

the STOIC

Stowe School 2015/2016

Kate Reardon

*Old Stoic & Tatler Editor
on the Fun Factor*

TATLER
EDITORIAL

STOWEBOTS

*Robotics team takes
on the World*

Stellar Stoics

*Tim Peake awards Stowe
film prize in space*

ROSSLYN PARK SEVENS

Plate Winners



Stowe



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As I enter my fifth year at Stowe, I see all around me the obvious progress that we, as a school, have made – the list is epic! We have seen a new Music School built, the opening of our very own Equestrian Centre, improvements to the academic area, new astro turfs and a splendid new Science building that will open very shortly. A very impressive collection of developments that have, year on year, seen us improve our facilities for current and future Stoics. Investment in buildings is needed; our pupils should have the best spaces in which to study and to learn, inspiring them to open their minds to new subjects and interests.

The progress that I am most proud of as a member of this community is not as obvious as a new building but is no less impressive. It is the progress made behind the scenes that, each year, improves what we can offer our pupils, providing them with skills and experiences that will help them fulfil their ambitions and push them to be the best versions of themselves that they can be. Our academic staff are perhaps some of the first in the country to have their pay linked to their performance – a structure that is unusual in schools. This robust system encourages them to be more effective, more efficient and most importantly to look for ways to improve and help develop the Stowe community.

In other areas, we have introduced systems that enhance both our pastoral and academic monitoring; this tracking ensures that every Stoic is supported. This year, we've introduced even more societies and activities for pupils to be involved in; providing them not just with the best facilities but also the best academic extension – this kind of progress remains at the top of our list of priorities. Each Stoic, of course, makes their own individual progress and achieves new things each week and each term: an APG mention, a place on the 1st team, membership of the Prefect body or that A* they have been aiming for. Their success is wonderful to see.

In all this progress some things do stay the same: an excellent all-round education, the opportunity for Stoics to find something they really love and a community that looks out for all its members. As a wise Old Stoic once said to me, “Change is not always progress” and in this respect I have to agree – why change what is fundamentally so important? Our approach may change but we make sure that these aims remain at the heart of everything that happens here at Stowe.



Tori Roddy
Director of Marketing and Admissions
Editor, The Stoic

Cover image: Kate Reardon by Dan Burn-Forti

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Stowe School 2015/2016



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Chairman of Governors

Speech Day

My Lords, distinguished guests, Governors, Headmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and a warm welcome to you all.

This has been another year of achievement inside and outside the classroom:

- Academic results last summer were our best in recent years and reflect that all the hard work in academic improvement is paying off;
- Stoics' work in art, drama, and music continues to display a higher and higher standard; and
- Stoics continue to excel in their chosen sports with an exceptional number representing their country.

The Headmaster will tell you more about individual Stoics' achievements – it remains for me to say thank you to everyone who works so tirelessly at Stowe to support every Stoic whether in the classroom, performing arts, sports or their Houses.

So thank you all – for everything you do, for your hard work, for so often giving your own time to get the job done, for your commitment to making Stowe the best it can be and helping every Stoic to be the best they can be.

We are very conscious that, for many parents, private education means sacrifices and we strive to do all we can

to minimise fee increases. We are also conscious of the trust you place in us to give your children the very best education possible – thank you all for that trust.

This is my last Speech Day as I retire in June after 23 years on the Governing Body, the last nine as Chairman.

Simon Creedy Smith has been elected as our next Chairman and, together with his Vice-Chairman David Cheyne, will take office on 17 June. I know Simon will make a great Chairman and I wish him every success.

I hope you will allow me a few minutes to share some personal insights.

Stowe was in a bit of a pickle in the 1990s – we couldn't afford to update the fire alarm, masonry was falling off, the library ceiling was collapsing, we had an increasing overdraft, we only had 545 pupils and we were spending too much.

We rejected the idea of giving the Mansion to the National Trust and moving out – as we said at the time “Stowe would not be Stowe if it were not at Stowe”; our minds were made up – we were staying; but how?

As we approached the Millennium, we established the Stowe House Preservation Trust, which provided access to public and heritage funding. And Stowe has come to life again.

The National Trust has refurbished the Stowe Estate, building the New Inn Visitor Centre, restoring vistas, landscapes, garden temples and statues and they work tirelessly to restore the gardens, which look better than ever.

The Stowe House Preservation Trust has restored the North and South Fronts, East and West Pavilions, Marble Hall and some of the State Rooms; lions, urns, and statues have returned to Stowe. The Trust is now concentrating on interiors and replacement of statues on the South Front Portico.

Their work is nearing completion; not one penny of School fees has gone towards the restoration of the Mansion, nor of the landscape gardens. There are those who believe it has – it has not, that is a myth.

All the while, the School has pursued its own programme. We built two girls' boarding houses, rebuilt the Art School and Roxburgh Hall, built the Music School and refurbished the Athletics Track. The Science Building will be finished in October and emphasises our determination to see Science at Stowe as a leading speciality.

Next is our programme to overhaul boys' boarding. Further development of West, a new boarding house in Chapel Court, remodelling of Chatham, creation of a day house and a complete overhaul of Mansion space are key elements of this significant project.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed, so very generously, to our Campaign, helping us to build those facilities – without your generosity and support we would never have been able to achieve what we have.

The difference you make is inestimable and impacts on every Stoic, including the generations still to come – so thank you.

The School is in better shape than ever, with academic results improving every year; pupil numbers increasing annually; and financially stronger than ever before.

That we have been able to sort things out is a testament to an enormous number of people and a warm and effective partnership between the School, the National Trust and the Stowe House Preservation Trust.

With a full School – numbers should reach 800 in September, over 180,000 visitors to the Landscape

The School is in better shape than ever, with academic results improving every year; pupil numbers increasing annually; and financially stronger than ever before.

Gardens this year and approaching 20,000 visitors to the House, it is impossible to do anything but marvel at this extraordinary renaissance, which seemed beyond reach back in the 1990s.

It has been possible because Stowe is special – not just as a school, but as a place, as a concept. It is special because it's a great school, in a great house, in a great garden and, as ever with special places, everyone wants to be part of it.

Adapting the words of Nelson Mandela "The sun never set on so glorious a human achievement."

The School can be even more successful – we want Stowe to be an educational powerhouse, and most definitely not an academic hothouse where the pursuit of grades and results come before all else. An education at Stowe is just as much about character, leadership and independence of mind as it is about exams.

We want Stoics to achieve the highest possible academic success in their exams and to qualify for selection to whichever university suits them best, including Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, Stanford, Columbia and other first class universities around the world.

We want Stoics with talents in the arts or on the sports field to be encouraged and coached to perform to the highest level possible in their chosen field.

Above all we want to give Stoics a platform from which to launch themselves onto an unsuspecting world and ultimately to take leadership in whatever field of activity they choose to engage.

So, clarity in strategy, effective in execution, determination to see Stoics achieve higher and higher goals, investing sensibly in 21st Century facilities. It is a simple formula with an equally simple answer: Stowe is one of the most beautiful places and one of the best schools in England.

Never before has our motto – *persto et praesto* – been so prescient – we did stand firm and we do stand first.

I have been so privileged to have played a role in all of this – I have met and worked with some wonderful people, people who give so much to Stowe, who show such commitment and passion. I have had fantastic support from two great Vice-Chairmen and all my Governor colleagues over the years.



I confess to feeling just a little proud of what we have achieved here at Stowe – I hope you will permit me that small indulgence. And I hope that, for whatever reason you are here today – pupil, parent, employee, alumni, Governor or guest – you too feel proud, proud to be here, proud to be part of the Stowe family and proud to play a role in its continued success.

For the last eight years I have shown my speech to my wife and she always asks me to insert a paragraph at the end; I have always ignored her, until now.

Everyone one who works hard, committing themselves to whatever work or cause it may be, knows how much easier it is to be so much more effective with the loving support of their partner – and so it has been for me.

Over these 23 years I have had the most fantastic support from my wife, Ros, whose encouragement and enthusiasm has never waned. So – thank you!

The Stowe family is made up of thousands but there is one person who has in recent years driven most of the change we now see – our Headmaster, whose energy and enthusiasm know no bounds.

Headmaster, I have had the greatest pleasure working with you. I first met you in February 2002 when you presented your credentials at interview.

Since then I have seen the introduction of co-education, the development of facilities for which we waited 90 years, an expanding school, the return of financial strength, a highly effective campaign, development of a first class Executive Management Team, and most importantly academic improvement.

It's been an interesting journey. Interesting and fun. From the time I first read these pieces of paper – yes, they are your job application and references – 14 years ago, to just last month on our travels to Beijing, where we drank toast after toast with what tasted to me like rocket fuel.

Although there is probably no such thing as a typical Stoic, I have always been impressed by the way they react to the world in thoughtful and interesting ways.

Here are just a few of your words 14 years ago – “Although there is probably no such thing as a typical Stoic, I have always been impressed by the way they react to the world in thoughtful and interesting ways.”

You went on to promise “I would embrace the opportunity to maintain and enhance Stowe’s reputation as a particularly attractive and exceptional school, which produces young adults who are able to succeed in the modern world.”

How right you were and how brilliantly you have embraced that opportunity.

Headmaster, as I take my leave of this wonderful place, this great school, I wish you and all your team, my fellow Governors and all our parents and pupils every possible success over the coming years.

Mr Christopher Honeyman Brown, Chairman of Governors





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The Headmaster

Chairman, Governors, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Speech Day is the largest Stowe event of the year, with some 2,000 guests attending. However, by the standards of the Dukes of Buckingham this is a modest austerity event. When Victoria and Albert visited for three days in January 1845, the Royal Party enjoyed sumptuous banquets, full orchestral concerts, endless receptions and a shooting party during which Prince Albert shot a princely bag of 180 hares, 109 pheasants, a couple of rabbits and one solitary snipe. Locals were treated to more rustic pastimes such as a hot-hasty pudding eating competition, smoking half an ounce of tobacco as quickly as possible, diving for silver coins in barrels of flour and a football game in which players played without boots and with their arms tied behind their backs. Perhaps that's a Claudio Ranieri training routine for Leicester or a Stowe alternative for Sports Day, which was sadly cancelled yesterday due to a swarm of 800 homeless bees in search of a Queen. Surely a metaphor in there somewhere? I doubt that Queen Victoria would have been amused by last night's Tony Hadley concert; Las Vegas meets the New Romantics and Vegas wins. Today's activities are a bit tamer and more conventional with Stoics battling against Old Stoics in tennis, squash, fives, clay pigeon shooting, golf and water polo matches while our 1st XI cricketers are playing against the Old Stoics on the North Front. There are also some superb exhibitions which include another brilliant display of Classic Cars on the North Front and the inspiring

celebration of Art, DT and Textiles in the academic area.

Retirement, like death and taxes, is an inevitability and it is with great sadness that this Speech Day we bid goodbye to our Chairman of Governors, Christopher Honeyman Brown, who has been a Governor par excellence for nearly a quarter of a Century and Chairman since 2007. In fact, his first official duty was to welcome Her Majesty the Queen when she came to open Queen's House in November 2007: not a bad start to any tenure and an auspicious day which will live long in the memory. The School saluted Her Majesty for her indomitable spirit and unfailing sense of duty and we were all completely charmed by the genuine interest the Queen took in all aspects of Stowe (although I did detect her eyes glazing over a little when I started talking about the restoration programme).

When I last saw the Queen (I really enjoyed saying that), she had recently come back from a State visit to Slovakia. During the visit she had met the late Sir Nicholas Winton, the heroic Old Stoic who organised the rescue of 669 Jewish children from Czechoslovakia shortly before the outbreak of World War II. I mentioned that Sir Nicholas had visited Stowe to open Stanhope a year after the Queen herself had opened Queen's House. "Is the House I opened still standing?" asked the Queen solicitously before informing me that she had offered Sir Nicholas a lift home to London on the Queen's Flight. "The ultimate upgrade, Your Majesty", I quipped lamely. The Queen responded with a withering look and swiftly moved on.



The past is another country. When the Chairman first became a Governor in the 1990s a text was something you recited in a classroom, telephones hung on walls, Justin Bieber hadn't been born – some of you may wish that he had never been born and the hashtag was the loneliest icon on the keyboard (that could almost be the title of a Tony Hadley come-back song). A graph of Stowe's income would show a line fluctuating wildly through the vicissitudes of the School's history since its foundation in 1923: rising sharply as Stowe established itself as a school of the first rank, falling again with the building of Chapel which nearly bankrupted the School, languishing through the difficult years of the Great Depression and the War, then recovering under RQD, the great Bob Drayson, dipping again during the recession in the 1990s, followed by a steady upward curve which neatly dovetails with Christopher's ascendancy as the Governor with particular responsibility for finance. He combines genuine business acumen with a capacity for immense hard work and an impressive eye for detail. We are immensely grateful for his careful stewardship and guidance as he has steered the good ship Stowe between the Scylla of financial ruin and the Charybdis of falling foul of today's lumbering regulatory environment. The fact that last October the Independent Schools' Inspectorate saw no reason to revise its previous judgement of 'outstanding' is a testimony to the hard work of the Governors, the Executive Committee, Housemasters and Housemistresses, classroom teachers and our superb support staff. Well done.

Schools are living things that wither and decay unless the flame is constantly burnished and rekindled. To preserve excellence we must change. Governors are seldom thanked for the work they do as critical friends behind the scenes, using their expertise on various committees from Education and Finance to Building and Works and NORCO (the Nominations and Remuneration Committee in case you're wondering). Speech Day is an opportunity

for me to acknowledge the Governors' indefatigable and invaluable work. Unlike Henry Francis Lyte, writer of the famous hymn 'Abide with Me', who lamented "change and decay in all around I see", Governors are generally optimists who see the need for change and embrace renewal. Occasionally, they have to take a step back before taking two steps forward – rather like the Transport for London sign which apologises "to all our customers for any deterioration in the service due to the improvements we are making". It's marginally better that another TfL sign with the imperative, "Dogs MUST be carried on the escalator."

As a mark of our sincere thanks to Christopher for all that he has done for Stowe, I would like to present him with a special gift. This is a painting of Christopher's beloved Elysian Fields, the first painting in a new series commissioned by the School to mark its centenary in 2023, only seven years away. The artist is Tony Eyton, one of Britain's leading figurative painters. By an uncanny coincidence Tony was born on 17 May 1923, just a week after JF Roxburgh welcomed the first 99 boys to Stowe. Tony finished this painting about a fortnight ago and amid the iridescent light and arcadian beauty of the Elysian Fields there is the promise of spring rejuvenation. I can't wait to see more pictures in this series and plans for a book and exhibition are advancing well. In the meantime, five of Tony's paintings are in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and it's wonderful that he is here today to join our celebrations.

Speech Day is also an opportunity to thank those who have made generous benefactions and gifts either to the School or to the House. The most true benefaction springs from passion and I am often humbled by the generosity of those who believe so passionately and strongly in Project Stowe. My heartfelt thanks to all our friends and supporters: to Brian Hecht and the American Friends of Stowe; to Chris Drake and the recently established Hong Kong Friends of Stowe; to the donors who have funded the outstanding

craftsmen who have brought the historic Mansion back to its former splendour; to those funding the Science Building which promises to transform our delivery of STEM subjects; we also recognise those who have contributed to much needed bursaries to enable young people from all socio-economic backgrounds to access a Stowe education. Two words will suffice – thank you – or perhaps four – thank you very much.

The Temple of British Worthies reminds us of the brilliance of those who have gone before and whose achievements are worth emulating. None more so than the playwright whose inscription goes as follows:

Whose excellent genius open'd to him the whole heart of man, all the mines of Fancy, all the stores of nature; and gave him power beyond all other writers, to move, astonish and delight mankind.

“Whose excellent genius open'd to him the whole heart of man, all the mines of Fancy, all the stores of nature; and gave him power beyond all other writers, to move, astonish and delight mankind”.

No prizes for guessing which Worthy this was written about. But why does Shakespeare still matter? Well, the English language owes a great debt to the Nation's bard. He invented over 1,700 of our common words by changing nouns into verbs, changing verbs into adjectives, connecting words never before used together, adding prefixes and suffixes, and devising completely original words.

If you're not following this speech and muttering to your neighbour “it was Greek to me”, you are quoting Shakespeare; if you claim to be more sinned against than sinning, that's Shakespeare again; if you remember your salad days, act more in sorrow than in anger, suffer from green-eyed jealousy, play fast and loose, get tongue-tied or stand as a tower of strength, find yourself hoodwinked or in a pickle, make a virtue of necessity, insist on fair play, slept not a wink, stood on ceremony, danced attendance (on your lord and master), had short shrift, cold comfort or too much of a good thing, if you have seen better days or lived in a fool's paradise, you are still quoting Shakespeare; even if you bid me good riddance and send me packing, if you wish I was dead as a door-nail, if you suspect foul play, give the devil his due, think I am an eyesore, a laughing stock, the devil incarnate, a stony-hearted villain, bloody-minded or a blinking idiot – it's all one to me – you are quoting Shakespeare.

There is one other Stowe figure deserving a special mention. Today's local hero is Lancelot Brown, who was born 300 years ago in Northumberland. At the age of 24, he was appointed Head Gardener of Stowe by Viscount Cobham. Surveying a landscape, Brown would pronounce that it had capabilities, earning a nickname which stuck, ‘Capability’ Brown. His simple ingredients were trees, grass and water combined with an artist's ability to see capability in even the most unpromising landscape. His first major work was the Grecian Valley which was carved out with spades, wheelbarrows and carts and an ingenious device for moving semi-mature trees from one part of the estate to another. Brown's visionary alchemy transformed 120,000 acres of English parkland and the gardens of Chatsworth, Burghley, Blenheim, Belvoir and Stowe owe their beauty almost entirely to his presiding genius. Brown pioneered a naturalistic style of gardening with sweeping views across open grassland to distant water and tree-topped hills





which were soon widely imitated around the world from Central Park in New York to Catherine the Great's Summer Palace at Tsarskoye Selo. But Stowe still ranks as one of his greatest creations: the Protestant riposte to the Catholicism of Versailles, an ode to liberty, a symphony of genius.

Today's Stoics are part of a great tradition of independent thinking, tolerance and an appreciation of beauty which goes back to the Enlightenment and even further to the Arcadia of Virgil. Even the ancient Greeks, living long ago, understood that where you lived influenced what you thought. My favourite school of Greek philosophers, The Stoics, owe their name to the Stoa, elegant colonnades, under which Stoics did their philosophising – much as they still do today – especially when the fire alarms go off in Temple and Grenville. It was our great good fortune that Stowe's first Headmaster, JF Roxburgh, was a classicist who understood that buildings and grounds are not merely physical entities, but possess a spirit or *genius loci*. Like Capability Brown, our teachers are able to see capability in even the most unpromising material. But by working with the natural grain, providing careful nurture, setting a comma here, a full stop there, quadratic equations and the subjunctive soon become as clear as the sunlit uplands of Brown's greatest compositions.

The privilege of being part of this great institution carries with it great responsibilities and we expect each and every Stoic to use all their talents. Stowe provides a platform for Stoics to aspire to great things and the best teachers always want their pupils to be better than them. The purpose of a school is to transmit to the next generation the accumulated wisdom of civilisation. Too many of our schools are like factories, churning out automatons unable to think for themselves. The trouble with the consensus is that it's often wrong, but it takes a lot of courage to be the lone voice of dissent, to bend the arc of history and come up with ideas that are new, surprising and valuable. Stowe prides itself on its ability to produce free thinkers who challenge conventional wisdom and stand out against the prevailing consensus.

Stowe's ethos is more than just a shared set of attitudes,

values and goals. We are all swimming in the same lake, be it the Eleven Acre or Octagon, or in more modern parlance, a shared IT network like the VLE on StoweNet. Only now are other schools beginning to grasp something we understood long ago – that there is a connection between the values of a community and its most creative ideas. A concept of success defined by exam metrics with top grades reserved for those lucky enough to count as gifted and talented, has been replaced by a more interesting and nuanced ecology of teaching and learning which is centred on the brain's potential to absorb and adapt, praising hard work and not just God-given intelligence and talents. The Ancient Greeks, like today's German National football team and Chris Brailsford's coaching methods for cyclists, saw sport as an intelligent pursuit in which marginal gains can win results. The best teachers, like the best coaches, believe in their pupils, develop their resilience and accept that failure is simply success deferred, otherwise known as experience. Failure is usually temporary and seldom fatal. Joining Stowe should be like George Mallory climbing Everest, turning to his men and saying, "Gentlemen we are stepping off the map..."

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a school to bring out that child's individuality and creativity. Pupils will be most motivated and creative when they are driven by interest, enjoyment, satisfaction and the challenge of the work itself – not by the external pressure of an enormous exam Leviathan which gobbles up flair, excitement and innovation and excretes results which determine whether our pupils enter the groves of Academe (incidentally first coined by Shakespeare in 'Love's Labour's Lost' written in 1594) or the Stygian gloom of flipping burgers under the golden arch of McDonalds (and not even Shakespeare could have come up with MaccyD). This is why we have developed an intrinsic theory of motivation by encouraging Stoics to develop projects through Vanguard in the Third Form and HPQs and EPQs as they rise through the School. The idea is that Stoics can immerse themselves in work they enjoy, entering the psychological state known as flow and forget about external pressures.



Our limits, like our fears, are largely illusory. However difficult life may seem, there is always something we can do well and succeed at. While it is true that “no plan survives contact with the enemy” because your enemy also has a plan, there are no limits to what can be achieved through grit and determination. Mike Tyson put it less elegantly when he said, “Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face.”

Last year I reflected on the launch of the School’s Growth Mindset initiative and how teachers give more praise for effort than innate talent and intelligence. We can now look back and measure this initiative’s success: the current Lower Sixth achieved a record number of As and A*s at GCSE. Our actors have dazzled in productions as varied as ‘Beauty and the Beast’ and ‘Lysistrata’; an unprecedented number of pupils have been selected to represent their country in lacrosse, hockey and rugby – including Devante Onojaife (Upper Sixth, Grenville) who has been twice capped as the England U18 flanker. Our rugby 7s maintained their winning streak by winning the Plate at the Rosslyn Park Cup Competition, having won the Festival last year. The cricket 1st XI remains unbeaten this season. Stowe girls’ hockey goes from strength to strength and the 1st XI team won the County Cup for the first time, the boys’ hockey 1st team won 13 matches and enjoyed their best season in many years; the 1st XII lacrosse team secured their best ever result at the National Schools’ Tournament by finishing in the top eight schools in the country while our netballers scored a dizzying total of 558 match goals and went through to the Regional rounds of the National Schools’ Competition. Twelve School swimming records were broken during the autumn term, Laura Brogden (Upper Sixth, Queen’s) gained her diploma for flute, while Theo Hayes (Third Form, Chatham) won first prize in the Milton Keynes Music Competition out of more than 1,000 entries. Stuart Milner (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Artura Subowo (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Anna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Queen’s), Jonny Reading (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Toby Lawrance (Lower Sixth, Cobham) competed against over 1,000 teams from 32 countries in April’s Guinness World Record breaking Robotics Championship

in Kentucky. Earlier this week a short film made by Fourth Form Stoics won the ‘Into Film: Into Space’ competition which was judged by Tim Peake on the International Space Station.

Before I introduce today’s guest of Honour, Kate Reardon, let’s have a Radio 2 segue and ‘I Dreamed a Dream’ sung by Eloise Dobson (Upper Sixth, Nugent).

It is a little known fact that the origin of the garden at Stowe comes from an essay which appeared in edition No.123 of Tatler which was published on 21 January 1710. The writer, Joseph Addison, describes an allegorical dream in which the reader is invited to reflect on virtue, honour and vanity while he takes a walk across the South Front from the Sleeping Wood to the Elysian Fields, contemplating along the way the Temple of Ancient Virtue, the British Worthies and Modern Virtue. Other articles in the January 1710 edition of Tatler include what to do if Frederick Prince of Wales proposes marriage; how to keep your ha-ha clear of peasants, whale bone corsets – in or out – and the latest bystander gossip and engravings from the Pump Room at Bath.

And this brings us to our Guest of Honour, Kate Reardon: Kate started her career in journalism as American Vogue’s youngest ever fashion assistant and then, aged 21, Kate became the youngest ever Fashion Director of Tatler. From 1999 Kate was Contributing Editor to Vanity Fair and since 2011 she has been the Editor of Stowe’s favourite magazine, Tatler. It was after the BBC fly-on-the-wall documentary series, ‘Posh People: Inside Tatler’, that I wrote to Kate to say that if she was suffering from any media withdrawal symptoms she might like to come back to Stowe as Speech Day Guest of Honour as Stowe has a particularly posh, discerning and beautiful audience; To my great delight Kate accepted the invitation. So, 306 years after Stowe was first dreamed up in the pages of Tatler, please welcome our very special Guest of Honour, Kate Reardon.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster



Kate Reardon

Given the importance of this day, I considered talking to you about the power of positive thinking, emotional resilience, social media, enthusiasm, not watching porn and being kind. But actually, I want to tell you about the importance of having a laugh.

The funny thing is, I'm only here because of the job that I have, and yet I know I'm going to get sacked. It's not a big deal, it's just what happens. Being a magazine editor is like being a football coach or a politician – it always ends in tears. But that's not such a bad thing and let me explain why – I'm too stupid to be able to hold in my mind that I'm going to die one day, and so I'm not very good at that *carpe diem* stuff. But I do absolutely know that one day I will be led, sobbing gently, from the Tatler offices. It'll be a bit embarrassing for a couple of weeks, but I'll get over it. So I figure I may as well get sacked for having a laugh and doing what I thought was funny.

To me, having a laugh is all about actively choosing to see the funny side, which in turn is all about controlling your thoughts, otherwise known as positive thinking – so, actually, I am going to talk about that for a bit.

To me, having a laugh is all about actively choosing to see the funny side, which in turn is all about controlling your thoughts, otherwise known as positive thinking – so, actually, I am going to talk about that for a bit.

I have a friend who has just made \$100m. She's called Natalie Massenet and she founded Net-a-Porter. She uses something she calls 'The Magic'; to you and me, it's positive visualisation. She decides to steer her thoughts, rather than just letting her mind run randomly – she decides to think about what it WILL be like when she has achieved something extraordinary. She does this as often as possible and has made a fortune by following it.

I'm now going to tell you something very personal. Last year I gave birth to twins. I was 46. You know, a 46 year old woman is unlikely to have babies without a lot of highly trained medical assistance, so I spent a year having IVF. Fertility treatment is, without doubt, the toughest thing I have ever done. It's the closest I will ever come to being truly heroic. Every time it didn't work, I felt as though I was being swallowed by a black hole of misery. As it happened, for the whole year I was having treatment, I was also being filmed for a BBC2 documentary about Tatler. No one knew. No one at the office. No one on the film crew. I would have to sneak out of meetings to inject myself in the bathroom at work. And month after month I didn't get pregnant. The point of telling you this is that I was forced to control my thoughts: every single morning I had to walk into that office and be a glossy magazine editor, I had to come up with funny ideas. In public. I had to be cheery, see the funny side and have a laugh. And believe me, it helped. Try it: when life is hard, fake it 'till you make it.

You may think that's all very well, but how can you control your thoughts when life is truly shocking? Viktor Frankl was a Jewish psychiatrist who was sent to Auschwitz. His mother, brother and wife all died in concentration camps. He is famous for his assertion that even in the most painful circumstances, life has meaning. It may seem trivial that I

am quoting Frankl in a speech about having a laugh, but he is also famous for his conclusion that even though we may not control circumstances, we can control our reaction. He said, “Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response.”

Laughter fact! Your body doesn't know you're faking it.

Learning to laugh at things and perhaps not to take yourself too seriously will help you put things into perspective – and with that comes emotional resilience. Things will go horribly wrong for you in one way or another, and how you deal with that is what's important. A definition of resilience can be how quickly you bounce back from disappointment. Why wouldn't you choose to bounce as quickly as you can? Be a bouncer.

Laughter fact! Studies by the University of California and the University of Zurich found that those people who were able to laugh at themselves tend to be more cheerful. And laughter, smiling and optimism are linked to overall better health.

By the way, shared laughter creates empathy – and empathy is a genuine superpower, a fast track to happiness and success. There isn't a lot of empathy on social media. We all know that we feel terrible when we see endless posts of others' supposedly glorious lives. But when you're posting yourself, you can forget that you're having exactly the same effect on other people. We can't whine about how destructive social media can be unless we take responsibility for our own use of it. So stop showing off. Use it lightly, have a laugh with it, promise yourself that for every deeply serious, self-regarding post you make, you will also make one that is life-enhancing and will make other people laugh.

Laughter fact! Research by Oxford University indicated that group laughter significantly raises your pain threshold. There is no question that laughter can be applied in a medical context for both psychological and physical pain. Laughter triggers an endorphin response, and endorphins can be 30 times more powerful than morphine. Watching funny videos has been shown to reduce hospital patients' need for painkillers. And it's dose-related: people in the experiment who laughed more felt less pain later.

It's impossible to have a laugh unless you are being enthusiastic. If you want to be attractive to others, be enthusiastic – in romantic relationships, in friendships and at work. I am lucky enough to be in a position (for now) to give people jobs. When I interview people, I yearn for enthusiasm and fun. I know you'll have been coached relentlessly on interview technique, but please, for me, next time you're in an interview, spare a thought for your interviewer. It's like going on twenty dates with people you're never going to sleep with. Beyond a regular level of intelligence... enthusiasm and wit – that's what I want. Forget how frightened you are – frankly, that's boring; I've sat in front of twelve other people just like you with that same nervous rash creeping up their necks. After a

while, you get obsessed with charting its progress. I've just given a job to a girl called Philippa Durell, who is now officially Tatler's Watch and Jewellery Editor (a peach of a job if ever there was one). I gave it to her because she was so enthusiastic and fun, even though she wasn't as well qualified as other applicants. But after just one interview, I knew I wanted to work with her every day. Once again, think about it from the interviewer's point of view – I have to pick someone I am going to spend more time with than I do with my husband and children, on the basis of a twenty minute chat while I watch the nervous rash creeping up your neck. You'd better be fun.

