of concerts, lectures, recitals, plays and musicals, poetry readings, art courses and music workshops. These are open to the Stoics, the local community and of course Old Stoics. The programme is available on the website.

Next summer (2015) sees the start of the refurbishment of the Wolfson Science Building, including six new labs and a Sixth Form study area for the increase in numbers taking up the Sciences at A Level. Since Science is at the core of the GCSE curriculum and one of the most successful of Faculties, the new enhanced facilities will complement the brilliance of the teaching and ensure that Stowe remains at the forefront of education in and understanding of Science.

This is my last Academic report for 'The Stoic' as Deputy Headmaster (Academic) as I hand over the reins to Julie Potter, our new Director of Studies who joins us in September from Berkhamsted. She has exciting plans for the curriculum, working with the Faculty Chairs and Heads of Department, as we face yet more changes to public exams in the next few years, as well as continuing to improve Stowe's academic provision.

Mr Crispin Robinson, Deputy Headmaster (Academic)

Mathematics

Another busy year has seen the Mathematics Department grow in numbers and teachers. Results last year were excellent at all levels as A Level results continue to flourish while greater numbers opt to follow either the AS or the full Further Mathematics A Level alongside the single Maths. At GCSE, the top end remain as strong as ever while the lower end outperformed expectations; some learners began their Fifth Form as severe concerns under the modular scheme but ultimately achieved C (or in one case a B) grades sitting the linear exam – it certainly bodes well for this year's exams as all pupils are now following the linear course. We have already earned 8 A*s from pupils in the top set who sat their GCSE in the last ever November early entry session with Dot Holt setting a new high score record with 193/200. Congratulations to all those Stoics.

Within the classroom, pupils continue to be pushed and stretched in their lessons, approaching topics creatively as the emphasis becomes ever more upon problem solving; occasionally they have to think for themselves! Visits include lectures at the London Institute for our brighter, older pupils while the younger ones have participated in our puzzle day as well the Maths Society talks (next year as part of the XX Group presentations and discussions). The UK Maths Challenge was, as usual, a challenge with Patrick Devlin leading the Gold Awards in the Senior section of the competition. In the Intermediate section only Toby Lawrance kept the Gold standard flying (also qualifying for the Kangaroo round) despite record numbers of Silver awards. Stowe also entered the UKMC team competitions performing creditably at both Senior and Intermediate level – entering not just one but two Intermediate teams for the first time.

There are changes again in the Mathematics Department. With only a one year placement our Harvard Fellow, Zach Sherwood, made an immediate impact with his baritone voice ringing warmly through the building and we wish him well as he follows up with a finance position back in New York. Rosemary Trace has been a stalwart of the Maths Department for many years, carefully coaxing Stoics to accept that Maths is not impossible and is now stepping back from teaching classes although she will still be found in the Skills Department. Fiona James, our recent acquisition from Wellington College, set about getting the pupils to write on the whiteboards that covered the walls of her classroom but has proved to be such a success that promotion to Housemistress (Queen's) felt inevitable leading to a reduced presence in the Department. However this leads us to the new additions – Wayne Whittaker from Manchester comes in as a full time teacher and is an excellent practitioner while Michael Chilazi is the new Harvard Fellow with great expectations ahead (Zach's a tough act to follow). The Maths Department is also fortunate to have Vishes Kothari as a Graduate Assistant who comes to us from Cambridge. We bid fond farewells to our leavers and a warm welcome to the new additions.

Mr Damian Blewitt, Head of Mathematics

English

This is a year of change for the English Department, both in terms of staff and curriculum. At the end of this year, we are losing three members of staff – Mr Roberts, Mr Chan and Ms Ashe – all of whom have been much-loved by pupils, parents and staff alike. Mr Roberts is moving on to be Head of English at Tudor Hall, a well deserved promotion, while Mr Chan will be putting his energies into a new life at King's School Canterbury and Ms Ashe is taking up a position at Harrow. We also said farewell to Mr Bashaarat in December who is now Headmaster at Milton Abbey School. For all of them, these moves are excellent next steps in their career and we are delighted for them. However, we will miss their energy, expertise and enthusiasm. In addition to the changes in personnel, we are also looking forward to a new curriculum for GCSE as we add an 'I' to the front of those four letters as we will be preparing next year's Fourth Formers for the Cambridge International GCSEs from September of this year. It is an exciting development which we are confident will enable our pupils to shine even further in this subject for both Language and Literature.

In our external examinations, the Department continues to see both reasons for celebration and certain frustrations. Our results for GCSE Literature continue to be very high with 44% of our pupils gaining an A or A* grade while our AS English Literature results were also very pleasing as 38% of pupils gained an A grade, our highest number for many years. However, we were unhappy with the quality of marking for GCSE English Language and A2 English Literature, although in the latter our excellent coursework marks meant that all our pupils gained the grades they needed for the university choices. By moving away from domestic GCSEs to IGCSEs, we are hoping to avoid the vagaries of the marking process for domestic GCSE examinations.

As ever, the Department runs a full and varied programme of extra-curricular activities which bring in a large number of Stoics at all levels. The Senior Literary Society will make

its own report but it is important to mention the work done by Ms Ashe and her Junior Literary Society which pulled in a bumper crop of Fourth and Fifth Formers, engaging in a range of activities, including the creative writing you can see scattered throughout this year's edition of 'The Stoic'. The Sixth Form Book Club has also continued to develop with a mix of lighter ('The Talented Mr Ripley' and 'Sweet Tooth') and more conventionally literary ('The Bell Jar' and Virginia Woolf's 'Orlando') novels, while both Mrs Ackroyd and I have been heavily involved in House and School Debating. Mrs Ackroyd has been particularly busy with a friendly competition between local schools such as Chenderit and Akeley Wood, organising a competition and training local schools at Stowe and accompanying the newly formed Debating Committee to the Warwick University debate training which even saw one member of the team reaching the final.

Within lessons, we have again witnessed the Headmaster's Recital Competition for Third Form pupils, where they recited more challenging poems by heart. The joint winners, Ingrid Galler and Jack McClure, wowed the audience with their renditions of 'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou and Mark Anthony's famous verse speech from Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' respectively. The young fiction writer, Bali Rai, was also highly acclaimed by Third Formers when he came to read his work and run a series of workshops in lessons; thanks to Mrs Miller for organising this very successful event.

As we say farewell to departing colleagues and pupils, we now look forward to a team of fresh faces with the arrival of Caroline Bagshaw from the Royal Latin School, Fergus Parnaby from Abbeyfield School and George Purves from Monkton School. They have been to Stowe on several occasions and are all very excited about joining the Department.

Mr William Goldsmith, Head of English

About me

I wish I was a bird soaring above the mess
 Dancing among the clouds and gliding through the blue.
 Pirouetting and interlacing amongst the winds,
 My partner and I performing a romantic pas de deux.
 The way the birds tour en l'air and wheel through the heavens
 Makes my heart yearn for a less earthly existence.
 But never will I fly above the heads of innocent onlookers
 Or have a simple life that is already carved out in century old paths in the air.
 I am bound to be a walker on two legs and forever looking up.

Madeleine Jordan (Fifth Form)

creative writing

Science

Our mission to expand Science education beyond the classroom has gone very well and our focus has been our Sixth Form provision this year. We have had more Sixth Formers than ever before getting involved with the Quantum and Biomedical Societies, the Stowe Science Review was launched and for the first time in many years pupils have entered for the Chemistry Olympiad. These activities are important to help to stimulate the interest of pupils, support their applications for science based degrees at competitive universities as well as to allow us all to enjoy the beauty of Science.

The Stowe Science Review (SSR) was launched by Egor Turyev and Matthew Selvey and has quickly established itself as a fascinating magazine covering a broad area of science and technology. After their striking first issue they have expanded their team and managed to produce a second issue in time for everyone to read over the holidays. The magazine, which is written, edited and desktop published entirely by the pupils, has already found wide readership and continues to attract very positive comments and promote other Stoics to put themselves forward to write articles on areas that interest them. Anybody else who wants to get involved can contact Egor and Matthew via the SSR email address sciencereview@stowe.co.uk.

Those who entered the Chemistry Olympiad found it a very valuable experience and this has complemented the enrichment activities for our Sixth Form in all three of the Sciences. Next year we are looking to expand this extra-curricular provision down into the Lower School whilst still expanding what we do for our Senior scientists.

We have continued to advance our belief that Science education should be an exciting joy of discovery for our pupils. This of course means making full use of new technology to enhance what we already do very well. The Biology Department has used iPads in a number of innovative areas and we now have a full set of iPads for class use across Science. The Chemistry Department has been using Blackberry Playbooks and Physics continue to develop their use of technology in many areas. This has been the first full year of StoweNet – Stowe's new media-rich and highly flexible intranet system that our Science staff have been putting to very good use. All preps are now routinely set or recorded on StoweNet and this has opened up many possibilities for the use of video and multi-media content as part of pupil work away from the classroom. Assignments that make use of a full range of resources have been set on the system so that they can be done, submitted and marked, even before the next lesson!

The exciting plans for the extension and full refurbishment of the Science building are coming on very well. I would like to thank all of those who have already pledged their support for this project which will provide us with the best facilities to deliver Science education at Stowe and help us to produce top quality Scientists to lead future generations. There is a national shortage of engineers and scientists so



we are delighted that more of our pupils than ever before have successfully applied for science, engineering or medical based courses at very competitive universities. With offers from Oxford, Imperial, Bristol, Edinburgh, York and Manchester, to name just a few, their futures certainly seem bright! The Science building project will provide two extra laboratories in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as a Sixth Form science library, well planned areas for Stoics and staff to work in all three Departments, an exhibition area in the new entrance and a 60-seat lecture theatre.

We have been very pleased with our work to spread the news of Stowe Science to prep schools and through the activities during Open Mornings and Taster Days. This year we have been delighted to welcome whole year groups from Beachborough School and Swanbourne House School for what have now become regular annual visits. Ashfold School's Scholars Club also came up for the first time and I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon with them, discussing theory and experimenting in the laboratories before having a chance to show them some of my favourite demonstrations.

I would like to thank all of our Science staff for their dedication in moving forward our delivery of science whilst at the same time, through their great efforts, keeping focused on present pupils ensuring that they can enjoy their science to the full and end up with excellent results. Our results last summer were our best year ever considering both GCSE and A Level. With Chemistry and Physics topping the School's GCSE results tables and with Biology very close behind, we have a lot to be proud of. Science goes from strength to strength here and with the exciting plans for the Science building project on the horizon, it is a very exciting time to be teaching and learning Science at Stowe.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science



Chemistry

The academic year began with the Department in buoyant mood, following another set of outstanding external examination results. Amongst the many highlights was the performance of our Fifth Form who recorded the highest number of A* grades of any subject, with an amazing 36% of candidates obtaining the highest grade. Not only this, but a fairly unbelievable 33 pupils (36% of candidates!) achieved a full 100% in the final C3 examination. To have improved upon last year's superb results is, in itself, quite remarkable but to have done so in the face of an official results warning for the GCSE Sciences and a national 1.1% fall in the number of A*/A grades awarded is cause for great celebration. At the forefront of this exceptional A* haul were 5T, who proved a flagship set by obtaining a complete set of Chemistry A* grades, with 19/22 of them also registering 100% in the C3 examination.

Oxbridge success also continues unabated, and, with at least ten Sixth Form Stoics planning to pursue a pure Chemistry degree and many more committed to Chemistry-based courses, we are proud that Stowe continues to buck the national trend by sending bright and motivated pupils to study science at the UK's best universities.

Chemistry is all about interactions and, as such, the Department has not been entirely insular this year. In March, we made our annual visit to Oxford University's undergraduate laboratories where a group of twelve Stoics was able to synthesise organic compounds and subject them to NMR and IR spectroscopic analysis. Two Lower Sixth pupils, James Macdonald-Buchanan and Caspar Whitehead, also won themselves a place at a Chemistry Masterclass, hosted by Cambridge University. Throughout the year, fellow Chemist and Head of Science, Mr Tearle, has been giving several masterclasses of his own – sharing his vision of Chemistry with visitors to the School.

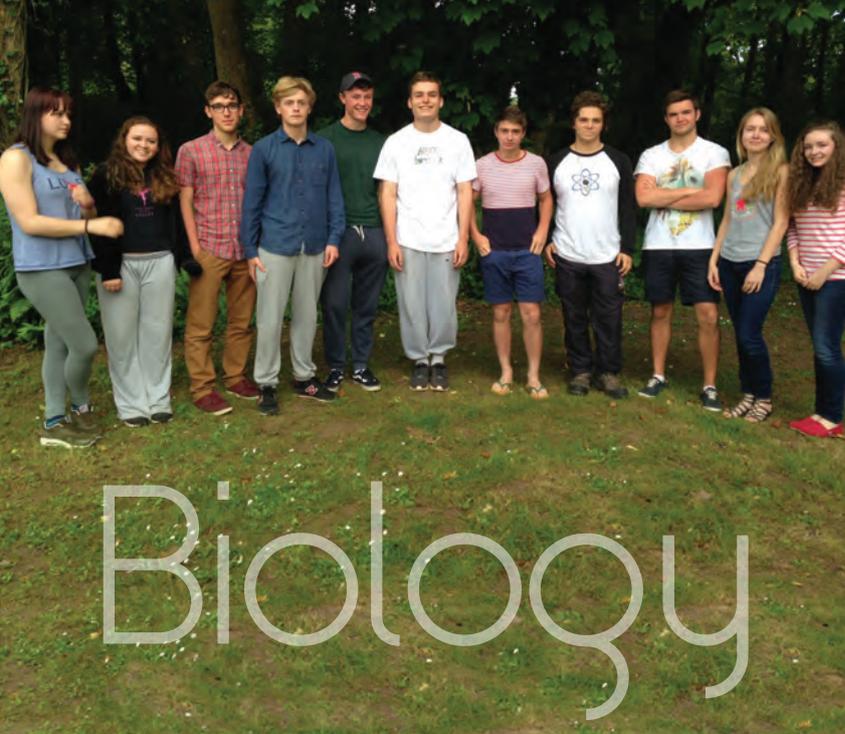
For the first time, certainly in recent history, a group of Lower Sixth Stoics competed in The Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad. Designed as a fiendish test of an individual's ability to use chemical and mathematical

pro prowess to solve a series of unseen problems, the competition is primarily designed for Upper Sixth pupils. Despite this level of challenge and only four preparation sessions, under the tutelage of Mr Peverley, these Lower Sixth Stoics acquitted themselves extremely well, with Silver Medals being awarded to Adesola Kazeem, William Pepera, Rebecca Wild and Caspar Whitehead and Bronze Medals won by Molly Allington, Thomas Dixon and James Macdonald-Buchanan.

The year drew to a close with the Department's involvement in Stowe's THINK!about programme for the Third and Fourth Form in which the pivotal role that Chemistry plays in our lives was examined through thematic activity sessions. On the theme of 'Life and Death', Stoics pondered how to survive on a desert island, employing the chemistry of metal extraction and electrochemical cells to create batteries which, in turn, could electrolyse sea water, producing the chemicals to create soap and paper. As part of the 'Food' activity, the polymorphic nature of chocolate was revealed, explaining how altering the crystal structure of chocolate, rather than just the ingredients used, can change both its texture and its taste.

Mr Daren Jeffreys, Head of Chemistry





Another successful year in the Biology Department culminated in our annual A2 Field Course to Orielton in Pembrokeshire. We were blessed with exceptionally good weather and there is nothing like a tanning opportunity to add to the dizzying excitement of sand dune succession studies. Rocky shore zonation was contemplated in depth and woodland conservation, freshwater ecology and population studies were also targeted. The A2 biologists are now fully equipped with knowledge and examples for the ecology section of unit four. In other areas of the Department results at all levels were very encouraging and Value Added scores were good. We now enter a period of transition with a proposed move to a new building next year and Louise Carter taking over from myself as Head of Department. This year's GCSE and A2 results are anticipated to be strong, with three medics all aiming for A/A* grades alongside other Stoics needing top grades in order to fulfil their offers from Russell Group universities.

Mr Rory Akam, Head of Biology

Physics

This academic year has seen many changes within the Physics Department. We lost Mr Ian Findlay-Palmer to become Head of Physics at St George's, Weybridge. We were fortunate to gain Mr Paul Thompson from Walton High in Milton Keynes via Albert Grammar School, New Zealand; he has fitted in very well and is proving to be an asset to the Department.

The Department had two main challenges this year; one was the move from OCR-B Physics A Level course to the AQA-A Physics A Level. I feel the course follows on well from the AQA GCSE Physics course and is well resourced and more applicable to our pupils. It also has a practical examination element rather than coursework which I feel will suit our pupils better. The other challenge was to prepare our pupils at GCSE for the examination of all modules in the summer as opposed to the modular nature of the course previously. This meant our pupils had to prepare for three examinations in the final session.

Again this year, Stowe hosted the Extreme Physics events, which is where young Physicists from across the country compete in a three day Physics competition. The event has become so popular that it is repeated on the subsequent three days.

The Department performed many Open Day presentations inside and outside School, where Mr Malling's Weird Science demonstrations show the creation of solid nitrogen, liquid oxygen, magnetic levitation and many other amazing sights using the extremes of low temperatures.

Next year we have two interesting potential opportunities, Mr Malling and some Sixth Formers will be preparing a high altitude balloon to carry out experiments on its way up and Mr Thompson is keen to start a Lower School robotics team to enter a national competition.

The pupils have gained some impressive awards this year, with Jamie Angle being awarded the much coveted Arkwright Scholarship and Charles Pilleau gaining a Nuffield placement at Imperial College. His report follows.

Mr Dick Carpenter, Head of Physics

Stoic, Charles Pilleau, writes:

When Mr Malling was asked for advice as to suitable work experience for those looking to study engineering at university, he suggested that we might look at the Nuffield Foundation who offer research placements of 4-6 weeks in different institutions for those studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for A Levels.

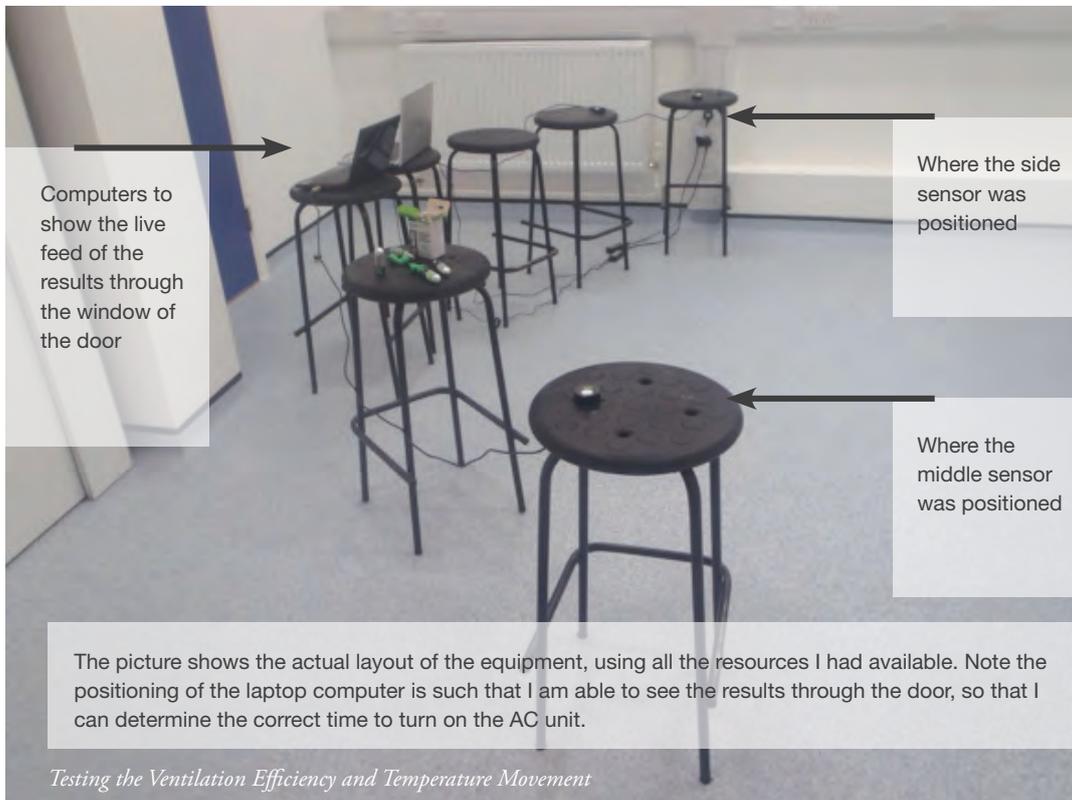
Having researched the Nuffield Foundation, I decided to apply in January 2013 for a Research Placement over the summer holidays. Nuffield had stipulated that placements for 2013 could not be awarded for pupils at independent, fee paying schools. Very fortunately, however, the London co-ordinator had been newly appointed that year and was keen to fulfil her quota for the year and I had applied very early into the process. I was told therefore that, at that stage, I could not be formally sponsored or helped by the Nuffield Foundation, but that if I found a suitable placement myself, she would see what she could do to bend the rules. She also suggested that I might like to look at Imperial College London.

I came across the Laing O'Rourke Centre for Systems Engineering and Innovation at Imperial College London. Because of the complexities of modern Civil Engineering, universities are often asked to provide advice and possible solutions to very difficult technical problems. As a consequence Laing O'Rourke, a very large British civil engineering firm, but with many projects throughout the world, has sponsored a number of research centres at leading universities. Very luckily, when I made contact with Ms Alexandra Williams, the administrator at the Laing O'Rourke Centre at Imperial College, she immediately understood the opportunity of expanding Laing O'Rourke's research assistance into schools and offered to see what she could do to find a suitable project and supervisor for me.

I was offered a 4-5 week project during July, subject to a number of caveats from Nuffield, and I was asked to visit Imperial College during the summer Half term to meet Ms Williams and Dr North. What I wasn't told was that, what

I had thought was to be a low key ‘meet and greet’ interview was in fact a 40 minute intensive technical interview in which I had to impress in order for the placement offer to be confirmed. I had done some research on Laing O’Rourke and so all went well and the placement was confirmed by Imperial College and by the Nuffield Foundation.

Dr North, my supervisor, explained that a new laboratory was to be opened at Imperial College London in late June/early July, and I was to evaluate its Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system and to confirm that it met its design requirements. During the placement I spent the first two weeks researching the topic, setting out my experiments and learning how to use the various test equipment.



Sadly I was set back because the construction of the laboratory over ran and the opening was delayed until the third week of July. As a result I didn’t manage to get enough time in the laboratory to do all the experiments I had planned. However, I was able to get sufficient results to confirm that the HVAC System in the laboratory did indeed meet its design criteria. After completing the experiments I then had to complete a formal (36 page) scientific paper on my research project and which was formally submitted, and favourably received by Laing O’Rourke. It was also up to the high standards of the British Science Association for them to grant me a Gold CREST Award and which was given to me in October at the formal presentation of all the London area Nuffield projects at Imperial College London.

The CREST awards are endorsed by UCAS and I would strongly recommend that anyone looking to apply to university to study Engineering or a Science based degree apply for a Nuffield placement as it is a good experience and good fun. It also helps getting offers from the leading universities. In my case I have been given offers from Bath and Bristol to study Civil Engineering where both offers are for effectively two grades above my combined predictions thanks to my placement.



Geography

The Geography Department has enjoyed another superb year with very pleasing academic results in all the public examinations. At A2 60% of our pupils attained A*-B grades and at AS 58% gained at least a B grade. At GCSE we were delighted with 54% gaining an A* or A and 92% gained at least a B, our best ever results. Thirteen Stoics went to university to study geography related disciplines and well over half our pupils gained their top grade in geography. Additionally, field trips took place to China, North Wales, Buckingham and Water Stratford for river studies. With record numbers taking geography at GCSE and AS the future seems extremely positive.

The annual Upper Sixth Geography trip began directly after the Coldstream Cup when we departed for North Wales. After a long coach journey we arrived at the Centre where we all quickly settled in for the night; we were delighted with the accommodation which had been expected to be very modest but actually was fairly luxurious by fieldwork standards! The first day we were split up into groups and went our different ways to carry out fieldwork investigations. After returning to the Centre, we all had an afternoon and evening of writing up our projects, which although tiring is hugely beneficial for the Skills paper in June. After much hard work we were able to take some time to relax, although most Stoics took

to their beds after a long half of term. The second day was an early start with the groups departing for different locations; one group went to Harlech sand dunes, while the other went to Crickieth beach. Although we were there to work, both groups were able to enjoy lunch on the beach before heading back to the Centre to complete the rest of the projects. On the final day the groups joined together to collect data in the nearby town of Porthmadog. We managed to source a lot of information and we were again very lucky with the weather. Harry Hayden became a champion of the Welsh language and once we had carried out the task we all had some time to explore the town and go into a café for something to eat, which proved popular with everyone. After returning to the Centre, we continued typing up our observations from the data collected in the field. Both groups managed to finish relatively early, which was a huge achievement and this allowed time for us to enjoy some extra free time and then to pack for the early morning start which marked Half term and a much needed holiday for all concerned.

Once again we all enjoyed North Wales. After over 25 years of Stowe attending Plas we have decided to move our base to Pembroke for 2015. We can only hope that South Wales will be as kind to us!

Mr Matthew Perriss, Head of Geography



Left behind

The earthy scent wafted into my nose with the wind as it dragged up from the pile of soil at my side. Looking around the pale drawn faces and hollow lifeless eyes around me reminded me that my face was the same. Black fabrics surrounded us and I barely registered the biting wind as it tore through my clothes. The water from the rain mixed with the tears shed from the pain. I wrapped my arms around myself as some sort of armour against that pain, but I knew it was futile – the pain I felt was from the gaping hole in my chest. I shuddered as yet another sob racked my body. The thump of soil as it was thrown back to where it was from; the white cloth encasing the box was a complete contrast to the scene encasing it. The wind carried the monotonous and solitary voice of the vicar away from us as though it was desperately fleeing the cloud of misery that hung around us, so strong I could nearly taste it. As the final handful of soil fell with a final thump – like the last heartbeat before it fails – the vicar's voice became clear – ashes to ashes, dust to dust. All I could think is that none should be left behind.

By Francesca Knight (Fifth Form)

creative writing

History

History at Stowe continues to flourish after another very successful and busy year. The examination results were once again very pleasing with 76% of leavers securing an A or B grade. The subject has continued to increase in popularity with the Sixth Form cohort standing at 108 making History one of the largest Departments in the School. The new additions to the team have fitted in incredibly well. Dr Charlie Standley joined us from Reading University after a number of years as a lecturer and has impressed us all with his extensive subject knowledge. Stoics have been particular in awe of Dr Standley due to his minor celebrity status as a winner on 'Pointless'. Howard Hoare, a new arrival from Chase Grammar has also proved a huge success. He has brought much to the Junior Pitt Society hosting balloon debates on topics including the First World War and the Romans.

A Department initiative this year was the Humanities Prep Schools' Competition. In March the School welcomed seven Prep Schools to compete in The Winton Cup. The idea of the day was to inspire young people to engage with various humanities subjects and begin to appreciate how they learn through exploration, how to think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions. The contest was named in honour of Old Stoic and humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton, MBE, who organised the rescue of 669 mostly Jewish children from German-occupied Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Second World War.

The format of the day was a series of sessions involving the Philosophy and Religion, History, History of Art and Geography Departments within the School. Each subject planned an array of engaging activities that linked to the various virtues displayed by Sir Nicholas. Through examining other inspirational Britons in the Elysian Fields as well as considering whether it is easy to be virtuous in the 21st Century, the pupils were left contemplating a series of interesting moral questions. The History Department contributed to the successful day with an exploration of the myth surrounding the Elizabethan 'Gloriana' years.

Part of the Department's ethos is to offer pupils as much choice as possible; therefore Stoics can choose either a 16th or 20th Century programme of study. The early modern course focuses on the changing nature of social order and royal authority in the late medieval and early modern period. Pupils delve into the huge religious and political upheaval of the Tudor era and are offered an overview of Spanish history in the same period. The modern option examines individual rights and power relationships in the 19th and 20th Centuries with a specific focus on American and British political history as well as an overview of the modernisation of Russia. The Russian side of the course has



been further enriched by the visit of a number of eminent historians, with a particular highlight the lecture given by Dr Katya Andreyev from Christ Church, Oxford, on the impact of the reforms of Tsar Alexander II.

The History extension society continues to rise in prominence with weekly meetings and formal dinners to celebrate the visit of notable historians to the School. The Department welcomed ten speakers this year with the most popular being the eminent Political historian, Lord Peter Hennessy, who gave a compelling talk on his latest publication 'Distilling the Frenzy: writing the history of one's own times'. The audience present were immediately captivated by a considered discussion of quite what characterises and drives the history-making of the post-war generation. Dispelling the popular perception of austerity and a declining empire, Lord Hennessy promoted the idea of a nation surging ahead in military and industrial technologies. The cross-bench peer went on to confront the issues of Scottish independence and Britain's relationship with the European Union, comparing our relationship with Scotland to the EU's relationship with us.

The McElwee Award continues to be a major highlight for all historians looking to broaden their cultural understanding of the subject. Bill McElwee taught at Stowe for thirty years (1932-1962) with a gap for service during the Second World War in which he was awarded the MC. Following his death in 1978 a Trust was established in his memory which has helped to fund travel scholarships for Stowe historians over the last thirty years. This year saw the award presented to four pairs of Stoics: Georgia Alderton and Molly Suthers who intend to follow in the footsteps of James Joyce through the major cities he lived in whilst writing Ulysses; Honor Brady and Alice Gurr who intend to explore the links between the history of fashion and the feminist movement through a visit to various destinations in France; Paul Henkel and George Barham who aim to examine the history and importance of Weimar to Germany; lastly Henry Sylvester and Magnus Sligo-Young will be assessing the influence of the Moors on the architecture and culture of Andalucia.

Mr James Hayden, Head of History

Philosophy & Religion

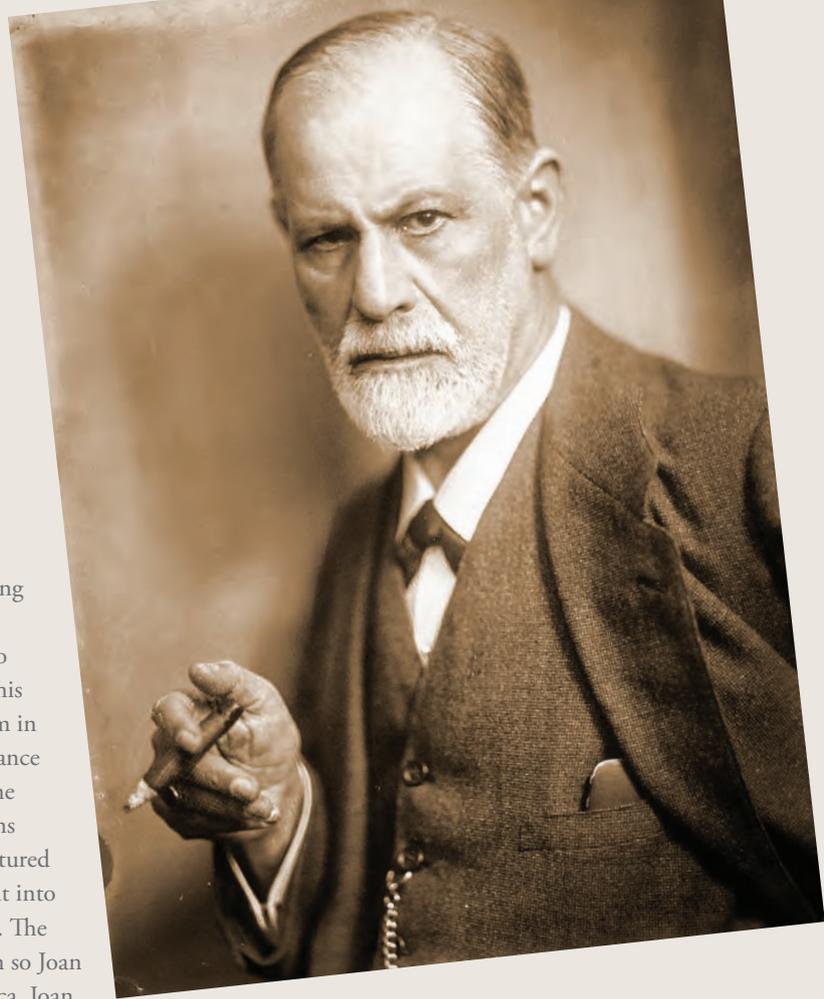
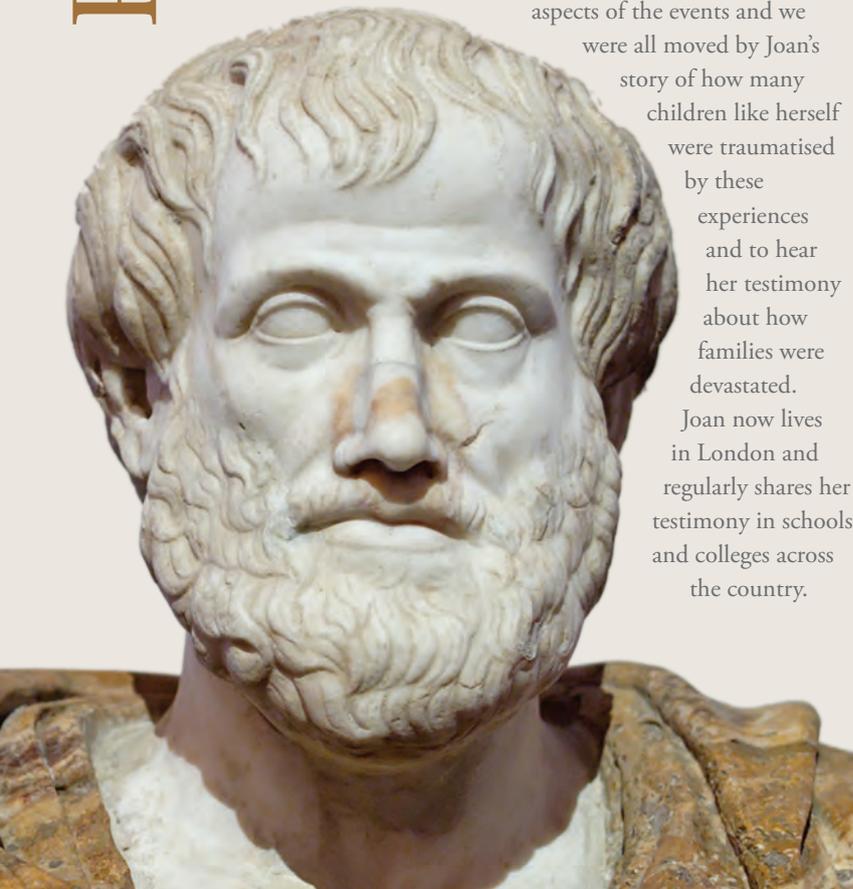


Our Third Form Philosophy and Religion pupils engaged in an in-depth study of the Holocaust during the Michaelmas term and we felt very privileged when a Holocaust survivor kindly agreed to come to Stowe on 4 March to talk about her experience of this tragic event. Joan Salter was born Fanny Zimetbaum in Brussels, Belgium on 15 February 1940. The Resistance helped the family to escape Paris in the middle of the night and they travelled over the Pyrenees mountains into Spain in the winter of 1942/43. They were captured by Spanish police and Joan and her mother were put into prison whilst her sister Lilane was sent to a convent. The American government had agreed to rescue children so Joan and Lilane left Lisbon by boat. On arrival in America, Joan was taken by a foster family and had her name changed from Fanny to Joan. Lilane was very traumatised by her experiences and found it difficult to settle so moved round foster homes. In 1947, Joan and Lilane were reunited with their parents who were living in the UK. Very often our attention is drawn to the survivors of the concentration camps. However, Joan gave us an insight into different aspects of the events and we

were all moved by Joan's story of how many children like herself

were traumatised by these experiences and to hear her testimony about how families were devastated.

Joan now lives in London and regularly shares her testimony in schools and colleges across the country.



We were delighted to contribute to the Prep Schools' Humanities Competition where the schools competed in a series of academic activities for The Winton Cup. Our theme was the Aristotelian virtues and posed the question 'Can we be virtuous in the 21st Century?' The pupils created a virtuous Stoic and investigated what characteristics a virtuous Stoic would possess when responding to a particular moral dilemma. It was a pleasure working with the young people who were interested, enthusiastic and engaged throughout the day.

Dr Michael Palmer, a prominent philosopher, gave a talk to our Sixth Form Stoics and staff about the philosophical tradition of atheism. Dr Palmer is a former Teaching Fellow at McMaster University and Humboldt Fellow at Marburg University. He gave a very interesting, entertaining and engaging analysis of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical critique of religion entitled: 'Freud, Sex and God.'

The Department has successfully sailed through a lot of curriculum changes this year aimed at giving the Stoics the best possible curriculum experience. Further change is on its way when we move into a new Department area created by converting the Dobinson Theatre into the Department of Philosophy & Religion teaching area. We are very much looking forward to the move which will be completed by September.

Mr Colin Bray, Head of Philosophy & Religion

Sports Science and PE



This has been yet another successful and action packed year for the Department. The A Level programme continues to be very popular and several of the 2013 leavers went on to study a variety of courses at highly respected universities. A particular highlight was Lucie Wellington being accepted on to her first choice Physiotherapy course at Birmingham University. Her outstanding A Level result in Sports Science certainly helped her and many others to reach their chosen destinations. Freddie Clarke and Henry Woodward both achieved an A* at A2 and scored 100% in one or more modules along the way. Our averages for the AS and A2 coursework results were A and A* grades respectively. The varied A Level course allows for our pupils to get an understanding of Anatomy and Exercise Physiology, Psychology and Sociology, all respected subjects in their own right. With this variety of subject matter, our pupils are very well prepared for several different career pathways. The A Level group this year comprised many excellent pupils, with Hugo Kinahan just beating Alice Hughes to the A2 prize on Speech Day. For the AS prize, Murray Aitchison and Jimmy Ondari were close runners-up to the eventual winner, Louisa Highwood.

We had our greatest number of GCSE candidates for many years and they performed excellently in the coursework moderation day once again. We hope their theory exam went well and look forward to seeing how they performed overall. The standout performers for this year group have been Anna Fox, Freddie Paling and Chuks Udeh, with Oliver Woodward coming out top to pick up the award on

Speech Day. The Fourth Form year group are certainly one of our most promising year groups and we are thoroughly looking forward to seeing them flourish next year. The Third Form began seeing the subject in January and have been enthusiastic participants in this exciting and vibrant introduction to the GCSE course.

The PE programme provides all new Third Form Stoics with an interesting and diverse set of activities throughout the whole year, with the aim of introducing them to activities they will continue to pursue in later life. This year, the groups have done so with outstanding commitment and I have no doubt they will have gained experiences they will take with them through their school careers.

We took the AS group on their annual trip to Loughborough University, to experience a campus university, as well as to look at and use some of the English Institute of Sport's premier facilities. The laboratory testing remains the highlight of the trip and allows our pupils to experience firsthand how the results they come to study and analyse at A2 are produced. The experiments carried out this year included tests for VO2 max, Lactate Threshold, the Onset of Blood Lactate Accumulation and Maximum Power Output.

I am once again indebted to the vastly experienced members of my Department (Mr Pickersgill, Mr Sutton, Mrs Sutton, Mr Michael, Mrs Duckett and Mr Cowie) who enable such successes to happen.

Mr Phil Arnold, Head of Sports Science and PE

German



I started last year's article by saying German is very much alive and kicking at Stowe, and I am glad to report this is still the case. We have had the largest Third Form intake for a number of years and as a result we are timetabling two Third Form sets for September 2014. Much has been said about learning a foreign language and with Germany being a trade powerhouse, its language will be more economically valuable for English pupils than the language of a relatively more closed economy. So much so that the newly opened Silverstone Academy, with whom we have established a close link, has made German a compulsory subject for GCSE. But enough said about the benefits of learning German: For those interested in this matter, may I refer you to a fascinating article published by 'The Economist', 11 March 2014 which analyses the accumulated language bonuses; needless to say German comes out top with an estimated 125,000 Euros ROI by 2054.

An essential part of learning a language is going to the country to experience what life is really like over there and this is exactly what we did in June. On Tuesday 17 June, six Germanists, Mr Goldsmith and I went over to our partner school, Klosterschule in Rossleben near Weimar, for a five day exchange. From the moment we arrived, the Stoics adopted the German lifestyle. This included a very early start to the day, as lessons start at 7.35am, which was quite a shock to the system initially but Stoics settled in quickly and made the most of this unique experience. Whilst there, we visited the wonderful town of Weimar which was at the heart of the German Enlightenment at the end of the 18th Century and which still has so much culture to offer to this day. We also saw the biggest oil painting in the world at the panorama museum near Bad Frankenhausen. This colossal work of art measuring 14 by 123 metres is housed in a monumental cyclorama and depicts amongst many other things, the Peasants' War that took place in this region in 1525. We were all awestruck and overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the painting and grateful that we don't have to live in such dire times anymore. On our last day, we went to Leipzig, following a route that had been planned by the Stoics. There, we discovered what living in East Germany must have been like, thanks to the fantastic 'Zeitgeschichtliches Forum', a museum filled with GDR memorabilia aimed at illustrating how difficult living

conditions were during those 40 years. We also spent a couple of hours exploring the 'Museum der bildenden Künste', surrounded by masterpieces by Caspar David Friedrich and Lucas Cranach to name but two. One of the highlights of this trip was our last German meal together at the Auerbachs Keller, one of Goethe's favourite haunts where he is said to have written parts of 'Faust'. My only stipulation was that the food ordered had to be German, so everyone tucked bravely into wild boar, pickled cabbage and schnitzel. Delicious! The following week, we welcomed our German exchange partners who had travelled with us from Leipzig, ready to discover Stowe, London and Oxford. All of them seemed to have a fantastic time getting to know English culture and practising their English with the Stoics. I couldn't have been more proud of how the Stoics conducted themselves for those ten days and I would also like to thank Mr Goldsmith for accompanying us at this busy time of year as well as Mr Jones for helping us organise the trip.

The German exchange wasn't the only exciting event this year for the German Department. In February we enjoyed another performance by The Onatti Theatre Company who specialise in target language plays which incorporate core GCSE vocabulary. This may sound rather contrived, but 'Erster Eindruck' (First Impressions) was actually very funny and cleverly put together. As usual, a couple of Stoics were asked to participate and did so with good grace. We also sampled some German delicacies during our Lower Sixth cultural week in June, whilst pondering over whether or not the Germans have a sense of humour. It turns out they do, it is just misunderstood. So, we look forward to an exciting new term in September, hoping everyone will have had the results they deserve in August.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Spanish

The steady rise in the popularity of Spanish at Stowe means that we currently have five Fifth Form sets and two sets in both the Lower and Upper Sixth for September 2014, which is great to see. Our GCSE results in 2013 reached the dizzy heights of 35% of candidates achieving A*, with a further 23% gaining A grades, an all-time record for Stowe and something we can all be extremely proud of; in addition, our pupils gained 100% A*-B grades at A2.

Conscious of the need for a Lower School Spanish trip, Mr de Trafford is busy organising an all-new Fifth Form study tour to Cuenca, east of Madrid, in October 2014. The trip promises to be unique as the entire town of Cuenca is involved in providing 'experiencias' for visiting pupils, meaning that, in addition to lessons in the mornings, Stoics will be totally immersed in Spanish with their hosts in the afternoons, whether doing sporting, cultural or business related activities. It seems that the local host families 'adopt' their pupils for the week and engage them fully in Spanish family life, which will clearly be fantastic for the Stoics' Spanish as well as giving them a real taste of local culture. The timing of this trip will give our pupils maximum benefit in their GCSE year – and hopefully inspire many to carry on with Spanish to A Level.

Further, to engage pupils in all aspects of learning Spanish, we plan to set up a virtual classroom which will allow our pupils to interact directly with their peers at our new partner schools in Spain and Latin America: this is an exciting development, which will make excellent use of the MFL computer suites and will hopefully help to bring language to life for pupils in all age groups.

This school year also saw the launch of our own Spanish magazine 'Stovevista', kindly assisted by Tori Roddy and compiled by Savannah Courtenay, Jamie Hardinge, James Scott and Rosie Dickson with help from our assistants, Señora Peña and María Macías Rosado. Stoics in all year groups are invited to contribute articles in Spanish on topics which most interest them; it is also a great way to ensure that our native Spanish speakers have a forum at Stowe: contributions to date include the Spanish-speaking world, film reviews, interviews, sport, travel and experiences of school life.

Language Society events this year included Mr Young's talk on Picasso's 'Guernica' and Señora Peña's and Mr Staples' lively, informative talks on Colombia and Latin American Spanish while the Fourth Form enjoyed a play by Onatti Productions. Plans for next school year include dance and juice-bar sessions, Spanish film nights for both the Lower and

Upper School and a team-up with the History Department for an investigation of the Spanish Golden Age and the Conquest of Latin America. We are also looking at ways to focus on cross-curricular links between Economics and Geography at Sixth Form level on global poverty, world trade and environmental issues; other avenues to explore include closer links with PSHE in our delivery of GCSE and AS topics such as healthy living, the impact of the media and the use of modern technology.

Sixth Form Spanish trip to Salamanca

At the end of March, Mr Dobson and I accompanied 14 pupils from the Upper and Lower Sixth on a week's trip to central Spain.

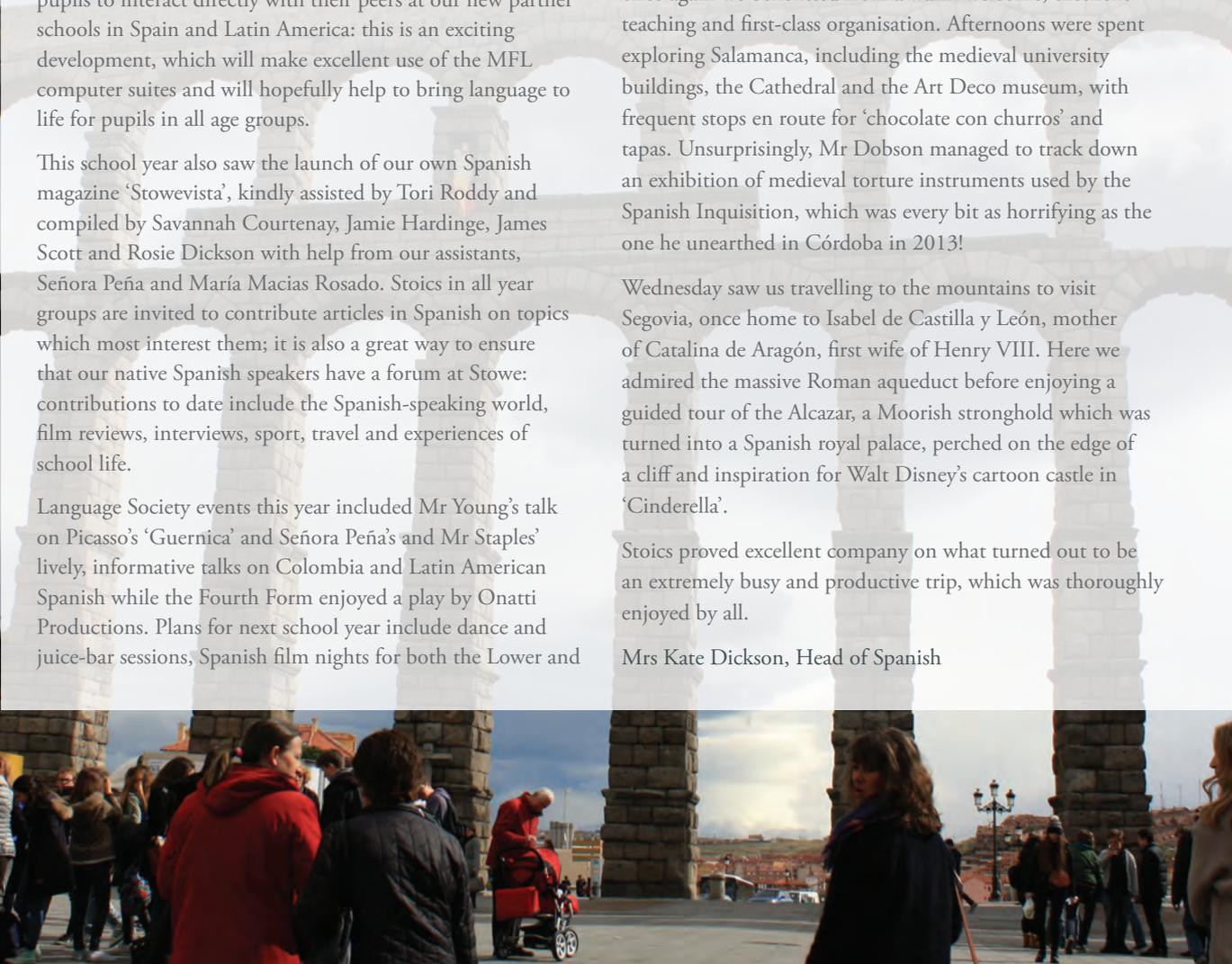
Landing in Madrid on Sunday morning, we headed straight to the Reina Sofía Museum of Modern Art, where Alexis Lazareff, the Art Historian in our group, proved to be an excellent and informative guide; following Mr Young's talk on Picasso's 'Guernica' and we were keen to see it for ourselves, but nothing can prepare you for the sheer impact of this immense and disturbing work.

That evening we arrived in Salamanca, where the Stoics stayed with local host families and were able to walk into town for morning lessons at the Mester School, where once again we benefitted from a warm welcome, excellent teaching and first-class organisation. Afternoons were spent exploring Salamanca, including the medieval university buildings, the Cathedral and the Art Deco museum, with frequent stops en route for 'chocolate con churros' and tapas. Unsurprisingly, Mr Dobson managed to track down an exhibition of medieval torture instruments used by the Spanish Inquisition, which was every bit as horrifying as the one he unearthed in Córdoba in 2013!

Wednesday saw us travelling to the mountains to visit Segovia, once home to Isabel de Castilla y León, mother of Catalina de Aragón, first wife of Henry VIII. Here we admired the massive Roman aqueduct before enjoying a guided tour of the Alcazar, a Moorish stronghold which was turned into a Spanish royal palace, perched on the edge of a cliff and inspiration for Walt Disney's cartoon castle in 'Cinderella'.

