

the **STOIC**

Stowe School 2011/2012

New Equestrian Centre

*Stowe celebrates
the opening of
first-class facility*

Jubilee Celebrations

*Picnic for two thousand
on the South Front*

A LEVEL EXCELLENCE

*Stoics achieve
best-ever results in
the Summer exams*

Stowe



STOIC

Editorial

Mrs Kathy Campbell



At the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympics, in August, Stephen Hawking said: *“We are all different, there is no such thing as a standard or run-of-the-mill human being; but we share the same human spirit. What is important is that we have the ability to create. This creativity can take many forms, from physical achievement to theoretical physics. However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at”*. Stowe is a school that embraces individuality and the pages of this edition of *The Stoic* illustrate, without a doubt, that life at Stowe is most definitely not run-of-the mill.

Continuing the Olympic theme, our athletes really excelled on Sports Day this year as seven girls’ records and four boys’ records were broken during the afternoon. Our cricketers, Ben Duckett (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Jake Olley (Lower Sixth, Chandos) also broke the School’s 1st XI record in their opening partnership against Wellingborough School on

25 June. Ben also achieved the highest individual score for the 1st XI in living memory!

At this year’s Speech Day we were able to celebrate the achievements of Stoics alongside Her Majesty The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The South Front was home to possibly the most beautiful Jubilee garden party with tables arranged to seat over 2,000 guests adorned with red, white and blue bunting. It was a spectacular sight which will undoubtedly hold a special place in the minds of many.

Thank you to all staff and Stoics who have provided articles and photographs, and to Angela Bartlett at MCC Design.

Kathy Campbell

Kathy Campbell, Editor

the STOIC

Stowe School 2011/2012

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Speech Day



Chairman of Governors,
Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown

Chairman of Governors' Speech

My Lords, High Sheriff, Fellow Governors, Headmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A warm welcome to you all to another Speech Day at Stowe.

This year Her Majesty the Queen celebrates her 60th Anniversary. The example she sets, her commitment to duty, her devotion to her subjects, her steadfastness in the face of adversity is an inspiration to us all. We were honoured nearly five years ago to welcome Her Majesty to Stowe to open Queen's House and today we salute and thank her for her 60 years' service and the special interest she, and other members of her family have shown in Stowe.

For the first time for many years the Mansion is free of scaffolding although we start work soon to convert Nugent into a full boarding house for girls.

The Music Room is being restored through the summer, and will be back in use by September and will we hope be followed by other internal restorations.

This year saw further improvement to our boys' boarding houses with substantial expenditure on Grafton and Bruce and during the summer, we will upgrade Cobham.

I am delighted to be able to announce that after many months we have at last, on Thursday, received formal planning approval for both the new Golf Course and the new Music School.

Our Music School Appeal is coming to an end although there are still opportunities, for those who wish to be a part of this project, to make a contribution to the Appeal. We are optimistic that site clearance work can soon commence and construction work can get underway. The bird nesting season is the latest obstacle to face us, and this doesn't end until the last fledglings have flown the nest.

The next phase of the Roxburgh Hall work-over will be carried out in the summer and the the Equestrian Centre is finished and we hope many of you have had or will have a chance today to go and see it.

Let me take a moment to say some thank yous.

First to everyone who has contributed to the multitude of projects or to our Scholarship Fund. Thank you for the generosity of your sustained support, especially so in these difficult times, as without your help our development plan would be significantly delayed.

Financially, we are in good heart, sufficiently so to be able to continue to invest in improving our facilities and, importantly for you, to keep fees increases at modest levels, just about the current rate of inflation

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

To my Governor colleagues – my grateful thanks for another year of your support and hard work, all given so freely and without complaint.

This year we have seen Julie Brunskill join and Chris Wightman retire. Julie is highly experienced in property matters; Chris has worked tirelessly for Stowe, particularly on Campaign matters and was an enthusiastic Governor for just over 10 years.

At the end of the summer, Marten van der Veen is to retire after serving 11 years, the last five as the Vice Chairman. Marten has been a tower of strength to me, providing advice and wise counsel. In particular he did some fantastic work negotiating the asset exchange agreement with The National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust. I will be very sad to see

him go; I will miss his calm advice, we will all miss his contribution.

I am delighted to announce that Simon Creedy Smith has been appointed as Marten's successor as Vice Chairman.

This year we carried out an important market research study, to understand how the market perceives us and where we need to focus our attention. Many of you gave up your time to contribute, and thank you for being so willing to do so.

I am constantly told that a school is not a business. It may not be in the traditional sense – but like any business it has its own way of doing things, its own value system, processes and organisation. Stowe is an exceptional school, and like every exceptional business it must serve its customers – and in a school that means the parents and the pupils. With the cost of private education what it is, and likely to increase through the years, it is essential that we listen to you, that we react to what you say about what you want from us, and we deliver to your expectations.

The research results were encouraging – many of you thought that the Headmaster and his team were doing well, even exceptionally well and delivering what you wanted. But, as ever, there are a few things which we can do better. There were three key themes which emerged.

For decades there has been a popular market perception that Stowe is not an academic school, rather that it is something of a country club. This is far from the reality.

We are not, and have never intended to be, an academic hothouse in the tradition of some schools.

We believe passionately in the development of the whole child – intellect, character, personality. We believe that academic studies must be learnt in tandem with life skills, social skills, civic awareness and a sense of place in the world.

Our investment in classrooms, upgrading of the Science labs, improvement in classroom technology, complete overhaul of the Art School and the new Music School all demonstrate our investment in academic improvement.

The range of non-academic activities supports our quest to inspire each child to discover their talents, and our willingness constantly to invest means that the activity range is as wide as any of our competitors. This year riding, eventing, dressage, trials biking have all been added.

It is no accident that Stoics leave this place to go out into the world to become leaders in their chosen field and, believe me, there are countless examples of this.

But we absolutely recognise that academic results are important; to stimulate intellectual ability, thinking skills, and learning, and to support University entry and work placement.

In recent years, and the Headmaster will tell you more, our results have shown a marked improvement, and more and more Stoics are gaining entrance to their chosen university around the world.

The challenge now is to accelerate that rate of academic improvement, reflected not just by the headline measure of results but more importantly by the degree of value added – the success of your children in gaining results at public exams over and above what they might reasonably have expected. Your Governors and Headmaster are completely committed to this priority.

The second theme was about pupils' work ethic and this is something which we will be taking forward.

In part this is about the environment – the insistence on delivery on time, every time, of pieces of work, encouragement to study, to read, to debate, to enquire, to try and if not successful to try again, to persevere.

In part it is about inspiring young people to want to do these things and to want to explore, to discover, to be curious. And this is the third theme.

At Stowe inspiration starts the moment you cross the Oxford Water. The walk through the Marble Hall, out onto the South Front Portico, leads to one of the greatest, most inspirational views in England. And all the while surrounded by the legacy of one of the most inspirational periods in our history – the 18th Century.

And this is the point about Stowe – all around there are inspirational views and reminders of people who in the past inspired successive, future generations. Political giants, military men, courtiers and aristocracy, gardeners, architects,

monarchs, historians, artists, poets, playwrights; all are represented somewhere at Stowe.

But that just isn't enough. Stowe is a school and our most important task is to interact with each child, to inspire each child to find their talent, to draw out their ability, to achieve of their best.

Yes, inspiration comes from the environment around us, but it mainly comes from people with whom we come into contact or, like Her Majesty, observe from afar.

So, at Stowe we must all at all times be inspirational – whether in the classroom, in the Music School, in the Art School, on the Stage or on the Sports Field – and inculcate every Stoic with the desire and confidence to try things out, to explore their potential, to strive to achieve more, to decide how they want to make their mark in their lives, to learn from the past and create the future, their future.

Together your Governors and Headmaster are determined to make sure that in every aspect Stowe will be the source of inspiration you expect it to be, and that Stoics will leave the School with a real sense of purpose and of their value to the world.

Two weeks ago at a dinner to celebrate 20 years of the American Friends of Stowe, the Headmaster challenged me to set his next challenge.

Headmaster, I think I just have.

In August the Headmaster will have been with us for 9 years and through that period has successfully overseen so very much change. As he starts his tenth year, we look forward to the next decade and if we continue as we have been this last decade we will be in good shape indeed as we approach our Centenary in 2023.

We are very fortunate at Stowe to have a Headmaster who embraces the ethos and tradition of Stowe so comfortably, and who leads us in such an exceptional way. It's time for him to tell you a little more about the detail of the last year in the life of Stowe.



The Headmaster's Speech

Chairman and Governors, Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very warm welcome to Speech Day on this auspicious day when we reflect on the achievements of the School over the past year and celebrate the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne. Only one monarch, Queen Victoria, in more than a thousand years of English history, has reigned for longer than Elizabeth II. Our sovereign has enjoyed, or perhaps I should say endured, the company of 12 prime ministers, 12 American presidents and six popes. Throughout her long reign she has exemplified dedication to duty and service, dignity and authority. It is in her honour that we dedicate today's Speech Day.

Asking the chairman what he thought this year's speech should be about – he paused, thought for a minute – and replied about two and half minutes – coincidentally the exact length of the Gettysburg Address. My favourite example of pithy rhetoric in recent times was written on a banner at the funeral procession of Northern Ireland's greatest footballer: "Maradona good, Pele better, George Best". The best example of royal wit that I can think of is when a mobile phone went off while Her Majesty was graciously receiving a line of dignitaries: "you had better answer it", she said, "it might be someone important".

The School is bustling with life: the roll stands at an all-time record of 760 Stoics and along with 215 freshly enrolled pupils, we also welcomed ten new members of the teaching staff, with Anthony Macpherson taking over from Tony Lewis

as housemaster of Temple and Sue Harmon succeeding Jenny Nelson as housemistress of Stanhope. This year we're maintaining the symmetry with another two Housemasters gaining promotion: Barney Durrant leaves Stowe to take up his appointment as Head of Pastoral Care at Harrow International Hong Kong after 14 years of distinguished service as Head of Geography and then a supremely successful Housemaster of Chandos.

Matt Way, Senior Housemaster and Housemaster of Cobham since 2006, leaves to take up his appointment as Head Teacher of St Petroc's School in Cornwall. Barney and Matt are schoolmasters of the old-fashioned variety: both are outstanding teachers who embrace all aspects of life outside the classroom. Matt was an officer in the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and a talented National Leagues and Welsh U21 Hockey player, while Barney was a County and Divisional Rugby player, a full Cambridge Blue in Athletics and has become a latter-day Iron Man. Matt presided over Service@Stowe, while Barney's expertise as a rugby coach has brought us to the brink of success in two Daily Mail Cup semi-finals. Their pastoral care has been exemplary and I know that Matt and Kate, and Barney and Charlie will be sorely missed by pupils, parents and colleagues.

We say farewell to Chrissy Lawrance-Thorne, a legendary Modern Languages teacher and fount of knowledge on all things Eurovision (including the little known fact that Engelbert Humperdinck is a former Stowe parent). Ann Lake, Matron of Bruce, retires after 17 years of unstinting service during which she has supported three Housemasters and dedicated herself to looking after the welfare of the boys in Bruce. Huw Jones, Assistant Director of Music since 2007 and then acting Director of Music after only a few weeks, is a brilliant organist, master-in-charge of the Chamber Choir and champion of a diverse range of music from Delius to Death Metal: Huw leaves us to take up his new post of Director of Music at Merchant Taylors' School.

Headmasters love to name-drop, as The Queen said to me only last week, and they cannot resist boasting about the achievements of their schools. We teach Stoics not to take anything at face value and to treat statistics with cautious

scepticism – but here are some statistics that can be trusted: in 2011 we celebrated some of our best ever exam results: half the GCSE grades were A* or A and thirty-three of our leavers achieved 3 A grades or better at A Level. Competition for university places remains as tough as ever and we were delighted that more than 60% of Stoics were accepted by the prestigious and highly selective Russell and 1994 Group Universities which include Cambridge, Bristol, Durham, Exeter, the top London colleges and, I almost forgot, Oxford (if it can be counted as a prestigious university).

Jim Callaghan used to talk about "exploring the secret garden of the curriculum" and Stoics have been cutting swathes through the undergrowth of modules, coursework and controlled assessments to maximise their GCSE and A Level grades this summer. Many of their papers are already maturing nicely on the desks of examiners and we are confident that this year's vintage will be every bit as good as the crop of 2011. All twenty-one Stoics in Mr Blewitt's GCSE Maths set secured an A* grade, a new Stowe record, and the Biomedical Society is proud that all four medical candidates applying for Medicine – Ellice Caldwell-Dunn, Harriet Eatwell, Franklin Johnson and Aysha Falamarzi – secured university offers for 2012, while Emma Saric succeeded in winning a place at the highly competitive Royal Veterinary College.

For the first time in more than a decade the Mansion is free of scaffolding and the "largest and most completely realised neo-classical building in the world" has reclaimed its position as the grandest of all Stowe's temples. Post-modernists might argue that concepts like truth, beauty and goodness are things of the past, anachronistic relics from the Age of the Enlightenment, irrelevant in a relativist age where Tracy Emin is considered to be as important as Michelangelo (I like to think that our CCF and DofE tents are superior to Tracy's – not as many people have slept in them – and as for that unmade bed – well, what would Ann Lake say?). At Stowe it is still possible to get a glimpse of transcendent beauty and we are extremely grateful to the Stowe House Preservation Trust for master-minding this immensely complex restoration project to secure this magnificent house as a seat of learning

and a monument to the architectural brilliance of Vanbrugh, Kent, Soane and Adam.

Work on the interiors continues apace and the Egyptian Hall re-opened in September after twelve weeks of restoration. Last year I was able to say that I am the only Headmaster to be consulted on how much gold leaf should adorn the Library ceiling, this year I can confidently claim to be the only headmaster asked for his views on sphinxes and sarcophagi (try saying that after a couple of glasses of champagne). The latest renovation project is Vincenzo Valdre's magnificent Music Room and when it is completed in the autumn we will have a splendid enfilade of rooms through which Stoics will be able to promenade in grand style from the Library, through the Music Room, into the Marble Hall and into the State Dining Rooms for lunch and dinner (no soup jokes this year).

It has also been an exceptionally busy year for the Operations Department: Grafton and Bruce were refurbished last summer as part of the School's rolling programme of improving boarding accommodation; work is about to begin on Nugent which will accept 13 year old girls from September and become a vertical instead of a horizontal boarding house (somehow that never sounds politically correct). The challenge is to compete with the modern facilities of the other girls' houses, but not to lose any of the charm of the present Nugent which is part of the original 18th century Mansion. The Roxburgh Hall's leaking asbestos roof has been replaced with shiny Kalzip as the first stage of a

three year scheme to upgrade Drama facilities and this summer the foyer, seating and stage will be transformed into a first-class performance space. We look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of that defining moment in pop history, 4 April 1963, the day that a little known band called The Beatles came to Stowe. I wonder what happened to them after Stowe?

The unlovely Science Building, which the Prince of Wales might describe as a hideous carbuncle on the face of a much loved friend, is also a candidate for an architectural Gok Wan make-over: the refurbishment of the Physics Department will be completed this summer and there are exciting plans to add a Sixth Form Study area and to improve the external appearance of the Science Building. The Vanbrugh classrooms have been completely modernised for the Geography Department and the Staff Common Room is no longer marooned on the eastern extremity of Plug Street, a five minute walk from the academic area, and has moved to the more suitable location of the old Sixth Form Centre which was made redundant by the newly appointed and much appreciated StoweBucks. The Equestrian Centre at Home Farm has been completed and looks splendid as I'm sure everyone who visited this morning will agree. My thanks to Charlie Clover for putting Oeste through his paces this morning while demonstrating some great riding skills. All that remains is for us to build the cross-country course, carefully designed by Captain Mark Phillips, and we will have



Joshua Gentry, Liam Forster and Will McGovern

one of the best school riding facilities in the country. Next up is the exciting new Music School, designed by Nick Cox to be a cross between Wagner's Valhalla and Bob Dylan's rural retreat in Woodstock. I can't wait for the creative fusion – Like A Rolling Stone meets Götterdämmerung and the Valkyries (which sounds like Germany's entry to Eurovision). My sincere thanks to everyone here who has contributed so generously to these projects through the Campaign for Stowe.

Schools tend to come in two varieties – free range or battery farmed. In battery schools there is usually a hierarchy which has the so-called academic disciplines at the apex and the creative subjects and sport at the bottom. Ken Robinson reminds us that factory schools educate from the neck up, treating bodies as little more than transporters for heads. I can vouch for this as in a previous incarnation I used to organise dances for St Paul's Girls' and Boys' schools: two hours of kinetically challenged writhing with occasional collisions, a bit like Brownian motion in Physics or being inside a human pinball machine. Not very edifying – but still probably better than my dancing which has been compared to a giraffe on roller-skates. It's hard to believe, isn't it, that after 7 million years of evolution, 350,000 generations, taking us from the Stone Age to the Hubble telescope and the sequencing of the human genome, that the high water mark of achievement in education is an A* at GCSE. Here at Stowe I hope we're doing something

more interesting with a new ecology of learning that respects multiple and different intelligences.

The most creative individuals are often the most difficult to teach as some of the Stoics here will testify. Einstein frequently clashed with his teachers and argued that the spirit of learning and creative thought was crushed by rote learning; Charles Darwin's teacher at Shrewsbury told him that he wouldn't amount to much as he spent too much time playing with insects; Churchill's terrible reports from Harrow are legendary and I doubt that the Stratford-on-Avon Grammar School teachers had an easy time teaching English to Shakespeare. A paper sent to me by a parent explains that the reward centres of the adolescent brain are much more active than those of children or adults. Think about the intensity of first love, the never to be recaptured glory of scoring the winning run in the house match final and how doing something really idiotic seems so seductively attractive at the time. Teenagers develop an accelerator a long time before they can steer and brake. No Department of Education initiative, no new building or facilities, will have any effect unless we can find a way to channel and harness all this seething energy and guide pupils to delay gratification and reach mature decisions.

We will not solve the problems in schools by using the same thinking that created these problems in the first place – the tyranny of teaching to the test and the

deadening hand of League Tables. Teaching a child is like pouring wine into a bottle with a thin neck. It is not a struggle of nature versus nurture, but nature via nurture. All children are born artists and have an extraordinary capacity for innovation – the challenge, as Picasso told us, is how to remain an artist when you grow up. It reminds me of the story of the little girl in an art class who was asked by her teacher what she was drawing. She answered that she was drawing the face of God. "But nobody knows what God looks like" said the teacher... "Well" said the little girl, "they will in a minute".

The best teachers teach through osmosis, they encourage pupils to question and to think for themselves, they foster intellectual curiosity and excitement so that young people can discover for themselves the hidden connections between disparate subjects; they embrace ambiguity, intellectual risk-taking, allowing pupils to learn from experience, achieving success through trial and error. Some 2,000 years ago Confucius wrote these words: "tell me I forget, show me I remember, let me do and I understand". How else did the greatest and most influential scientist who ever lived, Isaac Newton, come to challenge the orthodoxies of his age, producing a concept of the universe based on rationally understandable laws, thereby earning his place in Stowe's Temple of British Worthies with the memorable inscription, "Whom the God of Nature made to comprehend his works". Truth, like beauty, does exist in absolute terms – even in the virtual reality jungle of cyberspace where Stowe's Wikipedia entry can change with the click of a mouse (well it would if our account hadn't been frozen by Wikipedia after some fanciful and daring re-naming of the boarding houses). Truth can be found through direct engagement and complete immersion in science, history, mathematics, languages and a life-long pursuit of knowledge. Perhaps a twenty-first century Enlightenment might match the achievements of the eighteenth century Enlightenment that is so celebrated at Stowe.

If you say that you're above culture, you might as well say that you're above humanity. Hermann Goering once said that when he heard the word culture,

he reached for his Browning (and he didn't mean the poet Robert Browning). This year's cultural offerings have been extraordinarily diverse: 'Our Country's Good', this year's Senior Congreve, transported audiences back to the early days of the Australian convict colony and revealed the hardship endured by prisoners and guards as they struggled to survive. The play is a hymn to the power of the human spirit over adversity and the ability of theatre to take us out of the here and now, transcending national and social boundaries, while revealing truths about the human condition. The Fifth Form play, 'Too Much Punch For Judy', presented us with the tragic consequences of drink-driving and elicited outstanding performances from the fourteen members of the cast. Grafton and Queen's delivered finely nuanced, well acted and skilfully directed productions of 'The Musicians' and 'Bazaar and Rummage'. Nugent presented 'Darlings You Were Wonderful', a slick, entertaining comedy which attracted good audiences while Bruce staged 'Aftermath', set in a post-apocalyptic future where survivors try to rebuild their shattered lives. The play was brilliantly directed and showed that house plays can tackle serious subjects. This week Junior Congreve presented Macbeth as part of Stowe's contribution to the London Olympiad. The cast of over 30 Third and Fourth Form Stoics staged a mesmerising, expressive production, steeped in blood and dark foreboding as we followed the descent of the hell-hound Macbeth and his fiend-like Queen into hell and damnation. And now, to lighten the tone, something completely different...

'Fugue for Tinorns' from 'Guys and Dolls' (Frank Loesser)

Performed by Will McGovern, Liam Forster and Joshua Gentry

The weekly Wednesday afternoon concert recitals in the Music Room, now relocated to Queen's Temple, provide a showcase for an impressive range of musical talents while the Festival of Music and Mozart Trio Competition on 4 March featured 203 performances by Stoics and culminated in a memorable concert performed by the winners in each category. The sublime gifts of our Chapel Choir were demonstrated at Evensong in Southwark Cathedral in February and our aspiring rock stars strutted their stuff at the

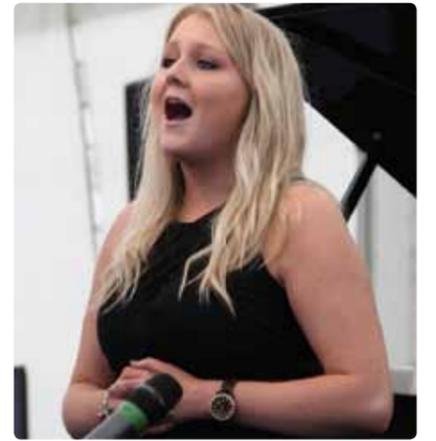
Unplugged concert in the Roxburgh Hall and again last night at the concert for Ataxia, the charity we have chosen to support this year. Other highlights this term include a superbly accomplished concert of Sixth Form Compositions in the Queen's Temple, last Sunday's Concert in Aid of the British Red Cross which featured Grieg's Holberg Suite and a sublime rendition of Handel's opera, Alcina, a wonderful concerto concert in Stowe Chapel which featured outstanding performances by Rex Roxburgh, Camilla Harvey-Scholes, Harriet Eatwell, William Motion, Francesca Stevens, Michael Kitchen and Liam Forster. This morning's programme of music and the exhibitions organised by the Art and Design Technology Departments demonstrate that we really are blessed with a dazzling array of creative talent.

'As Long as He Needs Me' from 'Oliver!' (Lionel Bart)

Sung by Emma Curley

It has been another superb year for Stowe sport. Jordan Onojaife plays for the England U17 Rugby side, Claudia Button represents England Lacrosse, Ben Duckett toured India with the England U18s and is listed in Wisden as the leading run scorer in Schools' cricket with 1,320 runs and a batting average of 66, while James Rudkin represented Britain at the Munich Junior International Regatta in May and is training for the World Championships in Australia in January 2013. James is joined by Max Marston who has also been invited to train with the GB rowing team. Ben Robinson won the Faldo Series UK Championship and came second in the U16 Faldo Series World Final. Harry Bannister has enjoyed a string of wins on his horse, Borero, and lifted the prestigious Grimthorpe Gold Cup trophy earlier this term. He currently heads the table of the Men's Novice Riding Championships and, if you're not sure what to do going into a fence, Harry's advice is to "just sit still – chances are the horse will sort itself out". We'll all bear that in mind, Harry!

Stowe topped the National Schools' Cricket last season and, weather permitting, we hope to achieve similar success this year. We beat Cheltenham to win the Senior Inter-schools' Polo trophy and last term our novice team beat Wellington to become National Senior



Emma Curley

Schools' Arena Polo Champions. We are getting used to clean sweeps in block fixtures in all sports and Alan Hughes has had to drop St Edward's after every rugby team secured wins with Teddies managing only 90 points to Stowe's 500. We're trying hard not to sound triumphalist and to hold on to the ideal that it's the taking part and not the winning that matters... but our teams seem to prefer winning to coming second. It just feels better.

The Junior Colts reached the semi-finals of the Daily Mail Cup competition – an exceptional achievement for a co-educational school of our size and the Seniors reached the semi-finals of the national seven-a-side tournament at Rosslyn Park. The Yearlings A team went undefeated for the third year in succession posting colossal scores against competitor schools like Oundle and Uppingham. Next year's 1st XV and Junior Colts are already planning their campaigns to reach the Daily Mail finals at Twickenham and we wish them luck on their tour of Argentina this summer. Not to be out-performed by the boys, Stowe girls have performed equally well with the U14 Girls' hockey team winning the Buckinghamshire County Championships and the U16 Girls' hockey team reaching the national semi-finals after beating Wellington College 4-2 to become regional champions. The 1st XII Lacrosse team reached the finals of the Midlands Schools' Tournament for the second successive year and returned from the Schools' National Competition with a trophy for coming top of the 1st Division. Yesterday, it was the turn of our athletes and the heroic feats of athleticism at the David Donaldson track have whetted our



Jubilee Picnic

appetites for the Olympics. Amid all this talk of county, regional and national success, there is one sport where Stowe can claim global supremacy – you’ve guessed it – Beagling. I would like to thank all the coaches for their hard work and constant enthusiasm and Stoics in teams at any level for their achievements in making this such a memorable year for sport at Stowe.

The great metaphysical poet John Donne wrote that “No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main”. We have never been interested in producing stereotypes: slick, inauthentic, out of touch, public school snobs who don’t know the price of milk or how they might be perceived by the world beyond the ha-ha. We want independent thinkers with global mindsets who can contribute constructively to the great conversations of mankind. Each year there are more overseas trips and increased opportunities for Stoics to take advantage of partnerships with other schools. We have exchange programmes with The Doon School in India, the Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg and next term we’ll welcome a pupil on exchange from King’s College Auckland. This term’s crowning celebration of global interconnectivity was when 56 members of the Dominican Convent School Choir came to stay with us for a few days in May and then gave a rousing concert of African folk music and spirituals in Chapel. The world is becoming a smaller place and these trips, exchanges and partnerships enhance our understanding of peoples

and cultures that were once thought of as foreign and alien.

This term Stoics have heard lectures from a wide range of speakers: the photographer and journalist, Paul Conroy, recently returned from the battleground of Homs in Syria; Henry Olonga, the Zimbabwean cricketer, spoke to us about sport and politics in his beleaguered country; John Burns, an Old Stoic, London bureau chief for The New York Times and winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, celebrated the Anglo-American special relationship at the annual dinner for the American Friends of Stowe. Stoics themselves also spread the message of international community: in Chapel last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost in Zulu, Afrikaan, Xhosa, Armenian, Hindi, Bulgarian and Spanish; I accompanied Najib Afghan (Temple, Lower Sixth) to Asia House in London where he talked about his life in Helmand Province before coming to Stowe. Intrepid Stoics who went on the Warriors’ trip to South Africa gave an illustrated talk to encourage others to enrol on this exciting programme of skydiving, trekking, sliding down steep canyons, helping wildlife conservation projects and, most importantly, connecting with the children at the Day Care Centre Orphanage.

You’ve heard me talk about beauty and truth and I’ll finish with goodness. Talents are lent for the service of others and I have been hugely impressed by the many good causes supported by Stoics and staff over the year. Pippa Farr took part in the Great North Run and raised £1,800 to help children suffering from leukaemia; Jack

Chaplin raised more than £35,000 for Carefree Northants and the Anna Freud Centre by cycling from Land’s End to London; Sasha Milne has tirelessly organised events to raise funds for research into Ataxia and urges you to buy tickets for the Derby sweepstake, as not only do you have a chance of winning five prizes of £100 each and two cases of excellent champagne, but you will also be helping to fund research into the causes of this debilitating neurological condition. Jess Noakes collected books for the day care centre in South Africa that she visited on The Warriors’ trip and presented them with a cheque for £1,500; a group of Stoics led by Mr Roberts has raised nearly £3,000 for the Durrell Trust in Jersey; Mr Ing raised over £5,000 for Cancer Research by completing the Henley Iron Man competition; Mr Arnold organised Stowe’s Movember which raised £7,000 for research into prostate and testicular cancer and then persuaded the whole school to take part in a fun run for Sports Relief Day. Last Sunday, Freddie Rowan-Hamilton, Oscar Cole, Arthur Hobhouse and Ajay Daswani ran 10 km and raised £1,600 for Amber, a charity which helps to rehabilitate young people with drugs and alcohol dependencies. It is gratifying that many Stoics are still finding ways to serve the common good, reframing what it means to be a global citizen.

Before I hand over to Ed Smith, our Guest of Honour, let’s have one more song – Alice Jackman singing “Taylor The Latte Boy” (Zina Goldrich and Marcy Heisler).

I have known our Guest of Honour, Ed Smith, since he was a 13 year old school boy at Tonbridge where I was a Housemaster and Head of History. Usually when people talk about Renaissance men, they are describing someone who has several talents, but has not particularly excelled at anything. Ed is the exception. He shows Renaissance *curiosità*, an insatiably curious approach to life and an unrelenting quest for continuous learning; he also embodied the Renaissance ideal of *corporalità*, the cultivation of grace, ambidexterity, fitness and poise as anyone who has seen him batting and fielding will tell you. If a teacher is judged by his results, then I am very happy to hold up Ed as exhibit A.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



Head Boy, Henry Rudd with Ed Smith

Head Boy’s Speech

Good afternoon, Ed, Governors, Headmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Do you know why they asked the scarecrow to speak at Stowe?

Because he was outstanding in his field...

I wonder if anyone has ever dared to call you a scarecrow, Ed? For all the right reasons, obviously! Sport, life, luck – your speech and your books provide great themes for all of us at this school, and you are clearly outstanding on the field – and off it. Thank you very much indeed for being with us today, and for kindly presenting prizes on this special Jubilee Weekend.

In September, nearly five years ago, I arrived at Stowe from my home in Kenya. On my first night at the School, I slept in a dormitory with 11 other boys – with the window wide open. My feeling was one of relief – not, as you might think, because of the flow of fresh air, but because I was comfortable that, for the first time in my life, I was going to sleep without worrying that bad people were about to bash our ‘askari’ – our security guard – on the head, climb in through the window and steal our belongings. Stowe was later to teach me about poisonings, but at least for a while I felt safe – I, unlike the Headmaster, did keep that one up my sleeve!

I am lucky to have been part of two very different communities. Here, mostly well-off and privileged; there, quite the opposite. Here, I wear shoes and socks and jacket and tie, and am conscious of health and safety rules; there, I don’t wear much at all, and sometimes wish people would actually make some rules.

Another African, Henry Olonga, the Zimbabwean Cricketer with a Kenyan father, recently reminded us to be grateful for our good fortune. He came to School to sing, and to tell us about his black armband protest alongside Andy Flower at the 2003 Cricket World Cup, which brought him into conflict with Robert Mugabe’s government, and caused his

exile in England. During his talk, there was one thing that particularly stood out to me, and it’s something all of us at Stowe should think about more deeply, and not take so much for granted. Henry told us how unbelievably privileged we are to attend a school like this one. Some of us here forget to appreciate our surroundings, and fail to recognise how lucky we are to have so many opportunities available to us.

Stowe is a comfortable place which provides this blanket of security and although the School challenges us, that sense of security fosters a certain sense of confidence within us which is great, until the fine line between confidence and arrogance is crossed. If I have any kind of message today, it is for upcoming Stoics to know that – confidence is cool; arrogance is not.

Soon after that first care-free night, I was hit by home-sickness. It’s alright to talk about it now, but it wasn’t much fun at the time. I think we probably all experienced it one way or another, and I guess it was just a natural part of the process. Which leads me to a few important thank yous.

To my Matron, Clare Hill-Hall, who has been hugely supportive ever since the first day I met her. She has kept me on track when things have got tough, and never hesitates to remind me about the ridiculously untidy state of my room! Thank you.

Those of us in Chandos reckon we’ve been pretty lucky with our Housemaster and our Matron, and one of the good things I have discovered over the years, is that everyone in the School feels lucky to have their particular Housemaster and Matron.

I speak with feeling, because I’m sorry to say that Mrs Hamblett-Jahn of Queen’s demonstrated the typical level of outstanding support that a Housemaster or Mistress gives to her charges – at my expense. In the Senior House debating final Mrs Hamblett-Jahn rallied her troops and encouraged her girls to direct all points of information and questions towards the weakest link, Henry Rudd. Eight questions later and I was mercilessly bullied into submission, as Chandos was swept to one side, and the Queen’s girls emerged with more silverware for their House.

My own Housemaster, Mr Durrant, deserves special thanks from me. I’m the third consecutive Head Boy from Chandos, which is absolutely not a coincidence. The way he has encouraged, supported and nurtured so many of us,

means he will be a massive loss to the School when he leaves at the end of this year.

To all the Prefects, I hope you’ve had as much fun as I have, and thank you for your help and support. And Ellie, I know I’m not the easiest person to keep on task, so I’m grateful for your friendship, patience, and supportiveness during this last year.

As for the Headmaster, it is just incredible how he has managed to cope so politely with all my talk of sport. I know he would have preferred much more cereal, er, celebra, er, brainy conversations with his Head of School – but thank you, Headmaster, for your engagement with, and encouragement to me.

On behalf of my year, to everyone who has been so helpful, enabling us to enjoy and make the most of these last five years... a heartfelt thank you!

Now on to the awards, firstly, the Richard Branson Award is given to the most entrepreneurial Stoic, with entries judged on their risk, originality and financial reward. They must have shown entrepreneurial flair and they need to have run their business for the last consecutive six months or more, and finally they have to have pursued their financial commitment beyond Stowe. This award is highly competitive, largely due to the prize that is on offer – two weeks’ work experience with any of The Virgin Business Groups, along with two return flights to any Virgin destination.

The award this year goes to Ben Wackett. Ben has been selling Charity Bracelets, and he has raised \$8,000 from his sales and he gives 30% of his profits away to charity. His main highlight has been securing deals with charities such as the Children’s Trust, and Epilepsy UK – he even got James Cracknell to wear a personalised bracelet when he ran the London Marathon in April.

Very well done Ben, please come up to collect your prize.

Now, as I come to the end of my final speech, I have one more presentation to make, and that is to hand over the reins to next year’s Head Boy and Head Girl. I am sorry to say that the Chandos sequence of Head Boys has been broken. But I am extremely happy to announce that next year’s Head Boy is a great choice who I’m sure will do an absolutely fantastic job. So with sincere congratulations, I invite Hugo Brooks of Grenville House to come and collect the Head Boy tie.

I hope you have a lovely day, and enjoy the rest of the Jubilee weekend – thank you.



Valete



Barney Durrant

We say farewell to Barney, who leaves Stowe having taught here for 15 years. Barney has been an outstanding teacher and Schoolmaster.

Barney's enthusiasm for geography, sports and the boarding environment were always very evident and his skill in communicating these to the pupils in his charge meant that many Stoics have been influenced in a very positive way over the years. Barney has taught in the vibrant and ever popular Geography Department throughout his time, having had a successful three year spell as Head of Department. His lessons were imaginative and meticulously organised and I am sure he has imbued a love of the subject in many of his pupils. In 2005 he was appointed Housemaster of Chandos. The boys who play their House matches in pink and brown jerseys were soon to become a force to be reckoned with as Barney's competitive nature rubbed off on the Chandosians, meaning they always gave their best when representing their House. Barney's clear rules and guidance meant Chandosians always knew exactly where they stood and what was expected of them. Barney's consistent care, support and efforts will be highly valued by the many boys who were lucky enough to have him as their Housemaster.

Barney made a huge contribution to the sporting scene at Stowe. His major role was as the 1st XV 'forwards coach' alongside the Head of Rugby, Alan Hughes. His experience and understanding of what makes a successful schoolboy side helped many teams to have great seasons, with his

finest hour being when he coached the side that reached the Daily Mail semi-finals in 2010. The athletes at Stowe will also miss Barney's support as he spent many hours putting the middle distance groups through their paces with brutal sessions which, of course, he always joined in with.

Barney is moving with his wife Charlie and three young children, William, Freddie and Alexa to take up the post of Pastoral and Boarding Director in the new Harrow School in Hong Kong. We wish the Durrants the very best of luck with the move and would like to express a final thank you for his huge contribution to Stowe.

Mr Craig Sutton

Pauline Huet

Very rarely do we get Assistants who can teach literature in as natural and insightful a way as Pauline has been able to do this year.

Pauline's intellectual curiosity and thirst for knowledge have been an inspiration for us all and a true asset to the French Department. Being professional beyond her years, Pauline has made a fantastic job of steering the French Upper Sixth through the art of debating and talking on a variety of often challenging subjects. Like François, she also offered invaluable help with a number of Lower School sets, helping them make sense of the French language. But Pauline's talent extends well beyond the classroom; when asked in December whether she wanted to do a night's duty in Queen's, she accepted willingly, thus offering Jane and her team some welcome relief. We are hugely grateful to her for all her hard work and dedication, as well as for accepting to stay an extra month and conduct around 120 Third Form orals. She has set the bar very high for any Assistant following in her footsteps. Au revoir and all the best!

Mrs Alice Tearle



Huw Jones

Huw Jones has had the most extraordinary career of any Music teacher I have come across. Within a year and three months of being a City Chartered Accountant an epiphany took place and he returned to Music, having read Music at Robinson College Cambridge, where he was the Organ Scholar, he became the acting Director of Music at Stowe School.

Huw spent a year at Haileybury as a Musician-in-Residence, and came to Stowe as the Assistant Director of Music and Organist of Stowe Chapel in September 2007. In that year it was clear that Music flourished under his leadership. He was the Music Director for Lionel Weston's production of 'Oliver', and brought in excellent exam results in the GCSE, AS and A2 years. When I arrived at Stowe in September 2008 I found a department that was willing, eager and well set up. During the four years I have been Huw's 'boss', he has always been more of a colleague and a tall tower of strength to me. I felt Huw gave the department height, and I gave the department breadth.

His most outstanding work, aside from his impeccable teaching in the classroom, has been on the organ and with the Chamber Choir. We have taken the Chamber Choir to New York twice, and had the most astonishingly exciting tour to Los Angeles. Whether a conductor or an accompanist Huw has always displayed the most diligent of approaches, and had produced magical and unforgettable performances.

During the last four years nearly every formal dinner at Stowe has had the Chamber Choir sing at it, often Huw's own compositions. His 'Royal Grace', written for Her Majesty the Queen when she visited to open Queen's House, as well as his more recently written 'Grace D'amour' always gave the right start to all these occasions.

His students and his colleagues will miss him terribly, but as he goes on to become the Director of Music at Merchant Taylors' and also gets married to Libby later this summer, we wish him and his new wife every luck and we all know they have a golden future ahead of them.

Mr Simon Dearsley

Chrissy Lawrance-Thorne

Chrissy joined Stowe 12 years ago in September 2000, appointed as a part-time languages teacher. She is without doubt best known for her passion for languages, particularly Spanish, and her excellent classroom teaching but she has also contributed to Stowe in a number of other areas.

Chrissy became a full time member of staff in 2003 and with that a popular Fourth Form tutor in Cobham. She also became i/c Community Service which she passionately and successfully ran for five years and her vibrancy and warmth made the Old Peoples' Christmas Party during these years something very special. Chrissy has also been a dedicated NASWUT rep since 2004 as well as secretary of SC3. Chrissy took over the role as i/c Spanish in 2003 successfully running numerous Study Tours to Madrid and certainly contributed significantly to the dramatic rise in the popularity and success of Spanish in the last 10 years.

Chrissy is an outstanding classroom teacher who has genuinely cared for the Stoics she has taught in the Modern Languages Department. On numerous occasions she has highlighted "forging relationships with

my groups; building trust, confidence and belief watching the Stoics in my care make progress, seeing my sets blossom – it's a great feeling when you sense their progress" as the most rewarding experience in her 12 years at Stowe and it is this that sets Chrissy apart as a teacher. She is equally as exceptional with the lower ability as she is with the top sets, turning the latter into real Hispanists and her warmth, kindness and belief have turned many bottom sets of French haters into positive groups rewarded by their learning experience with Mrs Lawrance-Thorne. Chrissy has been an inspirational and dynamic teacher of MFL and will be missed by many. We wish Chrissy every happiness and good health in the future.

Mrs Tracy Jones

François Massot

For the first time in 18 years, the French Department has had the pleasure of welcoming a male Assistant. But that is just one of François' many claims to fame.

A dedicated lover of the outdoors, a fanatic recycler, François has embraced everything Stowe has to offer, from taking on the recycling as part of the Service@Stowe to travelling to Paris with the Music trip. But first and foremost, he has been a tremendous asset to the French Department by preparing the French Lower Sixth for their oral exam, as well as offering in-class support to a number of Lower School sets. He will be remembered by Stoics and staff alike for his huge general knowledge and perpetual good humour. Preparing lessons and delivering them seemed effortless to him, despite having received no teaching training and therefore having to learn on the job. He took to the English public school life like a duck to water, making the most of every opportunity and hopefully gaining valuable experience at the same time. He will be sorely missed by all of us and we wish him all the best for the future.

Mrs Alice Tearle



Matthew Way

Matthew and Kate Way arrived at Stowe in September 2006 along with James, Olivia (and Rufus the dog) to run Cobham House, with Matthew also teaching History and Politics. It soon became very clear to all that in Matthew and Kate the School had found an excellent team to run Cobham.

Matthew has run Cobham with a deft hand and has inspired a generation of Cobhamites to look beyond themselves as well as aiming for excellence in all that they do. The School also found an excellent, energetic and enthusiastic teacher in Matthew. Whether it was in the classroom grappling with Stoic historians and potential politicians, or on the hockey or cricket pitches or helping to rejuvenate Service@Stowe, Matthew gave his all and was widely respected by both staff and students. More recently, he was an ideal candidate to take on the role of Senior Housemaster/Head of Boarding, a role which he carried out with integrity and intelligence, doing much behind the scenes to ensure that Stowe's boarding provision, especially its Weekend Activity Programme, is among the best in the country. Even this job however was not enough to keep Matthew busy so in 2011 along came little Rosie Way who completed the team! Alongside all of this Matthew was also studying for a Masters in Educational Leadership which will stand him in very good stead as he takes up the Headmastership of St Petroc's School, Bude. I am sure that under Matthew's care, this Prep School will go from strength to strength and we will miss the whole family and all that they brought to Stowe.

Mr Pete Last



Obituary

Debbie Borthwick 1970-2012

Debbie trained at the Birmingham Conservatoire and first came to Stowe in 1995 as a trumpet teacher. Within a year of her arrival, the number of pupils learning brass instruments tripled and she was widely recognised as a tremendous asset to the Music Department. She was promoted to Head of Brass and Percussion and latterly Head of Brass, Woodwind and Percussion. Debbie nurtured and developed a number of brass ensembles within the School, re-established the Wind Band and played an important part in making music an integral part of school life, and took on

the Big Band, when John Green departed Stowe. Under Debbie's direction the Big Band became the regular Jazz Group at Lord Spencer's Althorp Literary Festival. Many of us have enjoyed the tremendous conviviality of Dinner and Jazz evenings as well as Summer Jazz on the South Front and at the Queen's Temple.

Debbie was an inspiring teacher, much admired and respected by her colleagues and pupils alike. I very much appreciated her organisation of Prep School Instrumental Days, her superb brass

accompaniments for Remembrance Day and Carol Services and her unfailing good humour as she conducted wind and brass concerts in the Roxburgh Hall, Chapel and the Queen's Temple. As well as teaching music, Debbie taught EAL lessons and showed a compassionate understanding for those mastering English as a second language. She will be much missed as a Chatham House Tutor, a role that she took up in 2007. Our deepest sympathies go to her parents, Arthur and Helen, her husband Murray and her son Jack.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



Wilhemina McFadden, Upper Sixth

The Envy

Sonnet

When thoughts that you don't need enter your mind,
 And your eyes get closed from the truth within,
 All sense and reason just get left behind,
 But now you must not let the demon win.
 Her scaly skin may slide around your feet,
 Her emerald eyes start eating at your soul.
 The Envy doesn't care for rules – she'll cheat,
 Distorting your mind 'til she's in control.
 The Envy watches, driving you insane,
 Compelling you to bring your own collapse.
 The agony she causes inhumane,
 But when she's finished, leaves to set more traps.
 Jealousy is little more than greed,
 Desire to have things that we just don't need.

Angus Tyrrell, Fourth Form

The academic year 2011-2012 has seen much celebration, most recently with HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The year started, however, with the most recent improvement in exam results: our best ever GCSE grades with 48.4% (A*-A); 95% (A*-C) and nearly 98% pass rate. The Lower Sixth Form AS exams scored 95.5% (A-E) and just under 54% (AB). Finally, A Levels hover frustratingly around 66% (A*-B) but with a pass rate of 99.4% (A-E). Most pleasingly the number of A* grades rose from 57 last year to 61 this year. It was thus a real pleasure, at the first Assembly of term, to award a greater number of academic ties and pins to those who had performed outstandingly in their public exams. This pattern of gradual improvement, therefore, and coupled with our more focused recruitment into the Third Form, is grounds for optimism that our academic profile is, slowly, rising and we look forward to good exam results for Stoics in the summer.

The Queen's Jubilee, however, did present schools with major challenges. Half-term was delayed by a week, while the pattern of public exams, for just this year mercifully, was disrupted with more concentrated AS exams and others beginning a fortnight into the term. The Minister of Education continues to introduce further changes, the most notable being the removal of the modular system at GCSE, so from this September all Fourth Form pupils will now sit their papers only at the end of the two year course. It is probable that the Government may also introduce similar restrictions on (or even removal of) the A Level modular system so that exam modules will no longer disrupt every term but be concentrated solely in the final Summer term. Many of us are also praying that the Government decides to remove the onerous and absurd Controlled Assessment (e.g. 20 hours extra in Geography).

Stowe will introduce its own important academic developments in September. The first is the introduction of the GCSE courses in the middle of the Third Form (Year 9). This early start will allow for greater GCSE enrichment and the opportunity to deliver the specifications over two and a half years. The removal of exam modules will allow staff to teach consistently and not have to interrupt

Academic Report

their teaching and pupil learning for exam revision and preparation.

The second is an Information Literacy (IL) Policy for each and every academic department. Today, our children are swamped with information delivered through every form of technology, chiefly the mobile phone/iPad etc. What they do not possess so readily are the critical faculties to judge and select the right information, the ability to open a periodical or book (hard copy or virtual) and locate information; the improved understanding of subject-specific vocabulary or mathematical skills etc specific to their subjects. Led by the English Department and Library staff, each Department has written an IL Policy which outlines how and where they ensure their pupils will learn and use these skills.

Finally, for the Upper Sixth Form we shall introduce a General Studies course designed to give Stoics a range of skills and experience that will help them in their future lives and careers. The Programme has, at its core, a strong emphasis on the practical and useful. Options may include: how to get a job; basic cookery; basic vehicle maintenance; etiquette; wine tasting and correct dining; First Aid; practical Business Skills etc. We have also invited prominent speakers to present their experiences and wisdom as a wider perspective on the world.

Such training, we believe, will help Stoics prepare better for their future careers in employment and in Higher Education. We have also seen an increase in numbers applying for North American universities as an alternative to the UK courses and their new £9K per annum fees. This increase is perhaps not unsurprising because the breadth of courses and number of US institutions offering international pupils a greater choice and a greater variety of degrees.

In September we open with around 780 pupils and, for the first time, Third Form pupils in Nugent which turns into a

'vertical' house. This will increase the numbers of Junior girls and allow all four girls' houses to compete equally for awards and prizes. Temporarily housed for one year, these Nugent girls will move into the 'mother' house in 2013 which is being renovated internally, though without too much loss to the Nugent charm of some of its nooks and crannies.

Fortunately, our pupil recruitment, even in our 'age of austerity', continues to hold up with numerous events in Music and other Departments to stimulate interest in Stowe and a better focus on the selection of pupils best suited to Stowe in 2012. Once here, Stoics are treated to many, more extension Groups – The XX Groups for Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms; Headmaster's Essay Society for potential Oxbridge and Russell Group applicants; The Quantum Society and Bio-Meds in Science; Pitt Groups in History and so on.

Further physical improvements in the academic area are the completion of the reconfigured Physics laboratories, the creation of plans to build a Sixth Form Centre for scientists, some new laboratories and work to improve the

shabby exterior of the whole Science Building. Modern Languages is to gain its much-longed for Languages Laboratory providing access to the most up-to-date technology and research will begin for an architect's brief for a new Design Centre, once the Music School is complete. Work continues in the Roxburgh Theatre and, once complete next summer, the Drama Department will be based there. Drama's current rooms will be occupied by Religious Studies which, in turn, will lose their unloved classrooms, thus freeing up the original view and space outside the Mathematics classrooms. The most exciting news is that, finally, permission has been granted for work to start on the new Music School, located opposite Lyttelton House and rising up the hill to the Lee's bastion by the ha-ha. It is to be hoped that the new Music School (with a 200 seat concert hall) will open in late 2013 or early 2014.

There is no denying the spirit of optimism that hovers over Stowe at present. On a recent visit, a Prep School Headmaster expressed how stunned he was at the academic and physical transformation that has occurred over the past twenty years and we are certainly delighted with the quality of applicants and the achievements of both Stoics and staff. Next year we look forward to the School's 90th birthday and we shall continue our reforming plans for intellectual and physical improvement to the school even up to the Centenary in 2023.

Mr Crispin Robinson,
Deputy Headmaster (Academic)

STOP PRESS!!

This year's mid-August results represent our best grades at A Level (A*-B) and with a very welcome increase in the number of top A* grades. A week later, we received more good news in the form of the GCSE results, our second best at A*-C. Combined, therefore, the A Levels and GCSE grades this year are our best on record and show Stowe rising to join similar schools in excellent academic achievement. On behalf of the Headmaster and Governors, I congratulate the Stoics for their well-earned successes and, equally, the hard-working staff who both stimulate and support the learning of their pupils.

Maths Report

The Mathematics Department has continued to flourish this year with record numbers in the Lower Sixth and a high number of students continuing through to complete their full A Level. The top set in the Fifth Form has set the bar high for following years with a clean sweep of A* having followed the linear course although the current Fourth Form already seem well on the same path having seen their recent efforts.

Outside the classroom, the Third Form has been seen playing with penguins on icebergs and constructing towers in their annual puzzle day which encourages them to focus on improving their thinking skills as well as fostering their teamwork skills.

Some of the Sixth Form, in collaboration with the Sports Science department, went to Gresham College for a Maths and Sports Science lecture looking at Maths within the Olympics and how bodies turn, rotate, gyrate etc. All who got in enjoyed the lecture... Mr Dawson was left outside on car park duty!

