

the STOIC

Stowe School 2014/2015

Lang Lang

World famous pianist visits Stowe

Stowe in the Stratosphere

Stoics expand their horizons



NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS

Senior 7s take the Rosslyn Park title

Stowe



the STOIC

This last academic year has been one of change at Stowe. We have seen the School embrace this change in the special way that places filled with young people do.

In the classroom Stoics have been encouraged to develop a growth mindset, to believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work. Through this initiative we are promoting a love of learning and instilling a resilience that will be essential for Stoics to achieve their potential at Stowe and beyond. This approach to learning has not just been applied in the classroom, it has been seen in every aspect of School life, from the sports field to extra-curricular activities, and it is exciting to see just how quickly growth mindsets have been adopted.

Since writing last year, the School has grown in size. Stoics have welcomed West into the School. A Sixth Form House for boys and girls, the members of Stowe's latest House have brought many talents to School and have joined us from across the country and the world. Along with our other new joiners into the Sixth Form, they have already made a significant contribution to School life, settling in and making friends with Stoics who have been here since the Third Form. It is wonderful to see a community that is so cohesive and welcoming.

Whilst much changes, the natural order of the school year continues and reminds us that the time each Stoic has with us is limited and that we must encourage each and every pupil to jump into everything that life at Stowe has to offer. I think this magazine illustrates very well all the opportunities that the Stoics have seized this year and how they have embraced change. If we have been successful in what we do here, they will retain this positive approach in their lives after Stowe.

I must, once again, thank all who have contributed to the magazine, from articles to photography, and those who have helped me put it together, from proofing to print. I hope that in years to come our current pupils will look back on their time here and be proud of just how much they achieved – I know that I am always amazed that so much can happen in such a short space of time.

As ever, I hope that you enjoy reading this round up of a year at Stowe.



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

the STOIC

Stowe School 2014/2015

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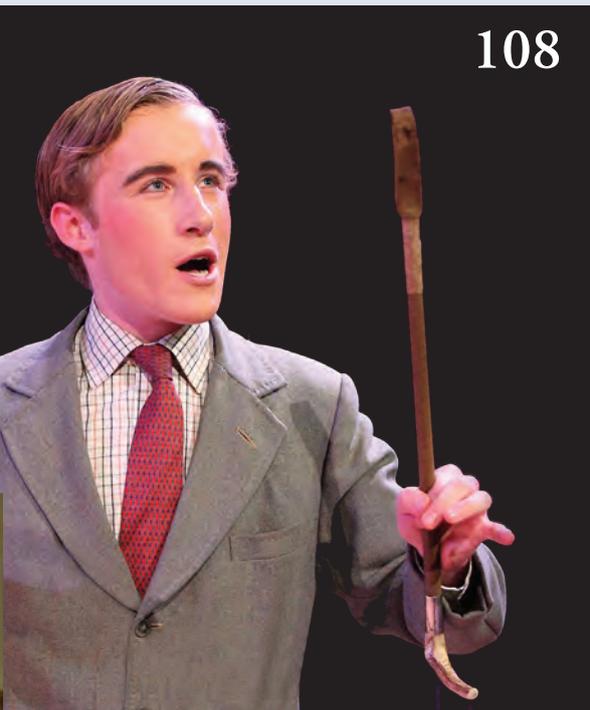
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Chairman of Governors



Speech Day

Mr Speaker, My Lords, Governors, Headmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen, a warm welcome to you all to this, our 2015 Speech Day.

Speech Day is an opportunity to report and reflect, not just on the last year, but also on our plans for the future. Nothing could be more important in this context than the education which Stoics receive during their time with us. Our academic results measured by external exams have shown steady improvement in recent years but we must do more. At the same time we have seen some extraordinary achievements outside the classroom, we passionately believe that every pupil should have every opportunity to develop their talents. And we will continue to develop and stimulate the essential characteristics of every Stoic, which together will help them to succeed in the world at large once they leave Stowe; independence of mind and action, integrity, responsibility, community minded, creative, entrepreneurial.

As you will hear from the Headmaster, our Growth Mindset programme is now quickly being established throughout the School, a freer format of prep has been trialled and proved a great success. Formalised personal objectives for every member of the academic staff allied to rigorous performance review is beginning to pay dividends, helping everyone to understand more clearly what they have to do, where they are succeeding and where there is room for improvement.

Personal accountability – of teachers and pupils alike – to take responsibility to deliver what is expected of them; and a more rigorous approach to setting, monitoring and marking work, whether for the classroom or prep are beginning to show vast improvements. This combination of positive attitude, process and performance management is helping everyone, staff and pupil alike, to work in a more focused and disciplined way and we fully expect to see the consequences coming through in the next year or two in improved academic results.

Stoics, like any other adolescents and young adults are constantly challenged by the threats of the adult world. Drugs, alcohol, social media abuse and pornography are all real and present dangers against which we all have to be constantly vigilant. The immediacy of modern social media and the ability to distribute material to the widest audience at the press of a button brings new challenges as Stoics develop friendships and work out who they can and cannot trust. In common with other schools our approach to safeguarding children in this challenging environment is constantly evolving and improving.

The Stoic Council and the Peer Support Group are just two of the many ways in which Stoics actively demonstrate their involvement in developing an interactive, supportive community for the benefit of all.

We have never had so many Stoics representing their country in a variety of sports and year groups. Our musicians, artists and actors continue to provide a standard of creative work which seems to me to be well beyond their years. I am always filled by a sense of awe when I hear our musicians and singers perform – how do they do it, and at such a young age?

Stowemail is full of the academic, sporting and performing arts achievements of Stoics and every edition reinforces all that is excellent about a Stowe education. We are making good progress with our plans to refurbish and re-organise boys' boarding houses, change the way in which we look after day pupils and make better use of the Mansion. All will become clear over the next 12 months or so as those plans are finalised.

Work on the complete restructuring of the Science Building is soon to start and will create more space, better laboratories and first class facilities for Stoic scientists.

This is a fitting moment to say the warmest thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Campaign for Stowe – without your exceptional generosity it would be beyond our ability to make the improvements which we have, and which we will continue to make.

The enthusiasm with which everyone has come behind the fundraising for the Science Building is truly remarkable – thank you all. I know that those who teach the Sciences are looking forward so very much to teaching in these new facilities when they come on stream.

The enthusiasm with which everyone has come behind the fundraising for the Science Building is truly remarkable – thank you all. I know that those who teach the Sciences are looking forward so very much to teaching in these new facilities when they come on stream.

And what of our other responsibilities? The Stowe House Preservation Trust, which is run and financed independently of the School, has been as busy as ever.

The Music Room is now fully restored with a new chandelier and the original Valdrè central ceiling piece back in its rightful place.

The Blue Room has been spectacularly restored and the wonderful ceiling of North Hall has been cleaned and brought back to life, although it will be another year before the floor and walls are restored.

Attention now turns to completing the Enlightenment For All project – this will be the Visitor Centre for the Mansion and is going to be an exciting and stimulating first introduction to the Mansion, its history, architecture, and restoration. The project combines the past and the future and multimedia technology will be used extensively to inform and enthuse visitors.

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

I would particularly like to thank our Vice Chairman, Simon Creedy Smith who has been a tower of strength, as he supported me this year when some surgery took me out of the front line.

We welcome two new Governors, David Carr and Kitty Lloyd. David has a background in finance and business, with a particular interest in technology, Kitty is a lawyer with Linklaters, specialising in capital market transactions. We welcome them both and look forward to their contribution in years to come.

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

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

I would like to make special mention of one person – I refer of course to Colin Dudgeon, whose energy, enthusiasm, creativity and commitment has made such a difference to the success of the Campaign for Stowe. As many of you know he never takes no for an answer, and for many of you there may be a sense of relief when you realise he is leaving the Stowe community. Colin goes with our grateful thanks for the change he has brought about and our best wishes for his future.

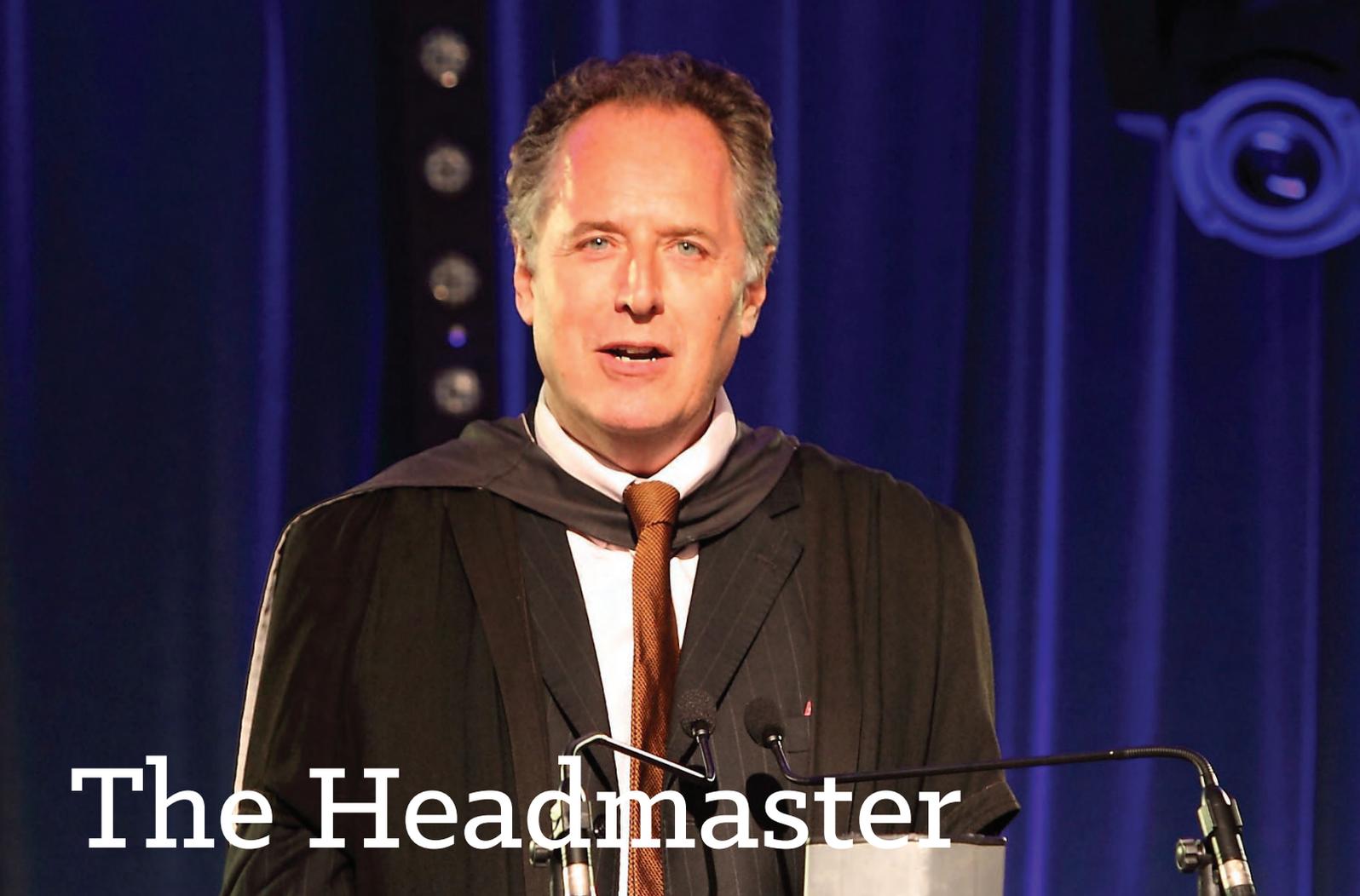
Finally – let me congratulate our Headmaster, Anthony Wallersteiner, who has enjoyed yet another year of successful achievements.

There is, as ever, more, a lot more to do in terms of our educational offer, as we seek ever better academic results and in terms of our fabric, as we plough on with our development programme. And that is our common cause, as we strive to ensure that every child who comes to Stowe will receive the very best, 21st Century education.

Let me hand over to the Headmaster to give you a little more detail about our plans.

Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown





The Headmaster

I'd like to begin by thanking all our performers and the production team from Chance Organisation for providing us with such splendid entertainment last night at GlaStowebury – Stowe rocks and in case there is anyone here from the Daily Mail, that's where the similarity with Glastonbury ends. Many thanks to Johnny Arkwright and Caroline Whitlock for organising our 6th classic car display. This year we have a record 111 cars on the North Front to show the Stoics what they can have if they really work hard for their A Levels. Thank you also to everyone taking part in the various sports matches this morning, I think the gunfire I heard at dawn was the clay pigeon shooting rather than more draconian disciplinary policies being implemented.

Woody Allen once said that 80% of success is showing up, so thank you to everyone for showing up on Speech Day. Churchill observed that an MP should not make more than two points in a maiden speech, in case the audience forgot the first point. I'm not sure what this tells us about the intelligence of our elected representatives in Parliament, but brevity certainly has much to commend it: the Lord's Prayer contains 54 words, the Ten Commandments 197,

the Gettysburg Address 272 words, while the EU directive for exporting duck eggs is a flatulent 26,911 words.

Let me begin by congratulating our guest of honour, The Right Honourable John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, on his re-election in May as Member of Parliament for Buckingham with an increased majority and his re-appointment as Speaker of the House of Commons. In the 18th and 19th Centuries Buckingham was a rotten borough which usually returned a member from Stowe's Temple-Grenville family or a Verney from neighbouring Claydon. Richard Temple assiduously cultivated the 13 voters of Buckingham by providing them with timber to rebuild the Town Hall, earning himself the nickname of 'Sir Timber Temple'. So, no shy Tories or Ukipers to worry about, just good old fashioned bribery which kept him in Parliament for about 40 years. The most surprising MP for Buckingham was one Captain Robert Maxwell who held the seat for Labour from 1964 until 1970. Whatever happened to Captain Bob after his political career came to an end? Answers on a postcard to Mirror Group Newspapers.

Speech Day is less about individuals and more about the whole family of Stowe, remembering the many and varied achievements over the year. And what a year it's been: in September a new co-educational Sixth Form House, West, was formally opened by Viscount Cobham, a direct descendant of the Temple-Grenville family. The House is also named after one of the Temple-Grenvilles, a scholar, poet, theologian and politician, called Sir Gilbert West.

West wrote these lines about Stowe in 1732:

“All great, all perfect Works from Genius flow,
The British Iliad hence, and hence the Groves of Stowe.”

We will see what genius flows from our most westerly grove, but it has started well and the future looks bright for West.

In November the School solemnly commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of World War One with special services and concerts on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. This year's Congreve featured two remarkable plays in the Roxburgh Theatre: *Killed*, July 17 1916 and *Picnic on the Battlefield*. The visit of the First Sea Lord, Old Stoic, Admiral Sir George Zambellas, marked the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the CCF and reminded us of Stowe's strong and enduring association with the Armed Forces. Other cultural highlights were the sassy, vibrant and entertaining production of Stephen Sondheim's musical, *Company*; the Fashion Show featured top designers like Alexander McQueen and Philip Treacy and our glamorous catwalk models raised funds for Kidscape, the anti-bullying charity; this term we've enjoyed a masterclass and recital by the renowned virtuoso pianist, Lang Lang, which no one present will ever forget. A couple of days later Stoic soloists, accompanied by the Stowe Festival Orchestra, set an incredibly high standard of musicianship which was then matched by the Choir of the Dominic Convent School, our partner school in South Africa, who filled the Uglend Auditorium with the rhythms and harmonies of African song and dance.

Governors, parents and staff are all involved in developing the individual potential of each and every Stoic. Why does it matter? In the words of Thomas Edison, “The greatest invention in the world is the mind of a child.”

Governors, parents and staff are all involved in developing the individual potential of each and every Stoic. Why does it matter? In the words of Thomas Edison, “The greatest invention in the world is the mind of a child.” Each child is a unique organisation of atoms, molecules and cells, the result of six million years of evolution and 10,000 generations stretching back to the emergence of *Homo sapiens* from the primordial soup. Through the mere fact of being, our children will shape the future for good or bad. Each of our children will carry on what we have started and in 30 years' time, it will be our children sitting where we are sitting or even, heaven help us, standing where I am standing. When we are gone, it is our children who will judge our legacy, so we might as well pay some attention to them now.

At the start of the academic year our new Director of Studies launched a Growth Mindset initiative, based on the ideas of the American psychologist, Carol Dweck. The idea is to encourage aspiration and creativity and to stimulate curiosity in the minds of staff and Stoics alike. People with growth mindsets believe that there is nothing predetermined or fixed about their achievements. For them, having talent is just the starting point. Initial or even repeated failure is simply deferred success, providing them with further opportunities to learn. “Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.” Intelligence is an aptitude which can be developed and improved. Children have an unrestricted appetite to understand the world around them, asking hundreds of questions, learning incrementally with each passing day and week. After all, when did you last see a slacker baby with attitude?

People with fixed mindsets, convince themselves that they are bad at something because of their innate ability, or lack of ability. For them, education is the process of acquiring just enough knowledge to pass an exam. Intellectual curiosity is stifled lest they look foolish by not knowing the answer or by not having fully mastered a skill. It's the closed mindset reflex which gives rise to comments like “I'm rubbish at Maths” or “I'll never get into a team”. As a nation, we wrongly convince ourselves that we can't do languages. We discuss educational potential and achievement using terms such as high or low ability and not surprisingly children begin to believe that this is where they belong on the ability spectrum. The way children learn is changing and the way we teach is changing too. People with a growth mindset love learning, recognise that abilities can change, embrace new challenges, acknowledge that success comes through perseverance and understand that global connectivity is not the same as knowledge and wisdom. The definition of an educated person remains largely unchanged since Arthur Benson penned these lines in 1902: “My idea of an intellectual person is one whose mind is alive to ideas; who is interested in politics, religion, science, history, literature; who knows enough to wish to know more, and to listen if he cannot talk; a person who is not at the mercy of a new book, a leading article, or the chatter of an irresponsible outsider; a person who is not insular, provincial, narrow-minded, contemptuous.” Benson, writing these lines at the start of the Edwardian period, could have been describing the essence of the Growth Mindset.

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For the best exemplars of growth mindsets we need look no further than our very own Elysian Fields. Standing in the Temple of Ancient Virtue looking out to the Temple of British Worthies, you feel that you are in the presence of minds that are still thinking. Great thoughts transcend barriers of time and space. Greek philosophers taught the importance of constant disquisition in their quest for a brighter future. Isaac Newton who shares the laurels with Shakespeare as Stowe's most distinguished British Worthy was not being uncharacteristically modest when he said in a letter to Robert Hooke in 1676, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Newton was the giant on whose shoulders other scientists would stand in a chain of mathematical and scientific discovery that extends over the centuries to the present day. His exemplar inspires current Stoics to send our first probe into space, albeit a helium filled balloon, not Stowe Galactic, but it reached a stratospheric altitude of 33km, recording temperatures of minus 50 degrees Celsius; not to be outdone, the Stowe Robotics Team reached the semi-finals of the National Robotics Championship, the first time we have entered this competition.

Stowe is becoming increasingly selective – but this is a two way process as parents select us just as much as we select their children. There are plenty of excellent schools to choose from and it would be complacency bordering on arrogance to assume that discerning parents will choose Stowe simply because of the beauty of the grounds or the grandeur of the Mansion. Where Stowe diverges from its competitors is in its acknowledgement that intelligence and talents are unevenly spread. Many schools honour only a very few skills out of the great many that children possess. But imperfection can be accommodated and the occasional failure allowed. The secret lies in determining, by a process of elimination, where to focus. Is beagling or bell ringing easier to master than rugby or rowing? Are DT and Art really easier subjects than Maths or Economics?

There should be no hierarchy of subjects or activities and excellence must be celebrated where ever it is found. I'd have a greater chance of solving Fermat's Last Theorem than completing a DT project of the quality of the work on display in StoweBucks or producing works of art as sublime as those in the Art School or the exhibition of works in the Music School on loan to us from Messum's.

Most exams test algorithmic learning and retained memory, but what metric is there to measure creativity, multi-dimensional associative cognition, abstract thinking, spirituality or the development of character? It's as important and valid for a Stoic to perform in Congreve or Choir, to participate in the CCF or the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, as it is for that Stoic to achieve A*s in academic subjects. We are not a factory school farming the human equivalent of battery hens. But wanting to do well is normal and children are naturally and healthily competitive. They want to know who won a race, which House came top of the leagues or won the Academic Salver. They strive to do better than they did yesterday and it is no longer uncool to work – that's official. The days of "I'm not here to work, I'm here to network", seem a long time ago. Competition is good and is a corollary of the culture of aspiration. Life is competitive. Getting into any school team should be hard. Whether it's House Singing, Drama, Debating, the Mozart Trio Competition or House Leagues, competition is part and parcel of school life. You are bound to lose more often than win – something which allows you to come to terms with who you are and, just as important, who you are not.

This is a place of challenge, wonder, excitement, change and reflection, where the pupil voice is listened to in Stoic Council and acted upon. Parents are actively encouraged to attend School events and we welcome the involvement of Stowe Parents. I have not yet heard of another school running a programme which encourages its parent body to attend and even participate in lessons. It also helps to have

a sense of humour. The teenage brain is a seething cauldron of hormones and sudden impulses which can make the illogical seem logical. Here's a letter home from a Sixth Form girl which clearly illustrates that things really could be a lot worse:

Dear Mummy and Daddy

I have to tell you that I have ended up – unexpectedly – in hospital, with both legs broken. I have also fallen in love with an Australian nurse – in fact, we are going to get married, emigrate and I'm about to have his baby.

PS None of the above is true, but I have just failed my final exams and I thought you ought to put things into perspective!

Another encounter which brings a wry smile is the boy who is summoned into his Housemaster's office to explain some idiocy. "What on earth induced you to act so stupidly and irresponsibly?" thundered the Housemaster. "Well sir, it's just that I'm an adolescent, but I won't be much longer."

There is an evolutionary reason for why we act impulsively. I think it was Billy Connolly who said "Never trust a man who, when left alone in a room with a tea cozy, doesn't try it on."

Determination and perseverance bring their own rewards and it has been another vintage year for our teams. Wayne Gretzky, the legendary Canadian ice hockey player and coach, once said, "You will miss 100% of the shots you don't take." This year Stowe teams have tended to hit the target more often than not. An almost unbeaten season for squash; excellent wins in netball; an outstanding run for our Micklem Cup golfers, a trophy which Stowe has won 15 times – more than any other school; in the nationals, the 1st lacrosse team won all seven of their matches to come top of the Division Two competition, while the 2nd

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team competed in Division 1 and came seventh in the country. There were fine results in hockey with the U14, U16 and U18 girls' teams reaching the County Cup Finals and the U14 and U16s finishing in the top twelve schools in the South of England. The boys' 1st XI responded with their own tally of good results and the U16s sailed through the County and Regional heats, securing a place in the semi-finals of the National competition: the furthest any Stowe hockey team has reached for more than a decade. The U16 football team remained unbeaten, our polo players performed magnificently in the National Schools' Competition, winning the intermediate and novice sections and coming third in the seniors. Rowing continues to develop, attracting growing support, and in October Stoics competed for the first time in the Head of the Charles River competition in Boston Massachusetts.

The 1st XV rugby squad celebrated a stunning season with an unbeaten tour of schools in Zimbabwe and convincing wins against all our local rivals – Uppingham, Oundle, Oakham, Warwick and Marlborough. In fact we are now so good, that many schools refuse to play us which is why we are having to travel further afield for block fixtures. Most notable of all, however, was the performance of Stowe's Senior 7s squad which played magnificently over two days to secure the Rosslyn Park HSBC National School 7s Festival title after a thrilling final against Tonbridge. The future of Rugby Sevens looks safe as our



Colts reached the semi-finals for the second consecutive year. Not bad for a competition which attracted an entry of 168 teams. This term's cricket teams have prospered and we await the result of the 1st XI who, as I speak, are doing battle with the Old Stoics on the North Front.

Stoics participate keenly in a vast panoply of sport at almost every possible degree of aptitude and it is impossible to do justice to all those who take part in tennis, badminton, basketball, equestrianism, athletics, cross country, shooting, swimming and water polo – although I can tell you that Mr Cowie has lost count of how many records have been broken in the pool this year.

It has been a busy year for the Campaign and Old Stoic Office. We were thrilled when the appeal for the Science Building reached the £4m mark, giving Governors the confidence to give the green light to this £6.4m project. Colin Dudgeon, our brilliant and indefatigable Development Director, has been reliably informed by the Chaplain that the true store of wealth is in people, not money or possessions, and the next world is cash and credit card free. As you can't take your money with you, you might as well leave it to Stowe where your capital will be reinvested in scholarships, bursaries and improving facilities. Where else could you find a better return on your investment than in the academic innovation, classroom discoveries and sporting successes of future generations of Stoics?

A number of significant improvements have been made since last Speech Day. Chandosians returned in September to a reconfigured House which now boasts the finest Common Room in the School. Good architecture should be consonant with the past, reflect the present and not be afraid of the future. Lyttelton has undergone a dramatic transformation and is now no longer a carbuncle on the face of a much loved friend and stands proudly alongside the new Chung Music School. We have restored Clough Williams-Ellis' original plans for the academic area by demolishing the ugly appendage of Religious Studies classrooms to create a vista from the Leoni classrooms to Bruce House. There are still some unlovely accretions, but the teaching area is no longer the aesthetic poor relation to the landscaped gardens and ducal palace. We are well on our way to realising JF Roxburgh's original vision for the School as a composition of harmoniously interlocking parts which encourages pupils to recognise, understand and appreciate beauty when they see it.

We continue to expand and refine our alumni outreach around the world and there have been gatherings in Hong Kong, New York, Sydney, Ottawa and Dubai as well as reunions at Stowe. It is a particular pleasure to welcome Brian Hecht, Chair of American Friends of Stowe, and Andrew Tucker, AFS Board Member and an exceptionally generous supporter of Stowe. We remember those who over the years have contributed materially, intellectually and spiritually to the School's success. Among those we have mourned this year are David Wynne, the distinguished sculptor many of whose statues and maquettes now adorn the School; Jack Hayward, former Old Stoic Society

President, entrepreneur, philanthropist, saviour of Lundy Island, Brunel's SS Great Britain and erstwhile owner of Wolverhampton Wanderers and Bill Shand Kydd, entrepreneur, race-horse owner and the only person ever to have completed the Cresta Run and ridden in the Grand National. Three quintessential Old Stoics. Some colossi from the staff have also passed on to the great Common Room in the sky. James Muir Temple, who served at Stowe as a Master, Housemaster and Second Master from 1958 to 1988; Bram Wiggins, head of wind and brass from 1966 until his retirement in 1985, and, most recently, Mike Dawson, a gifted Maths teacher, athletics and rugby coach and much missed colleague. Their passing reminds us that a school is the beneficiary of the intellectual and pastoral benefactors of the past and that we who work at Stowe also stand on the shoulders of giants.

Goethe once observed that everything has been thought of before, the challenge is to think of it again. A school cannot be better than its best ideas and neither can it be better than its best teachers.

Academic success is, of course, mainly due to the Stoics. At least that's what they say when things are going well. But it is also a reflection of those who teach, tutor, coach and inspire. Goethe once observed that everything has been thought of before, the challenge is to think of it again. A school cannot be better than its best ideas and neither can it be better than its best teachers. In 'A Man for All Seasons', Sir Thomas More asks Richard Rich, "why not be a teacher? You'd be a fine teacher; perhaps even a great one." Rich replies: "If I was, who would know it?" More replies, "You, your pupils, your friends, God. Not a bad public, that." Among this year's Common Room leavers are some legendary figures and to pay tribute to them all would mean missing the all-import fly-past by the Yakolev's at 1.15pm. Paraphrasing Alexander Pope's tribute to John Milton, "their sublime and unbounded genius has carried Stoics beyond the Limits of this World". On the support side, I'd like to single out, Ray Dawson, SSI to the CCF for as long as anyone can remember. For the uninitiated, SSI is not an acronym for the Society of Scribes and Illuminators or Scuba Schools International, but School Staff Instructor and Ray has played a hugely important role in the running of Stowe's CCF. The Yakolev air display is dedicated to all our leavers, that is if the Russian planes aren't shot down for violating British air space.

So to the leavers, Stoics and staff, our sincere thanks and warm good wishes. It now gives me great pleasure to welcome our guest of honour, the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Right Honourable John Bercow.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

John Bercow



At Speech Day, Rebecca Wallersteiner chatted to John Bercow, the newly-reinstalled Speaker of the House of Commons, about the May election, his Jewish heritage and a 'spat' between Labour and the SNP over who sits where...

Like him or not, John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, certainly has a sense of humour.

I interviewed him informally at Stowe School, shortly before he called to order a packed marquee of students and parents. They immediately fell silent.

As guest speaker, on Speech Day, Bercow spoke eloquently and without notes and presented school prizes. A few days later, I saw him again, this time on BBC News, looking composed as he authoritatively called to order Parliament for its first re-opening since the General Election.

He is the first Jewish MP to hold the role of Speaker.

Is he proud of his Jewish heritage?

"Yes," he said. "My father was Jewish and I went to Finchley Reform Synagogue and had a barmitzvah, although I am secular. My mother is not Jewish, but she converted." He says he believed himself to be fairly average at school.

"I have never regarded myself as exceptionally able. I was very ordinary at school, but worked hard" he said. "My parents taught me the importance of courage and perseverance."

Bercow is an interesting character and his political career is fascinating [he started out on the far-right in the Monday Club and is now soft left]. I ask him to explain his parliamentary role and whether he considers himself safely elected.

With a wry smile, he replies: "The Speaker operates under considerable constraint – so it is difficult for him to make a comment.

"He does not become a eunuch, but has to demonstrate celibacy. I derive some succour from the knowledge that MPs today are more interested in the views of their constituents than they were in 1714, when Anthony Henley was an MP.

"In that year, he received a letter from constituents asking him to vote against the Excise Bill. He wrote back stating: 'I am surprised at your insolence in troubling me about the Excise. You and I know that I bought this constituency and have now found another'. Only tell this anecdote when you know that you will not be seeking re-election soon!"

The Headmaster congratulated Bercow on his increased majority and on being a good constituency MP. Bercow told his audience emphatically: "You have a mission and you commit to it and don't walk away when the going gets tough. I believe that a wholly disproportionate weight is attached to raw talent, rather than hard work and readiness to come back from adversity and imminent defeat. Having to cope with a difficult situation is character forming and you acquire the necessary resources to fight back."

These are qualities that have enabled Jewish people to survive. Bercow looked delighted by the loud applause he received from the crowd. Later, over lunch, he tells me, somewhat wistfully: "My wife tells me off for speaking too long."

Does he feel Prime Minister's Question Time is useful?

"It is an important institution and is what most people see and hear of Parliament. It has always been noisy and passionate, as politicians have always had differences" he acknowledged. "There is a spat going on between the Scottish Nationalist Party and Her Majesty's Opposition about where to sit in the House. Why should this matter? This needs to be resolved."

Bercow is unarguably a survivor. At the end of the last Parliament he survived an attempt by erstwhile fellow Tory MPs to change the rules to make it easier to unseat him. He had made enemies by insisting on the rights of backbench MPs and had also angered ministers through his drive to modernise the Commons.

Did the General Election results come as a surprise?

"The British opinion polling industry has a lot to answer for. All the consensus was that there would be a hung parliament, yet there was a small overall majority. Was there a late surge, or a shift of opinion in the last few days, or was the consensus wrong? I hope my colleagues in the House will look out to the electorate and build up public trust. I am aware of the opprobrium my profession is held but must be grateful for small mercies."

Despite having only one Jewish-born parent, Bercow identifies strongly with his Jewish side. A little-remembered fact is that Buckingham had another high profile Jewish MP in the 1970s – Robert Maxwell.

First published in the Jewish News.

Head Boy & Head Girl



James Macdonald-Buchanan: My Lords and Ladies, Distinguished Guests, Governors, Headmaster and Members of the Common Room, Parents, Friends and Stoics: Good Morning.

Can I start by thanking the Rt. Hon. John Bercow, our re-elected Speaker, for his insight into the world of politics and the recent election. As Head Boy of 770 pupils, I sympathise with his role trying to keep order among some of the more unruly Members of Parliament. We wish you luck with the new parliament and we would like to present you with a jeroboam of champagne to say thank you.

Shannon Devlin: Following this, James and I would like to say thank you to Mrs Wallersteiner and Mrs Honeyman Brown. Whilst your husbands provide constant support for the School, your support towards your husbands is admirable. We would like to give you a bouquet of flowers as a token of our thanks.

James: A couple of weeks ago, Dr Wallersteiner and I were having a conversation. He said to me, “If you had told me that a Third Former, who was terrified of boarding, would grow up to be Head Boy; I’d have told you that you were talking rubbish.”

Quite rude actually Sir, but true. I have to confess that I was tempted never to turn up in Third Form. Arriving on the first day, I’m not sure who was more nervous, my parents or me. My friends in Chandos will tell you that it took me about a week to say something to them; they probably thought that I was rather odd – they probably still do. I can understand why Dr Wallersteiner wouldn’t have backed me to be standing here five years later.

Today, I stand here because of all who I have met and all that I have achieved, failed and experienced at Stowe. It has been a pleasure to serve the School as Head Boy. Stowe’s ability to foster a diversity of talent, in all fields, is the School’s greatest attribute. It enables Stoics, as individuals, to flourish and to succeed – each on their own five year journey. I am certainly not the only Stoic who is able to say that I owe a huge debt to Stowe for what it has offered to me; every Stoic can say this!

JF Roxburgh once said that a Stoic should “be acceptable at a dance and invaluable in a shipwreck” – I’m not quite sure

what he was getting at. I believe that a Stoic is someone who not only has that Stoic constitution; but also, someone who is imbued with those ancient virtues of learning, morality, liberty and courage; someone who leaves Stowe knowing the full meaning of ‘Persto et Praesto’ – ‘I stand firm and I stand first’!

This brings me on to this year’s School theme, chosen by the Prefects. We looked at the idea of self-assessment, centred on the words ‘good, better, best’. The theme seemed most fitting for two reasons. Firstly, we can always ask ourselves whether we did our best and whether we could have done better. Secondly, it can be measured. Looking back over the last year, Stoics have achieved tremendous successes, which I have no doubt was all inspired by the famous ‘bene, better, best’!

I hope that this year’s theme will remain in Stowe’s community for longer to come; that Stoics will maintain the determination and perseverance to make the most of their time here; that they will continue to try, to study, to dream, to believe, and ultimately, to achieve.

In respect of doing one’s best, the Branson Award is presented annually to the most entrepreneurial Stoic. Entries are judged on originality, risk and financial potential. This year’s winner is William Dodge for his online business start-up platform. William, please come up to receive the award.

Shannon: ‘Good, better, best’, however, deals with so much more. Just because you haven’t received a prize today does not mean your ‘best’ has not been achieved elsewhere. You may have been through a difficult term, overcome daily adversities, performed a selfless act or even avoided sanctions, none of which would be credited here at Speech Day. It’s how we deal with our daily battles and triumphs that determine the growth of our strong moral compass. So, if you feel as if you’ve had a triumphant term for whatever reason, this is a success in itself, so well done!

Over the course of the year, James and I have had to make speeches on Open Mornings to prospective parents. I have to confess, they were not quite as daunting as today’s speech, as this is rather a bigger crowd. However, it soon emerged that speaking was not in fact a duty as such, but a pleasure. I found it easy to express my enthusiasm for Stowe because Stowe made it easy for me. As James has mentioned, we, as Stoics, are in the privileged position of being immersed in such a richly embellished community, that harbours excellence in all avenues. Stowe provides so much more than an academic education – it grants a platform for self-discovery and individual growth.

I started Stowe in the Fourth Form having come from a Grammar School in Lincolnshire. It was a necessary transition enforced by my father’s frequent military postings – he is currently a Group Captain in the Royal Air Force serving overseas. In my second term at Stowe, he was posted to Afghanistan for six months. During this particularly difficult period of time I discovered why Stowe was so special, the pastoral support from my teachers and peers was incredible and I knew then that I was part of a very special family.

We are lucky to be surrounded by various members of the Stowe community who promote a strong work ethic and whose genuine care for pupils is indescribable. So to every member of staff, thank you. This leads on to this year's Stoic award that is given to an individual who has provided an inspirational service to the School. What is special about it is that the winner is handpicked by Stoics themselves. The winner this year is a member of the Maintenance Department, whose contagious happiness makes our community that much more warm and welcoming. So, for brightening everyone's day with a simple smile, please can Darren Ridgway come up to receive the award?

Stoics, your generosity has also played a huge role in supporting communities outside our own. Your fundraising for the recent Nepal Earthquake, Cynthia Spencer Hospice, Kidscape and this year's charity The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation has been fantastic. Well done for buying 850 roses for Valentine's Day – I can safely say love really is all around us!

James: Inevitably, we are at the time where we need to say thank you to some people.

On many occasions – far too many I hate to admit – people have come up to me and said, "James, do you actually do anything as Head Boy?" Of course, I say "yes", but I can understand why they had the cheek to ask in the first place. Shannon, you have been the most supportive, enthusiastic and helpful Head Girl. It has been a pleasure to stand side by side with you over the course of the year – sorry for sounding so matrimonial.

I should also like to say thank you to all the Prefects. You have dealt, exceptionally, with the rowdy dining room queues, the morning chills of the Chapel doorway, and the many tours for parents, guests and prospective teachers. Not to mention your good humour and charisma, which have been a fine example to all Stoics. Shannon and I stand here to represent all of you, but if I had it my way, you would all be up here to be acknowledged for your service.

On the subject of Prefects, it seems a suitable time to carry out my last duty and pass the torch to next year's Head Boy. It is a pleasure to announce that next year's Head Boy will be Harry Norris. Harry, for your efforts over the last four years, you thoroughly deserve to lead the School, and the School is very lucky to have such a perceptive, amicable and modest Stoic as its leader next year. Harry, this tie is now yours.

Shannon: Working alongside James and taking on board the valued opinions of the Prefect body has been a pleasure and thank you to you, James, and the Prefects for your continued support throughout the year, it is appreciated greatly.

Also, a heartfelt thanks has to be given to Mr Wellington from myself, James and the Prefects. Not many people are aware of this, but you are Stowe's resident Superman – Henry Cavill really better watch his back! But in all seriousness, you have managed the Prefects impeccably and your sustained clarity, guidance and advice have not gone unnoticed.

It, too, has come to the time in which I must hand over to

my successor. I am delighted to announce that she is a fellow Stanhopian, whose reliability and selflessness will stand her in good stead throughout the role. I have no doubt she will do a marvellous job. Anna Fox please can you come up to collect your Head Girl necklace and bouquet of flowers.

James: I know that you can't wait for us to finish, but we would like to thank some members of staff who have been personally important to our time at Stowe.

Firstly, to my Tutor, Mr Jeffreys. Sir, you have been an inspiration, both as a Tutor and as a Chemistry teacher, and my future after Stowe would not be nearly as bright if it wasn't for you. Many Stoics owe a lot to you and it is sad that you are leaving but I wish you the best of luck after Stowe.

I would like to say thank you, to my Matron, Mrs Hill-Hall. Matron, there is a reason why we all call you 'Darling'! Things would have been a lot more of a struggle without you. It brings tears to my eyes that your full English breakfasts on a Saturday morning and smoked salmon sandwiches for tea are coming to an end!

Shannon: And to all the teachers who have offered me their words of wisdom, my experience at this School would not have been the same without you, you know who you are, and grateful doesn't even come close. Further, I would like to personally thank the Headmaster for allowing me the opportunity to be Head Girl – I have truly enjoyed every minute. And, Headmaster, your dedication to the School is admirable; your unwavering belief in every Stoic enables Stowe to grow from strength to strength.

James: It has been a delight to serve as Head Boy, and I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I should also like to thank you on behalf of the current Stoics, Old Stoics and all future Stoics, for creating such a wonderful atmosphere at Stowe. Politicians talk about a 'big tent' and it is a very big tent here at Stowe: a community that encompasses a wide range of sports, arts, academia and people and above all, a community that encourages, nurtures and celebrates us in whatever we chose to do.

Shannon: It has been an utter privilege to attend this School. To those Stoics who are familiar with the 'thought for the week', my own reflection is that for those who remain, reap the opportunities available here and show courage in the face of adversity. To those who are soon to become Old Stoics – you may be leaving Stowe but Stowe will never leave you.

James: In 1927, as a final lesson, Roxburgh advised a leaving Stoic as follows: "People will tell you to remember your school years as the best in your life; this is utter tosh" he said, "the best years are always ahead." Roxburgh may well be right, but regardless, I'm grateful that I have had five fantastic years at Stowe.

James Macdonald-Buchanan and Shannon Devlin

Damian Blewitt

Damian came to Stowe in 2008 as Head of the Maths Department after a time teaching at Dauntsey's and before that, two years teaching in South Africa, and spells at Mill Hill, Christ's Hospital and Churcher's College. Damian is a highly skilled mathematician with a degree from Bristol University and a Master's degree from Oxford, acquired while working at Stowe. The focus of his research at Oxford enabled him to lead a first-class INSET at Stowe for staff on contextualisation of mathematics and to inspire colleagues by asking them to consider how their subjects related to others.

Damian is an inspiring teacher whose use of a range of resources in the classroom helped Stoics to understand complex mathematical concepts in a way that they easily understood and as a colleague he was collaborative and encouraging. He ensured that Stoics were never spoon-fed in Maths, but encouraged and exhorted to think for themselves. He was a popular Tutor and his exam results were often outstanding.

Damian took on the role of Faculty Chair with aplomb, overseeing the Maths, Economics, Politics and Business Studies Departments and did so whilst continuing to support Stoics on the sports field as a reliable rugby referee. He has left us to be Director of Studies at Ryde College on the Isle of Wight where we wish him, his wife Sophie and his family well.



Patricia Bennett

Patricia joined Stowe in 2001 from Oxford High School and has been very much the backbone of the Maths Department since. Soon after she arrived she took over the enormous and thankless task of creating the timetable, somehow seeming to absorb and accede to most staff demands. She has often stepped up to the plate as a consummate professional both in Department and in the School and she always did so with a characteristic smile and sense of purpose. Unstintingly, she could be found doing the timings at swimming galas and athletics events. She retired in the Summer of 2014 though such is her nature when the Department needed help with the Maths teaching she came back to help us out yet again. We wish her well in her retirement enjoying the company of her children and grandchildren.



Shaun Aston

Shaun joined our History Department in 2011 with degrees from Teeside and York; he soon made an impact on the Stoics and on staff with his outstanding attitude and his unwavering commitment to Stowe. His contribution to the wider life of the School was felt in many different areas from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme to raising awareness for Amnesty International as well as tutoring. As Master in Charge of football, he raised the profile of this beloved game throughout the School.

Shaun has gone on to become Head of History at a school in Yorkshire. We wish him the very best with this promotion.

Ray Dawson

Staff Sergeant Major Ray Dawson retired in August after 22 years of service at Stowe. SSM Dawson came to us after a distinguished career in the Army culminating in appointments as Staff Assistant at Headquarters 4 Armoured Brigade and at the British Embassy in Washington. He made the Coldstream Cup the highlight of the cadets' year, created an immensely popular Cadet Patrol Competition, and created Stowe's first Obstacle Course. He also created our Adventure Training Camp in the Lake District. Former Cadets will remember him as an invaluable and always approachable confidant, someone who understood them, saw value and potential in them, and often enabled them to transform their prospects. We all wish him a long and happy retirement.

Alex de Trafford

Alex has fitted so seamlessly and authoritatively into the Modern Languages Department that it is hard to believe that he only joined us three years ago as an NQT. From the outset, he was exceptionally conscientious and well organised as well as always being prepared to launch himself enthusiastically into new challenges, such as DofE, his role in Chatham and running the XX Group so successfully. Among Alex's outstanding qualities are the ability to motivate and inspire his tutees and pupils alike and to engender a healthy, positive and old-fashioned respect for independent learning. Alex is a kind, supportive and considerate colleague, happy to share his IT and VLE expertise with Luddites like me as well as somehow finding the time to take on extra responsibilities, such as running Lower School Spanish. Just one example of Alex's many achievements was the hugely successful Fifth Form trip to Cuenca last October, which he planned entirely himself; as ever keen further to fine-tune and improve the experience, he got pupils to provide detailed feedback to the providers so that this year's trip will be even better – this is typical of his approach and he always aims for perfection in everything he does. Alex's ideas and initiatives, of which there are many, are invariably intelligent, practical and workable; he also has a wicked and irreverent sense of humour, which makes him terrific company, popular with pupils and colleagues alike. He will be very sorely missed but we wish Alex, Imogen, Max and Vivi all the very best for their new life at Marlborough, where Alex is certain to excel in his new role as Head of Spanish. Good bye Humph and good luck – don't forget us!

Mrs Kate Dickson



Kate Dickson

Kate Dickson leaves the Modern Languages Department to move to Norfolk after six impressive years as Head of Spanish. A graduate of Emmanuel College Cambridge, Kate worked as a translator and interpreter in Geneva, Italy, France and Spain and more recently taught Modern Languages at The Royal Latin in Buckingham.

Having joined in 2009 as Stowe's first Head of Spanish, Kate has guided the Department through enormous growth and development. When Kate took over the role there were just 21 pupils sitting GCSE Spanish and five taking the full A Level. As she leaves with the class of 2015, 78 pupils sat the GCSE and 13 the A2 examinations.

Kate is a phenomenal linguist, fluent in French and German as well as Spanish and her passion for foreign language, culture, history and literature have been enjoyed by colleagues and Stoics alike. She will without doubt be long remembered for her unwavering and uncompromising support of her pupils and her tutees. The time taken challenging Stoics to think for themselves and not just about the language, but about the world around them, the additional literature and grammar sessions and the hours spent supporting pupils emotionally and academically all define Kate's time at Stowe.

Kate has also been an excellent mentor to those within in her Department. The fact that the two most recent Newly Qualified Teachers both became Heads of Department within three years of starting in the profession is testament to her guidance, support and example.

I am very grateful for Kate's immense commitment and dedication to Spanish, for her innovation, ideas and support. Her time at Stowe is however best described in the words of an Old Stoic, "Mrs Dickson supported, guided and challenged me throughout my time at Stowe. She formed me not only as a linguist, but as a student, an individual and as a thinker. I am so grateful for the incredible impact that she had on my Stowe education and that she continues to have on my future."

Mrs Tracy Jones



Colin Dudgeon

There is a popular misconception in some quarters of the Common Room that fundraising is all about peeling Plover eggs and sipping vintage Dom Perignon from Murano champagne flutes while cultivating potential donors in exotic destinations. The workaday reality of the Campaign Office is about as far removed from this decadent image as it is possible to be: our benefactors prefer to see their donations being spent on supporting the School, enhancing facilities or increasing the endowment and frown on conspicuous consumption. Colin has achieved a huge amount over the last decade by raising £25m for the Campaign. Without his tenacity, perseverance and energy we would not have the new Athletics Track, Equestrian Centre, Music School, the completely refurbished Roxburgh Theatre, the transformation of Lyttelton and the significantly enhanced Science Building which is currently being developed.

Colin is a product of Campbell College, Belfast, and has a degree in Law from Brasenose Oxford. Before moving to Stowe in 2005, he had enjoyed a successful career as Marketing Director of commercial radio station, GWR Group, where he was responsible for local FM stations. He had also worked at Quaker Oats and United Biscuits as Marketing Manager and Senior Brand Manager respectively. At Stowe, Colin quickly deployed his highly tuned marketing skills in his new role as Stowe's Campaign Director. He and his dynamic team have worked closely with the Old Stoic Office and reached out to a growing community of people connected to Stowe. On his watch we have seen Friends of Stowe networks springing up in Hong Kong, Singapore and Moscow while American Friends of Stowe continues to go from



strength to strength and he will be much missed by Brian Hecht, Chair of AFS and the Board.

At Speech Day I said that a school cannot be better than its best teachers. I should have added that neither can it be better than its best support staff. It has been a privilege to work alongside Colin and we have been fortunate to have him leading the Campaign for Stowe over the last decade. So much has been achieved and his legacy is secure. The following tribute to Sir Christopher Wren can be found engraved in stone under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral: *Lector, si monumentum requiris, circumspice* (Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you). The transformation of Stowe over the last ten years owes a great deal to Colin Dudgeon and we wish him the very best of luck as he develops his career at Radley. Fortunately, Colin and Lucy are not entirely lost to the Stowe community as their two daughters will ensure that they remain very much part of the Stowe scene.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner

Sandy Smith

Fortunately for us when Sandy Smith retired from many years teaching Classics at Harrow he moved into the vicinity of Stowe. The Classics Department was in need of another teacher and Sandy graciously stepped in to help with both Latin and Greek. He was a master of the traditional style with a firm grounding in both language and literature, yet delivered with a warm smile and a sense of fun. He was most helpful in supporting Michael Bevington with Classics trips and lectures. We wish him well in his full retirement and no doubt we will see him at Stowe Parish Church in the future.



Paul Thomas

Paul joined Stowe in September 2013 to teach Economics for two years. Stowe was the most recent in a long list of Independent Schools where Paul had taught Economics and Politics and we were delighted to secure him for he brought a slightly unorthodox approach to his teaching. He was valued by his pupils and he in turn found Stoics both engaging and good company both inside and outside the classroom. He took over the running of Clay Pigeon Shooting though he didn't shoot, and he entered into competitions with characteristic enthusiasm and panache. We wish him well at Headington School, Oxford.

Kasey Howard

Kasey has been with us for two years and during that time she has made a very firm mark on all who have had the privilege of working with her. She came to us in 2013 as a lacrosse coach and she finished as an Under Housemistress, Third Form Tutor, cricket coach, PE teacher, U14 and 2nd team lacrosse coach and a teacher of sign language.

However, you might not know that she is a twin and was born with cerebral palsy. Fortunately this only affected her muscles and she is significantly shorter on her left side with one foot two sizes smaller than the other. She actually has a photo taken by her Dad when she was born as his wedding ring was able to slide up her arm and over the top of her shoulder! She lived in the shadows of her very sporting twin sister, Alison for many years and her Mother's approach to school was "if you want Alison to take part in anything then you have to take Kasey as well". So Kasey played on all of the sporting teams just like her sister until she reached an age when the coaches had to explain to her Mother that the competition was going to be too tough for Kasey to play and there would no longer be a place for her on the team. One day they asked if anyone would like to play in goal and Kasey stepped forward... and from that day onwards the doors opened for her in her own right. She became one of the top goalkeepers in the US and played for Maryland, a Division One side, as they became National Champions. There is no hiding from the fact that our Stowe goalkeepers are representing National sides because of the coaching they have received and that the Stowe staff have beaten the 1st team only because no girl can get a shot past her!

Kasey epitomises everything we want for our own children: no matter what life throws at you and no matter what problems we face – you will find your own path so long as you stay positive and believe in yourself.

Kasey – thank you for your talent, understanding, hard work, sense of humour and willingness to do anything we have ever asked.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



Lewis Brito-Babapulle

Lewis joined Stowe in September 2012, having worked at St Benedict's School, Ealing, where he was a Teaching Assistant in the Music Department and Organist to the Abbey Choir of Ealing Abbey. Lewis' strong academic pedigree includes a first class Music degree and a Distinction in his Master of Studies, both from Oxford. He spent five years training and qualifying to be a solicitor before deciding that city life was not for him and then refocusing as an organist and teacher.

Lewis is very highly regarded as a keyboard teacher, organist and composer and he worked at GCSE and A Level with great success and his wide knowledge and understanding of musical genres enabled him to talk knowledgeably about both classical and popular music. His particular interest in electronic music and the use of ICT in music played an instrumental role in the development of Music Technology at Stowe. His pupils enjoyed his obvious enthusiasm and contributions to music both inside and outside the classroom.

Lewis' contribution to Stowe was not limited to the Music Department and his role as a Fourth Form Tutor, as well as his position as a resident Under Housemaster in Chandos was valued by House staff and Chandosians alike. He was always approachable, affable and indeed, something of a bon viveur. Lewis left Stowe at Christmas 2014 to take up the position of Head of Academic Music at Trinity School of John Whitgift.

Simon Dearsley

It is seven years ago that Simon was interviewed for the post of Director of Music and immediately impressed us with his energy and vision. Of course, he was promised a new Music School and it is to his great and long-lasting credit that the move from the Queen's Temple and outlying rooms in the Roxy to a brand new, state of the art Music School became a reality. With the input of the whole Music Department, Simon planned the new facilities for the architects to create not just a new Temple to the Arts, but one with fine acoustics in the Ugland Auditorium, more than enough music practice and teaching rooms, equipped with fine Steinway pianos, plus recording equipment and studios. Most importantly, the Chung Music School is in constant use for teaching, practice, recitals and concerts by Stoics and visiting musicians.

Staff and Stoics will not forget the his productions of Sandy Wilson's 'The Boyfriend', Sondheim's 'Company' or Menotti's 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' to name but a few. Simon played the keyboard (organ, piano and harpsichord) with consummate ease either as soloist or accompanist and directed choirs, orchestras and ensembles. Many Stoics have reason to be grateful to him as he coached them for entry to the finest Music Academies and Colleges. We shall miss his presence as he and his wife, Philippa, move to Barnard Castle School where he can begin to weave his musical magic anew.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Léo Sonnet

I first met Léo on a visit to the Sorbonne Nouvelle, one of Paris' finest universities, back in February 2014. He immediately struck me as someone with great linguistic flair, well travelled and keen to spend a year discovering what life was like in an English Boarding School. And this is just what he did this year at Stowe. He lived in Chatham where he did duties once a week, he also worked a couple of evenings in the Library, but most importantly, he helped prepare mainly Lower Sixth Stoics for their oral exam in May. This he did with gusto, sharing his knowledge of the French language and culture, enabling Stoics to develop their fluency and become confident speakers on a number of topics. He will also be remembered for being a particularly sporty assistant, always on the go, willing to give most sports a try. On behalf of Liam Copley in Chatham, Carol Miller in the Library and all of us in MFL, I would like to thank him for all his hard work and wish him all the best for his Masters in Paris next year.

Mrs Kate Dickson

Maria Macías Rosado

Maria joined us in September 2013 and proved to be such a wonderful assistant that we managed to persuade her to stay on at Stowe for a second year. She has worked tirelessly with our Sixth Formers to inspire and motivate them to greater fluency and confidence in Spanish and is a great stickler for accurate use of grammar – music to my ears! Maria knows her pupils well as individuals and is keen to identify areas in which they can improve with her expert support. She has also worked hard with our Lower School pupils, whose pronunciation and intonation have benefited immensely, as well as helping out with *Stovevista* Spanish magazine and various Language Society events. Over the past two years, Maria has proved herself to be exceptionally well organised and generous with her time, always agreeing to whatever is asked of her with a smile. We will all miss her cheerful presence in the Department and wish her all the very best for her new business venture in Cádiz.

Mrs Kate Dickson



Christopher McGhee

It was stroke of good fortune that Chris came to work at Stowe. A chance meeting over a lunch made such an impression that Chris was offered the role of a graduate assistant in the Design and Technology Department. He now leaves us as a fully qualified teacher where he will embark on the next stage of his career at Guilford High School.

Chris is the consummate professional. As a teacher of Design and Technology he has inspired his pupils to always give of their best. He is creative, adaptable, always reflecting on what is going on in his lessons to ensure that his pupils have the best educational experience possible. Under the tutelage of Mr Peratopoulos they have formed an amazing team over the last three years that has continually raised the standards of Graphics in this Department. The quality of work supported by the depth of understanding of his examination pupils is outstanding. He has a passion for teaching and we are lucky that he has been here, all be it for a relatively short space of time. Pupils are at the centre of all that Chris does whether in the classroom, in the rooms of Cobham House where he has been a resident Tutor or out on the sports fields of Stowe. It is genuinely all about them.

A keen sportsman, he is passionate about football and has not only run very successful School teams but has been the driving force in organising staff on Monday evenings to join together in the Drayson for five-a-side matches. Many a Tuesday morning have we heard about “the best goal ever” or “the best assist ever”.

I am sure that he will be upset to leave his Cobham Third Form (as they will be that he is going) where he has diligently and conscientiously mentored these Stoics, once again inspiring and motivating them to always look to improve. He has been a tremendous role model and many have demonstrated real academic improvement due to his support and guidance.

Chris will be a loss to Stowe and Guildford’s gain. We all wish him the very best as he makes the move and will look for his star to shine bright in the teaching profession in the future.

Mr Matthew Smith



Carol Miller

While the poet Geoffrey Chaucer may have written that “a monk out his cloister is not worth an oyster”, the arrival of Carol and Paul Miller from Worth Abbey, brought us, in her Librarianship and many other roles, a pearl of great price. For the first time for many years we have had a professional Librarian who catalogued and checked the stock, provided a patient and helpful voice to the users of the Library for all Stoics and colleagues, and who gave wise counsel and lent a sensitive ear to generations of Harvard Fellows, whom she mentored, and to colleagues.

Carol’s greatest feat as Librarian was to oversee and put up with the temporary move of essential stock to Chapel Court classrooms, while the green netting (to prevent chunks of plaster falling on our heads) and under which she had lived, was removed and the Library restored to its current gilded glory. She planned the move and was closely involved with the design of the splendid new desks and chairs which grace the Library. Today it is firmly the academic hub of the School and with the introduction of project work from Third Form to Sixth Form, its information provision (books, periodicals and the internet) will continue to serve the whole School. She has provided intelligent and challenging Study Skills for Tutors to use with their tutees.

Carol has been very much more to Stowe, the Harvard Fellows have been grateful to her as a mentor to whom to turn in times of need or stress. Many have remained personal friends and always ask after her when I meet up with them in the US. She has also been a superlative Tutor, working with Junior girls, advising them academically and personally but also, when necessary, providing the tough love to build up their resilience.

As President of the Common Room she handled staff matters with sensitivity and care. Having one’s ear bent by Carol, who cared so much about her friends and colleagues, was never painful and much was often resolved quietly and without rancour. She was often aware of stresses in others, at times at some cost to herself, so retirement at the same time as Paul, I know, will bring her time to concentrate on her family, garden and personal interests. We wish both her and Paul well and, personally, I look forward to more good meals and glasses of wine in their caring, humorous and intelligent company.

Mr Crispin Robinson

Richard Pickersgill

Richard joined Stowe as our Hockey Professional in 2003 and gained NQT status a few years after. A valued member of the Sports Science Department, Richard was known for working long days and taking on a large workload. He had the unenviable task of managing the GCSE exam entries and co-ordinating the controlled assessment, ensuring that Stoics were well-prepared for both the theory and practical exams.

Outside the classroom, Richard was the Assistant Housemaster in Walpole and was extremely valued by both the House team and the Walpudlians for his loyalty, encouragement and unstinting support. On the sportsfield he was Master in Charge of Hockey, coaching the top boys' and girls' teams, as well as coaching cricket in the Summer term. It is due to his efforts over the years that hockey has been such a successful sport at Stowe.

Running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme took Richard outside School, and his passion for outward bound activities led him to organise the annual trip to Iceland for Stoics where they try white water rafting, glacier hiking and ice climbing. He also ran the Anacreon Society, Stowe's version of 'Come Dine with Me', which was often an amusing and entertaining gastronomic evening for all the participants.

For a number of years he was the Common Room President who managed, with diplomacy and tact, the difficult task of looking after the staff during their busy lives at Stowe. He will also be much missed on the golf course by his golfing partners and in many other areas of the School and we hope will enjoy his new and more relaxed life with his family in the East Midlands.



Tom Higham

Tom joined Stowe in 2009 as fresh-faced, young graduate assistant and quickly made his mark in Walpole as Under Housemaster, in ICT as a very enthusiastic teacher and on the rugby pitch as an eager and inspiring coach. Over the years he passed his PGCE and became a qualified teacher, teaching both ECDL and GCSE ICT as well as successfully introducing AS Computing into the Sixth Form. His is, without question, the best dressed teacher at Stowe and Walpole will be a sadder place without his cheery calls of "alreet boys" echoing down the corridors. We are very sorry to be losing him but he will have a fantastic career at Merchant Taylors' School in Liverpool as their Head of ICT and he also embarks on a new era of his life as he and his lovely girlfriend, Jess, have just bought their first house together in the North West, their spiritual home!

Mr Pete Last

Shelby Davis

Shelby joined us two years ago as a lacrosse coach straight out of College. In her time here Shelby has developed a reputation as someone who likes a challenge, she doesn't look for the easy way out, she doesn't take short cuts – she just gets on with it. Shelby has also helped out in Biology, Chemistry and Skills and I know the pupils and staff have appreciated her enthusiasm and patience.