Stoics proved excellent company on what turned out to be an extremely busy and productive trip, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Mrs Kate Dickson, Head of Spanish





French

Onatti Theatre Company: Mon père ne me comprend pas

Helène is fed up with her father treating her like she is still a little girl – she is 15... today! So, when her father gives her a pink pencil case and a pink wand for her birthday Helène's patience runs out.

Helène wants a new dad, a different dad, a cooler dad.

But some people should be careful what they wish for!

On Friday 8 November, The Onatti Theatre Company visited Stowe with two native French actors to perform this year's French play in the Roxburgh Hall for Third and Fourth Form French sets. As ever, the play went down a storm with the Stoics and when it came to audience participation, our pupils certainly did not disappoint! The play is scripted very carefully to fit in with the level of language of the pupils and vocabulary sheets were provided before the event so that they could get the maximum from the show. The actors kept the attention of their audience throughout and enjoyed the many 'merci beaucoup' from the Stoics as they left after the show.

Despite the media reports that French is now one of the hardest A Levels, 70% of our 2013 A2 French pupils gained A*-B grades at A2. Our GCSE results improved by 12% at A*/A in 2013, with 32% of our pupils achieving an A* and a further 25% gaining A grades. These are our highest ever results and we are very proud of the achievement.

Fifth Form trip to Nice

On the Sunday before Half term in the Michaelmas term, twenty four Fifth Formers, accompanied by Mr Dobson and Mrs Browne, flew to Nice in the South of France for a week of French lessons in the Alpha-B language school and to stay with host families in order to practise and improve their spoken French, and to sample the sights, tastes and climate of the Côte d'Azur .

From Monday through to Friday, the Stoics attended language lessons at the school with their teachers, Karine and Laurent, starting at 9.15am and going on until 12.15pm with just a brief pause at break time to sample the treats at the patisserie just around the corner.

On the Monday afternoon, the Stoics went on a tour of Nice and the old town. Having had a brief history of Place Massena and its luminous statues, the group stopped at the Place Rosetti for ice creams and sorbets, and Max Bashaarat was the first brave volunteer to try his French out by asking for a glass of water in a bar! This was followed by a trip up to the Parc du Château with its waterfall and fabulous views over the coast to the east and west, and back inland across the whole of Nice.

Tuesday afternoon saw the group on a coach to Eze and the Fragonard perfume and soap factory, going past Elton John's house in the foothills of the Alps, that you can see from Nice beach. On the way, our guide informed us that the most expensive real estate in the world is a house in Villefranche, owned by a Lebanese gentleman, and it is valued at 500 million US dollars! After a tour of the



factory and some souvenir shopping in the factory shop, there followed a visit to Eze village, a medieval walled town on top of a steep hill, and to the tropical cactus garden with its breathtaking views over the Corniche.

On the Wednesday, Monaco was the destination with the Palace, the Oceanographic Centre with its spectacular underground aquarium, the starting grid of the Monaco Grand Prix, the Casino de Monte-Carlo, the Hôtel de Paris and the Café de Paris. Some of the more adventurous members of the group managed to get a sneaky peak at the magnificent entrance foyer to the Casino, but it was not long before the doormen started shooing them back out and down the steps when they realised that the visitors were not there to play roulette! There was a food stop at the supermarket, take-away pizza place and crêperie, and Patrick Robinson did a good job of covering most of his face in Nutella while enjoying his little snack! There was no shortage of Ferraris and Bentleys in Monaco, and Benoit Ferrand managed to charm his way into the Bugatti and Ferrari showroom to get a few snaps of the convertible Veyron in there!

After lessons on the Thursday, the Stoics went up through a different part of Nice to the Roman ruins and to the Matisse museum. Aside from the museum itself, there was a lovely park and gardens up there, with a spectacular aerial view of the city and we crossed paths with possibly the biggest and shaggiest dog in France (and also possibly the hottest, given the blazing sunshine that afternoon!).

On Friday afternoon, having said goodbye to their fantastic French teachers, everybody went for a pizza with Mr Dobson and Mrs Browne. Mrs Browne presented the awards for the trip, the most important of which was the best and most committed linguist – Valeria Gridneva. Dani Fusco-House won the ‘toughest bloke’ award for covering so many kilometres on crutches without complaint, and Patrick Robinson won the messiest eater award after his Nutella episode in Monaco, before everybody went off for a final shopping trip and bag-packing for the journey home.

My thanks go to Mr Dobson who organised the trip, to Mrs Browne who accompanied the group and to the Stoics who engaged so positively throughout their time in Nice.

Mrs Tracy Jones, Head of French.



Classics

The Classics Department was very pleased with yet more excellent results last summer, all but matching those from the previous year. The Fifth Form Latin grades included 75% at A* compared with 76% in 2012. Of the papers sat exactly the same 26% scored full marks. Special mention goes to James Macdonald-Buchanan who achieved full marks in two out of his four papers in Greek GCSE. For the first time Fourth Form pupils sat the new WJEC Latin Literature Level 2 examination and managed some very good scores despite tackling the subject a year earlier than usual. Latinists in the next year group will be able to choose to offer Literature in addition to the Latin Language Level 2 along with their other examinations next June. We are grateful to Mr Sandy Smith for his continued help over the year. In particular he has enthused some of the Third Form Greek set into wanting to continue with the language. Meanwhile, at one stage half the GCSE Latin set had opted for Latin at AS, a record number for recent years.

The Classical Society has been busy with a good variety of interesting events. In October we welcomed Mr James Morwood from Wadham College, Oxford, to speak on the relevance of the classical world for today. He is a friend of Mr Smith from their time teaching at Harrow. We use his Oxford Latin Course in the lower years so a few keen pupils had their copies signed by the author himself. Senior pupils were able to meet him more informally over supper in the Blue Room. In January, Mr Don Cox, a veteran adventurer straight back from pursuing the trail of Columbus in Mexico, challenged Stoics with his new interpretations of Odysseus' journeys. We all enjoyed his tales of travels around the world and new insights into Egyptian art.

During the year we have seen some excellent plays, especially the triennial Cambridge Greek play in October. This was a fast-moving and adventurous double bill with Aeschylus' Prometheus Bound and then Aristophanes' Frogs. The performances sparkled with some amazing theatrical effects, and English subtitles to help understand the Greek words. In February a smaller group saw Sophocles' Antigone performed very effectively in translation at Warwick School, under the direction of David Stephenson who started his teaching at Stowe. The following week we went to the Bloomsbury Theatre

in London to see University College's version of Aristophanes' comedy, 'The Clouds', with all the ribald humour which undergraduates enjoy. In May a large number of the Lower



Mr Don Cox with Tom Stopford and Oliver Vince

School saw a showing of the newly-released film Pompeii, complete with 3D rocks from Mount Vesuvius hurling out of the screen, although some of the audience had eyes only for the hero fighting the impossible odds to win his girl!

The Sixth Form Latinists have also attended lectures in London on their set texts from Cicero, Ovid, Tacitus and Virgil. Eminent speakers from universities around the country included Dr Ingo Gildenhard from King's College, Cambridge, a prolific author of Sixth Form commentaries for almost all these texts. In June we held a supper to say farewell to Upper Sixth Form Latinists and also, with his famed 4A set of three years ago, to Mr Tony Chan, who has found time away from his English teaching to inspire junior groups with his lively and enthusiastic instruction in Latin. He has been a loyal supporter of classical events and we shall miss his cheerful and erudite observations on what we've seen or heard. We wish him well at King's Canterbury.

The classical world remains as alive and relevant as ever. One Latin set has turned Ovid's brilliant poem on Daedalus's flight to escape from King Minos into a YouTube video, with ingenious visual effects for the fall of his son Icarus. Another group has been studying the Persian Darius' bloodthirsty capture in 522 BC of Babylon, the ruins of which now house Saddam Hussein's former palace in Iraq. A recent TV programme showed Dr Dalley from Oxford using her knowledge of pre-war Iraq, combined with analysis of newly released military satellite photographs, to locate Babylon's Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, at the Assyrian capital Ninevah, near to Mosul in the north of Iraq. Meanwhile the new Greek GCSE now demands that pupils know English words derived from their Greek vocabulary, keeping their classical knowledge fully relevant to life today. Even the current Government's education reforms have, for the first time, included ancient languages as part of the National Curriculum from September 2014.

Prizes: The Roxburgh Prize for Classics (VI):
James Macdonald-Buchanan

The Quentin Bertram Prize for Classics (GCSE):
Matthew Hill

Mr Michael Bevington, Head of Classics



Left to right: Minna Trotter, Olivia Howaldt, Heloise Kleinwort, Mr James Morwood, Honor Douglas Miller, Henry Coldstream, Guy Gibson, James Macdonald-Buchanan

Economics

There is no doubt that studying Economics at A Level remains a very relevant and worthwhile experience as what was once a rather dry, textbook based subject, has sprung onto the front pages of every serious newspaper and often leads TV news reports. Not a day goes past without pupils coming into an Economics classroom looking to discuss the latest events and contentions – should the Coalition continue with its ‘austerity’ plans (if, indeed, it is being austere at all), is Ed Miliband right to suggest a freeze on energy prices, which way will sterling go, and should we be pleased or disappointed by unemployment figures? That is not to say that we have only been looking at the ‘big picture’. Other discussions have considered more esoteric issues such as the morality of competition and the psychology of pricing.

The Department itself continues to thrive, with numbers remaining high across both Sixth Form years, and with a mix of academic abilities. Initial Oxbridge hopefuls were taken to Blackwells bookshop in Oxford to choose texts in which they might like to specialise, and having initially struggled to find anything beyond a slew of current fashionable critiques of Western capitalism, they plumped for books ranging from famous economic catastrophes to environmental economics. All Stoics benefitted from the arrival into the Department of a Senior Examiner for the exam board that the Department follows, and there was a renewed focus on examination technique that should support future grades.

The Economics Society continued to flourish, with both internal and external speakers. Professor Sean McWilliams

took a break from high profile interviews and top-end consultancy work to talk to Stoics about the state of the UK economy in a global context, along with his predictions for the upcoming decades (apparently the UK’s economic future is not exactly rosy!). Mark Hull from Oxford Brookes University then looked in more detail at the current fiscal and monetary policies being pursued by the Coalition, and alarmed the Libertarians in the Department with his demands for greater government expansion. I led a tongue-in-cheek discussion on the need for 100% inheritance tax (no Stoics were persuaded!), to be followed by Saajan Patel’s fascinating introduction to Utilitarianism and its crucial place in Economics theory. His short talk was followed by a lively discussion over supper, with Stoics learning to challenge their normal black and white views of the world.

This year saw three new staff welcomed into the Department, and it has finished with two more departures. After many years of invaluable service we bid goodbye to Jane Hamblett-Jahn, and wish her all the best for her new life at Brighton College. We also say a fond farewell to Amanda Hobrow who is taking time out of teaching to further pursue her Maths degrees. Andrew Wilson will be joining us, fresh from a career of Headhunting for the City of London, and we very much look forward to his external expertise.

Who knows what we will be discussing next year – the collapse of the Euro, the failure of austerity, the continued rise of China? Watch this space.

Mr Richard Corthine, Head of Economics

Politics

This year has been relatively quiet for the Politics Department with a dearth of elections to engage in, the European elections being the main event in UK Politics and primary elections for the Mid-Terms in America later this year. Sadly, the European elections came too late to be used in the exams, but nonetheless, there has been plenty of analysis available for the pupils with the rise of UKIP and a possible lame duck President in November. Still, for those carrying on next year, it promises to be a great year for all those involved, with the Mid-Terms in November and then the all important UK General Election in May next year, just in time for use in the exams three weeks later.

On Wednesday 30 April all Lower Sixth Form Politics pupils visited Westminster for tours of Parliament, Speaker’s House and the Supreme Court. Stoics were able to get a feel for the buzz in the Houses of Parliament building up to Prime Minister’s Questions and even had a chance to question the Speaker following the session. The pupils conducted themselves in the best manner, and asked John Bercow some very inquiring questions about topics including reform of Parliament, HS2, effectiveness of backbenchers and the role of Prime Minister’s Questions. As always, the Speaker was eloquent and clear with his answers, and the pupils appreciated his candid and direct answers in contrast to the answers given by the Prime Minister to Ed Miliband a few minutes earlier! In the afternoon, they visited the highest court in the UK, where they discussed issues including privacy versus freedom of expression, judicial review, and national security versus civil liberties. Overall it was an excellent trip for the Stoics who were commendable in their engagement and behaviour for the entire day. A big thank you also goes to Mr Floyd for organising such a valuable trip.

Congratulations go to Will Barnes and Tessa Horan, recipients of the Politics prizes on Speech Day for their diligent work throughout the year. We hope all pupils get what they need this August and of course hope for as many as possible to take Politics on at degree level when they progress to university.

Mr Charlie Barker, Head of Politics

ICT and Computing

This year saw the completion of the GCSE Computing Course at Stowe for the first time ever! The first cohort completed the course this year after many months of toiling away on the three distinct areas of the course. There was some excellent work in the programming project by Stoics such as Nai Chi Tsai, Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson and Jordan Lowe who thought up some excellent ways in which to solve the problems set by OCR, each producing a unique series of programs that were able to take in input from users, process it effectively and provide the user with the appropriate feedback. In the Lent term the class tackled OCR's practical investigation task which demanded independent research and development of HTML and JavaScript code. Chuku Udeh, George Pullin and again, Nai Chi Tsai produced some remarkable work that is sure to secure them a wonderful grade in the summer. The outgoing Fifth Form group deserve huge congratulations after giving it their all throughout the two years with a huge amount of time and effort put into completion of the course in after school and weekend clinics as well as working hard within the classroom in the Summer term in preparation for the summer examination.

This year, as well as working hard, the group was privileged to be paid a visit by Bluebolt Visual Effects, the company responsible for creating CGI and Visual Effects for Game of Thrones and Skyfall. The group was shown how their computing talents could be applied in a more creative sense to enhance and add to Television and Film. Lower down the school Computing has now been introduced into the Third Form curriculum, with classes in September becoming a lot more technically challenging and theoretical in a response to the ever increasing level of Digital Literacy that children now exhibit. Pupils in the Third Form are now able to experience and partake in Computer Programming, examine computer architecture, explore the design of software and design web pages.

In terms of developments for next year we hope to begin a cross curricular project in conjunction with the Physics Department that will see Stoics make use of their programming abilities in a more practical way, joining forces with Physicists to create robotics to solve a variety of problems and hopefully enter a national robotics competition.

Mr Thomas Higham, Head of ICT



WINNER 2012

GAME OF THRONES
© HBO



Business Studies

The key highlight this year has undoubtedly been the combined Business and Geography visit to China during the Easter holidays. Twenty five Stoics and three staff visited China for ten days on a busy itinerary that included trips to Beijing, Xian and Shanghai. We visited the main cultural heritage sites in both the old and new capitals and the bustling modern mega city of Shanghai. The most memorable sites visited included the Terracotta Warriors, the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. We also visited a number of businesses which included the Yakult Milk and Volkswagen companies. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the cultural visits but also, not surprisingly, the indoor markets. The Stoics surprised the staff with their confident negotiation and bartering skills and came away with lots of fake designer clothes and bags. Even Mr Perriss was seduced by cheap luggage!

Stoics this year were the first cohort not to sit January exams and so we had to ensure that our teaching and learning strategies were adapted to help pupils prepare for all their modules at the end of the year. Short-term targets with January exams have been a useful tool for Stoics in the past but the challenge this year is to keep revisiting theory and skills on a regular basis! The Business Studies pupils were well supported for their terminal exams and they sought regular help through lots of clinics and enrichment opportunities set up by staff. We hope that our pupils will

secure the grades in August that do justice to their hard work. This year our Business Studies prizes were awarded to Bonnie Leheup and Isabelle Le Fevre. Congratulations to Bonnie and Isabelle who received their prizes on Speech Day.

In June we welcomed back our AS pupils and they embarked on a newspaper simulation which is designed to help them integrate the skills they have learnt throughout the year. They were given specific research tasks and they had to produce newspaper articles and video a news report. It never ceases to amaze me what talent we have amongst our Stoics who could easily pursue journalistic or computer careers.

The final few weeks of term have been focused on providing some interesting lessons called THINK!about to the Third and Fourth Form. Business Studies staff were involved in teaching a range of topics which included emerging markets, technology and super brands. It was refreshing to be able to teach to the Lower School and staff and Stoics enjoyed the alternative programme that brought the year to an end.

It has been a busy and enjoyable year and we look forward to welcoming 50 pupils who have chosen to pursue Business Studies in September 2014.

Mr Panos John, Head of Business Studies



PSHE

Our trip to India was an enchanting and eye opening experience. From the moment we stepped off the plane our senses were tested to the max.

The drive through Delhi was an adventure in itself. Our faces were pressed against the glass of the mini bus, transfixed. We were in complete awe of this fascinating city, which is a blend of a historical past and a vibrant present. Delhi is a vivid paradox of old and new, rich and poor, foreign and familiar and is as famous for its pollution as it is for its sights.

The roads were covered in a mixture of transport ranging from cows, hairy pigs and rickshaws to Mercedes with each person testing their faith in God to guide them through the sea of traffic.

We arrived at the infamous Red Fort in the heart of Old Delhi. A 30-foot wall protects it and we were amazed by its sheer size and grandeur. Inside this fort was an oasis of gardens and temples. Its colossal scale contrasts with the poverty stricken surroundings; however, this somehow was not the main focus point for the locals. In actual fact, the main focus of attention was us! We huddled together like penguins and waited in desperation for the crowd to move on but actually they advanced towards us. We turned in despair to Miss McLintock and Mr Goldsmith but rather than saving us from what was thought to be a deadly situation, they were in fact laughing! A man approached and I screamed! He tapped Eddie on the shoulder and said “can I have a picture with you Harry Potter?” A sigh of relief came rushing through our bodies.

A team of little boys approached us shouting picture! Picture on phone! On phone! We all felt like celebrities, so we placed back on our shades and hustled our way through the crowd. It felt strange receiving so much attention just because of the difference in our appearance. However, this exciting new experience of fame soon wore off, as it became the norm for the rest of the holiday!

Another fantastic part of the trip was when we visited Jaipur, which is also known as the pink city, the city offered new opportunities at every corner. It was here that we got a taste for the local way of life as we discovered the art of haggling with the local craftsmen and with the mysterious ambience of the place it was hard not to be drawn towards the fortune-tellers, street art and snake charmers. However very few of us managed to get nearer than 10 metres away from the deadly black cobra, all except Angus, who chose to get up close and personal!

My favourite part of the trip was when we visited the Ranthambore National Park. It is a place of natural and historical beauty; it is also the habitat of the Bengal Tiger, the Sloth Bear and the Jungle Cat. We were lucky enough to be taken around by an open top jeep, which took us to the beating heart of the jungle, and it was there that we spotted a tiger. We slowly approached it with cautious and steady pace. However the tiger did not have the same attitude towards us, in fact, it was lying down on a throne of golden sand next to a glistening jungle river and decided to have a slumber, just like a true jungle king!

On the eighth day of the holiday we visited Udaipur which undoubtedly lives up to its reputation as India’s most romantic city; with its rolling hills, its stunning lakes and white marble palaces, it is impossible for it not to come together magnificently. The very moment we arrived we became enticed by the vast array of silver and gold jewellery and leather goods! We had a wonderful day of palace visits and shopping – it was here that our frequently practised haggling skills manifested into real results.

On the last day of the holiday some of us rose at 5.30am to view the sunrise over the holy city of Pushkar. It took 45 minutes and many steps up a mountain to admire the view. Later, we took a stroll around Pushkar and received holy rites and blessings at one of the many ghats. This gave us a great opportunity to really interact with the locals and we were blown away by their friendly and welcoming attitude

towards us. For example, I spoke to a local holy man who had decided to follow the road of religion because he wanted forgiveness for his previous sin stricken lifestyle. As a result, he gave up his possessions and walked 2,000 miles to Pushkar where he now earns his living by preaching and advising the local people. Another highlight in Pushkar was the camel ride out into the local desert area which was great fun.

One of the most interesting parts of the trip was when we visited a local family home for dinner. We truly got to experience the real India and how people actually live, cook and eat. We had to eat with our hands and sit on the floor. The food was amazing and we had the opportunity to meet the children of the family who were incredibly friendly and welcoming. They were so intrigued by our western gadgets.

So overall we have learnt that life in India is an awesome array of experiences and beauty – an assault on all the senses.

Harrison Dockerty, Georgina Skinner, Olly Clarke and Fabiola Koenig



The Peer Support Group, trained in peer mentoring by our School counsellor for six weeks, successfully mentored the Lower School Stoics this year for a range of issues ranging from friendships, family concerns and homesickness. The culmination of the PSG year is the Kidscape weekend when 12 Sixth Form Stoics mentor 12 teenagers from all over the UK who have experienced serious physical, racial and verbal bullying in their own schools. This year was the fifth anniversary of this partnership with Kidscape; the foremost bullying and child abuse prevention charity in the UK. Stowe is the only school in the country which welcomes these children to participate in an intensive weekend of confidence and self-esteem building activities mentored by Sixth Formers.

Ms Kirsten McLintock, Head of PSHE



Art

This year the Art Department has embraced the full range of fine art disciplines and the work made by the pupils has been diverse and exciting. By exploring drawing, printmaking, painting, three dimensional constructions, installation and film making we have opened out the possibilities for the Department and enjoyed experimenting with all kinds of ideas and materials. With portfolios and sketchbooks stuffed with work, our Upper Sixth pupils went out to find art school places earlier this year, and we are thrilled that Charles Lockyer, Sophia Last, Clementine Hanbury and George Morgan will all be continuing their art education on foundation courses next year. We also congratulate Georgina Jack who has been offered a place at Edinburgh to study Art and Art History.

We have had a number of inspiring visitors to the Department this year including Will Gompertz, BBC Arts Editor, who entertained us with a rollercoaster ride through the early days of conceptualism and a quiz entitled 'Monet or Manet?' in which we were given a glimpse of brushwork from the corner of a painting and asked to identify the maker. Several audience members took part in a sketch which brought the world of Marcel Duchamp to life, and we particularly thank the School Chaplain, Chris Huxtable, and Ilona Ecott, who has been offered a place at The Courtauld to study Art History next year, for being such good sports.

Earlier in the year many of us were introduced to the world of the 'urban explorer' when artist Maria Iredale came to the Department to tell us about her trip to Detroit in 2012, funded by The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. The strange and desolate atmosphere of modern day Detroit was revealed to us and we were fascinated by the ruins and remnants of a city that was at one time at the centre of the car industry in America. The notion of crumbling buildings as objects of beauty and fascination found its way into several pupils work, and some of the richly textured and layered surfaces found in our Speech Day show were directly influenced by Maria's presentation on the ruins of Detroit.

In collaboration with the History of Art Department we were also very pleased to give a temporary home to some wonderful prints provided by Otto Balfour as part of his EPQ project. Otto organised and curated the show and talk given by his father, Brian Balfour, and we enjoyed hearing about his early days and journey into the mercurial



world of art dealing. We were delighted to have prints by Lucian Freud, Sol le Witt, Maurice Cockrill, William Scott and others within the Art School; they were certainly very inspiring and useful, particularly the large print by Lucien Freud, as we have just started making etchings in the Department again.

In February this year we returned to a very cold and snow covered New York and enjoyed a wonderful few days of gallery going and culture. At the Museum of Modern Art we were captivated by Isaac Julien's large scale nine channel film installation 'Ten Thousand Waves' (2010) and at the Metropolitan Museum we were engulfed in the amazing atmosphere of William Kentridge's installation piece 'The Refusal of Time' (2012). These works were completely

engrossing and it was a joy to sit and be transported to other places and times both real and mystical by these incredibly theatrical film installations. We would like to thank Brian Hecht and Doug Gaasterland, who represent the American friends of Stowe in New York, for their warm hospitality and delicious barbeque supper at their stylish and art filled downtown apartment.

Back at home, under the expert guidance of Chris Grumble, the large scale three dimensional structures produced in the Art School this year have been really intriguing and have opened up a new door for sculptural work at Stowe. We have enjoyed seeing the work of William Scrase, Alex Bishop and Dani Fusco-House fill corners and spaces within the studios, and there have also been many smaller scale works on display around the building. The exploration by our pupils into the potential of materials has been fascinating, and it has been wonderful to see the space used in such an original way.

With our new laser cutter next year, we will be able to further develop our sculptural works by making all kinds of

exciting shapes and textures and we are so grateful to Shiho Ichinose and Guy Scott for their continued support of the Art School and the pupils who work there. Lucy Horan has been an excellent Scott-Ichinose Scholar over the past two years, and she has produced some beautiful work in all kinds of materials as well as being a great ambassador for the subject within the School and beyond.

We say a fond farewell and well done to all our Upper Sixth pupils who have been so fantastic this year, and we look forward to working with our new groups in September. There are very talented pupils throughout our year groups and we are very excited by the potential of our younger pupils who are working hard towards their Art GCSE at all levels. In the Art School it is very usual for pupils to be working until late into the evening, and it has been wonderful to see such commitment to the creative arts from our Third, Fourth and Fifth Form pupils throughout the year.

Mrs Amanda Jorgensen, Head of Art



History of Art



Art Historians have enjoyed an active year with a full programme of lectures, visits and events. First hand study of art works is always a priority and our trips have reflected this, taking us to a number of interesting places.

London's galleries rank high amongst the world's best art institutions and few are more impressive than the National Gallery. The Art Historians visited during the Michaelmas term getting their first sense of the huge variety of work displayed there. For some Stoics this was their first experience of an art gallery and it was generally greeted as a very positive one. Firm favourites amongst the paintings were Holbein's 'Ambassadors', Turner's 'Rain, Steam and Speed' and Van Gogh's 'Sun Flowers'.

As with visits to London's National Gallery, the New York trip has become a core part of the History of Art Department's activities. Many pupils recall it as the highlight of their Sixth Form years and this year's trip was no exception. Viewed from the Staten Island ferry, the architecture of the New York skyline is unique and, as the Art Historians learned, the city's collections of painting and sculpture are rivalled by only a few other institutions around the world. Visiting the vast Metropolitan Museum after a walk in a still snowy Central Park was a real treat, as was the day spent exploring the permanent and temporary exhibitions at MOMA.

The History of Art Society has been active and rather than pursue its normal range of academic speakers a more vocational theme has been followed this year. Speakers addressed the different types of career available in the art world and the different types of institution offering employment possibilities.

During the Michaelmas term Steven Parissien addressed the History of Art Society. Dr Parissien is director of Compton Verney, a stately home that houses six permanent collections and that has won itself an outstanding reputation for putting on cutting edge temporary exhibitions. Dr Parissien discussed the renovation of the house from near dereliction in the late 20th Century and the successful establishment of its galleries and gardens as visitor attractions. A useful insight into conservation and the workings of a successful privately financed art institution was gained.

In the Lent term, Stowe parent, Brian Balfour, came to speak about his career as an art dealer and his earlier experiences in auction houses. To a very positive response from Stoics, Mr Balfour made clear the connection of the art market and the economy and the way in which technology is transforming art dealership. Stoics listened with interest as they learned the degree to which the art market had become both international and, increasingly, virtual, many transactions taking place online with the work only seen by the purchaser in photographs.

Brian Balfour's son and current Upper Sixth Former, Otto, organised an exhibition in the Art School gallery to accompany his father's talk on art dealerships. Putting up work from the Balfour collection, Otto curated a show called 'Post Colonial Harmony'. The show juxtaposed work of American and British artists from the period after WWII. Including work by well known artists such as de Kooning, Freud and Hockney, the show brought out both the shared themes and differences that had developed in this period.

The final element in the events following the theme of careers in the art world was a visit to a lecture hosted by the University of Buckingham. Drawing together professionals from art journalism, practical conservation, heritage management, auctioneering and art dealership, the lecture gave an opportunity to hear exactly what successful practitioners thought of their jobs and advice as to the best routes into each career. By universal consent the insights gained from the talk were very helpful to the Stoics many of whom came along with the intention of finding employment in the art world.

Following the excellent academic results of 2013 it was unsurprising that many Art Historians would be ambitious in their university choices. We are pleased that our pupils hold offers from The Courtauld Institute, Edinburgh University and NYU. Many of our Art Historians go on to higher level study and we were delighted to hear earlier this year that after studying at Bristol and York, Cicely Robinson (Lyttelton 06) has just been awarded her PhD. She is now working as a curator in the British Sporting Art Collection.

Mr Iain Young, Head of History of Art

Design Technology

I hope that many of you were able to experience our Speech Day Exhibition in StoweBucks which celebrated, once again, the high levels of creativity, innovation and patience demonstrated by the Stowe Design pupils. The products and models on show this year emphasise a great deal of imaginative thinking and are the result of many hours of hard work from the Stoics. I am sure that they will all join me in thanking and congratulating all the staff involved for their hard work and patience.

As well as celebrating the success of these practical elements the Department is achieving some remarkable results by National standards. This year half of the A Level candidates scored 100% for their coursework and are well ahead in

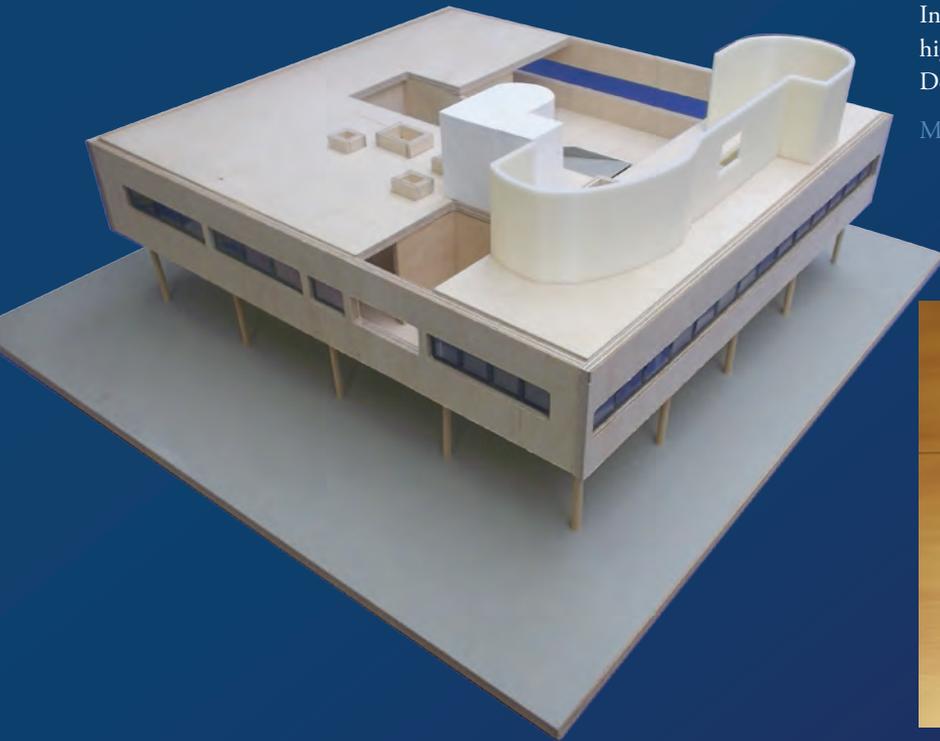
any league table statistics for overall pass rates at GCSE and A Level. Special congratulations go to our prize winners who have achieved excellent results and a high standard with all their work.

Charles Barnes has proved to be one of the most dedicated pupils within the Department and his Oak Desk is testament to the amount of hard work he put into his studies. He gained 100% for his coursework and was awarded the Worsley Prize.

Other prizes awarded on Speech Day went to Sasha Plunket-Checkemian (The Friends of Stowe Prize for Design) for her Graphics work and Paul Henkel (the John Holland Prize for Design) for his exceptional design work. Finally, Angus Norman (the Andrew McAlpine Prize for Graphics) for his stunning modelling and design work.

In addition to the prize winners there was an extremely high level of manufacturing by pupils across all areas of Design Technology.

Mr Mark Wellington, Design Technology





The International Department

The aim of the International Department at Stowe is to facilitate the pastoral well-being and academic success of international Stoics. With pupils representing over thirty nationalities and countries, the Department continues to serve an important dual role, offering a range of academic English language courses and tuition to enhance academic achievement and university prospects, as well as organising social events for international pupils and providing pastoral support to enable new pupils to settle quickly into the Stowe community.

Our pupils have continued to meet our high expectations and we are proud of their many achievements. 2013 proved to be another outstanding year for IELTS results with 30% of pupils achieving top 8.5 and 8.0 scores, and 94% of pupils achieving scores over 7.0. Once again, 100% of IELTS and TOEFL candidates either met or exceeded the university entrance criteria of their first choice institutions. The IGCSE ESL qualification in English as a Second Language remains a popular choice for international Stoics in the Lower School. The 94% A*-B success rate for 2013 is a further testament to the commitment and diligence of our pupils. Some of our more ambitious pupils continue to opt for the CPE and CAE examinations (the most advanced Cambridge English Language examinations) in addition to IELTS. These advanced and technically challenging qualifications enable pupils to demonstrate the highest levels of linguistic proficiency and provide an impressive addition to UCAS applications when applying to top UK universities in an increasingly competitive market.

Speech Day provided another opportunity to recognise the outstanding achievements and successes of many international Stoics. Congratulations to William Chatamra, Alvaro de la Vega, Artura Subowo, Theodora Tserni, Nai Chi Tsai, Anastasia Lopoukhine, Adesola Kazeem, Priscilla Powell, Najib Afghan, Lisa Battilomo and Boipelo Montoedi for their well-deserved prizes and for all of their contributions to the Stowe community.

Najib Afghan's contribution to charitable/humanitarian work this academic year has also been exceptional. Najib has been a volunteer with 'Children in Crisis' since April 2013 and in the academic year 2013/14 'Children in Crisis' became Stowe's adopted charity. Najib has been working tirelessly to reach his £10,000 target with a variety of initiatives (including television interviews) which culminated in his completion of the London Marathon. We wish Najib every success as he continues this important charitable work to support, educate and transform the lives of children and young people in countries blighted by poverty and conflict.

In addition to the termly outing for Sixth Form Stoics, the annual International Society Dinner was held on Tuesday 25 March where vibrancy and cultural diversity at Stowe were celebrated. One hundred and twenty Stoics filled the Temple Room, eager to sample a range of Spanish, Oriental and Asian cuisine. The evening was punctuated with a wonderful array of entertainment including games, the popular 'international-themed quiz' and musical items. The audience was treated to impressive performances by Shannon Devlin, Mina Haas and Priscilla Powell, accompanied by George Huxtable and Lewis Bell, and the South African Scholars, Princess Moyo, Boipelo Montoedi, Musa Buthelezi, Jessica Amoda, and Rodney Moses stunned the audience with their beautifully choreographed traditional African song and dance routine, complete with colourful costumes.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs Kitchen, Mr Longworth, the international Prefects, Martina Fidanova and Caroline Schaufelberger, the international committee and all pupils in the Department for their contributions, diligence and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Mrs Julie Johnson, Head of International

Library

Stowe Library is much more than a receptacle for books, DVDs and electronic resources. It is also a contributor to learning initiatives from which Stoics benefit in a wide variety of ways. A constant challenge in education is to find ways of enabling pupils to take responsibility for their learning and to encourage them to work independently. This is the rationale underpinning the Study Skills programme which is being introduced this year for the Lower Sixth and is planned next year for the Third Form, the two major points of entry to the School. The Library has been delighted to be involved with the planning of the Third Form programme by preparing material for StoweNet which will facilitate the pupils to access the curriculum and equip them during the course of next year with the study and support skills to flourish at Stowe both academically and pastorally.

The theme of information literacy dominated the agenda when the Rugby Group of Independent School Librarians got together at their annual meeting which this year was hosted by Stowe. Twenty three School Librarians had an animated discussion on how their libraries were developing in the digital age and shared ideas on attempts to teach their pupils how to cope with the major explosion of information on the internet, to research and access online resources effectively and to avoid the major issue of plagiarism. They also debated the use of social media (e.g.

Twitter) and the use of the iPhone in education. It was very pleasing to see how delighted the visiting Librarians were with the facilities and the environment of the renovated Stowe Library and a most enjoyable day was had by all.

No year in Stowe Library would be complete without the annual Third Form author visit and the Inter-House Literary quiz and yet again these proved successful and enjoyable events. The acclaimed teenage author Bali Rai captivated the pupils' attention as he spoke to them about the inner city life which he had experienced growing up in Manchester and of how it had inspired his writing. The quiz this year saw the introduction of a new round – a series of clips where the teams had to identify the novels that had inspired the films. Bruce (shown below) were the winners of the Literary Quiz first held six years ago and after a closely fought competition with Temple a tie-breaker question was necessary to split the teams and Bruce emerged victorious again.

While acknowledging that we are blessed at Stowe with a Library and facilities of which we can be very proud we shall continue to strive to improve the appearance, the resources and the support that the Library offers to foster better learning among the Stoics.

Mrs Carol Miller, Librarian





Anastasia Lopoukhine (Upper Sixth)



Charlotte Hodson (Lower Sixth)



Arabella Kelly (Upper Sixth)



Charlie Wentworth-Stanley (Upper Sixth)



Ayesha Shaheen (Lower Sixth)

galleru



Charlie Moore (Lower Sixth)



Francesca Leach (Lower Sixth)



Imogen Wallersteiner (Upper Sixth)



Old Stoics



It has been quite a year for the OS Society, packed full of events for Old Stoics. We kicked off the Michaelmas term with 300 Old Stoics and their families coming to Stowe for Old Stoic Day. We welcomed by far the most children we have ever seen at a reunion, so we laid on garden games and face painting to keep them entertained, along with rides on the Stowe Routemaster bus to see the Beagles – the adults loved that too!

In November, we held the final show stopper to celebrate Stowe's 90th Anniversary: Nostalgic at Ninety at the Park Lane Hotel. Nearly 420 Old Stoics and Current Parents donned their finest 1920s costumes for a dazzling black tie evening with entertainment from a solo saxophonist, tap dancer and burlesque show girl. This certainly got everyone talking and we're not quite sure how we will top it for the centenary.

We were delighted to secure Sir Richard Branson (Cobham/Lyttelton 68) as our new President and he kindly gave a memorable interview for *The Corinthian* magazine, written by Jerome Starkey (Chandos 99), Africa correspondent for *The Times*. With a bit of luck, he might be able to come along to one of our OS events soon.

The Lent term was awash with plans for the Old Stoic Fine Art Exhibition at the Clarendon Gallery in London. Ten professional Old Stoic artists, including David Shepherd (Chatham 49) and David Wynne (Grenville 44), came together to show their work for a week-long exhibition. A great number of Old Stoics popped in to see the exhibition whilst it was in place and we held two evening receptions, including a Wine Tasting, at the Gallery.

Old Stoics got together worldwide over the course of the year, with events in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai and Canada. Our global network continues to grow

and expand; no matter where you are in the world, there will be another Old Stoic nearby!

In May, 50 Old Stoics made a trip to Roger Charlton's (Chatham 68) Racing Stables, on one of the hottest days of the year. Roger kindly led an informative and entertaining tour of his gallops and yard, followed by an excellent pub lunch. We're not sure if anyone managed to get any racing tips but a few members followed on to Newbury later in the afternoon to watch Roger's horses in action.

The Summer term saw the long awaited return of the ever-popular Summer Party at the Kensington Roof Gardens. This year, 260 Old Stoics and their guests gathered in the beautiful gardens to enjoy an evening BBQ with entertainment from OS bands and an amazingly talented OS magician! Old Stoics danced late into the night, and rumour has it, a few carried on dancing elsewhere after the party finished. We also welcomed 40 Old Stoics to Stowe for the first OS Careers' Fair, for the Lower Sixth. Old Stoics were invited to speak about their industry and encourage Stoics to broaden their horizons as they approach departure from Stowe. It was hailed as a great success.

It has been quite a year so far, but the OS event programme continues: plans are already in place for the rest of the year. I hope to see many of you during the coming year. Please do come along to the Annual Dinner, which will be held at Middle Temple on Thursday 20 November. As always, full details can be found on our website (www.oldstoic.co.uk). We're even inviting our recent leavers to go ice staking at Somerset House in December, so the fun never stops!

Miss Anna Semler (Nugent 05), Old Stoic Director



Arts at Stowe

Given the significant investment in resources and facilities for the arts that the School has made over recent years, it has been a natural development for us to create a professional Arts Programme, that brings high quality arts and theatre to Stowe whilst enhancing its standing as a cultural landmark.

So having spent the last year establishing the programme, Arts at Stowe, I welcome the opportunity to share some of the highlights with comments and feedback from audience members.



The Florence Academy of Art

Following an introduction from Old Stoic, Alex Talbot Rice, we were incredibly fortunate to develop a partnership with The Florence Academy of Art so we were able to run a summer programme.

Students studied figure drawing and portrait painting in the Queen's Temple with the Academy's Ambassador Artist, Toby Wright, whilst others could be seen across the grounds, committing our beautiful landscapes to canvas.

"The best tuition I ever had!"

"Inspirational"

After this initial success we are delighted to continue working in partnership, offering an annual summer course, as the only place outside Italy and Sweden where people can receive instruction from The Florence Academy of Art.

Theatre

The theatre programme boasted of a range of work, with classical texts such as 'Miss Julie' and 'An Inspector Calls'. A new international version of 'As You Like It' produced by Transport Theatre impressed audiences with its contemporary themes and stark sets lit beautifully and brought alive with stunning sound and stellar performances from the international cast. Flintlock Theatre's production of 'The Government Inspector', was so good we booked it twice! Their modern adaptation of this Russian classic exposing political corruption in a Russian provincial town was a fast-paced riot of a performance. The performance in April provided a timely pre-exam experience of this curriculum text for drama pupils.



In May, The Reduced Shakespeare Company visited Stowe performing their 97 minute rendition of the 'Complete Works of William Shakespeare'. Amidst their mayhem and slapstick, men dressed as women and playing football in order to re-play Shakespeare's history plays, their moments of the simple poetic power of Shakespeare's verse caught you unaware.

Having stunned audiences across Australia and the UK, the production 'Bitch Boxer' came to Stowe in May telling the story of one young woman from South London and her fight to achieve her goals. It was a story that moved, bringing to life the importance of personal dreams, self-belief and determination.

It moved many of the young audience, bringing a few both young and old to tears.

"I wish every girl had seen this play" (Matron, Stowe School)

In the next season we continue to offer a blend of classic texts with physical theatre, comedy and stories of soldiers in WW1 in our Legend and Legacy series.

Music

In January, Philip Fowke gave the inaugural recital of the Chung Steinway Concert series with his dazzling and virtuosic programme entitled 'The Art of Encore'. Since the inaugural recital, Stowe has hosted recitals given by top concert pianists. From Ingrid Jacoby's captivating performance of Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' to Martino Tirimo's sublime rendition of Chopin's 24 preludes, the series has been a tremendous success and has been comparable to any major London-based recital series.

Comments on our Steinway Concert Series:

"The variety and quality was simply unexpected... people seemed swept away by the warmth of the welcome they received... the range of work, from classical, to jazz to Spanish folk songs. It provided extraordinary value both in cost and experience."



Darius Brubeck

"Darius Brubeck's music was exhilarating. Also every piece of music played was really brought to life through his personal stories of his travels and of course of tales about his father."

Philippa and Simon Dearsley

"I was utterly mesmerised by Simon's piano playing and by the emotional rawness and passion of Philippa's voice."

"We have had a wonderful evening – the Dearsleys put on a grand show. Just what I needed for a Wednesday evening."



The series continues in September with recitals by Murray McLachlan, David Owen Norris and Joanna MacGregor to name but a few.

Ingrid Jacoby

"Ingrid Jacoby is a force to be reckoned with, the strength, variation of tone and technical genius. What a very extraordinary evening!"

Oksana King

"Oksana King captivated the audience with her staggering technical prowess, and simply beautiful musical personality that filled the Uglund Auditorium."

Martino Tirimo

"At one point I remember closing my eyes during the performance and I became convinced that an additional pianist was sitting at the piano, as each individual musical line was so carefully considered and balanced."

Art

One of my favourite moments of the year was listening to BBC Arts Editor, Will Gompertz, giving us a guide to understanding the world of modern art. In his lecture, 'Making Art Make Sense' he conveyed startling insights and food for thought through the comic and vibrant talk, which captivated old and young alike.

It was very heartening to listen to the audience members who came out re-invigorated about modern art, even looking to revisit exhibitions with a new understanding.

Whilst the regeneration of downtown Detroit and the art studios of Stowe may be worlds apart, Maria Irelade delighted her audience of art pupils with tales of her

travels through art in Detroit, Chicago and Boston. Bringing together interesting facts about the wealth of art in Detroit's museum and the regeneration of an area in Detroit by reclaiming derelict houses into art; transforming a no-go area to the go-to place to visit for tourists. It was a clear demonstration of the power of art in our communities.



These were some of the highlights of my first year with Arts at Stowe. After a summer of arts classes and our first Musical Theatre Summer School, the autumn sees the beginning of our new season of plays, music, art exhibitions and talks. Please sign up for our mailing list on the School's website and let us keep you updated with all our news and events.

Ms Deborah Clarke, Arts at Stowe Co-ordinator

Bruce



Housemaster: Craig Sutton
Matron: Helena Sundstrom
Assistant Housemaster: Charlie Barker
Under Housemaster: James Knott
Head of House: Alec Pultr
Deputy Head of House: Hugo Ellison

Senior School Prefects: Alec Pultr, Hugo Ellison

School Prefects: Patrick Devlin, Jack Walker-Payne, Jack Wallis, Max Marston

Senior House Prefects: Patrick Devlin, Jack Walker-Payne, Matthew Pryse

BRUCE

The breadth of the 'Stowe Education' is reflected by the variety of avenues the Bruce leavers have chosen this year. The opportunities that Stowe offers have helped the boys pursue courses in Medicine, Law, Economics, Geography, Ergonomics, Sports Science, Sociology, Psychology, as well as Drama, Professional Rugby, Hospitality and an Apprenticeship with Tata Steel. The support, facilities and activities available have enabled the varied talents of this fine year group to be unearthed and polished and I wish them the very best with their journeys. They have been fantastic 'big brothers' in Bruce and real characters, in the positive sense of the word!

The opportunity for leadership is a feature that we promote in Bruce and the House has been lucky to have a number of boys who have risen to senior positions in the School. The chance to influence the life in House and help the Juniors is given to all the Upper Sixth Formers as they contribute by doing a day 'on duty'. Some are also chosen to be School Prefects and Sports Captains. Six of the Upper Sixth Form have been School Prefects this year, as detailed above, six more Lower Sixth have been chosen to be School Prefects from September. Three have Captained School 1st teams; Harvey Derby (1st XV rugby), Jack Walker-Payne (1st XI hockey), Jack Wallis (athletics). It is good to see the Juniors are following the example of the Seniors with Calum Renshaw skippering the Yearlings A XV rugby and Jim Jackman leading the Yearlings A XI cricket. Our 'Man of the Term' tankard has been won by Hugo Ellison, Jack Walker-Payne and Tom Dixon. Congratulations to all of these boys!

The Inter-House activities contribute much to life at Stowe and offer healthy competition in a range of challenges. We do have high expectations and a fine tradition to maintain and I was pleased to see all teams in all ages give of their best in pursuit of their goal. Take-away pizzas are the usual treat for bringing a trophy back to Bruce and the House budget has taken quite a hit this year as we celebrated several successes and therefore mountains of pizza!

In rugby, seven Bruce boys played regularly for the Stowe 1st XV and Harvey Derby was 'Player of the Season' so the pressure was on to lift the Inter-House trophy. We did manage this, getting revenge on Chatham for last year's final result. Our domination on the basketball courts continued as we won the Senior and Junior trophies, we picked up the Senior team badminton and Tom Dixon won the Senior singles. A sport we haven't won a competition in for many years is football, but this year three age groups got to the final of the football tournament which is run on the first Sunday of the Michaelmas term. The Fifth Form went on to win their pizzas and the Seniors later followed up with a convincing win in the Saturday football league tournament. We have had an excellent intake of junior cricketers and they proved strong enough to win the cricket combining with the Fourth Form, with James Robertson, Adam King and Jim Jackman showing impressive talent. Away from the traditional sports, our Juniors all contributed to winning the most unusual trophy at Stowe, a toilet seat! This was won with a victory in the 'Alternative Sports Day' (we were a very close third in the real athletics Sports Day). We also enjoyed the inaugural Inter-House rowing event. Max Marston used his rowing pedigree to teach the powerful rugby lads how to get the best out of the Concept II machines and we won three of the four trophies, one of which is a fine rowing blade. Away from the sporting arena our Literary Quiz team of Alec Pultr, William Pepera and Matthew Barnes-Murphy won the title for the second time in three years. Our perennially strong debating teams did well, but met equally strong competition in the later rounds. Leading the way in terms of academic results in APG effort ranks have been William Pepera, Matthew Barnes-Murphy and Patrick Devlin.

We are sad to see one of the legends of the Bruce Tutor team, Alan Murray, cease tutoring duties this year after over 20 years of support for the Bruce Third Form. His caring, conscientious and extremely professional approach will be very much missed. Another member of our team to be

moving on is our wonderful Matron. Helena Sundstrom has been with us just under two years, but has been quite superb in every way in her time in Bruce. She goes to her new job at Marlborough in Malaysia with our very best wishes; I am sure she will enjoy it and add as much

to their community as she has done to ours. I would like to thank Mr Barker, Mr Knott and Mr Andrew for their committed assistance in running Bruce; I am pleased they will continue to help guide the boys next year.

Mr Craig Sutton, Housemaster



Chandos



Housemaster:	Peter Deakin
Matron:	Claire Hill-Hall
Assistant Housemaster:	Roland Johnson
Under Housemaster:	Lewis Brito-Babapulle
Head of House:	Henry Cox
Deputy Head of House:	Alex Fitzjohn, Olly Wright

School Prefects: Alex Fitzjohn, Henry Cox, Olly Wright

House Prefects: Piers Fountaine, Hector Paschalides, Anthony Deriziotis, Cameron Power

Chandos

It has been yet another strong year for Chandos, having successful achievements in the three main areas of Stowe life, Sports, Academics and the Arts as well as many outstanding individual achievements by many of the boys in the House. First off well done to James Macdonald-Buchanan for becoming Head Boy for this coming academic year: we wish you all the best of luck and will support you any way we can as a House. To add to this, well done to Will Thompson who played rugby for Buckinghamshire U16, and Toni Kuku who represented the Wasps Academy and England South East U16. Rotimi Segun went one step further, as well as being asked to train with the Northampton Saints 1st team Premiership winning side he also made his debut for England U18s this year scoring a brace of tries against Portugal and one against Scotland. Other achievements include Matthew Goddard gaining an interview at Oxford University as well as Head of House, Henry Cox and Deputy Head of House, Olly Wright for rightfully being promoted to represent the School as School Prefects alongside Alex Fitzjohn half way through the year.