Laughter fact! A small study by Indiana State University showed that laughter can boost the immune system by up to 40%.

So, I lied! I talked about positive thinking, emotional resilience, social media and enthusiasm. Yup, now I'm going to mention porn – I can see you clenching with embarrassment, “Oh please will she stop?” And that includes my father. I'll be brief. What does porn have to do with having a laugh? Well, the more you watch, the less likely you are to have a laugh in real life.

Your own sexual responses to real-life situations can be sabotaged if you consume porn at an age when your brains are more plastic – more prone to permanent change (that's now) – than later in life. Last month, Time Magazine said: “Porn has always faced criticism amongst the faithful and the feminist, but now, for the first time, some of the most strident alarms are coming from the same demographic as its most enthusiastic customers.” A professor of psychology at Stanford University says: “The problem is, as you do this more and more, the reward centres of your brain lose the capacity for arousal.” You are a generation who are picky about what you put into your body – be picky about what you put into your brain. Porn, violent movies – you can't un-see that stuff. And even if you decide to ignore all of the above (which you shouldn't), as my friend Claudia Winkleman says to her son, “You love your mother, you love your sister – those women are not having a good time.” They are not having a laugh.

Laughter fact! Laughing with other people is proven to be even better at relieving pain than laughing alone.

As teenagers, you well know what it's like to be both judgmental and clinically oversensitive. So be kind and compassionate and share your laughter. Include other people. Include your parents. By the way – no one will laugh more easily with you, or think you are cleverer or funnier. Ever. We all know the overwhelming yearning to belong to a tribe or a gang (whether online or in real life), so make sure your laughter is inclusive, and not meanly directed at other people. I'm not asking you to do this for any saintly reason other than it will make you happier.

Really, all I have to tell you is this: find the funny side, stop showing off, be enthusiastic, don't watch porn, be kind. And have a laugh.

Ms Kate Reardon (Nugent 87)



Head Boy & Head Girl

Anna: My Lords, Ladies and Gentleman, Governors, Headmaster and distinguished guests, a very warm welcome to Stowe.

I must start by saying a very big thank you to Kate Reardon for her hugely inspirational and insightful speech. We would like to present you with some flowers.

Now, in doing some research I discovered that Kate hands each of her new employees a copy of 'Debrett's' upon arrival. As I'm sure you are all aware, Debrett's is the bible for British social climbing, etiquette and style – obviously something every Stoic keeps by their side at all times!

There are many people at Stowe with a style of their own and who drive the School from strength to strength, and that begins and ends with the man at the top. On behalf of the student body we would like to thank not only Dr Wallersteiner and all of our teachers, but all those that look after us so well including our Matrons, cleaners, the catering staff and so many more.

Harry: It was not too long ago that during a meeting the Headmaster rather candidly asked "Harry, have you actually done anything as Head Boy this year?", to which Anna kindly replied "well, only when I told him to".

As I have come to understand, having the support of those close to you is incredibly important and I am sure that both the Headmaster and our Chairman of Governors are very thankful for the unfailing support they receive from those closest to them. Mrs Wallersteiner and Mrs Honeyman Brown – please accept this token of our thanks.

Anna: Traditionally, the Prefect Body chooses a theme for the School to follow. These themes define the ambitions of Stoics for the year. As a slight change to previous overarching themes, Harry and I asked for words to be transformed into measurable actions.

So, having learned the invaluable art of delegation, each House was asked to come up with their own initiative. This resulted in some truly diverse ideas, Lyttelton's theme struck the heart of the Stowe ethos by taking the words of Sir Winston Churchill; "Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence... is the key to unlocking our potential" their recent House Chapel was indeed inspiring, describing how different members of Lyttelton have demonstrated such endeavour during the year.

But one that stands out is Queen's, where the girls decided to focus on the Fine Cell Work Charity. This supports the training of prisoners in paid, skilled and creative work, which greatly assists in their rehabilitation. Led by Upper Sixth Formers, Izzy Oliver, Dot Holt and Saskia Satchell, over a series of initiatives, Queen's raised over six thousand pounds for the cause.

Harry: The altruism of Stoics has been particularly evident throughout this year, with a variety of fundraising events. Valentine's Day proved to be particularly popular, as many of Cupid's arrows found their mark with a record breaking 2,000 roses. Together with other fundraising opportunities, a total of £4,500 has been raised for the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

Stowe helps us develop the skills and character traits that are required for success now and in the future. Whether this has been through helping fellow pupils, striving through adversity, developing resilience, embracing challenges or occasionally eating humble pie, Stowe has given us the chance to develop our individual personalities and to prepare for the next stage of our lives.

We have two prizes to award. The first is the Stoic Award, which is presented to someone in the Stowe community who has gone above and beyond the call of duty and is quite often an unsung hero, contributing tirelessly to the success of Stowe throughout the year. Having received the most votes, this year the Stoic Award goes to Mr Chris Walters. Mr Walters arrived at Stowe in September 2004. He has been a very enthusiastic and hardworking member of the



Drama Department teaching at all levels across the School. We hear that you are now set to spend the first period of your so called retirement teaching Drama at the Dominican Convent School in Johannesburg, South Africa. We would all like to wish you a very happy retirement after a very full career. Mr Walters, please come up to receive your award.

Anna: With so many inspirational Old Stoics, whether it is Sir Nicholas Winton MBE, Leonard Cheshire VC, or even Superman himself, every pupil here has someone to aspire to.

It is only fitting therefore, that our second award is kindly provided by Sir Richard Branson and goes to the Stoic who has shown the most outstanding entrepreneurship. This year we had some fierce competition, and a number of very strong applicants, but it gives me great pleasure to announce, that the winner of this year's Branson Award goes to Tom Leach (Fifth Form, Walpole) for his online business that distributes beef across America. Could Tom please come up to collect his award?

Harry: It has been a huge honour to represent the School as Head Boy and Head Girl. Our time here comes to an end, leaving us with the privilege of handing over the responsibility. I know that the new Head Boy will be an

excellent role model and I am sure that he will go from strength to strength in his new position. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to ask Jarrod Van der Westhuizen (Lower Sixth, Grafton) to come up and collect the Head Boy's tie.

Anna: It is also time for me to hand over the reins to the new Head Girl. I know that your contribution to the School has been immense over the last four years, and that your reliable, enthusiastic and perceptive nature will no doubt stand you in good stead in fulfilling this responsibility. Thalia Felton (Lower Sixth, Queen's) – please could you come up to collect your Head Girl's necklace?

It now just leaves me with the pleasure of wishing all the Stowe leavers the very best in their futures. I am sure, like me, that you all will take with you some very special memories that will stay with you for a lifetime. Thank you to Stowe, fellow Stoics and to our parents for the amazing opportunities we have enjoyed.

Harry: We would now like to hand you over to the cast of this year's hit musical *Beauty and the Beast* for a performance of a medley of some of their songs.

*Harry Norris (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and
Anna Fox (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)*



Iain Young

Iain started at Stowe in the History of Art Department in September 2000 and became Head of Department in 2007. He was appointed as a specialist in Modern Art and in class, Iain's own impressive intellect and love of philosophy meant that he gave substantial contextual knowledge and information.

Over the years, he organised and took trips to both Paris and New York. The latter was to become an annual fixture in the calendar of the Art and History of Art Departments enabling staff and pupils to enjoy the galleries, streets and museums of New York. Quite a few Stoics whom he taught have chosen to study the History of Art for a degree, many at Russell Group universities and some have gone on to run galleries in New York and London and have risen to prominent positions in international auction houses.

Iain was also a popular choice as a Sixth Form Tutor, doing a duty in Grafton where he monitored and helped with preps and provided pastoral support. He left us to pursue a career in teaching Art (his first degree was from Falmouth in Fine Art) and we wish him good fortune.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Keith Brown

Keith came to Stowe in September 2015 to fill a grey hole that was left following Simon Dearsley's departure. His remit was to cover a lot of academic teaching, assist with Chapel music and conduct the orchestra. He immediately proved that he is a fantastically competent Church musician and a first class organist. His versatility was evident when he took over the orchestra: all the players commented on his very clear conducting and his excellent rehearsal technique.

His first outing with the orchestra was conducting Handel's music for the Royal Fireworks and with fewer players than in previous years; he somehow managed to make them sound like an orchestra of twice the size. In the Remembrance Service, the whole building was moved by Keith's performance with the brass players of Elgar's 'Nimrod', so much so that the masonry started falling off the Portico above the Chapel steps. On the same day, he picked himself up and conducted four major piano concertos with Stoics in the Music School. A real glutton for punishment, Keith ended the same day conducting an amazing performance of Mozart's Requiem. His extensive work with the choir in the Michaelmas term culminated in two very professional Carol Services and in the Lent term, he laid a solid foundation with the academic music classes he taught.

Keith has been a great member of the team and all of us in the Music Department will miss his wicked sense of humour and professional advice. We wish him all the very best in his new role in St Albans and we are so grateful for all of his help and support this year.

Mr Ben Andrew

Susan Coomber

It is with grateful thanks that we acknowledge the energy and commitment that Dr Susan Coomber has given to the Chemistry Department this year. Despite being new to the Department, Sue settled in straightaway and quickly became a very integrated part of the team. With a Chemistry degree and PhD in Physics plus her on-going work as a senior moderator for the AQA examination board, she has used her wealth of experience to continually come up with novel ideas for experiments and interesting questions to make Stoics think for themselves. Sue's love of science is abundantly clear to all those who work with her and she played an important part in setting up the Third Form CSI initiative. She has generously given much of her time to fully support her tutees as well as liaising with the Art Department to see how Chemistry can help bridge the gap between the arts and the sciences. Sue leaves us to take up the post of Head of Chemistry at the Northampton School for Girls and takes with her our very best wishes.

Mr James Tearle

Liz Sheard

Liz has worked at Stowe for 26 years and it is with great regret that we say goodbye to her. Generations of Stoics have benefited from her outstanding English teaching and achieved good grades because of her patience, care and devotion to her pupils. In addition, her work in the Skills Department has meant that many a Stoic got through their exams with the grades to pursue their chosen careers. Indeed, she has supported up to 13 different A Level courses – her bookshelf alone testifying to the breadth and variety of her skills and personal support. Colleagues in the English Department are also grateful for her careful mentoring and insight into classroom teaching. Although Liz is leaving Stowe, some of us will hope to continue to enjoy the warm, generous and gracious hospitality offered by Liz and Pete. Stowe is profoundly indebted to Liz for all she has done over these many years and so, from both the School and myself, a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

Mr Crispin Robinson



Will Goldsmith

Will's contribution to Stowe as a teacher, Head of English and as Faculty Chair has been immense. Under his leadership the English Department has continued to go from strength to strength, not only in terms of the numbers of pupils and the results they achieve, but also in terms of what Stoics have been offered beyond the classroom. This year has seen many fantastic events run under the banner of the Senior or Junior Literary Society, such as 'Bill's Birthday Bash' (Bill Shakespeare, that is) and the visit of Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. He has also organised an extra opportunity for Stoics to prepare for and enter a script-writing competition and he put together an extremely moving Holocaust Memorial Day event. He has brought enormous energy, drive and vision to the Department.

As Faculty Chair, Will has contributed enormously across the board in terms of planning and strategy, but again where he leaves his most lasting legacy is in the systems he has helped set up to support and develop staff. He was largely responsible for driving the introduction of the School's new VLE, which has proved such a popular tool for both Stoics and staff alike. He has also been instrumental in helping to spread the use of the new classroom cameras, which have been increasingly popular

for staff in helping their understanding and reflections on their own delivery. The English Department has undergone a lot of staffing changes over the past few years and Will has done a fantastic job of managing this change and developing his team, many of whom have arrived as either trainee or newly qualified teachers. He is passionate about teaching and is always positive and encouraging. This enthusiasm infuses everything that he does and he has been transformative in the development of so many in his team.

Will has brought the same level of care and dedication to his pupils, who have been given many hours of individual attention. He has brought culture and sophistication not just in the form of words (and he is a master of several languages himself), but also with his knowledge of viniculture. This last year he has, alongside Clare Hill-Hall, run the Corkscrew Society which has been very successful. Our older Stoics have not only developed their knowledge of fine wines and how to appreciate them, but they have also risen to the high standards of manners and etiquette set by Will and Clare. Both of these skills will no doubt stand them in good stead in years to come.

We wish Will our best wishes and good luck with his new role of Head of English at Laytmer Upper School in London.

Dr Julie Potter



Kath Hinds

Kath graduated in 1995 from the University of Leicester with a degree in Combined Sciences, specialising in Biological Sciences. She then went on to study her PGCE at Edge Hill University College followed by her first teaching role in Liverpool. Within her first three years she was promoted to Head of Biology. After 12 years of running the Department she moved to Priestley College in Warrington, Cheshire in 2009. In 2014, Kath joined Stowe as a part-time Biology teacher. During her time here Kath has been an inspirational teacher to the Stoics and her teaching has been very much enjoyed. To her colleagues Kath has always brought fun and laughter to everyone's day. For now, Kath has temporarily retired from teaching after moving north and is using the time to settle her three children at Stonyhurst.

Miss Lauren Ellis



Alan Murray

Alan Murray is part of the very fabric of Stowe, having been a loyal servant to the School for one term short of thirty years. During his long and distinguished career he has influenced the lives of many, imparting his passions for geography, football and the great outdoors to thousands of willing participants. For the vast majority of his time at Stowe he has been attached to Bruce, working with a succession of Housemasters. His role in the Geography Department has been legendary, with his own inimitable teaching style and extraordinary board skills and classroom craftsmanship resulting in year after year of outstanding examination results. He instilled a love of Geography in those he taught and his pupils were confident in the depth of their subject knowledge and understanding. Alan's enthusiasm was always at the forefront when he was conducting fieldwork, whether on the beaches of Harlech and Criccieth, the streets of Buckingham, Northampton or Porthmadog or the spectacular glacial scenery of Snowdonia.

Alan's first passion is, without doubt, football and he was instrumental in developing the sport at Stowe from relatively humble beginnings with a few Sunday matches to its current position as a sport with a full fixture list and professional coaching team. In addition to being a loyal and faithful Hull FC supporter he is a talented player himself, representing numerous local clubs over the years and providing formidable and impenetrable opposition to the Stoics in their end of term Stoics v staff matches. Alan has also been a stalwart supporter of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and for many years was Master in Charge, leading many successful and memorable expeditions

– only once have Mountain Rescue been called out to support a group struggling through thigh deep snowdrifts in white-out conditions – Alan is quick to point out that this was not an expedition he was personally leading!

For several years Alan was involved in a participation scheme with the Pineapple Club – a club for boys based in Paddington, London. Groups of Stoics would be accompanied to and across London to partake in a wide range of activities and events. It is a shame, but perhaps inevitable in an era of increasingly robust requirements for risk assessments, that Stowe's liaison with the Club eventually came to an end. A further example of Alan's wide reaching contribution to the broader life of the School was his leadership of the Foundationers' Programme, an extra-curricular activity programme for Third Form pupils that ran for several years, based on core and life skills including First Aid, cooking, ironing, sewing and lessons in etiquette. This much celebrated and visionary programme thrived under Alan's governance and contributed to the wider education of large numbers of young Stoics.

It is impossible to pay full tribute to a man who has devoted so many years to Stowe and had such a significant impact on so many. As he finally retires, we wish Alan and his wife Kay, their children and grandchildren a thoroughly deserved, happy and healthy future.

Mrs Sally Akam



Alicia Davies

Alicia arrived in September 2013 from Magdalen College School, Brackley as a Biology teacher and Nugent Under Housemistress. It was obvious from the start that she had an inner strength and we tested her from the very start:

Nugent was undergoing refurbishment – and in September 2013 we realised that the House wasn't going to be ready. We had no Common Room or social space as the builders were still in! And to top it all I had been diagnosed with cancer and would have to have an operation and undergo six months of chemotherapy.

However she came through it with flying colours and when Hannah Knott left at the end of Alicia's first year there was no decision to be made – I asked her to step up and be Assistant Housemistress.

During her three years she has been part of the CCF, coached rowing, helped to run the Headmaster's Essay Society, run the Biomedical Society, been that lone person in the boat on the lake throughout the Challenge Cup and was the member of staff in charge of the successful Colour Run. Her Tutor group last year recorded a 77% A/A* in their GCSEs and, although a lot of it is down to teaching and their innate ability, Alicia worked hard to help them achieve their potential.

Alicia and Jeremy were very obviously in love when I first met them and that love has not been destroyed by the various situations that living and working in a boarding school throws at you. They are getting married in the summer of 2017 and we wish them all the best for the future.

On behalf of Nugent I thank you for always leaving my desk in a bigger mess than it was at the start of the evening; sharing your love of green pens; making me feel more inadequate with anything technical than I really am; your creative APG data; your support and loyalty and your determination to support Nugent and help to make it the House it is today.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo

Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo, Aleja to his friends, is an inspirational, intelligent and intuitive young man who made superb contributions to so many different aspects of Stowe life in his year here as Harvard Fellow. Within living memory, no one can remember a Harvard Fellow receiving a standing ovation at the annual Harvard Dinner, but this is exactly what Aleja received.

Here in Walpole we were privileged to have Aleja living among us as part of the Walpole family and he quickly endeared himself in equal measure to the boys and to his colleagues. He built up an excellent rapport with boys of all ages and was always ready to throw himself into every aspect of House life from advising the debating team on their arguments and rhetoric, to giving tips to the House athletes on how to run a successful 800m race.

Aleja learnt a huge amount about himself in his year at Stowe and got his first taste of teaching in the Maths Department where his commitment to teaching the best possible lesson and his self-reflection on the lessons he taught were second to none. He was also incredibly busy in his extra-curricular programme which included, inter alia,

rowing, running and a host of more bizarre British traditions such as being the anchorman in the Walpole Pancake Race relay team!

Aleja returns to the USA to continue his learning and his involvement in developing educational and pedagogical systems that maximise chances for individual pupils, especially those from more disadvantaged backgrounds than the vast majority of Stoics. We hope the lessons he learnt here at Stowe will stand him in good stead and he will always be assured of a very warm welcome at the School and in Walpole in particular when he returns.

Mr Peter Last

Chris Walters

Chris arrived at Stowe in September 2004 and in his time with us he has immersed himself in a multitude of eclectic and exciting projects and it is going to be very hard for me, and indeed many others, to imagine the place being the same without him.

I can honestly say that Chris has been one of the most genuine, supportive, trustworthy and reliable colleagues I have ever had the pleasure of working with. The many hundreds of Stoics that he has worked with over the years have been inspired, entertained, engaged and enthused to always strive to achieve their very best.

He has taught, tutored, directed and, most importantly, always been there for a veritable feast of wonderfully talented young actors developed at Stowe. All of them have benefited enormously from his wealth of knowledge and experience, be that in the classroom, the rehearsal studio or up on the Roxy stage.

All of us who know him well have the utmost respect and admiration for the way in which he handled his brave and defiant fight against cancer, which in effect took him away from Stowe for the best part of a year. Remarkably Chris came back to work and for the past couple of years he has been working in a part-time role, sharing the teaching of some of our Sixth Form classes.

Chris is a remarkable man, he is a man of integrity and he is a man true to himself and his beliefs. Teaching has been his life and a true vocation for him. I am sure we will all miss him terribly and wish him the best for the next stage of his life which, incidentally, will include four months in Johannesburg working at the Dominican Convent School. After that who knows? But his continued involvement with his beloved Thame Youth Theatre, working with the Long Crendon players and also acting at the Shakespeare festivals at Pendley and Oxford Castle will certainly keep him busy.

Mr Nick Bayley



Rosemary Trace

Rosemary has worked at Stowe for over twenty years, teaching in both the Skills and Maths Departments. Focusing on pupils who find number work challenging, she has inspired numerous pupils to enter their GCSE Maths exam with confidence and the skills needed to gain a good pass. She became an absolute specialist in making Maths comprehensible and accessible to all pupils, no matter how difficult they found the subject. Rosemary's vast range of experience meant that she could also help pupils develop their study skills, revision strategies and exam techniques. A fount of all knowledge, she will be truly missed by so many, past and present, here at Stowe.

Mrs Sharon Carter



Rosa Goodman

Rosa joined us in January 2016 for two terms in the History of Art Department. Through her innovative and fun teaching she enlivened the Lower Sixth, raised them to the standards we expect of them, and both stimulated and encouraged them. The Lower Sixth's re-creation of Gericault's 'Raft of the Medusa' on the South Front is perpetuated in the photo on the Department wall, and it will remind us daily of the energy and enthusiasm she gave to all her pupils. With the Upper Sixth, too, she gave them their confidence and provided a firm foundation for exam preparation after Easter. Similarly she enlivened the Visual Education activity, using apps and technology to inspire her Third Form classes. As a colleague we could not have asked for more and as a Tutor she will be much missed in Queen's.

Mr Crispin Robinson

Matt Cheney

Although Matt has only been with us for a short period of time, he has thrown himself into every aspect of life at Stowe. His efforts as a sports coach during the lacrosse season and more recently the cricket season have been welcomed by staff and Stoics alike. He took to duties well and soon became a useful member of staff.

I think a personal highlight of mine of Matt's time here at Stowe has to be the Monday night football, both with the staff team and later with my personal team playing in a league. During staff games he was always the one to challenge me and give the worst banter. When playing for my personal team he was a vocal and useful goalkeeper. I would hope that Matt has similar fond memories of football at Stowe.

Matt has become a very popular member of staff due to his likeable nature and sense of humour. He has worked his way into many different areas of Stowe, not just sport coaching but also getting involved in the equestrian centre where he has been found to be very handy with a shovel and also coming to observe lessons to help his development for future plans. This willingness to get his hands dirty both metaphorically and literally has made him a valuable member of staff who is never known to shirk a responsibility.

I think I speak for all those who know Matt in wishing him the very best in the future, whatever he goes on to do, and hope that he continues to go about his life with the same drive he has shown here at Stowe. He is always welcome to return to Stowe, especially if it is to make a guest appearance at staff football!

All the best in the future Matt.

Mr Alistair Last



Jonathan Pryse

Dr Jonathan Pryse is moving on after 12 years' distinguished service as our Deputy Medical Officer and he will be sorely missed at Stowe.

Jonathan qualified from Guy's Hospital, London in 1992 and completed his GP training in Chesterfield in 1996 before moving to work as a GP in Aylesbury until 2000. Since then he has been a partner at a local practice in Buckingham where he has job shared with his lovely wife Dr Rebecca Pryse. Jonathan became Deputy Medical Officer at Stowe in 2004.

Jonathan has been a great support to the Medical Officer (Dr Rebecca Pryse) and the nursing team during huge periods of change and is proud to be part of a medical service that is now the envy of many other schools.

Jonathan has enjoyed watching his own two children progress through Stowe. This has helped him appreciate how pupils tackle Stowe life in general and also how they deal with medical issues and learn to access healthcare.

As well as continuing to practise locally Jonathan will continue to hold a number of other medical roles, working hard to lead the future development of primary care in Buckingham. Having recently purchased a road bike, he is also hoping to have some extra time to cycle the amazing country roads around Stowe and throughout Buckinghamshire.

We wish Jonathan all the best for the future.

Mrs Debbie Jenkins

Wayne Whittaker

Wayne joined the Maths Department in September 2014 brimming with enthusiasm and energy. He was a popular Third Form Tutor in Chandos where he made a real effort to get to know his new charges and helped them settle in to their new school, both academically and pastorally. With his extensive experience of staff training in previous schools, he was key to helping to define the competences for the annual appraisal of teaching staff. He often volunteered for duties and was an enthusiastic football player and coach. We were sad to say goodbye to him at the end of the Michaelmas term 2015 as he decided to return to teaching and to his house (and very beautiful garden) in the Manchester area.

Mr Crispin Robinson

Ellen Atherton

Ellen has had links with Stowe for over forty years, initially as a parent and then as a member of staff for the last 22 years. Ellen has worked with numerous dyslexic pupils, helping them to gain skills and confidence as they prepare for their GCSEs. Her speciality was in improving vocabulary and comprehension, particularly in the English curriculum, aiding pupils to gain important English qualifications in readiness for further study. She will be sorely missed by many; one Third Former described her as “the best teacher ever”.

Mrs Sharon Carter



Chris Huxtable

Chris joined Stowe with his family in January 2012, having been working in Australia. It is testament to Chris’ ability to read a situation and read a group of people as to how quickly he settled into the role and brought about an all-encompassing and consistent worship that I genuinely believe all can relate to, Christian, Muslim, believer or non-believer.

Therefore, the word that best summarises what Chris has brought to the role is ‘dignity’. Not only in affirming and reminding all that the Chapel is a sacred space and should be treated with respect and be cherished, but the way he conducts himself and engages with all members of the Stowe community, it is all done with the utmost dignity.

Whilst I do not want this to turn into a list of all Chris’ achievements, he must be publically recognised for his huge contribution to the pastoral side of the School. Being a confidante for Stoics and staff alike, I know a lot of what is done on that front is often unseen but is always carried out with extreme empathy and tact.

It must also be mentioned that Chris has been a superb supporter, physically, spiritually and emotionally to the South African Scholars over the past four years, allowing them to express their own stories and faiths in a safe and respectful environment.

In addition, Chris’ involvement in the creation of the new ‘Cantata Stoica’ was invaluable and I do not think there are many School Chaplains who can boast influencing Stowe’s ‘Barmy Army’ rugby chant on the North Front every Saturday... “Glory to God... Glory to God... Glory to the Father...” and people say the secularisation of society is on the rise... not at Stowe!



As I have said, I do not want simply list everything Chris has done, but I will anyway... running Service at Stowe; visiting the old peoples’ homes; helping with their Christmas party; weekly offerings of communion and overseeing and running the confirmation of Stoics. I am sure I have missed things off and in reality the list will be much longer!

Chris was frequently faced with teaching the short course GCSE cohort. His exam results speak for themselves: in all the data that I could find, over the past three years, Chris has a 100% record of A*-C. As a Department I speak on behalf of us all when I say we really will miss you and thank you so much for everything that you have contributed to the Department and Stowe.

So, to sum up, everyone here at Stowe really does wish you all the very best for whatever may lay ahead for you, Cathy and the children; Stowe will miss you greatly. How does one encapsulate all that a Chaplain of Chris’ abilities and qualities into one tribute? They don’t and they probably should not be able to, but I will leave you with a quote from a member of staff about Chris which does a pretty good job:

“He’s a wonderful man who acts with such grace and humility in everything he does. He is an incredibly warm person with an excellent sense of humour.”

Mr Michael Rickner

Stephanie Stocks

Steph joined Stowe in the Summer term of 2014 from Bradfield, having to cope with a change of Housemaster in the Michaelmas term. Steph flourished and got to grips with the logistics of Grenville and the boys in it. Saturday night hot dogs, hot chocolate and ever an open door, Steph offered the youngsters an opportunity to speak to their 'away from home' mum at any time. At the same time she took no prisoners and always reminded the boys of their responsibilities. She enjoyed watching the boys represent the School at sport and enjoyed running as a pastime – completing several mini marathons. She leaves to be nearer her two sons in London and takes up a similar role at Harrow. She will be missed by all associated with Grenville.

Mr Alan Hughes



Catrin Evans

Before arriving at Stowe, Cat had travelled extensively, spent time living and working in Australia and studied Design at the University of Leeds. At Leeds, Cat was awarded a first for her dissertation on making cigarette packaging more off-putting in order to discourage teenagers from smoking. She presented the whole project in a custom-made scaled up cigarette packet which she had designed.

Since starting at Stowe in 2013, Cat has been a successful and respected coach of hockey, lacrosse, skiing and rounders. She really shines out on the pitch explaining techniques and tactics to pupils and her enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, sport are truly impressive.

Cat's love of sports and coaching led her to set up her own company 'Electric Sports' in 2014. Since then a variety of sports camps, led by inspirational coaches and international players, have been running in the school holidays. Cat set up this company from scratch and runs everything herself; from managing the website, the merchandise, the online payment system to CRB checking the coaches and everything inbetween. On top of this Cat has been working towards her PCGE in Design.

This year, not only has Cat qualified as an outstanding teacher, she has coached sports five days a week, been the Under Housemistress in Queen's, kept her company running and has been successful in getting her first official teaching job. If all this weren't impressive enough, Cat has had to work a lot harder than most to complete her PGCE assignments due to her being dyslexic. When one stops to think about the number of challenges Cat has taken on over the last couple of years, one realises that she may actually be superhuman!

Cat's kindness and sense of fun will be missed by colleagues and pupils alike.

Miss Collette Stirzaker

Matthew Smith

Matthew joined us in September 2014 from Island School, Hong Kong. He joined our impressive Design and Technology Department keen to face the challenges of new GCSE and A Level exam syllabuses and to raise the academic profile of the subject by working with the Sciences and pursuing engineering as an option. As a classroom teacher, Matthew was popular with his pupils and they responded with an enthusiasm and a creativity which he actively encouraged. The quality of work, which is displayed annually at Speech Day, continues to draw universal approbation from staff, parents and visitors and Matthew's emphasis on, and belief in, creativity in both thought and process, were visible in both the range and quality of furniture, portfolios and architectural models of a very high standard and, last year, an outstanding chandelier of superb design and craftsmanship. We wish him well as he looks to new ventures.

Mr Crispin Robinson

Pippa Kitchen

Pippa arrived at Stowe in 2011 after having taught English as a Second Language at Warwick School. Initially, Pippa joined the ESL Department and was the obvious choice to run the Department while Julie Johnson was on maternity leave. In 2015 Pippa then decided to gain her PGCE teaching English and moved full time into teaching English as a first language.

As Pippa's PGCE year progressed it became clear that she is a woman of many talents. Before joining the teaching profession, Pippa negotiated IT and Telecoms contracts and she has brought her love of technology into the classroom. Pippa also used to host pupils learning English in her home and she is an excellent hostess. These two previous careers have combined to create a teacher that is organised, warm, fun, diligent and interesting. One could walk into Pippa's jam-packed lessons at any time to see interesting video clips, well-made resources and engaged Stoics. Her many skills also came in useful when driving the minibus each week to visit the elderly.

