

Stowe mail

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NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE



CSI Stowe

The outline of the body was taped to the floor of the Science Building foyer, the grisly evidence around it carefully numbered and the young forensic experts called in - every single Third Former.

To celebrate British Science Week (12-19 March), the Science Department staged the annual murder of the Head of Science, Mr Tearle, and seven implicated teachers became the suspects.

In teams of four, pupils spent every science lesson engaged in a series of rigorous forensic investigations that eventually led to the elimination of six of the seven suspects. The pupils measured blood spatter patterns and analysed five white powders found at the crime scene; chromatographed the ink of the apology note; decoded a secret cipher; DNA tested hair; matched fingerprints to the suspects; calculated the pressure of footprints on the floor; and examined potential weapon indentations. With no-one telling them whether their conclusions were right or wrong, and fierce competition between teams, there was pressure to pay attention to detail and work together. At the end of the week each team's leader presented their case report, naming the culprit and giving evidence for their judgements.

The task was not an easy one. It required diligence,

careful observation, collaboration and the ability to work analytically and independently. The Science teaching staff were pleased to see the Third Form engage with the activities with whole-hearted enthusiasm, and would also like to thank Mr Paul Thompson for his skilful choreography of the storyline.

So, which villainous teacher committed the crime? Was it Dr Popplestone with his chalk-covered golf club; or Dr Lakin with her flour-coated rolling pin? Could it conceivably be Mr Thompson with the greased motorbike lock, Mr Malanaphy with the large teapot or even Mr Donoghue with the phone charger? No. Commendably by-passing the red-herring footprints of Dr Waine, some teams successfully determined that it was... Mrs Rawlins with the hiking pole.

Producing a superb case report with detailed deductions and analytical conclusions, the Science Department is pleased to award this year's CSI 2018 champion prizes to: Isabel Omotajo (Stanhope); George Carpmael (Chandos); Toby Buck (Bruce) and Henry Hink (Walpole); well done to them.

Sheilagh Rawlins, Science Department



Stowe Girls - National Tennis Champions

The journey to victory began back in the Michaelmas Term 2017 when we won the group stage qualifying us for the knockout draw of LTA Senior Schools' National Competition in the Lent Term 2018.

In the first round of the knockout, we found ourselves back at Rugby School against the B team. Having beaten their A team in the previous round, expectations were high and we were not disappointed as we won the match five sets to one. More wins against Cheltenham Ladies secured our place at the finals in Bolton.

On Thursday 8 March the team travelled up to Bolton for the finals. This coincided with Exeat weekend and a friend's 18th birthday party but the girls gave up everything without hesitation saying "Now we have made the finals, we are going to win it!"

The weekend started well and by the end of Friday's play we were the only school in our group to have won matches, however there was still a lot to do. Throughout the finals Kira and Vicky were unbeaten in doubles and Yasmin went through the whole weekend without losing a singles match. The team's confidence and self-belief, carried them to victory in the finals against Framlington.

In closing I have to say this has been a journey that I am proud to be associated with and I could not have asked for anything more from the team, they gave it their all. CONGRATULATIONS!

The winning team were; Kira Evans (Upper Sixth, Nugent) (Captain), Vicky Beglin (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Yasmin Mama (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Elisabeth Pran (Lower Sixth, West).

John Skinner, Head of Tennis





Concerto Concert

On Sunday 18 March the Ugland Auditorium was resonant with the inspirational sounds of some of Stowe's most gifted musicians. Jeffrey Au (Fifth Form, Walpole), Sebastian Foxwell (Third Form, Walpole) and Theodore Hayes (Fifth Form, Chatham) delighted the packed audience with concerto performances by Liszt, Finzi and Gershwin respectively. The programme included some of the most technically challenging piano repertoires which were performed in superb fashion. Each played with precision, style and grace, which when combined with the power and finesse of the orchestra, created a magical experience for the stunned audience. The orchestra, conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton and led by Mali Aitchison (Upper Sixth, Nugent), played with vibrancy and expression which resulted in one of the finest concert performances that this venue has ever seen, which was met by rapturous applause and standing ovation.

Ben Weston, Studio Manager and Teacher of Music Technology



CCF Mess Dinner

On Tuesday 20 March, 44 Stowe Cadet NCOs and Officers gathered in the Marble Saloon for pre-dinner drinks prior to the inaugural Stowe CCF Sixth Form NCOs' Dinner Night, held in the Music Room. Huge thanks go to our wonderful Catering and House teams, who laid the table beautifully and served us in style, in line with a formal Regimental Dinner Night. Nigel Gibbon, Jonathan Kingston and Thor Mager (Fifth Form, Bruce) played us in to Dinner with skill and dexterity to the Post Horn Gallop and our Head Chef, Simon Quantock treated us to skillfully cooked and beautifully presented food, which was a delight on the plate and the palate.

Our Guest Speaker, Captain Anthony Harris, ex Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (and cousin of our Head cadet CSM Alex Harris (Upper Sixth, Grafton)), came to talk about some of the best qualities of a leader that he had observed during his time in the Infantry, including six operational tours in seven years. Every person in the room ably related to his humbling, down to earth, salient, and inspiring words. If we all employ just one of his observations, we will leave a small, but positive print upon this world.

CSM Harris was the President of the Mess Committee, PMC, able assisted by Sgt Cameron Chambers (Lower Sixth, Grenville), who was Mr Vice, as the junior Subaltern equivalent.

The NCOs looked elegant and dashing. Without exception they all rose to the formality of the occasion and behaved in an exemplary manner, all thoroughly enjoying their first taste of a Mess Dinner.