Over this year, Chandos has been involved in numerous House sporting events, with success as the trophy cabinet demonstrates and one or two mixed results. There are a few standout performances from a couple of Chandosians. The Juniors were in outstanding form in House rugby leagues which they dominated and were crowned champions with South African Scholar, Musa Buthelezi, leading the charge with numerous tries. Despite challenging weather during Sports Day the whole House was out supporting almost every event to boost our House spirit regardless of coming a moderate fourth in the competition. Standout performances go to Rotimi Segun, for winning the Senior boys' 100m final that turned out to be a close race against the Head Boy, William Chatamra, and also Philip Ilinich for winning the Junior boys' shot-put and discus field

events. The 4x100m Senior and Intermediate teams also lost narrowly, gaining second and third place respectively. Congratulations also go to Fourth Form cricketer Olly Clarke who will represent Buckinghamshire U16s a year early, to George Silk in the Lower Sixth for being selected to play rugby for Apache Men's Sevens team in the National Competition in Brighton and also Rotimi Segun for being picked for the U18s England rugby tour to South Africa this coming summer.

In the Lent term Chandos has competed in the Inter-House swimming, Inter-House basketball and House league water polo for all age groups. We congratulate the following for their swimming achievements: George Lee for winning the White 400m cup, the Intermediate group for winning the 4x50m freestyle and 4x50m medley, Will Thompson for winning the 50m freestyle, Harrison Dockerty for coming second in the 100m medley and finally Konstantin Abramov for placing third in the 50m breast stroke. In the Inter-House basketball Chandos were knocked out in both the Junior and Senior semi-finals doing extremely well considering being men down and led by Anthony Deriziotis to a solid placing. In water polo the Juniors came second and very narrowly missed out on winning the competition only by a few points with School representatives Freddie Faulkner, Kurt Leimer and Harry Cook all impressing. Considering Chandos were low this year on regular hockey players, we feel fifth place in House hockey was a fair representation of our talents with excellent team leadership by Charlie Moore, our only 1st team player. However despite the lack of players, we had a very good turnout from the Upper and Lower Sixth. The final sport within the House was House cricket where we found ourselves in the plate final in both the Junior and Senior competitions against Walpole and Temple. For the Seniors it wasn't to be our day with the bat and so we saw the silverware being handed to our rivals.



The Chandos Senior debating team was always tipped to do well and grew in confidence over course of the competition beating Walpole, Temple and Grenville before meeting Walpole again in the final. Chandos was dominant in the final and won by a record margin of 11 points. Strong contributions from first and second speakers, James Macdonald-Buchanan and Matthew Goddard, was followed by an astonishing and memorable performance by the seasoned Tom Gordon-Colebrooke. It was a truly breathtaking performance of which Jeremy Paxman would have been proud of.

Chandos, as a whole, has had a strong academic year, starting off in the Michaelmas term being in the top three boys' Houses for APG ranking with strong contributions from Harrison Dockerty, Jamie Angle, James Macdonald-Buchanan, Olly Clarke, Ed Harding and new Lower Sixth Formers, Sean Rea and Matthew Selvey. Matthew Selvey also became the founding editor of the School's very first Science Newsletter. On Speech Day, five Chandosians also picked up prizes. Tom Gordon-Colebrooke picked up the major award of the Dudley Baker Prize for outstanding creative imaginative work, the Stormont prize for percussion and the Baker prize for Debating. Rotimi Segun added to his success by picking up the Colin Shillington Cup for outstanding contribution to School sport, James Macdonald-Buchanan and Artura Subowo the subject prizes for Classics and Religious

Studies respectively and Cameron Power gained an impressive commendation prize.

In the field of Music Chandos also kept up a strong showing in House Singing as the House recorded another placing, the fifth year on the run they have been no lower than third in at least the unison or part-song. Charlie Lockyer, Tom Gordon-Colebrooke, Miles Clark, Konstantin Abramov all appeared regularly in the Unplugged music events and Chandos also produced its first House Play for eight years. The musical extravaganza also continued at both the Chandos 'At Home' event and Christmas dinner where Mr Deakin enjoyed being serenaded by 'Wonderwall' by Oasis. The joint production of 'Success' with Stanhope was a major achievement with Charlie Lockyer, future Head of House – James Scott, Miles Clark, Ben ter Haar, Harry Cook and Philip Ilinich all playing major roles with another ten boys in the cast and stage management.

The trophy cabinet is full, the House is in good health and we look forward to the refurbishment over the summer. We say a sad farewell to our leaving Upper Sixth and also to Mr Roland Johnson, who has been a superb academic Tutor and assistant to Mr Deakin but we are delighted he is taking on West, the new Sixth Form House.

[James Scott, Jamie Angle and Mr Pete Deakin, Housemaster](#)



Chatham



Housemaster: Liam Copley
Matron: Christine Curtis / Tup Bertley
Assistant Housemaster: Henry Swayne
Under Housemaster: Alex de Trafford
Head of House: Harry Dixon-Smith
Deputy Head of House: James Hill

Senior School Prefect: Harry Dixon-Smith

School Prefects: Jasper Upton, Edward Brook Shanahan, Rory Knight

House Prefects: Jasper Upton, Edward Brook Shanahan, Rory Knight, Charles Wentworth-Stanley

At the recent Upper Sixth leavers' dinner I thanked the Senior boys for their support during my first year at Stowe and I extend that to all of the Chatham community. The boys make Chatham a wonderful environment in which to live and work. Rachael, Tup, Henry and the House team strive to create a family atmosphere in the House and I know the boys share this sense of community and pride in the beautiful building we call home. On my first day as Housemaster of Chatham I spoke to the House about my expectations over the coming year. I outlined the misperception of education being a 'preparation for life'. In a school such as Stowe each day should be amongst the most colourful, exciting, fulfilling days of one's being. Regarding school as merely a preparation for life underestimates the richness and the intrinsically worthwhile nature of what you can and should achieve here. I quoted Eleanor Roosevelt; "Do one thing every day that scares you", and off they went to challenge themselves mentally, physically and socially.

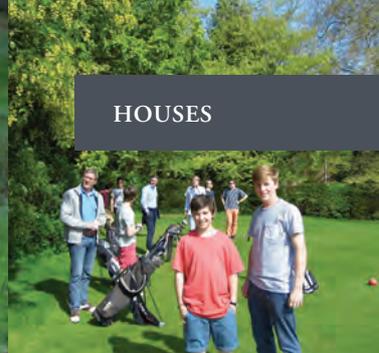
It did not take long for Rachael and me to recognise that the Chatham boys are particularly cordial and their social skills are their greatest assets. I am incredibly proud of them, for opening doors, greeting visitors, looking smart, offering to help and above all, trying their best in whatever they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

In the House there are giants that are well known, those who achieve accolades in the academic sphere, on the sports fields, by acting, singing and performing and I will come on to them. But there are also equally impressive

groups who gain awards for effort if not achievement, volunteering to help, raising money for charity and supporting others in the House. They never seek recognition but without them we would be a significantly poorer community. Their achievements are recognised each week on what is colloquially known in Chatham as 'Doughnut Friday'.

Academically Chatham boys have worked hard throughout the year and there is a scholarly ambience in the House, with healthy competition to succeed in the classroom. As I write this report the table for merits awarded sees Leo Dettori, Monty Florin, Johannes Henkel, Angus Norman and Toby Wightman leading their year groups. Whilst on sheer attainment the standout performers are Peter Wang, James Creedy Smith, Harry Norris, Egor Turjev, Chris Parsonson and Toby Wightman.

In the first half of the Michaelmas term, George Huxtable produced a challenging 'Les Misérables' medley in an attempt to retain the House Singing Cup. Despite not winning we certainly were the people's choice and both the unison song and the part-song were tremendous. The following weekend Chatham showed how resolute they are in bouncing back to retain the Stowe Challenge Cup (previously the Coldstream Cup). Led by the ever determined Jasper Upton, the squad of eight; Harry Dixon-Smith, Rory Knight, Jack Edmonstone, Sam Riley, Thomas Johnson, Cosmo Oliver and Archie Dixon-Smith worked tirelessly to retain the cup. What made me most proud as a Housemaster on that day was the support of the whole House, dressed in purple and black. The Intermediate boys' House rugby team Captained by Thomas Johnson did well to reach the semi-final, but were surpassed by the Senior boys who, under the guidance of James Hill, reached the final. In the final major House competition of the term the spoils went to Rory Knight who won the Senior House cross country. Continuing in a sporting vein, Chatham had a good spread of boys across the array of School teams and many playing at A team level. On the rugby field Harry



Dixon-Smith, James Hill and Sebastian Cecil all secured regular slots in a very strong 1st XV; Thomas Johnson had a very successful year, which earned him an invite to join The Wasps Rugby Elite Performance Group. Charlie Clover had major success on the British equestrian circuit and Jasper Upton continued to impress on the polo field.

The Lent term brought further success for Chathamites on the sports field. On the hockey pitch it was most satisfying to see George Markham making regular selection for the 1st XI. This was carried forward into the Senior House hockey competition where the squad, led by Harry Dixon-Smith was victorious in bringing back the silverware. Unfortunately, the Intermediate boys were beaten in the final 1-0. The trophy cabinet gained a plethora of additions thanks to the success of our Junior swimmers who won both the freestyle and individual medley relay events and the overall boys' Junior swimming cup (Junior squad: Guy Woodhouse, Jack Polturak, Oliver Millard and Peter Wang). Guy Woodhouse also won trophies for the 50m freestyle, backstroke and butterfly and was the Third Form individual boys' trophy winner.

It was pleasing to have James Hill announced as the Vice-Captain of the 1st XI cricket in the Summer term and he was joined in the 1st team by Harry Dixon-Smith at wicket keeper and Sam Riley. However, it was to be our young polo players that were to take the limelight with the Junior School team being entirely made up of Chatham boys: Algy Stanley, Leo Dettori, Henry Frisby and Wilfred Fine. The House athletics brought in more silverware with the lung bursting performance of Rory Knight who managed to win the 800m and 1,500m Senior races, Jamie Ropner the high jump, Thomas Johnson the javelin, Wilfred Fine the 200m and Harry Dixon-Smith the triple jump. With near misses for silverware in the cricket it was the House Junior tennis team under the Captaincy of Edward Good who managed to keep the trophy cabinet full.

I would like to acknowledge several other boys' performances. The extraordinary musical talents of George Huxtable and William Motion are magnificent. Their performances at many of the House events have been a pleasure and greatly appreciated by all. The acting performances in the major School plays of Paul Henkel, Sam Riley, Harry Norris, Leo Dettori and Rebant Ruparell were glorious and inspire me to ensure we produce a House play next year. Oliver Beazley and Rory Knight's ability to lead the Beagles throughout this academic year and still retain such academic rigour is a testament to their personal time management skills. Likewise the ability of Charlie Clover to balance his time between School and riding commitments is astounding. I am pleased to say Charlie is now published as being in the top 12 young riders in the country and has been shortlisted for the GB U21s team for dressage and show jumping.

The highlight of the year for me had to be sharing a leisurely Sunday afternoon with friends and family at the House picnic. This fabulous occasion offered an opportunity for the extended community of Chatham to come together in the splendour of our gardens. That day a closely contested pairs golf competition on the four holes of the Chatham loop saw the Barham brothers come out victorious.

Finally I would like to congratulate the Senior boys on completing their days in Chatham in such fine spirit and thank them all for helping shape the character of those in the younger years. Harry Dixon-Smith and James Hill have proved an excellent team as Head and Deputy Head of House and they have been ably supported by their prefect team of Ed Brook Shanahan, Charlie Wentworth-Stanley and Jasper Upton. It was the great leader Nelson Mandela who said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The giants of Chatham House who leave us, are amongst us and still yet to emerge will, I hope, do exactly that.

Mr Liam Copley, Housemaster

Cobham



Housemaster: James Peppiatt
Matron: Jo Dalrymple
Assistant Housemaster: Michael Rickner
Under Housemaster: Chris Grimble
Head of House: Tobin Mills
Deputy Head of House: Charlie Barnes, Drew Todd

Senior School Prefect: Charlie Barnes

School Prefects: Tobin Mills, George Jackman

House Prefects: Tobin Mills, Charlie Barnes, Drew Todd, George Jackman, Henry Coldstream, Bertie Grossart, Sam Whitbread, Monty Owen

Cobham

To misquote a famous line from the musical 'Hair', 'How do you measure a year in the life of a House?' In success in House competitions certainly, of which more below. In individual achievements undoubtedly, and Cobhamites have continued to excel in a whole range of fields, from the academic to the sporting and musical. But reflecting on my second year as Housemaster of Cobham brings the realisation that it is the more intangible aspects of House life that are perhaps the most important. Looking back on last year's report, I wrote that what had struck me most about my first year was 'the fundamentally affable and good-natured character of Cobhamites as a whole... and the diversity of talent within the House'. This year, both those observations remain equally true, and Jo and I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the boys and the distinctive character of the House even better. On several occasions, prospective parents who are being shown around by the boys comment on their good-natured enthusiasm, their good manners, and their obvious loyalty to the House (it's amazing what a few slices of pizza can buy...). For my part, it is a testament to the boys' characters that I always have utmost confidence in them when visitors come to the

House – they can always be relied upon to be courteous, eloquent and honest (while, obviously, preserving the right amount of tact). Of course they, like the rest of us, are not perfect, and Matron and I will continue to fight the good fight to keep rooms tidy, appearance pristine, and results good. But if one of the measures of a House is the character of the people in it, then I am proud to say that Cobhamites continue to hit the A* grades.

And so to those more concrete successes. The first weekend of the year saw a dramatic penalty shoot out against Bruce in the Senior House football final, with George Jackman holding his nerve to put the trophy back on the shelf for us. Next up was the House Singing Competition, and I have to say that this was a personal highlight for me this year. Will Dodge, Harry Hayden, Tobin Mills, Ollie Vince, Barnaby Cloud and Theo Shepherd-Smith all worked under the tireless direction of Henry Coldstream to produce a stunning arrangement of Coldplay's 'Yellow'. We took the part-song cup, as well as a very credible third place in the overall competition. The Michaelmas term also saw the Stowe Challenge Cup event, which seems to push the boys harder every year. Despite an incredible effort from



a strong team consisting of Tobin Mills, Monty Owen, Georges Tasker, Brandon Lee, Guy Seddon, Charlton Kerr, Oscar Williams and Harry Bunting, we relinquished the Assault Course Cup after three years of success, but did manage a commendable third place overall. Back with a vengeance next year, with some very promising young blood coming through... In the Lent term, the Third and Fourth Form hockey players deserve a special mention for romping to undefeated victory in the Inter-House hockey, and achieving a new School Record (I believe...) by not conceding a single goal. We also found room on the trophy shelf for the coveted 'silver lacrosse stick' – the Inter-House lacrosse is a new competition in which teams of three houses per side compete, and Cobham, Lyttelton and Grenville were first on the Honours' Board. In the Summer term, a repeat of last year's Cobham/Grafton final in the Senior Inter-House cricket saw the trophy wrestled from us by Grafton, but I will end this section on a high. The Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth won the Seniors' athletics trophy and congratulations to Messrs Jackman and Grossart A, who won the all important Inter-House table tennis competition for us. So, several victories, and several to aspire to next year – I have no doubt that Cobhamites will continue to compete just as hard for the spoils!

My word limit does not allow me to go through every pupil in the House and list their individual talents, but they know who they are – accomplished artists, musicians and academics; skilled athletes and sportsmen who compete not only at school but national level; debaters, CCF cadets and dramatists. And while all those who excel in these areas should be rightly acknowledged, it is equally important to recognise the value of every Cobhamite and what they contribute to the House to make it such a happy and cohesive community – I am hugely grateful to all of them for their positive attitude and enthusiasm.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all those members of staff who do so much to support me and keep the House running effectively. Our Matron, Jo Dalrymple, remains unfailingly cheerful, nurturing and professional, and a great foil for me in my grumpier moments! Thanks also to Mike Rickner, Chris Grimble, Emma Ackroyd and Paul Thompson, all of whom have done a fantastic job in their respective roles this year. I must also mention our House Nurse, the outstanding Debbie Jenkins, for all her TLC with the pupils, which I know is much appreciated by them all. Lastly, and by no means least, my thanks to the Cobham cleaning ladies, Jacqui, Ann, Maxine and Janet, and to Charlie, our handyman – without them all, the House would, quite literally, fall apart. Now, a time to draw breath and reflect on another busy but successful year in Cobham House, and recharge the batteries before it all starts again in September!

Mr James Peppiatt, Housemaster



Grafton



Housemaster:	Gavin Moffat
Matron:	Terri Bosman
Assistant Housemaster:	Alan Hughes
Under Housemaster:	Charlie Standley
Head of House:	Hugo Kinahan
Deputy Head of House:	Arthur Newman

School Prefects: Charlie Mason, Charles Pilleau, Oliver Constantine

House Prefects: Max Robinson, Jack Vestey

Grafton

Summarising the achievements of three incredibly busy terms is a difficult task indeed and where does one start? Let me begin with my 'champagne moments of the year', unashamedly borrowed from the Test Match Special team as they sum up the toing and froing of a five day test cricket match. The Lent term saw the production of the House play 'Allô Allô', a story well known to those of us of a certain vintage but completely unknown to the current young Graftonians. Arthur Newman led the cast with his superb portrayal of the cowardly café owner René Artois with excellent supporting roles from boys throughout the five years and thus making the play a true House event in every sense. The play was well received by the packed audiences on its two night run and the production was certainly one of the highlights of the year for me. House Drama, but only in comedy form in Grafton, is in safe hands given the several Juniors who made up the cast. Bravo à tous!

A further glowing memory has to be the blood, sweat and tears shed by the Stowe Challenge Cup team as they took on the assault course, run and tank pull on a cold October day in the Michalemas term. The training prior to the event is a feat of endurance in itself whilst seeing the boys pushed to the edge of their physical capabilities on competition day is a sight to behold. This was all the more worthwhile when the team smashed the previous record for the assault course on their way to a staggering 3 minutes 21 seconds which will take some beating in the years to come. Finishing second overall by one point to the eventual winners was a source of huge pride to the House who turned out in great numbers to support the team.

The most impressive highlight has to be Grafton winning the Academic Salver in both terms in which Houses compete for the right to say that they have shown the greatest commitment to academic endeavour and excellence. The Grafton boys have dedicated great time and effort in to their academic studies this year and to be publicly rewarded with the Salver is a testament to their desire to work as hard in the classroom as in their extra-curricular pursuits and the Salver

takes pride of place in the trophy cabinet in the House foyer.

Away from academia and drama, Grafton has once again proven a worthwhile adversary to all the other Houses on the sports pitches. The Inter-House cross country trophy was retained for the seventh consecutive year and the boys are determined to do their utmost to make it part of the House furniture. The recent Sports Day honours again went to Grafton who retained the trophy with some outstanding feats of athletic prowess, most notably from Triumph Opuala-Charles, Charlie Mason, Diggory Slee and Alex Perez-Buchanan who all won their respective events. The Senior boys continued to shine throughout the year by winning the Senior House cricket, tennis and water-polo trophies whilst also retaining the House rugby league competition. The Upper Sixth will be sorely missed on the sports field in particular when they soon depart for pastures new and I hope that they take many sweet memories of accomplishments earned in the classroom, treading the boards and on the sports field during their time here at Stowe.

Lastly, it remains for me to thank the wonderful team of House Tutors (Mr Young, Sixth Form Tutor, and Mr Mellor, Fourth Form Tutor) who do so much in guiding the boys through their educational rollercoaster ride, Hugo Kinahan as an excellent Head of House and his dedicated Prefect team, Dr Standley (Under Housemaster and Third Form Tutor) and Mrs Bosman as a wonderfully warm Matron and my own family who keep me sane. I would like to say a special thank you to Mr Hughes who has been an exceptional Assistant Housemaster and Tutor to many boys in his time in Grafton and we wish both him and Elena the very best of luck as they move up the hill to Grenville in his deserved new position as Housemaster. We look forward to locking horns in the myriad of House competitions and in true Stowe style, offering him some good natured abuse when our paths cross. Glasses raised for a super 2013-2014.

Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



Speech Day Prize Winners:

- Oliver Constantine – Headmaster’s Special Prize*
- Alexis Lazareff – Headmaster’s Special Prize*
- Charles Pilleau – The David Sandhurst Prize*
- Oliver Woodward – Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science*
- Hugo Kinahan – Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science*
- Rex Roxburgh – Friends of Stowe Prize for French*
- Angus Tyrrell – David McDonough Prize for History*



Grenville



Housemaster:	Andrew Murphy
Assistant Housemaster:	Myles Nash / Philip Arnold
Under Housemaster:	Stephen Dachtler
Matron:	Stephanie Stocks
Head Boy:	William Chatamra
Head of House:	Nicholas Whitmore
Deputy Head of House:	Edward Cecil

Senior School Prefect: Nicholas Whitmore

School Prefects: Edward Cecil, William Chatamra, Nicholas Whitmore, Fred Desmond

House Prefects: Edward Cecil, William Chatamra, Nicholas Whitmore, Fred Desmond, Toby Cole, Hugo Hiley, Charlie Harris

"And now, the end is near;

And so I face the final curtain."

To quote 'My Way' by 'Old Blue Eyes' himself seems an apt way to sign off on the academic year and the end of five years at the helm of Grenville. It is with great sadness and reluctance that I hand over the reins to Alan Hughes, but know that he and Elena will take Grenville ever higher at Stowe. Gabi and I are very excited about taking on a Deputy Headship, but our hearts and our children's roots will forever be in Grenville and in the sumptuous surroundings of Stowe.

"Regrets, I've had a few;

But then again, too few to mention."

Grenville has broken all records for number of merits earned and I thank each and every one of my 'Villians' for dazzling their teachers with superb prep and exemplary class work. The number one spot for three terms running is a fabulous achievement and is the envy of every Housemaster. APGs have been tightly fought this year and sadly second overall will have to suffice with no Academic Salver this year. I have great expectations for next year with a fantastic crop of young men to carry on the academic success of Grenville.

"I planned each charted course;

Each careful step along the byway,"

In the sporting arena Grenville has overachieved once again. Superb success in football winning the Junior league and Fourth Form Cup, as well as the Fourth Form winning dodgeball. In badminton we have a new star in Henry Eleyin-Bingham who won the singles in the Juniors and helped win the doubles too. In swimming we finally won the overall tournament cup, as well as taking a clean sweep with the Seniors and setting new relay records. In volleyball the Seniors were surprise winners, while combining sporting success and seeking important

academic qualifications. Rugby I am certain will be on Mr Hughes' 'hit list' for the next few years, but we already have a good foundation with Tosin Segun winning the top try scorer trophy for the second year in a row, and the Fourth Form winning the Plate. James Greenley and Tom Carr maintain their consistency in fives, having moved up to the Seniors this year, and won the trophy again. In water polo we have excellent representation at school level in both age groups, and it was very pleasing to see the Juniors win the Dolphin Cup. Sadly they could not beat the Masters' team captained by myself!

"I've loved, I've laughed and cried.

I've had my fill; my share of losing."

To win House Singing is particularly pleasing as the boys were simply sensational. They took an incredibly difficult song from 'Les Misérables', which is better suited for a female voice, 'I dreamed a dream' and made it their own. Praise to Harrison Perske and Fred Desmond for their powers of organisation. To come runner-up for the part-song was a travesty as everyone believed that our arrangement was superior; but it gives us something to work towards next year.

I am privileged to announce that we had two new members of staff join the Grenville family. Philip Arnold as Assistant Housemaster, along with his wife Jo, bring a wealth of Stowe experience; Philip with 10 years teaching, and Jo as a former pupil! Stephanie Stocks comes in as our new Matron and has quickly established herself as a firm favourite with the boys.

Sadly we say farewell to Myles Nash who learnt his trade as Assistant Housemaster here in Grenville, and like many before him, has utilised the 'Grenville Academy' moving onwards and upwards to the position of Housemaster at Leighton Park in Reading. I am delighted to say that Heather Jacobs secured the position of Assistant Dame at Eton and we wish her and Odi all the best.



HOUSES



*"For what is a man, what has he got?
If not his GrenVillians, then he has naught."*

It has been a fabulous year in Grenville with a wonderful Sixth Form shepherding the troops to success across the many spectrums of life at Stowe. Nicholas Whitmore has been a fabulous Head of House, leading the boys by his first class example and showing great warmth and empathy along the way. Edward Cecil has been an enthusiastic and able Deputy and between them they have made my job infinitely easier. The House Prefect team of Fred Desmond, Toby Cole, Hugo Hiley, Charlie Harris and William

Chatamra were a well oiled unit, never missing a duty, and have made Prefect meetings on a Sunday something we all look forward to and indeed have a good laugh. We also say goodbye to Ivan Popov, Oliver Roe, Tom Burke and Edward Selby-Lowndes.

Thanks to all the boys and families attached to Grenville, and importantly thank you to Gabi for allowing me to spend the first five years of our married life in a boarding school with all these wonderful people.

As ever the future is bright, the future is Grenville Orange.

Mr Andrew Murphy, Housemaster



Lyttelton



Housemistress: Valerie Green
Matron: Olive Pohlmann / Tup Bertley
Assistant Housemistress: Liz Capurro & Kaitlan Biondi
Head of House: Katkin Farr and Shona Drummond
Deputy Head of House: Maddie Wackett

School Prefects: Shona Drummond, Maddie Wackett

House Prefects: Polly Anderson, Natalie Bishop-Ugland, Bella Kelly, Anastasia Lopoukhine, Priscilla Powell

Where to start? How to describe? As a sparkly, wide-eyed new Housemistress I was aware of the warnings... but the Lyttelton girls very quickly welcomed me into the fold. It is so much fun being a Housemistress, there is never a dull moment. I am so extraordinarily proud of all the girls in House. They share a huge wealth of diverse talents; whether academic, sporty, arty, musical or dramatic, their prowess and achievements never cease to amaze me.

We enjoy a wonderful sense of camaraderie which has been strengthened this summer by lots of BBQs and rounders in our garden (all 750 acres of it!). A new development next year will be assigning the girls into vertical House teams to encourage even more integration between the different year groups. We have rewarded effort in the APG grades with cinema trips, pizzas and Chinese takeaways... we know how to party!

The year has flown past so quickly and we have to say goodbye to another set of wonderful Upper Sixth. They are all leaving to pursue exciting and adventurous challenges. We thank them for their leadership and encouragement throughout the House. The year has seen many changes as I welcomed a new House team to Lyttelton. Kaitlan Biondi, an England Lacrosse player, took over from Liz Capurro as Assistant Housemistress, Collette Storzaker became Under Housemistress of Stanhope and is being replaced next year by Sarah Sutton, a GB Triathlete. We lost our long serving Matron Olive Pohlmann who has been replaced by Tup Bertley. Elsa Desmond and Izzy Boorman both received awards at Speech Day and Francesca Leach and Lettice Rothschild displayed their projects in the art and design exhibitions.

The year has been packed with an enormous number of challenges and I am proud to say that Lyttelton has risen to almost all of them, with girls going on cultural and educational trips to India, New York, South Africa and the first ever trip to China this academic year. This has had a big impact on the girls as they now have a broader outlook

on life after experiencing different cultures and lifestyles. This allows them to make connections with their studies from a very real perspective.

Unfortunately we have to say goodbye to our two wonderful South African Scholars, Princess Moyo and Jess Amoda, who have taught us so much. They have made the most of every moment here at Stowe and enjoyed all the activities they took part in. They will be sorely missed. Cluny Fenner joined us from New Zealand just for the Michaelmas term but soon found her feet, settled in well and made many friends.

Lyttelton as a House is not only talented on the sports field but also on stage through performances in 'Cabaret', Junior Congreve and House Singing. Katkin Farr directed our House song, which was an amazing opportunity for the whole House to pull together and work on a superb performance in front of the whole School. The part-song themed from 'Les Misérables' was directed by Priscilla Powell and included Bella Coldstream, Alice Hastie-Smith, Celia Marment, Fabiola Koenig, Anastasia Howard-Jenkins, Tally Sargent and Princess Moyo. Priscilla took the lead role in 'Cabaret' and performed to rapturous applause. Lauren Carley also took a big part and bravely performed a solo.

Lyttelton is incredibly well represented in all sports which led to success at Sports Day with Priscilla Powell defending her title in shot put. Lyttelton has also won the cup in Intermediate and Senior mixed House lacrosse, Senior House rounders and the Intermediate House tennis and fives. We also have three members of the House representing the 1st lacrosse team, including Shona Drummond who continues to play for Scotland U19, Polly Stuart-Mills who is a star in waiting and Tessa Horan. We also have seen Savannah Courtenay achieve sponsorship in her International karting career and Amy Struthers who has performed excellently throughout the year at all of her horse-riding events. Amy has also been a

Lyttelton



part of the CCF with Princess Moyo and Jess Amoda, all being highly commended for their efforts. Flo Berner is regularly competing on the polo field and has just brought a magnificent new trophy into House. Rosie Williamson and Dani Fusco-House are our star rowers competing in events in and out of School. Dani has just made it through the qualifiers at Henley. Is GB too much to hope for in the future? Lauren Carley goes from strength to strength in sailing and has just been made sailing Captain. Elsa Desmond triumphed through many testing swimming races and was awarded swimming colours after breaking many of her own records. Elsa has also held her position on the boys' 1st water polo team! She has helped at Congreve as part of the technical crew at Stowe and has recently been awarded House and Senior Prefect at Stowe.

Next year we have another strong Prefect team in place. Tally Sargent is Head of House ably assisted by her two Deputies Anastasia Howard-Jenkins and Tessa Horan. They will also have support from House Prefects Elsa Desmond,

Lauren Carley, Edwina Longe, Izzy Boorman and Rosie Williamson.

The House team will consist of Kaitlan Biondi (Assistant Housemistress and Third Form Tutor), Sarah Sutton (Under Housemistress and Fourth Form Tutor), Kim McMahon (Fifth Form Tutor), Tup Bertley (Matron), Damian Blewitt and Richard Corthine.

I would like to thank this year's House team – Kaitlan Biondi, Collette Stirzaker, Sarah Sutton, Kim McMahon, Liz Capurro, Debbie Jenkins, Gail, Trina, Marion, Barbara, Julie (our cleaners) and last but not least Trevor and David (our handymen).

Lyttelton will rise like a phoenix from the ashes after the summer. We will be rendered to match the magnificent new Chung Music School along with new windows and a glass portico at the entrance.

Mrs Valerie Green, Housemistress

Nugent



Housemistress: Jayne Duckett
 Matron: Marian Gallick
 Assistant Housemistress: Hannah Knott
 Under Housemistress: Alicia Davies
 Head of House: Lizzie Highwood
 Deputy Head of House: Hannah Dixon

School Prefects: Lizzie Highwood, Martina Fidanova, Hannah Dixon, Chrissie Fusco-House

House Prefects: Hattie French, Elsie Down, Fleur Congreve, Martina Fidanova, Lucy-May Wallis

NUGENT

"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do."
 Henry Ford

As a Housemistress you are attached by a thread to each individual in the House and the connection is a very personal one. Over the past eight years I have learnt a great deal about human strengths and weaknesses and perhaps more importantly what unites and sometimes divides people of all ages.

We have transformed a very successful Sixth Form House into one that, in September 2014, will contain girls in every age group. Each pupil, each team, each corridor, each Tutor group, each friendship group has mattered to me and my staff more than you would have ever believed possible and we have tried to make Nugent their home each term. There is an assumption in education that it is possible to predict and chart young people's futures. Beware of this! It isn't! What is possible is to prepare each individual for the different circumstances and challenges that will inevitably

come their way. Everyone is unique and there is no perfect way – remember that getting there is the most important part of being successful.

We have experienced success this year beyond all expectations and your daughters have played their part. Just to prove that sport is not the only discipline that matters, we also won the Academic Salver in March; our debating team of Annie Ormerod, Georgina Skinner and Holly Campbell made it all the way to the final (coached by Amber Shepherd), only to be beaten by an impressive Fifth Form team from Queen's. Numerous Upper Sixth Stoics have exciting offers to top universities. The following received Academic prizes on Speech Day:

Elsie Down (French and Spanish), Amber Shepherd (History), Hannah Dixon (Louis Strauss prize, Chemistry and Music), Alex Bishop (Religious Studies), Chrissie Fusco-House (Economics), Sophia Last (Art), Louisa Highwood (Sports Science), Letitia O'Neill (History





of Art), Theodora Tserni (Biology) and Annie Ormerod (Drama).

We were also entertained by Tish who sang ‘Hallelujah’ by Leonard Cohen and Hannah Dixon who played ‘Gabriel’s Lament’ on the Oboe.

Our dramatists (Megan McGurk, Ayesha Shaheen, Jess Tomson, Lucy Thompson, Veronica Sule, Olivia Thomas, Georgia Flawn-Thomas, Emma Grayson, Martha Combe, Alice Maclure, Mali Aitchison, Karimot Adebayo-Karim and Annie Ormerod) have been involved in Senior and Junior Congreve as well as putting on our House play, ‘Tops’.

Our musicians perform every Wednesday in concerts and our part-song group won equal first prize in House Singing last October.

On the sporting front the highlights have been:

- Junior trophies for basketball, hockey, lacrosse, tennis, swimming, cross country and Sports Day.
- We set a new assault course record of 4m 9s and came first in the run in the Stowe Challenge Cup.
- Intermediate trophies for cross country, swimming and Sports Day.
- Senior trophies for badminton (singles and doubles), swimming, tennis, netball and rounders.
- Overall House trophies for cross country, Sports Day and swimming.

However, none of this would have been possible without the tireless effort put in by my House Team. Hannah Knott, Assistant Housemistress, is leaving us and going on to Bradfield – we wish her good luck with her new job. Alicia Davies has been a magnificent Under Housemistress and has also been promoted to Assistant Housemistress. From September 2014 she will also become our new Fifth Form Tutor. Kasey Howard is staying with us and looking after the Third Form next year. Shelby Davis is moving on to Queen’s as their Under Housemistress. Richard Knight

remains a Sixth Form Tutor and of course, Marian Gallick remains as Matron. Without them my job would be impossible!

My House Prefect team have been equally amazing and my best wishes go to them for a successful career in the big wide world: Lizzie Highwood, Hannah Dixon, Lucy-May Wallis, Elsie Down, Hattie French, Martina Fidanova and Fleur Congreve.

Mrs Jayne Duckett, Housemistress



Queen's



Housemistress: Jane Hamblett-Jahn
Matron: Anne Reading
Assistant Housemistress: Lucy Ashe
Under Housemistress: Emily Sinclair
Head of House: Heloise Kleinwort
Deputy Head of House: Alice Hughes

Senior School Prefect: Lily Comyn, Alice Hughes, Heloise Kleinwort

School Prefects: Honor Douglas Miller, Caroline Schaufelberger, Harriet Stringer

House Prefects: Lily Comyn, Honor Douglas Miller, Georgie Jack, Caroline Schaufelberger

Queen's

This year's report is difficult to write as it is my last as Housemistress of Queen's; it has been a privilege to be part of the girls' lives and oversee them striving to make their mark and give their very best. Micha, Kata, Alexander and I will all miss Stowe dreadfully – Queen's has been at the heart of our family life for the last seven years.

This year's Upper Sixth are a focused and determined bunch who set their sights on bagging the lion's share of silverware and were keen to lead from the front and by example. Heloise Kleinwort arrived in September having spent a chunk of the holidays writing her arrangement of 'One Day More' for the part-song and Caroline Schaufelberger had maintained her fitness regime and had a strategy planned for The Stowe Challenge Cup (a

new competition to replace the Coldsteam Cup which Queen's had yet to win). Our Christmas dinner – planned and hosted by the House Prefects – was an extra special occasion as we had plenty to celebrate at the end of the Michaelmas term. Not only did we win the part-song category of the House Singing but we also won the unison song with 'Bring it all back' which made us overall winners too and Heloise won the Arrangement Prize to boot – a clean sweep no less. Caroline (who found time to sing in the part-song whilst training our elite Challenge Cup team) was also thrilled that we had dominated in that competition by ensuring that our team was balanced with both brain and brawn so that we could not only bank excellent times on the obstacle course and in the run but could also score highly on the command task section of the





competition. We are still waiting for the cup though...

Alice Hughes, who Captained the 1st XI hockey side which included eight Queen's girls, managed to injure her hand just before the House hockey but the girls responded to her encouragement from the side lines and we came away winners of the Senior and Inter competitions and second in the Junior event. The Seniors also won the soccer on the first weekend of term (largely thanks to Bibi Alpys, Caroline and Alice) and the cross country in December. Caroline was the individual winner and Honor Douglas Miller came in second (in socks!). Annabel Simpson won the Inter race taking 90 seconds off the School Record and Thalia Felton came in a strong second. The Seniors went on to win the lacrosse (another first for Queen's), basketball, racketball and Sports Day (Queen's came first in the relays in all three age groups). They lost the netball by one goal in the finals (a bitter defeat for our 1st team players Heloise, Alice and Bea Saunders Watson) but our Juniors and Inters won very decisively. Harriet Stringer and Heloise were the first two girls to be awarded their Equestrian Colours and a number of other girls have been competing on horseback this year. Izzy Baillie is part of Stowe's U15 polo team that won the National Championships and Bubby Upton won two silver medals at the Pony European Championships.

Queen's has also had a very successful year on stage. We have put on a House play every year since our inception and the standard of this year's production of 'The Cagebirds' by David Campton performed by a cast of Third and Fourth Formers (Libby Flood, Rosie Smith, Laurie Taylor, Rhiannon Templeman, Merrie Bashaarat, Thalia Felton, Emily Osborne, India Spencer and Mary Stanley) was particularly high. Audiences were also wowed by Miss Sinclair's disturbing and hard-hitting production of 'Find Me' by Olwen Wyman that featured three of our Fifth Formers (Leli Zivanovic, Saskia Satchell and Laura Brogden) and showed just what accomplished actors they have become. The Summer term saw a number of our

Juniors (Maya Tearle, Issy Leondiou, Rhiannon, Rosie, Laurie, Thalia, Mary) tread the boards in Junior Congreve's 'Tonight at 8.30' and a number were also involved in the Luffield Festival. Saskia, Laura, Emily, Laurine Heerema, Rhiannon and Bella Regis were all very successful in their LAMDA exams as were all those who sat instrumental exams (almost half the House have instrumental or singing lessons).

We have had more than our fair share of academic success this year too and were particularly pleased to win the Junior Debating Competition. Our team of Fifth Formers (Dot Holt, Saskia and Leli) proved to be quick-thinking, well-informed and articulate – I'm sure they will set their caps at the Senior Trophy next year. Queen's girls feature heavily in dispatches for their very strong APG results – they are regularly commended both for their strong attainment grades and their work ethic which is something that Queen's girls have in spades. Last summer we were thrilled to see our leavers head to Bristol, King's, Leeds, Newcastle, UCL, Westminster and were very proud of Rosie Dickson and Hannah Tilleard who both scored 10 A*s at GCSE (seven of the Fifth Form scored seven As or more). We're keeping our fingers firmly crossed for this August.

I am, as ever, indebted to my House team for all of their commitment and hard-work. We bid fond farewells to Miss Ashe and Miss Sinclair who will both be sorely missed by all the girls but especially by their Tutor groups. We shout our last hurrah to Maitch, Mrs Reading, for her unfaltering support – she is Queen's bedrock and we all owe her a great deal.

Queen's is lucky to be welcoming Mrs James (currently our Fifth Form Tutor) as its new Housemistress in September and I know that the girls will make her and her husband Andy very welcome. I will follow the girls' progress with interest and will miss them all greatly.

Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn, Housemistress

Stanhope



Housemistress:	Sue Harmon
Matron:	Julie Brenner / Eva Carter
Assistant Housemistress:	Gemma Bonner
Under Housemistress:	Julie Johnson
Head Girl:	Lucy Horan
Head of House:	Rebecca Wild
Deputy Head of House:	Marina Oswald, Clara Holden

Senior School Prefects: Lucy Horan, Imogen Wallersteiner, Rebecca Wild, Marina Oswald

School Prefects: Megan Duckett, Clara Holden

House Prefects: Coco Anthony, India Cornish, Lucy Horan, Isabelle Le Fevre, Ella Markham, Emma Whiting, Rebecca White

Stanhope

While I sit here expecting to be basking in the warm late May sunshine writing my report, the weather can only be described as pitiful this year, with yet another cold and wet Sports Day passing us by and the Speech Day picnics just about surviving the rain. However, the Stanhopian spirits have not been dampened and the House remains in good form.

The eclectic mix of Third Formers who joined us in September has begun to forge their independent paths and each has shown us over the course of this year what a determined bunch of young women they are.

House competitions have been tougher this year, and the might of Nugent has on occasion been hard to crack. Undeterred, we have continued to participate with focus and most importantly a sense of humour. This said, we have witnessed some outstanding achievements both on and off the sports field which I would like to share with you. On a wet and soggy Sports Day, Lucy Horan in the Senior hurdles, Octavia Cavill in the high jump and Lottie Hopkinson in discus and shot all broke School Records, with Jaimie McIntosh and Rebecca White taking first place in the 1,500m and triple jump respectively. In swimming, in the Lent term, the Inters medley relay race saw a new School Record by Jemima Grant, Jemima Fitzjohn, Anna Fox and Camilla Morandotti. Camilla and Pip Vickers also won their individual butterfly races. With a strong Fourth and Fifth Form lacrosse team, many of whom play 1st and 2nd School lacrosse, we won convincingly against the other Houses. The Fifth Form also proved themselves as skilful winners in the mixed lacrosse event joined with Walpole and Grafton.

Externally, Lucy Horan continues in her quest to play for the England lacrosse team, followed closely by Octavia Cavill who was selected onto the U19 squad last September, along with Milla Harvey-Scholes and Philippa Stacey who both gained U17 places. Octavia's talents in sport appear to know no bounds and we congratulate her

on her recent gold wins in the high jump and silver in the long jump. This now takes her on to the U17 British National Championships.

Back on home soil, after some contentious adjudicating in this year's House Singing Competition, we had to settle for second place in the part-song. I have no doubt that with the talent of Molly Suthers, Shannon Devlin and Honor Brady taking the reins next year that we will see a step up to first place once again. The musical and thespian talents of all three girls was enjoyed in the spectacular Senior Congreve production of 'Cabaret' back in November, with Molly, in particular, playing the part of Sally Bowles so convincingly. Our joint House Drama production with Chandos in March lived up to its title, 'Success', which was excellently directed by Marina Oswald, in which she single-handedly managed a cast of more than 20 characters. Notable performances were given by Florence Fox, Beth Ackroyd and Savanna Elliott.

Furthermore, I would also like to acknowledge the breadth of creativity within the House; one only needed to visit the art and DT exhibitions on Speech Day to see what an immensely talent cohort Stanhopians are. From A2 to GCSE the artistic talents of Imo Wallersteiner, Lucy Horan, Lottie Hodson, Lucy Oswald, Willa Barham, Livvy Wentworth-Stanley, Adesola Kazeem, Olivia Walters, Daisy Price, Sorrel Fenwicke-Clennell, Hannah Marshall and Jemima Grant formed part of the strongest exhibition of work shown in the Art Department, alongside textile pieces by Alice Gurr and Daisy Wellesley. In StoweBucks the show-stopping fibre-optic chandelier by India Cornish was also outstanding.

As 2013-2014 draws to a close, it is with great sadness that I say farewell to my excellent Upper Sixth, particularly the House Prefects, who have helped foster a caring House, nay home, for all who live here, including the staff. Special mention goes to Rebecca Wild who has been an exceptional Head of House. It is hard to believe this is the

same cohort who tell stories of Third Form water fights in the dorms and travelling at speed down the stairwell in a suitcase, as they all confidently take up their next challenge beyond Stowe; I thank them for a very special final year.

Thanks also go to the academic staff, Gemma Bonner, Assistant Housemistress and Sixth Form Tutor, Julie Johnson, Under Housemistress and Fourth Form Tutor, Sharon Carter, Fifth Form Tutor, Elena Hughes, Third Form Tutor, Kate Clarke and duty staff, all of whom have

provided outstanding support for each and every one of the girls. Our best wishes go with Julie and her husband Roland, who move 100 metres down the road to take up the post of Houseparents in the new Sixth Form boarding House, West. Special thanks also go to the two temporary Matrons, Julie Brenner and Eva Carter and Natalie Gallagher our House Nurse.

Mrs Sue Harmon, Housemistress



Temple



Housemaster: Anthony Macpherson
Matron: Pamela Dennison
Assistant Housemaster: Gwilym Jones
Under Housemaster: Chris Warde
Head of House: Harry Rees
Deputy Head of House: William Barnes

School Prefects: Kalil Ali, William Barnes

House Prefects: Kalil Ali, Fergus Jones, Kurabe Makiura, Alexander Stone

Temple

I write this report on the last Sunday evening of the academic year and Temple is half-empty (perhaps I am supposed to say half-full, whichever is the optimistic way round). Working in a school means working through the year in bite-sized segments; every portion is somehow distinctive but the latter half of the Summer term stands out from the others. The Fifth and Upper Sixth Formers have left for their holidays and many of the rest are out on CCF or Duke of Edinburgh expeditions; cricket festivals, university Open Days and various other trips and visits await anyone who is left this week, as the year draws to its conclusion. At the same time however, the new Stoics have just spent their first weekend in House preparing for September and raising the excitement and anticipation of a new year ahead. As such, this time in late June always serves to reinforce the feeling that schools are places in flux, with personnel constantly changing. It is stating the obvious to say that the Upper Sixth move on, but members of staff come and go too and in Temple this year we say farewell to more than our fair share.

Our Matron, Pamela Dennison, has been a stalwart figure in Temple for eight years and has devoted her energy and enthusiasm towards its smooth-running, striving tirelessly to make the many dorms, studies, stairways and corridors of Temple a home away from home for the boys. She will be missed for many reasons, not least her legendary Sunday-night brownies, the very last of which happens to be on a plate in front of me as I type, awaiting its inevitable demise. As with Pam, Tony Chan cannot be encompassed here by a few words but we have all made our fondness and gratitude to him well-known over the past few weeks and I have no desire to embarrass him further. He will be missed by everyone in Temple and we wish him the very best for his move to King's Canterbury where he is bound to be a huge success. Phil Arnold has now been appointed Assistant Housemaster in Grenville. Relocating to the other end of the Mansion is a move not readily forgiven by those of us in Temple, but we do of course wish him well in his new role and he is welcome back for a visit any time, even if only to tell the Upper Sixth on Top Main above his flat to turn their music down. Our grateful thanks go to Phil



for the exceptional tutoring he has provided in Temple over many illustrious years. The Upper Sixth have been a truly fantastic year group and have guided the House in fine style. Particular thanks go to Harry Rees and the Prefect team for their input and leadership but all of them have played an important part in shaping the House so positively. I have every confidence that next year's Upper Sixth, ably led by Noah Russell, will do equally well. The tutor team is joined from September by Howard Hoare and Kyle Bennett and Julie Greenwood replaces Pam as Matron, but in a non-residential capacity. All three are very welcome additions to the House team and will contribute a wealth of new experiences and ideas to the House which I know the boys will benefit from.

Reflection on the value of House competition is understandable in a House that seems to finish second so often. 'Second' is not a euphemism for coming last by the way; we have finished in overall second place more times than I care to remember this year including Sports Day, the Literary Quiz, House swimming and House tennis to name a few. Perhaps as a House we are good at recognising the importance of maintaining room for self-improvement. I am, as ever, hugely proud of the boys and grateful to them for all they do to cultivate a robust sense of House spirit and allegiance. After all, this is primarily what the competitions are for, and we have certainly done well enough over the past year to benefit from them in this way. Some first-place

finishes have helped and one that stands out for me is the win in House sailing for Will Barnes and Fergus Jones; to manage this in their final term, having come so close in four previous attempts, was a wonderful achievement.

This year saw the introduction of a 'Man of the Week' award. The Prefects present a House T-shirt every Saturday morning to the boy they feel has done most to excel at something during the week and here is the first handful of recipients:

- Chuks Udeh – outstanding contribution to House debate
- Max Bashaarat – helping to organise Stowe's Got Talent
- Bertie Alexander – being awarded 'Full Whip' in Beagling
- Kurabe Makiura – fantastic support in House swimming
- Alvaro de la Vega – best APGs in House
- John Peatfield – excellent contribution to Literary Quiz
- Taju Atta – Captained the winning Third Form House rugby team
- Noah Russell – excellent contribution to House cricket
- Alex Marks – excellent contribution to House debate
- Will Barnes – victory in the House sailing
- Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan – two first places and one second place on Sports Day
- Tom Pearson – 89 not out in House cricket

The rest of the House no doubt look forward to the countless opportunities they will face next year to have their names added to the list.

Mr Anthony Macpherson, Housemaster



Walpole



Housemaster: Pete Last
Matron: Terry Sanders
Assistant Housemaster: Richard Pickersgill
Under Housemaster: Tom Higham
Head of House: Harry Pettifer
Deputy Head of House: Cameron O'Brien

School Prefect: Ben Jenkins

House Prefects: Otto Balfour, Freddie Ulmann, Ben Jenkins, Cameron O'Brien, Harry Pettifer

Walpole

The Walpole year began at a rapid pace with our focus constantly shifting from one major House event to another. The House Singing Competition was upon us early in the Michaelmas term. We put in a strong House effort with 'YMCA' by The Village People, which included costumes, fake moustaches and a dance routine. Sadly, according to the judge, our singing ability did not quite live up to some of the other Houses, but we certainly won in terms of entertainment. We had an expertly arranged medley of 'Les Misérables' songs and 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen as our part-song, created by Otto Balfour, and I think we were unlucky not to place in the top three.