I will personally miss Shelby next year, her helpfulness and reliability in Queen's has been just what I needed on my first year. The girls in Queen's will truly miss her support, wisdom and advice; she has been an outstanding tutor and worked fantastically well with Carol.

Shelby leaves us to embark on a Masters in criminology and criminal justice at Durham University.

Mrs Fiona James



James Hayden

James studied History at Bristol and undertook his PGCE at Oxford whilst at Stowe. He quickly established himself as an outstanding teacher with a deep passion for his subject and possessed of enormous energy and enthusiasm. Although his degree was in Ancient History, he quickly adapted his knowledge to encompass Early Modern and Modern world history and became something of a Tudor specialist.

An impressive performer in the classroom, he was rightly appointed Head of History in 2011, a role to which he gave enormous commitment, passion and zeal, helping to improve the Department's results. Outside the classroom, he led the History Society in many an interesting meeting and promoted the much sought after McElwee prize to ambitious Stoics hoping to fund their knowledge of cultural and historical sites in Europe. In 2012, James was appointed Faculty Chair of Humanities where he managed other Heads of Departments with both tact and firmness. His sane and thoughtful approach and views were widely respected at Faculty level.

In the life of the School, James proved himself a superb all-round schoolmaster, as a residential House Tutor and Assistant Housemaster in Grafton. He is a superb coach of sport and was key in creating our very successful 1st XV rugby squad – his passion about this sport clearly rubbed off on his team.

James goes on to take up the position of Housemaster at Cheltenham College and we wish him, his wife Sarah and all the family, the very best in their new life in Gloucestershire.



Paul Miller

The outstanding contribution made to Stowe School from Dr Paul Miller has been immense, varied and yet always consistently accomplished. Paul joined the English Department as its new leader in September 2003. He and his delightful wife Carol had joined Stowe from Worth College in Sussex where he had been for 23 years.

His very sharp analytical and sublime intellect, combined with an imaginative warm approach and his razor sharp wit, made him an instant favourite in the Common Room and marked him out as an exceptionally gifted, talented and distinguished teacher and subject leader.

Away from the rigours, demands and tribulations of the English Department his skills and talents have been put to most effective use as a respected and valued Sixth Form Tutor, where his sound and sensible advice for his young charges was always gratefully received and appreciated by the Stoics themselves, their Housemasters and Housemistresses and of course the parents.

His school reports and UCAS statements are works of art; they are highly succinct, well observed, pertinent and relevant observations on the merits, achievements and frailties of each particular Stoic he teaches and advises.

Paul would very often ride up to the Bourbon on his bicycle, in full refs kit (including in the early days his own cards) and handle a varied

selection of Inter-House games and School fixtures, with consummate style, skill and assured authority.

His leadership of the Literary Society has been nothing short of remarkable in his time with us and memorable highlights include wonderful evenings spent in the esteemed company of such distinguished names including Sir Peter Hall, Carol Ann Duffy, Sir Jonathan Bate, Anthony Penrose and Simon Armitage.

His organisation, participation and passion for our own annual celebration of Shakespeare's Birth, Bill's Birthday Bash, has been another well received, appreciated and eclectic event and I will personally make sure that both he and Carol are invited back as our very special guests of honour next April.

I would like to wish Paul and Carol every happiness, contentment and fulfilment in their well-deserved retirement.

Mr Nick Bayley

Varshini Rajkumar

Varshini came to us from Queen's College, Oxford with a Masters in Chemistry in September 2014. She trained for her PGCE with the University of Buckingham with sound support from James Tearle and Rory Akam. She was instrumental in helping West House develop in its first year, providing a receptive ear to the new pupils in the House and being an utterly supportive member of the House team. She had an excellent rapport with the Stoics and was proactive in establishing the character of West House. We wish her well in her new post at St Gabriel's, Newbury where undoubtedly she will continue to develop her teaching and pastoral care.



Daren Jeffreys

Daren arrived at Stowe in 2001 with his wife Sarah who had been appointed as Housemistress of Lyttelton. Daren rose through the ranks to become Head of Chemistry where he made his mark in creating the leading Science Department in the School. He was outstanding as a Sixth Form Tutor, writing superb references for UCAS forms with a fluency and range of vocabulary rarely found. He fought for Chemistry as a good Head of Department should, and was active with the younger members of the Common Room in their social events. Many Stowe Chemists have reason to be grateful to Daren for the exemplary exam results at GCSE and A Level and for further success in gaining many places at Oxbridge. There is no doubt that Daren was only the latest in a line of remarkable Heads of Chemistry and his move to Aylesbury High School as Science Curriculum Manager created a vacuum which should be easier to fill, given the Department's outstanding reputation and the new Science building both of which Daren worked so hard to achieve.



Alice Brodie

Alice joined us as a Graduate Trainee in September 2014 with a First Class Degree in Geography from Durham. Although she decided not to become a teacher and she left us in summer 2015 to study for a Masters in Chartered Surveying at Reading, a year at Stowe showed she had all the makings of an excellent teacher.

She covered some Third Form classes exuding confidence and fostering a great deal of enthusiasm. Her can-do attitude in supporting the Geography Department was also evident in her coaching of hockey and netball and helping out in the CCF. Alice was also Under Housemistress of Stanhope where she gave valuable support to girls in her care.

Michael Chilazi

Michael stood out at the Harvard Fellows' interviews in a cold February 2014. Completing his degree in Neurobiology and Global Health and although destined for the medical world, it was his lively wit and engaging charm, his management of Model United Nations (MUN) around the world and his passion for teaching that put him at the top of our list. He loved working and living in Grenville where, in addition to his world-wide experiences, he was introduced to matters Yorkshire. He taught Third and Fourth Form Math(s) with care and thought, doing his best to market algebra as accessible and harmless! He organised our first MUN team, leading a delegation to compete in Madrid where the Stoics drew plaudits. Of course he was expected to coach basketball and tennis and he advised Stoics considering degrees at North American universities. Above all, he threw himself enthusiastically and without complaint into the life of the School and Common Room so, while he trains as a doctor back in the US, we hope that his happy memories of his all too brief year with us sustain him in the hurly burly of a junior doctor's training.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Matthew Perriss

Matt joined us in April 2012 as Head of Geography. He set up a General Studies programme but found more interest and enthusiasm in running the polo team with many notable victories. His lessons were always upbeat and results within the Department continued to be as good as we had come to expect. Together with Gemma Fordham he organised the highly successful trip to China on which many Stoics learned much about commerce and bartering. Matt has returned to teach Geography at his old school, The King's School Macclesfield.



Benjamin Goutmann

Benjamin joined Stowe two years ago. Having spent some time as a French Assistant in a primary school nearby, he wanted to extend his stay in England and gain some experience in the secondary sector. We were fortunate he accepted the job and even more delighted when he decided to extend his stay for another year. Finding someone who has a good rapport with pupils, is easy to work with as a colleague and knows the syllabus inside out is fantastic, having them stay an extra year and induct the newcomer is a bonus. Throughout these two years, Benjamin has been an oasis of calm in this busy place that is Stowe. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him, and he didn't only assist pupils, but busy staff as well, offering in class support and one to one lessons when nearing controlled assessment time. Never fazed by anything or anyone, Benjamin successfully coached mainly Upper Sixth Stoics through their oral exams, enabling them to access top grades in their oral exam last August. We will miss his wisdom and good nature and wish him all the best for his future career as a primary school teacher.

Mrs Kate Dickson

Tom O'Toole

Tom O'Toole joined the Physics Department in September 2008 where he was a reliable teacher of a difficult subject. In 2009 he went on an exchange to Scotch College, Australia for the year from which he returned with a more relaxed approach to his pupils.

Tom was thorough as a Tutor and always supportive of his tutees. He built up resources in the Department and produced very helpful revision booklets for his exam years.

Tom left us at Easter 2015 for a post at Bradfield College.



Gemma Fordham

Gemma joined us in 2011 to teach Business Studies in the Sixth Form. She brought vitality to the Department and encouraged all to consider her subject for A Level. She joined Stanhope as Assistant Housemistress after a year where she coped well and formed excellent relationships with the girls in the House. Her knowledge of Mandarin bore fruit when she accompanied the Geography trip to China which was a resounding success. Sadly she left us in December 2014 for a teaching post at Bloxham and since then has moved on to be a Housemistress at Downe House.

Obituary

Michael Philip Dawson
8 July 1956 – 18 October 2014

Mike Dawson taught Mathematics at Stowe in two different stints; 1986-1991 and 2007-2014. In the intervening years he taught just across the Bourbon at Akeley Wood, where he became Deputy Head and acting Headmaster. He will thus be remembered fondly by two distinct cohorts of Stoics and by many local ex-Akeley pupils. Mike was an expert Maths teacher and he employed straightforward delivery coupled with an intuitive understanding of where pupils might struggle. His own early academic leanings were towards Art and Sports Science, only later completing a Maths degree, and this perhaps explains his empathy with those who found the subject challenging. He was universally liked and appreciated by his pupils and tutees. Mike's Head of Department at Stowe, Damian Blewitt, writes:

"To be a teacher you have to be a little strange. To be a Mathematician you are probably going to be a little peculiar. Therefore Maths teachers are always going to be weird bar the rare exception. Mike was the rare exception. There was no pretence or dismissiveness or exclusion; Mike was sincere, warm and supportive to all around him and most importantly normal. His presence around the Maths Department was always reassuringly calming. When I saw him first thing in the morning he would open with his regular "Morning Boss" followed by a big grin while his dog Frank leapt all over me – clearly he had taught the phrase "Morning Boss" to be a trigger phrase for Frank. Lessons were a joy for his classes; they all enjoyed working and many left the classroom without realising how much progress they had made. His touch in the classroom was perfect; he knew when to push and when to hold back and always achieved fantastic results. More than once in the review of the previous year's results the huge spike in the Mathematics results had again come from pupils in Mr Dawson's classes. He was brilliant with the younger Stoics and inspiring to the unmotivated; he was challenging to the able and encouraging to the less confident. All in the Department miss him dearly; I feel extremely lucky to have worked with him."

Away from the classroom Mike devoted a great deal of time to sports coaching, particularly athletics, both at School and at Milton Keynes Athletics Club. Mike was a gifted hurdles coach and also contributed a great deal to rugby at Stowe; particularly coaching and refereeing. He enjoyed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, guiding groups of Stoics in some of the more mountainous parts of Britain. Mike also participated in School expeditions to Nepal. In his first period at Stowe he was Under Housemaster in Bruce when Mike Waldman was Housemaster and in his second Mike was a Sixth Form Tutor, guiding many Stoics through the university application process and writing superbly crafted references.



Mike was a consummate professional and he ensured everything was done on time and to the highest standards. He was also a balanced individual and he understood that there has to be a trade-off between work and life; indeed this drove his decision to forsake management and return to the classroom full time. Mike relished holidays and he and his wife Mandy travelled extensively, usually combining glamorous locations with activities such as windsurfing and mountain biking.

I met Mike when I arrived at Stowe in 1988. We quickly became firm friends and we seemed to have the same ideas about work, sport, music and the like. We spent much time playing a variety of sports, particularly rugby for Buckingham, and Mike was adept at everything from squash to darts – he also held a black belt in Shotokan karate (which I always found reassuring on a night out in the badlands of Buckingham). We fished for tench in the Stowe lakes and for pollock off the north west of Scotland, went windsurfing, running and weight training. Mike's knowledge of, and interest in, contemporary music was phenomenal and we spent many nights in Nottingham's Rock City and other venues seeing acts like Faith No More, Spear of Destiny, Neil Young, the Black Keys and Sparklehorse. Mike loved Bruce Springsteen's music and saw him virtually every time he toured the UK. His tastes were fairly eclectic, but he definitely drew the line at jazz and opera. It has to be said we also spent a good deal of time in pubs and curry houses, for real ale plus hot curry equals contentment, was an equation Mike subscribed to. Mike remained fit and active until a few weeks before his untimely death and he and Mandy spent much time working out together and making friends at Crossfit in Northampton.

Mike will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him; he was one of the finest people I've ever met and if you would like to evoke a little of the spirit of 'Dawse' may I suggest you listen to something by The War on Drugs, White Denim, or similar, at considerable volume.

Mr Rory Akam

Academic Report

The academic year began with a celebration of some excellent results from the summer 2014 exams. It was our best ever performance at GCSE, with 100% of Stoics achieving at least five A*-C grades and 42% of all GCSEs taken being awarded an A* or A. It was also an excellent year for A Level results, with 68.4% of Stoics achieving A*-B in their A Levels, and 36% of all A Levels taken being awarded A* or A. 57 Stoics gained places to study at Russell Group universities.

We also retain our position as one of the best schools in the country when it comes down to Value Added scores (according to our ALPS data) and Stowe has been recognised as being within the top 10% of performance nationally in this regard. Departments which deserve special mention for outstanding Value Added results are Art, Design and Technology (Graphics, Product Design and Textiles), Drama, History, ICT and Russian. These impressive achievements were a great way to celebrate the start of the new academic year. In the first assembly in September we awarded 18 honorary Academic Scholarships to pupils for achieving four A grades at AS, or eight A* grades or more at GCSE, as well as awarding 34 sets of Academic Colours to those who achieved six A*'s or more, or eight A grades or more, at GCSE.

Despite these impressive achievements, there has been no resting on academic laurels. Research over the past ten years in neuroscience, psychology and coaching has now definitively proven that with the right approach, anyone (young or old) can grow their skills in any field – and that a growth mindset and purposeful practice are much more powerful in leading to high achievement than any innate talent. As part of the drive for academic excellence a new initiative in the Lower School has been introduced called the Open Scholars' Programme. This is a series of lectures, events and seminars that are run either through Departments or centrally and which explore areas either outside or well beyond the Lower School exam curriculum.

In the Sixth Form one of the best vehicles for Stoics to stretch themselves academically is the Extended Project Qualification, or EPQ. This is a qualification which is worth the equivalent of half an A Level and is done on a voluntary basis by many of our most ambitious Stoics. It consists of a pupil-designed project which can take the form of either a dissertation of around 5,000 words, or an artefact (in its widest sense – for instance this could be a piece of art or design, a performance, survey or computer programme) with a written analysis of the journey to the outcome. The most important aspect of the EPQ is that it is pupil-led, with a supervisor merely acting as a port of call for general advice and guidance. Completing an EPQ takes genuine commitment and drive and universities rightly regard it as a good indicator of a pupil who will flourish in the less monitored atmosphere of university study. This year Stowe has had thirteen pupils in the Upper

Sixth complete an EPQ. We have also decided this year to make changes so that pupils start the qualification in the Lower Sixth, so that they will have had the chance to do their reading and research in time to refer to it in their university applications. There are now around twenty Stoics in the Lower Sixth who are hoping to complete before next Christmas, as well as (impressively) sixteen Fourth Form Stoics who are on course to add this A Level qualification to their GCSE records!

With the Govian education reforms now cemented by the results of the last election, those entering the Sixth Form next September will be facing a somewhat confusing mixture of assessments. In English, all the Sciences, Computer Science, History, Art, Economics and Business Studies there will no longer be modular AS exams which count for half of the A Level. Instead there will be exams at the end of the two year course. All other subjects, however, remain modular (though linear exams will be phased in over the next two years). As a result of these changes, many schools have decided to encourage their pupils to study only three subjects. We would like Stoics to continue to have more choices than this, and we also believe most universities will prefer to see pupils complete more than just three A Levels. Stoics will therefore continue to start with four subjects, but will have the choice to drop one after the first term if they decide (after having a good taste of it) that they do not wish to carry on for the full two years.

Perhaps the most exciting curriculum change for next September is not being imposed by governmental reforms. Next year, as part of their core programme, every Stoic who joins us in the Third Form will have lessons devoted to the new 'Vanguard Programme'. This will be a vehicle for helping pupils to develop an understanding of how learning happens and how challenge (and also failure) is essential to making progress. It will also provide the opportunity to encourage Stoics to look beyond the confines of the examined curriculum, to see how their studies are interconnected and how they relate to the 'real' world. It is designed to foster inquisitiveness and genuine independence as learners. Throughout the year they will work both as individuals and in teams and will be encouraged to read, think, innovate and take risks, and reflect on their progress. By the end of the Third Form they will have designed a proposal for the individual project which they will pursue across the next year and a half as a Higher Project Qualification or EPQ.

2014-2015 has been a year of fantastic achievements in the classroom, the lab and the studio. Stoics are beginning more and more to reach out for learning opportunities and we have been thrilled seeing what they can achieve. There are exciting times ahead!

Dr Julie Potter, Director of Studies

Mathematics

*Stoics at the
'Maths Feast' at
Warwick*



This year has been a whirlwind of change and discovery, excitement and sadness. In September we were faced with the distressing news that Mike Dawson was seriously ill and would not be returning. Mike had been with the Department since 2007 (his second stint) and was well loved by us all; his tragic passing shortly afterwards certainly cast a heavy shadow and the abrupt departure of Vishes Kothari to return to India also placed significant pressure on the Department. However, the new faces belonging to Mr Wayne Whittaker and Mr Michael Chilazi (our Harvard Fellow) raised spirits and the Department regrouped with some new initiatives in our teaching and learning.

Results from the summer indicated the Department to be in excellent health; highlights included four A*-As from the Double Mathematicians and A*s from Hannah Dixon (Nugent 14), George Jackman (Cobham 14) and Chris Parsonson (Chatham 14). They and everyone else worked incredibly hard to attain some splendid results. The Lower Sixth saw an unprecedented 100% in 14 modules, Caspar Whitehead (Upper Sixth, Walpole) personally accounting for five of them) with 98% or higher in a further eight modules. GCSE results were in keeping with previous years although the holy grail of 100% pass rate remains elusive for another year at least.

Away from the external examinations the Department continued to push pupils to improve mental resilience and creative thinking through empowering them to explore topics and bring issues to the classroom for discussion. This move towards the development of our pupils into independent, resourceful intellects has already begun to bear fruit with a buzz in the Gibbons building and significant participation in extra-curricular Mathematics either as extension, or support or simple further enjoyment of Mathematics. The Puzzle Day for the Third Form offered them the chance to explore Maths in the context of group problems in the selection of suitable strategies for optimal solutions. Fifty of the Fifth Form attended a 'Maths Inspiration' lecture in Birmingham where they were introduced to applications of maths that all too often seem counterintuitive. This year also saw the introduction of the inaugural Inter-House Mathematics competition (organised by Mr Tony McDaid). It was a fiercely fought contest with great spirit from all Houses. Bruce came third, Queen's second and Stanhope took home the honours and the Mike Dawson Mathematics Trophy.

There has been much competition with pupils outside Stowe. On an individual level, 29 Sixth Formers were entered into the Senior Maths Challenge in the Michaelmas term. They returned with three gold awards from Tom Dixon (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Caspar Whitehead and Charlton Kerr (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Caspar and Tom both qualified for the Kangaroo round, performing well. Six Stoics from the Third Form to the Fifth Form were entered for the Intermediate Maths Challenge in the

Lent term with gold awards achieved by Skye Longworth (Fifth Form, Nugent), Emily Osborne (Fifth Form, Queen's), Anna Wilson (Fifth Form, Queen's), Toby Lawrance (Fifth Form, Cobham) and Jeongyun Kim (Third Form, Walpole). Skye, Emily, Anna and Jeongyun were invited back for the Kangaroo round where a fantastic effort from Anna saw her awarded a merit for her efforts.

In recent years, the Maths Department has built up the level of participation in team competitions; this year we entered teams at both Senior and Intermediate level. In the Sixth Form Caspar Whitehead, Egor Turjev (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Milla Harvey-Scholes (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Dot Holt (Lower Sixth, Queen's) competed against 19 other schools coming a credible 11th; Mr McDaid commented that the standard of the opposition was some of the strongest seen in recent years. In the Fourth Form Mr Whittaker and Mr Chilazi took eight Mathematicians: Dilyara Adilkhanova (Stanhope), Alexey Sviridov (Grenville), Matthew Barnes-Murphy (Bruce), Ingrid Galler (Lyttelton), James Carley (Chandos), James Pocklington (Grenville), Thomas Mayhew (Grafton) and Freddie Woods (Chatham) to a 'Maths Feast' at Warwick. Having organised themselves into two teams of four, they competed against 18 other schools with the A team coming an impressive eighth overall.

As we now approach the end of this academic year the Maths Department says a reluctant farewell to Mr Michael Chilazi who returns to America although not before leaving three immensely grateful classes who have thoroughly enjoyed his enthusiastic and well prepared lessons. We also say goodbye to Mrs Rosemary Trace who once again is trying to retire from Maths teaching – she tried last year and, to quote Michael Corleone “just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in”, she was immediately recruited back into the Department. This year she is determined to step down and we say an extremely fond farewell to her. Mrs Tricia Bennett is also retiring this year as grandchildren seem to have become more important than timetabling (can't think why). Tricia has been the rock upon which the Maths Department has been built and I, for one, cannot thank her enough for all she done (or reminded me to do). This is also my last year as I move offshore to the Isle of Wight and leave the Department in the most capable hands of Mr Mikkel Møller. I never thought that there would ever be a job that I would enjoy every aspect of, but here, surrounded by the exceptional staff (academic and support) and Stoics, I haven't just enjoyed it – I have loved it. Thank you.

Mr Damian Blewitt, Head of Maths



English

It has been an exciting year in English, with new members of staff – Mr Parnaby and Mr Purves – as well as significant changes in terms of what we teach. The Fourth Form have started the new IGCSE course which they are already half way through, while we are getting ready to teach the new linear A Level, where all examinations are sat at the end of the Upper Sixth.

In our external examinations, the Department has had both cause to celebrate and to grumble, as English continues to be a subject under considerable political scrutiny, producing results which we do not always think have been fair to our pupils. However, the 100% A*-C in English Literature last summer was a particular plus point, highlighting how well Stoics engage with a subject which is often considered more challenging than English Language. For the latter, we were again frustrated with what seems to be overly zealous marking of examination scripts, although with November re-takes and active lobbying for re-marks we have almost matched our clean pass rate in Literature. A Level results were on a par with last year's, with some excellent individual results and some slightly more disappointing ones from others.

The Department has had a particularly busy year with extra-curricular activities as we have enjoyed the Valedictory Senior Literary Society programme of Dr Miller, who retires this year. Other than some excellent speakers, performing poets and performances, the annual Bill's Birthday Bash, celebrating the birthday of William Shakespeare, proved to be a particular highlight with a wonderful mixture of staff and pupil performances in the outdoor amphitheatre of the Chung Music School. The highlights were a hilarious performance of a scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (where improvisation mixed with the bard's original language created even greater comic effect) and an electrifying performance of Faustus'

last speech from Marlowe's 'Dr Faustus'. The committee of the 'Lit Soc' – William Dinsdale (Upper Sixth, Temple), Ayesha Shaheen (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Barnaby Cloud (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Alexander Potts (Upper Sixth, Chatham) – deserve a special mention this year for their excellent work in ensuring the society not only ran smoothly but also had lively pupil participation.

As part of the academic programme for Third Form, we again enjoyed the Headmaster's Recital Competition, this time in the Lent term, where pupils recite challenging poems by heart. It was particularly pleasing to see pupils taking on more demanding poems to learn and we will be continuing to encourage our pupils to push their literary limits. This year's competition was won jointly by Ivan Titov (Third Form, Chandos) and Jamie Baillie (Third Form, Cobham) – whose respective renditions of Edward Thomas' 'Adlestrop' and Kipling's 'If' had the audience spellbound.

Next year will see two new members of the Department – Mrs Philippa Kitchen who joins us from the School's International Department and Mr Jack Palmer who has been studying for an MPhil at the University of Cambridge over the past academic year.

Finally, special mention must be made of Dr Paul Miller who retires from the profession after 12 years of service to the Department and the School as a whole. He will be much missed by his pupils for his passion for literature, phenomenal knowledge of the texts and an unstinting energy and dedication to teaching. We will also greatly miss Mrs Carol Miller, the School Librarian, who is also retiring, who, as an honorary member of the Department has brought so much to our and the pupils' love of literature. We wish them well in their retirement together.

Mr William Goldsmith, Head of English

Science

This has been an exhilarating year in Science, certainly the busiest and most exciting that I can remember in the 25 years that I have been at Stowe. It started with designing the layout and facilities needed in the proposed project to extend and refurbish the Science building. This helped to crystallise our aspirations about what we wanted to do in Science in the future. It also allowed us to plan even better facilities that put people at the heart of our plans by creating the spaces for Stoics and staff necessary to foster even greater enrichment and discussion across the Sciences both inside and outside classes.

Next came the many fundraising events we held, which gave us the chance to celebrate what we do and to share the joy of Science. During the events it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces of Old Stoics whom we remembered from when they themselves were in science classes here at Stowe. We are extremely grateful for the very generous support that so many people have given to make our plans a reality – thank you! It was very gratifying to see such a great and broad interest in Science shown by our visitors and to hear of the many Old Stoics who have continued to pursue scientific interests and careers since leaving Stowe.

Our focus this year has been to extend our enrichment opportunities and our Sixth Form scientists have responded with great enthusiasm and commitment. The high altitude balloon launch gave Stoics the chance to plan and implement the project which required a range of skills from deciding what data to collect, how to do it and design the payload – ensuring it actually got off the ground. The height achieved plus data and photos the team collated were quite spectacular and the recovery team tracked the

balloon via GPS. They rendezvoused right on target having taken into account the wind speeds at different altitudes. The new Robotics Club had staggering success in their first year of competition, doing very well in the Regional rounds to achieve a place at the National Final. They went on to gain third place in the country, only just missing out on the opportunity to compete in the International Finals in the USA. This is their goal for next year and the planning, programming and building has already started.

The Stowe Science Review has gone from strength to strength, expanding their writing team and producing fascinating articles. The magazines, which they write, edit and desktop publish themselves, are of an extremely high quality and contain many fascinating articles, so well done to all involved. Not to be outdone, the Quantum Society has also had one of its busiest years with many great presentations by members, visiting speakers and trips out of School. The level of discussion at their meetings has been very high and the depth of understanding and interest shown by the members, in a broad range of Science and Engineering fields, has been impressive. More than anything though, they enjoy gathering and sharing ideas with like-minded Stoics. This is also the case for the Biomedical Society which has also been active with its members showing the drive and commitment necessary to follow a career in medicine, veterinary science or dentistry.

All of these activities were on display during our Big Bang Science event. All of the Stoics involved gave an impressive account of what they had done and showed just how much they had gained through their endeavours. Not only had it deepened their involvement with Science, it had been





a great help in supporting their university applications as they had successfully gained places at Oxford, Imperial, Durham, Bristol, Warwick, Manchester and Bath, to name just a few. Our departing Sixth Form look set to produce our best ever results in A Level Science and have led by example, inspiring those in the years below them. I wish them all the very best for their future.

During the Big Bang Day, Mrs Louise Carter (Head of Biology), gave a dazzling glimpse into the near future with her imaginative use of iPads. She has led the development of their use in Science classes and showed their amazing potential from animation through to augmented reality. Facilitating such development is at the heart of our plans for the new Science building. Recent advances in

integrating the use of tablets with interactive whiteboard technology opens up many possibilities which we are exploring and which will become reality in the new building.

I'd like to pass on my thanks to our current Stoics who have fully embraced Science and made the Department such a stimulating place to teach and work. Also to the many donors who have so generously helped to secure an exciting future for Science at Stowe. And finally, I'd also like to thank our dedicated Science staff who have led, encouraged and supported our pupils with so much imagination, enthusiasm and commitment.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science

Chemistry

As the Chemistry Department prepares, along with the rest of Science, to expand its teaching facilities in the coming year, it was with a great deal of satisfaction that the 2014-2015 academic year both began and ended with a near-record uptake of Chemistry AS Level. Our current Lower Sixth represents the largest AS intake ever, while the current Fifth Form looks set to break this record from September. There is no doubt that the magical message of Chemistry is permeating through all years of the School.

The academic success of the Chemistry Department continues unabated as this year's GCSE pupils aim to stretch the record of A* grades even further than their immediate predecessors. Meanwhile, the number of Upper Sixth Stoics applying for pure Chemistry at some of the nation's top universities increases year on year. Particular congratulations go to Caspar Whitehead (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Adesola Kazeem (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), who this year both succeeded in gaining a place to read Chemistry at Oxford University.

It has been with huge satisfaction that the Stowe Chemistry Department has this year observed the successes of former pupils involved in active scientific research within the

chemical sciences. Our former Head Girl, Monika Jurcic (Nugent 08), who recently graduated with a 1st Class Honours in Chemistry from Bath University, this year published the first section of work from her research into metal-organic frameworks for the trace detection of explosives. Monika's research is actively involved in developing defence strategies against agents of war.

In order to maintain the illustrious Stowe chain of success in Chemistry and related disciplines, it is of course necessary to fire the imaginations of the next generation of A Level chemists. Our Head of Science, Mr James Tearle, once more enthused, inspired and in some cases stunned the massed ranks of local Prep School pupils with his hugely compelling Chemistry enrichment events.

As the Department moves from strength to strength, it is with sadness but great affection that we wish a fond farewell to our Head of Department of 13 years, Mr Daren Jeffreys, who leaves us for Aylesbury High School. Mr Jeffreys has presided over a period of unprecedented success in the study of Chemistry here at Stowe, and will be greatly missed.

Mr Roland Johnson, Chemistry Department



Biology

We have had a jam-packed year in the Biology Department. We welcomed Kathryn Hinds into the Department bringing with her a plethora of experience as a Biologist. Our pupils have been offered a wide variety of opportunities including listening to distinguished scientists speak both at Stowe and at conferences around the country. We started off the Michaelmas term with the new Lower Sixth visiting the Natural History Museum in Oxford to listen to Sarah Lloyd introduce Classification, Linnaeus and Darwinism. In February, conservation speaker David Edwards addressed both the Fifth and Sixth Form Biologists exploring the idea that 'nature is no longer an unchanging, absolute entity that is larger than us and will always be there to sustain, console and awe inspire us'.

GCSE Science Trip: March 2015

The Biology Department's Lent term trip involved GCSE pupils who have a particular interest for one if not more of the Sciences and an interest in studying one of the Sciences at A Level. We took 25 Stoics to the AIM GCSE Science conference held at Queen Mary's University which provided an excellent opportunity for our budding

scientists to hear from a variety of experienced scientists, from Russell Group universities, as well as Lord Robert Winston covering topics specific to the GCSE Science specifications.

Lord Winston started off proceedings giving two talks. The first covered Societal Aspects of Scientific Evidence which looked at cause and effect. The second covered Genetic Variation and its Control, a component of the B2 module studied in the Fifth Form. The pupils particularly enjoyed listening to Lord Winston and the experiences he has had over the years with genetics and development. Lord Winston discussed his pioneering work with IVF as well as more current developments in this area, including 'three parent' babies which have sparked much debate. Several of our pupils posed questions which enabled them to have an active role during the day.

After a short break where Lord Winston kindly gave up his time to talk to individual pupils, we were introduced to Dr Geraint Story, a Physicist from Cambridge University. He discussed the ins and outs of Electromagnetic Radiation, currently a component of the P1 module studied in the



Fourth Form. This enabled pupils to understand the fundamental differences between the different types of electromagnetic waves: x rays, ultraviolet light, and gamma rays which are of higher energy than visible light. Our final talk was given by UCL's Chemistry Professor Richard Catlow. He discussed in great detail the fundamental concepts of atoms, molecules and materials which underpin every concept in Chemistry.

The pupils had an eventful day and came away fully drilled on the areas of the specification covered, giving them a head start in preparation for their revision programme. The Stoics were well behaved and represented the School impeccably.

South West Wales Trip: June 2015

This year's Biology field trip took us once again to South West Wales to complete the Ecology component of the Biology A2 course. The Lower Sixth spent their last week of the Summer term frolicking around the Pembrokeshire coastline. We stayed at Orielton Field Centre, which is set in a beautiful location equipped with laboratories for study, talks and investigations. The Centre is approximately 1.5 miles from the Pembrokeshire National Park boundary, Britain's only genuine coastal National Park. This FSC site is ideally placed to explore a diverse range of outstanding marine and terrestrial environments.

During our four days of intensive activities a substantial amount of Ecology was covered from the specification and pupils were able to apply theoretical concepts to real life contexts, whilst having some fun too. We completed a wide range of activities that included woodland conservation and management, aquatic ecosystems, the distribution of organisms on rocky shores and sand dunes. Our days typically involved rummaging around in various habitats and generally indulging the basic curiosity of any nature lover.

Day one: After a rather non-eventful six hour coach journey and our orientation around the FSC Centre we started work comparing species abundance at an on-site stream and pond. Pupils enjoyed kick-sampling and identifying species at both sites: snails, pond skaters, mayfly nymphs, newts and water boatman to name a few. That evening, after lessons were completed, Daniel Strutt (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Steven Duncan (Lower Sixth, Chandos) observed the Lesser and Greater Horseshoe Bats which live on site. They were able to use bat detectors to identify the different calls for each species.

Day two: After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast we started our morning in the laboratory. After lunch we spent the rest of our second sunny day at Sawdern Point, West Angle, Manorbier. Here we completed a belt transept, sampling species along a sheltered rocky shore using quadrats to investigate biological diversity in contrasting habitats. Many species were identified: top shells, periwinkles, shore crabs, limpets, sea anemones and,



by far the most exotic, a giant tunicate sea squirt found by Mr Righton.

Day three: The day started off grey and cold, not the best for a day trip to the beach! Luckily for us the weather was more settled as we reached Broomhill Burrows SSSI (Freshwater West) to study the succession of sand dunes. We ate our lunch on a sand dune, being careful not to cause damage in the process. We used various meters to measure the abiotic factors that may have an influence on sand dune species diversity as well as point quadrats to estimate the abundance of plant species at each site. The pupils were really focused and spent a great deal of time studying the flora and fauna present as well as discussing conflicts in conservation when managing succession.

Day four: On our last day pupils completed mini group projects on an aspect of the material covered over the course. The pupils gained valuable experience in gathering, analysing and presenting to the rest of the group. Each presentation was judged by staff for both presentation skills and content. John Shin (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Emily Woodhead (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Hannah Bernard-Bell (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Harry Dunn (Lower Sixth, Grenville) were placed first due to their fluency, attention to detail, use of data and key terminology. The only area left was to complete a population survey on pond snails. On the Monday we had marked pond snails with purple nail varnish to enable us to perform the 'Mark-Release-Recapture' test for estimating abundance. We recollected pond snails at the same site and used the data over the two days to complete the task.

Our time in Wales all too quickly came to an end and we soon found ourselves back on the SMS coach for our return journey back to Stowe. A great time was had by all, everyone worked hard and the pupils now have a secure understanding of the foundation material required for next year as they embark upon the A2 components of the course. I am most grateful to Mr Righton and Mrs Gracie for all their support and guidance and look forward to our return visit next year.

As one academic year draws to an end the next year's arrangements begin. This summer sees the commencement of the construction of the new Science building which we are all very excited about and Biologists are looking forward to our long awaited international trip to Indonesia in June 2016, as part of Operation Wallacea.

Mrs Louise Carter, Head of Biology



Physics

The Department's main challenge this year was to teach the A2 content for the new AQA A Level Physics course for the first time. This included preparing for much more complex practical examinations where the pupils perform two separate practical tasks and then sit a written exam related to the tasks.

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

During the year we were fortunate enough to have a visit from Dr Natalie Starkey from the Rosetta Project, who gave a fascinating lecture on the landing of the probe on 67P Churyumov-Gerasimenko. We also launched a high altitude balloon and started our Robotics Club.

BoSS (Balloon of Stowe School)

Over the course of the Michaelmas term, ten Upper Sixth Form physicists led by Olaoluwayipo Olawaju (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Theodora Tserni (Upper Sixth, Nugent) worked with European Astrotech Labs (EAL), a rocket propulsion testing lab funded in part by the European Space Agency, to launch a high altitude balloon to record data about the upper atmosphere and give an experience of how some of the basics of rocket science work.

Starting in October, we decided on a series of goals for the balloon: to fly higher than 30km to get above the tropopause, to take photos documenting the flight, and to recover our payload safely to report the data back and learn from it. To do this, we needed to calculate the mechanics of how to stabilise the balloon to keep it from shaking the payload off, learn how to track the payload in flight and after it landed, and build the payload itself to stay light and balanced, but still record all of the data we needed.

We designed and tested extensively until we were finally ready to launch with CAA permission on 1 December, a frosty and overcast, but relatively still morning. The group

divided into two teams, one for payload preparation, and one to set up the balloon itself for launch. Sheltered between the North Front colonnades, we laid out a tarpaulin and a canister of hydrogen and began inflating the balloon while the final tests were performed to ensure the payload was balanced and the GoPro camera switched on. At 10.43am, in front of a crowd of Stoics, who were much more interested in the pursuit of science than period three, the balloon was released. It reached a final altitude of 32,544m before bursting, and fell safely with the attached parachute into a 10m tall tree. We tracked the payload using our telemetry systems and a directional antenna, until it made the final descent with a hand from a huntsman named Bruce and a mildly disgruntled landowner.

After inspecting our data and photographs we concluded the project was a success, and look forward to the next cohort of Stoics looking to challenge our altitude record.

Sean Rea (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

Robotics

At the start of the Lent term we began by building the standard robot that VEX supply instructions for, to get a feel for the kit and how everything comes together. Then as soon as that was accomplished we dismantled it to make a competition robot that we would enter into the Regional and National competitions two months later. We quickly brainstormed ideas and started building on our first prototype.

Due to the short time frame from when we decided to enter the competition to the actual event, our robot was not 100% ready for the Regional competition. However, we entered with high spirits. Alas due to a few mechanical issues we did not win the Regionals, thus eliminating us from the tournament, or so we thought. Mr Thompson was contacted by the event organiser saying that our team showed promise, and as a result he would like us to attend and compete in the National finals.

We arrived at the Nationals having put many hours and late nights into our robot. We felt fairly confident that



with this extra time we could do well in the competition. During the knockout stages we won and lost some, and ended up ranked seventh. Then, as a shock, the number one team picked us for a pairing. With them we got to the semi-finals, but in a close match we lost out. We went home very satisfied, having reached the semis in our first year and we have already started building for next year. We are confident we can win the Nationals and graduate to the International competition held in America.

I feel the activity has offered something vastly different to anything Stowe has presented in my time here (four years) and I have always been keen to go over to physics and try to improve the robot. Mr Thompson has done a great job with organising the external events and has offered first-rate advice on designs and driving. I look forward to next year.

Ben Barrett (Lower Sixth, Chatham)

This year saw our first PGCE student from the Open University in Milton Keynes, Dr Tara Yates, teach at Stowe.

She fitted in superbly and taught her Third and Fourth Form classes well. This is an important role within the School as not only does it benefit the student teacher, but it also causes us to reflect and review our own teaching in a different way.

This academic year has also seen many changes within the Physics Department. Mr Tom O'Toole moved to Bradfield College at Easter. We were very fortunate to gain Mr Craig Donoghue from north of the border as a full time Physicist. Mr Toby Le Lacheur from Guernsey and Mr Hakan Yadsan who is currently working at Christ the King Sixth Form College, London will also be teaching Physics amongst other subjects. It has been a time where extra demands caused the Department to really pull together as a team. The Department has had four different timetables throughout the year resulting in much extra work. I would like to thank all the team and our supply teacher Ms Shaheen Rashid for all their efforts this year.

Mr Dick Carpenter, Head of Physics





Geography

The Geography Department has experienced yet another busy and successful year, with Geography remaining an extremely popular subject; we have 108 Fifth Form Stoics taking their Geography GCSE this year and 105 studying Geography at A Level! We have also celebrated another excellent set of exam results both at GCSE and A Level.

I believe that the popularity and success is in no small part due to growing recognition of the relevance of Geography as a subject to study today. Whether it is understanding future impacts of climate change, or assessing the global impact of Transnational Corporations, Geography is a subject which lends itself to almost any future career. We therefore also continue to see a large number of Stoics choosing to study Geography at university, with 14 applications for Geography or Geology degrees this year.

Keen to engage with local Prep Schools, the Geography Department has undertaken three key activities during the past academic year. We took part in the Prep Schools Humanities Day, encouraging visiting pupils to navigate their way around the School grounds in search of clues about the geographical history of Stowe. Mr Deakin visited Beachborough School, to talk to them about rocks and their physical properties, using the illustrative medium of chocolate bars – needless to say it was a very popular activity – particularly when they realised they'd be able to

eat the chocolate bars afterwards! Finally, we undertook two sessions with prospective new pupils where we looked at explosive volcanoes. The 'coke and mentos sweets' explosion was very popular, but the main activity: building their own volcanoes from clay, to be 'erupted' at home with baking soda and vinegar, was similarly enjoyed.

As geography is ever changing, it is important that pupils keep up to date with the latest events around the world. Natural disasters such as the Nepal Earthquake in April this year, or the impacts of migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean, are integrated into teaching on a daily basis. To support this learning we have been pleased to be able to invite a number of different speakers to address the Geography Society, including geographer and explorer David Edwards, who recounted his survival of the Montserrat volcanic eruption in 1995; Margaret Gateley who talked to pupils about Fairtrade and its impact and relevance today; and Andrew Searle from WaterAid, who shared his first hand knowledge of projects for water supply and sanitation around the world. Next year we hope to host speakers from the Disaster Management Centre at Coventry University and to hear Professor Katie Willis (Professor of Human Geography at Royal Holloway) speak about 'Geographical perspectives on development after the Millennium development goals' to name just a few!

Fieldwork remains at the heart of Geography and the Department will be offering trips both as part of the syllabus for some year groups and optional, more exotic trips across all year groups. For example, at the start of the Easter holidays in 2016, the Department will visit Iceland to experience the 'Land of Fire and Ice': volcanoes, hot springs, glaciers and waterfalls will be just a few of the sights that pupils can hope to see on this exciting trip.

Slightly less exotic, but equally valuable, was the A2 field trip to Oriulton Field Centre in Pembrokeshire. This course forms the research element of the Geographical Skills part of the syllabus, which is worth 40% of the A2 exam. A divergence from the previous studies done in North





Wales, Orielton offered the opportunity for pupils to study coastal processes at Saundersfoot Bay and multiple deprivation in Milford Haven; both studies were a great success and provided pupils with a valuable insight into the practical applications of the classroom theory they had been studying. The next academic year will see change again as we move to a study centre in Shropshire to consider river processes and change, as well as urban structure. With the introduction of the new format to GCSEs and A Levels from September 2016, fieldwork will become a compulsory part of the syllabus and we as a Department are very excited about the opportunities this will offer us to immerse the pupils fully into the environment around them.

At the start of the next academic year we will be sad to see Mr Alan Murray reduce his teaching to part-time status, but it is wonderful that after 26 years of teaching in the Department he has chosen to stay on as a member of the team. We will be welcoming into the Department Mrs Lorraine Campbell who is currently Head of Geography at Beachborough School and previously taught at Aylesbury Grammar School.

Mrs Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography

Philosophy & Religion

This year was another year of change, which saw the Philosophy and Religion Department move into its new accommodation in the remodeled Dobinson Theatre. Stoics and staff have fully settled in and have enjoyed the spacious and airy rooms.

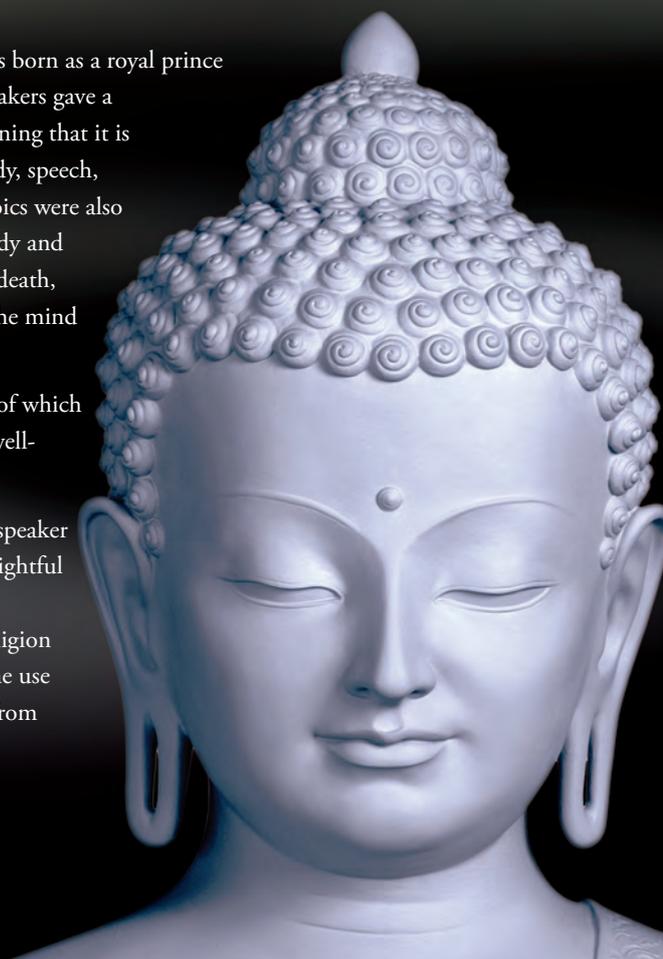
A popular speaker this year was from the Nagarjuna Kadampa Meditation Centre in Kelmarsh which is set in the beautiful countryside of Northants. The New Kadampa Tradition – International Kadampa Buddhist Union is an international association of Mahayana Buddhist study and meditation centres that follow the Kadampa Buddhist tradition founded by Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso. The Kadampa Tradition is a modern Buddhist School which presents all the ancient wisdom of Buddha in a way which is perfectly suited to the modern world. The emphasis of their teachings is that Buddhism can be of practical benefit to everyone, no matter their way of life. It is home to a diverse community of people of all ages, living in accordance with Buddha's teachings.

After giving us a brief introduction to Buddha Shakyamuni who was born as a royal prince in 624 BC in a place called Lumbini, in what is now Nepal, our speakers gave a fascinating talk about the Buddhist belief in the law of karma explaining that it is the law of cause and effect, according to which all our actions of body, speech, and mind are causes and all our experiences are their effects. The Stoics were also fascinated with an explanation of re-birth and the belief that our body and mind are separate entities, so even though the body disintegrates at death, the continuum of the mind remains unbroken. Instead of ceasing, the mind simply leaves the present body and goes to the next life.

We were then treated to a practical meditation session, the purpose of which is to cultivate those states of mind that are conducive to peace and well-being, and to eradicate those that are not.

Together with the History Department we invited another popular speaker this year, Old Stoic Jessie Childs. She gave a very interesting and insightful talk on her latest publication 'God's Traitors, Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England'. Stoics were given a fascinating insight into religion and the Catholic faith in the Elizabethan era. The talk focused on the use of priest holes and she brought these to life with numerous photos from various English country houses.

Mr Colin Bray, Head of Philosophy and Religion





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History

History at Stowe continues to flourish after another very successful and busy year. The examination results at A Level were once again very pleasing with 82% of leavers securing an A or B grade. The Department enjoyed its highest ever number of A* grades with nine Stoics achieving the much coveted grade.

Part of the Department's ethos is to offer pupils as much choice as possible; therefore Stoics can choose either a 16th or 20th Century programme of study. The early modern course focuses on the changing nature of social order and royal authority in the late medieval and early modern period. Pupils delve into the huge religious and political upheaval of the Tudor era and are offered a coursework unit on either an overview of 16th Century Spanish history, or the 12th Century European Crusades. The modern option examines individual rights and power relationships in the 19th and 20th Centuries with a specific focus on American and British political history as well as an overview of the modernisation of Russia. The early modern and medieval side of the course has been further enriched by the visit of a number of eminent Historians, with a particular highlight being the lecture given by Professor Jonathan Phillips of Royal Holloway University who explored the importance of Saladin both in the 12th Century and today.

The History Society continues to enjoy regular meetings and formal dinners to celebrate the visit of notable Historians to the School. The Department welcomed a number of speakers this year with the most popular being Jessie Childs, who gave a compelling talk on her latest publication 'God's Traitors, Terror and Faith in Elizabethan England'. Pupils were entertained by a fascinating insight into religion in the Elizabethan era and the troubles the Catholic faith caused, most predominately for priests. The lecture focused on the need for priest holes, which helped to avoid many difficult predicaments and aided countless successful escapes; she brought these to life with numerous photos from the genuine locations of grand country houses, which showed the constrictive nature of their hidden havens.

The McElwee Award continues to be a major highlight for all historians looking to broaden their cultural understanding of the subject. Bill McElwee taught at Stowe

for thirty years (1932-62) with a gap for service during the Second World War in which he was awarded the Military Cross. Following his death in 1978 a trust was established in his memory which has helped to fund travel scholarships for Stowe historians over the last thirty years. This year saw the award presented to four pairs of Stoics: Dot Holt (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Aleksia Zivanovic (Lower Sixth, Queen's) who intend to chart the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire with a visit to Istanbul; Mia Kinahan (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Jeanie Gibbs (Lower Sixth, Queen's) who will tour Florence, Venice and Rome to further explore the work of Giorgio Vasari and his vital role to the Renaissance era of art; Louisa Feast (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Philippa Stacey (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) will study the sites most pertinent to the Holocaust including: Krakow (Auschwitz), Munich (Dachau), and Amsterdam (The Anne Frank Museum and House). Finally Peter Kimondo (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Natse Jemide (Lower Sixth, Bruce) intend to examine the history of medicine through a visit to Paris.

The Department continues to play a very important role in the Humanities Prep Schools' Competition, welcoming seven Prep Schools to compete in the Winton Cup. The idea of the day was to inspire young people to engage with various humanities subjects and to begin to appreciate how they learn through exploration to think creatively and critically, to reason and to ask questions. The contest is named in honour of Old Stoic and humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton MBE, who organised the rescue of 669 mostly Jewish children from German-occupied Czechoslovakia on the eve of the Second World War. The History Department contributed to the successful day with an exploration of the horrors of trench warfare concentrating particularly on John Singer Sargent's painting 'Gassed'.

The Department will welcome a new Head of History, Paul Griffin, in September as I am moving to Cheltenham College to take on a Housemaster role. Paul arrives from Seaford College where he is currently in charge of the History Department and I am sure he will continue to help the subject grow at Stowe in the coming years.

Mr James Hayden, Head of History

Sports Science and PE

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of the year already, but it has been another excellent one for the Department. The A Level course remains popular; the GCSE programme is busier than it has ever been and the core PE lessons continue to prove to be an essential part of the Third Form curriculum.

Those Stoics who sat their A2 exams in 2014 all came out with the results that were expected, with Hugo Kinahan (Grafton 14) and Alice Hughes (Queen's 14) finishing top of their year group. Alice has followed many other Old Stoics into a Sport and Exercise Science degree, which she is currently studying at Loughborough University. She is also playing football for their University side and has just been selected to play with Notts County Ladies Football Team which play in the top tier of the English Women's Football League. Of the current A2 pupils, who have just finished their studies, the stand out pupils have been Murray Aitchison (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Jess Carne (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Seb Cecil (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Jimmy Ondari (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Louisa Highwood (Upper Sixth, Nugent) who was this year's recipient of the Upper Sixth prize on Speech Day. Louisa in particular has been an outstanding pupil in her two years at Stowe; leading class discussions, regularly seeking further reading material, as well as captaining and representing the School at an incredibly high level in hockey and netball. The other elite performers who did particularly well in their practical performance element of their coursework were John Hawkins (Upper Sixth, Grafton), who leaves us to begin a professional rugby career with Bristol RFC, Mark Hulbert (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Jack Keeping (Upper Sixth, Cobham) who were both integral parts of an incredibly successful 1st XI cricket season this year.

For the AS course we had good numbers and several excellent Stoics joined our classes as they began life at a new school in the Sixth Form. Of these, Jakob Stordalen (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Gregor Haldane (Lower Sixth, Grenville), India Chadwick (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Henry Hoare (Lower Sixth, Grafton) were the stand out all-rounders with Oliver Woodward (Lower Sixth, Grafton) and Freddie Paling (Lower Sixth, Temple) running close behind Peter Kimondo (Lower Sixth, Bruce) for the Lower Sixth prize on Speech Day.

It has been a pleasure to work with so many of the GCSE candidates this year and we are hopeful for another set of good results. They performed superbly on the moderation day and their coursework marks were excellent once again. Isabelle Upton (Fifth Form, Queen's) won the Fifth Form Sports Science prize, with Amy Cairns (Fifth Form, Queen's), Oliver Clarke (Fifth Form, Chandos), Piers Edinborough (Fifth Form, Walpole) and Imogen White (Fifth Form, Nugent) all coming a close second. The Fourth Form did well in their end of year exams, with Victoria Beglin (Fourth Form, Nugent) finishing top of her year group with 92%. Other commendation worthy performances came from



Daniel Biss (Fourth Form, Grafton), Kira Evans (Fourth Form, Nugent), Jim Jackman (Fourth Form, Bruce), Adam King (Fourth Form, Bruce), James Pocklington (Fourth Form, Grenville), Gislaine Batubenge (Fourth Form, Queen's), Olivia Flood (Fourth Form, Queen's), Ben Holloway (Fourth Form, Grafton), Alexander Holmes (Fourth Form, Grenville), Jamie Jackson (Fourth Form, Cobham), Sean Chiu (Fourth Form, Temple), Lucas Colville (Fourth Form, Walpole), Thabang Khambule (Fourth Form, Temple) and Alice Maclure (Fourth Form, Nugent). The Third Form began their course in January and Lochie Shillington (Third Form, Grafton), Hamish Milne-Skillman (Third Form, Grafton) and Arabella White (Third Form, Nugent) achieved outstanding exam results as they begin their GCSE course.

The core PE programme continues to give all new Third Form Stoics an interesting and diverse set of activities throughout the whole year, with the aim of introducing them to activities they can continue to pursue in later life.

We took our AS group on a different curriculum trip this year. We visited the Porsche Human Performance Laboratory, where pupils carried out numerous tests including; the Batak reaction time board, used regularly by F1 drivers and highlighting just how quick their reactions need to be; an InBody analysis, where results such as lean muscle: fat ratio can be obtained; sweat testing to work out hydration strategies; VO2 max, Lactate Threshold and the Onset of Blood Lactate Accumulation all of which can enable athletes to create tailor-made training programmes. The Stoics on this trip had a fantastic time and this experience will be invaluable when they come to study these topics at A2.

Once again I would like to thank my experienced Department team (Mr Pickersgill, Mr Sutton, Mrs Sutton, Mr Michael, Mrs Duckett and Mr Cowie). It is with great sadness that we break up this cohesive team, as Richard Pickersgill leaves Stowe after 12 years of service. He has been second in the Department for a significant number of these years and will be sorely missed.

Mr Phil Arnold, Head of Sports Science and PE



Languages

The summer 2014 exam results across the Modern Languages Department show the vibrancy and success of languages at Stowe. Not only were our curriculum subjects, French, Spanish and German, very successful but we also had record numbers of pupils sitting Additional Foreign Languages in Russian, Italian, Mandarin and Japanese and 88% of these pupils scored A*-A.

The 2014-15 Languages Society (Lang Soc), under the Presidency of Jamie Hardinge (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and supported by Secretary Rosie Dickson (Upper Sixth, Queen's), welcomed two excellent guest speakers to Stowe. Stacey Stockwell from Beanstraining gave a captivating presentation on sign-language, communication and disability awareness. Our Society members and teachers learnt basic sign language and discussed communication beyond the spoken word while being given a compelling insight into life with a disability.

In March, as our AS and A2 linguists began their exam preparation ahead of the early speaking examinations, they were given a real insight into the exam process, key mistakes to avoid and tricks to impress by former AQA Chief Examiner Peter Halstead. Peter then joined our committee, teachers and other members of Lang Soc for a formal dinner and a chance for further questions.

French

The class of 2014 excelled in the French Department with Elspeth Down (Nugent 14) leading the way and comfortably achieving the much coveted and notoriously elusive A* at A2 (with an average of 97%). Across the board at A2, 93% of French pupils secured a B or above and 57% A*-A overall. In addition to 83% A-B achievement overall, our AS cohort scored an impressive 100% B or above in their speaking examinations with James Scott (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Jamie Hardinge, and the 2015 winner of John Webster Prize for French, Khaled Choucair (Upper Sixth, Grenville), all scoring 100% on their AS speaking examination.

GCSE Study Tour to Nice

On Sunday 19 October, Mr Dobson and Mrs Browne accompanied 24 Fifth Form Stoics to Nice, on the Côte d'Azur for a five day study tour. During their time in Nice, the Stoics attended lessons each morning at the Alpha-B Language School and in the afternoons the group benefited from some time to appreciate the cultural and historical aspects of this beautiful town. Visits included the centre of Nice and its beautiful old town, a journey along the coast to Antibes with a guided tour of the yacht harbour and the Picasso Museum, followed, of course, by a visit to the beach.

Stoics also visited the medieval walled city of Eze and the Fragonard perfume factory and finally Monaco and Prince Rainier's collection of exotic cars, the Palace, the stunning underground aquarium, the prison, the starting grid for the Monaco Grand Prix and the breathtaking Casino de Monte Carlo. Once again, the trip was a resounding success and it was truly great to see the level of involvement and immersion in French that our pupils displayed. All of the host families spoke highly of the Stoics, as did our two French teachers from the Language School in Nice.



Visit to the University of Bath

In November, 15 Stoics, 10 Fifth Formers and five Lower Sixth Formers travelled to the University of Bath to attend the Spotlight on Languages conference to get a clearer idea of what studying French post A Level would involve. After a presentation on entry requirements, course content and the very real advantages of leaving university with the ability to communicate in modern foreign languages, Stoics were treated to a session entitled 'Does where I am from determine what I am?'

The pupils were encouraged to participate in what was a very interesting focus on multiculturalism and the way in which the world and its inhabitants are changing as a direct result of technology, cultural exposure, communication and philosophy, and it was great to see the Stoics contributing so enthusiastically throughout.

The afternoon sessions included French language workshops and presentations from Bath graduates who all made very clear the massive advantage that they enjoyed as a result of their language studies, and who spoke with passion and sincerity on both their time at university and their subsequent careers.

'Erreur d'identité'

In a rundown hotel somewhere in France, Pierre and Rose-Marie are desperate to have just one paying guest, having recently bought the hotel and not yet had a single room occupied. A man arrives at the hotel telling the owners that he has had a motorbike accident, but our hotel owners are soon convinced that he is an escaped prisoner that they have read about in the newspaper...

On Thursday 14 May, we welcomed two native French actors from The Onatti Theatre Company who performed the highly entertaining French play 'Erreur d'identité' in the Roxburgh Hall for Third and Fourth Form French pupils. The Onatti plays are scripted very carefully to fit in with the level of language of the pupils and vocabulary sheets are provided before the event so that they can get the maximum from the show. This year's play was without doubt one of the best and captivated the audience with its humour and of course audience participation. Kristian Kay (Fourth Form, Chandos), Taisiya Danilitskaya (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Henry Gauvain (Fourth Form, Temple) and notably Flora Moreau (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) added impressively to the performance. 'Erreur d'identité' went down an absolute storm with our audience, whose applause and appreciation was nothing short of rapturous and whose attention did not waver from start to finish.

Mrs Tracy Jones, Head of Languages Faculty & Head of French

Spanish

The 2014 public exam results confirmed the strength of the Spanish Department at Stowe, with 50% of candidates achieving A*-A at GCSE, 76% achieving A-B at AS and 57% of A grades at A2. Thanks to the continued hard work of our language assistants, Liliana Peña and Maria Macías Rosado, together with intensive exam practice with teachers, our speaking record continues to be immensely strong, with 88% of the Lower Sixth and 86% of the Upper Sixth gaining A grades, which is an excellent performance.

Lower School trip to Cuenca

In October 2014, Alex de Trafford and Collette Stirzaker accompanied 32 Fifth Formers on a highly successful trip to Cuenca, near Madrid, where Stoics participated in a week long 'Spanish experience', combining lessons with a wide range of activities. Highlights included canoeing on the river, rock-climbing, art projects and meeting the Mayor. Our pupils found the experience of staying with local host families both positive and extremely beneficial to their Spanish and were truly made to feel part of the family.





Miss Stirzaker is already booking up a return visit for October 2015 and we hope that our new relationship with Cuenca will provide current and future Stoics with a wonderful introduction to authentic Spanish family life and culture in a beautiful and unspoilt part of Spain.

Sixth Form trip to Cádiz

In March, Simon Dobson and I took the entire Upper Sixth to Cádiz in Andalucía, where Stoics enjoyed the delights of a typical and non-touristy small town on the very southern tip of Spain. Lessons at a local language school were followed by lunch with host families and in-depth exploration of the medieval old town, and coastal walks. As always, the tapas bars were a highlight and the local fare was judged even better than that on offer in Salamanca in 2014. A day trip to one of the famous local 'white towns', Vejer de la Frontera, proved particularly popular and our visit coincided with the start of Holy Week, meaning we were able to see the many noisy and colourful Lenten processions taking place all day and much of the night. Warm, sunny weather meant that we could

work on pupils' preparation for their oral exams while sitting on the beach, which worked wonders for motivation and enthusiasm. Mr Dobson was disappointed not to find an exhibition of inquisition torture instruments and instead had to content himself with an excellent flamenco evening in the old town.