The Seniors performed well in the annual Senior Maths Challenge with Ye Shi (qualifying for the following Kangaroo round) and James Clark both earning Golds, but they were outshone by the Intermediate candidates where eight students achieved Gold (Archie Brogden, Kalil Ali, Rosie Dickson, Caspar Whitehead and Jamie Angle) with three qualifying

for the following rounds (Toby Wightman – Top of the Year, Harry Pettifer and Alfie Stanford). Many congratulations go to those, as well as all who competed and achieved either a Bronze or a Silver certificate.

What started as an interesting project within the AS Further Mathematics set, thinking about the relevance of Further Maths, ended up with two girls, Rebecca Woods and Catalina Bodrug (with input from Aliénor D'Arenberg) designing a poster for the Further Mathematics Support Programme as sponsored by Rolls Royce. Their poster became the winning entry and they have been invited to Rolls Royce in Derby in July for the presentation and to collect their prize. Many congratulations to them.

All the staff and the students have worked incredibly hard this year and should all be commended for their efforts. While success is never guaranteed, it is extremely heartwarming to see how many are motivated and fully committed to the understanding of Mathematics.

Mr Damian Blewitt, Head of Mathematics

Her emerald eyes start eating at your soul.
The Envy doesn't care for rules – she'll cheat,

English Report

One of the aims of the Department this year has been to continue to provide Stoics with a broad, literary education beyond the confines of the classroom, allowing them to discover that 'doing English' is not all about hitting the dreaded 'Assessment Objectives' and exam success. Thanks to the dedication of every member of the English Department, it is an area in which we have succeeded admirably. From creative writing competitions to visiting speakers and theatre trips, Stoics have been exposed to a wide range of stimulating and challenging events, which I hope will not only complement their examination work, but give them a love of literature for its own sake.

Firstly, Miss Vicky Kinmond has introduced the Junior Literary Society, which as well as acting as a forum for Third, Fourth and Fifth Form pupils to share creative writing and other authors' stories, has provided the chance for various trips and visits outside of Stowe. The Junior Literary Society now acts as an excellent introduction to the Senior

Literary Society, which has once again been superbly run by Dr Paul Miller. As ever, we have welcomed a range of academics, poets and performers, each talk preceded by the usual high quality dinner in one of the fine State Rooms of Stowe. Articles on these societies appear elsewhere in this magazine, and suffice to say a very big thank you to both of them for all their hard work and effort.

Thanks also to Mr Magnus Bashaarat and Mr Bob Roberts, who have organised the Sixth Form Book Club and the 'Oxford Society'. The Sixth Form Book Club aims to meet once every half-term, and so far we have studied Donna Tartt's 'The Secret History', Lionel Shriver's 'We Need To Talk About Kevin', and Richard Beard's 'Lazarus is Dead' (with the author as our guest speaker). The 'Oxford Society' (a group of Sixth Form theatre buffs) has undertaken trips to Oxford and Stratford to see 'Measure for Measure', 'The Tempest' and 'Tis Pity She's A Whore', three performances which have all assisted pupils in their A2 examination study of this genre. Here at Stowe we

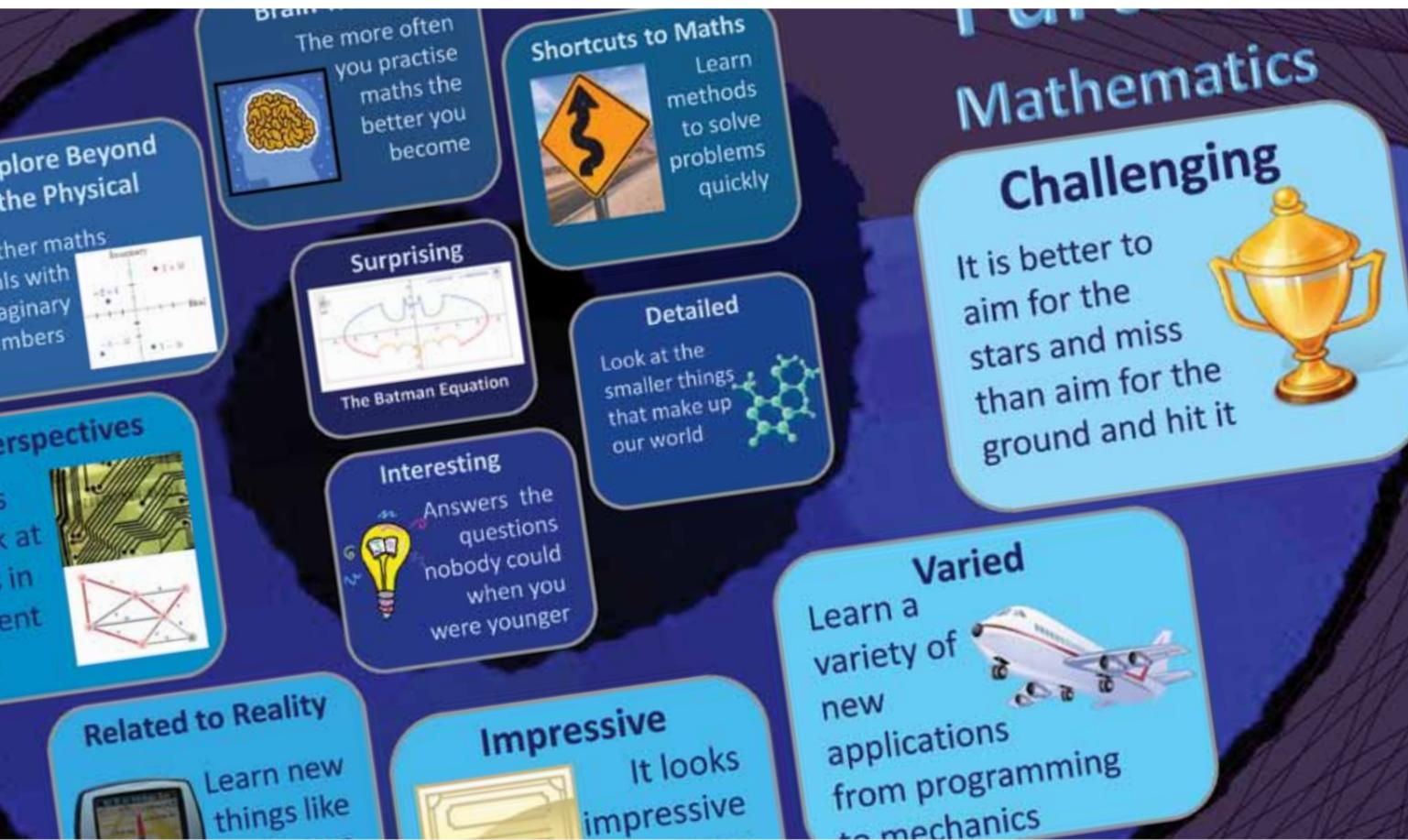
have welcomed, amongst others, the poet Simon Armitage, who treated pupils to a humorous and often moving recital of poems from his recent Anthology.

Stoics have also been hard at work on the creative writing front. A number of pupils have had work published in Express Yourself, an anthology of poems by 13 to 18 year old pupils in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. Some of their work, together with contributions from other Stoics, can be read throughout this edition, and I do hope you enjoy the collection that these very talented writers have produced.

Finally, although it now seems rather a cliché to mention the 'rising trend' in examination results, it would be wrong not to acknowledge the success of some very hard-working Stoics. For 2011, at GCSE, 68% of pupils gained an A*-A grade at English Literature, while 58% and 68% gained A*-B grades at AS and A2 Level respectively. We were also delighted that Daniella Allard (Nugent) gained a place to read English at Cambridge University.

Thanks again to all the English Department who have put in so much effort over the year. Their work has been greatly appreciated by me and the pupils they teach, and I have no doubt the Department will continue to flourish, under new leadership, in 2012!

Mr James Peppiatt, Head of English



Science Report

We are delighted that once again the Wolfson Trust has recognised the pioneering way in which we deliver Science education at Stowe and thanks to their generosity, we have received another £30,000 grant to support our work. This allows us to replace the laptops and update the data-logging equipment purchased with a similar grant five years ago. It has also enabled us to install a new faster wireless network in the Science Department and to establish a liquid nitrogen storage facility. Having readily available liquid nitrogen has already allowed us to look at the properties of materials at a very low temperature and make instant ice cream – Heston Blumenthal style! It has also allowed us to support Science demonstrations at local prep schools and there are plans next year to investigate materials with super conducting properties. All of this helps us stay at the forefront of Science education and supports us in our goal to make

Physics Department

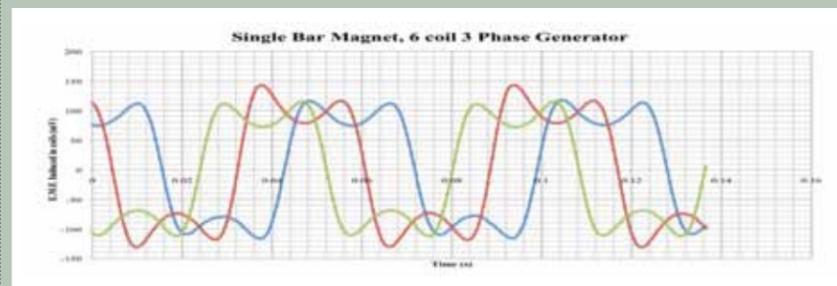
It has been a busy year for our Physicists, with larger numbers in the Lower Sixth the Sixth Form has expanded. We now have two refurbished laboratories with the remaining two to be completed this Summer holiday. This will provide a much more modern environment to work in and a much better practical teaching area. New posters can be found on the walls with the large infinity mirrors and a huge concave mirror being a popular addition. In search of broader horizons, the first trip off site, was to the Open University where we discovered more about the Universe during one evening lecture and the 'roundness' of the electron at another. All the Sixth Form Physicists enjoyed a trip to London for a day of high powered lectures presented by award-winning Physicists. Here we saw flames dancing to music and the sun in 3D! The highlight of our visits was the trip to Oxford University to hear Professor Frank Close deliver a talk on

Science lessons an exciting and effective voyage of discovery for all our students.

There is much to celebrate in the Science department with the wealth of activities that take place to enrich our students and support their applications to continue their Science studies at university. You will read about the many trips, lectures, enrichment activities and Sixth Form Science societies in the accompanying articles from Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It's no surprise that we currently have the largest ever number of Sixth Form scientists and great success for our medics, vets and other candidates applying to Russell Group universities to read straight Science courses. Our Quantum and Biomedical societies have thriving memberships and foster real debate amongst our Senior students, as well as giving them all the chance to present their own interests and findings to their peers. Such activities boost UCAS

neutrinos. This was soon after the faster than light speed neutrinos were discovered and despite his slight reluctance to share this cutting edge information, he did give us a valuable insight into the current issues illustrated with the data and problems associated with the discovery. Trillions and trillions of neutrinos had passed straight through us that evening during the lecture and we had not realised it!

The Physics Department had a helpful, informal inspection by Dr Chris Hurst who thoroughly enjoyed talking to our students and spending four days with us. He left



references but even more importantly allow our students to share their joy of science with other like minded Stoics.

We continue to advance our use of interactive and classroom technology through regular training and workshop sessions with Science staff, the current focus being the use of document cameras, class voting systems and on-line media in lessons. We have also adopted 'Kerboodle' which provides a wealth of internet based resources that can be used by pupils independently or set by teachers for prep. The Science department looks forward to welcoming next year's Harvard Fellow, Abby Koff, a Science specialist, who will be supporting us in our work as well as bringing fresh ideas to lessons.

This summer sees a continuation of our refurbishment programme to bring our Science teaching facilities up to date with two more Physics laboratories being completely refitted this summer. We do, however, still put great emphasis on some of the more traditional and time honoured aspects of teaching Science, like class practicals, regular testing and teacher-led delivery. It is the combination of the new and the old that we are proud to use to such great effect at Stowe.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science

impressed with the enthusiasm of Stoics for Physics and Science in general.

Over Easter the department played host to two Extreme Physics courses. Here 24 teams of gifted and talented students aged 15 from schools as far away as the Lake District and Portsmouth, competed for prizes, undertaking a variety of Physics related challenges. The highlight was a visit to Airkix, where the meaning of terminal velocity was fully understood! This event really did put Stowe on the Scientific map and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their experience here.

Biology Department

Sunday 17 June saw the Stowe Biology department heading off for its annual four day pilgrimage/field course to 'sunny' Pembrokeshire. Braving the vagaries of the weather and the even greater vagaries of Jeff's Coaches, 21 'eager' would-be A2 biologists, Mrs Louise Carter, Mr Michael Righton and I set off on the five hour trip buoyed up by thoughts of seaweed zonation and sand dune succession. The first biological event (anti-peristalsis in this case) occurred before Brackley (a School record surely) and the sick bags from the first aid box had to be swiftly deployed. The remainder of the journey was smooth; with Sebastian Young and James Peagram in particular relishing the multitudinous facilities available at service stations these days (I don't think they get out much). Upon our arrival we embarked on freshwater invertebrate sampling and went on to rocky shore ecology and sand dunes over the next two days. A brief summary of woodland conservation techniques preceded the journey back to Stowe on Wednesday 20 June. The Stoics worked hard and cooperatively throughout and should be in a strong position for the ecology component of January's A2 module. Their reward for being such a good group of students was three days of almost uninterrupted sunshine and it's not often that sunburn is an issue on a biology field course!

Mr Rory Akam, Head of Biology

The Upper Sixth Form not only made a primitive linear induction motor driving a cart forward synchronising magnets and switches, but also successfully built a six-coil, single magnet, three-phase generator. There was one flaw with the final design: look at the graph (left) – can you spot the mistake?

Most Physicists are members of the Quantum Society which meets every week in one of the Physics labs. Here, the weird and wonderful experience of the quantum world is examined leaving many of us not sure whether we were there or elsewhere or both (or neither?). As well as the extension work the Quantum Society does have fun with Chinese meals, croquet matches and SHM's almost weekly cartoons and breaking news in the scientific world.

It is hoped to get more Stoics interested in the 11 inch reflecting telescope next year in order to explore our Solar System first hand as this is underused at the moment. If you have a telescope, bring it to school!

Mr Steve Malling, Head of Physics



Chemistry Department

The Chemistry Department has seen a typically busy and successful year, as well as becoming a great deal cooler than it already was. After being part of the successful bid for a Wolfson Foundation grant, we took delivery of a liquid nitrogen storage facility and wasted very little time in using the super-cooled liquid to help with the production of our own ice cream (above). As anyone who has sampled liquid nitrogen ice cream will testify, it has an unrivalled, creamy texture, goes extremely well with flash-frozen berries and is the perfect reward for having completed four continuous hours of Chemistry revision.

On a balmy day in March, 14 Sixth Form Chemists were lucky enough to be given exclusive use of Oxford University's undergraduate laboratories. They first prepared 'mystery' esters (chemicals frequently used as natural flavourings in food and fragrances) and were then tasked with identifying precisely what they had synthesised, using the University's spectroscopy lab (above). Tours of both University and Jesus Colleges were taken and students enjoyed lunch in Jesus' Dining Hall, watched over by the unmistakable likeness of T.E. Lawrence. In the

afternoon, we were treated to a tour of Oxford's new Chemistry Research Centre to see cutting-edge science at first hand, before the Lower Sixth Form were subjected to an academic grilling by Chemistry Fellows and the Upper Sixth Form to a slightly more convivial drink at the Head of The River.

As we bid farewell to our Upper Sixth, we are delighted that all of our medics and vets have received offers and also very proud of those five Stoics going on to read Pure Chemistry. Oscar Cole, Harriet Deakin, Michael Illingworth, Eloise Melville and Jessica Noakes have been a credit to Stowe, eliciting multiple and generous offers from the likes of Durham, Imperial, Bristol, UCL and Warwick. Most uplifting is the way each of them has taken ownership of the subject, consistently outshining their peers at interview with their genuine understanding and enthusiasm. As a result, several extremely complimentary and personal letters from University Admissions Tutors now hang on our wall and will serve as a reminder, not only of our pride in these students, but also in the capacity of Stowe to buck the national trend in consistently sending significant numbers of talented students to read Pure Chemistry at our best Universities.

Mr Daren Jeffreys, Head of Chemistry

Geography Report

The London Olympic Trip

On Tuesday 11 October, the Lower Sixth Geographers took a trip to the Olympic Park in Stratford in London. When we arrived we walked to a salmon factory owned by Foreman & Sons. Mr Foreman talked to us about how the new Olympic Park meant his company had to relocate, and all the problems and benefits linked to the move. We had a guided tour around the building and went up to the roof with a direct view of the main stadium.

After lunch, we had a lesson on the development of the Olympic Park in a classroom overlooking the whole site. We were told about how the development of the park has improved the local area and the issues faced in finding uses for the facilities and space after the games have finished. It was a successful trip and we all gained a lot of knowledge and understanding about how much planning the Olympic Park involves. It was a great experience so thank you to the Geography Department!

North Wales Trip

The annual Upper Sixth Geographers trip began on 16 October 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. The first day of the field trip 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 of writing up our projects; although tiring, it is hugely beneficial for our exam in January. After much hard work we were able to take some time to relax in the bar downstairs where we could come together and have a drink. 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 Cricceth 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 our projects. On the final day the groups joined together to collect data in the nearby town of Porthmadog. We managed



Top: Upper Sixth trip to North Wales
Bottom: Lower Sixth trip to the Olympic Park

to source a lot of information even when the Welsh weather turned against us. 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. Once back at the centre we continued with typing up what we had found from the data collected in the field. Both groups managing 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. We would like to thank Mrs Cass, Mrs Akam and Mr Murray who organised and were a huge help on the trip.

Mrs Zoe Cass, Head of Geography

History Report

History at Stowe continues to thrive after another very successful and busy year. For the first time the History Department will boast ten Sixth Form sets making it the third largest Department in the School. Departmental results continue on an upward trend and we were delighted that five candidates secured A* grades at A Level last August. This marks a significant increase on the previous year and we hope further records will be broken this summer!

The History extension society has risen in prominence with weekly meetings and formal dinners to celebrate the visits of notable historians to the School. In March we welcomed the eminent military historian, Professor Gary Sheffield, who gave a compelling talk exonerating the Field Marshal Earl Haig's reputation –

views which were very much in keeping with the arguments put forward by his late son, George 'Dawyck' Haig (Old Stoic). Upper Sixth Form historians enjoyed a revision seminar from the Tudor historian, Dr Susan Doran, who further developed their understanding of Tudor Politics in the run up to their exams in May.

The introduction of two clear pathways at A Level seems to have been a real success with numbers of students choosing the subject continuing to rise. Students have been given a choice of either a modern course which focuses on individual rights and power relationships in the 19th and 20th centuries or an early modern course which explores the changing nature of social order and royal authority in 15th and 16th century England. Both A Level

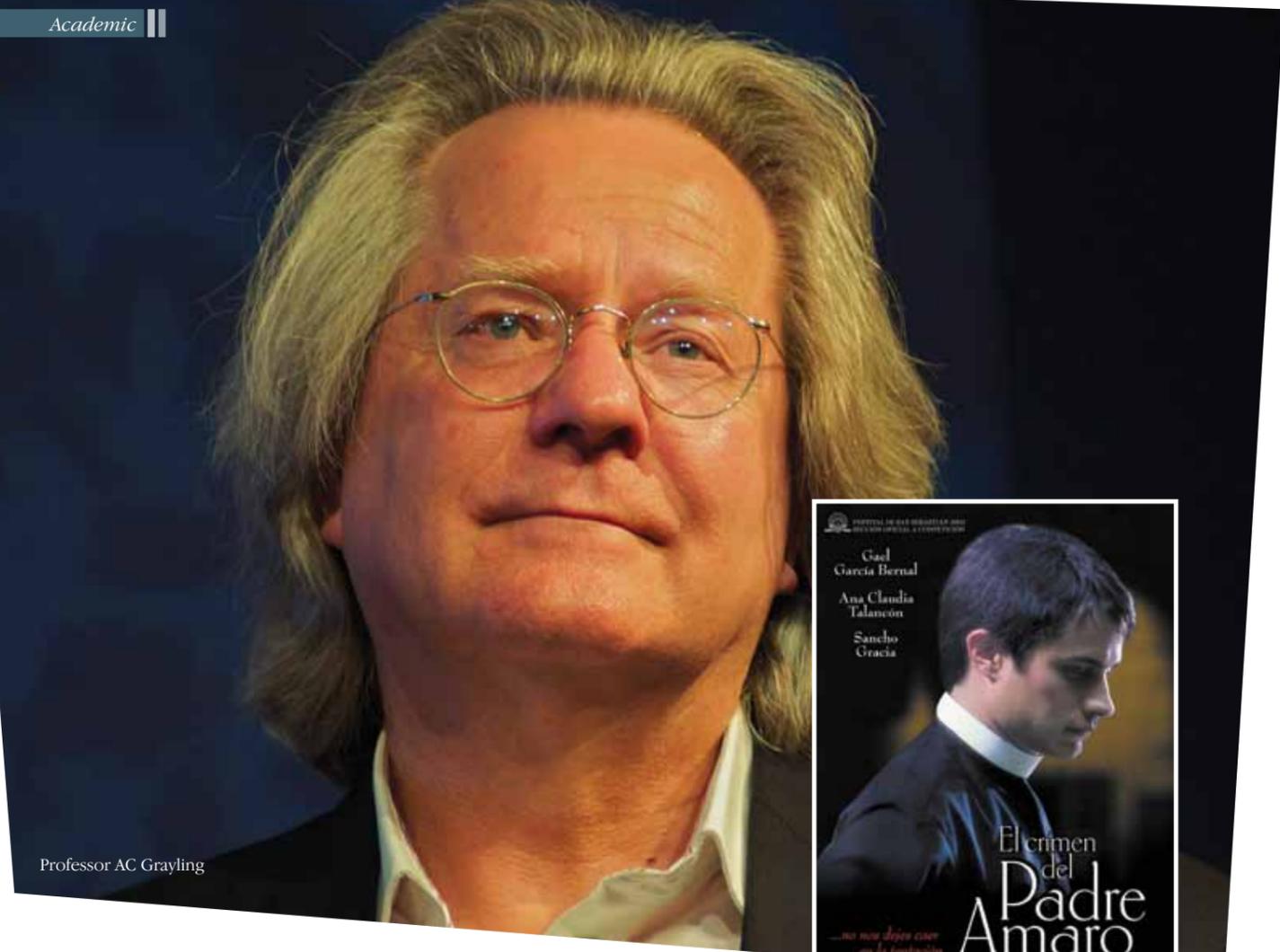
options culminate in a visit to either Berlin or Andalusia in the Upper Sixth Form.

The McElwee award continues to be a major highlight for all aspiring historians. 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 30 years. This year the award was presented to four pairs of Stoics: Oliver Jackson and Freddie Clarke who plan to travel to Berlin to study its economic and cultural importance to Germany; Isabella Wallersteiner and Helena Lewis who plan to chart the fall of the Ottoman Empire with a visit to Istanbul; Anastasia Beck and Jahnai Hall who plan to take a musical tour through the sights and sounds of Venice; and Joshua Dickinson and Orlando Whitehead who plan to investigate the Moorish influence on the Iberian peninsula through a visit to Seville, Grenada and Cordoba.

Mr James Hayden, Head of History



Professor Gary Sheffield



Professor AC Grayling

Sports Science and PE Report

It has been an extremely busy and exciting year for our department, especially with the build up to the London Olympics. The Third Form Physical Education (PE) students have enjoyed a year of experiencing a wide variety of activities, with our goal being to introduce them to an activity that they will continue to participate in for the rest of their lives. This year we have seen the highest number of Stoics opting to study GCSE Sports Science. Our Fifth Form Sports Scientists were highly commended by the external moderator on their performances on the controlled assessment day. At AS and A2 Level, Stoics study three main topics areas; Anatomy and Exercise Physiology, Psychology and the Historical and Socio-Cultural influences on performance. The variety of subject matter and the differing skills required at A Level, gives our students an excellent foundation for a number of different courses at the top universities.

The prize-giving ceremony on Speech Day allowed us to celebrate a number of our pupils' outstanding achievements this

year. Robert Hill was a deserving winner of the Upper Sixth Sports Science prize, whilst Harry Martin's exemplary work record and Lucy Horan's all round excellence secured them the Lower Sixth and Fifth Form awards respectively. The members of the Stowe Elite Sports Squad also featured highly in the round up of the School's successes. James Rudkin and Claudia Button won the Colin Shillington Cups for outstanding sporting achievement and led the large list of Stoics who currently hold places in Junior and Senior International squads.

With the 2012 Olympics as a theme for the year, we were very proud to put on a number of seminars, talks and visits by guest speakers. To start us off, we welcomed Mike McFarlane, a former Olympic and Commonwealth Games medallist and current athletics coach to the World Junior and Youth sprint champion. On the theme of athletics, Brendan Reilly, a former double Olympic High Jumper came in for the day to carry out a video analysis session with a GCSE group, give a coaching seminar to our

best athletes. He talked about his experiences as an Olympian and was then guest of honour at a dinner for our Gifted and Talented Sports Science and PE students. Simon Jones and Nick Allen (Old Stoic) gave us a fascinating insight into their lives as Physiotherapists and in Simon's case, what it was like working with one of the world's top golfers, Ian Poulter. We also teamed up with the Maths Department to take a group of students down to the Museum of London for a lecture on 'Maths in Sport: Throwing, Jumping and Spinning'. Our final trip of the year, was our annual visit to Loughborough University, where the Stoics were able to look around and experience what will be the holding camp for Team GB in the months leading up to the Olympics. The highlight of this trip is always the Laboratory session and 'VO2 max' test that they carry out. This allows the pupils to experience firsthand how elite endurance athletes are tested and also enables them to understand the role of Sports Science support in helping our Olympians reach their overall goal.

Thanks once again to all our staff for the time and effort that they have put in to ensure this has been another superb year for the Department.

Mr Phil Arnold, Head of Sports Science and Physical Education

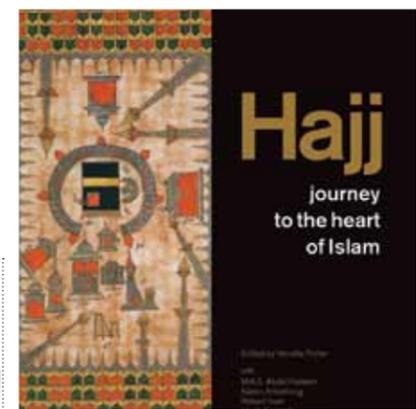
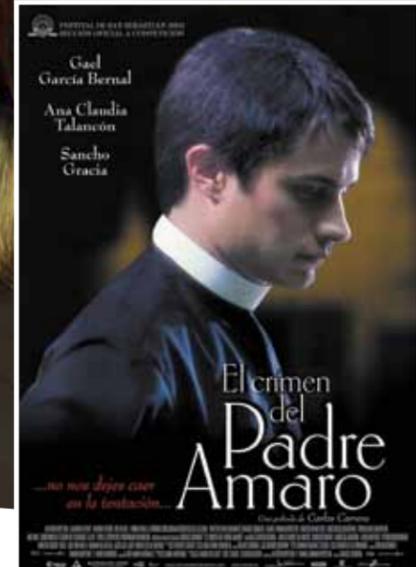
Religious Studies Report

This has been another busy year for the Religious Studies Department. We had record numbers taking the subject at GCSE and a wide array of trips, visits and speakers were organised. We also welcomed three new members of the department; Mr Anthony Macpherson (the new Housemaster of Temple), Rev. Chris Huxtable (the new Chaplain) and Miss Ellie Donaldson (soon to be Assistant Housemistress of Nugent).

In February, the Lower Sixth pupils visited Oxford to hear Julie Arliss, Keith Ward and Peter Barron speak on a number of subjects under the heading 'Ethics and Philosophy'. They saw a debate

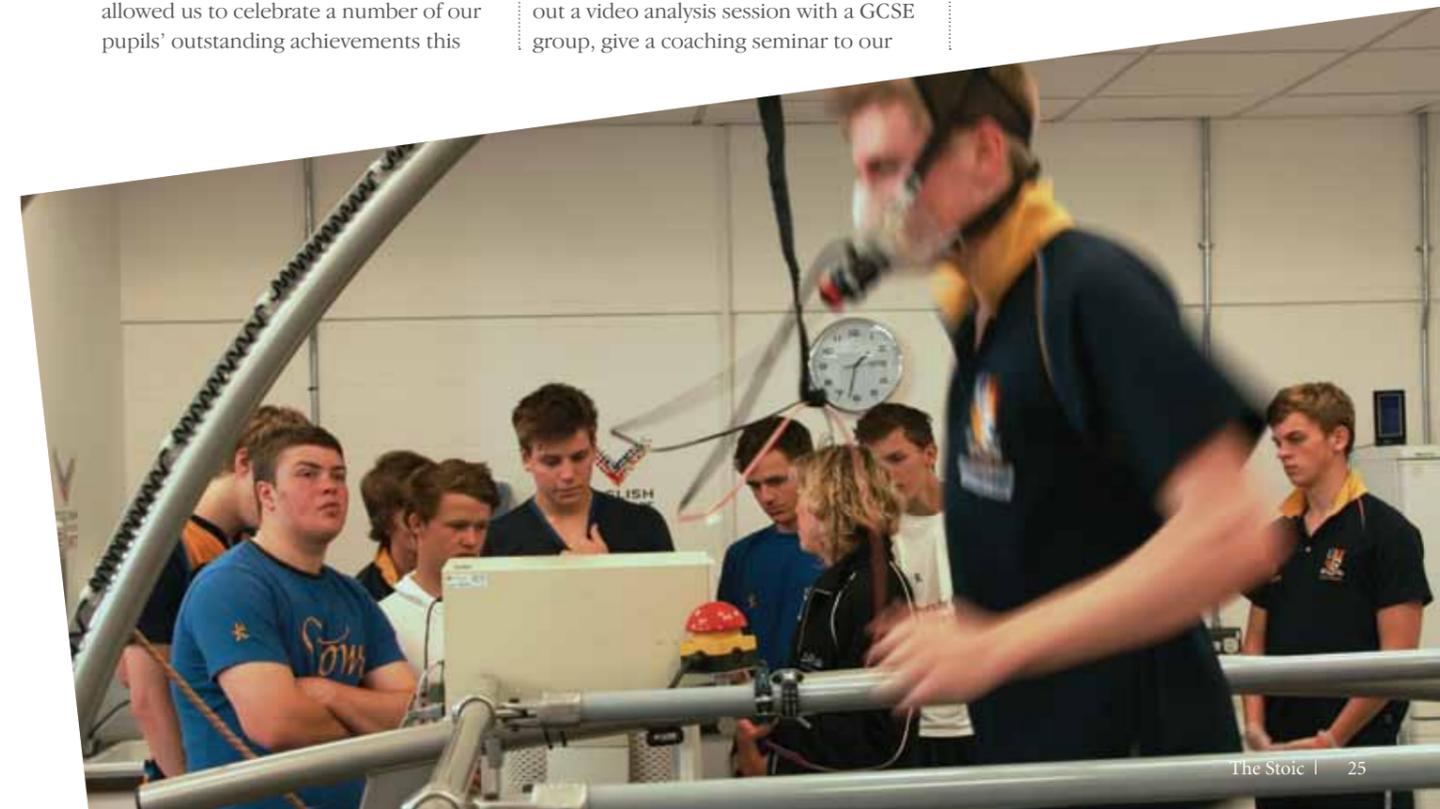
between Ward and Arliss on Kant which showed them how to construct a coherent argument.

For many of us, the highlight of the year was the visit to the British Museum to see the award winning Hajj exhibition. We took all Fourth and Fifth Form GCSE Full Course students plus the XX Group and they were all enthralled by the sights and sounds of this extraordinary spiritual journey. We also took the opportunity to visit some of the other galleries to show them exhibits such as the tablet containing a version of the Biblical Flood story and the mosaic showing the earliest known depiction of Jesus Christ.



Other events throughout the year included a visit from Professor AC Grayling from The New College of Humanities who treated us to a talk on what it is to be a Philosopher. The Cross Curricular Film Society presented the challenging Spanish film 'El Crimen del Padre Amaro' which was introduced by Mr Dobson.

Mr Dom Mochan, Head of Religious Studies





Lower Sixth French trip to Vichy

The revived Languages Society has had a busy and productive year with activities ranging from Latin American dance sessions for both Lower School and Sixth Formers, to an excellent, entertaining and informative talk from Mr Moffat on “What makes the French so French”. Other highlights were cookery demonstrations and extensive sampling, focusing on traditional French and Spanish cuisine, with simultaneous translators (otherwise known as our language assistants) on hand to provide a running commentary on the proceedings. Mr Young from the History of Art Department kindly explained the symbolism and Cubist theory behind Picasso’s ‘Guernica’ as part of the Upper Sixth Form’s study of the Spanish Civil War as well as giving the Lower School linguists an introduction to European nationalism as expressed in art; Susana Bartolomé Bravo gave a fascinating talk on idiomatic Spanish phrases and usage, to ensure that our Sixth Formers learn to express themselves in an interesting, colloquial manner that goes beyond the bounds of grammar and syntax. A selection of Lower School linguists enjoyed the annual French and Spanish plays, which have become a regular feature of the school calendar, and we are delighted that there will also be a German play for 2013. Other plans for 2012-2013 include cookery (Spanish tapas and Latin American empanadas), an introduction to 19th Century French poetry and a talk on Chile for the Sixth Form with the opportunity to sample some Chilean wine; a further aim for next year is to provide regular opportunities for keen linguists and bilingual students to meet up informally with our assistants for extra conversation and discussion.

Languages Report

Lower Sixth French trip to Vichy, June 2011

Six Lower Sixth Form language students; Emily Beatty, Titus Bridgwood, Gareth Browne, Michael Evans, Harriet Goffman and Claire Langer, accompanied by two teachers, Mr Staples and Mrs Browne, spent a few days in Vichy in central France last June.

Our students were all “en famille”, and their families would bring them into the college after breakfast every morning. We were studying at Cavilam, which is the Vichy arm of Clermont Ferrand University.

Their lessons would last four hours, until lunch, which we all took together in the Cavilam canteen.

After lunch, we enjoyed activities – which included two guided tours, a train-ride around the town and tasting the world-famous waters at the spa – before the Stoics were picked up by their host families and whisked away until the next day.

Vichy proved to be a delightfully attractive town on the banks of a cool river. Just as

well, because temperatures were extremely high: 38 degrees was recorded on the first day, with Vichy being mentioned by name on national evening news as the hottest town in France.

We had chosen Vichy because, in the Upper Sixth, students of French study the occupation of France during World War Two and this was the location chosen by Petain’s government for its HQ during the war years.

Alas, our time in Vichy came to an end all too quickly, but not before we had learnt a lot about the occupation, enjoyed the delights of a small, provincial town in the Auvergne and – above all – had the opportunity to speak much French.

Mr Peter Staples

Onatti French-language play – ‘Les Garçons’ (Boys)

Natalie is baby-sitting 2 year old Bruno for M. and Mme Dulin while they go out to a fancy dress party.

When Natalie arrives M. Dulin explains to Natalie where everything is, how

everything works, what Bruno likes and what Bruno doesn’t like. He finally leaves, but not before he shows her an incredibly long list of emergency numbers.

The Fourth Formers and the two Third Form sets that came to see this play had a great time sharing poor Natalie’s frustration at dealing with M.Dulin, and their amusement at seeing a good number of their classmates dragged up out of the audience to join in really added to the whole atmosphere! As ever with these cleverly-scripted plays, the repetition and the provision of vocabulary lists prior to the play gave Stoics a very real advantage in understanding what is going on in the play, and consequently, the whole experience turned out to be very rewarding for our audience.

Mr Simon Dobson

Montpellier

Thirty-four students and three staff – Mrs Dickson, Mr Michael and I spent six days in October on a language homestay trip in Montpellier, in the South of France. Students stayed in pairs with French families and enjoyed the best of French hospitality from their host families, which were all based in the centre of or in the suburbs of the Mediterranean metropolis

which is home to an enormous number of students.

We were met at Montpellier airport by our host families and all whisked away immediately to sample ‘la cuisine française’. Students spent every evening with their host families endeavouring to converse in their best French. Every morning was spent in class at ISF Montpellier, with the group divided into three sets and taught by native French speakers. Students were taken out onto the central ‘Place de la Comédie’ on the final day by their teachers to practise their language on unsuspecting locals! A ‘picnic’ lunch (the biggest baguettes ever seen) was provided by the school and then a range of activities was offered, including a guided tour of the old town of Montpellier, a trip to Nimes, a visit to Montpellier zoo and a trip to Odysseum, the regional shopping centre. We even managed to include a cinema visit to see ‘un monstre à Paris’ (which was a cartoon and without subtitles). As the weather was delightful, we also managed two separate trips to the magnificent sandy beaches, where we saw the marvellous pink flamingos, and had some relaxation time, playing football, beach tennis and some brave students had a swim.

Saturday morning gave everyone time to relax and sit in one of many squares in Montpellier (continental style) and take in some last minute shopping before the host families took their charges to the airport. It was certainly an action-packed week.

Mrs Hazel Browne

Onatti Spanish-language play – ‘Primera Cita’ (First Date)

The stage is divided into two. On one side is a girl’s bedroom and on the other is a boy’s bedroom.

This story is an hilarious observation of two love-struck Spanish teenagers, María and Carlos, getting ready for that most important First Date! In both bedrooms there is hysteria, panic, fear and apprehension. María has issues with her make-up, her hair, her clothes and a very untimely spot on her face! While Carlos, in his room, attempts his first ever shave! What will they say? Where will they go? What will they wear!

This could be a perfect night or an embarrassing disaster.

The Onatti Theatre Company sent two excellent actors for this one-hour performance, and they did not disappoint.



Top: Onatti French-language play – ‘Les Garçons’ (Boys). Bottom: Montpellier



Mr Qiao, the Chinese Ambassador for Education

From the start, the Stoic audience was able to suffer the frustration and nerves of our jittery 'First-Daters' and it was not long before the Stoic audience provided its own actors for the play! It is never difficult to drum up enthusiasm for these performances, as the Spanish students have already heard about the previous year's performance and are always keen to attend and to witness the awkwardness (or otherwise...) of their peers when they are picked out to join in! Thanks to the vocabulary lists and the clear delivery of the actors, Stoics reported a clear understanding of the language and really enjoyed the evening.

Mrs Kate Dickson

Mr Qiao's Visit

The MFL department welcomed Mr Qiao, the Chinese Ambassador for Education, and his wife to Stowe on Tuesday 17 January. Mr and Mrs Qiao were given a tour of the School and met the Headmaster in the Gothic Library before addressing Stoics in the languages department. Mr Qiao spoke to our Chinese students and the six Stoics (Harrison Tucker, Artura Subowo, Dimitry Romanovsky, Caio Castellini Baldissera, Roman Dubois-Pelerin and Nai Chi Tsai) studying Mandarin at Stowe about the Chinese New Year and explained the traditions and celebrations. The Stoics introduced themselves in Mandarin and benefited from the opportunity to ask questions to Mr and Mrs Qiao about the Chinese New Year. We are most grateful to our Mandarin Tutor, Rong Wei, for organising the visit.

Mrs Tracy Jones

Sixth Form Spanish trip to Salamanca

A group of Upper and Lower Sixth, accompanied by Mrs Dickson and Mr Dobson, set off for Madrid in the dark at 4am on Thursday 29 March, with the aim of spending that afternoon visiting Madrid's art museums. Unfortunately the Spanish decided to hold a general strike that very day and, due to the size and mood of the demonstrations in the centre of Madrid, we were advised to spend the afternoon in Ávila instead. We enjoyed a leisurely walk around the medieval city walls and saw our first storks, busy mending their nests on the cathedral towers, before continuing to Salamanca where students were met by their host families.

On Friday we met up at 10am for our first tour of Salamanca, which included parts of the ancient university, the Moorish alcazar, the Roman bridge and the Art Nouveau and Deco museum, with a pit stop for 'chocolate con churros' half-way through. After lunch with their families, the students had four hours of lessons followed by an extremely popular tapas tour, led by a local guide, which involved sampling local chorizo, manchego, vino tinto and other delights in a variety of local bars, the best of which was inside a form of crypt big enough for caballeros of yore to ride right inside and up to the bar on their horses.

On Saturday, after a morning of lessons, we went up onto the cathedral roof for a terrifying bird's eye view over Salamanca and also of the amazing interior of the cathedral, which was much appreciated by Mr Dobson, our official trip photographer. We then visited an exhibition of

photographs of the Spanish Civil War, which focused on the plight of civilians caught up in the violence. On Palm Sunday we drove high into the mountains to Sierra de Francia where we visited the monastery and attended part of a mass in the Church of the Black Virgin. Most of the group opted to walk part of the way down the mountain to reach our next port of call, a medieval mountain village called Alberca, famous for its timbered houses and cobbled streets.

On Monday, our last full day, we had an in-depth look around the old university, learning about its history and admiring the library and ancient teaching rooms, still with the original – and very uncomfortable-looking – benches; it is the third oldest university in Europe after Bologna and the Sorbonne and continues to thrive today. In the evening, students had the chance to polish up their cookery skills and make an authentic 'tortilla española' and sweet pastries from scratch.

An early start on Tuesday led to a boring wait at Madrid airport, as this time it was the French air traffic controllers' turn to strike... The trip was a great success, relaxed and good humoured throughout; the students all made the most of the varied opportunities to practise the language whilst learning more about the Spanish way of life and Salamanca proved to be a beautiful and fascinating small city.

Mrs Kate Dickson

German Department

Once again, the German Department celebrated a very successful academic year. 83% of our non-native Germanists got an A at A Level, and our 100% A-C record at GCSE and A Level remains unbroken. After the success of last year's trip to Munich, we are hoping to offer another trip to Bavaria open to the Fourth, Fifth and Lower Sixth Formers in 2013. We expect this trip to take place in the Summer term, more details to be released next term. Looking ahead, we are also thrilled to be welcoming the Onatti Theatre Company on 21 January 2013. The Onatti Company specialises in tailor made productions for language students in the Lower School. Stowe has used this company for years in French and Spanish, and with growing numbers of students opting for German, we are delighted to be able to offer a German play this coming year.

Mrs Alice Tearle

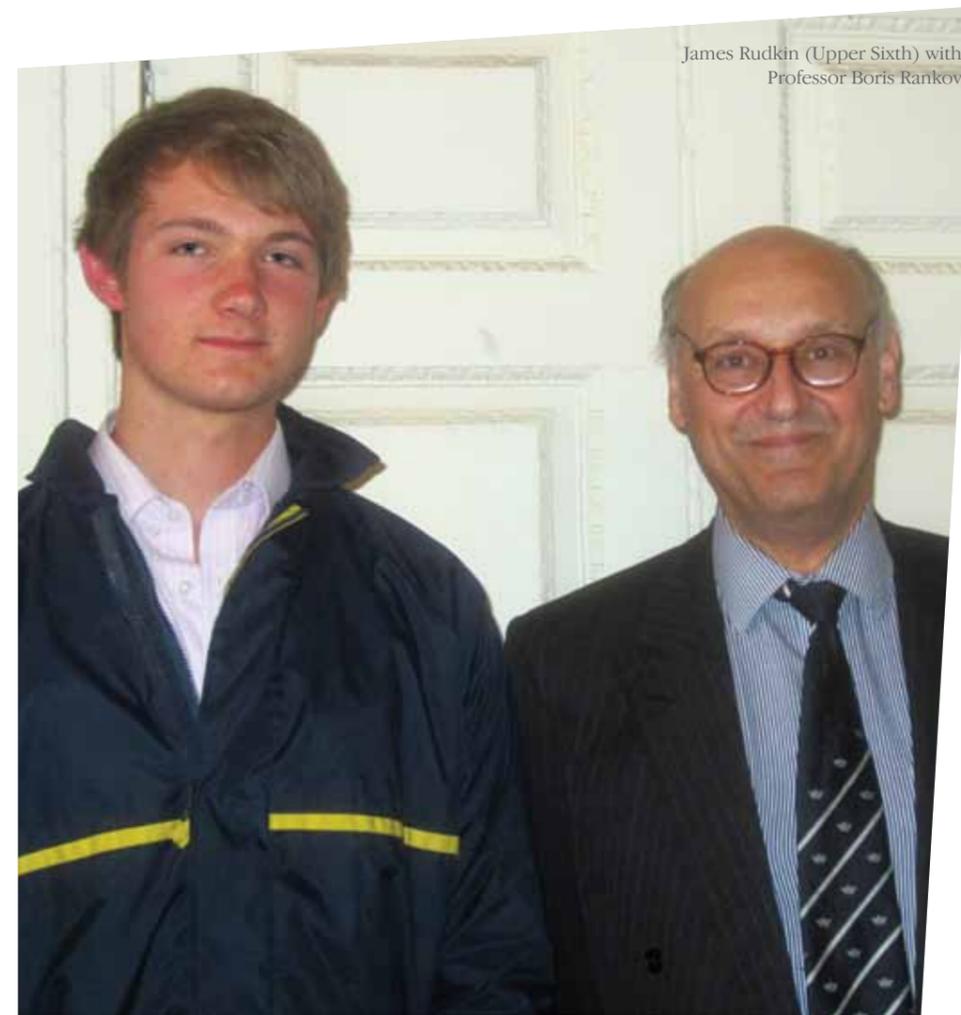
Classics Report

Five Fifth Formers took the new Level 2 examination in Latin Language offered by WJEC last summer and it was good to see several A* grades from them, along with those sitting the usual GCSE examinations. For the first time a Stowe candidate at Latin A Level scored an A*, and 50% of the grades in Stowe's last year of Classical Civilisation were A, so it was a pleasing summer. The new pattern of OCR GCSEs for Latin and Greek is settling down well, although 2013 will be the last year where candidates can aim to get the prose literature out of the way in the Fourth Form before sitting the rest of the papers and the verse literature at the end of the Fifth Form.

In September the Classics department welcomed Miss Jordan Bryant to teach

Greek to three of the Lower School sets. As the Harvard Scholar, she had a wide background in language and culture which she used to good effect. She also insisted on a high level of commitment and work ethic from those she taught. In January we welcomed Mrs Anne Blaseby for two terms. Mrs Blaseby has a wealth of experience from a variety of schools and soon settled into Stowe. She has taken a promising group of Third Form Stoics as well as Fourth and Fifth form sets. We wish her all the best as she goes to Downe House as Head of Classics.

We are also grateful to Mr Tony Chan, who has been teaching Fourth Form Latin. He has been a great enthusiast in supporting the varied Classical Society events this year. We have seen a good



James Rudkin (Upper Sixth) with Professor Boris Rankov

variety of Greek plays, starting with 'Clytemnestra', a version of Agamemnon, in Japanese style at the Oxford Playhouse in November. The clash of cultures both visually and musically made for a memorable evening. In February we braved falling snow and slippery roads to see 'Hecuba' at the Greenwood Theatre performed by King's College London. The story of revenge was powerfully presented and, as at Oxford, the use of surtitles for translation enabled all to keep abreast of the poetry being spoken. In the Summer term we again travelled to London, this time to see 'Antigone' at the National Theatre, in a contemporary English translation. It was a memorable presentation set in the brash computer-driven politics of the 1970s, still ever relevant pitching the state's supposed security against greater human rights.

Talks have included a good overview of Greek vase painting and mythological scenes. In January, Mr Sandy Smith addressed all those taking Greek at a supper in the Blue Room. In April, Professor Boris Rankov kindly visited and gave an illustrated lecture in the Dobinson Theatre to Third Form Latin students and many others on the Greek trireme. It was a topical subject since the previous week the national press had interviewed him on whether Olympias, the Greek ship reconstruction project with which he has been closely involved over many years, would be able to lead the final stage of the torch route to the London Olympics. He explained the historical background as well as the practical challenges of rowing such a ship, drawing on his wide and distinguished experience. Afterwards some Stowe rowers joined us for supper in the Blue Room. In February the Lower Sixth Latinists attended a useful series of lectures in London on the new AS set texts, including one by the author of the edition being used.

It is good to see so many at Stowe taking Greek at present. The eight sitting GCSE Greek this summer is a record for recent years and those taking it outside the timetable have shown an admirable level of motivation and dedication. The relevance of what the Greeks wrote, thought and created remains ever fresh and alive to each new generation, not least in a special Olympics year in the UK.

Mr Michael Bevington, Head of Classics



Politics and Economics Report

The Economics and Politics Department continues to achieve excellent A Level results and, to meet the growing demand for these subjects, appointed two new full-time specialists at the start of the academic year. Along with strong class room teaching and a sadistic amount of mocks there have also been a number of extra-curricular trips and activities designed to educate and inspire Stoics.

Fifty Lower Sixth politics students spent the day visiting the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court in London. Beginning with a guided tour around the Palace of Westminster, some were able to watch Prime Minister's Question Time from the viewing gallery. The rest of us were invited by MP and Stowe parent, Richard Drax, to watch Question Time from Portcullis House. Richard then took questions and led an enlivening political discussion with the students.

In the last week of the Easter holiday a group of students led by Mr Barker visited Washington DC to further their study of American History and Politics. Highlights included a visit to the Washington Post where Gerry Rosberg (Editor), Don Graham (Chairman) and Ben Bradlee (Editor at the time of the Watergate scandal) led a discussion on recent historical and political issues of significance. Also the group visited the

various memorials and Smithsonian museums on the National Mall, as well as a tour of Congress, the Supreme Court and a look into the working office of a United States Senator (Jeanne Shaheen Democratic Party – New Hampshire). The trip was a great success, and the Senatorial staff and lobbyists whom we met all commented on the well-informed and intelligent questions asked by the Stoics. Thanks go to Mrs Dawson and Mr Aston for accompanying the trip, and Mr Dawson and Mr Lyle for doing the Heathrow runs in the minibus.

The Lower Sixth Form Stoics (who will be invited on the Washington trip next year) had a chance to engage in the excitement of the US presidential election system at the end of the Summer term. There was a primary election for Democrats and Republicans, which included a full campaign, a debate in the Dobinson, then a blanket primary for all students to participate in during the last week of term. It was the job of the candidates to educate the electorate about what the primaries are and why they should vote. The winners of each respective primary campaign secured their party's nomination and have gone through to the presidential election in November 2012 and fight for the overall presidency at the same time as Mitt Romney and Barack Obama across the Atlantic.

The Economics extension club entered the Bank of England 2.0 Challenge. Molly Davison, Emily Marchant, Chima Ngerem and Inca Curwen took part with support from the other members of the group. The students worked extremely hard on their presentation and learned a lot from their whole experience. Two of the judges were particularly impressed with their econometric analysis to illustrate the J curve. This is most certainly university level economics and Mr Ponniah was impressed with the group's ability to pick up these concepts with alacrity.