Next came the Stowe Challenge Cup (formerly known as the Coldstream Cup) in which our youngest ever team really did Walpole proud. With early morning runs for weeks in advance and numerous practices over the assault course. Sadly, we could not quite compete with some of the older teams but we finished in a hugely respectable fifth place. The Inter-House cross country followed soon after and we were graced with some brilliant places. Outstanding performances included Gabriel Gleeson finishing in the top ten of the Senior boys event and Thomas Leach coming second in the Third Form race. All in all, the whole House

ran well and gave 100%. This showed as we finished second in the overall standings.

After Christmas things took on a more aquatic theme. House Swimming was a challenge for most of the Walpudlians this year, but as usual the stand out performer was Hamish Graham-Campbell, winning all of his races and bringing plenty of cups Walpole's way. Sadly in the Senior House water polo league we fell short at the last hurdle and did not retain the trophy, but it was a sterling effort from all the boys at both Junior and Senior levels throughout the Lent term.

On the sporting front our golden year was capped off with silverware with the Seniors winning the House Cricket Plate Competition. We also saw some brilliant performances at the athletics track on Sports Day. Tom Abbot-Davies stood out, jumping a personal best of 1.85m.

Off the sports pitches Walpudlians have been proving again and again they are the best that Stowe has to offer. We have seemed to take over the Roxburgh Hall, with leading roles awarded to John Balcon Perez in the Third Form production 'Tonight at 8.30', as well as Isaac Ajala in the Fifth Form play. This year's Inter-House Debating



Competition team consisted of Ben Jenkins, William Cowley and Harry Pettifer and we managed to prove our points as we eased into the final against Chandos, but with the tough job of proving that ‘Britain was no longer great’ and a controversial decision from the Head, we had to settle for second.

The atmosphere in the House has been excellent as the Prefect body has focused on the academic progress of all the boys in the House. Most boys performed amazingly providing the House with some of our best ever APG grades and countless Merits, Commendations and Benes. The whole Prefect team feels confident of a bright future for Walpole as we hand over to the strong Prefect team next year led by William Cowley. Walpole has also had new House staff this year, with Mr McGhee joining us every Wednesday night and the longest standing Walpole staff member and proud new father Mr Pickersgill has thrived

in his new position as Assistant Housemaster.

One final thanks to Mr Last who has, as ever, run the House amazingly well and managed to keep all us boys on the right path.

Harry Pettifer, Head of House

This year’s Walpole Cup for the best all-round contribution by a Third Former was won by Thomas Leach and The Walpudlian Cup for the best all-round contribution by any boy was won by Head of House, Harry Pettifer. Both of these trophies are voted for exclusively by the boys, with no input from staff. I wish to thank Harry Pettifer, Cameron O’Brien and all of the departing Upper Sixth for their contributions to the House this past year. Head of House next year is William Cowley, with Caspar Whitehead as Deputy Head of House.

Mr Pete Last, Housemaster



My childhood list

- Chocolate – my ultimate treat
- Popcorn – reminds me of watching movies
- Flying saucers – took me into space
- Milky Ways – made me want to fly away
- Chips – best only at McDonalds
- Gel pens – colouring in books
- Sea shells – the sound of the waves when you put them to your ear
- Freshly mown grass – summer coming
- Alarm clock – having to wake up early at school
- Tree house – where I spied on my brothers
- Perfume – hugs with my mum
- Snow – always on my sister's birthday
- Advent calendars – the countdown to Christmas
- Childhood – the list is never ending

Saskia Satchell (Fifth Form)



Sonnet

And to the sun the long night kneels,
 The evil of the night flees from the skies
 To their caves, the day scratching at their heels.
 There they wait for the dark's imminent rise.
 There was once a day, when these lands were free
 But that was long ago, an age of peace.
 Deep in the ocean, dead and cast away
 Where innocence is burned, in the sharp flames
 A million miles from home I walk the long way
 A pawn in a dark ruler's savage game.
 And as I wake, my face breaks to a frown
 So as I'm sitting sad upon the snow
 From unbroken blue sky, the sun shines down
 What happened to you I may never know,
 But now my mentor's gone and I am lost
 Alone in fierce fire and the cruel frost

Leonardo Constantine (Fourth Form)

There once was a boy
 who ran to the sea
 and broke his back
 on lilies and lizards'
 shattered dreams
 In summer souls
 he spun his wings
 daring
 on pinned wishes
 what winter brings
 I know not
 of the boy
 or his ball and chain
 only that he painted the sky
 against his broken name
 There once was a girl
 who ran to love
 and broke her heart
 on roses and ropes
 crushed souls
 In winter dreams
 she stood tall
 strong
 looking towards
 what summer brings
 I know not
 of the girl
 or her yearning for love
 only how the sky opened
 when he called her name

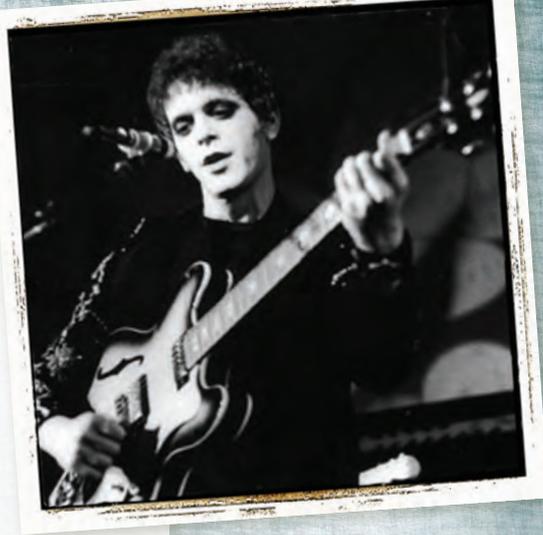
Cluny Fenner (Fifth Form)

Ode to Lou Reed

I bought his record the day he died
and I think we all took a *walk on the wild side*
Warhol knew what he could be
We learnt who we could be
At first, he took us by surprise
Transforming beyond our eyes
Like a dove, he rose to fame and in turn gave
everyone a perfect day
For a moment, we all thought the same
Whoever you could be
You didn't have to sing to be a *the*

However, all greats had to go, lung cancer it was, October 27th '13
But although he's gone the *prince of stories* still lives on, high
above, perhaps watching over every one of us
In a satellite of love.

Doric Buxton (Fourth Form)



A walk along a beach

I have been to North Berwick beach only a few times – the fact that it was completely different to the stunning golden sand beaches in the Caribbean had put me off. However I woke up early this morning and decided to go for a small trek along the beach. As I walked down the path that led to the sea, the distinctive smell of seaweed invaded my nostrils. I have never really liked the smell so I protected my nose by burying my face into my warm coat.

The sand was wet and dense beneath my feet. I kicked up sand as I walked, inviting the tiny grains to leap into my trainers making my feet itchy, uncomfortable and sore. I could feel my cheeks glowing red from the bitter cold and my hands beginning to go numb in the harsh Scottish wind. As I peered into the distance I could just about make out Craig Leefe and Bass Rock in the dense mist, the cormorants were like lions: competing for food for their young chicks.

I spotted dog walkers and runners out and about as I strolled along. It was a very miserable day and I could taste the thick salt from the dark and gloomy sea on my sensitive taste buds. I glanced behind me and noticed the clear trail of footsteps buried in the sand leading up to the point on which I was standing. I shivered as the cool morning air chilled my spine so I carried on walking and tried to warm up.

I soon came across gigantic rocks blocking my path and I had no choice but to swing my legs over and steadily make my way to the sand again, being careful not to slip on any slimy rock pool engraved in the boulder. As I got back down, the only things I could hear were the waves lapping on the sand like a dog drinking water and my heavy breathing, inhaling the fresh, Scottish morning air. I rubbed my hands together trying to create friction: getting annoyed at myself for forgetting my gloves.

I decided to head back home. I passed the rocks and notice the sun's rays beginning to flicker out of the ocean, making it blue and alive and painting the clear sky with yellow light. I stood still, absorbing the sunrise, observing the effect it had on the birds who were now swooping and hovering above the sea trying to catch more fish. My cheeks and hands tingled as they began to warm up; a smile played on my lips and I felt energised and peaceful as I walked back up the grassy path which led me to the house again.

Amelia Oldershaw-Niznik (Fourth Form)



XX Group

Third Form

The over-arching theme for the Third Form programme was an exploration of self-identity, at times loosely interpreted but providing the eighteen young scholars with an introduction to wide-ranging ideas and subjects. Regular meetings covered topics such as the value of curiosity and space travel, evolution, nature vs nurture and an introduction to philosophy.

The Group is greatly indebted to staff, past and present, for their fascinating talks: Mr Macpherson led a lively exploration of the nature of personal taste, complete with varieties of cola and images of controversial artworks; Miss McEvoy took an entertaining tour of Stowe House and unpicked the complex genealogy and self-eulogising of the Temple-Grenville family; and recent retiree Mr Staples shared his love of language, explaining how we come to speak the English we do and dazzling the group with his knowledge of Latin, German, French and Hebrew.

Termly trips provided the Group with opportunities to hear from a still wider range of speakers, to experience new places and to examine new ideas. At the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory near Oxford, surrounded by the cream of the UK's scientific community, we learnt how to overcome the limits of gravity, and what feats of engineering, human courage and ingenuity underpin the exploration of space. At the Royal Courts of Justice in London the pupils experienced the tricky path of justice by playing the parts of court officials, the defendant and witnesses whilst re-enacting a famous murder trial of the 1930s. They also practised their debating skills,

splitting into teams to craft their arguments as to whether diminished responsibility should remain a partial defence. Finally the pupils were granted an insight into life at Oxford University with tours of Christ Church and Queen's Colleges led by under- and postgraduate students; many left the city with a clearer idea of where they would like to continue their studies in five years' time.

The culmination of the year took place in the Marble Saloon where the group displayed their own original ideas on a panoply of topics including psychopaths, love, Heath Robinson, influential books, MI5, superstition, pub tricks, wind turbines, colour, stereotypes, social media, Cambrian fauna, Lego and the evolution of money. The pupils took on the challenge with great enthusiasm and produced presentations of commendable complexity, supported by lively argument and inventive delivery. It was a fittingly impressive conclusion to a year in which the Group sparkled with inquisitiveness, energy and intelligence.

Mr Alex de Trafford

Fourth Form

The Fourth Form began the year contemplating our place within the universe. Discussions ranged from the size of the universe, through the ethics of budgetary spending on space exploration to pupils' consideration of whether they would accept a free one-way ticket to Mars. This phase culminated in a visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester where the pupils had an opportunity to see some of the technology we had discussed and interact with the various displays.



Other topics considered during the year included the idea of 'place' within art and literature as well as our place within the development of music and technology. Visits included a guided tour of the Elysian Gardens by Mr Chan, discussions of authors' ideas to convey 'place' within text with Mr Goldsmith and the chance for pupils to consider their own ideas of place and home. With a love of rock music, Mr Bayley guided us through his record collection and explained the development of rock music, from the earliest bands (whom I hadn't even heard of) to the glam rock ideas of David Bowie.

Our thoughts then turned to the subject of 'Fashion: what's the point?' – and so began some heated discussion and debate about the ethics of fashion as well as ideas of models and body image. This was great preparation for our fantastic visit to the headquarters of Tatler magazine in London's Hanover Square. Tatler were excellent hosts and gave us a fantastic introduction to life within a major publication. The pupils were then given the opportunity to meet and speak with the publication and advertising teams, finding out about the logistics and finances of Tatler magazine. A tour of the building took the Stoics through other magazines including Vogue, GQ and Homes & Interiors. The pupils were very excited by the racks of clothes, amazing photographs and the chance to speak to the fashion and beauty editors about their roles and the challenges of creating interesting, informative and witty text for the magazine. The visit ended with an hour long session with Old Stoic Kate Reardon, the editor of Tatler, who had kindly given permission for the visit. It was a fantastic opportunity for the Stoics to experience the busy life of a major magazine and to meet some of the key characters within the organisation, as well as gaining an excellent insight into what a life in magazine journalism involves.

The final term this year saw a mixed programme of Science 'How to make an atomic bomb' and History

'Major events that have shaped the modern world'. For the final excursion both Third and Fourth Form XX Groups visited Oxford to experience both the University and the city. Visits to Christ Church and Queen's Colleges were followed by tours and meetings within the Departments of Zoology and Geography, where pupils met current students and lecturers and were able to gain an insight into what it is like to study at Oxford. Our final hour was spent enjoying the fantastic Oxford Museum of Natural History.

XX Groups: the Future

The XX Groups exist to stretch and challenge Stowe's most capable pupils and to enable them to think outside the curriculum (and often outside the classroom) about topics that may be new to them or which they may not have previously considered in depth. Pupils in the XX Groups must be hungry for knowledge, thirsty for success and keen to stretch themselves beyond the comfort zone of their classroom subjects. With effect from the academic year 2014/2015 membership of the group will not simply be by selection. Suitable pupils will be identified by Tutors, Housemasters/Mistresses and teachers and will be invited to apply for a place within the XX Groups. Applicants will submit an extended essay chosen from a list of at least a dozen broad-ranging and challenging titles, together with a hand-written letter arguing for their selection. The Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster and XX Group leaders will then undertake the difficult task of choosing those pupils who are most suitable for, will gain the most from and will contribute the most to the XX Groups throughout the next academic year. We thus hope to continue to build a Gifted and Talented cadre within the School who will aspire to great things, who will lead by example within and beyond the academic domain and who will seek to stretch and challenge themselves and their fellow pupils.

Mrs Sarah Murnane



Pitt Society

The History Society had another busy year, with a total of ten external speakers and dinners expanding both the Stoics' historical understanding and waistlines. The School was fortunate to attract a wide range of leading National and International experts in their respective fields, from the English Reformation (Professor Peter Marshall, University of Warwick), Vietnam (Dr Andrew Preston, Clare College Cambridge) and the 'Tsar Liberator', Alexander II of Russia (Dr Katya Andreyev, Christ Church, Oxford) amongst the topics covered by the eminent historians speaking to Stoics. As well as covering issues related to the Stoics' History courses, the pupils were also fortunate to hear Lord Peter Hennessy deliver a fascinating talk on the difficulties of writing History of one's own times and Dr Richard Buckley from the University of Leicester engrossed pupils in his enthralling account of his role in the discovery of the skeleton of Richard III.

Relaxed fortnightly meetings saw pupils sit down with tea and biscuits and discuss issues ranging from how we interpret history and whether there is such a thing as historical fact. We looked at how sources and statistics can be manipulated and whether we – as historians – can ever truly rely on them, and whether studying history is important. Our judgement was that it is! We also saw presentations and held lively discussions on a variety of individuals and events, from Churchill to the Crimea and looked at what makes a historical event or individual important or iconic. A large number of pupils were asked historical questions they may not have considered and looked at historical periods and individuals which will have taken them out of their comfort zone. There continues to be a large number of Stoics who go on to study History at university and hopefully the History Society will have offered an insight into the wide range of historical topics to be discovered beyond the restraints of the A Level curriculum.

Mr Shaun Aston



The 1st January

It was New Year's Day
My were eyes wide open at 23:59 waiting for this day
it was only a minute away
365 days had been a long way
It was New Year's Day
while others were dreaming
others were joyfully expressing their emotions by screaming
I was only left with one firework
It was New Year's Day
It was another year of schoolwork
another year to set new goals
and for some another year of work
It was New Year's Day

Rodney Moses (Fourth Form)





Literary Society

The year started for the Society with a flurry of drama events. Over six weeks between the end of September and the beginning of November 2013, all members attended at least two productions, among which was an outstanding performance of 'The Government Inspector' by Gogol (so successful that the company was invited back to Stowe in April for a repeat performance). Other plays performed at Stowe by touring companies included 'Miss Julie' by Strindberg and 'As You Like It' by Shakespeare. Particularly valuable to English Literature pupils was a trip to Oxford Playhouse to see Tom Stoppard's fiendishly clever 'Arcadia' (an AS set text), while A2 pupils were treated to a workshop followed by a very imaginative and stimulating production of Webster's dark tragedy 'The Duchess of Malfi', a text studied in preparation for their LT4 examination.

Stoppard's 'Arcadia' figured again in the talk given in November by Professor Gordon Campbell of the Department of English at Leicester University on the subject of 'The English Ornamental Hermit'. This was a topic particularly suited to a Stowe audience with their knowledge of the hermitages scattered around our landscape gardens. The audience came to understand the rationale of the hermit in the garden from the 18th Century until the last known hermit left his post just a few decades ago. As the Stoic reviewer commented at the time, "We learnt how to transform such a seemingly staid topic into a surprisingly entertaining presentation!"

Although dramatist, novelist and screenwriter Jonathan Smith was unable to come to Stowe in January due to an illness in the family, performance poet Niall O'Sullivan lifted our post-Christmas blues in early February with an energetic and thoroughly entertaining performance of a selection of his slick, witty poems.

The challenge was then thrown down by Mrs Miller, the Librarian, to compete for the Silver Salver in the World Book Day Literary Quiz in the new Uglund Auditorium on 6 March. All twelve Houses entered a team of four contestants, supported by a lively audience who had their own quiz to answer. In the main event, a very close contest went to a tie-breaker after 48 questions, Bruce emerged as

the champions, narrowly pipping Temple, last year's winners.

Later in March, Mr Robin Whittaker (former Archivist of Worcestershire) offered a double-period seminar to three Upper Sixth sets studying 'Lyrical Ballads' for their A2 examination. His talk was rich in contextual references (now a vital component of A Level English Literature essays), as he spoke of the life and times of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his friendship with William Wordsworth that developed into the most fruitful collaboration in the history of English poetry.

Thanks to the hospitality of the Music Department, on a wet evening at the end of the first full day of the Summer term, the Society returned to the new Uglund Auditorium for 'Bill's Birthday Bash', our annual celebration of Shakespeare's work. Entertainment for the Bard's 450th birthday included a Victoria Wood sketch about a Hamlet rehearsal, and performances adapted from 'As You Like It', 'Romeo and Juliet', 'The Merchant of Venice', 'Macbeth', 'Julius Caesar', 'The Tempest' and the Sonnets. Music ranged from Finzi's settings of Shakespeare songs, through classical guitar music to Bernstein's 'West Side Story'.

Just over a week later, the Literary Society Committee members offered three short papers to a small but interested audience in the Music Room, after hosting a dinner with their invited guests. One talk investigated the links between colonialism and 'The Tempest', a second enthused about the Beat Generation that developed in the late 1940s in the USA, and the third was a performance and discussion of four sonnets, three by Shakespeare and one by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The year ended with the Literary Society Leavers' Dinner for the Upper Sixth. After a group photograph on the North Front of all the leavers in their finery, followed by entertainments under the South Front Portico, the assembly retired to the Music Room for a five course dinner interspersed with further entertainments: music, acting and recitation. In my speech proposing the toast to the 2014 Leavers, I singled out the Literary Society Committee – Priscilla Powell, Tom Burke, Alfie Hardman and Harriet Stringer – for particular thanks, while Harriet Stringer, in replying on behalf of the society, expressed our gratitude to Mr Roberts, Mr Chan and Miss Ashe, each of whom had taught the leavers this year and who themselves take up new appointments from September.

One generation has moved on, but a new generation will join the Sixth Form at the start of next academic year to participate in and enjoy the Literary Society's annual varied programme of events, our celebration of literature in all its delightful manifestations.

Dr Paul Miller

Junior Literary Society

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me." (C.S. Lewis)

The members of the Junior Literary Society have been enthusiastic readers, writers and audiences, stretching their literary interests beyond the boundaries of the GCSE course. Topics have ranged from writing about the self, to Gothic literature, to review writing as well as the study of books such as Yann Martel's 'Life of Pi' and Mark Haddon's 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'. Harry Norris and Olivia Fox have been excellent Heads of the Society, helping me to lead meetings and to write reports for Stowemail. There have been theatre and cinema trips aplenty with highlights including an exciting performance of 'A Tale of Two Cities' at the Royal and Derngate Theatre in Northampton and the NT Live showing of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.'

The Stoics have found their creative talents as writers and the Society's success can be measured by the impressive quality and quantity of their writing. A few examples of their writing can be seen in this edition of 'The Stoic'. In the Michaelmas term we experimented with autobiographical writing, selecting any form we wanted in order to present some aspect of our lives. In the Lent term the Stoics re-created familiar stories such as fairy tales, children's stories or myths and legends; however, their writing used the conventions and characteristics of Gothic Literature to present the darker and more sinister side to these stories. The pupils finished the year by studying review writing and writing reviews of a theatre performance, film, book or exhibition that they had seen.

I hope you enjoy their writing throughout this magazine!

Miss Lucy Ashe



creative
writing

In the soul inspiring countryside of Gloucestershire, there is a line of grass that glistens with the early morning rain; six metres in width, lined with trees and bushes on both sides that enclose the track. As you stare off into the distance, trying to see where the line ends, it swings round a corner and is lost from sight. It will continue its journey without your support like when your children are taken off to school. The trees tower above all other things like a ruling giant; which will never step down from power. When you stare up to see the continuous tower growing; its leaves shine down lighting up your face. When they fall they flow down from their high branches swaying in the wind down to the warming ground. Blanketing the ground, waiting for the cold winter to come. Brambles grow from the line of trees mingling with the grass lifting and lowering the leaves.

Then, in the middle of the line of grass, there is a track with beaten down lines where a tractor has driven down for all these years of harvest. The trees block the view on the sides so all you can do is look forward and backwards: seeing the mass of the green grass, the brown trees and bushes and yellow light shining on the track. All these colours are made even more beautiful in this magical sunlight. Then, wandering through this epic scenery, are four spectacular horses, all slowly walking down the track. Their coats shine and glisten in the sunlight. Their muscles relaxed but enormous. They are all beautiful beasts. Then on top of these incredible animals are four smiling, laughing children and glowing with happiness.

Carleton Tufnell (Fourth Form)

Oxbridge and Medics' Society

The Oxbridge and Medics' Society provides support and a discussion forum for those Stoics who have chosen to aim for the most demanding academic courses available at UK universities. Its aim is to work in concert with Academic Departments and the many other Sixth Form societies to create an environment that stretches and challenges Stoics, encouraging academic self-expression and the exploration of intellectual potential.

Such has been the interest that for the first time the Society has split into two, with one half providing dedicated advice for all prospective university scientists and the other nurturing those with aspirations on the humanities side of the application spectrum.

The Society provides weekly meetings which predominantly consist of academic discussions aimed at honing prospective candidates' ability to put across their point under scrutiny – examples this year have included 'Has Science Replaced God?' and 'Can You Win a War on Terror?' This is the initial preparation for the experience of university interviews. The Society also hosts or joins with events designed to broaden candidates' intellectual horizons. Such extension activities this year included a lecture by Professor Michael Palmer on Freud, Sex and Religion as well as a presentation by world-renowned economist Professor Douglas McWilliams on the expansion of developing economies in the Far East. The Society also maintains a substantial section on StoweNet with advice, links and other resources likely to prove useful in the course of an application.

Closer to the UCAS deadline, the Society operates as the central point of co-ordination for those Stoics who decide to apply to Oxbridge and to Medical School. This co-ordination extends to the preparation for entrance tests, entries for Oxford College essay competitions, visits by current Oxbridge undergraduates, practice interviews in an exchange programme with the Royal Latin School and, for the first time this year, a three day Oxbridge application seminar in the post-AS period of the Lower Sixth year.

With governmental pressure on Oxford and Cambridge to open access to the maintained sector, the pressure on independent school pupils to prove themselves in their applications is growing. This year from Stowe seven candidates were interviewed at Oxford and four Stoics across the Society gained places for their desired courses. The Society's members achieved strong results in their Oxbridge and medical placement test scores (with one candidate scoring in the top 2% of applicants nationally), and the Society thanks those Heads of Department at Stowe for their tireless efforts in supporting this aspect of the Oxbridge process.

The Society looks forward to welcoming next year's Lower Sixth candidates, as well as supporting the very strong group of applicants as they make their applications in October this year. Next year's schedule promises a range of thought-provoking presentations and a wide range of topical debates.

Mr Paul Floyd and Mr Roland Johnson



Debating

Mr Chairman, Honourable Opposition, Esteemed Judges and Friends of the House on the floor; the motion before us is, 'Just how rude is the health of debating at Stowe?'

I am sure that the motion needs little clarification but lest there be any confusion we understand the phrase 'to be in rude health' to mean to be extremely healthy, vigorous and vivacious and we believe the only possible answer to be 'very' at least and 'humungously' at best and more honestly.

How, you ask, can we make such a bold claim? Let the record state that we shall describe not one but two vibrant House Debating competitions, the emergence of a Debating Society and the development of a full programme of events for the coming year.

First, the Senior Debating programme. Shoehorned into the Lent term, the competition ran through heats, a repechage round, quarter and semi-finals into a fiercely contested battle in which Chandos overcame a spirited challenge from Walpole over the question whether or not Britain was still great. The standard was high throughout, in the final especially.

Spring saw the Junior contest and the standard here was as high if not higher than the Seniors. Debating is very healthy indeed if this competition is anything to go by. Again, the debating built to a tumultuous conclusion in which Nugent and Queen's squared off over 'This House believes that "lads mags" are degrading to women and should be covered up.' Again, it was a fierce contest that ducked and dived this way and that until eventually Queen's triumphed, the narrowness of the margin demonstrating the strength of debating in the Lower School with the Nugent team being drawn entirely from the Fourth Form.



And so to next year, in which a newly revitalised Debating Society will convene to steer debating at Stowe through a packed year including Inter-House competition debates, the Model UN, a prep schools debating competition and numerous other innovations designed to inspire, encourage and hone the exchange of ideas at Stowe. It remains only to thank all those involved in School Debating, especially Mrs Ackroyd, Mrs Capurro, Mr Goldsmith, and Mrs Hill-Hall, all of whom have been utterly invaluable throughout and whose judgement and encouragement have been appreciated by the participants. I look forward to welcoming them again next year, along with other faces new and familiar for a packed debating schedule.

And so, Mr Chairman, Honourable Opposition, Esteemed Judges and Friends of the House on the floor; the argument is incontestable. Debating at Stowe is in rude health indeed and the year ahead promises to be one of the very best.

Mr Paul Floyd



Senior Debating Competition

Winners: Chandos

Tom Gordon-Colebrooke, Matt Goddard,
James Macdonald-Buchanan

Runner Up: Walpole

Harry Pettifer, Will Cowley, Ben Jenkins

Junior Debating Competition

Winners: Queen's

Saskia Satchell, Dot Holt, Aleksia Zivanovic

Runner Up: Nugent

Holly Campbell, Annie Ormerod, Georgina Skinner

Debating Society Committee 2014-15

Honor Brady, Shannon Devlin, Barnaby Cloud, Alice Gurr,
Robert Milner, Alex Potts

Quantum Society

The Quantum Society just seems to get bigger and better. This year, led wonderfully by our president Ben Jenkins, we have had more members turning up to more events than ever. Full marks go to Rebecca Wild and Veronica Sule, two of our core committee members, who turned up to all 21 events including giving very interesting and tasty presentations on the science of confectionery and of cooking respectively. For many of the Upper Sixth, an early highlight was our trip to Oxford to visit the Museum of the History of Science followed by some time in Blackwells finding interesting books for our library before heading home via the Victoria Arms. Another highlight was our Christmas quiz night led by quizmaster supreme, Jamie Milne, who had us all challenged by some of his questions in this tightly contested and highly enjoyable evening. There were also our regular book reviews enjoyed over a Chinese take-away in the labs and many thanks to Toby Wightman for his inspired nomination of a 'Brief History of Time' for one of these.

This year we had our first Annual Quantum Dinner which was preceded by Mr Carpenter's fascinating lecture on the

development of the atomic bomb. We also had an amazing lecture from Ben Yuen, a PhD student from Imperial College who gave a valuable insight into the core ideas of Quantum Mechanics. Not to be undone, the members themselves also gave an impressive range of presentations to each other on topics as varied as space-time, bonding, time travel and lively chemistry demonstrations. The last of these turned out to be the loudest and smelliest, proving more than just an element of surprise for the presenters Ben Jenkins and Toby Wightman! More than anything though, the Quantum Society provides a forum for our Sixth Form scientists to enjoy discussing science with like-minded peers.

Once again the year ended with the Quantum Society vs Biomedical Society croquet match. This pinnacle of the sporting calendar gathers all of our scientists together to celebrate the year and to battle for victory whilst enjoying a barbeque and refreshments. For the second year running, Quantum ended the evening just ahead but a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

Mr James Tearle



Current Affairs

Current Affairs is an option within the School's activity programme and is open to all age groups. It encourages Stoics to explore the political and social world around them whilst at the same time developing key skills in research, debating and critical thinking. Stoics not only have the opportunity to explore topics that interest them but also discover the depth of opposing arguments and just occasionally, the opportunity to rethink their stance on international issues. Independence of thought, the ability to listen, appreciate and respect an opposing view coupled with the ability to be open-minded are the core values of the group. It has been an absolute pleasure to observe the group as they learn to work on these principles, this year adding some wonderful humour to the mix.

Current Affairs, run by the illustrious Mrs Capurro, was definitely a highlight of our first two terms at Stowe. We joined fashionably late, but got right into the swing of things. We were lucky to have a great group: one of all ages, all backgrounds, and all political views (some more controversial than others). We discussed and debated a broad range of topics, such as euthanasia; the environmental impact of GM foods; the political situations in Syria and Ukraine; and many other subjects. We also held a Model UN-style debate pertaining to the events following a (fictitious) missile strike by the US. The countries we were representing had to come to a reasonable agreement as to how they would deal with this situation, which was both extremely difficult and highly amusing (some suggestions for retaliatory actions were more viable than others; things like completely damming the enemy's water supply were quickly vetoed).

We thought Current Affairs was an excellent way to make new friends during our early days at Stowe, and we loved getting to know Mrs Capurro. We are heartbroken to see her leave Lyttelton, but we will definitely return to Current Affairs next year to see her once more. Personally, I (Ingrid) thought it helped strengthen my debating skills, and I found it interesting to see different perspectives on current events as they were occurring. On the other hand, as an ESL pupil, I (Mar) believe that this activity has helped me overcome some important linguistic barriers and to become more confident in my English-speaking skills.

The different opinions and ways of thinking of other pupils in Current Affairs have made me see important topics from a completely different perspective. As George Eliot once wrote, "It is a narrow mind which cannot look at a subject from various points of view." Mrs Capurro has given me the opportunity to learn new things I believe will be essential for my academic development at Stowe, and we are both looking forward to seeing her next year.

Mar Martinez-Tomas and Ingrid Galler (Third Form)



Current affairs discussions held by Mrs Capurro took place on a weekly basis this year and each week a small group of Stoics would discuss the global issues of the week. As a group we debated a range of issues from the tension in the Middle East to the more philosophically based discussions of Huntington's 'A Clash of Civilisations' thesis to the more focused sessions on particular countries, events and interventions.

Consequently this year's Current Affairs sessions tended to focus on events such as the Arab Spring, the controversies over the war in Afghanistan and the situation with the Assad regime in Syria.

Current Affairs often took a different approach which allowed the Stoics to take up an area of study that they were interested in. We would have one week to research it in greater detail and at the next session we would feedback to the rest of the group which would then form the basis of the ensuing discussions. Topics ranged from the role of women in the Middle East to the genocide in Bosnia in the late 1990s to the war in Afghanistan, among many others.

Sessions often provoked heated debate between Stoics over certain issues such as the role of the USA as peacekeepers in the world to the more conventional nuclear deterrence debates. The sessions were informative and provided Stoics with background knowledge to both recent and historical crises some of which are reflected in the tensions in the world today.

One of the main reasons that I attended Current Affairs, aside from having regular debates and learning about international relations, was that it offered a different approach to our classroom lessons where we do not often have time or space in the syllabus to cover such recent events. To those interested in global and geopolitics as well international relations this provided a useful insight.

William Barnes (Upper Sixth)

Biomedical Society

This academic year the Biomedical Society continued to embody its founding principles – to celebrate scientific endeavour, to inspire its members to reach for their academic goals and to bring like-minded Sixth Form Stoics together to ignite debate and discussion. This year's weekly sessions have included presentations on a wide range of biomedical topics, from the ethics of creating life to the intricacies of the biochemical mechanisms behind some of the world's most prevalent diseases. While the Biomedical Society is, at its core, an academic extension group for Stoics interested in any biomedical-related discipline at university, we are also very proud of the support we can offer to those Stoics applying for Medicine. This year three Stoics succeeded in gaining a place to read Medicine, giving Stowe one of the most impressive records for medical application success among its competitors. Our three successful medical applicants this year were Emma Whiting, Imperial College London, Patrick Devlin, Edinburgh, and Caroline Schaufelberger, Queen Mary University, London. As well as the medics, our members also continue to aim for places to study a number of biomedical, biochemical, biological and chemical subjects at top-ranking UK universities.

This year the Society's President was Jamie Milne, who has been an inspired and dedicated leader for what has become

one of the heavyweights among the academic societies at Stowe. The Society wishes Jamie the very best of luck for his A Level results in the summer and his university career beyond.

The annual Biomedical Society dinner was once again a huge success; Dr Chris Spencer delivered a fascinating presentation on ethical decisions in obstetric medicine, sparking lively debate surrounding assisted conception and the medical definition of life. Our second speaker of the year was Professor Kevin Foster, a lecturer in Evolutionary Biology at the University of Oxford. This talk proved to be a thrilling and interactive debate surrounding the nature of selfishness and co-operation in the processes of evolution.

Every year, as part of its wider work in the School, the Biomedical Society invites a medical applications specialist to speak to prospective medics in both the Lower Sixth and the younger year groups. This year's speaker was Old Stoic, Dr Robert Whitaker, and admissions tutor for medicine at Selwyn College Cambridge. Dr Whitaker's informative discussion of the trade secrets of applying to medicine gave our younger Stoics a great start to their journey towards a future place at Medical School.

Next year's programme promises yet more inspiration for our biomedical scientists. The third annual Biomedical Dinner is planned for 14 November, which will be combined with a lecture by Professor Karol Sikorska, Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Buckingham. Professor Sikorska is a world-renowned oncologist who will be giving a lecture on the biochemical basis of cancer.

As ever, the Biomedical Society looks forward to welcoming the next wave of young medic, vet and biomedical hopefuls in the coming academic year. With the success of those moving through our ranks, new members will have a lot to live up to!

Mr Roland Johnson



Anacreon Society

The Anacreon Society is an Upper Sixth society that meets every Half term. Over the past year we have paired up and taken turns to cook and host a themed dinner party in various staff houses. These evenings provided us a wonderful change from our busy school day, with good conversation, fine food and great fun.

At our first dinner, Rory Knight and Jo Jackson hosted an elegant 'Great Gatsby' themed night. The evening began with the popping of champagne corks whilst the Beef Wellington cooked; this was followed by a mouth watering apple crumble. It was wonderful to see everyone dressed to the nines in their elegant 1920s costumes.

Clara Holden and Fergus Jones hosted a 'Black Tie with a Touch of Christmas' themed dinner. We began with a delicious soup followed by a roasted belly of pork with dauphinoise potatoes and



vegetables. It was at this point that the exquisite dessert wine was presented to be enjoyed along with the luscious clementine cake.

2014 was kicked off in style by Jamie Milne and Heloise Kleinwort's exquisite dinner. The theme was fancy dress beginning with the letter of your name



which saw many outrageous outfits from a male fairy to Elvis Presley. The main was a particularly delicious slow roast shoulder of lamb, served with baby carrots and potatoes. This was followed by a beautifully light chocolate torte.

Harry Pettifer and Imo Wallersteiner hosted a Moroccan-themed night. This set us all up for an evening of culinary delights from North Africa and when the lamb curry with couscous was presented in front of us sheer delight was evident around the table. Figs with ice cream to finish capped off a brilliant evening.

Finally, Rebecca Wild and Ed Brook Shanahan hosted an Al Fresco, 'Night at the Races' themed evening. The scene was set by mood lighting as guests enjoyed Pimm's. The highlight was an elegantly cooked salmon with new potatoes and asparagus followed by a meringue roulade. A great night to end our Anacreon Dinner Society year!

Miss Hannah Knott

Playwriting Group

This is the second year running that the School has taken part in the 'New Views' playwriting competition, run by the National Theatre in London. This highly competitive programme involves pupils working on original scripts to last half an hour with a maximum of six characters. The winning play is put on by the National with runners up being long- and shortlisted in earlier rounds of the competition. This year, for the first time, Stowe has made

it to the longlist with a highly commended play, 'Loss of Connection', co-written by Shannon Devlin and Honor Brady. The competition received over 430 entries so their achievement is no mean feat. However, Anastasia Lopoukhine and William Dinsdale also produced very fine plays and we hope to see more from William and others in next year's competition.

Mr William Goldsmith

Languages Society

The MFL Society, now in its fourth year has expanded this year, with more voluntary members in both the Upper and Lower Languages Societies. As well excellent talks from Mr Staples and Mr Young we also welcomed Chloe Chenétier-Kipping to Stowe on Friday 7 March to address the Languages Society and as Guest of Honour at our annual Languages Society dinner. Chloe, who is Deputy Head of Interpretation at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg graduated from the ESIT, (Ecole Supérieure des Interprètes et des Traducteurs) in 1995 and worked at the International War Tribunal in The Hague for 10 years. She then became a permanent interpreter at the Council of Europe and has been working there for the last eight years.

Chloe spoke passionately and eloquently about the challenges and rewards of working as an interpreter to

the audience of Stoics, teachers and language pupils and parents from the Royal Latin School in Buckingham. The open forum that followed the presentation gave rise to a wide range of questions and it was wonderful to see our young linguists so enthralled by this fascinating career and unique working environment. The Sixth Form Languages Society members were excellent company as they joined Chloe and Modern Languages teachers for a formal meal, where the impressive skills involved in interpreting were further widely debated. Chloe was joined at the top table by the Society's President, Lily Comyn and our language prize winners Elspeth Down, Charlie Harris, Rex Roxburgh and Rosie Dickson, providing them with further opportunities to discuss careers using languages.

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Who are we?

In sight of man,
In sight of a higher power
Who are we?
We are who we say we are
But who do we say we are?
We are man
Immune to love,
To hurt
And everything else
Infected with society's ideas
Bleeding with infirmity
Nothing known to the mind,
Seen by the eye or
Felt by the heart
Is as blurry as the
Image of one's self
Princess Moyo (Fourth Form)

creative writing



SHPT

CREATIVITY AND INSPIRATION

Every summer, the Stowe House Preservation Trust's programme of restoration work brings surprises as we discover more about the great house that is the centre of Stowe School. In the summer of 2011, a well was discovered under the eastern end of the mansion in the room now known as the Well Room. In 2012, the restoration of the Music Room uncovered delicately patterned decoration to the window shutters and gilding that had lain undiscovered for at least one hundred years. Even the gilding of the Library ceiling was not envisaged when restoration of that part of the building was planned in 2009. Sometimes the discoveries are a little more prosaic but every little detail that is uncovered tells us more about the development and expansion of the house that has been called the grandest temple in the landscape and the largest and most completely realised neo classical building in the world.

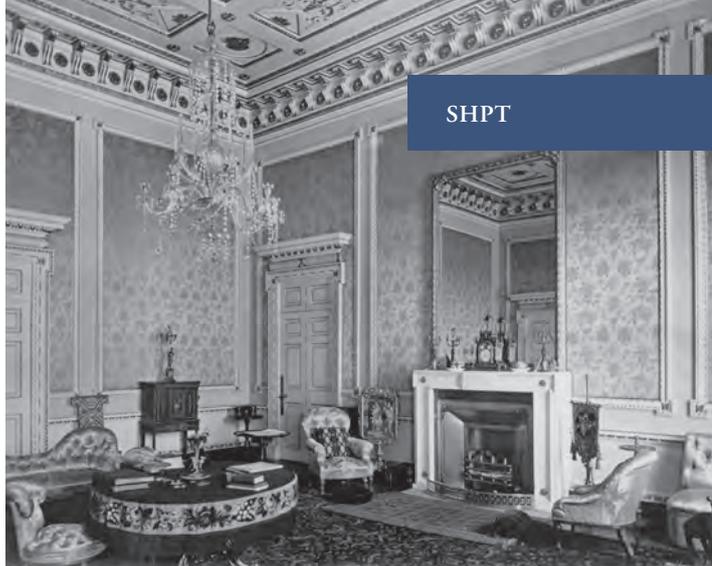
Contemplating the bare walls of the Blue Room, SHPT's latest restoration project, stripped back to wooden laths and brickwork, it is hard to appreciate the phenomenal effort or the skill that will be required to transform this space once again into an opulent and warm room, worthy of the aspirations of the Temple Grenville family in the last flushes of the exuberance that characterised everything they did at Stowe over two hundred years. Conservation and restoration work started in the room in July 2014 but, early in the process it became clear that the walls were going to need more than surface filling and a coat of plaster. Large chunks of twentieth century plaster literally fell away at the touch. It also became clear that the utilitarian frames on the walls were in slightly different positions to the gilded frames that had once held delicate silk damask fabric panels.

Preparation for the restoration began over a year earlier with relaying the floor, along with that in the adjacent corridor spaces. There followed a period of research and reflection, with the aim of agreeing the right approach to restoring a room that had served, successively as a drawing room, family room, breakfast room, library, billiard room, drawing room and classroom. In order to restore the room to its appearance of around 1780-1800, in line with other State Rooms, it would have been necessary to remove the heightened over door mantels, installed in the nineteenth century and to re-instate the gallery that formerly lined the western wall, connected by a small door to the Library next door. Although coherence of presentation is an important consideration in the restoration programme, the physical evidence and the significance of the nineteenth century scheme as a display of the attempts to revive the family's standing were compelling arguments in favour of the later scheme. Even more compelling was the existence of a photograph from 1870 showing the room exactly as it would have appeared in the earlier part of the century. Detailed research led an expert panel to agree the pattern and colour for the blue silk damask that had graced the elegant wall panels, while microscopic paint analysis was conducted to ascertain the exact shade and tone of colours for the walls and ceiling. With that, the stage was set to transform a functional and useful room into something altogether more fitting and appropriate to Stowe. Photographic evidence has also been used to construct a replica of the original chimney piece and mirror, the rather basic surround that had been in situ for ninety years will be removed and relocated to another fireplace fortuitously uncovered during the refurbishment of Lady Buckingham's bedchamber, now part of Chandos House.

The scope of work in the Blue Room is breathtaking; cleaning and retouching the gold decorative work on the ceiling, stabilising the plaster of ceiling and walls, cleaning layers of paint from delicate door and wall features and applying gold decoration, in addition to re-instating the wall panels, curtains and delicate fabrics. The end product will reflect considerable research, planning, some heartache and, above all, immensely skilled labour.

Elsewhere in the house, the Egyptian Hall restoration has been completed with the installation of a replica of the sarcophagus that served to cover a heating stove and representations of the paintings in the wall niches and glass panels that were uncovered in the first phase of the restoration of this, the former winter entrance to the mansion. With this work completed, the Egyptian Hall, for so long an indistinct passageway, once again has the look and feel that must have been intended when the Marquess of Buckingham commissioned it as a manifestation of the emerging knowledge of a civilisation that had been little known before the campaigns of the late eighteenth century. With only brief written descriptions of the space and two sketchy engravings as source material on which to base the paintings, the artist has interpreted the available evidence against contemporary sources to provide a representation of the original works.

One original piece of art work is, however, set for a return to the house. Through a fortunate set of circumstances, SHPT was able to acquire, in October 2012, the original of Vincenzo Valdrè's painting 'The Dance of the Hours'. Heavily restored over the years since it was sold from Stowe in 1920, the painting needed careful conservation to render the lightness of touch that characterised the work of a little known but very accomplished artist of the eighteenth century. Valdrè worked for the Marquess at Stowe and in Dublin, where the Marquess served as Viceroy, but it is now believed that his work at Stowe and 'The Dance of the Hours' in particular represent some of his finest



achievements. In the year of the bi-centenary of Valdrè's death, we are fortunate to be able to restore his painting to its rightful place at the centre of the Music Room ceiling. It is also intended to replace the five chandeliers in the room with a copy of the single glass chandelier that used to hang from the centre piece.

None of this work would be possible without the support of the benefactors and donors who have committed to the restoration of the house and its presentation. Stowe is one of the most significant country houses in the country yet it is also one of the least well known. In recognition of the significant funds that have been pledged and donated to its restoration, we are obliged to allow public access.

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This is always managed with due regard to the School's requirements and having Stowe House Preservation Trust staff embedded within the School enables this balance to be achieved without detriment to either party. Our final project for this summer is perhaps the most exciting in terms of spreading understanding and appreciation of the house and the School's role in saving it. Over the next six months, the cellar beneath the Marble Saloon and adjacent spaces will be transformed into a state of the art centre in which to welcome visitors and tell the story of Stowe from its creation, through its decline to its resurrection as a place of enlightened learning and its physical restoration thanks to the generosity and skill of those involved at all levels and in many capacities. It is a story of which the School and SHPT can justifiably be proud and the centre promises to break new ground in showing how creativity shaped the architecture that we see today and its power to inspire creativity in everyone. That is quite a legacy for a building that, but for the School's creation, would have become nothing more than building rubble.

Mr Nick Morris, Director of Operations, Stowe School and CEO, SHPT





MUSIC

On 8 January 2014, I was walking some prospective parents around the day-old new Music School. Around each corner and through each door there was something to stop and admire. At the start of my tour the parents were very chatty and conversational, by the end they were silent, not in shock but rather in awe; they had both trained as musicians, and eventually spoke up: “These are better facilities than I had as an undergraduate!” Indeed, the now officially opened Chung Music School is a building which satisfies all our needs. Aesthetically it is simply a beautiful building (it has already been given a regional RIBA award), functionally the Chung Music School is a Music School of the 21st Century, every facility has been carefully thought through and put in place.

We are now in a position to offer the very best resources imaginable for any Stoic to thrive, no matter what their passion may be. Our strapline “Music for Everyone” is now a reality. If a musician who wishes to come to Stowe longs for a classical career we have 24 practice rooms and studios, each are filled with Steinway pianos, as well as a harpsichord, a clavichord, and a state-of-the-art digital organ to accommodate our increasing numbers of organ pupils who come to Stowe. Each studio has a mirror so that posture, the first and most essential element in music, can be carefully looked at and developed. Each studio has internet access and Sony Bravia 48 inch screens so pupils, in their lessons, can easily watch and admire professional musicians perform, as well as seeing themselves perform, through the use of hand-held ‘flips’, which allow teachers to video-record their pupils with HD quality. Those who wish to pursue the pop/rock world of music have the Stringer Recording Suite which links into five recording studios throughout the building. There are now four

Rock Band Studios, all with drum kits, PA systems and guitar amplifiers. Those who want to enter the world of film and commercial composers are also catered for, not only through the Stringer Recording Suite, but through three digitally-enhanced classrooms, each containing our fastest computers, holding the industry standard software applications, Pro-tools, Cubase, Sibelius and Komplete.

The crowning glory of this thrilling new facility is the Uglend Auditorium.

The crowning glory of this thrilling new facility is the Uglend Auditorium. Central to the new Department, this concert hall holds approximately 250 people and our nine foot Steinway Model D Concert Grand. The distinguished international concert pianist Philip Fowke helped us choose this instrument, as well as the two Steinway AS pianos in the piano studio. He also gave the inaugural recital on this instrument to a packed auditorium which was a stunning occasion, leaving no one in doubt that Stowe was in possession of a very fine and versatile instrument. Through the efforts of our newly appointed Arts Administrator, Deborah Clarke, we have seen the creation of Arts at Stowe, and between us we have created a really exciting and international series of concerts every Wednesday evening since the Music School opened. Ingrid Jacoby’s performance was astonishing, Martino Tirimo left the audience amazed by his virtuosity, Mei Yi Foo was a dazzling pianist and Jeremy Young, our former head of Keyboard, returned with the Benyounes Quartet and performed beautiful chamber music. The Adderbury

Ensemble under their gifted director, also our Head of Strings, Chris Windass created three sublime concerts featuring piano trios, piano quartets and finally the 'Trout' Piano Quintet featuring Nigel Clayton and Vivien Mclean.

The highlight of professional music-making at Stowe began on Thursday 22 May, as the South Front Portico echoed with the sound of the Russian National Orchestra and Lesley Garrett rehearsing strains of Schubert's 'Serenade' to amazed Stoics as they walked out of supper. They walked around the marquee, and wandered in and out, simply mesmerised by such a large orchestral sound and by such powerful singing.

The Russian National Orchestra was at Stowe to celebrate the opening of the Chung Music School by HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO. The first concert began at 4.00pm with an extraordinary performance given to donors and dignitaries who had played a role in bringing the Music School into reality. The Headmaster, myself and the architect, Nick Cox, gave Prince Michael a tour of the state-of-the-art facilities; the Prince was genial and enthusiastic about everything he saw, and spent time talking with the digital technician, Matthew Crook, who played to the Prince in our impressive new recording studio a recently recorded work by Fergus Jones. The Prince was led upstairs where he heard William Motion performing in one of the rehearsal studios. We entered the Ugland Auditorium, after a very gracious meeting with the Ugland Family, and the daughters of Dr Chung, Josephine and Jacqueline.

Everyone rose, and the Russian National Orchestra performed the National Anthem under the baton of Sergey

Polyanichko. The Russian National Orchestra then gave an astonishingly passionate performance of part one of Tchaikovsky's 'Serenade for Strings' and at the end of the programme our own Stoic string players joined the RNO to perform the Finale of Mozart's 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik'. But the heart of the Opening Concert were the performances given by Tom Dixon, Lewis Bell and Hannah Dixon, who each played a movement of the Shostakovich 'Piano Concerto No. 2'. Each pupil had prepared and worked so hard, under the watchful gaze of our Head of Keyboard, Ben Andrew, in order to create an outstanding performance. They each outdid their own aspirations, as their interpretations were utterly professional, and many in the audience described them as astounding because the performances they gave were so assured, musical and captivating.

After the concert the Headmaster invited the Prince to unveil the plaque to commemorate the opening of the Chung Music School. Before the unveiling, Jacqueline and Josephine Chung graciously accepted from Craig Terry, Managing Director of Steinway, the All-Steinway School Plaque; it was Dr Chung, their father, who generously gave the gift that enabled Stowe to acquire 27 Steinway Pianos, and become an All-Steinway School. The Headmaster thanked all who had contributed to the building and made special mention of Nick Cox's sublime design, which has already won an RIBA Award. He then invited the Prince to give hard-bound copies of Shostakovich's Concerto, which had been signed by the Russian National Orchestra, to the three soloists: they were delighted. The Prince gave a warm and heartfelt speech about the Arts, Stowe and the Russian National Orchestra; the auditorium fell absolutely

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still as, to everyone's astonishment, the Prince quietly and fluently spoke to the members of the Orchestra in Russian: it was a very special moment, and one the Orchestra deeply appreciated. Without further ado, the Prince turned to the blue silk cloth and removed it, and declared the Chung Music School open.