Lang Soc and the Stovevista Spanish magazine continued to thrive this year under the presidency of Jamie Hardinge (Upper Sixth, Grenville), aided and abetted by Rosie Dickson (Upper Sixth, Queen's). Mr Young gave us an illuminating talk on Goya and the Age of Reason, while Señora Peña, helped by the entire Lang Soc committee and several Stoics in the Lower Sixth, ran a hugely popular Colombian-style juice bar, which required Third Formers to 'shop' for their ingredients and then make up their own recipes for fruit smoothies. The annual Onatti Production's play for the Fourth Form was, as usual, fast, funny and enjoyed by all.

Mrs Kate Dickson, Head of Spanish



German

Looking back on this academic year, I feel a great sense of achievement. Not so much for me, Mr Jones and Mrs Hutchin, but for the Stoics. Learning a language from scratch in three years and doing a GCSE at the end of it is no mean feat, but once again, the Stoics have surpassed themselves with 80% gaining an A*-A. German is a notoriously demanding subject and I couldn't be more pleased with the pupils' achievements. Much has been written recently about the benefits of learning a foreign language, not least the fact that it can delay the onset of dementia by up to five years, so whilst language learning might be on the decline nationwide, I am glad Stoics still embrace the challenge of learning a foreign language and are successful at it.

So what is it that Stoics like about German? Having just seen the Third Form for the last time this academic year, I am told that food plays an important role. Learning a language is not all about grammar and vocabulary, it is about getting to know the culture, and what could be more important culturally than discovering the culinary delicacies of a country? So we spent our last lesson sampling German homemade bread, rosehip jam, quark and the much loved German delicacy that is 'Waldmeister' – Galium odoratum – in all its glory; as a drink, a jelly and a sweet. Now, I know Stoics are polite by nature, but I could sense a genuine pleasure in discovering and tasting these new foods that most of them had not even heard of. The Upper Sixth were even braver, as they baked their own German 'Weihnachtsgebäck' – Christmas biscuits – at the end of the Michaelmas term. Undeterred by the complexity of some of the recipes they had chosen, they baked the most delicious cookies whilst listening to German Christmas carols. Such events always lift my heart, reminding me that there is so much more to teaching than just standing in front of a class. Having said that, those culinary events should not overshadow what has been a very busy academic year. For none so much so as for Mr Jones, who took over West House for two terms in January. Yet, he worked relentlessly towards preparing

the Fifth Form for their two controlled assessments and my thanks go to him for being such a juggernaut. With numbers being very healthy in the Lower School, we have been upgraded in terms of classrooms. Indeed, we have outgrown A004 and will be moving into A003, a larger and more modern classroom that we will be able to call our own in September.

Attendance at our Languages Club in the Sixth Form has been excellent, and I would like to encourage Lower School pupils to use this brilliant opportunity of having one of their activities a week being a language based one. Stoics who have been regular attendees have seen their marks improve considerably. As we are trying to help pupils develop a growth mindset and promote independent learning, the three computer suites in the MFL block offer an invaluable opportunity to empower pupils to 'have a go' on their own, giving them time and space to hone their linguistic skills at their own pace.

As well as the very stimulating Language Society talks we have had across the MFL Department this year, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Onatti Theatre troupe once again. Their German plays are always very entertaining, revolving around topics and vocabulary studied at GCSE, thus accessible to all. We have also decided to move our German trip to Rossleben (Thuringia) from June to October, as it makes more sense to visit Rossleben at the beginning of the academic year, before the exams, rather than after. I just hope the weather will be on our side, as this is such a beautiful part of Germany and we spend a great deal of our time there outdoors. As I am writing this, the History Department is in Munich on a trip exploring famous or rather infamous WWII sites, and I feel a little envious. I can't wait for the new year to start and to take the Sixth Form to Rossleben. Let's see what else will happen in 2015-2016 in the German Department, ready for me to report back on in a year's time!

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Classics

The Classics Department was again very pleased with yet more excellent results last summer, exceeding in various respects from previous years. All Sixth Formers at A2 and AS scored A-B grades. In the Fifth Form at Level 2, the equivalent of GCSE, all scored A*-A, with 86% at A* in Latin Language, even better than the 76% in 2012. Two of these papers scored full marks. This year, summer 2015, we also have candidates for Level 2 Latin Literature and GCSE Classical Greek. Indeed it is good to see several Stoics in all three Lower School years taking Greek and making good progress. Helped by a variety of new books and resources, including online vocabulary quizzes and apps, Greek is increasingly flourishing and continuing to prove both enjoyable and rewarding.

In June 2015, we were sorry to say goodbye to Mr Sandy Smith. After a full career teaching at Harrow, he has been helping and teaching at Stowe for the last three years. His considerable classical expertise and genuine interest in all his pupils has been highly valued and much appreciated, and we have been very grateful that he has continued to trudge up the hill from Dadford in all weather conditions, even for some early morning Greek classes before the official start to lessons. We had a gathering in the Blue Room to show our appreciation and to say a fond farewell. We now wish him a very well earned second retirement. In turn we look forward to Mr Jon Murnane's arrival in September. He is already known to some in the School and will bring a distinguished Cambridge Classics background to the Department.

The Classical Society has been busy with a wide variety of interesting events. In September we welcomed Dr David Noy, of the Open University and the University of Wales Trinity St David, to give an illustrated talk on 'Caligula: Bad, Mad or Misunderstood?' This extraordinary emperor still grips the imagination of people two millennia later. In March we were privileged to have a lecture by David Jacques FSA, Senior Research Fellow in Archaeology at the University of Buckingham. Entitled 'Blick Mead: Cradle of Stonehenge', it covered Mr Jacques' important and very recent discoveries re-writing the Mesolithic history of Britain and shedding new light on Stonehenge's development. His audience was persuaded to agree not to

take photographs of his latest discoveries or reveal them on social media before the TV documentary airs on this topic. Both speakers kindly met Stoics over a meal after their talks.

In October we took a minibus of Greek pupils to Oxford to see Aeschylus' 'The Furies', in the original Greek but with English surtitles, put on at the Playhouse by university students. It was a moving and slickly performed rendering of a tragedy not often produced, partly because of its dark and menacing themes. In February we travelled to King's College London's Greenwood Theatre to see Aristophanes' 'Clouds', again in Greek with surtitles in translation. This was a solid production with plenty of apt humorous touches, neatly commenting on the nature of thinking and the purpose of education both in 5th Century Athens and today.

In March, the Lower Sixth Form Latinists attended lectures in London on their set texts of Cicero and Ovid, with eminent speakers from universities around the country. Next year will see the last of the existing AS Level exams at the end of the Lower Sixth, after which Latin and Classical Greek return to the old style of a two-year course with exams only at the end. New GCSEs for Latin and Classical Greek will also start in September 2016 and include some translation into the original language. This has long been required at Scholarship and Common Entrance so this change is not surprising. There is a new interest in translating all sorts of modern literature and other facets of contemporary life into the classical languages. Thus, Harry Potter joined Winnie the Pooh and others in Latin. Even Wikipedia has its own version in Latin, while the news in Latin is a click away on a computer button. Lazy pupils may even be allured by Google Translate's attempts at Latin, but they would usually be ill advised for a variety of obvious reasons.

Speech Day Prizes:

The Roxburgh Prize for Classics (VI):
Guy Gibson (Upper Sixth, Grafton)

The Quentin Bertram Prize for Classics (GCSE):
James Creedy Smith (Fifth Form, Chatham)

Mr Michael Bevington, Head of Classics



*left to right: Mr Michael Bevington,
Mr David Jacques,
Mr Sandy Smith,
Mr David Critchley*



Politics

The Politics Department has had an exciting year with the UK General Election and the United States mid-term elections to get stuck into. This has given pupils a real life platform of evidence to use in their analysis and has really helped a surge in interest for the subject. Exam results from last summer continued to improve, and this year's Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth cohorts are aiming to keep that trend going.

The highlight of the Michaelmas term was the Lower Sixth visit to the Palace of Westminster in November, where they toured the House of Commons and House of Lords learning both the historical and political background of the British Parliament. Stoics were amazed, as always, by how small both chambers actually are, and in preparation for the trip they had all written to their MPs to get access to the Commons gallery. This meant that in the afternoon pupils were able to see the MPs in action for real, first with Defence Questions to the Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP and then with the Report Stage of the Government's recall bill led by Liberal Democrat Julian Huppert MP. All in all the day was a great success and thanks go to Mr Floyd for organising the trip.

Meanwhile, the Upper Sixth visited Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington, for a talk given by Republican ex-US Congresswoman Mary Bono, alongside two ex-NASA astronauts on the US political system. Stoics were intrigued at how concepts from class like incumbency, polarisation and gerrymandering had had a real life impact on Rep. Bono (R-CA) in her race for her re-election, where she ultimately lost out in the primary for a more ideologically conservative candidate who challenged her liberal position on gay marriage. The day was a huge

success and a key milestone in expanding pupil interest and understanding.

Turning to the UK General Election, both the Upper and Lower Sixth took a huge role in staging the mock Stowe election to shadow the real thing. Led by Aleksia Zivanovic (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Dorothy Holt (Lower Sixth, Queen's), this was a pupil led initiative consisting of a mock election debate on Friday 1 May, followed by voting in the Marble Hall at break, lunch and activities on Thursday 7 May. The debate was an enthralling encounter, with all candidates performing easily as well as their real life counterparts. Special mentions go to Charles Johnson (Lower Sixth, Bruce), the Liberal Democrat candidate who was a marvellous stand-in for Nick Clegg, while Jamie Hardinge (Upper Sixth, Grenville) of the Green Party used wit and humour to deflect all criticisms of his dashing green tie. As was to be expected, it was a battle between Alex Potts (Upper Sixth, Chatham) of the Conservative Party and Henry Sylvester (Upper Sixth, Grenville) of UKIP that defined the night in the schoolwide vote.

On the day, the Houses were split into constituencies with each House being allocated one seat. The House votes worked via First Past the Post just like the real thing, and amazingly the shortcomings of our electoral system were apparent in both the real thing and the Stowe vote. While the country was busy giving the Conservative Party a majority, and UKIP 4 million votes with one seat, Stowe was busy giving the Conservative Party a similarly slim majority, except in the Stowe election UKIP won the most total votes but one less seat than the Tories! I hear cries from Henry Sylvester for electoral reform! The way the Stoics were able to replicate such a fascinating reflection of the real life issues was really outstanding and Aleksia and Dorothy were awarded Benes for their efforts.

On Speech Day, the Politics prizes were awarded to George Tucker (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Isobelle Smith (Lower Sixth, Nugent) for their dedication and commitment to Politics throughout the year. This is not to understate the efforts of all the other pupils, as this has undoubtedly been an excellent year for the Politics Stoics. We hope that pupils continue to find the subject intellectually stimulating and exciting, and aim to keep this momentum going for next year's US Presidential election campaign.

Mr Charlie Barker, Head of Politics



Economics

This was yet another year in which pupils in Economics saw textbook ideas being acted out in real life every week. Grexit, brexit, austerity, £40,000 speeding tickets, trafficked human organs – we discussed them all.

Early on in the academic year eight Stoics went to London to the offices of Tyser and Co to find out about life as a leading independent Lloyd's broker. As well as looking around the company's offices, there was also an eye-opening visit to the iconic Lloyd's of London building, and a chance to quiz current brokers over a traditional working lunch. Early in the spring, a team of delegates represented Stowe in the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' BASE competition. This is a National competition that tries to replicate the work of chartered accountants, showing that the job is not just about sitting in an office looking at numbers all day. The team was given a mass of data about a business and asked to come up with an idea to profitably move that business forward. A presentation was given, followed by a question and answer session. The team did exceptionally well to come second, an achievement made all the more impressive by the fact that this was our

first time in the competition, and we were coming up against schools that had progressed to the National Finals in previous years.

Thoughts are already turning to the move to linearity that occurs in September, and the fact that there will be updates made to the course specification. At the turn of the 21st Century, financial markets were seen as so secure and well-run that their study was removed from Economics teaching – why bother to learn about such a mundane and well-functioning part of the economy! The Credit Crunch and ensuing chaos has led to a rethink, and future graduates from the Department will be well-versed in banking supervision yet again. We will also be spending some time studying cutting edge research into the overlaps between economics and psychology – can consumers truly be seen as rational. To aid us in our teaching we are welcoming Gordon West and Victoria Crook into the Department next year. Economics will also be re-merging with the Business Studies Department, and we look forward to being one of the largest A Levels in the School.

Mr Richard Corthine, Head of Economics

ICT and Computing

This year saw the full integration of Computing into the Stowe Curriculum with the first ever A Level in Computing being delivered from 2014. When delivered alongside the ECDL qualification and GCSE Computing, and now with our Third Form Stoics learning to write code in their first few weeks at Stowe, the School can definitely be seen to be addressing demand for coders, creators and digital entrepreneurs of the future.

GCSE Computing is where it all started in 2012 and it continues to go from strength to strength with pupils now starting to work towards designing and coding complex algorithms in the Third Form which can only mean huge success in the future. The Schools' first ever cohort of GCSE Computing candidates obtained an outstanding set of grades, with 100% of pupils obtaining A*-C and of these 40% at A*-A.

This year there have been some really inventive and creative algorithms produced by Third Form Stoics embarking on their study of Computing and Programming. Jimmy Davis (Third Form, Grenville), Larry Zhao (Third Form, Walpole) and Hugo Robinson (Third Form, Grenville) have shown a great talent in devising methods to solve some really complex programming problems. The Third Form has also tried their hand at App Development, creating a whole host of mobile apps ranging from restaurant location apps to mobile health and beauty tutorials. The future is extremely bright for Computing at Stowe.

In the Fourth Form, Freddie Woods (Fourth Form, Chatham) has been one of the most dynamic and inventive coders the School has seen, devising some very intricate methods to solve the GCSE Controlled Assessment tasks, thinking outside of the box and then some! There is a healthy competitive atmosphere within the Department with Iaroslav Bobrov (Fourth Form, Bruce), Max Bishop (Fourth Form, Grafton) and others competing for the title of 'Best Programmer' week in, week out!

The outgoing Fifth Form has been a force to be reckoned with this year with Toby Lawrance (Fifth Form, Cobham) and Olly Clarke (Fifth Form, Chandos) being awarded the Departments' prizes at Speech Day. Toby was awarded his prize for his tireless work in creating all manner of applications for a wide variety of platforms as well as cross-curricular work with the Physics Department and their robots. Olly's prize was awarded in recognition of his outstanding commitment to success throughout the three years he has studied Computing. The outgoing Fifth Form are recognised as one of the most talented year groups and so we expect big things for the results this summer and beyond when they begin their Computing A Levels for the first time in September. As outgoing Head of Department I thank them for all of their hard work over the last few years. Their relentless work ethic has helped me develop the Department and the subject of Computing at Stowe.

Mr Thomas Higham, Head of Computing

Business Studies

The Business Studies Department has had another busy and fruitful year. The Business Society talks continue to challenge our pupils by encouraging them to research a topical area of interest and to present this to their peers. I would like to single out two outstanding presentations given by Letitia O'Neill (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Bonnie Leheup (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton). The talks focused on the impact of UK Fashion Houses on the UK economy and on gender inequality respectively. They were well received by their peers and led to some lively discussion!

This year we also entered a team in the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' BASE competition. The event tests school children across the country on their ability to analyse a company's accounts and apply their business skills. After a long day working through extensive source documents, the team gave an extremely impressive presentation to the Board of Directors on strategies to take the business forward. They narrowly missed out on winning a place in the National Finals, coming in as runners-up in their Regional heat – a very creditable and impressive result for a first outing. The Stowe team comprised Anna Fox (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), Natse Jemide (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Dot Holt (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Aleksia Zivanovic (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Ben Barrett (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and Laura Fras (Lower Sixth, Nugent).



We also arranged a number of factory visits to see Jaguar Land Rover, Coca-Cola and the Mercedes Petronas F1 team at Brackley. These visits are always well received by pupils and bring much of the business theory we cover in lessons into a real life context. Motivation and interest seems to increase significantly amongst Stoics when they get a chance to escape the classroom!

This year I am also pleased to announce that our Business Studies prize winners were Jimmy Ondari (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Jeremy Chang (Lower Sixth, Grafton) who received their awards on Speech Day. Congratulations to these Stoics who have consistently displayed a high level of engagement and success during the last academic year.

Finally, from September 2015 we have a new challenge within the curriculum as Business Studies will start teaching the new linear course which will be assessed at the end of two years in 2017. The pupil numbers next year remain buoyant and healthy and many pupils see Business Studies as an invaluable A Level to study which underpins any career a pupil may pursue. In addition, next year we have decided to bring together both Business Studies and Economics under one Department which makes a lot of strategic sense as both subjects are so closely related. We wish Richard Corthine every success in leading the new Department next year.

Mr Panos John, Head of Business Studies

PSHE

This year in the Peer Support Group (PSG) we have been mentoring younger Stoics who have been finding school tough. Our work has mainly consisted of meetings and talks to help our mentees, and we have all learnt a lot from the process. As a group we need to be able to empathise and guide our mentees in the direction of growth, we can all say that we have enjoyed this challenge. Our year in the PSG ended with the Kidscape weekend where we helped 12 young people who were severely bullied to regain confidence in themselves and to build their social skills. It has been really rewarding for all of us.

Maddy Jordan (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

The PSG members 2014-2015 were:

Maddy Jordan (Lower Sixth, Queen's)
Anna Fox (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)
Valeria Gridneva (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)
Lucy Oswald (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)
Dot Holt (Lower Sixth, Queen's)
Alfie Marsden-Smedley (Lower Sixth, Walpole)
Harry Norris (Lower Sixth, Chatham)
Alex Marks (Lower Sixth, Temple)
Nicholas Joiner Straughan (Upper Sixth, Grafton)



Kidscape

On Friday 19 June to Sunday 21 June 2015, 10 Stoics consisting of Alex Marks, Valeria Gridneva, Anna Fox, Alfie Marsden-Smedley, Harry Norris, Emma Davies (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Ben Barrett (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Laura Brogden (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Jack Hechle (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Hallam Smith (Lower Sixth, Bruce) took part in a charity weekend with Kidscape.

Kidscape is a charity that looks after and helps children who have been severely bullied. As a Stoic it is easy to forget how well we are all treated at Stowe. But for all of the children we looked after, school life had been horrible and described as "going through hell and back". This is why Kidscape comes to Stowe to release stress and explore the great times that can be had at a school with people of the similar age.

Over the course of the weekend we were all involved in a number of different activities. These would range from physical activities such as the assault course and leap of

faith to classroom activities that were often linked to bullying. As the weekend progressed the transformation from the initial meeting with the Kidscape children to the goodbyes on Sunday afternoon was incredible. The close bonds and intimate relationships created were immense. The Stoics, myself included, did not expect to create such a trustworthy relationship in such a short period of time. However all of the Stoics did and this was greatly satisfying to see and be a part of.

This amazing charity not only helps the boys and girls but can help Stoics also. Throughout the training day and the weekend we learnt the use of body language and eye contact. These two elements of conversation are a necessity in all of our lives when speaking with each other. But for almost all of the Kidscape children it was a completely new experience and they had to develop these skills further.

*Hallam Smith (Lower Sixth, Bruce)
and Jack Hechle (Lower Sixth, Bruce)*



A Recreative Response to Hour by Carol Ann Duffy

It is this daily hour of togetherness that keeps me sane in my old age; if it were not for the infallible wit and compassion of the company, I feel that by now I would have become a recluse, surrounded by a menagerie of forest cats, who only emerges from her poky room at mealtimes. Each day after copious cups of tea have been served and a great number of custard

creams nibbled at, the residents of the Dandelion Nursing Home for the Elderly have a tendency to retire, quite wastefully in my opinion, for an hour to nap. Just one hour.

At around 4:30pm he creeps surreptitiously along the corridor, rattling his walking frame determinedly with each step, whilst I sit in the corner of the library, penny novelette in hand, smiling at the childish fervour of a man who is not far from his eighty fifth birthday. Did you ever hear of such a paradox? It is at this moment that we escape the tedium; from Phyllis who cheats at Bingo, through the superficially innocent manipulation of the complaisant girl who crosses off her numbers, from Bernard whose wife, Alma, repeatedly tells us of the time he went out to buy her a crab sandwich and returned with a string of fresh-water pearls, and from Yaya, the attention grabbing Spaniard whose primary concern is the aesthetic quality of her aged lips. It was not until I was extracted, against my will, from my floral balcony on the coast and ever-growing collection of cookery books, that I was forced to accept how very deflating life for the elderly can be. One is always told that to be old is a joy because people will respect your wisdom, yet the ambience of stale coffee and incontinence, rarely visited by anyone other than reluctant relatives, makes this increasingly difficult to believe.

I do not usually adopt a pessimistic attitude, but I find it somewhat perturbing to think that we may not have many of these afternoons left, to find an hour together to talk, or just sit, before one vital organ or another will collapse. It seems to me that you have reached a true sense of understanding with another when you can exist quietly together, without the need for words to fill a gap or to prevent the dreaded and consequently over-discussed awkwardness, which is only an issue if you acknowledge its presence. 'Love's not Time's fool' is the phrase from a Shakespearian sonnet, studied no less than sixty seven years previously, that spins on a loop inside my head because only now have I identified the poignancy of that remark.

I have always found it challenging to sit still, yet it is something to which I have had to become accustomed due to an inability to move around for any great length of time without causing myself great discomfort and fatigue. Thus far, I have had to satisfy myself with the whirring of my mind, an unstoppable thing which has proved to be both the help and hindrance of my existence ever since I can remember. There was not a time when I did not consider every consequence of what I had done, what I was doing and what I was to do; this over-analysis quite naturally turned out to be my downfall. Yet by the age of eighty four, one must come to accept that you have very little power to do anything significant for the world, aside from powering down country lanes on a mobility scooter, at no more than five miles per hour, before running out of battery at a crossroad, thus having to wait to be rescued; this was one of my more thrilling escape attempts.

Occasionally I am tempted to throw off the drudgery of convention, and spend the rest of my days wearing nothing but an apron, paintbrush in hand, painting exotic murals all over the yellowing walls of my bedroom. However, I feel that this would be counterproductive in terms of happiness, as well as exceptionally inconvenient for the next inhabitant of room forty three. Now I will attempt to switch off my mind, and just appreciate the delicacy of the moment; 'Paloma Negra' drifts from underneath the coffee table where there is an exhausted stereo-cassette player that was donated to the Hospice circa nineteen eighty; the tape is old and Chavela Vargas' voice keeps getting stuck on one melancholic note. We watch the early stages of the storm through a clouded window, one armchair apiece, talking about anything but that which is inevitable. The widow and the widower, sharing their lives if only for an hour at a time.

Amy Jorgensen (Fifth Form, Nugent)



Art

There has been plenty to celebrate in the Art School this year, with all of our art school hopefuls achieving offers for either foundation or degree courses. Three of our girls, Edwina Longe (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Flora Marriott (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Tilda Bevan (Upper Sixth, Queen's), are going to Leeds University next year to take their foundation course, and George Anderson (Upper Sixth, Chatham) will be our first pupil to attend the Royal Drawing School foundation course in London's Docklands. We will also be saying goodbye to our three architecture pupils; Ollie Song (Upper Sixth, Grenville), William Scrace (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and William Lewis (Upper Sixth, Walpole), who have worked extremely hard this year, making beautiful works in two and three dimensions for their portfolios and A Level shows. Under the continued expert guidance of Chris Grimble they have pushed at the A Level boundaries with their 3D constructions and creative use of materials. From the most delicate wire structures to the solidity of cast plaster, they have made their work personal and highly original.

The Art Department has also continued to produce some excellent painters, especially under the tutelage of Brian Johnson, and we are thrilled that Olivia Wentworth-Stanley (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) has been offered a place on the Painting degree at University of Edinburgh. We are also very proud of Ellie Clark (Upper Sixth, Queen's) who goes on to study photography next year, having produced a wonderful portfolio of prints over the course of the year for her interview. We wish them all the best of luck and hope to be inviting them back to talk and show their work to future generations of Stoics.

To influence these talented people, we invited artists and makers from a range of disciplines to the Department this year, further developing our Arts at Stowe programme with

Deborah Clark and her team. At the start of the year we were thrilled to welcome the photographer Michael Kenna, both to show his beautiful landscape photographs and to talk about his inspirations and life. This work became an influence for many of our pupils when setting off on their personal investigations in the Upper Sixth. Later in the year we welcomed the textile designer Carole Waller to the studios and several of our Fifth Form Stoics spent a very happy Saturday afternoon making beautiful printed and painted lengths of cloth. This workshop was also open to the public through Arts at Stowe, and we welcomed another group on the Sunday, including several mothers and daughters who worked together to produce beautiful printed fabrics.

In the Lent term we exhibited the drawings of Francis Terry (Chatham 88) and marvelled at his large architectural drawings which filled the studio with classical splendour. Francis gave a fascinating talk about his time at Stowe and told us about his path through his architectural studies at Cambridge, his life as a painter and on to his current role as an architect within the family firm.

In contrast to this we then enjoyed the mixed media works of Dale Inglis, an artist inspired by the colours and textures of the Thames, which runs close to his London studio. By layering paint, paper and found imagery, his works have a rich surface which suggests the changing face of London's most characteristic space. Once again our pupils found the work very inspiring and some were able to develop their own mixed media work in relation to the show. We are also very grateful to Buckingham artist Gino Ballantyne, whose exhibition 'Fragile Things' was another highlight this year, showing a very different approach to working with colour in relation to personal themes and motifs.

Our Fifth Form GCSE artists have been a wonderful



hard working and creative group, and we have very much enjoyed seeing them develop into sophisticated practitioners over the past three years. We are looking forward to taking some of them forward on our new A Level linear course next year. We also have a tremendous group coming through from the Third and Fourth Forms

at GCSE. Many thanks to all the Art Department staff who have worked so hard again this year, and we look forward to taking our pupils forward to new and exciting things in September.

Mrs Amanda Jorgensen, Head of Art

History of Art

The History of Art Department has been busy with trips events and talks from visiting speakers again this year. Taking Stoics to see works of art is one of the joys of the subject and this year has been no exception with valuable opportunities available to Stoics.

The annual Lower Sixth Form trip to London's National Gallery took place in mid October, giving the new Art Historians a first taste of a world class collection. Even before entering, the building's neoclassical grandeur provides an opportunity to learn something about both heritage and style, whilst the collections within provide a superb introduction to the study of painting. There really is no substitute for seeing work at first hand; the meticulous detail of van Eyck's 'Arnolfini Portrait', the flawless perfection of Ingres' 'Madame Moitessier' and the sheer textural charisma of van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' held Stoics captivated. It is always a good sign when pupils want to spend longer looking at work and this year's group said that they could easily have stayed longer with these fascinating works.

Another great tradition of the History of Art Department is the New York trip. Now in its tenth year, it is quite rightly seen as the highlight of the year for most of the Art Historians who attend. For many it is not only their first opportunity to visit New York's unrivalled collections, but also their first taste of American culture. From the very fortifying pancakes and syrup for breakfast, and the experience of strolling through Central Park, to the amazing views from the top of the Empire State Building, Stoics are immersed in a very American experience. This

year, as ever, it was the art work that held centre stage; the vast collections of the Metropolitan Museum and Museum of Modern Art set against the elegance of the Frick Collection and the startling form of the Guggenheim Museum, whose dramatic architecture often vies with its exhibitions for attention. Favourite works, which are still being talked about, included Dali's tiny, but jewel-like 'Persistence of Memory' and Friedrich's Romantic 'Two Men Contemplating the Moon'. An evening enjoying the generous hospitality of Brian Hecht, the president of the Friends of Stowe in America and an early Stowe Harvard Fellow, rounded off the trip. It not only introduced Stoics to the wider Old Stoic community, but also showed just how many doors could be opened for them if their interests led them to America after their time at Stowe.

With the release of Mike Leigh's film 'Mr Turner', interest in that artist soared. The History of Art Society held a topical lecture on the painter's early career. Turner specialist Dr Sarah Monks from UEA addressed the Stoics, giving a gritty and pragmatic view of the artist and his rise to fame. The Lent term saw the History of Art Society decamping to the University of Buckingham for its now annual 'Careers in the Art World' lectures. Along with fascinating views of the art market from the point of view of both dealers and auction houses, Stoics heard about the experiences of curators and restorers. The event proved a valuable opportunity to develop some initial ideas about potential careers and also helped to build some useful early contacts.

Mr Iain Young, Head of History of Art

Design and Technology



The Design and Technology Exhibition held on Speech Day truly celebrated the creativity and capability of an amazing group of pupils that have studied Design and Technology, either Graphic Products or Resistant Materials, this year at all age levels. It not only highlighted their design and manufacturing ability but was a testimony to the hard work and dedication that these Stoics have put into this subject throughout this academic year. It also reflects the tremendous amount of hard work and dedication of the teaching and non-teaching staff in support of these pupils.

Our AS and A2 Stoics have once again excelled in their coursework under the guidance of staff. Design folders are exquisite, not only superbly presented, but of a quality that clearly communicates the depth of their design thinking and decision making. It was once again noted by visitors to the show the high standard and quality of manufacturing of pupils work. Whilst all should be commended, of particular note this year was the work of Jamie Angle (Upper Sixth, Chandos) who designed and manufactured a very modern modular coffee table for penthouse living and Will Arthey (Upper Sixth, Grafton) who produced a work desk for a very specific client. Both of these products could easily be considered to be commercially viable products. Angus Norman (Upper Sixth, Chatham) won the Andrew McAlpine Prize for Graphics for his outstanding efforts in both his folder and manufactured coursework.

Our GCSE cohort rose to the occasion producing a range of innovative solutions to client led projects. It is always a pleasure to see so many pupils motivated by such projects and the work on display at Speech Day reflected their passion for the subject. The continued development of the

Graphic Product course has inspired the pupils allowing for far more innovative architectural modelling to occur during the course. There were some outstanding pieces of work from Rory Smith (Fifth Form, Cobham), John Peatfield (Fifth Form, Temple) and Jamey Lewis (Fifth Form, Cobham).

This year our pupils have been posed with practical challenges to which there is no single 'right answer' and we urge them to be creative whilst developing technical competence. In doing this we are hoping to develop self-esteem and a power to be effective. Design is about taking action and we are working hard to develop creativity in our pupils through using a careful balance of challenge and skill. Stoics have certainly responded to this very positively. Dovetailing with the School's initiative of developing a Growth Mindset it is made clear to Stoics that to attain good grades in Design and Technology takes hard work and a lot of effort, but once again as we have seen in the work displayed at the Speech Day Exhibition, even set with such high expectations, they have not let themselves down.

As we move forward as a Department we are really looking at the Stowe Design Society taking off. Stoics who have a passion for all things 'design' will have the opportunity to meet and discuss amongst themselves and be introduced to guest speakers who can come into School and offer meaningful and appropriate insights into a diverse range of career opportunities in the world around us.

I am extremely grateful for the time and effort that the staff have put in this year and look forward to another successful year for the Department in 2015-2016.

Mr Matthew Smith, Head of Design and Technology

International Department



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

Our pupils have continued to excel and we are proud of their many achievements. 2014-15 proved to be another outstanding year for IELTS results with 79% of candidates achieving top 7.0-8.5 scores. Once again, 100% of IELTS candidates either met or exceeded the university entrance criteria of their first choice institutions. The 2014 results for the IGCSE in English as a Second Language were exceptional with 77% of candidates achieving A*-A grades and a 95% A*-B success rate. Such results are a testament to the strong commitment, diligence and determination of our pupils. Some of our more ambitious pupils continue to opt for the CAE qualification (the Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English). This advanced and technically challenging qualification enables pupils to demonstrate the highest levels of linguistic proficiency and provides an impressive addition to UCAS/university applications in an increasingly competitive market.

Speech Day provided yet another opportunity to recognise the fantastic achievements and successes of so many international Stoics. Congratulations go to Khaled Choucair (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Lisa Battilomo (Fifth Form, Nugent), Sophia Panagiotidi (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Oliver Song (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Ingrid Galler (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Jeffri Indot (Lower Sixth, West) for their well-deserved prizes and for all their contributions to the Stowe Community. Congratulations also go to Ingrid Galler for her Bene and to Milan Canak (Fourth Form, Chandos), Timothy Guan (Fifth Form, Temple), Laurine Heerema (Fifth Form, Queen's), Mar Martinez-Tomas (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Theodora Tserni (Upper Sixth, Nugent) for their Commendations. These Stoics in particular have worked extremely hard this term and thoroughly deserve to be recognised – well done one and all.

Outside the classroom, in addition to the cinema outing for the Sixth Form Stoics taking IELTS, the annual

International Society Dinner took place on the penultimate Thursday of the Lent term, where over 120 international pupils came together to celebrate cultural diversity. The themed evening, which many Stoics attended in national dress, began with music and food from Asia, including delicacies like sushi and crispy peking duck, during which the pupils were tasked with creating origami masterpieces ranging from samurai hats to crowns and cranes to Easter bunnies! The next course saw a move to the African continent, with more wonderful music and gastronomic delights, but this time accompanied by an international quiz, created by International Prefect, Theodora Tserni. The final part of the dinner meant another theme switch, this time to Europe, where a diverse mixture of music from Ukraine to England, accompanied desserts from Italy. The highlight of the evening, as ever, was the entertainment provided by the Stoics. This year our wonderful South African Scholars, led by Nonhlanhla Maclare (Fourth Form, Queen's) with Gislaine Batubenge (Fourth Form, Queen's), Thabang Khambule (Fourth Form, Temple), Mpho Manolo (Fourth Form, Chandos) and Neo Mayeza (Fourth Form, Chatham), kicked off by getting the room rocking with a performance of popular South African hit 'Jika'. The title means 'turn around' and the whole room (teachers included) happily joined in with this catchy tune and dance. This proved to be a tough act to follow, but resident singer-songwriter, George Huxtable (Upper Sixth, Chatham), triumphed with his performance of the first song from his recently-released EP. As George, with his trusty guitar, played his beautiful song, the room fell silent and the atmosphere was electric. Then, following thunderous applause and to round off the evening, George sang a stunning duet of '4, 5 Seconds' by Rihanna with Head Girl, Shannon Devlin (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), supported on base by International Prefect, William Pepera (Upper Sixth, Bruce), which was again amazing. All in all another wonderful evening of great food, wonderful entertainment and a few too many chocolate eggs was had by all.

So to conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to Ms Rayner, the International Prefects, Theodora Tserni and William Pepera, the International Committee and all pupils in the Department for their contributions, diligence and enthusiasm throughout yet another outstanding year for the International Department.

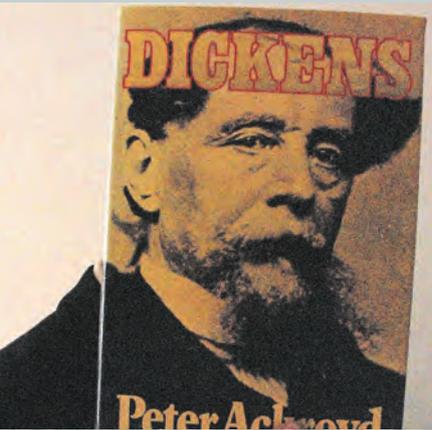
*Mrs Philippa Kitchen,
Acting Head of International Department*



Library

As this was my last year at Stowe before retirement, every event in the annual Library calendar held a special significance. Never again will I induct the Third Form or the Lower Sixth Form into the day to day workings of the Stowe Library and the resources it holds to assist them on their path to academic achievement. Never again will I help the Third Form in their Library lessons to understand the intricacies of the Dewey Decimal System! Never again will I scour websites and newspaper review sections in search for book titles that will inspire and motivate pupils to experience the joys of getting absorbed in a story or convince them of the benefits of reading around their subjects. It will be strange to see events like National Poetry Day and World Book Day come round on the calendar without having to think "What new approach or competition can I come up with this year?" I was particularly pleased with this year's World Book Day photo competition where the talent of our School Photographer, Alan Longworth, combined with the ingenuity of some of the academic staff produced some amazing 'Bookface' pictures where the Stoics had to guess the identity of the staff member reading the book.

My favourite event of the year is the Inter-House Literary Quiz which is always a keenly fought and fun evening. Once again I was indebted to the collective brain of the English Department for coming up with creative and engaging quiz questions on a number of different literary themes. This year, old rivals Temple and Bruce were neck and neck at the



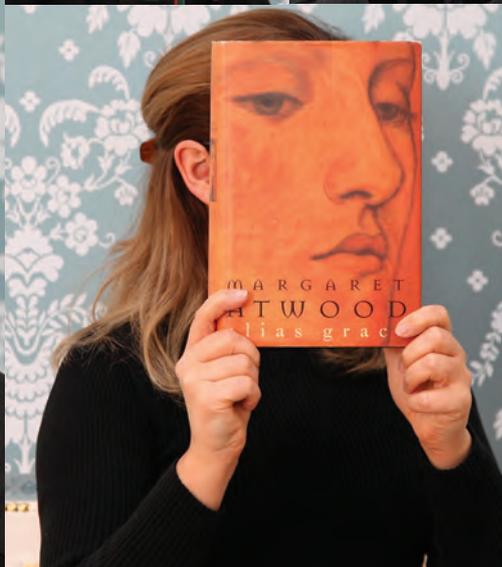


end of the evening and it took a tie-breaker question to split the teams with Bruce emerging victorious. We were also delighted this year with our two author visits. We welcomed Tony Bradman who talked about his compilation of 'Stories of World War One' for our Prep School Humanities Day and fantasy writer Jonathan Stroud who amused the Third Form by producing a ghost busting kit for them to try on, to illustrate his spooky story 'Lockwood & Co.'

Once again this year I have valued the opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues in other schools by attending courses and meetings. I am particularly indebted to both the Rugby Group of School Librarians and the Milton Keynes group of Secondary School Librarians. Their friendship and generous advice has been greatly valued and will be much missed.

So it is farewell to the gold leaf ceiling, the unique chicken wire doors to the shelves, the secret doors on the gallery and that amazing view from the window behind the library counter over the South Front and down to the lake. The Library is a very different place from the one I first walked into 12 years ago with its crumbling ceiling and shabby furniture. What a transformation! It has been the most amazing environment in which to work and I will be forever grateful. I wish my successor Lyn Foden and all Stoics present and future who will be lucky enough to experience studying there my very best wishes for their success.

Mrs Carol Miller, Librarian





Arche Dixon-Smith (Fifth Form, Chatham)



Francesca Leach (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



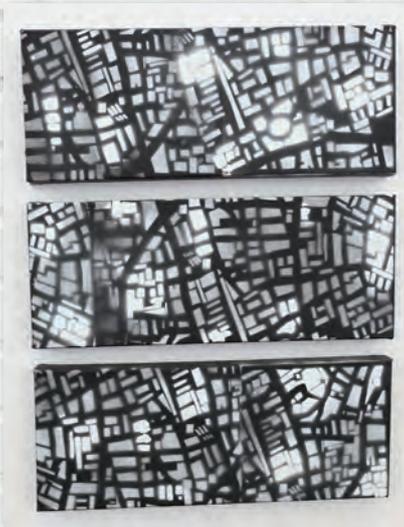
Rory Smith (Fifth Form, Cobham)



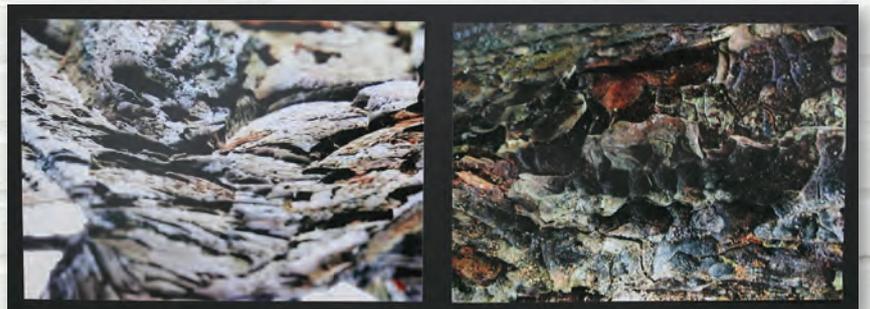
Isobelle Smith (Lower Sixth, Nugent)



Fabiola Koenig (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



Dani Fusco-House (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)



Eleanor Clark (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Francesca Knight (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)



Fabian Bevan (Fifth Form, Grafton)



Florence Stanley (Fifth Form, Stanhope)



Erica Chadwick (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)

Gallery



Edwina Longe (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



Flora Marriott (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



James Assheton (Fifth Form, Grafton)



Georgia Charlton-Briggs (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



Old Stoics

The saying goes that 'a picture says a thousand words' and, with that in mind, I am delighted to include a handful, to highlight the marvellous array of Old Stoic events which have taken place over the course of the year. The full collection can be found on the Old Stoic website; please do take a look and share the photographs on social media, tagging friends whom you recognise.

It has certainly been a busy year for the OS Society, kicking off with a trip to Leeds Castle in Kent, for Old Stoics living in the South East of England. This was the first of many regional activities we are rolling out across the country. Keeping with the theme, we recently held a Dinner for Old Stoics in Scotland and the far north of England, at the New Club, with Edinburgh Castle in the background.

Our ever popular Old Stoic Day took place on Saturday 4 October; we threw open the North Front doors to 285 Old Stoics and their guests. We were particularly happy to welcome the 1964 'unbeaten' rugby team, who gathered to celebrate their victorious year, as part of the 50th Anniversary Reunion.

We gathered again the following month for the Old Stoic Dinner. We laid on a Stowe string quartet, a delicious dinner and an enormously popular casino night. This year, more OS sports teams came along, with the golfers, footballers and Templars all taking tables.

With sport in mind, we tried our hand at skating in December with a group of recent leavers taking to the ice at Somerset House. It was fantastic fun, followed by mulled wine and hot chocolate and we will be repeating the event and encouraging everyone to come along on Thursday 26 November this year – all are welcome!

Alongside our efforts to hold more regional OS events, we are also encouraging gatherings across the globe. This year, Drinks Receptions have taken place in Hong Kong, New York, Dubai, Kenya and Canada. A big thank you must go to our OS representatives who made the arrangements.

Sadly, over the course of the year we have said goodbye to some memorable names held in very high regard at Stowe. In January, large crowds gathered for David



Wynne's (Grenville 44) Thanksgiving Service which was a tribute to his truly extraordinary life. Later in the year, many Old Stoics and former staff joined us to remember former Second Master, Muir Temple. A service was held in the Chapel and guests were invited to join the 40th Anniversary Dinner, held in the Music Room later in the evening. It became a fitting celebration of an individual who gave so many years of his life to Stowe.

We raised the octave in April with the first Old Stoic Live Bands night. Orlando (Seale) and The Swell (Lyttelton 91) and JJ Rosa wowed the crowds at the first of what we hope will be a regular music fixture for OSs. Before the bands took to the stage, Old Stoics working in Arts, Media and Entertainment were invited for drinks to encourage business networking.

A new sub-committee has been formed to revitalise our careers and networking events and I hope over the coming year, exciting new additions will be made to the OS calendar to offer advice, guidance and opportunities for Old Stoics looking to further their careers and professional development. We held the OS Careers' Fair, with 40 Old Stoics coming to Stowe to give advice to Stoics on a wide array of industries.

We welcomed yet another bumper turnout at the Old Stoic Classic Car Display at Speech Day. This year, Caroline Whitlock (Old Stoic Events Co-ordinator) even managed to arrange for a 1933 Napier-Railton to escape from Brooklands Museum for a special outing to Stowe. The cars dazzled on the North Front and were enjoyed by the hundreds of parents, Stoics and Old Stoics who joined us this year. We also paid tribute to life-long car enthusiast and auto journalist, Steady Barker (Grenville/Walpole 38) who, over the last years of his life, was instrumental in the



growth and success of the OS Classic Car Display.

Crowds gathered again for the Summer Party on Tuesday 9 June at the Kensington Roof Gardens, with a brilliant jazz trio and delicious food and wine. This spectacular event remains a firm favourite on the calendar, with all Old Stoics, parents, friends and guests welcome. We hope to make it bigger and better next year.

As always, full details of all of our activities can be found on the OS website, along with news and a host of useful services for members.

Miss Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director



Bruce



© R & H Chapman Photography



Housemaster: Craig Sutton
Matron: Amanda Penner
Assistant Housemaster: Charlie Barker
Under Housemaster: James Knott
Head of House: Murray Aitchison
Deputy Head of House: Kyle Browne

Senior School Prefect: Murray Aitchison, Will Pepera
School Prefects: Kyle Browne, Tom Dixon, Mark Hulbert, Patrick Keating
House Prefects: Tobi Balogun, Tom Dixon, Mark Hulbert, Patrick Keating, Kai Komai, Jimmy Ondari, Will Pepera, Luke Reddyhough, Will Scrase, Chris Simpson, Charlie Wright





Friendly, supportive, united and competitive are four words that I use to describe Bruce House. We work hard together to create an integrated and cohesive atmosphere where everyone can feel at home and strive to contribute to our family. Much of the responsibility in terms of leadership falls to the Senior year. This year's Upper Sixth have been great role models and 'big brothers', providing encouragement, guidance and advice when required. Murray Aitchison and Kyle Browne, in particular, have been outstanding leaders as Head and Deputy Head of House. The Tutor team agrees that some of the most rewarding times we share in House are watching the boys interact together at the various House events, such as the Christmas Dinner and the numerous House BBQs we have in the Summer term. The Senior boys set the tone at these events and they have been wonderfully inclusive to all this year.

I have been particularly pleased with the way the boys, faced with the challenge of public exams, have applied themselves this year. Their level of focus and motivation has been at an all time high, so I am sure their results will reflect this diligent attitude. In terms of APGs, the boys with consistently highest effort averages have been Jimmy Ondari, Will Pepera, Tom Dixon and Matthew Barnes-Murphy, so well done to them! The cinema trips to the Milton Keynes Xscape Centre remains the target for the top 16 boys in terms of effort and it is good to see the qualifying standard required to make this cut gradually increasing. At Speech Day the following boys were awarded academic prizes: Jimmy Ondari, Peter Kimondo, Will Pepera, Elliot Mitchell and Will Fox. Tom Dixon was awarded no fewer than three Music Awards and deserves a special mention for his outstanding contribution to the music scene at Stowe. Similarly, Patrick Keating was awarded the Senior Drama prize for his tireless and enthusiastic contribution to the Drama Department. Further notable successes in front of audiences were provided by our Junior Debaters, who managed to lift the trophy in the Inter-House competition this year. Well done to Ben Solomon, Daniel Kilmister, Henry Russell, Josh Dolder and Matthew Barnes-Murphy. The Bruce Inter-House Maths team of Will Pepera, Elliot Mitchell, Josh Dolder and Will Fox, managed to top the table amongst the boys' Houses, although we could not catch the best girls' House.

Several Bruce boys have taken the opportunity to take

the lead in Chapel this year. Charles Johnson led a group of nine boys from various year groups in the House in a presentation about mental illness. This enlightening, brave and powerful 'House Chapel' prompted a spontaneous round of applause. Peter Kimondo talked to the School about the benefits of meditation and promptly set up an activity slot to make it available to all. Jack Hechle and Hallam Smith described the wonderful experience they had as mentors to pupils on the 'Kidscape' programme.

We have had a decent year on the Inter-House sports scene. Twenty-eight boys contributed to the new 'Stowe Challenge' competition, which is made up of various activities including an obstacle course, a sprint relay on the track, a swimming relay, .22 shooting, a problem solving exercise and an endurance event including swimming across the lake. We started the event by posting a new record for the 3,000m sprint relay and managed to maintain our lead through the various activities to become the inaugural Champions. Our collective efforts were also rewarded with an overall win for Bruce on Sports Day, with our Junior team also winning their section. Individual champions on the day included Will Scrase (Senior 800m and 1,500m), Jack Flood (Senior hurdles), Peter Kimondo (Senior triple jump), Ade Adejobi (Inter shot put) and Ed Anderson (Junior triple jump). Our teams also managed to lift trophies in the Senior and Junior basketball, the Fourth and Fifth Form and Senior league football and the Junior cricket. We were runners up in Yearlings hockey, Yearlings rugby, Senior rugby and Senior football.

I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful new Matron, Amanda Penner, and congratulate her on an excellent first year. Her enthusiasm and bubbly character have helped enormously to shape the happy atmosphere in House. Mr Lloyd and Mr Stone have also added much to our Tutor team. Their experience of dealing with professional sports performers has helped them guide many of the boys throughout the year. We are sad to say farewell to our Assistant Housemaster of seven years, Mr Barker, and also our Under Housemaster, Mr Knott, both of whom have given much time to tutoring the Bruce boys but will both still be teaching at Stowe.

Our Bruce motto is a good place to finish – *Fuimus* (we have been).

Mr Craig Sutton, Housemaster



Chandos

© R & H Chapman Photography

Chandos has enjoyed another very successful year across all three main areas of Stowe life in academics, sport and the arts. The trophy cabinet remains fully stocked even though it has been somewhat of a 'bridesmaid' year with many second places in a wide variety of House competitions. After five consecutive years of being in the top three boys' Houses in the House Singing competition, Chandos had to defend its honour. Miles Clark cleverly combined a superb part-song medley of Disney tunes with magnificent results. This was performed in conjunction with a 1980s classic from the Human League, 'Don't you want me baby'. The House fully committed to both songs with groovy moves and great harmonies only to be pipped at the post by a strong Chatham performance. Nevertheless, Chandos gained second place and maintains its incredible record of never being out of the top three position of boys' Houses in six years!

The footballers did well on the first weekend of the Michaelmas term with the Fifth Form losing on penalties in the final and the Seniors going out in the same way in the semi-final. Philip Ilinich kick-started the sporting success of the year winning the Inter-House 500m rowing sprint in the Intermediate category. The Junior league football team followed suit winning the Inter-House Saturday league. Ivan Titov scored regular goals but this year's Chandosian South African Scholar Mpho Manalo, stole the show with a prolific scoring record of 20 goals in four matches. The combined Fourth and Fifth Form league rugby team also followed suit securing the league trophy thanks to a strong set of Fifth Formers. After several impressive wins in the Senior football leagues, Chandos beat a strong Temple side to set up the last game decider against Bruce. After missing several good chances, they went down 1-0 and finished second in the league. The new format of the Stowe Challenge Cup suited the diverse strengths of the House and there were good performances in the sprinting with third position, a second place in the command task and fourth position in the run. The double points' joker was played in the .22 shooting event and Milan Canak kept up his reputation as the Serbian bear-hunting marksman, scoring one of only two faultless 100 point scores in the whole competition. Sadly this wasn't enough to win the event but Chandos still managed a

respectable fourth place for the overall Stowe Cup.

In the Lent term Chandos competed in the Inter-House swimming, Inter-House basketball and Inter-House water polo leagues. Ilya Riskin and Alex Hamilton Stubber swam well gaining two third places in the Junior competition but George Lee, aka 'The Fish', stole the show winning the 100m front crawl, the 100m medley and the 100m backstroke which was more than enough to win the overall individual Senior swimming cup. As well as this, congratulations also go to Will Thompson who came second in the 50m Senior front crawl with an injured calf and Harrison Dockerty who came second in the 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle open event. In the basketball, Chandos were knocked out in a nail-bitingly close Seniors final against Bruce with Jamie Angle and George Silk both standing out. In the water polo leagues the Juniors performed admirably and the Seniors very narrowly missed out on the final spot.

Much of the House attention was then focused on our joint Drama production, this year we teamed up with Nugent. 'Same' was co-directed by Ali Martin and Harrison Dockerty and featured five Chandos Junior School actors. Louis Armitage and Gabriel Armstrong took on the roles of teenage boys, Philip Ilinich was a ghost from the past, while Arthur Marriott and Alex Hamilton Stubber were both very convincing as elderly gentlemen in a nursing home. In the latter part of the term Chandos produced their first House Chapel for many years. The theme was focused on mothers in the week leading up to Mothers' Day.

Another runners-up spot was posted in Senior cricket thanks to strong batting performances from Ali Martin, Olly Clarke, Will Thompson and George Silk with the ball and in the field. Steven Duncan also secured second place in the inaugural Equestrian competition and the pattern of second place seemed set for the Summer term until the mighty Senior volleyball players had other ideas. After a long and entertaining battle against Temple in the final, the Prefect led Senior team secured top spot. The trophy cabinet is still brimming with other triumphs from the Summer term after a very strong showing on Sports Day. Chandos remains a very strong rugby house with eight Sixth Form

pupils representing the 1st XV in the last year and a half and veteran George Silk was joined by Rotimi Segun, Toni Kuku and Will Thompson to form part of the National Sevens winning team at Rosslyn Park. Four boys played for the U16A team and six boys for the U15A XV respectively and honours also extended to Club, Academy and National level. Rotimi Segun was selected for the U18 England rugby team for an outstanding third consecutive year. He scored a try against Wales live on TV for all the School to see and he also played for the Northampton Saints Senior Development XV. Other representative rugby players included Toni Kuku and Kristian Kay for the Wasps Academy, George Silk for the Bedford Blues and Adam Williamson also for the Northampton Saints Academy. Congratulations also go to Ali Martin on his selection to play for U17 Buckinghamshire County Cricket and Olly Clarke who has been selected to play cricket for the U17 Oxfordshire County team. Harrison Dockerty also deserves praise for his strong win in the Senior Inter-House cross country and his selection to run for the Buckinghamshire Schools' Cross Country Team.

Further notable academic and School success followed at the Speech Day Prize Giving with two major awards going to Chandosians. Charlie Moore was awarded the Cummings Prize for Citizenship and Jamie Angle a Headmaster's Special Prize in recognition of his superb all round contribution to the School.

Some final congratulations go to James Macdonald-Buchanan for being another great Head Boy from Chandos, the fifth in nine years, and to Head of House James Scott, who has also gained much respect for his efforts as School Prefect, 1st XI football Captain and for captaining the golf team. James Scott was hugely supported by Deputy Head

of House, Jamie Angle, who captained the basketball team and served as a Senior School Prefect. The House also had the unique experience of having no less than seven School Prefects demonstrating the character, leadership abilities and strength of this top year group. This year's Upper Sixth Form also showed their academic strength with Sean Rea and Rotimi Segun's involvement in the high altitude balloon project, Matthew Selvey heading up the Stowe Science Review and Jamie Angle and James Macdonald-Buchanan in the Headmaster's Essay Society.

We finish by congratulating Ali Martin who has been appointed as next year's Head of House and a School Prefect and he will be ably assisted by Deputy Heads of House, Harrison Dockerty and Adam Ezomo. George Olley, Toni Kuku, Steven Duncan and Artura Subowo will also act as House Prefects. Both the pink and brown (Seniors) and red and gold shirted boys (Juniors), can hold their heads high after much achievement. No matter what colour we play in, we are front runners in a huge range of events and people take note.

Mr Peter Deakin, Housemaster

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Housemaster: | Peter Deakin |
| Matron: | Clare Hill-Hall |
| Assistant Housemaster: | Brian Hart |
| Under Housemaster: | Lewis Brito-Babapulle Tom Elwell |
| Head of House: | James Scott |
| Deputy Head of House: | Jamie Angle |
| Head Boy: | James Macdonald-Buchanan |

Senior School Prefect: Jamie Angle
School Prefects: Charlie Moore, Sean Rea, Rotimi Segun, George Silk
House Prefects: Miles Clark, Ben ter Haar



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Chatham



| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Housemaster: | Liam Copley |
| Matron: | Rachael Scott-Copley |
| Assistant Housemaster: | Henry Swayne |
| Under Housemaster: | Alex de Trafford |
| Head of House: | Edward Hopkinson |
| Deputy Head of House: | Sebastian Cecil |

School Prefects: Sebastian Cecil, Jack Edmonstone, Paul Henkel, Edward Hopkinson
House Prefects: George Anderson, James Simpson

As we begin preparations for the House refurbishment the process is strangely cathartic. One gains an interesting perspective; folders of pupils who have left emerge from their dusty covers; past assemblies resurface; and there is a poignant sense of achievement. It made me wonder how our leavers feel as they empty their lockers here for the last time and find those stray rugby socks behind the radiator or a crumpled up test they sensibly hid from their parents. Once again this year we had the pleasure of celebrating the successes of the Chatham Upper Sixth leavers at our annual dinner held at Claydon House. I thanked the Senior boys for their support and I extend that to all of the Chatham community.

In opening this year I spoke to the boys about how education is often referred to as ‘preparation for life’. But there is something I loathe about this assertion. Such a view, after all, implies that their lives have not begun yet. Certainly at a school such as Stowe, one’s experiences should be amongst the most colourful, exhilarating and rewarding days of one’s existence. Regarding school as merely a preparation for life underestimates tragically the richness, the vibrancy and the intrinsically worthwhile nature of what you can and should achieve here.

Academically Chatham boys have worked hard throughout the year and there is an erudite atmosphere in the House. As I write this report the table for merits awarded sees Tasimba Choto-Muchemwa (101), Guy Woodhouse (77) James Creedy Smith (59), Johannes Henkel (39) and Paul Henkel (37) leading their year groups. Whilst, on sheer attainment the stand out performers are Darius Bambang, Jack Polturak, James Creedy Smith, Ben Barrett and James Simpson.

In the first half of the Michaelmas term, George Huxtable produced a challenging medley of ‘Rude’ and ‘Going to be with you every day’ for our House part-song and ‘You’ve got a friend in me’ for our full unison song. The boys soon came into unison under George’s guidance to win the House Singing Cup. The following weekend the Intermediate boys’ House rugby team captained by Archie Dixon-Smith did well to reach the semi-final, whilst the Senior boys, under the guidance of Sebastian Cecil, won the plate final. The Third Form were unfortunate to finish third in House hockey after losing on a penalty shootout to the eventual winners, with Ed Wentworth-Stanley being

the standout performer on the day. The success in the Senior House Debating has been particularly pleasing this term. The team of Alex Potts, Sam Riley and Harry Norris (with George Barham as researcher) faced Walpole in a dramatic final which saw Chatham take home the spoils. On the rugby field, Thomas Johnson and Sebastian Cecil secured regular slots in a very strong 1st XV and were both part of the successful Rosslyn Park 7s team. Our young polo players of Wilfred Fine, Algy Stanley, Leo Dettori and Henry Frisby continued to impress on the polo field with Henry playing for the 1st team and being invited to a training camp in South Africa.

The Lent term delivered more accomplishments for Chathamites on the sports field. On the hockey pitch it has been good to see George Markham and Sam Riley making regular selection for the 1st XI. This was carried forward into the Senior House hockey competition where the squad was victorious in bringing back the silverware. The trophy cabinet is now bulging after the success of our Intermediate swimmers who won both the freestyle and individual medley relay events and the overall boys’ Intermediate swimming cup. The boys also won the Junior fives trophy under the captaincy of Freddie Woods. It was wonderful to see George Huxtable take the lead and Rex Adams star in the School musical production ‘Company’ and Cosmo Oliver take to the stage in the Fifth Form play. More recently Rebant Ruparell, Ludo Mannion Miles and Ed Rød-Larsen have also performed in the Junior Congreve.

It was pleasing to have cricketers Sam Riley and George Markham selected in the 1st XI in the Summer term. We also made up half of the School Senior tennis team with Ed Hopkinson, Freddie Pope and Egor Turjev. Silverware also came on the water with Fergus Paske and Jack Polturak winning the House sailing.

I must congratulate Harry Norris on his selection as Head Boy for the coming academic year. Harry will do an incredible job and it is lovely to have one of the Chatham Upper Sixth as Head Boy.

Once again the highlight of the year for Rachael and me has to be the House picnic. This wonderful gathering in the splendour of this beautiful estate we all call home is always a very special occasion, full of joy, friendship and good humour. Finally I would like to applaud the Senior boys for completing their days in Chatham in such fine spirit and thank them all for assisting to nurture the character of those in the younger years. Ed Hopkinson and Sebastian Cecil have proved an excellent team as Head and Deputy Head of House and they have been ably supported by their Prefect team. It was the great Martin Luther King who said “Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

Mr Liam Copley, Housemaster



A few weeks ago, I spent an evening introducing a new member of the Cobham House team to Cobhamites, and as I did the rounds it struck me (not for the first time) what a thoroughly polite, friendly and charming bunch we have in Cobham. It is very easy as a Housemaster to get caught up in the myriad of little issues and frustrations that make up boarding school life: following up on discipline, nagging to keep rooms tidy, chasing those outstanding preps, and all the other relatively minor misdemeanours of which the average teenage boy inevitably falls foul. But it is important to take the time now and then to step back from those indiscretions, and it is always with great pleasure and pride that I introduce outsiders to the Cobham community. While showing round this particular member of staff, the affable, friendly and inquisitive nature of the boys unfailingly came through, and many is the time that visitors have commented on the sense of friendliness and community within the House. So, before I go on to sum up the year in more detail, may I take the opportunity to thank all the Cobhamites, the staff and the parents for all they do to help make Cobham such a pleasant ship to steer!