Finally, at the end of the Summer term, Stowe hosted a mock Question Time event which was based on the famous BBC Television programme. Claire Fox, Director of the Institute of Ideas and Radio 4 Moral Maze panellist was Chair. A prestigious panel of politicians, commentators and opinion formers were put through their paces by an audience of Stoics. Panellists included; Mark Littlewood – Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs, former communications director for the Liberal Democrats, and campaigns director at Liberty; John Cooper QC – one of London's leading barristers, a regular columnist for The Observer, The Times and The Sunday Express, who has also written plays for theatre and television; Rowenna Davis – a journalist specialising in social and political affairs who writes for The Guardian, New Statesman and The Independent, a Labour councillor for Southwark in London, and author of Tangled Up in Blue, an account of the new 'Blue Labour' movement in the Labour Party; Aaron Porter – former President of the National Union of Students who works as a freelance journalist and educational consultant; Dr James Panton – a politics teacher at Stowe who had a previous life as an Oxford academic, a social and political commentator for numerous radio and television news programmes, and a political campaigner who co-founded the civil libertarian anti red-tape group the Manifesto Club.

Overall it has been an exciting year and the above does not do justice to the hard work and dedication of all the teachers in the department who continue to push Stoics and reinforce the importance of study and a positive work ethos.

Mr Kevin Ryce, Head of Economics and Politics



ICT Report

The year saw a move towards the introduction of more Computing into the ICT Curriculum. It is fair to say that this was inspired within the Department, and prior to Mr Gove's initiatives! Third Form Stoics receive a grounding in the use of the common applications to support their other academic subjects, and also learn about vital e-safety issues. However, in addition to this, we have now introduced a term of game making, where Stoics have the opportunity to create their own "App-style" games, similar to those played by many on their smart phones. This will be expanded next year with Third Form pupils having the opportunity to attend dedicated Computing lessons, with more of a focus on the basics of computer programming. Third Form Stoics

produced some excellent websites this year. Nai Chi Tsai created an Anime fan site with impressive photo montaging using Photoshop.

We are delighted to be offering GCSE Computing for the Fourth Form, beginning in September. This will give candidates an opportunity to find out what goes on "behind the screen", as opposed to learning computer applications. The three-unit course is designed to give candidates an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on "behind the scenes". As well as investigating how computers work, candidates will also have the opportunity to develop programming and problem-



Top: Zach Coupland demonstrates his computer game;
Bottom: Nai Chi Tsai's Anime Website Home Page

solving skills. This will be an exciting addition to the Stowe curriculum for next year.

The Lower Sixth ICT class along with some Fifth Form Stoics visited the Olympic Park back in November. The group spent some classroom time looking at how Information Technology will be used on the Olympic site, and how it is used in athletes' training programmes. This was followed by a tour of the site and area. This was a good experience, but sadly we couldn't enter the main stadium for a jog around the track for security reasons!

Mr Simon Gabbatiss

PSHE Report

The PSHE Department at Stowe was created in September 2010 to enrich pastoral provision through a bespoke course introducing psychology, philosophy and sociology through a thematic curriculum. The PSHE Department has a specialist classroom and subject practitioner who teaches all Stoics in Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms once a week. At Stowe central to the philosophy of the PSHE department is that Stoics should demonstrate compassion, a sense of justice and stewardship.

This year the department has continued to expand beyond the classroom to bring the course content to reality. During October half-term, 16 Stoics ventured to Tanzania to teach English and serve the local community in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro. Stoics also levelled a playing field, painted a classroom and experienced

life on a coffee and banana plantation. The week concluded with a safari through the Ngorongoro Crater.

As part of the Service@Stowe provision and an important element of the PSHE curriculum – entrepreneurship and financial capability – Stoics were given a budget of £50 with a view to turning this to profit once invested.

The 'Giving Nation' challenge group decided on the purchase of food and beverages from Costco to be hopefully re-sold for profit. There were a few glitches with food purchased past the sell by date, loss of stock and underpricing. Stoics soon learnt which items sold best, and pricing strategies were honed. The group even learnt not to accept foreign currency and promises of payment at a later date.

Ultimately the Giving Nation group over two terms, turned an initial £50 investment into £250 profit which has been invested with Kiva, a micro-financing charity which finances loans to small scale enterprises in LEDCs. The funds raised ensured a cow was bought in Kenya and businesses in Guatemala, Sierra Leone and the Philippines added to their business stock. Eventually the funds raised by Giving Nation will be paid back to our Kiva account and we will then re-lend those funds once again.

Finally Stoics in the Third Form engaged inquisitively with our 'Citizenship and the Law' week. Stoics examined the nature and destructiveness of bullying on the human spirit and met our local police liaison officer who explained the law as regards harassment and public order offences.

The week culminated in a presentation on the effects of bullying by Superintendent Andy Boyd of Thames Valley Police.

Ms Kirsten McLintock, Head of PSHE



History of Art Report

The year has been an active one for art historians. There have been trips local, national and international and distinguished speakers visiting the School offering Stoics a view of life in the wider art world.

Early in the autumn the Lower Sixth took up the opportunity to visit the National Gallery in London. Studying work at first hand by the likes of Botticelli, Rembrandt, Turner and Monet certainly made a lasting impression. For many this was their first experience of looking at artwork in a structured and guided manner and the trip was widely appreciated.

Both Lower and Upper Sixth came together for two major lectures later in the Michaelmas term. The first was given by Mr Charles Hall on the subject of the city of Venice. His detailed, almost encyclopaedic knowledge of the city certainly impressed Stoics. Those with a keen interest in architecture were fascinated by his accounts of the structure

of Venetian buildings, the problems of constructing upon a silted salt water lagoon and the opportunities for lighter and more decorative structures that their solutions permitted.

The second lecture, given by Caroline de Guitaut, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Royal Collection, concerned the work of Carl Fabergé. It is hard to conceive of a more visually stunning theme than the jewellery of this most famous of Russian decorative artists. Perhaps predictably it was the Easter Eggs that seemed to captivate Stoics, their phenomenal richness of materials and decoration were quite simply remarkable. Stoics also learned of the strong ties that bound the royal households of Europe together; Fabergé's pieces were not merely beautiful gifts, but also a kind of diplomacy.

The highlight of the year was, for many art historians, the trip to New York. Although the cold February weather necessitated

wrapping up well, the opportunity to study the architecture of the city from the top of the Empire State building by night was not to be missed. Trips to the remarkable collections of the Metropolitan Museum, MOMA and the Frick were supplemented by unique opportunities, such as visiting the normally private studio of Robert Rauschenberg, one of the twentieth century's most famous artists.

Closer to home the art historians visited Blenheim Palace in the Summer term. This was an opportunity to study another ducal palace and to encounter English Baroque architecture on a grand scale. Departing from the Library, a room over one hundred and eighty feet in length, at least Stoic remarked that they had learned about the most amazing things.

Mr Iain Young

Giving Nation group, back row, left to right: Sophie Rushton, Harriet Comyn, Alexander Levitt-Schriener, Genevieve Roxburgh, Helena Lewis ; Front row: Gabriel Gleeson, Otto Balfour, Charles Samuelson

DT Report

This year's work culminated with a display of the Department's practical outcomes. Selected A Level and GCSE projects from both the Graphic Products and the Resistant Materials disciplines were displayed on Speech Day within StoweBucks; no easy task considering the size of some of the products that have been designed and manufactured by this year's cohort of Stoics! There was some truly outstanding work to be seen, representing many, many hours of work and high level thinking. Stoics have continued to push the boundaries of designing and manufacturing, as evidenced by the practical and folder work of the vast majority of this year's cohort. The talent and the devotion that Stoics show to their work is a huge encouragement to me as the Head of Department. The Department benefits massively from both its experienced and younger teaching staff, as well as the technicians, all of whom have been instrumental in nurturing Stoics, and allowing them to reach their potential. Thank you, to them all, for the continued hard work and devotion that they have put in over the last year. As one of the

best performing departments within the School, this commitment can never be underestimated.

We still seem to be fighting the perception that the manufactured article is the be all and end all of the work that we produce within the Department. The challenge of the subject really comes from mastering the creative challenges of design, and communicating complex ideas in a variety of media, then striving to manufacture and model these ideas to produce a high quality outcome. As we move further into the 21st century, the subject is continuing to embrace new technologies; such as our CNC machinery (the use of the CNC Router has vastly increased this year, as has the huge number of items that we have created on our Laser Cutters, as well as the addition of our 3D colour printer). The use of modern and smart materials are continuing to challenge the boundaries of what can be achieved, and the increased use of Computer Aided Design packages is revolutionising the work that can be produced at all levels throughout the School. As the world, and technology changes, so is the way that we must teach Stoics to design products and

appreciate the built world around us. We try to prepare them for progression to the creative industries of Product Design, Architecture, Engineering, Automotive Design, Web, Multimedia and Design for Print, Marketing and Branding. As we do this, we become acutely aware of the demands, and the wide scope and responsibility that delivering this subject effectively has. We ask Stoics to question why they do things, why don't things work as well as they should, how could they make it better, how could it look better? We encourage creativity, freedom of thinking, and a different way of thinking from that of many subjects within the curriculum; that's what makes us different, and that's why we're successful.

As this year draws to a close, the Design Department continues to forge ahead with new ideas and the promise of development and refurbishment within the ageing infrastructure. This academic year has seen some further changes to the building and rationalisation of the teaching areas. We will have the largest number of Stoics ever studying the subject throughout the exam groups, a pleasant challenge to manage for the size of the classrooms and workshops that we have. We take confidence from this; the subject is hugely popular and very successful at what it does. So do come down and see what we do, you'll genuinely be amazed!

Mr Myles Nash, Head of Design





Old Stoics

The Summer Party

Tuesday 12 June 2012

Another hugely successful OS summer party was held at the Kensington Roof Gardens. Just shy of 300 were in attendance with band performances from OS bands Arthur Beatrice and Redstone Collective. The venue has been booked again for next year so keep an eye out for details.

“Thank you for a fantastic evening on the Kensington Roof Gardens – incredibly good value and excellent company. After 38 years it was my first Old Stoic event and did not disappoint – brilliant!”

Dominic Cole (Lyttelton 74)



Classic Cars on The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Speech Day

Saturday 2 June 2012

Over 50 classic cars gathered on the North Front at this year’s Diamond Jubilee Speech Day, one of the busiest days in the School’s calendar. Old Stoics, parents and friends of Stowe met for pre-lunch champagne and canapés in the OS marquee, hosted by Hagerty Classic Car Insurance and the Old Stoic Society, before heading over to the South Front for the speeches and the ‘Big Picnic’.

“What a fabulous day – Thank you! Stowe is perfect for such a Royal occasion. I thoroughly enjoyed bringing my young family along to the classic car meeting and to show them around. The Old Stoic Society really is going places – 10/10!”

Alex McEwen (Chatham 91)



Bruce



Bruce 2012



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Housemaster: Mr Craig Sutton

Matron: Miss Ann Lake

Assistant Housemaster:

Mr Charlie Barker

Under Housemaster:

Mr James Knott

Head of House: Alexander Miarli

Senior School Prefect:

Imran Momen

School Prefects: Alexander Miarli,

Kirk Blair, Gareth Browne, Guillermo Ordorica Shkurovich, Broghan Smith,

House Prefects: Imran Momen,

Kirk Blair, Gareth Browne, Guillermo Ordorica Shkurovich, Broghan Smith, Daniel Baniukevic, James Barnett, Thomas Baylis, Titus Bridgwood, Matthew Corless, Archie Nesbitt, Brodie Smith, Henry Stockdale

The House Singing competition is the first big whole School House event, staged a few weeks into the Michaelmas term.

I expect the lead to be taken by the Upper Sixth Form as it is their opportunity to impart their style and character on proceedings and this often sets the tone and atmosphere in House for the year.

I was particularly impressed with the Bruce entry on this occasion. The charismatic, enthusiastic and amusing Upper Sixth, (with Alexander Miarli, Henry Stockdale and Titus Bridgwood to the fore) organised a very challenging song which was a medley of 16 different songs. They struck exactly the right chord in terms of giving clear direction and influence, whilst keeping everyone interested and willing to sing wholeheartedly (and laughing!). The actual performance was excellent and although we did not win (we were second) the experience set Bruce House off on a path to an excellent year. Another definite highlight has to be the House play. This was directed by our very own Imran Momen, a very talented Bruce Upper Sixth Form drama student, who has just been accepted to one of the most prestigious drama schools, LAMDA. He took on a serious and thought-provoking play called 'The Aftermath'. Twenty-two Bruce boys were involved with the production which was performed to the very highest standard, with the lead part played with impressive maturity by Brodie Smith. Encouragingly several Bruce lads went on to appear in the Senior and

Junior School Congreve performances. Continued successes in public performance were celebrated during the year – Alec Pultr, Hugo Ellison, William Pepera and Patrick Keating collected a prize in the Junior debating competition and Charles Johnson won a prize in the Third Form Poetry Recital competition. The well read team of Imran Momen, Alec Pultr, William and Luke Pepera proved strong enough to crown Bruce as the Champions in the House Literary Quiz. Our strong sporting tradition was maintained with wins in the Senior and Junior singles and doubles badminton, Fifth Form soccer, Fourth Form rugby, Third Form dodge ball, Junior basketball, Intermediate athletics, and several runners up positions. This summer's Bruce House picnic was a great success with many parents attending an informal gathering in the grounds before being entertained by an amazing display of musical talent which included performances by boys from all year groups. Our thanks go to Head of House, Alexander Miarli, who organised this with his usual efficiency and aplomb. In a recent questionnaire given to all boys in the House, I was pleased to see that the overwhelming responses cited that the best thing about Bruce is the 'family atmosphere and feeling of togetherness'. The talented and charismatic Upper Sixth Form can claim much credit for this. The Third Form have been an extremely pleasant group of lads who have settled into the school routine quickly and attacked their new challenges with real enthusiasm, being assisted by the helpful guidance of the Third Form Prefect, Archie Nesbitt. Our star year group in terms of APG grades has been the Fourth Form, who consistently led the way with superb effort grades. I would like to finish by paying a tribute to our departing Matron, Ann Lake, who retires this year. Ann has been Matron of Bruce House for 17 years. The care and support she has given to so many Bruce boys over the years has been simply outstanding and we are all very grateful to her. She will be greatly missed.

Mr Craig Sutton, Housemaster



Chandos

Chandos 2012

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Housemaster: Mr Barney Durrant

Matron: Mrs Clare Hill-Hall

Assistant Housemaster:
Mr Roland Johnson

Under Housemaster:
Miss Gabrielle Peel

Head of House:
Edmund Robinson

Deputy Head of House:
Charlie Cox

Head Boy: Henry Rudd

Senior School Prefects:
Daniel Capurro, Henry Rudd

School Prefects:
Edmund Robinson, David Akam,
Charlie Cox, Max Smith

House Prefects: Titus Edwards,
Victor Khaprov, Adeyoin
Okuboyejo, Edward Warburton

This has been a great year for Chandos. It was always going to be, with six out of the ten Upper Sixth Formers being School Prefects and the remainder being House Prefects. We were also fortunate enough to have our third Head Boy in succession, Henry Rudd, whose qualities were clear to all who heard him speak on Speech Day. Edmund Robinson has enthusiastically run the House and been ably supported by Charlie Cox as his Deputy.

The Michaelmas term started well, with good performances in the opening tournament of the year. The Fifth Form, in particular, exceeded expectations and only lost the final of the football on penalties. In fact, it looked as though second place was

going to be the theme for the term as we were placed second in the Junior House cross-country, second in the Senior badminton and then again in the rugby. However, we finally managed to break through to the top spot for the House singing. The House song ('Human' by The Killers) was interestingly conducted by Henry Rudd, but despite his best efforts, we still managed to beat all others. The Part Song was no less impressive as Maximilian Smith, Jonathan Constant, Thomas Gordon-Colebrooke and Miles Clark sang Paulo Nutini's 'Last Request'. Guy Turner arranged and accompanied the piece with great style, with some help from Mr Miles Nottage, and it was very gratifying to see that all the boys' hard work was rewarded, as they won the boys' section. Winning both sections meant a victory overall and the cheers could probably have been heard in Buckingham!

During the second term, the U15 rugby team continued their campaign in the Daily Mail Cup (eventually reaching the semi-finals) and it was great to see so many Chandosians in the squad: Michael Edwards, Benjamin George, George Lee, James Paul, George Silk and William Thompson should all be very proud of their efforts. In the Lent term we were placed top boys' House in the Coldstream Drill Cup and Tom ter Haar was once again awarded the prize for being the best 'caller'. In the now established North Front pancake race we were placed second and the House swimming sports yielded three cups for William Thompson, two individual events and one of them for the Junior boys' relay. Music continued to go well, as we had a number of successes in the

prestigious Mozart Trio Prize. Guy Turner topped the list with victories in the Senior guitar, percussion and woodwind sections. Thomas Gordon-Colebrooke came first in the Intermediate voice category and second in the guitar and Miles Clark was second in the Intermediate voice and third in the brass category. Another notable achievement was Maximilian Smith's superb portrayal of 'Robert Sideways' in the Senior Congreve, a part he played with sensitivity and emotion. Finally, Charlie Lockyer was the top goal scorer in the National Novice Arena Polo Championships, guiding his team to victory.

The Summer term was a frustrating one as drought orders gave way to monsoon conditions and very little sport was played. Frustrating though this was it did channel the boys into more work than they otherwise would have done and by the end of term, Chandos stood at the top of the merit league table, even beating the girls' Houses. I think we can justifiably say that we are one of, if not the, most hard-working Houses and we all eagerly await the external examination results' days in the summer! Fortunately the rain did hold off for Sports Day and there were a number of superb individual performances. The Senior boys' relay saw one of our best performances as we just managed to hold off Grenville in one of the most closely fought races of the day. There were wins for Harrison Dockerty in the Junior boys 800m and 1500m, George Olley in the 400m, Toni Kuku in the hurdles and William Thompson in the shot put. Consequently, we won the Junior boys' competition quite comfortably. The Senior boys' team was no less impressive, with Freddie Clarke winning the 400m, Edmund Robinson showing a clean pair of heels in the 800m, Jake Olley winning the triple jump and Henry Rudd breaking the school javelin record. We won the Seniors' by a good margin and were delighted to win the overall trophy as well.

This year has seen an excellent Sixth Form gel together well. They have led from the front, showed a good level of teamwork and leadership, and the sense of community in the House is at an all time high; certainly one of the main reasons behind the successes we have had. Best wishes for the future and good luck to all those who are leaving.

Mr Barney Durrant, Housemaster



Chatham

Chatham 2012



© R & H Chapman Photography

Housemaster: Mr John Ing

Matrons: Miss Caroline Firth,
Ms Kathie Oakley

Assistant Housemaster:
Mr Ian Findlay-Palmer

Under Housemaster:
Mr Benjamin Ponniah

Head of House: Jasper Simpkin

Deputy Head of House:
Felix Henderson

Senior School Prefect:
Jasper Simpkin

School Prefects: Felix Henderson,
Edward Wightman

House Prefects: Harry Bannister,
Guy Dixon-Smith, Tom Merrill,
Joe Sutton, Josh Sutton, Nicholas
Varney, Edward Wightman

The Chatham year began at a pace with our focus seemingly shifting from one major House event to another. The House singing competition was upon us very early in the Michaelmas term and ably assisted by Joshua Gentry, our expertly arranged Queen medley (by Mr Ben Ponniah and deemed to be one of the most musical performances of the evening) perhaps did not extend down the entertainment route sufficiently well to win us a prize. Our part song, even though it featured our music legend Joshua Gentry (Lower Sixth), was I think unlucky not to be placed in the final reckoning, (hey but I am biased!). Next came the Coldstream Cup and a title to

defend. In spite of almost running away with the competition prior to the final phase, 'the ferret pull', our small racing snake types were not quite bulky enough to pull the ferret at speed and we finished in a highly credible third position overall.

The House cross-country competition was the first opportunity for the Third Form 'new boys' to impress. We were not disappointed with some outstanding performances particularly by Sam Riley who came in fifth overall. Rory Knight stole the show with an outstanding solo run and overall win in the highly competitive Intermediate age group. The day after the cross-country heralded the first of the House CCF hotly contested competitions, the March and Shoot. Superbly organised by Frederick Wheeler the boys put a great deal of effort into practising for the assault course and shooting, so much so that we came out very worthy winners.

Over the Michaelmas term, our House rugby teams fared very well, although we only managed to make one plate final and a semi-final; all the boys played with outstanding team spirit for the glory of Chatham. The Third Form won the House hockey, eventually lifting the cup after the final ended 1-1 against Cobham and eventually came to a conclusion in our favour, with the excitement of penalty flicks. Perhaps slightly less eventful, the Lent term was equally successful for us in Chatham. The Chatham Coldstream drill cup team although not quite a match for the girls' Houses, were the winning boys' House in this increasingly high standard

competition. George and Hamish Huxtable joined us in the Lent term from Australia and once they had acclimatised (well almost!), immediately made a difference to our swimming team. Their presence was also much admired by us all at the very successful musical soir e, where we were able to showcase many of our very talented musicians, including the very talented William Motion. Parents and boys enjoyed a rather eclectic mix of music ranging from Tchaikovsky to Coldplay at the first of what I hope will be many similar evenings to come. Before half-term, parents also enjoyed the Chatham House Hog Roast and golf tournament, a truly British affair, not quite as Stoical as the Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip's Thames River pageant 'standathon' but inclemently testing all the same! Although the Summer term has been a bit of a washout and curtailed much of the cricket, a number of the boys have made their debut for the 1st XI and in a thrilling final against Grafton we lifted the Senior House cricket cup. Edward Wightman led the team from the front and helped us to a memorable victory. Some fantastic results on Sports Day were made all the sweeter with an impressive new School Record in the high jump set by Jamie Ropner of 1.63m. Our priority throughout the year has been one of academic excellence followed by participation and loyalty for the House. I am immensely proud that the boys have, in the spirit of 'work hard, play hard', been good to their word. I am extremely grateful to the home team of Assistants and Under Housemasters, Tutors, and Matrons. My final thank you is to Jasper Simpkin (Head of House), Felix Henderson (Deputy Head of House) and the other house prefects for all of their invaluable hard work over this extremely successful year.

Mr John Ing, Housemaster



Cobham



Cobham 2012

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Housemaster: Mr Matthew Way

Matrons: Ms Helen Drake,
Mrs Lynne Williams

Assistant Housemaster:

Mr Michael Rickner

Under Housemaster:

Mr Simon Dobson

Head of House: Sebastian Clarke

Deputy Head of House:

Albadr Alhashemi

School Prefects:

Albadr Alhashemi, Ben Nichols,
Sebastian Clarke

House Prefects: Freddie Elliott,
Ben Housson, Michael Illingworth

Again trophies have been plentiful this year but the success of a House is measured by much more than the sum of its trophies. This year all the boys have been proud that Cobham is considered a house that is 'close'. I take that to be Stoic speak for a house that gets on well

together, whatever the age, and it reflects that we are a close community who share each other's successes and the trials and tribulations as well.

I would like to thank our Assistant Housemaster, Mr Michael Rickner, our dedicated team of Tutors, Mr Peter Staples, Mr Simon Dobson and Mr James Peppiatt and our wonderful new Matron, Lynne Williams, all of whom serve the Cobhamites through their care and attention, often well beyond the call of duty.

I would also like to thank the departing Upper Sixth and I have asked this year's Head of House, Sebastian Clarke, to pen a few words on each of his fellow Cobham Upper Sixth Formers.

'It has been one of the major pluses of my time at Stowe to share a house with these boys and our friendships, as is the case with many Stoics, will last beyond the end of this year'. Sebastian Clarke

Edward Bethell – In his own words he's a 'big cheese in a small pond' and although he used to be a character in the classroom he has now calmed down into a jolly but reserved Upper Sixth Former. Around the House he makes everyone smile and is renowned for giving good horse racing tips.

Ben Nichols (wing-man) – Ben deemed himself 'too busy' to be made a House prefect as his role as wing-man (Cupid) has taken up a great deal of his spare time. He has helped to introduce many Cobhamites to female Stoics in their quest

for that 'special friend' – as long as it doesn't hinder his own chances! He is a sports scholar and loved by all. He will go far in life, especially after he has gained his A*AA self-predictions at A Level.

Freddie Elliott – House Sport Prefect and a great character around the House, a cherished friend by all who know him. Freddie is a fantastic golfer who, having recently joined the gym, is holding his own with abdominals that many of us would kill for.

Henri Da Costa – Henri joined Stowe essentially to play rugby which he did! But at the same time he built a terrific reputation in House as someone who is relaxed and funny. Henri is a House man, rarely venturing outdoors (save to eat, learn and go to the gym) but this is why Cobham loves him.

Albadr Alhashemi – Always exemplary dressed, a model Stoic, awarded the Stowe Goblet for Best Ambassador to the School. The House wouldn't be as brilliant if he hadn't cared so much.

Hugh Stevenson – Hugh is a wonderful guy who engages you in scintillating conversation about everything. His opinions are unchangeable but nevertheless, valued.

Michael Illingworth – Michael's academic scholarship meant he was best qualified for the post of House Academic Prefect helping everyone with their work. He was also Stowe's Athletics captain, with a great mastery of the Fosbury Flop relates to his high jump technique. He is much loved within the House and is a talented musician.

Ben Housson – Third Form House Prefect, the kindest and most caring to the younger years. To most in Cobham he is someone who will listen to your troubles.

Finally, as I leave Stowe this summer to take up the post of Headmaster at St Petroc's School in Bude, I would like to thank my family, who have enjoyed House life with patience, dignity and warmth. I wish Mr James Peppiatt, my successor, all the very best as he takes over as Cobham Housemaster in September 2012.

Mr Matthew Way, Housemaster



Grafton

Grafton 2012



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Housemaster: Mr Gavin Moffat

Matron: Mrs Terri Bosman

Assistant Housemaster:

Mr Alan Hughes

Under Housemaster:

Mr Neil Crossley

Head of House: Robert Hill

Deputy Head of House:

Oliver Plunket, Freddie Benyon

Senior School Prefects:

Robert Hill, Oliver Plunket

School Prefects: Freddie Benyon,

Rory Langman

House Prefects: Rory Langman,

Ben Rimmell, Frank Kilsby

When summing up the achievements of the House over the course of an academic year it is quite a challenge knowing where to begin. 'A' for academia is no bad place and Graftonians have continued to recognise the importance of academic endeavour and effort as central to their lives at Stowe. To see many boys achieving excellent modular results in public examinations makes all the toil and diligence worthwhile and I wish the Upper Sixth leavers the absolute best in their future university and employment careers beyond the Oxford Water. Headmaster's suppers for high academic endeavour have been well attended by Grafton boys with particular mention going to Angus Tyrrell, Rex Roxburgh (both Fourth Form), Bruce An (Upper Sixth), Michael Hill and Charlie Mason (both Fifth Form) all performing at the top or near the top of

their year groups in their academic attainment and work ethic.

Sport, as always, is very high on the list of the boys' priorities and the 2011-2012 year has been a real vintage. It is a rarity to achieve the House 'Grand Slam' by simultaneously holding the House rugby, hockey, cross-country and cricket trophies but the Senior boys have done absolutely that. This is testament not only to their outstanding ability but just as importantly to their organisation and desire to play for each other and show the collective spirit required for success. Equally pleasing to the boys is their victory in the Senior House football, rugby and waterpolo leagues which run every week allowing those boys who participate for enjoyment the chance to represent the House and bring in some silverware. The House Fives trophy also sits proudly in the cabinet along with the Third and Fifth Form rugby cups. Away from the major sports I am delighted that two Third Formers, John Shin and Daniel Strutt, were awarded their half-whips for beagling. To cap off a remarkable year of sport in Grafton, no fewer than eight boys were selected to represent their county in various sports with pride of place going to Jordan Onojaife (Lower Sixth) who played rugby for England U17s in their victories versus Scotland and France and Ben Duckett (also Lower Sixth) who toured India with the England U17 cricket team.

The Junior House debating team performed admirably en route to the final before losing a very tense and well fought debate against Bruce. To see Charlie Mason, Guy Gibson and Angus Tyrrell

really hold the audience's attention with the quality of their arguments and public speaking abilities was particularly impressive. In Music, Rex Roxburgh has achieved Grade 7 in both organ and piano playing, Henry Nelson-Lucas regularly entertained his audiences with his smooth crooning and jazz numbers and Kit Gordon-Cumming welcomed in the guests at the Sixth Form Winter Ball with his bagpipes. With over 20 boys in the House playing an instrument and participating in weekly music lessons, Grafton's musical cupboard is certainly well stocked.

The House play 'The Musicians' provided the opportunity for some high quality drama and the cast did not disappoint. Lucas Worsdell and William Jones (both Lower Sixth) starred in the leading roles with cameo roles from Hugh Evans, Angus Tyrrell, Max Robinson, Jamie Wace, Robbie Henriques, Arthur Newman and Jack Chaplin. The audiences were thoroughly entertained and this proved to be a real highlight of the year for me. As too was the Coldstream Cup military competition which saw the House team pouring blood, sweat and tears into the assault course, military run and shoot before the tank (ferret) pull at the end which was a sight to behold and I would like to congratulate the team on their third place performance with particular mention to Oliver Plunket and his expert leading of the team. Lastly, it remains for me to thank the wonderful team of House Tutors who do so much in guiding the boys through their educational roller-coaster ride, Robert Hill as an excellent Head of House and his Prefect team, Mr Neil Crossley (Under Housemaster) and Alan Hughes (Assistant Housemaster), Mrs Bosman as a wonderfully warm Matron and my own family who keep me sane. Glasses raised for a super 2011-2012.

Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



Grenville

Grenville 2012



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Housemaster: Mr Andrew Murphy

Matron: Miss Heather Jacobs

Assistant Housemaster:
Mr Mark Blew

Under Housemaster:
Mr Dan Falvey

Head of House: Cameron Roberts

Deputy Head of House:
Alexander Hambro Rabben

Senior School Prefect:
Cameron Roberts

School Prefect:
Alexander Heerema

House Prefects: Oscar Cole,
Nico Gilbert, Alexander Heerema,
Will Prideaux

A very fine year, all in all, for the 2011/2012 vintage of Grenvillians. The year started in the best possible way with a fabulous win for both the Senior and Junior football teams in two exhausting competitions; laying down an early marker for all other Houses to follow. By the end of the Michaelmas term the boys had secured the highly sought after Academic salver; displaying our talented brains, as well as our sporting brawn. The Lent term saw the domination of the swimming pool by Grenville as we won both the Junior and Intermediate swimming competitions, and also securing the Junior water polo cup. The Grenville Juniors delighted in beating the Staff in their inaugural water polo fixture, but only after a golden goal

following a nail biting 2-2 draw. The Lent term saw the Juniors go far in the Rugby 7s tournament finishing as worthy runners-up, a feat they equalled in basketball in the Michaelmas term. The Summer term, if you can call it that, never quite got going but thankfully the rain did not spoil a fabulous Sports Day. Grenville at one point held the unprecedented honour of having the fastest boy in the School for Junior, Intermediate and Senior level, but a steward's inquiry (in fact long range video footage from the 'grassy knoll') discounted our triumph and clean sweep. Some hard graft needs to be applied to our field events as these paled into insignificance compared to our dominance on the track. Special mention must go to Frazer Ellis Jenkinson for his superb achievement of winning Junior 100m, 200m and shot put!

Sadly we will soon lose the services of Mr Mark Blew as resident Assistant Housemaster, and his wife Gemma, who will be taking up a position of Housemaster, back in his native South Africa. Mark has worked tirelessly and excelled in every area of the House, with his superb teaching and coaching of numerous sports. Mark will be greatly missed by staff and boys when he departs in December 2012.

We will also be sad to bid farewell to Mr Daniel Falvey who departs in July 2012 as resident Under Housemaster and Third Form Tutor. Daniel has breathed energy into his duties in Grenville and his sports

coaching skills could not go unnoticed for long. He has been snapped up by Hong Kong to develop rugby in schools over there.

It is also time to say goodbye to our outstanding Upper Sixth Form. Cameron Roberts has led the House magnificently, displaying a caring and responsive attitude to the younger boys as well as being a superb role model on the sports field. Alexander Hambro Rabben has been an extremely able Deputy and Matron's right hand man throughout the year. The prefect team of Oscar Cole, Nico Gilbert, Alexander Heerema and William Prideaux have had an immense impact on the House with their strong guidance of the younger years and faultless attention to detail on duty every day and night. Paul Barker, Michael Evans, Henry Harrison, Harry Howard, Gideon Issa and Aaron Volinski make up the rest of this fine body of men, and I wish them all well on their chosen career paths.

We have had a new addition to the Grenville family, and in strange circumstances we have finally admitted a girl to the House. Aurora, our daughter, has already made a big impact on the boys' lives, and I must be certain to find new employment before she becomes a teenager!

The plans for 2013 are to turn the abundance of second places into firsts and continue with the re-emergence of Grenville as the number one boys' boarding House. The appointment of Hugo Brooks to the position of Head Boy is a real feather in his and indeed our Grenville cap, and I look forward to starting a run of Head Boys over the next few years all with Grenville in their hearts, and Grenville Orange running through their veins.

Mr Andy Murphy, Housemaster



Lyttelton

Lyttelton 2012

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Housemistress: Mrs Judy Gracie

Matron: Mrs Olive Pohlmann

Assistant Housemistress:
Miss Philippa Gleave

Under Housemistress:
Miss Eleanor Donaldson

Head of House: Pippa Farr

Deputy Head of House:
Imogen Voorspuy

School Prefects: Pippa Farr,
Charlotte Cook, Annabel Duthie,
Harriet Eatwell, Willa McFadden,
Octavia Trevor, Imogen Voorspuy

House Prefects: Leonie Hearson,
Octavia Trevor, Hannah Maxwell

If the younger girls are looking for excellent role models and good examples they need look no further than this year's Upper Sixth. Pippa Farr started out as Head of House by running the Great Northern Run raising money for charity and all the girls have been working extremely hard with superb APG grades throughout the year. Harriet Eatwell and Aysha Falamarzi have been offered places to study medicine and there is optimistic expectation that the entire year will get into their first choice of university as well as some sought after art foundation courses. They have been an outstanding year, impeccable in terms of integrity and initiative. They will be greatly missed by all.

We faced the Coldstream Cup head on as usual although Charlotte Lechmere, our stamina machine and CCF expert, was injured at the last minute. However Pippa Farr and Octavia Trevor have five years experience each so were able to lead the team of Shona Drummond, Georgia Stone, Tessa Horan, Edwina Longe, Katkin Farr and Maddie Wackett onwards to two substantial trophies for Drill and Ferret Pulling. Honor Turner joined the team for the second trophy.

House singing was a fine event, where Willa McFadden and Hannah Maxwell trained up the girls to perform a melodic rendition of 'Rock Star' by Nickleback. The part song ('Kiss Me' by Sixpence None The Richer) was beautiful featuring Harriet Eatwell, Hannah Maxwell, Gigi Bacon,

Charlotte Lechmere, Florence Pearce, Polly Stuart-Mills, Daisy Anderson and Lucy Smith, accompanied by Claire Langer on guitar. Not only did they win third place, but they also set a great example of how all year groups can work together.

The House cross-country competition was another exciting event. In the Seniors, Charlotte Lechmere came in first with Pippa Farr, Octavia Trevor and Imogen Voorspuy on her heels, which was a fine moment for Lyttelton. Not to be outdone, Shona Drummond came storming in first for the Intermediates, breaking the School record set by Octavia Trevor in 2008. Katkin Farr and Edwina Longe were placed fourth and fifth. The Juniors did not win as we had a few injuries, but Jessica Burke and Polly Stuart-Mills were in the top six and they now know what to do for next year! Sports Day saw Edwina Longe and Isabella Muirhead break School records and there were fabulous first places from Charlotte Lechmere in the 100m and 200m, Lara Murray in javelin, Katkin Farr in 1500m and Priscilla Powell in discus and shot put.

Lauren Carley took the lead role as Lady Macbeth in the Junior Congreve and Elsa Desmond had a great swimming season breaking her own records and setting a new record in the Senior U19 Bath cup. Rosie Williamson was awarded rowing colours which is an outstanding achievement for a Fourth Former. Gigi Bacon was in the Senior Congreve performance of 'Our Country's Good' where she played a very convincing old lady!

As a House, we do like to win the annual Literary quiz but, this year, we were just pipped at the post by a tie breaker question after leading all the way. Our team this year was Willa Macfadden, Mia Kinahan, Lucy Smith and Iona Palmer-Baunack.

Towards the end of the year we had a house BBQ where all the year groups danced harmoniously and spontaneously. It was the embodiment of all that makes Lyttelton a great House; people working together and having fun.

Mrs Judy Gracie, Housemistress



Nugent

Nugent 2012



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Housemistress: Mrs Jayne Duckett

Matron: Ms Marian Gallick

Assistant Housemistress:
Miss Victoria Kinmond

Under Housemistress: Miss Molly Ford, Miss Chelsea Wagner

Head of House: Daisy Ussher

Deputy Head of House:
Rozzy Sutcliffe

School Prefects:

Alice Jackman, Chloe Stewart,
Daisy Ussher, Caroline Thompson,
Sophie Murray

House Prefects: Alice Jackman,
Chloe Stewart, Lucy Moseley,
Emma Quayle, Claudia Button,
Caroline Thompson

With Nugent expanding and Junior Girls becoming part of the House from September 2012, I find myself writing my last report as Housemistress of the only Sixth Form House at Stowe. I am excited about welcoming the younger girls to Nugent, but this change in structure to the House has led me to reflect on the multitude of successes of the Sixth Form House:

Head Girls from the House have included Monika Jurcic, Rosie Gawthrop, Lucy Jackson; Cambridge and Oxford undergraduates – Caitlin Gracie and Daniella Allard; England Sporting successes – Abby Webb (Hockey), Daniella Allard (lacrosse), Claudia Button (lacrosse); Medics – Anna Jackson, Hannah Jackman; Vets – Hetty Hill; Scientists – Ellie Green, Katie Peters, Bea

Djan, Tavy de Ferranti, Frances Quartly; and of course the numerous students of Language, History, Politics, English, Economics and Art History who have all left us with 3 As at A2.

Throughout England at numerous Speech Days, Headmasters and Headmistresses are lauding the achievements of the pupils under their care. We are told of sporting successes, exam results and building plans that will change the shape of schools. I therefore hesitate and admit to feeling rather uncomfortable when I say that Nugent has had an extraordinary year of success.

House football, House badminton (doubles and singles), House lacrosse, netball and hockey, Coldstream Cup, House Song (unison), House cross-country, Sports Day (we won nine of the 12 events), House swimming (we won six of the seven events), tennis and House shooting have all provided trophies for our cabinet.

On the academic front we have had merits galore but our top stars this year were Jaeh Sambhi (38 merits), Claudia Button (34 merits), Kierat Sambhi (30 merits) and Sophie Woodhead (29 merits).

Anastasiya Melnyk should also be congratulated for achieving 100% in two of her January Modules (Economics and Maths).

Ellice Caldwell-Dunn and Sophie Woodhead are congratulated for the top APG scores in House.

On the music front we had two winners in the Mozart Trio Prize competition (Sophie Woodhead and Francesca Stevens) and special mention must go to Francesca who will be singing in the Olympic Choir!

On stage we produced yet another fantastic House play – ‘Darlings you were wonderful’ with key performances from Daisy Ussher, Alice Jackman, Hayley Sarratt, Georgia Hirst and Saskia Leboff. And of course two of our Upper Sixth Formers, Daisy Ussher and Alice Jackman performed major roles in the Senior Congreve in March.

However, as wonderful as it is to win trophies and gain pleasing results, real success goes much deeper. It is about friendship, mutual respect between staff and pupils, seizing opportunities, having a sense of humour, working through a problem – it is about individuals learning to be happy with who they are! The innate working of a successful team does not come down to the work of one individual and my thanks go to many who have assisted with the running of the Sixth Form House: first and foremost I’d like to thank my Tutor team for their encouragement, enthusiasm and unrelenting sense of professionalism; also, my House team for evening duties/helping out at social events and lending a sympathetic ear to issues that arise in House; my resident House team – their job has no beginning and no end – always a smiling face and willingness to help out at all times. Finally, thank you to Marian and Chelsea – the girls are indebted to your kindness.

Without doubt though it is the loyalty, determination and drive that emanates from the House Prefect team (Daisy Ussher, Rozzy Sutcliffe, Chloe Stewart, Caroline Thompson, Lucy Moseley, Emma Quayle, Claudia Button and Alice Jackman). It is their desire to ‘be the best’ that capitulates the team ethos of a successful house and Nugent has been lucky and selected well in the past. Former Heads of House have been Emily Thornton (2006), Lucy Rankin (2007), Harriet Nicholls (2008), Julia Bevan (2009) and Elly Parker (2010), and finally, in 2011, Daisy Ussher. Daisy has taken on the role with a sense of maturity and natural flair for leadership. She contributes, participates, supports and sympathises with all (me included) but has shown total commitment to the task of leading Nugent to their best year ever. Therefore with a hint of sadness but equally a sense of excitement, we move on and open our doors to the Third Form girls who will undoubtedly take on the Nugent spirit as they help to change the shape of Stowe for ever.

Mrs Jayne Duckett, Housemistress



Queen's

Queen's 2012

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Housemistress:

Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn

Matron: Mrs Anne Reading

Assistant Housemistress:

Miss Lucy Ashe

Under Housemistress:

Miss Hannah Knott

Head of House: Emily Marchant

Head Girl: Eloise Melville

Senior School Prefects:

Emily Marchant, Molly Davison, Harriet Easdale, Jessica Noakes

School Prefects: Inca Curwen,

Harriet Goffman, Tabbi Owen, Yemurai Soper-Gwatidzo, Madeleine Webb

House Prefects: Harriet Easdale,

Tabbi Owen, Harriet Deakin, Charlotte Philips, Yem Soper-Gwatidzo, Emma Curley, Harriet Goffman, Georgina Pilleau, Madeleine Webb

Once again the girls have had a very successful year and have made their presence felt in the classroom, on the games field and on the stage. The Upper Sixth have received offers from Art School, Drama School and a range of Russell Group Universities amongst others to read a huge range of subjects – Anthropology, Chemistry, English, French, Geography, PPE to name but a few and several have planned exciting gap years. Jess Noakes and Emma Curley have also secured Gap Scholarships to help fund their adventuring and charity work. Sasha Milne and her committee continue to raise funds for Ataxia UK, this year's School charity – their total currently stands at £17,000.

The Upper Sixth have been with us for five years – they were our first intake and so our farewells are tinged with an extra hint of sadness. They have worked and played hard and we have embraced and encouraged their quirkiness and individuality and will miss their contribution to school life for a whole host of reasons. They break into our winning House song (2010), 'I wish I was a punk rocker' at the slightest provocation, recite chunks of Harry Potter and can devour their own bodyweight in pasta! They are a very close-knit group who will, I'm sure, retain and nurture the special friendships they have built during their time in Queen's for years to come.

A number of Queen's girls were up on stage on Speech Day to collect prizes for overall academic achievement, Economics, Politics, French, Drama, ICT, charitable

work and community service and we wish Bella Wallersteiner and Helena Lewis well for their trip to Istanbul with the help of a McElwee award. Five of the Lower Sixth have completed the Warriors Programme in South Africa this year where in a mere five days they go sky diving, hiking, work in an orphanage and visit animal sanctuaries. For some it proves to be a transformative experience and for all it is character building, challenging and fun.

On the sports front our Intermediates (Fourth and Fifth Formers) have been particularly impressive, achieving wins in the hockey, netball, lacrosse, cross-country, tennis, athletics and a draw in the football. We were overall winners of the girls' cross-country and Sports Day and hold the much coveted golden frying pan award for the girls' pancake race (thanks to Miss Ashe for running the staff leg!). We were particularly thrilled to beat Chandos in the final of the Senior Debating Competition – Molly set her heart on that one in the Third Form – and clung on to the Academic Salver in the Michaelmas term. Our Juniors look set to fill our Sixth Formers' shoes academically with many of them regularly topping, some might say dominating, the APG tables for both attainment and effort.

We have also had a strong year for drama with Harriet Easdale, Emma Curley and Harriet Goffman performing key roles in Senior Congreve's 'Our Country's Good' while Jemima Phillips starred as Judy in the Fifth Form production of 'Too Much Punch for Judy', supported by Caroline Schaufelberger as her sister, Jo, and co-directed by Harriet Stringer. Queen's also staged a production of Sue Townsend's 'Bazaar and Rummage' which, ably directed by Harriet Goffman and Emma Curley, saw fine performances from Rebecca Dale, Harriet Easdale, Maddie Webb, Siana Vere-Nicoll and Issy Berner. Ten of our Third and Fourth Formers performed in the Junior Congreve, 'Macbeth' and we've enjoyed impressive performances from Jemima and Siana at 'Unplugged' and the 'Ataxia Fair'.

It is all this, alongside Economics revision sessions in the House Room, fitness groups with Miss Knott, aerobics and ballet classes with Miss Ashe, Maitch baiting and Freckles walking that make Queen's a special place to be.

Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn, Housemistress



Stanhope

Stanhope 2012



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Housemistress: Mrs Sue Harmon

Matrons: Ms Sandra Hewlett,
Mrs Lynn Smith

Assistant Housemistress:
Mrs Julie Johnson

Under Housemistress:
Miss Sophie Palmer

Head of House: Emma Harvey

Deputy Head of House: Maud
Gudmundsen, Phoebe Harris

School Prefects: Maud
Gudmundsen, Alexia Ogden

House Prefects: Alexia Ogden,
Tessa Stephenson, Gabby Thomas,
Anastasia Kozina, Silviya Nenkova

*"To improve is to change; to be perfect
is to change often"* Winston S. Churchill

Stanhope has certainly seen many changes in this, my first year. Mrs Julie Johnson has returned from maternity leave, and we congratulate her and Roland on the birth of their son, Edward. Many thanks to Miss Sophie Palmer for her hard work

during Julie's absence; our good wishes go with her as she takes up her new post at Summer Fields Preparatory School. Lynn Smith, our new matron, is a welcome addition to the House, and is working hard to create a happy, warm and nurturing environment. Mrs Elena Hughes is our new and very popular Fourth Form tutor and Sharon Carter, our experienced Fifth Form tutor, provides continuity and stability. Our team of cleaning ladies keep the house in pristine condition, and we wish Angela a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back next term.

There has been much to celebrate throughout the year. Our Third Formers wasted no time in putting themselves on the map with a string of House competition wins in basketball, dodgeball, netball, badminton and swimming. Special mention goes to Jemima Grant for coming first overall in the Junior girls' cross-country and, together with Jemima Fitzjohn, Anna Fox and Millie Bromley-Davenport for their commitment to House events. Sunday after Sunday they have given their all in closely fought battles, arriving exhausted back in house for a well-deserved pizza evening. Lucy Horan, Megan Duckett, and Ellie Pinnock swam well in their individual heats, winning more cups to adorn our shelves, with Megan achieving a new backstroke record. Lucy also performed outstandingly, winning the Intermediate 200m, having been narrowly beaten in the 100m.

Stanhope won the prestigious and much sought-after Academic Salver after a closely fought battle with Queen's. Merits, Commendations and Benes have cost me

dearly in treats, but it has been worth every penny! Special congratulations go to Rebecca Wild and Shannon Devlin who have achieved all As and 4s in their APG reports. Rebecca also achieved an A* in her Maths GCSE, sitting the exam earlier than normal at this level.

We have also excelled in music. Chloe Last led us to victory in the Part Song competition when her skilful arrangement of 'Skinny Love' was beautifully performed by herself, Clara Holden, Coco Anthony, Jahnai Hall, Alice Speakman, Philippa Stacey, Olivia Walters, Phoebe Harris, Molly Suthers and Theodora Briggs. Second place in the Unison gave us top billing overall in the House singing competition. We also congratulate Jahnai Hall and Anastasia Beck for winning the McElwee music award, and we look forward to hearing about their summer trip to Venice.

Tamara Rowan-Hamilton once again achieved first place for 'best caller' in the CCF Drill competition. We were again runners-up overall as a squad, with our precision marching and saluting, knocking the socks off the Boys' Houses! Well done Sophie Merrell, Louisa Gibbs, Stephanie Robinson, Lettice Spooner, Ellie Pinnock, Lucy Horan, Shannon Devlin and Rosie Devas. Tamara Rowan-Hamilton and Ellie Pinnock have been selected to participate in the Warriors International Scholarship Programme in South Africa, designed to develop self-awareness and self-belief through a series of challenges and activities including sky-diving, bush navigation and working in an orphanage.

Congratulations to Ella May Sangster, Louisa Gibbs, Sophie Merrell and Chloe Last for being selected as School Prefects and to Ellie Pinnock who will be a Senior Prefect next year. This original group of Third Form Stanhopians have blossomed into true ambassadors and from their humble beginnings, based in the Medical Centre prior to Stanhope's completion, have made Stanhope a House to be truly proud of.

It has been a delight to work in an environment of such beauty, and to be cloaked in the warmth, generosity and kindness of the girls and staff; my thanks go to you all for a wonderful year. Finally, I wish my trusty Upper Sixth Formers a successful life beyond Stowe; may all your dreams come true – you certainly deserve it.

Mrs Sue Harmon, Housemistress

My experience at Stowe by Thabile Ntshingila

Being given the opportunity to come to Stowe has really taught me a lot and given me the best experience of my life. Firstly, I have learnt to talk to people and make lots of friends in and out of Stanhope House. Having only moved schools twice, I am not really used to meeting lots of new people, so that was a bit of a challenge for me. Another really challenging factor when coming here is being so far away from home, being a boarder in South Africa, I'm used to not being home all the time but being so far away does have an impact on homesickness. It has taught me to be more independent because I'm able to make decisions on my own more often and not rely on calling home every time I have a problem, and the girls in Stanhope were really helpful in helping me settle in and that on its own really made it much more fun and enjoyable to be at Stowe. In conclusion, my year at Stowe has been an absolutely phenomenal experience, I have had a wonderful year and I am sad to leave all the great friends I've made behind, as well as all the staff that have been really great throughout the year.



Temple

Temple 2012



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Housemaster:

Mr Anthony Macpherson

Matron: Mrs Pamela Dennison

Assistant Housemaster:

Mr Gwilym Jones

Under Housemaster:

Mr Huw Jones

Head of House: Arthur Hobhouse

Deputy Head of House:

Ben Wackett, Chima Ngerem

School Prefects:

Arthur Hobhouse, Chima Ngerem,
Ben Wackett

House Prefects:

Freddie Rowan-Hamilton,
Ned Rodger, James Clark

Sitting down to write this report provides a welcome opportunity to stop and reflect on just how much has happened in Temple during the past three terms. It seems a strange paradox that the year has flashed past but, at the same time, life before Stowe now seems a distant memory. Either way, my first year as a Housemaster has been busy and it has certainly been enjoyable. I am proud of the many things that the boys have accomplished and the way that they have taken this transition year in their stride. The warmth of welcome that Caroline and I have received from colleagues, the boys and their parents has been beyond what we could have hoped for, so to everyone who has helped us to settle into life at Stowe, our heart-felt thanks.

The highlights of the year for me are not necessarily the victories in House

competitions, although I am pleased of course that we achieved a net gain in silverware. More special have been the occasions where I felt that our sense of House spirit was strengthened; the Coldstream Cup was definitely one such occasion. Watching the boys cheering on our team during the notorious ferret pull on the South Front provided a wonderful endorsement of the benefits, and sometimes the eccentricities, of inter-house rivalry. Likewise, our camaraderie was very evident at the House singing and if only we had sung 'Don't look back in anger' as lustily in the competition as we did when it was reprised at the Christmas Dinner (another great occasion), I am sure we would have featured among the medals. The 'At Home' was an opportunity to showcase some of the more refined musical talents in House and we also heard Najib's moving account of his journey from Helmand to Stowe, which gave all of us plenty to reflect on and be grateful for.