Throughout her time here, Pippa has been a kind, collaborative and conscientious member of the Common Room. We will miss her sense of fun and we wish her all the very best in her new role at Warwick School.

Mrs Emma Ackroyd



Emma Rayner

Emma started at Stowe to teach EAL and English in September 2014. She threw herself into the post with characteristic energy and she motivated her pupils with an infectious enthusiasm for learning. Within a year, and in addition to her excellent teaching of Philosophy and Religion, Emma had been promoted to Head of the newly-established Projects Department (Vanguard and the HPQ), plus taking on the Assistant Housemistress role in West supporting the pupils and staff team with the utmost professionalism. Furthermore, she found time to be a superb Tutor in Queen's and, on the sporting front, to coach U14 and Colts hockey and athletics. Sadly she left us in March 2016 to pursue a role that offered her and her family much more flexibility and we wish her well in this new endeavour.

Mr Crispin Robinson

Luke Stone

Luke has had a huge impact on the School in his two years here as Head of Hockey and the School in turn has had a big impact on him. The time has flown past.

After a year of consolidation Luke set about putting new initiatives in place in an effort to raise standards and change the attitude of staff and pupils towards hockey. Luke has fostered stronger links with Buckingham Ladies Hockey Club, introduced four indoor hockey teams (with the U18 girls reaching the Regional Finals in their first year in the National competition), a camera platform at the astros, a girls' 1st XI Pre-Season tour to Amsterdam, and coached teams to become County Champions.

In the Summer term Luke turned his hand to cricket and running the 2nd XI. He has helped develop this team with a mixture of quality coaching, enjoyment and, as the Stoics would say, banter.

In his first year he took on the role of Under Housemaster in Bruce which he has thoroughly enjoyed for the last two years. Luke comments, "The Bruce boys are well rounded individuals and it has been fun to get to know them outside of the classroom." In his last year he was a Tutor for the Fourth Form which he found very rewarding.

It has been a privilege working with such a talented and dedicated colleague and coach. We wish Luke well as he moves to MCS Oxford to head up their hockey and also wish him and Anna a happy future together as husband and wife.

Mr Isaac Michael

Academic Report

It has been an outstanding year for academic achievement at Stowe. We kicked off in August with our best examination results ever at both GCSE and A Level. Over half of all GCSE exams taken were awarded A or A* and the Art, Chemistry, Computing, Design, EAL, Geography, German, History, Latin, Music and Philosophy and Religion Departments all helped over 60% of their pupils to A* or A grades at GCSE. Eighteen Stoics entering the Lower Sixth were awarded honorary Academic Scholarships for achieving eight A* grades or more at GCSE, with two Stoics achieving an impressive total of ten A*s. Once again our overall Value Added scores at A Level placed us in the top 10% in the country, and there were some tremendous individual performances. One pupil achieved four A*s and five others achieved three A*s, whilst twenty Stoics achieved three A grades or more. 70% of all grades at A Level were awarded at A*-B, with 34% of exams marked as A*. Over half of the grades awarded at A Level in Art, Chemistry, Design, French, Music and Spanish were A* or A. Of the Stoics who left in 2015, 78 gained places to study at Russell Group universities, representing 54% of the cohort.

The changes to the A Level curriculum which took effect this year have brought both challenges and opportunities. With this being the first year of the three-year rolling process of moving all A Level qualifications from modular to linear assessment, and given that it would no longer be possible with many subjects to discontinue after one year and still achieve a qualification, Stoics were asked to think carefully in December about whether or not to continue with four subjects throughout the Lower Sixth. It was encouraging to see that, despite the chance to reduce to three in January, many pupils chose to carry on with four subjects to maintain their academic breadth as long as possible. Those who chose to reduce down to three subjects in January did so for the right reasons and have all also started an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). There have been some Lower Sixth Stoics this year who have decided to not only carry on with four subjects, but have also used their study periods to pick up extra qualifications such as a standalone AS in Further Maths or an EPQ. The new flexibility to choose more breadth or depth offered by Stowe's approach to the A Level choices has proved very popular with Stoics and parents alike, although the rolling nature of the exam changes meant a challenging mix of external and internal exams in the summer. This should prove easier for pupils to manage next year, when almost all subjects will be linear.

Here at Stowe we are not just responding innovatively to the changes being brought in by the Government, but we are also continuing to constantly explore how we can improve our curriculum offer even more. A new Media Studies Department has been set up and will have its first A Level pupils in September. Another exciting development this year has been the introduction of the Vanguard programme as part of the core curriculum for the Third Form, which will lead into studying for a Higher Project Qualification (HPQ), equivalent to a GCSE in the Fourth and Fifth Form. This is a programme built around pupils



engaging in research and projects and the first year is also designed to offer challenges outside the 'normal' range of academic subjects. Project-based learning encourages pupils to build their skills of independent thinking and research and the drafting and redrafting process involved develops a deeper awareness of the importance of feedback and critique. These qualifications not only offer a wonderful opportunity for pupils to identify and explore in depth areas of study they are genuinely passionate about, but also help to develop the skills of research, self-reflection and critical thinking that are key to being an effective learner in any field or endeavour. In the Sixth Form the EPQ (worth the equivalent of half an A Level) has also become extremely popular, with over 90 Stoics now aiming to complete their projects this coming December.

The high level of academic engagement and ambition evident above has also been reflected in the large numbers applying for and engaging in our Scholars' Societies. Forty nine of the Lower Sixth applied for and were accepted into the Headmaster's Essay Society, designed to support and stretch those with ambitions to attend Oxbridge or one of the other most competitive universities here or abroad – the biggest cohort the School has ever seen. A further 55 Lower School Stoics were selected as members of the Lower School Academic Scholars' (LSAS) Group, which met every week to explore challenging issues and to take on extra initiatives.

Commitment to academic extension has not been restricted to the Scholars' groups. There have been countless opportunities throughout the year for all Stoics to attend extra lectures, trips and subject societies. Drama and English have organised theatre trips to productions such as 'Brave New World' and 'Rebecca', 'The Importance

of *Being Earnest*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, *Dr Faustus* and *Uncle Vanya*. Both Departments have also had a busy schedule of events based at Stowe, including hosting performances from Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and BBC Grand Slam Poetry finalist Kirsten Luckins. Our Politics pupils went to Westminster in October and met Speaker of the House of Commons and MP for Buckingham John Bercow, hosted Mark Garnier MP in May, and more recently organised the School's own EU campaign and referendum. In addition to regular meetings and film nights, our historians heard from Professor Richard Carwardine on Abraham Lincoln and from Professor Saul David on Wellington at Waterloo. The Geographical Society met for discussions on issues such as 'Disaster Management', 'Global Aid' and 'River Basins under Pressure' and a selection of Sixth Form Stoics attended a study day at UCL in November. The Science Department has been very active, with regular meetings of the Quantum and Biomedical Societies, hosting speakers such as Dr Belinda Wilkes from NASA, Dr Stuart Eves on 'Airbus Defence and Space' and Dr Sebastian Lucas on 'Pathology'. This year they also ran a special 'Stretch and Challenge' week for the Lower School where Stoics had to use their scientific and forensic skills to solve the (fictional) murder of the Head of Science.

There have also been a number of new Academic Societies formed this year. The Sophia Society has been established and driven by some of our Sixth Form Philosophy and Religion pupils. They attended a conference on 'Being and Nothingness', hosted Dr Jamie Carter for a talk on the question: 'Is there an intelligent mind behind the universe?'

and in April hosted Dr Katherine Morris from Oxford University on 'Jean-Paul Sartre's Concept of Freedom'. The new Gaussian Society for Mathematicians has also been a great success. They hosted Professor Tony Mann, held a meeting on 'Inspiration', entered the 'Maths Feast' competition in Milton Keynes and have seen large numbers turning out to hear talks led by our own inimitable Mr Yadsan on topics such as 'The Mathematics of Hate'.

There have been many other exciting speakers and events beyond these listed, but perhaps the most impressive extra-curricular accomplishment this year has been from the Robotics Society, formed last year and led by Mr Thompson. Stowe hosted a Regional Final in the Marble Saloon which caught the imagination of many in the School and the teams went on to gain a place in the VEX Robotics National competition for the second year running. The Junior and Senior teams ended up facing each other in the semi-finals, which was won by the Seniors. Their performance was strong enough to win them a place in the World Robotics Final in Kentucky in April. Here the Stowe team were hampered by some technical difficulties that kept them from a high placing, but certainly did themselves, and the School, credit.

All in all, it has perhaps been the most academically ambitious and full year the School has ever seen, with most of the drive coming from the Stoics themselves, who amongst other things have formed a new 'Academic Student Council' to pass on ideas and feedback to the teaching staff on academic matters. There is a real spirit of intellectual excitement and fizz – it is a great time to be at Stowe!

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)





West, winners of the Mike Dawson Mathematics Trophy

Mathematics

This has been a year of many changes in the Maths Department. We had to say goodbye to some of our most established teachers including Rosemary Trace, Patricia Bennett and the Head of Department Damian Blewitt. We also swapped the brilliant Harvard Fellow Michael Chilazi with an equally impressive new Harvard Fellow, Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo. We welcomed Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, as a full time Maths teacher, Toby Le Lacheur, who we share with Physics and Computer Science, Hakan Yadsan, who also teaches Physics, and had some help from Economics teacher Andrew Wilson. In addition to these changes we lost Wayne Whittaker which left the Department short, but we overcame this when Rosemary and Patricia kindly came back to help out. Then at the beginning of the Lent term, Tony Webster returned to Stowe to teach full time. The Department benefited from a broad range of teachers full of innovative ideas, making us stronger than ever.

The results from last year were very impressive, demonstrating the strength of the Department. At AS 36% scored the highest grade and more than 55% are on course to do well in their A Levels with a B or higher.

At A Level we had a 100% pass rate with 11 Stoics achieving A*, this really was a great year. 100% was achieved in six of the modules taken this year by Elsa Desmond (Lyttelton 15), Adesola Kazeem (Stanhope 15), James Macdonald-Buchanan (Chandos 15), James Simpson (Chatham 15) and Tom Dixon (Bruce 15), which brought the total number of full marks modules achieved by this year group to 20 which has totally eclipsed the previous record. In addition to this Caspar Whitehead (Walpole 15) joined the small elite group who achieved the double A* in Maths and Further Maths.

At GCSE the results were also strong: a record 30 A*s and a 100% pass rate. An unusually high number of pupils (20) were entered for the Additional Maths exam. Toby Lawrance (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Angus Parsonson (Lower Sixth, Chatham) achieved an A in this very difficult exam.

The Department has built upon the progress we made last year by continuing to push pupils to become more

independent and resourceful learners. The effect has been overwhelmingly positive, with Stoics coming to the Maths Department at all times of the day to take advantage of the extra clinics put on by Mr Tony McDaid and myself, in addition to the normally scheduled clinics. Upper School Stoics have also been coming and helping out in Lower School lessons in their study periods – this has been a very successful scheme, creating an atmosphere where younger pupils feel more connected to their older peers both in lessons and in House.

Stoics have really embraced the atmosphere of intellectual curiosity in the Maths Department this year, and this is shown by the large numbers (between 40 and 70) who have turned up to the Maths lectures put on by Mr Yadsan's newly founded Gaussian Society. We will build on this success and from next year will offer it to the Lower School as well as the Sixth Form.

The Puzzle Day for the Third Form gave them the opportunity to work in groups to investigate Maths problems. They learnt how to think about questions in different ways and be more creative to discover the best solutions. After the success of last year's event, the Department held another Inter-House Mathematics competition, again brilliantly organised by Mr Tony McDaid. It was a pleasure to watch the energy and enthusiasm of all the contestants who competed with great spirit. Stanhope came third, Queen's was second and despite being a Sixth Form House, and therefore not being able to compete in all rounds, West took home the honours and the Mike Dawson Mathematics Trophy.

Fifty Stoics sat the Senior Maths Challenge, with three qualifying for the Kangaroo follow-up competition. The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place after Christmas, with 70 Third, Fourth and Fifth Formers taking part. Dilyara Adilkhanova (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Matthew Barnes-Murphy (Fifth Form, Bruce) and Larry Zhao (Fourth Form, Walpole) all qualified for the European Kangaroo Maths Challenge.

Mr Mikkel Moller, Head of Maths

SCIENCE

The excitement and anticipation has been growing in Science throughout the year as we have seen the new Science building literally coming together piece by piece. Having gone through extensive discussions and planning meetings last year, we were thrilled when we took possession of the new facilities in the last week of term. It was everything that we had hoped for and more, as we clearly have a wonderful building that will provide first class facilities for future generations of Stoics. Not only are the laboratories very well-equipped but there are great areas for Stoics to meet, study and discuss Science which will stimulate full engagement in all of the Sciences. Refurbishment of the original adjoining building has already started and everything is still on target for the whole project to be complete by October Half term. I would like to extend my great appreciation to all of the donors who have made this possible. The new building will be officially opened in the New Year and we have already started working on plans for this.

Activities in Science have not stood still to wait for the new building, indeed this has been our busiest year ever in terms of the extra activities to broaden the Science experience at Stowe. Our Robotics team have been incredibly successful in just their second year, doing very well at the National Final and so qualifying for the World Final in America. Robotics brings together a wide range of skills – planning, engineering, computer programming and in the competitions themselves, gamesmanship and team work. So very well done to the many Stoics who contributed to this great success.

During Science week, all of our Third Form classes were turned into a CSI experience. Teams had to solve the mystery of who killed Mr Tearle (thankfully fictitiously!). This required scientific experimentation, investigation and teamwork to avoid the red herrings and use evidence to work out what had happened and to pin the blame on the right culprit. It was very impressive to see the whole year group engage so fully and learn plenty of science along the way.

Our Sixth Form Science Societies, the Quantum and Biomedical Societies have gone from strength to strength with a year packed full of presentations and activities, as you will read in the accompanying articles. The Psychology Society was also launched and the Quantum Society joined forces with the new Gaussian Society to have some highly stimulating joint sessions. The Stowe Science Review is now in its third year and continues to produce articles that cover a wide range of topics. With more Stoics writing articles than ever before, the quality, breadth and depth of what is written about has never been better. All of these publications are available from the Stowe website and

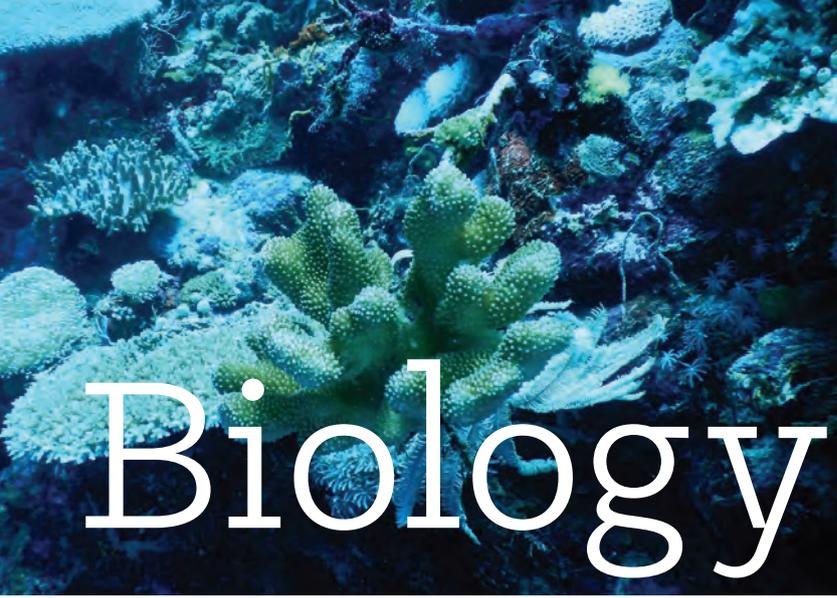


I hope that you have enjoyed reading them. This year's editors – Matthew Hill (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and Elliot Mitchell (Upper Sixth, Bruce) have done a wonderful job in encouraging more contributions and ensuring the writing is of a very high standard.

This year's Lower Sixth Form have proved to be very strong in Science with a record number of potential medics as well as many others looking to pursue ambitious futures in Science. Having produced some of our strongest ever GCSE results last year, they have shown a real appetite in the Sixth Form to take on greater challenges and extend their understanding through enrichment in all of the Sciences. This bodes very well for their university applications next year where they will be able to use their experiences to convey both their love of Science and the independent nature of their investigations. The future of Science at Stowe is already looking very bright so the new building could not have come at a more opportune time.

I would like to thank and applaud all of the Stoics and our highly committed Science staff for their great enthusiasm and engagement in Science and I look forward to next year when we can start making full use of our new building and the cutting edge ICT facilities that it contains. It will provide the best possible environment to stimulate even greater engagement and success in the Sciences at Stowe.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science



Biology



Sulawesi

Sulawesi is the largest of a group of islands situated between the Java Sea and the Banda Sea in Indonesia. This group of islands sits on a small tectonic plate that has remained isolated for millions of years and as a consequence has a unique diversity of animals. Alfred Wallace, an explorer who travelled to the area in 1859, observed that there were no large mammal predators on this group of islands as compared to those in the west such as Java, but instead, the large predators were in fact reptiles. A line was proposed which divided these two areas and is known today as the 'Wallace Line'.

When looking at where to take a Biology Field Trip, it was an obvious location to visit and experience first-hand both the variety of fauna on these islands as well as working alongside scientists in cataloging the number and variety of species in the rainforest and corals reefs that surround many of these islands. A group of 25 set off from Stowe on 18 July 2016 for the long journey half way around the globe. Our initial stop was in Jakarta where we had a 36 hour stop to recuperate from the long flight and also to see the sights of the city itself. After another two flights we arrived at the small island of Buton. After an eight hour drive on rough roads built from mined coral we reached a very small village ready for our boat journey up a mangrove fringed river to start our three and a half hour walk into our camp right in the heart of the rainforest itself. The previous week had seen unprecedented rainfall which is believed to be due to the impact of El Niño and it didn't stop for us either. Walking through thick red mud, sometimes up to our knees, was to be a daily ritual we were all to experience for the rest of our stay that week.

The camp was simple but practical, as was the food which consisted of rice and noodles for breakfast, lunch and supper! A small portion of veg and sauce, if you were lucky, made the bland rice more palatable, but we did not starve. On our arrival we were split up into four groups which we remained in for the week. Our daily routine was rotated, but consisted of a series of surveys set around a number of transects put in place by the scientists. From these each group did one survey each day which covered birds, reptiles (Herps), butterflies and vegetation cover. The groups were exposed to a whole variety of techniques that are used in this environment to ascertain the population densities and varieties of species under the guidance of the Biologists who accompanied each group. Stoics were engaged in both the collection of the data, and the identification and recording of this data into a database back at camp. The memories of the week were many including the one hour walk up a steep ridge which was roped sometimes in the early morning in the dark in 32 degree heat and usually in the pouring rain. Not for the faint hearted! The Herbs-guy called Sean stole the show one evening during one of the daily lectures when he had managed to grab a ten foot python by the tail from the gin-clear river beside the camp and bring it into camp. It was a stunning reptile and an opportunity for the Stoics to get up close and personal to such a wonderful animal. Sean proceeded to remove approximately 50 blood sucking ticks from the snake and allowed a good photo opportunity for us all before returning it to the river. We were all slightly apprehensive after that as we took our daily swim to get clean! The group also completed a Prussic rope climb to the upper forest canopy 200 feet up.

At the end of the first week, we transferred to Hoga Island after two boat journeys of six and two hours respectively.





Conditions on the boat were not the best and to say the accommodation was tight was an understatement. Still pouring with rain, the like of which we have never experienced before, we arrived on the island by jumping off the boat into the sea and walking to the beach. Following our introductory talk we ate and were taken to our cabins. Stoics were excited about the prospect of a cabin rather than a tent... Until they saw them. Sheds on stilts was what we got... But we did have a bed to sleep on! We were immediately greeted by the wildlife that night to include mosquitoes, small scorpions, large spiders, monitor lizards wandering on the paths, Sea Kraights being the MOST venomous snake in the world and to round it off... rats! Yes, sleeping for many was an experience.

Each morning started with breakfast at 6.30am and lectures started promptly at 7am. The group was essentially split into two, those already PADI Qualified and those

who were not. Those qualified had two lectures each day on different aspects of coral reef ecology, from species identification and survey techniques to man's impact on the corals due to deforestation, overfishing and urban development. This group also had two dives each day to a variety of sites around the island. The non-qualified group focused on getting their PADI Open Water Certification and eight out of the ten managed to qualify. The highlights of this week were: the weather improving two days in experiencing glorious sunshine for the remaining five days, seeing Sea Kraights at very close quarters both on the dives and the paths around the camp and a fabulous dive around a submerged sea pinnacle, which was host to an amazing number of fish and invertebrates.

During our stay we also visited the Sea Village of Sampela adjacent to Wakatobi. This village consisted of simple huts built on stilts over the open sea. This group (the Bajo) used





to be nomadic sea farers until the Indonesian Government decided to force them to settle in the 1960s. They refused to live on land so ended up building this unique village and living exclusively from the sea. Obviously with the degradation of the corals and over fishing, not to mention the hostility from some locals, this existence is under threat as they now have to travel further each day to catch the food they need to survive.

Overall, this was an amazing trip, which will not be forgotten by any of those who participated. It was a very challenging trip due to the environmental conditions, but a rewarding one due to the experiences and Scientists we met during our stay. I would like to thank OPWAL and their staff for all their support and advice to make our trip such a memorable experience.

Mr Michael Righton, Biology Department



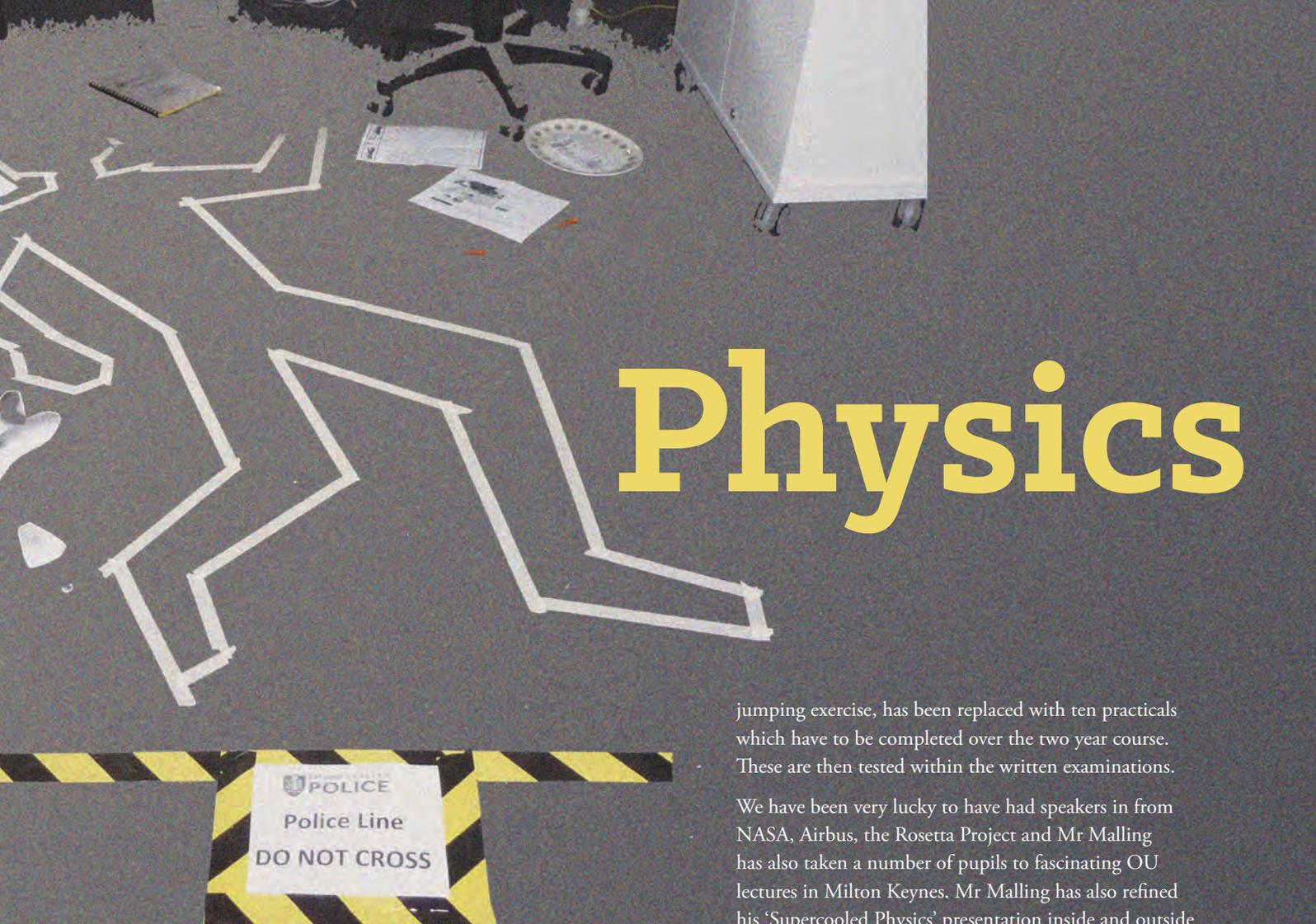
Pembrokeshire Field Trip

Our coach left a very damp Stowe bright and early to head for Orielton Field Centre in Pembrokeshire. As we travelled towards Wales the weather cleared ahead of us, so we arrived in warming sunshine ready to start looking at different ways of measuring density, percentage cover and frequency of plants using different quadrats. On our first whole day we started with local ponds and marked release and recapture methods for estimating populations. Once we had established how environmental factors could change with distance from the sea, we set off for Sawdern Point to investigate our theories. Georges Tasker (Lower Sixth, Cobham) gave a convincing impression of Charles Darwin describing the variety of species on the earth. Pupils enjoyed finding many different living organisms and classifying them as well as working out their frequency.

The next chapter was a trip to Freshwater West to look at succession in sand dunes. This is a scenic spot where both Robin Hood and parts of Harry Potter were filmed. Using different quadrats pupils were able to see how the diversity of species increased further inland. We mainly looked at plants in Broomhill Burrows, although we did see many insects, birds and even an adder. Pupils worked really hard to sample four dunes of different ages so they would have time for an ice cream while over looking the long sandy beach favoured by surfers.

The final phase of the expedition was used for pupils to each design their own experiment and carry it out in the grounds. This is a required part of the A Level syllabus and gave pupils a fantastic opportunity to work with experts and use the field centre's equipment freely. A wide variety of habitats was investigated with pupils looking at lichens, ivy and nettles in different aspects.

Mrs Judy Gracie, Biology Department



Physics

This academic year has seen many changes within the Physics Department. We lost Mr Thomas O'Toole to Bradfield College where I am sure he is making quite an impression. We were fortunate to gain Mr Craig Donoghue from north of the border; he has fitted in very well and is proving to be a huge asset to the Department with his superb subject knowledge and his jovial nature. We have also been lucky to gain Dr Tara Yates, who will be joining us in September.

The Department had two main challenges this year; firstly, in September we started the new A Level course. This follows on well from the AQA GCSE Physics course and is both well resourced and more applicable to our pupils. It has lost its practical examination and this has been replaced with twelve practicals which have to be completed within the two year course. The pupils can then gain a practical endorsement which ensures that other labs and universities can be reasonably confident that the person is safe and competent in a lab environment. In the third written examination the pupil's knowledge and understanding of the experiment is also tested. This should better suit our pupils than the pressure of the previous written exams.

The other challenge was to prepare our pupils for the new GCSE course, a much better course with more content going into greater depth which has changed its practical element. The ISA, which proved to be somewhat of a hoop

jumping exercise, has been replaced with ten practicals which have to be completed over the two year course. These are then tested within the written examinations.

We have been very lucky to have had speakers in from NASA, Airbus, the Rosetta Project and Mr Malling has also taken a number of pupils to fascinating OU lectures in Milton Keynes. Mr Malling has also refined his 'Supercooled Physics' presentation inside and outside of School, where he shows the creation of solid nitrogen, liquid oxygen, magnetic levitation and many other amazing sights using the extremes of low temperatures.

Mr Thompson and his robotics engineers have had a superb year reaching the World Final in Kentucky USA. He has written a separate article, however I would like to thank and congratulate him on this very impressive start, after running this activity for a little over a year.

This year we have managed to acquire two new pieces of apparatus: a high speed camera and an infrared camera. These will make parts of our curriculum more exciting and pupils should be able to gain a much better grasp of the associated concepts. We are also looking into moving towards Pasco sensors which link via Bluetooth to an iPad and can be instantly projected onto the Smartboards using Apple TV. It is an exciting time for us to take advantage of the many opportunities these technologies can make available to us and the pupils.

I must conclude this article by thanking my superb Department. This year we have had to cope with a noisy building site next door, regular flooding and more meetings than the average human can endure. However despite this the pupils have been very well taught and everyone has pulled together to ensure that the Department has run professionally.

Mr Richard Carpenter, Head of Physics

Chemistry

As well as providing plenty of the customary flashes, bangs and smells usually associated with Chemistry, this year we have endeavoured to broaden the experience of our pupils by widening their opportunities for experimentation and the use of ICT. This will be further enhanced by the extra space and facilities that our new building will provide next year.

Last year's results were certainly something to celebrate with excellent examination results at all levels which has helped many Stoics to go on to study Chemistry or related subjects at highly competitive universities. Congratulations to James Macdonald-Buchanan (Chandos 15) for gaining a place at Oxford to read Chemistry and to Elliot Mitchell (Upper Sixth, Bruce) who will be attending Bristol. Also to Matthew Hill (Upper Sixth, Grafton) who will be going to Sussex.