And so on to the 2014-15 year. While it is important for parents and boys to know what they are looking for in a House, one of the things that I make clear to prospective parents who are looking at Cobham is what I am looking for in the boys. Talented individuals, whether in the classroom, on the sports pitch, or in any other extra-curricular area, are of course always welcome and sought after, and Cobham can boast its fair share of these. But almost more importantly, I stress that I am looking for boys who will come with a sense of enthusiasm, commitment and understanding of what it means to be part of and contribute to a House community, in whatever area that may be. Particular skills should be encouraged and nurtured, but I am also keen that the boys have the confidence to try new things and push themselves outside their comfort zone. And in so many areas this year, Cobhamites didn't disappoint. As ever, individuals are too numerous to mention, but just some of the areas where I have seen the boys break new ground are in debating, racketball, national swimming competitions, undertaking the organisation of charitable events for next year, robotics competitions, heading up and taking part in new societies, and making successful applications on School ventures such as the Warriors trip. These are to name but a few, and it is truly heartening to see so many Cobhamites making

the most of all the opportunities they have here at Stowe.

But, of course, no House report would be complete without a round-up of our successes in those all important House competitions, and I am extremely grateful to all those who have contributed to these events. For the first time since I've been connected to Cobham (six years now...) the Seniors took the 'triple crown' of the House football, cricket and rugby cups, just narrowly missing out on the hockey as well. They also won the cup for overall Senior winners on Sports Day, with some notable victories in the House swimming and rowing competitions. Further down the School, the Juniors brought home cups in hockey, clay pigeon shooting and table tennis, with some very credible performances in tennis and the newly introduced equestrian competition. Across the House as a whole, one of my favourite competitions of the year remains the Stowe Challenge Cup, and the grit, stamina and determination that the boys show in this event never ceases to impress me. While we came a respectable third place overall, those who took part in the cross country running element clinched a strong first place and the Cup, and the memory of their exhausted faces as they crossed the finish line together will stay with me for a long time to come!

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all those who work so tirelessly to make Cobham the well-oiled machine that it is. To our Matron Jo Dalrymple, whose constantly cheery disposition and pastoral care of the boys is unfailing, even in our darkest moments! To our Assistant Housemaster Michael Rickner, whose level-headedness, calm disposition and reliability allows me to know the House is in safe hands when I escape it all on my days off. To our Under Housemaster Chris Grimble and Tutors Paul Thompson and Chris McGhee, who have provided such excellent support for their charges this year. To our House Nurse Debbie Jenkins, who is always on hand with medical advice and to deal with the scrapes, breaks, bumps and bruises that teenage boys manage to acquire on an almost daily basis. To our cleaners Ann, Jacqui, Maxine and Sue and our handyman Tim, who have the unenviable task of keeping the place looking immaculate, but do it so well. And, lastly, to my wife Jo, whose support, encouragement, understanding and tolerance are essential in making sure I make it through each day, week and term with my sanity and sense of humour intact!

Mr James Peppiatt, Housemaster

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Housemaster: | James Peppiatt |
| Matron: | Jo Dalrymple |
| Assistant Housemaster: | Mike Rickner |
| Under Housemaster: | Chris Grimble |
| Head of House: | Toby Pemberton |
| Deputy Head of House: | Leo Marmion |

School Prefects: Barnaby Cloud, Toby Pemberton
 House Prefects: Barnaby Cloud, Will Dodge,
 Keith Harrington, George Ludlow, Rob Milner,
 Tom Roxburgh, Theo Shepherd-Smith



Grafton

Housemaster: Gavin Moffat
 Matron: Terri Bosman
 Assistant Housemaster: James Hayden
 Under Housemaster: Charlie Standley
 Head of House: Tom Young
 Deputy Head of House: Jack Strong

Senior School Prefects: Jack Strong, Angus Tyrrell, Tom Young
 House Prefects: Monty Curran, Guy Gibson, John Hawkins, Tom Hunnoble





Trying to summarise the highlights of a boarding house of 65 boys into a short article always proves a rather tricky task. Here goes:

G is for **Generosity of spirit and unity** within the House. We pride ourselves on this House unity which notably comes to the fore in the whole School events, such as the cross country (winners yet again for the eighth year running) and House singing (nowhere near winning yet again for the eighth year in a row).

R is for **Range of activities** the boys do both in and out of the House. Sport, drama, music, debating, equestrianism, beagling, visual education, shooting, CCF, DofE, expeditions, field weekends... the list is endless and very impressive.

A is for **Academic endeavour**, the cornerstone of the House. Many congratulations to our Speech Day winners, who have been recognised for their excellent intellectual curiosity and performance.

F is for **Fun**. Exam results are certainly important, as is making the team, achieving the musical grade or being cast in the leading role, but above all having fun and enjoying life is a key facet of the Grafton way.

T is for **Talent with a capital T** and a fully stocked trophy cabinet. However good winning feels, competing in the correct spirit feels better, unless it's against Chatham when winning is all that matters.

O is for **'Oh my God, he's done what?'** regrettably being a recurring exclamation in my study. Another broken window from indoor cricket (the excuses get more ludicrous each year), a flooded dorm due to a bath left running whilst an 'important errand had to be run', fingers getting trapped down the side of the bed whilst trying to retrieve a mobile phone. Grrr...

N is for **New Pupil Weekend**. As we say 'au revoir' to the Upper Sixth leavers we simultaneously welcome in the new vintage of Graftonians and so the cycle begins again.

'Work hard, play hard' is Grafton in a nutshell. At the end of the Michaelmas term the whole House hopped on a coach to Milton Keynes for our annual fine dining pilgrimage to the eat as much as you possibly can Red Hot Buffet restaurant before waddling over the road to Xscape and a movie night to round off the long term. The House Christmas dinner saw the birth of a new tradition with the year groups' 'dance-off'. The Summer term diary saw the House trip to Towcester Races being a big success both on and off the track.

The musicians in the House continue to thrive and the most notable evidence of this is that the Music School has become

their second home. Rex Roxburgh and Finlay Sutherland have once again played in a myriad of concerts whilst Dan Biss and Max Campbell-Preston rocked the house at the Plugged In Concert, and their performance at GlaStowebury was a real personal highlight of mine. In the theatre Guy Gibson has been Grafton's shining thespian and special mention must go to Fabian Bevan's excellent performance in 'Ruckus in the Garden'. It has been particularly pleasing to see the Juniors continue to enjoy their acting with Nico Montgomery, Sam Horner and Charlie Horton all playing meaty roles in the Junior plays and Congreve.

On the sports pitches Graftonians continue to contribute hugely to School teams as well as the keenly contested House competitions. The House cross country, rowing and swimming trophies have been won. I honestly didn't think it was physically possible for the Assault Course to be completed in 3 minutes 17 seconds on Stowe Challenge Cup Day but the Grafton team did exactly that. The Fifth Form retained their rugby title whilst the newly arrived Third Form have literally swept all before them in completing the Grand Slam of sports competitions – cross country, swimming, hockey, rugby, indoor cricket, basketball. Hamish Milne-Skillman has proven himself an exceptional swimmer, Ollie Bowder has been invited to train with Saints EPDG rugby whilst four of the top five cross country runners in the Inter-House competition were wearing Grafton vests. As one cohort of Grafton boys arrive, so another one departs. A big congratulations to the outgoing Upper Sixth who next year are all off to excellent universities, with John Hawkins signing a professional rugby contract with Bristol Rugby and Rex Roxburgh an Organ Scholar at Melbourne Cathedral in Australia. And in particular to the House Sheriff, Tom Young, who has set an excellent example of leadership and courtesy to his House, ably supported by his Prefect team.

Last, and by certainly no means least, I owe a big debt of gratitude to the Grafton House team. Mr Mellor and Mr Young are immensely popular Tutors, equally so Dr Standley who is a highly organised and reliable Under Housemaster and we wish Mr Hayden the best of luck in his new position as a Housemaster at Cheltenham College. Mrs Bosman continues to offer the highest standards of matroning and Mrs Moffat continues to be the most patient of wives as well as regular cook and occasional counsellor to the boys. To the Grafton parents, a big thank you from me for being supportive of our efforts to help the boys navigate a successful course through the ups and downs of life in a very hectic yet happy boarding house.

Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



Grenville

Housemaster: Alan Hughes
Matron: Stephanie Stocks
Assistant Housemaster: Philip Arnold
Under Housemaster: Michael Chilazi
Head of House: Henry Sylvester
Deputy Head of House: Oscar Marment

Senior School Prefect: Henry Sylvester
School Prefects: Jamie Hardinge
House Prefects: Tom Barker, Khaled Choucair, Jamie Hardinge, Magnus Sligo-Young

Inevitably with a new Housemaster there were always going to be some changes, without necessarily a new broom sweeping clean. A rebranding of the House from being “Villains” to the more sporty feel of “Team GB” (Grenville Boys) was a stereotypical transfer and I suspect caused little surprise.

Being competitive is a natural instinct and knowing how close Grenville and my former House, Grafton, had been on the academic front, winning the Academic Salver became a personal challenge and when we finished top at Christmas I was proud of how well the Grenville Boys had responded. We were denied the trophy, however, due to a change in the goalposts and it was awarded to the most improved House. The boys were disappointed, I was seething, but undeterred and to their credit they came top again in the Lent term and the trophy now sits centre stage in the Aurelian Room and a sense of justice was seen to be done, hard work was rewarded.

The boys have become aware of my pirate-like tendencies, taking pleasure in amassing silverware and frustration if we lose any. Prizes go to the winners and reflection is the first step forward if you lose and I hope the boys are developing an understanding of these simple life rules. The one overriding factor is to give it their best shot whatever the competition.

On the sports front, Grenville has dealt with these lessons in equal measure. There have been House successes in badminton, fives, squash, Yearlings’ rugby, land based ergometer trials and on the athletics track. Our boys have featured in the some of the School’s successes in National tournaments and we have three young men who have represented their country.

The boys’ talents stretch beyond the classroom and the sports field and in amongst the myriad of opportunities offered at Stowe we have reached the finals of Junior Debating and semi-finals for Senior Debating, our boys won the McElwee prize, played the lead roles in two Senior theatre productions, attended the Warriors trip to South Africa, organised this year’s fashion show, had one to one piano tuition with the world famous Lang Lang, played the Last Post on Remembrance Day and two stood for election in the School General Election, one for UKIP the other for the Green Party – does a House get more diverse than this?

Our leavers who aim to move straight on to the next stage in their academic careers have all acquired offers from their first choice universities, others will take gap years to take stock and re-charge their batteries after three years of public examinations and will, I hope, find themselves secure with



quality results to take up the challenge in a year's time whatever their ambition. We look forward with optimism to hearing of the results in August for all studying Public Examinations.

"Team GB" was driven this year by Mr Arnold, Assistant Housemaster and Fourth Form Tutor, Mr Chilazi, Under Housemaster and Third Form Tutor, Miss Gracie as Fourth Form Tutor and the lady who keeps us all ship shape and orderly, Matron Stephanie Stocks. I thank them all for the exceptional contribution to the success of the House.

The prefect team of Tom Barker, Khaled Choucair, Jamie Hardinge, Oscar Marment and Magnus Sligo-Young were led by the magnificent Head of House Henry Sylvester;

I thank them all for their contribution. Apart from those holding office I have deliberately tried to avoid mentioning individual names as there can be a danger of weighting the store on the value of individual contributions. Sixty-one boys have been part of Grenville this year and each is a character in his own right, and without their presence the House wouldn't be the same. This said I have to make reference to the Head of House, Henry Sylvester. Whilst studying what appeared to be every hour God sent, he has thrown himself into every challenge 100%; his list of achievements is endless, along with the compliments bestowed by staff and parents. He has been an inspiration to all. He is a true ambassador for Stowe and for Grenville.

Mr Alan Hughes, Housemaster



Lyttelton



I am sitting on the hottest day of the year, writing this report, in a slightly strange feeling Stowe empty of the pupils who bring it to life. What a difference a year makes. Gone is the ugly Lyttelton, we are now beautiful to match our compatriots. It is hard to believe how quickly time passes when the girls are all here. Each day is full of the trials and tribulations, ups and downs that being a teenager brings and I get to experience each bump of the road with them. Every girl has their own very special quality and we celebrate diversity throughout the House. They all have their own path to follow to, who knows where? We all share one huge very happy Common Room and each corridor contains a mixture of year groups. I was fortunate to travel to South Africa in February to help select our new South African Scholars. Zizo Chuma will be joining us in September as a member of the Lyttelton family.

Attempting to highlight some of the group and individual successes of the Lyttelton girls is a mammoth task and I am under a strict word limit. So here goes! The year started with a bang as we came a narrow second in the House part-song competition. Perhaps this was because

we couldn't have Trixie (Matron's dog) as our Lion King cub! Grease is the new theme and it could be our year. The Stowe Challenge Cup was next and our command task team of Molly Allington, Mia Kinahan, Clarissa Llanaj, Alex Orton and Ally Jordan came out victorious. Yet another trophy for the cabinet and for the cleaning team to polish. Speaking of which, what on earth will we do next year when the multitude of magnificent swimming cups won by Elsa Desmond disappear? She was also awarded three prizes at Speech Day for Biology, Theatre Crew and Significant Improvement. What a superb role model and Senior Prefect for the girls in House to emulate. Arabella Coldstream won the prize for Drama, Frankie Knight for Drawing and Observation, Franny Moseley for Art and Alex Orton for Drama. Clarissa Llanaj led us to victory in the Senior badminton competition. Cross country is not our forte but as you can see by the picture, all of the Third Form seemed to be enjoying themselves. It is noticeable that Ugochi Ekpecham is leading as it was her and Coco Brooks who were at the forefront of our second place success in the Junior section on Sports Day. Dani

Housemistress: Valerie Green
Matron: Tup Bertley
Assistant Housemistress: Kaitlan Biondi
Under Housemistresses: Sarah Sutton and Lauren Ellis
Head of House: Tally Sargent
Deputy Heads of House: Tessa Horan
Anastasia Howard-Jenkins

House Prefects: Izzy Boorman, Lauren Carley, Elsa Desmond, Edwina Longe, Rosie Williamson





Fusco-House is all set for rowing glory and has recently returned from Henley. Of course it was her encouragement and skill that ensured victory in the Inter-House rowing competition for which we received an impressive blade. Annabel Wailes-Fairbairn, as shown in the picture, is a master (or is it mistress?) of the beagles next year.

Most of our Third and Fourth Form took part in the Junior Congreve performances of 'The Merchant of Venice' and 'A Winter's Tale'. If not performing on stage they were involved with set and lighting or make-up and props. Both plays received rapturous reviews. Lauren Carley ably produced and directed 'Girls Like Us', a challenging play that definitely made the audience think. We also have some very talented musicians who regularly perform in concerts: Clarissa Llanaj, Ally Jordan, Fabiola Koenig to name but a few and Flora Marriott's grade eight flute playing deserves a mention. A new House riding competition allowed Amy Struthers (first in dressage), Flora Moreau (first in show jumping) and Coco Brooks to show us their skills, achieving second place overall. Flo Berner has been awarded most valuable player several times in her recent polo matches so her career is progressing well. Duke of Edinburgh Gold, CCF camp commendations, Warrior trips, raising money for charity, the Lyttelton girls have so

many strings to their bow. I hope you get a small glimpse of how proud we all are of them. The only activity missing is a golfer; is there any out there, as we seem to have everything else covered? Last year we held an informal picnic but this year is our formal 'At Home' when we showcase the outstanding achievements in House. I can't wait.

The support of our House team has been magnificent. Where would we be without each person's individual contribution to the happiness that is Lyttelton?

Next year we have Valeria Gridneva as our Head of House ably supported by Mia Kinahan as Deputy along with Annabel Wailes-Fairbairn and Frankie Knight so we are in good hands. Thanks go to our leaving team led by lovely Tally. Every leaver was presented with a silver charm engraved with the House crest. This begins a great new tradition along with the new look leavers' service which was a great success.

We say goodbye and thank you to Lauren Ellis who is moving to West House, Richard Corthine to Grafton House and Damian Blewitt who has been promoted to Director of Studies at Ryde School.

Ms Valerie Green, Housemistress





Nugent

Having just finished my ninth year looking after Nugent, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the last twelve months as much as the first. Has it got easier? – I'm not sure but it has become a way of life and watching a House full of teenagers develop and mature confirms to me why I enjoy the role. I can assure you that as a parent of three – the biggest test for parents is not how they parent, but how they respond to disorder and unpredictability and I'm sure you will accept that with a House of 70 we get our fair share along the way.

Nugent has been a happy House all year – some of that happiness comes from being a successful House and I would be lying if I said that we haven't won more than our fair share of trophies. However, children are happy because they don't have a file called 'all of the things that can go wrong' (as adults do) and as a result they generally attack problems without worrying about the outcome. This frees them up and I believe we have won numerous competitions this year because we never considered that we would fail!

On the academic front a large number of girls have achieved outstanding exam results and are currently enjoying their first year at their chosen universities. Within Nugent we have been able to applaud the success of numerous merits, commendations and Benes along with excellent results in internal exams. Letitia O'Neill and Theodora Tserni finished their AS year with a full set of A grades; Elsie Down, Amber Shepherd and Sophia Last completed their A2 exams with a complete set of A*-A grades as well as Hannah Dixon (A2) and Theodora (AS) gaining 100% in Maths modules.

Prizes at Speech Day this year went to the following:

Georgina Skinner – GCSE English
 Lisa Battilomo – GCSE French
 Amy Jorgensen – GCSE Spanish
 Annika Ormerod – GCSE Philosophy and Religion
 Skye Longworth – GCSE Chemistry and Biology
 Sophia Panagiotidi – A2 Economics
 Isobelle Smith – AS Politics
 Louisa Highwood – A2 Sports Science
 Amalia Aitchison – Junior Strings prize

Winning the Academic Salver has to be one of the top accolades and served to confirm that we are not just a sporting House.

On the musical side we started the year with an exciting choreography of 'Stick to the Status Quo' from High School Musical as our House song, which won the overall unison prize. Our part-song was a 'Let it go/Let her go' mash up from Frozen and this took first prize along with Letitia and Mali winning the arrangement prize. Mali continued to stake a claim as one of the top musicians in the School performing at numerous concerts and being selected for the District Finals of Young Musician of the Year. She is an exciting prospect, especially as she is only just finishing the Fourth Form!

All year groups played their part as we made a name for ourselves in every sporting competition on offer. We won Inter-House football, The Stowe Challenge Cup, cross country, swimming, hockey, lacrosse, netball, basketball, fives and then the ultimate competition of all – Sports Day. We set School Records for the assault course in the Challenge Cup, the relays in the pool and a special mention must go to Georgia Flawn-Thomas for crushing the existing 1,500 metre record by 60 seconds. There is a lot to be said for team spirit and on days when we have won a whole House or year trophy it isn't always the top competitors that make the difference but those unsung heroes who push for fifth or sixth place and get the valuable points that you never expected. So my thanks go to all who ended up making a difference on the day.

On the stage we have continued to have numerous girls in the cast of many shows. Ayesha Shaheen, Megan McGurk, Eloise Dobson, Emily Woodhead, Simone Banson, Annika Ormerod, Lucy Sutherland, Martha Combe, Emma Grayson, Jess Potts, Gahsem Dorji, and Arabella White have all participated in School drama/musicals throughout the year. Our House Drama performances allowed us the opportunity to team up with Chandos for the first time and a mixed cast of Mali Aitchison, Olivia Thomas, Emma Grayson, Connie Barnes, Jess Potts, Simone Banson, Carmel Hobbs, Martha Combe and Eloise Dobson kept us all amused with a play called Same (directed by Lucy Brassell).



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However my final congratulations are saved for some individual spectacular displays of talent:

Ivy Freeman-Attwood – Great Britain A team British Eventing; Holly Campbell and Lauren Reid – Scotland U18 Lacrosse; India Chadwick – England U19 Lacrosse; Olivia Thomas – England U17 Lacrosse; Kira Evans – Captain of Kenyan Swim Team; Octavia Cavill – Gold medal at U17 Regional Athletics (Heptathlon score of 4461 points); Eloise Dobson – Second place in Mozart Trio Prize; Nia Brown – Audience vote for first place in Mozart Trio prize; Vicky Beglin – member of Performance Academy Centre (Hockey); Louisa Highwood – Captain of both Hockey and Netball U18.

I have had the benefit of working alongside some marvellous people this year and my thanks go to my House team: Marian Gallick, Alicia Davies, Lucy Brassell, Kasey Howard and Richard Knight. Thanks also to Head of House Louisa Highwood and Deputy Megan McGurk, both off to study at Loughborough, Tish O’Neill going to St Andrew’s, Sophia Panagiotidi to London School of Economics, Minna Trotter to Bristol, Ayesha Shaheen to Manchester and Molly Robinson off to USA on a course following her heart in Art and Design. Their constant support, enthusiasm and willingness to always go the extra mile have made the difference in inspiring the entire House to improve and contribute in any way that they can. As Franklin D. Roosevelt says “Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.”

Mrs Jayne Duckett, Housemistress

Housemistress: Jayne Duckett
Matron: Marian Gallick
Assistant Housemistress: Alicia Davies
Under Housemistresses: Lucy Brassell
 Kasey Howard
Head of House: Louisa Highwood
Deputy Head of House: Megan McGurk

Senior School Prefect: Louisa Highwood
School Prefects: Megan McGurk, Letitia O’Neill, Molly Robinson, Theodora Tserni
House Prefects: Letitia O’Neill, Sophia Panagiotidi, Molly Robinson, Ayesha Shaheen, Minna Trotter





Queen's

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Housemistress: Fiona James
 Matron: Anne Reading
 Assistant Housemistress: Emma Ackroyd
 Under Housemistresses: Shelby Davis
 Catrin Evans
 Head of House: Hannah Tilleard
 Deputy Head of House: Claudia Wace

Senior School Prefect: Hannah Tilleard
 School Prefects: Eleanor Clark, Beatrice Saunders Watson,
 Matilda Upton, Claudia Wace
 House Prefects: Matilda Bevan, Eleanor Clark, Amy Evans,
 Annabel Rushton, Beatrice Saunders Watson, Hannah Tilleard,
 Matilda Upton, Claudia Wace





When other teachers advised me that my first year as Housemistress of Queen's would be tiring and, occasionally, stressful, they left out the most important information: that it would also be inspiring, rewarding, memorable, joyous, and at times, emotional. I have been immensely privileged to have become part of the girls' daily lives. Your daughters are gifted in so many ways and they continually amaze me.

In the arts, Queen's has many talented young women. Claudia Wace directed the highly successful 'Cheque Please' alongside Paul Henkel from Chatham. Mary Stanley, Rhiannon Templeman, Maya Tearle, Leli Zivanovic, Saskia Satchell and Helena Vince all showcased their acting abilities in what was a truly entertaining comedy. Tilda Bevan led the girls to a strong place in the part-song and choreographed a hugely enjoyable House song at the Inter-House Singing competition.

In the Third Form, Helena Vince and Leonie Callow, both Music Scholars, have had an exceptionally busy first year and have performed regularly at special events, concerts and our weekly Wednesday concerts. Laura Brogden organised a wonderful flute recital in preparation for her ATCL diploma examination. Our South African Scholars, Gislaire Batubenge and Nonhlanhla Maclare, have added extra energy to the House and I don't think anyone will forget Maclare's performance of 'Uptown Funk' in Assembly. Our artists have displayed their work in exhibitions and several of our Sixth Form have gained highly sought-after places at prestigious art colleges after they leave Stowe. We also have some highly successful design and technology artists who have created some complex, beautiful and clever design with Emily Baring winning an award for her GCSE work.

In the more academic areas Queen's has continued to excel. Our Fifth and Sixth Form, in particular, appear time and time again on the whole School highest APG ratings. Queen's was also awarded the Academic Salver for achieving the strongest grades across the School during the Michaelmas term and we have seen many Upper Sixth girls obtain offers for highly regarded courses across several very selective universities. I was delighted that Anna Wilson, Madeleine Jordan, Siana Griffiths, Meredith Bashaarat, Rosie Dickson, Saskia Satchell, Emily Osborne, Anna Bevington, Annabel Rushton, Bubby Upton and Claudia Wace all received Academic Prizes on Speech Day in recognition for their work this year.

In sports, Queen's continues to show strength and depth

and we have competed to win House basketball, shooting and hockey, as well as coming a close second in lacrosse, cross country, netball, the Stowe Challenge Cup and swimming where Ellie Bewes was the standout swimmer in the Junior competition. Charlotte Oswald has had unprecedented success in hockey, representing England in various tournaments. Thalia Felton and Amy Cairns have also played at National level, and Isabella Leondiou is already playing in the 1st team whilst still in the Fourth Form. Sports Day was a particular success with Queen's coming second overall. We saw some excellent individual performances with Thalia Felton breaking the School Record for 80m hurdles and the intermediate relay team of Tallula Douglas Miller, Libby Flood, Zara Atta and Thalia Felton smashing the School Record in the 4x100m relay. The first ever Inter-House riding competition took place with Anna Wilson, Rhiannon Templeman and Trinity Ford putting in a strong performance for the House. Kianti Subowo was the top female shot in the Inter-House clay pigeon shooting, which was outstanding as she only started the sport this year.

The girls in the Third Form are now old hands and have been brilliant ambassadors for the School, showing round prospective new pupils and their parents and answering questions with confidence and good natured cheer. Our Upper Sixth have had a fantastic year with Hannah Tilleard and Claudia Wace setting high standards in all aspects of School life; they have been ably supported by the team of excellent House Prefects creating a wonderful atmosphere in House.

Of course all the successes of the past year wouldn't be possible without the House team. There is "Maitch", our magnificent Matron, Anne Reading, who looks after the girls so well. There is our Assistant Housemistress Emma Ackroyd and our Tutor team; we will miss Miss Davis and Mr Parnaby as they leave Queen's and especially Mrs Miller who has been a part of the team for several years and is now looking forward to a happy retirement. I also need to thank our excellent team of cleaning ladies who do such a wonderful job. I must not forget Mr James, and thank him for his support to the girls in Queen's. Finally, I would like to thank the Queen's girls themselves, for being supportive, hard-working, kind and generous of spirit to me and, more importantly, each other.

Mrs Fiona James, Housemistress



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Stanhope

- Housemistress:** Sue Harmon
- Matron:** Shona Cannon
- Assistant Housemistress:** Elena Hughes
- Under Housemistress:** Collette Stirzaker
Victoria Crook
Alice Brodie
- Head of House:** Molly Suthers
- Deputy Head of House:** Lucy Oswald
Lily Holland-Bosworth
- Head Girl:** Shannon Devlin

- Senior School Prefect:** Molly Suthers
- School Prefects:** Honor Brady, Alice Gurr, Val Madojemu, Lucy Oswald
- House Prefects:** Honor Brady, Alice Gurr, Lottie Hodson, Val Madojemu, Tilly Pool, Olivia Wentworth-Stanley

"Some people come into your life as blessings, others come into your life as lessons" – Funmozar

In September, we welcomed our new Lower Sixth pupil, Hannah Bernard-Bell and sixteen bright-eyed (and bushy tailed) Third Formers into the Stanhope fold. All of the 'newbies' have, over the course of the year, proved themselves to be excellent additions to their respective year groups. Friendships and bonds within the House remain as positive as ever and it continues to be a privilege to share their lives. Hand on heart I believe no other House can match Stanhope for the excellent House spirit and friendships amongst all of the girls. Whilst we have been trialling a vertical 'buddy' system this year, it is the warm 'sisterly' approach from the Upper Sixth downwards which spills out naturally throughout the House.

In looking retrospectively over the course of 2014-2015, I am constantly amazed by all that the girls have achieved, both individually and as part of teams. We truly are a House with talent oozing from every corner; be that academic, sport, music, art or drama. To highlight some of these achievements I would like to begin by mentioning both Jemima Chauveau and Milla Harvey-Scholes who



returned to School in September 2014, each with a minimum of 10 A*s at GCSE. At Christmas Adesola Kazeem had secured her place at Oxford to read Chemistry and Shannon Devlin consistently hit the top internal APG scores throughout the year. In keeping with our academic prowess, I was ecstatic with our outstanding win in the first Maths Challenge competition. The team of Lauren Brigden, Dilyara Adilkhanova, Beth Ackroyd and Milla Harvey-Scholes beat the twelve other Houses with a convincing score. In sport congratulations go to Philippa Stacey for her selection in the U19 England Lacrosse Team, and more recently to Milla who has been selected to play for the Welsh Lacrosse Team. Lottie Hopkinson, Jemima Cecil, Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley and Chloe Hechle brought back our first Inter-House cups of the year, winning the Junior badminton doubles matches, with Lottie making light work of her opponent in the singles final. The Junior dodgeball competition was also ours for the taking, followed by a strong win in the 'run/log carry/swim' element of the Stowe Challenge Cup, ably competed by Jemima Grant, Philippa Stacey, Amelia Bowder, Florence Fox, Jaimie McIntosh and Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley, and finally ending the year with a Senior win in

House volleyball and achieving first place as a team in the inaugural Inter-House riding competition. Well done to Sienna Flanagan, Freya Barrett and Jaimie McIntosh.

Moving on to music, one can never tire of listening to the beautiful vocals of Molly Suthers, Honor Brady and Shannon Devlin who have entertained the School in some of the most prestigious musical events this year, completing their repertoire in fine style at the GlaStowebury concert at the end of May. Molly also achieved her grade eight singing exam earlier this year along with her grade eight ballet. We hope to see her name up in lights before too long. Hot on the heels of our departing singers comes Mina Haas whose mature vocal and professional stage presence took the audience by storm in the School's production of 'Company'. We have also been fortunate to hear Poppy de Salis, who comes to Stowe as a gifted Music Scholar, playing with exquisite mastery on her violin. Poppy wowed the judges at the Banbury Music Festival to take first place in the strings category.

But, as they say, it's not all about winning and for those who have tried so hard this year, the rewards and personal goals have come in many forms. Teaching art is one of my many wonderful jobs here, especially when the exhibition of GCSE, AS and A Level work goes up on display. The outstanding visual work of all of the 'arty' Stanhopians, including those who have produced three-dimensional work in the Design Department and textiles pieces with such a professional quality, is a pleasure to behold.

I mentioned earlier our 'sisterly', caring House, which

has also grown beyond the four walls in which we live. Charitable work of many of the girls has helped raise considerable sums of money for the School Charity, 'David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation', our own House charity, 'TWINS' and 'Kidscape'.

The year now draws to a close as I write this small snapshot of events, but I would like to express my sincere thanks to my outstanding team, who have helped steer the House through calm waters. Shona Cannon joined us as our new non-resident Matron, and she has certainly made her mark on all who have grown to know her. Elena Hughes, (Assistant Housemistress and Fourth Form Tutor), took up the post of Assistant Housemistress this year and has been outstanding in her role and much loved by the girls; Sharon Carter (Fifth Form Tutor), Collette Storzaker (Under Housemistress and Third Form Tutor), Vicky Crook (Sixth Form Tutor, who joined us in January) and Alice Brodie, a graduate assistant, who is sadly leaving us at the end of the year. Our best wishes go with her. Thank you also must go to Molly Suthers who has juggled the position of Head of House along with her music and dancing commitments which have kept her busy, and I wish her all the very best for her future ahead.

My final farewell is to Shannon Devlin, who has been an exceptional Head Girl, as she now passes on the baton to Anna Fox, our third consecutive Stanhopian to Head Girl. What a proud Housemistress I am!

Mrs Sue Harmon, Housemistress





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Temple

It has been a hugely positive year for the House with some fantastic group and individual performances along the way. It is always hard to pick a favourite moment but I was especially pleased with the effort put into 'The Heist'. This was the first Temple play to be performed during my time as Housemaster and it was a great success, made all the more impressive and worthwhile for having been produced entirely by the boys. A special mention must go to Will Dinsdale, who produced, directed and starred. The story of a botched bank robbery was well presented and extremely good fun. Hopefully it has reawakened the idea of House Drama amongst the boys and we can look forward to many more Temple productions in the coming years. The creative spirit of the House certainly looks alive and well with Henry Gauvain already having written next year's part-song.

After attending a rigorous coaching course last summer on the dark and mystical arts of dodgeball, Jake Lussier and Pierre Carrelet emerged with the skills necessary to lead Temple to victory in the Inter-House competition. For many in Temple this was one of the defining moments of the year and I could write at length on the thrills and spills of the various rounds that we won through in order to be crowned eventual champions... but, fortunately, there have been plenty of other high points for the House that I can turn my attention to instead.

Victory in the Literature Quiz was a definite highlight.

This annual event, held on World Book Day, is one of the only Inter-House competitions where all thirteen Houses compete on equal terms. After finishing second in the tie-breaker last year (unable to accurately guess the number of books in the library) this was a particularly pleasing trophy to win. It is also encouraging to note that the team of Max Bashaarat, John Peatfield, Sam Montgomery and Oscar Hill should, barring injury, remain unchanged next year when we mount our defence.

As someone who still harbours pretensions as a swimmer, I was delighted that we secured victory in the Senior swimming and second place overall in the House competition. The Senior cricket team won the plate, with Inigo Lendrum scoring 50 runs off 16 balls in the final against Bruce. Also, the Intermediates won the plate in the hockey competition. Our Third Form got through to the finals in both the football and basketball but unfortunately they were unable to dislodge Grafton in either case. The Junior racket ball team of Hugh Buxton, Carlie Tufnell and Jonathan Dale was undefeated. Our Senior and Junior teams performed well in the absurdly competitive Inter-House volleyball leagues. This regular Saturday fixture during the Summer term is surely one of the most engaging entries on the Inter-House sporting calendar. But, I have to confess that I find the bemused faces of National Trust visitors almost as entertaining as the volleyball itself. The Seniors progressed all the way through to the final, which





was an epic 3-set battle that teetered briefly on 20 points apiece in the deciding set. Sadly, after one last dramatic rally, the ball touched down on the wrong side of the net, and we had to concede victory to Chandos. Shakespeare alone might be capable of conveying in mere words the excitement and tension experienced on the South Front that day, so I'm not even going to try!

I must thank Gwilym Jones for his excellent contribution to Temple House as both a Tutor and Assistant Housemaster. We wish him all the best for his move to Walpole as Assistant Housemaster after a very successful year as Acting Housemaster of West. Gwilym's move has enabled Chris Warde to take up a permanent position as our resident Assistant Housemaster from September and we are very fortunate that Kyle Bennett continues in the role of resident Under Housemaster and Tutor as well. As Head of Athletics, Kyle's development target for next year must surely be to address the fact that for the second year in a row we have finished in second place overall on Sports Day, just two points behind the winner both times! Howard Hoare and Andrew Wilson remain our non-resident Tutors and both have brought a great deal of energy and experience into the House. The other fantastic addition to our House team this year has been Julia Greenwood in the newly created role of day-matron. The move away from the more traditional post of residential matron has been more than vindicated and it has been amazing to see how quickly Julia has settled into this role. Her kindness and support towards the boys and her meticulous attention to detail have been universally welcomed and appreciated by the boys.

Noah Russell has led the House Prefects in his typically cool and calm manner and I have welcomed his thoughtful advice and his assistance throughout the year. The Upper Sixth (the first Temple leavers to have been Third Formers

when I first met them) have left big shoes to fill, some of which still seem to be scattered around the boot racks on Top Main! They will be missed by the rest of the House and we wish them well as they embark on further study and future career paths.

It is always rewarding to reflect back on some of the positive things that have been done by the House but of course a large number of the most important achievements occur on an individual level, and sometimes pass unnoticed by others. I am pleased that we have held our own so impressively on the Inter-House stage but only because this serves to deepen the sense of pride and camaraderie within the House. It is heartening to observe that the virtues of taking part and trying hard seem to be the expected norms amongst the boys. I was asked recently what I am most proud of in relation to Temple House and I replied without hesitation that it is the atmosphere and spirit within the House and the friendships that the boys form, within and across the age groups. Anyway, it is either this or our famous dodgeball victory.

Mr Anthony Macpherson, Housemaster

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Housemaster: Anthony Macpherson
 Matron: Julia Greenwood
 Assistant Housemaster: Chris Warde
 Under Housemaster: Kyle Bennett
 Head of House: Noah Russell

School Prefects: Ben Boscawen
 House Prefects: Ben Boscawen, Matthew Clark, Jake Lussier, Saajan Patel, Noah Russell, Theodoros Tserni



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|------------------------|---------------------|
| Housemaster: | Pete Last |
| Matron: | Jean Dufort |
| Assistant Housemaster: | Richard Pickersgill |
| Under Housemaster: | Tom Higham |
| Head of House: | Will Cowley |
| Deputy Head of House: | Caspar Whitehead |

Senior School Prefects: Caspar Whitehead
 School Prefects: Will Cowley
 House Prefects: George Gill, Dan Hostetler, Will Lewis



Walpole

The House was certainly on a high after coming back from the summer break with some fresh faces ready to take the year by storm and what better way to do it than in our first House event, the House Singing competition. The Prefects took a risk by choosing 'Dancing in the Moonlight' by Toploader but the old saying 'who dares wins' echoed around the House and we were rewarded for our efforts with a famous victory in the unison song. Certainly one that will go down in the history books!

Just as we thought it couldn't get any better, we were blessed with the arrival of our new Matron Mrs Jean Dufort, who has worked wonders throughout the year, acting as a caring and fun mother-like figure ensuring all the boys are well looked after and looking sharp for every occasion. The future looks bright for Walpole, as Mrs Dufort will no doubt continue the wonderful work she is currently doing.

The first half of the Michaelmas term certainly set a platform on which to build and we followed House Singing with a tremendous effort in the Stowe Challenge Cup, which involved hours of early morning runs and hardcore preparation. With full House support, the boys supplied the goods with a superb display of teamwork and sportsmanship but were unable to keep up with some tough competition. Following on from the Challenge Cup came the House cross country competition (everyone's favourite). The boys gave it their all and there were some outstanding performances from a few boys, in particular Thomas Leach who secured second place in the Intermediate race and some solid performances from Hamish Beaton and Caspar Whitehead in the Senior race. Overall it was a 'good day at the office' for Walpole and a great way to send us off into the Christmas break after our usual entertaining Christmas dinner.

Off the sports pitches Walpudlians have seen huge success. For the second year running our Debating team of Will Cowley, Isaac Ajala and Alfie Marsden-Smedley reached the final where we controversially lost to Chatham arguing that 'things are getting better'. Senior Congreve saw Alfie Marsden-Smedley take the lead role in an outstanding performance of 'Killed, July 17 1916' and the amazing talents of soon-to-be Walpudlian Jeffrey Au performing on the piano with professional pianist Lang Lang bodes well for the future. We also enjoyed watching John Balcon Perez as Shylock in 'The Merchant of Venice' and Tom Fras as Leontes in 'A Winter's Tale'; Walpole's acting talent is very impressive. On the academic front, we won the Academic Salver in the middle of the year as the Most Improved House in the School and our very own Deputy Head of House and School Prefect, Caspar Whitehead, has secured a place at

Trinity College, Oxford to read Chemistry.

Our usual competitors in this year's House swimming were excellent in the individual events and relays with Hamish Graham-Campbell again bringing home an impressive amount of silverware. The water polo leagues every Saturday provided enjoyment for those not partaking in School sports with the Junior team securing second place while the Seniors claimed a respectable sixth place despite the shortage of numbers in the team due to academic and other sporting commitments.

Several boys represented the 1st XV team in Rugby including Daniel Hostetler, Isaac Ajala, Tadhg O'Shaughnessy and Seun Coker, who has managed to break through into the England set-up along with the Wasps Academy. He is certainly one to watch for the future! We also had Will Cowley and Isaac Ajala represent the 1st XI hockey team which improved our chances in the House hockey competition which saw the same team who were champions in 2013 reach the final where we narrowly lost 2-1 in the final to Chatham. We also saw some brilliant performances at the athletics track on Sports Day. Mark Kanjana stood out, winning the Junior boys' 100m hurdles and Junior boys' javelin but Caspar Whitehead surprised us all with a School Record in the Senior boys' javelin throwing, easily passing the captain of athletics in the process.

The atmosphere in the House has been excellent all year, with a good balance of academic work and having fun. Most boys achieved some spectacular APGs, merits, commendations and Benes. The whole Prefect team feels confident about a bright future for Walpole as we hand over to strong Prefects next year led by Alfie Marsden-Smedley. Walpole has had a very strong House team this year however, the departure of our longest standing Walpole staff member and current Assistant Housemaster Mr Pickersgill and our resident Under Housemaster Mr Higham leave big gaps for new staff to fill. We wish them the very best of luck for the future as we welcome Mr Gwilym Jones as our new Assistant Housemaster and Fifth Form Tutor, Mr Fergus Parnaby as our new Under Housemaster and Third Form Tutor and next year's Harvard Fellow, Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo who will be living with us next year working alongside Miss McLintock who remains as Fourth Form Tutor.

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

Will Cowley, Head of House



West

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Houseparents: | Roland and Julie Johnson |
| Acting Housemaster: | Gwilym Jones |
| Under Housemaster: | George Purves |
| Under Housmistress: | Varshini Rajkumar |

Surely the bravest, most tenacious and above all the most cohesive group of pupils at Stowe this year is the intrepid band of new Lower Sixth Formers who last September became the first ever Stoics to don the black-and-white of the newly-formed West House. As the only co-educational, all Sixth Form House, West was always going to make waves this academic year. The Stoics of West have built, joined, challenged, inspired (each other and their House team), cared and above all innovated this year. They have shown that a fully-integrated boys' and girls' House can function on every level in the School, bringing a new dimension to the experience that Stowe has to offer.

West was officially opened in October 2014 by Viscount Cobham, the direct descendant of the last Duke of Buckingham to inhabit Stowe in its heyday as a private residence. Viscount Cobham delivered an excellent and informative speech on the subject of Gilbert West, a poet and cousin of the Cobham family in the 18th Century for whom Stowe's newest Boarding House is named. Gilbert West created a commendable volume of verse around the theme of Stowe, including some insights for the generations of West House to treasure;

*Let not the Censures of the Wise dismay;
But where they own clear Reason leads the Way,
Her pleasing Dictates uncontroll'd pursue,
Thy Dreams, may be as good as Theirs, perhaps as true.*

(Gilbert West, Stowe – 1732)

The year began with our plucky new Lower Sixth taking part in the annual football competition on the first weekend. As was to be the pattern for the year, West broke through boundaries by entering both a boys' and a girls' team in this competition. While we sympathise with Houses whose meagre resources only allow them to enter either boys' or girls' competitions, West is keen to show its talent in all areas of endeavour, with each and every West Stoic (or "Westite" as they are becoming known) having something to offer this year. The House Singing competition was possibly the bravest show of the whole year by West – a lone year group entirely consisting of new Stoics raised a cheer from their audience with a gutsy rendition of 'Under the Sea' from Walt Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. However, in the same evening it was the soulful yet electrifying performance of 'Fast Car' (led by

Olivia Riddick) that demonstrated West's true intention to become a House to be reckoned with.

As the year progressed, not only did the West Stoics firmly find their academic feet, but they continued to challenge and excel in all areas of School life. Jeffri Indot won much praise over the course of the year for his musical performances and compositions and Olivia Riddick has become a key performer within the Drama Department – we look forward to seeing her on stage more in next year's Congreve. On the sports field Aliya al Adwani has demonstrated her skill on the lacrosse pitch through playing goalkeeper for the 2nd XI, while Alex Buswell has become a regular member of the Senior rowing squad. Alexandra Curtis enjoyed huge success this year with the Stowe swimming team, while Federico Albertini can regularly be seen in a Stowe strip on the hockey pitch and I am still to defeat Jeffri Indot on the badminton court. Congratulations are due to Alexandra Curtis who has been made Captain of swimming for 2015-16 and Jeffri Indot who is to be Captain of badminton. On the academic front it was very pleasing to see Christopher Adeogun-Phillips presented with the Design Prize at Speech Day and Kwabena Darko has founded the new Stowe Law Society which is growing in popularity with the Fifth and Sixth Form. Individual success aside it is in the Inter-House competitions that West pupils have really demonstrated their team spirit and determination. Despite only having a pool of 12 to draw from, West has been determined to enter teams in as many Inter-House events as possible – often fielding mixed teams in boys' events. These have included football, swimming, rowing, badminton, basketball, the Literary Quiz, the equestrian competition and volleyball. This year we have participated; next year there will be results!

As the exam season approached in the final term and the sun started to shine West House really started to come into its own and the West pupils took advantage of having the golf course and gardens literally on their doorstep as an opportunity to take a break from the books. Badminton, volleyball and Saturday BBQs on the front lawns became regular features of the Summer term and were real opportunities to see the strong friendships and sense of identity develop. I hope that this will continue to be a feature of West as it continues to expand and develop over the coming years.

2015-16 will be an exciting time for West as it grows!

Mr Roland Johnson, Houseparent

XX Group

This has been an active and exciting year for the XX Group, Stowe's extension group for Lower School academic high-flyers. At the start of the year, pupils in the Fourth and Fifth Form had to 'win' their place in the group through submitting a letter of application and an essay from a list of thought-provoking titles ranging from defining the nature of beauty to analysing the role of the UN in situations of civil unrest. In the Third Form those coming in with Academic Scholarships were invited, and some of those with the highest CAT scores. As not everyone necessarily shines in one 'test' of ability, and in order to ensure that academic stretch and extension is available to all, this year also saw the introduction of the Open Scholars' programme, which consisted of a series of lectures and seminars open to any academically ambitious Lower School pupil to attend. Invitations to join the three XX Groups were also extended along the way to those who impressed with consistently excellent APG grades and who also showed an interest and commitment to academic extension through attending Open Scholars' events. The XX Groups and Open Scholars therefore together have ensured that academic extension beyond the classroom has been available to all Stoics, and that our academically highest-performing and most committed pupils are stretched and challenged.

In November the Third Form XX Group visited St Paul's Cathedral for a tour of the building. They also sat down with a retired vicar who had served as a prison chaplain. It was an excellent opportunity for the Stoics to discuss questions that had been raised in recent Philosophy and Religion lessons on social justice and to hear a fresh perspective. The afternoon was spent in the Tate Modern with a practising artist; they toured some of the galleries, discussed the meaning of abstract art and the pupils produced their own collages in response to some of the art they had seen. Also in the Michaelmas term, Mr

Chilazi, Stowe's Harvard Fellow, delivered a fascinating two-part talk on psychology entitled, 'Who am I?' He covered the 'big five personality dimensions'; nature verses nurture, genes verses environment and the neuroscience behind human traits. There was an excellent discussion which followed with plenty of questions and input from the pupils. In February, carrying on with the theme of identity, the group visited the National Portrait Gallery for an exhibition curated by Grayson Perry entitled, 'Who are you?' The Turner Prize-winning artist had produced artworks in pottery and textiles, interspersed with the permanent collection, which called into question the nature of identity. He was trying to explore how our sense of ourselves feels constant, but our identity is an ongoing performance that is changed and adapted by our experiences and circumstances. We feel like we are the same person we were years before, but we are not. In the afternoon the pupils visited the Royal Courts of Justice where they learned about the English legal system and took part in a mock trial. The pupils were divided into judges, barristers and solicitors, complete with wigs and gowns, and tasked with debating an Appeal Court hearing and determining a judgement. There were some excellent arguments presented with clarity and forcefulness. The culmination to the year came in the Summer term when the group produced and shared their Summer Presentations. They were encouraged to choose, explore and then present on a thought-provoking topic from outside the curriculum, with those putting together the best presentations being recognised on Speech Day. The top prize this year went to William Fox (Third Form, Bruce) for his presentation on competing theories around the destruction of the universe, with runners-up being Jamie Baillie (Third Form, Cobham) on Atlantis and Lauren Brigden (Third Form, Stanhope) on Artificial Intelligence.



The Fourth Form XX Group also had an interesting programme this year. After the initial flurry of group selection, they first met on Remembrance Day for a trip to London. They were divided into groups of four and given the task of designing a short radio piece on, ‘What should we think about during the minute’s silence?’ They visited the BBC Studios and explored how television and radio programming is put together, stopped for a poignant two minute silence outside the studio at the installation on conflicts across the world, then went on to visit the Germany exhibit at the British Museum, designed in part to encourage them to think beyond the ‘typical’ Anglo-centric response and to appreciate different global perspectives. After sharing their ideas on this theme, the group then turned to philosophy. Having watched the blockbuster film ‘The Island’ (set in a future time when a private company has set up a business in developing clones to supply spare body parts to the very rich), the pupils were then encouraged to come up with several ‘deeper’ questions arising from the film. They then brought these questions to a session with visiting philosopher Dr Elizabeth Mackintosh, who helped them decide on four questions to approach philosophically, research in more depth in small groups and then present. The Stoics rose impressively to the challenge, and in February over an afternoon and evening, presented their ideas to Dr Mackintosh, Dr Wallersteiner and each other, before attending a dinner. The second trip also took place in the Lent term, with the group attending a ‘Gifted and Talented’ conference in Oxford where experts at the top of their profession challenged their thinking on ‘Chaos and the Origins of the Universe’, ‘Robot Fantasy, Android Dreams and the Emotion Chip’ and ‘The Future Ain’t What it Used To Be’. Pupils were also encouraged to offer ideas on the question, ‘Do you believe that statues can move and how might you justify such a belief?’ and to debate the proposition that, ‘This house believes that personal preference is all that matters in morality’. With

the remainder of the year each individual pupil embarked on an Extended Project Qualification, which is usually undertaken in the Sixth Form and is worth the equivalent of half an A Level. Those who carry on will complete it by December 2015.

The Fifth Form XX Group spent much of the first term engaged in the selection process and then met less frequently, given their focus on the approach of GCSE exams, but did hold an engaging balloon debate, with Jesus being voted in as the last survivor of the sinking balloon. They also listened to a radio discussion of the morality of inherited wealth, in preparation for a lunchtime discussion.

Finally, it has been decided that the name, selection process and structure of the group will change for next year. Next year the group will be called the Lower School Academic Scholars’ (LSAS) Group, instead of the XX Group. Those who have been involved this year will be automatically invited, as will any who hold academic scholarships. Other pupils from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form who wish to apply will be invited to sit a ‘selection test’ in September designed to test the ability to write fluently and creatively, to comprehend challenging ideas and passages of text, and to think logically and problem-solve. Those not successful in the test may be asked to join later based on APGs and attendance at Open Scholars, as was the case this year, or can sit the test again the following year. Finally, groups will not be divided by age group, but instead will consist of four or five parallel groups made up of a mix of Third, Fourth and Fifth Form Stoics. This will allow those across the year groups to challenge each other and will more easily enable whole-group lectures and competitions.

Overall this has been a very successful year for the group and those Stoics involved have been given some great opportunities to shine.

Dr Julie Potter, Director of Studies





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Literary Society

The Literary Society programme for this academic year included six theatre trips in the Michaelmas and Lent terms. At opposite ends of the dramatic spectrum were John Godber's riotous 'Bouncers' and Shakespeare's tragic 'Othello'. The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War was the occasion for performances of 'Not About Heroes' and 'Regeneration', plays dealing with the experiences of war poets Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. The Lower Sixth enjoyed a trip to 'Arcadia', an AS English Literature set text, while 'The Woman in Black' proved popular with Upper Sixth A2 pupils writing their coursework on the Gothic genre.

In September, Daniel Rosenthal (Winner of the STR Theatre Book Prize 2014) gave a talk on 'The National Theatre: The First 50 Years'. His presentation contained fascinating photographs and video-clips, for example the "Blue Book" manifestoes, compiled by William Archer and Harley Granville Barker, which comprised schemes and estimates to sway the government into establishing a National Theatre. Mr Rosenthal's talk was an engaging insight into the struggle to bring to birth one of the most celebrated theatrical establishments of all time.

Matt Miller and his students from the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire visited Stowe in mid-November. After a gala dinner involving two dozen Stoics and guests, Mr Miller shared with the Lower Sixth English pupils some of his cleverly written, insightful poetry about modern America, including some poems with a strongly autobiographical flavour.

Immediately after Christmas, Dr Daniel Swift of the New College of the Humanities provided Sixth Form pupils with fascinating insights into 'The Tempest' by Shakespeare and 'The Duchess of Malfi' by Webster, illustrating how

the audience can often deduce major themes and issues to be addressed in a Shakespearean play from the evidence of the first scene alone. For those studying Marlowe's 'Dr Faustus', there was the provocative claim that Marlowe was bolder than Shakespeare in challenging contemporary attitudes and opinions.

Society members gathered on the terrace of the Chung Music School on the evening of 23 April to celebrate William Shakespeare's 451st birthday. They enjoyed performances of extracts from some of his most famous works, including 'Sonnet 116', the St Crispin's Day Speech from 'Henry V', an amusing duologue from Beatrice and Benedick followed by Balthasar's song (both from 'Much Ado About Nothing'), a dialogue between Faustus and Mephistopheles and Faustus's great final speech (both from Marlowe's 'Dr Faustus'), Ophelia's lament for Hamlet, Trinculo's first meeting with Caliban and Prospero's farewell (both from 'The Tempest'), Enobarbus's speech about the lovers' first meeting (from 'Antony and Cleopatra') and 'Titania and Bottom' (an adaptation of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'). The performers included Max Detter (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Shannon Devlin (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Will Dinsdale (Upper Sixth, Temple), Paul Henkel (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Charles Johnson (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Maddy Jordan (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Patrick Keating (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Alfe Marsden-Smedley (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Alex Potts (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Patrick Robinson (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Saskia Satchell (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Ayesha Shaheen (Upper Sixth, Nugent), together with Mr Goldsmith and Mrs Miller and myself. Having bid their audience farewell, the actors "melted into air, into thin air" [The Tempest, IV, I, 150] by drifting away into the sunset across the lawns of the Music School terrace.



In May, Dr Paula Byrne gave a talk on her biography 'Belle: The True Story of Dido Belle', a companion piece to the recent popular film 'Belle'. Dr Byrne, with her energetic and engaging personality, gave us an enthralling insight into the life of Dido, daughter of an African woman enslaved in the West Indies. The talk also provided an insight into the horrific slave trade of the 18th Century, with examples such as the Zong Massacre in November 1781 illustrating the cruelty and injustice suffered by black people at the time – hence the unprecedented significance of the daughter of a black slave moving to England and being adopted as an equal into a noble family. Dr Byrne suggested that Dido had an influence over the abolition of slavery in England, as her great uncle, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled in 1772 that slavery had never been authorised under the Common Law.

Three nights before Speech Day, there was a special five-

course dinner for the Literary Society Leavers, comprising all Upper Sixth English Literature pupils. This annual black tie event began with the official photograph of the Stoics in their finery, after which the entertainments (acting, reading and music) began in earnest under the South Front Portico and in the Music Room. The quality of this year's entertainments was exceptionally high, Stoic performers included Honor Brady (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Barnaby Cloud (Upper Sixth, Coham), Will Dinsdale, Paul Henkel, George Huxtable (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Patrick Keating, Alex Potts and Ayesha Shaheen, with staff members Mrs Ackroyd, Mr Goldsmith, Mrs Miller and myself also contributing.

With this final event, I stepped down as Chair of the Stowe School Literary Society. Mr Goldsmith will take over from September 2015.

Dr Paul Miller, Literary Society Chairman

Playwrite Group

For a third year, the School has entered the New Views young writers' competition run by the National Theatre, competing against maintained and independent schools alike. The number of schools participating increases every year – over 350 plays were submitted this time around – and we were delighted to see Madeleine Jordan (Lower Sixth, Queen's) long listed by the judges. Sadly, she did not make it through to the next round, but her play – a dark comedy set in an American university – was not the kind of social or political issue play that normally goes on to win. Madeleine and Saskia Satchell (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

from the group are both continuing their playwriting work, preparing performances in School of their work, while William Dinsdale (Upper Sixth, Temple) will be putting his skills to good use at Manchester University on their Drama and English Literature course next year (grades willing).

Next year, we will not be formally entering this competition, but the momentum started at Stowe for the craft of writing plays is one which I hope will continue in a more organic way. It has been very stimulating working in a genre which is such a strength in creative arts in the UK.

Mr William Goldsmith, MiC Playwrite Group

Junior Literary Society



I took over the running of Stowe's Junior Literary Society this year with one main aim: to enrich the Stoics' understanding of English by expanding it beyond its application in the classroom. Through a diverse programme

of activities and events spread across the year, the pupils would be challenged to rethink the very definition of literature itself.

In one of the sessions in this year's programme, groups of pupils selected their favourite pop songs and rewrote the lyrics to tell a well-known story. The end product had to be performed in front of the other groups, and the results were wildly creative and often hilarious! Having set the bar low with my own attempt at retelling Theseus and the Minotaur through Miley Cyrus' 'Wrecking Ball', there were stunning performances from every group, including a cleverly rapped version of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, set to Kanye West's 'Reach the Sky', a beautifully harmonised reinterpretation of Taylor Swift's 'Blank Space' that narrated the Harry Potter series, and an ingenious take on 'Let it Go', the classic number from Disney's 'Frozen', which retold Julia Donaldson's children's story, 'The

Gruffalo' ('Gruffal-ooo, Gruffalo-ooo!'). The energy and imagination in this session, which took place in the first half of the Michaelmas term, set the benchmark high for the rest of the year.

Another successful meeting took place in the newly refurbished Blue Room, a celestial space that seemed an appropriate location for an exploration into Alice Sebold's devastating novel, 'The Lovely Bones'. Examination of this text sparked thoughtful, articulate discussions on wider themes, including the difficulties with attempting to communicate abuse, the question of mortality and the existence of God, the growing concerns surrounding paedophilia in modern society, and the narrative experimentations of Sebold's fiction itself. We also looked at the problem of film adaptations, and evaluated Peter Jackson's 2009 interpretation of what had been previously deemed an 'unfilmable' novel. Debates in this session required maturity and level-headedness, especially when dealing with such sensitive subject matter, and the Fourth and Fifth Formers rose to this challenge admirably.

Next year we will continue to develop and strengthen the Junior Literary Society as a group, drawing in new ways to engage with and explore texts through a variety of mediums, and pupils can expect a programme that will include trips, guest speakers, film screenings, and other treats to satisfy those literary urges. Roll on September!

Mr George Purves, MiC Junior Literary Society

[excerpt from]

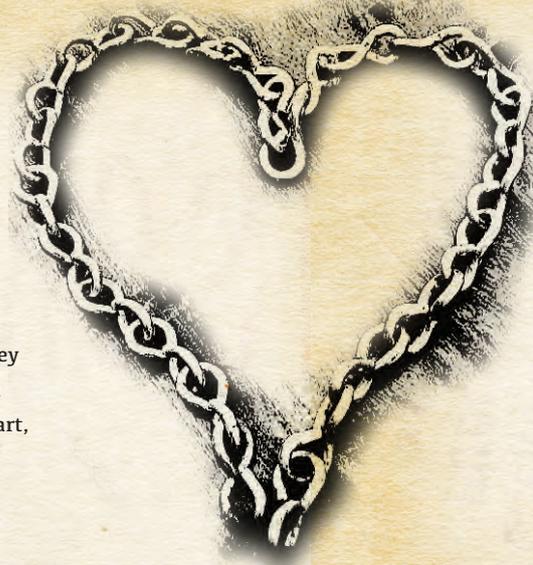
Recreative Response to 'Sister Maude' by Christina Georgina Rosetti

There you lay; bare and baked, lightly dusted by the sand your limp body rested in.

The golden curls that once bounced about your face were now held together by clots of red as they caressed your cheek – and I was jealous. Underneath that golden forest a warm maroon river ran slow and thick, it stroked your temple – and I was jealous. The sharp blade that touched your heart, it left a mark – and I was jealous.

The love I held for you was deep and powerful. The strength that love grasped me with was unbearable, unescapable! It was not just lust, nor was it just admiration; I was devoted to you. Your presence led to an awakening within me, yet my existence to you was insignificant. To you I was just a shadow, merely existing in your world. This was the point from which my loathing began, the source from which the darkness was rooted. Still the chains of love held me hostage and succeeded in keeping me silent.