Major Jan de Gale, CCF Contingent Commander



EQUESTRIAN

Success for Isla Holman West

All the twice weekly training and riding in all weathers paid off as Isla Holman West (Third Form, Nugent) will now realise her lifetime dream of riding for her country. She has been selected to represent England at mounted games in a five day International competition at The Royal Windsor Horse Show in May and then at The Curragh Racecourse, Ireland in October.

On Saturday 18 March after a nervous journey in the snow to the trial venue, the start was delayed by a further half an hour to try and clear the snow – not helpful for the nerves! The top 35 children in the country were vying for the five team places (and one reserve place) and the competition was fierce. Despite freezing conditions and numb hands (no coats or gloves allowed!) Isla and her pony Casper held it all together to complete what appeared to be a perfect trial. However, she wasn't the only one and we were now in the selectors' hands. After a nervous wait, all the children were lined up in number order and the selected team was announced. Isla's name and number were called out to cheers of celebration from the home team and Isla's local Pony Club branch members and officials who had turned out to support her. All roads now lead to Windsor in May where we look forward to a fantastic competition and warmer weather. England are also hoping to retain last year's title so the pressure is really on.



Leila Paske

Huge congratulations to Leila Paske (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Yam for winning the British Eventing Open Novice under 18 class at Popular Park. Also well done to Emma Wright (Third Form, Stanhope) for qualifying for the Denji Trail Blazer championships with her pony Rossi, and to Coco Brooks (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) came 3rd and 4th, in 2 classes, at the unaffiliated dressage competition at Moulton College where Bo Jenkins (Third Form, Stanhope) competed her four year old horse, Alfie, for the first time. Such exciting times for us at the Equestrian Centre with lots more competitions coming up and with the Ernest Dillon clinics now being made a weekly event due to their popularity. Entries being taken now for the NSEA ODE at Swailcliffe.

Angela Churcher, Equestrian Centre Manager



Arts@Stowe

The Arts at Stowe season began with the incredible Holocaust Memorial event and our rising stars of Stowe continued to impress throughout the Season. The Lunchtime Concerts have been a joy for the increasing number of members of the public who come to appreciate our young musicians. For audiences large or small the feedback for all of the School's public performance by pupils has been tremendous. In session with Mali Mae was a wonderful evening and we are looking forward to supporting individual Stoics to organise their own events to showcase their talents.

Other highlights for us have been the working with the Fashion Show team and bringing in members of the public to what they called "a very special evening". Our partnership with the History Department promoting a new series of History Masterclass lectures for pupils and public got off to a fantastic start with the incredible Dr Sam Willis whose Nelson's Navy Masterclass was truly entertaining, informative and inspiring in equal measure. We are looking forward to Professor Frank McDonough's lecture, *The Gestapo: Hitler's Secret Police* on the 18 May.

This season has seen many inspiring performances for Stoics and alike, the wonderful piano performances by Martino Tirimo, accompanied by Atsuko Kawakami and an exquisite programme of Music titled 'In Peace' by the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge and conductor Graham Ross. Their performance of Vask's *Plainscapes* took the pupil's breath away. 'To Helen Back' was a terrific One Woman show that was both entertaining and mesmerising,

taking pupils on a unique theatrical journey exploring disability, health and recovery. Next term sees Theatre Ad Infinitum's, *The Odyssey* taking centre stage at the Roxy, followed by Junior Congreve with *Face* by Benjamin Zephaniah. We have a wonderful theatrical finale on the South Front with *Odd Sock's* performance of *The Tempest* in the last week of term.

Working with our 'young producer', pupil Tom Mayhew (Upper Sixth, Grafton) we are very pleased to announce 'An evening with Rory Bremner', a fund raiser for two Charities, Tusk and Leonard Cheshire Disability. This will be a full house so we recommend early booking for both the VIP dinner and the show.

Finally, we are proud to be embarking on a new endeavour with a group of the very best of our rock and pop musicians and the Music Department to produce this year's Eve of Speech Day concert. SOUTHSIDE18 will feature Old Stoics, HUX, current pupils including Mali Aitchison (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Max Campbell-Preston (Upper Sixth, Grafton) Henry Gauvain (Upper Sixth, Temple), Natasha Woods (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Mina Haas (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) with their supporting bands. The evening will finish with *Firing Line* featuring our own Mr Ben Weston as lead singer/guitarist plus Mr Danny Mills on trumpet and keys. This festival of music begins at 6pm with time to settle in before the music begins at 7.15pm. Book tickets [here](#).

Deborah Howe, Director Arts at Stowe



ROWING

Stowe compete at the Schools' Head of the River Race

This term's rowing culminated at the Schools' Head on Monday 12 March. The race is rowed over the Championship Boat Race course. The event sees nearly 2,500 pupils in the best school crews, together with crews from Italy and Ireland, taking part. Stowe was represented by Oscar Hill (Lower Sixth, Temple), Ayrton Patel (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Archie Morley (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Ilya Riskin (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Will Fox (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Elliott Patel (Fifth Form, Cobham), Barnaby Peppiatt (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Charlie Chick (Fourth Form, Grafton), with Fixy Hill (Fourth Form, Queen's).

Shooting Chiswick Bridge, the Stowe crew looked competent and composed, closely followed by the top Irish crew, Enniskillen Royal Boat Club and a closely packed bunch of established crews including Yarm, Windsor, Tideway Scullers, St George's and Pangbourne. Over the first part of the course, from Chiswick Bridge to Barnes, Fixy steered a great course and although Enniskillen were the second fastest 1st VIII of the day, they had made little impression, with Stowe approaching Barnes Bridge still ahead. Stowe eventually finished in a time of 19:55, placing them 18th in School 1st VIIIs, ahead of Oratory, a school who have contested and won rounds of the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta.