We started this year with our largest ever number of Lower Sixth Chemistry pupils who now follow the new linear A Level. This new course builds practical assessment into the core of the syllabus as well as having a more demanding level of mathematical content. This gives greater opportunity to delve even deeper into this fascinating subject. The new course has gone very well so far and this year group look to be on course to do very well in their examinations next year. They have fully embraced the challenge and seem to have thoroughly enjoyed studying Chemistry. Our Upper Sixth have shown themselves to be true stalwarts by dedicating themselves to their studies. They ended the year by making liquid nitrogen ice-cream – a fitting reward for all of their hard work. We anticipate that their results will be excellent come results day in August.

The Chemistry Department have started to use GoogleDocs to survey the competence of pupils in the various areas of the syllabus and so be able to target extra support to boost confidence and success. This is all part of the Department's drive to use ICT fully in the delivery of new concepts as well as to monitor the progress of our pupils. This complements our belief in doing plenty of traditional experiments in class to help our pupils to connect theory to practical outcome. Real practical results are usually far more memorable and it is the experiments themselves that makes Chemistry such fun!

Mr James Tearle, Head of Chemistry

English

During this year where the world commemorated the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's passing, the English Department has kept itself busy, hosting living writers and performers, taking the Sixth Form to the theatre and continuing to develop the curriculum and the way we teach to suit the needs of 21st Century learners.

Our examination results from last summer continue to show the lottery that is marking in English, subject to the winds of political pressure and exam board incompetence. Luckily, after many emails and phone calls, we managed to have one of the GCSE English Literature papers entirely re-marked and that meant the grades of nearly a quarter of the year group went up, achieving the 100% A*- C badge of quality that we know our Stoics deserved. We also increased the number of A*s from the previous year and, with this year's Fifth Form being the first cohort to sit the Cambridge IGCSE, we are keeping our fingers crossed for a more stable and accurate set of results. Meanwhile, our A Level results were solid and we are now looking forward to the new linear A Level for which we will be receiving our first set of results in the summer of 2017.

This year, after the retirement of the much-loved and

respected Dr Miller, saw the arrival of Mr Jack Palmer whose glittering academic career (a starred First from UEA and a stellar MPhil from Cambridge) and previous teaching experience at Sixth Form level in Norwich made him a real catch for us at Stowe. After the usual settling in process, Mr Palmer has become a great addition to the team and works particularly hard with Mr Purves in ensuring we run an excellent 'English for University' extension class on a Monday afternoon. We also welcomed Mrs Kitchen who had been working in the International Department at Stowe, to teach four classes in the Lower School and who is now moving on to Warwick School where her three sons are studying.

This is the last English report I will be writing for 'The Stoic' as I am moving on to be Head of English at Latymer Upper School in London. It has been a genuinely amazing four years and I have enjoyed so much about working in a wonderful Department in a wonderful school, an institution with which I will maintain many links in the future as I am saying goodbye to so many friends.

Mr William Goldsmith, Head of English

Geography



Have you watched the news recently? Read a newspaper? It's impossible to do either of these things without immersing yourself in Geography. From understanding the EU Referendum and the implications of leaving the EU and a single market, to understanding the causes and the consequences of the highest recorded levels of carbon dioxide in the Antarctic for four million years – all of these are key topics studied by Geographers.

This academic year has seen another record number of pupils choosing to study Geography at both GCSE and A Level and I believe this is due to the growing appreciation of the relevance of Geography as a subject, not only to future employers, but also to living a well-informed life. As we also embark on new specifications at both GCSE and A Level in September 2016, we look forward to the study of new and contemporary topics, such as power and borders, migration, climate change and food.

Next year we hope to be able to run a joint Geography and Classics trip to Mount Vesuvius, including visits to attractions such as Pompeii, Herculaneum and Solfatara; great locations for the study of the Hazardous Earth sections of the syllabi at both GCSE and A Level.

Closer to home, but an essential part of the A2 syllabus, is the fieldwork undertaken by A Level Geographers in preparation for their skills exam paper. This year we once again ventured to pastures new and stayed for two days at a Field Studies Council Centre at Preston Montford, near Shrewsbury. This proved to be an excellent new location, offering two very different but useful studies on river characteristics of a small river valley and aspects of multiple deprivations in northern Shrewsbury. The primary study completed was in the Carding Mill Valley in Church Stretton and involved the measurement of the river channel and its characteristics, leading on to an assessment of changes downstream. A beautiful valley on a sunny day, with a picnic (well, a packed lunch) included kept us all

happy and next year's Upper Sixth Geographers are due to enjoy a similar experience in early September.

The Department has, however, been equally keen to bring Geography closer to home and the Geography Society – GeogSoc – hosted, amongst others, a speaker from Globalmapaid.org, a development mapping organisation that aims to provide the opportunity through innovative solutions to poverty, working as an NGO with the goal of poverty reduction. We also took Geography out to local Prep Schools and Mr Deakin and I enjoyed assisting Beachborough's Pre-Prep 2 classes in their studies of extreme environments; from explanations as to why it is hot at the Equator and cold at the Poles, to looking at how animals and plants adapt to living in deserts and tropical rainforests, the pupils were enthusiastic, knowledgeable and very keen to take a full and active part in all of our tasks.

At the end of this year we said a very sad goodbye to Mr Alan Murray, who is the longest-serving member of the Department after 29 years and two terms at Stowe. As he sharpens his colouring pencils for the last time, we recognise the immense contribution he has made to the Geography Department and to Stowe as a whole. From his calm and knowledgeable presence in the classroom to his legendary notes on the whiteboard, Mr Murray will be sorely missed by staff and pupils alike and we wish him well in his retirement. We will be welcoming into the Department Mr Tom Thorne from his PGCE course in Oxford: a former mountain leader and glacier guide in New Zealand, Tom will bring much to the Department, including his considerable fieldwork experience.

In summary, this has been another typically busy, productive and enjoyable year for the staff and pupils of the Geography Department at Stowe and we look forward to more of the same next year.

Mrs Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography



History

It has been another incredibly busy year in the History Department. Results from examinations in 2015 were impressive, with 64% of GCSE papers being marked at A or A* and 74% of A Levels attracting an A*-B grade and this has certainly set the bar for current GCSE and A Level pupils.

The Department has also been amongst the first to engage in the process of curriculum reform, moving to linear A Levels this year and staff have invested hours preparing new courses for Lower Sixth Historians to enjoy. New modules on the Modern History course have covered USA (1955-92) and Britain (1918-97), with pupils looking forward to studying the British Empire and British liberalisation in the 1960s next term. For pupils on the Early Modern pathway, Luther (1515-55) and the Tudors (1509-1603) have been areas for study, with two more sections on the Wars of the Roses and Mary Tudor to look forward to. Fifth Formers have also been the first Stoics to study the relevant but controversial Arab-Israeli conflict for their exam this summer. Whilst these national changes require a lot of work, the opportunities to re-imagine what we teach have also been exciting.

To supplement this new look curriculum, we have had the pleasure of hosting several well-known Historians and Politicians to consider a wealth of important anniversaries. Professor Richard Carwardine visited to speak on the legacy of Lincoln 150 years after his assassination, Professor Saul David argued for a re-appraisal of Wellington and Waterloo 200 years on and Professor Andrew Lambert considered the centenary of the Battle of Jutland. The Department was honoured to invite Dame Margaret Beckett MP, Steve Norris and Sir Anthony Seldon to debate post-war changes in Britain during the 20th Century. Such a wealth of expertise has made an important contribution to expanding the horizons of Stoics' experience of history beyond the normal confines of exams and essays.

The Department has also run several trips to complement studies in the classroom. Thirty one Third and Fourth Form Stoics travelled to Berlin to learn about Nazi Germany and the Cold War over Easter, with visits to the Olympic Stadium, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Bundestag, TV Tower and an underground bunker being particular highlights. On a similar theme, two Sixth Form Stoics visited Auschwitz as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project run by the Holocaust Educational Trust. On a cross-curricular note, Mr Hoare also headed up a Model UN Group of 18 that travelled to Rome in the spring to debate pressing issues of international politics; a trip that he hopes to repeat annually. For Early Modern pupils, the regular trip to Hampton Court in the autumn was also very much enjoyed. At the time of writing, we are also looking forward to a joint History and Politics tour to New York and Washington, with visits to the 9/11 Museum, the Pentagon

and Gettysburg being highly anticipated. We have even secured a rare internal tour of the White House, which will undoubtedly be a highlight of the visit.

For some attendees, the USA tour will be followed closely by independent McElwee Award trips, which were again awarded to four thoroughly deserving pairs of Lower Sixth Stoics. These are organised through grants awarded by a committee in memory of the renowned Stowe teacher, Bill McElwee and promise to be enlightening for those involved. This year, Emily Osborne (Queen's) and Izzy Baillie (Queen's) will visit Ravenna to study Italy in late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages; James Creedy Smith (Chatham) and Archie Forsyth (Chandos) will travel to Vienna in search of Habsburg history; Sam Montgomery (Temple) and Sebastian Wood (Temple) will go to Paris and Kiev for a comparative study of revolutions; and Skye Longworth (Nugent) and Amy Jorgensen (Nugent) will tour Spain to re-live Laurie Lee's 'As I Walked Out One Midsummer's Morning'. We look forward to their presentations when they return.

On a week-by-week basis, the History Society has been faithfully attended by 15-20 Sixth Form Historians and has hosted talks on a wide variety of topics from members of staff and engaged in debates and discussions. The members also elected their first committee to plan the Society's events in the coming year. A smaller group of six pupils, named 'ExComm' (in reference to the famous 1962 group set up by President Kennedy) has also begun thorough preparations for Oxbridge applications in the autumn by examining challenging extra-curricular areas of history that might more commonly belong on an undergraduate course. As part of these endeavours, Emily Osborne was commended by Peterhouse College, Cambridge for her submission to the Vellacott History prize for her work on Machiavelli.

As the new Head of History, I have been incredibly impressed with the range of activities that the Department is involved in and have aimed to expand this offering even further this year. Stoics are incredibly fortunate to have such a wealth of opportunities and experiences and we look forward to continuing this work in the next academic year.

Mr Paul Griffin, Head of History



Sports Science and PE



Thalia Felton (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

As we say goodbye to another enthusiastic cohort of A Level Sports Scientists, we can look back at a successful year for the Department.

The 2015 A2 cohort produced some very good exam results, with Jess Carne (Queen's 15), Seb Cecil (Chatham 15), Louisa Highwood (Nugent 15), Valerie Madojemu (Stanhope 15), Jimmy Ondari (Bruce 15) and Charles Wright (Bruce 15) all achieving top A grades. These pupils along with several of their contemporaries have gone on to study a wide variety of degree subjects at some of the country's top universities.

The current Upper Sixth are hoping to follow in their footsteps and of these pupils, the stand-out individuals this year have been Peter Kimondo (Bruce), Freddie Paling (Temple), Seun Coker (Walpole), India Chadwick (Nugent), Sam Riley (Chatham) and the worthy winner of the Upper Sixth Sports prize on Speech Day, Oliver Woodward (Grafton). Oliver has contributed so much to the Department in his time with us at Stowe and is a diligent and mature pupil who has been a joy to teach. This year group has also been extremely successful in their practical performance assessments, with India, Devante Onojaife (Grenville), Gregor Haldane (Grenville), Jamie Grayson (Grafton) and Dani Fusco-House (Lyttelton) all performing at national level. The Lower Sixth Form have been one of the most impressive groups we have seen in recent years. As a result it was extremely difficult to choose a winner of the Speech Day prize for this year group, with Thalia Felton (Queen's) just beating Isabelle Upton (Queen's) and Oliver Pell (Bruce) in the end.

The GCSE candidates this year were very focused on preparing for their final exam in May and along with some very impressive practical coursework marks should be looking forward to receiving their results. Victoria

Beglin (Fifth Form, Nugent) was the worthy winner of the GCSE Sports Science Speech Day prize, with other notable performances from Olivia Flood (Fifth Form, Queen's), Jim Jackman (Fifth Form, Bruce), Kira Evans (Fifth Form, Nugent), Jamie Jackson (Fifth Form, Cobham), Tom Pearson (Fifth Form, Temple), Adam King (Fifth Form, Bruce) and Alice Maclure (Fifth Form, Nugent). The end of year internal exams for both the Third and Fourth Form also highlighted some stars for the future including: Lochie Shillington (Fourth Form, Grafton), Arabella White (Fourth Form, Nugent), Ella Dettori (Fourth Form, Nugent), Zoë Pollock (Fourth Form, Nugent), Sam Holloway (Third Form, Grafton), Harrison Le Sueur (Third Form, Temple), Charlie Maclure (Third Form, Chandos) and Edward Snushall (Third Form, Temple).

The Sports Science Society also had a productive year, meeting to discuss contemporary topics such as: the recent spate of doping allegations, equal opportunities, technological advancements, the 2016 Olympic Games; as well as careers in sport and how to make your UCAS personal statement stand out from the crowd.

In October we are due to return to the Porsche Human Performance Laboratory, where our pupils will have a chance to look at the practical application of several of the physiological and psychological topics they will be studying.

We welcomed Mr Jackson to the Department in September and he has been a fantastic asset to us and the School as a whole. His professionalism and enthusiasm were evident from the first week and he is spearheading the exciting new, re-vamped Third Form core PE programme starting this year. All the other members of the Department have also worked tirelessly to support our pupils and I am forever indebted to them for all that they do.

Mr Philip Arnold, Head of Sports Science and PE



Surviving the Holocaust – Lady Zahava Kohn

Lady Zahava and her daughter Hephzibah Rudofsky kindly agreed to visit Stowe in February. In Bergen-Belsen concentration camp Lady Zahava and her parents suffered two years of starvation, illness and humiliation. They gave us a fascinating, inspiring and incredibly humbling testimony.

For decades Lady Zahava stayed silent about her experiences, even from her own children. Born in Palestine in 1935 to Polish parents, two years later the family settled in Amsterdam. However, when Nazi persecution of Jews escalated they tried desperately to get out of the country. They wanted to escape Amsterdam in the night but were afraid their baby Jehudi would cry and give them away. They eventually bought expensive visas for Honduras but the papers arrived too late. Her mother and father then made the heartbreaking decision to leave their baby son with the Dutch Resistance.

When the SS came to take the family to Westerbork Lady Zahava had chicken pox and the guards wanted to send her on the train for sick people, separating her from her mother. But she became hysterical and eventually they gave up trying. After four months in Westerbork, they were on the platform waiting for the train to Auschwitz but were called back at the last second and told to stay. Five months later they were sent to Bergen-Belsen.

On entering Bergen-Belsen, her mother and she were separated from their father. She spent most of her years there ill and too weak to even move from her bunk. Her mother kept her as protected as possible from the death and despair all around them.

They would be made to stand outside in all weathers for daily roll-calls. It was a brutal place and we were told her father had all of his teeth knocked out on one occasion. By sheer luck and a series of unbelievable twists of fate,

the family survived and they were eventually freed on 20 January 1945. Close to death, Lady Zahava weighed just 23kg on leaving the camp. She spent a long time undergoing treatment for her poor health, and was reunited with her brother. It was only when her mother died in 2001 that a bag full of reminders from the war years were discovered. Lady Zahava was persuaded to share her testimony and her memoir, 'Fragments of a Lost Childhood', was published in 2009.

'Is there an intelligent mind behind the universe?'

Dr Jamie Carter, Head of Theology at Magdalen College School, Oxford also visited us this year and delivered a fascinating lecture on the question: 'Is there an intelligent mind behind the universe?'

Rather than trawl through the classical Teleological Design arguments for the existence of an intelligent mind behind the universe he really focused in on the philosophical concept of an 'intelligent mind' and the implications this has. Dr Carter was impressed by the intelligent response from the Stoics who presented him with a very thoughtful and intelligent range of questions during the question and answer session.

Dr Katherine Morris is a Supernumerary Fellow in Philosophy at Mansfield College, Oxford. She visited the Department and delivered a fascinating lecture on the works of Sartre (1905-1980). He is arguably one of the best known philosophers of the 20th Century. His indefatigable pursuit of philosophical reflection, literary creativity and, in the second half of his life, active political commitment gained him worldwide renown, if not admiration. He is commonly considered the father of existentialist philosophy, whose writings set the tone for intellectual life in the decade immediately following the Second World War.

Mr Colin Bray, Head of Philosophy and Religion



Languages

French

The 2015 results across the French Department were again very positive as we continue to thrive and expand. At GCSE 48% of our pupils achieved an A/A* and six pupils, Merrie Bashaarat (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Amy Jorgensen (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Lisa Battilomo (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Sacha Yonan (Lower Sixth, Chatham), Bubby Upton (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Holly Campbell (Lower Sixth, Nugent), all impressively scored full marks on all four modules. At AS Level, Siana Griffiths (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Laura Saffari (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Natse Jemide (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and Carlota Cerezo (Upper Sixth, West) deserve a special mention for their excellent results; they all comfortably scored over 90% overall. I very much hope that they were able to convert this into equally notable A2 results. Our 2015 leavers did not disappoint and at A2 Level the French results were fantastic with a 100% record at A*-B and 62% of our pupils scoring A*/A.

With numbers growing across all year groups, as well as continuing to promote academic endeavour, we have also focused particularly on language enrichment this year, helping Stoics to see that learning a language is a life skill and a window to a wealth of information, literature, art, music and cinema. Our wonderful new assistants Anna

Chaumont and Marie Derrien have introduced a more contemporary music list for Stoics to explore and enjoy and we have returned to running French Film Club. We look forward to seeing 'Soirée Ciné' becoming a more regular event next year.

Our Third Form were the first group to experience the Christmas Recital Competition and I must congratulate the year group for fully embracing poetry and song. Their imaginative interpretations were enjoyed by all and the support shown to the finalists was great to see. My congratulations go to our winners; Lula Goldsmith (Third Form, Stanhope) and Sonya Sander (Third Form, Lyttelton).

Visiting Theatre Company

This year we welcomed French actors, Héléne and Alexis, to perform 'Les Garçons' in the Roxburgh Hall in May for Third and Fourth Form French sets.

The play is scripted very carefully to fit in with the level of language of the pupils and vocabulary sheets were provided before the event so that they could get the maximum from the show. We have invited the Onatti Theatre Company to Stowe for over 12 years and this year's performance was the





best so far. All of the Stoics were captivated from the start and Thor Mager (Third Form, Bruce) and Nathan Dana (Fourth Form, Temple), who had unexpected cameo roles, performed in such good spirit that it absolutely made the whole experience!

Lower School Trip to Nice

On the first Sunday of our new two-week Half term in October, 29 Fifth Formers, accompanied by Mr Dobson and Mrs Browne, flew to Nice in the south of France for a week of French lessons in the Alpha-B Language School and to stay with host families in order to practise and improve their spoken French, and to sample the sights, tastes and climate of the Côte d'Azur.

From Monday through to Friday, the Stoics attended lessons at the Language School. On the Monday afternoon the Stoics went on a tour of Nice and the Old Town. Having been treated to a guided tour of the Parc du Château and taken in the breathtaking view over the Promenade des Anglais and the Baie des Anges, we stopped off in the Place Rosetti for ice creams and sorbets at the world-famous Fenocchio ice-cream parlour, where Mr Dobson made sure that all of the Stoics ordered their ice creams in French from the very patient man behind the counter!

Tuesday afternoon saw the group on a coach up to Eze and the Fragonard perfume and soap factory, going past Elton John's house in the foothills of the Alps, that you can see from Nice beach. It was so interesting to see all of the soaps and perfumes being produced from natural ingredients, and the Stoics really enjoyed the fragrance-testing session in the factory shop, followed by a present-buying session that will have put many a smile on mums' and grandmothers' faces.

On the Wednesday, we made our annual train trip to Monaco, where a small number of car fanatics (Mr Dobson leading the way) went to see Prince Rainier's collection of exotic cars, while most of the group, led by Mrs Browne (who had let us all know quite declaratively that she had no

interest in looking at old cars), chose to go exploring the shops and streets of the town. Once we had all met up again at the Palace, we made our way to the Jacques Cousteau Oceanographic Museum and its spectacular subterranean aquarium. This was followed by a visit to the Casino de Monte Carlo, the Café de Paris and the Hotel de Paris, before we made our way back to Nice.

Thursday saw us on the train to Antibes, where this year we took a tour of the yacht marina with its seemingly never-ending rows of fabulous marine craft, followed by a visit to the beach, where Stoics were finally free to swim in the sea, play beach football and make the most of the unexpectedly beautiful weather.

On the Friday, we all went for a slap-up pizza feast in the main pedestrian area of Nice, where Jamie Abbot-Davies (Fifth Form, Walpole) was awarded the prize for the most committed learner on the trip, Lucy Sutherland (Fifth Form, Nugent) was recognised as the most thoughtful and Mali Aitchison (Fifth Form, Nugent) received the prize for the kindest act, after organising the joint birthday celebrations and cakes for Finlay (Fifth Form, Grafton) and Lucy Sutherland, whose birthdays fell on the Wednesday of the visit.

All in all, the trip was a resounding success and I have no doubt that places on next year's trip will be in high demand!

It has again been a pleasure to work with such committed and supportive colleagues and with so many energetic, ambitious and inspiring young linguists. On Speech Day the John Webster Prize for French (Upper Sixth) was awarded to Carlota Cerezo; Lisa Battilomo received the F.O.S. Prize for French (Lower Sixth) and Charlotte Bird (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) the Capel Cure Prize for French (GCSE) in recognition of their commitment and dedication to French throughout the year.

Mrs Tracy Jones, Head of French

German



It is always a pleasure to reflect back on an academic year, especially one as successful as this one. Our A*-B pass rate at GCSE has never been higher with 93.3%, but I would not be surprised if our current Fifth Form managed to set a new record this coming year. We are also looking forward to welcoming a record number of Germanists in September and for the first time in many years we will have two Third Form sets, which is wonderful news. With German being the most widely spoken language in Europe, and Germany leading the way in economic terms, these pupils have undoubtedly chosen the language that will be most useful to them later on in life; especially should they choose to enter the business world.

It has been an extremely busy time for the German Department. In October Half term, the Lower and Upper Sixth Form visited our partner school in Thuringia for a week. Having been on countless exchanges and school trips myself as a teenager, I know from experience how valuable these trips are. But, what makes them so special, is the people you travel with and this year, we have had the most delightful group of pupils imaginable, making this trip one to remember. As well as seeing what a German school day is like, Stoics got the opportunity to visit the former Concentration Camp of Buchenwald situated only 20 miles away from the Klosterschule. Our fantastic guide gave us a chilling tour of the site, not leaving out any detail of what life was like for those unfortunate enough to go through those infamous gates saying "Jedem das Seinem", which roughly translates as "to each his own". I could tell by looking at the Stoics' faces how moved they all were, reminding me how educationally important these visits are, so we never forget. We also visited many beautiful cities such as Erfurt and Weimar where the German

enlightenment took place. Amongst the many things Stoics will remember from this trip will feature the Thüringer Rostbratwurst, a sausage that seems to have won the hearts of all those who have tried it and which was consumed in huge quantities by all.

Whilst on the topic of food, it seems the German Department has firmly established a new tradition: The baking of 'Weihnachtsgebäck' or German Christmas cookies, in the days leading up to Christmas. Never is my house in more turmoil than when a dozen Stoics descend upon it in an attempt to bake industrial amounts of 'Vanillekipferl' and 'Spritzgebäck'. In exchange they must be willing to listen to traditional Bavarian Christmas music and try the alcohol-free Glühwein so they get the full experience.

It is not all about food, we have also had two major cultural events this year. The first was the German Onatt play 'Zwillinge' in March, the other being the Open Mic Night in April, where Stoics sang songs by Schubert and where the Lower Sixth acted out the famous poem 'Erlkönig' by Goethe in the most grandiose way possible. Rarely have I seen such creative talent in linguists and I hope we make this an annual event as it was such a hit this year.

So, as this year draws to a close, my thanks go to all my wonderful colleagues in the German Department, Mr Purves and Miss Chaumont for accompanying me to Thuringia and last but not least all the Stoics studying German. Having had to spend the entire Summer term on crutches hasn't been easy, but the patience and kindness of my classes have made it possible to carry on almost as normal.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Spanish



This has been an exciting year for the Spanish Department. We welcomed three new members of staff; Mrs Desirée Podesta came to Stowe from King's College in Madrid, Dr Isabel Soriano-Ferrero joined us from Dr Challoner's High School and Miss Ana Vidal Garcia arrived to work as a Language Assistant.

In October, the Fifth Form went on a study trip to Cuenca, a beautiful Spanish city famous for its casas colgadas (hanging houses.) The trip was led by Dr Ferrero and Mr Goldsmith and the pupils benefited enormously from spending time with their host families, studying Spanish in the mornings and taking part in a variety of cultural and sporting activities in the afternoons. The trip was a great success and many of our current Fourth Form Hispanists have already signed up for next year's trip. Pupils studying Spanish at A Level next year will be going on a trip, spending five days studying in Salamanca during the Easter holidays. As well as attending lessons, they will be soaking up all aspects of Spanish culture in one of the most beautiful cities in Spain, which is also home to a prestigious university.

In April, some of our Fifth Form Hispanists took part in the Languages Society Open Mic Night and mil gracias must go to Henry Gauvain (Fifth Form, Temple), Ingrid Galler (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Mar Martinez-Tomas (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) for their memorable renditions of 'Para tu amor' by Juanes and 'Me voy' by Julieta Venegas.

We look forward to welcoming yet another new Spanish teacher next term as our team continues to expand; Mr Edward Smith arrives from Bradfield College in September.

Miss Collette Stirzaker, Head of Spanish

ICT and Computing

ICT and Computing at Stowe continues to respond to the changing educational landscape. Curriculum reform has seen a shift in focus from office apps and skills based learning to more creative and challenging problem solving and programming. With the new A Level Computer Science specification introduced at the start of the year in the Lower Sixth, and the new GCSE Computer Science specification introduced for Third Formers, it has been a time of exciting curriculum development. In addition, we have seen the first Stoic complete the 'old' Computing A Level Course, producing a highly creative app designed for Biffa Waste Disposal truck drivers; a project that saw Jordan Lowe (Upper Sixth, Bruce) awarded the Upper School Computing prize. The Lower Sixth have worked hard with Toby Lawrance (Cobham), Olly Clarke (Chandos) and Rob Barclay (Walpole) preparing to study Computer Science at university and Jonny Reading (Grenville), Oscar Sanchez Zurita (West) and Adrian Koch (Bruce) considering their options. With some strong mathematicians in the Lower Sixth, we have had the opportunity to start building links between the Computing and Maths Departments, offering stretch and challenge for Oxbridge potentials through the work of the Gaussian Society, supported by Mr Yadsan.

In the Lower School, the Fifth Form continued to work hard on their Controlled Assessment projects as we set about some low level programming tasks using assembly language, along with related tasks using Python and

JavaScript. Freddie Woods (Chatham), Max Bishop (Grafton), Ed Harding (Chandos) and Kyale Mwendwa (Temple) all made outstanding progress with their programming and showed great determination to achieve at a high level. The Fourth Form groups have been busy building a mobile phone trouble-shooting system in Python and developing their algorithm and problem solving abilities, along with knowledge of computing principles. Pupils in the Third Form have been building skills in Python, investigating programming syntax and structures across a range of contexts.

As we look forward to next year, we shall be welcoming Dr Richard Pawson into the Department, bringing a wealth of industry experience and innovative plans for an online learning course in web programming for the wider School and beyond. Plans are also in place for a 'Hackathon' to take place during the Michaelmas term at Buckingham University, along with a number of other schools in the local area building links with the wider community as we seek to put Stowe on the map as a hub for computing excellence and innovation. We shall also say goodbye to Mr Toby Le Lacheur who will be leaving us at the end of the Michaelmas term next year. Mr Le Lacheur has worked across the Maths, Physics and Computing Departments, sharing his passion and outstanding skills in programming with pupils and staff alike. We wish him all the very best as he starts a new chapter down under in Australia.

Mr Adam Gabriel, Head of ICT and Computing

Classics

The Classics Department again celebrated yet more excellent results last summer. In the Fifth Form at Level 2, the equivalent of GCSE, 81% scored A*-A in Latin Language and of the A* papers 29% were at 100%. In Classical Greek at GCSE, James Creedy Smith (Lower Sixth, Chatham) scored 100% in three out of his four papers and 98% in the other, the highest overall performance in recent years. All Sixth Formers at A2 and AS scored A or B grades.

In September we welcomed Mr Jon Murnane to teach Latin and Greek in the Department. Jon brings great expertise and many exciting new ideas to his teaching at all levels. It has been particularly good to have a strong group studying Latin in the Lower Sixth, and nearly a dozen Stoics starting in the Third Form with Classical Greek.

Special congratulations go to Kien Powell (Fourth Form, Cobham) who entered the National Scriptwriting Competition run by the University of Kent. The panel of judges unanimously awarded his 'The day in the life of a Roman client' first prize. There were some 70 entries nationwide. In addition to a £200 reward, his script will be used for the next cartoon in a series of animations describing life in Ancient Rome. Professor Ray Laurence from the University of Kent visited Stowe in June to award the prize and talk to the class.

In the autumn we enjoyed the visit of Dr Richard Hawley from Royal Holloway College, University of London. He gave a wide-ranging talk on the value of studying ancient languages, including the example of Stowe's Michael Ventris (Temple 39), inspired while a schoolboy aged 14 by Sir Arthur Evans, then aged 85, to decipher Linear B, one of the greatest advances in the study of the ancient Greek language. He met classical Sixth Formers for a meal afterwards and gave them up-to-date advice on university applications based on the exciting developments in his Classics Department. The new approaches to studying the languages and the wider ancient world and society are bringing new life into many approaches to the Classics in Higher Education.

In April, Stoics taking Latin and Greek welcomed Miss Charlotte Matthews (Lyttelton 09) to a supper in the Blue Room. In a well-illustrated talk, including video rap, she



Kien Powell (Fourth Form, Cobham) receiving his prize

described the wide range of classical themes she studied at Cambridge, covering topics from poetry, philosophy, oratory and mythology to aspects of material culture, inscriptions, graffiti, religious beliefs and daily life. It was a fascinating insight into the lively and diverse world of Classics at higher levels. She is now teaching Latin and other subjects at Beachborough Prep School.