Thalia Felton (Fifth Form, Queen's)



creative writing

Oxbridge Society

Quick question: what do the numbers 46,000, 17,000 and 3,000 mean in an Oxbridge context? If you're struggling, the first relates to the number of pupils in the UK who return three As or better in their A Levels; the second is the number of applications to Oxford and Cambridge and the third is the number of places on offer. It is not easy and it is certainly not getting any easier. The evidence also suggests that it is even harder for pupils from the independent sector as there is a greater burden of proof expected from pupils who, the admissions tutors anticipate, will have received a layer of teaching and coaching on top of anything most applicants from the state sector might receive.

In terms of Oxbridge outcomes, this year saw an improvement on the disappointments of the 2013/14 application cycle. Not only were the overwhelming majority of applicants called to interview but also on this occasion three places at Oxford were offered to Stoics. Caspar Whitehead (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Adesola Kazeem (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) both secured places to read Chemistry while Angus Tyrrell (Upper Sixth, Grafton) will be going up to read Law.

Preparations for this application cycle began as soon

as the last one closed with regular meetings for the Headmaster's Essay Society, visits and events all designed to fire intellectual curiosity. The Essay Society discussed a wide range of topics including what it means to be normal, the purpose of art, the notion of identity and the likelihood of extra-terrestrial life, all in an informal, lively and intellectually rigorous environment. In the Michaelmas term, the Head of Student Recruitment at Oxford University met with applicants to discuss interview strategy while in the Lent term the Essay Society travelled in the other direction to meet with the admissions team from The Queen's College. The Summer term concluded with a two day application strategy seminar led by the School Oxbridge team and attended by a number of pupils from the Northampton School for Girls.

This year will see a change at the top of the School Oxbridge team with Roland Johnson and me stepping aside for some fresh impetus and ideas from elsewhere. We would like to thank Alicia Davies for her help this year and to wish all future candidates from Stowe the very best of luck with their applications.

Mr Paul Floyd, MiC Oxbridge Society



Debating

Good grief, is it that time again? OK, focus. What are my main points? Crikey, up to now it has all really been about House Debating but there is so much more to talk about now this requires some proper organisation. Divide and rule – let’s see what we have got.

Internal competitions: these have been good; look forward to talking about that.

External competitions and events: blimey, lots of these. ESU, Oxford Schools, Madrid trip, Bercow Debate. This requires management and delegation. Get second/third speaker onto this: just too much for one man to talk about.

Debating Business: OK, so the Debating Society remains work in progress but there is progress! We had meetings and stuff and then... the Election! No way could I forget about that. May need to delegate that out and see if someone else can talk about that; simply not enough time here.

OK, don’t panic. Let’s assess these things methodically. Divide and rule, divide and rule.

So, House debating. Seniors first. Dark evenings, stormy skies, tempestuous and fiery debating (liking that!). No quarter given from the start, emergence of lots of new talent, bodes well for the future. On reflection, it really wasn’t bad at all and some of the debates – especially the semis – and the final – what a belter! Chatham versus Walpole over whether or not things are getting better and Chatham steal it by a single point... that will take some topping next term. OK, should be able to talk around that a bit.

Juniors. Now, arguably this was even better as there are some monumentally sharp minds out there and they are really starting to put the work into their debating. The message that debating is ‘Ideas Boxing’ really seems to be getting through and in terms of the future things could hardly be better. Contentious and hard fought from the start, this was a competition to savour and one that went right to the wire as the contrasting styles of Grenville and Bruce went toe-to-toe over tolerance in the final. And on top of all that, we had massive engagement from the Senior Debaters in terms of management and chairing the debates – that made a massive difference and again represents a step change for debating here at Stowe. Things are definitely looking up! (Should probably find a better way of putting that but the sentiment is clear.)

External Competitions. Well, we are finding our feet in the

outside world and it is inevitable that the learning process in this game will be unforgiving. But still, steps have been taken and progress has been made and if the results are not forthcoming yet then the intent and purpose is clear! Stress that this is a virtuous circle: exposure to external debating will improve internal debating (even if it results in a bit of a kicking... scratch that: especially if it comes with a bit of a kicking) and improvement in internal debating will improve returns on external debates. The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step (how I hate that cliché – revise for final) and the travails endured by the pioneers will clear the way for those that follow! Someone should be writing this down. Hand over to Michael Chilazi for a review of Madrid.

Debating Business. Well, ties were awarded so something is clearly happening (pause for laughter). Joking apart, the Senior Debaters have done a great job building from the ground up on this one. (Just how many clichés are allowed here?) The Society assumed the bulk of responsibility for the Junior Competition and the Election was run entirely by Leli Zivanovic (Lower Sixth, Queen’s) and Dot Holt (Lower Sixth, Queen’s) and that was a resounding success. (Remind them to say something about this in their address.) The Society is definitely starting to develop a bit of momentum here and if it can hit the ground running (ding!) next term then great things are possible – but it is up to them.

A stunning peroration. OK, mustn’t forget to thank all those – behind and in front of the scenes – who made it all possible. So thanks to Emma Ackroyd, Clare Hill-Hall and Liz Huxley Capurro for all their help chairing, judging and general organising; thanks also to Michael Chilazi for taking on Madrid and running it with such efficiency and to such great effect; and thanks to the House Staff for getting all the chairs, tables and lecterns in the right place and at the right time, sometimes on thoroughly unreasonably short notice. But thanks most of all to the Stoics for taking an interest in debating and for driving standards up and widening the profile and appeal of Debating at Stowe. Finally, I think that my work here is done and it is time for someone else to take on the baton. There is much still to do but I hope that there is a functional platform in place, foundations sufficiently robust to support a culture of ambition and excellence that will see Stowe Debating move on to even bigger and better things. To my successor and all Stowe debaters, good luck and enjoy ‘Ideas Boxing’.

Mr Paul Floyd, MiC Debating



Model United Nations

Ever hungry for a new debating challenge, a number of Stoics this year joined to form Stowe's first Model United Nations (MUN) team. MUN is a form of debating whereby pupils are asked to step into the role of diplomats representing various nations as they work together towards solutions to global issues. A group of Seniors, made up of Harry Norris (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Isaac Ajala (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Adam Ezomo (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Harrison Tucker (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Aleksia Zivanovic (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Dorothy Holt (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Saskia Satchell (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Isobelle Smith (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Barnaby Cloud (Upper Sixth, Cobham), Alexander Potts (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Guy Gibson (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Henry Sylvester (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Jamie Hardinge (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Honor Brady (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), travelled together to Madrid to compete in an international conference organised by Harvard. They debated issues ranging from the crisis in Ukraine to teacher absenteeism in developing countries, working with over 600 pupils from across the world. Weeks of training culminated in a brilliant outing for our debaters as they returned to Stowe with ten awards in tow. Their enthusiasm, cooperation, and debating acumen shined that weekend and they did the School proud.



A group of Juniors ranging from the Third to Fifth Form added to the success of our Senior team at the Haileybury MUN conference. Alexander Jones (Third Form, Grenville), Hugo Robinson (Third Form, Grenville), Isaac David (Third Form, Cobham), Thomas Mayhew (Fourth Form, Grafton), James Pocklington (Fourth Form, Grenville), Ingrid Galler (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Mar Martinez-Tomas (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Alexandra Orton (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Nonhlanhla Maclare (Fourth Form, Queen's), Stuart Milner (Fifth Form, Cobham), Oliver Milne-Skillman (Fifth Form, Grenville), Anton Kondrashov (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Gleb Shcherbakov (Fifth Form, Grenville) combined to form our Junior squad. They too enjoyed their first MUN experience and will be crucial in bringing their leadership and experience to the team next year. Thank you to Crispin Robinson and Paul Floyd for their support, along with Shelby Davis, Collette Stirzaker, and especially Howard Hoare, who will be the new MiC next year. We are confident that the diversity of the pupils' debating experiences will seep into all aspects of life, debating and beyond. Apologies to all parents who will have found it increasingly difficult to negotiate with their children!

Mr Michael Chilazi, MiC Model United Nations



Senior Competition

Winners: Chatham

Sam Riley
Harry Norris
Alex Potts

Runners up: Walpole

Alfie Marsden-Smedley
Will Cowley
Isaac Ajala

Junior Competition

Winners: Bruce

Ben Solomon
Daniel Kilmister
Henry Russell

Runners up: Grenville

James Pocklington
Gleb Shcherbakov
Oliver Milne-Skillman

ESU Competition

Barnaby Cloud
(Upper Sixth, Cobham)
Alex Potts
(Lower Sixth, Chatham)

Oxford Schools Competition

Robert Milner
(Upper Sixth, Cobham)
Harry Norris
(Lower Sixth, Chatham)

Chenderit Schools Debate

(Chaired by John Bercow)

Model UN (Madrid):

MiC Mr Chilazi

Today, with 24/7 media coverage, instant images and a myriad of sources for us to link into, there really is no excuse for not only researching all viewpoints behind a story, but also exploring the country, person, history and context that lie behind the headlines and the photographic images presented to the world. This is part of the challenge given to Stoics who join the group. Preconceived ideas are robustly challenged and Stoics are positively encouraged not to take things at face value but to go beyond the obvious and consider the numerous elements that make up the whole. Furthermore, they are also encouraged to consider the many viewpoints on topics from around the world and place those ideas within the unique cultural context that they are researching. More often than not, they enter the discussion with firm ideas and leave realising that nothing is black and white but often a varying shade of grey. It is always a privilege to work with the Stoics who join this group and this year has been no exception.

Mrs Liz Huxley Capurro

One of the afternoon activities that is offered during term time is that of Current Affairs. I had not taken it as an option before or focused too much on the subject itself in my free time prior to last term. However, having considered its possible selection for the term's activities this time around, I decided that it would be a good step into learning more about the world around us and might possibly open my mind to other ways of thinking. I was not disappointed. On my first day we considered the basic problems revolving around current issues in the Middle

East. This showed up my previous misconceptions about the region which had been provided, with thanks in great part, to the press and their propensity to desensitise the population with horrific images. I gained a greater understanding and knowledge of the region and its issues to take away and consider.

Over the following weeks, other issues also flourished in discussion such as those of capital punishment, abortion, prisons and many more. We were sometimes faced with a heterodoxical argument to the subject being considered, but this only catalysed the discussion further, often leaving the group undecided on where they stood at the end. We were beginning to understand that no topic is ever truly cut and dry. Having sat through a number of these extensive discussions, the one which stood out for me was that of abortion. I used to be quite decisive on the matter, but now I'm not too sure at all. The apparent validity from a knowledge paired with the almost indistinguishable opinions and propositions that were raised throughout the discussion, highlighted key areas that almost certainly made me think differently about the topic in question. Both held clearly pronounced, valid and persuasive arguments contrary to my own. I found myself in a place where I knew more and thus thought differently about the topic, but left me ultimately hesitant on my conclusion.

Overall, I can gladly say that it was well worth signing up for Current Affairs, and the discussions were endless, yet always enjoyable.

Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson (Lower Sixth, Grenville)

Biomedical Society

This year we began with the theme of ageing asking why are genes are programmed to make us get older, how they go about ageing cells, what changes occur, and how it might be stopped. We were extremely fortunate to welcome Professor Karol Sikora chief medical officer at Cancer Partners UK to discuss his work on cancer as a disease of our time. We thank him not only for a most enlightening lecture but also his warm enthusiasm in discussing ideas with Stoics over dinner.

The Lent and Summer terms saw a greater focus on the latest diagnostic techniques including the enormously expensive human genome project, the use of nanotubes and nano polymers, and use of fungi in bioengineering. This term we were privileged to receive a guest lecture by Miss Sheilagh Rawlins on how exactly we smell using our brains. This included a most enjoyable scratch and sniff session in which Stoics attempted to identify those smells usually only detectable by the most sensitive noses. Next

year we hope to expand on this theme visiting the centre responsible for training medical detection dogs.

All that remains is for me to thank some of our leavers for their many contributions to the Biomedical Society. I would like to thank Bonnie Leheup (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) for her most enlightening talk on the use of nano technology to provide less painful immunisations; Sean Rea (Upper Sixth, Chandos) for the most interesting talk on Tiktaalik roseae I have ever attended, and last but not least Elsa Desmond (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Tom Dixon (Upper Sixth, Bruce) for their many contributions showing an unwavering enthusiasm and commitment to the Society. I would like to publicly congratulate Elsa and Tom for their outstanding A Level results and hope in a few years' time they will return to discuss their own research and experiences as medical professionals.

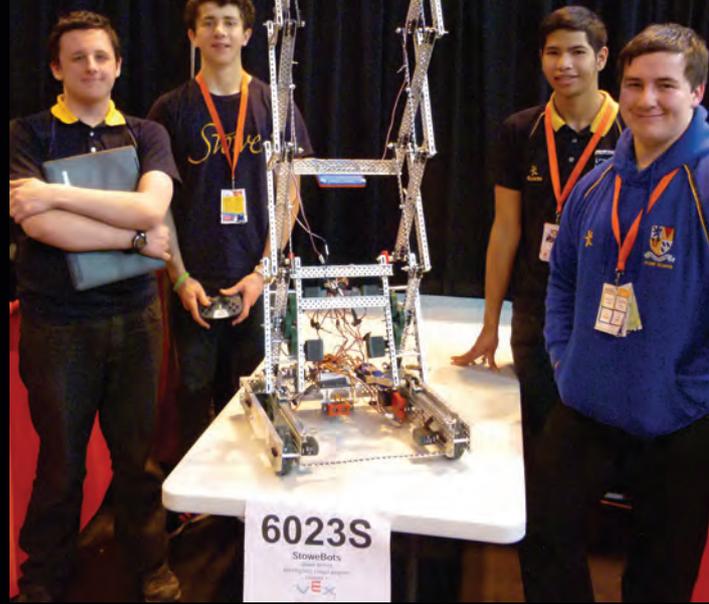
Miss Alicia Davies, MiC Biomedical Society

StoweBots

Beginning in January 2015 (late in the robotics season) Ben Barrett (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Sam Lodge (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Artura Subowo (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Toby Lawrance (Fifth Form, Cobham) formed the first ever Stowe Robotics team. This team set out to build a robot to compete in the VEX Robotics Competition. Entering the first Regional competition after a very rapid three week build, the team won a place in the semi-finals and impressed the organisers enough to win a place at the UK National VEX Final. After a very quick rebuild and strengthen over three weeks the team went to the Nationals with realistic hopes of making the top half of the 60 teams attending and after the first day of qualifying matches it became apparent we would achieve this. At the end of qualifying we were ranked seventh and were selected as a partner for the top ranked team going into the final rounds. We easily made it through the quarter-finals, and then very narrowly lost the semi-finals missing out on the National final by a few points. All in all though, it was an outstanding effort for this new team placing in the top eight teams from hundreds of teams across the UK.

The competition involves a game in which you compete as a pair of robots against an opposition pair. The 2015 game was primarily about height and building up tall scoring towers and placing large hollow cubes on them for points. The new 2015-2016 game is completely different and is an odd mix of basketball (shooting balls into a high goal) and weightlifting (with teams required to lift partner robots at the end of the game).

Moving on to the 2015-2016 season, which we have a year



to prepare for, we now have two teams (Junior and Senior) with 13 Stoics involved. New designs and builds are progressing well with both the teams having built unique ball launchers for their robots. After missing the UK final by such a narrow margin, our goal this season is to make it to the final match and then go on to compete in the World Championships in America. We also hope to host a competition at Stowe early in 2016.

This has been an excellent activity for all the pupils involved and offers something very different and unique at Stowe. It allows for application of a lot of Physics, ICT and Design skills and has given those involved an outlet for their interests and teaches them so much through practical problem solving.

Mr Paul Thompson, MiC Robots

Corkscrew Society

For a School as relatively young as Stowe, without too many of the benefits or shackles of 'tradition' few things can be regarded as 'institutions'. But, now in its 43rd year, Corkscrew can lay claim to being pretty firmly established. It was founded in 1972 by Zair Berry who recalls with a combination of nostalgia and pride: "I was Head Boy at the time and I spoke to my Headmaster, Bob Drayson, about the idea of a wine society. I was brought up with wine – I was given it watered down by my French grandmother from the age of seven. My uncle was also an Old Stoic and Secretary of the International Food and Wine Society at the time, and we thought it would be a good idea for Stowe. The Upper Sixth had access to beer but I could make use of my uncle's contacts..."

Now, more that forty years on (and after a remarkable 40th anniversary reunion tasting in 2012), the founding principles of Corkscrew remain very much alive – and learning about the joys of wine-tasting is something which (maybe not surprisingly!) has a real appeal to Stoics.

The year started in September, in the same way that it has for many years, with an invitation to all the Upper Sixth to apply to join. Membership is capped at thirty – which lends a gentle sense of exclusivity and also helps (as the evenings progress) to make proceedings respectful and manageable as well as entertaining and informative.

During the course of the year, we had the opportunity of learning about and enjoying some superb wines from around the world. We are indebted to our visiting experts – Mr Ted Sandbach, our own Mr Goldsmith, Mr Chris Wightman, Mr Christoph Henkel and Mr John Sutcliffe, Mr Julian Chamberlen and Mr Jack Scott – for their time and generosity in coming to speak. Two Stoics, Edward Hopkinson (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Molly Robinson (Upper Sixth, Nugent), deserve particular praise for winning the Philip Gray Wine-Tasting prize – blind tasting at its toughest! They each won a bottle of Chateau Latour '98, very kindly donated by Mr Gray. The end of year formal dinner, with a selection of wines accompanying a magnificent six course meal, prepared by our Catering Department, will live long in the memory.

It was indeed a vintage year for Corkscrew and one that I personally will look back on with great pleasure.

Mr Colin Dudgeon, MiC Corkscrew Society

Quantum Society

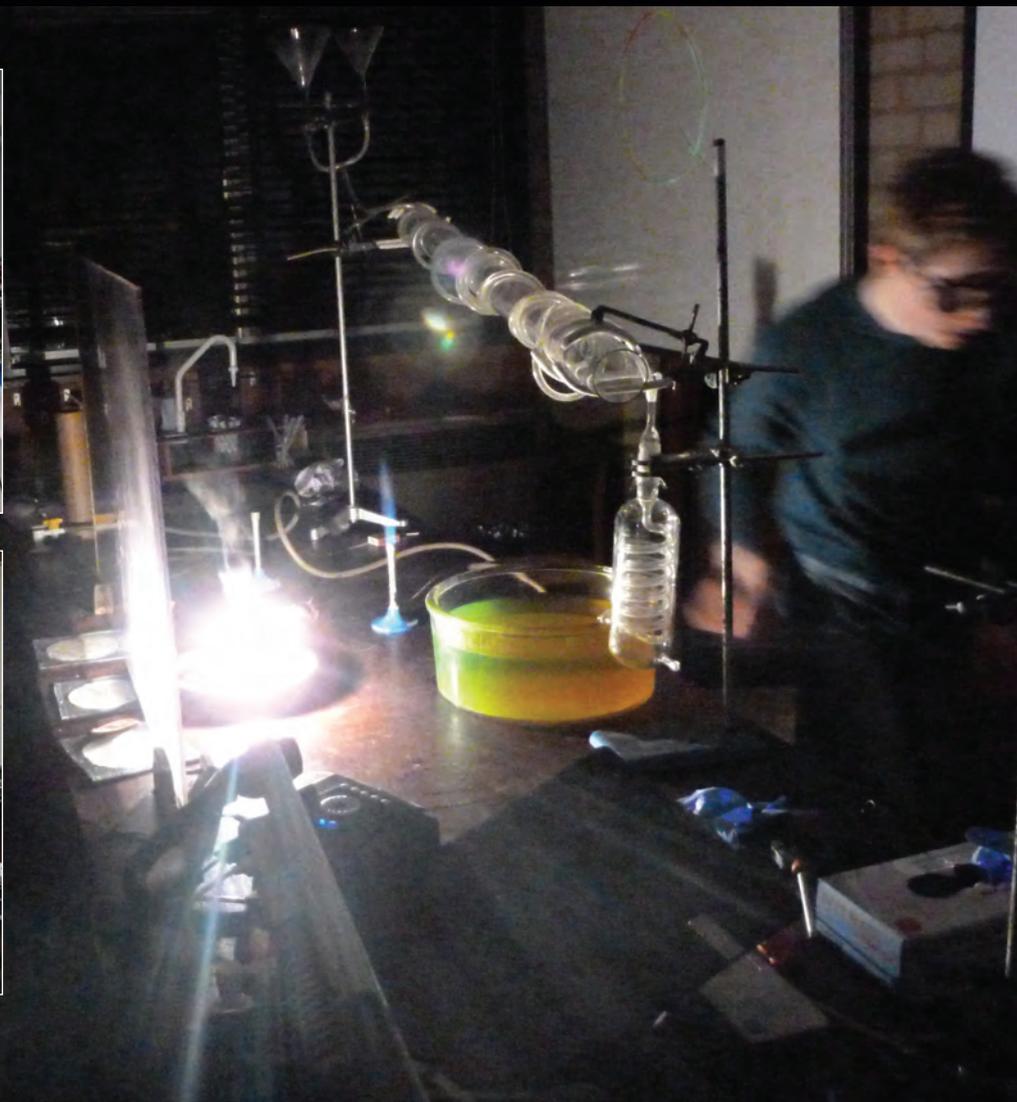
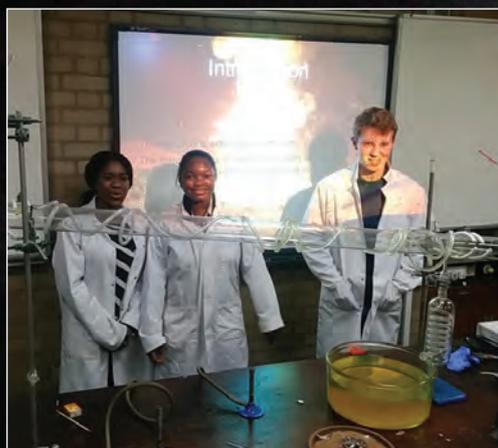
The Quantum Society has been very active this year led superbly by the president James Simpson (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Secretary Adesola Kazeem (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Treasurer Molly Allington (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and many other core members. Of particular note have been some wonderful chemical demonstrations by the members. James' positively explosive presentation on Entropy and Free Energy was very memorable, hitting all of the senses. Adesola teamed up with Valerie Madojemu (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) to give a sparkling lecture on chemiluminescence which went way beyond the A Level syllabus. They all spent many hours in the Chemistry Labs experimenting to prepare their talks which gave them the chance to try out some new reactions for themselves.

Our communications officer Sean Rea (Upper Sixth, Chandos) took sharing ideas amongst members to a new level by setting up the Stowe Quantum Twitter feed. Sean also treated us to a delicious presentation on how liquid nitrogen can be used to make unusual desserts which most certainly melted in the mouth.

This year we had our second Annual Quantum Dinner which was preceded by a presentation by Dr Jonathan Doyle from Oxford University's Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry who gave an amazing talk on 'DNA Lego' which gave us a glimpse of a fascinating area that we didn't even know existed. He showed us that by using custom made strands of DNA, a wide variety of shapes can be made on the molecular scale. This uses base pairing to ensure the right ends of the right strands join together to make the shape required. Dr Doyle admitted that the science was still at the blue sky thinking stage, but it is certainly a technology to watch for the future. The meal that followed was thoroughly enjoyed by the members who showed what a wonderfully convivial group they are who share a deep love of Science.

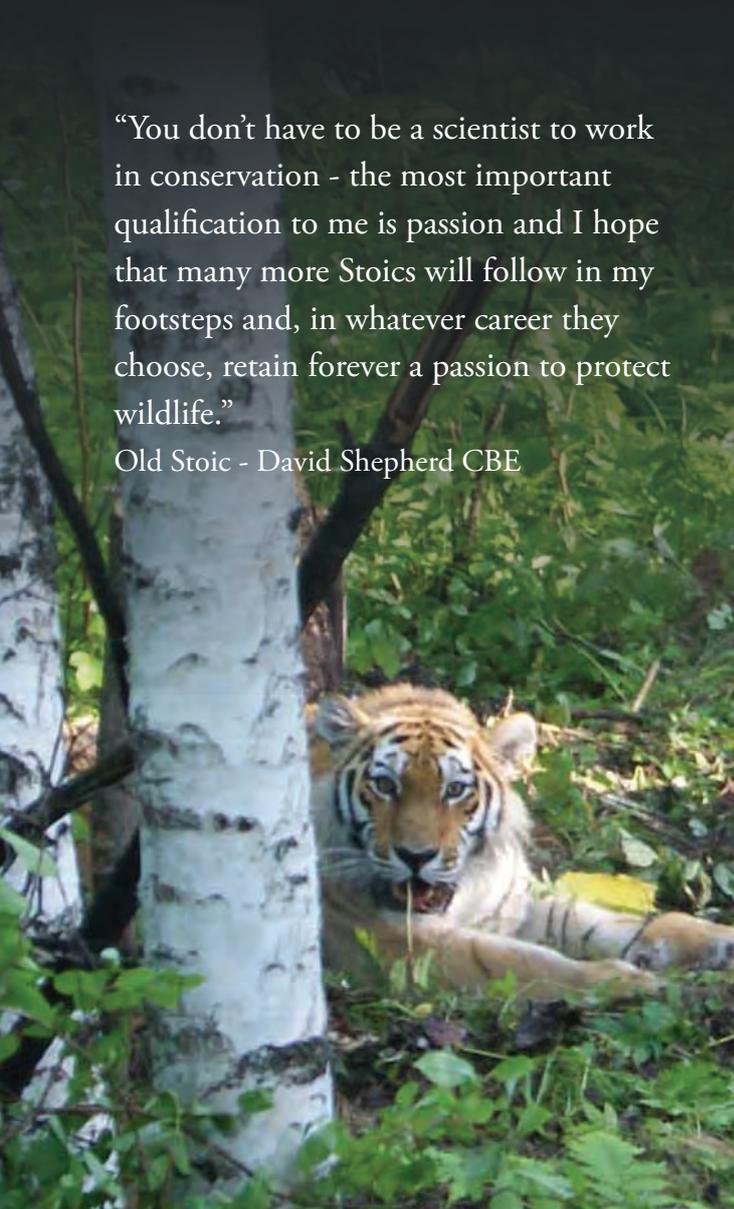
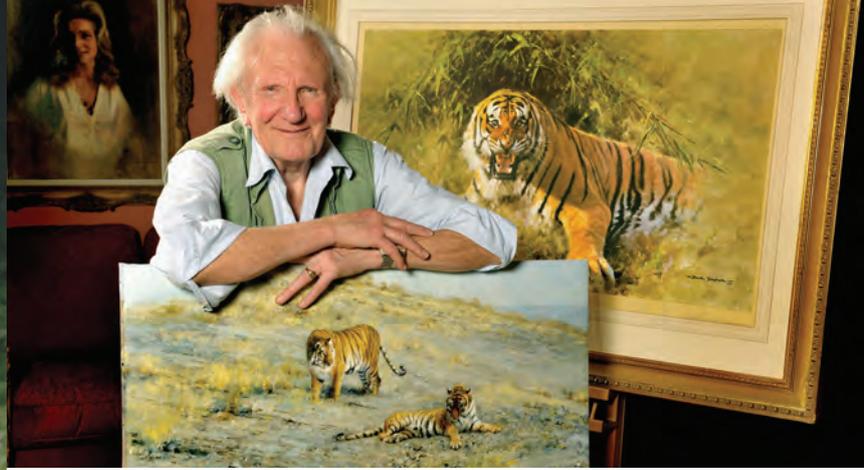
With a Christmas party and quiz, a trip to Oxford and book reviews where the chosen books were discussed over Chinese take-aways in the labs, this has certainly been a memorable year. The annual croquet match against the Biomedical Society was rained off part way through but the members at least took delight in having been one game ahead when rain stopped play. With many keen Lower Sixth members already involved, they look set to have a great year ahead next year.

Mr James Tearle, MiC Quantum Society



“You don’t have to be a scientist to work in conservation - the most important qualification to me is passion and I hope that many more Stoics will follow in my footsteps and, in whatever career they choose, retain forever a passion to protect wildlife.”

Old Stoic - David Shepherd CBE



David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

The the fundraising efforts for this year’s School charity have been brilliant, with £3,356 raised so far and with many more events scheduled for the next academic year, this total is no doubt going to rise even further. From ‘home clothes day’ to the sale of 850 roses on Valentine’s Day and musical concerts, the Stoics’ huge support for David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation has been commendable. There has been a particular focus on the conservation of the endangered Amur Tiger, with regular visits from DSWF representatives to aid fundraising initiatives including holding a School Assembly, boosting educational awareness of the issues surrounding these Tigers – there has been active and continuous support. The Stoics’ selfless contributions have been, without question, the secret of our success this year.

Shannon Devlin, Head Girl





SHPT

AN ENLIGHTENED AND ILLUMINATING YEAR

Stowe is widely – and rightly – regarded as one of the finest Country House estates in Europe. Stowe School's role in saving the House from demolition is one of the greatest success stories of the heritage world in the 20th Century and the extensive restoration work carried out since 2000 has been a major achievement. Up to now, it has been quite a challenge to tell that story and awareness of Stowe has been clouded by uncertainty as to whether or not members of the public are permitted to visit the House. Those who

Up to now, it has been quite a challenge to tell that story and awareness of Stowe has been clouded by uncertainty as to whether or not members of the public are permitted to visit the House.

do have always been pleasantly surprised by the work that has been carried out, by the welcome that they receive and by the co-existence of nearly 800 young people and an historic setting of unparalleled magnificence.

It is perhaps worth reiterating here the background to a restoration programme on which some £25m has been spent to date and how that work was funded without impact on the School. With the help of an anonymous benefactor, Stowe School and the National Trust entered into an agreement in 1989 which saw the National Trust take on the Landscape Garden subject to Stowe School's right to use the land granted to the National Trust for centuries to come. Some ten years later, with parts of the House beginning to crumble and fall, the Governors agreed the creation of the Stowe House Preservation Trust, a body independent of the School charged with the stewardship of the Mansion and its restoration. Helped by enormous generosity from many private individuals and public grant giving bodies, plus the continuing support of the anonymous benefactor, the Trust was able to access a variety of funding including the World Monument Fund, the Country Houses Foundation, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The restoration work has been funded since 2000 by individual donors and public bodies, which has relieved the School of a huge financial burden but brings with it an obligation to open the House to the public. By 2012, the exterior fabric of the Mansion had largely been restored thanks to these innovative and far sighted arrangements.

Each summer since 2012, as recorded in previous articles for *The Stoic*, SHPT has overseen the progressive restoration of the interiors of the House. The Egyptian Hall, the Music Room and, more prosaically, the floors in the eastern corridors were restored between 2012 and 2014 with the most recent achievements, the Blue Room and North Hall being two of the more challenging projects undertaken to date. As a general rule, the restoration of Stowe House aims to return the House to its appearance at the end of the 18th Century, the point at which, under the ownership of the Marquess of Buckingham, it is generally agreed to have reached its zenith. The Blue Room, however, had undergone several changes of use and, around that time, it was serving as a print room. Although attractive from the perspective of continuity of use, restoration to that same period would have meant denying the room the decorative element that gave it the name by which it has been known throughout most of its history, derived from the blue silk damask that adorned its walls in the mid 19th Century. More significantly, structural changes to the doors, heightening the decorative elements above them, would have been complex and costly to reverse and there was original photographic evidence of the decoration in 1860. An expert panel, in reviewing the available evidence, opted to restore the room to its appearance at this period, at which point the Third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos was attempting to restore some of the grandeur of the House and Estate.

The result is perhaps the most spectacular of Stowe House

Preservation Trust's projects to date. Extensive research was required to draw up, using the archives of the Warner Institute, a design and colour specification for the damask, which was then woven to order. Gilding, long since painted over or removed, was reinstated to the decorative plasterwork and delicate frames were commissioned to replace the heavier 20th Century borders around the damask. An elegant carved fireplace in white marble, a fine mirror and cleaned chandelier complete the work.

“The result is perhaps the most spectacular of Stowe House Preservation Trust's projects to date.”

North Hall presented different challenges. With its ceiling by William Kent, featuring Viscount Cobham receiving a sword from William III portrayed as Mars, the God of War, the Hall sets the scene for much of the iconography throughout the House and the wider Estate. Plans drawn up by Kent have survived, showing the decoration of the walls and a magnificent fireplace set against the western wall, but much of his work was removed when the stairs to the Egyptian Hall were inserted in about 1804 and the positions of the two wall reliefs were changed at the same time, while it was impossible to be sure of the appearance of the floor at that time. Given this uncertainty, SHPT



took the unusual decision to restore only the ceiling as this is arguably the most important element. It was necessary to stabilise its condition and clean the gilt work to make it once more the central element in the spectacular entrance to the main house. Twelve weeks of work on site and a specialist conservation workshop were required to restore the grisaille on gold mosaic of the coves and to clean and retouch the painted canvas panels, highlighting once more the play of light on the decorative scheme and reversing the ravages of time that had caused cracking and staining by leaks from above. SHPT will return to the rest of the Hall once research has been completed to support a more comprehensive restoration, which, again, will entail discussing the merits of different decorative schemes to the walls and agreeing a definitive period in time on which to base the work.

Elsewhere, the detail of lighting schemes has been painstakingly researched to ensure that authentic fittings could be returned to the Library and a replica chandelier commissioned for the Music Room. With only two 18th Century sketches from which to work, the experts managed to scale, design and make successive mock ups to judge appearance until suitable designs could be commissioned for the Library from a leading expert in historic lighting. The Music Room chandelier was easier

to design as between the two great sales of 1848 and 1920, it had been returned to Stowe and hung in the Blue Room, where it had been photographed in the early 20th Century. Thus it proved possible to commission an exact copy, which was successfully winched into place once the restored original of Valdrè's Dance of the Hours had been

The challenge was to provide a welcoming environment with attractive and instructive background information while ensuring that the School's primary responsibilities to pupils were not compromised by House visits.

successfully reinstalled. This original painting, considered to be one of Valdrè's finest works, had been sold in 1922 and a copy made in the 1960s to take its place. Sold again in the 1970s, the original's location was unknown until an unexpected telephone call in October 2012 revealed that the painting might become available to the Stowe House Preservation Trust. After inspection, it was purchased and





sent to specialist conservators for a complete restoration, removing some rather dubious over-painting that had been applied after it left Stowe. Their analysis also revealed the evidence that confirmed that the painting had been finished *in situ* by the original artist up to the edge of the fitting for a central chandelier. Such details illustrate the extent of research needed to guarantee the authenticity of restoration work.

SHPT's most challenging – and exciting – project for 2015 was the creation of new facilities for visitors to help us to meet the obligations placed on the Trust by public funding of restoration work. As long ago as 2009, consideration

had been given to the need for an area where House visitors could be appropriately received, gather for their House tours and be introduced to the history of the House before embarking on escorted tours. The challenge was to provide a welcoming environment with attractive and instructive background information while ensuring that the School's primary responsibilities to pupils were not compromised by House visits. A successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund under the title 'Enlightenment for All' secured a grant of some two thirds of the cost of converting the cellar beneath the Marble Hall into a modern Interpretation Centre and an adjacent changing room and the former Visitors' Centre into a welcome and retail area. Work started in July 2014 and, with a small delay to manage unforeseen construction issues, was completed in just over a year. Exhibition and audio visual contractors then moved in and completed their work in time for opening on 9 August. The brief was challenging, with the aim of telling the story of Stowe House in a way that would appeal to old and young alike but with a particular emphasis on attracting visitors who might not otherwise visit an historic property. In fact, the 'story' breaks down into at least four separate stories and these were selected as the chapters for an interpretative scheme that follows the creation of House and Estate under Viscount Cobham, the extravagance of the Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos that led to bankruptcy, the rescue of the House by the formation of Stowe School and the restoration of the site by the Stowe House Preservation Trust and the National Trust.

Stowe's history has been characterised by inspirational,

Stowe's history has been characterised by inspirational, enlightened thinking and a search for creativity that are still very much alive in the ideals promoted by Stowe School.



enlightened thinking and a search for creativity that are still very much alive in the ideals promoted by Stowe School. This 'golden thread' of creativity is used to show the civilisations and ideals that inspired one of the greatest neo classical estates in Europe and how Stowe's own identity became a source of inspiration for others to follow. We hope that this central theme and the high quality of displays will encourage more people, visitors, staff and pupils alike, to discover their own powers of creativity and to be inspired by this very tangible link to the past through the building in which many of us have the good fortune to live and work.

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

MUSIC



The academic year 2014/2015 for musicians at Stowe was the start of a sea-change in terms of drive, enthusiasm and sheer number of high quality performance opportunities.

The musical year began with Finlay Sutherland (Fourth Form, Grafton) and Jeongyun Kim (Third Form, Walpole) being treated to a masterclass given by the eminent concert pianist, David Owen Norris. This was followed by our first Third Form concert in which we celebrated the music of the legendary band 'The Beatles'.

Emily Woodhead (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Lewis Bell (Fifth Form, Grenville) took part in a second piano masterclass, with acclaimed concert pianist and Head of Piano at the Royal Academy of Music, Joanna MacGregor. Joanna's teaching was inspirational and the pianists came away with lots of useful practice ideas.

All 13 Houses gathered in the Chapel to sing their unison song and part-songs for the annual House Singing competition. Jonathan Kingston was the adjudicator this year; his decisions, as ever, were controversial and, as always, some disagreed with the end results, but we have come to know that is all part of the fun and games and general excitement. Chatham won the overall prize, with Nugent winning the overall unison prize and Chatham winning the overall part-song. Walpole sailed into first place winning the boys' unison song. Amalia Aitchison (Fourth Form, Nugent) and George Huxtable (Upper Sixth, Chatham) arranged their part-songs, and jointly won the arrangement prize.

A series of concerts given by Stoic musicians in local churches have taken place this year. Sixth Form musicians played to a packed church full of parishioners and parents at St Edmund's Church, Maids Moreton. Rex Roxburgh (Upper Sixth, Grafton) opened the concert and

a number of pop and music theatre songs were sung by Emily Woodhead, Eloise Dobson (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Shannon Devlin (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Molly Suthers (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Anna Bevington (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Miles Clark (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Amalia Aitchison and Letitia O'Neill (Upper Sixth, Nugent). Sam Lodge (Lower Sixth, Walpole) gave a stirring performance on the tuba.

As part of our Armistice commemoration, Stoics gave exceptional performances of both Saint Saëns' 'Carnival of the Animals' and Fauré's 'Requiem'. I was so impressed by the level of professionalism and commitment shown by each of the ten pianists as well as every member of the orchestra both during rehearsals and in the concert itself. I would like to give a special mention to the soloists involved in both pieces: Tom Dixon (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Clarissa Llanaj (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Helena Vince (Third Form, Queen's), Oliver Vince (Fourth Form, Cobham), Jeongyun Kim, Amalia Aitchison, Emily Woodhead, William Motion (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Finlay Sutherland, Lewis Bell, Alex McQuitty (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Peter Entwisle (Third Form, Temple) and Leonie Callow (Third Form, Queen's).

The first 'Junior Open Mic Night' showcased the diversity of talent amongst the younger Stoics and it was particularly pleasing to note the level of support from their peer group and indeed from amongst the Senior years.

Some of Stowe's most accomplished pianists travelled to London to give a piano recital at Steinway Hall. The Stoics had the opportunity to meet Ulrich Gerhartz, Director of Concert and Artist Services at Steinway. Ulrich gave them the privileged opportunity to play some pianos from Steinway's hire fleets, which are used at some of the most prestigious concert venues throughout the country.

Following the tour, the Stoics all gave outstanding performances in the evening recital.

This year's Dinner and Jazz was a spectacular event showcasing some of Stowe's finest musicians. Guests were greeted at the Champagne Reception with music from Dave Richmond's ensemble, the Senior Jazz Combo featuring Finlay Sutherland on trumpet and the McQuitty brothers Alex and Henry (Fourth Form, Walpole) on bass and drums. During the meal we were entertained by the Chamber Choir singing in the Music Room and the Marble Saloon, directed by Lewis Brito-Babapulle. Then it was Miles Nottage's Jazz Combo, Patrick Keating (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Honor Brady (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Alex McQuitty, and Alistair Martin (Lower Sixth, Chandos), with great vocal solos from Molly Suthers, Emily Woodhead, Ben ter Haar (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Honor Brady, Nia Brown (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Emma Davies (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Shannon Devlin, George Huxtable, James Moor (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Eloise Dobson and Miles Clark.

In January, a number of Stoics travelled to Sibford School to compete in the annual Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition. This year was particularly successful

for Stowe given that at least one Stoic reached the final of the competition in each category they represented. Tom Dixon and Lewis Bell were awarded places in the Senior Piano class final. Poppy de Salis (Third Form, Stanhope) reached the final in her category and Amalia Aitchison and Jeongyun Kim were awarded places in the final for their contrasting performances in the Junior Piano class. Alexandra Jordan (Third Form, Lyttelton) and Laura Brogden (Lower Sixth, Queen's) also reached the finals for their lyrical and polished performances on the flute.

One of our initiatives in the Lent term was to try to support a near-by care home. Musicians from Stowe made a number of trips to the Red House Care Home in Maids Moreton. These performances seem to be really appreciated by the residents at the home and are a fantastic opportunity for our musicians to play in this intimate setting.

The end of the first half of term saw the arrival of Stowe's annual musical, this year, 'Company'. The story recounts the 35th birthday of a high living bachelor with no responsibilities and his closest friends who are all married. The music, even today, is one of the most demanding in the musical repertoire, however, through the driven and impassioned direction of Miss Lucy Brassell, the Stoics,





who crossed all year groups, rose to the challenge and created a show with style, determination and energy.

Fifty Stoic musicians competed in the annual Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts. Amidst tough competition, all those who took part acquitted themselves very well in their performances and they all received constructive comments from professional adjudicators. I would like to congratulate the following Stoics who were awarded prizes: Jeongyun Kim, Oliver Vince, Helena Vince, Amalia Aitchison, Lewis Bell, Poppy de Salis, Finlay Sutherland, Mina Haas (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Isabel Ward (Third Form, Stanhope).

Following the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts, Amalia Aitchison was selected to take part in the Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year competition. Amalia's performance really shone for both its sensitivity and emotional gravitas. As a result of her accomplished performances, she was selected to take part in the Rotary district finals of the Young Musician of the Year 2015 competition.

Sally Adams, our highly respected Flute teacher organised an impromptu recital for our very talented Music Scholar, Alexandra Jordan. She was preparing her flute recital for her upcoming Diploma. Congratulations go to Alexandra for gaining a distinction in her actual Diploma examination. Also congratulations to Isobel Ward, another pupil of Sally Adams, who also gained a distinction in her Recorder Diploma.

The Summer term began with one of the most exciting events in my 28 years of teaching. Lang Lang came, taught and performed in the Uglend Auditorium. He managed to fit in his visit to Stowe because he had been at the Royal Albert Hall for the previous two nights playing to sell-out audiences, and was en route to Hamburg. Inside the Uglend Auditorium three Music Scholars, Poppy de Salis, Lewis Bell and Jeongyun Kim, and two Music Scholars-elect, Theodore Hayes and Jeffrey Au sat awaiting their audience with the world's most famous pianist. As the

pianists played Bach, Chabrier, Poulenc, Grieg and Ravel, the audience sat in an almost golden silence as we watched Lang Lang work his magic, dancing and moving with the pupils, enticing them to give more and more of themselves. The results were astonishing. The pupils' nerves simply melted away and each Stoic sat beaming at their teacher who radiated delight in their playing and encouraged them to do more. The audience felt the experience was complete; however, we were yet to hear Lang Lang play on our Steinway Model D. He offered Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Chopin, and would have done more, but the plane at Heathrow was not going to wait, not even for him. Lang Lang had exemplified that artistic vision, and it was with such clear delight that Anthony Wallersteiner made him the life-time President and Fellow of the Stowe Academy of Music, now resident and flourishing within the Chung Music School. We can only hope that he will return some time soon. It was a life-changing day, not just for the performers but, extraordinary for every member of the audience who had the privilege to hear Lang Lang perform and teach.

This year the Concerto Concert was again joined by our professional orchestra, the Stowe Festival Orchestra, and the soloists nearly all played Bach. The concert opened with Amalia Aitchison and Poppy de Salis performing the first movement of the ambitious Bach Double Violin Concerto, which they pulled off with a great sense of style. They were followed by Oliver Vince, Lewis Bell and Jeongyun Kim performing the F minor Piano Concerto, which was first conceived for the Oboe. Laura Brogden then played the last three movements of Bach's B minor Suite, the last movement made famous by James Galway. Finally Tom Dixon performed the whole of David's Concertino for Trombone and Orchestra.

Stowe was thrilled to welcome back the Choir of Dominican Convent School, Johannesburg. The ensemble of 60 singers gave three performances at Stowe – entertaining guests at the School's Taster Day, singing songs



and anthems at Morning Chapel, and then providing a spell-binding performance to a packed Uglad Auditorium. Dressed in traditional African costumes – representing the many different cultural groups in South Africa – they sang with an inspiring level of energy, passion and pride in their country and identity.

This year's Mozart Trio Prize was adjudicated by David Anderson, former voice teacher and faculty member of the Royal Northern Academy of Music, the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music. As a performer, he is a highly regarded operatic tenor. The Stoics all sang and performed to a very high standard, with nearly everyone singing or playing from memory. The competitors were: Emily Woodhead, voice, Honor Brady, voice, Nia Brown, voice, Eloise Dobson, voice, Rex Roxburgh, organ, Rex Adams (Upper Sixth, Chatham), piano, Tom Dixon, trombone and Molly Suthers, voice. They had all created outstanding programmes of interesting repertoires. Nia Brown won the audience prize, by a clear majority, but on the day David Anderson awarded joint third to Rex Roxburgh and Rex Adams, Eloise Dobson was placed second and the winner, with a virtuosic performance of David's Concertino was Tom Dixon.

Our final event of the year at Stowe was for me one of the most thrilling and exciting concerts I have seen in my seven years as Stowe's Director of Music. Friday 23 May

saw Stowe's finest rock and pop musicians gathered for a memorable and hugely enjoyable concert, GlaStowebury. The lively audience of Stoics, staff and parents was treated to many superb performances. Henry Gauvain (Fourth Form, Temple), Max Campbell-Preston (Fourth Form, Grafton), Dan Jolker (Fourth Form, Cobham) and Dan Biss (Fourth Form, Grafton) showed us some of the talent in the Lower School, and very impressive it was too. Other Stoic performers such as Mali Aitchison, Mina Haas, Lucy Sutherland (Fourth Form, Nugent), Arthur Marriott (Fourth Form, Chandos), Anastasia Howard-Jenkins (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Edwina Longe (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) also turned in some tuneful and exciting renditions. Molly Suthers and Honor Brady (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) offered a seasonal cover of Gershwin's Classic, Summertime and Miles Clark and his band got things off to an excellent start. Miles was later joined by Nonhlanhla Maclare (Fourth Form, Queen's) who gave a hugely entertaining and skilfully performed turn on the microphone. The evening was brought to a close by George Huxtable, Patrick Keating, Oscar Marment (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Angus McCrorie-Shand (Bruce 14) performing as Stoics together for the last time. The concert served to highlight the grassroots of music-making going on at Stowe and the astonishing talent of the School's musicians.



The final event of one of the busiest years on record was the Big Band's tour of the North West of England. We performed at St Peter's Church in Adderley, Aysgarth School in Yorkshire, Mowden Hall, The Quiet Bar, The Dinner Dance at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool and at the bandstand in Stanley Park. There were stunning solo performances from Jeongyun Kim on clarinet, Finlay Sutherland on trumpet and Emily Woodhead also on trumpet, not to mention the singing sensation that is Eloise Dobson. All members of the band wowed the audiences wherever they went. Blackpool Council, Cllr Simon Blackburn was quoted as saying "There are School Bands and then there is Stowe School Band."

I have enjoyed every moment of music that the Stoics have produced since my arrival in September 2008. But this, my final year at Stowe, has bought about some of the most adventurous, demanding and exciting music-making imaginable and my lasting emotion is pride in their extraordinary achievements. This was our first full academic year in the Chung Music School, and what changes and opportunities this world class facility has bought to the musical lives of all the pupils who attend Stowe! I would like to thank my colleagues for all their contributions to Music at Stowe, and also for their contributions to this article.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music





Joe Orton's satirical comedy 'The Erpingham Camp' was presented for a two night run on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 October. The accomplished and talented cast reflected the cream of Stowe's dramatic talent and were drawn entirely from the Upper Sixth. The production gave all performers a chance to display some excellent comic characterisation.

Henry Sylvester (Grenville) played the title role of Erpingham, the dictatorial owner of a 1960s holiday camp with his usual style, wit and charm. Will Dinsdale (Temple) played his hapless Irish sidekick, with suitable aplomb and Guy Gibson (Grafton), Oscar Marment (Grenville) and Rosie Devas (Stanhope) played the less than confident 'support staff' of the dreaded Mr E, with heaps of comic panache.

Patrick Keating (Bruce), Lucy Oswald (Stanhope), Toby

Michael (Temple) and Flora Marriott (Lyttelton) very nearly stole the show as the pair of pugnacious holidaying couples. Leading the progression from happy campers to riotous mob was the rest of the holiday-makers: Rex Adams (Chatham), Honor Brady (Stanhope), Natasha Edwards (Queen's), Lily Holland-Bosworth (Stanhope), Ayesha Shaheen (Nugent) and Molly Suthers (Stanhope).

To the director of the show, Chris Walters, I would like to express my sincerest thanks for his superb efforts in staging the production which drew two very decent sized audiences and to Keith Baker and his tech team for their invaluable assistance; and to Angela Cammish and her team of assistants, for ensuring that the costumes and make-up looked so superbly authentic.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama

The Erpingham Camp



Ruckus in the Garden



'Ruckus in the Garden' performed by Fifth Form Stoics, was enjoyed by over 500 Stoics, staff, parents and friends during its two night run in the Roxburgh Hall on 19 and 20 March. David Farr's fast paced and hilarious comic piece sees rival pupils from The Riverdale Comprehensive clash with those from St Nectan's Grant Maintained School as they meet during a visit to the stately home and landscape gardens of 'Homesleigh'. The gardens, full of temples and grottos (sound familiar?) turn out to be quite an unexpected and enchanted place.

The spirit of the two impish and, at times, seriously attitude filled Cupids, played with supreme swagger, style and skill by Mary Stanley (Queen's) and Emily Osborne (Queen's), switch the personalities of Riverdale pupil Cath, beautifully played by the accomplished and graceful Laurine Heerema (Queen's) with that of Tamsen, from St Nectan's; a tour de force performance from Annika Ormerod (Nugent). By doing this they not only resolve the bitter inter-school conflict but also give Cath the chance to express her true feelings for the pacifist Stanley, played by Cosmo Oliver (Cobham), who was on great form.

Add into this mix an array of wonderfully portrayed caricatures that Paul Whitehouse and Harry Enfield would have been proud of, and then you had the perfect recipe for a great night of laughs and entertainment. Heart-throb Hugh, subtly played by Fabian Bevan

(Grafton) was ably supported by his two twittish cronies, Clive and Nick, through fabulous performances from both Jack Dickerson (Cobham) and Henry Russell (Bruce) respectively. Thalia Felton (Queen's), as the book-worm Maisy, certainly caught the eyes and ears of the audience in her scenes. Both India Spencer (Queen's), as goody-goody school swot Venetia and Harry Cook (Chandos) as Rock were a delight and full of superbly played comic timing.

Celia Marment (Lyttelton) as Shaz and Florence Berner (Lyttelton) as Billie were hilarious in every scene they performed and their outrageously colour clashing dance club shell suits were not for the fainthearted! They lit up the stage whenever they came on and they were ably supported by the pugnacious Fraser, played with suitable menace by Tom Cowley (Bruce).

The technical side of the show was coordinated with his usual efficiency by Keith Baker and his well-drilled gang of lighting and sound operators and make-up assistants including Tom Frasier (Third Form, Walpole), Jess Potts (Third Form, Nugent), Arabella Coldstream (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Sophie Tilleard (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Savanna Elliott (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Maddy Havard (Fifth Form, Stanhope). My heart-felt and sincere thanks go to all my cast and crew as well as our terrific audiences who came to support our efforts.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Senior Congreve

The Senior Congreve saw two thematically linked plays being presented for production. 'Killed: July 17 1916' directed and produced by me and 'Picnic on the Battlefield', directed with great skill and style by the newest member of the drama team Lucy Brassell.

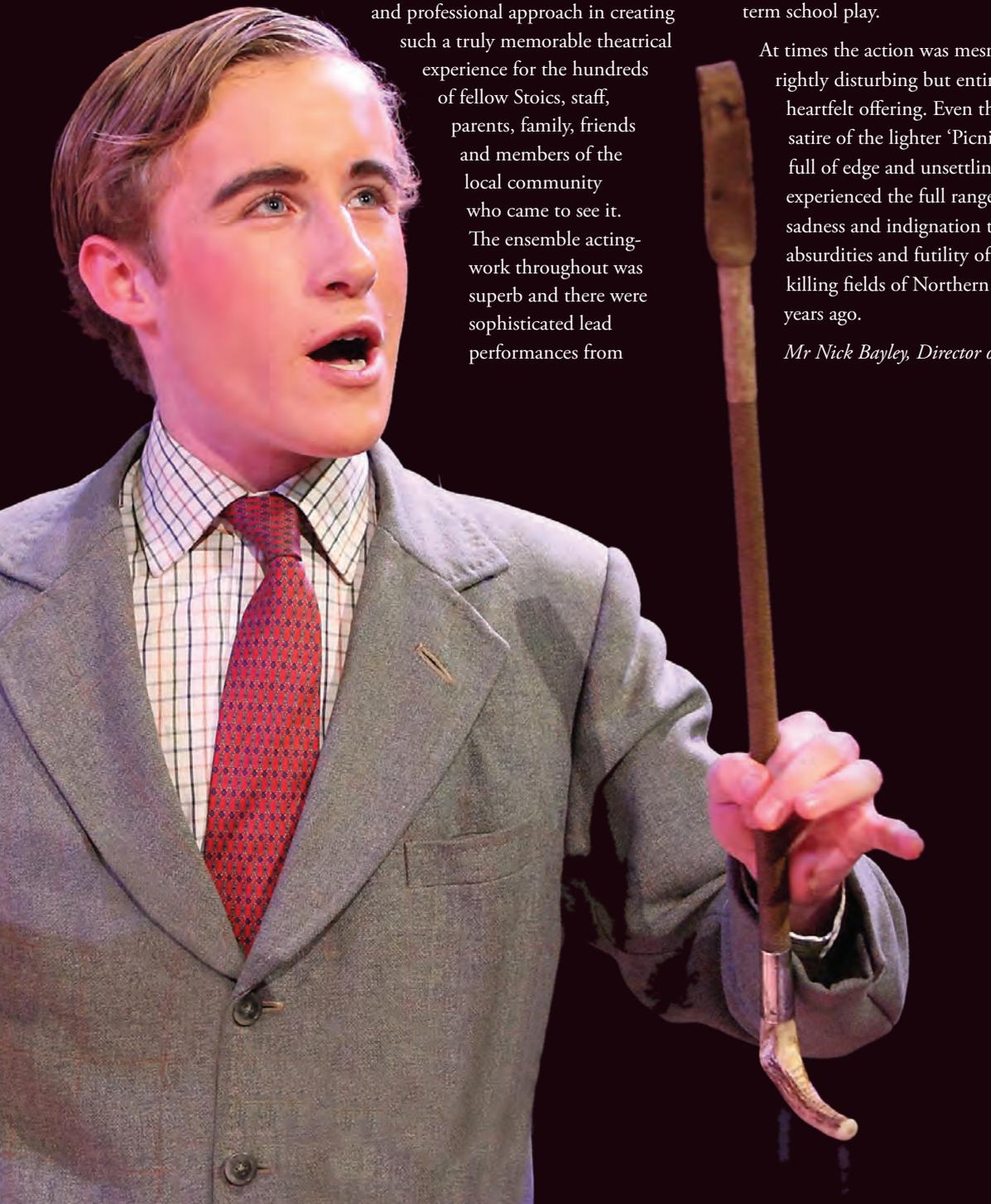
An on stage cast of 25, spread across both pieces and supported most ably by another team of a dozen technicians and wardrobe assistants, all deserve huge credit and admiration for their highly accomplished and professional approach in creating

such a truly memorable theatrical experience for the hundreds of fellow Stoics, staff, parents, family, friends and members of the local community who came to see it. The ensemble acting-work throughout was superb and there were sophisticated lead performances from

Alfie Marsden-Smedley (Lower Sixth, Walpole); Congreve stalwarts Henry Sylvester (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Claudia Wace (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Will Dinsdale (Upper Sixth, Temple), Patrick Keating (Lower Sixth, Bruce) and Lucy Oswald (Upper Sixth, Stanhope). The look and feel of the whole evening, from the classy black and white cast photos in the foyer, to the subtle, thought-provoking and expressionistic set and costume designs, all helped to present this as something way beyond your average end of term school play.

At times the action was mesmerising, troubling and rightly disturbing but entirely of genuine character and heartfelt offering. Even the surreal, dark and bitter satire of the lighter 'Picnic on the Battlefield' was full of edge and unsettling challenge. The audience experienced the full range of emotions, from bitter sadness and indignation to outrageous laughter at the absurdities and futility of what happened in those killing fields of Northern France and Belgium 100 years ago.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama







GCSE Drama

Looking for the right ingredients for performance success? Simply take 39 keen, enthusiastic, hardworking and very talented Fifth Form GCSE Drama Stoics... add two supportive and oh so kind staff members; Lucy Brassell and my good self; work with them for six weeks exploring and experimenting with a range of diverse challenging, exciting and thought-provoking physical theatre techniques; crank up the pressure by occasionally and purposely mentioning 'exam' as much as possible; then spend ages calming frayed nerves, soothe as needed, add a smattering of costume, make-up, moody and effective stage lighting and put them in front of an audience and examiner and let simmer for the day of Friday 5 December.

The result? Some evocative, powerful, engaging, funny, mesmerising and expertly performed pieces of unique theatre work!

Congratulations must go to all of our Fifth Form GCSE Drama Stoics who presented their assessment pieces to the visiting WJEC examiner on Wednesday 29 April. We were entertained, engaged and enthralled with some challenging and well rehearsed pieces, taken from an eclectic and diverse range of classic texts including 'The Dumb Waiter' by Pinter; 'Closer' by Patrick Marber; 'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill; 'Be My Baby' by Amanda Whittington and 'Romeo and Juliet' by Shakespeare.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



AS Drama



On Thursday 22 January, our 22 Lower Sixth Drama and Theatre Stoics took part in their AS Level practical exam assessments. After an in depth exploration of the classic text 'Oh What a Lovely War!' by Joan Littlewood, the groups had to select extracts from the play to perform. The biggest challenge for them was to display some of the staging techniques and ideas associated with Bertolt Brecht. This meant that our Stoics had to always consider what message they wanted to convey and to be aware of not allowing the audience to get too emotionally engaged in the piece. In a time when mainstream media drama concerns itself so much in attempting to draw the audience in, the challenge here was to do the exact opposite.

Following a quick change and a slight re-adjustment of mood, the Stoics then presented their one-off original pieces of highly accomplished, challenging, visceral and engaging physical theatre scenes, linked closely to the staging techniques and ideas associated with Steven Berkoff. The cruel and at times highly controversial 'in your face' style of presentation, was mixed so effectively with some joyful absurdity and farcical situations.

My sincere thanks go to Chris Walters and Carole Dore for their skilled and sensitive work on managing these presentations so very effectively.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Junior Congreve

Over a three night run from June 17-19 we were delighted to be entertained by the wonderfully energetic, dynamic and engaging performances given by the two casts involved in the Junior Congreve 2015.

Lucy Brassell directed a most engaging and enthralling production of 'The Merchant of Venice' in the Roxburgh Hall, featuring an on stage cast of 20 drawn from the cream of the Fourth Form acting talent, led by Alexandra Orton (Lyttelton) as Portia and John Balcon Perez (Walpole) as Shylock. The production was beautifully paced and had some quirky and very original takes on the classic tale from Shakespeare, which explores anti-Semitism, greed, loyalty and friendship.

Playing simultaneously in the Ugland Auditorium was Chris Walters' sensitive and expertly managed production of 'The Winter's Tale' featuring a cast of 22 Third Form actors. Tom Fras (Walpole) as the deranged but eventually contrite and remorseful Leontes, gave a towering performance which belied his years and relative inexperience. Tom was ably supported by an excellent performance from Helena Vince (Queen's) as the 'wronged' Queen, Hermione and by Ally Jordan (Lyttelton) as the young Princess Perdita.