Without further ado, the Prince turned to the blue silk cloth and removed it, and declared the Chung Music School open.

At 8.00pm the second concert of the day began in the marquee on the South Front with an audience of 1,700 people including the whole School. Howard Goodall (Lyttelton 76), composer and broadcaster, opened the proceedings with some fantastic repartee, before introducing the programme. The Orchestra played with skill, virtuosity and musicality that many say can only come

from a Russian Orchestra. Carlo Ponti conducted with a very individual style, which on occasions was grandiose, even though often his movements were imperceptible, the Orchestra awaited even the slightest signal and responded whole-heartedly. Just before the interval Craig Greene (Chandos 07), came on to play the Tchaikovsky First Piano Concerto. He took control of the stage immediately, and we were all astounded by the sound that reached every corner of the marquee, and the overarching interpretation that filtered into every nuance, be it full-blooded chords, or the delicate virtuosic filigree that flew from his fingertips. It was a superb performance. The second half was filled with more stunning orchestral playing, but this time as an accompaniment to the wonderful singer, Lesley Garrett. We were all gripped by her sense of occasion and musical style, which was fulsome, buoyant and breathtaking. Her tone and words were always exceptional, every word heard, every characterisation felt and communicated through the richness of her beautiful and flexible voice. It was an extraordinary occasion, and one that was enjoyed by all.

Stoics themselves have filled the Chung Music School with beautiful and varied sounds; the Mozart Trio Competition,



adjudicated by the former Principal Horn at Covent Garden, Julian Baker. We listened to nine outstanding recital programmes presented by Tom Dixon, Honor Brady, Henry Sylvester, Hannah Dixon, Priscilla Powell, Rex Roxburgh, Rex Adams, Fergus Jones and Archie Brogden. The programmes were very varied in their choice of music and the standard was described by Mr Baker as “astonishingly high”. Henry Sylvester, who sang, and Rex Roxburgh, who played the chapel organ, came joint third, Tom Dixon was second on the Trombone, and the overall winner playing the oboe, was Hannah Dixon. This year the Audience Prize went to Rex Roxburgh. We were delighted to welcome the Chairman of Governors, Christopher Honeyman Brown, to present further music prizes to our many outstanding Stoic musicians: Hannah Dixon (Senior piano and woodwind), Amalia Aitchison (Junior piano), Laura Houghton (Senior strings), Michael Kitchen (Junior strings), Fergus Jones (Upper Sixth composition), George Huxtable (Lower Sixth composition), Ben Barrett (Fifth Form composition), Tom Dixon (Senior brass), Finlay Sutherland (Junior brass), Laura Brogden (Junior woodwind) and Tom Gordon-Colebrooke (percussion).

The opening of the Uglund Auditorium allowed us to stage our first chamber opera, which was based on a delightful, quaint and poignant Christmas story. Menotti’s opera, *Amahl and The Night Visitors* which charmed its audiences with stunning performances from the whole cast. The opera tells the imaginative and heart-warming story of a crippled boy and his poverty-stricken mother who are visited by the three kings. The first performance was led by the impressive Letitia O’Neill as the mother and Finlay Sutherland as Amahl. A week later Honor Brady and Oliver



Vince performed, once again delighting the audience with both their singing and acting skills. Amahl’s overactive imagination finally takes the form of reality when the entrance of the three kings carrying their exotic gifts leaves the audience wonderfully amused. Miles Clark as the deaf and enthusiastic Kaspar was a highly entertaining character and his love of liquorice added comic pleasure. Lewis Bell performed the serious and regal Melchior with real gravitas and Rex Roxburgh was an impressively majestic Balthazar.

This was an evening of musical excellence and the quality of the singing was exceptional. The chorus added richness to the Opera, the glorious shepherd chorus in particular lifting the spirits. In addition, the opera ambitiously included a shepherdess dance to entertain the three kings;



Maddie Jordan and Molly Suthers added elegance to the whole performance with their dancing. Both classically trained, they performed beautifully with clean lines and graceful port de bras. The drama of the opera was also performed with great confidence, Arabella Coldstream as the page standing out as a talented musical actress.

Stoics have also been performing all over the UK; the Chapel Choir began the year by singing Evensong at Southwark Cathedral where the highlight was Clara Holden singing the solo in Mendelssohn's 'Wings of a Dove'. Pianists went with Mr Ben Andrew, the Head of Keyboard, to various prep schools and performed to captivated audiences; Nigel Gibbon, Head of Brass, Woodwind and Percussion, also took groups to various schools including The Dragon in Oxford and Old Buckenham Hall in Ipswich. At these events the prep school children joined in with the Stoics and all had really enjoyable days. Again under Nigel's leadership the Wind Band played for two days at Earl Spencer's Althorp Literary Festival, and the Big Band provided the music for the final day at the Festival. A week later in order to honour Blackpool City Council for returning the Medici Lions to

Stowe, the Big Band played in Stanley Park at the band stand. This was part of a tour which also took in three other concerts, one of which was at Packwood Haugh Prep School.

Each week we have been constantly impressed by the efforts made by Stoics at our weekly concerts – more than 270 Stoics took part in performances throughout the year. This year has been a real turning point for music at Stowe: the investment in such an exciting facility has rejuvenated the musicians at Stowe and no one can be in any doubt that music, no matter what your favoured genre, is central to life at Stowe. Whether you are impressed by Tom Dixon gaining a Distinction in his Professional Trombone Diploma at the age of 16, George Huxtable performing his own songs on Three Counties Radio as a new and up and coming talent, quietly in awe at Speech Day listening to the impressive guitar playing of Patrick Keating, or being bowled over by the innovative song writing by Angus McCrorie-Shand and Ilona Ecott, Stowe is a school filled with musical talent.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music





Find Me

This year's Fifth Form play 'Find Me', by Olwen Wymark, was certainly a piece of theatre which challenged not only its cast but also its audience. The performance told of the real life events of Verity Taylor, a misunderstood and misdiagnosed autistic girl. The piece took the audience on an emotional journey experiencing laughter, shock and even tears by the end of it. With each member of the 10 strong cast taking on at least five characters, their ability to multi-role was certainly pushed. The cast was utterly spell binding in their performances which were made all the better for their

collective support and appreciation of one another. To be able to take on such a challenging play at their age is testament to their strengths as actors and maturity as Stoics.

'Find Me' will certainly be one to remember for many, both cast and audience alike. As my final production at Stowe I am thrilled to be leaving on such a high and am so proud of the hard work, commitment and support the cast showed me in directing this production.

Miss Emily Sinclair, Drama Department



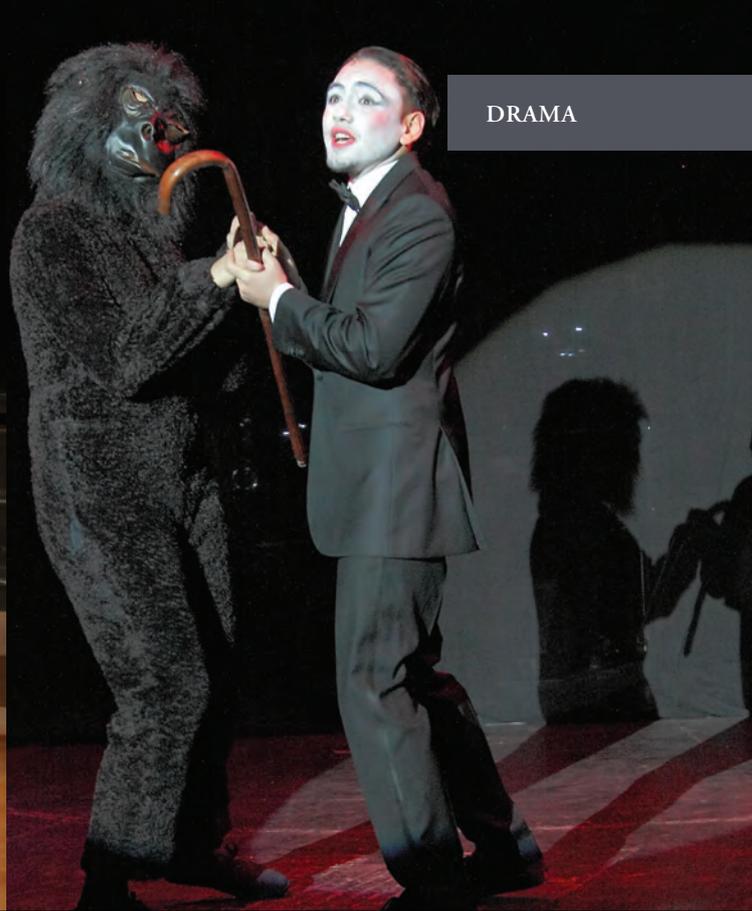
CABARET

Senior Congreve's performance of 'Cabaret' entertained four large audiences, taking them back to 1931 in an increasingly changing Berlin. Kander and Webb's production is both powerful and exciting with a mixture of pure entertainment and thought provoking questions about the rise of the Nazi Party and the persecution of the Jews.

Kemal Eyi's performance as the Emcee stole the show; his energy, creativity and confidence maintaining such a demanding role was superb and everyone enjoyed his quirky dancing and eccentric style. Both Molly Suthers and Priscilla Powell engaged the audience with their

performances of Sally Bowles, each of them adding their own nuances to the characterisation. Their singing of 'Cabaret' and 'Maybe this Time' was exceptional, reflecting their own individual styles. Charlie Harris as Cliff Bradshaw was excellent, presenting a successful combination of confusion, delight and disgust towards life in Berlin. Henry Sylvester and Henry Coldstream drew the audience entirely onto their side in their presentation of Herr Schultz, charming us with their delight for fruit and drawing our sympathy with their earnest belief that Germany would soon welcome them again. Honor Brady





as Fraulein Schneider excelled and captivated the audience in her songs, 'So What' and 'What would you do' and Lauren Carley added superb entertainment in her role as Fraulein Kost. Ernst Ludwig, played impressively by Paul Henkel, successfully managed to both charm and repel us through his complicated relationship with the other characters.

Thanks must go to the fantastic orchestra who added magic to the show; the Stoics couldn't stop singing the Cabaret songs for days. On behalf of the Director, Stephen Dachtler, and the Musical Director, Simon Dearsley, I would like to congratulate the cast for their impressive work to make 'Cabaret' such an exciting and memorable show.

Miss Lucy Ashe, Assistant Director: Choreography



Tonight at 8.30



A cast and crew of over 40, Third and Fourth Form Stoics, did a superb job in entertaining and charming their audiences over a three night run in the newly restored Roxy Theatre starting on Thursday 19 June.

The style, sophistication and elegance associated with 'the master', Mr Noel Coward, was captured beautifully through a clever mix of solo, small group and large ensemble songs, as well as two nicely contrasting short comedies, 'Red Peppers' and 'Hands Across The Sea'.

Simon Dearsley and Lewis Brito-Babapulle arranged the sublime musical numbers and Steve Dachtler, Lucy Ashe and I provided direction to the plays.

Amalia Aitchison, Annika Ormerod and Lucy Alderton were excellent 'hosts' as they linked each song and play, with tasty snippets and sound bites from the razor sharp tongue of Mr Coward.

Musical highlights included a touching duet between Mina

Haas and Ned Hiley with 'Someday I'll Find you'; Lucy Alderton and Beth Ackroyd with 'Mad About the Boy' and a rousing ensemble rendition of 'London Pride'.

Henry Russell and Arabella Coldstream caught the eye and ear, as the fiery song and dance duo, George and Lily Pepper, who seem determined to fight with all and sundry in 'Red Peppers' and Thalia Felton as Mrs Wadhurst, Rosie Smith as Clare, Mary Stanley as Piggie and Harry Cook as Peter, were excellent in their comic timing, in the farcical 'Hands Across the Sea'.

In his praise for Coward's genius and significance in the great gamut of British theatre history, Ken Tynan once famously said: "Even the youngest of us will know, in 100 years' time, precisely what is meant by a very Noel Coward sort of person." The accomplished and talented cast of 'Tonight at 8.30' certainly proved this to be true and everyone associated with the production should be extremely proud of their achievements.





GCSE Drama

This year's 42 GCSE Drama pupils faced the first of their two practical assessments on Thursday 5 December, in which they chose to present original pieces of physical theatre, incorporating mime, slow motion and various other non-naturalistic, stylised approaches in order to bring their scenes to life. Each piece was well thought out and easily fulfilled the assessment requirements for this opening unit of the GCSE Drama exam. Dark and disturbing pieces, inspired by nightmares and dreams, played easily alongside the more overt and exaggerated approaches which lent themselves superbly to comedy and farce.

Thursday 1 May saw the pupils presenting their second practical piece, this time either performing extracts from any published scripts or taking on a technical role within one of the groups. Once again we were entertained by some challenging and well rehearsed pieces from a real eclectic range of texts including 'The Crucible', 'Two', 'Educating Rita', 'Journeys End', 'Blue Remembered Hills', 'Death of a Salesman', 'Boys from the Blackstuff' and 'Mogadishu' and congratulations go to all the participants this year who worked so well together to create some exciting, engaging and memorable moments of theatre.





AS Drama

All the performers, their teachers and audiences were mightily impressed with the creativity, quality and incredible commitment shown by this year's 29 AS Level Drama pupils in their practical assessment performances, which took place on Tuesday 4 February. The 'one off' original pieces of highly accomplished, challenging and engaging physical theatre were presented alongside well thought out extracts from such classics as 'A Flea in her

Ear', 'A Streetcar Named Desire', 'The Caretaker', 'Huis Clos' and 'The Hypochondriac', to more contemporary classics such as 'Woman in Mind' and 'A Night on the Tiles'. All those involved in the assessments, either as actors or technical design candidates, should be extremely proud of themselves and we look forward to a glut of outstanding grades for this particular unit of the AS course, come results time in August.





A2 Drama

When you have Stoics, aged 17 and 18 years old, receiving responses from their audiences with comments such as “simply incredible”, “breathtakingly powerful” and “totally believable and real” then it is clear that something special must have taken place. Indeed this was the case on Thursday 6 March when eight Upper Sixth Drama pupils performed their stunning, daring, visceral, challenging and engaging self devised scenes, alongside scenes and extracts from four very eclectic published plays; ‘Hedda Gabler’

by Ibsen, ‘A Taste of Honey’ by Delaney and ‘The Dealer’s Choice’ and ‘Closer’, both penned by Patrick Marber. Credit to all eight Stoics – Coco Anthony, Kemal Eyi, Alfie Hardman, Marina Oswald, Priscilla Powell, Harriet Stringer, Jess Tomson and Maddie Wackett and to my new colleague in the department, Mr Andrew Bolton, for his help in preparing the Stoics so effectively for the exam.

All drama articles by
Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Once again we have had a healthy number of Stoics taking on the challenge of the Award this year and congratulations are due to all of those who have completed all the sections and achieved their Awards over the past 12 months – this year Stoics accounted for almost 50% of the Gold Awards achieved in Buckinghamshire! After the extreme weather of last year, the weather-gods smiled upon this year's expedition season and provided exactly the right mix of conditions to provide a challenging, yet enjoyable set of Expeditions for our DoFE participants.

The season started on Dartmoor in late August 2013 with the Gold Assessed Expedition postponed by 2013's extreme winter. This time it was the heat that our participants had to contend with on the moor and, unusually for the location, participants had to adapt their routes to seek out wild camps with access to water. Our expedition passed without major incident, however one group did witness a late-night helicopter rescue of some stranded walkers from the moor – a reminder of the need to hone those navigation skills!

This year's October training expedition was coupled with the postponed 2013 Silver Assessed Expedition; in contrast to the heat of the Brecon Beacons the previous summer, the participants faced three days of torrential rain and high winds as they battled across the fells around Helvelyn. Nobody quite fancied tackling Striding Edge, but our groups certainly had a taste of what the UK mountains can be like when the weather comes in.

This year's Gold and Silver Practice Expeditions took place in the beautiful three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales. The weather was ideal to test navigation skills as the Gold groups took on the peaks of Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Whernside over the course of the four days. The Silver routes took in





two out of three peaks and all participants performed well in conditions that tested their training and skills, whilst allowing groups to take in the beauty of the Northern Fells.

This year saw a record 97 Fourth Formers keen to take on the challenge of the Bronze Programme, after two terms of navigation, campcraft, First Aid and stove training, April saw them ready to embark on their first outing to the Cotswolds. Their focus in training paid off and they received much praise for their performance from all the staff involved with the expeditions. Their assessed expedition took place in the Shropshire hills and the groups were blessed with glorious weather as they walked over the Long Mynd and the Stiperstones with the peaks of Snowdonia showing on the western horizon. Once again the groups acquitted themselves fantastically well and it was pleasing to hear them praised for their focus, preparation and attitude from staff, assessors and the campsite owner, who had bravely allowed 97 teenagers to descend on his farm!

The end of June saw 25 Gold participants off to the Cairngorms for their Assessed Expedition. The remote nature of this expedition offers its own unique challenges of terrain, weather, midges and lack of toilets; however, as expected, our groups performed exceptionally well. The Scottish weather was kind, allowing groups to tackle

Braeriach and Ben Macdui, two of the highest peaks in Scotland, and really enjoy the unique beauty of one of the remotest areas of the UK. The groups must be congratulated on completing their final expedition in an area such as the Cairngorms with such confidence.

The final expedition of the year saw three Silver groups take on the challenge of the Brecon Beacons in the first week of July. The participants experienced everything DofE weather can offer, with sun, drizzle and 30mph winds and driving rain! Undaunted the groups performed exceptionally well and the instructors from Real Adventure spoke very highly of all the participants.

As always none of these expeditions are possible without a huge amount of help and support from the staff who take the time to come out to supervise the groups on the hill – a very big thank you to all of the staff this year for a very successful season: Mr Pickersgill, Mr Moller, Mr de Trafford, Mr Chan, Mrs McMahon, Mr Hoare, Mr Grimble, Mr Carpenter, Mr Thompson, Mrs Ackroyd, Ms Hobrow, Mr Aston, Miss Clark, Miss Knott, Mr Gibbon, Simon Rose, Steve Rogers, Philip Pitcher, Louis Staden, Chloe Last and Real Adventure's Dan, Jen, Hazel and Liam. Finally a special thanks to Fraser Liversage, the man who makes all of the important things happen!

Mr Gwilym Jones



CCF

It has been a year of change in the CCF: Captain Ian Findlay-Palmer left to take up a promotion in July, while Captain Simon Nelson-Lucas left to take up an appointment with the TA in August. We were lucky to secure the services of Captain Charlie Standley, Captain Richard Corthine, Captain Fiona James and Miss Alicia Davies.

Fortunately we were able to rely on Staff Sergeant Major WO1 Ray Dawson, whose experience of the CCF at Stowe is second to none, and our Admin Assistant, Mr Fraser Liversage.

We were fortunate also in our Upper Sixth cadets. Cadet Warrant Officer Cameron O'Brien is completely unflappable, quietly and confidently organising whatever needs doing. Cadet Sergeant Major Max Marston is similarly imperturbable, and we owe both of them a great debt. Sergeants Will Scrase and Patrick Devlin were excellent supporters.



There was one organisational change from the start; the Army became a full section on its own, alongside the Royal Naval Section and the RAF Section.

On a dry but chilly afternoon in October, the Army and RAF sections camped out on the Bourbon, built their own shelters using the available natural resources, learned how to make a fire that would keep them warm and serve for cooking, and then skinned and cooked rabbits.

The RN section visited Rockley

Point Sailing School in Poole, where they practised kayaking, power-boating, and sailing in new Wayfarer dinghies.

Enterprising Stoics struck out on their own to take advantage of what the CCF offers. Cadet Petty Officer Magnus Sligo-Young joined cadets from all over the

country in the chamber of the House of Lords for a debate on the First World War, while Cameron O'Brien and Sergeant Theo Shepherd-Smith joined the hospitality team at RMA Sandhurst for the Sovereign's Parade in December. Magnus Sligo-Young, Michael Kitchen and Michael Hill all achieved Advanced Naval Proficiency.

In the Lent term we broke new ground by sending a team to take part in 2(SE) & 145(S) Brigades' Military Skills Competition, where we competed against seven other CCF units and a number of ACF units. Our scratch team, consisting of Jamey Lewis, Charlie Leefe, Musa Buthelezi, Nikita Trushkov, Harry Cook and Jasper Gibbons, led by the indefatigable Max Marston and Cameron O'Brien, did not know what to expect. For the first time ever, Stoics took part in a First Aid Competition and an Archery Competition. Musa Buthelezi outdid everyone else in the latter, scoring a superb bull's-eye. We took the Bronze prize in the March and Shoot. Congratulations to Jack Hechle, who earlier in the term earned himself a promotion to Sergeant "in the field" as it were.

Theo Shepherd-Smith struck out in another new direction, heading off to Nesscliff in Shropshire for a Cadet Leadership Course. Theo grew in confidence while he was there, completed the course, and came back with a First Class recommendation.

Our Biennial Inspection, conducted by Brigadier Andrew Hughes MBE, occurred in the Summer term. The Coldstream Cup consisting of drill and shooting competitions, a First Aid competition and a Log Carry, was won by A Platoon, led by Theo Shepherd-Smith. The RAF charmed the Brigadier with their more novel approaches to learning the underlying physics that allows aircraft to fly, including building hot air-balloons and model aeroplanes. Izzy Oliver earned her advancement to Sergeant.

More individual performances followed. Magnus Sligo-Young obtained his Institute of Leadership and Management Level 2 Certificate in team leading, becoming the first Stoic ever to obtain an externally accredited leadership qualification as part of the Stowe curriculum, while Hamish Murray, Jess Amoda, and Bee Montoedi



secured a Level 1 Power Boat certificate.

In June the RN section took MV Black Swan from Portsmouth into Cowes, practising their power boat skills, and on the following day joined STC Amaryllis for a sail around the Solent. The Army

Section headed off to Yardley Chase, where they spent an energetic time laying ambushes far into the night. The RAF visited RAF Cosford, and then both the Army and the RAF finished up with a morning's paintballing.

The last week of the summer term saw the revival of the long running and very successful Adventure Training Camp known colloquially as "Ray's Camp" in Cumbria. The activities consisted of sailing in Picos, orienteering, climbing, gill scrambling (like a log flume, but better), raft racing, and climbing Skiddaw (3,054 feet, 931 metres).

At the same time Captains Corthine and James took 17 cadets, headed by Cadet Sergeant Major Theo Shepherd-Smith and Sergeant Alex Potts, to Army Central Camp at Beckingham in Lincolnshire. The team won the first prize for Air Rifle shooting, the second prize for full bore shooting, and came third on the Obstacle Course, which is a substantial achievement.

The year's end brings personnel changes. Flying Officer Peverley moves to Oundle, and we owe him a debt of thanks for leading the RAF section over the last few years. Captain James becomes Housemistress of Queen's, and we thank her for her invaluable contribution to the Army Section. Sub-Lieutenant Johnson leaves us to go on

maternity leave, and we hope that her absence will only be temporary. We thank Flight Lieutenant Sarah Murnane for her continued work with the RAF section, and Mr Eason Bassett for his work with the RN Section. We also thank the team of regular service men and women who come regularly to train us: Colour Sergeant Steve Parkin, Royal Marines, Sergeant Ray Cooper, RAF, and the 145 Brigade Cadet Training Team.

Next year we will be moving our NCO and leadership training up a notch, aiming for our Upper Sixth cadets to complete the Institute of Leadership and Management's Level 3 certificate and we are reintroducing a period of tri-service training for all new recruits so that they can get a taste of what each of the service sections has to offer, before finalising their choice of section.

The RN section now has two power boat instructors, and will be using the Ship Sim programme to teach navigation, while the Army and RAF sections have new officers joining. Cadet Sergeant Major Theo Shepherd-Smith will lead the cadets, ably assisted by Cadet Coxswain Magnus Sligo-Young in the RN Section and Sergeant Shannon Devlin in the RAF section.

Full ahead both engines!

**Lieutenant
Commander D
J Critchley CCF
(RNR)**



Beagling

We've had a very busy season, and have been lucky enough to be able to go on lots of trips and visits. We are really grateful to all the packs of hounds – Beagles, Harriers and Foxhounds – that have us in their country.

Hunting officially started in October at our opening meet held at Weston. Although conditions were not on our side, a good trail laying by the whips gave the supporters something to see. We hunted twice a week until Half term before heading up to Northumberland where we enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Wailes-Fairbairns for four nights, as well as three days hunting in some brilliant country. Thank you to Ian and Tocky McKie, for all their help in organising the trip, and also hosting our first day at Lanton House. We also enjoyed days from the Shirley-Bevans at Mackside and the Orpwoods at Bowmont Hill; thank you very much to them both for having us. Thank you also to Rupert Gibson and the Newcastle and District beagles for having us hunt in their country.

Back at School, we hunted twice a week, leading up to the Christmas holidays. We then had two days hunting in Shropshire. Thank you to James Beazley for having us all to stay! After a great day near Pontesbury, kindly hosted by Pam Sykes, we braved tough conditions and high winds, with some great hunting on Llanfair Hill, where we crossed back and forth over Offa's Dyke throughout the day!

After a great Boxing Day turnout for hound exercise around the School grounds, we started hunting again in January, when we were pleased to be able to help the Christchurch and Farley Hill beagles – who had lost country due to flooding – as they joined us for a great day at Warden Hill.

After some much better days in January, we took the hounds to Norfolk for January Exeat. We had a very good day from Guestwick. Thank you to the Norfolk Beagles hound club for having us in their country. Back at School, we had a great day at Little Preston, where after laying the hounds onto the trail, they hardly stopped speaking all day! Thank you to Mr Fountaine for having us on his land, not only on that day but on many others; his continued support is greatly appreciated by us all. We also enjoyed days visiting the North Bucks beagles, and a joint day with the Christchurch and Farley Hill beagles.

February Half term saw us head up to the Lake District, where we started with a joint meet with the Black Combe beagles, in some spectacular country above Coniston Water. After enjoying a day's fell hunting, following the Ullswater foxhounds and to give our hounds a day off, we headed down to the Bannisters at Coniston Hall. We had a day's hunting in some brilliant country, before a very memorable night in the wonderful Coniston Hotel – thank you very much to the Bannisters for their wonderful hospitality!

We then had some good days back at School, enjoying a joint meet with the Old Berkley beagles at Claydon House. A huge thank you to Sir Edmund Verney for having us. Our closing meet was at Aldworth, by kind invitation from



the Palmer Marlborough beagles. Although conditions were tough for hunting, it was great to hunt some new country and a good way to finish the season.

The hunt ball, held on March Exeat, was a great success, with tickets sold out. It was great to have so many Stowe parents there and their support is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to the kitchen and catering staff for providing a great meal.

We owe a great deal to all the farmers and landowners for their continued support with which we could not do without. Thank you also to the Headmaster for his steadfast support. Thank you to the Whips whose hard work in the kennels and out hunting is so important. Theo Shepherd-Smith is taking on the Mastership for the 2014-15 season – Rory and I wish him the best of luck, and have no doubt he will do a great job.

Oliver Beazley (Upper Sixth)

It has been another terrific year at Crossfire, the weekly meeting where Stoics (and occasionally staff) have found themselves intrigued, challenged, engaged and encouraged by the person and work of Jesus Christ. As ever we have found that the post prep slot on Friday evenings in StoweBucks has provided the opportunity to think about the big questions of life that rarely get a look-in during the busy school week.

Crossfire now takes place in the excellent new venue that is StoweBucks, a change which took place more by accident than design following building work to our previous home in the Blue Room. As well as being conveniently located in the centre of the School, StoweBucks provides a more informal feel than the stately Blue Room.

After chatting over a drink and the legendary biscuits from the great Geoff Higgins and his catering department we move upstairs to the 'upper room' for a short talk from the Bible, the central part of the evening. Outside speakers – from as far afield as Ireland this year – come in each week to speak on the weekly topic in that term's series and this

is followed by questions, if time permits, and chatting afterwards (accompanied by the less-legendary-but-appreciated-nonetheless Tesco doughnuts!) before heading back to House.

Series this year:

Autumn – 'Parables that Punch'. We began the year hearing from the greatest story teller in history, Jesus Christ, thinking about what His parables taught us about God, the world and us.

Lent – 'God's Master Plan'. An outline of the Gospel, God's Master Plan for the Universe, according to the New Testament book of Romans.

Summer – 'I can't be a Christian because...' 'It would ruin my fun'; 'There's too much suffering in the world'; 'The Bible is Untrustworthy'. There was opportunity each week to engage with one of the common objections to the Christian faith – resulting in some good discussions afterwards!

Mr Henry Swayne

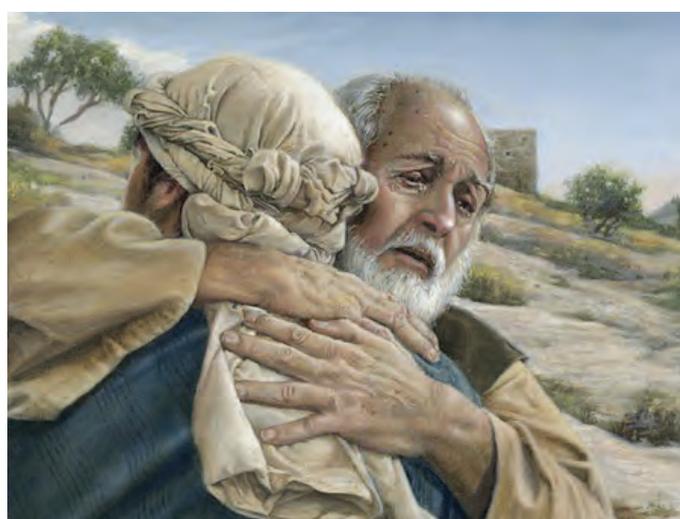


God's Master Plan:

“CREATION”

Speaker: Ed Tulloch
STOWEBUCKS
Fri 17 Jan 9pm

CROSSFIRE



‘LOST AND FOUND’

(The Parable of the Lost Sons)

Speaker: Tim Dossor
STOWEBUCKS
Fri 29 Nov 9pm

CROSSFIRE

Service@Stowe

Service at Stowe is the collective title under which many activities involving Stoics and staff are gathered. Some of these activities have direct local community engagement, others have wider though indirect emphasis, and there are those which are more directly Stowe-based. What unites them is the understanding that offering service to others is fundamental when we speak of values in education and life. Many Stoics participate in Service at Stowe as an integral part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, but many participate on Monday afternoons because they want to be 'of service', and they find fulfilment in so doing. This year, there has been an encouraging over-subscription, though it has meant that not all could be placed. It is very good to note that next year a re-organisation involving CCF, DofE, Service at Stowe and General Studies will mean both additional and more diverse opportunities to serve.

So – what's been going on?

Mr Goldsmith has taken a minibus full of Lower Sixth pupils to three residential and care homes in Buckingham, where teas, games, conversations and good company have been happily entered into.

Mr Sayers has delighted local schools with his cast of rare marionettes, pulling the strings to encourage Stoics to become excellent puppeteers.

Mrs Cammish has sewn up the market in costumes and other theatre support work, with skilful Stoics.

Mrs Hughes and Mrs Rookley shared their learning skills support work with Stoics who were able to help other Stoics with patient expertise and interest.

Miss Sinclair and Miss Stirzaker have developed their drama pupils to the stage where they have offered workshops and performances in local schools.

Mrs McEvoy has sourced and managed archival work for Stoics to help with.

Mr Kennedy has welcomed Stoics to help clean and exercise our energetic beagle pack.

Mr Dawson has dug-in enthusiastically with Stoic gardeners in the NT estate grounds.

Mrs Bishop has offered Stoics a retail opportunity in the School Shop, where they have taken stock of issues of ordering, managing and selling to other Stoics.

Mr Cowie has coached a small pool of Stoics to become certificated life-savers, so they can take these vital skills with them into the holidays and beyond.

Mr Gibson, Tower Captain from the Parish, has patiently taught Stoics the ropes of bell-ringing.

Mrs Roddy has worked with Stoics to help promote the School, making a film which was written, directed and filmed in just one day.

Mr Roberts has sustained and created opportunities for the girls and boys to raise funds for the Durrell (Wildlife) Trust.

Mr Skinner has served up a course in tennis coaching, enabling Stoics to offer their new skills by certification, to their local clubs.

The happiest, most exciting and most involved participation event of the year was the Community Christmas Party, enabled through Mr Goldsmith's great work, where over a hundred older people were engaged in carol-singing led by Stoic and staff musicians, enjoying fabulous teas and cakes from our wonderful catering staff, and keeping up with ever-imaginative bingo 'rhyming' slang from the Headmaster, caller extraordinaire. And... Father Christmas couldn't keep away bringing with him huge sacks of presents which had been carefully chosen and wrapped by Valerie Wallersteiner, Santa's helper par excellence!

Huge thanks to all involved throughout the year – and for reminding us that it matters!

Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain

Service@Stowe - Gardening

ACTIVITIES



There are not many schools in the country where carefully nurtured cabbage plants are pulled up by peacocks. The frost caught our runner beans which were planted prematurely, and the slugs and snails feasted on the courgettes and squash plants. There are two lonely carrots left by the rabbits and the second batch of beans are bravely climbing their poles. However we hope to have a bumper crop of tomatoes and potatoes and there are chillies and onions growing happily under a protective net. Gardening started as an activity as part of Service at Stowe and Duke of Edinburgh's Award commitment in September. On very inclement days we stayed inside and cooked soups, breads and chutneys from last year's produce. Six Fifth Form boys have been gardening faithfully for three terms. Hopefully what was lacking in horticulture was supplemented with pest species diversity.

Mrs Judy Gracie



Chapel

Chapel has again been the place of great celebration of the Christian Festivals and Faith in Christ (pre-Christmas, pre-Easter, Confirmation). It has also been the place of solemn Commemoration (Remembrance Sunday, a Memorial for former Second Master Charles Macdonald, Ash Wednesday Communion and Ashing). Weekly meditative Communion has been offered, where prayers for Stowe and the wider world are said. Hymns have been sung with varying degrees of enthusiasm, though led with aplomb by Organ, Choir and Brass; and Stoics and staff have encountered inspirational, spiritually-insightful, entertaining and thought-provoking talks.

The midweek Services before classes have sought to ask and answer 'Why?' questions, have faced the School with the 'Seven Deadly Sins' and the 'Nine Fruits of the Spirit' – as well as bringing some Saints' Days alive, and offering personal perspectives on Jesus, the Bible, Reconciliation, Pilgrimage and the Holy Spirit.

Some moments inevitably stand out.

Our South African Stoics from the Dominican Convent School shared a poignant and loving tribute to Nelson Mandela, and later in the year spoke with much grace about Appreciation as a Christian and therefore human value. Their Lord's Prayer in African languages on Speech Day was indeed a beautiful Amen.

Remembrance Day was commemorated with CCF Stoics and staff in full uniform, sitting memorably this year amongst their peers, and our preacher (Wg Cdr Jonathan Murnane MA RAF) brought a deeply thoughtful and much appreciated perspective.

The special presence of some of the families of fallen Stoics commemorated on the Roll of Honour Boards was of precious significance and import.

The Rt Revd Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalen College, Cambridge (formerly Archbishop of Canterbury) kindly accepted an invitation, and he was warmly received for his simply offered yet profoundly helpful understanding of the Emmaus encounter on the first Easter Day, and as illustrated in the Chapel altarpiece.

A member of staff spoke with great integrity and grace about his own journey in life, giving much encouragement to us all, where coming through and out of any challenging circumstances in school and family life can take courage and yet can bring peace and liberation, with love and a supportive environment.

Many Stoics prepared for their Confirmation, which included a half day at Ripon College Cuddesdon: our host was OS Ordinand (Darcy Terry), who had spent a week in January with us on placement. The big 'Beardy Man' had been a popular and unmistakable figure. The Rt Revd Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, celebrated Confirmation with Anglican Stoics and their families in Stowe Chapel; the Rt Revd Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton, graciously celebrated with Roman Catholic Stoics and their families in St Bernardine's Church in Buckingham. Good and respectful ecumenical relationships are a blessing.

I remain deeply grateful to, and inspired by, all Stoics and staff who contribute through Music, Word, Reading and Prayer, both in large gatherings and small, and also behind the scenes. Chapel is a place to be, where we worship God the Holy Trinity, and/or simply find ourselves encountering values and ideas which question and enhance who it is we are becoming.

The Revd Christopher Huxtable





Arts Award

This year's Arts Award group consisted of nine Fourth Form Stoics working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and four Fifth Form Stoics aiming for the Silver. Together, they formed a Theatre in Education Company, 'Think Smart Theatre', with the aim of producing pieces of drama with a didactic purpose. The pupils spent the year taking on a specific challenge in their chosen art forms ranging from acting to costume design, music production to directing. In January the group put on a production of Enda Walsh's 'Chatroom' to the Third Form pupils tackling issues of cyber-bullying and later in March performed a piece entitled 'Language Lessons', aimed at dealing with racial stereotypes.

In June, while the rest of the Fourth Form were exerting themselves in DofE and CCF field days, the Arts Award pupils spent the two days developing their interest in drama. On day one they visited Milton Keynes theatre where they took part in a three hour workshop led by a National Youth Theatre Director. On day two they took to the stage of nature itself to perform sections of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The South Front steps

presented the perfect backdrop for Act One, in which the agonies of an arranged marriage open the play. We then moved through the gardens to a secluded woodland spot, ideal for conjuring up the magical fairy world. Henry Russell entertained passing National Trust visitors as Bottom while India Spencer, Laurine Heerema and Emily Osborne were charming fairies, light and ethereal in their contrast to Bottom's simple jokes. The morning ended with a realisation that we could set most Shakespeare plays very suitably within the grounds and Temples of Stowe and perhaps we should start our own Shakespearean theatre company. Then the rain started...

All of the Stoics have worked extremely hard throughout the year to put together their portfolios which include theatre and performance reviews, research into their arts hero/heroine and records of how they completed their Arts Challenge. These will be externally moderated in September.

**Miss Emily Sinclair, Miss Collette Stirzaker
and Miss Lucy Ashe**



SPA

This year for the Stowe Parents' Association has been a busy one, with a diverse range of activities for parents. We are delighted to see that the Journey Breakers in the Marble Saloon continue to be attended by parents at each Exeat and yet again this gives more opportunities for parents to make new friends and meet each other – as well as some business networking!

We continue to be delighted at the growing success of SPA and do hope that you will enjoy the calendar of events we have lined up for the new year in September 2014.

Sadly, this has been my last year as Chairman of SPA as 2014 sees our last child leave the School. I have thoroughly enjoyed my five years working on the team and would strongly encourage parents to become a part of SPA. I have made some wonderful friends, enjoyed visiting stately homes, attending interesting lectures and other social events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the team who have tirelessly worked with me and to wish Fiona Suthers every success in taking up the reins of Chairman of SPA.

Mrs Rowena Wild, Co-Chairman SPA

Highlights of the year have included:



Christmas Shopping at Bicester Village

NOVEMBER

05
05-06

SPA's VIP shopping at Bicester event was sold out within hours and we found ourselves with a waiting list almost as long as the original line up! Luckily for everyone Bicester kindly organised a second day for us. Over 5 and 6 November our parents were entertained by the Bicester team in their new VIP lounge, an extremely luxurious environment, which was a welcome retreat for us throughout our day.

Wine Matching

MARCH

26
Wednesday

On Wednesday 26 March, more than 40 parents congregated in the Central London venue of Hispania for a wine tasting event hosted by current parent Richard Jones' SH Jones Wine Company. A huge thank you must be given to the SH Jones team for talking us through their range of wines and sherries so expertly.



Battlefields Trip

MARCH

28
28-30

SPA ventured abroad for the first time with a weekend trip to visit the battlefield sites of the Great War centred on the Somme and Passchendaele. Over the weekend we visited Essex Farm Cemetery, the Menin Gate, the Somme, the Newfoundland trenches, Ulster Tower, Thiepval Memorial, Lochnagar Crater, Delville Wood, Langemark German Military Cemetery, Vancouver Corner, the Passchendaele Museum and Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Headmaster's Tour of the Gardens

The Headmaster's tour of the landscape gardens saw almost 70 parents enjoy the stunning scenery. The beautiful weather and the Headmaster's obvious passion for this glorious setting made the day a resounding success.





Tavern Tour

SPA held another event on Wednesday 12 February with a thoroughly enjoyable Fleet Street Tavern Tour. Morris Jones, from London Tavern Trails, did a wonderful job of herding us between four historic taverns, telling us all about Dr Johnson's Georgian London and giving us some truly fascinating insights into the man who wrote the first comprehensive dictionary of the English language.

FEBRUARY

12

Wednesday

Veronese Exhibition

SPA continued on from the Bank Holiday with a beautiful sunny day in London where 30 Stowe parents enjoyed the wonderful Veronese Exhibition at the National Gallery on 6 May. A lecture by Dr Richard Stemp, renowned lecturer and Channel 4 presenter, prior to viewing the exhibition, provided an excellent introduction to both the artist and his work.

MAY

06

Tuesday

Saints Match

On Saturday 23 November SPA hosted 15 parents and Stoics in one of the Executive Hospitality Boxes at Franklin's Gardens, to watch the Northampton Saints play Newcastle Falcons, in the Aviva Premiership. Our guests enjoyed drinks and a buffet, before and during the rugby match, where they had a grandstand aerial view of the match directly behind the posts. We were extremely lucky to be joined during the afternoon by Paul Diggin, in his benefit year, and our guests were thrilled that after the match, Dylan Hartley, the Saints' Captain and England star, joined the group for photos and a Q&A session.

NOVEMBER

23

Saturday

London Lunch with the Headmaster

The SPA Lunch at the Carlton Club on Monday 11 November was a very well attended event with some 80 Stowe parents coming together. The sumptuous surroundings provided an enviable backdrop to conversation as parents greeted old friends and made new ones.

NOVEMBER

11

Monday

Althorp Literary Festival

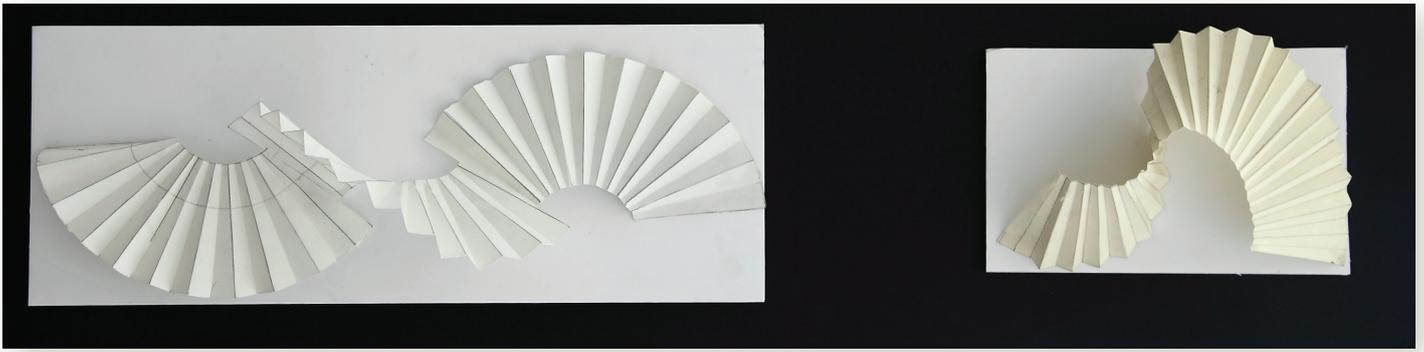
On Saturday 14 June, the weather behaved itself and the beauty of Althorp House created a stunning backdrop to the 11th Althorp Literary Festival. We attended talks by several authors, including Boris Johnson, at his mischievous best, and Jeremy Paxman, who showed everyone why he has such a fearsome reputation as he dealt swiftly with a heckler!

JUNE

14

Saturday





William Scrase (Upper Sixth)



George Morgan (Upper Sixth)



Daisy Price (Fifth Form)



Edwina Longe (Upper Sixth)

gallery



Anna Bevington (Fifth Form)



Sebastian Johnson (Upper Sixth)



Veronica Sule (Upper Sixth)



Noah Russell (Lower Sixth)

Rugby

1st XV

© R & H Chapman Photography



PLAYED 21, WON 11, DREW 3, LOST 7

After an excellent start during pre-season where the squad won the Tynedale Open Tournament, beating St Paul's in the final, Stowe opened their account on the North Front against Stamford. After a tight away win at Oakham we had two new opponents at home, Sir Thomas Rich's and Solihull. Having established winning margins in the first half of both games, Stowe failed to register a point in the second half of their first four matches and the expectations for the season diminished.

From there a good run out in the third round of the Cup gave the side confidence but our reserves were tested at Oundle where we ran out 12-11 winners but suffered three broken ankles. An away trip to Warwick saw us fail to score again in the second half but we held on for a notable 19-15 win. Injuries were mounting and cost us dear at the HAC ground in London where we played Cranleigh. Half term came at the right time and allowed many of the boys to recover and so we marched on, beating Aylesbury in the Cup, drawing 10-10 with Bromsgrove and then comprehensively beating Uppingham at home where we played some of our better rugby. We then travelled to the West Country to play St Peter's Gloucester in the Cup and put in a professional performance to win 26-12. A return visit to that part of the world saw us go down in a dramatic fight back against Marlborough College where we just ran out of time losing 29-33. Our final match of the term was at Bedford where we had the edge in the forwards but their backs proved too strong in the end and we went down 14-22.

Our attentions turned to the Cup where we beat Sherborne before Christmas 21-7, dominating possession and clinically finishing our opportunities. After Christmas the rains came and made conditions almost unplayable and the players unrecognisable.

In the last 16 we were drawn away to Truro. A seven hour journey necessitated a hotel stop. The pitch was under water and we warmed up in a torrent of rain. It had all the hallmarks of a tight game and so it proved, two penalties each with George Silk being the hero of the day, converting a difficult kick with two minutes to go made the journey back tolerable.

Onto the quarters against our rivals

Warwick and yet again the rains came. On the day the Warwick half backs played the conditions better and a chance to reach the semi-finals literally slipped through our fingers. A frustrating occasion and with ifs, buts and maybes. Missing three key players hurt us but inevitably we have to look within as we were capable of overcoming that deficit.

The regular front row of Ryan Eveleigh, Harvey Derby and Jack Strong were as formidable a front row as I have seen on the schools' circuit, physically intimidating their opponents and with two of them back next season our scrum should be a source of strength. Jack Wallis and Seb Cecil likewise were giants in the second row and provided quality ball at lineout time. Charlie Mason, James Hill, John Hawkins and Max Marston shared the back row berths, all of them bringing a presence and diverse talents to the pack.

At half back Murray Aitchison took on a new position, sharing the job with Mark Hulbert; both will compete again for that position next year. At fly half and fullback George Silk and Kyle Browne alternated responsibility each with strengths and weaknesses but both are young and have another year to improve. In the centre, the regular pairing of Harry Dixon-Smith and Rotimi Segun complemented each other. Harry, solid in defence with Roti offering a cutting edge in attack. Myles Coe, Toni Kuku and Drew Todd became our regular wingers with Drew slipping in at fullback on occasions, all three scoring telling tries on different occasions. There were others who played significant roles, Dan Hostetler, Olly Wright and Hugo Ellison in the front row, Jamie Angle at lock, Tadhg O'Shaughnessy, Ollie Roe and Seun Coker on the back row, Kurabe Makiura at half back and Charlton Kerr at fly half and fullback.

Of the names mentioned above fifteen will be back next year and it should be noted that Eveleigh, Strong, Hawkins, Silk, Aitchison, Segun and Kerr are in the Saints Academy whilst Hostetler, Kuku and Coker are all in the Wasps Academy. Rotimi Segun and John Hawkins played for England U18s and England U17s respectively, whilst Toni Kuku played for England London Division U16s, Charlton Kerr and Tosin Segun played for England Midlands Division.

A special thanks to Harvey Derby who Captained the side in a robust forthright manner, demanding no more than he was willing to give himself. I am sure he has a place in the professional world of rugby. Likewise, a huge thank you to Mr James Hayden and Mr Michael Rickner for their assistance with the coaching; both, as ever, gave unselfishly.

Mr Alan Hughes

2nd XV

The 2nd XV had upon reflection a very solid season, when it was hampered by injuries, not only to the 2nd XV players but also the 1st XV which meant being able to put out a consistent starting XV each week was almost impossible.

However, there were a many good points about which to reminisce! The Wednesday afternoon drubbing of Solihull on the North Front will go down in history as one of the most complete performances I have ever seen in my time at Stowe.

Another was the superb effort and application against a very athletic and well drilled Marlborough side and to lose that game by a point was one of my most heartbreaking moments at Stowe.

A huge thank you must go to all the players who represented the 2nd XV this season, with special mention to the Captain Hugo Ellison who epitomised the character of the team with his whole-hearted efforts week in week out. Also worthy of praise are Olly Wright, Charlie Wentworth-Stanley and Will Chatamra. Thank you to Mr Barker for all his efforts this year!

Mr Michael Rickner

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3rd XV

PLAYED 11, WON 5, DREW 1, LOST 5

There were great expectations at the start of the season with many of the players who were part of the team last year still available this year and, despite the ever improving quality of the opposition, hopes were high. Unfortunately, these hopes were brought crashing to earth in the first match against an extremely well organised Stamford side. Stowe regrouped in the second half to make it a much more even contest but the damage had been done with a loss of 27-12.

The following match relied heavily on the skills of fly half George Jackman and the surreptitious work by flanker Jonny Dann before running out worthy winners 22-5. Stowe then encountered a couple of one sided games taking apart Solihull 61-14 and surprisingly Warwick 40-5 before succumbing to a 29-10 defeat against the perennially difficult side that is Oundle.

The second half of the season saw three of the most tightly contested matches. Bromgrove were utterly dominant over us at Stowe and must have spent 90% of the match in our 22, but our excellent defence held after wave upon wave of attack. Only one glimmer of hope appeared when Sam Stevens picked up the ball from the back of the ruck

and found that their post defence had gone missing. After running nigh-on the full length of the pitch, followed by the conversion from Toby Cole, Stowe had the lead. With an unconverted consolation try in the final few minutes, Stowe earned a fantastic victory 7-5. Karma is a wheel and only a couple of weeks later the reverse happened at Marlborough.