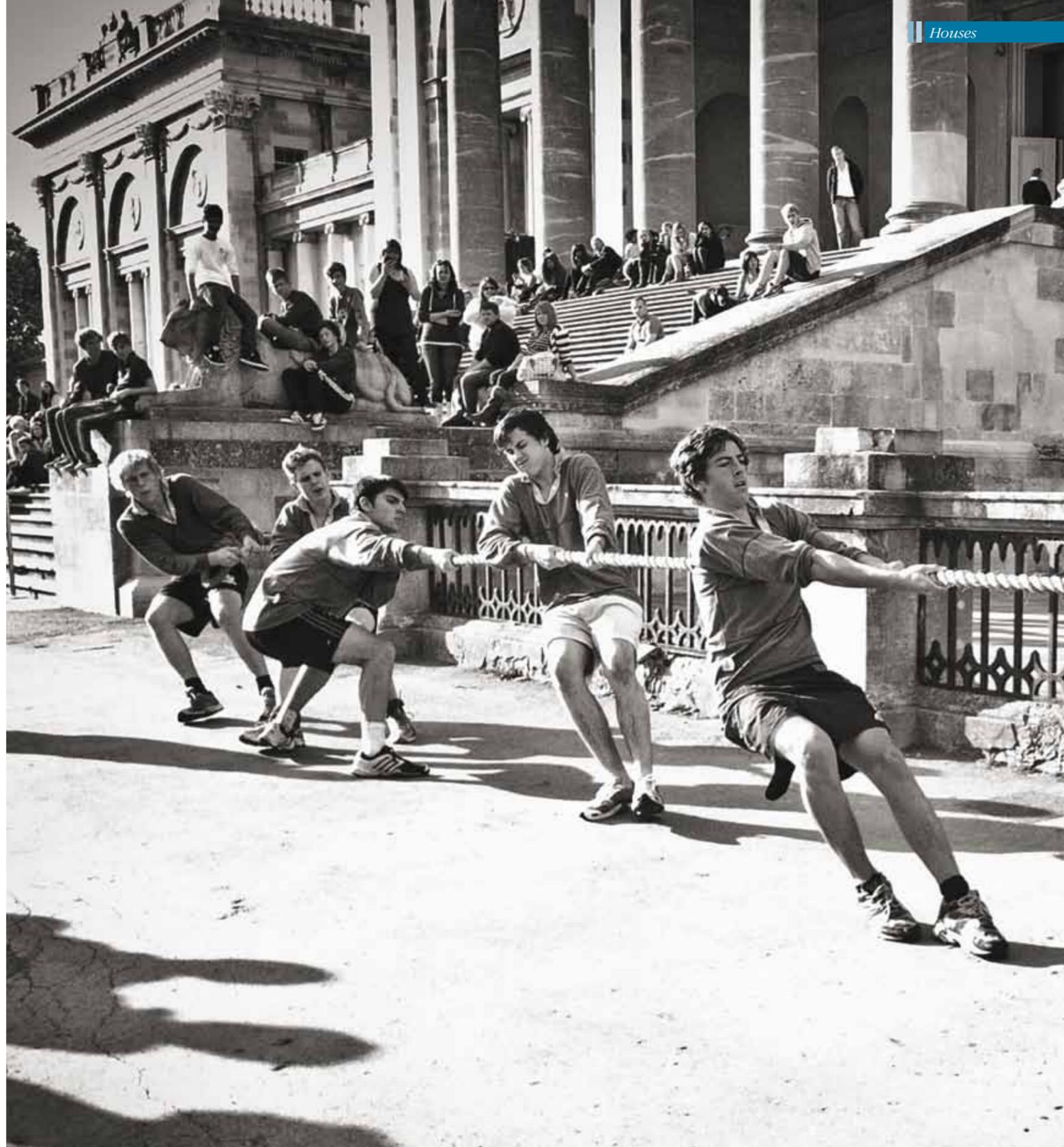
Our victories in a number of the House competitions have certainly been welcome and have ensured that the new trophy cabinet has remained well-stocked. Swimming, Senior basketball, tennis and cricket leagues were the sporting wins but we also received the Academic Salver for the best APG averages, showing that the boys have been working hard as well as playing hard. It is perhaps not a total coincidence that the outgoing Head of House (Arthur Hobhouse) and the incoming Head of House (Harry Warden) were major contributors to all four of our sporting wins. Both of them serve to exemplify not only the commitment to the House but also the respect and tolerance

for everyone around them that I hope to engender in the boys. All of the Prefects have done a great job of leading the House and I am particularly indebted to them for their consistent good humour and their helpful (and tactful) advice over the course of the year.

Along the same lines, I must mention my superb House team of Mrs Pam Dennison, Mr Gwilym Jones, Mr Tony Chan, Mr Phil Arnold, Mr Will Hearne, Mr Tony McDaid and Mr Huw Jones whose ceaseless dedication and care are essential in helping to provide a safe and happy environment within which the boys can flourish. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Tony McDaid and Mr Huw Jones from the House team. Tony is becoming a Sixth Form Tutor and Huw is moving on to run the Music Department at Merchant Taylors' School. Will Hearne is moving into the resident's flat over the summer and will take up the role of Under Housemaster and Third Form Tutor from September 2012. Will is a full-time hockey coach but he has many other strings to his bow and the boys will enjoy and benefit from his enthusiasm for the House and the energy and commitment that he gives to everything he does.

Life at Stowe is fantastically busy and it is often hard to find the time to stand back and view the whole picture. The end of the year provides an opportunity for this and whilst I cannot possibly do justice here to the many individual and group achievements that Temple can boast, I hope to have given a sense of the strength of our community, which is probably what I am proudest to report. On a personal note, I am very pleased to announce that Temple will welcome its newest and youngest member of the House some time in mid-October. We don't know yet if it will be a "pink baby" or a "blue baby" but either way, it will have no choice but to dress in Temple green!

Mr Anthony Macpherson, Housemaster



Walpole

Walpole 2012

© R & H Chapman Photography



Housemaster: Mr Peter Last

Matron: Mrs Terry Sanders

Assistant Housemaster:
Mr Kevin Ryce

Under Housemaster:
Mr Tom Higham

Head of House: Benjamin Paine

Deputy Head of House:
Roddy Blackburne

School Prefects: James Rudkin,
James Blackburne

House Prefects: Rowan Brogden,
Archie Walters, Ed Pettifer,
Hugo Barran

Yet again this year, Walpole boys were excellent in their preparation and determination to regain the Coldstream Cup. The team of Edward Pettifer, Pierre Scrase, Benjamin Paine, Archie Walters, Joshua Dickinson, George Barham, Orlando Whitehead and Alexander Levett-Scrivener were superb and brought this prestigious trophy, one of the most hotly contested House trophies at Stowe, back to the Walpole Common Room.

On the sporting front, we have not always had the strength in depth that some other Houses have had this year but we have never entered an event which we were not trying to win. Our Third Form led the way this year with a superb victory in the Junior basketball, usefully aided by having the tallest Third Form boy – Seun Coker! They also won both the rugby and hockey plate finals and House dodgeball! The Senior rugby team got to the plate final where they lost to Grenville. Three of our golfers have played regularly for the School and in one fixture this year half of the Senior school team was made up of Walpudlians in the form of Joshua Choi, Ben Jenkins and George Tucker. Edward Pettifer and Roddy Blackburne were simply amazing in the Senior boys' swimming event and they also led our water polo team to a very impressive second place in the leagues. Overall, we would have to say that in terms of team sports, this was a fairly "lean" year for us, but we will be back even stronger next year.

We have seen some outstanding individual performances, including the delight of watching Joshua Dickinson win the Senior

boys' cross-country and the Senior boys' 1500m on Sports Day. Another Sports Day victor was Thomas Abbot-Davies who won the Intermediate boys' high jump with a very impressive display of jumping. Head of House, Benjamin Paine, picked up a third place award in the Senior boys' discus. The pick of the individual performances however has to go to James Rudkin who has secured a place in the Great Britain Junior rowing squad; James is a superb athlete and has worked so incredibly hard for what he has already achieved and we are sure there is lots more still to come from him. It was an honour to see him awarded the Colin Shillington cup for outstanding sporting achievement on Speech Day.

Another aspect of House life which we are very proud of is our singing. Not only are we, week in and week out, the best singing House in school Chapel services, but we also did superbly well in the House Singing competition. Our unison effort 'I would walk 500 miles' by The Proclaimers earned us second place in the boys' category (possibly due to Alfie Marsden-Smedley's back flip to introduce it) and our part song 'Fall Down' was awarded third place. What was even more impressive about our part song was that it was written specially for the House singing competition by Otto Balfour, who also led the performance on his guitar. Alexander McQuitty has also twice led the whole school in Chapel by playing the hymn on the school organ; a most impressive feat for a Third Form boy. Our Junior and Senior debating teams did very well this year, both reaching the semi-final stage before eventually losing out to stronger teams. However, those who took part gained valuable experience in public speaking and debating which bodes well for the future!

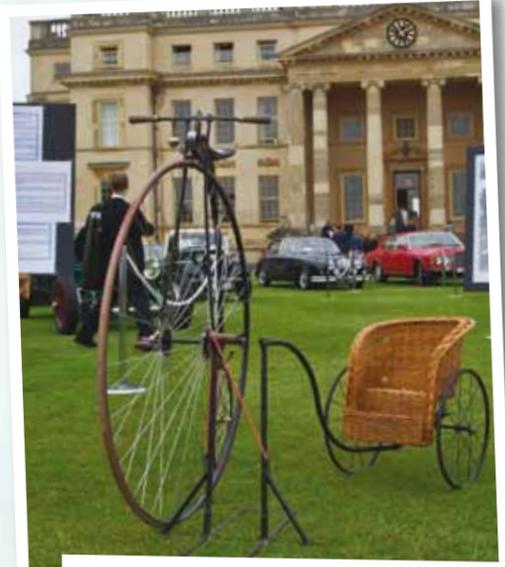
On top of all of this the boys have continued to apply themselves to their academic work and have worked hard (most of them have anyway). Having seen last year's leavers all safely into their chosen courses or careers we are hoping for a similar result from this year's leavers.

The Walpole Cup for best overall contribution to the Third Form is awarded this year to Seun Coker and the Walpudlian Trophy for best all round contribution to the House goes to Roddy Blackburne.

Mr Pete Last, Housemaster



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



26th December 1932

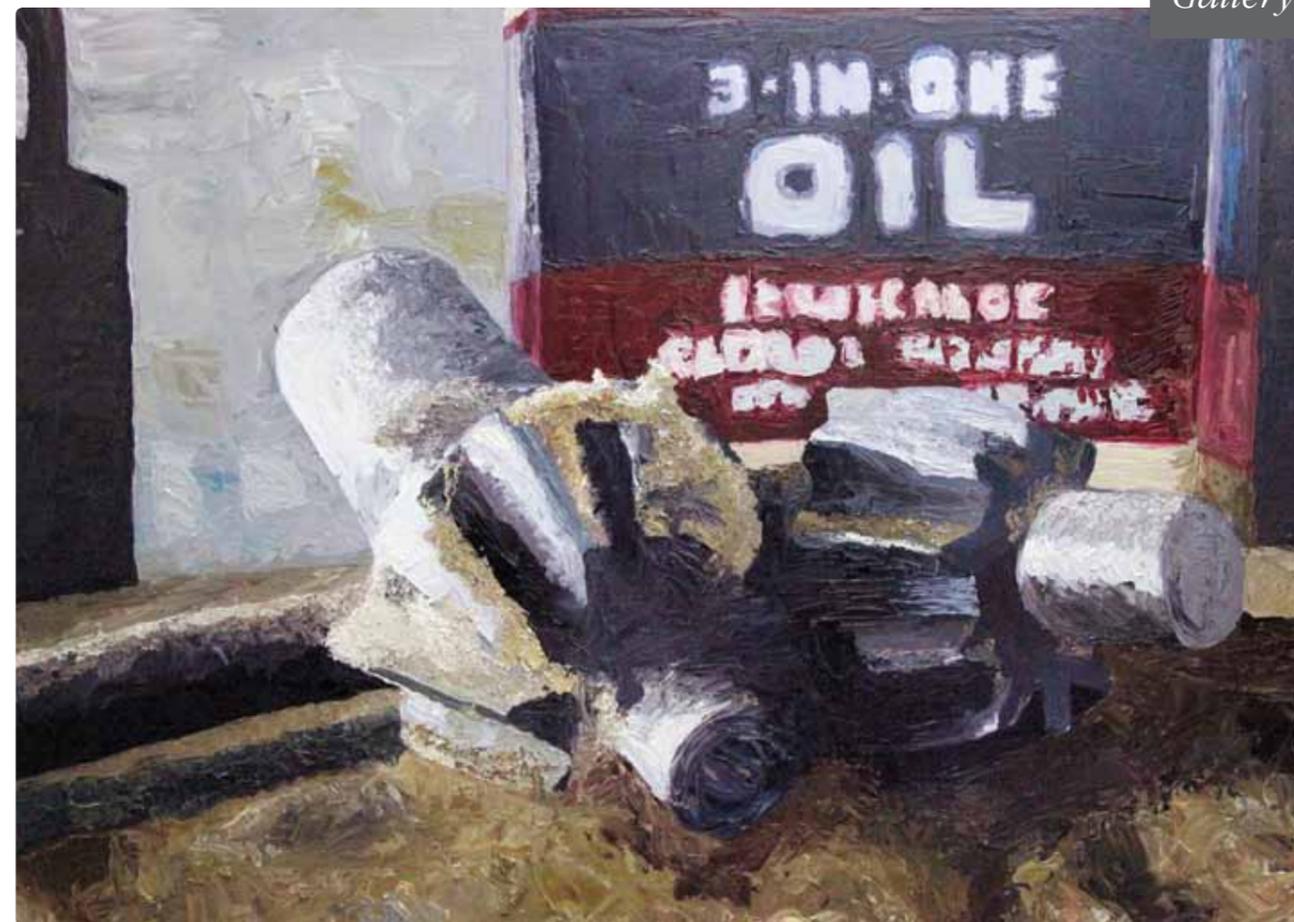
Another normal day in Appleby. Nothing of note. I fetched the last hay I could from the barn but most had been buried. The ice is setting in now and so is the flu. I couldn't see the church from the top of Market Hill today. It was driving it down pretty hard and I wondered if it would have mattered if I'd never come back. If I just lay down – beaten into submission by time and age. Every day when I look in the glass, I see an 18 year-old peering out at me. He's unable to comprehend how I can drift so aimlessly. It's true. I've achieved nothing. I'm only 29 but I feel decrepit. This town is dead, the people dying... and most of the sheep as well. I never saw that 18 year-old's gravestone but I often wonder what will go on mine. There's no use in thinking about it. Just another normal day in Appleby.

It's Tommy's birthday today. He would've been 35. But he died on the Somme in 1916. He hadn't even hit 19. Mum and Dad loved him. I did too. My big bro. Tom and I were thick as thieves and he never took advantage of the six years he had on me. He was the apple of all our eyes, the bastard. We were so proud when he enlisted. Dad was too old but said he was doing the family an honour. Mum said he became a man after he'd seen the old recruitment officer. But I was just a boy. He began to go off training and Mum would sit up every night by the fire, knitting socks. Then he came back for the last time. We had a lovely weekend but my heart wasn't in it. All the neighbours making a fuss of him and packing him off with bars of chocolate and cigarettes. He didn't even like them. I was the last one he spoke to before he got on the bus. He stooped down and looked me in the eye. Told me I was doing a "heroic job" working on the farm and to look after Mum, and promised to write when he could. He hugged me and said I'd never leave him. God, I wish every waiting hour that I hadn't! Mum said that was the day she lost her boys. The letter came through nine months later. Mum was hysterical – and Dad; well he just sat in the kitchen. I walked about the farm. That year was the coldest winter I've known and Mum didn't last long. Then Dad left pretty soon after.

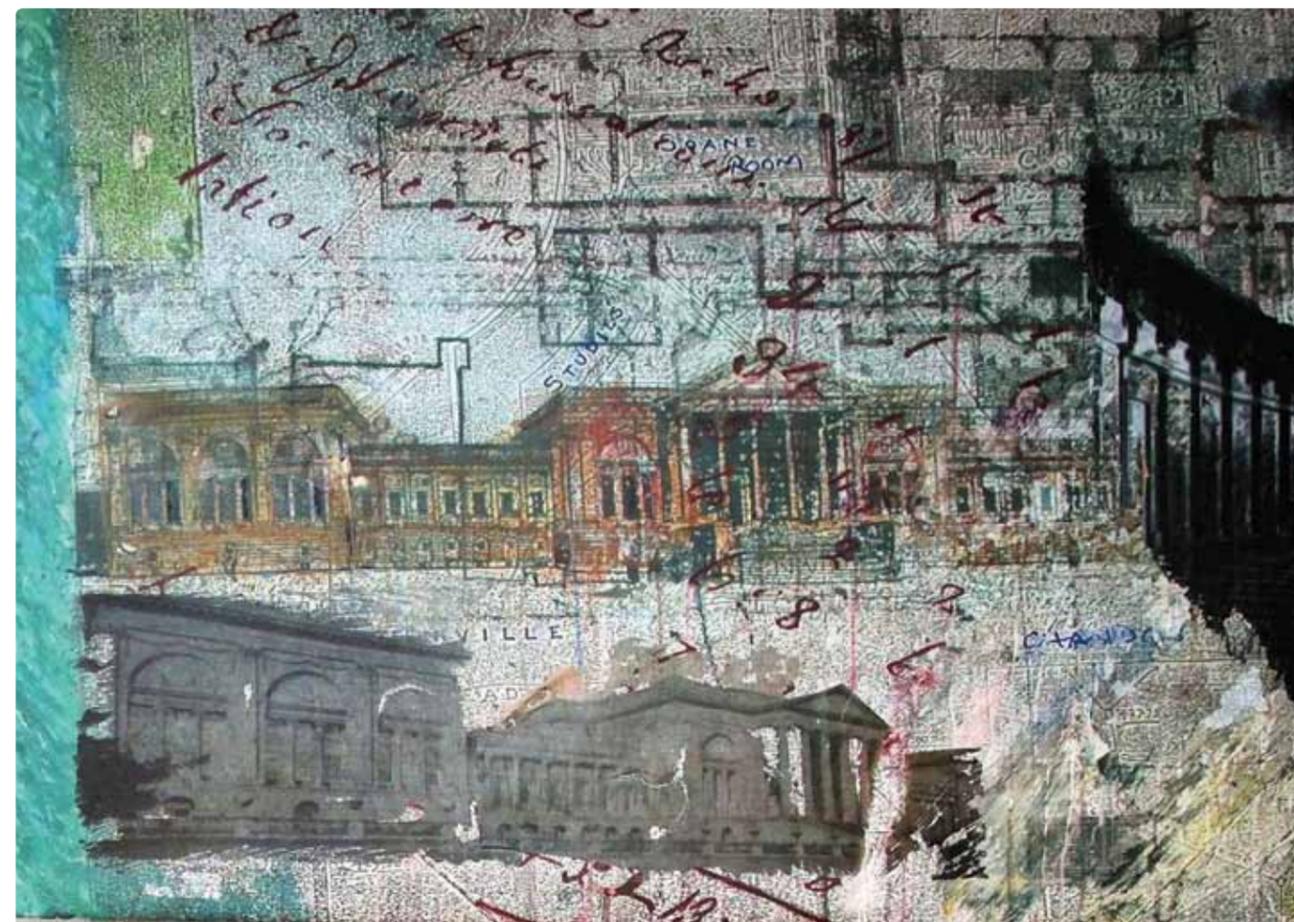
Every day since I've been frozen in my hellish reverie. Nothing has changed: we're all just a bit older. They say there's a boom in the capital. Most of the young have run off to find their fortunes. I guess Tommy did that too. But this is the free Britain. New Britain. Defiant Britain. Free Britain. Well I wish the Hun would have another crack. What more is there for the likes of me? What defining moment? I dream of being shelled by Nazis. Up to my neck in thick mud and a lice-infested head. How could Tommy have been so selfish? To take all the glory and leave me nothing. How I pray for Armageddon to come. To be there beside George and Fred with the bombs in our ears till we can hear no more and the mud in our eyes till we can see no more and the bullets in our skulls till we can think no more but know only that we are free and time was on our side and we were together.

But Tommy took my dream. He left me behind. We loved each other but we were just boys.

Orlando Whitehead, Lower Sixth



Harriet Farr, Upper Sixth



Alexander Miarli, Upper Sixth

THE XX GROUP

The XX group this year has consisted of 15 members, seven female and eight male, across eight Houses. The Third Form members were chosen based on their Common Entrance scores, CAT scores, October APG results and recommendations from Housemasters/mistresses and Third Form tutors. Academic Scholars gained immediate entry into the group.

The XX group meets once a week on a Thursday for an hour. The aim of the group this year is to provide academic extension to the brightest and most inquisitive minds in the Third Form. It is hoped that this group of students will go onto form the foundations for Oxbridge entries when they enter the Sixth Form. This year's XX group has sought to develop the pupils' intellectual abilities by furthering themselves culturally, philosophically and cognitively through the medium of visual and audio education with a focus on reading, music and film.

Within the hourly meetings we have looked at Kafka's Penal Colony which each member was asked to read. This led us into a discussion on the merits of Capital Punishment focusing on China's record of and application of the Death Penalty. This branched off into Terrorism and the specifically the 'War of Terror' and whether

or not there were situations when the Death Penalty should be applied. We have also discussed 'What it is to be a teenager growing up in the 21st Century.' As a group we watched and analysed the film *The Elephant Man*, looking at how we 'should not judge a book by its cover' and the power of building loving, caring relationships. In addition to these, they group partook in a 'Philosophy for Children' session run by Mr Dominic Mochan and have been challenged with 'MENSA' and logical puzzles.

In addition to the weekly meetings the XX group has had the good fortune of going on some extra trips. This year we have visited the Bank of England which included a detailed talk from a member of the Bank as well as work to do whilst there. They attended the Houses of Parliament for a guided tour and most recently they joined in with a GCSE RS

trip the British Museum to see the Hajj Exhibition.

The XX group have been heavily involved in community work both at Stowe and in the wider community. They have seen plays put on by the Stowe Drama students as well as external companies coming in. The group has played a vital role in looking after and entertaining prospective Roxburgh and Academic scholars. They also went to a local primary school – 'St James and St John' on World Book Day and read a passage of their favourite childhood book and partook in a Q&A session to small groups of pupils.

The focus of the Summer term was on their individual projects which they researched independently and presented to the whole school in the Marble Hall. This was a hotly contested competition and each member goes to great lengths to find a unique and interesting topic which can give them the best chance of catching the eye of the Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster (Academic) and Senior Tutor as they walked around interacting and judging the competition.

The group has been engaged, motivated and enthusiastic in their academic extension and I hope that they will continue to read widely and enjoy the process of learning something new.

Mr Michael Rickner

Inter-House Debating

Inter-House Debating was a great success in the 2011-12 School year. The Senior School debates took place in the Michaelmas term, during which Stoics debated weighty social issue topics ranging from 'performance enhancing drugs should be allowed in sport' to 'the social benefits of cheap flight greatly outweigh the social costs'.

After a tight series of debates in the quarter-finals, Chandos boys Daniel

Capurro, Edmund Robinson and Henry Rudd took on Queen's girls Molly Davison, Emily Marchant and Madeleine Webb over the final motion, 'This house believes the social benefits of cheap flight greatly outweigh the social costs'. After a closely fought debate demonstrating serious research, deep thinking, and quick wits from both teams, the Headmaster and Deputy Head (Academic) awarded the winners' trophy to the Queen's team.

Junior School debating took place in the Lent term and the judges all commented on the exceptionally high calibre of debate from Fourth and Fifth Formers. In the final, Bruce boys William Pepera, Hugo Ellison, and Alec Pultr took on Grafton's Guy Gibson, Charlie Mason and Angus Tyrrell over the controversial motion, 'This House believes that education is an end in itself'. Back in their judging role, Dr Wallersteiner and Mr Robinson both

noted how impressed they had been by the level of debate and sophistication of the arguments from both teams over what was a difficult and demanding motion. In the end, the trophy was awarded to Bruce for their added panache at the podium.

Having taken over responsibility for Debating from Mrs Julie Johnson part way through the Michaelmas term I have been impressed by the calibre of Stoic debaters. The task of organising debates was made infinitely easier and more pleasurable through the tireless support and advice of colleagues Mrs Liz Capurro, Mr Tony Chan and Mrs Clare Hill Hall, who volunteered their time as judges and debate chairs, Mrs Julie Johnson who was a constant source of advice, and Upper Sixth Formers Daniel Capurro and Molly Davison, who took turns chairing the Junior School debates.

Dr James Panton

Biomedical Society

This academic year has seen unprecedented success by the Upper Sixth Form members of the Biomedical Society, who have set a real challenge for the current Lower Sixth Formers who will follow them.

The Biomedical Society was very proud to be able to celebrate a 100% success rate for applications to Medicine and Veterinary Science. As well as the medics, our members have also succeeded in winning places to study a number of biomedical, biochemical, biological and chemical places at top-ranking universities.

Our four successful medics were Ellice Caldwell-Dunn (this year's President of the Biomedical Society), Franklin Johnson, Harriet Eatwell and Aysha Falamarzi. Emma Saric was our only vet applicant this year, and it was a huge pleasure to be able to celebrate her success in winning a place at the Royal Veterinary College.

This year members of the Biomedical Society enjoyed the usual cut-and-thrust of medical and ethical debate in our weekly meetings, covering topics such as the psychology of fear and the treatment of appendicitis. As well as our annual trip to visit the Oxford University School of Medical Sciences, this year the Biomedical Society hosted some fascinating and diverse external speakers. The first of these was Old Stoic Professor Paul Nelson, who gave an in-depth talk on Human Endogenous Retroviruses. This talk was a must-see for all those students interested in biomolecular sciences and was a fantastic introduction to the world of academic scientific research. Our second speaker of the Michaelmas term was

Dr Harriet Branford-White, who gave us a spectacular (if slightly gory!) insight into the world of a practising surgeon. The Biomedical lecture calendar was rounded off in style by Sarah Norcross of the Progress Educational Trust who spoke eloquently on the ethics of assisted conception and mitochondrial transfer.

Next year's programme promises yet more inspiration for our burgeoning biomedical scientists. The inaugural Biomedical Dinner is planned for the 19 October, which will be combined with a special guest lecture by Dr Janet Dawson entitled "Bringing Medicines to Market".

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



Left to right: Jonathan Peverley, Nico Gilbert, Professor Paul Nelson, Mervin, Ellice Caldwell-Dunn, Franklin Johnson, Michael Illingworth

CURRENT AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This activity is an option within the School's activities programme that attracts pupils with an interest in current affairs. Encouraging Stoics to explore the political and social world around them, it allows them to develop key skills in research, debating and critical thinking. Most weeks see very lively debates as the Stoics explore a variety of topics. They have the opportunity not only to research and examine topics that interest them, but also to discover the

depths of opposing arguments and just occasionally, to leave a session questioning whether or not they need to rethink their stance on an issue. Independence of thought, respect for an opposing view, coupled with an appreciation of group dynamics, are core values of the group and it is always a pleasure to observe the group as they learn to work on these principles.

Mrs Liz Huxley Capurro



Left: Victor Khaprov (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Albadr Alhashemi (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Edward Bensted (Lower Sixth, Cobham)

as we know it. I gave a valiant effort to get Mrs Capurro to accept my friend request but fell short as I wasn't 'cool' enough!

Other topics we have covered are the issue of Sexual Morality within the public domain, focusing on the ideologies of what should be and is accepted as right or wrong. In addition we have looked at the topic of democracy, discussing the merits of a wide range of democracies and taking the time to determine whether countries such as Russia, India, Great Britain and the USA are fair and equitable democracies in terms of various civil liberties being allowed or disallowed and ranking them according to the Freedom

House criteria. Discussions of one topic often lead to others such as just how far one can go to support and believe in one's religion whilst remaining extroverts.

No issue is too controversial or disputable to be put on the agenda for Current Affairs. I am proud to say that we have an optimal group of people, who generate simply intriguing discussions. It would be easy to say we are an outspoken and blunt bunch as we don't sit on the fence and are encouraged to voice our opinions (should they not be too drastic that is) whilst learning to appreciate that there will always be others with opposing views.

Edward Bensted (Lower Sixth, Cobham)

This year we looked at a vast spectrum of issues. A particularly pleasing aspect of the topics chosen was their relevance to recent world events. The prospect of new republics expropriating and seizing the throne, such as Libya, led to animated discussions and I thoroughly enjoy them. We all have the opportunity to present topics. Last term Ben Wild's topic of "Facebook" led to discussions on social networking and how it is affecting society

Business Studies

The Business Studies Department started the new academic term with the launch of the Business Society in September which targeted students in the top academic sets. This gave students an opportunity to research and discuss topical business issues. A number of students were given topics which ranged from the eurozone crisis, global recession and the banking collapse and they successfully completed mini presentations to their peers. This was a good opportunity for students to spend more time tackling more complex topical business issues and for students to improve their awareness and knowledge of current business issues.

In September we were invited to lead a business simulation at Beachborough Prep school where Mr John and Mr Blew led a business group activity for a group of Year 7-8. This involved them designing a new cereal and producing a marketing strategy. The pupils were very enthusiastic and produced some innovative and engaging new ideas. We plan to develop this partnership next year.

Throughout the Autumn and Spring terms six outside speakers were invited to address the Business Studies students on a range of topics. This included a number of small entrepreneurs who spoke about the challenges of setting up their respective businesses and offering advice to budding Business Studies students. Charlie Beldam (Temple 05) an Old Stoic has recently set up Cotswold Gold and the students were captivated by his enthusiasm and enjoyed sampling his salad dressings! It is particularly rewarding to see an old Business Studies student doing so well and

receiving a number of business awards and securing invaluable media attention. Other speakers spoke on international development, property development and the role of an advertising agency.

Business Studies students worked very hard during the Autumn term in preparation for their January modules. In December Helen Coupland who has a wealth of experience as a Senior examiner came to Stowe and led training sessions to both the Lower and Upper Sixth. Students gained invaluable insight from the chief examiner's perspective and Helen provided useful strategies to help students target the top grades. There were some excellent exam results in January both at AS and at A2 but the unit 3 module results were particularly impressive. 69% of the students achieved grade A-B with 97% gaining A-C. These results have provided a firm foundation for all our A level students to achieve excellent results in their terminal exams in June.

In May the XX club visited the Business Studies Department and enjoyed taking part in a Business simulation by producing a new chocolate bar. This involved each group designing and formulating a marketing plan for their new product and presenting their findings. The students were very responsive and enjoyed gaining an insight of a new subject. We hope some of these budding entrepreneurs will choose to study Business Studies in the Sixth Form!

In June the Lower Sixth students visited the Mini factory at Cowley and were impressed with the degree of customisation and lean production methods at the plant. In 2013 there will be an organised trip to New York and Washington.

Mr Panos John





Literary Society

This was a vintage year for the Stowe School Literary Society, with some particularly memorable papers and readings.

At the first meeting on 14 October 2011, Dr Mike Woolf, the deputy president of CAPA International Education, discussed the plays and film-scripts of David Mamet. The majority of the members of the Literary Society had already studied Mamet's play *Oleanna*, which was the prime subject of the talk. Dr Woolf insights into the playwright's key themes and dramatic methods were especially valuable.

In early November, Christopher Reid, winner of the 2009 Costa Book Prize, read a selection of his works to the Society. The extracts from *A Scattering*, a volume of poems written as a tribute to his late wife, were particularly moving. During question-time, Mr Reid considered the stages of research, the need to find the correct tone and the influence of other writers on his works.

Later in November, we welcomed Professor Gordon Campbell of Leicester University, who gave an inspiring talk on "The King James Bible: Language and Literature" in its centenary year. Professor Campbell's analysis on the political and literary contexts relevant to the Authorised Version made his speech particularly diverse and entertaining.

In January 2012, Niall O'Sullivan gave readings of his "Sarf London gritty but humorous fry-up verse", comically presenting poems that fused popular culture and his personal experience of living in London.

In February, the eminent poet Simon Armitage gave the annual Tattersall-Wright poetry recital. Confirming his reputation as a dry-humoured and outspoken author, he read a diverse range of his works from witty sonnets to a poignant narrative of what is often considered a "taboo" subject for verse: the 9/11 tragedy. Lucky Stoics from the Fourth Form to the Sixth Form were able to dine with the poet beforehand and all attending could obtain signed copies of his poems after his recital.

Later in the month, Mr Robin Whittaker (retired County Archivist of Worcestershire) visited Stowe to give seminars about the life of Samuel Taylor Coleridge to two Upper Sixth classes. Mr Whittaker's references

ranged from Coleridge's precocious childhood to his struggles with bereavement and opium addiction. The seminars were extremely beneficial in addressing contextual issues relevant to the English Literature A2 examination.

In March, we were honoured to welcome the prominent academic Professor Jonathan Bate, Provost of Worcester College Oxford and Associate of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Presenting an enthralling paper entitled "Shakespeare: Staging the World", Professor Bate offered insights into Shakespeare's works using objects from the forthcoming British Museum exhibition which he co-curated and which will be part of Britain's Cultural Olympiad (19 July – 25 November).

To conclude the year's programme, a week before Speech Day, there was a gala dinner for the Literary Society leavers, with home-grown entertainments including scenes from drama, recitations, songs and a brief learned paper from the Committee. The official photograph showing the Stoics in their finery conveys something of the joyous spirit of a memorable conclusion to two years of study in the English Department at Stowe.

Imran Momen, Lucy Moseley, Tabbi Owen
(Lit. Soc. Committee, 2011-12)

Pitt Society

This year has seen the further development of the Pitt Society, which has proved to be the focal point of extra-curricular activity in history.

Hosting guests of historical notoriety, the members of the group have enjoyed benefiting from personal exposure to the scholars behind the historiography assessed within the A level course. Susan Doran's discursive seminar was of particular note, illuminating the overwhelming subjectivity surrounding the debate on royal power during Edward VI's brief rule. With access to such individuals, the society has proved to supplement the groundwork sufficiently for the summer exams. As well as contributing to academic preparation, the array of stimulating talks given has exposed history as a more vibrant subject, often misrepresented by dense, inaccessible texts.

The society has also been privileged enough to host the likes of Sir Howard Stringer, who gave a fascinating talk of his own experiences in the Vietnam War. Sir Howard Stringer's personal insights proved to be thoroughly entertaining, as his charismatic talk brought to life the recollection of the process in which he found himself drafted into the United States Army upon emigration.

Many of the enriching talks have been followed by thoroughly enjoyable dinners, where students have had an opportunity to meet the speakers in a more relaxed atmosphere. The Thanksgiving evening stands out as a particular highlight and it must be said that the Stowe catering department have not faulted in

consistently delivering superb cuisine. The students have been overwhelmingly grateful for the combined efforts that have been put into the formulation of such events.

Often members of the society have expressed their thanks by contributing themselves, be it sharing an area of history they are particularly fond of, or by extending invitations to guests to present to the group. Notably Daniel Capurro successfully delivered an interesting overview of the Spanish Revolution. Wilhelmina McFadden and Frederick Benyon also produced an equally commendable presentation on North Korea. Andrew Rudolf, former Head of History at Stowe, was invited to speak by one of the society members and his account on Charles II was thoroughly enjoyed, offering a useful context behind the unilateral rule of James I. Overall the Pitt Society has been overwhelmingly successful and will undoubtedly continue to attract the keen intrigue of history students.

Henry Stockdale (Bruce, Upper Sixth)



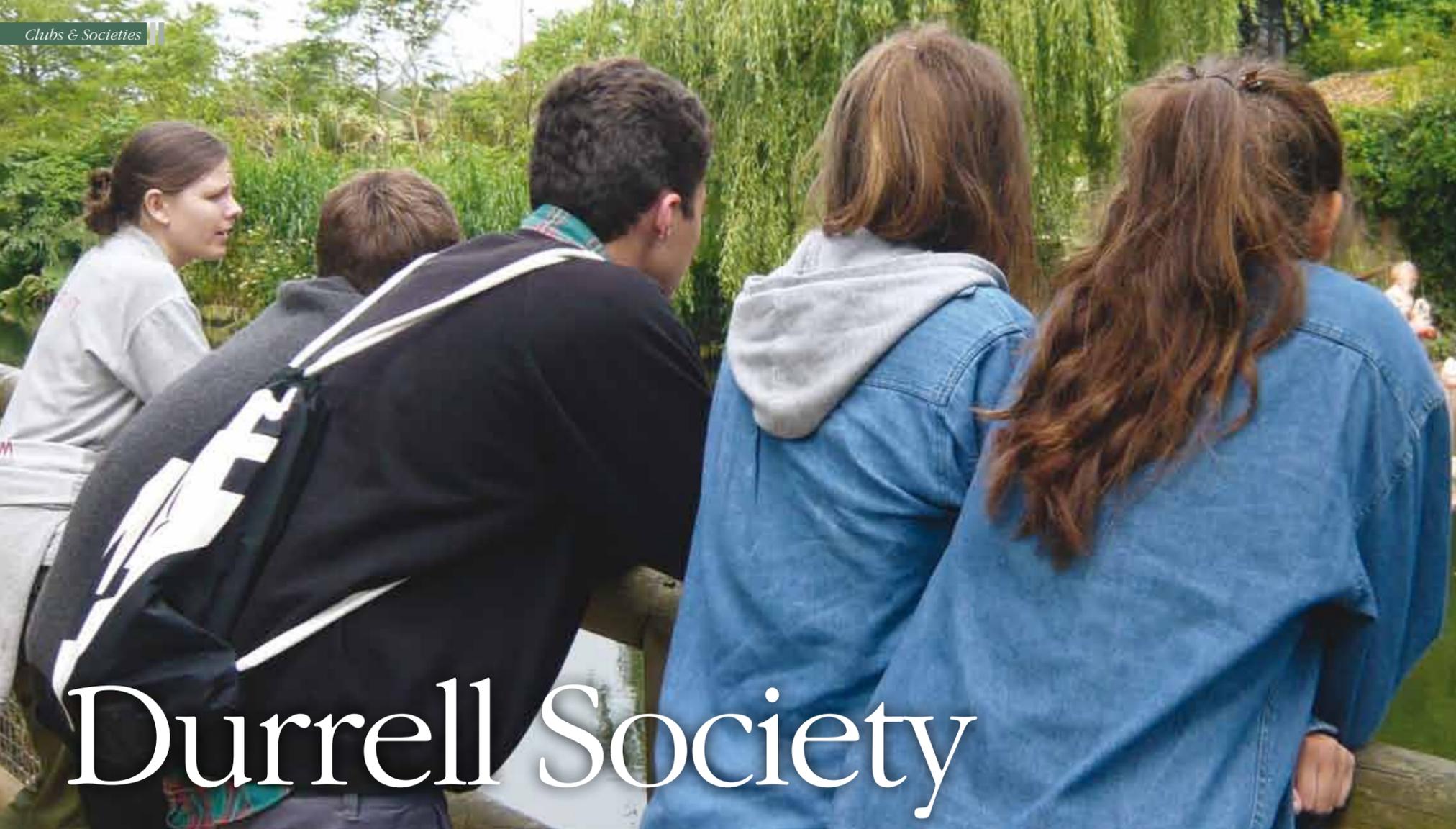
Oxford Society

All students benefit enormously from a broad, extra-curricular appreciation of the arts and for Sixth Formers in particular it can help them shine in essays and at interview. In its inaugural year the Oxford Society ran a variety of trips to Oxford and its environs to expose the cognoscenti of the student body to an eclectic range of plays and films, including: From "Earthquakes in London" – a new play, dynamically staged and focused on the perils of climate change; to "'Tis Pity She's A Whore" – a superbly exciting, modern rendition of the Jacobean masterpiece;

"Wuthering Heights" – the desperately bleak new film with a black Heathcliff exposing the underlying and often overlooked racist theme to Bronte's novel; "The Iron Lady" – Meryl Streep's sensitive, exquisite portrayal of Thatcher set against both a very vibrant younger self in flashback (Alexandra Roach – a name to watch out for), and, fascinatingly, against the 30th anniversary of the Falklands – this was a film which provoked intense political debate amongst students too young to have known Thatcher in the flesh; "The Artist" – that wonderful and

much too large for the screen empowerment of the silent era of movies; and our famous Wallingford ("South Oxford, really") viewing of "The Ides of March" – Clooney's tale of political strategy and turpitude (if they are different!). Many thanks to our chair and treasurer, Emma Curley and Yem Soper-Gwatidzo, and to everyone who made this the rich, stimulating Sixth Form society it has become. Opera is next up!

Mr Bob Roberts and Mr Simon Gabbatiss



Durrell Society

Durrell Trust Support Group

Every Monday afternoon this year saw a meeting of a small dedicated number of Stoics from across the year groups, working for the Durrell Trust on Jersey. Durrell (set up by Gerald Durrell of “My Family and Other Animals” fame) is a zoo with a difference – it primarily exists to breed endangered species for re-introduction to the wild. Early in the year the Support Group ran a campaign to get boarding houses to “adopt” an animal, and what an enormous, generous response the Stoics gave, £1,512 being raised through this initiative alone. Throughout the year the Support Group sold doughnuts and managed collecting tins to raise further funds, and this garnered approximately £440, and then Lauren Clark-Hattingh together with her matron Sandra Hewlett cooked up various other delicacies to raise even more money. As the end of the year approaches we have raised £600 more in

order to help fund a small group visit to the Trust, where Jack Walker-Payne, Claudia Wace, Tilda Bevan and Felix Spooner will receive behind-the-scenes, hands-on training in Conservation Science – a course usually reserved for much older students. An ongoing project is to re-introduce Durrell’s popular story “My Family and Other Animals” to schools across the land, and get it back onto the GCSE syllabus – so if any Stoic or parent has any contacts with the DfE or exam boards, please get in touch! My thanks to the Stowe student body for their generosity towards this cause, and in particular to, other than those already mentioned, Louis de Montfort, Aliénor d’Arenberg, Nick Berenguer, Jacques Candler, Josh Caine and Honor Douglas Miller for being particularly strong, selfless and inspiring members of a team that included many great young people. Thanks also to great support from Lee Durrell and her team, and Michaela Walker, on Jersey.

Trip to the Durrell Trust, Jersey, Channel Islands, 27-29 June 2012

To cap a year in which £2,700 was raised for the Durrell Trust, four members of the Stowe support group were lucky enough to visit the Trust in its home grounds on Jersey – a wildlife park with a difference. As well as being perhaps the most ethical wildlife park in existence, Durrell operates a conservation programme of 45 projects in 15 countries, and runs international training courses in Conservation Science. Jack Walker-Payne, Tilda Bevan, Claudia Wace and Felix Spooner were lucky enough to be given a two-day beginners’ course by Naomi Webster, the Trust’s Education Officer. The ethics, challenges and strategies involved were remarkably complex, and we were hugely impressed by how the Trust was responsible for 11% of the creatures saved from extinction in the last decade, how it had resurrected the beautiful Mauritius kestrel from a single female, saved the Montserrat

Mountain Chicken frog (named sadly for its edibility!) from certain extinction by the deadly Chytrid fungus, and rescued the beautiful Madagascan Pochard duck from a tragic situation where the last remaining adults had fled to a remote lake too deep for the ducklings to feed from the bottom. In addition we handled and fed a variety of entertaining creepy crawlies and reptiles, including a four inch cockroach and a skink called Samson. We made up enrichment food parcels consisting of porridge stuffed into bamboo which was then bound with leaf fibre, and watched them being fed to the gorillas. We had a behind-the-scenes tour of the Trust, and were lucky enough to meet Lee Durrell again, this time at her place (!) and Quentin Bloxham, who helped Gerry Durrell set up the Trust from the beginning. Huge thanks to Michaela Walker, Jack’s mum, for her enormous help with this trip, which hopefully will be the first of many.

Mr Bob Roberts



The Durrell Society with the cockroach and making Gorilla snacks

The Dream of Reality

Me myself and I,
The only dream I now live by.
Regardless of how hard I try, always treated with the same old sigh,
No one cares, Who, What Where, or Why?
Laughter, kind words of praise shrouded by my melancholy cry.
The worries of everyday life seems to underlie,
Of every movement, tempting me to its side
But, who am I to deny,
The summer warmth, joy and the bright blue sky?
The inevitability of the mirth we must all upon rely?
Holding my head up on high
Willing, almost wishing to defy,
Those who stare at me with looks so dry
Still every day that does go by.
Alas, it is only me myself and I.

Alec Pultr, Fifth Form



Octavia Trevor, Upper Sixth

Salmon Fishing in Alaska



In early July 13 guys headed off on a trip to the western tip of Alaska in a journey that would take two days and 3 flights to arrive. Their destination King Salmon Airport used to be a US Airbase during the Cold War.

As the small twin prop passed by snow capped mountains and the odd active volcano, excitement was rising among the group as to what was to come over the next 10 days.

We were staying at an isolated fishing lodge where comforts were pretty simple

and the mosquitoes abundant and are locally known as the 'National Bird of Alaska'!

Based on the edge of the River Naknek and draining into the Kvichak Bay we were well placed to intercept the King and Sockeye Salmon migrating to their spawning grounds. Each morning after breakfast groups would be organised to drive by jet boat to the various sections of river that the guides believed held these fish. Some of the party would take a float plane to rivers further afield, which would take you over the Tundra to some magnificent fishing holes. The group

were exclusively fly fishermen and a combination of 15' double handers and heavy sink tips lines for the Kings which could weigh up to well over 40lbs or smaller weight 6 rods for the explosive but smaller Sockeye. Both species are difficult to catch but once the right combination of fly and technique was achieved, most members of the party contacted but not always landed these magnificent fish.

One day we managed to get a trip out to the infamous 'Brooks Falls', which many will have seen on the TV. It is here that the Grizzly Bears sit on the falls with their mouths open wide waiting for a salmon

to jump in. On our visit, we saw numerous Grizzlies... most of which were in the water just above or below where we were fishing. The general rule was, that if you hooked a salmon and the Grizzly showed interest, you had to break the line and move out of the water quickly but calmly... well, several of us took a long time before we managed to land our first salmon at Brooks! One interesting event took place where Luke Davison in the process of hurrying to land his salmon pulled on the line a little too hard... the leader snapped and the split shot rocketed back at lightning speed. With blood spurting out of a rather dreadful looking injury Luke

was taken very quickly to the Medical Centre where the duty team simply pulled the shot back out in the direction they went in... not a view for the faint-hearted but all on video... much to Luke's delight!

During our stay, we managed a rafting trip down the Alagnak River famed for it's Rainbow Trout and Sockeye – a beautiful river and full of fish hunting Grizzlies! We camped three nights and with the late setting of the sun allowed us to fish right up to midnight. Several of the camps were visited by the bears and there was always the worry that the Grizzlies would use the rafts as trampolines and ending up

smashing them to smithereens... a pastime they frequently enjoy we were told!

All in all it was a great trip. With King Salmon up to 35lbs, Sockeye up to 12lbs and a Rainbow Trout over 10lbs it was a trip to remember. There were certainly more fish hooked than were landed, but that's just fishing. The Stoics and staff involved directly were Luke Davison, Ben Patton, Graham Riddick, Rory Akam, Michael Righton and associated friends and family. Another trip is planned for 2013 but where... we are only to dream about right now.

Mr Michael Righton, Biology Department, Educational Visits Coordinator, Gap Coordinator

Santepheap Cambodian Children's House of Peace

Both Abby and I wanted to volunteer with children to do something constructive and worthwhile with our time by giving something back to people who have the most appalling lifestyles and truly need as much help and support as possible.

We chose to volunteer in Cambodia, as it was a country that neither of us had been to before. The country is still suffering from the Khmer Rouge era and due to this, the country as a whole is still seriously lacking in aid. We chose the orphanage itself as we had a connection with it through a family friend. One of the major reasons for choosing Santepheap was that we didn't have to go through an organisation, meaning we didn't have to pay an initial large sum of money to a third party to be there. This meant that a great deal more of the scholarship money could go directly to the orphanage and to the children themselves, which they sorely needed.

Santepheap is home to 33 children, aged 6-18 years. The orphanage provides them with shelter, food, clothing and basic schooling such as maths, Khmer (their own language) and English language

lessons. The main aim of the organisation is to give the children the skills needed to find a job at 18 and earn a living for themselves. The orphanage is very determined, but it's sadly constantly on the brink of closing down due to a severe lack of funding.

When we arrived at the orphanage, we were thrown in at the deep end completely. We had no documents to indicate each child's level, or knowledge of what material they had already studied. The pupils were split into two classes based on age, one for the morning and one in the afternoon and so one of the first things we did was give the children a test to determine each child's ability in three different areas – reading, speaking and vocabulary. We gave them each a grade and this then allowed us to divide the two classes more evenly on ability. Our job was mainly to teach English to all of

the children in all aspects – i.e. learning to read and write for the younger children and our aim for the older children was to improve their grammar and sentence formations. We were also asked to spend an hour a day with each class reading and we split each class into three reading ability levels – the crocodiles, fish and elephants. It was taxing as some children were 15/16 years and could barely read whereas some children were only 8/9 years and could read almost fluently and hold a full conversation in English. The material we taught the morning class was a lot more basic. We taught things such as the alphabet, learning to read single letters and we then progressed to words and finally full sentences. We also taught topics such as daily routine, parts of the body, the senses and the weather. The afternoon class was more advanced, so we taught rhyming, difficult sentence structures and topics such as countries and continents. We held a weekly test on a Friday and each day we would use a fun educational game to help the kids remember the vocabulary and meanings of the words that would be in the upcoming test. We found the games extremely effective, they kept the children's attention for far longer than if we were just sat in the classroom.

On a typical day, the children got up at around 5am to work in the garden at the back of the orphanage, growing food to make the orphanage self-sustainable. Lessons then started at 9. After we finished teaching the children they would have a maths and a Khmer lesson, which were both taught by a local volunteer monk.

The facilities in the orphanage are all temporary buildings. The girls all sleep in 2 rooms in the only upstairs section of the main building, and the boys sleep in a makeshift building round the back that doubles up as the classroom. This is often flooded and constantly leaks during monsoon season. There are no beds or mattresses to sleep on, only thin mats on the floor. The rooms are also extremely over crowded as staff and pupils have to share. The kitchen/cooking areas are in poor condition also as they are all makeshift wooden structures outside. Sadly there are no proper surfaces to ensure everything is clean and there are very few utensils with which they can cook. The bathroom facilities are also in very poor condition as there is no drainage/sewage system at all; they just lead straight outside to the area where they try to grow food.