It was thrilling to see Shakespeare being acted out once again as part of the Junior Congreve and credit must go to all members of the two respective casts and crew, who worked together so effectively to produce such great theatre.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





A2 Drama

The daunting task of steering 25 very accomplished but nonetheless anxious Upper Sixth A2 pupils through their practical assessment pieces was never going to be straightforward but both Chris Walters and Carole Dore deserve huge credit for their calm, measured and expertly managed approach leading up to performance day on 7 March.

A range of varied, exciting and thought-provoking stimuli was offered by the exam board and the Stoics had to find an extract from any published play, irrespective of style, era or genre, in order to perform a piece from it and also to create from scratch an original piece of devised theatre. The challenge, as in previous years, was for the pupils to use the skills and knowledge they have learned and developed over the previous two years of the course, and then be able to apply that knowledge and understanding effectively to their own practical performance work.

The eclectic mix of engaging and at times deeply moving self-devised pieces, crafted so expertly by using and exploring a range of stylised and non-naturalistic performance techniques, started the day and from the off it was clear that we were going to be in for a real treat.

In the afternoon session each of our groups re-arranged themselves into smaller groups of twos and threes for their scripted performances. Every year I feel so privileged to be able to watch work of such a high quality being developed and refined ready for the final performance. Well done to all 25 candidates and we now await their results in August with optimism, excitement and a good deal of confidence.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

With another bumper year of DofE participants, the 2014-15 Expedition Season started with a Gold training expedition in the Lake District, where direct entrant Gold participants found out exactly what expeditioning in the UK is all about. Unfortunately the tail end of Hurricane Gonzalo prevented us from tackling any of the major Lakeland Peaks, however there was plenty of opportunity to explore some of the lower Fells in all of their autumnal glory from our base in Troutbeck. I am pleased that following their experience the majority of participants were still excited about the prospect of the remaining expeditions, despite their experience of gale-force winds and Cumbrian precipitation.

The conditions on Dartmoor for the first of the Silver and Gold Practice Expeditions were also typical for late March in the UK – cold, wet and very windy! Staff instructors were very impressed by how the groups coped with some very high winds and horizontal rain for the first couple of days on the Moor, with some pupils describing day one as “the absolute worst day of my life”. This was closely followed with what was probably the worst smell ever as 60mph winds forced everybody indoors for night two, resulting in 30 damp boys having to share floor-space in one of the camping barns – suddenly tents become so much more attractive! The expedition finished with much more settled weather and a final meal of lamb which had been reared on the field next to our campsite – nothing like knowing exactly where your food has come from!

The first of the Bronze Expeditions saw 83 Fourth Formers taking to the Cotswolds for two days to put into practice everything they had learnt in the navigation, nutrition and campcraft training sessions on a Monday afternoon throughout the year. Learning by doing is, however, much the best way and it was great to see the groups using the experience to improve their preparation for the next expedition. A steep learning curve was experiencing how cold it can get on a clear April night outdoors – frozen flysheets in the morning were a clear indicator of how much the temperature had plummeted overnight and had staff and participants alike reaching for hats, gloves and extra layers! Conditions for the Assessed Expedition in the Shropshire Hills were much milder, although not necessarily drier. The groups clearly demonstrated





everything they had learnt over the course of the year and our external assessors were very complimentary about the Stoics' exceptionally positive attitude and focus over the course of the three days.

This year's first Gold Assessed Expedition took place in the Cairngorms in the last week of the Summer term. The Cairngorms Expedition offers participants four days walking in one of the most beautiful and remote areas that the UK has to offer. This year's expedition saw groups heading over the summit of Bynack More and Braerich (Britain's third highest peak) and being challenged by a range of weather, snow on the ground and the usual midge-fiesta! As always the Stoics finished the expedition with a real sense of achievement and the feeling that they had spent some real time away from normal life – although eight hours on a minibus home gave them ample opportunity to catch up on what they had missed on social media! I hope that the next Assessed Expedition to the Lake District in October will be as successful and enjoyable for the participants.

The Expedition Season finished with the Silver Assessed Expedition to the Brecon Beacons in the first week of July. Fortunately we were spared the heat wave that hit the rest of the country over the course of the week, although I think the groups were a bit disappointed to be walking in the rain on the Thursday whilst the rest of the country basked in sunshine. I was really pleased to see how well prepared the groups were for all conditions, particularly as the groups were caught out by some very cold and blustery weather on the peaks. This was a very successful expedition in what were at times very challenging conditions; the staff involved were particularly impressed by how good-natured the group was and how well prepared they were for the expedition.

Unfortunately we have to say goodbye to some of our most experienced members of expedition staff this year: Mr Pickersgill leaves us after 12 years of supporting the DofE programme at Stowe. Countless Stoics have benefited from his expertise and knowledge over the years, both during training sessions at School and also out on the hills and I have been immensely grateful for his advice and support during the time that I have been running DofE at Stowe. I hope, however, that we shall still see him out on the Fells on future expeditions. Messrs de Trafford, Aston and Higham are also leaving the team this year after a number of years supporting the expedition and training programme: we have greatly appreciated their humour and support over the years and we wish them all the best in their future roles. As always none of these expeditions are possible without an incredible amount of help and support from the staff who take the time to come out to supervise the groups on the hill in all weathers – a very big thank you to all of the staff this year for another very successful season: Mr Pickersgill, Mr Møller, Mr de Trafford, Mrs McMahon, Mr Hoare, Mr Grimble, Mr Carpenter, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Mrs Ackroyd, Mr Aston, Miss Howard, Miss Ellis, Mr Gibbon, Mr Wilson, Mr John, Ms Weaver, Mrs Searle, Mr Chan, Simon Rose, Steve Rogers, Philip Pitcher, Brian Wagstaff, Tim Hunt, Ian Law, Kerri Griffiths, David White and Chloe Last. As always of course a final and special thanks to Fraser Liversage, our admin king!

Mr Gwilym Jones, Head of DofE





This year we welcomed Captain Wilson, Miss Brodie, Mr Parnaby and Miss Crook to the team. We were ably supported by Cadet Warrant Officer Theo Shepherd-Smith (Upper Sixth, Cobham) and Cadet Coxswain Magnus Sligo-Young (Upper Sixth, Grenville). Theo Shepherd-Smith is a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet 2014-15, while Magnus Sligo-Young, who has made more use of the CCF than any recent cadet, leaves us as the first Stoic ever to obtain an externally accredited leadership qualification here.

In October the Army and the first year cadets, ably led by Captain Standley, camped out at Yardley Chase while the older RAF and RN cadets visited RAF Halton. Every new recruit had a session target shooting with the No 8 rifle and a chance to earn a Try Dive certificate. Weapons Handling continued and Mrs Rebecca Donaldson again contributed

to our First Aid training. Michaelmas term also saw our 90th anniversary, which we marked with a dinner, to which we welcomed the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir George Zambellas KCB, DSC, ADC, DL, FRAeS (Walpole 76).

During the Lent term 14 cadets trained afloat on the Solent, and 31 cadets went to Salcey Forest where they practised navigation and map reading and tried out the tree-level walkway. The term culminated in the Coldstream Cup, masterminded by Captain Wilson. An innovation this year was a refreshed first aid competition, professionally observed by Mrs Donaldson. Captain Piers Gambarini (Cobham 01) of the Coldstream Guards awarded the prizes. The winning team was Platoon Four, led by Magnus Sligo-Young.



The RAF Section has taken full advantage of the resumption of cadet flying: almost every RAF cadet has now been flying in a Grob Tutor.

In the summer the RN section resumed kayaking on the Eleven Acre Lake, while the Army section prepared for their annual camp. On our June Field Day the Army and RAF stayed at Stowe with a carousel of activities, while the RN section trained afloat in the Solent.

In November five cadets, led by Stuart Milner (Fifth Form, Cobham), competed in the RAF Squadron Trophy. Rory Smith (Fifth Form, Cobham) was our best shot, and the team distinguished itself at the command task.

In March we competed in the Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge. The team, guided by Captain Corthine, exceeded all expectations by coming first in indoor clay pigeon shooting and the Royal Engineers Command Task, second in military physical skills and raft building, and fifth out of twenty overall. Lucas Colville (Fourth Form, Walpole) received a prize for indoor clay pigeon shooting. The highlight was the team's model car 'Stowe One', powered by compressed air, which won its division of the engineering test sponsored by the Bloodhound Supersonic Car Project.

In April we took part in the 11 Brigade's Military Skills Competition. We won the paintballing, came second in archery, and third in 'The Cube' and in physical skills, ranking fifth out of eight overall. Top performances included Mar Martinez-Tomas (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) in First Aid, Tom Mayhew (Fourth Form, Grafton) in drill, and Alex Harris (Fourth Form, Grafton) in leadership.

Twenty-five cadets took part in the Adventure Training Camp known colloquially as 'Ray's Camp'. Mint Kanjana (Fourth Form, Queen's) won the Smiley Face Trophy; Stuart Milner, Alice Pryse (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Freddie Woods (Fourth Form, Chatham) and Lottie Hopkinson (Fourth Form, Stanhope) won the Good Egg prizes; Kurt Jolker (Fourth Form, Cobham) was Camp Sportsman; and Mr Malling won the trophy for The Most Appreciated Adult Volunteer. We say a special thank you to Miss Brodie, Mrs McConnell, and Mr Malling, and hope that many of the participants will return next year as Fifth Formers.

Sixteen cadets, led by Captains Corthine and Wilson, went to 11 Brigade Army Central Camp. Alex Harris, Tom Leach (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Mar Martinez-Tomas deserve a mention, as does the outstanding clay pigeon score of Ed Huser (Fourth Form, Grenville).

We congratulate Captains Wilson and Standley on passing their ECO course at CTC Frimley Park. We say goodbye to Miss Brodie and Sub-Lieutenant Johnson, and wish them well for the future. We thank Lieutenant Eason Bassett, Mr Bray of Stowe Sub-Aqua Club, Colour Sergeant Parkin RM, and the 11 Brigade Cadet Training Team, led by Captain Sydenham, and especially Sergeant Coleman.

As always we thank Staff Sergeant Major Ray Dawson and our Admin Assistant, Mr Liversage. This year however SSM Dawson retires after 22 years' service. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Lt Cdr David Critchley CCF RNR



Beagling

The 2014/15 hunting season kicked off to a flying start in Northumberland in the Michaelmas Half term. This was from the kind invitation of the Wailes-Fairbairns who hosted us for the third year running. We had a very cold and wet day on the Fairfaxes estate, followed by another day at the Mckies in the Borders; it was great to see some old faces up there: Edward Birch Reynardson, Rose Mckie and the Leylands. We then went on to have great days hunting in Scotland at the kind invitation of the Shirley Bevans, where we had a cracking day rabbit hunting on the hills.

The hounds excelled and this put them in good stead for returning back down to hunt in our own county which ranges roughly from Daventry to Padbury, north to south, and Banbury to Towcester, west to east.

At the beginning of the Christmas holidays we headed down for a day's hunting on the Alexanders' estate in Dorset. Bertie hunted them incredibly well and a good day trail hunting and merry evening was had by all.

Following on from the tour down to Dorset, we met for our Boxing Day meet on the North Front at Stowe, and had a turnout of 500 people who followed on from the meet, which was perfect for increasing the awareness of the Stowe Beagles in the local area.

We then enjoyed a gripping day's hunting in and around our own county where the hounds absolutely flew across fields and paddocks effortlessly when the scent was right and stopped in their tracks when it suddenly disappeared.

For the February Half term, we headed up to North Yorkshire by kind invitation of the Bannisters, Nick and Mr B who hosted us on the Coniston Estate for yet another extremely memorable good day's hunting on the estate; followed by a delicious supper and late night chatting.

We then carried on north to have a day's rabbit hunting

on Kildale Moor thanks to Mr Sutcliffe who hosted us in his house, before we headed up to his grouse moor for an incredibly exciting day's hunting which left many hounds feeling sore from all the heather! It was great to have Robin Bell-Irving join us, and also Alistair McGhee who joined us for every trip we made up north.

We then had our Hunt Ball in the Stowe State Rooms which is one of our main fundraising events for the hunt. This was a very successful evening with many guests having a really good night and helping us to secure necessary funds for the rest of the season.

The Stowe Beagles' end of season dinner was held at the Saracens Head pub in Towcester. This was a really good evening and was a nice way to end the season with speeches and many of our supporters attending.

On Sunday 17 May, we held the Hunter Trials at Primrose Hill Farm which was very kindly put together by Mr and Mrs Strangman. This is, along with the Hunt Ball, one of our biggest fundraisers and without it we would be unable to maintain the kennels, so all our gratitude goes out to Mr and Mrs Strangman.

This year the team consisted of John Shin (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Annabel Wailes-Fairbairn (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Hamish Beaton (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Bertie Alexander (Fifth Form, Temple) and Roddy Bannister (Fifth Form, Grafton). They have all been a massive support to myself and Phil Kennedy, and without them it would have been a very difficult season.

I wish them all the very best and good hunting for next season and hand over to the joint-masters: John Shin, Annabel Wailes-Fairbairn and Hamish Beaton, whom I have every faith in for next season and carrying on the responsibility bestowed upon them.

Theo Shepherd-Smith (Upper Sixth, Cobham)



Crossfire

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

After chatting over a drink and the legendary biscuits from the great Geoff Higgins and his Catering Department, we move upstairs to the 'upper room' for a short talk from the Bible, the central part of the evening. Outside speakers – often from far afield – come in each week to speak on the weekly topic in that term's series and this is followed by questions, if time permits, and chatting afterwards (accompanied by the less-legendary-but-appreciated-nonetheless Tesco doughnuts!) before heading back to House. A taste of the year is highlighted below.

Mr Henry Swayne, MiC Crossfire

Series this year:

Autumn – *Encounters with Jesus*

To quote from the term card: *“Jesus Christ is the most influential figure of human history. Why? What’s all the fuss about? What was (is?) he like?”*

As with anyone famous, we all found it worth listening to the people who met him – the people whose encounters with the man Jesus Christ recorded in the New Testament changed their own lives.

Lent – *Christ in the Old Testament*

Here's the term card again: *“The Old Testament: an ancient collection of books full of slightly odd stories..? Some of them are quite famous, aren't they? I mean we've all heard of Noah and his technicolour dreamcoat, and Joseph and the ark. Hold on...”*

It was brilliant each week to see how each of these stories, acting like signposts in history, pointed forward to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Summer – *‘How can you believe in...’*

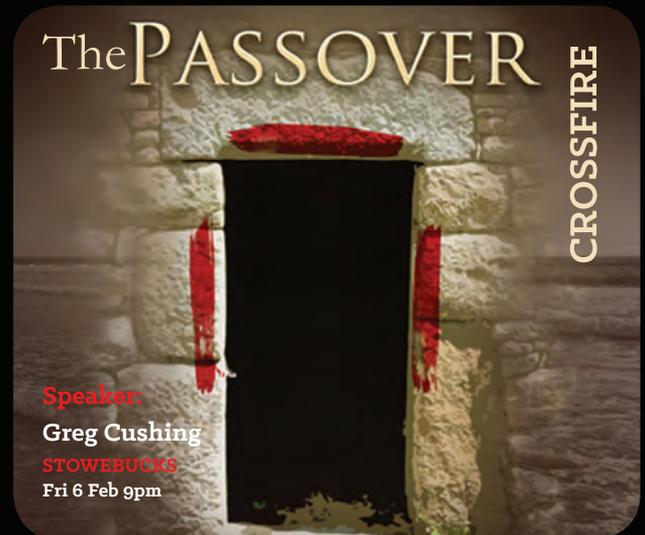
‘The Resurrection of Christ in a doubting world’; ‘The Bible in a modern world’; ‘Prayer in a society that doesn't need God’.

An opportunity each week to engage with some of the common objections to the Christian faith – resulting in some good discussions afterwards!



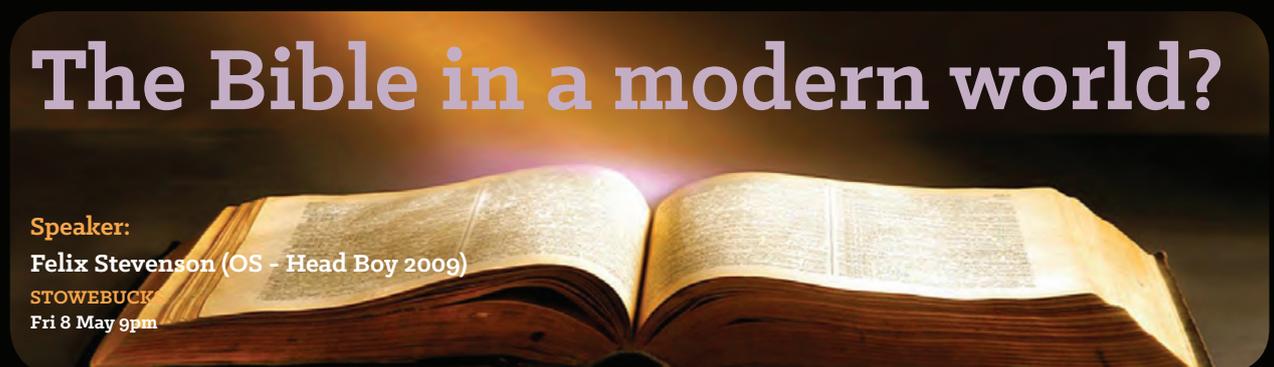
NOAH AND THE FLOOD
CROSSFIRE

Speaker:
Adrian May
STOWEBUCKS
Fri 16 Jan 9pm



The PASSOVER
CROSSFIRE

Speaker:
Greg Cushing
STOWEBUCKS
Fri 6 Feb 9pm



The Bible in a modern world?
CROSSFIRE

Speaker:
Felix Stevenson (OS - Head Boy 2009)
STOWEBUCKS
Fri 8 May 9pm



Chapel

What is the Chapel for? What is the Chaplaincy about? We may pause to ponder these questions, we may not; but in a place where most of the Stoics' experience of Chapel is whole-School worship, it is indeed worth pausing to reflect.

The Chaplaincy exists to seek to care for the whole community and to encourage an open approach to Christian faith, to nourish those who express that faith for themselves, and to be alongside those for whom faith is expressed in other traditions and philosophies – in other words, to seek to be human, inclusive and welcoming in Christ's name. That said, Chapel Services and Chaplaincy care will both encourage some and frustrate others – but to offer lovingly, and to be free to offer with integrity, is at the core of our work.

Our? Yes – for Chaplaincy has changed this year: in January 2015 the Revd Sue Sampson joined the School and the Parish of Stowe, by becoming Assistant Chaplain and Priest in Charge of Stowe Church. And, although the Chaplaincy House was moved to the edge of the estate, the Chaplain continues to be based daily in the vestry, the Chapel and in class, while the Assistant Chaplain has an office in the Adam building. The Revd Sampson was given

a free-roaming non-timetabled brief, which allowed her to circulate in depth, balancing this with Parish worship and administration. A small School/Parish 'informal praise service' was also launched.

Some glimpses of the year's Chaplaincy follow.

The continuing fruitful relationship with Ripon (Theological) College Cuddesdon allowed for a reflective Confirmation Quiet Day held there in February, where we were welcomed by Darcy Terry (Chandos 00), who was later ordained Deacon in June. And, Sue Cooper, formerly on the House Staff, was also ordained Deacon in the same month – Stowe benefited from her week's placement with us back in January. The Bishop of Buckingham was a most welcome, inspirational and caring Celebrant and Preacher at the May Confirmation, and he had in January licensed the Assistant Chaplain to the School and the Parish in front of the whole School.

There were solemn, yet deeply moving and importantly good humoured down to earth commemorations too – in addition to the poignant and significant Remembrance Day, and a special Armistice Day Service to mark the Centenary of the outbreak of WW1, there were

inspirational farewells to longstanding member of Staff Muir Temple, renowned sculptor and artist of the spirit David Wynne (Grenville 44), and deeply-respected teacher and colleague Mike Dawson.

The weekly celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion was a quiet and thoughtful oasis in the midst of the frenetic daily life of Stowe, though many have still to discover this. Stillness and calm and peacefully being present to the mystery of prayer, Bible and blessed bread and wine have much to offer to anyone!

Midweek Chapel themes ranged from the major Christian Festivals and Saints' Days to topics such as 'Who I'd like to meet from the Bible' (Eve, Peter), 'Respect for the Earth/Peace for its People/Hope for the Present', 'Science and Religion – complements', 'Why are humans religious?', and 'Religion and Politics belong together'. House-led Chapel services were popular, and a particularly significant one was offered on encouraging mental health awareness and care.

The Chapel Prefects, Elsa Desmond (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Henry Sylvester (Upper Sixth, Grenville), were thoughtful and creative in their responsibilities, and they led a particularly good Nativity Service in December.

My thanks to the Revd Sue Sampson, and to Messrs Dearsley (an invigorating and exceptional colleague and friend in liturgy), Brito-Babapulle, Gibbon and Aitken (wizard maestri of music to live for!), and to Stoics Rex Roxburgh (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and Lewis Bell (Fifth Form, Grenville), organists of merit indeed; and to staff for help in preparing Stoics for Confirmation, and for speaking in Chapel.

The last Chapel Service of the year was the inaugural Leavers' Service with Headmaster's Address and the presentations, just before the Leavers' Ball, with both Upper Sixth leavers and their parents – an elegantly dressed and also most fitting conclusion to the pupils' time at Stowe.

Chapel and Chaplaincy – alongside other compassionate pastoral care offered through Houses, counselling and medical services, though unique in spiritual and sacramental context; always there, and always looking to be of service, both clearly in the name of Christ and yet also with openness to all who would similarly be open to such inclusion.

Revd Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain



Stowe arts

Arts at Stowe is now in its second year and we are delighted to continue offering the highest quality programme of music, art and theatre in the stunningly beautiful setting of Stowe.

We look forward to a new season of events, including performances by talented young Stoics, coming up this autumn and reflect on some of the highlights from our inaugural year.

The first year of Arts at Stowe concluded with some real highlight events in music, theatre, comedy and our Legend & Legacy series commemorating the Centenary of WWI.

We celebrated the one year anniversary of the Chung Music School and the launch of the Arts at Stowe season with a fantastic performance by Red Priest. A packed Uglad Auditorium revelled in the sheer spectacle of virtuosic, devilish, musicianship.



The Handlebards



Grounded

Highlights

Henning Wehn, the self-styled German Ambassador of Comedy could have filled the Roxburgh Hall twice with the popularity of his insightful, plain speaking delivery.

The one-woman play 'Grounded' was compulsive and gripping viewing.

Hugh Strachan opened our Legend & Legacy Series. His fascinating talk looked specifically at the way WWI has been viewed through time since 1914.

'I Believe in Unicorns' was our first theatre show for children and captivated adults and children alike. We are delighted that our young audiences have experienced some wonderful shows here and look forward to welcoming them back to Stowe.

Fiery and energetic performances from Tango Siempre and Jaleo Flamenco have proved a hit with fans of Latin dance styles.

The HandleBards, who gave a hilarious and inventive rendition of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' on the South Front in July, went down so well that we have had many requests to invite them back.

We welcomed the return of some Old Stoics to Stowe who contributed to the programme in 2014:

Percussionist James Larter (Temple 12) is making waves on the concert platform as the next big thing in percussion performance. He pulled off some amazing



Tango Siempre

feats of musicality, energy and physicality.

Jeremy Hunter (Chandos 61) is a leading expert on the culture of North Korea and he delivered an astonishing account of his time spent extensively photographing their customs.

Award-winning architect Francis Terry (Chatham 88) gave an entertaining talk on his work exhibited in the Sainsbury Gallery to which Stoics and locals came in large numbers.

We hope our audiences have enjoyed our first few seasons at Stowe and we look forward to seeing you again soon for more Arts at Stowe.

To keep up to date with our news, email thearts@stowe.co.uk



Stowe Parents

We have had another busy and successful year for Stowe Parents taking in both major events and more informal get-togethers to provide the opportunity for Stowe parents to meet and share time, which may not have been possible otherwise.

All Stowe parents are members of Stowe Parents and one of our key objectives this year was to encourage more parents to participate and enjoy the functions that were laid on and in this we believe we were particularly successful. Hopefully Stowe Parents will continue to grow and offer parents involvement in school life over and above the large and diverse range of activities already offered by the School.

Some of the larger events organised in the 2014/15 academic year included: the Carnival of the Animals at Remembrance Day, an extremely enjoyable and successful visit to Newmarket Races (including a tour of a local racing stud farm), a talk by Old Stoic Betsy Duncan-Smith on Medical Detection Dogs, a VIP shopping day at Bicester Village, a sunset visit to the Shard and a visit to the National Gallery. Other events included the annual Headmaster's Lunch, which was this year held at the Oriental Club and a Tavern Tour of Dickensian London (run by Morris Jones, father of an Old Stoic).

The Headmaster gave an enjoyable and informative overview of some of the many monuments during the Headmaster's Stowe Garden Tour. A typical English summer rainstorm refused to dampen either the group's

good spirits or Dr Wallersteiner's ability to deliver numerous amusing anecdotes!

Successful visits were also arranged to the Henley Regatta and Althorp Literary Festival and the year's overseas trip was an extremely successful Champagne Tour and weekend stay near Épernay. Around 10 couples made their own way down to Épernay to a beautiful hotel where a meet and greet reception was followed by a formal dinner and then tours of three Champagne Houses (with sampling and purchasing opportunities of course!) followed by a final dinner before new found friends said their goodbyes and headed home.

In addition to these 'signature events' Stowe Parents organised many, more informal, events based around major dates on the School calendar, which included: Journey Breakers (with refreshments) plus slightly more formal dinners at the School theatre production of the musical 'Company' and at the GlaStowebury Festival.

In summary, a great year of activities and we would encourage parents both to participate in the events going forward in the 2015/16 year and also to become more actively involved in the organisation of the group. Please email stoweparents@stowe.co.uk to get involved.

*Mrs Fiona Suthers and Mr Crispin Robinson,
Co-Chairs, Stowe Parents*





Isabella Baillie (Fifth Form, Queen's)



Olivia Walters (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)



George Huxtable (Upper Sixth, Chatham)



Annabel Rushton (Upper Sixth, Queen's)

Gallery



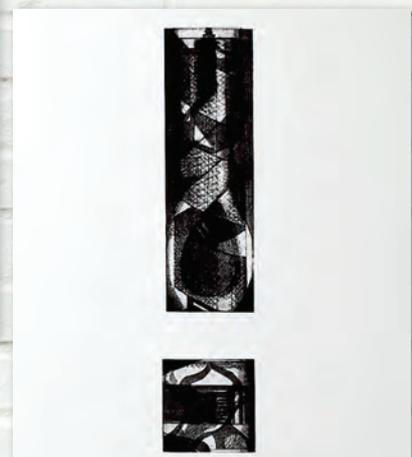
Katie Harmon (Fifth Form, Nugent)



Charlotte Oswald (Fifth Form, Queen's)



Olivia Wentworth-Stanley (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)



Natalie Sargent (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



Avijit Nair (Fifth Form, Cobham)



Sophie Robertson (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Isabella Cornwall (Fifth Form, Nugent)



Francesca Leach (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



Matilda Bevan (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Jack Edmonstone (Upper Sixth, Chatham)



Francesca Moseley (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



Philip Ilinich (Fifth Form, Chandos)

Rugby



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1st XV

PLAYED 14, WON 9, DREW 1, LOST 4

After a very successful tour to Zimbabwe and success at Tynedale, the pre-season warm up tournament, the season promised much. Thirteen of the squad started the season attached to Premiership Academies and four of them went on to earn International honours at various levels.

The first match of the season was, however, a wake-up call, and although the side was coasting with 10 minutes left to play at 18-6, some interesting decisions by the official led to the first defeat of the season 18-19 against Stamford.

This prompted a positive response from the side and Oakham were dispatched 35-0, Warwick 20-12, Solihull 33-12 and Oundle 27-10. In the Cup, the side travelled to Cokethorpe with a number of changes but were emphatic winners 40-7 and announced themselves as possible contenders for the NatWest Trophy. The season had started to gain momentum and you could see the side going through the gears as they were confident enough to attack from anywhere.

Half term came and interrupted the flow. An away trip to Bromsgrove found the side deliver its worst performance of the season and lost 18-10 to the team which turned out to be the eventual Cup winners. Yet again though, the side responded comfortably beating Sir Thomas Rich's in the Cup, 36-13, spluttering to a 34-10 win against Uppingham, they clicked against Marlborough winning 47-3 and then beating St Joseph's away 20-12 who also reached the Cup quarter-finals.

The game that would decide the squad's Cup aspirations came against Monmouth away, who had been unbeaten all season. Playing into a stiff wind, the elements and some key decisions meant we were unable to get out of our half in the first period but we only trailed 6-0. A cruel

bounce allowed Monmouth to register a score in the corner and despite a huge siege on the Monmouth line we could only register one converted try and the dream ticket had gone. The boys had two days to recover before playing Bedford and lethargy cost us in the final game; the team did respond in the second half but could not recover from their slow start and went down 16-18.

Ironically, a successful Cup campaign would have meant us playing at Twickenham on the same day many of this squad won the National 7s title. I guess you cannot win everything.

The front row was outstanding and schoolboy props don't come much better than Ryan Eveleigh and Jack Strong, neither far from International honours and both will have excellent careers ahead of them. When Ryan was injured, George Ludlow became indispensable and provided Dan Hostetler and Oscar Williams

with comfortable rides hooking between them all. Seb Cecil and John Hawkins were ever present in the second row and yet again they formed a formidable partnership, dominating lineout possession on opposition ball as well as ours. The back row of Tadhg O'Shaughnessy, Seun Coker and Devante Onojaife were both quick to breakdown and heavy in the tackle, Seun attracting the attention of the England U17 selectors.

Murray Aitchison was both competitive and accomplished at either half back or open side and when he played the latter Mark Hulbert, Saajan Patel and Diggory Slee all stepped in to sound effect. The fly half partner to all these half backs was Gregor Haldane who has brought some sublime skills and understanding of game management which earned him recognition both with the Northampton Saints and Scotland U18 sides. In the centre, Rotimi and Tosin Segun brought a cutting edge to midfield and yet again both were recognised at National level by England U18s and U16s respectively. Charlton Kerr also played in the centre, at fullback and occasionally on the wing; he will be a huge influence next year. George Silk blossomed at fullback where less pressure allowed him to demonstrate his footwork, pace and ability to better effect and when George moved either to centre or wing, Kyle Browne ably deputised at the rear. On the wings Toni Kuku and Peter Kimondo profited from the midfield inside them. There were others who had cameo roles but never the less contributed to the squad; Isaac Ajala, Tom Johnson, Inigo Lendrum, Keith Harrington, Toby Pemberton, Will Thompson, Will Pepera and Alex Marks all had outings.

They were captained by John Hawkins who led in a Martin Johnson style: his action did the talking, he is one of the four leavers who is attached to a Premiership Club. He

2nd XV

went on to win an England U18 Cap and has been signed by Bristol. Professional sport is not the panacea for everyone and Rotimi Segun, although offered a contract with the Saints, has chosen to study at Loughborough University instead. Ryan Eveleigh has an unconditional offer to study at Leeds Beckwith University in tandem with Yorkshire Carnegie and Seb Cecil will do the same at Nottingham University and Nottingham Rugby Club. We wish them and everyone moving on the very best and hope that they keep on playing.

This season was defined ultimately by being the bridesmaid and never quite the bride. A team full of talent, enthusiasm and a desire to play a brand of rugby that would keep the spectators returning each week, was often outdone by teams who were a little more physical and street-wise than we were. That is not a slur on the performances from the team each week, it is just sadly the nature of the rugby beast. In addition, the team was hampered by injuries both within the 2nd XV and to the 1st XV which prevented any continuity in selection.

There were some superb victories and performances throughout the season. Beating Warwick, Uppingham, St Joseph's and Bedford prove what an exceptional 2nd XV team this was and perhaps with a little more consistency in selection this would have been overall, a winning season.

The players' effort and application throughout was first rate and a big thank you must go to them. A huge thank you must also go to Mr Sutton for his tireless work with a new backline every week.

The Upper Sixth members of the team have been great custodians for Stowe rugby and their efforts this season must not go unrecognised: Keith Harrington – captained superbly all season, Mark Hulbert, Kyle Browne, Charlie Moore, Toby Pemberton, Jimmy Ondari, Ben ter Haar, George Lee, Saajan Patel and Tom Young were all brilliant throughout – thank you.

Mr Mike Rickner

Finally, thank you to Mr James Hayden for his service to Stowe Rugby. He has coached the 1st team with me for the last five years as well as coaching at various levels through his ten years at the School and I am sure he will always remember winning the Festival Competition at Rosslyn Park in the National 7s Tournament this year. He moves on to Cheltenham College and he will be replaced by Mr Mike Rickner for the season ahead.

Mr Alan Hughes



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3rd XV

PLAYED 9, WON 5, LOST 4

The sign of a great season is one where all matches are competitive and you win them all. This was not a great season but it was impressive in so many aspects. The 3rd XV played two 1st XV sides during the season, they scored in every match reflecting a 'never give up spirit', they won more matches than they lost, tries were scored by 14 different players and not once did this Stowe team ever try to play anything but free flowing attractive rugby. Yes there had been issues throughout the year but the core group of players held together a side that played their matches with passion and fire.

Some fantastic victories ring out; Stamford (26-0) and Oakham (31-5) at the start of the season saw Stowe bat away their opponents' vain efforts to break our defensive lines before straight lines of attack dismantled their

defence. Oundle, where coach Mr Brian Hart finally broke his hoodoo, having never presided over a win against our most bitter rivals only to trounce them most convincingly 34-5. We had two matches against different schools' 1st XV teams, these are always difficult as star players can have a huge impact on a game. The loss (60-10) to Shrewsbury is a case in point with three of the opposition controlling the whole match while the 22-14 win against Akeley was achieved by a team performance aimed at suffocating the Akeley star players (the charge ably led by Jacques Candler). However our losses to Uppingham, Warwick and RGS High Wycombe were losses by a single score or less and, even considering the strength of the opponents, could have been wins on different days.

The one match that summed up the fire that this 3rd XV have shown throughout the season came in our last



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match of the season against Bedford: notoriously tough and extremely physical. We had lost our Man of the Season, talismanic back row player Jack Edmonstone, through injury but were bolstered by the return of equally destructive players, Angus Norman, Sam Riley and the effervescent Seb Stone. Throw into the mix that the win would make it a majority of wins for the season and this was, for most of the side, their last game at Stowe meant it was going to be a well fought game and it most certainly was! Bedford had all the possession and all the territory for the first 20 minutes but could not break through some excellent defence. Whether wide or narrow Stowe committed people to the tackle (Guy Gibson, Nico Upton and Alec Birdwood in particular stepping up to the mark) and stopped the runners first time. The only thing Stowe could not do was turn the defence into possession. However, with one of the first turnover balls, the ever creative Captain, Will Cowley speculatively hoofed the ball upfield and chased it into the Bedford half for the first time. Their fullback had time to cross the field and drop onto the ball to secure it but inexplicably missed, leaving the chasing Cowley to collect and score to give Stowe an unexpected half time lead of 5-0. The start of

the second half saw simplicity personified: from the kick off, Bedford knocked on giving Stowe the put in. A slow drift by Ed Elliott into the gap between fly half and No 12 and a gentle pop to an accelerating Angus Norman who burst through the gap and crossed unopposed for a 10-0 lead. Bedford was shellshocked. Composure rattled, they continued to play their game but with more desperation in their passing and committing fewer players to the breakdown in the hope of gaining the edge in numbers out wide. It was no use; Stowe tied up and strangled any maul ball, turned over ruck ball or, if your name was Freddie Phillips, simply stole the ball from the opposition arms. Sam Riley and Ed Hopkinson led the attacking charge causing the Bedford defence untold problems and after one such attack and resulting follow-up saw Freddie Phillips dance into space and streak off toward the try line. Bedford just about managed to haul him down short of the line but could not stop the resulting offload to supporting Ed Elliott who crossed for the final try of the afternoon before Will Cowley converted for a final score of 17-0. It was a wonderful match to savour as a season finale. Well played gentlemen – it has been a pleasure!

Mr Damian Blewitt

4th XV

The 4th XV campaign kicked off with an away trip to Stamford. Two conversions from Ollie Woodward and tries from George Markham, Freddie Phillips, Oscar Pegg and Edward Tilleard sealed a fine 24-19 victory. The team was rampant in the first half against their next opponents, totally dominating Oakham with some classy attacking play to lead 33-0 at half time. Harry Bunting won everything in the lineouts and the great service from half backs Monty Curran and Woodward allowed the attacking flare of the team to shine through. Phillips and Tilleard scored two tries apiece of the seven in total as the team eased to a 45-0 victory.

The team went in to the next match against Warwick brimming with confidence. Resolute defence helped weather the early storm, however, the attacking power of this team could not be kept at bay for long and another impressive performance which included eight tries resulted in an emphatic 59-10 win. It was only a matter of time before Triumph Opuala-Charles got on the score sheet joining Phillips and Ben Peck with two tries each. The turning point of the season proved to be the 24-17 victory on the North Front against MCS Oxford's 3rd XV.

Bunting was lost to injury for the remainder of the season

Colts A

The Colts A season was identified as a year of rugby development in preparation for Senior rugby ahead, and from this perspective its aims were undeniably met. A large pool of players represented the A team and this bodes well for the future of Stowe rugby. From a results perspective the season was much more mixed. Having lost their star player from previous seasons, the challenge was always going to be how the team would cope? Like Liverpool without Suarez or Spurs without Bale, the Colts without Tosin Segun found life tough on occasion and inconsistency plagued their performances. Convincing victories were achieved against Stamford (36-0), RGS High Wycombe (52-12), Uppingham (27-11) and St Joseph's College, Ipswich (41-7) whilst Stowe was on the receiving end of two heavy defeats against the all-powerful massive boys' schools of Warwick and Bedford. In the remaining fixtures the team was highly competitive in their narrow losses to Bromsgrove and Marlborough College whilst the nadir of the campaign was undoubtedly the horror show away at Oundle losing 14-12 having opted against a penalty kick in front of the posts with five minutes remaining. Schoolboy rugby at its finest!

On the personnel front, Oscar Holmes was the standout forward as an ever-present in all ten fixtures. He never played the game anything less than at full throttle whilst Adebambo Adejobi and Benedict Solomon were equally

Colts B

PLAYED 8, WON 5, LOST 3

It was a successful season for the Colts B who started with a win against Stamford 31-12 but then went down heavily to an impressive Oakham side. However, the team rallied the following week and was able to record a notable victory against Warwick 29-7. Their up and down start continued with a defeat to old rivals Oundle but then the side hit winning form recording three straight wins over RGS High Wycombe 66-7, Bromsgrove 33-0 and Uppingham 55-7.



This was another great season for the 4th XV with some superb wins. It was great to see the game being enjoyed and played with the right spirit.

Mr Isaac Michael

impressive in their work rate and commitment to the cause. Players who developed as the season progressed were Hamish Murray and Harry Cook, becoming regulars in the latter half of the season, whilst Josh Laurence, Philip Ilinich, Josh Goodall, Jack Dickerson, Robert Barclay, Archie Dixon-Smith and Fabian Bevan all made most useful contributions to the pack's efforts. Behind the scrum Diggory Slee and Jarrod Van der Westhuizen were the most potent in attack and have the potential to become 1st XV regulars next season with the right attitude to their conditioning for the big step up to Senior rugby. Dominic Shaw proved himself a great role model to the others regarding his attitude to training, becoming the most reliable performer with sharp hands whilst Sol Boyd and Abdul Adebayo-Karim were the two players who stepped up to become A team regulars. Jack Foreman, like Sol Boyd, has the skills in attack to push on in the Sixth Form next year but which Senior team will be dependent upon his attitude to defence, the un-heralded side of rugby?

Overall, the boys had a very positive attitude to both their training and matches and I feel that they will be a strong year group progressing through to the Senior teams next year. I will watch their progress with interest.

Mr Gavin Moffat

These significant wins underlined the team spirit and skill that this bunch of players had and several should push for higher honours in their Senior years at Stowe.

The final game of the season saw them run out of steam and a cancelled fixture the week before meant they were short of match practice for a very talented Bedford side who were worthy winners.

Mr Alan Hughes

Colts C

As rugby C teams go, the Stowe Colts C has traditionally been an outstanding showcase for the strength in depth possessed by the School's Fifth Form boys. This year the team continued in the very strong tradition of year groups gone by, winning a highly respectable five matches out of seven played. Miles Bell was a worthy and talented Captain, co-ordinating his side with aplomb and demonstrating genuine personal flair in both attack and defence. Two highlights of the season were the comparatively close and well fought win over Bromsgrove (33-15) and a comprehensive victory in the match against Warwick (44-5). George Adams was a powerful and

inventive winger, finishing off the set piece and delivering tries with his skilful and tactical running. This year both the backs and forwards proved themselves as prolific try-scorers, with players such as Daniel Kilmister and Timothy Guan scoring well worked tries on numerous occasions. Nikita Trushkov must also get a special mention for being the most courageous and committed tackler the Colts C team has seen in many a season. The most impressive features of the team will always be the great team spirit and the joy they take in the game. Congratulations to all who represented the side this season.

Mr Roland Johnson

Junior Colts A

The Junior Colts started, as always, with an absolute bust-a-gut performance up in the North East of England at the Tynedale Tournament. Whilst we did not win the tournament this year, we came back with some prized scalps beating Ampleforth College, Durham School and RGS Newcastle. It was a great weekend that filled the boys with confidence and determination to make the best of themselves in the 2014-2015 season led by Captain, Calum Renshaw.

We came straight into our regular fixtures with some tough matches against Stamford and Oakham, not coming out on top but knowing that we had played some quality rugby. It was business as usual against our usual competition thereof, making light work of Oundle in particular. There were some surprise wins where our boys really outdid themselves against the likes of Bromsgrove, RGS High Wycombe and St Joseph's College, Ipswich, who were new to the fixture list this season and on the receiving end of an incredible performance by our boys.

One of the most inspiring games that the boys took part in was our huge defeat by Warwick. Warwick is a school that we generally do not beat and this year's match was no different in terms of score line. However, the character shown by our boys in the face of defeat by a far superior side was admirable with Will Garrett showing excellent sportsmanship throughout.

Our NatWest Cup campaign saw us reach round four losing to Magdalen College School 29-0, but this was quickly erased from our memories with the chance of playing Uppingham in the following days afterward. The boys were badly beaten the previous season and this was a game where they were able to put right a fixture that will remain with them for some time. The Junior Colts A did not win however but came close in a 5-12 thriller that illustrated just how far the boys had come in the space of 12 months where we had previously been beaten by 50 points.

The addition of some quality boys in the Fourth Form in Adam Williamson, Kristian Kay and Dan Biss galvanised the rest of the squad and they move on to the Colts team next season having gained some very valuable experience. Some players progressed so much that they barely resembled the players they were at the beginning of the season. Tom Wallace and Taju Atta became unstoppable tyrants on the rugby field who will no doubt go on to become serious ball players later on down the line. Some of the Junior Colts even played up a year this season in the National 7s Tournament at Rosslyn Park putting in outstanding performances and perhaps even earning them a chance to play a year up next season.

Mr Liam Copley

Junior Colts B

PLAYED 8, WON 3, DREW 1, LOST 4

This bunch of talented rugby players did not get the results they deserved. We started well with a good win against Stamford and had a cracking game against Oakham away 36-36. Both Warwick and Oundle put 55 points on us but we came back with two very close wins against RGS High Wycombe and Bromsgrove. Our final two games saw us come second to Uppingham and Bedford, again, high scores against us. The scores tell the story; points for 105, points against 275. Billy Vesty did a great job of Captain for the first few games and Jim Jackman carried on with good work for the last. Henry Gauvain was great pack leader and certainly one to watch for the future. I would vote Ralph Williams as my Most Improved Player. Good luck for next autumn.

Mr Ray Dawson

Junior Colts C

It was a frustrating season for the Junior Colts C team: a group of boys who played at times with exuberance and passion but often were undone by the sheer physical superiority of the opposition. The campaign started on the Bourbon with the traditional curtain-raiser against Stamford. In many ways it set the scene for matches to come: the lads were competitive throughout but towards the end of the match the opposition's size paid off and Stamford wrested away a 19-27 win in the final few minutes. The following week was a more one-sided affair when a well-drilled Oakham XV, with a number of powerful runners, secured a deserved 22-50 verdict. The nadir came the following Saturday, our first away match. Warwick, reputedly one of the strongest schools in the country at this age group, fully justified that tag and in a one-sided afternoon won 62-0 in a match stopped with 25 minutes to go. This was the one time all season the Stoics appeared to throw in the towel and after some post-match soul-searching it was resolved never to allow this to happen again. And so a fortnight later at Oundle it was time to forge those words into deeds. A match which Stowe led for periods finally slipped through our fingers in the final minutes and the hosts won 34-29, although the spirit of the team was commendable; surely it was only a matter of time before the first win arrived? But it was a long wait – a four-week hiatus separated this match from the next: hosting Bromsgrove, always a tricky prospect. However the Stoics raised their game to new levels, especially the standard of forward play in the loose, and secured their first victory of the season, a resounding 34-15. Unfortunately that was to be the highlight. They came down to earth hard the next week, losing 5-20 to Uppingham but fighting hard. The season's denouement

would be at Bedford, always big and strong, and too tough a prospect on the day although Stoic heads never dropped in a 5-59 defeat.

A 1-6 record hardly speaks of a fruitful season but there were a number of positives to report. Jamie Jackson made a level-headed Captain and reliable kicker. Philip Birdwood led the pack from the front all season long and could be relied upon to make the hard yards in the loose. Tom Leach was passionate in the back row. Piers Odell was a colossus at C team level, and one rough diamond who showed moments of genuine sparkle was Mikhail Fedotov, deceptively quick for a big man and an asset anywhere in the pack. In the backs the outstanding performer was winger Wilf Fine, who scored a number of tries but suffered for our lack of possession. Jamie Abbot-Davies and Felipe Maney showed quick feet and a desire to run with the ball. In the centre Nicholas Montgomery showed deft distribution and Max Shannon, typically a B teamer but who made the odd appearance for the Cs, ran straight and hard. Many other boys showed great commitment also. Thanks must go to my fellow coaches Mr Peppiatt and Mr Macpherson who also took over managerial duties during the home fixtures for which I was required to referee; and to B team coaches Mr Barker and Mr Dawson who imparted some expertise in the technical aspects of the game. So in terms of results this was a disappointing season overall but hopefully still an enjoyable one, and one in which the boys learned valuable lessons about the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. Rarely did they stand first, but they learned to stand firm.

Dr Charlie Standley

Yearlings A

PLAYED 12, WON 7, LOST 5

The Yearlings A had a fruitful season evolving as a side, and I am sure when they physically mature they will be a competitive outfit and will turn around some of the defeats they experienced this year.

The season started with three wins against Stamford, The Leys and QES Barnet. The encouraging sign was that against Stamford and QES Barnet the team showed terrific resolve and put themselves in positions on the field where the pressure eventually got to the opposition and the winning scores were taken.

Bigger challenges lay ahead with Oundle. Big was the description of most of their players and although Stowe took the lead inevitably their greater physical opponents crashed over from short range. However credit is due to this age group for they played some of their best rugby against Oundle and defensively put in a well organised and committed display.

Robert Clack was a new fixture and yet Stowe came from



behind to win a close encounter before they had a gentler fixture against Chesham winning comfortably.

After Half term they played Shrewsbury who had the edge on us with a physically bigger team and a number of good players. Unfortunately our defensive shape was fractured

allowing Shrewsbury to take advantage. This was followed by another encounter with some physically bigger players, this time from Uppingham, who played well and took advantage of a demoralised outfit to win 26-0.

The side rallied and after a shaky start against The Perse they scored two good tries to end on a high winning 14-7.

There are some promising individuals within this team and they showed on more than one occasion their ability to bounce back. Jamie Moir, Ollie Bowder and Ed Anderson all caught the eye of the Northampton Saints scouts and will join their Development Player programme this autumn.

Mr Alan Hughes



Yearlings B

The Yearlings B had a mixed season, in which the team made good progress. There have been plenty of good performances, both collectively and individually, and the core of the team has been steadily improving throughout the season. The season started poorly against a very strong Stamford side. The team bounced back with an emphatic win away at The Leys, conceding only one try. Another loss

at Oundle followed another difficult one to QES Barnet. However, the team bounced back and comprehensively overcame a huge Shrewsbury pack winning in style 29-7. A fine draw against Uppingham preceded the final match of the season away at The Perse, where we won convincingly.

As the season went on, the team developed their skills with the most important team skill of defending across the entire width of the pitch. The set piece improved throughout the season, with the pack very rarely going backwards in the scrum. Individually, Tom White and Ricky Li were superb, with Ricky in particular demonstrating the importance of strong, straight running. The backs had their fair share of impressive performances with Tom Percy and Ed Wentworth-Stanley standing out on a regular basis. However, the Man of the Season has been Lochie Shillington at scrum half, where he has been strong in both defence and attack, reading the game with a wise head on young shoulders. These boys should be a force to be reckoned with next season where they will have more time to gel together.

Mr Brian Hart

Yearlings C

PLAYED 6, WON 5, LOST 1

Our season started with a great win against a big team from Stamford 27-12. So many played well that we lost a few to the B team. Billy Hawkings-Byass scored in every C team game he played in this term. A big win against The Leys 5-67 carried on our winning touch. Our team Captain Elliot Mullarkey was developing into a great leader as we went on to play QES Barnet in an even game with Stowe coming out on top 31-5. Hugo Robinson and Isaac David started to show as dominant forwards. The big one against Oundle was next, again a very good forward effort and good work by our pack leader Max Satchell to achieve one of my best wins at Stowe, 19-5. Thanks boys. They then had another good win at home against Uppingham, 24-5. William Osei-Poku was starting to shine and his strength was making life difficult for our opposition. Sadly we did not finish this season undefeated as we lost our last game to The Perse 10-17. A very, very



close game, where we were camped on their 5 metre line for what seemed like weeks but could not get over.

All in all there was a great effort by the whole squad. Coaches, Mr Barker, Mr Elwell, Dr Standley and I thank the boys for all their efforts: well done!

Mr Ray Dawson

Yearlings D

On the face of it, the Yearlings D's record of five matches played, five losses, represents a disappointing season, but the statistics do not tell the whole story. Three of these games were lost by a single try margin and a lack of commitment was rarely an issue.

The season began on the hallowed turf of the North Front against Oundle – as the Ds were the only team at home they were given the honour of playing on one of the School's show pitches. Captain Harry Arkwright was to the fore, scoring two tries but sadly it was not enough as the visitors took the spoils with a try in the dying minutes, winning 15-22.

A disappointing 17-55 loss to a physically superior QES Barnet outfit followed shortly afterwards, before Oundle returned for a rematch and again won by a try, this time 17-24. Arkwright was, again, outstanding and was scooped up by the C team for the rest of the season. Also catching their eye was winger Babalola Bakare, whose rangy stride proved effective in beating defenders.

Flanker Rollo Jacobsen took the Captain's armband for the next match when Uppingham were the visitors. Despite Rollo's man of the match performance the Rutland boys had too much speed and power out wide and enjoyed a comfortable 12-37 win.

The final fling of the season was our first foray away from MK18 - a long trek to Cambridge to play The

Perse. A postage stamp of a pitch and firm conditions underfoot combined to produce perfect conditions for high-scoring rugby and the Stoics took a 20 point early lead with Oscar Hill, David Kann and Al-Ameen Atekoja contributing tries. However tackling apparently became optional in the second half and the hosts fought back to win 43-36 in the last minute of the game.

While the season's denouement was painful, the Yearlings' most junior side must judge its success by more than its own results. We were a production line, supplying players to the highly successful C team which so nearly went unbeaten. Harry Arkwright, Al-Ameen Atekoja, Oscar Hill, Charlie Horton and Alex Hamilton Stubber all represented both teams. And undoubtedly there featured in the Ds a number of boys, some of whom had rarely, if ever, played rugby before, who have shown the potential to play at a significantly higher standard as they progress through Stowe.

Finally, thanks must go to my D team co-coach Mr Barker whose expertise in all facets of back play was invaluable. Also the C team coaches Mr Dawson and Mr Ellwell who assisted the boys with the technical aspects of the game, all the time with half an eye on reinforcing their own ranks!

Dr Charlie Standley

Senior 7s

Mr Hughes, Mr Hayden and I spend more time than we really should do, plotting and discussing the coming season's likely teams and how good they are going to be. When we gathered all the names of players who could potentially make the Senior 7s squad this year, we had a total of 22, all of whom could play 7s at a very good level! We have never before had such depth to the squad. We also recognised that this was a hugely talented group and it represented our best

opportunity to gain some notable successes. Training began as soon as the New Year arrived with skills sessions on Thursdays and fitness sessions on Saturday afternoons up on the track. Kyle Browne emerged as the leader and led all the sessions with a superb attitude. The players who represent Academy sides (of which there are many), were unable to play for the School in the first half of the term so we could not enter tournaments as early as we would have liked. Consistency of training is key in any sport and the weeks of heavy fitness sessions run by Old Stoic, George Coote, now a qualified Strength and Conditioning coach, were starting to have a measurable effect on the players speed and endurance. Our skills sessions were enriched through the visits of notable 7s specialists: Adam Hurst who runs Apache 7s and also Tom Mitchell the current England 7s Captain who gave up his time to lead a training session here at Stowe. Our knowledge, cohesion and fitness were now ready to be tested and the return of the Academy players boosted our confidence. We entered our first tournament at KES Stratford looking sharp and in fact progressed through the afternoon without losing a match. One tournament one trophy, it was a great start.



Due to the extremely short second half of term, we had to play three tournaments in the space of eight days. This was going to be a severe test and unsurprisingly we started to suffer from injuries. We travelled up to Newark on a Sunday morning to find our bubble of confidence burst as we suffered some unexpected losses in a rather deflating tournament. Defeat was not part of the plan, but in hindsight, it certainly helped the team's development as it meant any complacency was eradicated for future tournaments. Solihull School run a good tournament with a strong field of 24 teams. This would be the first time that Charlton Kerr was able to join the team after injury. His arrival was dramatic as he added a cutting edge to our team that we had hitherto lacked. Unfortunately by the knockout stages we were again desperately short of fully fit bodies and we lost in the semi-final. Whilst we knew that our team could be dynamite on paper, we had not yet managed to get the full squad together and in fact we approached the final warm-up tournament at Denstone College with a depleted team again. This was going to be a four team tournament comprising Sedbergh, Denstone and St Joseph's, the idea being that we all fancied our chances of winning Rosslyn Park, so it would be a good idea to practise playing other top level teams as a warm-up. This proved a tough but beneficial outing as we realised there was very little between these very top teams and also that we could stand alongside them.

With the warm-up tournaments over, we looked forward to the pinnacle and main focus of the 7s season, the National Tournament at Rosslyn Park. Our group contained some other fancied teams and there was much work to be done just to progress through the first day. Two strong early performances settled the nerves, but a very tight match against RGS Newcastle proved altogether more nerve racking. With one minute to go the score was 0-0. Thankfully Murray Aitchison managed to burst through to score and seal the group win. This meant we lined up in the knockout game against the team that beat us last year, Cranleigh. Two potent teams traded tries in a very high class match and again there was very little between us. Toni Kuku and Charlton Kerr got over the try line and crucially Kyle Browne converted both tries. Cranleigh also scored twice, but one try was by the touchline, and they missed the conversion meaning we had won and progressed through to the 'Cup' section of the tournament on the second day.

A well deserved rest with a stay at the nearby Premier Inn helped the recovery process and we started the second day knowing we had as good a chance as anyone. Our first match was against Blundell's which we came through comfortably. The well fancied Epsom side were then put to the sword with some impressive defensive organisation and a level of physicality that was becoming the talk of the tournament. Seun Coker, Tom Johnson, Murray Aitchison, Will Thompson, Seb Cecil and John Hawkins



were playing in the forwards and letting anyone who was unwise enough to get near them know that they were the boss in the tackle situation. Mark Hulbert, Kyle Browne, Charlton Kerr, Peter Kimondo, George Silk, Toni Kuku and Rotimi Segun were carving up the opposition with pace and precise handling in the backs. We progressed to meet Stonyhurst College. All matches were now being played on the 'show' pitch and were being screened live on YouTube. Another solid win put us into the semi-final against Bedford Modern. A growing audience on line was starting to feed through the messages of good luck and the squad sensed that we were now being seen as the favourites. Our warm-up routine remained exactly the same for each match on the second day. We tried to remain in our own bubble as more and more people came to watch the remaining few teams. Kyle Browne scored twice in the first half, Will Thompson and Toni Kuku finished the job to put us into our first ever final at Rosslyn Park. We were to play Tonbridge School, another heavyweight in the world of schoolboy 7s. We heard that the whole of Stowe had now gathered to watch around various screens. Our routine remained unchanged, the level of self belief was evident, and our body language was strong. An early try got us ahead, with Rotimi Segun speeding outside his opposition winger.

The Colts 7s' season proved to be a much more successful campaign than its 15-a-side big brother. Tosin Segun was back amongst the ranks and the squad of 12 players looked more suited to the more fluid and open style of rugby required at 7s level. A quality training programme was undertaken to ensure the players were ready for the torture which can be 7s rugby, especially when playing the best teams at the business end of tournaments when bodies and legs in particular are at their most fatigued. Stowe started their campaign with the traditional season opener at Newark and for the third season running Stowe came away with the silverware. Denstone College was dispatched 50-0 in the final and the team was up and running. Next up was our own Stowe Tournament, widely regarded as the best outside the Nationals. However, Stowe couldn't find the same fluency in this competition largely due to losing two of their forwards. Oscar Holmes suffered a nasty leg injury whilst at Newark and Archie Dixon-Smith's back injury limited him to a very peripheral role. As valiantly as the team tried they couldn't summon up the performance levels to beat Millfield in the quarter-finals and a disappointingly early exit ensued with a 15-5 defeat.

The pinnacle of the season is undoubtedly the National 7s Tournament at Rosslyn Park. The team travelled with confidence, especially with a fully fit squad available. The group stage was safely negotiated with victories against Woodhouse Grove and RGS Guildford thus sending Stowe into the knockout competition. A titanic battle against local rivals RGS High Wycombe saw Stowe

Charlton Kerr then scored from close range; however the terrible conditions meant that conversions were extremely difficult. A 10 point lead was by no means enough. Tonbridge scored next and it was anyone's game. Our two speedsters in Rotimi Segun and Toni Kuku combined to break down the far side of the pitch. As usual, Charlton Kerr was not far away in support and squeezed over in the corner for another try. Tonbridge hit back with a try beneath the posts and converted it to get within three points with one minute to go. Stowe's defence proved to be our strength again as we held out to be crowned Festival Winners 2015.

What an outstanding effort! Lifting this title required us to win nine straight games over two days. Particular mention should go Captain Kyle Browne and Player of the Season Charlton Kerr, who scored 26 tries in total! I would also like to thank my right hand man in the coaching department, Mr James Hayden who finished his 7s coaching career at the very highest level. I am pleased to report that following on from this success; the inaugural Old Stoic 7s team has formed and is playing regularly throughout the summer.

Mr Craig Sutton

trailing by 10 points with 60 seconds on the clock. However, the squad dug deep to score twice in the final minute with speed merchant Adam Williamson touching down in the corner and Jarrod Van der Westhuizen slotting a beauty of a touchline conversion to send Stowe through. Tonbridge School were the next to feel the force of Stowe's play and were comfortably beaten to set up a mouth-watering quarter-final versus Bedford, another large all-boys school. Both teams gave it their all but again Tosin Segun produced the magic when it mattered to score an interception try. For the second consecutive year Stowe had progressed to the semi-finals of the National Tournament where they met a very talented Reigate Grammar School. Alas Stowe did not capitalise on their early chances and eventually lost 28-10 to the team who defeated Eton in a pulsating final.

All the boys are to be congratulated on their performances throughout the season. The following boys represented the team: Jarrod Van der Westhuizen, Tosin Segun, Diggory Slee, Hugo Cliff, Dominic Shaw, Archie Dixon-Smith, Adam Williamson, Daniel Biss, Oscar Holmes, Kristian Kay, Jack Foreman, Taju Atta and Abdul Adebayo-Karim.

A big thank you to Mr Lloyd for all his efforts and expertise with the Colts A XV and to Mr Rickner who once again saw his Colts 7s team to the semi-finals in the Nationals.

Mr Gavin Moffat

Basketball

Mr Isaac Michael

Boys' Basketball

In the Third Form competition Temple beat Cobham and Grafton beat Chatham in the semi-finals to set up a Temple/ Grafton final with Grafton coming out on top. In the Junior Competition, Temple and Cobham once again made it to the semi-final stage but this time, it was Cobham's turn to challenge in the final against the much fancied Bruce. True to form Bruce were crowned champions for the fourth consecutive year. In the Senior competition Bruce maintained their grip on the Pearl Cup beating Cobham in the final.