A second crew of Tom Fox (Lower Sixth, Temple), Daniil Samiev (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Katie Lee (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Ella Wright (Fourth Form, Queen's) also represented Stowe, going in the event for Mixed Quadruple Sculls. They sculled neatly and competently, completing the demanding course in 24:28. This was a big achievement for them - Daniil and Katie have only been rowing for one term - and Ella coped with the daunting task of bow-steering a coxless boat on the world-famous course.

Overall the event was won by the Head of the Charles winners, the St Paul's School boys, followed by Shiplake (second) and Eton (third). Henley Rowing Club were the fastest girls' eight, followed by Headington (second) and Lady Eleanor Holles (third).





Robotics season comes to a close

Both teams have achieved some excellent results through the year bringing home four trophies from regional events (two judges awards, a design award and a tournament champion trophy). Both teams also qualified for the National Finals against 58 other teams from around the Country. Sadly however the recent snow coincided with the National Finals and we were unable to travel. Only 34 teams of the 60 qualified managed to get to Nationals due to the weather, but organisers continued with it and we have missed out for this year on the chance to be National Champions and qualify for the World Finals. However this year was largely a rebuilding year for the team after the departure of the founding team members who qualified for the World final for the past two years. The team has learnt a lot and were very competitive over the year.

The highlight of the season was winning the regional at Stowe and posting a game score not far off the National record. The team is also very proud of its Judges and Design Awards for the quality of the design and innovative solutions to the game problems. We have also had some individual success from the team with Valentin Rummel (Fifth Form, Temple) using his design and engineering work on the robot as a basis for his application for the Arkwright Scholarship in Engineering, he passed the first stage and sat the Arkwright Exam and has now moved onto the final stage of an interview which will take place over the Easter holidays. Arkwright Engineering

Scholarships are awarded to students throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and a growing number of British Overseas Schools, who aspire to a career in engineering, computing and related areas of technical design. Valentine has also been accepted into a summer school program for engineering at Imperial College, London. Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Fourth Form, Walpole) took the lead with the second team and finished the season with a strong robot that gave us our tournament win at Stowe along with the driving skills of Benjamin Li (Third Form, Cobham).

We look forward to the new game and season after Easter which also brings some exciting advances in the technology and equipment available, with a new processor, new motors and an object detecting camera system. It will also open up different options for programming and will make coding the robots more accessible to all students. The new equipment combined with some strong talent moving up through the team means we are hopeful for another successful year of robotics at Stowe. We bid a fond farewell to Julian Hyams (Upper Sixth, Grenville) as our longest standing member of the team, who leaves Stowe to study at an American university. Jack Polturak (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Max Bishop (Upper Sixth, Grafton) who have helped out as consultant engineers to the team this year also leave us to pursue studies in Engineering at university.

Paul Thompson, MiC Robots

CRICKET

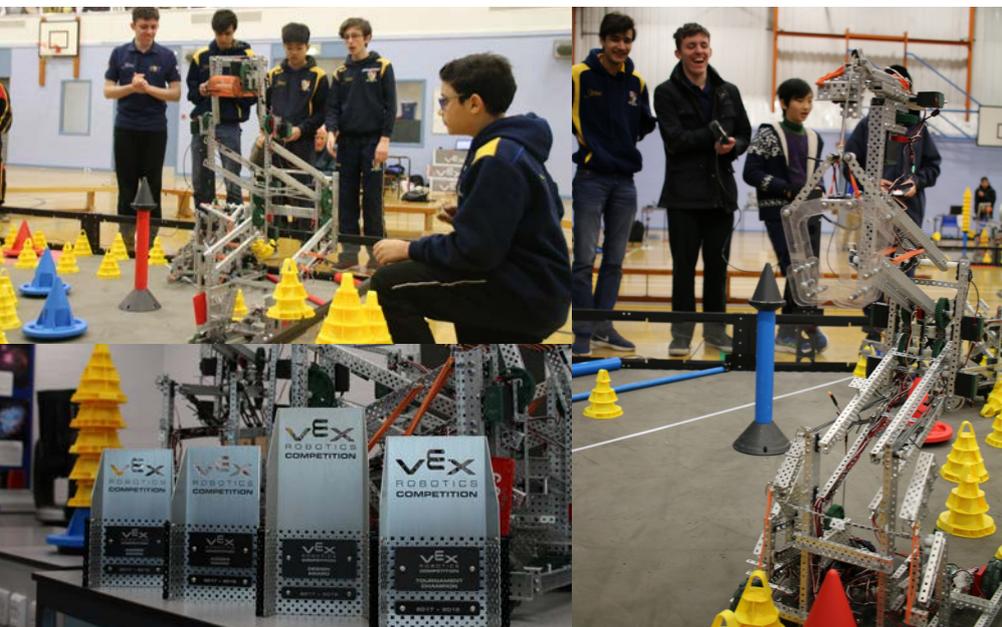
On Saturday 24 March James Cronie (Fourth Form, Cobham) will travel to Derby County Cricket Club where Bunbury trials will be held for the Midlands Squad. James recently joined the Northants Cricket Academy so we wish him all the best on the next step in what promises to be a bright future for this young cricketer.