Stowe also had tough game against Kingham Hill 1st XV, trailing by a point with a minute to go, then inexplicably passing up an opportunity to kick a penalty to win the game. The final couple of games saw a comfortable win at Bedford and a loss (20-5) against a very impressive Uppingham – possibly the strongest side we had played all season. There was, however, a one-off match played in late September against Sir Thomas Riches that was simply a wonderful game to watch as two spectacular defences effectively prevented tries coming from some exciting open rugby – ultimately the scores came from mistakes. It was a magnificent game. Thanks must go to the players who worked hard all season in particular the stalwarts: Hugo Hiley, Alex Long, George Jackman, Jonny Dann, Nick Whitmore and Toby Cole.

Mr Damian Blewitt



4th XV

PLAYED 10, WON 6, LOST 4

The season started off brilliantly with six straight wins against 4th XV opposition. First up was a comprehensive 45-0 win against Stamford which saw Captain for the day, Tobin Mills, score two electrifying tries. It was therefore no surprise that we lost him to the 3rd XV for the remainder of the season. At Oakham the team trailed 14-17 at half-time but a master class of centre three-quarter play by Alfie Hardman in the second half saw him put Oakham to the sword with two tries and helped the team to a superb come-back to win 31-22. The team trailed The Oratory 0-7 in the next match after another sloppy start, however, four tries in either half and seven conversions from Tom Forde led to a comfortable 54-7 victory in the end.

The odds were very much against the team going into the next match away to Oundle. The 4th XV had not beaten Oundle in the last 12 seasons and both sides were going into this game unbeaten. There was everything to play for and Stowe ended the match with a memorable 35-5 victory. A buoyant 4th XV travelled to Warwick to claim their biggest win of the season. William Cowley scored three of the 12 tries in the 76-15 win. The front row completely out-scrummaged Bromsgrove taking several balls against the head. Five tries in the second half rounded off a fine team performance.

It was no coincidence that the team lost the last three matches of the season against Uppingham, Marlborough and Bedford when 4th XV player of the season Ben ter Haar had been promoted to the 3rd XV. Having 24 different try scorers over the course of the season was testament to the great team ethic and team spirit of this group of players. The team scored 350 points in 10 matches averaging 35 points a game. Top try scorers were William Cowley (8), Tom Forde (6), Ben ter Haar (6), Alfie Hardman (5) and Jack Vestey (5).

Well done to Tom Forde and Alfie Hardman for their superb Captaincy over the season.

Mr Isaac Michael

5th XV



PLAYED 11, WON 5, DREW 1, LOST 5

It was a season that showed promise for the 5th XV this year. The team often started matches extremely well with defence being a particular highlight, but their resilience was always broken through one missed tackle or lucky bounce of the ball. Captain Henry Cox was a shining light in the backs with his reliable kicking and extravagant moves and was very unlucky to be on the losing side of numerous games. I would like to praise the team and everybody involved with the 5th XV this year as it was not easy losing and gaining players each week to the 4th XV. I would like to think that, if the team had had a solid run of games playing together, they might just have clinched a couple of games. I wish you all the best of luck for the future.

Mr Chris McGhee

Colts A

PLAYED 11, WON 8, LOST 3

The Colts A rugby team enjoyed a highly successful season built around a strong, physical pack of forwards complemented by a skilful and athletic backline behind the scrum. The team won their opening seven matches of the season to leave them undefeated at Half term. Most notable victories were against Warwick, 35-17, and RGS High Wycombe, 38-15, in which the team played at their fluent best. It was clear that the bigger the challenge, the better the team played and the players certainly knew how to raise their game when required.

The success of the team was undoubtedly built around a powerful back row triumvirate of the Captain, Oscar Williams, William Thompson and Tom Johnson who provided quick, clean ball for the half backs Oscar Pegg and the ever-impressive Charlton Kerr to profit from a pacey back line. Centres, Jack Flood and Seun Coker, who were magnificent throughout the season despite often playing out of position, added direction and strong ball carrying ability to make numerous line breaks which were often finished off by Allwell Opuala-Charles and Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson on the wings. The full back duties were shared by George Olley and Hallam Smith, who were both reliable under the high ball and a threat in attack, but serious shoulder injuries cruelly curtailed their seasons, allowing the impressive and deserved promotion of Adam Ezomo from the B team in the latter half of the term. The front five must be commended on their development through the season. Isaac Ajala has undoubted ability whilst props Alexandru Diaconu and George Constantinidi trained superbly and took this on to the pitch to give their all every Saturday. In the boiler-room of the second row Jamie Grayson and Freddie Paling made maximum use of their mobility to get round the pitch and play as extra back row forwards as did the impressive Jack Hechle at hooker.

Half term arrived with further victories chalked up against Oakham, Oundle, Sir Thomas Rich's, Mill Hill and Stamford. The second half of the term was to prove more testing for the squad. Endless county training sessions and matches followed by elevation to the 1st XV NatWest Cup squad for some of the players denuded the team of its best players and more importantly, the ability to train together. This was abundantly evident in the much more disjointed performances after Half term. The team put up a sterling effort against a very powerful Bromsgrove team and the 20-5 score line was not a true reflection of an absorbingly tight affair. However, the defeat to Marlborough with the last play of the match was a game that the team would have won by 20 points before Half term. However, with several key injuries to exhausted county players and no meaningful training sessions a 24-19 defeat was a bitter pill to swallow. A poor Uppingham team were defeated before the last match of the season against Bedford who pulled away in the second half against a Stowe side lacking several of its key performers. This was a real shame and highlighted the Colts A team being, to an extent, a victim of its own success with the 1st XV and Bucks County team calling upon its ranks.

Overall, a season of much success in terms of both results and players earning elevation to higher representative teams.

Mr Gavin Moffat and Mr Steve Malling

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Colts B

PLAYED 11, WON 10, LOST 1

The Colts Bs enjoyed the most successful term with regards to win ratio of any Stowe rugby team, perhaps even any Stowe sports team full-stop: Team of the Week twice and ten victories from eleven games – many of them by cricket scores.

It all started very differently. On a scorching first weekend of term having only one training session under their belts the boys travelled to Stamford where in controversial circumstances they were defeated thanks to a last-second converted try.

It spoke volumes for their determination and resolve that they should bounce back so emphatically. In the next five games they did not concede a single point and won by margins of fifty-plus against schools with some serious

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rugby pedigree: Oakham, Sir Thomas Rich's, Mill Hill, Oundle and Warwick were all put to the sword in this fashion. A powerful RGS High Wycombe posed more problems but their scalp was claimed in turn.

After Half term with several players being drafted into the A side, wins were more difficult to come by but no less satisfying for that reason. Journeys to Bromsgrove and Uppingham proved fruitful, Marlborough were vanquished on the North Front and in an emotional denouement to the season mighty Bedford were slain, the Stoics having recovered from a 14-0 deficit against perhaps their toughest opponents.

So commendable was the team's collective performance that it might seem unfair to single out individuals but a number of boys excelled. The leadership of an occasionally wilful group by team Captain Harry Norris was exemplary

throughout. Tom Buxton provided an imposing physical presence in the engine-room; flankers Seb Stone and Harrison Tucker tackled like the crack of doom and scored more than their fair share of tries; Freddie Phillips was impish and menacing at scrum half; Inigo Lendrum an abrasive and dangerous ten; Sam Riley and Brennan Gough ran hard in the centres and on the wings Allwell Opuala-Charles and Adam Ezomo were at times untouchable.

A number of the above graduated from 'Mr Copley's Academy' to the A team: Harrison Tucker and Ezomo were rewarded with regular starts after half term. Others who donned both As and Bs shirts included Alvaro de la Vega, Greg Atkinson, Alex Marks and Ollie Woodward.

By any standards this was an outstanding season. If only we could replay that Stamford game...

Dr Charlie Standley



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Colts C

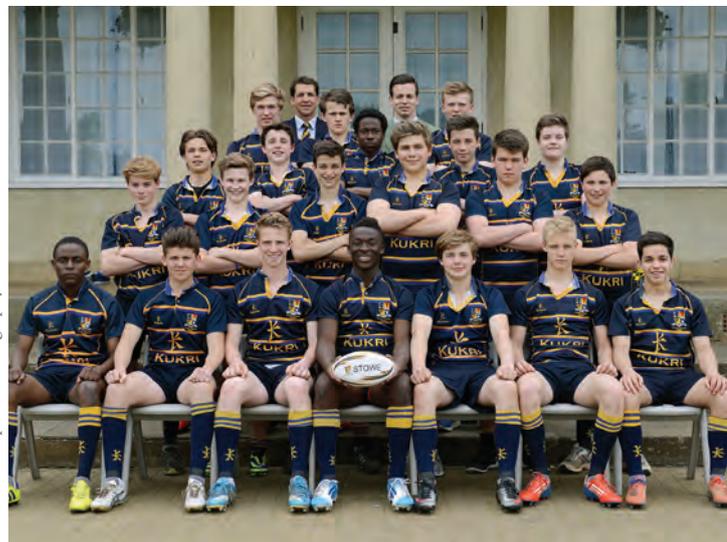
As rugby C teams go, the Stowe Colts C XV has traditionally been an outstanding showcase for the strength in depth possessed by the School's Fifth Form boys. This year the Colts C team continued in the very strong tradition of year groups gone by, winning a highly respectable 5 matches out of 7 played. Theo Lewis was

a worthy and talented Captain, co-ordinating his side with aplomb and demonstrating genuine personal flair in both attack and defence. Two highlights of the season were the explosive win over Uppingham, Stowe 36 points, Uppingham 7 points, and a comprehensive victory in the match against Bromsgrove, 53-10. Freddie Pope was a powerful and reliable fly half, controlling the set piece and delivering a huge number of points with the boot across the season. This year both the Colts C backs and forwards proved themselves to be prolific try-scorers, with players such as Chuks Udeh, winger, and Harry Dunn, flanker, scoring three tries each on more than one occasion. Tom Constable-Maxwell was also a powerful figure in the pack, directing the plays and scoring a number of individual tries. The most impressive features of the Colts C team will always be the great team spirit and the joy they take in the game. Congratulations to all who represented the side this season.

Mr Roland Johnson

Junior Colts A

The Junior Colts A team has been an extremely committed, hard-working side who played with determination and desire. Throughout the season the side played with exemplary discipline, not once succumbing to various opposition teams who tried to get into their heads with ill discipline or unsporting behaviour. Outside the NatWest National Competition the boys had a successful season, kicking off with an amazing pre-season tour where the side travelled to Tynedale to play in a tournament against a variety of sides from the North of England such as Durham and Sedbergh, beating everyone and bringing home a wonderful trophy and bags of confidence. Tosin Segun was also named player of the tournament.



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In the regular season we had outstanding games away from the spotlight, beating sides such as Oakham, Mill Hill, Marlborough, Oundle and Uppingham amongst many others. In the NatWest National Competition the boys were a little tense and only narrowly made it through the early stages of the tournament. We were knocked out of the main competition by Bloxham but this actually gave us the chance to play in the Vase Competition that saw us go very far, travelling to the North of England again to be beaten in the quarter final by Altrincham Grammar School who eventually went on to win the competition.

Over the season the boys developed tremendously, initially relying on several leaders to take us forward but by the end the squad put in excellent team performances with every individual playing a hugely important role in

each and every game. There were consistently excellent performances from many of the forward pack, notably Oscar Holmes, Archie Dixon-Smith and Benedict Solomon but the pack was only ever as good as the sum of its total parts. The back line, despite going through various iterations earlier in the season, was at times capable of cutting teams in half with runners like Jarrod Van der Westhuizen, Pepe Leyte and Tosin Segun scoring many tries. Scrum half Diggory Slee and full back Brandon Lee gave us a solid foundation throughout the season. Mr Craig Sutton and I are very proud of every member of the squad who busted a gut and played their hearts out for Stowe. We wish them the best of luck for next season in the Colts.

Mr Tom Higham

Junior Colts B

PLAYED 11, WON 7, LOST 4

This has been a fantastic term for a great bunch of young men, in most other years, many of these players would have been in our A Team.

We started this season with five wins on the trot, Stamford away 19-38, Oakham at home 29-17, St Thomas' away 27-36, Mill Hill away 0-59 and Oundle at home 17-15. A home loss to Warwick, 14-35, brought us down to earth.

Our next match, was another big one, RGS High Wycombe away. We are lucky that this team has a very good leader in Sol Boyd. As Captain he led our boys to an excellent win 12-31. A difficult match at Bromsgrove saw us beaten 36-5 but we had another good win at Uppingham 21-39. We knew that our last match at home, Bedford, would be a hard one, and it proved to be, with a loss of 3-55.

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With such a good team, it would be wrong to mention too many names but Jack Foreman was of real help to Sol Boyd and James Creedy Smith was solid as a rock in the pack. Well done to you all, you know who you are!

Mr Ray Dawson

Junior Colts C

PLAYED 10, WON 8, LOST 2

There were 50 Under 15 C teams competing in the Schools' Rugby League and we came second. The team that beat us was Bedford, and they played three more matches than us, thereby accruing more points.

This was a team of mighty talent. In the forwards Angus Parsonson, Stewie Milner, Avi Nair, Jamey Lewis and Aidan Forlee stood out for soaking up – and dishing up – big attacks effortlessly, reliably, and with infallibly great humour under bruising! In the thick of things were always Tayan Chinawongwatana (think: perennial good humour and

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Yearlings A

reliability), and Harry Cook (think: sheer, insatiable attitude!) Meanwhile, in the Flankers/No 8 slots were Piers Edinborough who delivered touchline to touchline conversions time and time again, Ned Hiley and Abdul Adebayo-Karim, who played rugby like they were made of hard steel.

In the backs, the Captain, Finn Shillington (9) and Miles Bell (10) link was infallibly fast and accurate. We had Musa Buthelezi, half-bullet, half-wrestler, cowing other teams from his first bruising runs, street-fighter Luke Williamson who picked an angle at pace and scared the living daylights out of the panicking fellow in his way, and George Warren who flew more than ran. George Adams on one wing was a hard and heavy battering ram of muscle and bone, and Tim Guan on the other was, for most oppositions, simply unstoppable. I have never coached a team where two such

light-footed, sticky-handed, quick-thinking, tackle-making, rugby-savvy full backs competed for one place as did Luc Abbot-Davies and Charles Granby.

Over the course of the season six of our players were promoted rightfully to the Bs, and indeed I think next season more will follow.

I have never coached a team that was more dedicated, more good-humoured, more closely-knit, or more supportive – and part of this is surely due to Finn Shillington's exemplary Captaincy. These are an absolutely stunning bunch of young men, and very, very good rugby players. Thank you, Stoics – it was one of the great privileges of my life. Thanks, too, to Mr Macpherson – dedicated fellow-coach. No messing next season, chaps. Number one, please!

Mr Bob Roberts

PLAYED 9, WON 4, LOST 5

This proved to be a difficult season for the As where many of the teams they came up against were physically bigger and at this age that can be a decisive factor where technique has yet to be honed that might counteract the difference in size.

They started well with a couple of wins against Chesham and The Leys, but much bigger opposition awaited us down the line and we struggled to contain some sides up front allowing QES Barnet, Oundle and Stamford to out muscle us. Just after Half term we restored a little confidence with a good win over Shrewsbury but this took a

dent when we came up against a very strong Uppingham side who beat us comprehensively. Ironically, we played perhaps some of our best rugby of the season in this game as our approach play was excellent. However, their much bigger backs stole the ball from us and then simply ran the length of the field to finish. A second away game to Oundle proved just too much for us but the side finished on a high by beating The Perse in a close finish 24-21. It was a good way to end a difficult season. As this team grows it has the makings of having some players who once they catch up in size their counterparts in other schools will, I hope, have learnt some valuable lessons along the way.

It is difficult to single out individual players but the pack, despite their size, were hardly ever out scrummaged, much credit for this goes to Louis Armitage and Josh Landau who moved to tight head half way through the season. Ben Holloway is a very gifted hooker with the heart of a lion. Tajū Atta is a handful at No 8 with Toby Lawrance and Lucas Colville offering height at the lineout. The pack needs to understand not to overcommit at the breakdown in order to defend the next phase and once this is recognised then they will find their workload is more evenly distributed. At half back the side is well served by Adam King and Calum Renshaw both of whom worked on scraps of possession which demanded more of their decision-making skills than they might have wanted in their first term. Tom Pearson and Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan both have good footwork and pace in attack but will need to understand their structure in defence to keep out bigger opposition. Dan Jolker was missed after he injured himself and Jim Jackman was my season's hero, often tackling men twice his size. There were others who floated in and out of the side just not quite at a stage to command a regular place but all with potential to take that next step and stamp their mark on the team next season. There is much to look forward to with this group.

Mr Alan Hughes



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Yearlings B

The 2014 rugby season was a period of development for the Yearlings B rugby team. With matches and training often hampered by the flooding, it gave the team time to work on their handling which eventually paid dividends in the last game of the season. However, with a very light pack it was the contact area that we really needed to focus our attention on, as it proved difficult to retain the ball in phase play. Despite losing boys to the A team, we eventually found some consistency towards the end of the season. With concentration in training on recycling, the results of the majority of our matches were tantalisingly close, but often frustratingly leaving us on the wrong side of the score sheet. However, in such a disrupted season we said we would judge the boys on the last game of the season and that was when they delivered. Against a strong Perse side the Yearlings B team put up their best performance

of the season with all the hard work coming together and resulting in a 28-21 victory. The defensive organisation of the team was excellent, led by the open side flanker and 'Man of the Match' James Carley. At the breakdown, the hard work of the powerful Pierse Odell and his pack secured us lots of ball which allowed our new-found twinkle-toed scrum half Alexander Perez-Buchanan to release our back line more regularly. In attack we always looked dangerous when the ball went wide and with all the handling practice we took full advantage of this, particularly through the powerful running of the two wings Wilf Fine and Jack Polturak.

Throughout the season the relentless work of the real grafters like Alexey Sviridov (who never went backwards at tight head) and Arthur Fenwicke-Clennell was impressive. The find of Perez-Buchanan at scrum half earns him recognition as the most improved player. However, this was a close call ahead of Fine who proved that he has real power and pace and when given the ball in space will finish moves. Player of the season has to go to the Yearlings B open side who dependably showed his ability in attack and defence, Harry Weiss.

Mr Liam Copley

Yearlings C

Our term started very well with an excellent win at Home against QES Barnet 24-7. Like everyone else our fixtures and training were hit badly by the weather. We, in consequence, were not organised and went into our next two matches unprepared. We lost to Oundle away 7-47. Our next game was against Uppingham away, where we lost in what was a very good close game, 20-24.

The team was then hit by injury, and Albie Oswald, our Captain was out for the rest of term and others were promoted. We therefore fielded a weakened team away to Oundle and were well beaten 14-70. Our final game was away to Stamford. It was a very close game, while our team fought very well, sadly Stamford just edged it 15-17.

It was not a good term results wise but this team has learnt much and will be a better team in the Michaelmas term because of it.

Mr Ray Dawson





Yearlings D

PLAYED 4, WON 1, LOST 3

The statistics sound disheartening but really they should read “Floods: 72, Stowe: 15” because we barely had a single training session as a team on a proper pitch in the whole first half of term and the knock-on effect of that can be seen in our results. The irony is that by the end of term the team were starting to look purposeful and strategic: backs were showing touch line to touch line handling surety,

solid tackling, and among the forwards some powerful strike players had begun to emerge. Milan Canak, Max Bishop and Mikhail Fedotov tore apart Stamford in the final game of term. The 9-10-12-13 combination of Albert Johnson (Captain) – Charles Rivington – Ed Huser – Harry Pullin was becoming very adept at handling under pressure, and fullback Josh Riley was developing into his attacking role nicely. Prop Rebant Ruparell, indomitable hooker Will Trumper and winger Henry Eleyin-Bingham also deserve a mention for commitment and improvement over the term. Also, of course, many of our star players had gone up by the end of the season – Felipe Maney, Nicholas Montgomery, Arthur Marriott, Henry McQuitty and Ralph Williams, to name but a few – which added to the challenge the boys faced in constantly adapting to new positions and players. Mr Hart and I very much hope the D team squad keep playing rugby because as their talent and physique develop, we expect them to move up into the C team and even beyond! Our thanks to a bunch of players who were always upbeat and a pleasure to work with, despite a horribly fragmented, disrupted season.

Mr Bob Roberts

Rugby 7s

Seniors

We returned to our usual season opener at Stratford as the holders of the tournament and with our sights set on emulating the 2013 result. Our opening game was against Loughborough Grammar School. We set off playing with width and patience, but to our shock, found ourselves 0-10 down at half time. However, we did not panic and confidence helped us to keep our shape and score three times to win the match. We then went on to win through to the knockout stages comfortably. A well organised Shrewsbury side then gave us a tough test as we exchanged scores and again we found ourselves down. Pleasingly, the tenacious character of the Stowe side created space for George Silk to score the required points to win, so we made our first final. Our opponents were a surprisingly strong Bishop Vesey’s side. With a minute to go we were down 5 points, but for the third time we managed a gutsy score (George Silk again) to go ahead and be within touching distance of the cup. The referee decided there was one more play and unfortunately this time they gathered the kick off and cut through us to take the title.

At Windsor 7s an opener against Haileybury was a stiff test on paper, but in reality, we won at a canter 35-0, playing some very exciting rugby. The Oratory was next but they were not as strong as usual and we won 28-0.



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Hampton did not trouble us either, so the group decider was against Eton. Two well matched sides traded good quality tries and heavy defensive blows and in the end 14-14 was a fair result. The group was to be decided on points, for and against. We bettered their results by a single point, so progressed through to play Radley. Although they were very wary of our pace, we were not firing on all cylinders in this match and complacency got the better of us as we went down by 2 points.

This year we were put in a very tough group at the Oakham 7s, containing just Stamford and Bromsgrove and we would have to play them both twice! Thankfully, we beat them both in the first round, so had done enough to go through to the semi-finals against Uppingham. In a thrilling match, the final whistle blew with both sides equal on points. We went into a sudden death situation. Ollie Roe was the hero of the hour and broke free to score and take us through to the final against Bedford. By this time we were shattered and were no match for a fresh Bedford side.

We had the easiest draw we have ever had in the group stages at the Rosslyn Park Nationals 7s and scored 18 tries in just two matches. This put us through to a playoff against Abingdon. With our reputation for searing pace and hard hitting defence, they were clearly not relishing the challenge. Again our well known stars enjoyed running rings around their backs and winning the contest in the forwards. A comfortable win brought a perfect first day to a close and we retired to our hotel to recover for the knock-out stages the next day.

The top 15 teams returned to do battle in groups of three schools. We had Cranleigh and Cheltenham, The first game against Cranleigh resulted in us making the first mistakes and letting them get ahead. However, we fought back to get 7 points with two minutes to go. A kick ahead gave our speedster, Rotimi Segun the room to sprint past his opposite wing, all we needed was a kind bounce and we would be back level with them. But... it was one of those days as the ball bounced savagely and gave him no chance to gather it. Cranleigh then won their scrum and scored again to end our hopes of progressing. A frustrating end, but another great campaign on the whole.

We are determined to win this competition in the near future and with the superb talent coming through from the Colts, we may well have a strong chance next year. My thanks to Mr Hayden and Luke Myring for their help with coaching this season.

Mr Craig Sutton

Colts

PLAYED 26, WON 23, DREW 1, LOST 2

It was clear from the outset that the Colts 7s squad was a very powerful and talented team with the capability of performing well in the four tournaments of the season – the team did not disappoint. At the first tournament of the season, the Newark 7s, the team defeated all opponents to notch up their first silverware of the season. The Oakham competition was next on the list and group victories versus Uppingham, Leicester GS and Oakham set up a feisty clash versus Bromsgrove in the semi-final who eventually overcame Stowe 12-14.

The team made history in the Stowe 7s tournament by becoming the first Stowe team to win their own competition. Bedford Modern was swept aside 31-7 in the quarter-final, as too were Abingdon 28-12 in the semi-final to leave Stowe against Wellington College on the North Front before a partisan home crowd. A final score of 31-21 to Stowe provided a great fillip for the team going into the National Tournament at Rosslyn Park.

At the Nationals, Stowe cruised through their four group games before defeating Marlborough in the first knockout match. This set up a mouth-watering tie against tournament favourites Bromsgrove. In front of a packed crowd Stowe played some outstanding 7s rugby to come from behind to win 24-19. London Oratory was brushed aside in the quarter-finals to leave Stowe up against a huge QEGS Wakefield team. By this time Stowe had lost two key players, Charlton Kerr and Seun Coker,



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to injury which made the task even stiffer. However, with the scores tied at 14-14, hopes were dashed when QEGS scored two tries at the death to progress into the final where they easily overcame Wellington to be crowned champions.

The Stowe Colts team should be extremely proud of their efforts to come third out of 160 teams nationally. Tosin Segun was outstanding in the knockout matches, along with Tom Johnson and Diggory Slee whilst Oscar Williams led by example throughout. However, all 12 members of the squad must be congratulated on their success.

Mr Gavin Moffat and Mr Michael Rickner



Swimming

With the success of last year's girls' team, led by Ella Johnson, we were hopeful of repeated success this year and on the lookout for new stars to replace the girls we had lost. It was a delight to meet new Third Former, Kira Evans, who was selected to swim for Kenya at the African Games in Botswana in the Christmas holidays and has also been invited to Australia to compete in the Junior Olympics.

Jo Jackson and Guy Riches were selected as Team Captains and both were clever, fit and organised. In the Michaelmas term the team had wins against St Edward's and Kimbolton and only faltered to Bromsgrove. All meets highlighted outstanding talent in both teams, especially at relay level.

House swimming was once again upon us and it proved to be another very close Senior Inter-House Competition for the boys. In previous years it has been a keenly fought contest between Temple and Grenville with Temple taking the silverware – was this going to be Grenville's year?

Grenville's Ivan Popov, Will Chatamra, Charlie Harris and Tom Harrison fought hard and all won their events; with wins in the backstroke and butterfly and a high score in the individual medley for Tom Harrison, Grenville were crowned the winners.

The Intermediate Inter-House Competition saw Walpole lift the cup with Hamish Graham-Campbell winning all three of his races and the rest of the House showing great swimming across the board.

It was always going to be a real battle between Third Formers Guy Woodhouse from Chatham and Ben Holloway from Grafton. Guy excels at butterfly and backstroke whereas Ben's forte is breaststroke and the individual medley. They were tied after four races and it all depended on the freestyle race. Guy was able to clinch the win and crown Chatham as the champions.

**Boys' Houses**

1st	Grenville	132 points
2nd	Temple	99 points
3rd	Chatham	97 points
4th	Grafton	76 points
5th	Chandos	61 points
6th	Bruce	45 points
7th	Walpole	41 points
8th	Cobham	24 points

Girls' Houses

1st	Nugent	225 points (record score)
2nd	Stanhope	136 points
3rd	Lyttelton	118 points
4th	Queen's	70 points

Senior Boys

G Riches Captain*
W Chatamra*
I Popov*
C Harris
T Harrison
T Pemberton
G Lee
T Tserni
L Reddyhough

Senior Girls

J Jackson Captain*
E Desmond*
C Fusco-House*
A Bishop

U16 Boys

I Lendrum Captain
S Yonan
H Graham-Campbell
W Thompson
D Strutt
H Dockerty

U16 Girls

H Campbell Captain
I White
Z Tucker
P Moore
C Morandotti
L Reid

Junior Boys

G Woodhouse Captain
B Holloway
M Canak
K Rigby
I Bobrov

Junior Girls

K Evans Captain
P Vickers
M Martinez-Tomas
M Tearle
D Thomas
M Aitchison
A Pryse
C Haggie
J McIntosh
G Flawn-Thomas

* Colours

Senior girls' swimming also proved to be a good competition, with a new School Record. Lyttelton's Elsa Desmond won the 100m freestyle and the breaststroke while Nugent's Jo Jackman won the butterfly race. It was Nugent's Alex Bishop's hard work in the backstroke that secured the overall win for Nugent.

In the Intermediate competition Nugent's Holly Campbell set three School Records for the U16 category and Lauren Reid won the freestyle.

It was a similar story for Nugent in the Junior competition with Kira Evans breaking the record in the butterfly, backstroke and 100m medley where she was 9 seconds faster than the existing record!

Nugent won the Elkington Cup for most relay wins and Grenville won the Big Bowl for the first time in fifteen years.

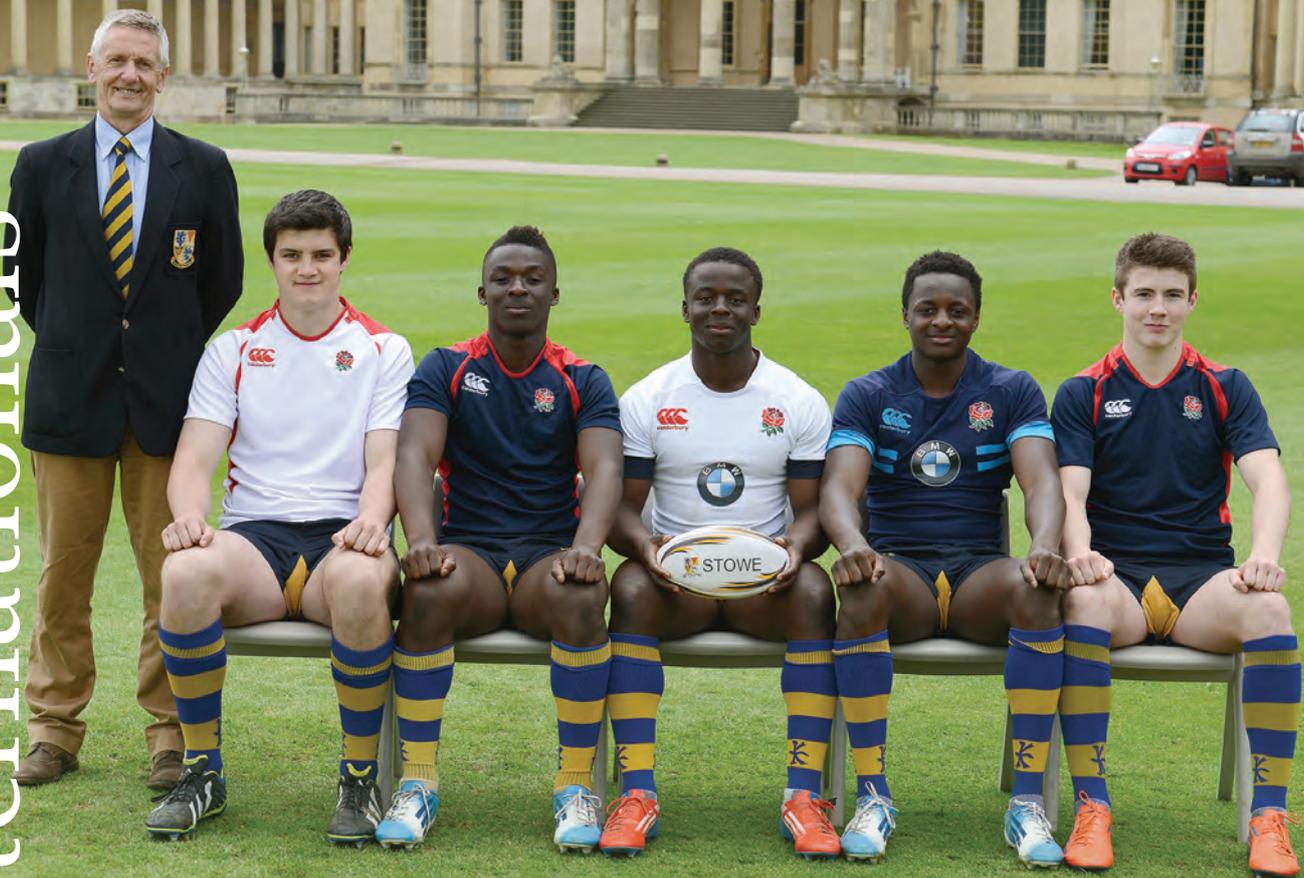
This year's Bath Cup was held at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Stratford, London. This gave us the opportunity to swim in a pool that had only ever previously been used in the 2012 Olympics. The boys unfortunately faltered and did not make it past the heats but for the first time the girls made it through to the Denelm and Aldernam Cup Final. Huge congratulations to Alex Bishop, Holly Campbell, Jo Jackson and Elsa Desmond.

We were only able to swim two matches in the Summer term where we were delighted to beat Cheltenham and Stamford.

I would like to say a thank you to Jo and Guy for Captaining the teams this year and wish them both great success in the future. I would also like to thank parents and staff, especially our electronic score board operator Mrs Patricia Bennett.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Rugby Internationals



This year Stowe was able to boast five players who went on to represent England at various age groups and levels, Rotimi Segun, John Hawkins, Charlton Kerr, Toni Kuku and Tosin Segun. We should also not forget last year's leaver Jordan Onojaife who is representing England U20s in this year's World Cup in New Zealand.

Rotimi played four matches for England U18s scoring tries against Scotland and Portugal and was a member of the AER European Champions squad that beat Ireland in the final. He also played for England U17s against France scoring the opening try. John Hawkins, who joined us this year, also made a dream come true when he played in the same game as Rotimi against France. Charlton Kerr

and Tosin Segun represented England Midlands in the Wellington International U16 Festival along with Toni Kuku who represented England London in the same tournament.

Representing your country is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a sportsman and for Stowe to have five boys achieve it in the same year is an outstanding accolade. This comes from a lot of hard work by staff here at Stowe and our close working relationship with Northampton Saints and London Wasps. We currently have nine boys in the Saints Junior Academy and three in the Wasps Junior Academy.

Mr Alan Hughes

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Fives

PLAYED 8, LOST 4, DRAWN 1, WON 3

Over the last twelve months there has been an increasing interest in fives. Five of Chatham's Third Form have got the bug and represented the School in a number of matches. On a Friday we are still supported by a professional fives coach, who has added value to the success and development of our players. In the Michaelmas term the Senior House Fives Competition took place with Stanhope winning the girls' event and Grenville winning the boys' event. The Lent term saw the Junior House Fives Competition where the girls' event was won by Lyttelton and the boys' by Temple.

We are very close to being able to field three pairs of girls to represent the School in matches and are working towards a fixture or two during the next academic year.

It is always nice to see on most Tuesday evenings during



the year a few Old Stoics returning to the School and using the fives courts.

Some changes to the surrounding area are planned over the summer break which will result in a landscaped area just outside the courts.

Mr John Skinner

Boys' Hockey

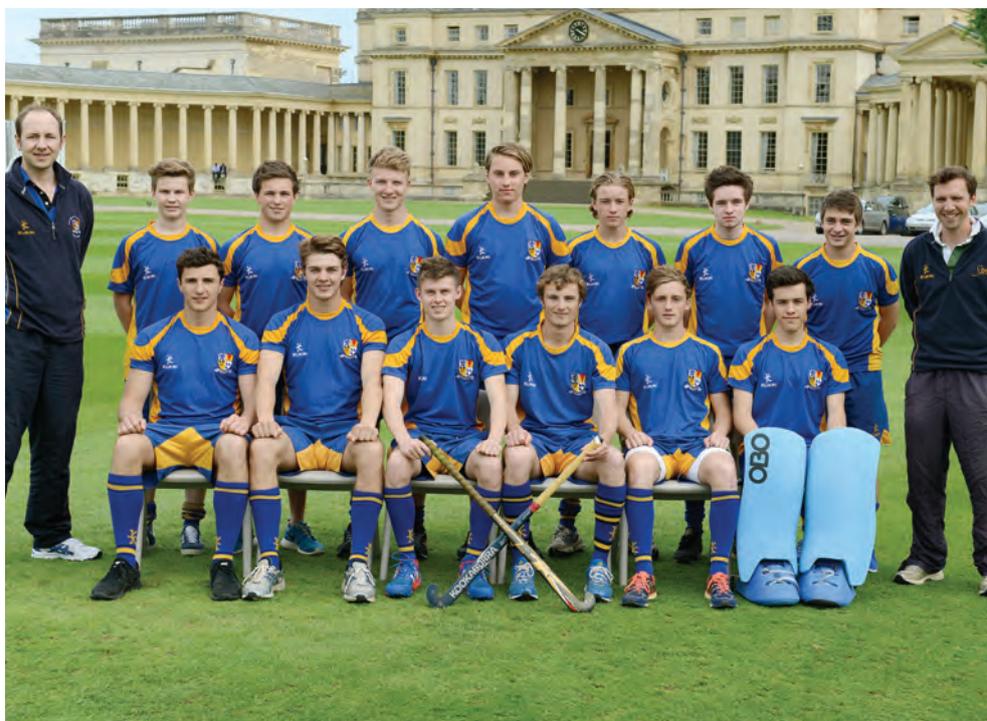
1st XI

This has not been the easiest of seasons for the class of 2014, but to their credit there was much determination, diligence and doggedness on show throughout. We must not forget the fact that there was also an onus on another 'd', our defence, in most games...

There was a slightly transitional feel in the air when we assembled for pre-season in the first week of January for various reasons: the departure in the previous summer of our Olympian coach, James Fair, to pastures new; a youngish feel to the squad with only a handful of Upper Sixth in the ranks; the glamorous lure of new-look football 1st XI which accounted for some would-be hockey players.

Notwithstanding these setbacks, these brave young men endured the Baltic temperatures of the North in the pre-season Workshop Tournament and then displayed some potential the following day in a series of matches against the Abingdon 1st team squad, the battle between the Tasker brothers a talking point for the pundits.

The season itself began brightly against The Leys' side containing the England U21 Captain. Though we lost 3-1 there was much in the way of application, midfield work rate and sensible passing to feel positive about in the coming weeks. Strong opposition in the following weeks meant that the success didn't materialise as we had hoped and goalkeeper Will Barnes had to fish the ball out of the back of his goal more times than he'd have liked. That said, Half term arrived with a stronger performance in the County Cup (in hurricane conditions!) and the first game after Half term saw a memorably gritty performance against St Edward's and a 1-0 win. Keeping their heads as all around them were losing theirs, this was undoubtedly a high point of the season, Will Cowley the man on the



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scoresheet having got in the end of a goalmouth scramble in the first half. A chastening defeat at the hands of Stamford, then a solid victory over Kimbolton led us to the final game of the season against Bromsgrove where their German, shin pad-less (they'd already casually played a club game that day) penalty corner specialists demonstrated the art of drag flicking at pace into the top right or left corner.

Various other individual mentions must also make it into the highlights package: a couple of spectacular goals from Henry Wheeler which seemed to surprise him as much as anyone else; Jack 'Glen Johnson' Vestey's mazy runs from defence beating about four players before losing the ball and having to leg it back; the pace, commitment and goals up front from Will 'Lewis Moody' Cowley (so named because he seemed to show no concern for his physical wellbeing); Tom Young's reading of the game in defence; Charlie Moore's solid and reliable work at left back which won him the Most Improved Player of the Season award; the commitment, work rate and application of our Captain and Most Valuable Player, Jack Walker-Payne.

Mr Henry Swayne

2nd XI

The team made an excellent start to the season with a 2-1 win over The Leys, with Oliver Roe scoring both goals (Oliver transferred to the first team later). The team suffered a few defeats in the middle of the season, but always played with good spirit and determination. The team developed their skills and started to play more as a unit, finishing the season with three good victories

over Bloxham, Loughborough Grammar School and Bromsgrove.

Standout performances from the season came from Amy Cairns who played as our keeper for most games and Murray Aitchison who performed well in the midfield, but excelled in his newly discovered role as keeper in the absence of Amy. Jonathan Dann Captained the squad and



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was a solid pivot in midfield. Tobin Mills developed into a skilled right wing and was making excellent breaks into the opposition D in most games. Monty Curran, Jack Keeping and Jack Edmonstone worked well together in the midfield as a solid team. Nico Upton showed his excellent individual skill, zooming into the D when needed and fitted well into an attacking role with Alex Stone. Angus Tyrrell worked well in defence being able to clear the ball out of danger very effectively with the assistance of Tom Noest. Michael Hill who joined us in the last few games, proved to be an excellent striker linking well with the midfield and wings.

Mr Paul Thompson

3rd XI

The Boys' 3rd XI hockey had some memorable moments this season. The first game against The Leys was an excellent start with a 0-1 win. This game demonstrated the potential within the team and, most importantly, the drive to win. The winning goal came from Charles Pilleau, who turned the ball in at the far post after some excellent build up play. With a number of shots just going wide, most noticeably Tom Forde's flick just over the cross bar, the team finished on a high after a well fought game. Unfortunately, this momentum was not taken into the next game where they lost 0-3 against Cokethorpe. Stowe had plenty of opportunities to score and were unlucky not to finish any of these chances. Throughout the season the team met two excellent opponents Uppingham and Stamford and in both cases their depth and strength proved too much and the games were lost. The highlight of the season was against Haberdashers' Aske's where Stowe won 0-1. The first half was spent predominantly in the opposition's half, with Arthur Newman distributing the ball left and right opening up many scoring opportunities. The two wingers Oscar Marment and Mike Hill used speed to feed the ball in. The constant pressure was rewarded by a goal from Harry Rees who, after beating two players, put the ball past the keeper on his reverse stick. Henry Sylvester and Charlie Barnes made some well-timed tackles to break down counter attacks. Ben ter Haar played exceptionally well, organising

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the defence to ensure that the game ended with a clean sheet. This was without doubt the strongest performance of the season and all elements of training came together to deliver a well deserved win.

Charlie Barnes captained the side and his enthusiasm and desire to win kept the team motivated. Harry Rees and Arthur Newman deserve particular mention for some outstanding play in the midfield, as well as some brilliant goal-keeping from Arthur at the start of the season. Archie Brogden took to his new position as sweeper and Jamie Montgomery was a valuable asset to the team being able to play in the midfield and defence. Overall, the squad had a fantastic season and it was thoroughly enjoyable. Well done to all who participated.

Mrs Fiona James

Colts A

I must confess to taking a sneaky look at last year's Junior Colts A report in 'The Stoic' to give myself some idea of what lay ahead when given the assignment of the Colts As. As it turned out it was not a good move! However, after a few positive training sessions it was clear that, despite losing George Markham's defensive prowess (and highlights) to the 1st XI, the boys had developed their skills in the off season and looked to be a good unit, motivated to work hard and improve.

The first match resulted in a very encouraging draw against a strong team from The Leys. Jack Hechle, surely the most improved player on the team, scored the opener, with a second added by Hallam Smith. The team was lucky to have the stick skills and superb striking of Hallam Smith for the majority of the season: he is an excellent hockey player and were it not for a shoulder problem he would have been playing with the 1st XI.

The season included wins against Bloxham, Uppingham (in which Alexandru Diaconu displayed his hunger for goals by scoring the winner) and St Edward's. The low point of the season was a disastrous 2-0 defeat at the hands of Haberdashers' Aske's which served as a reminder to the team that sloppy work in

defence and wanton wastefulness in front of goal is not a recipe for success.

Overall, the season was one of success. The team was well led by a combination of Ollie Woodward and Sam Riley, with strong performances from the generally cool-headed Isaac Ajala in goal and Smith and Diaconu up front. However, the outstanding feature of the season was the effort put in, and the resultant improvements made, by all of the players who represented the team, which I hope bodes well for the future.

Mr Chris Warde



Colts B

PLAYED 10, WON 6, DREW 2, LOST 2

After a slow start to the season, opening with a loss and a draw, the Colts B found good form and strung together a series of very accomplished victories – resilient in defence, creative in possession, sharp in attack, with each player eager to do his best. Yet, the heart of school sport does not lie in a winning result, but rather, in the enjoyment of competition and the spirit of camaraderie; and it was a delight to see broad smiles and shared success grow stronger with every passing match, as each boy played for each other, taking the path from disparate and elemental

teenagers to find one equal temper of heroic hearts. Indeed, though it will seem contrary to normal understanding, the highlight of the season was most certainly a 3-nil loss, in the last match of the season, away at Bromsgrove; despite the score line, each player showed great character, providing their best performances of the season, as they played a first half against the Bromsgrove Bs, and then the second half against the Bromsgrove As. It was an ennobling defeat, which fully illustrated all the best qualities of the boys as individuals and as a team.

Mr Tony Chan

Junior Colts A

PLAYED 11, WON 8, DREW 1, LOST 2

This was certainly one of the most successful Junior Colts A sides I have coached in the last 10 years and, without doubt, one of the most talented. Selection was always difficult, with players from the B team continuing to challenge for places all through the season. The only two games lost this season were by one goal each and these were extremely close matches against The Leys and Uppingham. The final match of the season saw Stowe play some of their best hockey against skillful Bromsgrove players and a draw was probably not a fair reflection of their play in this game and of the season in general. Every other match Stowe played they won and they won many of these 8 games extremely convincingly. They beat MCS Oxford 3-0; Bloxham 3-1; Abingdon 5-2; Haberdashers' Aske's 6-0; St

Edward's 3-0; Stamford 5-1; Mill Hill 6-0 and Kimbolton 3-1. For me, the performance against Abingdon was arguably their best, when everything they had practiced for in training came off and the players soundly beat a very strong side indeed.

As a sign of the all-round skill level of the side, 'Man of the Match' awards went to the following list of players, some more than once: Archie Dixon-Smith, Gabriel Chauveau, Georges Tasker, Dom Shaw, Rory Hunnable and Jack Dickerson. The goalkeeper Jack Dickerson deserves a special mention. He was the Yearlings B team goal keeper for the whole of his first year, but trained very hard in the off and pre-seasons to come into this season already in great form. He kept numerous clean sheets and stopped many opposition attacks in their tracks, enabling the



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rest of his team to launch counter-attacks of their own. Captain, Archie Dixon-Smith was the most influential player of the season, scoring 11 goals and leading the side from midfield. Other notable performances came from Dom Strong, Oscar Holmes, Georges Tasker, Dom Shaw, Gabriel Chauveau, Jack Foreman and Rory Hunnabell. The remaining members of this fantastic squad were Oliver Clarke, Angus Parsonson, Hugo Cliff, Sam Montgomery, Piers Edinborough and Ben Solomon.

Mr Philip Arnold

Junior Colts B

PLAYED 10, WON 8, DREW 1, LOST 1

The Junior Colts Bs had a fine season in 2014. The one loss was the first game of the season against a very strong side from The Leys and they significantly closed the gap from the year before. The team could see the improvements they had made and never looked back after this. There were fine wins over Bloxham, St Edward's, Abingdon, Magdalen College School and a hard fought draw against Uppingham. The highlight of the season was the 7-1 win in the last game of the season against a strong Bromsgrove side. All the hard work of the season came together here and the boys played with great determination and skill.

Miles Bell, when called upon, had a fine season in goal and he was well supported by his defence consisting of Hamish Graham-Campbell, Carlie Tufnell, Edwin Rimlinger and Piers Edinborough (who also won a call up to the As). The mid field was dominated by Player of the Season – Sam Montgomery – who deservedly finished the season off in the As and will hopefully go on to represent the 1st XI in



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the future. Hugo Cliff, George Williams and Ned Hiley all played their part at various stages of the season in the mid field. Up front, Captain Ed Good dominated proceedings scoring 17 goals, which included four hat-tricks. He was ably supported by Charlie Granby and Nikko Elliott, who also had a fine season and picked up the Most Improved Players Awards.

Well done to everyone who played this season.

Mr James Knott

Junior Colts C

The Junior Colts C team made a marvellous start to the term, winning some matches by a massive margin. They were named 'Team of the Week' for two successive weeks – a rare accolade. Against The Leys, Gilles Griffiths scored twice, along with Finn Shillington, winning 3-1. Against Bloxham the match was stopped at 12-0, with five goals from Gilles Griffiths, hat-tricks from Finn Shillington and Arthur Vickers, and one goal from Kitili Mwendwa. Against Abingdon they won 7-1, with four from Gilles Griffiths and a hat-trick from Finn Shillington. Against Uppingham Gilles Griffiths scored but Uppingham came back with two to win. Kitili Mwendwa scored against St Edward's but the opposition, with an unusually wide range of substitutes, eventually dominated. They also went down to Kimbolton, but the opposition was a B team from an older year-group. Other key players



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were Tom Carne, the Captain, Henry Russell and Ned Hiley alongside Philip Ilinich in goal. Overall the C team amassed 23 goals for, and only 13 against, with 5 hat-tricks, an impressive achievement.

Mr Michael Bevington

Yearlings A

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This focus of this term has been on the development of future hockey players at the School and the current Yearlings A team players are a talented bunch who have worked extremely hard all term to improve as much as possible. We have had some very close matches and have been playing our best hockey in the last few games. We have played some tough opposition, getting good wins against Stamford and RGS High Wycombe. Calum Renshaw has been powerful in the midfield whilst Freddie Thompson, and Billy Vestey have been excellent in defence with Oleg Solovjev showing a lot of potential in goal. One of the best goals this year came from Oscar Price as he roofed a shot against Stamford. The team have done themselves credit this term, and I am really pleased to see the improvement they have made. The most valuable players of the season were – Calum Renshaw and the most improved Freddie Thompson.

Mr Richard Pickersgill

Yearlings B

PLAYED 9, WON 3, DREW 2, LOST 4

Although this side only won three games, they greatly improved as the season went on and I'm sure will go from strength to strength as they go through the School. Several of the team had never played hockey before so it took time for them to establish the skills and tactics, while they also lacked consistency on a very strong circuit. Highlights were wins over RGS High Wycombe, Stamford and The Perse as well as battling draws against The Leys and Stamford in the second leg. Adam King and Alex Perez-Buchanan both progressed from this side to become A team regulars by the end of the season.

Oli Millard took the Golden Stick Award with 13 goals. Oli did the bulk of the scoring during the season and we were indebted to his performance. Tom Leach performed well in goal all season and James Cecile-Pritchard, Tom Mayhew, Taju Atta, Henry Gauvain and Tom Pearson did

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sterling work in defence as they were often under a lot of pressure. Charlie Rivington, Daniel Jolker and James Gill worked hard in midfield all season and Freddie Woods played well both as a forward and as sweeper.

Mr James Knott

Yearlings C

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The Stoics started the season with most of the team new to hockey. In the first game against Oundle they lost heavily, but over the next few games they gradually improved and started to show some real potential. The effort and training first showed in a return match against The Leys, where having lost 8-0 in the first showing away, they narrowly lost 2-3 at home. There were several other close games but finally drew a game against Stamford 1-1 and then won their first game against RGS High Wycombe 4-1 in a very strong performance.