Outside of the classroom we tried to help in any way possible. The children performed a traditional Apsara dance show every Sunday, so in the evenings and at weekends we would hand out flyers for the show in the touristy areas of Siem Reap. Sadly, the children have little success when they try to hand them out as people think they are beggars. However when we did it, we had a lot more success due to our race. Outside of the few volunteers that come to help, the show is the only opportunity the orphanage has to get donations from tourists. The children play all the music themselves and are extremely creative. We also helped plant new shrubbery and plants there to help the soil adapt, as the climate is very poor. One of the children was taken ill as there was a severe outbreak of dengue fever while we were there, so we also decided to give blood at the local hospital.

The experience was truly life changing and we couldn't recommend doing something like this more highly. If you are at all interested in volunteering in the future, please consider this wonderful orphanage as the children and directors would be so grateful. The web address is www.santepheap.org and there are a few photos of us on there teaching the children. We hope we get the chance to meet the children again as we made such fantastic bonds with the staff and pupils. We'll never forget our time in Cambodia and we would never have had such a wonderful opportunity if we hadn't received the scholarship. We would like to thank the Old Stoics and the PTA for this wonderful opportunity and of course Mr Righton for making it all happen.

Liberty Barrons (Nugent 10) and Abby Payne (Lyttelton 10)

Another year, another milestone

September 2012 marked another milestone in Stowe House Preservation Trust's task of restoring the Mansion and conserving it for the future. Completion of the rather prosaically termed Phase 3 sub-phase 2 meant that, for the first time in twelve years, the mansion stands on its own without scaffolding on any of the main parts of the structure.

Resplendent in the late summer sunshine, the restored stonework and newly applied render once more justify the epithet "greatest temple in the landscape" and stand witness to the exceptional generosity of our benefactors and the skills of a varied and dedicated workforce. At the height of the work, twenty-nine stone masons were employed and weekly progress meetings ensured completion in time for the start of the academic year. In the end, the two year programme of work was completed on time, within budget and to the highest quality. At the same time, the Egyptian Hall was returned to its original appearance, with sand textured walls and new stone steps up to North Hall. This work took longer than anticipated due to the discoveries made in the course of the work to restore this unique space. As recorded in Hettie Dix's article, the physical restoration work is backed by painstaking research to ensure the authenticity of the finished work. As I write this article, further discoveries in the Music Room have shown that we

underestimated the extent of decoration, hidden under years of functional but bland paint finishes, to the doors and window shutters. Some judicious management of our budget will be necessary to arrive at a solution that does justice to the discoveries. However, the design team and all the specialists involved will ensure that the full extent of each discovery is recorded. We shall then make every effort to ensure an authentic but lasting representation of the stupendous decorative scheme of this, the most gracious of Stowe's interiors.

There is more to come... next year should see the restoration of North Hall and the Eastern Grand Staircase. We have ordered replicas of the copper vases that once graced the balustrade and plan to install these in their rightful place as the restoration progresses to the balustrade itself. One thing is certain, after two hundred years, the Mansion is still giving up secrets and showing that it was – and is – a living breathing building.

Nick Morris, Chief Executive Officer, SHPT

Researching the Restoration

Last summer the Stowe House Preservation Trust was faced with a new obstacle: how does one go about restoring a room that is barely documented? The room in question was the Egyptian Hall, an early nineteenth century interior that had been completely stripped of its original fittings and disguised with layers of white paint. There were only two sources that described the original appearance of the Hall: a pair of watercolour sketches and a short description in an early nineteenth century guide book. It was clear that more historical research was needed.

The two images we have of the Egyptian Hall are by John Claude Nattes, a French watercolour artist who spent some time at Stowe in 1805 drawing the house and grounds. The quality and accuracy of his work varies so it was important not to take his studies of the Egyptian Hall immediately at face value when it came to researching the unique fittings that gave the Hall its character.

The sphinx statues that once flanked the base of the staircase leading up to the North Hall were particularly problematic: they are obscured by Nattes' sketchy style. We soon found out that they were carved from stone after consulting the catalogue from the 1921 auction in which they were sold. Several months were spent scouring the country for as many examples of eighteenth and early nineteenth century sphinx statues as possible before two principal styles came to light: the classical Greco-Roman (as seen at Compton Verney), and the more austere Greco-Egyptian (as seen at Chiswick House). The latter was thought more appropriate for the Hall, and it took nearly a year of

detailed research before a likely candidate was approved.

It can be a daunting task to draw conclusions from such sparse material, but SHPT has become well practised in extracting as much evidence as possible from each source and achieving the very best results. Soon the Egyptian Hall will be home to a pair of new sphinxes, a mock sarcophagus and a collection of Egyptian-style paintings, all of which have been painstakingly researched using the two sketches together with historic books in the British Library.

More recently conservators have revealed paintings hidden under several layers of paint on the window shutters in the State Music Room – an interior we thought was unlikely to surprise us during restoration work. The paintings echoed those above the doors and around the niche, and evidence of the original gilding survived the paint removing process. They can be seen most clearly in the south-west corner, where the shutters receive the least direct sunlight. As word of this discovery made its way to the SHPT offices, eighteenth century guide books were quickly referred to and we were able to confirm that these paintings dated from the original 1770s decorative scheme.

Without Stowe's accompanying paper archive (currently located in the Huntington Library in California) we will never know all its secrets. In the meantime, however, we are slowly but surely beginning to understand the history of this great building thanks to the dedication of the restoration team and a renewed focus on scholarly research.

Hettie Dix, Restoration Project Researcher,
Stowe House Preservation Trust



Ataxia

Last academic year, Emily Marchant, Tabitha Owen, Jessica Noakes and myself decided that we wanted to raise both awareness and funds for the charity Ataxia UK. We took this objective to the Headmaster who kindly agreed that Ataxia UK could be the School's Charity of the Year. This is a charity close to home, as I was diagnosed with Frederick's Ataxia when I was 11 years old. This is an aggressive neurodegenerative condition, which affects my balance, co ordination and speech. It currently has no known treatment or cure.

With the School's support behind us, we decided to organise numerous different fundraising events over the year. Our first event was a BBQ at the House Football cooked and delivered with the help of the Queen's Upper Sixth. In addition to a collection at the Christmas Carol Service, the school donated a proportion of the sale of Christmas Cards and the proceeds of a Home Clothes Day. We expanded this latter event to include a Cake Sale where we sold cup cakes, muffins and every Krispy Kreme we could lay our hands on!

In the New Year we held a Lower School Dance in the State Rooms for the Fourth

and Fifth Formers with the theme of Hippie/Flower power. This was very well received by all.

Whilst we had a number of other events in the pipeline, the pressure of impending exams meant we had to cut back on our plans. The Headmaster had big plans for the speech day this year and allowed us to get involved. We put on a Jubilee Party for the whole school to kick off the Jubilee Weekend, which was incredibly well supported and enjoyed by all. With help from staff, pupils and even a cadre of local parents we were able to take advantage of the many side shows laid on for the weekend as well as enjoy some of the undoubted musical talents of Stoics on the outdoor stage. Our fundraising activities were brought to a conclusion the next day when we organised a sweepstake for The Derby.

I was really pleased to be able to give a cheque to Ataxia UK for £17,860, which was gratefully received. My thanks go out to my fellow committee members, the Headmaster and my Housemistress Mrs Hamblett Jahn, Staff and especially to all the Stoics who did so much to make it successful fundraising year for Ataxia UK.

Sasha Milne (Upper Sixth)



Skin

Bound in tender love
I look at you and feel
sheltered; Protected
from the world but
not ignorant,
aware of your
Knowledge.

Teaching
I want to stay within
your cradle forever;
never wake up and
face the world
without you.

You are my strength
and I fear
without you
I won't know myself.

As with edification
our relationship intensifies
as we realise that
we are one another
in separate skin.

But like serpents
we will have to unbind
and I will be naked.

I don't want to accept.
I want to encase
myself in this
Neverland.

Liberty King, Lower Sixth



Silviya Nenkova, Upper Sixth



Ye Shi, Upper Sixth



Music at Stowe

It is hard to believe that as I turn the corner from the Roxburgh Theatre facing towards Lyttelton and begin to walk up towards Lee's bastion, I am now surrounded by open space. All the trees have been removed, and the site of the New Music School is laid bare, the size of the site is visible from the main driveway as a large gaping hole.

Over the next 50 weeks that hole is going to be filled by a 'State of the Art' Music School. An auditorium seating 230 people, 24 practice and teaching rooms and a recording facility surrounded by the best Sony media facilities (provided generously through a benefactor) that one would imagine would accompany a building created for the 21st Century. Leslie Huggins dreamt of this possibility in the early 1950s and 60 years later, in time for the School's Ninetieth Anniversary, a new Music School will be completed thanks to the vision of the current Headmaster and the Governing body, a large number of generous donations from Old Stoics, former and current parents, as well as current and former staff along with the tremendous energy and vision of the Director of Development, Colin Dudgeon, and his team.

For sixty years Leslie Huggins, Angus Watson, David Gatehouse and John Cooper Green succeeded in bringing a tremendous amount of music into the lives of Stoics. Paul Harris and Robert Secret,

along with John Cooper Green, were promised again and again new facilities, but the timing was not quite right. However, the stars in the heavens have on this occasion not fought us, and the current team of staff have followed the lead of previous incumbents and made the most of the resources on offer, and have created a full and varied program of events, and at last Leslie Huggins' dream will become a reality.

This year the Music Department has put on 100 events in Stowe, neighbouring churches and old peoples' homes, as well as events in London, Paris and New York. We are an international department. In February the Chapel Choir sang Evensong to a packed cathedral in London at the beautiful venue of Southwark, under the watchful construction of the 2012 Shard; this was followed by a social event at Café Rouge, with a large number of Old Stoics and parents. In March Huw Jones (Assistant Director of Music) and myself took the Chamber Choir to New York, where we sang for an Old Stoics' reception in New York City's Tennis and Racquet Club, and then the following day in the Church of St John the Divine, before going up to New Canaan, where the Town named the day after us, before being hosted by an Old Stoic's adopted church family in Irvington, on the banks of the Hudson. In Paris the Wind Band travelled during the first week of the Easter vacation under the leadership of Debbie Borthwick and Huw Jones, to perform in two city venues before knocking the crowds out at EuroDisney, as part of their 25th Jubilee celebrations.

On a more humble note, but nevertheless just as rewarding, Miles Nottage took the

Junior Jazz Combo to our local retirement home, and the Senior Jazz Combo entertained the University of the Third Age, under the magical direction of Dave Richmond. Miles Nottage took Debbie Borthwick's outstanding Big Band (which performed with such style at Dinner and Jazz in the State Rooms in November) to the Althorp Park Literary Festival, and Miles also directed them for Summer Jazz on the South Front. Performers included Harry Cockbill, Guy Turner, Tom Gordon-Colebooke, Isaac Ajala, William Motion, Angus McCorie-Shand, Jahnai Hall, William McGovern and singer Francesca Stevens. After these events I received extraordinary letters of thanks, commenting on the high level of musicianship, but also the incredibly therapeutic power of music.

Our year began by welcoming into Stowe School Chapel on Sunday 11 September over 150 singers from six local choral societies, as well as our own Stowe Choral Society to sing a Concert of Remembrance for the victims of 9/11. The programme included Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, which has become so associated with the tragic event at the Twin Towers, as well as Philippa Dearsley performing Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate*. The choral societies all came from an afternoon rehearsal and the second half of the concert was a stirring performance of Mozart's *Requiem*.

The Stowe String Orchestra reached new heights of accomplishment under their full-time Head of Strings and Keyboard Dr Shu-Wei Tseng. Over the year they learnt and performed to a very high standard Greig's Holberg Suite, which had its first airing at the beautiful and welcoming church in Quainton, and its final performance in May on the South Front Portico for this year's Diamond Jubilee Speech Day. The Chamber Choir performed Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Rex Roxburgh, our former Winchester chorister and budding organ scholar, played an organ concerto with the Stowe Festival Strings, our professional group of string players.

In November the orchestra played on the South Front Portico and could be heard





over the Fireworks, playing Handel's *Musik for the Royal Fireworks*, and reappeared at the same venue to play Walton's *Shakespeare Suite* at the Diamond Jubilee Speech Day. The Chamber Choir, under Huw Jones has performed at numerous dinners, as well as a number of concerts, but on Speech Day the audience was enthralled by the choir and the stunning solo voices of Francesca Stevens, Sophie Woodhead, Florence Pearce and Miles Clark. In addition, mention should be made of Emma Curley and Alice Jackman who give heart-felt solo performances in front of the crowd of 2,600 people.

We have had many outstanding professional musicians visiting Stowe this year, to teach, perform or judge Stoics. Jeremy Walker, Director of Music at Westminster Under School and on the Board of Youth Music Theatre; Paul Harris, former Head of Woodwind at Stowe, lecturer at the Royal Academy Music who has also just been given an award from Faber Publishing house for selling over 2.5 million music publications; Edmund Jolliffe, TV composer and composer for the TV programme 'Who do you think you are'; Scott Stroman, Director of Jazz at Guildhall School of Music and Drama; Richard Lloyd Morgan (OS) Chaplain King's College, Cambridge; Steve Dummer, clarinetist and conductor of Talkestra and lecturer at Chichester University; Paul Archibald, international trumpeter and former head of Brass at the Royal College of Music; Philip Fowke, Britain's most respected concert pianist and emeritus professor of Piano at Trinity College of Music; Shelia Barnes, former soloist at New York City Opera, Dallas and Houston Operas, current vocal teacher at Trinity College, Cambridge; David Goode, international concert organist and Organist at Eton College; Dr Nicholas Clapton, counter-tenor, Professor of Voice at the Royal Academy.

Three of our own faculty members gave recitals at Stowe this year. Dr Shu-Wei Tseng gave memorable, accomplished and audacious performances of Bach and Liszt. Miles Nottage knocked the piano into shape with his now mesmerizing Blues and Boogie Woogie Jazz, and Huw Jones gave an Organ recital which demonstrated music associated with Royal Weddings, perhaps research based on his

on forthcoming nuptials, finishing with a stunning performance of Widor's *Toccata*.

The highlight for this year was the combined Concerto Concert and South African Dominican Convent School Choir and Marimba Band concert. Liam Forster played the clarinet in Finzi's *Bagatelles*, Harriet Eatwell played the euphonium in Horowitz's *Euphonium Concerto*, Rex Roxburgh played the second violin part alongside Christopher Windass (Head of Strings) in Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins*, William Motion played the Flugal Horn in Peeter's *Trumpet Sonata*, arranged for Strings and Flugal Horn, Camilla Harvey Scholes played the oboe in Cimarosa's *Oboe Concerto* and Michael Kitchen played the cello in Glazunov's largely unheard work *Chant du Menestrel*. They all played to a remarkably high standard, Liam Forster and Harriet Eatwell pulling off virtuoso performances of both their chosen concertos. They were accompanied by Stowe's professional ensemble, the Stowe Festival Orchestra led by Christopher Windass. As the soloists from the concertos relaxed, the South African Dominican School Choir stood up, and along with the Marimba Band gave performances that were so emotional, involving and uplifting that when they finished, the audience, many with tears streaming down their faces, gave the groups a standing ovation. It was a wonderful event, such contrasts of styles, but both performed with the intention of making the audience feel uplifted: and they were. Everyone left the chapel five feet off the ground, it was a 'A Life changing Experience!'

I know the coming year will be full of excitement. We welcome Hollywood's hottest film composer, Harry Gregson-Williams (OS), who will be joining the staff for the coming year as composer-in-residence. I will continue to walk up to Lee's Bastion as that gap in the landscape becomes filled with every Director of Music's dream, a new Music School. The building when it is completed, will allow all Stoics' to flourish with their music making, and all will understand that music is experiential. It is my intention that music at Stowe will always be for everyone and, like the Dominican Convent School's Concert last May, I will always hope it will be a life changing experience.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music



Untold Regrets

The sweltering heat was unbearable. The boy took hold of his oversized neckerchief and wiped beads of sweat from his furrowed brow. The barren Mexican landscape comforted him, like a shelter from the torrent of industry: distant, drawn-out plains and occasional forms of dried-out plant life, struggling as he was to survive each day's hardship. Looming mountains stretched higher than anything back home; a symbol of breaking away from the trials and tribulations of everyday life. No one would follow him here. No one cared enough. The foreign, deserted road stretched out before him, encouraging him to venture on into a new life. The silence was overwhelming. The dry, cracked dirt cried out as his spurs etched marks into its barren texture, echoing loudly in the humid air. The boy peered into the horizon, far outreaching the barely civilised stretch of Perdido's housing, into the wild and unknown. He could not go back now, he had come too far.

As he made his way past the stone structure of the Local Authority, he gently tugged at the leather glove which engulfed his small hand, pulling off the coarse material and flexing his fingers. He raised an eyebrow as he heard the faint sound of music, compelling him to walk in a dazed manner towards an imposing structure not far in front of him. The sound grew louder, and the boy could make out the caressing sound of a familiar piano tune whose name escaped him; a pulse embodying this foreign town. As he approached, he peered at the word 'Saloon', engraved into a hanging advertisement. The windows were grubby and blotted, and the music was rhythmic and loud now. Unsettling. Dark, unknown stains meandered across several panes, like the trail left behind by a fleeing insect, and despite the longing in the boy to leave this place for good, he was strangely intrigued. Stepping up the uneven stairs, he almost lost his balance, but held his own and continued towards the swinging doors. He could not go back now, he had come too far. Pushing both doors aside, the boy slowly walked into the stuffy, smoky room before him. Suffocating. The haze trailed upwards, forming different streams of heat towards the ceiling, hypnotising him in its translucent dance. The square room was crowded and musty, the dark panelled walls ornately decorated by trophies of game in a similar style to back home. Several men stood facing away, speaking in fluent, rapid Spanish to the barkeeper in such a manner the poor boy had no way of interpreting anything. On one round table, men sat drinking whiskey from small shot glasses, feet on the table, laughing in ominous, cackling tones. Next to them, a circular cards table was sprawled out, as men hunched over holding bottles of beer: some with shaggy, dirty mustachios and others with long, unkempt hair.

Before any of the men had taken notice, a young, barely yet colourfully dressed woman had rushed to the door and was shouting over the bustle, frantically pointing and waving. Gazing at her in stunned silence, the boy took in all of her distinguishing features: tanned, smooth skin and straight black hair, paired with dark eyes, untrusting eyes. A sly smile played upon her lips. Beautiful, in a twisted sort of way. Any man would obviously have been attracted to her, but the boy had more pressing matters. She was somewhat dirty, with spilled drink on her short cut dress and purple bruises on her revealed right arm, with which she was avidly clutching him: she clearly worked here. The boy muttered some inaudible words, repeating the name he had been told to memorise and repeat for this specific time. She nodded knowingly, breaking into a toothy grin. She gestured behind her to a group of less rowdy men, sitting in the back left of the saloon. Holding firmly onto him, she passed through the crowded scene with little notice: the distorted and intoxicated men were having far too much of a good time to question him. Gesturing towards the man sitting away from the two, the woman timidly leant over the man's shoulder, whispering a number of quick phrases before being silenced as he raised his hand.

From behind, it could be seen that the man was tall and gangly, with a widely brimmed hat shading his eyes. Without turning, he spoke loudly over the ensuing chaos of the bar, and with a thick accented, Texan voice, said, "You made it all the way here then and quick too." The boy remained silent, as the man began rolling a cigarette from a battered tin. "They suspect anything?" The boy shook his head and cautiously sat down beside the man. "They will soon, and you know it." The man chuckled and laid his cards on the table. It was too late to go back now, he had come too far.

Jordan Cleary, Lower Sixth



María Bartolomé, Lower Sixth

Senior Congreve

Our Country's Good

Our Country's Good, by British playwright, Timberlake Wertenbaker was first staged at the Royal Court Theatre, London in September 1988 and was directed by Max Stafford-Clark. It played on Broadway in 1991. Stowe first produced it as the Senior Congreve of 1996.

The play was adapted from the Thomas Keneally novel *The Playmaker* and concerns a group of Royal Marines and convicts in one of the 'new' penal colonies in New South Wales, Australia, in the 1780s. Through the brutal conditions and the unforgiving drudgery of their daily lives, one of the young Officers, 2nd Lieutenant Ralph Clark, decides to stage a production of *The Recruiting Officer* by George Farquhar. The play shows the established class system and how it affects those in the convict camp and also discusses themes such as sexuality, punishment, the Georgian judicial system, and the idea that it might just be possible for the art of the 'theatre to be a humanising force'.

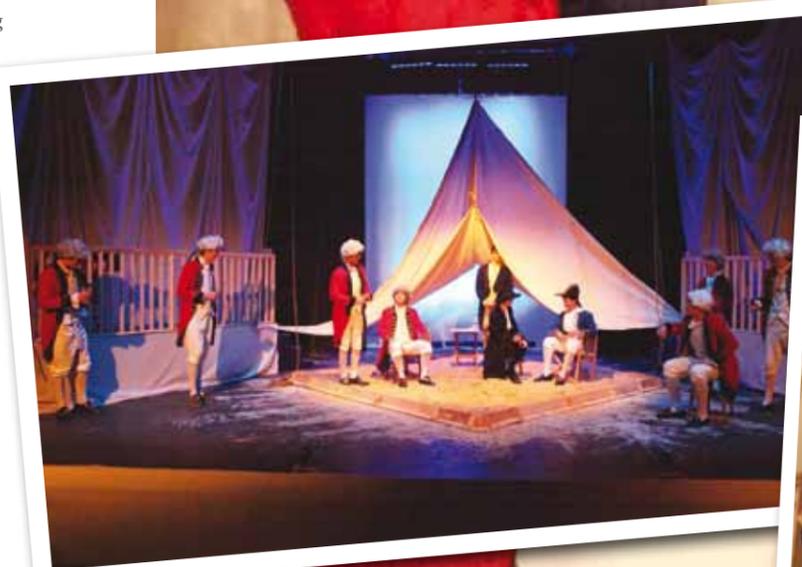
The 2012 production ran for three performances in the Roxy, from March 15-17 and featured a cast and crew of over 50 Stoics. The majority of the actors were Sixth Formers and for some it was their last involvement in a Congreve production after being with us since the Third Form in 2007.

Chris Walters provided detailed and precise direction, which elicited some mature and thoughtful performances from the leading players. Imran Momen managed to play Ralph exactly right, having that perfect mix of loyalty to his Commanding Officers, and yet a dedication and desire to improve the lives of those less fortunate souls in his charge. Brodie Smith as Harry Brewer, gave a superb performance as a man deeply troubled and obsessed with one of the female convicts. His slow spiral into deeper and deeper despair was expertly done. Daisy Ussher played Duckling, Harry's object of desire, with

skill, sensitivity and emotion. Congreve regulars Harriet Easdale as Dabby, Max Smith as Sideway and Harriet Goffman as Liz, provided some much needed comic relief with their bizarre mix of 'convict' characters and Gigi Bacon certainly caught the eye as the old haggard, Meg.

There was excellent support from the remaining members of the cast who all were able to sustain their roles effectively and convincingly. With suitable and striking costumes by Angela Cammish and her group of talented and enthusiastic helpers and a most imaginative stage set design from Nick Bayley, including huge swaths of unbleached calico as sails, raised platforms with wooden balustrades for the Officers to parade upon and a large sand pit centre stage to add to the feel of the hot, oppressive drudgery of life 'down under', the production certainly looked and felt very professional. At times the challenging acoustics of the unforgiving performance space made hard work for the actors involved, but to their great credit, the majority rose most effectively to the occasion. Parents, friends, fellow Stoics and staff who came along to the performances were richly entertained by the production and every member of the company, from actor to stage crew to make-up assistant to director, should be extremely proud of their efforts and hard work.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Junior Congreve

Macbeth

'A drum, a drum!
Macbeth doth come'...

Junior Congreve's contribution to the 2012 Cultural Olympiad took place in the busy week leading up to Speech Day on 2 June. The production startled its audience with an energised and gothic re-interpretation of Shakespeare's most dark and bloody play.

The large cast of 33, drawn from the Third and Fourth Forms, commanded the stage and the swift transitions from the world of men to the supernatural realms of the witches kept the audience captivated and enthralled. William Dinsdale was superb as the anguished, troubled yet power crazy Macbeth. His performance was mature and sophisticated and he received many plaudits for his efforts and commitment. Lauren Carley excelled in her descent from a scheming temptress into a madwoman. Her last scene, as she walks the lonely passages of her doomed castle, were poignant and sensitive. Henry Sylvester's performance as Banquo successfully and maturely presented a man torn between his own desire for power and loyalty to his friend. Patrick Keating as Macduff and Molemo Huma as Malcolm both gave the play a strength and stability in contrast to the wild and murderous natures of so many of the play's characters.

While this smart, punchy and pacy abridged version of the text, created by Co-Directors Nick Bayley and Lucy Ashe, maintained the essence of the original, the use of nine ever present witches added a surreal, supernatural and distorted quality. The nine girls were ever present on stage, tempting, controlling and even lighting the way to corruption and damnation. These mysterious and inhumane beings acted alongside a strong ensemble cast, playing a variety of murderers, lords, attendants, doctors, gentlewomen and soldiers. Together, the cast created thrilling theatrical set pieces, portraying hair-raising ideas of power, human frailty, corruption and deceit. Special mention must go to the two lads offering technical support for the production. Joss Fitch and Alex Ford, who worked very creatively alongside Nick Bayley, to add the tension and help create the suitable atmosphere of imposing and ear bending rock music, blood red lighting and other spine-chilling moments.

Junior Congreve's 2012 chilling production of 'Macbeth' certainly challenged both the actors and the audience to re-consider this iconic play, providing an evening of engaging and entertaining theatre.

Mr Nick Bayley and Miss Lucy Ashe



Fifth Form Production

TOO MUCH PUNCH FOR JUDY

Just before the February half-term, as the sweeping, and at times, biting Siberian winds blew in from the East, bringing snow, ice and travel chaos to this little corner of North Bucks, a superbly staged, thought-provoking and exciting production of Mark Wheeler's verbatim style docudrama, 'Too Much Punch For Judy', was presented by a talented company of seventeen, Fifth Form Stoics.

The play tells the tragic story of a young woman, Joanna, who is killed in a car crash. The driver, her sister, Judy, who had been drinking heavily on the night of the accident, escaped relatively unhurt. All the events in the play are 'real' and the story of the Poulton sisters was first dramatised by Mark Wheeler in 1986, using only the

words of those most closely involved and affected in the events leading up to that fateful night.

Jemima Phillips played Judy and Caroline Schaufelberger played Jo. Both girls were utterly convincing in their portrayal of these two young women. Jemima was on stage all the time and her emotional,

heartfelt and sensitive performance was remarkable. There were other mature and moving performances from Maddie Wackett as their mother, Vi, whose superbly played reaction to the news of her daughter's death, brought tears from the audience every night. Alfie Hardman and Alec Pultr, as the two police constables, who were first on the scene, managed to capture the frustration of these two young Officers, who had to deal bravely with the carnage and emotional fall out of the night's tragic events. Hugo Ellison as Duncan and Marina Oswald as the Nurse, contributed effectively to the sullen and grave atmosphere of the post accident scenes by the roadside and in the hospital. Kemal Eyi and Tom Gordon-Colbrooke gave us some much needed light relief as the two lads, Bob and Nob, looking for a good night 'on the pull' in the local wine bar. Supporting characters were played by Pitan Aganga, Bella Kelly, Alex Long, Coco Anthony and Katkin Farr. The production was sensitively and imaginatively directed by Nick Bayley with assistance from both Harriet Stringer and Lucy Ashe. Technical support came from Otto Balfour and Cameron O'Brien and the intimate atmosphere of the Dobinson Theatre certainly helped crank up the tension and create the appropriate mood. The reaction from the packed, appreciative audience on each night, was simply stunning and all those involved deserve great credit for their commitment to the production.

Mr Nick Bayley





GCSE Drama

practical assessments

At GCSE, Drama students have the same challenge as at Advanced level: to prepare, rehearse and perform two performances – one of them an original, devised piece, based upon a stimulus provided by the exam board; and the other an extract from a published script.

The major difference is that at Advanced level these two pieces are performed on the same day; at GCSE, each one is worked on separately. While this removes some of the pressure, it does mean that they have to hit the ground running at the beginning of the exam year. Our 33, Fifth Form Stoics had barely returned from their summer holidays before they were put into groups, given the stimuli, and told to start creating an original piece of drama. In these circumstances, it was most encouraging to be able to witness such a variety of offerings.

“Behind the door” was the most popular stimulus, but even within this constraint there was plenty of variety. Two groups chose to use children’s fairy tales as the basis of their drama. Rebecca Raeburn, Arthur Newman, Harrison Perske and Matthew Harvey produced a witty and highly entertaining updating of the story of the Three Little Pigs, while Hugh Evans, Alex Long, Anastasia Lopoukhine and Priscilla Pearce focused on the backstage shenanigans of a theatre company presenting a pantomime version of Little Red Riding Hood.

In contrast, two groups opted for more everyday scenarios. Kemal Eyei, Marina Oswald, Jem Phillips and Ollie Wright gave us a hard-hitting and powerful look at the life and death of a young drug-user, while Pitan Aganga, Bella Kelly, Olivia Savage, Harriet Stringer and Maddie Wackett began with a school reunion, which then unravelled to show each girl’s secrets and lies.

Two groups experimented with a different style of staging, both using traverse, with the audience on two sides of an acting “corridor”, because of the particular needs of their plays. Lettice Carter, Charlie Mason,

Rebecca White and Georgina Jack showed us two views of a family, one naturalistic, the other absurd and grotesque; while Max Brunette-Jacobs, Alex Gurov, Alfie Hardman and Hoagy Pollen gave us the rambling tale, moving from location to location, of a pair of incompetent kidnappers and their hapless victims. They milked a lot of comic fun from their enthusiastic use of real food and drink.

Harry Hayden, Otto Balfour, Rebecca Wild and Anna Milyavskeya’s piece was more domestic, showing the complicated relationships between a group of friends, while the most ambitious offering of all came from a group who decided to use a different stimulus – “She’s Leaving Home” by The Beatles – and a different style of theatre, taking on the ambitious task of creating an original piece of musical theatre. Acapella songs accompanied the tale of three runaways, played by Coco Anthony, Florence Pearce and Caroline Schaufelberger, while Amir Ansari played the various male characters (mostly nasty) who preyed upon them.

The scripted assessments were performed in early May and it is a tribute to all of the students, and particularly to their own increasing sophistication and understanding of the theatre, that they were able to move beyond what can sometimes come across as a rather sterile exercise, to produce some exciting moments of theatre.

There was a fascinating range of scripts on display. We had a very bawdy Greek comedy, with Rebecca White and Rebecca Wild, Marina, Lettice and Anna performing a modern (and somewhat risqué) version of “Lysistrata”, with enormous panache and style. Jem and Rebecca Raeburn also took on a classic text, with a spirited version of the tea and cake scene from Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest” (though Arthur did rather steal the show with his lugubrious butler.) In an extract from yet another classic play, Maddie Wackett gave us a convincing and moving Grusha from Brecht’s “Caucasian Chalk Circle”, with Olive, Flo and Amir providing strong support.

Two groups “borrowed” their scene from recent Stowe productions. Arthur and Otto delivered an entertaining extract from Patrick Marber’s “The Musicians” (Grafton’s recent successful House play); and Hugh, Alex Gurov, Anastasia, Priscilla



and Caroline presented a series of scenes from “Romanoff and Juliet”, a Fifth Form play from four years ago, taking advantage of their natural accents to present a parody of the Shakespeare play. Hugh and Priscilla played the American ambassador and his wife, as well as their Russian equivalents, a neat piece of casting which allowed them to demonstrate their versatility.

Modern masters Harold Pinter and Willy Russell gave us a pair of strong two-handers: Charlie and Matt brought out the menace of the former’s “Dumb Waiter”, while Kemal and Harrison were strong (at both playing seven and seventeen) as the Blood Brother twins of Russell’s most famous play.

The most hard-hitting show of the day was “Hard to swallow”, a powerful piece about

one girl, played by Bella Kelly, who is drawn into the dark world of anorexia, and the impact that this has on her family, played by Coco, Harriet, Alex Long and Pitan.

Finally, Hoagy, Alfie and Max took on the challenging task of presenting extracts from the stage adaptation of the film “Withnail and I”. They chose the cellar bar for their venue, and played the various scenes in promenade, moving the action around the space and forcing the audience to move with them: a brave, but ultimately successful choice, giving the audience a chance to be truly involved in the action.

Drama requires its practical aspect, if it is to move beyond academic study, and this year’s entire cohort seized these opportunities to perform with relish.

Mr Chris Walters

AS Drama

practical assessments

The AS Level Drama practical assessment presents a tough challenge, especially for those who have come from the relative freedom of GCSE. Both of the two pieces, one devised and one scripted, are rehearsed simultaneously and performed on the same day, and the criteria for both are quite restrictive. The devised piece

needs to reflect the ideas and techniques of a set theatre practitioner, while the scripted extract must be drawn from a list of texts provided by the WJEC exam board and presented in another contrasting style from that of the devised scene.

This year, for their devised pieces, our 21 Stoic actors took inspiration and ideas from the English actor, director and playwright, Steven Berkoff, whose extreme approach to theatre is based upon creating caricatured characters, incorporating exaggerated mime as well as drawing on other forms of physical theatre, and in general has a focus upon the extreme. The style can lend itself well to comedy, and it was this aspect that Isabelle Berner, Hugo Brooks, Will Jones, Oscar Page and Tilly Salvin focused upon in their piece. It told the story of the rise and fall of one waitress, played by Issy, but along the way also managed to satirise restaurant etiquette, the power of advertising, and a graphic depiction of the phrase, "It's a jungle out there."

Jack Chaplin, Jonny Constant, Bertie Hayward and Penny Thompson also displayed their fondness for absurd comedy, somehow combining the stories of Jack and Jill with Abraham and Isaac (both relying on journeys up mountains), while Kit Dixon-Smith, James Drax, Saskia Leboff and Siana Vere Nicoll gave us a Romeo and Juliet-like story of love across the classes (though this one ended happily.)

Two groups looked at darker tales. Daisy Anderson, Georgia Hirst and Tristan Phipps presented a macabre fairy tale, like a dark version of Alice in Wonderland, while Gigi

Bacon, Chris Carrelet, Alicia Cresswell, Rebecca Dale and Harry Roberts looked at life in (and escape from) a women's prison.

All five of these gave us, their privileged audience, some memorable moments: Jack Chaplin, waking up startled in a vertical bed, surrounded by demons whispering in his ear; Harry Roberts entering as a spider-like judge; a car radio portrayed by Kit and Saskia singing its songs; Hugo's near death Head Waiter; Gigi being pursued by the police in a slow motion race and Rebecca's fascination with starting a fire! Above all, every student demonstrated a clear understanding of Berkoff's techniques, which was the point of the assessment.

The scripted performances took place later that day, and inevitably, with the extracts drawn from a restricted list, there were some scenes which were performed twice, allowing for interesting comparisons. Siana and Saskia, and Issy and Tilly, both performed a scene from Feydeau's classic farce "A Flea in her Ear"; Oscar, Will and Hugo, and Kit and James took extracts from Pinter's dark and brooding "The Caretaker"; and there were two versions of parts of Sartre's "Huis Clos", from Harry, Gigi and Becca, as well as Tristan, Daisy and Georgia. Finally, Chris and Alicia presented the opening scene of Ayckbourn's "Woman In Mind."

Altogether, it made for an exhausting day, for teachers and students alike, but ultimately one that proved mutually satisfying, with every student giving a strong account of themselves.

Mr Nick Bayley

A2 Drama

practical assessments

At A2 level, the Drama/Theatre Studies practical assessment is relatively free from the restrictions students face at AS level: though a range of stimuli is offered by the exam board, these are there to help not hinder, while scripted extracts can be chosen from any play and drawn from any period.

The challenge remains for all the students to use the skills and knowledge they have acquired over the two year course, and then be able to effectively apply them to their own work.

As is generally the case, it was the self devised pieces – original, one-off, stylised and non naturalistic theatre pieces from students at the very height of their creative powers – which kicked off the proceedings, and gave the day a boost of energy and imagination.

Harriet Easdale, Harriet Goffman, Phoebe Harris and Lily Newman produced a most moving and sophisticated piece, based upon the tale of Los Disparecidos (The Disappeared) in Chile and more particularly those who mourned them; their wives, sisters, mothers, who danced silently in commemoration, waving white handkerchiefs in defiance of the brutal

regime running the country at the time. It was this powerful and arresting image that first drew the cast to their subject, and which they in turn used as a startling theatrical moment with which to start their performance.

Emma Curley, Alice Jackman, Brodie Smith and Daisy Ussher tackled a lighter topic, but one with its own challenges, since it depicted the great Battle of the Sexes throughout time, starting with the Big Bang, and working its way up to the present. The memory of Brodie as a Mr Darcy-like figure, but blessed with a most un-Austen like turn of phrase, contriving to shock not only his riding partner but also their horses, will long lodge in the mind.

The final piece, presented by Hannah Maxwell, Imran Momen, Hayley Sarratt and Max Smith, chose to explore

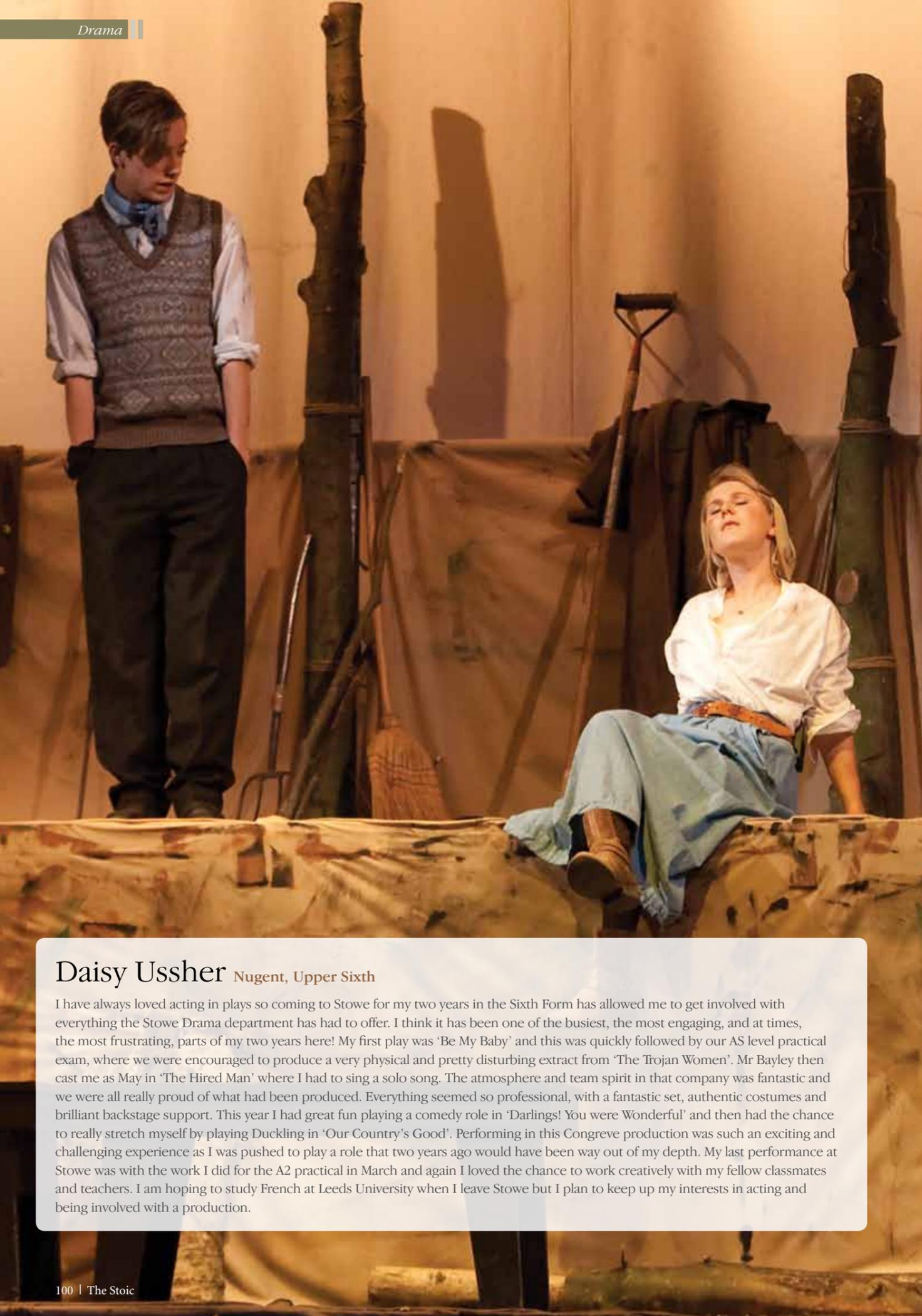
incidents from the lives of four infamous serial killers. It began with a deceptive light-heartedness, but soon moved up through the gears of Grand Guignol, and was ultimately disturbing – I will never look at a pizza cutter in quite the same way again.

Each of these groups of four then re-formed into six pairs for their scripted performances, and as usual we were privileged to witness a wide range of choices: the two Harriet's gave us a very passionate and emotional Juliet and her long suffering Nurse, along with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (by Stoppard, not Shakespeare) from Imran and Max, followed by a lovely display of sensitive musical theatre from Alice and Emma, singing 'My Child' from Willy Russell's musical version of "Blood Brothers", set in the State Music Room (where else?) Finally, there were a trio of modern plays: Mark Ravenhill's "Citizenship" (benefiting from its site specific staging in the Nugent garden, as well as some beautiful comic timing from both Daisy and Brodie); Amanda Whittington's "Be My Baby" featuring Hannah and Hayley; and a powerful extract from Mike Bartlett's "Earthquakes in London" with Phoebe and Lily.

Each year it is a privilege for us in the department to see work of such quality, and this year proved no exception. All the performers deserve huge credit and congratulations.

Mr Chris Walters





Daisy Ussher Nugent, Upper Sixth

I have always loved acting in plays so coming to Stowe for my two years in the Sixth Form has allowed me to get involved with everything the Stowe Drama department has had to offer. I think it has been one of the busiest, the most engaging, and at times, the most frustrating, parts of my two years here! My first play was 'Be My Baby' and this was quickly followed by our AS level practical exam, where we were encouraged to produce a very physical and pretty disturbing extract from 'The Trojan Women'. Mr Bayley then cast me as May in 'The Hired Man' where I had to sing a solo song. The atmosphere and team spirit in that company was fantastic and we were all really proud of what had been produced. Everything seemed so professional, with a fantastic set, authentic costumes and brilliant backstage support. This year I had great fun playing a comedy role in 'Darlings! You were Wonderful' and then had the chance to really stretch myself by playing Duckling in 'Our Country's Good'. Performing in this Congreve production was such an exciting and challenging experience as I was pushed to play a role that two years ago would have been way out of my depth. My last performance at Stowe was with the work I did for the A2 practical in March and again I loved the chance to work creatively with my fellow classmates and teachers. I am hoping to study French at Leeds University when I leave Stowe but I plan to keep up my interests in acting and being involved with a production.

Harriet Easdale Queen's, Upper Sixth

My happiest memories of Stowe will be filled with thoughts and reminisces about my drama work. From the Third Form to Upper Sixth, I have been continuously encouraged, engaged, inspired and supported in everything I have done – from my first involvement in the staff/Stoic musical production of 'Oliver' in 2008 to the most recent Senior Congreve production of 'Our Country's Good'. In-between times I have played leading roles in other Congreve productions like 'Our Day Out', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'The Hired Man', as well as helping backstage on 'Mother Courage and her Children'. Mr Bayley gave me a fantastic opportunities last summer to direct a production of 'The Maids' with three of our brilliant Branson Scholars and this year I have worked hard to get my LAMDA Gold Medal in Acting. The endless opportunities open to every drama student are so good; whether it's on the stage, behind the scenes or in the classroom. My Drama lessons have never been without interest, lively debate, challenge, rigour, passion and occasional hilarity! Numerous theatre trips for the exam based students offer us the chance to develop our critical skills as well as giving opportunities to 'borrow' ideas for our own practical exam assessment pieces. I have seen such an eclectic range of performances in London, Stratford, Oxford, MK, Northampton and Stowe itself; ones that particularly stick in the memory include Kneehigh's inventive reworking of 'Brief Encounter', RedCape with 'The Idiot Colony' and a superbly funny 'Comedy of Errors' at the RSC. The support I have been given over the last five years has been constant. I cannot hope to thank Mr Bayley and Mr Walters enough for their superb dedication to the department, where they nurture and challenge us all to take risks, think differently about our own expectations and abilities and most importantly, get up and do it, rather than talk everything to death! I have been accepted at the Oxford School of Drama for September to start my professional training and I cannot wait for the next set of challenges that lie ahead!

Imran Momen Bruce, Upper Sixth

I came to Stowe five years ago desperately wanting to be an inventor (Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was my favourite film back then...). Now that I am leaving, I want to be an Actor. This U-turn can only really be explained by my association with the Drama and Theatre Studies Department at Stowe. Offering extra-curricular activities such as the twice yearly Congreve productions, as well as exciting opportunities to watch cutting edge professional companies up close, drama at Stowe has been one of my most enjoyable pursuits. Anyone who can remember 'Midsummer Night's dream' (and I hope there aren't many) might remember the skinny Asian kid waving his arms melodramatically with every line he said. Or worse still, over emphasising every. Single. Little. Shakespearian. Word. I've been fortunate enough to share the stage with fellow 'thesps' like Max Smith, Brodie Smith, Daisy Ussher, Alice Jackman and Harriet Easdale – people who are truly talented, and who have all had the chance to grow in skill and ability throughout their time here. It has been a pleasure getting to know the people and their talents in the Stowe Drama department – and I am truly grateful for all the input and support from Mr Bayley and Mr Walters. I highly recommend Congreve to anyone – even if you're not an aspiring actor, there is nothing more fulfilling than working on something with a group of people, developing it, and seeing it take flight. Speaking of flight, if I had to pick a favourite memory, it would probably be Alex Miarli's stage dive in last year's 'The Hired Man'. I don't have space to explain it here, but it's a good story. Seriously, ask him. Oh and thanks in advance Mr Bayley for NEVER putting any Congreve footage on the Internet... yet!

“Earth’s White Fur Coat”

A smooth gelid drape rolls over the mountains, trees and lakes,
Trapping the warmth of summer to create a frigid beauty.
This coat begins to reshape acres of wilderness
into a snowy Elysium.

Olive painted pillars conceal the beasts of the winter.
Even the bear mighty as it may be must hide from the test of the cold.
The oases in the snowy desert are now sealed off by sapphire ice.

Torrents of furious water now trapped in time.

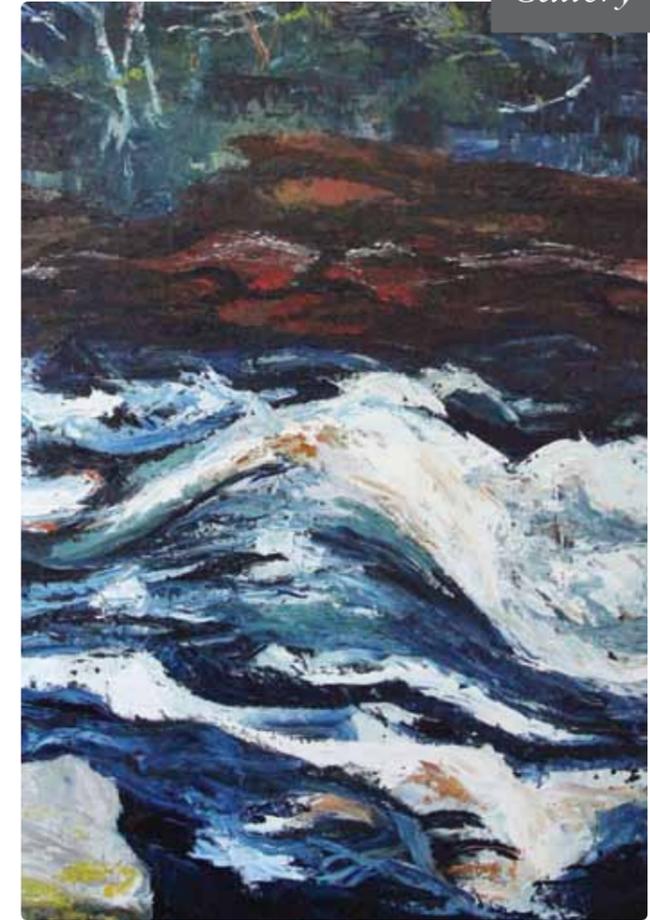
With this frosty grasp comes a holy silence,
that many dream of but never hear.
This white pearl untouched by the corruption of technology
is one of nature’s last supreme homes.

This is the enigmatic charm of winter.

Paul Henkel, Fourth Form



Lily Newman, Upper Sixth



Charlotte Bradshaw, Lower Sixth



Matthew Corless, Upper Sixth

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Once again this year has seen a large number of Stoics ready to take on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and this year's Expedition season has certainly been challenging! I am often asked to nominate a Star of the Expedition – this is exceptionally difficult as each participant faces different personal challenges to complete expeditions of this nature: some impress with their navigational skills, others by their leadership and teamwork, others impress simply by soldiering on and making it through! Suffice to say, all of this year's participants have done particularly well to cope with exceptionally adverse conditions on this year's expeditions.

Here is a brief summary of this year's challenges...

Golds

The Gold Expeditions started in October with a training expedition to Shropshire for those new to the Award. The season started as it meant to continue with rain and high winds putting the participants to the test. The Practice Expedition to Dartmoor did provide some sunshine to cheer everybody up, however very low temperatures and a touch of snow provided enough of a challenge to keep everybody on their toes! The Gold Assessed Expedition to the Cairngorms provided the usual challenges of midges and a lack of toilets, however this year the weather was more challenging than usual and we were very impressed with the manner in which the Stoics involved coped with the amount of rain thrown

at them over the course of the Expedition. Our external instructors commented that this is the strongest Gold group they have seen for a long time at Stowe – praise indeed! A special mention should also go to the two groups who finished their four day Expedition by summiting Ben MacDui and Cairn Gorm!

Silvers

The Silver Expeditions were run by A to Z Expeditions again this year and once again the participants impressed their instructors with their commitment and stamina. After a very successful Practice Expedition to Dartmoor one member of the group foolishly boasted that they were yet to see rain on any of their Expeditions... famous last words!

The Assessed Expedition to the Brecon Beacons certainly showed how wet the Welsh hills can be. The groups had their navigation skills put to the test with very low visibility and heavy rain, but despite the conditions they successfully completed the expedition. I hope that many of this group are planning on continuing to complete the Gold Award.

Bronze

The Bronze participants completed a comprehensive training programme over the course of the year before embarking on their Practice Expedition to the Cotswolds. Our main concern during the day in the Cotswolds was ensuring plentiful supplies of water to combat the March sun, however clear skies at night

quickly demonstrated the importance of a good sleeping bag and packing enough warm clothing! A lack of water was not the issue on the Assessed Expedition to Shropshire in April – the Great British Summer had started properly by then and the Fourth Form participants certainly had their kit and campcraft skills tested by two days of torrential rain! Undaunted by the conditions, the groups impressed their assessors with their navigation skills and teamwork and completed the Expedition in style.