SQUASH

On Thursday 15 March our first ever female Captain of Squash, Lottie Hopkinson (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) led the 1st team to a 3-2 win against a tough Uppingham side for their fifth consecutive victory. She showed great determination to come through her match 3-1, as did Josh Landau to come through his 3-2 after being 2-0 and 9-6 down! A convincing 3-0 win for Hector Smiley later, and the fixture belonged to Stowe. The 2nd team were also successful yet again with a comprehensive 4-1 victory. Lottie and Josh, both Upper Sixth, leave us with the future of squash at Stowe looking very bright indeed.

GOLF

In the lead up to the Micklem Trophy competition our Senior Golf team comprehensively beat Rugby School 6.5-0.5, achieved a superb 3.5-2.5 victory against a very competitive Harrow and recorded an outstanding 6-0 victory against Radley.



For weekly reports on all Stowe Sports visit our website www.stowesport.co.uk



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CCF Brigade Military Skills

Over the Exeat weekend of 9-11 March, eight cadets of Stowe CCF took part in the annual 11 Brigade Military Skills Competition down in Folkestone. In the build-up to this event, each cadet attended extra sessions during the week to hone their military skills and fitness, displaying a high level of dedication for the approaching competition.

The cadets who took part were Lower Sixth Formers, Max Whitehead (Grenville), Jess Potts (Nugent), Stu Johnston (Chandos), Hugo Robinson (Grenville), Cam Chambers (Grenville) and Alex Jones (Grenville).

The rest of the team was made up of two Fourth Formers, Ned Ellison (Bruce) and Will Bursnall (Grafton), both of whom had exceptionally strong showings despite their age and limited experience within the CCF.

The weekend comprised of various military skills on the Saturday, such as Pairs Fire and Manoeuvre, Section attacks, obstacle course, navigation skills, weapon drills and command tasks.

The cadets did exceptionally well in displaying their breadth of knowledge and skills in every task set before them in some very adverse weather conditions, placing in the top five in many stands and top in the night observation and second in the command task out of the 18 other CCFs and ACFs who also took part.

Each individual who took part had their strengths and weaknesses but this is what made the team strong. They supported each other throughout the entire weekend leading to a very commendable sixth place finish!

Alex Sprules, CCF



CCF Field Exercises

Cadets from the Army, Navy and RAF Sections enjoyed three very different, successful CCF trips.

The Army Fifth Form (and eight Lower Sixth volunteers) went to Staffordshire and enjoyed blank firing - 'stacking up' and clearing buildings of enemy; laser shooting at different 'scenarios' on the Dismounted Close Combat Range; a long, physically and mentally challenging assault course and a complex exercise revolving around a Northern Ireland counter-terrorist scenario. Lower Sixth Form cadets employed their best amateur dramatic skills, acting as Continuity IRA (CIRA).

The Fifth Form were challenged with mounting Vehicle Check Points, using intelligence and 'mug shots' to identify these known CIRA suspects. They were then tasked with appropriately controlling escalating mood, in a mock-up of a street scene with houses and shops, dimming lights, a barricade and background white noise. A further twist was provided with the discovery of an Improvised Explosive Device. All cadets rose to and enjoyed the different challenges presented.

The Navy Section Fifth Form cadets, led by

Nick Zammit had a choppy day on a yacht and motor cruiser on the Solent

All cadets proved their ability to successfully chart their way from Portsmouth Harbour across the Solent to the Isle of Wight, steer a course, identify marker buoys and their meanings, tie knots and bring their boats alongside.

Rebecca Donaldson who kindly helped out, commented:

"The yacht skipper gave Navy cadets the opportunity to show their skill and make their own decisions with team work and courage, on a day where the sea state provided a challenge. All of them stepped up to the mark, never once complaining or refusing to do as directed. They showed grit, commitment and determination in all tasks... It was a privilege to see such young adults excel."

Regrettably, due to the wind strength on Wednesday, RAF cadets were unable to fly. Instead they enjoyed a visit to the Air Museum at Shuttleworth in Bedfordshire.

Major Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander Stowe CCF





RUGBY

Kristian Kay (Upper Sixth, Chandos) had the honour of being selected to represent Scotland's U18s Rugby Union Team in their match against England U18s on Sunday 18 March. It was a tough game for the Scottish squad and England won 64 – 0 but it was still a proud moment to see Kristian in a Scotland shirt and as an individual he had a strong game. The match was originally due to be played at Stirling County RFC ground but due to the poor weather, it was moved to Edinburgh's Murrayfield which was a fantastic experience for these young players.

Kristian joined Stowe in the Fourth Form from The Royal Latin and had an immediate impact on the Rugby field for his year group. He has an excellent skill set for a scrum half. He has been involved with Wasps from the age of 12 and has worked on his game after several setbacks. His tenacity has been rewarded after dislocating his shoulder on pre-season for Stowe. He missed all of the 1st XV season but underwent rehab and slowly worked his way back into Wasps successful U18 squad after Xmas. He also received a late call up from Scotland after a good showing in their U17 squad last year. He will represent the School for the last time at Rosslyn Park before the end of term and then will hopefully rejoin the Scotland squad for the Home Nations U18s Championship.