Stoics studying Greek attended a powerful performance of Euripides' 'Hecuba' at Stratford-upon-Avon in October. The usual dialogue format was changed so that each character related what others said, involving the audience closely in the agonising suffering caused by the effects of war. Later in the year both Upper and Lower Sixth Formers attended a series of lectures in London by experts on their Latin set texts, ranging from Cicero and Ovid to Tacitus and Virgil.

It is encouraging to see some revival in the Classics. New specifications at both GCSE and A Level are being taught from September 2016. There will be greater emphasis on translating into Latin or Greek, in addition to the usual translation into English. As the UK re-adjusts its relationship with continental Europe, it is pleasing to see that the intellectual demands and consequent benefits of Latin and Greek are becoming accepted more widely these days in a growing number of schools in this country. Boris Johnson can boast a classical education, but so too do J.K. Rowling and Chris Martin of Coldplay. In addition, the appeal of Greek mythology, drama and philosophy, along with Roman life, society and history, never ceases to attract pupils into studying the languages and their literature.

Mr Michael Bevington, Head of Classics



Politics

Politics has been as intriguing as ever this year, with current events throwing us a variety of issues to grapple with in lessons. In the Upper Sixth, the nomination of Donald Trump to the Republican ticket has been a real rollercoaster to follow and Stoics had the opportunity early in the year to meet ex-Congressmen Tom Petri (Republican) and Jim Moran (Democrat) at Sulgrave Manor. The Lower Sixth have been active participants in debating EU membership, while key events this year included George Osborne's humiliating Lords defeat on tax credits and following the 2016 Budget and the resignation of Iain Duncan Smith as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

As always, a highlight of the Michaelmas term was the trip to Westminster where Stoics were able to tour Parliament and witness debate in the Chamber of the House of Commons. Ed Good (Lower Sixth, Chatham) managed to secure an audience with his local MP James Cleverly and the topic of debate Stoics chose largely centred around the Syrian refugee crisis and the response to the Islamic State threat. In addition to this, there have been talks from Dr Diana Bozhilova on international relations and the idea of a 'just war', Professor Andre Naidoo on the European Union and from John Mann MP on the very day he got himself caught in a media row with Ken Livingston. All of this contributed to the highly stimulating year of politics we have had.

Meanwhile, the annual Upper Sixth visit to Sulgrave Manor was another successful day and challenged Stoics both intellectually and culturally. With Sulgrave being the ancestral home of George Washington, Stoics were given a tour of the Manor House and got to see firsthand artefacts belonging to the first President of the United States. They listened to two lectures from leading Oxford academics before moving on to two debates with other schools about issues in US Politics, chaired by the visiting Congressmen. Stoics acquitted themselves incredibly well, and the visit will continue to be a highlight on the calendar.

The Summer term also saw a shadow EU Referendum

taking place organised by the Lower Sixth. It consisted of a debate on 21 June between the Leave and Remain campaign representatives and a vote on 23 June. At the time of writing, the vote is yet to happen but as always it is interesting to see how Stoics vote. Past experience usually shows that Stoics are a very astute gauge of public opinion and it will be interesting to see if they go the same way as the country goes, as was the case on the AV Referendum in 2011, on the US Presidential Election in 2012 and in the UK General Election in 2015. [However, this time the result was very different].

On Speech Day, the Politics prizes were awarded to Piers Edinborough (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Anna Fox (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) for their enthusiasm and outstanding application to Politics through the year. Stoics throughout the Department deserve congratulations for their efforts, but Piers and Anna really took things to the next level and were deserving of their prizes. We hope that pupils continue to find the subject intellectually stimulating and exciting and go on to study Politics or a related course at university.

Mr Charlie Barker, Head of Politics



Business Studies and Economics

This was another year of exciting change for Business Studies and Economics, with both subjects being brought back together into a single Department. After many years of inspirational leadership, Mr John stepped down from heading up the Business Studies Department, but fortunately for Stowe stayed on as a full-time, very experienced teacher. Business Studies was also bolstered by the arrival of Dr West, a teacher for whom the only thing that eclipses the number of qualifications after his name is the size of his contacts address book! The Economics Department said goodbye to the legendary figure of Mr Thomas who moved on to pastures new in Oxford. We were delighted to welcome Mr Beniston who, happily for us, came out of retirement, having led his own Economics Department for many years.

For the first time in a while, the Economics Department managed to gain entry into the Bank of England's prestigious Target 2.0 Competition. The team of Anna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Dominic Norton (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Kurt Leimer (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and James Creedy Smith (Lower Sixth, Chatham) spent many weeks preparing under the guidance of Mr Beniston, and presented an excellent report to officials from the Central Bank. They had to recommend a change to the UK's official interest rate, along with justifications based on in-depth research. The team's work was highly praised by the judges and certainly contained significantly more technical detail than that seen in other reports. In the end they did not quite manage to get through the round, but performed extremely well given that all other competitors were a year older and had noticeably more economic experience.

It was a similar story for the joint Economics and Business team that took part in the ICAEW Chartered Accountancy competition; a great performance coming up just short against more seasoned schools and older pupils.

Outside of the classroom Stoics in both subjects were exposed to real life case studies via trips and invited speakers. Economists went to University College, London to hear about diverse topics such as 'Is infinite growth on a finite planet possible?' and 'What are the causes of the UK's poor productivity?' The Business Department visited the John Lewis Distribution Hub at Magna Park, seeing first hand real business information that related directly to the year's exam topic of e-commerce. Regular trips were also made to the Management Department at Buckingham University. Speakers were many and varied, covering topics from the Psychology of Internet Marketing to the workings of JCB.

The re-merged Business Studies and Economics Department is certainly in great health and looking forward to even greater things next year. Visits have already been confirmed by the Senior Examiner for the Business Studies exams and by the Institute of Economic Affairs. A trip to the United States is planned for Business Studies, and Economics pupils are now following a course that has a greater focus on financial markets – they will find plenty in the news to keep them occupied. Last year we talked about the vague possibilities of Brexit – what will next year hold in store?

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



Opening Chapters to a Novel

I could hear the wind howling, bashing against the blurred glass, and the sound of raindrops beating aggressively onto the window pane. It reminded me of the base of a drum that echoed into the ears of a crowd; music that could fill a room with energy and life. Well, at least this is what I imagined. I had never been to a concert or even heard live music before, other than that which my parents had orchestrated for an event. My life was effectively a book of cardinal rules that I was required to follow. None of these rules were mine, but even the mere thought of ever disobeying them brought with it an ominous, but somewhat intriguing feeling. As I sat in the emptiness of my hollow life, I wondered what it would be like to live a life that was not controlled by my parents. A life that allowed me to be independent without the fear of failure, which my family dreaded I would become. After all, if I tainted their reputation, it would be the worst thing I could do.

The pedestal that my parents stood on as the two most respected and successful African-Americans in the roaring twenties, where racism was always lurking, accumulating everyone in its wake, meant that they were often anxious that I was bound to fall short of their success. They made absolutely no effort to hide their fretful thoughts of what could be my destined disappointment. My parents were so concerned that I would humiliate them that they distanced themselves from me in every way possible.

As I awoke from my slumber the next day, iced beams of sunlight escaped from the slit in the curtains. The windows were frosted around the edges, producing a frame of snowflakes

that melted onto the glass. I stumbled wearily towards my bathroom door, and using what felt like all of my strength, I swung the door open. A gust of arctic wind escaped, thrusting me backwards. As I walked through the sun's rays, the ringlets that dangled loosely from my hair glistened in the cold light of the sun. I plunged my hands into the basin of the sink and let the cold water emerge from the metallic tap. It felt revitalising as it splashed onto my skin, and, at that moment I had an idea.

The first encounter with my parents was the night after the incident; several moments after I had snuck back in, still shivering with my mud coated heels clutched to my chest. They were in the Dining Room, standing firm and waiting. It was an extravagantly decorated room, too lavish for a room that simply occupied people as they ate. The table looked as if it was miles long. Its marble design stretched across the core of the room. Crystal shaped shadows were etched onto the walls and a golden light, the kind that you would expect from the sunset, materialised from the sparkling chandelier, which filled the room with its glow. The room appeared warm and welcoming, but those who entered brought with them taciturnity and disapproval. My mother often used to tell me that what she was doing was "for the best" and that the real world was cruel. She was just preparing me for what would be lying ahead. My father, however, was a quiet man, very introverted and reserved. Instead, he would just nod, with a stern look on his face that read bold and clear: "Listen to your mother." I now know that I should have.

Tosin Alex-Duduyemi (Fourth Form, Lyttelton)

[Excerpt]

It was a frosty, cold evening and the only thing keeping Jeanie warm was the glow inside her of the events that had occurred earlier that day – she was ready to snuggle into her covers and lay her delicate head on her feathery pillow; just so she could replay her encounter over and over again infinite times because it was so glorious.

She couldn't believe that one small conversation with the boy that she had dreamed about so often would mean this much to her, she had thought of endless scenarios about this moment and still she had never believed it would be this magical. The way his icy blue eyes had attached to her own honey-coloured brown ones had made the butterflies inside her stomach go crazy and she had just wanted to scream – she was grateful now that she hadn't.

Jeanie was a tall, slim girl who was effortlessly beautiful and wherever she went a colourful atmosphere would follow. Even when people just glanced at her they wanted to smile because she just didn't care what anyone thought. She was olive-skinned and had the most gorgeous wavy hair, as if she had just risen out of the sea. Her smile was perfect and some people just needed to see it and their day would instantly be brightened. Her honey-coloured brown eyes were guarded by the longest, delicate lashes, which were so striking you didn't want to look her in the eye for too long for fear of wandering into her imagination.

She went to sit on her futon, which had a gold glint to it when the sunlight came through her large windows and hit exactly the right place on the fabric, she sank into it and she longed for it to swallow her up so she could be with him once more; bliss.

As she combed her beautifully pleasing to the eye golden locks, in front of her silver plated mirror, she looked at herself and for once thought of how, one day, her golden hair would not be gold but a pure white shade and her perfect olive skin would be crumpled and she realised that she wanted to grow old with him.

She climbed into bed and lay still on top of her crisp ivory sheets whilst she craved to see him. He was her first love and she hoped with all her heart that he felt the same way about her. She peeled off her rose coloured quilt and revealed her spotless skin to the harsh, numbing temperatures that it had been protecting her from. She pushed her feet into her fleecy slippers and tip-toed, so she didn't wake her mother, over to her toweringly tall oak wardrobe and pulled out her colourless nightdress. She tugged it over her head and returned, once again, to the glorious four-poster bed in which she slept.

Annabel Havard (Fourth Form, Stanhope)



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

Ms Kirsten McLintock, Head of PSHE

The purpose of the Peer Support Group (PSG) at Stowe is to help and support those suffering from diverse issues, ranging from bullying to homesickness. We also aim to provide an alternative ear and voice from an adult authoritative figure, and hope to allow pupils another option of consolation from someone who has recently experienced this challenging part of life.

Peter Bradley, Director of Kidscape, prepared and trained us for the issues we may face in the PSG and how to conduct ourselves in order to empathise with a range of people. This year as a team, we have hosted a social for the younger years, which was designed to give them the opportunity to approach us informally to ask questions as well as a chance to relax and get to know other year groups. We have all individually had mentees to work with over the course of this year, which comes with confidentiality on our behalf and a chance for the mentee to either offload or have a chat. As a result of these meetings, at the end of our time as a team, we hope to have helped create an improved living community for everyone at Stowe. We have strived to be accessible to everyone whether it is a new Third Former or someone who is already in receipt of counselling and would simply like another perspective or ear to listen.

The culmination of our year as a member of the PSG is our hosting at Stowe of thirteen severely bullied children with

Peter Bradley and Kidscape. From Friday until late Sunday in late June, we were each 'buddied' up with one of these children, and had to complete numerous activities intended to increase confidence and self-assertiveness.

The experience, although challenging, was extremely rewarding, especially at the end of the weekend when we could reflect on how much our buddies had progressed throughout the weekend, as well as reviewing our own personal development. I think that I speak for all of us when I say that it really was a life changing experience and one we won't take for granted. As a member of the PSG, personally I feel that not only have I had experiences that are truly unique, but I also believe that I have grown so much myself, particularly in confidence, as a result of the weekend.

The ability to actively listen and provide appropriate advice are skills that I think all of us will take through our lives. From our presence I hope that the younger years have not only had people to look up to, but also have learnt to be aware of themselves and their peers, in a time when it is easy to forget about others.

Isabella Baillie (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

Now I'm not going to sit here and write to you saying that bullying is a thing of the past here at Stowe because, by definition, I would be lying. However, when I say bullying, this is the sort that most people wouldn't be able to differentiate from a 'bit of banter'. I could also sit here and write what everyone wants to hear: that the kids from all over the country who attended the weekend long course here at Stowe are now settled perfectly back in at school, that they have built their confidence levels back up to where they were before being selfishly shot down and that they have completely overcome the problems that they have faced, or are still facing, concerning the bullying. This



however would also be a lie. What those children faced is heartbreaking. It is almost impossible to comprehend the severity of what they have been through and the pain and suffering that it has caused them. They have both physical and mental scars that will last a lifetime. One thing that I can say for sure, however, is that it made a difference, and a big difference at that. We took a step in the right direction. They learnt not to dwell on the past but to move on, be their own person and to be assertive in everything they do. They learnt to embrace their metaphorical scars and that every scar tells a story. A story that says, I survived.

“What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

When the thirteen brave Kidscape children arrived on the North Front it must have been very daunting. If the sheer scale of the North Front wasn’t enough they were venturing into a school, an environment that had made many of their lives such misery at some point. Understandably they were nervous, but so too were the Stoics and after about half an hour of apprehensive small talk we were buddied up and thrown into our first activity involving body language. One of the main themes for the weekend was to be assertive in everything we did as opposed to being either passive or aggressive, and body language was pivotal in this. Looking back on those three days of non-stop activities including the leap of faith (or the leap of death as we soon named it!), beagling, riding, singing, acting and endless group bonding activities, the transformation in those children was massive. Each one of them had their own individual aim, however increasing confidence seemed to be a general theme. On day one the hardest task was teaching them to project their voice loud enough so we could hear their names and by the end they were all able to give an individual five-minute presentation to all the parents and our esteemed Headmaster. The challenge at that point was trying to stop

them from talking too much and keep to the five minute guideline.

This was absolutely heart-warming to see and it was one of the most rewarding experiences. Seeing each and every one of the children blossom into their own individual person, full of self-confidence and happiness was a humbling feeling we certainly won’t forget. The experience and what they learnt was perfectly summed up by one of the boys in one simple quote: *“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning to dance in the rain.”*

Dominic Shaw (Lower Sixth, Temple)

The Peer Support Group 2015-2016 were:

- Archie Dixon-Smith (Lower Sixth, Chatham)
- Piers Edinborough (Lower Sixth, Walpole)
- Jarrold Van der Westhuizen (Lower Sixth, Grafton)
- Dominic Shaw (Lower Sixth, Temple)
- Florence Fox (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)
- Claudia Carbutt (Lower Sixth, Nugent)
- Sophie Tilleard (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)
- Isabella Baillie (Lower Sixth, Queen’s)

Fellow Stoics who volunteered to be a Kidscape mentor alongside the PSG were:

- Lucy Alderton (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)
- Emily Baring (Lower Sixth, Queen’s)
- Arabella Coldstream (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)
- James Creedy Smith (Lower Sixth, Chatham)
- Oscar Holmes (Lower Sixth, Grafton)
- Archie Forsyth (Lower Sixth, Chandos)



ART

This year we have seen some stunning work made in the Department, from the tiny, exquisitely detailed drawings of Alex Orton (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), to the bold and powerful large scale works of Francesca Knight (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Jemima Grant (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Olivia Walters (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Valentine Sozbilir (Upper Sixth, Grenville). The range of work has been fantastic again this year, with many works on canvas, paper and in mixed media, with some large scale installations by Dani Fusco-House (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Jeanie Gibbs (Upper Sixth, Queen's). The variety of GCSE work made in the Department was very much admired on Speech Day, and my thanks go to Brian Johnson, Sue Harmon and Chris Grimble for all of their hard work over the past three years with their GCSE groups.

We are so proud of our all our pupils and we are especially pleased that Erica Chadwick (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Valentine Sozbilir, Sorrel Fenwicke-Clennell (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Alina Lavrenteva-Pak (Upper Sixth, Nugent) will be continuing their studies at Art School next year. Tobi Onafeko (Upper Sixth, Grenville) will be leaving us to study architecture, as will Aliya Al Adwani (Upper Sixth, West) who will be taking her place at Cooper Union in New York in the autumn. We wish them all the best of luck with their creative studies and careers.

Our annual New York trip was made special this year by our meeting with Old Stoic, Ed Spurr (Grafton 02), who

has recently left his role as a Director of the Matthew Marks Gallery with a view to setting up his own gallery in New York. We very much enjoyed seeing the Fischli and Weiss Exhibition at The Guggenheim with him, as he related many interesting facts and anecdotes as we walked the circular route to the top of the spectacular building. It's always a thrill to see the interior of that space, a work of art in itself, transformed by different shows each year, and it was a wonderful way to spend a cold afternoon in February. Later in the day we met again, at the downtown apartment of Brian Hecht (Chairman of American Friends of Stowe) who kindly hosted our group for a special evening again this year. Rod Morrison (Grenville 69) was there to talk to our pupils and share his experiences of New York life, and we are so grateful to him, Brian and Doug for their continued support.

Back in the Department we were very pleased to welcome Jo Banks into the building to run the textiles activity and it's been great to see so many pupils making the most of these facilities. Phil Ilinich (Lower Sixth, Chandos) has been working hard on his own designs under his label 'Pushka' alongside pupils making stunning tie-dyed, embroidered and constructed pieces. Jo, who sells her own work at Covent Garden craft market every Saturday, has been thrilled by the hard work and commitment she has seen this year, and is keen to see a wide range of Stoics making their own clothes and artefacts again next year.

We have also very much enjoyed the company of Rosa



Goodman and Elizabeth Chubb, our new History of Art teachers this year. We were pleased to share with them the wisdom of speaker Ben Street, who is a lecturer at the National Gallery and Tate, among other notable organisations, when he spoke on the art movement Dada in the Lent term. There have been many other talks and lectures on art history this year, and both Rosa and Elizabeth have brought new ideas, energy and expertise to the Department. We wish Rosa lots of luck in her new role at South Hampstead Girls' School next year.

We look forward to another year of creativity starting in September, and we have plans to see the Georgia O'Keeffe Exhibition at the newly extended Tate Modern and the Abstract Expressionists at the Royal Academy. Seeing works of art with our pupils is always so enjoyable and inspiring, and we hope that visiting galleries will become a regular part of any trip for our pupils in the future.

Mrs Amanda Jorgensen, Head of Art



History of Art

The History of Art Department has had another excellent and exciting year. Art Historians have enjoyed trips to New York and Oxford and further visits are being planned to Rome and, of course, the galleries in London for the next academic year.

In the New Year, with the departure of Iain Young, we welcomed Rosa Goodman to the Department. Rosa has been an invaluable team member and has been able to guide both the Upper and Lower Sixth groups with her enthusiasm, panache, humour and laughter to their summer examinations. Her knowledge and teaching methods have been much appreciated by her pupils and her colleagues and we wish her well in her new school, South Hampstead Girls' School, in London. The current Lower Sixth will long remember the re-enactment of Gericault's 'Raft of the Medusa' on the South Front steps (without water), which was both fantastic and great fun and which is permanently recorded on the Department's walls. Next

stop – Couture's 'Romans of the Decadence'?

One of the highlights of the year has been the visiting speakers programme. We have been entertained intellectually by Ben Street who broadened our understanding of Dada and Dadaists. Nick Ross, the director of Art History Abroad, gave a highly thought-provoking talk on Wicked Bodies. The Headmaster shared his extensive knowledge of Art History with a great romp through some of the most important images in the history of art. Finally, we found out about the opportunities for careers in galleries and the excitement and challenges of contemporary art markets from Old Stoic, Orlando Whitfield (Temple 05).

The Department has launched the Whistler Society to extend the knowledge and understanding of the subject to all Stoics and a programme of exciting and interesting visiting speakers has been organised for next term.

Mrs Elizabeth Chubb, Head of History of Art

Design and Technology



I hope that many of you were able to experience our Speech Day Exhibition in StoweBucks this year. Each year I am amazed at the standard of workmanship and the level of creativity shown by all the Stoics. The final pieces do not fully reflect the number of hours that the Stoics have spent refining their designs and the chaos and panic experienced by all involved as the excellent product designs, advertisements, models and prototypes gradually evolve over the academic year. All of this is achieved due to the enthusiasm of the teaching staff and the pupils desire to do their best. I am sure that all Stoics would join me in thanking all the staff involved for their hard work and patience.

As well as celebrating the success of the practical elements, the Department is achieving some remarkable results by national standards. Last year, all A Level candidates scored an A grade for their Resistant Materials and Graphic Products coursework and Stowe is leading in the league tables for Value Added.

Fergus Paske (Upper Sixth, Chatham) has proved to be one of the most dedicated pupils within the Department. For his Resistant Materials project he worked tirelessly on his 'Urban Bee Hive' to come up with a unique design to solve the problem of keeping bees in the city. He achieved 100% for his coursework and was awarded the Worsley Prize. Overall this was an excellent year for A2 coursework with Antonina Kozhukhova (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Christopher Adeogun-Phillips (Upper Sixth, West) also achieving full marks for their coursework. Other notable achievements were Benoit Ferrand (Upper Sixth, Cobham) for his console table, George Olley (Upper Sixth, Chandos) for his Land Rover conversion to a camper van and Jeremy Chang (Upper Sixth, Grafton) and Harry Bunting (Upper Sixth, Cobham) for their very different designs for a home office. At GCSE, special mention must go to Piense Odell (Fifth Form, Grenville), Zara Atta (Fifth Form, Queen's), Henry Frisby (Fifth Form, Chatham), Josh Landau (Fifth Form, Grafton), Lara Oswald (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Harry Pullin (Fifth Form, Walpole) and Rebant Ruparell (Fifth Form, Chatham) for their outstanding coursework grades this year.

The Graphic Products course goes from strength to strength. Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard (Upper Sixth,

Queen's) produced some stunning work to win the Andrew McAlpine prize for Graphics with her designs for a barn conversion. At both GCSE and A Level the pupils have produced some outstanding concept models that cover many different aspects of interior and exterior architecture. Particular mention should be given to Rory Smith (Lower Sixth, Cobham) who won the John Holland Prize for Design with his design tribute to Frank Lloyd Wright's 'Falling Water' and also Emily Baring (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Claudia Carbutt (Lower Sixth, Nugent) who also achieved excellent marks in their coursework. At GCSE, Charlotte Bird (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) received the Friends of Stowe Prize for Design with her architectural model of a tree house and Billy Vesty (Fifth Form, Grafton) was also commended for his architectural model.

In both Resistant Materials and Graphic Design the variety and quality of work is improving each year and this is underpinned by the excellent foundation work in the Third Form and at AS Level. On Speech Day there were a number of items on display where the Stoics had shown high level skills on projects as diverse as dye sublimation printing for Graphic Design, through to clocks and candle holders, and at AS Level some excellent games compendiums.

The Department is proud to celebrate and share the achievements of all those Stoics studying Design and once again we find ourselves embarking on new projects that will form another splendid Speech Day exhibition next year.

Mr Mark Wellington, Design and Technology Department

International

The International Department at Stowe is concerned with 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.

We are proud of the excellent achievements of the pupils in the Department and 2015-16 has been no exception. The IGCSE ESL (English as a Second Language) course has continued to be a popular choice amongst our Lower School pupils and the results have been outstanding with 75% of candidates achieving A*-A grades in 2015. In a similar fashion, the IELTS pupils have excelled in 2016, with 100% of candidates meeting or exceeding their university entrance criteria and 43% of pupils securing top 8.0 scores. Some of our more ambitious Stoics have opted to study for the CAE examination (The Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English) as an additional qualification to enhance their grade profile and add to their repertoire of qualifications in an ever more competitive university environment. This technically-demanding examination is designed to push pupils out of their comfort zone and challenge them linguistically at an advanced level. The hard work and determination of our Fifth Form Stoics was certainly rewarded as all candidates successfully secured strong CAE pass grades.

Speech Day was another enjoyable opportunity to celebrate excellence and we were delighted to see a record number of international Stoics receiving prizes both for academic achievement and significant accomplishments in all areas of School life, from creative writing, Dilyara Adilkhanova (Fifth Form, Stanhope), and drawing and observation, Mar Martinez-Tomas (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), to composition, Jeffri Indot (Upper Sixth, West), and public speaking, Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton). Many congratulations to all prize winners who have been recognised for their outstanding achievements and wonderful contributions to the Stowe community.

One of the highlights of the year enjoyed by all was the International Society 'Cocktails (non-alcoholic!) and Canapés' event in March where 100 Stoics and staff gathered in the Music Room for a social evening of entertainment. Jeffri Indot's repertoire of background music on the piano certainly enhanced the atmosphere and cultural diversity was celebrated with an impressive array of traditional costumes. The entertainment included performances by our talented young classical pianist Jeffrey Au (Third Form, Walpole), popular duets by Sabrina Iskandar (Lower Sixth, West) and Sophia Sander (Lower Sixth, West), French a cappella solos by Mina Haas (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and a choral rendition of the South African National Anthem by our South African Scholars, Zizo Chuma (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Mahlatse Mabitsela (Fourth Form, Queen's), Sandile Tilibe (Fourth Form, Temple) and Boikarabelo Tladi (Fourth Form, Cobham). It is wonderful to see a flourishing and vibrant international community at Stowe represented by such talented individuals.

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

Mrs Julie Johnson, Head of International

Vanguard

Third Form Stoics were the first to have a taste of the new Vanguard programme, designed to build their understanding of how learning happens and to encourage them to work proactively, independently and effectively, both as individuals and collaboratively.

The first term was devoted to the exploration of the science of learning, using Daniel Coyle's 'The Talent Code' as a textbook. A central theme for this term was the role of myelin (the substance that wraps around neurological connections in the brain). This is the science behind the old adage of 'practice makes perfect', or even more accurately 'perfect practice makes perfect', and is important in dispelling the enduring myth of 'talent' being something you are either born with or without. Stoics explored the power of deep practice and the importance of increased levels of challenge through various case studies and were encouraged to understand that if they approach any particular skill with real enthusiasm and passion, and if they take the time and have the patience to analyse their mistakes and practise with care, then they can see real improvements.

In the Lent term the aim was to give the pupils a practical task to begin to explore how engagement and challenge leads to learning and to develop their collaborative working and problem-solving skills. The Stoics were divided into smaller sets of twelve and were given a group challenge to produce the winning design for the new boys' boarding house. The challenge began with a talk from a professional architect on what makes a good building, the particular context of the site and the needs of a boarding house. Then the design brief for the pupils was set. Groups trained themselves in the use of 'SketchUP' design software and set about researching different possible styles for the building, as well as looking into the more practical elements, such as environmentally-friendly methods for building, plumbing and power. Teachers took a back seat, acting only to provide pointers on planning techniques such as Gantt Charts and to intervene where necessary to help keep the groups focused. The challenge

culminated in a 'pitching fair' in the State Rooms, where each group tried to convince the judges to choose their design. The winning design was both well-researched and imaginative, drawing on some of the classical elements of the existing buildings, but also with a futuristic look somewhat reminiscent of the Millennium Falcon from Star Wars. Afterwards, having had the chance to see what other groups had achieved, the Stoics reflected on the problems they had encountered and what they could have done differently if they were starting again.

In the final term the sets were reorganised again and pupils divided themselves into smaller groups. The aim of this term was to introduce them to the required individual skills and structures for the assessed project work they would be starting the following year. Groups were given the chance to propose and design their own project around the general theme of 'Contribution to the Community'. This time, although they would be presenting their projects to others, the project itself was not being assessed, but rather they were being graded as individuals on five key skills: collaboration, planning, research/use of resources, achievement of aim and self-evaluation. In order to show evidence of these skills, each group had to submit a project proposal form, their planning sheets and a list of resources. Each individual also kept a weekly blog with reflections on their individual and group progress. There were some fantastic projects, including a range of fundraising events for charity, a researched proposal for a new clock to be mounted on the Art School to help Stoics keep to time, and a free concert featuring Third Form musicians. Most importantly, the pupils gained experience around setting realistic goals, breaking complex tasks down into smaller stages and leading their own learning. These skills will be built on further next year when each Stoic in the Fourth Form will undertake their own individual Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) worth a full GCSE.

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)

This year has been the busiest yet in Stowe's EPQ career, with 19 pupils completing their EPQ in the current Upper Sixth and over 100 pupils taking up the EPQ in the current Lower Sixth.

The current Upper Sixth produced some excellent projects ranging from essays on whether or not prisoners should be allowed to vote, to the effects of cultural appropriation on African American and Native American culture. In addition, there were also fantastic artefacts produced, for example a historical book about the Churches of the White Peak and a radio programme documenting the lost childhood voices of World War One.

The current Lower Sixth cohort are the first group to have had timetabled lessons for their EPQ and they have been busy working their way through the taught course aspects and have been working hard formulating topic areas and titles. These topic areas range from trying to work out 'how Islamic is Islamic terrorism?' to creating an artefact to display mental health awareness through a series of pictures and posters.

The EPQ cohort is very much looking forward to presenting their work in late November in the State Rooms and we are looking forward to seeing the undoubted high quality projects that will be produced.

Mr Michael Rickner, EPQ Coordinator

EPQ



Library

I cannot believe that I have been at Stowe for almost a year now; the time has passed very quickly indeed. I was very lucky to inherit such a lovely library to manage from Carol Miller and am still pinching myself if I am honest. I must thank her for the amount of foundation policies, detailed notes and cataloguing that I inherited, therefore being able to hit the ground running with the induction of the new Stoics and Sixth Form immediately at the beginning of term, hopefully seamlessly.