By the end of the final expedition in July, 80 Fourth Formers, 24 Fifth Formers and 24 of the Lower Sixth had completed the Expedition Section of their Awards, this is a massive achievement given the conditions that all participants faced on

their Assessed Expeditions...now all they need to do is to get the rest of the paperwork signed off to complete their Awards!

Of course none of these Expeditions is possible without the commitment and expertise of the staff who volunteer to help support the students and staff the Expeditions. Huge thank yous for your time and support go to Mr Pickersgill, Mr Moller, Mr Aston, Miss Donaldson, Mrs McMahon, Mr Higham, Mr Falvey, Mr Hearne, Mr Gabbatiss, Miss Green, Miss Ashe, Miss Palmer, Mr Lyle and of course our external instructors Simon Rose, Steve Rogers, Philip Pitcher, Brian Wagstaff and the guys from A to Z.

Mr Gwilym Jones



Stowe CCF: Army, RAF and Naval Sections

It is with immense pride that I look back on a very successful year for Stowe School CCF.

When I assumed command two years ago, I set out a number of objectives to enhance the attendance, training and bearing of the cadets. With the introduction of a formal parade, a coordinated training programme, a March and Shoot competition, a Drill competition, a method of instruction cadre, an annual parade followed by a contingent photograph, the acquisition of a ferret armoured car and the introduction of a diving section – leading to a qualification, it has been a very busy period of training! I'm hugely indebted to all of the officers who freely give up their time to augment the training. Due to the movement of staff after my first year in post, we lost a number of excellent officers at the beginning of this year. Thankfully though, we have also picked up some equally good officers in recent appointments, which is of course the nature of these things. Field days for all sections this year, have included a testing joint exercise at Yardley Chase, the hugely successful Biennial Inspection here at Stowe, where the cadets showed the Stowe CCF in a very good light and a range day on Pirbright Ranges. The Inspecting Officer for our Biennial Inspection was very impressed

with the level of enthusiasm and the very high standard of the average Stoic cadet and the imaginative training that all sections follow throughout the CCF action – packed year.

The Royal Navy section continues to flourish under the excellent leadership of Lt David Critchley, ably assisted by Sub Lt Julie Johnson who I'm pleased to say returned to us at the end of the academic year after her maternity leave. With the assistance of adult instructors Graham Eason-Bassett and David Tremain, the OC has delivered an excellent training package and sets very high standards. David Critchley is also a resident guru on all things Westminster – the MOD database – a system we are all starting to use more effectively.

The Royal Air Force section has benefited hugely from the newly qualified Flight Lieutenant Jonathan Peverley. With the recent appointment of Sarah Murnane, a former regular RAF helicopter navigator, motivation in the section is at an all-time high and is really set to fly! We have seen a significant improvement by the cadets in terms of turnout, motivation and general attitude.

The Army section's Cheshire Company (recruits) has been extremely fortunate to benefit from the leadership of the outstanding second-in-command of the

Stowe CCF and OC of Cheshire Company, Captain Ian Findlay-Palmer. Ian sets very high standards and the cadets respond very well to his style. He has been capably assisted by 2nd Lt James Peppiatt.

Anderson Company (advanced infantry) has been well served and benefited immensely from the highly professional input of Capt Simon Nelson-Lucas. His imaginative and detailed training programmes have been a particular strength of Anderson Company and held the interest of the cadets very well indeed. Simon, a former Housemaster at a local prep school and a serving TA soldier, has recently been appointed as the full-time 2nd i/c of the Stowe CCF and School Beadle. We are delighted at his appointment and look forward to his continued and enhanced input.

My final comments are thank the permanent staff, WO1 Ray Dawson and CCF admin assistant Fraser Liversage. Both Ray and Fraser have worked tirelessly over the year to provide a first-class CCF for both the Cadets and Staff alike.

Contingent Commander Lt Col J. L. Ing RMR

RAF Section

This year, with the commissioning of Jonathan Peverley as an officer, the RAF section has been focussing its effort on the

basic training of its cadets. In October, 13 cadets all successfully passed their .22 small bore weapons test, which further led to them gaining Part 1 status. This allowed the section to attend two field days on RAF bases. In February, the section was invited to attend an open day held by the Army Air Corps at Wattisham Airbase, home of the Apache Helicopters. The three hour session consisted of pupils watching a short presentation on the use of the Apache in Afghanistan, being able to handle the current weapons used in combat and talk to the military personnel who use them in day-to-day operation. However, the highlight was the opportunity to sit inside the cockpit of two Apache helicopters and fully appreciate its capabilities. In January, the arrival of Sarah Murnane in the Geography department led to a boosting of staffing in the RAF section. Sarah comes from a RAF background where she served in several operations as a Puma helicopter navigator. She is able to bring a lot of relevant experience and contacts with her. On the March field-day, Sarah was responsible for the leading of the pupils to RAF Odiham to experience life as a Chinook pilot, as

well as understanding the various roles of the staff who support them. Pupils also visited the control tower, survival section and fire-support, where hands-on experience was provided at each. In mid June, four pupils were able to take advantage of a gliding experience at VGS Abingdon. Mr Peverley is indebted to the support from Mrs Murnane and SNCO Cooper throughout the year.

Mr Jonathan Peverley

Royal Naval Section

The section has continued to offer cadets a wide range of opportunities. At the beginning of the year we managed some sailing and kayaking on the 11 Acre Lake before the weather forced us off the water, and our new Fourth Form recruits got down to the Able Seaman's syllabus. October saw a trip down to HMS Raleigh where we had a rare opportunity to practise fire fighting and learn damage control in the DRIU simulator. Meanwhile Bertie Grossart, Hugh Evans and Michael Hill, all of whom had experience of a Navy CCF camp, formed a useful team of Junior NCOs, assisted by Jamie Milne. Inspection

Day formed the focus for much of the Lent term training, and in the presence of Captain Colin Welborn RN the team successfully rigged a light jackstay to transport essential stores across a yawning chasm, represented by the ha-ha. At the following march-past, led by Jamie Milne, the section distinguished itself with some of the best marching in the contingent. With the Fifth Form heading off for their GCSE revision, the Fourth Formers made their first visit to Portsmouth in April, and saw first hand where Lord Nelson had died. Several cadets will be off to Power-Boating courses and the HMS Bristol camp during the summer.

Sub Lt Johnson has returned from maternity leave, and is looking forward to resuming her role in the section, while we say goodbye and thank you to Miss Peel, who moves on to her next appointment. Thanks are also due to Mr Eason-Bassett, Lt Tremain, and CPO Blick, who have continued to bolster the instructional team.

Lt D J Critchley CCF RNR

COLDSTREAM CUP 2011 (Results)

House	Assault Course		Run		Shoot		March & Shoot Totals	Ferret Pull		Totals	Position
			"March & Shoot"								
Bruce	4.04.98	7	24.33	4	128	3	(7)	1.15.15	11	25	7
Chandos	3.52.43	9	23.28	7	140	9	(16)	1.48.40	6	31	5
Chatham	3.44.92	10	21.30	11	145	11	(22)	2.25.73	2	34	3=
Cobham	3.27.87	12	24.09	5	145	11	(16)	1.38.26	7	35	2
Grafton	4.11.53	6	21.24	12	135	8	(20)	1.41.57	8	34	3=
Grenville	4.04.87	8	22.31	9	135	8	(17)	2.02.44	3	28	6
Temple	4.25.78	4	23.28	7	135	8	(15)	1.57.13	4	23	8
Walpole	3.31.21	11	21.54	10	150	12	(22)	1.53.70	5	38	1
Lyttelton	4.48.84	1	25.34	2	130	5	(7)	1.07.71	12	20	2
Nugent	4.20.51	5	23.23	8	125	2	(10)	1.35.56	9	24	1
Queen's	4.37.37	3	24.51	3	125	2	(5)	DNF	1	9	4
Stanhope	4.47.09	2	26.55	1	130	5	(6)	1.18.51	10	18	3

Assault Course Record				Run Record			
Girls	40.20.51	Nugent	2011	Girls	22.27.00	Lyttelton	2010
Boys	3.27.87	Cobham	2011	Boys	20.35.00	Walpole	2008

COLDSTREAM CUP WINNERS 2011

House Winner – Boys	Walpole
House Winner – Girls	Nugent
March & Shoot	Walpole
Ferret Pull	Lyttelton
Assault Course	Cobham



Beagling

This season we have been very fortunate in that we have had quite a mild winter in comparison to previous seasons, which means we have been able to enjoy more days out hunting where we would have otherwise been kept in by the bad weather.

The season started out very well with the opening meet being held, as usual, at Weston, by the kind permission of Mr John Busby. The season then progressed well up until October, where the hounds enjoyed a change of scenery with the half-term trip to the Bannisters in Skipton, North Yorkshire, where two days of good hunting were enjoyed by all. This was followed by the Boxing Day meet in the middle of the Christmas holidays, which, as usual, brought out a large turnout of people showing their support.

With the whips returning for the Lent term the season got back underway with the hunting carrying on as usual up until the February trip in half-term, where we went up to stay with Mr Henry Bowring at Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria, where we enjoyed a good supper and a good day's hunting the following day, then travelling over to the Bannisters and repeating, the day's hunting there being certainly one of the best this season.

Closer to home, with the season winding down, we enjoyed a joint meet with the Black Combe, who travelled down all the way from Cumbria. The season then finally culminated with the Puppy show, which after a nine year absence was shown on the Bursar's lawn. Tom Bannister judged and we were joined by many Old Stoics, including early masters Shaun Parsons and Martin Wood, as well as several recent beagling Old Stoics.

With the season now finished there is little else to do other than wish good luck to the next group of joint masters, who will be hunting the pack next September, which marks the 50th year since the beagles started. I hope they enjoy it as much as I have.

Thank you to all the landowners, whose land we hunt on, as well as the School and the Headmaster for their continuing support.

Harry Howard (Upper Sixth)



Chapel

At once magnificent and intimate... imposing and inviting... immense and all-embracing – a place to be. This Temple of Christ stands boldly and confidently in the midst of the School, and from the roof can be seen the diversity of buildings old and new, and the relationship between them – sometimes in gracious harmony, sometimes in surprising juxtaposition – but always in relationship.

Chaplaincy was led initially by Miss Ellie Donaldson, assisted and supported by colleagues, and then by the Revd Christopher Huxtable, appointed from January 2012, as the new Chaplain. There have been many and diverse preachers, some hearty hymn-singing, some thoughtful reflection and a week-by-week encounter with lines from the Lord's Prayer. Candle-lit Advent Carol Services were enthusiastically supported with Stoics and Parents alike; Christians in Sport gave an active perspective in Lent; the Riding Lights Roughshod Theatre Company challenged us in drama one Sunday evening; Confirmation in May was celebrated with the Bishop of Buckingham, following weeks of preparation by Staff and Stoics alike. There have been concerts, recitals and assemblies. The Prep Schools' Choral Evensong was the most special and vibrant way to start the Summer term; and the inspirational visit of the Dominican Convent School Choir was a stirring and spectacular gift. Seven languages (Armenian, Bulgarian, Spanish, Xhosa, Zulu, Hindi, Afrikaans) of seven Stoics contributed to Pentecost with a difference.

Has it all been predictable? I think not, and certainly hope not!

The portable holy Table is now in service in the Nave, opening up the Sanctuary and the Altar, and also the little book of personal prayers. A Paschal Candle, lit each Sunday, now encourages an invitation to share in the hope of the Easter Faith in Jesus Christ. The Chaplain's stoles add a splash of colour, to match the glory of the flowers lovingly arranged by Clare Hill Hall. Contemplative Holy Communion has been celebrated in the Nave, and particularly enjoined with Ashing on Ash Wednesday in the early morning and at night. A refreshed Order of Service for Sundays has been worshipped with, and in the Prayer Room there

are pictures and Bibles along with spiritual writings, and initiatives from Christian Aid to relieve poverty.

To colleagues, especially Miss Donaldson, and all those who led midweek Chapel Services, Mr Simon Dearsley (maestro) and Mr Huw Jones (organ-tamer extraordinaire) and their Choirs who work so hard to offer gorgeous sacred music – my deep thanks on behalf of us all. To Jamie, Cameron, William, Joss and Alex who creatively amplify everything; to Rex for his organ-playing; to all our Stoic Prefects on the doors and Readers from the Lectern – very grateful thanks. To our wonderful House Maintenance team: all the furniture-moving, floor-polishing, litter-picking (they shouldn't need to do this), chair-straightening, safety-ensuring work is part of the ministry of this place – and much appreciated.

Chapel is both a place and a concept – to enter into the building is one thing; to enter into spiritual thinking, prayer, questionings and so on, is another, and less defined than a building can be. The hope is that we can all 'enter' Chapel with an openness that reflects something of the open heart of God.

Revd. Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain



Crossfire

Once again, it has been a wonderful privilege to be part of the Christian meeting here at Stowe. This year there has been much growth and change, particularly with new members from the Third Form coming along.

We congregate in the Blue Room, with exciting snacks to begin with, followed by a talk and an opportunity to ask different questions. Crossfire is a group open to all year groups, from different backgrounds and beliefs with the chance to explore individual faiths, to ask questions about life and learn about Jesus Christ and how he is relevant in our lives.

This year we have looked at different aspects of the Christian faith:

- We kicked off in the Michaelmas term with the theme of Jesus' Seven 'I am' sayings from St John's Gospel. This enabled us to gain a better understanding of these claims and to know more of Jesus' character and what this means to us today.
- In the Lent term, we welcomed a team from Oxford who offered an

opportunity for Stoics to ask some of the Big Questions about God including: 'What is God like?' and 'Can we truly know Him?' This followed with a trip to St Ebbe's Church in Oxford, meeting and reading the Bible with the youth group.

- The Summer term was based around 'Living the Christian Faith' which meant looking at the different aspects of Faith. It has been interesting having different speakers shed light on what it means to know Jesus Christ.

Crossfire aims to provide an atmosphere which is warm and welcoming. It is great to see Stoics mingling amongst the year groups and developing long lasting friendships. The highlight for many is the offer of Krispie Kremes and homemade snacks which are consumed in large quantities! It has been wonderful to see the faith of students developing and we are grateful to the guest speakers who give talks which are carefully constructed and challenging. We also look forward to taking a large group of Stoics on Iwerne Holidays which is happening in the summer.

Miss Ellie Donaldson

Cup of confusion

Quarter past two on a Tuesday afternoon...

Where has the time gone? The light flickers and the water stains on the ceiling lose contrast. People bustle past. They're all so busy; they all have somewhere to go. I could sit here for days. Nobody would miss me. There's no one I need to see, nowhere I have to be. Lives are lotteries; if you end up happy it's entirely down to luck.

The shabby décor becomes more obvious now. The tacky black vinyl with bubblegum pink accent is not "vibrant" or "cheerful" anymore. It's loud and impersonal and offensively unfashionable. Life has become a chore. Once you lose your purpose, everything you enjoyed, everyone you loved, all that made absolute sense becomes distorted and confusingly unsatisfactory. It's raining now; wind-driven, angry rain, which lashes the windows. The water finds a gap and spurts through, an unstoppable tide, onto my table. Poseidon has travelled far to punish me.

I stand up and begin to push the window down... it's heavy. My hands are getting soaked and the big, heavy droplets seep into my jumper, darkening the grey polyester. The window eventually succumbs to pressure but I'm left surprisingly out of breath, a shadow of my former self. I lower my body back into the worn and dirty chair and eye up the Mocha Frappuccino in front of me. Why did I order this? Why did I come here? I guess I had nothing else to do.

My mind is frazzled like it's always been. It's as if a layer of smoke lines my memory and my consciousness. Four pills a day make the fog disappear. Depression kicks in as I begin to remember the details of my life. Then as the medication wears off, the distorting fog of ignorance descends again, to occupy my addled brain. Yet, it's a relief to be protected from a reality I can no longer face. Betrayed in love, I settled for second best: a woman with limited ambitions for herself and for me, and the kids... well, I always felt remote from them, no similar interests, no common ground. They were her children, my part in their existence purely functional.

I look at the new mother sitting parallel to me, tired yet bright-eyed and full of purpose. I remember that feeling. What was my purpose now? A father? A husband? Hardly. It had all seemed so exciting, so promising, as a drama student at Bristol University... But a failed acting career was followed by a mediocre banking career: achieving the dizzy heights of assistant branch manager by the age of 62, before retiring with only a silver plated carriage clock to show for it all. Strange how when I left home, my opinions became even more bizarre, more obscure.

Like an automaton, I walked up the drive, a grey plastic suitcase in either hand mirroring the leaden sky. My brother's long, thin apprehensive face. "This is just temporary". It was, it really was. Unfortunately after his death his will was lost, so naturally I took the house. A beautiful, Georgian house. At least it was. I don't care much for manicured gardens or hospital clean bathrooms and I'm certainly not trying to impress anyone.

Gazing at a mass-produced photograph on the wall, New York City rush hour traffic. In black and white except two taxis which remain yellow. Same as millions everywhere. Serves no purpose, more people are frustrated than enthused by it.

When I was 22, I left Bristol to become an actor. I had seen an ad in a local paper for an audition for a low budget play in a small community theatre. I was starting small but surely I was on my way to stardom. As I entered I saw a hundred others like me, nervous but keen. I waited for six hours for my turn to perform. After I was turned down, I demanded to know the reason: I had a drama degree and the potential to be a major talent! They simply said that there were 106 other people with drama degrees and talent. This set the precedent for the next six years of my life. Working on a burger stand, 10% of my wages going towards paying off my student loan, 90% for living expenses. From then I coasted. Why bother trying when you're destined to fail?

It's getting late. I should be getting back, though I have nothing to do and there's nothing I want to watch on TV. My chair creaks. I open the door into the bustling shopping arcade – Christmas decorations in mid-October. Sickening.

Jamie Wace, Lower Sixth



Claire Langer, Upper Sixth



Idil Savaskan, Upper Sixth



stowe
sport

Rugby

1st XV

Played 13; Won 9; Drew 1; Lost 3

With the fixture list strengthened by the presence of Whitgift, Bromsgrove and Warwick the squad knew it had to hit the ground running to gain any momentum. After a good pre-season in Ireland, Oakham were the first opponents, a fixture we have never won away. Leading for much of the match Stowe fell behind to a late penalty three minutes from time but an air of confidence underpinned this squad and when Jake Olley kicked a 40 m penalty with the last kick of the game we knew we had another heart stopping but successful season ahead.

Whitgift who were the reigning Daily Mail Cup Champions for the last two years were always going to be a measure of our recent progress. After 25 minutes it was nil nil and although we were under pressure we were giving as good as we got. Two silly errors cost us dear after half-time and a late try flattered our guests but a 29-12 reversal didn't tell the whole story.

Mill Hill provided an opportunity to regain the scoring habit, a comfortable 47-7 win saw us through to exeat. Oundle were undefeated and after a slow start we found ourselves a try down but then we exerted our authority and we turned defence into attack for a brilliant solo try by skipper Cameron Roberts, a conversion and two penalties saw us stretch to a 13-7 lead but some ill discipline and a lack of thought allowed Oundle to scrape two penalties to pull level at half-time. Two more penalties for the hosts in the second half gave them the honours in what was a titanic school boy fixture.

Away at Loughborough we struggled with our decision making, a feature that was to be the Achilles heel of the side. An enormous drop goal from just inside the opposition half from Jake Olley calmed more frayed nerves. The next three fixtures against Akeley Wood in the Cup, St Edward's and Trent saw the side amass 157 points to only 19 against. A costly statistic in that this and the other results against St Edward's caused our neighbours to cease fixtures for the time being.

The fixture that will sadly remain in many of the players' memories was the next round of the Daily Mail Cup. In a match that we dominated from start to finish we missed several try scoring opportunities and kicks at goal and we drew 3-3. Aylesbury went through on the away rule. Sadly the players know they missed an opportunity to repeat the feats of the last two years and for many this hollow feeling will act as a stark reminder of squandering opportunities. Sport has that ability to teach some very harsh lessons.

Against a very powerful Bromsgrove outfit we suffered from the hangover of the mishap in the Cup and were well beaten 24-3. The season had the potential to come off the rails but they re-grouped and an edgy win against old rivals Uppingham 11-10 gave them renewed confidence. Still fragile and with key players missing, the side went to Warwick for the first time and not without some apprehension, however an interception in the first minute gave them self belief and in the end the side played some of its more controlled rugby winning 24-11. The whole squad were able to enjoy a last run out on the North Front against the Royal Latin finishing off in style with a 48-10 victory.

The front row of Frank Kilsby, Tom Baylis and Henri Da Costa provided a strong platform up front. Losing Kilsby to a shoulder injury against Trent was costly. Da Costa was a

talisman who understands how to win. In the second row after returning unfit Tristan Phipps grew into his body and partnered Jordan Onojaife whose 6ft 6in stature and focused approach earned him a call up into the England U17s squad and a regular spot in the Saints Academy side. Pending injury the back row consisted of Oscar Page who we missed badly for his ball winning ability, Courtney Raymond at blindside offers so much athleticism and power from the base, Harry Consett provides an aerial threat at the lineout and never tires whilst the only ever present amongst them and vice captain, James Clark, was a dependable and consistent performer throughout the season.

At the start of the season scrum-half looked to be a weakness but Ollie Plunket grew into the spot and became one of the side's strengths. Ben Nichols at fly-half has an abundance of skill and although directing the side proved a challenge his defence was resolute. We never really resolved the number 12 slot and pending injury and availability Jake Olley showed glimpses of real promise there but his favoured position is fullback where he was more confident. James Barnett had the physical presence to do the job but needed to believe in himself more. Seb Clarke was consistent in his performances on the left wing and due to injury we had a mixture of George Jones who showed promise, Brodie Smith who floated between the wing and fullback with equal effect and Henry Rudd who blossomed at the tail of the season. Cameron Roberts had a make over in rugby terms, having played back row in his previous four years he moved to outside centre and made a very good job of it, becoming the leading try scorer and skipper. His style was unorthodox and flamboyant and although he may have lacked a killer instinct, his confidence and determination to take on this position for someone who is deaf is the mark of the man and he will no doubt be a leader in other fields in the future.

Some years you have more injuries than others and this year proved to be a bad one. At various stages the following were missing, Kilsby, Da Costa, Onojaife, Raymond, Consett, Page, Jones, Smith, and Clarke all missed sections of the season, all key players. Lads who came in and made significant contributions were Arthur Hobhouse at loosehead prop, and Jamie Wace at open side. There were also cameo roles from many other players who stepped up to the plate and contributed when called upon; in total 37 boys represented the 1st team this year.

Mr Hayden stepped into Mr Durrant's shoes as forwards coach. He spent a lot of time looking up to what was a massive schoolboy pack but he was able to eyeball each one when they needed guidance and confidence. My thanks to him, Mr Barker and Mr Durrant who helped coach the senior squads with me.

Mr Alan Hughes

2nd XV

The 2nd team enjoyed an excellent season and improved every week both in performance and effort. We started with a difficult lesson from Oakham, but from there it was just up and up every week, with the high point a close 27-22 victory against an arguably better Bromsgrove side, but the spirit and desire the boys forged together throughout the season held up and they took a massive scalp with that victory. Other pleasing victories came against Uppingham, Trent and St Edward's, and victory was just missed against the mighty Whitgift when a bouncing ball would just not sit up for Henry Rudd; had it done so, Whitgift would be on that list. The 2nds ended with a very positive record of eight wins and four losses, with many honorable mentions for the players. Starting at the front Roddy Blackburne, Frank Kilsby and Arthur Hobhouse all had stints propping up the

scrum and gave us an excellent platform. Loose forwards Archie Nesbitt and Archie Walters combined with Tristan Phipps and Alex Levitt-Scrivener to give the backs an excellent platform on most occasions. Hugo Barran captained the side excellently from fly-half, and Nick Paine, James Barnett and Charlie Sergeant all were dangerous every week in the centre, with Sergeant scoring some amazing

individual efforts. On the wings, Josh Maziak and Alex Hambro Rabben both showed their worth, with Maziak ending the top try scorer and Hambro Rabben proving the difference against Bromsgrove with two interceptions that basically won the match. Overall an excellent season and Mr Durrant and I both thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mr Charlie Barker and Mr Barney Durrant



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3rd XV

Played 10; Won 7; Drew 0; Lost 3

This has been a strong season for the 3rd XV with some incredible performances both from individuals and from the whole team. The record for the season speaks volumes for the talent and effort that the players made throughout. Seven victories out of ten matches with winning margins over 24 points in five of those games. The three losses were tight games and Stowe was competitive throughout.

With a history of being slow starters to the season, the first match away at Oakham was always going to be tough and eventually was lost by two points – what we wouldn't have given to have played them again later in the season... Our next match was Whitgift, a new fixture for Stowe and the toughest fixture. Stowe played with aplomb and style closing Whitgift down with some hard tackling (Ben Rimmel upending their star player in what might be the tackle of the season) and pressure in all areas of the field eventually running out victors. This victory was even more impressive as the 3rds were the only side to beat Whitgift across all year groups. A comfortable win against Mill Hill (46-0) and a weak display against a well organised Oundle team saw us lose our second game (5-15).

Stowe then embarked on a golden run winning the next five matches on the bounce. LGS, Teddies, Habs and Bromsgrove were swept aside, with Stowe scoring a total of 145 points

while conceding only four tries before a tight game allowed Uppingham to come close before Stowe edged it 29-27. The final game against a strong Warwick side saw Stowe slip to their third loss going down 12-29.

There were individual efforts that should be mentioned of course. At one end of the team was fullback Kit Dixon-Smith who this season seemed to score at will. Sides that were foolhardy enough to kick the ball often saw Dixon-Smith catch it, look up and speed off before scoring under the posts. This happened a lot!

At the other end of the team was Mungo Akerman who also seemed to spend a great deal of time running through players (often with them hanging off his back). Mungo recorded a couple of tries but seemed to be happier knowing that he'd bludgeoned his way through some poor winger who had had vain hopes of bringing him down.

However consistently performing well (and winning matches) is purely down to full team

effort and there were several players who were crucial to the whole team functioning well. In particular Henry Murray and Wyn Clayton enjoyed rampaging through the opposition forwards – on one occasion someone spotted Wyn passing the ball but it's still unconfirmed. Jamie Lemos was a titan, often the focal player for all the other forwards to bind onto.

In the backs Will Jones at scrum-half gave excellent delivery of the ball and his organisation and understanding of the game meant that when opportunities were on, tries normally resulted. Fred Elliot took a few matches to feel completely confident at fly-half but very soon looked at ease and combined well with centres Brogan Smith, who seemed to make gaps appear at will, and captain Charlie Cox, who then sailed through them.

With a majority of the players in the Lower Sixth, the signs look very positive for another impressive season next year. Coaches Art and Blewitt are already planning victory speeches...

Mr Damian Blewitt



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4th XV 5th XV

Played 8; Won 4; Lost 4

Due to the number of boys playing rugby this season, we could field up to five teams, with the 4th team being perhaps not as successful as they should have been on paper. Some mixed results showed that the quality of rugby depended upon their mentality on match days. We had some quality players, constantly pushing 3rd XV places, but the good players from the 5th XV being reluctant to move up! Early losses to Oakham, Harrow and Oundle made the first half of the season disappointing, but the boys stepped up to record some fantastic wins against stiff opposition. Thrashings of St Edward's and Bromsgrove were great to see, and the season culminated in a good win against Warwick, with many boys playing their final rugby match for Stowe – what a fine way to end your rugby career!

Mr Brian Hart

Played 6; Won 4; Lost 2

Due to the encouraging numbers of Senior boys present at training at the start of the season we were able to field a 5th XV in the first match of the season at Oakham. Oakham found it difficult to cope with Stowe's fluent passing interchanges. Quality tries from Hawke, Lawal (2) and Robinson helped the team to a 22-5 victory away from home. Highlight of the game was Freddie Benyon's tap tackle on Oakham's flying winger. Lowlight of the game was Freddie Benyon's attempted drop kick conversion and Oscar Cole was Man of the Match.

The next match was an away trip to Marlborough. The team got off to a dreadful start conceding two tries in the first ten minutes. The team continued to press for that elusive try and finally got through in the last play of the game when Ed Robinson slipped over the line after a quick tap penalty. The team should be proud of the

way they came back in this game and with a little more luck could have sneaked a result but in the end went down 12-5. Paul Barker had an outstanding game in the 2nd row to claim Man of the Match.

The next match at Oundle took place on a glorious hot and sunny day. Henriques, Pettifer, Baldwin and Tottenham all had their first starts for the 5th XV this season. Stowe started brightly creating a good drop-goal opportunity which captain Clarke took in his stride. Oundle then converted a try to take the lead but the bounce of a Pettifer kick and chase out of his 22 fell nicely into the hands of the chasing Lawal who went over near the uprights. The missed conversion attempt would prove costly. Oundle went over again to regain the lead but Stowe were not finished yet. In the second Robinson scored after some great sniping at the base of a ruck in the opposition's 22. Stowe led 13-12 but Oundle once again found a way over and converted to make the score 19-13. Robinson was once again in the right place at the right time to finish off a fine handling move in the corner to bring Stowe to within a point. Stowe then gave away a silly penalty in front of goal which was converted and although Stowe

managed to get over the Oundle line, the ball was held up and Oundle held on to win by 4; 22 points to 18. This was a great game of rugby played between two committed teams. Man of the match: Sam Tottenham.

The word was now beginning to get around that 'the' team to play for was the 'Mighty 5ths'. The players started to crave for more fixtures as they were enjoying their rugby so much. A home fixture against Cheltenham was arranged which was welcomed by the players, having been on the road for the opening three matches. Lawal sliced through the Cheltenham defence to register the first try and Watson scored the second before half-time. Tries from Lawal, Raeburn (2) and Clarke sealed a fine 40-0 victory with Jack Raeburn collecting Man of the Match.

The 5th XV were honoured to be playing on the North Front against the 3rd XV of MCS, Oxford. The posters around school seemed to have captured the imagination of the Stoics as the spectators flocked onto the North Front and witnessed a pulsating game of rugby. Stowe went 10-0 down; however, with moments to go before half-time a 'Gary Owen' from Pettifer bounced kindly for the chasing backs and Lawal picked up neatly to

go over under the posts. Pettifer took his time over the conversion and slotted it dead centre; 10-7 at half-time. Lawal managed to drop the ball over the try line before Henriques dived over in the corner to secure a 12-10 victory. Ed Pettifer was immense in this game and claimed the Man of the Match award.

In the last match of the season the 5th XV travelled to Uppingham with 15 players due to some late illness and injuries. Kirk Blair and Theo Gregson made their debut appearances and quickly slipped into the 5th XV 'never say die' attitude. The game was more or less won and lost in the first half. Stowe played into a gale force wind and spent a good 75% of the first half defending in the 22. At half-time the boys were in buoyant mood knowing that their first half performance, if matched in the second half would surely give them the edge in this match. From the kick off Pettifer angled his kick beautifully into the bottom corner of Uppinham's 22. From Uppingham's line-out which was not straight, Stowe opted for the scrum 15 metres in field. Brown at number eight picked up and went open. He managed to slip the ball to scrum-half and captain

Robinson, having sucked in the Uppingham back row, found a gap and dived over for the equalising try. Pettifer then converted to give Stowe a slender lead. Uppingham rallied well and Stowe's inability to roll away after the tackle resulted in a string of penalties against, hence even more desperate tackling. When Uppingham could not get through the Stowe defence they tried to go over but every time they did they met the advancing flying flanker and Man of the Match Bartolomé who managed to charge the ball down. Stowe scored a try from nothing when Henriques capitalised on an Uppingham handling error mid-way into the Stowe half and managed to slip the ball to Lawal who skipped past the first line of defence and once he was clear there was no stopping him and he made no mistake this time about grounding the ball properly to win the game 12-5.

It was a real pleasure coaching such an enthusiastic group of players. I'm sure they will not forget this season of rugby in a hurry.

Mr Isaac Michael

Colts A

The Colts A began their season with an intense 2 days of training at Stowe at the beginning of September. This was followed by a pre-season tournament away at Blundells which definitely acted as a wake-up call for the players. They realised this would be a season of hard work, with improvement needed and one which would require an excellent attitude to achieve the goals set by the coaches.

It is a credit to the players that these were all shown regularly throughout the season.

The season will be remembered for famous victories against Oakham (65-0), Uppingham away, (10-5), Bromsgrove away (42-7), Oundle (37-24) and St Edward's away (27-25). These hard fought wins highlighted a great strength in depth within the squad especially when injuries struck during the battle of Haberdashers'. But they also emphasised the free flowing rugby that was played and the dogged defence which became ever present characteristics of the team this season.



However, it is probably the 2 losses of the season which will be remembered the most for the excellent manner in which the team played, despite ultimate defeat. The Colts travelled down to the all conquering Whitgift and gave them arguably one of the best games of their season, narrowly losing by a score, however the effort and application on show that day was tremendous. The other is Warwick at home. Warwick came with an extremely strong reputation at Colts age group, and had the Colts managed to get into the game early the one score deficit at the end could again have easily been turned around into a famous win.

All the players this year are worthy of praise and a special mention must go to Max Marston who captained the team superbly all season. In addition, Drew Todd, James Hill, Edzai Soper Gwatidzo, Charlie Mason and George Jackman had fantastic seasons ably supported by Harry Dixon-Smith, Fergus Edwards, Alex Stone, Myles Coe, Will Chatamra and Ryan Eveleigh amongst others.

Mr Moffat and I thoroughly enjoyed the company of the boys who will form the backbone of a strong Senior squad next season.

Mr Michael Rickner and Mr Gavin Moffat

Colts B

This season was eagerly anticipated as the squad looked for revenge on the only two matches that were lost last year; this duly arrived with 'The Band of Brothers' demolishing St Edward's and ultimately winning a much tighter game against Oundle. These results demonstrated the continued improvement made by this talented side; a team that I hugely appreciated being allowed to coach for the second year. The boys played an exciting running game consistently displaying great ambition but could be fragile in contact and against the new, tougher fixtures (Whitgift, Warwick and Uppingham) this weakness proved their undoing where we struggled to get our hands on the ball. Too many players made their mark for all to be named but no report would be complete without the mention of the dogged determination displayed by the captain Harry Pettifer, the physical prowess of Francis Smiley at number 8 and the extraordinary capability of Hugo Hiley who from being a star back ended the



season as first choice flanker! Looking forward as they move on to the senior game I feel confident that many will feature in the top sides in the years to come. I would also like to express my gratitude both to my

Assistant Coach, Mr Malling, and to the many parents who supported us; their welcome presence on the touchline added much to the season.

Mr Ian Findlay-Palmer

Colts C Junior Colts A

The Colts C Team produced some of the best rugby ever played at this level this year. They remained unbeaten against all opposition C teams played against, and managed to inflict mammoth victories over traditional rivals such as Uppingham and Oundle. The team was lead superbly by Rollo Chad, a captain who led from the front in the heat of battle.

The forwards dominated opposition scrums and their technical work at the lineout was superb. Alex Fitzjohn, Cameron Power and Jamie Milne all played some tough rugby at the front of the pack, with Alex scoring a hat-trick of tries with some power running at close range against Warwick. Matthew Pryse and Chris Parsonson handled the hooker position well whilst Timon White and Louis Palmer gave the scrum stability and cleaned out the rucks well. William Barnes, Matthew Harvey, and Toby Wightman all worked well at the flanking position.

Toby Wightman made some huge hits against boys often double his weight and achieved a call up to the B team for the last game of the season as a due reward for his consistent efforts. Harrison Perske and Bertie Grossart burrowed their way through opposition's defences at scrum-half and gave Tom Forde a good ball from which to work his magic. A key position in any team and Tom Forde had the makings of an outstanding C team fly-half, with creative imagination and exceptional accuracy. Forde scored many a try and created even more with his cross kicks, gathered in by the likes of Jack Vestey, Kemal Eyi and Tobin Mills in the centre.

Henry Cox was a solid last line of defence at fullback whilst Nick Whitmore, Hannington Morgan and Guy Riches all gave sterling performances on the wing. The most outstanding player of all was Alexis Lazareff who scored countless tries with his bounding runs and made many a hard hit as he imposed his domination on fearful attempted tackles on the way to touching down on the whitewash. What a team, and what a season.

Mr Mark Blew

The Junior Colts A were always destined to have a strong showing this season with the level of talent throughout the squad, but the boys astounded us all with a remarkable season displaying a wonderful team spirit, demonstrating the real joy that can be achieved through school sport.

The season started all the way back in August, at the Brian Ashton rugby Camp in Normandy, with expert coaching from Ashton himself and Mark Regan, a former British Lion. This experience proved invaluable with the boys being exposed to top quality sessions, evidence of which could be seen in games throughout the year.

Returning from pre-season the boys were eager to show how much they had developed, cries of 'Cannot wait until Saturday' could be heard in training the first week back, and the boys did not disappoint. On a sunny day up at the Bourbon, Oakham was clinically dispatched 40-0. The boys produced a wonderful display of running rugby, involving intricate backs moves and strong physicality up front. George Silk was quite superb in the first game giving us a glimpse of what was to be a quite outstanding individual season.

How could the boys follow this was going to be our next problem: they need not have worried as the impressive fixture list offered Whitgift as our next opponent. Boasting a strong rugby heritage, the boys were

undaunted and were confident of testing themselves. After what I can only call the 'urban scenic' route through London, we arrived late, and managed a close 10-0 defeat. I believe after the game was the moment that the boys realised how good a side they actually were, and from then on the boys strove to get better every game they played.

The next few weeks brought big wins against Mill Hill 75-0, Ousedale 53-0, Oundle 27-3, Loughborough 20-0 and quite remarkably St Edward's Oxford 75-5. One of the most remarkable features of this game was how annoyed the boys were that they had conceded a single try, I felt that this time commitment and desire is a rare sight in a team so young.

On top of our regular Saturday games, the boys had the Daily Mail Cup during the week. We began our run against Bloxham who we beat 57-3, followed by Sibford School 53-0, including a hat-trick by our captain Murray Aitchison, a player who I feel has the all-round game to go very far with his rugby talents.

Next up came our toughest game of the year against Bromsgrove School. Bromsgrove had had a similar season to us at this stage and the boys knew this particular match would be close and hard fought. The game did not disappoint: watched by a large vocal crowd at Bromsgrove, the boys produced a stirring



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performance to win with a last minute try in the corner.

The Daily Mail continued with a tough 12-7 win on the North Front against Chosen Hill, who had a large contingent of Gloucester Academy players. This brought about a rematch with Loughborough Grammar, this time to be played away at Loughborough. All during the week Mr Sutton and I watched the weather reports, which forecast rain; what we actually got was almost a monsoon. In preparation for this, the boys worked on their defence and close quarter play. Once again the boys did not disappoint, winning 17-5 with an almighty defensive effort. Seb Cecil and Keith Harrington in the second row were quite superb all season, but particularly in this match making tackle after tackle.

St Albans were next in the seventh round: the boys began to realise how close they were to achieving something quite special, a quarter-final spot. St Albans played their game at Saracens training ground under floodlights. The boys seemed to rise to this as a spectacle and produced three of the best tries I have seen in schoolboy rugby through Paul, Silk and the team's try machine Pepera, who scored 18 tries in total, eventually winning the match 17-12.

Lymm High School, last year's finalists, were next in the quarter-final on the North Front. Having the whole School on the North Front in the sunshine was a wonderful occasion

Junior Colts A 2012



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and contributed to motivate the boys on to a 26-13 win.

This brought us to the semi-final stage and a Buckinghamshire derby against RGS High Wycombe. The game was played at a neutral venue at Broadstreet. The boys were treated to a night away in a hotel, with team meetings and a team meal to make the experience one they would remember for a long time. The game was a close and highly skilled affair, with Stowe producing the running rugby as a contrast to the strong forward play of RGS. Stowe were leading at half-time through wonderful tries by George Silk and Will Pepera. Unfortunately the well

drilled RGS forwards produced a strong second half showing to win the match 17-12.

This wonderful showing in the semi-final was a real credit to the hard work, skill and commitment shown by the boys throughout the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with boys who are keen to improve and so desperate to fulfil their potential. Thanks must go to Mr Sutton as the mastermind behind a back line who always threatened and dazzled players, coaches and parents across the circuit this year. A wonderful season of which the boys can be very proud.

Mr Dan Falvey

Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B have enjoyed an outstanding season losing only twice to two very strong sides from Whitgift and Warwick by only a few points. As a team they have progressed extremely well, taking on board what their coaches have said and working on their problem areas in training and games alike. They have played together, with every player in the side giving their all for the school going onwards and upward every week. Notable performances have come from Kyle Browne, Tom Young, Rex Roxburgh, Jamie Angle, William Hulbert and Barth Rougier who have all been pressing hard for places in the Junior Colts A side.



Junior Colts B 2012

Mr Tom Higham

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Junior Colts C

Played 11; Won 10; Drew 0; Lost 1

The Junior Colts C played eleven matches and won ten. The match they lost was away to Whitgift (a three hour journey), and even there they won the second half convincingly. On the Schools' Rugby website the Junior Colts C were listed as top of the Under 15 C Team National League, which counted 42 schools. Scrum-half and captain Monty Curran led with unruffled and pinpoint accurate passing, through the equally talented hands and feet of Ed Elliott and Jack Keeping, out to one of a number of great line-busters including Pierre Carrelet, James Simpson, Theo Shepherd-Smith and Felix Spooner (Felix scoring in all matches bar one, amassing 75 points in the season), ably



Junior Colts C 2012

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supported by Jaimie Croom-Johnson at fullback. All this was made possible by a fiercely competitive pack led by Luke Lindsay and comprising props Ezzy Abdy-Collins and Ed Hopkinson (Ed scoring 45 points himself), authoritative hooker Oscar Marment, locks Alec Birdwood and Luke Lindsay, and a hugely talented back three squad of Will Arthey and George Gill (tackling fiends), Jack Edmonstone (a tackler, ball-winner and try-scorer of immense talent), Ben Boscawen

(a terrifying ball carrier) and the mighty Kai Komai at No. 8, who scored in all bar one match and amassed 65 points. Occasionally we also had the benefit of the gifted Ben ter Haar, Artem Ionnesyan and Jake Lussier. Coaches Ray Dawson and Bob Roberts wish to express once again their enormous thanks to a team the like of which they have never worked with, and whose talent and attitude from start to end was pure joy.

Mr Ray Dawson and Mr Bob Roberts

Yearlings A

Played 10; Won 9; Drew 1; Lost 0

For the third year in a row the Yearlings A went undefeated, the only slight blemish being an away draw at Stamford 15-15 when they had to score twice to recover the match.

It is a side that has a lot of pace. Tony Kuku, Shaun Coker and Fraser Ellis Jenkinson are all boys blessed with exceptional pace and power, between them they scored 36 of the 53 points scored by the team. Charlton Kerr

ran the show from fly-half displaying some clever skills and when his decision-making improves he too will be a potent weapon.

At scrum-half Freddie Phillips, Harrison Tucker and Oscar Pegg all showed promise for the future. Sam Riley was a regular in the centre and was partnered by Ellis Jenkinson, Jack Flood and Greg Atkinson who moved to fullback as the season progressed.

The pack contained a mobile and aggressive back row with flankers Tom Johnson, Oscar Williams and No. 8 Will Thompson stealing opposition ball and making bone crunching

tackles in defence. Once they recognise their timing and opportunity to support others in attack they have the potential to be an awesome unit.

Harry Norris and George Constantinidi played the majority of games at lock with the ever present Alex Diaconu proving to be Mr Reliability and utility forward.

The front row lacked a little in physique but more than made up for that with some excellent technical ability, Isaac Ajala, James Moor and James Hechle had the majority of starts at prop with Alex Smith commanding the hooker's slot.

During the season there were cameo roles for Triumph Opuala-Charles and his brother Allwell, Zak Coupland, Freddie Paling and Inigo Lendrum. All showed promise for the future and will compete for places as they grow.

Their most memorable moments were putting over 50 points on Oundle and Uppingham in consecutive weeks. The most testing time was the Stamford game and one that put them under the most pressure. They learnt a lot from this but had the determination also not to let their undefeated season slip by.

It will be interesting to see their progress in next season's Daily Mail Cup.

Mr Alan Hughes



Yearlings A 2012

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Yearlings B

Played 5; Won 5; Drew 0; Lost 0

The Yearlings B team had a successful season, winning five out of the eight games on their fixture list. With three games cancelled the side didn't have as many games as they would have liked in which to show their coaches what they were capable of but the side put some notable performances together during the season. With big wins against Oundle and Uppingham and even bigger wins against Mill Hill and The Leys School the boys cemented themselves as one of the best B string sides in the area. Freddie Palling led the side throughout the season as captain as well as top try scorer. Inigo Lendrum and Freddie Phillips propelled the



Yearlings B 2012

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back line forward game after game with quick ball provided by a pack of strong scrummagers led by Isaac Ajala, Alexander Temnyanskiy and Jonny Hawkings Byass. What was very impressive about the side's performances was the boys' ability to stick to a solid game plan throughout the season that

enabled them to score lots of tries and allowed each player to perform at their best. This in turn earned a few players a chance to play in the Yearlings A side and prove themselves against some of the best school teams in the area.

Mr Tom Higham

Yearlings C

Played 8; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 2

Our season started badly, we lost the first game to what was really an A side of Akeley Wood 12-46, then played a very one-sided match against The Leys, winning 53-0.

From 18 January to 2 March was a very lean time, one loss, two draws and two lost to poor winter conditions. Early March, back to winning ways v Uppingham at home 38-0. Then Stamford 59-0 and The Perse 39-5. Three good wins. Funny season, four wins, two draws, two losses and two lost to the elements. Points for 252. Points against 111. Most Tries:



Yearlings C 2012

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Alvaro de la Vega. Most conversions: George Markham. MVP: Angus McCrorie-Shand and Most Improved: Nai Chi Tsai. Not a bad

season, but this is certainly a group to watch in autumn 12. Well done.

Mr Ray Dawson

Yearlings D

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3

As is often the case with the D team, this was a tough season in terms of continuity, and in many ways the boys were more of a large C team squad, and only occasionally Ds. Nonetheless, many impressed. To name a few: Matthew Hill defined his captaincy with dependable, contact-heavy play; Freddie Allhusen was a dedicated and powerful presence about the park; Harry Dunn's pacy ball-carrying and missile-like tackling were two key weapons; Roman Du Bois Pelerin brought aggressive pace, and Nai Chi Tsai great strength, to our attack; Harrison Dockerty was nothing if not committed,



Yearlings D 2012

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and developed strongly; Alfie Marsden-Smedley and Kyle Gibson both lent flair and skill in their occasional appearances. The well-fought win against Uppingham (15-7) was satisfying, but the highlight of the season was surely the 24-0 Away win at Mill

Hill, where the team had just enough edge to be allowed to play some lovely rugby. Lots of promise here for the future.

Mr Bob Roberts

RUGBY 7s

What an extraordinary season! Our first three tournaments were played in driving rain and gale force winds which made playing expansive flowing Sevens impossible. In fact the tournament at Windsor was abandoned due to the conditions. An inaugural tournament was organised in Northampton this year and this saw the Stowe lads start their campaign in earnest towards what was to become a fantastic season. We progressed through to the final of this friendly local tournament and went on to beat Bloxham comfortably and so we very happy to lift the trophy. Certain players were starting to shine through, with a nice balance to the side becoming evident. Hard ball winning forwards including Clark, Raymond, Page, Phipps, Onojaife and Consett linked to tenacious and well-organised half backs – Olley, Nichols, Sargeant and Plunket and our finishing was certainly looking very potent with Roberts, Clarke and Jones touching down several times between them.

The sun finally came out as we approached the big tournaments of Surrey and Rosslyn Park. These are where we test ourselves against the strongest schools in the country and hopes were high. At Surrey we came through a very tough qualifying group to reach a respectable place in the quarter-finals out of the 56 starting schools, four of the final eight teams were ACER Colleges (Premiership Academy 'schools').

Rosslyn Park is the National Schools' 7s Tournament. 125 schools start this tournament. Stowe has a very strong reputation and our aim is to qualify through to the 'second day' where the remaining 16 teams return for further matches. To reach this stage we would have to win all of the matches in our group, which included Monmouth College and Abingdon who we knew also fully expected to reach that level. We started with stiff but pleasing wins over the other two schools in our group, Latymer Upper and Dartford College and then lined up against Monmouth. Stowe went on to play some of the best 7s I have seen from a Stowe side. We totally controlled the match and the shell-shocked opponents had no answer to our all-round power and organisation; we won 29-0. We took this energy and confidence on to dominate Abingdon and our first job was done – we were through to the knock out stages. From now on all matches are played on the main pitch with large crowds watching the remaining teams fight it out. Our first opponents were Haileybury. Our usual stars of Nichols, Olley, Clark and Roberts shone brightly and we came through comfortably. Epsom College were next. They were the pre-tournament favourites who had two of the fastest players on show. Many teams came to watch them play, as they were capable of scoring amazing tries. However, Stowe was not in the mood to roll over easily and although we went down

early on, we came back to tie 7-7 at half-time. A fierce second half saw Epsom score again, but Stowe responded with another Roberts try. Scores were level again with time running out. Stowe regained the re-start through superb skills by Clark and we were awarded a penalty deep in their half. We took the unusual decision to go for goal with a drop kick and Olley succeeded, leading to a three point lead. Exactly the same pattern repeated itself and again Olley slotted a drop kick for us to win and go through to the semi-finals. This was without doubt the best result in my 15 years of coaching Stowe 7s. Our prize was to take on Wellington in the last four of the competition. Stowe was now well respected and fought valiantly in front of huge crowds. However, we did not manage to hang on and went down 24-12. The team had represented themselves and Stowe with great honour, drawing many comments of praise from various schools. The team produced a run of six superb wins in succession at Rosslyn Park, showing great pride, organisation and huge character. Special mention must go to Cameron Roberts for scoring an amazing 34 tries this season, James Clark for securing so much ball in the tight, Jake Olley whose distribution and kicking skills are quite superb and captain Ben Nichols for leading with such passion and commitment.

As usual Mr Hayden was by my side throughout and added tremendous energy and enthusiasm to every practice and tournament. He gets on so well with the players but demands such high standards. He is an outstanding Sevens coach.

Mr Craig Sutton



Boys' Hockey

1st XI

Played 13; Won 7; Drew 2; Lost 4

Stowe 1st team squad has recorded some fantastic victories this season in a team well led by joint captains Rob Hill and Henry Rudd. During the first term the boys were able to put together a decent number of training sessions both indoor and outdoor and recorded a good victory against a Solihull development team.

The benefit to this training was that it created good competition for places for the first game in January and made it difficult for the selectors. Our first block fixture against Mill Hill was probably the most frustrating of the season with many chances going begging and Mill Hill scoring a solitary counter goal in the first half to win the match 1-0.

A much needed pre-season tournament at Uppingham the following day saw the boys have a tough match against Trent and a win against Bedford which allowed the team shape and structure to start to develop and take good strides forward for the first half of the term. In the next four matches Stowe played some of the best hockey I have seen from a 1st XI group playing quick attacking hockey which was balanced with a well structured defence.