A Level Drama

On Wednesday 14 March Lower Sixth A Level Theatre Studies pupils performed three extraordinary devised pieces in The Dobinson Studio. Two pieces dealt with the effects of entrapment including psychosis and the Stockholm Syndrome. Inspired by BBC series '13' and the novel 'Room' by Emma Donoghue the pupils were interested to investigate the human psyche, looking at real life stories and fictional dramas that focused on entrapment as their stimuli. Equally intrigued to explore what fascinates us so much about this kind of suffering that we dramatise it and discovering that it is perhaps a process of understanding ourselves, the pupils shared some heart wrenching stories of human cruelty but also resilience and hope. Ellie Akeroyd Hunt (Lower Sixth, Nugent) created a brilliantly effective set of costumes for a set of identical twins who were held, one in a psychiatric unit and one by her captor. In the piece Tabi Sinclair (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Imy Oliver (Lower Sixth, Queen's) explored the telepathic communication and invisible connection between twins, as well as tackling the trauma of being held in captivity.

Emma Rod-Larsen (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Polly French (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Alex King (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Allie Jordan (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) created a moving piece telling the tragic story of two sisters who were abducted and held for years in captivity. Told through the eyes of the child born in captivity, played sensitively by Polly French, the piece cleverly woven together a timeline of events to reveal a hidden secret.

The third piece, inspired by Netflix series Black Mirror painted a dystopian picture of the future where happiness is only truly found through Virtual Reality. A cautionary tale the pupils were inspired to create invited audiences to contemplate the effects and potential dangers we face in a digital age. Tom Fras (Lower Sixth, Walpole) played a sinister character who ran the Virtual Reality programme and also used it as a method to 'steal' the identities of others. He was pursued and eventually duped by double agent Una Barclay (Lower Sixth, Stanhope). Tavish Struthers (Lower Sixth, Bruce) created effective, futuristic lighting design.

Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama



SPORT IN BRIEF

Basketball

Stowe basketball finishes on a high! After two wins in the Wellington College Public Schools tournament against Pangbourne and BWS, the Senior boys' team went on to beat Akeley Wood, Oakham twice, Stamford and Uppingham. Their only defeat came at the hands of Bromsgrove after over-time 64-61. In the last match of the season the team had an outstanding 94-37 win against Bradfield.

The U16s were not to be outdone and won their match against Bradfield 46-31. The Senior girls were only able to play the one match this term and beat Thornton College 45-37.

Boys' Hockey

Congratulations to the 1st XI who became County Champions on Wednesday 14 March beating RGS High Wycombe 4-0. They also had a fine 2-0 win against Pangbourne. In the other matches against Pangbourne the U16As won 2-1 and the U15As drew 1-1. The 2nd XI beat Cokethorpe 4-3.

Rugby

On Saturday 17 March the Yearlings recorded two fine wins against Oundle; the As won 34-19 and the Bs won 55-0.

Water Polo

The Inter-House Water Polo league was completed in style last weekend, with a gripping final seeing Grafton take the Senior Cup and Chatham the Junior Cup.

Charity Fashion Show



A fashion show in aid of Leonard Cheshire Disability was held in the Marble Hall on Friday 16 March. The show sold out well ahead of time and Stoics and distinguished guests, including Emma Pearce from the Leonard Cheshire Charity, the actress Tuppence Middleton, Nivaldo Santos from Selfridges London, and Linda Cooper the CEO and founder of Unblock magazine were all treated to a spectacle of fashion flair and fun. The models took the audience on a nostalgic trip through the last 100 years of fashion. Donated items were modelled on the runway and these included iconic Designer classics from Alexander McQueen, Balmain, Pringle of Scotland and Jean Patou circa 1950. Backstage, a big thank you must also go to Nip+Fab for their kind donation of cosmetics and skin care.

Sixth, Lyttelton) and Myles Ryan (Fourth Form, Grenville) displayed fashion as worn in 2018 and beyond with their innovative and bold designer collections. Bringing their designs to the runway had taken a lot of hard work and planning, and the Stoics had been working constantly for the past few months on their collections. Their dedication, hard work and flair resulted in an exciting and stylish show which entertained the audience and has so far raised over £2,000 from ticket sales, donations and sales of clothes. A huge thank you must go to Emilia Pacia (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) for instigating the fundraising event and also to all the Stoics who were part of the team effort bringing the show together. Finally, thank you to the Arts at Stowe team and Mrs Banks for all the help and expert advice in the Textiles Department.

Bringing the show right up to date, Ricky Li (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Charlotte Bird (Upper

Elena Hughes, Skills Development



Janis Hill

Janis Hill was my first managerial appointment at Stowe when she was recruited as Assistant Bursar Finance in 2003. Janis' background included a number of years at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales where she eventually held the position of Finance Director. I remember thinking at the time that if we needed a reliable accountant, we might as well recruit the person who has run the finances of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Janis swiftly rose to become Stowe's Finance Director, a role which she has fulfilled with considerable aplomb. Janis' excellent accountancy skills are matched by her warm personality, enormous integrity, impeccably high standards, efficiency, team work and ability to get on with all kinds of people.

Over the last fourteen years, Janis has found solutions to a welter of financial issues as the School has expanded from 590 pupils to the current roll of 775 (we hope to break the 800 barrier in September). Janis has successfully managed the finances of complex building projects such as Queen's and Stanhope and the conversion of Nugent from a Sixth Form house to a 13-18 girls' Boarding house. She has kept a watchful eye on costs as we have built new facilities such as the Music School and made much needed improvements to Science, Art and



the Roxburgh Theatre. As I write, new Cobham is taking shape in Chapel Court and we are planning the conversion of old Cobham into two Day houses, Cheshire and Winton.