In October we took part in a co-curricular carousel day with the Vanguard programme and Maths Department involving all the Third Form. For this we had a series of lectures to a third of the pupils at a time from the author of the 'Nowhere' series of books, Jon Robinson. He is very interested in psychology and the book details the journey of a group of boys locked up in prison for something that they didn't do, the only way out is to admit that they did. There was a lively debate at the end and sixty of them bought his books.

During the Michaelmas term we conducted a reading survey of Stoics, the results of which indicate that they like to read for pleasure, however with so much to do at Stowe they find it difficult to find time during term time; with this in mind we have created two reading activity times within the activities programme so that the pupils can come to the Library and read in a quiet space on a Thursday and a Friday.

We could not miss out on the much favoured annual Inter-House Literary Quiz held on World Book Day in March. This year the format was changed a little in that one round was dedicated to a particular book, one for each year group. There were also several audience participation rounds that used online software; these points were added to the overall House scores which made the winner unknown until the next day. I must say a big thank you to the English Department who helped

come up with the themed questions for each round. Sadly we had to curtail the evening as we had overrun, however the Stoics seemed very much to have enjoyed it. The winners on the night (with the scores not included from the audience participation) were Queen's, but the overall winning House was Nugent with Queen's a very close second and Lyttelton a very close third.

On Tuesdays we run Advertising and Marketing activities, the Stoics involved have redesigned the Library logo, designed a new Library style and are now coming up with short films to put on StoweNet, showing the Stoics the best ways of using the Library. We have now got a self-issue machine so that the pupils can borrow and return books themselves quickly. The first film the group have produced shows how the system works.

We are going through a process of re-covering and detailed signage of the Library. We have had the assistance of 14 Fifth Formers who are doing their DofE service module. They have been re-covering, helping with re-organisation of the stock, shelving, changing the signage, writing PR notices on events and generally being a huge help. Without them we would not be as far ahead as we are so I thank them very much.

I am very much indebted to the Rugby group for their support and assistance in my transition from a state day school to a boarding school environment which is quite different indeed. I have been on two visits this year where we exchange ideas and practices that are relevant to our type of school.

In the coming months we hope to expand the Library reach by helping to create small libraries around the School in departments, cataloguing their books onto the Library Management System adding a self-issue machine so that the Stoics have a system to borrow from them as well.

Mrs Lyn Foden, Librarian



Old Stoics



Earlier this year, I was approached by 'Country Life' magazine to find out about the growing importance of past pupil societies in supporting their members throughout their careers and their lives. The journalist was interested to find out what has caused this surge in growth. Answering these questions certainly made me pause for thought and reflect on the efforts we have made to develop our offering over the last few years. Our mantra "from cradle to grave" is cited at least once at every OS Committee Meeting, with our aim being to provide a wide range of useful services to help all Old Stoics. Happily, we've achieved quite a lot so far, and it's a pleasure to elaborate on this year's activities for your interest and enjoyment.

We've been working tirelessly to improve our Careers Programme for members and I am pleased to report that we held two Careers' Fairs for the Lower Sixth over the course of this year, one in November 2015 and one in June 2016. We were delighted to welcome over 40 Old Stoics to each Fair to give advice to Stoics. We also held our inaugural Careers' Networking Drinks for recent leavers at the Lansdowne Club in June and welcomed 30 Old Stoics under 25 to take career advice from 20 Old Stoic Mentors. We finished the year with an inspiring talk to the Third Form by adventurer Squash Falconer, imploring them to try their hand at things they think are impossible.

As ever, wine was a mainstay of many of our events; this year our regional activities included a Wine Tasting with the Exceptional English Wine Company gathering together 30 Old Stoics in Midhurst in June 2015, followed by a tour of the Langham Wine Estate attracting 40 guests in September. The OS Corkscrew Society is now back up and running, with two new organisers at the helm, James Sleater (Chatham 99) and Talulla Barrow (Lyttelton 07). Two tastings have taken place so far, both held at The Cad and The Dandy on Savile Row. Forty Old Stoics attended each event; the first was hosted by Michael Sager, GQ's Sommelier of the Year and the second focused on Italian wines, kindly run by Atlas Fine Wines. Our knowledge of wine still has a little way to go, so we are planning to continue these convivial evenings for a long time to come.

Our regional activities also took us to Dartmoor in February, with 30 Old Stoics attending a delicious lunch at the Two Bridges Hotel. In March, we gathered Senior Old Stoics in the North of England at Shrigley Hall for lunch and were delighted to entertain 20 Old Stoics for the occasion. That evening, drinks were held in Manchester for Old Stoics in the North of England. We also repeated our extremely successful London Senior Old Stoic Lunch at the Savile Club, Mayfair in April. We were very pleased with the attendance, with nearly 40 Old Stoics attending.

Once again, our events at Stowe have been a resounding success, with Old Stoic Day in October 2015 attracting 190 Old Stoics and guests for the day. In May, Speech Day saw the largest gathering of Classic Cars to date, with Caroline Whitlock working her magic to get a truly special collection of vehicles to adorn the North Front. Highlights for this year were 1949 Crocus HRG Special, 1939 Citroën Light 15 Traction Avant, a 1947 MG TC Police Car and the 1959 Bristol Teardrop Special – the only one of its kind.

In May, we were pleased to gather together Old Stoics working in Property at Deloitte Real Estate, by kind invitation of Julian Stocks (Walpole 84). Property remains by far the most popular of our networking industries; the event was a sell-out, with the venue full to the brim with Old Stoics.

We've been lucky to raise large crowds of members to many of our events this year, with the greatest surprise being welcoming over 30 Old Stoics to our AGM at Somerset House in November 2015. Not many donned their ice skates but far more enjoyed our complimentary fizz and charcuterie platters. At the meeting, we elected our new Chairman, Jonathon Hall (Bruce 79), who brings vibrancy and enthusiasm with him in spades.

A new addition to our calendar was Old Stoics Sports Day in March, which not only attracted over 100 guests but saw Old Stoics challenge current Stoics at hockey, lacrosse, fives, football and cross country. Drove of Old Stoics came along for the day, bringing their families for children's games and traditional sports day races. It was a fantastic day for all and will be a repeat fixture next year.

Finally, I am delighted to report on the completion of our brand new website, which was launched to Old Stoics in March this year. We are excited to be able to offer a host of new online networking services to our members, including a new members' search facility that interfaces with LinkedIn, to enable smooth and useful networking and connections. A plethora of advice, opportunities and news can be found on the website. Happily, so far it has been a great success, with our pages being some of the most popular on the Stowe site. Please do take a look: I hope you will find it useful – www.oldstoic.co.uk.

It continues to be a pleasure to work for the Society and a delight to see so many Old Stoics on a regular basis. I hope you enjoy this selection of photographs from the course of the year. They are a snapshot of the fun, frivolity and friendship that exists within the Society.

Miss Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director

GALLERY



Annalise Muirhead (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



Taisiya Danilitskaya (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



Eliza Podesta (Fifth Form, Queen's)



Holly Wightman (Lower Sixth, Queen's)

Felicity Wilson (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)



Jeanie Gibbs (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Eleanor Trotman (Fifth Form, Queen's)



Genevieve Sligo-Young (Fifth Form, Nugent)



Anna Bevington (Upper Sixth, Queen's)



Sorrel Fenwicke-Clelland (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)



Jemima Grant (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)



Tobi Onafeko (Upper Sixth, Grenville)



Florence Fox (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)



BRUCE



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Housemaster: Craig Sutton
Matron: Amanda Penner
Assistant Housemaster: Craig Donoghue
Under Housemaster: Luke Stone
Head of House: Charles Johnson
Deputy Head of House: Hallam Smith

House Prefects: Jack Hechle, Elliot Mitchell, Oscar Pegg
School Prefects: Charles Johnson, Hallam Smith, Jack Hechle, Peter Kimondo, Oscar Pegg

BRUCE

An activity that characterises Bruce is our House BBQs. We like to make the effort to go up to the Bourbon for these so that we can spread out, play games, light a fire, make some noise and generally relax together as one big family. It is so nice to watch the whole House mix together so readily. A new initiative this year has been the creation of 'Families' in Bruce, where two boys from each year group come together to form a family of 10 boys, with the 'Grandparents' (Upper Sixth Formers) in charge of making sure the Juniors feel happy and settled. This has been very positive as it aids integration between the years which is a very important aspect of Bruce life.

Life in House this year has been busy, positive and challenging. By challenging I mean that the boys have been asked to step out of their comfort zone, by presenting a House Chapel, taking part in Inter-House Debating, being part of the House play or contributing with ones very best effort in the vast array of Inter-House sporting events. Challenge is important to the development of character

and the boys are always ready to take up the baton to represent Bruce.

Highlights of the year include an enjoyable House Singing campaign led by Hallam Smith and Charles Johnson, although sadly it wasn't scored highly enough to get a podium place. This year's House play was led by Daniel Kilmister and we teamed up with the girls of Queen's to put on a comedy called '13 Ways to Ruin Your College Interview'. Memorable performances came from Sam Goodwin-Hudson and Ade Adejobi. It was great to see boys from the Junior years take part alongside the more experienced performers. In terms of sporting success, the sport that has yielded by far the most trophies has been swimming. Ollie Muhoho, Julian Ma and Lucas Davis spearheaded a remarkable afternoon in the Inter-House swimming gala at which Bruce picked up 16 trophies. These boys also made up the backbone of the victorious swim relay in the Stowe Challenge Cup. The other win in the Stowe Challenge Cup came in the sprint relay. Again,



Bruce came together to mount a commendable campaign to retain the trophy, but in the end we came second by just a single point.

We have managed to win a Debating Cup in each competition for the last four years, and this time it was the Senior team who made it all the way to the final to take on the girls of Lyttelton. An impressive performance from Ollie Pell, Ben Solomon and Peter Kimondo gave us every chance of the win, and in fact the Headmaster decided that this year there would be joint winners, so we shared the trophy. Our Junior team of Charlie Rivington, Totse Jemide and Iaroslav Bobrov did very well to reach the semi-finals.

Our dominance of the Senior basketball tournament continues as we lifted the trophy for the fourth year in a row and our Junior teams also won their competitions. The Juniors also fared well when hitting things, as we also picked up the badminton and the fives cups. Victories on Sports Day for Natse Jemide, Ollie Pell, Jack Flood, Jim Jackman, Tair Udovenchuk and Chris Linton helped a solid defence of the Sports Day crown, although we didn't manage to bring home the overall trophy this year. The

year started successfully with Bruce reaching three finals of the Inter-House football out of the four age groups and the Third Form and Senior teams went on to win their competitions.

Away from the Inter-House scene, our musicians have again given huge amounts of time rehearsing and performing in various bands and we had a healthy number of boys involved with School Drama productions, from which they gain so much. Two Fifth Formers, Charlie Rivington and Josh Riley, attended the Model United Nations event in Rome as ambassadors for the UK.

This year's Senior Prefects have set a great example of how to be good citizens with positive, good natured and effective guidance for the rest of the House. Alongside this has been a caring and very professional Tutor team, who have nurtured, inspired and supported the Bruce boys through their busy lives. The addition of Alfie the dog has added further life and character to the top floor corridor alongside our excellent Matron, Amanda Penner who continues to embody the happy and purposeful nature of our House.

Mr Craig Sutton, Housemaster



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CHANDOS



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Housemaster: Peter Deakin
Matron: Clare Hill-Hall
Assistant Housemaster: Brian Hart
Under Housemaster: George Purves
Head of House: Alistair Martin
Deputy Head of House: Harrison Dockerty, Adam Ezomo

House Prefects: Toni Kuku, Artura Subowo, George Olley, Steven Duncan

School Senior Prefects: Harrison Dockerty

School Prefects: Alistair Martin, Adam Ezomo

CHANDOS

Chandos has enjoyed an incredibly successful year in lots of respects and throughout the House has endeavoured to uphold our chosen theme for the year, 'Carpe Diem'. This concept to 'seize the day' is grounded upon both Chandos' strong belief in utilising the vast extent of opportunities that Stowe has to offer and continually upholding a team mentality. The focus of our annual House Chapel on this theme also emphasised that it can take on different and focused meaning to different people. It goes without saying that the hugely increased quantity of trophies in the House cabinet this year highlights that this attitude has been sustained throughout and has led to much achievement.

The House has undoubtedly gone from strength to strength during the last three terms and much of this unity and success relates to the way Ali Martin, as Head of House, and the Upper Sixth Form have led by example. In the Michaelmas term, the boys fought hard in a diverse range of competitions, with a lot of success; the Juniors finished a very respectable second in the House football, while the Seniors were knocked out in the semi-finals. Despite this, a strong Senior Chandos side went on to compete weekly in the Inter-House football leagues, which resulted in overall victory thanks in part to our 1st XI footballers, Ali Martin, Adam Ezomo and Jamie Maclure, who also earned their School football colours in the Lent term.

The Senior Debating team, which typically fairs notably well in the competition, was captained by Archie Forsyth, they went on to reach the semi-finals of the competition, whilst in House hockey, the Juniors secured another second place finish. Chandos' vibrant team ethos however, is perhaps best exemplified by our success in two of the year's most fiercely contested competitions: the House Singing, during which all 60 boys sang and danced to Taylor Swift's 'Shake It Off', and a slightly more exclusive group performed 'Grease is the Word' for the part-song. Our singing prowess resulted

in a third place overall finish behind two girls' Houses, ensuring our prestigious record of continually placing in the top three boys' Houses for the last seven years. To the satisfaction of the boys, Chandos was also victorious in the Senior House rugby for the first time in 15 years, largely resultant of the seven Chandosians who have represented the 1st XV this year: Toni Kuku (Wasps U18), Will Thompson, Adam Ezomo, Nic Quirot de Poligny, Philip Ilinich, Adam Williamson (Saints U18 and Irish Exiles U18) and Kristian Kay (Wasps U16). The Juniors kept their strong record going reaching another final in House rugby.

Chandos enjoyed further achievement in the Lent term. The Junior cricket team, including Chipper Shore-Hollingworth (Northamptonshire CC) and Tom Youds (Berkshire CC), continued their sporting success and won the indoor cricket competition, while Olly Clarke captained a strong golf team, which also featured Kurt Leimer, Max Moseley and Gabe Armstrong. In Drama, Ali Martin and Harry Cook enjoyed starring in major roles in the Senior Congreve production of 'Lysistrata'. In the House cross country, Harrison Dockerty came first in the Senior race, to seal a series of four wins over the five years whilst at Stowe and also paved the way academically gaining the best APGs in the House and as a member of the School Academic Society, which Archie Forsyth later joined. However, Chandos' most significant achievement of the Lent term, if not the whole year, was their completion of a 12 hour charity football match undertaken in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust. The charity was chosen with old Chandosian Charlie Moore (Chandos 15) in mind, who successfully battled through testicular cancer. Throughout the day, 361 goals were scored in total, with chief oragniser Jamie Maclure's team narrowly coming out on top 181-180. Ivan Titov was the top scorer with 31 goals and most importantly, the House had great fun and managed to raise a total of £2,180 with all proceeds going to Teenage Cancer Trust.



In the Summer term, Chandos enjoyed even more success on Sports Day with all three age groups impressively coming second which led to us winning the overall event. Highlights included Henry Larkin's first place in the Senior shot put, Harrison Dockerty's dominance of the Senior 1,500m, Edward Don's superb brace of victories in the Junior 300m and 800m and the Senior 4 x 100m relay team of Toni Kuku, Adam Ezomo, Will Thompson and Jamie Maclure. Cricket success followed with an extensive number of boys representing School teams. Notable achievements include Olly Clarke's (Oxfordshire U18) success at the crease with both bat and ball for Stowe's 1st XI, and similarly, Ali Martin's 1st team success which resulted in his receiving of cricket colours. Other Chandosians who have received colours this year include Steven Duncan for polo, Henry Larkin for puppetry, Harry Cook for drama and representative service colours for Kurt Leimer and Archie Forsyth.

On Speech Day, several Chandosians also received prizes for their achievements; Stewart Johnson received the Brian Stephan Academic Scholar Prize, Ilya Riskin received a Bene prize and Harrison Dockerty was awarded the extremely prestigious David Sandhurst prize for most improved

academic achievement throughout his time at Stowe. Henry Larkin, Archie Forsyth and Kurt Leimer were also appointed as School Prefects.

The last three terms have facilitated a growing sense of unity within the House, and perhaps resultant of that, a growing amount of wider success within the School. Chandos is in good health, and while we are sorry to be saying goodbye to a strong, characterful, diverse group of Upper Sixth Formers, we look forward to welcoming next year's Third Form.

Mr Peter Deakin, Housemaster



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CHATHAM



Housemaster:	Liam Copley
Matron:	Rachael Scott-Copley
Assistant Housemaster:	Thomas Elwell
Under Housemaster:	Jack Palmer
Head Boy:	Harry Norris
Head of House:	Sam Riley
Deputy Head of House:	Freddie Pope

House Prefects: Thomas Buxton, Thomas Johnson
School Prefects: Ben Barrett, Will Motion,
Harry Norris, Freddie Pope, Sam Riley

CHATHAM

Chess is rich in similes that link closely with our lives in this wonderful community of Chatham we call home. The younger boys sitting on the front row restricted to only move one space at a time, whereas the older boys have more freedom, and the experience allows them to move in different directions. The Prefects form warriors with their proven gladiator strength or wisdom of mind. All this is governed by the Head of House. The House rules can seem arbitrary to a beginner, but are actually the product of years of adaption. The game is designed to stretch the human mind, but try telling this to those sitting their final exams. The board is just the right size, and the pieces have the right amount of diversity to offer the possibility of mastering the game with enough time and study. It provides a pitched battle to the finish between opposing Houses, yet it is completely passive (except on the rugby field) with no injuries reported from playing (except when clearing hurdles). It provides a testing ground where we can experiment and act out personal dramas with no consequences other than sanctions. A blend of primitive instinct prevails at break time and sophisticated calculation for 8:05am stance. Pastimes such as House Debating lets a player directly engage the mind of another human being, standards allow one to learn from experience, as Prefects methodically build a position, as they analyse the variations of a pupil's ability to contribute in music, drama, sport, activities and academia. And it can be a canvas whereupon great Chathamites create masterpieces.

At the recent Upper Sixth Leavers' Dinner I thanked the Senior boys for their support and I extend that to all of the Chatham community. It is the Senior boys on the back row of the chess board that shape the House, and I thank Sam and his year group for making the younger boys feel so welcome and happy in their early days. The boys make Chatham a wonderful environment in which to live and work. Rachael, Mr Elwell, Mr Palmer and the House team endeavour to create a family atmosphere and I know

the boys share this sense of community and pride in the beautiful side of the board we call home.

In the House there are knights and bishop that are well known. Those who achieve accolades in the academic sphere, on the sports fields, by acting, singing and performing and I will come on to them. But there are also equally impressive pawns in the game who gain awards for effort if not achievement, volunteering to help, raising money for charity and supporting others in the House. They rarely seek recognition but without them we would be a significantly poorer community. Their success is acclaimed each week on what is known in Chatham as 'Doughnut Friday'.

Academically, the boys have worked hard throughout the year and there is a scholarly ambience in the House, with healthy competition to succeed in the classroom. As I write this report the table for merits awarded sees Felix Holland-Bosworth, Edward Rød-Larsen, Jack Polturak, James Creedy Smith and Thomas Johnson leading their year groups. Whilst on sheer attainment, the grandmasters are Alexander Girling, Ben Shamash, Jack Polturak, Caspar Wallersteiner and Johannes Henkel.

In the first half of the Michaelmas term Will Motion, assisted by Caspar Wallersteiner, opened the game bravely leading the House in the Grease-themed House Singing. They sent out a very courageous pawn in Felix Holland-Bosworth who sang a beautiful introduction in front of the whole School. However, it was the wonderful part-song performed by Will Motion, Caspar Wallersteiner, Thomas Johnson, Sam Riley, Ben Barrett and Archie Dixon-Smith that left the audience captivated. Despite not winning we certainly were the people's choice, managing to mix Bastille and Bob Dylan in our part-song. On the new course of the House cross country our top finisher was Hugh Fox, ninth in the Juniors, Freddie Woods, third in the Intermediate race and Thomas Johnson, eighth in the

Senior race. However, it was once again our pawns on the front row of the board that took the limelight, all finishing in the top 30 to take the overall Junior House cross country title. Chatham chose the theme of 'kindness' for its focus this year, inspired by the American civil rights activist Jesse Jackson. It was the statement "Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up" that initiated the launch of the House kindness baton. We also selected our House Charity for the year, deciding to support the charity set up by one of our own, Leonard Cheshire Disabilities.

The Lent term or 'middlegame' brought further success for Chathamites. The trophy cabinet was kept bulging after the success of our Intermediate and Junior swimmers. The Intermediates won the freestyle relay event and the overall boy's Intermediate swimming cup (the squad was Guy Woodhouse, Jack Polturak, Oliver Millard and Leo Dettori). The Junior boys won both the freestyle and the individual medley cups and the overall boy's Junior swimming (the squad was Alex Girling, Felix Holland-Bosworth, Ed Akeroyd Hunt and Ian Hsu). It was wonderful to see Caspar Wallersteiner, star, and Will Motion, play in the orchestra, for the School musical production of 'Beauty and The Beast'. Towards the end of term our in-house pianist, Theo Hayes, won the Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year playing "The Lark" by Balakirev. It was also wonderful to see Fergus Paske lead the Stowe CCF through their bi-annual inspection as he looks to secure a place at Sandhurst after university. The term culminated with the main House charity event, in which the boys swam the length of The Channel in relay (with each boy contributing a minimum of 27 lengths), raising £4,500 for our charity.

The Summer term has brought the 'endgame' and our big players onto the board, and it was the turn of the Senior teams to dominate the sporting success. George Markham and Sam Riley led a strategic attack with the House cricket.

George hit an excellent century in the semi-final and it was his incredible catch on the boundary that brought the rather large Senior cricket trophy back to Chatham. Not to be outdone, Freddie Pope led his young tennis team of Jamie Metson, Archie Dixon-Smith, Tom Buxton, Ed Good and Freddie Woods out toward the centre of the board. They retained the Inter-House tennis cup, not dropping a single set all day. To maintain the dominance on the water Jack Polturak sailed superbly to win the solo tankard.

As ever the highlight of the year for me had to be sharing a relaxed Sunday afternoon with friends and family at the House picnic. This wonderful occasion provides a chance for the extended community of Chatham to share the magnificence of our Chatham Garden and the Golf Course. That day, a closely contested pairs golf competition on the four holes of the Chatham loop saw the Nesbitts narrowly beat the Wentworth-Stanleys in a nail-biting finish.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the Senior boys on completing their days in Chatham in such fine spirit and thank them all for helping shape the character of those in the younger years. Sam Riley and Freddie Pope have proved an excellent pair of castles as Head and Deputy Head of House and they have been ably supported by their team of knights in Will Motion, Ben Barrett, Thomas Buxton, Thomas Johnson and Harry Norris. The metaphor of pawn promotion sees the new guard of Archie Dixon-Smith and James Creedy Smith become custodians of the Chatham board. However, as Marcel Duchamp said "All this twaddle, atheism, determinism, liberation, societies, etc., are pieces of a chess game called language, and they are amusing only if one does not preoccupy oneself with winning or losing."

Mr Liam Copley, Housemaster



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COBHAM



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Housemaster: James Peppiatt
Matron: Jo Dalrymple
Assistant Housemaster: Mike Rickner
Under Housemaster: Chris Grimble and Matt Teasdale
Head of House: Oscar Williams
Deputy Head of House: Jakob Stordalen

House Prefects: Benoit Ferrand, Guy Seddon, Alex Smith, Jonny Hawkings-Byass, Harry Bunting
School Prefects: Oscar Williams, Jakob Stordalen

COBHAM

In keeping with Stowe's whole School theme of 'Passion' this year, Cobham tailored this idea to being 'passionate about compassion' (forgive the slightly cheesy wording, but the sentiment works). For all of us who live and work in such a privileged environment, we can sometimes lose focus on the world around us, and the fact that those much less fortunate than ourselves are often involved in difficulties and struggles on a day-to-day basis. One of the highlights of this year was therefore the 'Santa Fun Run' in December, when the whole of Cobham donned their Santa suits for a 5K run through the streets of Northampton, in aid of the charity Rainbows. Rainbows is a small but vital charity based in Northampton which provides palliative care for children with terminal illnesses; not only that, but they act as a retreat where the parents of those children can spend some time free from the relentless and often exhausting task of acting as full time carers. Prior to the run, one of the representatives from Rainbows gave an excellent talk to Cobhamites on what the charity does and invited a group to come and look around the Hospice. Both of those experiences, and the run itself, gave us all the opportunity to understand the challenges that these families face, but it also left us with a sense of optimism, determination and courage. Rainbows

is an overwhelmingly happy place and I was delighted and grateful that we were given the opportunity to see something of the work they do. Thanks to the generosity of Cobham families and friends, we raised just under £4,000 for the charity and I hope we will take part in a similar fundraising initiative next year.

The other great highlight for me this year was the inaugural Cobham House play, 'What's Up Icarus'. Never having directed a play before, it was with some trepidation that Mr Rickner and I turned our hands to staging this light-hearted romp about the trials and tribulations of Daedalus and his son Icarus, in their attempts to construct a maze for King Theseus and his Minotaur. We needn't have worried – with an enthusiastic cast of 16, the dramatic lights of Cobhamites emerged from under their bushels to provide two evenings of entertainment and amusement for all. I shall certainly never look on the likes of Will Perry and Archie Figg in the same way again, who gave disturbingly convincing performances as the females Princess Ariadne and Queen Pasiphae respectively. The dramatic precedent has now been set and I look forward to many more Cobham performances in the future.

And so on to a reflection of our other achievements this





year. The Seniors continued to impress on the hockey pitch, following on from their success as Juniors and clinching the cup for the fourth year running. In the Stowe Challenge Cup we were as competitive as ever, coming first in the .22 shooting and run and placing a very respectable third overall (for the third year running; our strategy to make it to the top of the board begins now...). And, of course, there was the return of the Stowe Pancake Race, in which Charlton Kerr, Georges Tasker, Dan Jolker, Harry Hewlett, Thomas Fountain and Matthew Teasdale gave a performance that would not have been out of place in 'Chariots of Fire' to bring home the highly coveted golden frying pan.

In terms of individuals, I am always wary of singling out particular achievements in these reports, as so many Cobhamites achieve so much in a wide variety of fields. However, I know no one would begrudge me mentioning a few individuals for their exceptional performances this year. Firstly, Will Perry for his outstanding efforts in trialing for the international Paralympic team for swimming, as well as Billy Hawkings-Byass for being an essential part of the winning team at the National Schools' Polo Championships. Both Stuart Milner and Toby Lawrance represented Stowe at the VEX World Robotics Championship Finals in Louisville, Kentucky. The 500 finalists were selected from a pool of 16,000, and Stowe were placed 250 out of those 500 overall. Charlton Kerr was selected to play for the England rugby 7s squad

and Oliver Seddon was part of the winning team in the National 'Into Film: Into Space' competition, which was screened for Tim Peake on board the International Space Station, and premiered in London. These are just a few examples of the impressive array of talent within the House. My thanks go to all Cobhamites who have made so many other contributions this year.

Finally, thanks also to the Cobham House team, who continue to do so much to support me and the boys, and who make Cobham such an enjoyable place to work. To Mike Rickner, who has once again been such an invaluable presence in allowing me those times during the week to rest and catch up with family, safe in the knowledge that the House is in good hands. To the Tutors, Matt Teasdale, Chris Grimble and Paul Thompson, whose academic and pastoral care has been exceptional and much appreciated by the parents and boys alike. To our Matron, Jo Dalrymple, who continues to go far beyond any job description in her care and unfailingly upbeat approach to life. To our handyman Charlie, for his tireless efforts in making sure the House always remains in good order. To our cleaning team of Sue, Maxine, Donna and Kara, whose professionalism is outstanding and whose cheeriness in the face of dealing with 60 teenage boys never ceases to amaze me. And, as ever, to my wife Jo, for sharing in and supporting me with all the celebrations and tribulations of a Housemaster's life!

Mr James Peppiatt, Housemaster



GRAFTON



Housemaster: Gavin Moffat
 Matron: Terri Bosman
 Assistant Housemaster: Richard Corthine
 Under Housemaster: Charlie Standley
 Head of House: Ollie Woodward
 Deputy Head of House: Freddie Phillips

House Prefects: Jamie Grayson, Henry Hoare, Kit Gordon Cumming, John Shin, Daniel Strutt, Edward Tilleard
 School Prefects: Ollie Woodward, Henry Hoare, John Shin

GRAFTON

Has a year already flown by since the last Stoic report deadline? Has the 'new' Third Form cohort almost completed their first year at Stowe? It is incredible to think that time can move so quickly and in the life of a busy boarding house it seems forever thus. It never ceases to amaze me that at one moment we seem to be in the darkness of mid-winter when the January blues take a hold and then within the blink of an eye the splendour of Speech Day and the dreaded public examinations are upon us.

The Grafton community continues to evolve and grow on the foundations of mutual respect, tolerance, good manners, hard work and the most important ingredients of all, a sense of fun, laughter and shared enjoyment of our communal experiences. As such, the highlights of the year for me are always the whole House events, whether it be the Singing competition, cross country or the annual socials when bowling in Milton Keynes or horse racing at Towcester

Races. Seeing the boys enjoy each other's company is very rewarding and these events are always fertile ground for unforeseen mishaps, comedy moments and general hilarity.