Stowe beat Bloxham 7-2 where they produced a fantastic second half display scoring five goals with Paine, Duckett and Rudd scoring two each. Against Stamford the boys recorded another 7-2 victory with Paine and Roberts scoring 2 each and goals from Rudd, Dixon-Smith and Todd. The team then defeated Bedford 5-1 and drew with MCS in a hard fought 1-1 draw. In the second half of the season there were victories against Shiplake 6-2 and another 1-1 draw against St Edward's where Rudd set up a Dixon-Smith tap in with five minutes left on the clock which Stowe thoroughly deserved. This 'never say die'



1st XI 2012

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attitude which Rudd always had in a Stowe shirt was highlighted in the match against St Edward's as he played with a damaged ankle and wouldn't stay off the pitch until we scored the equaliser.

The team were very dangerous on the counter attack with Robert's pace, Duckett's reverse stick and Simpkin and Dixon-Smith's movement and skill. This, combined with Paine's ability to score penalty corners highlighted when he scored one top left against Stamford, meant we would always score goals. The midfield trio of Rudd, Todd and Jones also got on the score sheets on a regular occurrence which showed their ability to get from D to D with pace and skill. This was shown by scoring 37 goals in 13 matches whilst only conceding 24.

Although the team was scoring a lot of goals it was the central defensive partnership of Woodward and Hill and Barran, Tottenham and Smith at the half-backs which were vital to Stowe victories. This was shown as they soaked up pressure with ease which allowed the team to always be in the game. When

called upon Craven dominated in open play coming off his line at speed and making many important blocks. Top goal scorer was Nick Paine and player of the season was Will Jones.

During this season I have seen a real step up in the standard of hockey we have played as each individual has developed tactically and technically throughout the year which is due to the work the players have put in. This has been highlighted by the step-up in players such as Smith and Roberts who went from regular second team players to strong first team members. As always I hope that the boys who are leaving will go on to play some sort of hockey in the future and I thank them for a really successful season which has produced some great results. My thanks go to Mr Pickersgill and Mr Hearne both of whom have worked tirelessly through the term and developed a great rapport with the boys.

Mr James Fair

2nd XI

Played 9; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 3

The 2nd XI has had a fantastic season. Captained by superstar Sebastian Clarke the side recorded five wins, one draw and three losses. The boys had trained hard so it was no surprise that they began the season with a great win over a well drilled Mill Hill. Sebastian Clarke began his goal tally with a cracking goal high into the roof of the net. The next game saw us playing Bloxham away and although we dominated possession we were unable to find the goal and Mike Evans could do nothing about their fast counter break early in the second half. The boys were keen to bounce back and they did than is style beating a strong MCS Oxford team 2-0 away. Few would argue that our best result of the season was over Stamford when we won 5-2. Having to wait for the first game to finish, Stowe began slowly and were immediately put on the back foot. Stowe began to string passes together and managed to get the ball to Clarke in space to finish coolly under pressure. Kit Dixon-Smith had his best game of the season so far by dominating the middle of the park. He was the difference between the two sides. Half-time saw the score at 3-0 and most believed it was over. Stamford came out hard and pressed us high up the pitch, winning the ball on the right and managing to slip it past Evans. Stamford then scored again to pile on the pressure and give Stowe a much

needed wake up call. The boys answered with marvellous one twos which led to Clarke getting another and Parker finding his second of the game. The score finished 5-2 and in the end a convincing win but a lesson learnt to put teams to bed in the future.

The second half of the season saw the team go from strength to strength. Our opening match saw a draw against an average Bedford side, the boys were extremely frustrated that they did not win and vowed to do better in their next game against Shiplake. This was to be their most convincing result. The boys beat Shiplake 9-0 with an impressive performance. As soon as the whistle went Stowe were on the attack and if not for a good save it would have been 1-0 in the first minute of the game. The game was played mostly in the opponents' half, Clarke and Parker both adding to their goal tally making the run into the end of the season very close for top goal scorer. The convincing win over Shiplake led to another fantastic win over

St Edward's and it would have been a fairy tale ending if not losing their last game to a tough Uppingham side.

Mike Evans will be greatly missed in goal; his continuous words of encouragement were always met with smiles. James Barnett was fantastic at the back linking well with Harry Martin. Charles Cox was fantastic for us this year, always looking dangerous when he was on the ball and creating havoc for the opponents' defence. Similarly Benjamin Housson was without doubt our most attacking player, rarely losing the ball and often beating two players before passing the ball. There is just one more who leaves us this year, Freddie Benyon loves to talk about hockey, and loves even more playing it. He would work tirelessly in defence and attack, he would be all over the pitch creating chances and saving them. All the leavers will be dearly missed. Special thanks to Miss Thomas who has worked hard with the boys during training.



2nd XI 2012

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3rd XI

This year the 3rd XI hockey team have had a superb season, despite ending on a 0-5 drubbing from Uppingham, managing to win 70% of their games. Throughout the term the side was able to develop and mature into a well oiled unit whose greatest strength was its unselfish play and ability to work together as a team. The team, led by Harry Cockbill, had the ability to score regularly and defend defiantly against most oppositions. Freddie FitzHerbert was outstanding in goal and together with central defender William Plant, picked up the season's player's award. Matteo di Carlofelice was solid as a rock at the back and even managed to score a couple of heavy handed short corners with his powerful swing of the stick. Chima Ngerem enjoyed his first season of hockey

and progressed immensely as a defender, supported by Edward Howes and Hubert Leese. The smooth midfielders developed exquisite passing and attacking moves down the right and left side of the pitch through Mungo Kilgour and George Jones, with Nico Gilbert dominating the centre of the pitch. Harry Cockbill's ability to play the ball into

space led to numerous attacks from Merlin Rothschild and Jack Barham, who both enjoyed many opportunities on goal. Overall, a thoroughly enjoyable season, and I hope the majority of these players will find themselves pushing 1st and 2nd team places next year. Well done to all who participated.

Mr Mark Blew



3rd XI 2012

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Colts A

By any gauge, the Colts A season of 2012 qualified as a strong one. Evidence for this assessment is plentiful: the majority of matches won; some notable opponents vanquished; some high class goals scored; significant improvement individually and collectively.

There is a strong pool of leading players in this team who all performed consistently and well throughout the term. Led ably by the elegant Harry Dixon-Smith who ran the show from central midfield increasingly as the term progressed, his most prominent deputies came in the form of Player of the Season, George Jackman – an ever-present, highly energetic and tireless scourge of defences on the right flank – and James Hill, as potent a finisher as any we met on the circuit. Strong support came in the form of Hugo Kinahan, an able sportsman who honourably shouldered the burden of moving from his favoured inside left

to calmly and effectively man the sweeper position in the latter half of term. Edzai Soper-Gwatidzo was an energetic centre back, Jack Vestey our Mr Reliable at left half and Will Barnes, recipient of the Most Improved Player award was tremendous in goal throughout.

Victories against St Edward's, Uppingham and Bloxham were sweet and almost as satisfying was a hard-fought draw against a skilful

Stamford in the first half of term. The boys will have learnt lots from their County Cup experience against the stellar talents contained within the RGS High Wycombe and Sir William Borlase teams and as ever I shall look forward to watching this group of players represent the School at Senior level in the next couple of years.

Mr Henry Swayne



Colts A 2012

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Colts B

The Colts B had a mixed season with some highs and lows despite not having many fixtures. Their best performance came against St Edward's where the team scored 8 goals with no reply. Johnny Dann and Archie Grossart were standout performers in that game. Another good performance was their 3-3 draw with Uppingham where the boys fought hard and put in a good performance. Pilleau, Clover and Grossart were joint top scorers and Dann and Noest were players of the season.

Miss Gabrielle Peel



Colts B 2012

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Junior Colts A

Played 8; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 3

The Junior Colts had a mixed season with some fantastic results mixed in with some poor ones. During the season there was an emergence in talent in Ed Hopkinson in goal who had a fantastic first season in goal for the Junior Colts A. Also Angus Tyrell developed into a strong defender and combined with Tom Young developed a good combination in the middle. Tom Hunnable and George Ellison provided good skills in midfield and Man of the Match performances through the season and Best Wangmontri and George Silk were the top goal scorers.

Stand out game was the match against Bloxham where at 4-0 down the team was



Junior Colts A 2012

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dead and buried; however there was a fantastic comeback in the second half with goals from Wangmontri (2), Ellison and a last minute equaliser from Murray Aitchison who slammed home the equaliser from the narrowest of angles. Throughout the season

the team has developed into a stronger group of hockey players and there are a number of boys who could make the step up to the first team in the future.

Mr Phil Arnold

Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B had a fine season winning six matches, drawing one and only losing two. They were well led by James Scott who also appeared at times for the A team. Toby Pemberton and Ben ter Haar were the stars in defence and Ed Hopkinson did a good job in goal. Nico Upton, Felix Spooner and George Lee ran the midfield very well and in the few games he played James Paul was a threat up front. Will Cowley scored four goals in the two games he played and Kieran Carney did a good job on the wing. The highlights were terrific wins over Uppingham and MCS Oxford where the guys were at their best.

Mr William Hearne



Junior Colts C

The team was enthusiastic for victory and succeeded in ending the term undefeated after their four games. They started in fine form against Bloxham, winning 7-0, and again at St Edward's, 4-2. Against Bedford they won 1-0 in the last moments of the game with a superb powered shot from George Barham and he scored both goals in their 2-1 victory against Uppingham. Jack Edmonstone, Guy Gibson and George Gill contributed excellent midfield and defensive play.

Mr Ben Ponniah and Mr Michael Bevington



Yearlings A

The Yearlings A have won some excellent matches against very tough opposition and the team has been well led by captain Oliver Woodward. Our home form this term has been superb with perhaps our best achievement being our 2-1 win against Uppingham. The team has gradually gelled together this term and have demonstrated a huge amount of potential. There have been many strong individual performances over the course of the year with Alex Smith, George Markham and Sam Riley all playing important roles. The most improved player has to be Tom Constable-Maxwell who has developed into one of the most consistent defensive players in the team. The team played well in the County Cup but unfortunately went out of the competition in the semi-finals. I hope that the team keep trying to improve as the boys progress through the school. Well done to all players.

Mr Richard Pickersgill



Yearlings B

The Yearlings B team had a tremendous season winning eight matches, drawing two and only losing two. Jack Hechle and Alex Diaconu were an unstoppable force up front and Ed Tilleard was the work horse in midfield. Hallam Smith captained superbly,

Guy Seddon was the rock of the defence and Caio Castellini Baldissera was outstanding in goal. Superb team spirit and work ethic was the recipe to their success and everyone in the squad played their part.

Players' player of the season: Caio Castellini Baldissera. Coaches' player of the season: Jack Hechle.

Mr James Knott

Girls' Hockey

1st XI

Played 18; Won 8; Drew 2; Lost 8

Stowe had their most successful season for the past 3 years as every result improved from the season before and this was with a squad containing only three Upper Sixth. The team had their longest pre-season with a trip to Cheltenham Ladies College where the girls stayed for three days and took part in a tournament finishing mid table. This preparation meant the girls started the season on the front foot and recorded emphatic wins against Pangbourne, Tudor Hall and Beaconsfield High with Lucy Horan scoring eight goals in two games. The team then had a few setbacks with losses against Bloxham and Bradfield, however important lessons were learnt from these matches and this was to help throughout the year.

A team of 12 went again to Cheltenham for a tournament over half-term and played five matches in 2 days playing against some talented Irish and Welsh schools. The squad contained three of the U15 squad who did well stepping up to the higher level. In the County Cup the team came 3rd losing narrowly by one goal against teams who went on to qualify to the Nationals. During the second half of term the team played in some tough matches, resulting in a well fought draw against Wellingborough, a 5-0 victory over Northampton High, a loss to St Edward's and an 8-0 win against Mill Hill. The best two performances of the season were left to the last two matches against Cheltenham and Oundle, two very strong hockey schools. The girls narrowly lost 3-2 to Cheltenham but had a few chances in the last 10 minutes to equalise which would have been a fair result. A 2-1 victory against Oundle with goals from Hughes and Lechmere at home allowed the girls to finish on a real high.

One of the best qualities the girls have shown this term is the desire to work hard for each other and fight for every ball. This has been shown by all of the players but Clara Holden, Laura Welford and Rebecca Dale really showed determination in every game sharing 6 Player of the Match awards. Georgia Stone has improved as a goalie and made vital saves throughout the season winning players' player of the season. Most improved player was awarded to Harriet Deakin who fought hard to regain her spot and shone through at the end of the season. Top goal



scorer was won by captain and player of the year, Charlie Lechmere, although she faced tough opposition from Lucy Horan, Claudia Bett, Alice Hughes, Steph Robinson and Ella Markham.

The squad will lose only three players and so the future of the team is promising especially with the talent coming through from the U15 team. The Upper Sixth of Chloe Stewart, Sophie

Murray and Harriet Deakin in their two years at Stowe have all provided humour, skill and tenacity as they worked hard to help the team improve and I would like to thank them for their efforts. I would also like to thank all the players for their commitment and Mr Arnold for his coaching and support.

Mr James Fair

2nd XI

The 2nd XI were pitched against some strong opposition throughout the season, schools that would put out at least three or four Senior teams on a weekly basis. With that in mind, the squad aimed to focus on development of players and skills, as well as an understanding of basic game strategy and structure. The squad was strengthened with the arrival of some enthusiastic new additions to the School, and also the new Fifth Form who were keen to cement regular places in the team. Without our goal keeper we were always going to struggle, relying on Posy Clay who was new to the game and the School – but who made such a sterling effort that she was awarded Players' Player of the season. The girls were resilient in the face of adversity and unfortunately lacked the ability to

score goals in a regular basis. That said, defensively we were incredibly strong, and despite the long-term injury to Rosie Marsden-Smedley sustained during the House Hockey, we did not concede a huge number of goals. It is always pleasing to see development from the 2nd Squad, and the promotion of Lucie Wellington to the 1st XI and numerous other players making appearances throughout the season is an encouraging sign for all. As the season progressed, Stowe became a much stronger and fitter team and both Miss Knott and I were proud to work with an enthusiastic group of girls. Special mention must go to Jess Noakes and Ellie Melville – two stalwarts of the 2nd XI, enduring 3 years under my tutelage!

Player of the season: Heloise Kleinwort. Most Improved Player: Lucie Wellington. Players' Player: Posy Clay.

Mr Myles Nash and Miss Hannah Knott



3rd XI

This has been an extremely positive and productive season for the 3rd XI. The girls have been extremely committed towards their training sessions; their determination and desire to improve has been impressive throughout. Our victory against Wellingborough was particularly memorable, as this was the first time that the team really began to work together as a cohesive whole. Rozzy Sutcliffe and Molly Davison proved to be an immovable force in defence, whilst Bella Wallersteiner and Isobel Berner in attack created an impetus which inspired the whole team to drive forwards, using the wing much more effectively to create space than in previous matches. From this match onwards we began to be far more proactive in our attacks, following up our tackles and striking much earlier at goal. Perhaps our best hockey was

played in the match against St Edward's. Although ultimately we were defeated by such a well-drilled side, our ability to communicate as a team, create opportunities for strikes at goal and utilise space, demonstrated just how far we have come, especially given the number of girls who have never picked up a hockey stick before! I would like to sincerely thank

the girls for the sense of enthusiasm, dedication and fun that they bring towards each match and training session; they have represented the School with considerable aplomb and I am extremely proud of all that they have achieved.

Miss Vicky Kinmond



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U15A

Played 10; Won 9; Drew 1; Lost 0

Happy days: undoubtedly the theme of the term – encompassing the on-field performances, the degree of individual and collective improvement seen throughout the term, the terrific camaraderie and team spirit; and of course the unbeaten season!

Having come as a highly rated group of players from their success at U14 level last year, there was a certain level of expectation to be met from these girls. This didn't particularly happen in their first couple of games, a couple of scrappy victories against Pangbourne and Tudor Hall. As is often the case, however, a higher level of opposition (as well as some team runs to up the fitness levels...) in the form of Bradfield in the third match of the season really started to bring the best out of them. On a blisteringly hot October day, the girls showed tremendous character to overturn a one goal deficit in the last ten minutes of the game to defeat one of the strongest teams on the circuit. The following week saw back to back games against Oakham (drew 2-2 playing like for like for the first time) and Bloxham (an excellent 1-0 win against another useful side) and an unbeaten first half of term.

As the temperatures dropped in the second half of term, the standard of competition rose as the girls progressed – again, shakily at first – through the early rounds of the County Cup. The regional finals day on 17 November was probably the most satisfying day's hockey

coaching I can remember. Three matches to play, a group to win and the girls made it, dispatching Berkshire winners, Wellington College, in the final match with a second half hat-trick from eventual player of the season, Tilly Upton. Stowe was now into the U16 National Semi-finals for the first time (playing as a predominantly U15 side) with the prospect of a place in the last eight schools of the country if we got through... Sadly it wasn't to be as we came up against high quality opposition in the form of Portsmouth GS and Sir William Borlase GS, but a great effort nonetheless from which the girls learnt a huge amount.

With the school circuit continuing in the meantime, the girls continued to notch up the victories – classy performances against Wellingborough and St Edward's making it into the highlights package – until we reached the final game of term, a showdown against an Oundle team whom we presumed to be strong. Such was the collective disappointment and irritation, however, when they turned up with their B team! Not wanting

to let the girls know this before the game (the reminder that this would probably be the last time they'd play together as a team before Senior level next year), it was clear by half-time that we were having them on toast and that this wasn't the highly vaunted elite group we were expecting...

So a somewhat anticlimactic end to an otherwise terrific season. Mentions in dispatches to: captain Ellie Clark for wholehearted leadership and work rate in midfield; most improved player and increasingly impressive sweeper, Tessa Horan; player of the season Tilly Upton; and players' player Tilda Bevan, who contributed much energy to proceedings on and off the pitch!

Statistically the most successful season on record for a Stowe U15A team:

Reached the penultimate round of U16 National Schools competition (with all but two of the team playing a year young as U15s) – finished in the top four in the South of England division.

Mr Henry Swayne



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U15B

Played 12; Won 9; Drew 0; Lost 3

The U15Bs have had an excellent season. Their teamwork and dedication to hockey has been great (even if they are very excitable at times!). We have focused on improving their passing game throughout the term and this has really raised their level of hockey. In the second half of term the girls showed brilliant passages of play in their matches, transferring the ball with ease and not being afraid to pass backwards to open up their options. The highlights for the



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team included a fantastic 4-0 win against Bloxham with Jess Carne scoring a hat trick and a 1-0 win against Wellingborough with Tash Edwards scoring the winner. Their teamwork and support of each other was always key to this team's success and I hope

that they take this on into the senior level.

Player of the season: Tash Edwards.
Most Improved: Fenella Barrons and Shannon Devlin.

Miss Gabrielle Peel

U14A

Played 10; Won 4; Drew 4; Lost 2

Caprice Critchley (cpt), Jemima Grant, Philippa Stacey, Anna Fox, Daisy Price (GK), Jemima Fitzjohn, Polly Stuart-Mills, Millie Bromley-Davenport, Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard, Isobel Oliver, Isabella Muirhead, Jemima Chauveau, Jeanie Gibbs.

The U14A hockey team showed considerable potential from the outset and, as the term progressed, they developed into a committed, dynamic team who were exciting to watch on the pitch. They enjoyed a balanced, winning season with four victories (Pangbourne, Akeley Wood, Malvern St James and Oundle), four draws and two defeats. The most memorable matches were against St Edward's where we came back from 0-2 at half-time to draw 2-2 and also, earlier in the term, we drew

1-1 with Bloxham. In addition to this successful season the team was crowned 'Buckinghamshire U14 County Champions 2012', winning all their games without conceding a goal – a commendable achievement, and went on to represent the county in the Regionals. The top goal scorer was Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard with her trademark goal from the left post! The player of the season was Jemima Grant who made an outstanding contribution to the success of the

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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U14B

Played 12; Won 9; Drew 1; Lost 2

The U14B Girls' Hockey team had a tremendous season. They played 12 matches, winning nine, drawing one and losing just two. Altogether they managed to score 43 goals, a fantastic total showing the calibre of our goalscorers. Francesca Knight, our superb goalkeeper, only let eight goals past her defences. We played most of our matches with a very large squad of girls



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ensuring maximum participation. The depth of talent in this group of Third Form girls bodes well for future development. They played in good spirit and made my first term

here at Stowe most enjoyable. I very much look forward to hearing about their future success as they progress through the School.

Ms Valerie Green

Lacrosse

1st XII

The 1st team, captained by Claudia Button and Looch Trevor have had another impressive season winning 20 of their 23 full length matches.

Although individual praise goes to Claudia with 160 goals in the season, there is no doubt that this was a team affair. We became tactically astute as the season progressed and by the time we went to Nationals (early March) we were able to score off seven individual plays going under a variety of names! Our midfield contingent of Charlie Lechmere, Emily Beatty, Emma Saric, Lucy Horan, Imo Voorspuy, Becky Raeburn and Claudia Button never stopped running! We didn't pride ourselves in winning 50:50 balls but were confident to claim 40:60 balls instead. I can't speak highly enough of the calibre of this team – they have been a delight to work with and their results speak volumes of their desire to 'be the best'. Defensively we improved as the season progressed – with Caroline Thompson and Pippa Farr at the helm we were able to give experience to our Fifth formers – Shona Drummond and Katkin

Farr and bring them into a squad that made very few mistakes at the back. Double teaming was an integral part of our game and because of the pressure we created in midfield our attacking unit of Charlie Cook, Megan Duckett and Charlotte Berrill found it easy to create options in front of goal. A final word goes to our GK – Priscilla Powell whose confidence grew game by game. Her performance at Nationals and her crucial 25 saves tells a story as we played 14 games and had only 16 goals scored against us in the entire two days!

Losing in the final of Midland Schools (2-3) was tough – so the joy of becoming Nationals Division 1 Champions meant that we finished the season with a trophy that reflected a lot of hard work and commitment. Everyone watching the final against St Swithun's will know that they saw lacrosse played at a high level by a team that quite simply wanted it more than the opposition.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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Other highlights:

- **County U19 Representation:** Claudia Button (captain), Emma Saric, Caroline Thompson, Emily Beatty, Charlotte Cook, Octavia Trevor
- **Midlands U19 Representation:** Claudia Button (captain), Emma Saric, Caroline Thompson
- **Senior England B:** Claudia Button
- **National Centex:** Claudia Button
- **Regional Centex –** Megan Duckett, Shona Drummond, Lucy Horan (invited to National 2012)
- Scoring 64 goals in 14 games at Nationals
- Beating Oxford University 8-7
- Beating Cheltenham Ladies College 12-4 in the last game of the season
- Beating Malvern in a thriller at home 5-4

2nd XII

Played 9; Won 6; Drew 2; Lost 1

This season will be one to remember for a while! Although at the beginning of the year, there was a bit of concern about how dedicated some of the girls were, they eventually pulled together as a team and finished the season with some amazing results! Captains Daisy Ussher and Annabel Duthie led the 2nds into the record books! Daisy Ussher was Stowe's leading scorer, Lottie Phillips followed and also led the team in assists, with Annabel Duthie in second place. Lily Comyn led the team in defensive caused turnovers with Hannah Maxwell a close second. Tamara Rowan-Hamilton led the team in ground balls with Emma Quayle close by on the stats sheet. Clearly these individuals have been stand outs with statistics; however every member of the 2nd team contributed to the success of this year. The 2nds finished the Lent term with a record of 6-2-1. The greatest success that has been captured by the 2nds was the amazing event that happened during Nationals this year. From the 2nds' success last year, Stowe was placed into a very difficult bracket. That being said, the girls were up for the challenge and took on every team that they

faced. Because of the success of the first day the 2nd team made it into the Championship bracket. The girls were faced with very skillful and challenging teams but they were ready to claim the championship! The girls gave 100 percent of their effort every time they went into a match, however Stowe did not make it into the final championship match. Stowe's 2nd team was eventually placed 9th overall in the entire country!!! Something that has never happened in Stowe history! The girls did a fantastic job

throughout this season. They understand the game of lacrosse more, are more knowledgeable, and able to recognise and capitalise on situations during matches. As a coach I could not be more proud of what the 2nd team has produced this year: each member of the team should be extremely proud of herself for achieving the status that they have this season! This year has and will be one which should not be forgotten for Stowe Lacrosse!

Mrs Jayne Duckett



2nd XII 2012

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U15A

The U15As had a successful season posting a 5-1 record in friendly game play. Stowe managed to beat Bedford, St Albans,

Malvern St James, and Berkhamsted; all incredibly tough competitors. Overall play has dramatically improved across the board. Stick skills have become much more consistent and the girls have established a clearer field sense as well. While the National Tournament proved to be a bit of

a let down, only narrowly missing the next round of play by a one point differential, it was a learning experience for the girls and a great opportunity to compete at a high standard. Aleksia Zivanovic, an up and coming U14 player was a great addition to our national team and will be one to look out for in the next few years. The success of this year's season came down to individual accountability and team cohesiveness. A strong attack relies on balanced and unselfish play. As an attacking unit with multiple scorers in any given game, Stowe's attack certainly grew into a unit worthy of praise. Tessa Horan controlled the midfield with help from Tilda Bevan and Tilly Upton in the attacking end as well as Ellie Clark on the defensive wing. A strong defense headed by Lulu Shelembe kept the team in many a game, and it is because of their efforts that the Malvern St James and Berkhamsted games both ended in wins. The girls can be very proud of themselves this season and should be more than prepared for Senior level play.

Ms Chelsea Wagner



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U15B

The 2011-2012 U15B lacrosse team was a fast, determined and skilful group of lacrosse players. Their team spirit and work ethic on the field was outstanding and they achieved some very good match outcomes as a result. Particular mentions must be their outstanding win at Berkhamsted and their victory over Pipers Corner U15A team.

Special mentions to the following players for their outstanding play this term:

Attack: Lyra de Tanaia-Gela, for her sheer determination to score every time she got the ball and her determination to get the ball back if there was a turnover!

Midfield: Edwina Longe, highest goal scorer



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on the team and controlling possession at the centre draw – a fantastic term of lacrosse, well played Edwina.

Defence: Fenella Barrons, for her control and key role in double teaming in defence as well as her ability to score some great goals!

Goals: Ella Womersley, for her determination and control under pressure making big saves when it counted – a good term well played Ella!

Most improved player for the term: Lyra de Tanaia-Gela.

Mrs Helen Fryer

U14A

Played 7; Won 6; Drew 0; Lost 1

The U14 team has evolved into a very strong team in the midfield, on defence, and on attack. Since the beginning of the term, the team has learned how to play lacrosse in a strategic and composed manner. The defence is now a unit that communicates well, plays aggressively, and takes risks to cause opposing teams to turn the ball over. In the midfield, the girls can quickly transition the ball if they possess it, or if they do not possess the ball, they can successfully double team the ball to get it back. The attack does not rely on only one or two strong lacrosse players, but instead many of the girls contribute to the scoring plays. By the end of the season, the girls were connecting passes and creating plays that you would expect to see from much older girls. All of this combined together led to a very successful season for the U14 team. The team won six games, and only lost one. They beat Bedford, St Albans, Malvern St James, Uppingham, Cheltenham and Tudor Hall, while they lost only to Berkhamsted. It is evident that next year as a U15 team, they will be very successful especially if they keep improving at the rate which they did this term.

Goals: Aleksia Zivanovic: 17, Milla Harvey-Scholes: 11, Izzy Muirhead: 6, Anna Fox: 5, Cameron Nix: 4, Philly Stacey: 4, Millie Bromley-Davenport: 4, Louisa Feast: 1, Jeanie Gibbs: 1, Jemima Grant: 1, Jemima Fitzjohn: 1.

Miss Sarah Browne



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U14B

Played 6; Won 3; Drew 0; Lost 3

The U14Bs had a fantastic season and an amazing year! At the beginning of term the majority of girls were complete beginners, however once they understood the basic skills of lacrosse the girls began to appreciate the bigger picture. Once they learnt the tactics of the game and their skills became instinctive the girls grew in confidence and results showed. The U14Bs had a final record of 3 wins and 3

losses for the Lent term. This specific group of girls looked impressive in practice by the end of term and there are many that are currently on the Bs but will push for A team places by next year. Tilly Smith and Saskia Satchell were the captains this year; they did an unbelievable job in pulling the team together and led by example both on and off the field. Other outstanding performances were put in by Frankie Knight, Jemima Chauveau, Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard, Danni Fusco-House, and Sorrel Fenwicke-Clelland. If the U14Bs continue with the attitude and dedication that they have shown this season, all the girls will go very far with lacrosse at Stowe and continue to break records as they progress through the years!

Miss Brittany Butler



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Cricket

1st XI

Played 16; Won 14; Drew 1; Lost 1

Despite many fixtures lost to the elements the 1st XI had one of the best seasons in the School's history. In total they played 16 fixtures, won 14, drew one with the only loss to Bedford in the National Twenty/20 competition. There were heavy wins over Bradfield College (by 27 runs), Oakham (by 7 wickets), Oundle (by 5 wickets), Bloxham (by 100 runs), Old Stoics (by 9 wickets), Wellingborough (by 220 runs), MCC (by 7 Wickets), Brighton College (by 240 runs) and Bedford (by 142 runs).

There were also convincing wins over four touring sides from Australia, which means that the School has only lost one fixture to a touring side in the last eight years. The 1st XI also won their own Twenty/20 competition when they beat Warwick in the final by eight wickets. It was a comprehensive performance and a great way to finish off the season. With this win the 1st XI succeeded in retaining their number one spot in the league tables for the second season in a row.

As the statistics show it was an all-round team performance where everybody contributed. If the side was ever in trouble then there was always someone putting their hand up to produce a match winning performance.

Due to Northants 2nd XI and England U19 commitments, Ben Duckett (captain) missed many of the mid-week fixtures (as well as the final of the Twenty/20 competition) and therefore just missed out on completing

1,000 runs for the School for the fourth season on the trot. In 11 innings he still amassed 942 runs at an incredible average of 104.67. Ben and opening batsman Jake Olley set a new School record when they amassed a 337 run opening partnership against Wellingborough. Ben scored 213 not out and Jake 101.

Cameron Roberts, Benjamin Paine, Jake Olley and Henry Rudd were all awarded their cricket colours during the season. Ben Duckett was voted players' player of the season and Benjamin Paine and George Jackman shared the coaches' player of the season award. It was quite a young side this year, and the 1st XI only lose three of this team next season so the side should start 2013 full of confidence.

The men who did it: Ben Duckett (C) (Grafton, Lower Sixth), Henry Rudd (V/C) (Chandos, Upper Sixth), Jake Olley (Chandos, Lower Sixth), Henry Woodward (Grafton, Lower Sixth), Russell White (Bruce, Lower Sixth), George Jackman (Cobham, Fifth Form), James Hill (Chatham, Fifth Form), Harry Dixon-Smith (Chatham, Fifth Form), Benjamin Paine (Walpole, Upper Sixth), Cameron Roberts (Grenville, Upper Sixth), Harry Martin

(Chandos, Lower Sixth), Jack Keeping (Cobham, Fourth Form), Jack Chaplin (Grafton, Lower Sixth), Tom Young (Grafton, Fourth Form), Harry Consett (Cobham, Lower Sixth), Arthur Newman (Grafton, Lower Sixth).

A big thank you to my Assistant Coach, Mr Phil Arnold, and Head Groundsman, Steve Curley, who, along with his team, produced some superb wickets despite the heavy rainfall. The new covers which now shelter the whole square and the new motorised 'super sopper' meant matches still had a chance of being played, where elsewhere they were called off. Mike 'Pasty' Harris umpired in every game of the season and he was ably supported by Cliff Pocock and Clive Cross who shared the duties at the other end. Thank you also to Lynn Allen who kept an accurate score of our matches.

Mr James Knott

In addition to the 1st XI report Ben represented England U19s at the World Cup in Australia. His top score was 55 against Nepal. He is just about to sign a three year deal with Northants County Cricket Club so we will have a professional cricketer at the School this year.



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1st XI Averages 2012

Bowling										
Name	M	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avg	Econ.	S/r	5wh	
CG Roberts	16	104.4	15	383	23	16.65	3.66	27.61	0	
HWH Woodward	13	63.5	11	231	21	11	3.62	18.48	0	
BT Paine	14	95.2	18	304	17	17.88	3.19	34	0	
HJR Martin	15	63.5	10	247	16	15.44	3.87	23.94	1	
RDR White	16	90	12	266	14	19	2.96	38.71	1	
JR Chaplin	15	63	13	240	10	24	3.81	37.8	0	

Batting															
Name	M	Inns	N/O	Runs	Avg	Top	50s	100s	S/r	4s	6s	%Team	Ct	St	R/O
BM Duckett	12	11	2	942	104.67	213*	3	4	128.16	138	9	39.56	9	4	0
JA Olley	15	13	1	524	43.67	101	3	1	97.22	72	4	21.45	9	3	0
GL Jackman	15	12	1	355	32.27	59*	3	0	68.8	33	0	15.84	3	0	2
RDR White	16	13	4	333	37	54*	1	0	62.83	39	2	13.9	2	0	2
BT Paine	14	12	7	298	59.6	67	1	0	81.42	38	1	13.42	3	0	0
HWH Woodward	13	8	2	131	21.83	50	1	0	50.78	12	0	7.85	2	0	0
HRC Rudd	14	6	3	107	35.67	50*	1	0	72.3	6	1	10.79	7	0	2

2nd XI

The 2nd XI got their season off to a brilliant start with a nine wicket victory over Bloxham. This was a very clinical performance and a great team effort. The pick of the bowlers and man of the match was hat-trick man Consett who took 4 for 10 off 3 overs.

The next match was at Rugby on a freezing cold May afternoon. It was looking like a good toss to win with the opposition 81 for 4 after 19 overs with Consett doing the damage with 3 for 15 off his allotted 7 overs. Rugby ended on 184 for 6 after 35 overs. All seemed lost with the score at 127 for 8 after 29 overs but Wightman and Joe Sutton had other ideas. Both took the game to Rugby scoring at around 10 an over until Sutton missed a straight one and was bowled in the penultimate over. With Drinkwater and Wightman the last two men left in, Stowe needed 10 to win off the last over. Wightman went for a risky two with Drinkwater thinking he was home at the bowler's end after a fumble by the fielder but he was adjudged out by the umpire which ended an amazing fight-back.

The performance of the season came against Bedford. Sethi and Elliott stroked the ball all



2nd XI 2012

© R & H Chapman Photography

around the park with Elliott (47) just falling short of his 50. When the fall of Sethi's wicket went he had amassed 40 and brought Consett and Harry Dixon-Smith in to bat. Both kept up the momentum and scored freely with Consett finishing on 24 and Dixon-Smith on 10 and the Stowe total a massive 179 for 4 in 25 overs. Bedford required 18 off the last over but fell 4 runs short of victory. This was a super, super win and a great advert for school boy cricket.

In the final game of the season Oakham rallied to finish on 146 for 8 off 30 overs after an indifferent start. A very slow response from the Stowe openers heaped pressure on the in coming batsmen with the team ending all out for 82.

Although the team had fewer games than usual there were some cracking encounters over the course of the season.

The 2nd XI squad consisted of the following players:- Franklin Johnson (captain); Broghan Smith; Christophe Carrelet; Edward Wightman; Frederick Elliott; Harry Consett; Joseph Sutton; Joshua Sutton; Sidharth Sethi; Guy Dixon-Smith; Arthur Newman; Harry Dixon-Smith; Samuel Whitbread; Andrew Todd; Frederick Ulmann; Hugo Kinahan; William Jones; Frederick FitzHerbert; Harry Roberts; Edward Selby-Lowndes; Luke Pepera; Edward Howes; Harry Cockbill; James Drax.

Mr Isaac Michael

3rd XI

The cricket season started slowly for the 3rd XI. With the wet weather it was always a struggle to get out into the nets and to do some fielding practice. However credit to the boys who did not let the weather affect their training and although the first match against Uppingham was cancelled, followed by their second match against Bradfield College also being called off, they stayed focused and this paid off in their first match against a very strong Bloxham side.

The boys were keen to get out after such a long spell of rain. They won the toss and decided to bat first. Freddie FitzHerbert and Jonathan Constant opened all season seeing off the opening bowlers before both being caught. Captain Ben Wackett took to the field; his first ball he dispatched for 4 and followed suit with a 6. Unfortunately he bowled just shy of his 50. Stowe finished the 20 overs with 115. Bloxham came out to bat straight away. Theo Gregson opened the bowling and quickly took the middle stump out of the ground. The game continued in the way with Gregson getting a further wicket and James Drax picking up two himself. Edward Howes was the man of the day, bowling a maiden over and taking three catches in the field. Stowe continued their dominance and quickly bowled all 20 overs with Bloxham only managing a mere 86 runs.



3rd XI 2012

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The perfect start to the season; however the 3rd XI faced tougher opponents and ended up not winning another game. Their next game against Rugby saw some fine bowling but the problem they had all season was their depth in batting. Stowe lost the match by 90 runs but showed that they needed to work on their fielding as they dropped 6 catches. A break in the season saw a game against Wellington which allowed a chance for the best of the 3rd XI combined with some 1st XI players to show what they could do. Ben Wackett, William Jones and Tristan Phipps were among the boys selected and the game ended up being an easy victory with Wackett bowling particularly well. Jones was dominant as ever behind the stumps as our stand out player of wicket keeper.

Oundle and Bedford were similar stories in that as the exams fast approached the Upper Sixth boys were unable to play; this included

Ben Wackett and Theo Gregson both our top batsmen. This proved to be our 'Achilles heel' as against both oppositions we bowled well but were unable to chase the runs needed for victory. Bedford was played in very windy conditions and special mention must go to Luke Pepera who recovered from injury quickly so as to play in the match, he batted and bowled very well. The boys' final game was against Oakham but it was not to be the fairytale ending. The Stoics bowled first and the game was looking to be a win for Stowe but again the lack of batsmen let the boys down and they fell short of the total by just 13 runs.

A great season all round and the leavers will be sorely missed. Well done to William Jones who will be taking over the captaincy role next year.

Mr William Hearne

Colts A

The shortened Colts A cricket season was contracted even further by poor weather which cancelled three of the five matches for the team. Despite preparing for their GCSEs the boys turned out in full force during the scheduled practices and enjoyed playing an expansive style of cricket customary with the Colts. In the end only two matches were played, the first against a wilful Rugby side and the second against a much more powerful Oundle side away. The team won both of those games convincingly with some outstanding performances by Harry Dixon-Smith and Drew Todd with the bat, and Fred Ullman and Edward Selby-Lowndes with the ball. This team has proven



Colts A 2012

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over the last three years that they are a formidable side and have enjoyed a very high success rate in all formats of the game. I look forward to seeing them progress into

the Senior teams next year with a good bunch of them ending up as regularly first teamers.

Mr Mark Blew

Colts B

The Colts B were hit with a shortened season this year, and due to dreadful rain and also the GCSE examinations, they were only able to play one game away at Oundle. However, this proved to be a success and Stowe produced a great performance to win emphatically, batting 30 overs to produce a commendable 175/7

(Matthews 39, Ellison 38). Stowe then bowled out Oundle in their final over for 106 to win by 69 runs (Rees 4 for 12, Matthews 4 for 21). Man of the match and therefore player of the season was Harry Matthews of Bruce House.

Mr Charlie Barker



Colts B 2012

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Junior Colts A 2012

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Junior Colts A

The Junior Colts had a warm and successful pre season tour to Spain before coming home to a wet and windy start to the season. It has been difficult for the boys to get any rhythm to their season with lots of rain affecting matches. We have had good wins over close rivals Bloxham and Oakham. Many players have shown good improvements this year. Tom Hunnable, Monty Curran and especially Kyle Browne have shown excellent application and desire to improve their skills. The team was ably led by Tom Young with Jack Keeping as his VC. It has been excellent to see some of the Junior Colts making the step up to Senior cricket this season and there should certainly be more of the team looking to do this next year.

The team finished off the season with a very encouraging showing in Stowe's home T20 festival in the last week of term. Having brushed aside Akeley Wood in the opening game thanks to some fine batting from Keeping, Cowley and Bell, Stowe faced a much stiffer challenge against a talented Warwick School team. Having posted a modest 120 from their 20 overs, Stowe went about their work in the field with great energy and skill. The two spinners, Tom Young and Monty Curran, bowled with flight and guile to dismiss Warwick for a paltry 80. In the final match of the round robin group stage, Stowe had a nail-biting 6 run victory versus Kimbolton School to set up a final against Warwick once again. Having been put into bat, Stowe found themselves in deep trouble at 68-7 before James Scott and Monty Curran, ably assisted by some late hitting from Tom Hunnable, guided Stowe to 119-8 from their 20 overs. Warwick began strongly and always kept their noses just in front despite some tight bowling from the Stowe attack. With 6 needed from the final over Warwick snuck home with a maximum to win the game.

The festival provided a good end to a truncated season and demonstrated how much the team had improved in all areas of the game.

Mr Richard Pickersgill



Junior Colts B 2012

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Junior Colts C 2012

© R & H Chapman Photography

Junior Colts C

The unseasonably inclement weather forced fixture cancellations, resulting in only four matches for the Junior Colts C team; with losses to the Buckinghamshire Grammar schools, Royal Latin and Dr. Challoner's, balanced with wins against Oratory and Bedford. Highlights have included: George Barham's dazzling display of chinaman bowling against the Oratory, twice on a hat-trick and eventually finishing with 6-19; Balthazar Issa's plucky catch against Dr. Challoner's, opening an account in his first ever match; and the blustering batting partnership of Benjamin George and Kieran Carney against the Bedford bowlers, when each delivery was despatched to some corner of the ground.

As ever, it was the good humour and fine sportsmanship of the boys which defined

the season. Endless weather-affected sessions in the nets and on the practice wickets did not dampen their spirits, nor their characterful and amicable demeanour on the field of play. In their camaraderie as a team, their friendliness to the opposition, and their respect for the very human spirit of competition, these Stoics reflected the very best aspects of this game which we call cricket.

Team players: Murray Aitchison, Somerset Akerman, James Angle, George Barham, Alexander Birdwood, Jacques Candler, Kieran Carney, Jaimie Croom-Johnson, Michael Edwards, Benjamin George (captain), Edward Hopkinson, Balthazar Issa, Kai Komai, William Lewis, James Macdonald, Oscar Marment, Edward Rolls, Henry Sylvester and Ben ter Haar.

Mr Anthony Macpherson and Mr Tony Chan



Yearlings B 2012

© R & H Chapman Photography

Yearlings A

Played 9; Won 5; Drew 0; Lost 4

The best place for cricketing weather? Spain... obviously. After a successful couple of days ('training camp' sounds more professional) in La Manga, a group of enthusiastic Yearlings cricketers returned to Stowe raring to go. Pumped up. Dreaming of runs and wickets in the process of vanquishing Uppingham, Oundle, Oakham and the rest...

The Met Office had other ideas, however, and after 3 weeks of indoor nets/Mochan fitness sessions/trying outdoor nets sessions before giving up after the third heavy shower/classroom sessions for Jonty Rhodes fielding masterclasses, we took the field against Bloxham on 16 May. And an excellent start it proved to be with an emphatic 75 run win on a very soft pitch, Brennan Gough leading the way with an excellent 65 and then 3 wickets.

In spite of these hopeful beginnings, an extended trough of poor form, not helped by more frustrating weather, followed. We managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory with two very poor run chases against Rugby (chasing just over 100 on a wet, cold, windy, miserable day) and Oundle (a target of 123 on a scorching afternoon during the 'one week heatwave') on successive Saturdays. These disappointments sandwiched a heavy loss in the County Cup against RGS High Wycombe, whose county batsman dispatched our fragile bowling attack around the South Front...

Another (more encouraging) defeat to Bedford followed after half-term before this talented but under performing team finally hit some form! A comfortable victory (due mainly to a massive hitting 60 from Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson) over Bedford Modern was then followed up by an

Yearlings B

The Yearling B team have been a pleasure to coach this year. Full of energy and enthusiasm they approached every game and training session with a purpose and determination to improve. The side was captained superbly by Ben Keeping.

The team had great wins over Oakham by 130 runs, Bloxham by 21 runs and Buckinghamshire U12s by 14 runs. Everyone has performed consistently well. Ciao Castellini Baldissera, Oscar Williams, Inigo Lendrum and Guy Seddon all hit 50 or more during the season. They were also supported brilliantly on the bowling front by Toni Kuku, Edward Tilleard, Allwell Opuala-Charles, Nyan Patel, Tom Carr and Harry Bunting. A great season, well done.

Mr Michael Rickner

excellent if nerve-racking win over Oakham on the final Saturday of term. Having posted a terrific total of 191 from our 30 overs, courtesy of a wonderful 114 from Brennan ably supported by Ali Martin and Ollie Woodward, we then proceeded to provide our worst fielding and bowling performance and nearly threw it all away by leaving them 12 to win off the last over... George Markham then bowled a very cool last over, took the remaining two wickets and then asked his emotionally shattered coaches what all the fuss was about...

And so to the Yearlings Festival, this year at St Joseph's College, Ipswich, for the denouement of the season. And it was here we felt that the team peaked. Two very strong displays against Ardingly and St Joseph's (the latter seeing us post 292 in 50 overs with Gough, Woodward, Ellis-Jenkinson and Harrison Tucker in the runs and Alex Smith taking four wickets) saw us into the final against an unbeaten Cheltenham College on the last day.

Woodward wins the toss and then after a dramatic start which saw our top three back in the hutch with the total lurching at 30-odd, a terrific team performance (with particular mention of contributions from Sam Riley, Smith and Markham) gave Cheltenham 275



Yearlings A 2012

© R & H Chapman Photography

to chase in their 50 overs. The undoubted highlight of this great display was a tenth wicket partnership of 78 between Caio Castellini Baldissera (certainly the best Italian cricketer that I've come across) and Guy Seddon which kept Cheltenham out in the field for another 14 overs and provided a significant challenge to their batsmen - or so we hoped...

One of the best batting displays I've seen from a team of 14 year olds followed and they had reached the target in 42 overs for the loss of three wickets... Their 'gun' batsman (+ opening bowler + captain - how boring...!) had reached three figures with consummate ease (for the sixth time that

term?) and it was a case of 'Well batted, Cheltenham'. To their immense credit, the Stowe boys kept at it in difficult conditions on a flat pitch and were worthy runners-up.

A very happy three days 'on tour' together which saw some major progress in many of the boys, a great team spirit for the first time this season really and some real promise for the future of Stowe cricket.

Best Batsman: Brennan Gough. Best Bowler: George Markham. Best Fielder: Ali Markham. Best Team Man: Sam Riley. Most Improved Player: Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson. Coaches' Player of the Season: Ollie Woodward.

Mr Mochan and Mr Henry Swayne

Yearlings C

A mixed season for the Yearlings C, winning three but losing four of their seven fixtures. Narrow defeats against Oratory and RCI were low points, where Stowe dominated both games for long periods but were the architects of their own defeats with a slow run rate costing the team victory. High points of the season were the comprehensive victories over Oundle and Rugby which Stowe dominated with both bat and ball. Opening batsman and captain, Lendrum, was a consistent performer with the bat, the highlight being a quickfire 50 against Oundle, hitting 5 fours and 2 sixes along the way. He was ably assisted by his opening partner, Hechle, and by the threatening seam bowling of Johnson, and the reliable tight spin bowling of Constantinidi. There was much to be proud of the way the team performed, but also some frustration that some of the defeats could not have been turned into victories.

Player of the season: Lendrum (Temple)

Mr Shaun Aston

Yearlings D

Although the weather was less than cooperative, the Yearlings D team was able to play all three end of season fixtures. A close opener against Highcrest Academy ultimately resulted in a loss, but proved to be a match that boosted the team's confidence as they went on to win their remaining two matches. Captain Harry Norris led the team in runs and batted his first half century in the closing match of the season. It was a well played season both in the field and at bat and the Yearlings should be proud of their play.

Ms Chelsea Wagner



Yearlings C, D and E 2012

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Yearlings E

This is the first year Stowe has fielded a Yearlings E team. Unfortunately, despite students being hungry for cricket action, training and matches were restricted by poor weather and a fearful opposition. We only had one game against a very strong Eton side in which we were second (Eton declared 249-9 Stowe all out for 22). The boys learned a great deal from this and their team spirit carried them through. Hopefully next year further progress will be made.

Mr Kevin Ryce

Boys' Tennis

1st VI

Played 8; Won 3; Lost 5

This year's 1st VI was captained by Arthur Hobhouse, partnered by Jasper Simpkin. Imran Momen, William McGovern, Andrey Drumov and Roderick Blackburne were the players who made up the rest of the team. A rather monsoon-like start to the season seemed to dampen spirits and reduced the practice time available. Despite the waning morale, the boys managed to



win three of their matches convincingly. The most impressive of which was their win against Abingdon 6-3. Mr Craig Sutton

2nd VI

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2

This was a successful term of tennis, despite the fact that the first match was played in a deluge of rain. The pairs were rather fluid this year based on relative scarcity and numerous commitments. The following players represented the 2nd VI most often: Nicholas Paine, Kit Dixon-Smith, Arthur Lonsdale, Elliot O'Brien, Nicholas Varney and Thomas Baylis with Jack Barham and Titus Edwards playing occasionally. The boys went on to beat Abingdon 9-0, Trent College 7-2 and



St Edward's (this was mixed with the girls) 6-3. I was impressed with the work ethic of the majority of players. However, the most impressive were Kit Dixon-Smith and Arthur Lonsdale, who gelled well as a pair and practised much outside of scheduled sessions. Mr Ben Ponniah

Colts

The Colts tennis squad enjoyed another hugely successful season and won all matches at first team level. Fine victories over the likes of Abingdon, Oakham, Rugby and St Edward's ensured that this group of players has gone through three years of team tennis completely unbeaten. Cole, Edwards, Beazley, De Boinville, Brogden, Hiley and Noest were regulars and supported ably by Van de Koppel, Milne, Coldstream, Wheeler and Soper-Gwatidzo. Very few sets were dropped and whenever a set went to a tiebreak, the competitiveness of



the Stoics invariably allowed them to prevail. All members of this talented squad will be able to go on and play representative tennis at Sixth Form level. Mr Rory Akam

Junior Colts A

Played 8; Won 1; Lost 7

The season started brightly with a good win against Oakham and although it remained their solitary victory the boys were close to repeating this in so many of the games in each set.

Lindsay and Ellison, the 1st pair, were often up 40-30 but inconsistent stroke play and inevitably a lack of belief saw them squander these opportunities and games and sets were lost by these narrow margins. Selection was difficult and all the following boys have some good strokes but lack a solid second serve and their performances swerved from good to bad and back again over the term. Spooner, Rougier, Reddyhough, Marmion, Baring and Tucker all had opportunities to



stake their claim but inconsistency proved it difficult to stick with regular pairings as results went against them.

The one boy to improve and stand out over the term was Ed Hopkinson who started in the Bs but worked hard at his game, in particular his second serve and worked his way up the rankings and I was pleased he

won all his last three sets against Marlborough; one to watch out for.

Amongst the disappointment, I have to congratulate all the above for their continued enthusiasm and attitude. They never failed to make training even though the weather often tried to dampen spirits.