Janis has made a huge contribution to the realisation of the School's development plan and has been a much valued member of the Executive Management Team. I am reminded of a story from JF Roxburgh's era: "as we walked through the spacious corridors, JF would turn on all the lights to point out the magnificence of the rooms, while the Bursar followed closely behind to turn off the lights. This procedure, JF commented, illumined their respective functions." Nowadays the Finance Director works in partnership with the Headmaster. The School's finances have been completely transformed under Janis' stewardship and she leaves with our good wishes, great affection and deep appreciation of all that she has achieved over the last fourteen years.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster



GOLF

The 2018 Gerald Micklem Trophy

Gerald Micklem was one of the most remarkable amateur golfers in the history of the game. Gerald reached his prime as a golfer in the post-war years of the late 1940s and 1950s during which he played four times in the Walker Cup and for ten years as a key member of the England team in the Home Internationals. He won some sixty scratch medals, match play titles and competitions in both singles and foursomes.

Gerald Micklem was an outstanding member of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. He was Captain in 1968 and was made an Honorary Member in 1982. He played a pivotal role in the administration of golf and was a true visionary of what was best for the game, most notably in the promotion of the Open Championship. Internationally he was a highly respected figure, particularly in the United States.

The Gerald Micklem Trophy was inaugurated in 1954 and is a traditional and extremely prestigious invitational golf tournament played at Woking Golf Club every year between eight of the top Public Schools. Each year we compete against Eton, Harrow, Wellington, Charterhouse, Rugby, Bradfield and Winchester with Stowe still holding the record of winning the Micklem more times than any other school.

This year our team of five was led by Captain, Piers Odell (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and consisted of Lochie Shillington (Lower Sixth, Grafton), James Watkins (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Max Smith (Fifth Form, Cobham) and Stowe's inaugural Golf Scholar Max Faulkner (Third Form, Temple). Following a solid and well earned 4-1 victory against the Old Stoic Golf Society, we entered the first round of the championship in good spirits and capitalised with a magnificent 5-0 win over Rugby. We then progressed to the semi final and faced an experienced Charterhouse – superb wins by Max Faulkner, Piers Odell and Max Smith paved our journey to the final. We then came up against Wellington – currently ranked number one golfing school in the UK – and took them to the wire eventually losing 2-3. Special mention must go to Max Faulkner, who beat Wellington's No.1 player 3-2, along with Max Smith, who recorded a superb 2-1 victory against Wellington's captain who played off a handicap of +1.

Although we didn't quite manage victory, I was extremely proud of the Stoics throughout a very intense tournament at Woking – they were all a real credit to both themselves and Stowe. This fine performance caps off a superb run of Lent Term results – our Senior 1st team secured wins against Radley, Rugby and Harrow.



Classical Vocal Concert

Stowe has singers studying a wide variety of musical styles and on 7 March, the Classical Vocal Concert showcased some of the best of our classical singers. There was a wide variety in the programme, ranging from music of the Renaissance to the twentieth century. The newly formed Madrigal Groups framed the concert with two delightful trios from early seventeenth century England. It's been exciting to see the enthusiasm from pupils who are keen to continue singing this repertoire. Baroque, Classical, Romantic and twentieth century solos and duets in English, Latin, Italian and German enthralled the appreciative audience. The singers (Lula Goldsmith (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Emily Wilson (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Emily Banks (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Oscar Hill (Lower Sixth, Temple), Oliver Vince (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Isabella Leondiou (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Helena Vince (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Georgina Vallings (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Mina Haas (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)) all gave excellent performances.

Thanks to Ben Andrew for his sensitive accompaniment and to Paul Badley and Edwin Pitt Mansfield for preparing their pupils. As ever, grateful thanks to Arts at Stowe for all the work they do to ensure events like this happen.

Rachel Sherry, Head of Vocal Studies



Stephen Hawking

The world-famous physicist Stephen Hawking sadly died on Wednesday 14 March. He was a truly great British Scientist who has been mentioned regularly at Quantum Society Meetings due to his work on black holes and on the theory of relativity. To mark the occasion we hung a painting of Professor Hawking in the Worsley Science Centre. The painting, by Peter Baker, who very kindly donated his work to the Science Department, now hangs in the Physics Foyer so can be seen by many Stoics and hopefully inspire them on their way to Physics lessons. We are very grateful to Peter who is known to many at Stowe as his wife, Cherry, worked for many years in the Development Office.

James Tearle, Head of Science



London Piano Concert

The Church of St Lawrence Jewry is one of the finest Wren Churches in the City of London and the official Church of the Lord Mayor of London and the City of London Corporation. It stands in the yard of the Guildhall and is a well-known venue for weekly piano recitals on Mondays and organ recitals on Tuesdays. It was here that five Stoic pianists gave a recital on Monday 12 March 2018. Most of these concerts are given either by professional musicians or conservatoire students so it was with some apprehension that I went to hear our Stoic musicians strut their stuff on this occasion. Unlike most instrumentalists, pianists cannot take their instrument with them and are often performing on unfamiliar pianos. St Lawrence has an attractive Steinway grand but it is of a different generation from the fine new pianos at Stowe and required the performers to adjust their touch to the different action characteristics of an older instrument. This they did with remarkable success; the sounds I heard on this occasion were engaging and attractive.

The concert began with the Prelude and Fugue in F Sharp Minor from Book 1 of the 48 Preludes and Fugues by Bach. Annabel Hing (Third Form, Stanhope) played with excellent clarity and control; though the spacious acoustic of the Church might have benefitted from a slightly slower tempo in the Prelude, but she held it all together with aplomb. This was followed by Rosia Li (Fourth Form, Stanhope) playing Beethoven's famous Pathétique Sonata, she produced the necessary drama in the outer movements and a wide range of tone - indeed she occasionally went past the piano's optimum fortissimo level. Rosia shaped the brief slow movement in the most attractive way and the entire sonata had

been faultlessly memorised. This was followed by Jeffrey Au (Fifth Form, Walpole) playing the first movement of Mozart's A Minor Sonata; he played it with great technical certainty and plenty of light and shade. Again it might have benefited from a slightly more restrained tempo in the resonance of the Church but its energy carried the audience through from beginning to end.