U18

This year the results in the Nationals did not go to plan, with the U18s losing to Cherwell and Aylesbury Grammar School.

However, a spirited team effort sparked by Natse Jemide who hit an amazing 17 points in the last quarter almost saw the team to victory against European School, Culham but we eventually lost out 62-59.

In early January the team travelled to the Wellington College tournament winning one of the four group games and losing the others by just three points. An outstanding individual effort from Captain Jamie Angle could not prevent

the County Cup defeat against Aylesbury, although the Aylesbury coach was keen to draft Jamie into his National League side. In the regular school friendlies the team managed a good run of victories against Eton (44-34), Bedford (41-27), Uppingham (37-35), Pangbourne (60-18) and Abingdon (68-39) with just three losses against Rugby, The Perse and Bradfield. Will Pepera shone at point guard and at times had clear telepathy with Jamie Angle at centre. Next year's team has great potential and should be looking to be more influential in the Wellington, County and National competitions.



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U16

With the main nucleus of last year's team either injured or committed to other sports, it was always going to be a rebuilding season for the U16s. The energy of the U15 players was certainly a boost, along with the inspired play by Captain and point guard Sol Boyd. The best performance in the County Cup was against Dr Challoner's with an 11 point defeat. Although slightly one-sided it was good to compete against players playing regular National League basketball in the matches against Denbigh and Aylesbury Grammar School. It was quite a steep learning curve for the players who will be better equipped for the challenges of next season.

U15

This team was blessed with endless energy and enthusiasm for the game. Evening basketball was a key feature behind the success of the team. Totse Jemide and William Garrett were the main driving force of the team with their penetrating dribbling and clinical finishing from close range. Dan Biss and Thabang Khambule were rock solid under the boards. Freddie Tufnell was the most improved player and possesses all the attributes to go on to be a dominant player in years to come. Both matches played were won. The first was a hard-fought 37-30 win against The Perse and the second a comfortable 69-19 win against Buckingham. Many of the team went on to play a year up and some even for the Senior team.



U14

The two matches played in the County Cup were against very strong opposition, Dr Challoner's and Denbigh. With the game of basketball being a new sport for many of the squad, it was pleasing to see the huge enthusiasm the players had for the game.

Girls' Basketball

The Inter-House competitions started in exciting fashion as Nugent beat Queen's after over-time to win the Third Form competition. The result in the Junior competition was reversed as a dominant Queen's side beat Nugent in the final. In the Senior competition, Lyttelton twice gave Nugent a run for their money losing in the round-robin match and then in the final by two points.

U16

The girls competed for the first time in the U16 National Competition with the majority of the team a year young. Apart from the match against Aylesbury High School (AHS), who finished fourth in the Nationals this year, the team held their own against Cherwell, Denbigh and Princes Risborough. The two highlights of the year were the 40-43 loss against Princes Risborough where Captain Vicky Beglin led by example, hitting 18 points and almost steering the team to an historic victory and the 39-49 loss to Denbigh. Gigi Batubenge bagged 15 points and Mali Aitchison won Man of the Match with her awesome press defence. We can look forward to being much more competitive in this competition next year as the majority of the team who have been practising on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the year will be available. In the County Cup competition AHS were simply too strong, however, the girls gained invaluable experience and raised their game.



U14

Many of the U14 team trained and played with the U16 team where great improvements were made in a very short period of time. The only two matches played this year were against Aylesbury High School (AHS) in the County Cup competition. The team had a heavy loss to the AHS A team, however, secured their first ever win at this level against the AHS B team 22-14.



Swimming



This has been an exciting year for our swimmers as it is the first year that Stowe has been classified as a swimming club as well as a school team. We were also blessed with a plethora of new talent in the Third Form to boost the team to greater heights.

The Junior team had a great start to the season with wins against Abingdon and Solihull which put them in the right frame of mind for the Watford meet where they achieved a number of bronze, silver and gold medals.

The Inter-House competition took place in the Lent term and the boys' Junior competition was dominated by Grafton's Hamish Milne-Skillman who broke three School Records, one of which he beat by four seconds. Grafton also won both of the relay events and broke both records in the process. Ellie Bewes was the star in the Junior girls' competition and Nugent won both the relay races.

The Inter boys' competition was dominated by Chatham with Guy Woodhouse winning all his races. Kira Evans had a successful morning at the County Finals but was back in time to break two School Records in the Inter girls' competition. Holly Campbell also broke a record in the breaststroke.

It was a closer competition for the Seniors with a battle between Toby Pemberton and George Lee. George won the 100m freestyle and 100m individual medley and Toby won the backstroke. Elsa Desmond and Alex Curtis went head-to-head in the Senior girls' competition, Elsa was able to win but Alex managed to break the 50m butterfly record.

The momentum of Stowe swimming was in full swing and the Bath and Otter events at the Olympic Aquatic Centre came at the right time. The girls team of Elsa Desmond, Kira Evans, Pip Vickers and Alex Curtis got to the final of the Dunelm Cup and came seventh out of ten schools. In the Downe House School Relay competition, Zoë Pollock stood in for Kira Evans while she was competing with the Kenyan International team in Botswana. The girls won silver in the freestyle and gold in the medley.

The season ended with a very successful meet in Milton Keynes: we brought home 29 medals, nine of which were gold and broke numerous School Records. There have been outstanding performances all year from Hamish Milne-Skillman, Kira Evans, Will Perry, Alex Curtis, Zoë Pollock and Julian Ma. Our team Captains, Toby and Elsa, have been fantastic this year and I wish them both all the best in the future. My thanks go to all the parents, staff and supporters who have followed us this year.

Will Perry

Will has excelled in all strokes this year but his forte lies in freestyle over 50m, 100m and 200m. His dedication knows no bounds and he trains eight times a week. He was rewarded when Mr White, the Paralympics Head Coach, came to see Will in training to assess whether he has what it takes to become a swimmer for Team GB.

Will's competition record is very strong and he has competed in the Regional Para Gala in Southampton and in the East Regional Disabled Swimming Championships in Newmarket. He was competing in the S6 category and came away with six gold medals. We are waiting to hear if Will has qualified for the British Nationals in Nottingham taking place in July. This is a fantastic start for an up and coming superstar.

Hamish Milne-Skillman

Hamish has made a real impression in the water this year. Talented in many different disciplines, he has rewritten the School Record books by breaking 12 different records. He has been training with the Atlantis Swimming Club during the holidays as well as the Stowe team and the Bicester Bluefins. Hamish made the Zonals in February but narrowly missed out on competing in the British Championships. The County Finals and Regional Finals were a brilliant opportunity for Hamish to boost his medal count and I am looking forward to seeing him compete in the Nationals.

Mr Stewart Cowie



2014/2015 School Records

| | | | | New Record | Old Record |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Freestyle | Juniors | Hamish Milne-Skillman | Grafton | 24.01 | 27.99 |
| Backstroke | Juniors | Julian Ma | Bruce | 32.73 | 34.43 |
| Butterfly | Juniors | Hamish Milne-Skillman | Grafton | 28.00 | 29.91 |
| Butterfly | Juniors | Zoë Pollock | Nugent | 33.19 | 34.51 |
| Individual Medley | Inter | Kira Evans | Nugent | 1:20.67 | 1:21.70 |
| Individual Medley | Juniors | Hamish Milne-Skillman | Grafton | 1:04.71 | 1:15.93 |
| Medley Relay | Juniors | | Grafton | 2:19.31 | 2:25.12 |
| Medley Relay | Inter | | Nugent | 2:33.86 | 2:51.01 |
| Freestyle Relay | Juniors | | Nugent | 2:30.56 | 2:32.72 |
| Freestyle Relay | Juniors | | Grafton | 2:02.94 | 2:10.36 |
| Medley Relay | Juniors | | Nugent | 2:22.01 | 2:30.59 |



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Boys' Hockey



1st XI

PLAYED 10, WON 2, DREW 1, LOST 7

As the weather affected pre-season training, the boys didn't quite get the headstart that we were hoping for. Despite this the boys worked hard against The Leys, while still getting used to the new formation and ground out a 2-2 draw. A very respectable start to the season, against a good Leys side. We then lost to Aldenham in the National Cup

Competition, but followed this up with a good win against local rivals Bloxham, 2-1.

Despite playing well against Abingdon, we couldn't convert our chances and the 4-0 score line now flatters the opposition. Caterham were next up in the National Plate Competition. Unfortunately we had an off day and were well beaten by the Surrey school. The boys bounced back well against Haberdashers' Aske's, securing a 2-0 win and a better performance. We then travelled to St Edward's and nearly came back from a 3-0 deficit, but in the end narrowly lost 3-2. Regrettably, Alex Smith re-injured his shoulder and missed the three remaining games.

We then faced a strong Bromsgrove side and although lost 5-2, played the best half of hockey of the season, winning the second half 2-1. We finished our season against Bloxham

and with five of the 1st XI squad leaving this year, it was their last opportunity to 'get one over' on our local rivals. Unfortunately, the result didn't go our way and despite putting some good phases of play together, we were unable to convert our pressure into goals.

Mr James Knott

2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a mixed season, starting with a good win from behind against local rivals Bloxham, who they would also beat in their last game of the season and my last game as a teacher at Stowe. They also secured a tough draw with other local rivals St Edward's and had narrow losses to Abingdon, The Leys, Haberdashers' Aske's and Uppingham. Towards the end

of the season and possibly one of the highlights was the convincing win over the Bromsgrove 2nd XI, at Bromsgrove. A number of the 2nd XI represented the 1st XI during the season, a credit to their hard work. Many



of the Lower Sixth in this team will be pushing for 1st XI honours again next September which should make the competition for places very interesting.

Mr Richard Pickersgill

3rd XI

It was a challenging season for the 3rd XI with a number of initial losses, however, the team was always competitive and played some excellent hockey against strong opposition. The early success of Zach Coupland saw us stay in touch in many a game, until he moved on leaving a space for new goal scorers Theo Lewis and Edward Tilleard to show their worth. Highlights of the season were a strong win against St Edward's (2-0) and a final win of the season against Bloxham (3-1). The

Bloxham match also demonstrated the improvement of the team as they had previously lost to Bloxham by a heavier margin. Henry Sylvester, Guy Gibson, Oscar Marment and Murray Aitchison all had a good season in their final year and will be missed.

We had a strong dedicated core of players who made the difference over the season with commitment at training and effort on the pitch.

Mr Paul Thompson

Colts A

It was more a tale of two teams than two halves, given that the U16 Nationals team and the Colts A Saturday team both fell under the same coach's remit. So, to deal with each:

The U16 boys had their most successful year since records began (or since anybody could remember, anyway – even Mr Michael) by reaching the quarter-final stage equivalent of the National U16 competition. With a hugely talented and very committed team, comprising five who are members of the School 1st XI squad, this was always going to be a stellar year. That they worked so hard for it, especially on an epic Regional heats day at Bradfield College with a comfortable win over Eton and a last gasp victory over Langley Park, is very much to their credit. We came unstuck against a clinical Kingston Grammar side in warm spring sunshine but it was a huge effort nonetheless. Worthy of particular mention was Captain, Brandon Lee, who at times pulled his team to greater heights with ferocious determination; the athletic Dom Shaw whose solo effort goal against Langley put us through; and the uber reliable and quietly very skilful



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Georges Tasker, whose possession of the ball invariably sent ripples of calm throughout the team.

The Colts A Saturday side struggled a bit more with a few of their number playing for the 1st XI, but there were some pleasing performances against The Leys and Bromsgrove that stick in the memory. Charlotte 'Ossie' Oswald who played throughout the season deserves a mention, as do Dom 'the rock of defence' Strong for his fearless work at the back and Jack 'Harry Kane' Foreman. It was an enjoyable season with a personable bunch.

Mr Henry Swayne

Colts B

The Colts Bs had a highly successful season and, after losing the first match to The Leys, they were unbeaten for the remainder of the season. Newcomers to the side – Monty Florin, Sam Holland-Bosworth, Kitili Mwendwa and Gilles Griffiths all adapted quickly to the level required and played their part. Nikko Elliott was the most improved player and was very dangerous on the right wing. Ed Good led well and scored his fair share of goals. George Williams, our MVP, never stopped working all season and was the real engine room of the midfield

along with Edwin Rimlinger. Carlie Tufnell was the pick of the defence at centre back, but Hamish Graham-Campbell supported very well, and Angus Parsonson kept a very cool head sweeping just in front. Philip Ilinich also played his part in goal when he was called upon to do something and several of the team earned call ups to the As as the season went on. The majority of this side want to switch to football in the Sixth Form, which is a pity as they are very good hockey players.

Mr James Knott

Junior Colts A

PLAYED 10, WON 2, DREW 2, LOST 6

The boys were making their first appearance on the hockey pitch for over a year and during the first few training sessions it took a while for them to get used to stick on ball. This was evident in their first game against The Leys, in which they were outplayed by a very strong team; the main positive was that they halved the score against the same opposition from the previous season.

They managed to bring it together very well in their second match, dominating a Bloxham side whom they knew would have a chance for revenge in the last match

Junior Colts B

PLAYED 8, WON 3, DREW 2, LOST 3

The JCBs began this season with a couple of convincing wins, including an outstanding victory over Bloxham, with Ollie Millard scoring an unprecedented eight goals. Setting the bar so high at such an early stage proved difficult for the team to maintain, but each player gave their very best throughout their eight games, finishing up with three wins, three losses and two draws. Whether it be Piers Odell's terrifying nine-iron 16s, the collective human shield of Henry Gauvain, Sam Jokhoo and Nico Montgomery, the formidable pace of Taju Atta and Josh Riley, or goalkeeper Josh Landau's miraculous saves, the entire squad pulled together for every game and showed dedication and passion in each training session.

As a feeder team for the JCAs, several players stepped up admirably while others came down and integrated themselves seamlessly with the Bs, creating a dynamic team that shifted and reconfigured, and ultimately became stronger as a result. It was sad to lose Sam Jokhoo, a dedicated and talented Captain, to an operation that put him out of action for the second half of the season, but

Junior Colts C

The team has played with growing enthusiasm and success over the course of the term. They had just four matches, all after Half term, since some other schools were unable to raise a third team at this level. The first match was against Akeley Wood which fielded a wide range of players from different year groups, including some very talented ones. Stowe showed determination but went down by five goals. Against St Edward's three days later they played with more gusto and more attempts at positional play. Stowe created several short corners, with none against them, but

of the season. Stowe then came up against two very strong hockey sides from Abingdon and MCS Oxford and was outclassed by both. They then managed a good draw away against Haberdashers' Aske's and then again against a good St Edward's side. Following a disappointing performance against Uppingham, the boys turned things around against Mill Hill to record their second victory of the season.

Unfortunately, Bromsgrove proved to have the luck for our next match as they stole victory in the final play of the game. Sadly the season ended on a low, as Bloxham avenged their defeat earlier on with a 2-0 victory. This side has strong potential for the future, as they are quite small in stature and will become stronger on the ball as they go through the School. Another encouraging sign for the Senior teams next year is the part that Alex Perez-Buchanan, Jim Jackman and Calum Renshaw all played in the excellent cup run that the U16s had.

Player of the Season – Alex Perez-Buchanan

Most improved – Oleg Solovyev

Top goal scorer – Calum Renshaw

Mr Philip Arnold



his determination and skill left its mark and gained him the Most Valuable Player award. Although there was not an award for all of them, each player added his own value to the team, creating a solid unit that was greater than the sum of its parts, and they should all be proud of their achievements as a group this season.

Mr George Purves

lacked the final drive to finish with a shot on target. The only goal was by St Edward's first team goalie playing in attack. Against Uppingham, Stowe produced some good attacking hockey, with Henry Frisby scoring before half time. Uppingham kept Stowe under pressure with many short corners, manfully defended by keeper Matthew Gardner Martin, and eventually secured two goals. In an enthusiastic game against Bloxham two days before the end of term, Stowe dominated the play in the first half, despite a few serious challenges from the opposition. Stowe took



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the lead with two goals by Arthur Marriott and one by Charles Rivington. After the break Arthur completed his hat-trick and, although Bloxham rallied just before the final whistle with two goals of their own, Stowe finished with a well deserved victory. All the team significantly improved their level of play during the term and were able to hold the Stowe B team to a 1-1 draw. Key players included midfielders Harry Pullin, Luke Aust and Tom Mayhew.

Mr Michael Bevington

Yearlings A

The Yearlings A had a tough first term on the hockey pitch with their best result being a draw against The Leys. It was a steep learning curve for the new Third Formers in the tough Lupos League consisting of strong hockey schools such as The Leys, Uppingham, The Perse, Oundle and Stamford. Naturally the team took a bit of time to settle but were still facing teams on a weekly basis that had been playing together for five or more years. Throughout the term the YAs played a good brand of hockey and gradually improved in their performances, individually and as a team. There is definitely potential for this team in their future years at Stowe. Despite losing a number of key players during the season, the boys continued to battle and play tough hockey in each fixture, regardless of the result. This takes tenacity and real resolve and therefore credit to the squad for getting through their baptism of fire. Although some cracks appeared from time to time, the importance of staying positive was discussed and gradually became a bigger part of the team ethos. I have every confidence the boys will have a much improved hockey term in the Fourth Form and wish them all the best.

Mr Luke Stone



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Yearlings B

PLAYED 11, WON 6, DREW 2, LOST 3

The Yearlings B XI had a very rewarding and successful season. Initially they found the going tough in the Lupos League, with defeats to Oundle (1-0) and Uppingham (4-1) in the opening two matches. However, in a scrappy game on grass they held The Leys to a nil-nil draw and the tide began to turn. The players greatly upped their intensity and work rate and this proved great dividends as the forwards (Lochie Shillington, Harry Hewlett, Tavish Struthers and Hector Smiley) tore oppositions to shreds with the pace they passed the ball and the work rate they showed off it.

The midfield began to back track with much greater purpose when attacks broke down and there was tireless work from Jimmy Davis, Rollo Jacobson, James



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Watkins and Sam Chism. Defensively Peter Entwisle and Cameron Chambers read the game really well and tackled opposition wingers hard, often intercepting a pass before it

Yearlings C

It was a tough season for the Yearlings C team. Up against some strong hockey schools early in the season saw some big losses, however, as the boys developed and improved their skills they narrowed the score lines. Their first win came against Stamford, winning 6-0. During the second half of the season replaying the same teams the margins were much closer and the play more even. The highlight of their improvement being against Oundle: YC lost their first meeting 1-9 but in the second game versus Oundle we held them to a 2-2 draw, the boys demonstrating a huge improvement. Other games had similar improvements in results, but the team only managed to pull off one other win against Stamford.

By the end of the season, Louis Redfern, Thomas Percy, Gabriel Armstrong and Babalola Bakare were all working well in the forwards and showing some good skills to make scoring opportunities. Hugo Robinson and William Fox were consistent all year in midfield and defence. Ivan Titov was our most improved player coming in new to hockey and developing well over the season.

Mr Paul Thompson



of the Season – he never had a bad game, ran tirelessly and scored his share of goals.

The measure of how much the team improved was shown when they came back from 2-0 down at half time against The Perse to win 3-2, and thrashing Uppingham and Oundle 4-1 and 4-0 respectively in the return fixtures. A thoroughly enjoyable season – well played everyone.

Mr James Knott



Yearlings D

The Yearlings D team played with great gusto and enthusiasm, although they managed only two draws out of seven matches. Many of the games could have gone either way, especially in the matches against The Leys and Uppingham, and they always maintained their determination to the very end. The squad proved a fertile ground for improvement in skills and teamwork, and several of the better players moved up to higher teams during the term. Goals were scored by Jayden Brooks-Hurst, Freddie Horlick, Charlie Horton, James Moir and Tom White, while Oliver Pritchard was Captain for several games and Mark Kanjana and Jeongyun Kim also made their mark as Men of the Match.

Mr Michael Bevington

Girls' Hockey

1st XI

PLAYED 19, WON 10, DREW 2, LOST 7

The 1st XI had a competitive but rewarding season. They were thrown in at the deep end with all girls' hockey teams being entered into the midlands ISHL (Independent Schools Hockey League). Here we were to face teams that at some point throughout their school hockey experiences had played or won a National Championship.

Naturally we started the season a bit shaky, losing to Bromsgrove and Oakham, we soon found our feet against Tudor Hall, only to be beaten by National Champions Repton and narrowly defeated by Wellingborough at home. This was to be our last home loss of the season, back in September. At this point we still had nine more games at home, four of which in our tough new league. We then went on to beat Mill Hill, cruise through the North County Cup as Champions and defeat a tough Rugby side to gain our first points in the league. We unfortunately had an off day at the County Cup Finals, but finished the season well only losing one of our last seven matches, with some great wins against The Leys, Bloxham, Princethorpe, Trent and Oundle.

We finished a credible fourth in the League, only beaten by Repton, Oakham and Trent, proving that we can hold



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our own against some of the better teams in the country. There is a great mix of youth and experience in this team, with Fourth Formers through to Upper Sixth Formers, all working together for the benefit of the team.

To say that this team has improved is a massive understatement. The style of hockey that the 1st XI now plays is something I am very proud of. They have taken ownership of some key principles and apply them in every game they play. They have become a tight knit group, which is evident when they play together on the pitch. With some talented youngsters already in this team and some more coming through from lower age groups, girls hockey at Stowe is definitely on the rise. This season has been a lot of fun and I am already looking forward to next year.

Mr Luke Stone



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2nd XI

What a difference a match makes. That's the best summary I could think of when it came to describing the efforts of this talented, sometimes lacklustre, yet ultimately very successful group of 2nd XI girls. When they put their minds to the game they were unstoppable

and it really came together in the second half of term.

We were third in our new league having won ten and lost only three (to Repton, Oakham and The Leys). And when the wind was in their sails, a lot was possible. Combining real skill, talent and determination, a number of good teams were swept aside with athleticism, quick passing, Annabel Rushton's assists and Jemima Fitzjohn's goals (18 in 13 matches).

Mentions in dispatches also to: Captain, Georgia 'the Engine' Alderton; Rosie 'the Dynamo' Dickson; Bea 'the Cucumber' (because she's so cool under pressure in defence) Saunders Watson; Tilda 'Right Half Rock' Bevan; Hannah 'the Reader' (of games from centre back) Tilleard; and last but not least Frankie 'Pinball' Knight (tremendous goalkeeper who almost singlehandedly won us the St Edward's game with double and triple 'pinball' saves).

All contributed much to a great season.

Mr Henry Swayne



3rd XI

The 3rd XI team was magnanimous in defeat this season, committed to training and they worked hard to fulfil their potential. Despite some heavy defeats in the opening matches at Oakham, Repton and Uppingham they showed huge improvement against St Edward's where they scored their first goal of the season! A 3-3 draw at Oundle was much deserved. The team was led brilliantly by Flora Marriott who lifted the team continuously. Overall the team improved tremendously since last season and never ceased to keep spirits high. I have very much enjoyed being a part of the 3rd XI unit this year and I hope our leavers go on to continue playing competitive hockey.

Miss Lauren Ellis

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U16A

It threatened to be a difficult season following a big defeat by National Champions Repton in our first match. Thankfully, the girls got better and better as the term progressed and finished as one of the most successful girls' sides in the School. In the Midlands Saturday League competition we finished one point off third place, beating a good Trent team and Oundle. The Oundle game was a particular highlight as we won whilst playing with our revolutionary formation involving a kicking back. Skye Longworth was the star in this position and alongside Captain Imogen White managed to keep out the numerous attacks from the Oundle forwards.

The most impressive set of results came in the National Competition, with the girls reaching the Regional Heats. This bodes well for the Senior teams, as several of these



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players will play up next year.

Imogen White was voted Player of the Season, Zabby Tucker most improved and Milly Watkins was the top scorer.

Mr Philip Arnold



U16B

The team had an uphill struggle in the Michaelmas term, but took on the difficult challenges presented to them with energy and enthusiasm. They had a large number of matches with schools of mid to high calibre, and showed a great deal of spirit. Passing and technique, as well as team strategy, were aspects of their game that required work from the beginning, and although they would have benefited more from the chance to play full games on the pitches, they worked hard to improve nonetheless.

Players such as Flo Stanley and India Spencer showed a great deal of spirit and ability, and the team as a whole, though needing to work on coordinating their game, and requiring a little more polish to show themselves at their best, took on the likes of Repton and Oundle, and applied themselves to the fullest, forwards, defence and goalie alike.

Mr Fergus Parnaby

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U15 A

The stars did not align for the U15A girls this year. Having come from a successful U14 season the expectation from all was for more of the same. However, the move into a very competitive hockey league and the loss of a few key players to the 1st XI meant that the girls had to knuckle down and work hard.

To their credit they did, despite early losses to some very strong teams. Rhiannon Templeman in goal was tested repeatedly and kept some of the scorelines respectable, but a notable element of the early games was the willingness of the team to work hard until the final whistle. Mali Aitchison epitomised this great heart and commitment throughout the season.

The first win was a blessed relief: a 10-0 win against Mill Hill. Libby Flood and Mali Aitchison both scored hat-tricks, Jemima Cecil bagged a pair and Alice Maclure and Georgia Flawn-Thomas got on the score sheet. There was a further win against Bedford Modern in which Emily Bourn scored twice and Libby Flood scored again.

However, it was the 3-0 loss to Rugby, a team placed third in the Nationals the previous year, that was the best performance of the season. The girls battled hard throughout and surprised the opposition with their work rate and robust tackling: Jemima Cecil could certainly carve out a career as a lumberjack if her tackling is anything to go by.



Throughout the season all of the girls made good contributions. Most notable amongst them were: Tallula Douglas Miller's devastating speed and intelligent positioning down the right flank; Martha Combe, Kira Evans and Clara Haggie forming a strong defence; and Thea Chisnall and Mali Aitchison playing with dynamism and tirelessness in midfield. So, perhaps not a season to live long in the memory in terms of victories, but the girls have learnt some valuable lessons and developed their skills to take forward to the Senior teams in the years to come.

Mr Chris Warde

U15B

The U15B team had a hard fought season. Having been entered for the Independent Schools' Hockey League, we had plenty of fixtures to play both mid-week and at the weekend. Thankfully many of these were held at home but even when we were away we had fantastic support from friends and family, to the envy of many teams, which helped to boost morale especially against tough opposition.

The first few fixtures were played in the glorious autumnal sunshine which meant that the girls' energy was quickly sapped as we battled against League favourites, Bromsgrove and Repton. As we became accustomed to the heat and as our fitness levels improved, the girls were able to compete on a more level playing field against Tudor Hall and Cokethorpe. The girls' spirit and determination remained high throughout the season and they were eager to improve their stick skills and develop team tactics to enhance their game. We had a dedicated squad with all members keen to play. Megan Winter was unanimously voted in as Captain and gave her support, leading us to many notable victories. On top of her strong leadership, Megan was our top scorer in the League. The talented Fitzjohn twins tallied up many goals between them helping to strengthen our position in the League. The girls were ably supported by Maya Tearle, often made Player of the Match throughout the season for her tireless efforts and skill at delivering fast, accurate and well timed passes which set up many of the goals scored this season.

We had many highly tense and exciting games where matches were won or lost with a goal being scored in the



dying seconds. Our defence played with passion and true determination, Emma Grayson and partner in crime Rosie Smith were fabulous and on many occasions took a ball or stick to the body rather than allow a scoring opportunity! Lily Muirhead was our lightning fast winger who provided many scoring opportunities and particularly enjoyed our success against Trent in the League where she scored four of the ten goals and we came away with a clean sheet to a lively home crowd.

We had a great season and many lessons were learned about teamwork and support. I want to thank all the team members as without your dedication and commitment we would not have had all the success or enjoyment we experienced this season. I will miss coaching and managing the girls and I wish them every success as they enter the next phase of their hockey careers at Stowe.

Mrs Louise Carter



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U15C

The mighty U15Cs, aka ‘Teen Girl Squad’, aka ‘Super Smash Sisters’, had an excellent season, playing with heart, soul and (sometimes) gum shields. After a few line-up changes at the start of the season, they settled into a regular, tight-knit squad, with Alice Pryse maintaining an impenetrable defence at the back, Alice Hastie-Smith and Flora Moreau acting as goal-seeking pioneers at the front, Charlotte Bird making effective game-changing decisions

in the middle, and the inimitable Mint Kanjana adding passion and brute force in pretty much any position she happened to find herself in.

Despite the girls’ optimistic mantra before each game: “How much win? So much win!” the gods of hockey did not always smile favourably on the team, but what they lost in terms of matches they made up for in determination, resilience and good nature, which is the biggest win in my book. Best moment of the season? The triumphant slaughter of Cokethorpe’s B team in the pouring rain. Worst moment? Taking over half an hour to find the right pitch and ending up playing on what can only be described as a toddler’s play area. Strangest moment? The infamous wing-mirror hit-and-run (but at least they got home on time!). Mintiest moment? When Mint thought that scoring from outside the D counted as two goals. Well done to everyone who was privileged enough to be a part of this legendary side, and here’s to every new adventure to come!

Ms Emma Rayner

U14A

The U14As had a challenging season filled with some tough fixtures along with some successful highlights. Most rewarding was finishing runners-up in the County Cup to earn a place in the Regional Heats of the National tournament, the fifth consecutive year for our U14s. New for this year was our entry to the Midlands League which was a step-up and provided us with some strong opposition throughout the term, including Bromsgrove, Repton and Uppingham. However, to our credit we made considerable progress, remained positive and learnt to defend to the end! Away from the league we enjoyed our local derbies defeating St Edward’s 2-1, Bloxham 3-1, Mill Hill 4-0, and drawing with Bedford Modern and Oakham. Well done to the whole team but a special mention must go to our Captain Gemma Blane, who is to be congratulated on



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being selected for Junior Regional Performance Centre; Zoë Pollock who was awarded Player of the Season; and our fantastic goalkeeper Arabella White.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U14B

The U14B season was full of ups and down, there was drama, there was action and most importantly progress. Some of the squad members had only played 7-side hockey and moving to 11-side presented new challenges for the team. However, it didn’t take them long to score their first goal in the first game against Bromsgrove, winning 0-2. The forwards worked hard in every game; Cosima Sage and Tabitha Sinclair were always ready to poach a goal, moving well in the D to create space.

As the team developed over the season, Esme Foster started distributing the ball wide to Lydia Taylor and Tatiana Page-Turner. Georgie Leeffe in midfield ran and ran; she worked back in defence and provided some excellent support in the attacking phases. Milly Cranmer and Charlotte Platz improved tremendously throughout the season and their game awareness was superb. Our defence was a force to be reckoned with; they produced hundreds of well-timed tackles and some strong hits to clear the ball. Imy Oliver,



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Samai Lamberti, Annabel Havard, Martha Scott Knight and Trinity Ford worked well together week in and week out. The final line of defence was Ugochi Ekpecham whose lightning quick reactions kept us in many games.

It has been a pleasure to coach the squad and watch them develop over the season into good hockey players.

Mrs Fiona James

The U14Cs are a group of girls with high amounts of energy and team spirit. Throughout the season they had a mixed bag of results, from losing some games 4-0, to winning their final game of the season 5-0. This season saw the girls come across some tough opposition. With some great support from Captain Isabella Garrett they battled every game and their spirit was always high. As the season went on the girls improved a great deal; not just individually but as a team. The forwards and midfield made up of Alexandra Jordan, Elizaveta Zakon, Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley, Emma Rød-Larsen, Jessie Potts, Amber Frost and Sienna Flanagan worked very well together moving the ball around well and creating some great scoring opportunities. The defence worked just as hard to keep the ball out of the D and support the midfield and forwards. The goalkeeper Clara Pepera deserves a special thank you and well done for stepping up last minute and making some fantastic saves and always keeping her head high despite the score.



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Although the team saw some big losses, some very close games and some great wins, the girls always walked away with a smile, having enjoyed the game. It has been a pleasure and an enjoyable experience coaching this group of girls and I wish them all the very best of luck for the rest of their time at Stowe.

Miss Emma Claggett

Badminton

This has been one of the most successful seasons for boys' badminton with the team admirably led by Jamie Hardinge. The Senior 8 recorded wins against Bloxham (twice), Wellingborough and Rugby, losing to very strong teams at Uppingham, Abingdon and Magdalen College, Oxford. We have been fortunate this year once again to be coached by ex England International Sara Sankey, who invited the team to a badminton exhibition match in Milton Keynes where we watched Surrey Smashers v Milton Keynes Allstars.

Outstanding performances have been by Tom Dixon and Henry Eleyin-Bingham this year.

Senior Colours were awarded to Tom Dixon, James Greenley and Henry Sylvester.

Junior Inter-House Competitions:

The Junior boys' Inter-House tournament was dominated by Grenville, who won both the doubles and the overall trophy. The Junior boys' singles was won by Henry Eleyin-Bingham who defeated Peter Wang in a gripping final 21-20.

The Junior girls' Inter-House competition and girls' doubles was won by Stanhope and in the Junior girls' singles, Lottie Hopkinson beat Olivia Thomas.

Senior Inter-House Competitions:

The Senior boys' Inter-House singles trophy was won by Tom Dixon who defeated James Greenley in the final. In the Senior boys' doubles, Grenville narrowly beat Bruce in the final. The overall Senior boys' winners were Grenville with 60 points and Bruce were in second place with 55 points.

In the Senior girls' singles, Clarissa Llanaj of Lyttelton beat Phillipa Stacey from Stanhope in the final. Lyttelton won the Senior girls' doubles and also the overall trophy. Stanhope were a close second.



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Finally I would like to thank the following squad members for their loyal support: Jamie Hardinge, Henry Sylvester, Tom Dixon, James Greenley, Jeffri Indot, Henry Eleyin-Bingham, Peter Wang, Sam Jokhoo, Freddie Woods and Jeremy Chang.

The boys' Captain of badminton for next year is Jeffri Indot and the girls' Captain is Clarissa Llanaj.

Mrs Hazel Browne

Cricket



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1st XI

PLAYED 20, WON 13, DREW 5, LOST 1, ABANDONED 1

The Stowe 1st XI had one of its best seasons to date winning 13 matches and only losing once during the whole season. The side was characterised by how it performed under pressure and that they were very hard to beat.

The side was particularly impressive in limited overs cricket where the spin quintet of Tom Young, Henry Hoare, Olly Clarke, Saajan Patel and George Markham bowled with great skill and control. Between them they took 105 wickets. Henry Hoare was the most successful with 29. He took the bowling award and is best remembered for his five wickets against Uppingham that salvaged a match that looked lost going into the last twenty overs.

Jack Keeping was the pick of the seamers and picked up two five wicket hauls against Stamford and Oakham. By the end of the season he was bowling beautifully and with pace to finish with 27 wickets. He was ably supported by Sam Riley and Ollie Woodward who took 13 wickets apiece.

Three batters scored over five hundred runs each. Mark Hulbert scored the most with 644 runs at an average of 42 to take the batting award. Jack Keeping (517) and Henry Hoare (515) were the other two, but the batting was characterised by its depth and everyone played their part. Fifth Former Brandon Lee had a good first full season with 432 runs and fellow Fifth Former Olly Clarke played several important knocks to win or save games. Another

player to perform an important role was Ali Martin. He scored vital runs and was often there at the end. He ended up averaging 32.

Mention must also be made of two Fourth Formers. Angus Lovell – an exchange pupil from Australia – looks a fine prospect as does Adam King who kept wicket and scored 188 runs. He accumulated 11 catches and 15 stumpings during the season – a great return for a very promising young player.

There were so many highs during the season, but the stand out has to be the final of the T20 Festival where the 1st XI took on Menlo Park from South Africa. They are the number one ranked team in South Africa and have just won their National T20 Competition back home. In one of the finest bowling and fielding performances I have seen at school level, Stowe restricted them to 116 for 9 in their twenty overs and then a masterful 47 not out from Henry Hoare saw Stowe get over the line by 6 wickets. It was a great way to finish the season and a just reward for a group of players that worked so hard throughout the year – they thoroughly deserved it.

My thanks as ever to Mr Phil Arnold for his support during the season and to our umpires Mike Harris and Graham Frost. It was great to have Lynn Allen back this year as our scorer and thanks also to Steve Curley and his team for all of their hard work preparing such great surfaces for us to play on.

Mr James Knott

BOWLING

| Name | Overs | Mdns | Runs | Wkts | Avg |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| Henry Hoare | 105.0 | 11 | 404 | 29 | 13.93 |
| Jack Keeping | 131.5 | 23 | 573 | 28 | 20.46 |
| George Markham | 64.0 | 1 | 304 | 24 | 12.67 |
| Tom Young | 102.0 | 11 | 433 | 19 | 22.79 |
| Saajan Patel | 110.0 | 12 | 410 | 18 | 22.78 |
| Olly Clarke | 28.2 | 0 | 130 | 15 | 8.67 |
| Ollie Woodward | 87.0 | 10 | 360 | 13 | 27.69 |
| Sam Riley | 99.4 | 9 | 411 | 13 | 31.62 |
| Mark Hulbert | 7.0 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 3.33 |
| Alex Smith | 2.0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1.50 |
| Brandon Lee | 3.0 | 0 | 18 | 2 | 9.00 |
| Angus Lovell | 6.0 | 1 | 29 | 1 | 29.00 |

BATTING

| Name | Inns | N/O | Runs | Avg |
|----------------------------|------|-----|------|-------|
| Mark Hulbert | 19 | 4 | 644 | 42.93 |
| Jack Keeping | 19 | 1 | 517 | 28.72 |
| Henry Hoare | 17 | 2 | 515 | 34.33 |
| Brandon Lee | 19 | 3 | 432 | 27.00 |
| Tom Young | 13 | 3 | 255 | 25.50 |
| Adam King | 12 | 3 | 188 | 20.89 |
| Olly Clarke | 10 | 3 | 153 | 21.86 |
| Ali Martin | 9 | 5 | 128 | 32.00 |
| Angus Lovell | 5 | 3 | 110 | 55.00 |
| Saajan Patel | 7 | 2 | 62 | 12.40 |
| George Markham | 5 | 3 | 11 | 5.50 |
| Sam Riley | 5 | 3 | 8 | 4.00 |
| Calum Renshaw | 1 | 0 | 7 | 7.00 |
| Nikko Elliott | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3.00 |
| Alex Smith | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| Jarrold Van der Westhuizen | 0 | 0 | 0 | n/a |
| Ollie Woodward | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |

2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a mixed season this year with some good results against Uppingham, Oundle and RGS High Wycombe, as well as a narrow loss to Rugby and a convincing loss to Pangbourne 1st XI. There is no doubt that the team have had great fun throughout the term and there has been a good balance of fun and competition. Each player has given some value to the team and offered a highlight this season: Kyle Browne's Captaincy, James Scott's 50 v Rugby, Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson's amazing ball striking abilities – both in the nets and the middle, George Markham's regular wicket taking, Nick Bell's commitment in the field, Monty Curran's ability with both bat and ball, Ed Elliott, Pierre Carrelet and Ollie Woodward's sheer pace with ball in hand, Alex Smith's systematic comment of 'one more over skip' after taking another wicket, Jarrod Van der Westhuizen's 118 from just 51 balls v RGS High Wycombe, Ali Martin's consistency behind the stumps and Guy Seddon's commitment to the team.

Mr Luke Stone



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3rd XI

Once again the Senior 3rd XI combined a heady blend of enthusiasm, questionable chat and most importantly, winning cricket in another memorable season. Led by the estimable Jack Edmonstone, the Stoics were victorious in three of their four games, and came frustratingly close in the other.

Uppingham were the visitors to the South Front in the season's opener. In a thirty over a side contest, Stowe were convincing winners by 97 runs. Batting first, they managed an imposing 200-8. Runs came throughout the order, the skipper leading the way with 40. Jack 'Mr Consistency' Hechle hit 38, Nico Upton 30 and Theo Lewis a quick-fire 21. The Rutland boys were their own worst enemy in the field, gifting 38 extras.



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Colts A

It is a shame when exams get in the way of a good cricket season. Such was the case with the Colts: this summer saw an unbeaten season cut brutally short by the GCSE exam session. The nature of cricket allows, and indeed encourages, a focus on individual performances and personal milestones but it should always be remembered that eleven boys take the field, and the U16s must be one of the most complete teams the School has seen for some years, despite having two members of the Fifth Form playing with the 1st XI. Every member of the team made a meaningful contribution at some point during the season which meant that the team were rarely troubled by their opponents.

A good victory in the pre-season game against Oundle gave the team confidence from the outset, but it was the first regular season game of the year, away at a windswept Uppingham, that established the pattern of the season. Captain Nikko Elliott, whose appointment caused a stir amongst certain quarters of the media, won the toss and elected to bowl. Seb Wood, a quietly spoken boy whose talking is done on the pitch, restricted the Uppingham openers early, before Jack Foreman took up the ball and ripped out the middle order with an excellent spell of semi-hostile right arm over. The fielding unit contributed with two direct hit runouts before Charlie Leefe wrapped

In reply, Tom Carr (6-0-21-2) ripped out the visitors' top order; Lewis (4.1-0-16-3) impressed with the ball as well as the bat while strikes from Hechle, Hamish Beaton, Harry Norris and Murray Aitchison saw the visitors dismissed for only 103.

Sadly the team's two-year unbeaten run would fall in the next match, a midweek T20 affair at home to Oundle who, batting first, made a respectable yet surmountable 142-2.

Both Stowe openers fell cheaply. The middle order of Hechle (18), Carr (23) and Caledonian gloveman Gregor Haldane (24) rebuilt, but ten an over was required from the final five. Enter Will Thompson who smashed an unbeaten 24 from only nine balls but he ran out of partners at the other end and Stowe fell 10 runs short, 130 all out with four balls remaining.

Another T20 followed, this time against Stamford, and runs were at a premium. Despite Hechle's 23 and Keith Harrington's 24, Stowe managed only 111. However the curse of Nelson was to strike the visitors who collapsed to 65 all out. Charlton Kerr (3-0-9-2) impressed on debut and Aitchison (3-0-11-2) added to Stamford's pain as they were skittled for only 65 and Stowe won by 46 runs.

Sadly, rain and exam-related cancellations (from the opposition) meant there would be no matches after Half

term so the season's climax was at Rugby in a 25-over a side contest.

The hosts processed steadily but slowly to 133-5 in their allotted overs. Thompson (5-2-14-1) used a bouncy surface to his advantage, Hechle (4-0-25-2) again proved his worth as an all-rounder while Haldane and Oscar Williams also claimed scalps.

A cricketing truism is that 'the best way to chase a small total is to do it quickly' and Stowe did just that. Harrington came out swinging and hit a 16-ball 33. Unfortunately Captain Edmonstone was on the end of a Jaffa first ball but Tom Carr (37 not out) and the ubiquitous Aitchison (53 not out) steered the Stoic ship to 134-2 from only 16 overs, an 8-wicket win.

All who played these matches contributed in some way, whether it be with runs, wickets, catches or a bon mot of varying degrees of wit which was the hallmark of the team's sky-high morale. Although regular third teamers Messrs Aitchison, Harrington, Upton and skipper Edmonstone will no longer be with us next year there is enough of a nucleus of this year's side to ensure the torch of 3rd XI cricket is passed, blazing into 2016.

Dr Charlie Standley



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up proceedings with a wizardly spell of wrist spin which included two stumpings from Dom Shaw. An opening partnership of 74 between Elliott and Archie Dixon-Smith (54) meant that the Uppingham total of 111 posed few problems for the batting unit.

The second regular season game, a Twenty20 against BMS 2nd XI, was again set up by the opening batsmen. Dixon-Smith (81*) and Elliott (80*) again showed their form with an excellent unbroken stand of 186. It would be too simple to say that Dixon-Smith provided the brawn to complement Elliott's brains, as the former is capable of stylish strokes along with the more brutal, but Elliott is an elegant batsman whose technique has been honed by many hours on the bowling machine such that would pass muster from even the most critical MCC connoisseur. 187 looked

Colts B

a good total at the turn but the BMS openers started strongly with an early run rate that put them on target. However, some tight bowling, clever bowling changes and excellent catching, notably from Foreman, stalled the charge of the visitors and the chase fizzled out. Wickets were shared amongst the bowlers although mention should go to Benedict Solomon with two wickets on his bowling debut and Jarrod Van der Westhuizen, bowling with a remodelled wrist spin action, who took a wicket that put him in his Captain's thoughts going forward.

The game against Stamford followed a similar theme, albeit in a thirty over match. A good opening partnership was then backed up by some huge hitting from Van der Westhuizen. Having already neared a century in the pre-season game he again attacked any deliveries not on the spot. The Stamford buildings and nearby cars took a battering as he amassed 88 before unselfishly falling short of his maiden century by going for yet another six. Once again the bowlers produced a great performance to secure a 71 run victory, Sam Holland-Bosworth and Foreman providing the spearhead.

The final game of the season, against Rugby 3rd XI, belonged to Van der Westhuizen. He came to the crease after Dixon-Smith's only failure to compile an excellent maiden century, finishing on 104 and ably accompanied

by Elliott. Foreman (47*) and Dominic Strong (28*) took advantage of a rare opportunity to bat, and Stowe finished with a daunting 246 off their 30 overs. The bowlers shared the wickets but they were supported by smart catching from the likes of Georges Tasker, Wood, Foreman and Elliott, with Rugby finishing on 170.

An unbeaten season, albeit a short one such as this, is a great achievement for a super group of boys who made life for their coaches very straightforward. They played with an excellent team spirit, impeccable behaviour on and off the field, and a willingness to listen and respond to advice. Nikko Elliott took his responsibilities as Captain seriously and was a proactive Captain on the field, but he was supported by great performances in all three disciplines. It is clear that the coaching the boys have received in their formative years, whether they have been at Stowe or elsewhere, has been very effective as the skill levels on display were high. The beaches of history are littered with the detritus of playing careers which showed early promise but foundered on the rocks, but as a number of the boys have already graduated to the Senior teams (Van der Westhuizen scoring a century on his 2nd XI debut), they appear to have bright futures.

Mr Chris Warde

The Colts B team really enjoyed their brief season, winning four of the five matches played. The positive attitude of the Stoics and the aggressive stroke play of some of the batsmen led to some captivating matches. A particular highlight was the win over Pangbourne College. After a slight fixture mix-up, the Colts B XI ended up playing Pangbourne's Senior 2nd XI in a twenty over contest with the odds firmly stacked against the far younger Stowe side. Pangbourne got off to a very quick start with both openers scoring quickly. However accurate bowling and some superb fielding meant Stowe restricted the opposition to 97 runs. After an initial collapse, the middle order batted very sensibly to reach the total with two overs to spare securing a memorable win. The positive attitude of the side also saw them record a fine 133 run victory against Radley College.

The team was very well led by Captain Piers Edinborough who contributed some important runs and set some



excellent fields. He was aided with some accurate seam bowling from Harry Cook and Angus Parsonson who both starred in the victory against Radley. Special mention should go to Adebambo Adejobi whose explosive batting, accurate bowling and athletic fielding often proved the difference between Stowe and the opposition.

Mr James Knott

Junior Colts A

PLAYED 12, WON 10, LOST 1, ABANDONED 1

The JCAs have enjoyed a highly successful season and have been a pleasure to coach throughout the term. Following a narrow early season loss away at Uppingham, the team bounced back strongly to win their next eight fixtures convincingly. The pattern of the season revolved around inserting the opposition and then being confident to chase down any total posted. The batting was dominated by Calum Renshaw and Tom Pearson, who once they have their eye in, really like to dominate the opposition bowlers. Being unafraid to hit over the top, these two pick their

bat up and give the ball a frightful thump and when in full flow they are a delight to watch with shots all around the wicket. When back from 1st XI duties, Adam King has looked a class act in the Regional competition and his innings versus Dr Challoner's in the County Cup Final was a top knock, as were his two match winning innings versus Bradfield and Abingdon in the Regional rounds. Other batsmen have contributed when needed with Albert Oswald proving a very good technician, Albert Johnson kept a cool head when seeing us home versus Northants U14s and Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan has delivered some rapid cameos in the middle order.

The bowling has been shared around much more. Will Garrett has a beautiful bowling action and his rhythmical spells have threatened the very best of batsmen. Arthur Margetson has been a very consistent performer with the new ball giving very little away. Josh Landau and Calum Renshaw have bowled well in spells but will need to work on their consistency as they develop as seam bowlers. Jim Jackman, when not keeping wicket, has bowled some tidy seamers, as has James Cecile-Pritchard too whilst the spin department has been the preserve of

Albert Johnson who bowls with nice flight and a tight off-stump line – a Captain’s dream. He’ll be doubly effective when he can complement his excellent bowling with correct field placings!

The achilles heel of the team is undoubtedly its fielding which lacks athleticism on occasions. Lots of work on catching and ground fielding has been undertaken in practice but all the players will need to work hard on this vital area of the game, especially if they have aspirations to play in the performance teams at Senior level.

In terms of results Oundle, Stamford, Northants U14s, Akeley Wood, The Royal Latin, Rugby, Dr Challoner’s Grammar School and Bedford have all been beaten, the majority of those matches in a comprehensive manner. Watching Pearson and Renshaw chase down 186 for the loss of 1 wicket in 27 overs versus Bedford on a beautiful sunny afternoon on the South Front was a real highlight, as was beating a talented DCGS in the County Cup Final on the North Front. The side then went on to beat two good county winning teams in Bradfield and Abingdon and can be very proud of their efforts in going deep into this National competition. At the time of writing the team is three matches away from a Lord’s final.

Mr Pickersgill and I have thoroughly enjoyed the company of the boys this season. They work hard in training and to a man have all undoubtedly improved as cricketers throughout the term. Special thanks to Mr Pickersgill for his unstinting service and expert coaching over many years with the JCAs and winning by 9 wickets versus Bedford in his last match was a suitable send-off for him.

Mr Gavin Moffat



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Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B side had a good season, winning three matches against Uppingham, Rugby and Dr Challoner’s Grammar School and the ones they lost were all close. The most impressive of the wins was the Uppingham match, which was a really close game. Stowe only made 119, but thanks to some really impressive bowling and fielding, they won by two runs. In the final over, Uppingham needed four runs with two wickets in hand. Off the first ball there was a runout and then Josh Riley clean bowled the number XI. Guy Woodhouse, Josh Riley and Henry Gauvain all had good seasons and I’m sure this group of committed players will continue to develop as they progress through the School.

Mr Shaun Aston



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Junior Colts C

This season has had its highs and its lows with the mighty JCCs winning three out of six matches. During our season many players have achieved some outstanding personal milestones. We've had fifties from Murray de Klee (56 not out), Oleg Solovyev (52), Ollie Walduck (58 not out) and finally Philip Birdwood (88) and some other high scoring batters with Harry Middleton (44) and Harry Weiss (42).

When it comes to bowling, the whole team has put in a lot of effort in taking wickets, but outstanding performances were recorded by Taju Atta who managed to grab himself 4 wickets (three of which came in the same over), Ollie Walduck (again!) and his amazing show against Uppingham taking 4 wickets and only giving away 9 runs in his 5 overs.

This season overall has been extremely positive because of



the attitude shown by the team and the performances by all the players. It has been great having Mr Macpherson and Mr Corthine as our two brilliant coaches and we look forward to next season.

Tom Garel-Jones (Fourth Form, Temple)

Yearlings A

As ever, Yearlings cricketers can be usefully compared to good red wine: the older it becomes, the better it gets. This season in many ways was no exception. Judging by the results of the all-conquering JCAs this season (the description of them last year was very similar to the above); I would expect them to perform better as they move up the School.

After a happy and useful three days in the springtime sunshine of La Manga, including a promising victory over the Spanish Academy, the boys returned to the greener climes of MK18 to continue their progress. Good wins over Oundle, Northants and The Royal Latin were tempered by a poor performance versus Stamford and an exciting defeat of Rugby which could have gone either way. More comfortable chasing rather than setting totals, we had won half our matches going in to Half term.

Losing two Saturdays in a row to rain meant a fairly truncated second half of term and we arrived at the annual Yearlings festival somewhat unprepared. Three chastening defeats in a row in 50 over cricket is quite tough, but the boys will have learned much about important aspects of the game (occupying the crease; not letting things go flat in the field; where to bowl etc),



experience that they will no doubt use to good effect in the future.

Mentions in dispatches for the fantastic opening bowling of Rufus Easdale, the classy batting of Ed Wentworth-Stanley and the all-round performances of Tom Worrall, who scored four half centuries over the course of the season and took useful wickets.

Mr Henry Swayne

Yearlings B

PLAYED 6, WON 1, LOST 5

The Yearling Bs had a bitter season – a bit of this, a bit of that and bit of the other – and a few cancelled matches, a few wins (ok, one) and a few (more) defeats is a harsh return for a bunch of cricketers with a genuine appreciation of, and affection for, the game. Talent and a will to improve ran all the way through the squad but cricket is an unforgiving mistress and though they trained (relatively) hard and played hard, the Yearlings Bs consistently came up against teams who were simply better and this made things tricky. Given time and experience, this squad will surely start to perform to their individual

and collective potential and the dramatic improvement in ground fielding offered a tantalising insight into what might happen in the future.

In the first match against Uppingham the fielding was, frankly, awful and the team found itself staring down a total of at least 40 runs bigger than it needed to be. Any team starting to bat with that sort of deficit is going to struggle; the pressure told and defeat followed. However, this was to have a galvanising effect on the team such that by the season's end there were runouts in every game and even if the catching remained a bit suspect, opposition batsmen quickly learned to respect the fielding or else be



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Yearlings C

The Yearlings C team's reaction to a defeat at the hands of Uppingham in the first match of the season was first class. Thanks to Ben Shamash's 64, his best knock of the season, the team reached a respectable 149 runs but this proved not to be enough against an impressive Uppingham run chase.

The team, built around its bowling and fielding strength, skittled Stamford out in the next game for 36 runs with Hugo Robinson and Louis Hink claiming three victims each. Man of the Match Hector Smiley took one wicket and scored 15 not out as he helped his team to a six wicket victory. The next match was also at home against The Oratory School's U14B team. A devastating display of bowling by Johnnie Law saw him claim 3 wickets for just 1 run and support from Cameron Chambers, Smiley and Shamash who each helped themselves to 2 wickets helped reduce The Oratory to a total of 39 runs. This time an unbeaten 11 from Billy Hawkings-Byass helped his team to an eight wicket victory.

In the thriller at Rugby, astute captaincy by Josh White saw him bring on Chambers who duly delivered taking three Rugby wickets for seven runs. Law contributed another couple of wickets to help bowl Rugby out for 61 runs. At 15 for 5 in reply cometh the man, cometh the hour in the form of Joss Walker whose class 27 not out helped the

dispatched by deft handwork and direct hits. The team also suffered from appalling luck, only winning the toss twice and so invariably finding they were chasing instead of setting a total. But that is cricket and it can be a cruel game. The squad will take the lessons learned this year into future seasons and they will grow and evolve as pupils and practitioners of their art. Invidious as it may be to highlight individual performances, Louis Redfern seized the mantle of captaincy and set about honing his craft; that and his handy medium quick bowling should see him playing at higher levels in the future (surely to be joined by other former colleagues). In fact, it is fair to expect that all members of this squad will continue not only to play but also to enjoy the game: each has the capacity to enhance a cricket match and I look forward to watching their progress over their school careers.

Mr Paul Floyd



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team squeeze home by three wickets. In what proved to be the final match of the season, Dr Challoner's posted a total of 123 runs. Smiley (29) and Hamish Wood (27) gave their team a solid platform and Thomas White obliged with a match winning innings of 36 not out.

The team was superbly led this season by Josh White and he generated a great team spirit and togetherness amongst the players. The Player of the Season was awarded to Thomas White.

Mr Isaac Michael



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Yearlings D

Although the Yearlings D team was only able to play two matches out of seven because of bad weather and cancellations, the boys had an excellent season. The U14D team played a great match against Uppingham. First batter James Hungin was outstanding, staying in for 12 overs and scoring 18 runs. Johnnie Law followed in the scoring with eight total runs. In bowling, Law hit two wickets and had a wicket maiden over. Joshua White also hit two wickets and bowled a fantastic game. In the match against Wellington, the boys lost by nine wickets. The match saw outstanding performances by Alex Jones in both wicket keeping and batting and Isaac David in batting. Overall a fun season was had by all. Good luck to the boys in their future cricket endeavours.

Miss Kaitlan Biondi

Lacrosse

1st XII

It was a challenging but successful season for the 1st XII. The team was very young, and although we did not have the ideal season, we will hit the ground running in 2015. The girls opened up the season with a strong 15-7 win over Putney High and then kept the momentum up with big wins over Radley, St Helen and St Katharine, Malvern St James, St George's, Cambridge University and draws against tough Berkhamsted and Haberdashers' Aske's sides. The girls also had excellent matches against the Birmingham University 1st team and a hard fought battle in their last match of the season, losing to Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in the last minute of the game 9-8.

Our attack was led by India Chadwick, Philippa Stacey, Olivia Thomas, Octavia Cavill and Camilla Harvey-Scholes. For such a young team, the girls worked superbly together to put out a tough attack on the field. In the Lent term, we continued our momentum and the 1st XII had a solid weekend at the Rathbones English Lacrosse National Championships. On Friday the girls started out slow and although played close games, ended up only recording two wins on the day. After an evening pep talk in the hotel, the girls, now placed in Division Two, came out fighting on the Saturday and won the Division Two National Championship. The girls played excellent games against Charterhouse, Heathfield, Rendcomb and runners-up Harrogate Ladies. They only conceded four goals in the entire day.

Izzy Oliver was a force in the net this term and was supported by a strong defence anchored by Anna Fox, Aleksia Zivanovic, Imogen White and Asthina Badcock.



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Olivia Thomas, Isobel Oliver, Polly Stuart-Mills, Millie Bromley-Davenport, India Chadwick, Philippa Stacey, Aleksia Zivanovic, Anna Fox, Annabel Simpson, Octavia Cavill and Camilla Harvey-Scholes were selected for the U19 county team.

The U19 Bucks county team went on to win the South East Counties Tournament for the first time. Olivia Thomas and Aleksia Zivanovic were chosen to Captain their teams. Aleksia Zivanovic, Izzy Oliver, India Chadwick, Philippa Stacey, Annabel Simpson and Octavia Cavill were chosen to represent the South East in the Regional Tournament. In addition to this, India Chadwick and Camilla Harvey-Scholes were selected to play with England and Wales, respectively, in the upcoming World Cup festival in Scotland. Philippa Stacey and Olivia Thomas were also pulled up to play for the England National teams at their respective age levels. We are very much looking forward to hitting the field in September and picking up where we left off.

Miss Kaitlan Biondi

2nd XII

The Senior 2nd XII began the season quite wobbly; however, that initial impression did not carry on through the season, and they quickly turned around their game and their chemistry became apparent. The most memorable and noteworthy moment of the season was the National Schools' Tournament, where we experienced some adversity, and we had a moment of doubt in the potential outcome. Although this doubt was present, they came out strong in the first match, executing perfectly to gain the win against St Paul's. This carried on throughout the tournament, winning several matches, one of which was against Moreton Hall, who we had previously lost to earlier in the season. All of the skills we had been working on were perfectly executed, placing us seventh overall in the country.

Tessa Horan led the squad in goals this year, with 17 netted

goals, followed closely by Minna Trotter (15) and Lottie Hodson (14). However we had an impressive 14 players net goals this year, and this contributed to our great success. Tessa was not only leading the team in goals, but also was impressively tied with Tash Edwards for won draw controls. This season Annabel Rushton unintentionally stepped down from a goal scorer and became the team's imperative assister, specifically with Lottie Hodson, Minna Trotter and Georgie Skinner; they worked flawlessly in the 11m always finding each other. Amelia Bowder was a keynote in the midfield transition: she moved fiercely and tactically down the pitch, creating several attacking movements.

Moving on to the defensive end, Clarissa Llanaj had a phenomenal year in goal. She improved every game and really fine-tuned her skills, leading her to make 14 saves in the Bedford Girls' match, her highest amount of saves in



one match. Dot Holt was the team's 'wall', holding the defensive unit together and rarely allowing anyone past her. She was accompanied by Holly Campbell and Lauren Carley, who advanced their skills exponentially this year. The season had the perfect finish with Tessa Horan netting a goal in the final seconds of the match against Bedford Girls to gain the victory.

Overall, coaching these girls over the past two years has been an absolute pleasure and they have grown so much as players and especially as young women. I am going to miss them dearly next year and wish them all the best in their remaining time at Stowe and as they move on to the next chapter in life.