Two particular events worthy of note were Speech Day and the Grafton 'At Home' as they gave all the parents the opportunity to meet up, socialise together and enjoy the entertainment provided by the boys. During the 'At Home', Grafton's version of 'Take That's 'Shine' wasn't quite what Gary Barlow had in mind when he penned the hit, whilst the Upper Sixth impromptu dance went well – until the music started! Later in the term, the boys redeemed themselves by going from the ridiculous to the sublime with this year's House play, a first rate theatrical production of Patrick Marber's 'The Musicians', which was received to widespread acclaim by those in attendance. Fabian Bevan stole the show as a hapless Russian cleaner; Nico Montgomery was an exceptional lead with Charles Granby's



cameo particularly memorable and enjoyable. He was ingratiation personified. The rest of the cast deserve special mention for all their hard work to make the two-night run such a success. House Drama is clearly in very creative hands looking ahead, especially with Max Campbell-Preston excelling in the key role of Gaston in the magnificent School production of 'Beauty and the Beast'. Equally pleasing was the performance of the Junior Debating team, to watch their journey from debating novices in the opening round to accomplished public speakers in the final was a joy to behold. The team of Alex Harris, Josh Landau and Tom Mayhew did the House proud despite losing to Queen's in a closely contested final. Their efforts were rewarded with much support from their Grafton peers.

Sport plays a large role in the lives of the Grafton community and the tradition of sporting success was once again very much in evidence. Preparation was thorough for the Stowe Challenge Cup in April and this was handsomely rewarded with our first place finish. The assault course team beat their own record whilst the run and log carry squad also crossed the line in first place. This, allied with second place finishes in the swim relay, .22 shooting and sprint relay meant that the silverware now adorns the trophy cabinet along with the House cross country trophy for the ninth consecutive year. Can the boys emulate Real Madrid's *la decima* next year?

Once the killer bees had been rehoused, Sports Day could finally take place and the athletes did not disappoint. Special mention must go to Upper Sixth Former Triumph Opuala-Charles for his splendid double in the 100m and 200m sprints which clearly inspired Third Former Aymen Riahi to replicate this in the Junior equivalent. Jack Comyn (long jump), Dan Biss (long jump), Allwell Opuala-Charles (800m), Billy Vestey (800m), Dave Dooley (shot put) and Louis Hay (hurdles) all won their events with special mention to Oscar Holmes and Ed Tilleard for exceptionally brave runs too.

Grafton continued to enjoy much success in our annexe, namely the swimming pool, just over the road from the pristine lawn and veranda. The Senior water polo team earned the silverware for winning the weekly league whilst Dan Strutt and Aymen Riahi produced first rate swims in

the Inter-House gala. With a couple of promising swimmers coming into House in September the future of swimming looks bright. As too does Beagling with the promotion of Roddy Bannister to joint Master of the Hounds following on from the expert leadership of John Shin who put his heart and soul into his time as Master of the Hounds in his final year at Stowe.

On the academic front, I would like to congratulate the many Grafton boys who received prizes on Speech Day whilst special mention must go to Tom Mayhew, John Shin, Ollie Woodward, Harry Arkwright and Archie Chisnall for being invited to the Headmaster's Supper for the top academically performing pupils during the course of the year.

To conclude, a big farewell to the departing Upper Sixth as they begin the rest of their lives away from Stowe. I wish them the very best for their results in August and for the exciting times ahead at university. Ollie Woodward has been a wonderful Head of House and (literally) leaves big shoes to fill for his successor Fabian Bevan, who I am sure will do justice to the role. Of great pride to Graftonians is the fact that the new Head Boy is Jarrod Van der Westhuizen and the icing on the cake will be if the Headmaster manages to pronounce his name correctly. As always, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Grafton Tutor team who do a splendid job in guiding their charges through their time at Stowe. Mr Corthine has been a great addition to the House as Assistant Housemaster, Dr Standley remains in the House team despite moving out to Standley Manor and reclaiming some life of his own, and Mr Quinn has added much humour to a Thursday duty night. We wish Mr Mellor the very best in his new role as a Sixth Form Tutor away from Grafton and he will be sorely missed, especially when the House computers and printer needs fixing. Lastly, to the two ladies in my life – Mrs Bosman, who commands the utmost respect from boys and parents alike and Mrs Moffat, who knows exactly when I need a glass of wine, or occasionally something a touch stronger – a huge thank you for making 2015/16 another year of which to be very proud.

Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



GRENVILLE



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Housemaster: Alan Hughes
Matron: Stephanie Stocks
Assistant Housemaster: Phil Arnold
Under Housemaster: Toby Le Lacheur
Head of House: Gregor Haldane

School Prefects: Gregor Haldane, James Moor,
Harry Dunn, Tom Carr

GRENVILLE

It goes without saying that it has been yet another full on, one hundred mile an hour, never a dull moment year. I thought I would give a little summary of each year group as a collective and summarise their worlds as we, like you, watch them grow and observe their nature.

The new Third Form arrived way back in September but somehow it seems like yesterday. They have brought another dimension to the House and you can't get away from the fact that they are definitely from the country sports fraternity. Climbing over fishing rods, wellington boots, whips and Barbour jackets, not to mention the posters of Horses and Jockeys in their areas is a definite change to pictures of football players or their favourite female celebrity. Sanctions are less of a threat as they are usually returning from feeding the Beagles rather than having to get out of bed. They were joined in the second half of the Summer term by two young Italian boys who dovetailed into the House and year group with ease – it is a testimony to the rest of the boys in Grenville and their welcoming manner that the boys settled so well. With a couple of our boys having French connections and the arrival of the Italians, Grenville had a definite majority in the 'RemaIN' campaign.

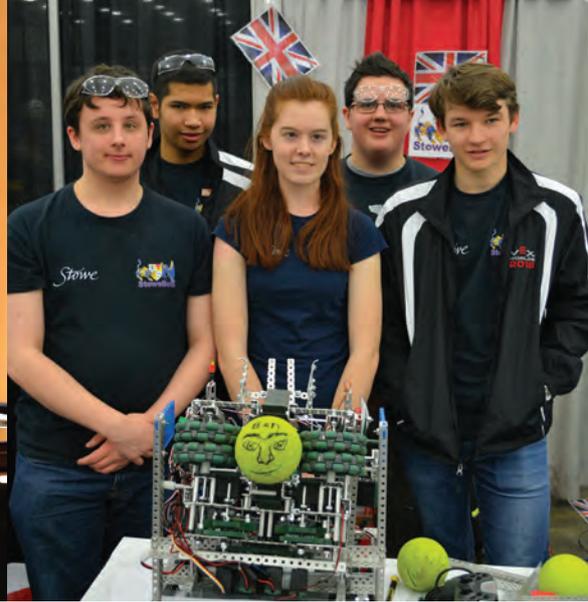
The Fourth Form moved into the loft space, slightly nearer to God but if we thought they would become 'Holier than Thou' it didn't work. As many of you know, I suspect from bitter experience, the Fourth Form is when they disappear into what I call 'the adolescent black hole'. Even talk of a nine week summer holiday warrants sighs of derision from boys who start every sentence with "Do I have to?" "Yes breathing in and out is a requirement that all living human beings do on a fairly regular basis so shall we try doing it with a smile on our face", retorts I, "Ugh" is the response they also cling to on a regular basis. That said, they never fail to make you smile.

The Fifth Form arrived back still in the mysterious 'black hole' but fortunately the Government and, in particular,

the Education Department, have found the answer to this disease, Public Examinations. The GCSEs have loomed large all year and the word exam is never far away but they bring focus, energy and self-discipline to their lives and as we approached the Summer term we started to see boys evolving into young men who are approachable and can discuss matters on a more level basis.

The Lower Sixth returned having shed their Junior School skin and arrive back in suits looking quite the part, always amazing to see the transformation. More autonomy and responsibility does bring the best out in them and they have flourished as a year group. Diverse in their make-up with talents abound, musicians, sportsmen, debaters and as a group they are academically strong. They will serve Stowe and Grenville well: three have been chosen as School Prefects and eight as House Prefects. They have combined well with a much smaller Upper Sixth Form who wrestled with the daunting prospect of university choices and A Level exams. Those who are choosing to go straight onto university either in the UK or the US have their first options available to them. They have rounded the year off in style and all knuckled down in the end, burning the midnight oil as the exams grow ever closer. They have now finished their time in Grenville and leave Stowe with our best wishes and we hope for success come August.

Over the course of the year there have been some sporting highs. The House retained the Senior badminton cup in the first term and our continued strength in the racket sports brought us another trophy in the summer with a three sets to love victory over Grafton in the Junior tennis. In the Lent term we came away with two trophies in the Junior and Intermediate swimming finals and more recently in the summer another aquatic venue saw the House win the Inter-House sailing competition. We eventually secured the House shooting cup. This is an event where you can enter more than one team and Grenville made it clear that Specsavers would not be getting any business as our two teams finished first and third.



Having won the Academic Salver for a third successive term in the winter, I thought we might be allowed to keep it for good but I suspect out of fairness to the other Houses it slipped from our grasp in the Lent term when Walpole were awarded it. Elsewhere some of our boys have been representing the School at 1st team level in rugby, cricket, tennis, swimming, water polo, rowing, golf and equestrianism. Others have been involved in the School Robotics teams travelling to the United States to take place in the VEX World Championships. Others have headed up new societies in Mathematics, the Venatori Society and Debating. Several boys are now utilising their musical attributes toward academic qualifications at A Level and their talents are often heard in assembly, concerts or this year at our House 'At Home', a well-attended and popular event.

Boys have been away on not just the regular CCF, DofE and theatre trips but two boys are currently away with the Biology Department in Indonesia and two attended the History of Art trip to New York.

This year we have to say farewell to two members of the GB team. Toby Le Lacheur joined us in September as Under Housemaster and Third Form Tutor but he intends to marry his long-time girlfriend who lives in Sydney and I think the climate and a new life have lured him away. He has contributed much to Grenville and we thank him for his short spell with us. Stephanie Stocks will also be moving on and we will miss her support and care for the boys. She has kept them on their toes and although despair has been a close companion at times she has kept her cool when all around were losing theirs. She moves on to be closer to her two sons now based in London and has found a similar role at Harrow.

As ever, I am indebted to the rest of my staff; Mr Arnold as Assistant Housemaster and Mrs Gracie as the current Fourth Form Tutor and finally, a huge thank you to you as parents for being as supportive as you are, both to the boys and to the staff here in Grenville.

Mr Alan Hughes, Housemaster



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LYTTELTON



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Housemistress: Valerie Green
 Matron: Tup Bertley
 Assistant Housemistress: Kaitlan Biondi
 Under Housemistress: Sarah Sutton
 Head of House: Valeria Gridneva
 Deputy Head of House: Mia Kinahan

House Prefects: Annabel Wailes-Fairbairn,
 Francesca Knight
 School Prefects: Valeria Gridneva, Mia Kinahan,
 Francesca Knight

LYTTELTON

Lyttelton girls started the year as they meant to go on, with a bang. I cannot begin to express how inordinately proud I am of every single one of them. Their achievements as a consequence of working as a team and supporting one another through victory and defeat must be recognised. One of the first Inter-House events is the extremely prestigious Singing competition. We won the House "shout" with 'Come on Eileen', a choice which was surprising as I thought it was only me that knew that song! This was followed by victory in the unison song with 'You're the One that I Want'. An absolutely fantastic beginning to a memorable year. One of the many qualities celebrated in Lyttelton is diversity in all its forms. As the year progressed there were many celebrations. The Senior Debating trophy was next with Franny Moseley, Fabiola Koenig and Clarissa Llanaj repelling all opposition magnificently. The Third Form showed they were a force

to be reckoned with when they swept to victory in cross country, which was held on one of the wettest and windiest days of the year. They also won the Junior cup at Sports Day. Congratulations must go to Ingrid Galler (English, German), Charlotte Bird (French, Graphics), Ellie Dudgeon and Valeria Gridneva (Philosophy and Religion), Clarissa Llanaj (Biology), Francesca Knight and Georgia Charlton-Briggs (Art), Mar Martinez-Tomas (Drawing), Izzy Jessel (Print), Emily Banks (Chorister), and Fabiola Koenig (Public Speaking) all of whom were presented with awards on Speech Day. Amy Struthers, Coco Brooks and Flo Berner all continue to excel in their chosen discipline in horse riding. Dani Fusco-House is still pushing for a spot on the Great Britain rowing team and has been awarded a full scholarship to an American university. Izzy Hopkins was part of the successful .22 shooting team during the Stowe Challenge Cup. Every production that takes place





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at Stowe, whether it is a play or musical, is dominated by the number of Lyttelton girls in the cast. There really are quite a few 'drama queens' in House! Next year Celia Marment is the netball Captain, tasked with leading them to victory. Poppy Moore is the swimming Captain and will be following the same brief. She must be congratulated on organising the swimming team who narrowly lost in the House competition. Poppy was also awarded the Myles Henry travel scholarship together with Clarissa Llanaj. We are looking forward to hearing all about their adventures. Our 'At Home' was a showcase of the very talented group of girls that make Lyttelton such a happy and friendly place to live.

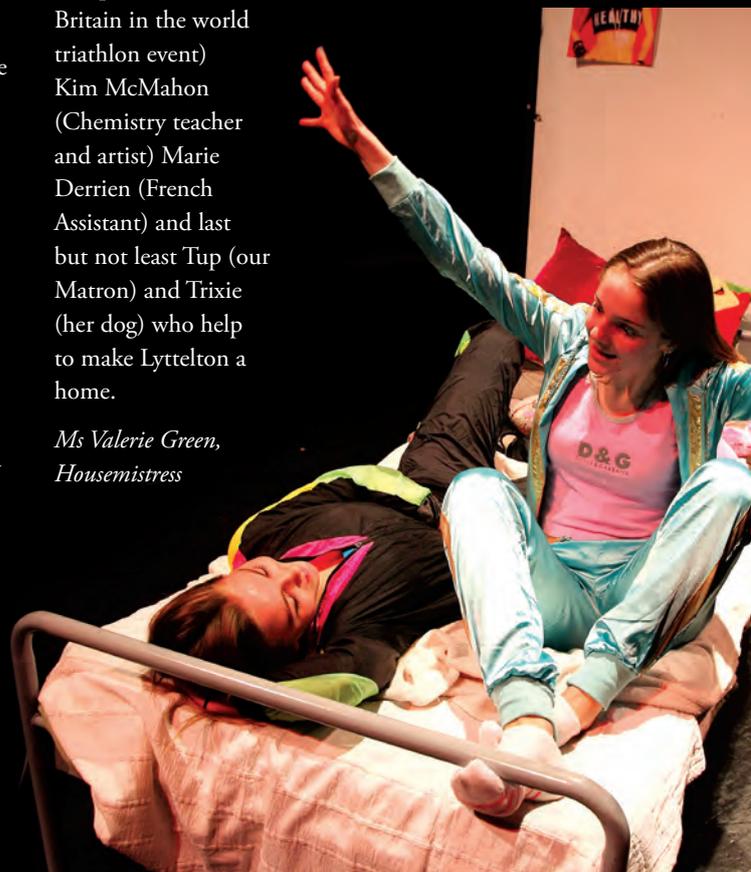
Sadly this year has flown by very quickly for our South African Scholar Zizo Chuma. She has touched our lives and will remain in our hearts. We have learnt from one another and lessons learnt will remain part of our ethos in the future. We wish her every success on her return to Johannesburg and hope to see her again one day.

Next year we have a superb Prefect team in place which will be ably led by Franny Moseley as Head of House with Fabiola Koenig as her Deputy. They will be joined by Celia Marment (sport and competitive edge!) Georgia Charlton-Briggs (art and surroundings) Savannah Courtenay (chief organiser of everything) Poppy Moore (swimming and Third Form) and Ellie Smith (new Sixth Form and day girls, charity) The House will also sport a fleet of seven green Lyttelton bicycles, the new 'cool' way to get around the site. Beryl Burton would be impressed.

I would like to thank Valeria and her team for their support throughout the year and wish the Upper Sixth all the best out in the big, wide world.

We say goodbye and thank you to Giles Cuddy who is moving to Walpole. Friday nights will never be the same! The rest of the team will continue: Kaitlan Griffin nee Biondi (how exciting) as Assistant Housemistress, Sarah Sutton Under Housemistress (off to Mexico in September to represent Great Britain in the world triathlon event) Kim McMahon (Chemistry teacher and artist) Marie Derrien (French Assistant) and last but not least Tup (our Matron) and Trixie (her dog) who help to make Lyttelton a home.

*Ms Valerie Green,
Housemistress*



NUGENT



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Housemistress: Jayne Duckett
 Matron: Marian Gallick
 Assistant Housemistress: Alicia Davies
 Under Housemistress: Lucy Brassell
 Head of House: India Chadwick
 Deputy Head of House: Emily Woodhead

House Prefects: Isobelle Smith, Simone Banson, Laura Fras, Milly Osborne
 School Prefects: India Chadwick, Eloise Dobson, Laura Fras, Isobelle Smith, Emily Woodhead

THE NUGENT

I was at a family funeral in December and heard a poignant poem called 'The Dash' by Linda Ellis. It talks about the way someone spends their life between birth and death and I started to think how relevant it was for the Nugent girls' lives here at Stowe. She talks about uncomplicated poetry in a complicated world and certainly the decisions that our teenagers have to make now can never be compared to life thirty years ago – our girls are certainly making the most of their dash as you will realise...

We started the year back in September 2015 by congratulating our GCSE and A2 year for their excellent exam results. 77% of our Fifth Form achieved A/A* and all of our A2 Stoics are following their dreams at a variety of universities. In terms of sporting competitions we have managed to secure a number of different trophies, but perhaps the ones to applaud are the Inter-House cross country competition where seven of our Inters finished in the top ten across two year groups. Georgia Flawn-Thomas won the competition a full 2.39 minutes ahead of the next competitor. Swimming

continues to be one of our real strengths with some exciting performances across all three age groups. Both the Juniors, captained by Toyah Mowat, and the Inters, captained by Kira Evans, won convincingly and the Seniors gained a very valuable second place. However, the most gruelling competition is the Stowe Challenge Cup and with 25 girls taking part it is a real House event. We registered another outstanding time in the assault course of 3.41 minutes, beating our record set last year. We went on to win the run and log carry as well as the 3,200m sprint relay and came second in the 1,000m swim relay.

Winning numerous cups only tells half a story as the successes have been based upon strength of character, a desire to do their best and an unwillingness to admit they are beaten. This is most easily seen by the Seniors' win on Sports Day when a Sixth Form team, comprising only one Upper Sixth, our Head of House India Chadwick, and a group of Lower Sixth beat their closest rivals Queen's by five points. The one competition that has eluded us for



Abby Webb





many years has been the Inter-House Literary Quiz on World Book Day and although we finished second after the questions, the audience score was then taken into account and the Nugent girls who were participating had gained enough points to move us into first place, again ahead of Queen's.

Speech Day was another glorious occasion; Kate Reardon (Editor of Tatler and ex Nugent girl) delivered a thought-provoking speech which can be read in this magazine. Prizes went to the following Nugent girls:

Lisa Battilomo (French), Amy Jorgensen (Spanish), Isobelle Smith (History), Annie Ormerod (Religious Studies), Skye Longworth (Chemistry), Victoria Beglin (Sports Science and the Colin Shillington Cup), Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Art), Eloise Dobson (Music), Emma Grayson (Drama), Jess Potts (Theatre Crew), Zabrina Tucker (Duke of Edinburgh's Award), India Chadwick (Headmaster's Special Prize) and Emily Woodhead (Music and the Louis Strauss Prize).

Eloise Dobson gave an emotional performance of 'I Dreamed a Dream' and there was a medley from the cast of 'Beauty and the Beast' in which eight girls had been involved back in February.

As a House we all went to see 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' at Milton Keynes Theatre and there have been numerous cinema trips to see 'The Jungle Book', 'London has Fallen', 'Maize Runner' and 'Spectre'.

Before my final thank you messages to my team, I feel that a paragraph must be dedicated to an Old Girl; Abby Webb (Nugent 09) who sadly passed away back in December 2015 aged 24. Abby joined Nugent in 2007, having been awarded a Sports Scholarship. She represented the South of England hockey as well as England U18s. She played for the Stowe hockey 1st XI, represented Nugent in the Coldstream Cup, finished in third place in the Inter-House cross country, performed as a member of our House play as well as being part of the cast of 'The Boyfriend'. Abby was a member of our winning part-song, 'Happy Ending' by Mika. If there is ever a girl who made the most of her 'dash' it was Abby Webb. She was unfortunately diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer in 2015 and we celebrated her 25th birthday at her funeral on 9 December 2016 in Chapel. As a House we have been fundraising for the charity that Abby was involved in during her fight; Eric Lim, the consultant at Royal Brompton and Harefield

Hospital was doing extensive research to find a cure for the lung cancer that killed Abby. The Nugent families have worked hard to bake cakes, sell refreshments and hold movie nights. Olivia Thomas raised £250 in a 5K race and Emily Bourn £500 by cutting her hair. India's family have raised £250 after they ran the gruelling Gothic Temple Hill ten times! So far we have close to £3,500 to send to Eric Lim.

As we leave for the summer I would like to acknowledge the support and enthusiasm that Alicia Davies has given to Nugent over the last three years. She leaves us for a new job at Myddleton College and our best wishes go to her and Jeremy as they get married in summer 2017. Lucy Brassell has been both Under Housemistress and Tutor this year and our best wishes go to her and Sean as they start their married life together this July. The Nugent team of Marian, Alicia, Lucy, Lyn, Richard and Rebecca – how can I thank you all? You continue to keep me enthused and I couldn't do the job without you. To my Prefect team headed by India Chadwick – the House is strong because of your hard work and your willingness to work alongside me. Good luck in your ventures.

Mrs Jayne Duckett, Housemistress



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QUEEN'S



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Housemistress: Fiona James
Acting Housemistress: Emma Ackroyd
Matron: Anne Reading
Assistant Housemistress: Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe
Under Housemistress: Catrin Evans
Head of House: Saskia Satchell
Deputy Head of House: Dot Holt and Madeleine Jordan
House Prefects: Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard, Tilly Smith, Laura Brogden, Izzy Oliver, Jeanie Gibbs
School Senior Prefects: Saskia Satchell, Laura Brogden, Dot Holt, Madeleine Jordan
School Prefects: Antonina Kozhukhova, Aleksia Zivanovic

Well, what a year it's been for Queen's! I write this article at the end of my term as Acting Housemistress while Fiona James has been on maternity leave. The girls this year have really embodied our House Motto of 'Passion, Potential and Perseverance' and I have only been able to write here about a few of the many wonderful achievements.

Academic Achievements

In the Inter-House Debating competition this year, our Senior team made it to the semi-final and the Junior team of Issy Leondiou, Maya Tearle and Eleanor Trotman beat all competition to become overall Junior champions. They debated the motion of 'This House believes that teaching students to pass exams is helpful preparation for life' with dignity, charm and rigour of argumentation. On the other side of the academic spectrum, in the space where Maths, Science, Design, Physics, IT and Engineering meet, Anna Wilson took part in the 2016 VEX World Robotics Championships in Kentucky with a team of Senior Stoics and competed against teams from 32 other countries to be placed third in the UK. A fantastic achievement!

Artistic Achievements

Looking back over some other highlights, the first House competition of the year is one of my personal favourites: House Singing. The entire School, in fine spirits and fine voice fill the Chapel with music and singing. Queen's put on a fantastic display, dressed in neon tutus and legwarmers. They gave a rousing rendition of 'Wake me up Before you Go Go', followed by the part-song, a gentler arrangement of 'You're the One that I Want', both arranged and produced by Jeanie Gibbs.

Another notable highlight was our House 'At Home' followed by the House Drama. The 'At Home' was a really lovely day, a celebration of the progress that our Upper Sixth have made and a celebration of some of the drama

and musical talent that Queen's girls are able to showcase at a moment's notice. The House play, '13 Ways to Ruin Your College Interview' in collaboration with Bruce and directed by India Spencer, was a huge success. With a full audience of Stoics and parents, India and her excellent cast worked hard to provide us with a fun and enjoyable afternoon.

Sporting Achievements

The Summer term began with one of our biggest House competitions, the Stowe Challenge Cup. After putting in strong performances in swimming, the obstacle course, the sprint relay, .22 shooting and the command task, we came through second overall with joint first place in the .22 shooting and the command task.

The Seniors have had a successful year, taking part with enthusiasm in the various Inter-House matches and bringing home the silverware in several key sports including hockey, netball and tennis. Notable individual achievements include: Annabel Simpson and Bubby Upton achieving second and third places in cross country and, on Sports Day, Thalia Felton created a new School Record in the 100m hurdles and came first in the 100m. Annabel Simpson also came first in the 800m and the Senior girls' team won the 400m relay.

Our Intermediate teams have also been successful, with a second in House netball, hockey and basketball. In cross country Rosie Smith came second and Ellie Bewes came third. On Sports Day, Zara Atta won the 100m, Tallula Douglas Miller broke the School Record in triple jump and the girls' team came a very close second in the 400m relay.

Our Juniors are following in this strong competitive spirit with a win in hockey and a second place in netball. Alyssia Dockerty won the cross country and on Sports Day the Juniors won five categories.

QUEEN'S

Humanitarian Achievements

As I mentioned at the start of the article, passion, potential and perseverance are the words which Queen's girls have tried to live by this year. These words have been brought to life by Izzy Oliver, Saskia Satchell and Dot Holt when they organised a fundraising event for the charity, Fine Cell Work. The event was a great success, and raised £6,207. What a fantastic achievement!

Other Notable Achievements

Congratulations to Thalia Felton who is the next Head Girl and School Prefects from Queen's: Bubby Upton, Isabella Baillie and Anna Wilson.

A glance at the prize winners' list for this year highlights just how many Queen's girls have contributed their rich and varied talents to the academic, artistic and humanitarian life of our community and they should all be proud of their achievements.

Warmest Thanks

I also want to lend my heartfelt thanks to the House team who have supported my term as Acting Housemistress. Firstly to Anne Reading, aka 'Maitch' who has undertaken extra duties, given guidance and reassurance and cared for the girls throughout the year; Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, who has ably supported me as Assistant Housemistress, has also covered extra duties and worked tirelessly to ensure the girls are happy and have a sense of consistency throughout the year, and Cat Evans who will be leaving us for a new school in September but who has tutored the girls and provided a consistent House Staff presence throughout the year. The resident team has also been well supported by the Tutors Isabel Ferrero and Rosa Goodman; Rosa will also be moving to a new school in September. Special thanks must also go to the House Nurse, Cat Lawrence, for her expertise and reassurance throughout the year. Finally, the House wouldn't run without our fantastic cleaning and handyman team who keep us all clean, healthy, comfortable and safe so my warmest thanks also to David, Trevor, Elaine, Rachel, Helen and Dawn.

New Arrivals!

Alongside the usual business of the academic year, the girls of Queen's have also welcomed Mr and Mrs James' twin boys into the House and into their hearts. I couldn't write this article without mentioning our two very new and very special members of the Queen's family, Oliver and Finlay – welcome to Queen's!

Mrs Emma Ackroyd, Acting Housemistress



This year's Queen's prize-winners are:

- David Arnold Prize for History (LVI) – Emily Osborne
- Anthony Pedder Prize for Physics (LVI) – Anna Wilson
- James Mayne Prize for Business Studies (UVI) – Antonina Kozhukhova
- Choyce Prize for Biology (UVI) – Siana Griffiths
- Friends of Stowe Prize for Biology (GCSE) – Lauren Taylor
- Andrew McAlpine Prize for Graphics – Kelly-Jo Cecile-Pritchard
- Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science (LVI) – Thalia Felton
- William Dady Prize for History of Art (LVI) – Isabella Baillie
- J F Aimers Prize for Art – Isabella Baillie
- Leslie Huggins Prize for Excellence in Music – Laura Brogden
- Bryan Henshaw Prize for Drama (UVI) – Saskia Satchell
- Sir Nicholas Winton Award – Izzy Oliver
- Dudley Baker Prize – Madeleine Jordan

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STANHOPE



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Housemistress: Susan Harmon
Matron: Shona Cannon
Assistant Housemistress: Elena Hughes
Under Housemistress: Collette Stirzaker, Victoria Crook, Ana Vidal García
Head Girl: Anna Fox
Head of House: Louisa Feast
Deputy Head of House: Hannah Bernard-Bell and Millie Bromley-Davenport
House Prefects: Jemima Chauveau, Sorrel Fenwicke-Clelland, Anna Fox, Jemima Grant, Philippa Stacey
School Senior Prefects: Jemima Chauveau
School Prefects: Louisa Feast, Millie Bromley-Davenport, Jemima Grant

STANHOPE

“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.” Pelé

As I come to the end of my fifth year as Stanhope’s Housemistress; one full cycle of girls starting life at Stowe in the Third Form back in September 2011, now leave as Upper Sixth Formers to take on the world beyond the School’s metaphorical gates. It has been a memorable five years to say the least! In this constant merry-go-round in the starting and ending of each academic year, I am sure that as the dust settles on 2015-2016 the House will find a different rhythm to take forward as the Lower Sixth now take up the reins of responsibility and ambassadorship. I wish the 2016 leavers every good wish for the future, as the Stowe door now closes and the various university doors open wide, with many more opportunities there for the taking.

This year has once again seen the usual Inter-House battles take shape, and I continue to be impressed by the resilience and drive shown on the sports pitches by our Stanhopian heroines. Whilst some ‘nuts’ have been much harder to

crack than others, I am proud of the way our spirit has grown stronger. The House Motto, ‘Independence and Perseverance’, carved so carefully into the stonework of the foyer reminds us daily of our goals, and the effort sometimes needed to push ourselves that bit harder. Competitions are entered with a quiet competitiveness, leaving arrogance for others to claim. But if I am going to blow the Stanhope trumpet, I will highlight a few key moments in this year’s smorgasbord of successes. I start first with academic news, as the new Third Form immersed themselves in their studies from day one, many achieving multiple merits on a daily basis and thus swamping the top of the leader board across the year group in the termly Academic Progress Grades. However, hats off to all who have achieved so much, on both an individual level and in helping Stanhope regain the much coveted Academic Salver.

I mention those who will have achieved recognition for specific academic achievements over the course of the year; Dilyara Adilkhanova achieved a gold award in the Maths challenge, which put her in top place, not only in her year group, but also top place in the whole School. On





Speech Day, Dilyara was also awarded prizes for creative writing and mathematics, with Jemima Chauveau being awarded the Headmaster's Special Prize for her outstanding academic achievement, Anna Fox, who now steps down as Head Girl, was awarded the Upper Sixth Politics prize and Commendation prizes were awarded to Lauren Brigden, Isabel Ward, Jemima Cecil, Esme Foster, Anna Fox, Florence Fox and Mina Haas.