For me the high point of the concert was Billy Baker's (Lower Sixth, Chatham) performance of Chopin's Fantasia Impromptu. This famous show piece was delivered with style and conviction and above all, with a real sense that Billy was listening acutely to what was actually emerging from the piano. One sensed him adapting his dynamics to the unfamiliar instrument and equally unfamiliar acoustic in a most sophisticated way. More Chopin ended the concert: the Ballade No 3 played by David Choo (Lower Sixth, Chatham). This was another assured and well memorised performance in which the sweep of the music carried all before it. Occasionally, the big moments over extended the piano's comfortable dynamic but the intensity of the experience made for riveting listening.

This was a challenging event for our young pianists, particularly for Jeffrey who was to play the Liszt 1st Concerto with Orchestra only a week later but the consistent quality of the performances and the fact that there were five young musicians contributing to the concert was an impressive indication of the quality of pianists at Stowe. The substantial audience were visibly impressed and the applause for all five musicians at the end was sustained and enthusiastic - rightly so.

*Hilary Davan Wetton,
Interim Chairman, Music Department*



Debating Society

The Debate Society this term has been very busy organising the Junior House Debating Competition and attending several external competitions.

In the John Bercow debate at Akeley Wood School our Fifth Form team of Ben Edeh (Grenville), Octavia Comerford (Stanhope) and Ed Pickering (Grenville) were impressive in both their speeches and the floor debate. Ben Edeh was commended by the judges for his insightful questioning.

The ICYD Young Debaters' Competition at Oxford last Saturday saw Matthew Ackroyd (Third Form, Bruce) and Josh Farchie (Third Form, Temple) narrowly miss

the final by only one point. They beat many schools on the day which was especially impressive as they were the youngest team there and had never debated before. And finally, a last minute team of Samai Lamberti (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Veronika Phillips (Lower Sixth, West) debated in the ESU Mace against local schools on the issue of Freedom of Expression at universities.

The final of the Junior Debate Competition will take place in the first week of the Summer Term and culminates with the motion "I have the right to offend you?"

Emma Ackroyd, Head of Media and Film Studies



Dance Show

The evening of Thursday 15 March saw the Roxy come alive with Stowe's second ever Dance Show. With an impressively sized audience, the dancers rose to the occasion, spurred on by a really appreciative crowd who whooped, cheered and even started dancing in the aisles. The programme included Ballet, Contemporary, Commercial, Jazz and a Physical Theatre piece inspired by Frantic Assembly's Chair Duets performed by Miss Clark's Fourth Form GCSE Drama set. The talented dancers including Kizzy Clark-Jones (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Emily Barrett (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Olivia Omotajo (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Iryna Muravska (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Inez Banson (Upper Sixth, Queen's) amazed as they pirouetted and

barrel-jumped across the floor. They showed a real diversity of skill as they executed quick changes to return and perform another well-choreographed routine.

Back by popular demand: If you missed the display, don't worry as you will have another chance to see it on Speech Day in the Roxy at 10.00am.

If you would like to take dance lessons at Stowe please contact Miss Clark, Melloney Owen or Chris Bradley to find out details. In September the programme will also include Tap, Acro, Cheer and Ballet grades.

Rebecca Clark, Acting Faculty Chair Arts & Culture



Quantum Society

Stowe's Quantum Society held their annual dinner on Tuesday 13 March to mark what has been another significant year for the society with more Stoics turning up for more Quantum events than ever. Before the dinner, Dr Samuel Henry from Oxford University gave a very well attended lecture on "The Search for Dark Matter". A world leading expert in the field, he gave a fascinating talk on the staggering efforts that scientists are making to try to find dark matter which, along with dark energy, is believed from theory to make up over 95% of the universe. Dark matter has never been directly detected but the efforts to do so are remarkable and require much international co-operation which is good news for Physicists wanting to work both home and abroad.

At the end of the dinner the Quantum Society



President, Freddie Woods (Upper Sixth, Chatham), gave a speech and thanked the members, especially the committee, for their shared love of Science and their commitment to the Society. He also thanked Mr Malling who played an important part in setting up the society and who retires this year. Mr Malling was presented with a Quantum Society tie, along with other members who have made great contributions and given lectures.

James Tearle, Head of Science



NETBALL

On Tuesday 14 March the U14As got the opportunity to have a coaching session with Wasps Netball Pro, Renske Stoltz.

Originally from South Africa, Renske joined Wasps in the Superleague as a GA/GS at the beginning of this season whilst also playing internationally for South Africa. Renske has nine caps for South Africa. She has previously played for Loughborough Lightning in the British Fast5 All Stars Netball Championship, helping them win the championship title by sinking a last-minute shot in the grand final against Team Bath whilst also being awarded the Player of the Series award. She also got selected to represent South Africa in the Fast5 Netball World Series in Australia in 2017.

During the afternoon session, Renske focused on drills that are regularly part of her own training sessions with Wasps. She started with a game of basketball, which the girls thoroughly enjoyed. She then broke down frequently used skills to the most basic level and then throughout the session built them back up again, finishing the session on a shooting game that became very competitive. On behalf of the girls I would like to thank Renske for coming to Stowe and giving the girls this fantastic opportunity. What an excellent way to wrap up their first netball term at Stowe!