The standout players of the year were: Captain, Nicholas Montgomery, Harry Pullin, Joshua Riley, Tom Garel-Jones, Harry Weiss, Pierce Odell, Leo Dettori, Alexander Harris, Max Shannon, Guy Woodhouse, Jack Polturak, Dominic Jessel and Henry Frisby.

Mr Paul Thompson

Yearlings D

The Yearlings D started the season with a 9-0 defeat against Oundle; there were a number of lessons to be learnt by these new boys, but their hearts are good and they were keen to improve. From that match onwards the team was determined, alert to the possibilities of position, eager to run with intensity and fierce in competing with the ball. This really was a team with galvanised who worked very hard for each other.

Boys grow up very quickly at boarding school, and as we approached Half term, it was clear how much better these boys had become. Some weeks earlier, many had never played hockey, and now, each was a member of a team playing with much confidence, able to shape play through different directions, defend as a co-ordinated unit, string together purposeful and penetrative passes, and on occasion, offer a 'wow' moment through an incisive dribble or a well-thwacked shot at goal. On occasions it was not like watching matches featuring the Yearlings D as the fourth-picked team, but rather, the Yearlings D as 'D for Downright Excellent'.

It is remarkable how far this team has come since that early day, winning every match since – initially through intensity

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and graft, and lately through cultured play and much grace. This was a wonderful game, with many glad moments of elegance and others of sheer dominance: everywhere, and at every time, there was something to draw the eye's attention: whether the incisive play of the forwards, the tireless work of the midfield, the staunch resilience of the defence, or the highly impressive athleticism of some-time goalkeeper, Tom Wallace. All through, these thirteen boys have become an excellent team, totally reliant upon each other and totally trusting of each to do their utmost. They have indeed become good players, but they have first become good persons.

Mr Tony Chan

Yearlings E

In their first match against Oundle the E team had a weak first half, conceding three goals, but then rallied with some promising attacks and also useful defence by Wilfred Fine. Against Uppingham they attacked well, led by Arthur Fenwicke-Clennell and supported by Alexey Sviridov and Edward Harding, but the strength of the opposition forwards overwhelmed the Stowe defence. Matches were on grass and rain prevented the return match against Uppingham.

Mr Michael Bevington

Clay Pigeon Shooting

The Clay Pigeon shooters had a reasonable season though it was not stellar. We shot home and away against a number of schools including Cokethorpe, Kimbolton and Warwick and also entered The Warwick Challenge and the Nationals.

Above all it has been pleasing to see many Stoics securing high and top scores in a number of matches. Thomas Leach scored 36/50 in the shoot against Warwick while Ben Skinner scored 41/50 at the same event. These are very encouraging scores and augur well for the future.

At the Nationals we entered two somewhat weakened teams as the competition fell on an Exeat weekend. Despite awful shooting conditions at the start of the day the event proved exceedingly enjoyable. The A team secured ninth place with the top gun being Theo Shepherd-Smith on 27 and the B team came in fourth position with top gun being Toby Lawrance with a score of 33. We were enormously grateful to all the parents who ferried their sons and daughters to the event which started fairly early in the morning. We only hope the Nationals don't fall on an Exeat weekend next year!

As far as Speech Day was concerned, we had to contend with dreadful weather yet again with rain of almost biblical

proportions. But despite the heavens opening the event was great fun and thoroughly absorbing. We ran two competitions simultaneously; 'Fathers and Sons' and 'Old Stoics'. Mr Owen and Monty Owen won the 'Fathers and Sons' with a score of 28. We had an interesting mix of scores stretching all the way down to 8. There was even a suggestion that one competitor (unnamed) failed to hit any clays! In the Old Stoics competition, the School won at both A and B team level, with the A team winning comfortably and the B team having a much tighter shoot.

As always, our gratitude must go to our two coaches, Messrs Harris and Grace, who give so freely of their time. They are hugely knowledgeable, very professional and always enthusiastic and we could not ask for more. In addition, the team would also like to thank our 'Master in Charge' Mr Thomas who has put a great deal of effort into organising the fixtures, despite the fact that he was a new member of staff and on a very steep learning curve when it came to shooting.

Henry Sylvester and Mr Paul Thomas

Girls' Hockey

1st XI

Senior girls' hockey has gone from strength to strength this term with the 1st XI having their best season yet. The girls have mastered the basics, with a real focus on composure, and the end result is a testament to their efforts. Training has been a delight as each individual has worked hard and put in their maximum effort, which has translated into our games working on and off the ball to secure many goals. We have had some excellent wins against Pangbourne, Tudor Hall and Cheltenham. Some high scoring wins against Bedford Modern, Akeley Wood, Princethorpe and Downe House collected 18 goals alone, without any conceded. Some of our tougher opposition for the season gave us the opportunity to showcase the quality of hockey Stowe can present, and a particular highlight was the team's last performance against Oundle resulting in a very close 1-0 loss. However, the score does not reflect the standard of the game and Stowe were incredibly unfortunate to miss out on a draw or even a win.

Alice Hughes, Captain of the 1st XI team, has led the girls tremendously; with her calm presence on the pitch and stature within the squad, she has commanded respect and set the bar very high for next season. Special mentions must also go to Louisa Highwood, who is new to us this year and slotted straight in with the rest, with the players voting her the most valuable within the team. Jemima Grant has been



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awarded the Coaches' Player and Amy Cairns, who joined the 1st XI squad from Fourth Form as the goalkeeper, is by far the most improved. This is to mention just a few fantastic players coming through the ranks. Those within the squad include Alice Hughes, Clara Holden, Ella Markham, Tessa Horan, Eleanor Clark, Molly Robinson, Louisa Highwood, Matilda Upton, Valerie Madojemu, Beatrice Saunders Watson, Jemima Grant, Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard, Jemima Fitzjohn, Caprice Critchley, Charlotte Oswald, Thalia Felton, Bubby Upton and Amy Cairns.

Miss Hannah Knott

2nd XI



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The girls' 2nd XI had a promising season; the team has developed individual skills as well as the all-important game awareness. They had some convincing wins against BMS and Downe House, winning 5-0 and 0-8 respectively with the lion share of goals scored by Issy Muirhead, Annabel Rushton and India Cornish. The team was also successful against Wellingborough and Bradfield, where they played some of their best hockey, with Georgia Alderton, Jemima Fitzjohn, Lottie Hodson and Tilda Bevan distributing the ball well from midfield and defence.

The determined squad had some very tight matches which unfortunately did not go their way, losing by only one goal to Bloxham, Pangbourne, The Leys, St Edward's and

Cheltenham. This team has huge potential and with only a couple of members of the squad leaving this year, I am sure they will turn these score lines around next year. This season witnessed some spectacular saves from Francesca Knight who often kept the team in the game. The defence was fortunate to have Maddie Wackett who made some priceless tackles. Saskia Satchell and Jeanie Gibbs settled quickly into the squad and demonstrated some excellent decision-making under pressure.

The final game of the season was the team's toughest – Oundle was a strong and determined side. The defensive line of Tilda Bevan, Hannah Tilleard, Maddie Wackett, Saskia Satchell and Lottie Hodson were outstanding, soaking up pressure and wave after wave of attack. The midfield worked tirelessly but in the end Stowe lost 0-2. This was truly a team performance and an outstanding end to the season.

The team went from strength to strength over the season. They should be proud of their performance and their continual development.

Mrs Fiona James

U16 A

The U16As scraped through the County Cup round to the Regional Finals by virtue of a fine win in the opening match versus Chesham. After losing 1-0 to a good BHS side, we were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw versus Thornton in our last match. Having qualified for the final, we played our best hockey yet, almost beating BHS in our second attempt, right down to nail-biting sudden death penalty flicks which we lost 3-2. However, we made it through to the Regionals which is very positive and the third time in four years for Stowe U16 sides.

At the county finals of the North Bucks County Cup the U16 girls finished the tournament, winning all four

matches and not conceding a goal. The girls provided a convincing display full of determination, skill and some excellent passing hockey. Neither Akeley Wood, Thornton College, Aylesbury High School nor The Royal Latin provided much of a challenge for this very talented group. Particular mention must go to Thalia Felton for pace, intelligence and significant skill down the right and Celia Marment, who scored five of the goals from getting into excellent positions in the D. The other goal scorers were Bubby Upton who scored four and Milly Watkins who scored two.

Mr Henry Swayne

U15 A

It was of a game of two halves, this season, the turning point coming at the time that three of our star players, namely Charlotte Oswald, Thalia Felton and Bubby Upton, were promoted (poached?!) by the Senior 1st XI in a move which was good for them and the first team, but left us struggling a little in their absence.

Highlights of the season included a strong 3-0 win against Bloxham, a spirited 2-1 loss to St Edward's with a depleted team and a good run to get to the Regional rounds of the Nationals via a tearful set of penalty flicks in losing the County Cup final! Mentions in dispatches, alongside the three already named, go to Milly Watkins for her ability in the midfield and to Annabel Simpson for her immense work rate and for shouldering the responsibilities of Captaining the side after Half term.

Mr Henry Swayne



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The U15B team has had a good season with many players being snapped up by the U15A squad. Initially led by Captain Emily Baring, it soon became clear that she would move up to the U15A XI. Bella Hobby successfully filled Emily's shoes and played with strong determination and great enthusiasm. As the weeks passed the team made great progress and their teamwork improved together with their level of skill and stick work. They showed dedication throughout and started the season with three excellent games against Pangbourne, Wellingborough and Bloxham, winning comfortably and demonstrating their talent and ability to work as a team. Although they were disappointed at times to narrowly miss out on a win, they never let it affect morale and their efforts are a credit to the School. Thank you to all the girls who loyally represented the U15B squad and special

U15 B

mention must go to Flo Stanley for her ability to redistribute the ball and her endless energy; Lucy Shamash as top goal scorer; Laurine Heerema for her fantastic goal keeping skills; Amy Jorgensen as the season's most improved player and to Skye Longworth who was quick to break down the opposition's attack due to her ability to read the game. It has been a pleasure to coach the squad and watch them develop into confident and competent hockey players.

Mrs Louise Carter

U15 C

Under Sophie Tilleard's Captainship, the U15C girls' hockey team went from strength to strength in the Michaelmas term, training hard and demonstrating their eagerness to win. They had an excellent team spirit and formed a strong bond between them which enabled them to anticipate each other's moves and gel together as an effective team.

Alice Hawke proved to be a most reliable and calm goalkeeper, saving numerous goals against Cheltenham, St Edward's and Oundle School. Maddy Havard shone as a goal-scorer, supported regularly by strong mid field performances from Sophie Tilleard, Lisa Battilomo, Franny Moseley, Holly Wightman and Claudia Carbutt. Georgia Peagram, Katie Harmon, Mary Stanley and Emily Osborne were also consistent and enthusiastic team members who contributed to the overall strength of the team.

Mrs Louise Carter

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U14 A

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The highlight of the U14As hockey season was finishing third in the South of England, returning from the Regional Finals with a bronze medal. This is a fantastic achievement – the furthest reached by any Stowe girls' team in the National Tournament. They have been considerably successful in their Inter-School matches with a winning season, enjoying a strong fixture list, defeating The Leys 4-0, Bloxham 9-1, Wellingborough 3-1, Tudor Hall 6-1 and Pangbourne 3-1, drawing 2-2 to both Cheltenham College and Bradfield. They lost only to St Edward's (1-2) on the day that the U14 netball team were crowned County Champions! The Player of the Season was the Captain Victoria Beglin who has been selected for the JRPC regional programme along with Isabella Leondiou, and the top goal scorer was Mali Aitchison. This is a talented team and I look forward to following their progress next year.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U14 B

PLAYED 12, WON 12

With a 100% win ratio and well over 50 goals scored, the U14B team was top of their school hockey performance league. Always quick to grasp principles, explore tactical possibilities and try things out, the girls trained tirelessly as a team throughout the season and deserve much applause. The midfield, ably led by Captain Megan Winter, managed to give the attackers enough space in which to operate successfully and we lost count of the number of times wingers Jaimie McIntosh and Tallula Douglas Miller received perfect passes and sped off into attack to link up with Imogen Fitzjohn, Georgia Flawn-Thomas and Tilly Fitzjohn. Highlights were the games against Wellingborough (8-0 up at half time – due to sublime passing and receiving) and Cheltenham (quality of passing, again). Congratulations to a very dynamic, skillful and hard-working team showing a great sense of individual responsibility.

Mr Alex Jorgensen

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U14 C

The U14C team has faced some tough opposition this season and have even played against A and B teams and still ended up victorious. Team spirit was always high and they never stopped fighting, whether they were 4-1 down or 5-0 up. One thing for this young team to focus on next season would be tackling and basic rules of free hits around the D; once these skills have been honed it won't be long until some of the players make it into the B team.

Mr Alex Jorgensen

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Lacrosse

1st XII

2013-2014 proved to be one of the best for the 1st XII lacrosse team. The first team finished with a record of 16 wins to two losses, only one of those losses coming from a girls' school, the other loss coming at the hands of the boys of Radley. The girls opened up the season with a strong 8-7 win over Moreton Hall and then kept the momentum up with big wins over Cheltenham Ladies' College, St Helen and St Katharine, Malvern St James and Birmingham University. The girls also had a huge win over Benenden in the top class tournament.

Although half of the team is young, the girls stepped up this season and have become a force on the field. In the Lent term, we continued our momentum and the 1st XII had a fantastic weekend at the Rathbones English Lacrosse National Championships. Friday started with a match against a tough Benenden squad; however the girls kept their composure and pulled away with a 3-2 victory. The girls then used that drive to beat Sedbergh, Loretto, Bolton and Westonbirt 6-0, 8-0, 5-2 and 9-1 respectively. The only loss of the day came from Guildford, who got a quick shot off in the last minute of the game, pulling ahead with a 3-2 victory. The defence, led by Shona Drummond and Jess Tomson, held the other team's attack to minimal shots and helped to cause many turnovers throughout each match. Lucy Horan led the scoring with 12 goals and 9 assists. Megan Duckett and Octavia Cavill added 9 goals and 6 assists each to help the team to the 5-1 day. Lucy Horan was named the team 'Man of the Match' for the day's play. On Saturday the team was then placed into the championship bracket, for the first time in years, facing tough teams from the top of each bracket. Improvement was evident as the season went on as normal tough



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opponents became easy wins. We came away ranked 12th in the nation, one of the highest rankings Stowe lacrosse has ever had. Izzy Oliver was a force in net this term and was supported by a strong defence anchored by Katkin Farr, Lily Comyn, Jess Tomson and Shona Drummond. Lucy Horan beat the school record scoring 103 goals, previously held by 2013 leaver and current Senior England player, Claudia Button at 93. Lucy Horan, Izzy Oliver, Shona Drummond, Katkin Farr, Octavia Cavill, Megan Duckett, Leli Zivanovic and Polly Stuart-Mills were selected for the U19 county team. Lucy Horan was chosen to Captain the team. In addition to this, Lucy Horan and Octavia Cavill were selected to represent the South East in the Regional Tournament and are both training with the U19 England squads. Octavia will represent the U19 England team on tour in the United States this coming summer. Although we have a core group of leavers this year who will be sorely missed, we look forward to continuing our success in the coming year and look to better our ranking of 12th in the country.

Miss Kaitlan Biondi

2nd XII



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The Senior 2nd XII had a very strong season, ending with a winning record with only two losses. Of new additions to the squad, the girls made strides to quickly get acquainted

with each other to come out strongly against their opponents. They encountered some close scoring matches where Stowe stepped up and persevered to come up with the victory. The highlight of the season was at the Five Schools' Tournament, where (having never played together before) they beat Wycombe Abbey, Berkhamsted, Queen Anne's, St Helen and St Katharine, St Mary's Calne and Downe House.

The leading scorer for the second squad was Lettice Carter with an impressive 31 netted goals, followed closely by Tessa Horan (22) and Tilly Upton (16). In addition to Stowe's key attackers, every other attacker netted crucial goals at some point throughout the season. Annabel Rushton, Tilda Bevan and Fleur Congreve led the team in

assists and aided in some quick scoring opportunities. The movement of the attack was run by Fleur and Lettice; they were the force behind initial attacking movement and will be greatly missed next year.

Their strong defensive unit held numerous opponents to only a few goals throughout the season, with remarkable efforts from Fleur Congreve, Megan McGurk, and Jemima Grant. The defence worked hard to regain possession and transition the ball back up into the attacking end. This was done through their competitive nature and their feistiness in scooping up ground balls. Izzy Oliver played in goal for the first part of the season, and then was moved up to the first team because of her tremendous efforts with the

second team. Priscilla Powell stepped in goal for the second team for the remainder of the season and came up with game-changing saves that led to several victories.

Throughout the season Fleur Congreve and Lettice Carter had tremendous Captainship and were able to rally the squad through the tough practices and competitions and they will be greatly missed next year. After an extraordinary season, the squad should be proud of their accomplishments. Fortunately, a majority of the squad remains; with their experience, next year's season looks promising.

Miss Shelby Davis

3rd XII

The 3rd XII season was significantly shortened this term by bad weather conditions and match cancellations. However, out of the three games we were able to play, we won two. The attack was led by Lottie Hodson and Fenella Barrons, backed up by Hannah Tilleard and Jessica Carne in defence, and Mia Kinahan in goal. Despite setbacks, the Senior 3rd XII made good progress this season and are in a position to do very well next year.

Miss Kate Clarke



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U15A

They were led by their selfless Captains Amelia Bowder and Thalia Felton, as well as Clarissa Llanaj in the goal. The top goal scorers of the year were Charlotte Oswald (27), followed by Bubby Upton (21) and Izzy Jessel (15). On the defensive end Holly Campbell, Imogen White, and Isabella Baillie did a fantastic job, causing turnovers and preventing scoring opportunities. Clarissa Llanaj was tremendous in the goal all season, making point-blank saves and precise clears.

The following girls were selected for the U15 county team: Thalia Felton (Captain), Clarissa Llanaj, Amelia Bowder, Holly Campbell, Charlotte Oswald, Olivia Thomas, Annabel Simpson, Milly Watkins, Lauren Reid, Imogen White, and Celia Marment as a reserve.

Colours were awarded to: Amelia Bowder, Annabel Simpson, Celia Marment, Charlotte Oswald, Clarissa Llanaj, Milly Watkins, Florence Berner, Holly Campbell, Imogen White, Izzy Jessel, Isabella Baillie, Bubby Upton, Lauren Reid and Thalia Felton.

This group clearly has so much talent, depth, and potential. Having the opportunity to coach them was an absolute pleasure, and I look forward to watching how each of them contributes to Stowe's lacrosse programme over the next few years.

Miss Kasey Howard

Stowe's U15A team had a remarkable season this term that they should be immensely proud of. The girls worked hard at improving all aspects of their game in order to compete against some very talented opponents. Displaying excellent teamwork, determination, and consistency along the way, they won all of their regular season matches except for three, and finished third in their bracket at the National Schools' Tournament. One of the most memorable moments of the season came in mid-January, when the girls went undefeated to win the prestigious Five Schools' Tournament as a guest team. Earning such a big achievement against schools they had never beaten before was a tremendous and memorable start to the team's great season.

U15 B

Luck was against the U15B squad this season, with a lot of training and matches cancelled due to pitch conditions. The games we played were against very strong and more experienced opposing sides. Despite having very close losses in most of our matches we made up for it defeating Tudor Hall 13-3. Leading goal scorers were Flossie Fox, Flo Stanley and Zabrina Tucker and the defence was led by Alice Hawke. This year's U15B squad is exceptionally talented and has come on leaps and bounds in the short time they've had to play this season. We look forward to seeing them perform next year.

Miss Kate Clarke

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defensive unit's strong efforts caused several turnovers and tremendous plays leading into a transition up the midfield into the attacking end. With such finesse, Martha Combe and Olivia Thomas held the midfield possession poised and organised.

The leading goal scorers were: Captain, Olivia Thomas with 23 netted goals, followed closely by Martha Combe (21), and Vicky Beglin (8). The attack worked hard with their confidence and creativity to break through tough opposing defence. The squad soared past several opponents resulting in great victories, and after being pressured with more rigorous competition they fought back with impeccable efforts to maintain their winning record.

The highlight of the season was The National Schools' Tournament, when the girls got to the pitch a few seconds before the match began; shocking the other teams, they came out strong and physical, winning five out of six matches, placing them second in their section. Although they did not make it to the final round, the only team they lost to went on to win the tournament. The girls should be so proud of their accomplishments, both personally and as a team this season; watching them continue to flourish as lacrosse players will be an exciting opportunity.

Miss Shelby Davis

U14 A

The U14As had a phenomenal, undefeated season. Most of the team had not played before and was able to develop their skills quickly through hard work and dedication.

Stowe's defensive unit was powerful and had big presence. They held most of their opponents to only a few goals each, with impressive defence from Georgia Flawn-Thomas, Thea Chisnall and Izzy Leondiou. Pip Vickers held strong in goal, making several impeccable, game changing saves. The

U14 B

The U14B team has excelled itself this season. Although all the girls were new to the game, after some trial and error they have evolved into a hard working and very effective team. The highlight of the season was their win against St Albans where the girls arguably delivered their best performance. Mint Kanjana is a revelation in goal and the combination of Mali Aitchison, Jemima Cecil, Tilly Fitzjohn and Imogen Fitzjohn in the midfield provided flawless transition to Lily Muirhead, our leading goal scorer. We are looking forward to seeing their progress next year.

Miss Kate Clarke

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U14C

Although the U14C team did not have the chance to play many matches, the girls had a fantastic season. The team started strong, with a draw against a tough St Mary's Calne, kept their momentum with a big 11-4 win over Thornton School and ended with a 9-3 win over Swanbourne. The talent was spread throughout the attack, with beautiful goals coming from Lily Muirhead, Alice Pryse, Lara Oswald and Alice Hastie-Smith. The defence, anchored by Mar Martinez-Tomas and Blossom Opuala-Charles, kept teams to under 10 shots a match and made it hard for the opposition to maintain possession. Rhiannon Templeman and Mint Kanjana were both very strong in net, allowing fewer than five goals a match. The team displayed tremendous energy and confidence throughout the season, and we look forward to getting back out on the field in September!

Miss Kaitlan Biondi



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Rounders

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Rounders has always been a relaxed, non-competitive sport at Stowe, until now! Three matches were scheduled this summer for the U15A team and two for the U15B team. The A team won two games with a significant victory against Northampton High School and the Royal Latin School. The B team drew their first and only match against Northampton High, with some brilliant fielding from Emily Baring. Tudor Hall passed up the chance to take on

the undefeated Stowe teams due to prior commitments, which meant both teams remain undefeated. Thanks go to the Captain, Annalise Muirhead, for guiding the teams through such a successful season. The teams are looking very promising for the future. Well played girls! Keep up the good work.

Miss Cat Evans

Cricket

1st XI

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PLAYED 21, WON 9, LOST 7, DREW 5

Having had a successful pre-season tour to Sri Lanka, the team got off to a good start against Northants U17s with a four wicket win. James Hill was the mainstay of the chase, scoring 69 not out.

By the time the Bradfield game came around the side hadn't played for two weeks. Stowe bowled Bradfield out for 197 and Mark Hulbert and Arthur Newman got off to a brisk start – the side were confident of victory. However, a middle order collapse saw us 118 all out.

The first round of the National T20 was the following day and Stowe won a close morning game with Bedford Modern. The final was against Wellingborough and on a seaming pitch the team came unstuck against some impressive new ball bowling. After the first eight overs Stowe were seven wickets down for 28 runs. The tail battled hard to get us up to 68 off our twenty overs, but Wellingborough got their one wicket down in sixteen overs.

After Exeat the team comprehensively beat The Oratory by 7 wickets. The spin of George Jackman and Arthur Newman restricted The Oratory to 118 and then a good knock of 48 not out from Hulbert held the innings together for Stowe, before some end of innings fireworks from Harry Dixon-Smith (24 not out) saw us home in style.

Rugby were to be the last side played before Half term and the team worked really hard to keep Rugby to 203 for 9 in 69 overs. Stowe were bowled out for 140.

After Half term the side started to play better – particularly with the bat. Where middle order collapses were the norm up to Half term the side now started to post some serious scores. The rebuilding work started against Eton where

we fell ten runs short of Eton's 180. Arthur Newman and James Robertson were the mainstay of the innings but just couldn't quite accelerate to get us over the line. However, in this position earlier in the year we would have collapsed to 140 all out – instead the side got to 170 for 6.

Stowe took on a very strong MCC side that contained four ex-pros and several minor counties' cricketers. It was tough going in the field but Sam Riley and Ed Selby-Lowndes put in two long spells, took key wickets and kept things tight.

A century for George Jackman came against Oakham. He made a majestic 145, well supported by Harry Dixon-Smith who scored his first fifty of the season. Stowe posted 249 for 6 in 50 overs and the Captain, determined not to allow Oakham a draw, declared leaving Oakham 54 overs to chase them down. And chase them down they did with their Captain scoring 105 and their number 6 a blistering 70 from 52 balls. Stowe was unable to get enough balls in the right place often enough to put pressure on the Oakham batsman.

Into 'Cricket Week', which started with a two day game against Wellingborough. Stowe won the toss and elected to bat. After tea the team took it to a tiring Wellingborough attack and, despite losing James Hill for 58, James Robertson remained composed to bring up his century. Jack Keeping scored a rapid 42 before Tom Young put the icing on the cake scoring 68. He finished unbeaten and Stowe declared after 92 overs with a score of 386, which allowed five overs at Wellingborough that evening. However, Stowe wasn't able to make this period count and Wellingborough were 24 for 0 at the close.

In the morning session Ed Selby-Lowndes and Jack Keeping bowled discipline spells and Keeping was rewarded with one of the openers' wickets. James Hill followed with

a good spell and uprooted the other openers' middle stump. Just before lunch Mark Hulbert induced a top edge which was well taken by Kyle Browne. Wellingborough lost their other well set batsman to the bowling of Tom Young shortly after lunch and this brought a period of consolidation whilst the partnership rebuilt. Tom Young picked up his second wicket and Saajan Patel bowled eight miserly overs for one run. With the hatches down, George Jackman brought himself on and also picked up a wicket. When the new ball was due, Jack Keeping came back on and picked up another but it was the last wicket Stowe was to get as Wellingborough secured the draw seven down.

The last day of term brought the T20 festival and Stowe, Stamford, Merchant Taylors' and Warwick each played each other during the course of the day. There was some exciting cricket played and Stowe had the better of Stamford and Warwick – the tactic of opening with a spinner bringing wickets for Saajan Patel. Jack Keeping and Tom Young also bowled very well throughout the tournament. George Jackman got each

innings off to a good start and there were fifties for Brennan Gough and Harry Dixon-Smith.

Stowe lost to Merchant Taylors' and Stamford beat them, meaning at the end of the day three teams were level on points with two wins each. This meant placings would be decided on net run rate and in the end it was Stamford who just pipped Stowe – who had to settle for second place.

Overall, the team showed good development during the course of the season and they worked hard throughout. A big thank you to our two umpires – Mike Harris and Graham Frost who did a great job throughout the season as well as our Head Groundsman – Steve Curley, and his assistant – Kevin Beasley, who produced some fantastic wickets. Lastly, thank you to my assistant Phil Arnold who worked tirelessly as ever through the summer. Our thoughts go to our scorer – Lynn Allen and our other regular umpire – Cliff Pocock, as they battle to overcome their illnesses.

Mr James Knott

BOWLING

1	Jack Keeping	137	689	6	29	23.76	5.03
2	Tom Young	109	407	7	24	16.96	3.73
3	George Jackman	73.5	370	5	23	16.08	5.01
4	Ed Selby-Lowndes	104	435	13	19	22.89	4.18
5	Saajan Patel	87	343	9	17	20.36	3.94
6	Mark Hulbert	101.5	477	2	12	39.75	4.69
7	James Hill	46	245	3	11	22.27	5.35
8	Sam Riley	35	150	3	10	15	4.29
9	Arthur Newman	34	144	1	9	16	4.25
10	Kyle Browne	10	59		1	59	5.9
11	Brennan Gough	5	24	1			4.8

BATTING

	Name	Innings	Runs	Not Out	Average
1	George Jackman	19	564		29.68
2	Mark Hulbert	19	389	2	22.88
3	Arthur Newman	16	333	2	23.79
4	Harry Dixon-Smith	17	310	2	20.67
5	James Hill	18	309	3	20.6
6	Jack Keeping	19	274	3	17.12
7	James Robertson	11	258		23.45
8	Brennan Gough	12	254	3	28.22
9	Tom Young	16	213	8	26.63
10	Saajan Patel	12	82	2	8.2
11	George Lee	2	58		27
12	Drew Todd	4	40	1	13.33
13	Kyle Browne	6	34	3	11.33
14	Ed Selby-Lowndes	5	14	1	3.5
15	Alistair Martin	2	10	1	10
16	Sam Riley	3	4	2	4

2nd XI

In an effort to develop the players below the 1st XI, 22 players were given the opportunity to play in the 2nd XI this season. All the matches were competitive and the most exciting games just happened to be the ones we won. Our first win came against Abingdon in the second match of the season. Superb bowling from the Stowe attack restricted Abingdon to 101 for 9 off 30 overs. Freddie Ulmann, Alfie Hardman and Sam Riley all took 2 wickets with Kyle Browne and Harry Matthews chipping in with 1 apiece. What looked like a comfortable target to chase proved far from it. There was nervousness about the batting as Drew Todd and Hardman played themselves in, but both got out on 16. Just when the game seemed to be slipping away from Stowe, last pair Matthews and Sam Whitbread held their nerve. Matthews hit 16 not out and Whitbread smashed two 4s in the end to win the game for Stowe by 1 wicket.

The team's other win came against Oakham on a glorious sunny day. James Scott and Monty Curran set the tone with a solid first wicket partnership. Curran (41) and George Markham (69) were on the verge of taking the game completely away from Oakham but Curran was well caught at short mid-wicket and Markham held out to long off with 4 overs remaining. The tail end chipped in with some useful cameos to bring the score to a very respectable 173 off the allotted 30 overs.

In reply Oakham made a very solid start and both openers looked set until Rawlings was cleverly stumped by Alistair Martin keeping back off the bowling of Ollie Woodward. The spin of Markham and Curran took the wickets of the rest of the top order. Although Oakham were only looking for between 5 and 6 an over in the last 6 overs, none of the batsmen coming in ever really got set. Cometh the final over and cometh the man as Edward Elliott bowled an outstanding last over at the death with Oakham needing 6 to win. He took 2 wickets and gave away 3 runs in his first 5 deliveries so Oakham needed 3 off the last ball to win. Oakham's Hubbard hit the ball into space down towards third man. Toby Pemberton swooped in and threw over the stumps to Martin for the run out before the batsmen



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could complete the second run. A win for Stowe by 1 run off the last ball of the game – it could not get much closer than that!

In the other matches against Bradfield, Rugby, Eton and Bedford, the team got themselves into strong positions only to let the opposition 'off the hook' with some tame bowling and naïve field placing. Despite the frustration of losing games which we could and possibly should have won, Captain Todd and Vice-Captain Toby Wightman continued to 'rally the troops' and maintained an excellent team spirit throughout the season. Ulmann scored most runs in the season and topped the batting averages with 35. Twenty five of the players making three or more appearances. Markham's 69 was the highest score. Ulmann and Matthews took the most wickets with Ulmann finishing top of the bowling averages with an average of 19.6. Elliott claimed the best figures in a game with his 3-18 in the final match of the season against Oakham. Whitbread was impeccable behind the stumps and proved his value as a wicket-keeper batsman.

This proved to be a really enjoyable season of cricket with a fantastic group of players. Thanks must also go to Mr Luke Stone for his boundless energy and coaching expertise as assistant coach to the team.

Mr Isaac Michael

3rd XI

'Officially the second best School third team in the entire country...' that was the verdict from the Schools' Cricket website on this Stowe side which enjoyed an unbeaten 2014 season. Indeed, it was only a slightly higher runs aggregate from Sedbergh which prevented us taking top spot. Nevertheless, this was a fantastic season – sadly abridged by inclement weather to only four games – by a talented and exuberant group of cricketers. Indeed, in only one of the four victories did the result ever appear in the balance, such was Stowe's superiority with both bat and ball.

First to be put to the sword was an under-strength Bradfield. Fifties for Nick Bell and Murray Aitchison,

followed by an unbeaten 106 from Jack Edmonstone, saw the Stoics amass a massive 310-8 in 30 overs before dismissing their opponents for only 95. Bowling figures of 4-25 from Alfie Hardman saw him elevated immediately to the seconds. Another impressive batting display was too much for Abingdon on the South Front. Bell and Edmonstone continued their impressive form with 86 and an unbeaten 50 respectively as Stowe amassed 220 from 30 overs. Abingdon replied with 192-5 but they were never really in the game. Rugby posed a sterner challenge although they were dismissed for a modest 122, batting first with Bell, Toby Pemberton and Pierre Carrelet among the wickets. Some useful cameos from Bell, Captain

Henry Cox, and Edmonstone (whose first and only dismissal of the season gave him an average of 172!) precipitated a lower order collapse but Pemberton and Hugo Ellison saw the Stoics home to 123-8 for a two wicket verdict. Finally, traditionally-strong Bedford were swept aside in the season's climactic match. Wickets were shared, including strikes for newcomers Tom Hunnable and Oscar Marment, as Bedford were limited to 145-9 from 25 overs. In reply Jack Strong bludgeoned 57 and Will Cowley an unbeaten 50 as the target was reached four-down in only the eighteenth over.

Every game saw a superb collective effort. Nevertheless, some boys deserve individual mentions: Bell excelled with bat, ball and in the slips and rightly earned a call-up to the seconds before his season was cut short by injury; despite his placid demeanour Carrelet was lightning in the field, effecting two run outs, and when conditions suited bowled some hostile spells; Pemberton was ever-reliable with the new ball and would have taken far more wickets but for bad luck; Ellison was the bringer of morale in the field, with a rhyming couplet for every occasion, as well as being something of a partnership-breaking 'golden arm'; as a fielder Aitchison covered every blade of grass on the Bourbon and hit some very useful runs; once his eye was in there was no stopping Strong; Cox was unflappable as Captain and a reliable gloveman; and Edmonstone's aforementioned average of 172 will take some beating. Most of the side were Lower Sixth Formers which bodes well for 2015, although Mr Michael's second team will undoubtedly snaffle many of them.

Dr Charlie Standley

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Colts A

The Colts A cricket season came close to being the season that never was, brought low by the crushing inevitability of English weather, a late Easter and the perennial nuisance of GCSEs. As it turned, out the season boiled down to two encounters (not including a rather rain-soaked and limp encounter during pre-season in which cricket was not the winner).

The first game was against Bradfield and it was a welcome relief for the boys to be able to put into practice their skills that they had been honing, to greater or lesser degrees, during some determined net sessions. Bradfield won the toss and elected to bat first but tight bowling and regular wickets, particularly from Tom Carr, kept their score in check. Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson came on to competently finish off the tail, leaving a target of 101. Ollie Woodward and Alistair Martin started the reply in circumspect fashion

before a rash shot brought about Woodward's departure and, although Hallam Smith played a similar shot to be bowled, controlled hitting by George Markham, who finished on 51 not out, and sensible batting from Martin, took the home side to a comfortable eight wicket victory.

What turned out to be the last game of the season was an entertaining and competitive affair against Rugby on the South Front. Stowe lost the toss and were put in, with Captain Woodward and Martin making a steady start until Woodward was given out controversially LBW (by the author) for 15. A disconsolate Woodward, muttering about the lack of hotspot technology/referrals on the South Front, had

to trudge off, his footfalls quickly matched by Markham who was cleaned up by a good yorker. Smith came to the crease and the run rate increased: elegant and at times violent batting took him to a rapid 52. Sam Riley produced a rapid opening spell to remove one of the openers and Carr, Smith and Markham all bowled tidily but it was the introduction of George Constantinidi and Woodward that wrapped up the game: Constantinidi taking a triple wicket maiden in his 4 for 11, and Woodward finishing with 2 for 10.

It was a shame that the team could not play more matches together before being broken up next year as they join the ranks of the Senior teams, but nonetheless it was a successful season.

Mr Chris Warde

Colts B

With only five fixtures it was destined to be a short season, even before the weather was taken into account. In the end only three games were played, but I must commend the boys on their superb attitude to the games. They were always jovial and positive and a credit to the School. Our first match was against a strong Bradfield team who scored an impressive 176 despite some devilish bowling from Oscar Williams (3 for 22). When it was our turn to bat, we just did not score quickly enough and ended the overs on only 114, despite a nice knock from Harry Bunting of 41. Next came Cokethorpe, where we batted first and scored 109; despite a great innings by Edward Tilleard of 33. This was never going to be enough and they scored the runs in 15 overs. Next came Radley, a game we simply did not score enough runs in and Radley knocked them off comfortably in 18 overs. An enjoyable, if short season, but a great group of young men to spend time with.

Mr Richard Carpenter



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Junior Colts A

The short Summer term has proven to be a very successful one on many fronts for the Junior Colts A cricket team, both in terms of results versus opposition teams and perhaps more importantly, the development of Stowe's most talented young cricketers. In terms of the fixture card, Stowe has won 7 of the 10 fixtures played this term with 2 games being abandoned due to the weather (Eton and Uppingham).

The season started very brightly with five wins on the spin and it quickly became evident that the strength of the team lay in a well-balanced bowling attack, allied to athletic fielding. Aylesbury GS, Bradfield, Abingdon and The Oratory were all dismissed for less than 90 runs in the opening four games as the bowlers stuck to a disciplined full length and bowling to the excellently fields set by Captain Brandon Lee. Sam Montgomery bowled beautifully in the early season, ably supported by his partner in crime James Creedy Smith. Their early wickets allowed the change bowlers of Jarrod Van der Westhuizen, Archie Dixon-Smith, and Sam Holland to come on and mop up the middle to lower order.

When the pitches and weather dried out then, two spinners, Charlie Leefe and Olly Clarke, came to the fore

with Clarke in particular finding an excellent rhythm in the second half of the season. Dom Shaw proved a very reliable and tidy gloveman behind the stumps and overall, the quality of out-cricket played by the team was of the highest standard. The batting was less consistent and the bulk of the runs were shared between Clarke, Lee and James Robertson at the top of the order. They showed good game awareness to score at the required rate in many matches without taking undue risks. The middle order were a little more hit and miss. When they fired there were some big hitting from Van der Westhuizen and Dixon-Smith and striving for greater consistency will be their focus in the coming years. After Half term the team had an exciting tie versus Rugby when with scores tied, our number 11 was bowled trying to hit the winning runs, whilst Oakham was dispatched in a good away match in Rutland.

In the County Cup the team emerged as Bucks Champions and deservedly so. Talented recruits from the Third Form (in the guise of Adam King and Tom Pearson), bolstered the batting which proved invaluable in a tight semi-final versus RGS High Wycombe when Van der Westhuizen and Pearson scored 50 off the last 5 overs to bring the team home with 2 balls to spare. Dr Challoner's were beaten in a pulsating game on the North Front in the cup final. Excellent death bowling from Dixon-Smith, coupled with dynamic fielding, saw the team triumph to proclaim themselves Buckinghamshire's finest. Alas, the team couldn't repeat this feat in the regional tournament when the team lost their way chasing down Abingdon's 130 off 20 overs despite cruising at one point with 50-0 off 5 overs.

To conclude, the team has had a season of great achievement and development of cricket skills and match awareness. Lee proved a superb Captain, the best I've seen for some time at this level and the team can be justifiably proud of their 2014 summer campaign.

Mr Gavin Moffat

Junior Colts B

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For every ugly hoik across the line there was a succession of hostile and accurate balls far too good for any batsman at this level; for every missed filthy full toss that splayed the stumps like broken teeth there was a three card trick that thought as much as bowled out the batsman. And every now and again, a few shots were strung together to make an innings: Archie Forsyth against The Oratory; Piers Edinborough against Abingdon and of course Jack Foreman, Dom Strong and Oscar Holmes at Bedford. Ah yes, Bedford – the one time when the JCBs looked like a team that could bat as well as they could bowl as they fell tantalisingly short of the mammoth 205 set by an exceptional Bedford middle order. This is a great side with the potential to be an excellent side, but to achieve that first that collective inner chimp that emerges every time they find themselves at the crease has to be tamed. Too many times it was the situation rather than the ball was played and that can only end one way (although to be fair, we did get away with it against Rugby but these are warnings you ignore at your peril).

So we have a terrific group of boys who bowled magnificently, fielded exceptionally and the less said about the batting probably the better. Thanks to all the parents for their support from the very first game, thanks to all the team for the hard work, the banter and the evident love of cricket; and thanks to all for the memories of a really enjoyable season.

Mr Paul Floyd

Junior Colts C

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After a slow and slightly disappointing start to the season (successive defeats to Bradfield and Abingdon), where the team did not play to their potential, it took three victories in six days to turn the season around. The JCCs were utterly dominant in these games, heavily defeating The Oratory and Aldenham at home, although the highlight of

the season was a comprehensive 7 wicket victory at Radley. What made this performance all the more satisfying was the fact that they were real team efforts, with every member of the squad contributing with either the bat or the ball, and the whole team producing some outstanding fielding and – against Aldenham in particular – taking some spectacular catches. Miles Bell was the season's top scorer, ably assisted by Adebambo Adejobi, Roddy Bannister, Edwin Rimlinger and Abdul Adebayo-Karim. Adebambo Adejobi finished the season as top wicket taker, but there were some outstanding performances from Aidan Forlee (whose bowling never seemed to be rewarded with the wickets it would merit), Finn Shillington and Olly Norton. A rather tired looking team suffered a defeat in their last game of the season at Bedford, but the boys can feel proud of their performances this season. They always played with great enthusiasm and were fantastic ambassadors for the School.

Mr Shaun Aston

Yearlings A

The thrills and spills of U14 cricket mean that one is never totally certain how much the obvious talent on display during the winter will translate into results in the summer. By and large, however, the class of 2014 did deliver, even if the season tailed off at the end somewhat, reflecting, dare I say, the batting of our tail...

The season started brightly on a cold and dull day with a pre-season thumping of the Northants U13s, helped mainly by a resounding 79 not out by Tom Pearson, retired out before three figures so that others could have a taste of the action. A six to one win/loss ratio before Half term was reflective of some dominant cricket, highlights including strong wins over Bradfield, Rugby and RGS High Wycombe in the County Cup semi-final. The only game we lost – Abingdon away – was taken to the last three balls as we sought to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat with a flurry of late wickets.

After Half term the opposition grew stronger and our performances, under more pressure, fluctuated in quality. A disappointing defeat by a decent Bedford side preceded an excellent 80 run win over Oakham with all of the top four batsmen making their mark.

The end of season finale comprised a five day feast of cricket, Oakham and the County Cup final sandwiching the annual U14 festival, held this year at Cheltenham College. Two disappointing performances with the bat on the first two days (finding ourselves 23-6 against a relatively weak Cheltenham side on a very good batting track was a low point of the season!) was followed by an emphatic 9 wicket victory against St Joseph's on the final day, Captain Adam King (70*) and player of the festival Calum Renshaw (77*) both in the runs. The County Cup final was



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not, sadly, a case of saving the best till last: six (!) dropped catches leading to us needing 180-odd from 30 overs and a mis-timed run chase leaving us a fairly distant second place to a decent if not spectacular Dr Challoner's outfit.

As a whole, an enjoyable, educating (I hope!) if inconsistent season during which improvement was made and which contained some notable highlights: Albert 'Swanny' Johnson's flighty and well controlled off-spin bowling; the Jim Jackman 65 v Bradfield; the lazy elegance of Albert Oswald's strokeplay in his unbeaten 50 v Rugby. A talented group, who need to bowl straighter, but certainly plenty of potential, cricketing nous and enthusiasm for the future. I will, as ever, follow their progress up the cricketing echelons of the School with interest.

Mr Henry Swayne



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Yearlings B

The Yearlings B cricket team has had a very frustrating 2014 season. Undoubtedly a very talented group of players, they never quite managed to put together a full game of cricket. If they would bowl well, the batting would suffer and vice versa. The season started in quite horrific fashion with a heavy loss to Bradfield and then to Abingdon. However, two excellent wins were produced against The Oratory and Rugby. Momentum was not helped by a heavily rain-affected season, and a narrow loss to Dr Challoner's Grammar School (by 2 runs) and a heavy defeat to Bedford followed. However, it was the last game of the season that will be savoured.

Beating Oakham by 1 wicket in the final over was a great performance and the team's first complete performance. A well done must go to Jamie Jackson for Captaining the team and to all the B team stalwarts.

Mr Michael Rickner

Yearlings C

Ex tenebris lux: how dim and disastrous was the start of this season. Batting first, away at Bradfield, all eleven Stowe players managed to post the inauspicious total of 26 runs (of which 11 were extras); and worse, had taken 17 overs to limp to this score. The end was fortunately more swift, as Bradfield played with haste to chase down the low target in less than four overs. Yet, everyone knows that a day's cricket is not really about the match itself, but rather, is defined by the quality of match tea; sadly, the day was broken further when no tea was served at all.

De profundis, indeed.

Then, for the next six matches, deliverance. Not only was there a streak of wins, but some very tense heart-in-mouth moments in two-wicket wins over Bedford and Dr Challoner's, and of course, in the away fixture at Abingdon, where the winning runs were hit with only three balls to spare, Stowe successfully chasing down 130 runs with no wickets remaining. Indeed, captured in that moment was the image of the season: 11 very happy boys running towards each other in the centre square; with whoops, cries and yawns of joy; hugging and slapping; with the sun low on the horizon; glad to have played cricket and to have found the great joy of camaraderie which only this game can provide.

Mr Tony Chan

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Yearlings D

It was a hard season for the Yearlings D squad. We played four tough matches, and although improvement was seen in every match, we were unable to come away with a win. The team did have some outstanding performances by individuals in both the bowling and batting. Jack Polturak scored a season high 27 runs in the match against Radley and Alex Harris followed closely behind with 23 runs in the match against Bradfield. The D squad scored the most runs in the match against Radley, scoring 100 runs for all out. Louis Armitage and Philip Birdwood led the bowling, knocking the bails off the wicket in every match. Overall it was an enjoyable season, and we look forward to being back on the cricket pitch next Summer term.

Miss Kaitlan Biondi

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Yearlings E

The Yearlings E team had an enjoyable but challenging cricket season, playing four matches against talented Harrow, Aldenham, Eton and Radley teams. The boys were unable to capture a win, but improved tremendously over the course of the term. The boys put in their best performance by some distance for their last match at Radley. Tom Leach scored over a half century, while team Captain James Carley displayed some fantastic batting and bowling. The boys demonstrated superior fielding against a strong Aldenham team mid-way through the season, where we saw some great bowling from Alex Holmes and Jack Polturak; taking two wickets each. Despite match results, the Yearlings D showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship while most certainly enjoying themselves throughout.

Miss Kasey Howard and Mr Stephen Dachtler

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Boys' Tennis

1st VI



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PLAYED 6, WON 3, LOST 3

This year's 1st VI was led by William de Boinville, Captain of a team that included Hugo Kinahan, Toby Cole, Harry Rees, Matthew Clark and John Hawkins, a very talented side that remained stable for much of the season. Despite convincing wins against Oakham, Uppingham and St Edward's, the players were pushed hard against Abingdon and Rugby; the quality of the tennis against these strong sides was extremely high, but ultimately the 1st VI could not prevail. Huge thanks go to Mr Paul Robertson for his expert coaching throughout the season.

Mr Alex de Trafford

2nd VI

PLAYED 5, WON 1, LOST 4

The 2nd VI featured a wide range of players and this inconsistency was perhaps a contributory factor to a season that concluded with few victories. The most frequent team members were Edward Hopkinson, Tom Noest, Jamie Milne, Egor Turyev, Jamie Baring, Thomas Forde, James Macdonald-Buchanan and Archie Grossart. Despite the lack of success, there was great enthusiasm and spirit from many of the team which resulted in a season of enjoyable tennis both at practice and in matches.

Mr Alex de Trafford



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3rd VI

Despite posting a less than stellar record on the season, the boys' 3rd VI tennis team competed admirably in all four of the fixtures in which they participated, and the match experience gained by the Stoics this year will certainly prove to be beneficial as they begin preparing for next summer's campaign. The 3rds were blanked 9-0 in a contest against Uppingham in their opening match of the season, and the Stoics followed up the loss with a hard fought match against a visiting Abingdon squad that ultimately fell in the visitors' favour. In a two-pair home fixture against St Edward's, the 3rds earned their sole win of the season, dominating their guests 6-0, before closing out the year with an equally lopsided but less favourable outcome in a home match against a highly talented Rugby team. The young squad will see the vast majority of its players return next season, all of whom have high hopes to continue to compete at a high level and ultimately boost the team's win tally.

Mr Zachary Sherwood

Colts A

Leading the team was Captain James Greenley who partnered Tom Constable-Maxwell. They combined well together and won six of their nine sets this season. They both have big first serves that proved to be potent weapons when they were on form. They slowly came round to the idea that doubles is a game that requires the net player to dominate the points and he must be involved in every rally in some way. The game is all about hitting the ball at angles, not straight and they will be good Senior players next year. Playing together as second pair were Harrison Tucker and Freddie Paling. They won a third of their sets, with a lack of consistency in serving proving their main downfall. However, they are both extremely competitive and fought to the end of every set they played. Ben Alderson and Alvaro de la Vega played as third pair. They blew hot and cold, winning several games in each set, but not quite going on to get the victories. They did play with a cheery attitude and show promise if they spend more hours on court throughout the year.

As a team the Colts As beat St Edward's, drew with Oakham and lost to Abingdon and Uppingham. The short season was enjoyable with all the players showing good potential to develop.

Mr Craig Sutton



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Colts B

Tom Buxton and Freddie Phillips ended the season playing as first pair. They enjoyed the three matches this season coming up with some unusual shots which often beat the opponents through the element of sheer surprise! Johannes Henkel and Tom Walters played as second pair and won two of their eight sets. Again they were capable of pulling off some amazing shots, although consistency was not their strong point. Max Bashaarat and Will Younger played at third pair. In contrast to the other pairs, their

trump card was very definitely their consistency and care with their shots. This proved effective when combined with their determination to give every point their utmost concentration and they ended up winning four out of their eight sets.

As a team the Colts Bs beat St Edward's and lost to Uppingham and Abingdon.