Mr Alan Hughes

Junior Colts B

Played 7; Won 1; Lost 6

A mirror image of the A team. After beating Oakham the season took a turn for the worse in terms of results. Yet again many

games went to deuce but the confidence and consistency weren't there. A desperation to win the point with the first couple of shots often meant we gave the point to the opposition rather than them earning it. Patience is a virtue at tennis and simply wearing your opponent down by just getting the ball in can force them to become too eager and force the play to their cost.

Yet again inconsistency and unavailability meant pairings changed but Tucker, Baring, Simpson, De Rato, Tyrrell, Rolls, Harding all contributed to the season and their regular attendance at training was a credit to their passion and enthusiasm for the game during a very wet and soggy Summer term.

Mr Alan Hughes

Yearlings

This year the Yearlings A and B tennis teams have trained hard and come up against some fierce opposition from rivalling schools. After an initial bruising encounter against Abingdon (who fielded a number of top county players in their Yearlings squad), the Stowe players regained composure and went on to perform very well in their subsequent matches against Bedford Modern and St Edward's Oxford. With the rain decimating the Yearlings fixture list it was very difficult for players to show their true colours, but the outstanding pair of the season were the A team first pair of Max Ringer and James Greenley.

This year the Yearlings managed to be strong at both A team and B team levels. Our regular team players were Tom Constable-Maxwell, Sebastian Reader, James Moor, William Younger, Alvaro de la Vega, Pablo Rodriguez-Pina, Freddie Paling, Mauricio Cymet-Monroy, Tom Walters, Toby Attard-Manché, Benedict Alderson and Isaac Ajala. Well done to all who played this season.

Mr Roland Johnson



Girls' Tennis

1st VI

This year's 1st VI was captained by Chloe Stewart, partnered by Charlotte Lechmere. Megan Duckett, Charlotte Berrill, Maddie Wackett and Alice Hughes were the players who made up the rest of the team. It is worth pointing out that Megan, Charlotte B, Maddie and Alice are all Fifth Form Stoics so at times were playing girls two years older than them.

A very wet start to the term diluted the opportunity for the number of hours we would have like of for practice, and on day four of term we travelled to Oakham where we only managed to pick up one set all afternoon.

With spirits dampened in more ways than one the girls trained hard before winning their next match against Bloxham without losing a set. With a convincing win against St Edward's 8-1 the team



1st VI 2012

© R & H Chapman Photography

was now playing to its full potential. Two mixed fixtures against Bloxham and St Edward's were both won by Stowe.

Senior colours were awarded to Chloe Stewart. Megan Duckett has been selected to be

captain of Girls' Tennis next year. Senior House Tennis was won by Nugent, retaining their title as did Queen's in the Intermediate category. Junior House competition was won by Queen's.

Mr John Skinner

2nd VI

A very successful term's tennis after the first match which suffered from lack of practice due to the wettest drought on record.

Having settled down into their pairings, 1st pair were Becca Dale and Bella Wallersteiner, 2nd pair Lucy Smith and Lucy Horan and 3rd pair Caroline Thompson and Katkin Farr. Charlotte Cook and Imogen Voorspuy made the occasional appearance during exam time.

The girls went on to beat Trent 7-2, Bloxham 9-0 and St Edward's 8-1.

Two mixed games saw them unbeaten against Bloxham and St Edward's and it was really good



2nd VI 2012

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for the girls' tennis to play with and against the boys. Mixed tennis is always enjoyed both by the players and the spectators and provides a far more relaxed feel around the court.

It is good to know that five of the squad will be with us again next year.

Mr John Skinner

3rd VI

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2

Despite the pouring rain and gale force winds that defined the summer of 2012 the 3rd tennis team managed to play five matches. We played against Oakham, Trent College, Bloxham, St Edward's and Rugby winning three and losing two. All the matches were played in good spirit even though



3rd VI 2012

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the conditions were more suitable for winter sports. Each match saw an improvement in consistency and team work. Luckily most of the team will be playing for Stowe again next

year so we look forward to even better results.

Mrs Gemma Bonner and Ms Valerie Green

4th VI

Played 3; Won 2; Lost 1

The 4th tennis team played against Trent College, Bloxham and St Edward's this season. We won two matches and lost only one. I was impressed by the fiercely competitive nature of all the games. Each point was fought for and maximum effort expended. All the girls really enjoyed playing competitive tennis and consequently their game improved.

Mrs Gemma Bonner and Ms Valerie Green



4th VI 2012

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U15A

It was an unusual start to the Summer term with the persistent wet weather meaning we could not go outside to practise so we travelled to our first fixture, knowing this was the first time we had hit a tennis ball this season! Fresh from La Manga, however, the Oakham team was strong but it was a good

chance for us to play and enjoy a competitive match. From here the U15A went on to defeat Trent 6-3, St Edward's 6-3, Bloxham 7-2, only narrowly losing to Rugby 4-5. At this stage our first pair of Tilly Upton and Annabel Rushton, since dropping two sets at Oakham, had won every set they played which was extremely impressive. We had two tough fixtures to end the season against Oundle and Marlborough but there were notable performances from Tessa Horan and Tilda Bevan who defeated the Oundle 1st pair and narrowly lost to the Marlborough 1st pair in a tie break. The girls all worked hard making a valuable contribution to their team's success with Claudia and Lucy holding their own at 3rd pair. They all developed their tactical awareness, adapting well to the ever changing weather conditions, and have been a pleasure to watch play!

Junior Tennis Colours are awarded to Tilly Upton, Annabel Rushton, Tessa Horan and Tilda Bevan

Mrs Sarah Sutton



U15 A 2012

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U15B

Played 6; Won 3; Lost 3

Charlotte Hodson, Flora Marriot, Anastasia Brunette-Jacobs, Elizabeth Witkowski, Wilhelmina Barham, Isabelle Boorman
The U15Bs have had a successful, balanced season winning three matches and losing three matches! They produced some excellent performances and approached their games with a positive outlook. Lottie Hodson and Flora Marriot made a good partnership and the highlight was their three set win against Rugby 7-2. Against Trent 6-3 it was great as all three pairs beat their opposite number which was particularly pleasing for Willa and Izzy who were delighted to hold their own. We had

an exciting match at Bloxham which was tense as it went to the last game but Annie and Lizzie came off the court with smiles on their faces to win the match overall (5-4). A mention also to

Dima Georgieva who made a valuable contribution to the team.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



U15 B 2012

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U14A

Played 8; Won 6; Lost 2

The U14A team comprised Izzy Oliver, Frankie Knight, Tonia Kozhukhova, Millie Bromley-Davenport, Jemima Chauveau, Mia Kinahan, Jemima Fitzjohn and Georgina Walker.

The girls played some excellent tennis this season, appreciating the need to return into key areas of the court, serve with accuracy and pace and dominate the net as much as possible. The pairings have changed throughout the term and we were fortunate that there was strength in depth allowing

us the fortune of playing from a squad of eight. Victories over Oakham, Rugby, Tudor Hall and Marlborough were all tough battles and it was good to see them hold their nerve and win through in the last round. Millie Bromley Davenport deserves a mention for

reaching the county round of the Road to Wimbledon and the fact that we had to play against Marlborough without her experience proves how good the squad had become by the last match.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U14B

Played 9; Won 6; Lost 3

The U14B team comprised Georgina Walker, Mia Kinahan, Jemima Grant, Jemima Fitzjohn, Sorrel Fenwicke-Clelland, Jeanie Gibbs, Asthina Badcock, Laura Brogden, Saskia Satchell, Daisy Price, Cameron Nix.

As with the A team, the squad was large and a number of girls had their say in terms of representing Stowe at B team level. Two of their games (Oakham and St Edward's) were lost by a small margin of one set which shows how excellent their season actually was. Pairings changed quite a lot during the first half of the season, but all girls competed well against some tough opposition and the match of the season was against Thornton A team who had a very strong first pair but our B team took the match by five sets to four with a clinching tie break won by Jeanie and Asthina (13-11)!

Mrs Jayne Duckett

U14C

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2

The U14C team comprised Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard, Polly Stewart-Mills, Milla Harvey Scholes, Anna Fox, Laura Brogden, Saskia Satchell, Daisy Price, Cameron Nix.

Both matches lost (Marlborough and St Edward's) were 5-4 in favour of the opposition which gives an indication of how close the C team was to a perfect season! Most of the girls had occasional games in the B team and as a result their ground strokes, volleys and service improved throughout the season. They were committed in practice and competitive in matches – never giving up and fighting to the last point. Well done girls!

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U14D

Played 3; Won 3

The U14D team comprised Annabel Wailes-Fairburn, Danni Fusco-House, Tilly Smith, Louisa Feast, Olivia Walters, Hannah Marshall, Sorrell Fenwicke-Clelland, Cameron Nix.

The girls surpassed all expectations with some competitive games showing how much they have improved through the course of the term. Both Sorrell and Cameron moved themselves up to the B team as well as changing partners, but everyone



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contributed to the success. Beating schools such as Oakham, St Edward's and Tudor Hall shows us how talented this year group is and

what an exciting future lies ahead for the girls at Stowe.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

Basketball

We kicked off the main basketball term with the Senior Inter-House basketball competition on Sunday 8 January 2012. Queen's began with an emphatic win over Stanhope in their quest to retain the trophy. The other opening game between Nugent and Lyttelton finished all square. Nugent then cruised past Stanhope to set up the decider against Queen's. Nugent won it by two points to become this year's Champions.

In the boys' competition Temple and Grafton topped their groups to cruise into the semi-finals. After a slight scare against Bruce in the semi-finals, it was Temple that rose to the occasion to pull off a great victory against Grafton in the final.

In the Junior Inter-House matches held the following Sunday Stanhope made amends for the disappointment in the Senior competition by completely dominating the

competition. In the boys' competition Bruce were once again in the mix and faced a Chandos side who had won all previous games going into the final. Bruce kept their nerve and won by four points.

With the House matches put to one side it was time to concentrate on the School teams. The Senior team had their first competitive matches in the Wellington College Public Schools' Tournament. Victories against Eton and Pangbourne set the team up with a semi-final against old adversaries Bradfield. A narrow defeat against Bradfield and a 12-11 loss against Wellington College meant a creditable 4th place finish in this year's tournament. With key players departed from the unbeaten team of last season securing victories for this year's young side proved to be harder than they had anticipated. Lower Sixth captain Sadiq Abbagana led the way with some fine individual performances. Point guard Bruce An was a great asset when fit but he was plagued with ankle and calf injuries for most of the season. One thing about this side is that they never gave up and the biggest defeat was by seven points against Bradfield. They played 'out-of-their-skins' against Buckingham University, losing that one 51-53 and went down by two against Bedford and three against Eton. On a brighter note the team beat local rivals the Royal Latin 69-27, Oakham 50-30, Pangbourne 64-17 and Rugby 82-36.

This year basketball colours have been awarded to Bruce An, Daniel Baniukevic, André Drumov, Harry Allhusen and Luke Pepera.

The U16 team had some encouraging performances with wins against The Buckingham School and The Royal Latin School.

The U15 team won three of their four games; with the most pleasing being the 32-14 victory against Eton.

The U14 team played a few local development matches against Ousedale, The Buckingham School and The Royal Latin School. The boys improved a great deal over the course of the season and are very keen to continue with their basketball next season.

Coaches: Mr Isaac Michael, Mr Mikkel Moller and Miss Gemma Fordham.

Mr Isaac Michael



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Netball

1st VII: Stowe Netball had a very successful 2012 season. The 1st VII started the term as a new team and as the weeks progressed they developed into an extremely dynamic, cohesive unit. The level of competition on the Netball circuit is high so the girls did particularly well to win five of their matches, finishing the season at their best by defeating Northampton High School 27-19, Pangbourne College 25-19 and finally drawing 25-25 in a nail-biting match against Royal Latin. Heloise Kleinwort was awarded 'Player of the Season' for her sterling performance at Goal Attack. She worked intuitively with Alice Hughes, our Goal Shooter, who should also be commended for her considerable impact on the game, especially when under pressure. Ruby Mills became a significant presence on the court at Goal Defence working diligently to make crucial interceptions and turn over possession and, as a result, was awarded 'Most Improved Player'. Lucy-May Wallis, who was injured in the pre-season tournament at Bedford Modern, recovered later in the term to make a most welcomed return to the team bringing her depth of experience and inspiration to the court, proving to be invaluable in defence. Eleanor Pinnock, Rebecca Dale and Claudia Bett were the crucial link between the attack and defence playing as dynamic force in the centre court. A special mention must go to Yemurai Soper-Gwatidzo, the captain of the team, who has played 1st team Netball for three years. She is an excellent Wing Defence who can read the game and break down play so effectively. She was awarded her Colours for her performance and for being an ambassador for this sport. It was a thoroughly enjoyable season made by a group of highly motivated, enthusiastic players with considerable potential. We say goodbye to Yemurai, but it is exciting that otherwise, this team can continue to improve and play together next year!

2nd VII: The 2nd VII consisted of a big development squad, ranging from Fourth Form to Upper Sixth, who all worked hard together throughout the term to improve their level of performance and achieve success. They were competitive on the court winning four matches and drawing two throughout the season. They remained determined to build on their experiences and were adaptable to cope with the number of players involved, giving everyone the opportunity to represent the team. The 'Player of the Season' was awarded to the captain, Molly Davison who was also commended with Colours for her significant contribution to Netball, as a role model and



1st VII 2012

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2nd VII 2012

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U15 2012

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U14A 2012

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a player, over the past three years. Harriet Comyn, who played in defence, was given the 'Most Improved Player' and we can look forward to her influence on the court next year. Harriet Deakin was frequently voted 'Player of the Match' for her impressive performance at Goal Attack. With so much potential their progress will be interesting to follow next year as they become more coherent and experienced.

Junior Netball: During their netball choice activity on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon the junior girls had the opportunity to play some matches against local schools including Akeley Wood, Thornton, Royal Latin and Northampton

High School. They proved to be extremely talented and athletic, developing quickly as a team to enjoy considerable success. There were notable performances from Rosie Dickson, Matilda Bevan and Tessa Horan in the U15 team and Anna Fox, Amelia Bromley Davenport and Matilda Smith in the U14 team – well done!

Thank you to the coaching team – Jane Hamblett-Jahn, Eleanor Donaldson, Valerie Green, Ian Findlay-Palmer, Louise Carter.

The Inter-House Competitions were won by Nugent (Seniors), Queen's (Intermediate), Stanhope (Juniors).

Mrs Sarah Sutton

Football

1st XI: At the start of the Lent term, Stowe took a 16-man squad to play in a pre-season tournament to face Rugby, Oakham and Uppingham. After three 50 minute games, Stowe beat Uppingham, drew with Rugby and lost to the eventual winners, Oakham. The squad managed third place, equal points with second only to score one less goal and one point behind first place. In the first season where football has seen the inclusion of a full fixture list, the first team played five games with two cancelled due to the bad weather. On paper, Stowe recorded one win and four defeats, however it does not reflect how Stowe played against strong footballing schools. They were narrowly defeated by two goals to one against Kingham Hill and St Edward's. Defeats were inflicted by Oundle 4-1 and Uppingham 6-1, however at half-time in both games Stowe had only conceded one goal. In the last game of the season, Stowe travelled away for the second leg against Kingham Hill and finished in fine style, winning 2-1 on away soil. From the start of next season, the Stowe 1st XI will be playing in the Mercian League. They will be playing against seven other schools, including Oundle, Loughborough Grammar, Bromsgrove and Oakham.

1st XI captain, Felix Henderson (Chatham); Vice captain, Edward Wightman (Chatham); Top goal scorer, Folabi Lawal (Bruce – 5); Players of the Season, Antonio Muñoz-Ballester (Chatham) and Josiah Hartley-Matthew (Cobham).



1st XI 2012

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2nd XI 2012

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Football ties awarded for outstanding commitment to the following: Felix Henderson, Edward Wightman, David Akam, Nick Varney, Josiah Hartley-Matthew and Antonio Muñoz-Ballester.

Mr Neil Crossley

2nd XI: The second team played four games, winning two and losing two. The season got off to a disappointing start at Uppingham, conceding a sloppy goal inside the first five minutes and losing 3-1. However, there were signs towards the end of the game that Stowe were a good footballing team, and this was reflected in recording an impressive 2-1 win away from home to a tough and physical

game against Oundle and beating St Edward's 3-2 in a game which saw Stowe completely outplay their opponents who were lucky not to avoid a heavier defeat.

2nd XI Captain, Alex Hambro Rabben (Grenville); Top Goal scorer, Thomas Baylis (Bruce); Player of the Season, William Watson (Chandos).

Mr Shaun Aston

3rd XI: The 3rd XI team made their only appearance in a home game against St Edward's. The team managed a well deserved 4-1 win with Oliver Findley (Grafton) scoring a hat trick.

Dr Paul Miller

Cross-country

The cross-country team has had a good season. They started at the Knole Run in Kent, which is always a tough start to the term as it is a 10km race. A trip to Coventry followed for the King Henry Relays.

We had a strong six out this year and would certainly expect to improve upon our 41st place in last year's race and possibly our best ever result of 28th. Josh Dickinson got us going with a strong run to put us into the top ten of the 80+ teams taking part. Twin brother Caspar took over for the second leg and helped to keep up our challenge at the sharp end. Good efforts from captain Ed Robinson, George Ellison and Will Plant saw us drop just a few places to 16th before Charlton Kerr took over for the final leg and brought us back up 14th.

The team then had a run of good results in the second half of term.

In the County Championships Josh Dickinson secured the Silver medal in the Senior Boys' race ahead of brother Caspar in 3rd place. These two together with Charlton Kerr in the Junior Boys' event were selected for the Bucks County team to run in the English Schools' Championships.

This was followed by a great result in the Tortoise Relays at Oxford. Josh led our team away and improved by one place on his result from last year, taking the Silver medal for the second fastest leg of the day. Caspar followed with another fine run that kept us ahead of Marling and only just behind Abingdon. Nico Gilbert had to work really

hard but managed to hand over to Charlton Kerr dead level with Marling. Charlton then produced a very mature performance, regularly putting in short bursts that left his Upper Sixth opponent having to fight hard to get back on terms. A strong final push with about a kilometre to go helped Charlton finally break the will of his opponent and he brought the Stowe team home in second, our best ever result in this race.

The team finished a good week by completing a clean sweep against the Old Stoics, taking the first seven places and the overall victory in the annual fixture. Harrison Dockerty from the Third Form did particularly well to finish 3rd.

The season finished with Josh and Caspar Dickinson racing in the English Schools Championships. Both ran well to finish in the top half of the field of 350 starters. The brothers were less than a minute apart at the finish with Caspar just ahead in 91st place.

Mr Tony McDavid



Athletics

School Matches

The Athletics Team had a good start to the season with a home match against Aylesbury Grammar, Cokethorpe and Royal Latin. The Junior Boys (JB) and Intermediate Girls (IG) both missed an overall team win by 9 points, with the Intermediate Boys (IB) and Junior Girls (JG) also taking 2nd place. The following Saturday, the Boys' team traveled away to compete in the Butler Trophy at Harrow School, which is a high class competition with top schools of Harrow, Eton, St Paul's and Haileybury attending. Out of eight schools, the JB team finished a very respectable 5th place and the IB and Senior Boys' (SB) were 6th. On the same day, the Girls' team visited Rugby. With seven schools in attendance, the JG ended the day in 5th place, whilst the IG had a fantastic set of results to claim 2nd. This year saw Stowe host their biggest competition to date; inviting seven other schools including Cheltenham, Malvern, Bedford and Rugby across both boys and girls age groups. The JB, IB and IG performed exceptionally well, finishing second overall in a high quality competition. The SB and JG were both achieved a well-deserved 4th place.

The last school match of the season saw the JB, JG and IB compete for the first time in the Oakham Relays. The races were a number of unusual relays and all three age groups returned with a handful of 2nd, 3rd and 4th place finishes.

Sports Day

The day before Speech Day saw all the Houses compete in the annual Sports Day competition. There were many close encounters in both track and field events, in which seven girls' records and four boys' records were broken during the afternoon.

Results

Junior Boys:	Chandos
Intermediate Boys:	Bruce
Senior Boys:	Chandos
Junior Girls:	Stanhope
Intermediate Girls:	Queen's
Senior Girls:	Nugent
Overall Boys:	Chandos
Overall Girls:	Queen's

County Schools

The Third, Fourth and Fifth Form travelled to High Wycombe for the County Schools' Athletics Championships on 16 June. 35 Stoics competed against the best in the county, resulting in five champions and a number of podium finishes. In windy conditions, Heloise Kleinwort finished a very respectable 2nd in the 80m Hurdles, with Valerie Madojemu 3rd in the Javelin. Thomas Hunnable in the Javelin, Jamie Ropner in the High Jump, Frazer Ellis Jenkinson in the 100m and Triumph Opuala-Charles in the Triple Jump all returned as champions, while Kalil Ali,

Thomas Johnson, William Pepera, Rex Adams, Alex Long and Seun Coker finished 2nd. However, the performance of the day came from Jack Wallis, who threw a massive 44.89m to win the Discus.

Outstanding achievements

A special mention goes to the captain Mike Illingworth (Cobham) for his attitude towards athletics and his help in home matches.

Congratulations to Jack Wallis (Bruce) for attending the English Schools' National Championships in Gateshead on 6 and 7 July 2012, and ranked 7th best in the UK for his age group.

School Records broken this year with long standing records highlighted in brackets:

- Seun Coker, Junior Boy 100m, 11.6 (J Miller, 11.8, 1964)
- Frazer Ellis Jenkinson, Junior Boy 200m, 24.0 (T Bassett, 24.4, 1963)
- Charlton Kerr, Junior Boy 800m, 2m 07.7s (R Dawson, 2m11.4s, 1961)
- Jamie Ropner, Junior Boy High Jump, 1.63m (H Baird, 1.62m, 1989)

Junior Boys Relay Team (T Johnson, T Opuala-Charles, A Diaconu, O Coker), 49.2 (50.3, 1990)

Kalil Ali, Inter Boy 400m, 51.1 (J Anderson, 52.2s, 1983)

Jack Wallis, Inter Boy Discus, 44.89m (G Critchley, 40.06m, 19.81)

Henry Rudd, Senior Boy Javelin, 48.92m

Aleksia Zivanovic, Junior Girl 800m and 1500m, 2m43.1s and 5m42.4s

Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard, Junior Girl High Jump, 1.41m

Jemima Grant, Junior Girl Discus, 17.50m

Edwina Longe, Inter Girl 300m, 47.6s

Heloise Kleinwort, Inter Girl 80m Hurdles, 12.4s

Hannah Tilleard, Inter Girl High Jump, 1.40m

Rosie Dickson, Inter Girl Triple Jump, 8.78m

Valerie Madojemu, Inter Girl Javelin, 25.12m

Inter Girls Relay Team (E Clark, E Longe, J Carne, H Kleinwort), 55.1s

Mr Neil Crossley and Mr Mike Dawson





Rowing

The 2011/12 Stowe Rowing Club goes from strength to strength.

We will be very sad to see James Rudkin leave, but we hope we are able to see him in the potential 2016 Olympic Crew. Max Marston (Fifth Form, Bruce) is representing the Eastern Region.

This year has seen some extremely generous donations from four benefactors of the club. Firstly, we have sourced the funds for a complete redesign and build of the Sculling Shed on the Eleven Acre Lake. The initial plans look very impressive, with extensive racking, larger floor space and natural lighting through skylights. The reconstruction is due to be undertaken at the end of July. We have also been able to purchase two new double/pair convertibles (Virtue and Instream 1) and a coxed four (John Farr). All these boats have been fitted to very high specifications. This has allowed the pupils to train and compete in equipment that is suited to their requirements.

In the first two terms of the year, the demands of other sporting commitments meant that it was only possible to form a feasible rowing squad of novices and experienced rowers. During lull periods

in Rugby, Lacrosse and Hockey, many Third Form Stoics had the opportunity to try their hand at the noblest of sports and we hope to see several of them return in their Fourth Form. However, our main focus was to develop those pupils who had already had at least a year's rowing experience. At Northampton Head, we saw Rebecca Wild (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Rosie Williamson (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) put a very competitive time only to lose in the last 100 metres to some club crews. The J15 coxed quad of George Anderson, Alex Parsonson, Somerset Akerman (all Fourth Form, Chatham) and Tom Roxburgh and Will Dodge (both Fourth Form, Cobham) provided a storming time to win their division and the first trophies of the season.

However, due to unfortunate weather, our performance within the racing calendar has been a little less frequent than last year. This has been a source of frustration for both coaches and pupils alike as all those involved have shown great determination and stamina to train hard in the most adverse of conditions.

Following the excellent commitment by many, the entry of five Sixth Form girls to the sport and the return of Fred Wheeler (Chatham) and Harry Allhusen (Cobham),

it has been possible to build a development squad of 15 experienced rowers. The arrival of the new boats has allowed us to turn our attention to developing our sweep-oar rowing capabilities (remarkably popular following the wide coverage of this year's Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race!). From this squad we have been able to form both a coxed men's and women's four, two doubles and several singles. The squad will be training at Pangbourne over a three day period at the end of the term, with the potential to visit Henley Royal Regatta on the final day.

As always, this year's successes would not be possible without the support and commitment of the staff, Michael Righton, Philippa Gleave, Ellie Donaldson and Chris Grimble (our new super-coach arrival from KCS, Wimbledon), who are willing to give up their afternoons and weekends to sit on launches in the pouring rain and cold.

I hope that next year, I am able once again to write about the wonderful successes that our club has had. Until then, cheer hard if you see Stowe Sculling Club on the water!

Mr Jonathan Peverley

Sailing

This year's sailing team has been mainly composed of Stoics from the Fifth and Fourth Forms. Their lack of experience is compensated for by their enthusiasm and refusal to give in, even when competing against much older sailors or people who sail in national teams or at world events.

At the British Schools' Dinghy Racing Association Midland Championships at Farmoor reservoir near Oxford, the team put in a good performance, given the reduced training so close to the beginning of term. They improved significantly during the course of the day and captains Charlie Barnes and Will Barnes each came second in one of their races and results might have been different if protests had been accepted. In the match against Bloxham, Stowe lost 2-1, although Stowe made a good start in the first race and were in a winning position by the end of the first lap. In the second lap, however, although Theo Shepherd-Smith cruised ahead to first place, Stowe ended up one point down. The second race produced a capsized among the Stowe boats, but they succeeded in the final race. In the BSDRA Eastern Championships at Rutland Water the Stowe team competed confidently against some very impressive schools. Several of their races were closely fought and in one of their matches they defeated Haileybury.

Several Stoics new to sailing have made significant progress. For most of the term we have had good winds, but one calm day allowed many to improve their capsizing skills. The fleet of 420s at Great Moor still give good service but we are looking forward to a new fleet of Fireflies, as used at most championships these days, thanks in large part to the generosity of a benefactor. The Toppers on the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe allow younger pupils to test themselves against the vagaries of the wind as it eddies around the trees.

In the finals of the House matches Cobham, won against genuine competition from Temple, Grafton and Queen's. It was good to see five other houses also fielding teams. It was an excellent afternoon of sailing in a moderate breeze. Almost all the teams showed both competence and good sportsmanship. Thanks again are due to Mr Gwilym Jones and Mr David Critchley for their help throughout the term.

Team: Charlie Barnes and Will Barnes (captains), Theo Shepherd-Smith, Alicia Cranwell, Lauren Carley, Fergus Jones; reserves: Magnus Sligo-Young, Robert Milner.

Colours awarded: Charlie Barnes, Will Barnes

House matches: Cobham

Helmsman's Tankard: William Barnes

Grebe Cup: Charlie Barnes

Junior Pennant Competition: Theo Shepherd-Smith

Mr Michael Bevington

Equestrian

Equestrian activities have continued to flourish this past year. This term has seen the completion of our brand new stabling and riding facilities project.

The new equestrian centre is splendid and all ready to come to life in September! The newly built yard has 21 loose boxes and an outdoor school, with cross country facilities to follow in the near future. It is an exciting addition to our sporting facilities, here within the grounds, and will enable Stoics of all abilities to enjoy riding and horse care.

The Eventing calendar has been somewhat curtailed by the very wet weather. It was disappointing when both the Grass roots competition, held at Badminton, and the BENS Championships were cancelled. Both

Bonnie Leheup (Lyttleton, Fourth Form) who had qualified for Grassroots and Tamara Rowan-Hamilton (Stanhope, Lower Sixth) who had qualified for the National Schools championships, had worked hard in preparation for these events but will now have to wait a while longer before competing at these events.

However many Stoics have been busy competing and Philippa Stacey has been successful riding her mare, Inca. They have enjoyed success, qualifying for the Hickstead Pony Club Championships, winning the FOXHUNTER class at the Pony Premier and the NEWCOMERS 1-1.05.

Several Stoics have been lucky enough to bring their ponies to school this year and it has been great to share in all their different experiences.



Daisy Ussher riding Little Mickey Finn GB squad 2011

"Being able to keep Mickey Finn at school, with the added benefit of it being such a well equipped place, enabled me to keep training for the Eventing teams alongside working towards my A Levels. Mrs Hughes was so kind and flexible with my timing constraints and I always knew that she and her team looked after Mickey Finn so carefully so I never had to worry about him."

On Speech Day, we were lucky that the rain kept off and the planned display was able to take place at the new outdoor school. Pictured is Charlie Clover (Chatham Fifth form) riding Oeste. Oeste, a Lusitano from Portugal, is a resident here at Stowe.

Mrs Elena Hughes

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Captain: Henry Plant (Chatham)

This year we have had eight matches against other schools and two tournaments. Of the matches – mainly against our old rivals Kimbolton and Cokethorpe, but also a first-ever match against national champions Bloxham – we have won four and lost four. For those who like statistics, we have downed 1,417 clays as against our opponents' 1,402.

In the two tournaments, we came 5th out of 14 schools at the Warwick Challenge and 8th out of 17 schools in the Nationals.

We have a strong nucleus of shooters in the Lower Sixth Form, including the Plant brothers, Henry and William, Tom ter Haar, Theo Vorotyntsev, William Hawke, Edward Howes, Alex Levett-Scrivener and Freddie Taylor. Emerging talent in the Lower School includes Cameron O'Brien, Cameron Power, Jan Pultr, Theo Shepherd-Smith, Henry Sylvester and William Motion.

In May, we had our annual House matches: Cobham won the boys' event and Nugent, captained by Daisy Ussher, won the girls'.

On Speech Day, we saw two competitions taking place side by side: the Stoics did well to retain the Gaeltzine Cup, just holding off a spirited challenge from the



Old Stoics 76-73. And in the Father and Sons, as it's traditionally called, George Constantinidi + father and Felix Grant-Rennick + father jointly won the Wýwill Cup.

We are blessed with a very supportive (and generous) travelling band of parents to whom we say a heartfelt thank you. And finally, another word of thanks goes to our two dedicated and experienced instructors, Messrs Clive Harris and John Grace.

Next year: Captain of Boys' Shooting: Henry Plant. Captain of Girls' Shooting: Penny Thompson.

Mr Peter Staples

Polo

During a season that was very significantly impacted by some thoroughly uncharacteristically polo weather the Stowe Polo Club nonetheless maintained an upward trajectory gathering new players to the sport and fulfilling a high calibre of fixture list against the country's top polo schools. Regularly we were able to field four teams, probably one of only three schools in the country able to boast that depth of talent.

Following an extended run of arena polo at Heathfield we were able to gain only one grass practice before our first game of the season against a very powerful Marlborough College team. Missing several key players, we battled magnificently to lose in the last seconds to a very unfortunate goal. This loss was compounded by yet more poor weather that robbed us of the chance to avenge our defeat and as such we lost out on the chance to play in the SUPA 4 Chukka finals and defend our title. Nevertheless an invitation to play at Coworth Polo Club in the prestigious Copenhagen Cup cheered the players up immensely.

The club bids farewell to three talented Upper Sixth Players; Max Dodd-Noble, Hector Worsley and Oliver Clarke, all will be missed and yet in Jamie Grayson, Issy Berner and Harry Allhusen we have a great deal of talent to offer for next year. Despite the weather, Stowe Polo has had another good year and we look forward to next season with the hope of less rain and more sun baked pitches.

Mr Matthew Perriss

Badminton

The Michaelmas term saw the boys' and girls' badminton teams being stretched and challenged to breaking point. Our opponent schools have stepped up their games dramatically, making the taste of victory less frequent for our keen players.

Instead, success this term has been measured through the development of sportsmanship skills, learning the value of being part of a team and how to work within the team and with your partner to improve play. The expectation here will be to begin the 2012/13 term with drive, determination to fight back and regain our previous high record of wins.

We have again been fortunate to have our coach, Krishan Thadani, along for three afternoons per week working with the teams. He was able to give particular focus in training the present Fourth and Fifth Form boys who are now showing great potential for the season next year. The girls choose hockey or lacrosse during the Junior years and do not join us for badminton until they are in the Sixth Form.

This year the girls' team of eight players was ably led by Anastasiya Melnyk (Nugent) and the boys' 1st and 2nd teams by Kirk Blair (Bruce).

Captains for next year will be Paola Cymet Monroy (Nugent) and Michael Hill (Grafton).

Colours were awarded to Anastasiya Melnyk, Kirk Blair and Gareth Browne for their involvement with and dedication to this sport.

The Inter-House Badminton Tournaments were also played during the term.

The Senior Girls' Singles was won by Anastasiya Melnyk and Nugent also won the Senior Girls' Doubles. The Junior Girls' Singles was won by Millie Bromley-Davenport and Stanhope also won the Junior Girls' Doubles. For the Boys, the Senior Singles was won by Kirk Blair and Bruce also won the Senior Doubles. The Junior Singles was won by Kyle Browne (Bruce) and the Junior Doubles by Bruce.

Thank you to all the team members and players who have contributed to the term's play. A special thanks to our own coaches – Dr Pantom and Mrs Browne.

Mrs Kim McMahon



Golf

The golf team has enjoyed huge success once again, particularly in its routine fixtures against our traditional opponents.

As before the players have been fortunate to play at some of the finest golf clubs: Woburn, Stoke Park, Woking, Broadway, Rye Hill, ...not to forget Carnoustie. For the first time Stowe entered the Independent Schools' Golf Association matchplay knock-out tournament and in defeating Cheltenham College, RGS Worcester and Malvern College we proceeded to the Grand Finals at

Carnoustie (Open Championship venue). Competing with the very best of UK junior golfers Ben Robinson, Matteo di Carlofelice and Ben Jenkins all acquitted themselves well. For the last three years we have been exceedingly fortunate to have had Ben Robinson (now playing off a handicap of +1) leading the side; his premature departure – at Fifth Form – for the USA will leave us depleted somewhat for next year. As Ben sets off to become a Professional Golfer (and catch Tiger), Stowe's golf will be captained by Matteo do Carlofelice.

Mr Richard Knight

Karate

Karate at Stowe was introduced in 2004 and has proved very popular, with students reaching a high standard and grade in Shotokan Karate, some carrying on outside of Stowe, branching out and studying other forms, setting up clubs of their own once licensed at the university they attend.

Some who have enjoyed martial arts so much for their gap year have enrolled into training camps where they train seven days a week.

Stowe karate club is a friendly club which allows students to mix and train alongside staff and clubs outside Stowe, and confidence is achieved offering opportunities to enter competitions and demonstrations. The club covers a wide range of training from basic fitness and self defence to grading syllabus work which enables the students to take different belts from 10th kyu (Blue Belt), upwards.

The club is run by Sensei Peter Calver, Black Belt 5th Dan who has 30yrs experience behind him and who is also a full time Shotokan instructor, and David Smith, Black Belt 1st Dan who is Master in Charge of Karate and a member of staff.

Mr David Smith



Squash

After a mixed season with a large number of cancellations, the Senior squash team recorded a number of victories – most notably against close rivals Oundle, Bedford and Berkhamsted.

Captain Jack Chaplin led from the front and showed great character in the face of some very challenging matches. Combined with Arthur Hobhouse at number two, the Senior squash team was well able to compete with other strong schools in our area. The other major contributors to the Stowe 1st V squash team were William de Boinville, Nick Whitmore, Dominic Smith, Henry Wheeler, Harry Rees and Hector Paschalides.

The Third Form team recorded an unbeaten season, winning all three of their matches. It has also been fantastic to see that our younger players are already showing great potential for the future. The Third Form team captain Max Ringer and second string James Greenley this term became two of the youngest ever players to be selected for the Senior 1st V squash team. Both players went on to win their senior matches, as well as convincingly beating any opponents they faced at Third Form level. There is no doubt that an exciting future awaits both Max and James in terms of their squash playing.

Squash colours were this year awarded to Jack Chaplin, Arthur Hobhouse and William de Boinville. The squash department looks forward to another strong season next year, as the profile of the game has gone from strength to strength in recent times – both on a recreational and a competitive level.

Mr Roland Johnson



Swimming

This was always going to be a hard year following the the success of last year with James Blackham's 'dream team'.

Unfortunately, we struggled in the new English Schools' Division qualifier. All teams in all age groups found the pace very frantic and we knew a lot of work was needed before our next encounter. At least, there was time for us to regroup and build for the long season ahead. A good home win against Rugby helped us thanks to a clinical performance from our U16 team led by Ivan Popov.

A New Year and House swimming was upon us once again. Everything was in place and I knew this year that we would have a closer Inter-House competition than in recent years. In the Senior Boys' it was going to be close with Harry Warden (Temple), Ed Pettifer (Walpole) and Antonio Munoz Ballester (Chatham) fighting it out. Harry was able to win the freestyle with the backstroke pushing Antonio into second place. Antonio came back to win the butterfly and Nathan Charlesworth pushed Ed out of his golden moment in the breaststroke event. Ed now down and out. It came down to the individual medley which saw Harry burn off his Spanish rival to lift the Senior Boys' overall trophy.

The Intermediate Boys' races were very exciting as the best swimmers in the School are all in this age group. Ivan Popov (Grenville) proved to be too quick as he destroyed the field in the freestyle event to pick up the Skidmore Cup. He added the butterfly cup as well and produced a good position in the individual medley to take the overall winnings in the category. The new rising star in this age group is Will Chatamra also a Grenville boy. He was superb in the breaststroke pipping last year's number one breaststroker, Guy Riches. Will has worked incredibly hard this year on his technique in all strokes. Now it was time for him to shine and, on adrenalin from winning the breaststroke, he won the individual medley as well. It was a one horse race in the Junior Boys' competition with Will Thompson (Chandos) sailing through to victory leaving everyone in his wake. In the Senior Girls' competition there were two serious contenders, where before there was only one. Ellie Pinnock (Stanhope) would have to fight a lot harder this year with the addition of 'The Latin Express', Ella Johnson (Nugent). Ellie fought hard, but Ella was too strong, winning the backstroke, butterfly and individual medley. Ella was crowned Girls' champion at Senior level. Elsa Desmond was able to win the Intermediate Girls'

overall cup as well as the individual medley and the golden event breaststroke. In the Juniors, there were some great swimmers and a healthy injection of pace from Anna Fox (Stanhope). Anna won the freestyle and backstroke and her fantastic leg kick was a bit like an outboard motor on a speed boat. Jemima Fitzjohn (Stanhope) was clever in winning the butterfly and having two previous high podium places to take the Junior Girls' title. The relays were very exciting with Walpole winning at Senior level with Grenville dominating at Intermediate level and Chandos running away with the Junior House Cup. Temple on average were the overall winners in the Boys' championship. Nugent were the best Girls' House at Senior level breaking House records in both relays to lift the Bernadotte Cup. Stanhope were winners of the Junior Girls' with thanks to Elsa Desmond (Lyttelton) in the Intermediates.

The future looks bright for all swimmers and we were able to go to the Buckinghamshire County Championships in Amersham. I was expecting an improved result at this meet after the success of the House swimming. I took a hand full of swimmers to compete. Theo Tserni (Temple) was delighted with a bronze in the relay at intermediate and achieved a PB in his butterfly ending up just outside the medals in 4th place. Guy Riches was able to get a hard fought silver and Ivan was able to snatch gold in the freestyle. This was a good day for Ivan especially being crowned County Champion in freestyle.

The Bath Cup saw the girls recording their fastest time in freestyle to date, breaking

the School record. Ella Johnson, Elsa Desmond, Paola Cymet-Monroy and Ellie Pinnock coming an impressive 28th overall. This was a fine achievement. In School matches to follow, the Senior Girls' team thrived and were able to beat some good teams, for example Oundle, Marlborough, Rugby and Cheltenham. At this stage in the year, as a team we had our tails up and were delighted with the Stowe relays performances. I knew I would be very content if we could win a medal this year, after our best ever haul of silverware last year. We swam incredibly well. The Senior Boys were able to get a bronze in the freestyle and the Junior Boys were able to do the same. Junior Girls went even better with a silver and a bronze. Ivan Popov, Max Marston, Will Chatamra and Theo Tserni were superbly quick in the freestyle but only gained a silver, however, not content with that they won the medley in style lifting the Clucus Cup for the fourth time. This was a great achievement. To me, the sweetest success of the day came in a photo finish between Oundle and Stowe in the Senior Girls freestyle relay. Stowe were able to win on a visual finish to raise the Annie Nichols Cup for the first time ever. The Cup was donated to the competition by the past Headmaster, Jeremy Nichols.

I would like to thank our captains, Harry Warden and Ella Johnson, for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. Good Luck to both of you in your second year of office. Also many thanks to Matrons and parents who have supported the swimming team this year.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Senior Boys: Won 7 Lost 3

Harry Warden (Cpt), Antonio Munoz-Ballester, Nathan Charlesworth, Freddie Rowan-Hamilton, Adam Jones

U16 Boys: Won 8 Lost 2

Ivan Popov (Cpt), Will Chatamra, Max Brunette-Jacobs, Seb Johnson, George Lee, Theo Tserni, Guy Riches, Max Marston

Junior Boys: Won 4 Lost 3

Inigo Lendrum (Cpt), Oscar Williams, James Moor, Daniel Strutt, Harrison Tucker, Will Thompson

Senior Girls: Won 5 Lost 2

Ella Johnson (Cpt), Ellie Pinnock, Gemma Chambers, Paola Cymet-Monroy, Elsa Desmond

Junior Girls: Won 3 Lost 3

Danny Fusco-House (Cpt), Anna Fox, Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard, Jemima Fitzjohn, Jemima Grant



Water Polo

Senior Team

This has been another exciting year for our Senior boys team. Edward Pettifer (Walpole) took the helm from a very successful Sam Strutt, last year's captain. This year was again to be the best performance by this fast, agile squad of dedicated players. We drew a hard line on fitness schedules which started back in October 2011. This was to prove we could handle everything which the opposition could throw at us.

Our opening match was against Haberdashers' Aske's. We were able to push them aside quite convincingly.

The good thing about our team is that all players are skilled with the ball and have great spatial awareness. The ball was able to be placed or passed onto another member of the team at speed, giving the opposition no chance to steal the ball. Barney Curran (Grafton) was outstanding in goal and worked very well with Ollie Plunket (Grafton) in his new position as centre back this year. Ollie was able to back pass the ball up the pool, turning a defensive play piece into an attacking opportunity.

Harrow again fell short to us for the fourth year in a row. Outstanding play from Guy Riches (Temple) and Will Chatamra (Grenville) proved too confusing for the Harrow defence and they were both able to pelt in the goals. Cheltenham was able to give us a hard battle but fell short once again, along with Oundle.

The highlights of this season came to us in the English Schools' Competition. We were able to get through to the finals thanks to Cheltenham's poor performance in the semi-finals but, in order to make sure we did not go out too early, we were going to have to beat some good teams. Northampton, St Paul's, Bradford and Trinity Carlisle were all

beaten and only Alwyn's School stood in our way. We were able to put up a good fight but fell short. However, getting the silver medal was still a great achievement.

Speech Day saw our majestic team win the Shepperd-Barron Shield for the third year, winning 7-5 in a close encounter. Sam Strutt was back, together with Sam Morris and Josh Hunter and the three Old Stoics were able to score some impressive goals against the School. I was delighted to have Harry Yates (Walpole 04) back to play and it was good that he had kept himself fit over the years.

Player of the Year has to go to Edward Pettifer for a fantastic year.

I would like to thank Edward, our captain this year, for his dedication throughout. Well done indeed.

U16 Team (Played as the Senior Team)

The U16 team this year was led by Ivan Popov (Grenville). This was unexpected, but was due to Oliver Constantine being out for the whole season, having suffered a serious rugby injury. Ivan was able to inject speed into the already nimble outfit. He was always the first person to get to the ball at the start of a game, which meant that we had a greater advantage. Will Chatamra (Grenville) and Guy Riches (Temple) were both brilliant in the fetcher positions with Charlie Mason (Grafton) in the goals.

At the English Schools' Competition, the team was really quite good and got through the qualifiers quite easily. The hardest task was in the final where we were able to beat Warwick but lost to other teams, such as Charterhouse where we should have won easily. This was a bitter pill to swallow. We were able to achieve a high standard once again. Well done Ivan Popov for stepping in.

U15 Team

The team was a new batch of keen and eager players led by Seb Cecil (Chatham). Seb was able to put the team through some very hard water workouts and made sure that everyone was just as fit as himself. This was evident in the games played. The team will be a great team. Outstanding players were Jack Strong (Grafton), Oscar Williams (Cobham) and Toby Pemberton (Cobham) and their captain, super Seb. These boys will all be over 6 ft and as strong as Chieftain tanks with an arsenal to go with them. This team will now play in the English Schools' Competition next season and Good Luck to them.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Senior Boys: Won 9 Lost 2

Edward Pettifer (Cpt)*, Ollie Plunket*, Barney Curran (Goalie)*, Rory Langman, James Drax, Harry Pettifer, Guy Riches, Will Chatamra, Max Brunette-Jacobs, Ivan Popov, Max Marston, Charlie Mason, Kalil Ali
Colours =*

U16 Boys: English Schools Finalists School matches (played as the Senior Team)

Ivan Popov (Cpt), Will Chatamra, Guy Riches, Max Brunette-Jacobs, Charlie Mason (Goalie), Max Marston, Kurabe Makiura, Harry Pettifer, Kalil Ali

U15 Boys: Won 6 Lost 3

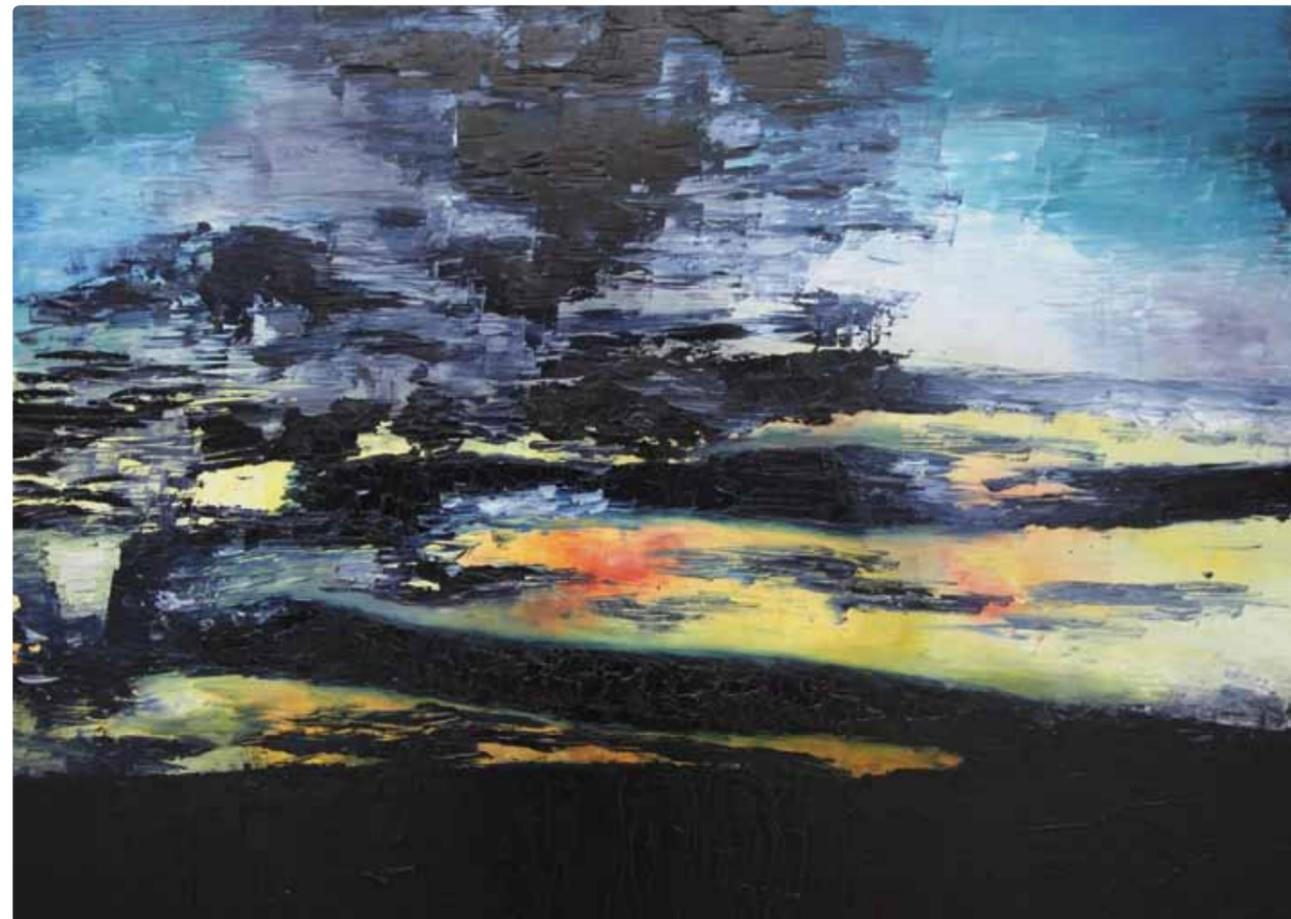
Seb Cecil (Cpt), Luke Reddyhough, Toby Pemberton, Jack Strong, Leo Marmion (Shallow goalie), Barth Rougier (Deep goalie), Oscar Williams, Harry Norris, Sam Riley, Jack Edmonstone, James Moor



Silviya Nenkova, Upper Sixth



Idil Savaskan, Upper Sixth



Emily Beatty, Upper Sixth

Governing Body

Correct as of 1st September 2012

- * Christopher Honeyman Brown,
FCA (Chairman)
- * John R C Arkwright, FRICS
- * Jonathan M A Bewes, BA, FCA
Ms Julie C Brunskill, BSc, MRICS
- * Admiral Sir James Burnell-
Nugent, KCB, CBE, MA
- * David W Cheyne
Juliet Colman, BA, Dip Arch,
RIBA, SCA
- * Simon C Creedy Smith, BA,
ACA (Vice Chairman)
The Revd Jonathan J M Fletcher,
MA
- * M Ivo H B Forde
(Chairman OS Committee)
Professor Sarah J Gurr, BSc,
ARCS, DIC PhD, MA
Mrs Joanne E Hastie-Smith
David Hudson, MA (Cantab)
Robert A Lankester, MA
Lord Magan of Castletown
Lady Stringer
- * Christopher J Tate, BA, MIMC
Mrs Susan M van der Veen, MA
(Oxon), MA (Warwick), Dip Ed
Michael B M Porter, BA, MSc
(Secretary to the Governors)
- * Old Stoic



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