Megan Wright, Netball Coach



SWIMMING

Stowe took boys U18 boys' and girls' teams to the Olympic pool in London to compete in the Bath Cup. It was a tough field for the girls Rebecca Snell (Third Form, Stanhope), Emily King (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Holly Stradling (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Jaimie McIntosh (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) swimming against larger schools. The Boys' team of Jack Polturak (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Guy Woodhouse (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Sascha Clark-Jones (Fifth Form, Bruce) and Lucas Davis (Fifth Form, Bruce) swam their hearts out in the 4 x 100m Freestyle and were pipped to the post for the final, being 1st Reserves.

Cheryl Davies, Head of Swimming





New Director of Rugby

We are delighted to announce our new Director of Rugby from September 2018 will be Grant Seely. Grant went to Aylesbury Grammar School where, in his final year he was asked to go for a trial at Northampton Saints. He was introduced to the coaches of the Colts side which is when he first met a certain Mr Alan Hughes.

He was very fortunate in the timing of rugby, turning professional in 1995 which coincided with him finishing University at Northampton. His first professional coach was Sir Ian McGeechan who was an inspirational and hugely passionate coach and along with Wayne Smith (current All Blacks coach) he enjoyed 15 unbelievably enjoyable seasons at

Northampton before retiring in 2006.

He represented England at U21, Students, A XV and Full XV against the Barbarians in 2002 where they were lined up against Jonah Lomu at Twickenham. He has also played in various 7s tournaments all over the world for England including the World Cup in Argentina in 2001. Having a lengthy playing career in professional sport presented him with many opportunities for which he is eternally grateful but the most valued is the lifelong friendships and memories.

He enjoyed four years as Academy coach where he was awarded the RFU Level 4 in coaching, having recruited the likes of Courtney Lawes into the professional game. In 2010 he moved into the education sector, becoming rugby professional and then Head of Rugby at Magdalen College School in Oxford.

He is extremely passionate about working and developing young players and his coaching philosophy is about developing players on and off the pitch, equipping them with life skills for the lessons we all have to face up to.

He lives locally, near Towcester with his wife Jane and three children; Louis (8), Henry (7) and Rosie (5). In his spare time he enjoys cycling, personal fitness, golf and horse racing. He also helped coach his son's U9s at Towcester RFC on Sundays. His other roles include being the Head Coach for Wasps DPP in Oxfordshire and recently qualified to become an RFU Citing Commissioner.

Grant is delighted to be taking on this role at Stowe. He is looking forward to working with all the pupils and staff and cannot wait to build on the great work Alan Hughes has done over the last 20 years in the role.

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Chapel

Confirmation

Waking up on the morning of the Confirmation, it was alarming to see that the 'beast from the east' had returned, with snow-covered roads and a biting wind threatening our annual Confirmation service. Quite apart from parents and supporters making their way to Stowe from all corners of the country, we anxiously awaited the arrival of the Bishop of Buckingham, without whom the service could not take place.

We need not have feared. The Bishop duly arrived; skidding around sundry snowdrifts across Buckinghamshire and 28 Church of England candidates were confirmed by Bishop Alan Wilson, a long-standing visitor to Stowe.

It was good to see candidates from across the School, from the Head Girl to a group of Fourth Formers, and as many candidates from the Fifth Form as there were from the Lower School.

I would like to thank the various members of staff who have helped to prepare these candidates at their weekly groups. We trust that this will be an experience that has life-long value for each candidate.

Lent Addresses

We were delighted to welcome The Revd Rupert Shelley to come and give our Lent Addresses at the end of February. Rupert gave three talks in the Watson Art Gallery on the theme of Real Lives, and with each talk he interviewed a different person whose life story connected with an event in the Gospels.

So when speaking on Real Suffering we met Christian Hacking who had been paralysed in a climbing accident; when speaking on Real Satisfaction we met Marie El-Khazen, a life coach; and when speaking on Real Success we met Gregg Pietersen, a successful banker. It was an interesting and popular format, marrying the historic stories of the Bible with contemporary lives and issues. 50-60 Stoics attended each night and animated discussion followed each talk.

On top of the three evening talks, Rupert Shelley also spoke twice in Chapel. We are most grateful to him for giving us so much of his time and for challenging us to realise that the Christian message is as relevant for today as it has ever been.

The Revd Tim Mullins, School Chaplain

Model United Nations

On 16 March, nine Stoics travelled to Cambridge to join the CamMUN conference, organised by the Stephen Perse Foundation. During the next two days, we would experience what it means to be a delegate of the United Nations. Our debating skills were developed greatly as we had to argue for ideas that our countries might support, but that we personally might not have believed in. Along with our debating skills, we also improved our public speaking skills. In order to influence other delegates to vote for our resolutions or amendments, we had to frequently stand up to speak in front of a committee of around thirty people we did not know. Four of the resolutions we put forward were debated, of which three passed. Special congratulations go to Anya Cook (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), who won awards for Best Spoken Delegate in ECOSOC and Highly Commended Delegate.

Stefano Beni (Lower Sixth, Chandos)



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SOUTHSIDE18



Arts at Stowe Presents this years' Eve of Speech Day Concert
SOUTHSIDE18 showcasing a group of the very best of our rock and pop
musicians.

Food and drink will be available to purchase on the night or pre-book
tickets and enjoy a Fork Supper and Bubbles with Stowe Parents in the
Music Room prior to the Concert.

This festival of music starts at 6pm with time to settle in before the
music begins at 7.15pm.

[Further information and bookings](#)