Mr Craig Sutton

Junior Colts A/B

This year's Junior Colts squad has been exceptionally strong, and it is a testament to their raw talent that the A team managed to beat a number of very strong opponents in what was a challenging fixture list. The Junior Colts A team of Gabriel Chauveau, Edward Good, Fabian Bevan, Gilles Griffiths, Kurt Leimer and Max Bourne produced some stunning results, including being the only team in the School to secure victory over Rugby.

The Junior Colts B team also contained a number of talented players. Aply led by Ben Skinner and Anton Kondrashov, the B team also consisted of Cameron Hay, Hamish Graham-Campbell, Luc Abbot-Davies and Diggory Slee. While the B team did not face as many fixtures, they still played some very strong tennis, with the first pair always pushing for a place in the A team. The strength in depth of the U15 group proved a real asset when teams were depleted by other trips – intrepid Stoics such as Jasper Gibbons, Luke Williamson, Oliver Woods and Edwin Rimlinger were all called up to play their part in the teams at some point in the season, showing that tennis is a sport going from strength to strength in the Lower School. Congratulations to all who played this season.

Mr Roland Johnson



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Yearlings A and B

This has proved a challenging season and although the results went against us there were encouraging signs as the season came to a close in terms of individual development and an all round improvement in the standard of play.

We were, on many an occasion, very much smaller than our opposition and inevitably the angle of service for the taller opponent is an advantage along with the power of like for like shots. The service game is an area that many of the boys struggled with, perhaps with the exception of Freddie Woods who showed consistency for much of the season. Likewise the boys tended to play on their base line and in doubles you need one of the pair at the net to prevent exposure to drop shots and to win points when the opportunities arise. This the boys will grasp as they move on through the School.

Many show good technique in their strokes albeit that the volley game proved challenging to the vast majority.

As I mentioned, results didn't go their way but they stuck to their task and encouragingly started picking up sets towards the end and I suspect as they get older and

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stronger then parity will return on the courts and their discipline and work ethic will stand them in good stead.

Many of the names below drifted between the A and B team but stalwarts for the As were Freddie Woods, Henry Eleyin-Bingham, Diego Rodriguez-Pina, Nick Montgomery, Giovanni Cavallari, Henry Frisby, Sam Jokhoo, Arthur Marriott, Milan Canak, Konstatin Abramov, John Balcon Perez, Matthew Gardner Martin, Tommaso Tamagnini, Alexey Sviridov and Theodore Flower.

Mr Alan Hughes



Water Polo

We had a strong Sixth Form contingent this season. Ollie Constantine was Captain but was forced to miss two weeks of training due to a knee injury. This allowed Ivan Popov to step into the role.

The team managed to come away with six wins having endured the frustration of having several matches cancelled which made our progress sporadic.

Highlights of the season came with a good win over Queen's College Cambridge and convincing wins over Oundle and Bedford. Guy Riches and Ivan Popov worked well together with good attacking plays. Unfortunately goals this season were a problem and we found it hard to put points up early on the board.

Our most consistent player this season was our goalkeeper Charlie Mason, who reacted very quickly to make some lightning saves at goal.

The English Schools' Tournament saw us bow out in the semi-finals due to a lack of accuracy in shooting at goal.

The last game of the season came in the Summer term when a team of Old Stoics played the current squad. John Hunter (Water Polo Captain 2008) and Sam Morris (Swim Captain 2008) helped the Old Stoics into the lead for a majority of the match, only to falter in the last quarter when Ollie Constantine fired off one of his power shots. The match ended 8-5 in favour of the School team.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Girls' Tennis

1st VI

PLAYED 6 WON 4 LOST 2

The girls' 1st team this year was made up from a squad of nine players: Megan Duckett (Captain), Octavia Cavill, Martina Fidanova, Sofia Purgina, Tilly Upton, Fleur Congreve, Molly Robinson, Izzy Oliver and Daisy Coffey.

Led by Megan Duckett for the second year, in the Michaelmas term the girls started their quest in the National Schools' Team Tennis Competition. Having won their group, they then progressed to the knock out stage in the Lent term. They made it through to the last eight taking them through to the National Finals in Bolton in March. Megan, Martina, Fleur and Sofia gave up their Exeat to compete in the finals where they finished one place higher than last year, so congratulations to them all.

At school level we played Oakham, Uppingham, St Edward's, Rugby, Oundle and Tudor Hall. We also had a mixed match against Bloxham on the last Saturday of term which we also won. Tennis colours were awarded to Fleur Congreve.

On a personal note I would like to say a special thank you to Megan Duckett whom I had the good fortune to coach from the age of eight for her continuous enthusiasm and fighting spirit which has been an exemplary example to the other members of the team. So much so that in her last match for the School against Oundle she and her partner found themselves the only match left on court with the set score at 4 sets all. At six games all it went into a very hard fought tiebreak which I must admit I chose not to watch so as not to add extra pressure to the players. Happy to say the history book now says "Win to Stowe 5 sets to 4". Next year's Captain of girls' tennis is Tilly Upton.

Mr John Skinner



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2nd VI

PLAYED 5 WON 3 LOST 2

The girls' 2nd team squad featured (when not on 1st team duty) Molly Robinson, Daisy Coffey, Izzy Oliver, plus Lucy Horan, Tessa Horan, Frankie Knight, Tonia Kozhukova and Annabel Rushton. Some of the pairings were new for this season as we welcomed the Fifth Form into Senior tennis as well as the new Lower Sixth to the School. All matches were played in a very competitive spirit, and both games we lost were by the narrow margin of 5 sets to 4. All the 2nd team squad except one will be with us again next year so girls' tennis is looking in a good position.

Mr John Skinner



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3rd and 4th VI



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Both the 3rd and 4th teams had an enjoyable season this year. All the sessions were played in high spirits and the girls had lots of fun playing in both training and matches. With a limited number of fixtures due to examinations, the girls had mixed success. The 3rds played three matches, only winning one, but can be proud of the manner in which they played, especially against St Edward's. Tonia Kuzhukova and Frankie Knight excelled in all their matches, only losing one set out of nine played, and came out as the best pair we had!

The 4th team only played two fixtures against Oakham and St Edward's, losing narrowly in both. I would like

to single out Ellie McCormack at Oakham who, due to unforeseen player shortages, volunteered to play on her own and actually won one set against the odds. However, the highlight of the season for me was the formation of ‘Team Hart’ which consisted of Bea Saunders Watson, Lottie Hodson (aka The Statics), Tilda (overthenet) Bevan, and Lucy (softballs) Oswald. The enthusiasm for their tennis outshone even the dullest, rainiest days on the Bourbon and they were always on top form – even on examination days. I look forward to next season whereupon I can once again don my Coach Hart Stowe cap!

Mr Brian Hart

U15 A

The U15A team has had an excellent season with the following girls all contributing to its success: Octavia Cavill, Charlotte Oswald, Bubby Upton, Issy Jessel, Celia Marment, Milly Watkins, Annabel Simpson and Flo Berner.

We started the term with a convincing victory of 9-0 over Oakham and made the magnanimous decision that the 1st team needed Octavia more than we did! Our team for the second game (Uppingham) became set for the rest of the season and with a new first pairing of Charlotte and Bubby we grew in strength and became a competitive unit. A lot of work on volleying certainly paid off and many points were won at the net over the remaining matches. Bubby Upton had riding commitments and Annabel had athletics events opening the door for Flo Berner on a couple of occasions. However the girls did not falter and victories against St Edward’s, Rugby, Tudor Hall and Bloxham allowed us to produce a successful season with 6 games played and 6 wins. We lost 10 sets in all of the 36 sets played and colours must go to all who played their part.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U15 B

The U15B team started slowly with narrow losses to both Oakham and Uppingham (4-5 and 3-6 respectively). However work was done in practice on volleying and service with the emphasis on trying to cut out unnecessary errors. We produced a fantastic win against St Edward’s (5-4) and then went on to remain undefeated for the remainder of the season with further wins against Tudor Hall and Bloxham.

The following girls played their part: Amelia Bowder, Flo Berner, Zabrina Tucker, Georgie Skinner, Izzy Baillie, Imogen White and Claudia Carbutt. Congratulations go to both 1st and 2nd pairs who both won 11 of the 15 sets they played and were definitely the reason why we finished so strongly.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U15 C



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The U15C team played from a large squad of girls and at times we almost had enough coming to practice to allow us to play a D team as well. The following all played in matches and were reliable in practice sessions: Claudia Carbutt, Bella Hobby, Emily Baring, Savannah Courtenay, Savanna Elliott, Merrie Bashaarat, Flossie Fox, Alice Hawke, Flo Stanley and Amy Cairns.

We were outclassed in our first two matches; Oakham and Uppingham were just too strong. However, a desire to improve and a positive attitude at practice allowed us to cut out unforced errors and our first win came against St Edward’s by 7 sets to 2. At this point we started to recognise the stronger pairings and were much more confident at net. We followed this up with another victory against Tudor Hall and then Bloxham to finish with 3 wins and 2 losses overall.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

U14 A

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The U14As have enjoyed a most successful winning season. They had a fantastic start with a strong win against Oakham (6-3). Lottie Hopkinson and Olivia Thomas, playing first pair, won all three sets with some strong serving and confident net play. The team then played Uppingham winning 6-3 only this time it was Victoria Beglin and Kira Evans who won all their three sets. They continued to be dominant as a pair, showing great composure on court, winning the only 3 sets against St Edward's and then went on to concede just 3 games against Rugby (6-1, 6-1, 6-1) securing their position as first pair. Martha Combe and Alice Maclure were consistent in their play, whilst having fun on the court, also won 3 sets at Rugby. The most intense, and exciting, match was against Oundle where we were drawing 3 all going into the last round, eventually losing 4-5 by only 1 game. In a local match against Thornton we won 8-1 and then 7-2 against Tudor Hall. The season finished with a resounding win 9-0 against Bloxham. Congratulations to Victoria Beglin who won the Stowe 'Road to Wimbledon' competition and reached the semi-final of the second round.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U14 B

The U14B had a challenging season but have played some great tennis improving steadily as players. They had to adapt to different pairings due to the other activities many of them enjoy in School. However they had a close match against Oakham (3-6) with two sets won by Mint Kanjana and Tallula Douglas Miller. Emma Grayson and Genevieve Sligo-Young defeated their own pair at St Edward's, becoming increasingly confident to win points from volleys. Flora Moreau and Charlotte Bird claimed two sets from Rugby (6-3, 6-1) recognising that building points was the key to success. The team had a great finish to the term defeating Thornton 5-4 and Bloxham 8-1 with Isabella Leondiou and Tallula winning all three sets 6-0.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

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U14 C/D

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It is great to be able to field U14C and, occasionally U14D, teams so that as many girls as possible have the opportunity to play competitive tennis matches. With many other activities being pursued in the School the girls had a variety of combinations of partners but each time they rose to the occasion and played with determination whilst having fun. In the first match against Oakham (2-7) Clara Haggie and Jemima Cecil won two sets defeating their own pair in a close match 6-5. Charlotte Bird and Flora Moreau won the two sets against Uppingham (2-7) and then all their matches against St Edward's (3-6) before being promoted to the B team! Imogen Fitzjohn and Francesca Cooper enjoyed wins (6-3, 6-5) against Oundle (2-7). The girls finished the season on a high drawing with Tudor Hall and defeating Bloxham (7-2) with Jemima Cecil and Lara Oswald winning all three of their sets.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

Netball

1st VII

The 1st VII are to be congratulated on a fantastic season. We enjoyed some extremely competitive fixtures playing a high level of netball against strong netball schools including, Oundle, Cheltenham College, St Edward's and Princethorpe. We were invited to three major tournaments by Bedford Modern School, Bradfield College and finally St Helen and St Katharine where we finished third with Beatrice Saunders Watson being awarded Player of the Tournament. In our final match of the season we defeated Bedford Modern 30-27 which was a rewarding way to finish. The highlight of the term was once again representing Buckinghamshire in the Regional Finals of the National Tournament which was held in Southampton. A particular mention must go to Heloise Kleinwort (GA) and Alice Hughes (GS) who have been great ambassadors for Stowe netball, playing 1st team level for three years. They will be missed by the team and we hope they continue to play a high standard of netball in the future. Senior netball colours were awarded to Lizzie Highwood, Louisa Highwood, Molly Robinson and Bea Saunders Watson. We thank Karen Tofte for all her energy and expertise in coaching this team and look forward to next season when she will be joined by Lauren Ellis, the new Head of Netball. I would also like to thank Jane Hamblett-Jahn for all her support of Stowe netball as she now leaves for pastures new.



2nd VII

The 2nd VII have been committed and enthusiastic throughout the term. They have been versatile in order to maintain a big squad of players and have developed as a cohesive unit to defeat Cokethorpe, Akeley Wood, Wellingborough and Cheltenham College. They finished the season with a great game against Bedford Modern feeling pleased with their progress and achievements. I have enjoyed coaching them and thank them for their energy and dedication to netball. In particular I would like to mention the leavers, Hattie French, Veronica Sule and Clara Holden who will leave a gap in the team. Well done and I look forward to next season!

U15s

During their Tuesday netball activity the U15s had the opportunity to play competitive netball matches against



local schools. They developed as a team and achieved success against Tudor Hall, Akeley Wood, Wellingborough and Northampton High School. I hope they will continue to enjoy playing netball as they progress through the School as they have considerable potential.

U14s

It was a very exciting year for Junior netball as, for the first time, we were given the opportunity to enter the U14 County Tournament. The U14 team defeated all the North Buckinghamshire schools to be crowned County Champions! This was a fantastic achievement and earned us a place in the National Schools Regional Finals. Our performance at this tournament was impressive defeating King Edward VI (9-1), Oxford High School (11-9), Ryde School (9-2), Downe House (8-5) and Hurst (8-6) losing only to Beaconsfield High School (BHS) 5-10, despite being only 4-5 down at half time. This earned us a place in the semi-finals playing for a position in the National Finals which was very exciting! We played Wellington College, winners of group two, whose experience at this level enabled them to just have that edge, and we were defeated 5-10. Wellington went on to win the tournament and we played BHS, again, in the play-off and overall we finished fourth in the South Region which was an outstanding achievement for this talented U14 team. Tallula Douglas Miller joined the U14A squad and along with the U14B and U14C teams they also enjoyed success in some local Inter-School fixtures including Wellingborough, Akeley Wood, NHS, Tudor Hall and Quinton House. I hope they will continue to represent Stowe at netball next term.

Inter-House Netball

The winners of the 2014 Inter-House Netball Competition were Queen's – Juniors, Queen's – Intermediates and Nugent – Seniors.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

Polo

This has been a superb year for Stowe polo. Beginning in the Lent term Stowe were runners-up in the U15 arena category very narrowly missing out to Marlborough on a hotly disputed penalty which saw our Junior team concede an extremely rare class one penalty in the mêlée in front of the goal.

Stowe is able to field a record five full teams for fixtures throughout the year and with over 26 registered players there has never been more interest in the sport. As we moved into the grass season of the Summer term, expectations were high across all categories of play with some fantastic new players arriving at the School.

In the 4 Chukka league Stowe reached the semi-final stage with a fine win against Sherborne School and a narrow defeat against an extremely talented Cheltenham College side at their flagship Polo Day held at Longdole Polo Club. Sadly the tournament was abandoned as the three other schools were unable to field teams during the exam season. In the National Championships held on Sunday 22 June, Stowe became U15 champions and runners-up in both the U16s and Senior divisions. Furthermore our girls' team became National Champions at Longdole the preceding week. This means that Stowe are now National Champions in two of the four divisions and second in the remaining two. Clearly this places Stowe as one of the major polo schools in the country.

Many players were outstanding this season but special mention must be made of Izzy Cornwall who is both an



U15 and girls' National Champion, Jasper Upton who was fantastic in defence all season, the highly talented and picked for England, Jamie Grayson who ran the midfield superbly, Tom Gordon-Colebrooke, Captain of polo, who showed great flair and natural ability and our trio of highly skilled Third Formers in Henry Frisby, Leo Dettori and Wilfred Fine in whom the School places much hope for the future.

Overall this has been a superb year and we look forward to further progress and success next year under the Captaincy of Jamie Grayson and Florence Berner, two of the finest young players Stowe has produced.

Mr Matthew Perriss



Basketball

U18 Boys

© R & H Chapman Photography



Stowe's U18 boys' basketball team replicated the successes of previous seasons and managed to string together a series of impressive wins over the course of the 2014 campaign, finishing the year with a 7-2 record and laying the groundwork for more on-the-court achievements for the young programme in the years ahead. The Senior team opened their season by winning two out of three games at the Wellington College Tournament, taking down teams from Eton and the host school before losing by a single basket to eventual champions Bishop Wordsworth School. Following another win over Eton, the team's only other regular season loss was a one-point defeat at the hands of a talented Rugby squad. In spite of this setback, the boys closed out their year in commanding fashion, earning an away victory against The Perse, trouncing a visiting Uppingham squad by 54 points, and taking down a superb

Bradfield team in a contest that went down to the final seconds before ending their season with an emphatic win over Bromsgrove on the road. Team Captain Kalil Ali was an admirable leader both on and off the court throughout the season, and fellow Upper Sixth team-mates George Jackman, Oliver Constantine and Anthony Deriziotis put in several tenacious performances in their final year in a Stowe uniform. Jamie Angle and Seun Coker were two of the team's top offensive performers this year, while Will Pepera, Kai Komai, George Huxtable, and Oliver Song admirably led the team's backcourt over the course of the season. The Senior team will have several players returning next year, all of whom are hoping to build on this season's accomplishments and maintain Stowe's recent string of success on the basketball court.

Mr Isaac Michael

U18 Girls

© R & H Chapman Photography



For the first time in the history of girls' basketball the girls experienced competition at U18 level in the Nationals. Two girls in particular helped to create this history for their commitment to basketball in the previous year in the Lower Sixth Form. Hatty French who Captained the side and Veronica Sule were great role models in their final year to their very youthful team-mates. In fact, the remainder of the team consisted of Third Formers, but very talented Third Formers at that. They played their hearts out against two very strong sides, Aylesbury High School and Princes Risborough. We very much look forward to the continued development of girls' basketball.

Mr Isaac Michael

U16 Boys

The U16 team notched up 2 fine wins of the 4 matches played. In the pulsating 59-56 win against Ousedale, Captain Seun Coker led the way scoring 10 of the first 12 points for Stowe and with the scores level at 12-12 Ousedale opened up a 6 point lead. The introduction of Third Formers Jim Jackman and Adam King helped the team score 10 points in succession and Stowe went in at half time with a one point lead 24-23. The lead exchanged hands several times in the second half, however, it was Sol Boyd who struck the decisive basket hitting a 3-pointer to make the final score 59-56. 'Man of the Match' Coker hit 30 points.

The second win of the season came against Bradfield. The team played a pressing game. The baskets were quite evenly

spread amongst the players with Boyd the only one getting into double figures. Artura Subowo once again showed his continued improvement scoring two good baskets and hustling well on defence. To their credit Bradfield never gave up and snatched an equalising basket in the dying seconds. The game went into 5 minutes of overtime with the score all square 23-23. The pressure finally took its toll on Bradfield as Stowe hit 12 points in overtime without reply to win 35-23. The team learnt much from their defeats against Eton and The Buckingham School and the players have continued to work hard at their game. I look forward to seeing several of them force their way into next year's Senior team.

Mr Isaac Michael

U15 Boys

© R & H Chapman Photography



The U15 team won both matches played in the season. The first was a comprehensive 37-29 win against The Perse and the second against The Royal Latin proved to be no push-over with the scores level 14-14 at half time. There were excellent contributions from Adebambo Adejobi, Tim Guan and Sol Boyd with Josh Goodall top scoring with 9 points to help the team to a 30-18 victory.

Mr Isaac Michael

U14 Boys

The U14 basketball team produced an outstanding performance in their first ever game for the School to beat Ousedale 42-15. For an inexperienced group of players they showed a remarkable understanding of the game in a very short space of time. Their man-to-man defence had shape and prevented Ousedale from driving to the basket. Any missed shots were gobbled up by some aggressive rebounding. On offence the team was well marshalled by guards Adam King, Jim Jackman and Albert Oswald. King and Calum Renshaw shared the majority of the scoring. Daniel Jolker and Tom Pearson played with a lot of energy and centres Tom Wallace and Lucas Colville dominated the defensive boards. Alexey Sviridov, Taju Atta and Sean Chiu hustled well in defence. If this group continues to work hard at their game they will develop into quite a force.

Mr Isaac Michael

Senior Inter-House Competitions

In the girls' Senior Inter-House Competition Nugent won all 3 of their group matches to set up a final against Queen's. Queen's held their nerve to win the final 4-2.

In the boys' competition Walpole beat Chatham in the first semi-final to set up a final against Bruce who beat Chandos in the other semi-final. Bruce retained the Pearl Cup defeating Walpole 6-0 in the final.

Junior Inter-House Competitions

Lyttelton won the girls' Junior final for the first time in recent history beating Queen's 8-4.

In the boys' competition Bruce were runaway winners in the final beating Grafton 18-7 and have now won this competition for the third successive year.

Mr Isaac Michael



Football

1st XI

This season saw another year in the highly competitive Mercian League North division with eight competitive fixtures. With a good pre-season win against Royal Latin in the December fog on the Bourbon hopes were high for the Lent term competition. The School employed the services of MK Dons coach Mr Balvinder Shekhon who joined Mr Deakin to coach the 1st XI. However, the Christmas break hampered fitness and with a lack of grass pitch training due to waterlogged pitches throughout January we were slow to start narrowly losing out to Wellingborough, Uppingham and Oundle. The team managed to turn this around with good performances in the middle part of season and a great win over Loughborough Grammar and a draw in another fixture against the Royal Latin were good results. With such a youthful team at times the side was chasing the game and lacked a little belief but there was a real sense of spirit to this year's efforts and many of the performances were much better than many of the results indicated.

Mr Shekhon introduced some new philosophies and training sessions were sharp and really developed the players individually and every player developed a better awareness of the game and how to play to a system. This season we introduced a new system of play which matched the type of player available in our squad, moving to a more fluid 4-2-3-1 from a traditional 4-4-2.

The boys worked very hard in practice allowing them to execute the defending and attacking principles of this particular formation.

This was demonstrated in our second friendly of the season against the Royal Latin who were a confident and organised squad. Throughout the season the squad has shown they can adapt to the various demands of the game especially when

we had to chase the game for a result. We have individuals who can play in two or three positions which allowed us to switch formation during games to cause the opposition problems allowing us to create goal scoring opportunities.

Upper Sixth Formers, Rollo Chadd in goal, Patrick Devlin at centre back, Hugo Kinahan holding midfield and George Jackman playing off the striker, provided a strong backbone to the squad supported by fellow Upper Sixth Formers Henry Cox and Tom Burke in the full back positions. Early injuries to Devlin and loss of form for a number of forwards meant that the team never developed the belief and confidence going forward to convert the chances that Charles Johnson, Nyan Patel and David Amram provided through width and skill on the flanks. George Jackman had a very impressive strike rate scoring 12 goals in the season, the most memorable being a superbly taken volley against a strong Denstone side from outside the 18 yard box.

One of the most memorable moments this season was against Loughborough with the game delicately balanced at 1-1. With only a few minutes left on the clock David Amram swung a deep cross towards the back post which was met by Charles Johnson who rose and hung in the air to head the ball back across the keeper to score the winner. Everyone erupted with delight especially as one of the youngest players on the pitch scored which topped off a battling performance against a very strong team. The season ended with the re-introduced fixture against the Old Stoics which proved to be an excellent and well matched fixture finishing in a nail biting 3-3 draw. Many of the Lower Sixth Form and Fifth Form return next year when the squad should benefit from the principles and coaching ethos laid down in 2014.

Hugo Kinahan and Mr Pete Deakin

2nd XI

Despite the final league table, there are a number of positives for the Second XI to take from the 2014 season. A comprehensive 5-2 win against Wellbeck College, with goalkeeper Harry Norris chipping in with a goal and an assist was undoubtedly the high point of the season, but there were some fine performances which will stand such a young team in good stead for next season. With six Fifth Form regulars in the team, the season was always going to represent a steep learning curve and on the whole, they equipped themselves well, with inexperience perhaps

leading to last minute conceded goals against Oakham and eventual league winners Denstone with the game at 2-2. After taking an early lead at Uppingham, Stowe outplayed their opponents, but again inexperience showed as Stowe conceded 3 goals in the last 10 minutes to lose 3-1. The team can hold their heads high, and after a period of reflection on what went well and not so well will return stronger next season.

Mr Shaun Aston

3rd XI

It has been a pleasure to coach the 3rd XI this year and the boys should be very proud of their performances on and off the pitch. Captain Max Robinson was a dynamic striker who scored a hatful of goals making him this year's top goal scorer across all three teams.

Ed Brook Shanahan did very well in goal and made some key saves throughout the season. The defence, made up throughout the season of George Gill, Nick Bell, Ed Elliott, Chris Simpson, Will Thompson and Tom Carr, were extremely solid at the back and often kept us in the game through key interceptions and tackles. The midfield was the core to the side and it was difficult to see my star players throughout the season being poached by the 2nds and even 1sts, a testament to their performances playing for the 3rd XI. Oscar Pegg moved up the ranks throughout the season to end up playing for the 1st team, a brilliant achievement for somebody in the Fifth Form. His intelligent football mind and his 'no holds barred' attitude would be a welcomed addition to any team. Noah Russell and Freddie Pope were also at the heart of the midfield and impressed through their intelligent positioning and

accurate passing. My highlight of the season is undoubtedly Noah's 30 yard screamer into the top left of the goal in an away match early on in the season. His laid back approach mirrored his goal celebration – a solitary first clench and finger waggle. Allwell Opuala-Charles, Kieran Carney, Will Lewis, Ivan Popov, Will Allen, Theo Lewis and Inigo Lendrum offered pace and power on the wings as well as through the centre of midfield and were a welcomed reprieve when the team was under pressure. Barth Rougier offered up a small cameo role early on in the season and it was a shame his pace couldn't be used for the rest of the matches. Freddie Phillips was the other striker in the team who was versatile when asking him to play. His support of Max was a welcomed one and it enabled the Captain the time and space to score his goals. I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching the boys this year and I hope they continue to work hard over the summer as I believe some have a strong chance of getting into the 1st XI next year. I wish you all the best of luck for the future. Sir Alex.

Mr Chris McGhee



Karting

On 25 and 26 January, I entered the BKC (winter cup) and Campillos Karting race. The race was held in Campillos, the third biggest track in Europe. These two championships are some of the biggest in Spain. I got off to a bad start on the Saturday training day, I was not able to practise and found myself going into the Sunday race day with no setup. Despite the circumstances, when it came to the race day my team pulled through and managed to find me a setup for qualifying.

After qualifying second in Senior Rotax against some of the best drivers in Europe, things seemed to be looking quite promising, the kart felt good and the pace was there. However, half way through the first race I started to experience some mechanical failures and I dropped back into third place; luckily I managed to maintain that position. With the temperature dropping slowly the setup for the kart was going to have to change, there wasn't a lot of time to make too many changes but my mechanic, my Dad, did what he could.

The kart was feeling good in the second race; however, it was really tough. There were karts all around bumping and pushing, and all going roughly 90 mph on the main

straight. I managed to get round the first bend keeping myself in second place. It was really hard and I was quite a way off the leader. As I went round the track I had karts pushing me from behind trying to get past but I managed to keep my position of second place throughout! Even though I finished second overall, the scoring in the two different championships meant that I came second in one and first in the other!

I stayed in Campillos until Wednesday testing with the Intrepid Driver Program, an Italian racing team who were looking out for people to sponsor. During the testing days I was consistently one of the fastest on the track. Even in the poor weather conditions, I still managed a reasonably fast time.

Savannah Courtenay (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)



Golf

During a lengthy season the School golf team has enjoyed an array of highly challenging fixtures on many outstanding golf courses. The standard of schools' golf is at an all-time high and our top players have had immense difficulty holding their own against some of the young 'Pros' that they have been set up to play against. The experience has been tremendous however and, although a number of matches did not go our way, a number of excellent performances can be related. During the year our fixtures with Radley, Cheltenham College, Malvern, Charterhouse, Bradfield, Shrewsbury, Harrow, Loughborough Grammar School and the Old Stoics have all been hugely enjoyed. As usual we have been fortunate enough to visit some

spectacular Golf Courses, not least Stoke Park (courtesy of Old Stoic and now current parent Chester King), Woking, Broadway, Frilford Heath, Studley Wood, Collingtree Park, Little Aston and Buckingham. Frustratingly more matches than usual were called off due to the pressure of exams. The team was Captained by Ben Jenkins and his team usually comprised Edward Selby-Lowndes, James Scott, George Tucker and Oliver Clarke.

In the annual Headmaster's Tankards Competition (played towards the end of the Summer term) very late entrants, but runaway winners, were Jack Edmonstone and Mr Henry Swayne.

Mr Richard Knight



Sailing

Sailing at Stowe in 2014 was marked by the arrival of a new fleet of six Fireflies to replace the 25 year old 420 dinghies. This exciting development has given Stowe sailors a tremendous boost to hone their skills on boats now commonly used by many schools for team racing. We are very grateful to the generous donor and the School for providing such a splendid resource and the Stoics have much appreciated the use of this brand new fleet from the first day of the term. With sails either white or blue it is now much easier to identify team members and this enhances racing and training. We have also acquired a tender for access to the rescue boat to speed up proceedings each session.

There has been some excellent sailing in the new boats this term. Many of the team are still focused on enhancing boat speed, but the new fleet encourages an emphasis on the tactics of team racing. This provides a challenge even for the most experienced sailors and it has been good to see progress in racing from so many.

On the first Saturday of the academic year the team travelled to Draycote Water to sail against teams from Rugby and Uppingham. All three Stowe boats made a good start against Rugby B and were leading at the windward mark, but then the winds suddenly increased substantially, causing capsize chaos! Of the two boats completing the course, Will Barnes with Michael Kitchen came in first giving Stowe the victory. The following Wednesday, Stowe travelled to Datchet Water and took on Merchant Taylors' 2nd team in a steadily increasing breeze. Stowe won the first race with 1st and 2nd. In the second race, two Stowe boats crossed the line too soon, and Stowe lost in a tight finish. In the third race Stowe moved up from a mixed start to claim 1st, 2nd and 3rd, giving an overall victory 2-1.

The first home match in the new Fireflies was against Bloxham. In increasingly challenging conditions, as the wind strengthened to force five, both teams did well to cope. Although Bloxham won 2-1 in the first three races by a convincing margin, Stowe drew level by winning an extra

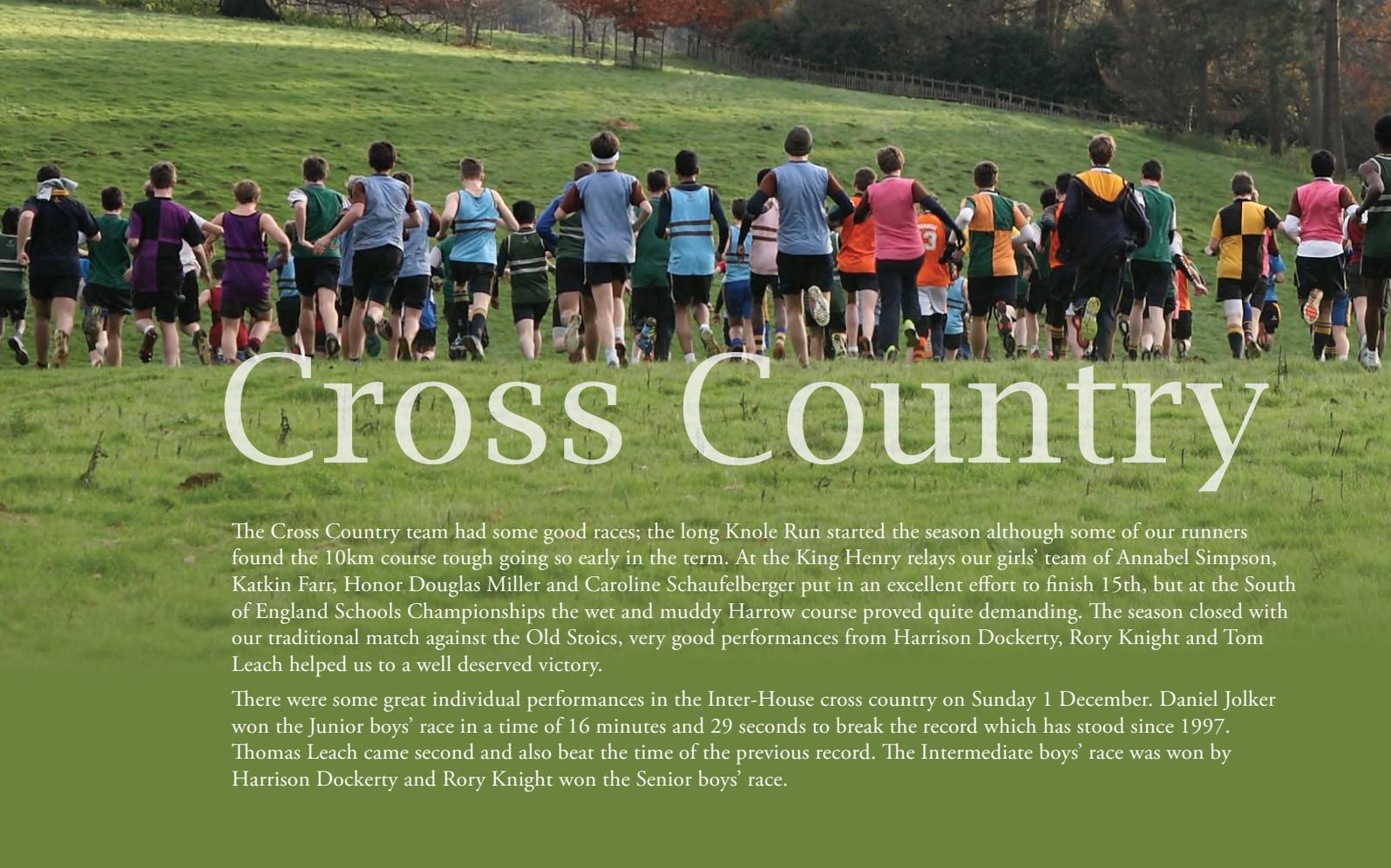
race where Bloxham capsized more frequently than Stowe. Both Charlie Barnes and Will Barnes were Men of the Match. At the British Schools Dinghy Racing Association Eastern Championships at Rutland Water, Stowe sailed some 17 races in light to moderate conditions. They beat Rugby B twice and Oundle and were placed overall eleventh equal with Haileybury, Oundle and Rugby B.

A late Easter and early public examinations made it difficult to fit in many matches and competitions. In the House matches all seven competing Houses sailed well, although those who were less familiar with the new Stowe boats took longer in the heats to adapt to them. The final was highly competitive, with Chatham very nearly catching Temple, the winners, on the finishing line after suffering from an early start, and Grafton being caught by a sudden gust of wind from an unexpected direction. The Helmsman's Tankard was won by Theo Shepherd-Smith after Charlie Barnes made an early start. After Half term the Junior Pennant Competition was won by Tom Mayhew with Will Trumper coming a close second. The wind was enough to complete the course with some good sailing, and to allow the Headmaster, who had come to watch, to test out the new boats afterwards.

It is sad to say farewell to our joint Captains for the last two years, Charlie Barnes and Will Barnes. They have been excellent leaders and cheerful encouragers for the rest of the team and always taken a positive outlook even in challenging circumstances. Next year's Captain will be Theo Shepherd-Smith, with Lauren Carley as Vice-Captain. They have both been loyal members of the team along with Robert Milner for several years and all are awarded their Sailing Colours. It has been good to have a keen and able group of Third Formers sailing on Thursdays, with Will Trumper already joining the team. They should be key contributors to Stowe sailing in the years ahead. As always, I am grateful to Mr Gwilym Jones and Mr David Critchley for their help with sailing.

Mr Michael Bevington





Cross Country

The Cross Country team had some good races; the long Knole Run started the season although some of our runners found the 10km course tough going so early in the term. At the King Henry relays our girls' team of Annabel Simpson, Katkin Farr, Honor Douglas Miller and Caroline Schaufelberger put in an excellent effort to finish 15th, but at the South of England Schools Championships the wet and muddy Harrow course proved quite demanding. The season closed with our traditional match against the Old Stoics, very good performances from Harrison Dockerty, Rory Knight and Tom Leach helped us to a well deserved victory.

There were some great individual performances in the Inter-House cross country on Sunday 1 December. Daniel Jolker won the Junior boys' race in a time of 16 minutes and 29 seconds to break the record which has stood since 1997. Thomas Leach came second and also beat the time of the previous record. The Intermediate boys' race was won by Harrison Dockerty and Rory Knight won the Senior boys' race.

Squash

The Senior squash team has gone from strength to strength in recent years. This year Captained by William de Boinville, the 1st V proved to be the scourge of the South-East circuit, bringing such a depth of talent in the eight man squad that few, if any, schools could match us player-for-player. Notable additions to the team this year include Caspar Whitehead and Hugh Buxton, neither of whom lost a single match all season. Once again the Stowe 1st V squash team recorded a number of overall victories – most notably the more than convincing wins against close rivals Uppingham both at home and away. As well the very encouraging arrival of new players in the squad, the squash department recognises the enormous contribution to the sport made by long-standing team members Harry Rees, Nick Whitmore, Ed Hopkinson and James Greenley, all of whom have played with great aplomb under William de Boinville's confident Captaincy.



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While the squash department is expanding in terms of male players (both recreationally and in a team context), a number of schools in the South East region have specifically requested fixtures for a girls-only team. We are therefore proud to announce that in the 2015 season there will be a new drive for female players (in any year group) who would like to try their hand at this exciting and growing sport. Any girls who are interested in playing squash should contact a member of staff at a squash activity for more information. Specialist coaching is available at Stowe at no extra cost to participants.

This year on Speech Day we held the first ever Old Stoics against current Stoics squash match. The teams were very well matched and the current Stoics managed to triumph by 3 matches to 2 in what was an extremely close contest.

I bid farewell to the squash department this year as Master-in-Charge after seven years in post. I wish the very best of luck and success to the club for its future success.

Mr Roland Johnson



The Junior girls' winner was Georgia Flawn-Thomas, the Intermediate girls' was won by Annabel Simpson who broke the record by 1 minute 38 seconds, and Caroline Schaufelberger won the Senior girls' race.

Mr Tony McDaid

The spoils for the team trophies were divided as follows:-

Junior boys' Team – Walpole

Intermediate boys' Team – Grafton

Senior boys' Team – Grafton

Overall Team Winners – Grafton

Junior girls' Team – Nugent

Intermediate girls' Team – Nugent

Senior girls' Team – Queen's

Overall Team Winners – Nugent

Karate

It has been a great year at Stowe as far as karate is concerned unveiling some excellent talent. The pupils have worked hard to get to where they are now but at the same time had fun, the club runs twice a week on Mondays and Fridays with the opportunity of extra training now and again outside Stowe with other CESKA clubs around the county. Pupils this year did just that and for the first time graded outside Stowe alongside 90 plus pupils from other clubs. The Stowe pupils received outstanding comments from all the Dan grades at the grading on how they stood out with their techniques, form and spirit, passing their grades with flying colours.

Karate at Stowe not only gives the pupils the opportunity to learn martial arts but also builds great comradeship amongst each other. They also learn basic self defence and street awareness, being taught how to overpower and defend themselves against larger and more aggressive attackers.

The Karate Club has proved that through its teachings develops character, loyalty, effort, etiquette, spirit and courage, and the bond between sensei and pupils is extremely valuable and is the basis of the learning relationship. There is also the added advantage of having our own instructor employed at Stowe giving pupils the opportunity to ask questions anytime they wish.



We are always ready to welcome new pupils and if they are willing to work hard alongside their fellow Stoics will gain a great deal from Shotokan Karate and build long-lasting friendships and confidence which they will carry beyond Stowe.

Mr David Smith



Athletics

Led by Captains Jack Wallis and Caroline Schaufelberger the athletics team had a good season. The first match against Harrow saw the boys finish fifth overall which is the highest they have achieved in a few years. There were wins for Charlton Kerr, Taju Atta and Jack Wallis. Jack also won athlete of the match achieving a new School Record in the discus with 43.42 metres.

Next up was Bromsgrove where the team had a great day with lots of individual winners, personal bests and the Senior boys won their age group. We had 20 individual wins overall including Caroline Schaufelberger, Priscilla Powell, Will Chatamra, Will Scrase, Kalil Ali, Tom Abbot-Davies, Alfie Stanford and Jack Wallis in the Senior age group.

Our last team match was at Eton where the boys did an amazing job. Led by Will Chatamra and Rotimi Segun who won both strings of the 100m, 200m and the 4x100m relay helped the Senior boys finish in an amazing third place, a best ever finish. As an overall team we finished sixth. There were also wins for Tom Johnson and Tom Hunnable.

In the Buckinghamshire Schools' Championships we had wins for Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan in the 80m hurdles, Octavia Cavill in the high jump achieving a championship best performance and new School Record of 1.68m and Tallula Douglas Miller, Emily Bourn, Olivia Flood and Zara Atta in the Junior girls' relay.

Three Stoics ran in this year's London Marathon for the charity Children in Crisis, Najib Afghan completed the course in 4.03.36 hours and Henry Wheeler ran it in 3.44.53 hours. Nicholas Whitmore, Miss Lucy Ashe and Mr Matt Perriss also completed the London Marathon.

Sports Day

This year there was no need to cancel the event due to the weather but we certainly hope for more sunshine next year. Temple won the Junior boys, Grafton won the Intermediate boys, Cobham won the Senior boys with Grafton winning

overall by one point over Temple. Nugent won the Junior girls and Intermediate girls. Queen's won the Senior girls with Nugent taking the overall win by 31 points.

School Records broken this year include:

Taju Atta, Junior boys' 300m: 39.5s
Olivia Thomas, Junior girls' javelin: 30.07m
Olivia Flood, Junior girls' long jump: 4.77m
Charlotte Hopkinson, Junior girls' shot put: 9.15m – discus: 21.16m
Tallula Douglas Miller, Emily Bourn, Olivia Flood and Zara Atta, Junior girls' 4x100m relay: 54.8s
Charlton Kerr, Intermediate boys' 800m: 2.01.13 minutes
Tom Johnson, Triumph Opuala-Charles, Rodney Moses and Tosin Segun, Intermediate boys' 4x100m Relay: 45.8s
Annabel Simpson, Intermediate girls' 800m: 2.28.2 minutes
Thalia Felton, Intermediate girls' long jump: 4.84m
Octavia Cavill, Intermediate girls' shot put: 10.23m – high jump: 1.68m – triple jump: 10.15m
Lauren Reid, Intermediate girls' discus: 23.69m
Jack Wallis, Senior boys' discus: 43.47m
Priscilla Powell, Senior girls' discus: 25.15m

English Schools' Championships

The School had four athletes qualify for the English Schools' Championships. Rotimi Segun in the 100m running 11.10s, Jack Wallis in the discus with 43.47m, Octavia Cavill in the high jump with 1.68m and Olivia Thomas in the javelin with 30.07m. Will Chatamra narrowly missed out in the 100m by 0.03s.

Athletes of the year:

Octavia Cavill
Jack Wallis

Mr Kyle Bennett



Rowing

I am once again delighted to report that the Stowe Rowing Club has continued exceeding expectations on the water. Rounding off Summer 2013, the girls' 1st Double of Valeria Gridneva and Dani Fusco-House battled hard to reach the final of Stratford-Upon-Avon Regatta only to be beaten by half a boat length in a well-fought and very exciting final.

As the pupils returned refreshed from the Summer break and the new Third Form arrived, it was fantastic to see that the Club was able to present not only a good core of experienced oarsmen and women, but also a set of 15-20 novices all willing to try their hand on the water. The excitement of training from the new Stowe Boathouse had not waned and the purchase of three new 'Concept 2' rowing machines complemented the professionalism of the interior. However, as always, the late September and early October weather tried our mettle with some very chilling and blustery afternoons spent on the Eleven Acre Lake.

In these early stages of the year, it is assumed that the Senior crews usually remain fluid in terms of their makeup and to try to establish the most experienced and athletic crew that the School could put out. To this extent, there were entries at Isis Sculls and Wallingford Long Distance sculls to trial the boys, the medium term aim being to enter into the larger and more prestigious regattas in the Summer term. At the novice end, several crews were being established with the focus being on Pangbourne and Evesham Junior Head. It, therefore, came as a huge disappointment when the country was rocked by the gale force winds of late October and both of these events were cancelled. There was the opportunity to travel to Leander Club in Henley, where Ted Bainbridge (Walpole 69) welcomed us into the Club and shared with the boys and girls some excellent coaching experience both on and off the water.

In the last week of term, the Roxburgh Theatre was the venue of the first Inter-House Ergo Competition. For those unfamiliar to this concept, this is an indoor rowing competition with teams competing to race over 500m, 1,000m and 2,000m distances. With something akin to a blend of the early evening Saturday entertainment show 'Gladiators' and a Heavy Metal rock concert, each Boarding House presented their most athletic heroes to try for the prestigious Amphil-Nicoll (winners of Henley in 1891) and Leander prizes. In a thoroughly exciting and extremely competitive afternoon, the overall victors were Bruce and Nugent. There was even talk of a staff team for next year.

Whilst this buoyed our spirits we looked forward to the onset of a pleasant and favourable January where we were soon to find out how wrong we were going to be!

The South West experienced some of the worst flooding in decades, the Thames burst its banks and many rowing schools cursed the fickle nature of having to rely on rivers to train upon, we blessed our luck that the Eleven Acre Lake was available to us. Although not literal, the 'Ray of sunshine' came when the Nene receded just enough for Northampton Rowing Club to be able to run its annual Head of the Nene race. Although it fell upon an Exeat weekend, it was felt that it would be an excellent opportunity for the Stowe boys' 1st quad to put some of their hard winter training to the test. And they showed the locals what Stowe was really made of by comprehensively beating not just their own age category, but also the senior men's crews as well!

Unfortunately, the bad weather returned and we lost both opportunities to race at Peterborough and the Hampton Schools Head. With two out of the four planned regattas cancelled, this only left the Junior Sculling Head at Eton





Dorney where racing from the most powerful quad yet sadly couldn't quite keep up with the pace being put out from the other schools.

As the weather finally broke into something more akin to Spring, the Easter break saw the boys' quad of James Simpson, Tom Roxburgh, George Anderson and Seb Johnson as well as Dani Fusco-House, who had been training in a single, set off for the Leander for an intensive week of training on the Henley Mile. Interspersed with frequent breaks for revision, the five underwent a gruelling regime of early morning water training and gym sessions. This allowed them to come back ready for the final term. Both Wallingford and Evesham gave the whole club an excellent opportunity to show their talents and there was some excellent racing at both of these events, but sadly we ended up out of the running for the silverware.

This has been my last year as Master i/c Rowing as I move on to a new position at Oundle School in September. However, as I reflect back on my four year tenure I am very proud of what has been achieved. Rowing is often a sport that is underestimated in the level of both commitment and stamina that it demands from its athletes and it is this word that I do not use loosely, but as a great compliment to those boys and girls who have consistently turned up in wind, rain or shine to make their coaches, and ultimately myself, proud of what they have achieved.

I thank Michael Righton, Andrew Rudkin, Sarah Murnane, Alicia Davies and Chris Grimble for everything they have done to help throughout the year. Their coaching abilities are second to none. I foresee a great future for the 2014/2015 season.

Mr Jonathan Peverley



Equestrian

It has been a busy year for the riders at Stowe. Starting with a trip to Stonar for their one day event. We took a team who came a very respectable fifth and four additional riders as individuals, three of whom were placed in the top six in the FEI Ponies section with a win for Bubby Upton.

Next came show jumping at Bury Farm. Eleven riders attended and for some this was their first ever competition on their horse. We had a mixed result but after a very long day one of the Stowe teams came home with second place. The Eventing season starts in March and many of our Stowe riders compete in British Eventing competitions including our four elite squad riders: Bubby Upton, Charlie Clover, Bella Hobby and Ivy Freeman-Attwood. They have all had some excellent results this year with Bubby, Ivy and Charlie being placed in the top 15 in all their competitions so far, accumulating a few wins along the way. Bubby and Ivy competed at the National Pony Championships; Bubby was placed second and fourth and Ivy was 25th – this is a fantastic achievement and puts Stowe pupils in the top 25 in the country in this age group. Both Bubby and Ivy were long listed for the Pony European Championships. Bella is in her first season at this level and her pony has had some lameness issues meaning they have had a quiet season so far but she has still been placed in the top 10 in each of her competitions and I am sure there is much more to come from her.

Bubby was selected to represent Great Britain in the Pony European Championships which took place at the end of July. She rode as part of the Great Britain team who did a fantastic job and won a silver medal. Not only did Bubby come away with a team medal but she was also the highest placed rider from the Great Britain team and won a second silver medal for her individual performance.

We are so thrilled for the Upton family that all the hard work and dedication has paid off and Bubby has been able to achieve such a fantastic result.

As well as our elite riders many of our less experienced riders have been attending local competitions to gain experience and improve their riding. Two of our regular non horse owning riders; Anna Wilson and Lauren Reid took Mickey and Jimmy, our School horses, to the Stowe Beagles Hunter Trials riding in the pairs class and did very well for their first time out. We look forward to them doing more next year.

Equestrian Colours were presented to three of our Sixth Formers for the first time this year: Charlie Clover, Heloise Kleinwort and Harriet Stringer who have all shown great support for the Equestrian Centre, its activities and the other Stoics who are involved in riding.

Work on the new cross country course started in October which was very exciting. We were itching to get out and use it but had to wait for the very wet winter to end for the ground to be ready. The course has seen lots of use from our riders and is looking really great. Unfortunately I was reminded of the perils of cross country riding when my young horse fell and I took a tumble and broke my neck. The support from the School, pupils and parents was very humbling and I am very lucky to have made a full recovery and be back in the saddle.

It really is fantastic to see the Equestrian Centre flourishing after such a short time. We have many plans to implement new activities for pupils in 2014/2015 and continue to encourage and support our riders whatever their level and ambitions.

Mrs Krista Price



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THE CHUNG MUSIC SCHOOL



Stowe School
Stowe
Buckingham
MK18 5EH

t | +44 (0)1280 818000
f | +44 (0)1280 818181
e | enquiries@stowe.co.uk
w | www.stowe.co.uk

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