Miss Shelby Davis

3rd XII

The 3rd XII had a great lacrosse season, remaining undefeated after playing three matches against Rendcomb College, Tudor Hall, and Haberdashers' Aske's. The 3rds played Rendcomb College's 2nd team for their first match and came away with an impressive 14-1 win. They then faced Tudor Hall's 2nd team for their only home match of the year. They beat Tudor Hall 7-2 and displayed excellent teamwork in the process. For our last match, we travelled into North London to face Haberdashers' Aske's, where the girls dominated the competition and won 11-1! Man of the Match honours for the three games went to Flossie Fox, Izzy Boorman and Fenella Barrons respectively. Despite having limited number of matches, the girls worked hard and had a lot of fun at every training session this season.

Miss Kasey Howard



Combe was a force to be reckoned with in the attacking end, leading the team in goals, with nine netted for the season. Vicky Beglin (6), Georgia Flawn-Thomas (5) and Talulla Douglas Miller (4) all followed closely behind, netting the most goals for the team. Eliza Podesta and Vicky Beglin led the team in draw controls this year, hovering them out of the air off the draw circle and transitioning them into attacking play.

Aside from the attacking end, the defence saw a lot of action this term and managed to fight off some tough competition. Nonhlanhla Maclare had her first experience in goal this year and has really developed into a strong goalkeeper, making numerous saves per match. Thea Chisnall was a key factor in holding back the attackers and led the team in caused turn overs for the season. Overall, these girls have developed an immense amount over the past two years and I am so glad I have been able to see them through another successful year of lacrosse. A competitive match and victory over Bedford Girls was a great way to end the season. I wish them the best of luck as they continue their lacrosse careers and at the rest of their time at Stowe.

Miss Shelby Davis

U15A

The U15A team had another phenomenal year. They made it to the quarter-final round and finished 13th in the country overall at the Nationals Schools' Tournament, which was the highlight of the season. At the tournament the girls stepped up and effectively executed the skills they had been learning all year. Throughout the year Martha

U15B

Following on from a very strong year as U14Bs, the U15Bs have continued to play extremely well. Towards the end of the season, they were producing some really fluid transitions between the defence and attack making them all look like very professional lacrosse players, which is great to see considering they are still relatively new to the sport. The girls have really come together as a team and have got stuck in to all training sessions and matches and have been a pleasure to coach. The highlight of the season was their win against Berkhamsted where all the girls delivered their best team performance. After some impressive saves from Karimat Adebayo-Karim, the defence worked hard to protect and carry the ball down to the attacking end to finding a safe pass to Imogen Fitzjohn who is our top goal scorer of the season, to put



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it in the back of the net. I have really enjoyed coaching the U15B this season and look forward to seeing them progress even more next season in the Senior teams.

Miss Catrin Evans

U14A

The U14A team had a fun-filled season of lacrosse this Lent term. Although the majority of the team was brand new to the sport, they worked hard to develop their skills and confidence. The girls started their season with matches against Moreton Hall, St Paul's, and St Albans; all of which are very talented and experienced teams. Unfortunately, the girls lost their first three matches, but they managed to close the scoring margin in each consecutive game. Leading up to the Nationals we focused on learning from our mistakes and improving all aspects of our game. Once at the Nationals, everything started to click, and the girls captured their first wins! They beat both Westonbirt and King's School Canterbury 2-0, and finished fourth in their bracket. The team hosted Bedford Girls' School for their last match of the season in front of a big crowd of friends and family on the South Front. Over the course of the term, Zoë Pollock, Milly Cranmer, Lily Marriott, Martha Scott-



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Knight and Imy Oliver all earned 'Man of the Match' honours for displaying excellent ability and leadership. Despite winning only a handful of their matches, the U14A team had a very successful season with much to be proud of.

Miss Kasey Howard



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U14B

The U14B had a truly amazing season, only losing one match in 2015. The girls had outstanding wins against Tudor Hall, Rendcomb College, Uppingham, Thornton and Swanbourne. The attack was led this year by Gahsem Dorji (8), Coco Brooks (6) and Charlotte Platz (5). Other strong contributions came from Issy Garrett, Chloe Hechle, Sienna Flanagan, Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley and Ugochi Ekpecham. The girls worked extremely hard, and although they were very new to the game, became a force to reckon with on the field. Their teamwork and passing challenged the A team and each girl should be very proud of how hard they worked this season. We are looking forward to getting back on the lacrosse field next season with this group!

Miss Kaitlan Biondi

U14C

The U14C team had a very successful season. Although the girls did not play many matches, they worked extremely hard and had great results. The girls played matches against tough Moreton Hall sides, drew 5-5 against a strong St Albans team and saw excellent wins against Swanbourne and Thornton. Excellent performances this season were seen by Izzy Ward, Clara Pepera and Sophie Grant, while Jess Potts was a wall in goal. The girls should be very proud of all they have accomplished this season.

Miss Catrin Evans



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Netball

Miss Lauren Ellis

This year it has been a delight to be able to offer three Senior netball teams for a brimming fixture list against Oundle, Bloxham, St Edward's, Kimbolton and Princethorpe. We were also fortunate to once again be invited to three major tournaments by Bedford Modern School, Bradfield College and St Helen and St Katharine. I wish all our leavers well and hope they continue to enjoy playing netball as they have considerable potential.



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1st VII

The 1st VII are to be congratulated for having a fantastic season. We have played nine matches of high level netball coming away with some fruitful fixtures which saw over 200 goals scored by Stowe.

After a thrilling final against Bloxham at the St Helen and St Katharine's tournament, we came away victorious after extra time 11-10. The final was an extremely tight and exciting affair! Stowe was determined to win after being beaten by three goals by Bloxham weeks before. It was goal for goal with superb movement and composure from the whole team. Louisa Highwood was also named by the organisers as Player of the Tournament after playing superbly throughout. A particular mention must go to Louisa Highwood for captaining the team so brilliantly all season and to our other leavers; Bea Saunders Watson, Claudia Wace, Megan McGurk and Molly Robinson, who have been great ambassadors for netball during their time at Stowe.

2nd VII

The 2nd VII have shown fantastic progress this season gaining their first win of the season against Bloxham (47-35). This sparked a winning run for the 2nds going on to also win the next three matches. 224 goals were scored over the course of the season over 12 matches. They ended the season with an exciting win against Bedford Modern School 14-11. A special thank you goes to Mrs Sarah Sutton who has constantly enthused and guided the girls to develop.



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3rd VII

The 3rd VII have had an exhilarating season playing 12 matches and coming away with seven wins, one draw and four defeats making them the most successful team this year. They came away with wins against Wellingborough, Akeley Wood, Mill Hill, St Edward's and Bedford Modern School which is testament to their dedication, teamwork and concentration during training. Special mention must go to Flora Marriott for captaining the side so well and being awarded Player of the Match on many occasions.



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Juniors

This year, for the first time, we were given the opportunity to enter both the U14 County Tournament once again as well as the U16 County Tournament for the very first time. After two exciting days of netball both teams narrowly missed out on qualifying for the next stage of the competition finishing fourth overall. The U14s just missed out on third on goal difference. We look forward to building on this next year.

During their Tuesday and Thursday netball activity, nine teams across the U14s and U15s had an opportunity to play in block fixtures against various local schools. All teams showed brilliant improvement and achieved wins against Akeley Wood, Northampton High School, Tudor Hall and Wellingborough School. Many of the U15s have also represented the School at Senior level which is a testament to their skill, enthusiasm and attitude to training. I look forward to continuing the progress the Juniors have made this season.

It has been a pleasure to coach all the Junior girls this year alongside Mrs Sarah Sutton, Miss Alice Brodie and Mrs Louise Carter. We wish Miss Brodie well as she leaves for pastures new.



Inter-House Results

The winners of the 2015 Inter-House netball competition were:

- Seniors – Nugent
- Intermediates – Nugent
- Juniors – Nugent



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Football

1st XI

Unfortunately, as we know full well, in football you are not always rewarded for possession and stylish football in terms of results. In the Mercian League the team was punished for making slow starts and was not clinical enough in front of goal to turn their possession and attractive football into goals. The only points came from a fine 3-1 win against Uppingham. Early pressure saw Stowe take the lead through a David Amram penalty following a foul on Jamie Maclure in the box. Amram went on to complete his hat-trick against a capable Uppingham side.

The 1st XI secured three further victories in the season. Following a disappointing result against Oundle, the team bounced back to beat Kingham Hill 4-2; Charles Johnson, Maclure (2) and Ugonna Anyamele the scorers. The School secured a very rare victory against the Old Stoics with an

impressive 9-0 scoreline. Maclure helped himself to four goals, Anyamele came off the bench to bag a hat-trick and Freddie Pope and Amram added a goal each. The best move of the game involved Alvaro de la Vega, Pope, Anyamele and Oscar Pegg with Maclure finishing off in style with a van Persie-esque loping header. The team secured their third successive home win against The Royal Latin in a scrappy match.

Football colours were awarded to James Scott, Noah Russell, David Amram, Tobi Balogun and Charles Johnson.

With the exciting talent coming through from the unbeaten U16 side, next season should be a little more fruitful for the 1st XI.

Mr Shaun Aston

2nd XI

With the U16A team running this year, the Stowe 2nd XI side was not as strong as it has been in recent years and had a disappointing season as a result, with two draws and four losses. This is not to say that the team did not play well but a lack of chemistry, experience throughout the team, and a lack of natural strikers meant finding crucial goals was difficult. Until a Valencia tour injury, Ali Martin kept the side in many games through his superb shot stopping ability in goal and he should challenge Harry Norris for the 1st XI spot next year. At the back Keith Harrington and Adam Ezomo provided some consistency and cover defending and Monty Curran provided some creativity and goals in the midfield but many times the XI were chasing the game after conceding goals early on. Alfie Stanford started the season strongly with a couple of goals through his pace which always created a threat and Will Thompson offered a more traditional centre forward role in between Rugby

7s Tournaments and managed three goals in three games. George Gill and Will Lewis also provided a bit of extra quality on the flanks in the latter part of the season.

There were positives throughout the season with two draws coming against the stronger opposition of Oakham and King's Ely away from home. Both games played out as 2-2 draws with Stowe having the upper hand for the majority of the game. The themes for the season seemed to be Stowe enjoying the majority of possession in games but without prevail and a lack of end product of getting the ball in the goal. There were some less good

performances in games like the 6-2 loss to Oundle and the 1-0 defeat to The Royal Latin School. These were definitely low points in the season and the ever-changing team sheet played a role along with some shaky inexperienced defence. However, the boys never gave up and always played the game in the right spirit. Hopefully the input of the strong U16A team members will strengthen the Senior squad's strength and depth next year.

Mr Peter Deakin



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3rd XI

Managing and coaching the 3rd XI team has helped to make my first year at Stowe memorable. The boys would agree with me that the team spirit and camaraderie among the players were second to none. I must thank the MK Dons' coaches Ash and Baz who were always available to offer support with the training sessions and allowed the 3rd XI to get experience from the friendly games they organised. Many of our team members were transferred on loan to the 2nd XI because of how well they developed and played in the 3rd XI team. This was a credit to our success, albeit a 'player drain' at times.

The 3rd XI played their first match of the year against a well-drilled Oundle team who had already played five competitive games and had been training as a team twice per week. This did not deter the fired up Stowe team. The team soon settled and managed to start scoring back to back goals with the odd goals scored by the other team to end the high scoring game. Stowe scored five goals but still lost the game to Oundle and learned from this - to score earlier in future matches. The opposition's coach said they would dread playing us after our third competitive game given the potential he saw.

It was a fitting headline: Stowe Wins against Uppingham 3 to 1, when we played them in a fantastically balanced game that required our Stoics to maintain controlled teamwork and perseverance to break through the opponents' defence and to fend off their attacks. Most of our attacks were down both wings. Oscar Marment gave his all. Both he and Miles Michael ensured that none of the attack on Stowe's goal came to fruition. Generally, Anton Polteviskiy was perfectly placed to receive and score from a perfectly delivered cross by Jaimie Croom-

Johnson. Edward Elliott realised that kicks taken by the opponent's goalkeeper had a predictable range and exploited it by heading the ball to Foluso Lawal who displayed the most impressive first touches throughout the game. The communication in the central midfield was effective and allowed both Freddie Phillips and Nick Bell many goal scoring opportunities.

Their final match of the term was against King's Ely. The side was not at its full strength or numbers and we must thank the four U16 players who were able to step in at short notice to ensure that we could field a full team. Daniel Kilmister really held his own and made a 'Gordon Banks' save that stunned players from both teams and all spectators. Avijit Nair, Thomas Barker, Harry Cook and Robert Turness worked the defence. Harry's height was useful to win the headers; Thomas made the power clearances while Robert used his pace to link up with Anton Polteviskiy to cause the opposition a lot of trouble down the right wing. Stowe 3rd XI had most of the possession throughout the game which is not reflected in the score. The Stoics scored three goals and rattled the bar a few times, yet we lost the game.

I am looking forward to working with the team next year and best wishes to the members of the team who have earned themselves a place on the 2nd XI team. The U16 players who stepped up to help should consider making themselves available for our matches in future. All the Captains and I would like to thank the 3rd XI for their valiant effort. We also thank the entire team for approaching the games with purposeful and effective teamwork.

Mr Wayne Whittaker



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U16

Football has been a sport which is slowly becoming more prestigious at Stowe and this year fielded a new team – the U16 XI comprising Fifth Form and any promising Fourth Form talent.

With this being said, it was unknown territory for the team as they were unaware of the quality of the opposition. The team's first match was Wellingborough 3rd XI which promised to be a tough physical test. Those nerves were quickly put to bed with the boys putting into practice their training and playing as a team, working hard to the final whistle and winning 4-1. The next fixture against Oundle would be much tougher and on what was an extremely windy day, Stowe were dominant throughout the match and Kurt Leimer grabbed the winner for the team in the last five minutes to record a 3-2 victory. On a high from the previous game, Stowe encountered Oakham as their next challenge and blew them away with an 8-2 victory. The attack were completely unplayable and the opposition were chasing shadows all afternoon. The last of the home games came against Uppingham and Stowe were now looking to win this and be unbeaten at home. The boys did not disappoint crushing the opposition 6-1 in an extremely one sided game of football. The last game of the season came away at King's Ely. With a two hour coach journey the question now on everybody's lips – can they do it away from home? After conceding the first goal, the result was never in doubt and the team completed a famous victory away from home with a comfortable 1-7 win. Due to cancellations from two local teams, the U16s debut season finished with played five, won five. The prestigious achievement of an unbeaten season is something the squad must be extremely happy about and cherish as they progress through the School.

"As Captain, I couldn't be more proud to represent the U16 football team also known as the 'Invincibles'. It was a great season for us as we went from strength to strength whilst blowing away every team we faced. Under the brilliant guidance from our fantastic coach Mr McGhee, players within the squad have been able to grow and develop as better footballers," said Adebambo Adejobi.

In goal this season, Archie Forsyth has been immense, only conceding eight goals in five matches. It is always a confidence boost to have a good keeper behind you and he has made a number of brilliant saves this season. The defence made up of Abdul Adebayo-Karim, Fabian Bevan, James Creedy Smith and Rob Turness were solid at the back and enabled the midfield and attack to express themselves freely. Fabian should be commended for defender of the season and James for most improved player of the season. A brilliant effort from the boys who should be proud of their efforts. Dan Kilmister and Miles Bell also performed extremely well when called upon and did not look out of place in the team. Vice-Captain George Warren was a reliable central

midfielder and often picked out pin-point accurate passes which set up goal scoring opportunities. He will forever be remembered for THAT free kick attempt though – his best chance at getting a goal all season! He partnered Captain, Adebambo Adejobi who was the spine of the team and was pivotal to the team's success this year. Josh Goodall made a return from injury halfway through the term and was available for half the games. As if the team could not get any better, his welcomed strength and height gave a new dimension to the side. My wingers of Pepe Leyte and Arthur Vickers were absolutely outstanding and their pace was bewildering to watch. Our attacks often started with them and more often than not, finished with a goal. Pepe was joint midfielder of the year with Ade but should also be commended for getting three 'Man of the Match' performances from me – a fantastic season!

Daniel Jolker was the only Fourth Former in my squad of players to get a starting place in the team each week and what a term it was for him. Several assists and three goals topped off wonderful performances each week playing in the number ten role. For this reason, Daniel was my Player of the Season for being the glue that held the team together. Kurt Leimer has been a revelation this year as the lone striker working tirelessly each match. Defence starts from the striker and he did not let his team down, chasing down the opposition and pressurising them into mistakes. His skill and powerful shot led to Kurt scoring eleven goals this season. Finally, Mpho Manalo was a brilliant striking option to bring on but was also versatile enough to play on the wing or just behind the striker.

It has been a pleasure to watch each individual develop as better footballers and actually become more mature this season. They have responded to the different training sessions and were rewarded for this with their unbeaten season. Played 5, won 5, scored 28. As this is my last sporting team at Stowe before I move onto a new challenge, I could not have been more proud to coach these boys. I wish them all the best for next year, when I imagine most will be putting on a 1st XI shirt.

Mr Chris McGhee



POLO

This year's polo has seen fresh changes throughout both the teams themselves and also the Master in Charge role. Jamie Grayson has proved an excellent Captain of polo, taking charge to organise his team mates and inspire the new polo players arriving to Stowe in their first year.

After a successful winter arena season, where the B team won their division in the Schools' National Championships, the summer grass season has proved to be packed with matches. The A team was incredibly privileged to be invited to play in the Copenhagen Cup at the Guards Polo Club, Cheltenham Polo Day, and matches against Harrow and Eton, to name but a few. Most excitingly the A team thrashed the Officers at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst to win 6-2. Congratulations to Florence

Berner who was named Most Valuable Player at both the Copenhagen Cup and the Girls' National Championship where Stowe came second.

The B team has also had a fantastic season: building on their success at the Nationals, they went on to beat the undefeated Harrow team 7-2. They have faced incredibly tough matches against Wellington and Radley. In the Schools' Summer National Championships the A team came third and the B team came second narrowly losing their division by one goal to Rugby School. This year's polo certainly places us in a strong position for next year when we intend to win everything!

Mrs Fiona Corthine



Boys' Tennis



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1st VI PLAYED 6, WON 1, DREW 1, LOST 4

This year's 1st VI featured a wide cast of characters including, over the course of the season, Matthew Clark, John Hawkins, Edward Hopkinson, Freddie Pope, James Macdonald-Buchanan, James Greenley, Harrison Tucker, Egor Turjev, Tom Buxton, Thomas Walters, Ben Alderson, Freddie Woods and Henry Eleyin-Bingham. With so much chopping and changing it proved difficult to develop successful pairings and the consistency of play that comes through regular practice and match play, but there was abundant enthusiasm through the season despite the patchy results. Huge thanks go to Mr Paul Robertson for his expert coaching throughout the season.

Mr Alex de Trafford

2nd VI

PLAYED 2, LOST 2

The 2nd VI featured many of those who also played for the 1st VI, but also included Henry Sylvester, Jamie Hardinge and Johannes Henkel at certain points in the season. Had matches been won or lost on enthusiasm and good-humour alone, Henry and Jamie would have swept all before them. Nevertheless, and in spite of the lack of success, the boys generally enjoyed their tennis in practice as well as in matches and all were able to improve aspects of their game.

Mr Alex de Trafford

Colts A & B

The looming GCSE exams meant that the Fifth Form pupils experienced a shortened tennis season, with four Inter-School matches on the fixture list. However, we trained as a squad three times a week and prepared for these matches with our usual intensity. My focus as a coach was to develop the particular skills needed to play effective doubles tennis on astroturf, where the ball does not bounce high at all and there is usually a healthy wind blowing! Net play should be the dominant factor, so drills were set up to develop our understanding of positioning and execution of volleys. The value of depth in ground strokes and positioning rather than just pace of the serve were explained. An excellent first outing against Oakham gave the team a great confidence boost, with Gilles Griffiths, Gabriel Chauveau, Fabian Bevan, Ned Hiley, Ed Good and Ben Skinner showing consistency and concentration to win 8-1. The second match against Uppingham was altogether different and to be honest, the opposition put into play the doubles tactics we were learning to better effect and we were beaten 2-7. The match against Abingdon was cancelled, so our final outing was against St Edward's. The experience of playing together for several weeks was now paying off and the team finished with a well deserved and comfortable win 7-2, with Ned Hiley and Fabian Bevan



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winning all of their matches on the afternoon.

The enthusiastic and positive B team of Digory Slee, Oscar Holmes, Anton Kondrashov, Cami Hay, Hamish Graham-Campbell and Rory Hunnable contributed much to the good-natured atmosphere of the squad in afternoon training sessions. They played with varying levels of success, beating Oakham, but losing to Uppingham. Their efforts and attitude was very pleasing throughout.

Mr Craig Sutton

Junior Colts A & B

What a pleasure it's been to coach the boys' Junior Colts teams this term. These gentlemen have proven themselves model sportsmen: competitive, hard-working, yet supportive of one another and always mindful of their love for the game. Although on a few occasions the boys were unlucky, losing matches narrowly by a set, they remained resilient throughout the season and in particular started and ended the year on fantastic victories.

This year's A squad featured Henry Eleyin-Bingham and Freddie Woods as our first pair, Sam Jokhoo and Nicholas Montgomery as seconds, and Arthur Marriott and Henry Frisby our thirds. Henry and Freddie led the team well, winning nearly every set played this season. Sam and Nicholas won a number of decisive matches and proved a successful team over the course of the term. Arthur and Henry were exemplary team mates, supporting one another on every occasion. From the look of these pairs, the future of Stowe's Senior team is bright.

Our B squad featured Konstantin Abramov, Milan Canak, Tom Purdon, Matthew Gardner Martin, Will Trumper,



John Balcon Perez and Harry Pullin, playing at a variety of levels, with some being called to the A squad when needed. They ended the season on a stellar note, handing Bedford a decisive victory 8-1. They too were a cheerful and hard-working squad whose contributions to the team were vital. These gentlemen should be proud of the season they registered, and I wish them all the best success next year.

Mr Michael Chilazi

Yearlings A & B

Our summer season has not been our best to date and as a result, many of our fixtures did not go our way. However, towards the end of the term, both of our teams' game had improved steadily and we were able to arrive at some pleasing wins against our opponents.

It is difficult to field teams when the boys have only been at School for a short time and when they have not played together before, but before too long we were able to identify some strong servers and some consistent match-players in the squad. Most notably, our pairing of Tom Percy and Harry Hewlett proved too powerful for the majority of our opponents.

However, all of the boys needed encouragement to communicate on the court, as on many occasions a lack of communication resulted in much of the court being left wide open and vulnerable to attack.

After a number of weeks, the boys developed and there was much greater coverage of the court and less of a tendency to defend from the baseline. I am sure that with further practice and match play next year, these boys will build upon this and prove to be a convincing force when it comes to fixtures.

There have been a few shifts in the pairings over the weeks but as a general rule our A team players have been Tom



Percy, Harry Hewlett, Max Satchell, Mark Kanjana, Paolo Alvigini and Ed Rød-Larsen. Our B team players have been Tom Chamberlain, Ben Jorgensen, David Kann, Alex Bernard-Bell, Jassen El-Feleki, Charlie Horton, Latimer King and William Osei-Poku.

All of the boys have given their best this term and they should be proud of the improvement that they have shown and the sportsmanlike way in which they have conducted themselves at each practice and fixture, regardless of the outcome.

Mr Simon Dobson

Girls' Tennis



1st & 2nd VI

This has been a good year for the Senior top twelve players. Back in the Michaelmas term we entered the National Senior School Knockout Tournament and, under the guidance of this year's Captain Tilly Upton, came second in our group. This unfortunately did not see us through to the knockout stages in the Lent term.

A very close match at the beginning of the Summer term against Oakham, saw the 1st VI just losing out 5 sets to 4 while the 2nd VI turned the tables winning their match 5 sets to 4. As the season progressed neither team was ever outclassed by their opponents and the results were always very close. Two of our Fifth Formers were regular players in the 1st team and this puts us in a stronger position for next year, having had a season at 1st team level already. As the Summer term progressed all the girls were becoming more and more confident in a match situation and played some very aggressive tennis. Next year's Captaincy has been awarded to Izzy Oliver.

Mr John Skinner

3rd & 4th VI

The 3rd VI girls started the season with a great win against Oakham, winning 5-1. The team's 1st pair of Izzy Jessel and Celia Marment was very impressive, winning the sets convincingly. However, the following games against Uppingham and St Edward's were defeats and the girls struggled against the stronger opposition.

The 4th VI drew their first match against Oakham 3-3, with Annabel Rushton and Flora Marriott impressing hugely with their two set victory. However the only other game against St Edward's ended in a loss, partly due to the fact that we arrived with a slightly weakened team. A huge thank you to those players – you know who you are – who helped me out that day!

The players for both teams were made up mainly of Upper Sixth and Fifth Form, with both matches and practices being huge fun. The girls who will be playing next year have gained good experience through their matches and I am hopeful for greater success in the future. The Upper Sixth bid a fond farewell on the courts at an informal match against Tudor Hall, followed by pizzas and chocolate brownies! I have thoroughly enjoyed the company of Bea Saunders Watson, Lucy Oswald, Tilda Bevan and Lotti Hodson, and I will miss their unbridled enthusiasm next summer.

Mr Brian Hart



U15 A & B

The U15s have grown in strength as the Summer term has progressed. Early matches against Oakham and Uppingham saw us lacking in consistency and we were defeated because of too many unforced errors. Losing Kira Evans to swimming championships in Africa had a knock-on effect throughout the squads and it wasn't until the St Edward's game that we found our feet! Of the 18 sets played, our girls won 15 and lost three, but it was the manner in which they produced their wins that mattered. Patient rallying, waiting for the right moment to go to the net and then putting the point away with careful precision proved that all of the work done in training was worthwhile. Matches against Tudor Hall and Bloxham in the second half of the term gave us convincing victories and we finished the season in a strong position. The Senior teams should be



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U14A

The U14As have enjoyed the tennis season, working hard in training and playing competitively in our weekly fixtures. The main focus of the term has been ‘volleying’ encouraging them to be more confident as a pair to dominate at the net. To this end, we have seen steady progress bringing more success. We have played Oakham, Uppingham, Rugby, St Edward’s and have more recently defeated Bloxham and Tudor Hall. Georgie Leefe is to be congratulated on winning the Road to Wimbledon Tournament at School, giving her the opportunity to move on to the next round where she won her first match. They are a cohesive group with lots of enthusiasm making them a pleasure to coach.

strengthened next year with girls across the U15 age group fighting for slots in teams and the future of Stowe tennis looks strong.

Special mentions go to Kira Evans and Vicky Beglin in the A team who went through the entire season without losing a set, Clara Haggie and Charlotte Hopkinson in the Bs who lost only one set and Lottie Hodson for the improvement she made over the course of the season; she has turned her game around and become the strong powerful consistent player that we all thought was possible.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U14B

Many of the team tennis players have made a valued contribution to the U14B team this term. A particular mention should go to Milly Cranmer and Martha Scott Knight who have been the most successful, established U14 pair of the season, notably winning all three of their sets against Rugby, St Edward’s, Bloxham and Tudor Hall. Una Barclay and Annie Roberts also made a strong partnership using their ability as ‘game players’, to keep the ball in court to win matches. Helena Vince, Eliza Zakon, Samai Lamberti, Amber Frost and Zoë Pollock represented the 3rd pair on a number of occasions and adapted well to enjoy success. With many other activities on offer this term, including swimming, athletics, riding and Congreve, it is great to have this flexibility.

U14C

The U14C team, predominantly from Stanhope, has been a pleasure to see develop this term, making considerable progress. They work well together, being supportive and encouraging and showing a willingness to learn. They have become more consistent with their serves whilst embracing the challenge of coming into the net to try to win points from a volley. They enjoyed many fixtures including a close match against Oakham losing only 4-5; they defeated St Edward’s 7-2 and had the opportunity to play a friendly match against Beachborough winning 7-3. I look forward to seeing them develop through the School as they have more time to practise.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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Rounders

After our unbeaten season last year we doubled the amount of teams we had and still continued this success this season. I couldn't be happier as their coach. The U15A team scored a total of 25.5 rounders in two matches against Thornton College and Akeley Wood School. Thank you Maya Tearle for all your hard work and leading the team to victory. The U15Bs worked really well as a team, making quick important decisions which narrowly won them their only match of the season. The U14As were superb and scored a total of 42.5 rounders in three matches. The girls seem to be very nervous at the start of their games but soon got in to the swing of things, which is something we can look to improve on for next season. Thank you to Amber Frost for keeping spirits high within the team and leading the team to victory. The U14B team had a very convincing 17.5-11 win for their only match of the season with some outstanding batting and communication between fielders. Well done girls!

Miss Catrin Evans



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Fives

It has been another good year at Stowe for Eton Fives. A total of 15 fixtures were set over the three terms with the majority being played in the Lent term. The results were mixed, but every match was played in good spirits and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who took part.

There has been an increase of interest from the girls, so we were able to arrange our first ever girls' fixture against Berkhamsted. The girls also attended a Fives Festival at Berkhamsted as well as entering the Schools' National Open Event at Eton where one pair won the plate competition. The boys also entered the U16 event at the Nationals and all played in plenty of matches during the day.

It was pleasing to see that over 100 Stoics took to the



courts over the year and this resulted in some highly entertaining Inter-House matches on Sunday evenings during the Michaelmas and Lent terms. In the Senior competition

Lyttelton won the girls' event and Grenville won the boys' event. In the Junior competition Nugent took the girls' trophy and the boys' was taken by Chatham.

We are lucky enough to have the experience of a professional coach who comes in once a week to help motivate and train our players.

For those who have not visited the Fives courts in the last 12 months, there have been some major improvements made to the area: the Religious Studies classrooms were demolished in the summer of 2014, and this has resulted in a new courtyard which brings a new calm to the area.

Mr John Skinner

Squash

Any transition brings with it challenges and with the departure of many established players and, perhaps more worryingly, with new and untested management, the 2014-15 squash season had more than enough challenges to suggest that any expectations should be managed. That, however, overlooks a core of enthusiastic and skilful players, and no less important, an astute and determined coach in Mr Fraser Liversage. This combination was to prove dramatically effective and with new talent emerging from the lower years, a healthy pool of committed players quickly materialised and returned a memorable season. With Captain James Greenley leading by example, the 1st V completed the season with only a single defeat to its name and the 2nd V with its dignity entirely intact. (That single defeat was to an exceptional Bedford team that were generous enough to thank us for a proper workout on their way to winning the National Finals.) If anything, the record – with victories over Oundle (home and away), St Edward's, Berkhamsted (who chickened out of the return fixture), Abingdon (home and away), Bromsgrove (home and away) and Uppingham – sells this exceptional squad short and all those who swung a racquet in anger or in practice can look back on this season with a huge degree of satisfaction.

Some of these victories were harder won than others but in every instance both teams tore into their fixtures with no quarter given. Over the season no fewer than fifteen players represented the School and each one could be relied upon to perform to capacity on court. Critical to the season's success were the efforts of three players who leave the School this year and their efforts are worth recounting. Ed Hopkinson, Caspar Whitehead and James Greenley have been stalwarts of the squash team for many years; each is a very different player and all are great to watch. These three dominated the top places on a vibrant squash ladder, the places alternating regularly over the year and giving rise to a good-natured competitive spirit which fuelled the team's success. James' languid grace belies a fiercely determined core and his ability to adapt his game and tactics makes him very hard to beat. Add to that a smooth swing at the end of lolling stride that veritably gobbles up the court and you can begin to see how he was able to lead by example, letting his game largely do the talking. Ed, on the other hand, brings flamboyance, accuracy and power to the court in equal measures and he covers the boards with an agility that invariably wrong-foots the opposition. Caspar's idiosyncratically compact swing generates tremendous power and his exceptional fitness allows him to chase down almost any shot and every game. Between them, these three players dropped only five rubbers over the season



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and their healthy rivalry filtered through the wider squad, generating enthusiasm and creating a culture of support and encouragement that helped younger players enhance and develop their game. Over the season, Tom Dixon and George Tucker provided reliable middle order strength from the Upper Sixth with Alex Smith and Hugh Buxton from the Lower Sixth and Fifth Form offering more than enough evidence to suggest that next year should see further successes for the team. Another player to make great strides this year was Jack Hechle and he is sure to prove a confident and inspirational Captain next year.

Behind all this was Mr Liversage and his tireless energy, enthusiasm, eye for detail and bloody-minded determination have been fundamental not only to results but also to widening the appeal and draw of the sport. His coaching and management of the squash ladder laid the foundations on which was built the squad's success this year and they will surely prove equally important next season. Finding space for squash at Stowe demands constant effort, perhaps a bit of a surprise given the fantastic facilities and coaching on offer, and next year will see another concerted drive to expand the game's reach and encourage still more players to take up the game. With such dedicated coaching and a committed pool of skilful players, squash at Stowe is definitely on an upward trajectory.

Mr Paul Floyd



Sailing

Sailing at Stowe has continued to enjoy the superb fleet of Firefly dinghies, new last season, at Great Moor Sailing Club. Although there have been fewer participants than in recent years, the team has been keen and enthusiastic under their Captain, Theo Shepherd-Smith, ably supported by Lauren Carley as Vice-Captain. It has been good to welcome Sam Lodge and Jack Polturak to the team. Jack has achieved some excellent individual places in many races in his first year in the team.

The School sailing season was limited to the first few weeks of the term because of examinations. It gave little time to improve both boat handling for speed and also application of the rules for team effectiveness in matches. Strong winds during the term provided some exciting sailing, with few afternoons being cancelled through too calm conditions. In the first match, at home to Merchant Taylors', Stowe showed some promising sailing in strong winds and squalls. Jack Polturak came second in the first race, and first in the second race after holding his lead from an excellent start on port. Fergus Paske kept second place for most of this second race, giving Stowe a clear winning combination, but lost out from trouble with his mainsail just before the final windward mark, allowing through two opposition boats.

Against Rugby at Draycote Water, Stowe performed well in demanding conditions, especially in the earlier part of the afternoon when there were strong gusts even for reefed boats and a number of capsizes. In the first race Jack Polturak was sailed out of his second place at the first windward mark by a skilful Rugby boat, but he came first in all the other three races. Fergus Paske and Theo Shepherd-Smith completed the Stowe 1-2-3 in the final race.

At Boddington Reservoir, in a good breeze and sunny weather, Bloxham showed their skill from the beginning, commanding the narrow start line with all three of their

boats. Stowe, with last minute help from Robert Milner, caught up a little in the first race, but Jack Polturak was taken out by an opposition boat, although this did allow Theo Shepherd-Smith to come through in third place. In the crews' race Lauren Carley finished fourth. Will Trumper would also have finished well but he capsized at the gybe mark.

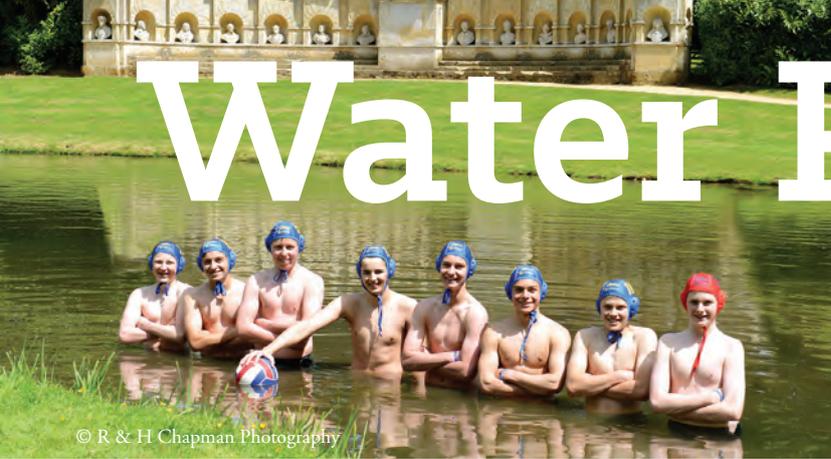
Six Houses competed in Stowe's Inter-House competition, producing a lot of good sailing and put out a different helm in the second race where possible. Chatham won both races, in increasingly light winds, narrowly defeating Cobham in the last leg of the first race. The Junior Pennant was won by Jack Polturak who led the field in all three races.

It has been good to see the progress made by everyone in the team, especially in basic boat speed, the discipline and tactics of starts, principles of rounding marks, and attacking team strategies through an apt application of the rules. By the end of the term we also had a good group of competent sailors in the Fourth Form who hold promise for the future. Johnnie Law and Freddie Richards, two Third Form Stoics, did excellently at the RS Feva Schools' Competition at Itchenor Sailing Club in the last week of term, coming third out of 41 in the Silver Fleet. Stoics who sail during the holidays gain much in experience and skill.

Next year, in addition to Great Moor, we look forward to returning to sailing Toppers on the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe, once improvements to the Sailing Island Hut have been completed. My sincere thanks go to Mr Gwilym Jones and Mr David Critchley for their invaluable help in running the sailing, despite their many other commitments, and to the welcome expertise and support from Mr Paul Wilsher earlier in the term.

Mr Michael Bevington

Water Polo



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The Inter-House water polo competition is always great fun and this year was no different. All the way through the Senior competition it looked as though Chatham were the victors, especially as a lot of the team played on the School team. However, when the final came, Grenville was crowned victorious, largely down to the superb plays by Henry Moore and Gilles Griffiths.

In the Junior Cup, it was Chandos' Kit Rigby who was the sharp shooter, although he still wasn't enough to stop Grenville and they made it a double victory. The Knockout Cup was a different story with Walpole and Grafton making it to the final; Grafton were the ones who raised the Cup and Ben Holloway was the player of the match.

Unfortunately we were not able to play that many Senior School matches and our performance suffered as a result, however, our Captain, Seb Cecil, was a fantastic leader

throughout. Our finest hour came when we beat Harrow and The Oratory but the feeling didn't last as the Old Stoic team came to Speech Day determined to end their five year losing streak. The School put in a great performance but the Old Stoics were stronger and they won 4-2. The Old Stoic Captain, Sam Morris, was delighted to raise the Sheppard-Barron Shield for the first time.

The Juniors this year were a very strong team captained by Kit Rigby. Wins came over Harrow, Loughborough Grammar and a host of others. The team is full of very intelligent players who are able to dribble the ball at speed around the opposition. Star players were Kit Rigby, Ben Holloway, Harry Middleton and Tom Leach with Guy Woodhouse being the most improved player.

Mr Stewart Cowie

GOLF

The success of the School golf team this year is characterised by its outstanding performance in this year's Micklem Trophy, played as usual in March at Woking Golf Club. On our return from the tournament I wrote as follows: "Last week the School golf team travelled to Woking to compete for the Gerald Micklem Trophy. After a practice match against the Old Stoics the team of James Scott, George Tucker, Olly Clarke, George Barham and Piers Odell played against Harrow in the opening round. James led the way with a convincing victory over his +1 handicapped opponent. Olly and Piers also secured wins, with George Tucker halving, to complete a 3½ - 1½ victory. In the semi-finals against Winchester James again excelled, as did Olly, but special mention goes to Piers Odell for keeping his nerve to see us into the final by securing his second victory of the competition on the 18th green. The final was something else! Each Wellington player was playing off scratch or better; George Barham got better and better but narrowly lost, whilst James Scott was eventually defeated 2&1 by a young Italian who had recently competed with success in his country's Open Championship. The team's performance was simply outstanding... they toured very well and were fine ambassadors for the School. We finished runners up - second out of eight top schools (Wellington, Stowe, Charterhouse, Winchester, Eton, Harrow, Bradfield and Rugby)."

James Scott captained the side well throughout the season and could always be relied upon to push his opponents very close. Routine matches through the year were hugely enjoyable and a variety of players played for



the team, many exceeding expectation with the quality of their play. We have had two excellent fixtures with the Old Stoics – under fresh management now – and I look forward to strengthening links between School and their golfing activities. The delights of Stoke Park, Broadway, Buckingham, Frilford Heath and Woking were enjoyed as ever. Academic pressure, not just at Stowe, was very considerable this year and several fixtures had to be cancelled in the Summer term as a consequence as sides became decimated. There is a huge amount of enthusiasm and talent for golf in the lower years at Stowe and I expect next year's School team (captained by Olly Clarke) to be more youthful than ever.

The golfing year finished at School with Edward Wentworth-Stanley and his Chatham Tutor, Mr Henry Swayne, capturing the Headmaster's Tankards in a closely contested and exciting competition.

Mr Richard Knight



Cross Country

It is great to see cross country growing in popularity again as we had over 20 athletes compete for the School this year. In the first event held at Wellbeck Military Sixth Form College on Saturday 17 January, Luke Aust came 20th in a strong field of 100 boys in the Junior race. In the Senior race over four miles Harrison Dockerty, came 14th against a very strong field of 120 boys from six competing schools. A team of seven ran in the girls' competition: congratulations go to Georgia Flawn-Thomas who came fourth, Zoë Pollock sixth, Victoria Beglin 15th, Rosie Smith 33rd, Ellie Bewes 60th, Georgie Leefe 69th and Milly Cranmer 70th.

In the Junior Inter-House cross country competition Chatham came third, Walpole came second and Grafton came first. In the Intermediate competition, Temple was third, Walpole came second and Grafton came first. In the Senior competition, Cobham came third, Bruce second and Grafton first. Overall Grafton were victorious with Walpole in second and Bruce coming third. Queen's came third in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior team events, and third overall. Stanhope was second in all categories and the cross country champion in all categories was Nugent.

At the Buckinghamshire Schools' Championships at High Wycombe on Wednesday 4 February, the course was extremely muddy with two big hill climbs and a very cold ankle-deep river, which had to be crossed twice every lap, making this a very challenging race. With the best cross country runners in the county racing, there were mixed feelings of excitement and nerves from the Stowe athletes. The top four finishers would automatically qualify for the English Schools' Championships in Blackburn on 14 March. All of the athletes did extremely well with big runs from Zoë Pollock in the Junior girls' race placing eighth, Georgia Flawn-Thomas in the Inter girls' race placing sixth and Harrison Dockerty in the Senior boys' race placing 11th. All three were selected for the English Schools' Championships. Special mention goes to all the Intermediate girls with their third place finish in the

team competition. The full results were; Junior girls' Ellie Bewes 51st, Junior boys' Maximillian Satchell 49th, Inter girls' Victoria Beglin 17th, Amy Jorgensen 40th, Isabella Cornwall 43rd, Inter boys' Luke Aust 27th, Oliver Vince 31st, Tom Garel-Jones 57th and Kyale Mwendwa 60th.

On Saturday 14 March, Stowe had two pupils representing Buckinghamshire for the first time in the English Schools' Cross Country Championships in Blackburn. This is the biggest race of the Winter calendar so to have athletes qualifying for these events is fantastic. In the Inter girls' race, Georgia Flawn-Thomas finished 153rd (3rd in Buckinghamshire) out of 339 runners and in the Junior girls' race Zoë Pollock finished 307th (8th in Buckinghamshire) out of 345 runners.

It was a big turnout on Sunday 15 March for the Old Stoic Cross Country race with 25 athletes racing this year and 12 Old Stoics trying to redeem themselves after their loss last year to the Stoics. Harrison Dockerty took an early lead which he managed to hold on to with Simon Gardner (Temple 95) finishing a mere five seconds behind. Overall, it was the Stoics' day, winning by four points. The six Stoic scorers were Harrison Dockerty, Tom Leach, Luke Aust, Max Bashaarat, Oliver Vince and Rosie Smith with the Old Stoics' scorers being Simon Gardner, Chris Hutber (Chandos 87), Chris Lascelles (Temple 89), Charlie Clare (Chatham 94), Oliver Selway (Grenville 94) and Kate Chambré (Lyttelton 97).

Cross country Captains for next year are Georgia Flawn-Thomas and Harrison Dockerty.

Female cross country Runner of the Year – Georgia Flawn-Thomas.

Male cross country Runner of the Year – Harrison Dockerty.

Mr Kyle Bennett

Clay Pigeon

The shooting teams were very busy in the Lent term participating in the Warwick Challenge and also in matches against Warwick and Kimbolton. On both occasions, the matches were close, with one fine win against Kimbolton, but a narrow loss against Warwick. Congratulations go to Ben Skinner for his excellent score against Warwick of 38 out of 50.

There was also a very competitive House competition which was won by the School's top shooters: Theo Shepherd-Smith, Toby Lawrance and Rory Smith who retained the cup for Cobham.

Just before the exam season kicked in, two teams of shooters travelled to Shropshire to take part in the Nationals. For the A Team, it was a challenging course and they finished in fifth place, but the B Team left with a greater fourth place. Congratulations should go to Ben Skinner for a score of 32 out of 50.

We then had the annual Old Stoics Competition on Speech Day in which the team retained the Galatzine Cup, with the A Team shooting a tremendous 56 out of 65. We also had the Fathers and Sons/Daughters Competition on



the same day which was won by both Kianti Subowo and her father, and Harry Hewlett and his father who both shot 30 out of 50 clays.

Colours were awarded to Oliver Milne-Skillman and Alex Harris for their outstanding commitment to the activity and also congratulations to Henry Sylvester who has been a superb Captain.

Mr Paul Thomas

Cycling



Stowe added cycling to its list of sporting activities in January with the formation of the Stowe School Cycle Club. Each week Stoics have ventured out into the surrounding area on organised led training rides. While exploring the terrain and villages, cyclists have learnt how to ride safely and how to lead an organised group. The aim has been, and is, to cater for all cycling abilities and interests from racing, Stowe triathletes under Hester Pollock's leadership, to general participation and as such the programme has included a wealth of learning and training opportunities and techniques including team time-trialling, chain gang cycling, sprinting, nutrition and exercise recovery to name a few.

Having clocked some mileage over the course of the Lent term and with evenings becoming longer it was time to modify the training and look for possible events to spread the Stowe name into the cycling world. Archie Morley, Harry Middleton and Freddie Paling flew the flag most notably, competing in the weekly 10 mile time trials hosted at Weston on the Green airfield by Bicester Millennium Cycle Club. In the adult category Stowe cyclists posted

some very respectable personal times and improvements, most notably Freddie with a time of 26:40 placing him 22nd out of 51 trialists. Freddie has also been competing on Thursday evenings at the Milton Keynes Bowl under the Corley Cycles banner.

Mirroring the national trend and success, the enthusiasm for Stowe cycling soon spread out of the School itself such that it was not long before the Club had its own very generous sponsor; Bicicletta Coffee Con Velo Café in Saffron Walden. Kit designs were drawn up and orders placed with Champion Systems (suppliers of the pro team Lampre Merida), the results of which can be seen in the picture. Bicicletta has not only sponsored kit but also donated amongst other items, a brand new Eddie Merckx bike so that any pupil can be involved in this sport. The interest amongst pupils has been equalled in the Common Room such that the odd staff member (Mr Sutton and Mr Arnold included) has been spotted joining in and even sprinting with pupils on the occasional session, most notably Mr Higham who also flew the Stowe flag in the recent UCI approved sportive 112km Tour of Cambridgeshire.

The prospects for Stowe cycling are very exciting: Bicicletta is keen to support the provision further and possible future aims include training camps abroad, sportive and racing events such as the annual nine man team time trial staged on the Silverstone race track, club affiliation with British Cycling, discussions with whom have already taken place and the potential to stage cycle events at Stowe.

Cycling has understandably become a national pastime as it is accessible to everyone with all abilities and interests. The hope is that the peloton and Club will grow with Old Stoics, parents and current pupils alike, all very welcome to get involved on rides, events or otherwise. Please do contact me if interested. Allez allez!

Mr Chris Grimble



Athletics

On Saturday 25 April 2015 the Stowe boys' athletics team journeyed to Harrow School to participate in The Guy Butler Shield. This was our first event for the season and many of the athletes were competing among pupils a year older than themselves yet we were able to place seventh overall. There were many outstanding results. These included Senior athletes: Alfie Stanford who placed second with a leap of 6.1m in the A string long jump and Tom Hunnable who placed third in the javelin A string with a throw of 40.61m. In the Senior B string Caspar Whitehead won the javelin, Jamie Ropner won the high jump and Tom Johnson won the 110m hurdles. Other outstanding performers included Adam Ezomo second in the B string 100m and Triumph Opuala-Charles placed third in the 100m A race. Outstanding performances in the Intermediate team included a second place for Taju Atta in a time of 53.3s in the A string 400m. Both Taju in the high jump and Adam Williamson in the 100m secured valuable points with fourth places also in the A string events respectively. Dan Biss, 10.20m in the triple jump, and Mikhail Fedotov, 26.55m in the discus, were also placed fourth in the highly competitive B string events. In the Junior team Mark Kanjana won the B string javelin with a throw of 32.17m. Nathan Dana in the shot and Ollie Bowder in the 300m both placed fourth in their respective B string events. Cosmo Oliver went beyond the call of duty and even did some pace making for Harrow to ensure that their team had a better chance of breaking the record in the Junior 1,500m before ex-teacher Lucy Ashe chased after Cosmo to tell him he was in the wrong race!

On the same day at the meet at Cheltenham Ladies' College, our girls' team came third. Performance of the match went to Zoë Pollock with a new School Record of 26.6s in the Junior girls' 200m. Zoë also broke the School Record in the girls' 300m with a time of 45.3s and Octavia Cavill broke the Inter girls' long jump record with 5.14m. In the Inter girls' Zara Atta also won the 100m. In the Senior girls' Thalia Felton won the 100m and 400m, Octavia Cavill won the 200m and high jump. Stowe also had a clean sweep in both age groups 4x100m relays. There were also good performances from Polly Stuart-Mills, Ellie

Clark, Simone Banson, Connie Barnes and Olivia Flood.

On Saturday 16 May, our boys' teams took part in the Eton Meet. In the Juniors there were second place finishes for Ed Anderson in the high jump with 1.60m and in the triple jump with 10.80m and Mark Kanjana in the javelin with 37.93m. In the Inter boys' Adam Williamson came sixth in the 100m with 11.70s and 200m with 23.9s. In the Seniors' competition, Caspar Whitehead won the javelin with 43.38m and there were second place finishes for Rotimi Segun in the 100m with 11.1s which is the qualifying standard for the English Schools' National Championships and Jamie Ropner in the high jump with 1.85m. There were other good performances on the day from Jimmy Davis, Peter Entwisle, Dan Ackroyd, William Fox, Tavish Struthers, Luke Aust, Max Bashaarat, Rex Adams, Alfie Marsden-Smedley and Isaac Ajala.

On Saturday 6 June, Georgia Flawn-Thomas competed in a British Milers Open Meeting in Milton Keynes. It is an evening race so this was the first time Georgia had run at 8.30pm. We had previously been working hard on her pacing strategies as she likes to go off very fast but this makes it harder work and it started to pay off as she set a new personal best and School Record in the 800m of 2m 28.04s.

In the Buckinghamshire Schools' Championships in Milton Keynes on Saturday 13 June we had horrible weather and it did not stop raining all day so some of the events had to be delayed due to huge puddles on the track. This put an end to athletes gaining any personal bests but they all competed as hard as they could, achieving some great results.

In the English Schools' Track and Field Cup both the boys and the girls had successful seasons. In the County round both teams finished second, the boys scored 371 points finishing 11 points behind the winners and the girls scored 370 points finishing six points behind the winners. Both teams qualified for the South East Regional finals. On Wednesday 10 June the boys had a very early 6.15am departure from School to travel down to Kent but they

were in good spirits. Even though we were a man down, they did well achieving lots of personal bests and we finished eighth out of 12 schools with 392 points.

The girls competed in Crawley on Tuesday 16 June. It was a beautiful day and was going to be a very close day with 11 schools competing and all achieving very close scores in the county round. In our county final we scored 370 points so to beat that by 20 points and score 390 was fantastic and I could not have asked for more from the girls finishing in seventh place, only 10 points off third place.

In this year's County Championships Octavia Cavill won the high jump, shot and 80m hurdles, Zoë Pollock came second in the 200m and third in the long jump and high jump and Thalia Felton came second in the 80m hurdles.

Sports Day this year was finally greeted with good weather and it was a fantastic day for the whole School to be a part of. In the girls' competition Nugent won all three age groups and the overall trophy. In the Junior boys' competition Bruce were the winners, Temple won the Inter boys' and Cobham won the Senior boys' with the overall trophy going to Bruce just two points clear of Temple.

An amazing fifteen School Records were broken this year: Caspar Whitehead in the javelin with 47.38m, Elsa Desmond in the hammer with 26.87m. There were nine School Records broken in the Inter girls' age group: Georgia Flawn-Thomas in the 800m with 2m 28.04s and in the 1,500m with 4m 57.2s. Octavia Cavill in the long jump with 5.14m, high jump with 1.73m, triple jump with 10.21m and shot with 11.09m. Thalia Felton in the 80m hurdles with 11.8s, Olivia Thomas in the javelin with 31.18m and Queen's House in the 4x100m relay consisting of Zara Atta, Tallula Douglas Miller, Olivia Flood and Thalia Felton. In the Junior age group Amelia Cranmer broke the triple jump record with 8.98m and Zoë Pollock broke three records in the 200m with 26.1s, 300m with 43.7s and in the long jump with 4.90m.

Overall it has been a very successful season with all the athletes achieving a personal best in at least one event and I am very much looking forward to next year, including an Athletics tour to Europe over Easter 2016.

Mr Kyle Bennett





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There have been a few significant developments and achievements in sculling this year. A Senior squad was established that rowed at Northampton Rowing Club on the River Nene two to three days a week, while the rest of the squad, including beginners, had days allocated on the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe.

There was a weekly ergometer session, which aimed to improve the overall fitness of the Senior squad. The first rowing event was the indoor Inter-House ergometer competition, which was held in the Drayson. All eight Concept 2 Ergometers were connected to software that simulated a rowing event projected onto the main screen, meaning the supporters from each House could easily see how the contestants were doing. With some lively music and a lot of shouting, the event was very exciting. There were four trophies up for grabs, two of which were donated by Ted Bainbridge (Walpole 69) and were trophy oars from two winning crews at Henley Royal Regatta. The Junior girls' trophy was won by Queen's, the Junior boys' by Grafton, the Senior girls' trophy by Lyttelton and the Senior boys' by Grafton.

Our first and most significant achievement was being able to participate in the Head of the Charles River Race held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA in October. This is the largest event of its kind in the world with over 2,000 boats over two days and is watched by over 100,000 spectators. James Simpson and George Anderson, with Tom Roxburgh as sub, participated in the Men's Youth Double Sculls and Dani Fusco-House in the Women's Youth Singles. Staying an hour's drive north of the City and borrowing boats from the Union Boat Club (the oldest boat club in the USA) we had excellent accommodation and access to the centre of the City where the race took place. The course is difficult with numerous bridges and complicated lanes, not to mention the large number of highly competitive and experienced crews. The race starts in the basin opposite MIT and finishes just past Harvard University. Despite Dani having a dislocated shoulder, she came 23rd coming in behind the GB sculler from Leander and the boys came in 39th in what was a very large entry. We would like to offer our thanks to Minna Blair for putting us up and being such an excellent host during our stay.





During the year, James Simpson has managed to make some excellent progress participating in numerous Head Races and Regattas. He won at Birmingham Regatta, Northampton Head and City of Bristol Head. Both James and Dani took part in the National Schools' Regatta at Nottingham's Holm Pierre Pont Course, but neither managed to qualify for the finals. Again there was a very high standard of entries with James beating scullers from the GB Youth Squad. James took part in the Henley Royal Regatta Qualifiers with three other single scullers and were unfortunate not to make the top 16. Dani had a good year overall and participated in numerous events. She won her Single at Birmingham Regatta, came second at Evesham Regatta, the Ball Cup (losing by one second) and Avon County and third in her double at the Ball Cup and Abingdon Head. Dani will be racing in the GB Championships at Nottingham over the summer.

At the Ball Cup we had some very good results from other members of the squad, but yet again just fell short of winning in several events. Jonny Reading did very well in the U16 single sculls coming fourth in the final. Gleb Shcherbakov and Alex Buswell have recently formed a

double scull that we are hoping is going to progress well going into next year. At the Ball Cup they came third to King Edward's and Charterhouse. Our Junior boys' quad with James Pocklington, Tom Fox, Ilya Riskin and Max Bishop coming third to Radnor House and Oundle Town Rowing Club.

At the same time, James Simpson took part in the Ghent Regatta (Belgium) coming 17th out of 53 competitors on the first day and 20th out of 30 on the second day from a variety of countries including The Netherlands, Belgium and the UK. More recently Dani Fusco-House took part in a Composite Eight with girls from several clubs in France. This was in preparation for their entry into the Women's Henley Regatta where unfortunately they were beaten by Headington Girls, who went on to win the event.

In the Summer term, we had a number of new additions to those who rowed on the Eleven Acre Lake. Some of these Stoics will continue to row in September and it is hoped that they will be able to participate in some Regattas later on in the term.

Mr Michael Righton



Equestrian

This academic year saw a change in management with Miss Weaver BHSII (reg'd), a local freelance instructor, taking over the reins from Mrs Price while she was away on maternity leave. Mrs Price will be returning for the start of the 2015-16 academic year. The Equestrian Centre continues to flourish with many new pupils coming to try the sport at grass roots level, having lessons on the School's horses. The pupils have not only enjoyed lessons but have made full use of the cross country schooling field and hacking around our beautiful parkland.

The pupils with their horses at livery have made the most of our excellent facilities and have created a pleasurable vivacious atmosphere at the Centre. Most pupils with their own horses at Stowe have ridden regularly through each week and thoroughly enjoyed having their horses at School.

The start of February saw us at full capacity, as horses came to visit for a week to attend the Grafton Hunt Meet at the School; unfortunately due to the frost and sub-zero temperatures, the meet was cancelled leaving many of us disappointed. Fingers crossed for next year.

Many pupils who do not keep their horses at Stowe compete at levels ranging from grass roots to British Teams. The year started with a trip to Stonar for their one day event, followed by our show jumping squad attending Bury Farm. This summer saw pupils getting out to The Winchester House Inter-School Hunter trials at Foxhill Farm, Eydon, where, by one rider missing a flag, we narrowly missed out on a team win, although several riders were placed individually across all classes ranging from Novice pairs to the Open. For some pupils this was their

first ever hunter trials and they definitely caught the bug of galloping across country jumping solid obstacles as we saw a rise in the uptake for The Stowe Beagles Hunter Trials at Primrose Hill, Gawcott. Ella Dettori won the Bill Boswell cup for the highest placed Stoic. By now some of the horses were enjoying the hunter trials so much they were jumping rider-less!

Competitions culminated this year with an Inter-House competition held on the Bursar's Field. The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed the day and the competition and rivalry was fierce, Stanhope won the team event, with individual wins for Sienna Flanagan in the trec, Amy Struthers in the dressage and Flora Moreau in the show jumping. It was a very successful day which couldn't have been run without the support of all the Stoics who came to be Stewards, not to mention the horsey members of staff who took on roles as judges for the afternoon, and of course the parents who transported horses from all corners of the country to Stowe.

Speech Day had an excellent turnout of parents at the Equestrian Centre, who came early in the morning to see our displays comprising a drill ride and a cross country display. The pupils put in hours of practice producing foot perfect displays, their camaraderie and commitment is to be commended.

And finally, I would like to thank the Duncan family for their donation of The Halcyon Cup for the most improved rider. This was presented to Jimmy Ondari, who through his own determination has turned from a novice to an accomplished rider this year – he has also got the polo bug!

Ms Kirsten Weaver



Valentine Sozbilir (Lower Sixth, Grenville)



Alice Hawke (Fifth Form, Stanhope)



Isabelle Boorman (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)

Gallery



Amelia Bowder (Fifth Form, Stanhope)



Molly Robinson (Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Olivia Walters (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)



Isabelle Baillie (Fifth Form, Queen's)



William Lewis (Upper Sixth, Walpole)



Tobi Onafeko (Lower Sixth, Grenville)

Governing Body

Correct as of 1st September 2015

Christopher Honeyman Brown (OS)

The Rev Peter Ackroyd

John R C Arkwright (OS)

Jonathan M A Bewes (OS)

Ms Julie C Brunskill

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent (OS)

David Carr

David W Cheyne (OS)

Ms Juliet U Colman

Simon C Creedy Smith (OS)

Mrs Joanne E Hastie-Smith

David W Hudson

Mrs Andrea Johnson

Robert A Lankester

Mrs Catriona Lloyd

The Lord Magan of Castletown

Mrs Elizabeth Phillips

Lady Stringer

Christopher J Tate (OS)

Michael B M Porter (Secretary to the Governors)

Simon Shneerson (Chairman OS Society) (OS)

Headmaster: Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



Stowe School
Stowe
Buckingham
MK18 5EH

t | +44 (0)1280 818000
f | +44 (0)1280 818181
e | enquiries@stowe.co.uk
w | www.stowe.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 310639