Sport remains a big element of life at Stowe, and where England fail to achieve in football, the Intermediate team kicked home a fine win in a nail-biting penalty shoot-out against Nugent in the first Inter-House competition of the year. Lara (Pelé) Oswald is certainly signed up for another few seasons yet, after sweetly hitting the back of the net to bring a rapturous conclusion to the event. Other notable wins were to be found in the Inter-House fives by Megan Winter and Jaimie McIntosh, the Juniors' doubles badminton with Una Barclay, Christy Robinson, Olivia Elliott and Georgia Page-Turner, the Seniors swimming relays with Amelia Bowder and Jemima's Chauveau, Fitzjohn and Grant, the swim sprints with a mixed team of Zara and Pip Vickers, Una Barclay, Amelia Bowder and Jemima Fitzjohn. On Sports Day we saw a Junior hurdles win for Emily Wilson, a Junior high jump win for Lucy Tilleard, a Senior discus win for Savanna Elliott and a shot put win for Lottie Hopkinson. Nevertheless, I thank

all of the wonderful Stanhopeian sportswomen who have relentlessly contributed to an excellent year of sport.

In music, Stanhope has talent oozing out of every year group. Our singers have put on some exceptional performances across the year, in School events such as the major musical production of 'Beauty and the Beast', with Mina Haas taking centre stage as Belle, and the ensemble of Lula Goldsmith, Octavia Comerford, Beth Ackroyd and Alice Roberts, to the many woodwind and string concerts which have included Isabel Ward and Poppy de Salis, both of whom were awarded the Gilling-Lax prize for their respective instruments. The bi-annual 'At Home' event in mid-May was the icing on the cake, bringing together a whole range of musical talents to at receptive parental audience. Congratulations go to all who made the day so special.

My sincere thanks go to all of the staff who work tirelessly to ensure the girls are well cared for. We say a fond farewell to Collette Stirzaker, who will remain as Head of Spanish at Stowe, but she leaves Stanhope in her role as Under Housemistress. We will miss her witty conversations, which always bring a smile after a long day. Finally, I thank the cleaning and maintenance staff who keep the House immaculate and in good working order.

Mrs Sue Harmon, Housemistress

TEMPLE



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Housemaster:	Anthony Macpherson
Matron:	Julia Greenwood
Assistant Housemaster:	Chris Warde
Under Housemaster:	Kyle Bennett
Head of House:	Alvaro de la Vega
Deputy Head of House:	Alex Marks

House Prefects: Sebastian Stone, Freddie Paling
School Prefects: Alvaro de la Vega, Freddie Paling

This year all of the Houses were asked to come up with a motto that effectively summed them up. Our Head of House decided on Mark Twain's famous quote, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog", this always makes me think of a yapping Pekingese who is about to come off second-best to a calm and calculating Doberman but I am sure that is not how Mark Twain intended it, nor what Alvaro was hoping to convey about Temple. I can certainly get behind the message that determination, passion and resilience are essential ingredients within a House community. The idea also fits within a broader educational theme that sees success comprising 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration. If that is what Mark Twain's quote is intended to portray then it is reasonably apt, since something that has struck me during the course of the year is just how passionate Templars are about their House and how committed they are to making the community a happy, vibrant and successful one. The number of times that boys turn out to represent Temple during the course of the year is too many to fit into this summary, but the following highlights should help to paint a picture.

House football set the year off to a very good start with victory in two of the four year group competitions (Fourth and Fifth Form). This was followed shortly after by a very respectable performance in the House Singing. Seventh place overall might not sound that impressive but we have steadily climbed the rankings over the past few years, so who knows where things might lead. The part-song did manage to secure first place amongst the boys' Houses with an almost exclusively Junior representation, so this also bodes well for the future. Oscar Hill, Sean Martin and Peter Entwisle all played lead roles in the School musical, 'Beauty and the Beast'. Carlie Tufnell directed the Temple play, 'Fathers 4 Justice' which cleverly inverted the normal theatre arrangement to have the actors on the tiered seating in the

Ugland Auditorium and the audience standing behind a police cordon at ground level.

Other Inter-House sporting victories came in the Senior fives, Inter rugby, Junior basketball, Inter athletics and Senior volleyball with a win in the Junior cricket Plate Final on the very last evening of the year. The House certainly holds its own on the sports field and should be proud of these victories but also the huge amount of participation that goes on throughout the year.

The Wednesday morning talks have continued, with the following week's speaker drawn from a hat each week, prompting some to draw comparisons with Russian Roulette! This year we have been entertained and enlightened in equal measure on themes as diverse as: 'The History of the Pringle', 'Mussolini', 'Save the Rhino', 'The Hobo Spider', 'Armistice Day', 'David Bowie', 'Oscar Wilde', 'the Rio Olympics' and 'George Williams: the Man, the Myth, the Legend', to name just a few.

Alex Diaconu and Ethan Collins both raised significant amounts of money for their respective charities (Clic Sargent and Save the Rhino) and encouraged the House to contribute very generously. The boys are always very good at getting behind these sorts of charitable ventures and I am grateful to them for their impressive level of generosity and support. Next year the House will support the Heaton-Ellis Trust, a motor neurone disease charity, and five of the Upper Sixth Form will be attempting the National Three Peaks Challenge in order to start our fundraising.

I would like to register the warmth of sentiment that Kyle Bennett received from the House when he announced he would be leaving the Resident Tutoring role. Kyle has been an exceptional Tutor and we will really miss his presence in House. I am also grateful to the departing Upper Sixth for all they have done during their time in Temple. A particular mention must go to the outgoing Head of House, Alvaro



de la Vega, for his excellent leadership over the year. Alvaro's fantastic third place finish in the 400m on Sports Day was possibly the best example all year of Mark Twain's quote in action. Everyone knows that the 400m is one of the most gruelling events and no one in the Sixth Form was willing

to volunteer for it until our Head of House stepped forward gamely. I think it took Alvaro about a week to recover from the exertion but as a demonstration of his motto in action it was an impressive performance.

Mr Anthony Macpherson, Housemaster



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WALPOLE



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Housemaster: Peter Last
Matron: Jean Dufort
Assistant Housemaster: Gwilym Jones
Under Housemaster: Fergus Parnaby and Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo
Head of House: Alfie Marsden-Smedley
Deputy Head of House: Isaac Ajala

House Prefects: Hamish Beaton, Seun Coker, Patrick Robinson
School Prefects: Isaac Ajala

WALPOLE

Just at the moment there may be other Houses who are winning more pieces of silverware for their sporting prowess than Walpole, but I genuinely do not think that there is a House at Stowe with a better and more cohesive ethos than Walpole. Walpole welcomes all sorts of boys; we have athletes, aesthetes, musicians, actors, scientists, poets and good all-rounders who are more than happy to 'have a go' at whatever they might be asked to do.

For me, one of the highlights of 2015-16 was the House play: 'The Props Cupboard', inspired by the classic 1980s movie 'The Breakfast Club'. The cast started with the simple premise that a group of boys had been placed into detention for poor behaviour at a school play and had been given the job of tidying up the school's prop cupboard. Everything that followed was totally devised by the cast. Isaac Ajala, Jamie Hungin, Luc Abbot-Davies, Alfie Kingham, Jack Jenkins and Max Shannon created a funny, intelligent and poignant play which had at its heart the theme of 'coming out' and homophobic bullying. The cast had great fun creating their characters and then developing the interaction that was required. We had fantastic support and help from Head of House, Alfie Marsden-Smedley, one of Stowe's most talented actors, and we also had input from Mr Chris Walters whose initial ideas and advice were invaluable. The play was very well received by those who saw it and we believe that it was the first ever full-length House play that was fully devised by its cast alone.

Continuing the thespian theme, everyone in Walpole was blown away by watching Tom Fras, who is rapidly developing into an incredibly accomplished actor, play the part of 'Lumière' in 'Beauty and the Beast'. This was a fantastic show and those of us who saw it were left in no doubt that the calibre of this production was right up there with many professional versions. Tom also acted very strongly in 'Whale' which was this year's Junior Congreve production at the end of the Summer term.

Academically, this has been an incredibly strong year for Walpole. Not only did we win the Academic Salver at the end of the Lent term for the best-performing boys' House, we also had a plethora of prize-winners this year at Speech Day. A staggering 15 prizes were awarded to Walpudlians, so congratulations go to Piers Edinborough (Peter Bates Geography Prize and David McDonough Prize for Politics), Sam Lodge (Humphrey Foster Prize for Physics and Friends of Stowe Prize for Mathematics), John Balcon Perez (Choyce Prize for Biology), Alex McQuitty (Burchett Prize for contributions to Stowe Music), Tom Fras (Jonathan Kreeger Cup for Drama), Alfie Marsden-Smedley (Aikman Cup for Drama), Isaac Ajala and Seun Coker (Headmaster's Special Prizes), Alfie Kingham (Curwen Print Prize), Alex Grinyer (Vane-Tempest Cup for Composition), Henry McQuitty (Stormont Prize for Percussion) and Harry Weiss and Larry Zhao (Commendation Prizes).

In terms of sporting success this year we had a number of individual successes in the pool, led by Hamish Graham-Campbell, along with some great performances on Sports Day, including Isaac Ajala, the School athletics Captain, Mark Kanjana, Jayden Brooks-Hurst and Harry Reed. We've had many boys represent the 1st XV team in rugby including Seun Coker, Isaac Ajala, Hamish Murray and next year's 1st XV Vice-Captain Jack West. We have also had some great representation across the School in various sports including hockey (Gabe Chauveau in particular, who is also next year's tennis Captain), polo, (Patrick Robinson, Louis Hink and Ivan Quirot de Poligny) and water polo (Alfie Kingham is the Senior Captain).

The outgoing Prefect team has had a great year and are handing over to a strong team next year led by Piers Edinborough and Gabe Chauveau. This year we have said goodbye to Ms McLintock who has been an excellent Tutor to many generations of Walpudlians. She is not leaving



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Stowe but is having more time to fulfill her brief as Head of Pupil Welfare and will be popping into different Houses throughout next year. We have also really enjoyed the presence of this year's Harvard Fellow, Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo, who has been resident in Walpole this last year. He has really thrown himself into the life of the House and

the School and the boys have really enjoyed his company this last year. We welcome Mr Giles Cuddy who will move into Walpole over the summer and will be the new Third Form Tutor next year.

Mr Peter Last, Housemaster



WEST



Houseparents: Roland and Julie Johnson
Matron: Ilona Harding
Under Housemistress: Lauren Ellis
Anna Chaumont
Head of House: Olivia Riddick
Christopher Adeogun-Phillips

School Prefect: Alexandra Curtis

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WEST

The expansion of West to include a fourth block has this year led to outstanding developments in the strength and tenacity of this boarding community. West proved last year that a unique and dynamic mixed boarding environment could thrive, contribute and flourish at Stowe, and this year our courageous Westites not only took part but pioneered, innovated and excelled.

This year the West Stoics have demonstrated both their academic strength and extra-curricular exuberance in fine style. Examples of Westites attaining the very top level in their various endeavours abounded, with Amy Theron becoming the top Stoic in the Lower Sixth APGs (Summer 2016), Tom Bownes scoring top of the Lower Sixth in Business (Christmas 2015) and a host of Westites securing places at the Headmaster's APG Dinners throughout the year. The sporting successes are no less impressive. While Emily Ulmann and Oscar Sanchez Zurita both took representative places in the top School teams (1st XII lacrosse and 1st XV rugby respectively), Jeffri Indot and Alexandra Curtis captained their sport's Senior teams of badminton and swimming. Alexandra Curtis claimed no fewer than six victories in the Senior girls' swimming competition in the Lent term and contributed to the Senior girls' swimming cup overall win, alongside Hattie Webb, Amy Theron and Valerie Filippska, as well as competing at national level in her sport. Alex Buswell also made international news (featuring as he did on an American television news channel) for taking part in the Head of the Charles rowing event in Boston in the Michaelmas term – a fantastic achievement. This year the West Lower and Upper Sixth united in fine style in the Senior School Congreve – Olivia Riddick played the lead and Sabrina Iskandar took pride of place in Stowe's dazzling update of 'Lysistrata' by Aristophanes. However, no list of accolades would be complete without mention of the winning West team which claimed the first ever Mike Dawson Memorial Trophy for the Inter-House Maths Challenge: well done to

Hattie Webb, Kanav Bhatnagar, Isobel Dykstra and Alex Buswell.

Innovation has been a key aspect of the West project, and this year the Westites have not disappointed. A creative high-point of the year was the West House Calendar, a charitable undertaking that revolved around the production of an artistic tribute to the grandeur of the Stowe Gardens. The commitment to this project and the professionalism with which the multi-session shoot was carried out are further evidence (if any were needed!) of the maturity and enthusiasm of this courageous band of Sixth Form Stoics. While the idea of tramping barefoot through wet grass in mid-February to achieve exactly the right shot seemed to the cast, at first, somewhat unappealing, it became evident from the final product that West was very much ready for its close-up.

There are so many congratulations to spread around that it seems almost unfair to highlight only a few. However, a number of stand-out achievements could not be missed in this review of the year. Huge congratulations go to Carlota Cerezo and Julia Rolim for winning prizes on Speech Day, for French and History of Art respectively. These two Upper Sixth Westites have been role models of academic endeavour and we look forward to more of the same in the coming years!

With continued expansion in terms of raw numbers of Westites, this year we appointed four of the current Lower Sixth to lead the House from September. Our joint Heads of House for the academic year 2016-2017 are Sophia Sander and Tom Bownes, while our joint Deputy Heads of House are Hattie Webb and Jack Hazzard. The coming year will provide new challenges and opportunities as this dedicated team of Westites manages a growing population, and we wish our House leaders every success in their new positions.



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In West it has been proven that talent, ability and sheer perseverance are recognised in so many ways at Stowe. From the brave group of Westites completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition as we write (which is an 11 out of 10 on the perseverance scale!) to the bold team who spent four hours carving ‘Westie the Snowman’ with their bare hands one January weekend, the passion and dedication of the West Stoics cannot be underestimated. However, with the end of the 2015-2016 academic year, West bids farewell to its first ever Upper Sixth Form. As the pioneers and anchors of West in these first thrilling two years, this brave group of twelve have left their mark on Stowe in a way that few groups of Stoics can ever experience. Aply led from the front by Olivia Riddick and Christopher Adeogun-Phillips, the Upper Sixth Westites have come successfully through Stowe to reach for a mind-boggling array of university places and glittering destinies beyond. The success rate of the Upper Sixth in their UCAS or international university applications has been a credit to their combined fortitude and energy. We look forward to hearing from our leavers as they move on to pastures new. It is a great joy to know that in so many corners of Britain and the world – from Pennsylvania State (well done Federico!) to Portugal, from the King’s Road to Kuala Lumpur – there will be shining lights that will be forever a part of West.

*Mr Roland and Mrs Julie Johnson,
Houseparents*





Lower School Academic Scholars' Group

This year marked the transition from the XX Group, Stowe's extension group for Lower School academic high-flyers, to the Lower School Academic Scholars' Group, a renaming that brought with it a number of changes designed to invigorate the programme by making it more accessible to new pupils and giving them more flexibility to pursue projects that interest them.

Members of last year's XX Group were granted automatic membership to this year's Lower School Academic Scholars' Group, as were any incoming Third Formers with Roxburgh or Academic Scholarships; other Third Formers who were interested took part in a placement test to fill the remaining spots. Stoics met in small groups of no more than 12, vertically organised so that Third, Fourth and Fifth Formers learned and discussed together. Meetings were focused on developing discussion and critical thinking skills as the pupils debated everything from the benefits of single gender v co-educational schools, to whether or not the medical field should continue to extend human life. In addition to these focused, single-session inquiries, Stoics had the opportunity to participate in a number of extended group projects throughout the year, including preparing for a mock trial and creating their own film. One group, self-named 'The Floccinaucinihilipilificaters', submitted their film into the Into Film: Into Space National competition, a contest meant to support student engagement with filmmaking and fuel curiosity about astronomy and space travel. After hearing their film had won their age category, representatives from the group visited London Picturehouse Central where they got to see their film on the big screen alongside winners from other age groups. They even made a phone call to Tim Peake on the International Space Station, who watched the winning films from 400km up in the air. 'The Floccinaucinihilipilificaters' comprised Victoria Beglin (Fifth Form, Nugent), Charlotte Bird (Fifth

Form, Lyttelton), Alex Orton (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Cameron Chambers (Fourth Form, Grenville), Esme Foster (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Oscar Hill (Fourth Form, Temple), Amber Capurro (Third Form, Nugent), Mimi Pearce (Third Form, Stanhope) and Oliver Seddon (Third Form, Cobham).

This year also saw the extension of the Open Scholars' programme into the Open Minds programme. Filled with weekly lectures and discussions open to all interested pupils on topics that covered the full intellectual range, from faculty presentations on weird and wonderful ways to multiply, to debates and addresses from MPs on whether or not Britain should remain in the EU. The Lower School Academic Scholars' and Open Minds programmes 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.

Next year, a number of additional changes will be made to ensure the programme is challenging Stoics to reach their full intellectual potential. The Fourth and Fifth Formers will meet in mixed groups, and new Third Formers with Academic and Roxburgh Scholarships will meet separately to ensure a comfortable transition to the engaging academic life at Stowe. Later in the year, as the Fifth Form transition into final GCSE preparations, additional spots will open via application to all interested Stoics in the Third and Fourth Form. We hope to continually refine the programme to ensure Stoics feel they have the opportunity to continue to pursue their academic interests outside the classroom, whether they are preparing to join the prestigious Upper School Headmaster's Essay Society or simply satiate their own intellectual curiosity.

Mr Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo, Harvard Fellow

Headmaster's Essay Society

This academic year has seen Oxbridge success for Stowe. Nearly two thirds of our applicants were called to interview – itself no mean achievement – with James Macdonald-Buchanan (Chandos 15) and Rex Roxburgh (Grafton 15) subsequently offered places respectively to read Chemistry and Music at St Peter's College, Oxford.

While the Upper Sixth Oxbridge hopefuls were finalising their revision for admissions tests and honing their interview technique, the selection process for their successors to the Headmaster's Essay Society (HMES) was already well underway. The size of the Lower Sixth Oxbridge cohort has eclipsed all recent records with some 51 pupils being selected to join the Society. These remarkable numbers have necessitated a new approach with regards to how the HMES delivers its remit to prepare candidates for the rigours of submitting a university application to Oxbridge as well as for all medical, dental, veterinary and law degrees.

The key to this approach has been the development of a greater element of subject-specific activities. Throughout the year pupils have routinely engaged in departmental enrichment sessions, tailored to develop an in-depth and intrinsic knowledge of their degree subjects over and above the standard A Level and AS Level curricula. In addition, on Monday evenings the HMES has convened with a view to adding an Oxbridge-specific spin on this approach to learning. With the cohort split into separate seminar groups concentrating on sciences, social sciences and the humanities, Stoics have discussed, debated and argued questions drawn from previous Oxbridge admissions papers. Such seminars, largely controlled and led by the pupils themselves, seek to fire their intellectual curiosity, develop their factual knowledge, improve their ability to frame and deliver coherent academic arguments and enhance their capacity for the critical analysis of some challenging intellectual material.

In addition to these seminars we have been fortunate to have hosted some top-quality external speakers. Dr Joe Organ of Brasenose College, Oxford led a pitch-perfect workshop on Personal Statements to a packed house, while the team from Oxbridge Applications delivered another highly popular and useful session on the nuances and demands implicit in the forthcoming application process.

Stoics have also undertaken a significant number of independent visits to a broad range of colleges and faculties in order to gain brief but valuable first-hand insights into what an Oxbridge degree entails. This aspect of Oxbridge preparation culminated in the HMES trip to Cambridge at the end of the Summer term where Stoics were able to meet and talk with dons on their home turf, tour the colleges in an informal setting and explore the extra-curricular side of life at the University including the obligatory punting trip!

An Oxbridge application is not to be taken lightly: it calls for intellectual thirst, academic dedication, mental perseverance and sheer hard work. The Stoics who are venturing down this path continue to show an abundance of mental and academic rigour and I wish them well in their ongoing preparations for the autumn admissions process.

Mr Jon Murnane, MiC Headmaster's Essay Society

Languages Society

It has been an immense pleasure to co-ordinate, alongside our President, Lisa Battilomo (Lower Sixth, Nugent), and our Vice-President, Laura Saffari (Upper Sixth, Nugent) all the wonderful events and talks that have taken place this year to celebrate the wonderful cultural and linguistic diversity at Stowe. When I started the Languages Society back in September I had no idea it would become one of the most popular and faithfully attended societies. Let me present to you some of the highlights from this year.

We began back in October, with the original and hilarious adaptation of Molière's play 'Tartuffe', which certainly lived up to its promise. It had us all laughing at the slapstick humour, so typical of the Commedia dell'arte and well represented in Molière's plays. The acting was superb, with the actors speaking both in English and French. The décor was in tune with the nature of the play and did highlight the ridiculous nature of some of the characters.

In November members of the Languages Society and staff attended a talk by Mr Alberto Sanchez Garcia, an IT consultant for various firms and banks. Our guest speaker spoke about the importance of learning languages as a whole and he spoke inspiringly about the role languages had played in his own personal life and work. We became aware of how languages can better help us understand the culture of a country and how that leads to better understanding and more effective working relationships. It became obvious to us all that languages are the key to success in any career pursuit and a valuable and much sought-after skill in the ever growing competitive world we live in.

The month of December began with an exciting event for all Languages Society members. Lisa Battilomo delighted us all with a wine and cheese tasting evening, which turned out to be an enriching cultural experience for both Stoics and staff; we learnt from Lisa and Laura Saffari some

interesting facts about how the different wines and cheeses were made. It was a memorable occasion as we became sommeliers for the evening.

In January we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Ollie Phillips, ex-England 7s Captain and Former World 7s Player of the Year in 2009. Mr Phillips gave an exciting talk on how, although rugby changed his life, languages changed his world. He spoke of the importance of learning new languages and immersing yourself in the culture as key to opening up new thrilling and life-changing opportunities. His inspiring words definitely touched many young peoples' minds that evening, as Stoics became fully aware of how learning languages can be the key to a successful and fulfilling life.

Last but not least, the Languages Society celebrated its first ever Open Mic Night in April. It turned out to be a truly wonderful and memorable evening as we listened to many talented Stoics and members of staff singing and reciting in different languages, showing the wonderful linguistic and cultural diversity we have at Stowe; French, Spanish, German, Italian and even Bulgarian. Our minds were stimulated and our emotions stirred as the languages, the music and the singing all blended together to create a truly magical moment.

As I write, our first ever magazine is about to be published and I see an exciting future ahead of us. I would like to thank everyone for making this great Society a reality this year; Mrs Jones for all her advice and support, our President Lisa Battilomo, our Vice-President, Laura Saffari and Miss Stirzaker for all their energy and enthusiasm when organising the various events. My thanks also go to the Committee members for all their help and assistance throughout the year. We could not have done it without you.

Mrs Desiree Podesta, MiC Languages Society



Biomedical Society

This year the Biomedical Society had its largest membership to date with Stoics engaging in lively discussion surrounding scientific discoveries and their corresponding controversies. We began the year with a focus on animal cognition and how captivity affects not only the physical but also mental well-being of large mammals culminating in a Halloween meeting watching the award winning 'Blackfish' documentary.

Having established the importance of scientific journalism in the outside world, I was delighted to see the Biomedical Society's first publications in the Stowe Science Review with outstanding articles contributed by Skye Longworth (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Georgina Skinner (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton).

I would like to give a special thanks to those members of the Society for being the first to represent Stowe in the British Biology Olympiad this year. Of the ten pupils who entered, Clarissa Llanaj (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Jonathan Reading (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Stuart Milner (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Skye Longworth were commended for their scores; Jonathan Dale (Lower Sixth, Temple), Beth Ackroyd (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) and Fabiola Koenig were highly commended and Sophia Sander (Lower Sixth, West) achieved a bronze medal. Each of these Stoics was placed in the top 5% of entries this year and Sophia was invited to collect her award at the National Ceremony in London.

Filled with an exceptional passion for science and wanting to demonstrate that unity of thinking, the committee requested permission for a tie and pin for the Society in order that those members who make a consistent contribution and those who go above and beyond the usual participation,

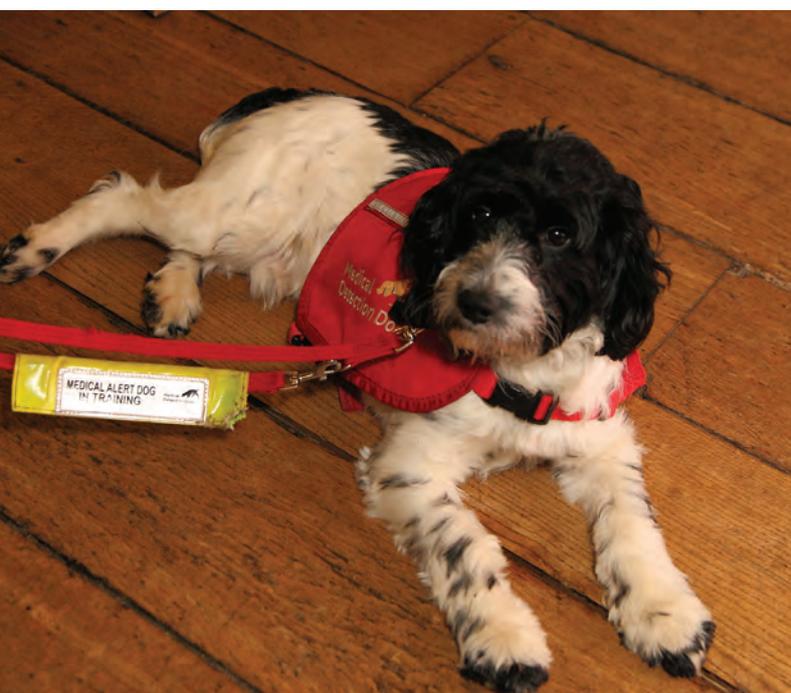
might be recognised. We look forward to seeing the result next year.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Claire Guest to explain the science behind Medical Detection Dogs and their future role in diagnostic medicine. I would like to give a special thanks to Mr Fraser Liversage and his 'ambassador dog' who gave up their valuable time to demonstrate how the dogs are trained, and the importance of matching a dog to its patient and their family, giving the Stoics a unique insight into not only the life-saving qualities of these dogs but also their secondary benefits of increasing confidence and reducing anxiety for the families concerned.

We were truly privileged in the Lent term to have the opportunity to discuss the realities of battling an Ebola epidemic with Dr Calum Semple, direct from a field hospital in Sierra Leone via a Skype conference call. The Stoics were mesmerised by Dr Semple's words and the interactive nature of such a talk offered a unique insight into the harsh realities of practising medicine in developing countries with very limited resources.

All that remains is to give an enormous thank you to this year's President Jonathan Dale and our wonderful Committee members for their excellent organisation and consistent enthusiasm. We wish this year's leavers all the very best for the future and we hope that they will come back and entertain us with their experiences from their successful careers in the future.

Miss Alicia Davies, MiC Biomedical Society





Debating

What a year for the Debating Society. Let's just say, we have not been short of things to discuss or debate. National and international politics have been all too happy to provide plenty of material to spark our interest. And the most interesting thing about it all is, when we as a group made our predictions, we were wrong on almost every count. First our own Inter-House Debating competitions:

The Senior competition ran throughout the Michaelmas term, and was a truly excellent way to kick off the year's debating schedule. The Senior teams argued a variety of motions such as 'This House would welcome all International Asylum Seekers into the UK' and 'This House Believes that music which glorifies violence should be banned'. The competition culminated in a gripping debate between Bruce and Lyttelton on the motion 'This House Believes advances in medical science will ultimately prove detrimental to our species' and a Stowe first – a draw. The Headmaster could not pick an overall winner, as both teams had spoken with such intellect, wit and skill that the only solution was to declare the debate a tie and have the Houses share both glory and trophy.

The Junior competition took over the Lent term, with each House attempting to replicate the successes of their Senior teams and debate their way to the final. In the end, it was between Queen's and Grafton on the motion 'This House Believes that teaching students to pass exams is helpful

preparation for life' – very relevant given the time of year! The Second Master, Mr Robinson, determined that it was the girls from Queen's who deserved the title of Junior Debating Champions.

Away from the Inter-House competitions, Stowe has been represented at National level in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition. It is hoped that with even more practice next year, we will progress further through these competitions and our Senior debaters will earn their rightful place amongst the highest echelons of school debating.

The final event of the debating calendar was Stowe's very own EU Referendum Debate, organised in collaboration with the Politics Society. Joshua Dolder (Lower Sixth, Bruce), Carmel Hobbs (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Francesca Moseley (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) spoke for the Brexit campaign against James Creedy Smith (Lower Sixth, Chatham), John Peatfield (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Annika Ormerod (Lower Sixth, Nugent) who represented Remain. It was a fantastic event and these Stoics truly outdid themselves, debating the very complex arguments surrounding immigration, sovereignty and the economy. The event was a brilliant way for the School to engage with the question of EU membership and an impressive end to the debating year.

Mr Craig Donoghue, MiC Debating



Quantum Society

The Society now has its largest and most active membership since it started five years ago thanks to our many keen members in the Lower Sixth. Our Committee and other Upper Sixth Formers have led the Society extremely well this year, taking to organising events and giving presentations. This year's President, Sam Lodge (Upper Sixth, Walpole) set the scene in September by giving an outstanding presentation on 'Super Massive Black Holes' before ending with some explosive demonstrations. Members also enjoyed a trip to Oxford in the Michaelmas term which included a visit to the Museum of History of Science before selecting books for the Quantum library at Blackwell's bookshop. The journey home took us via the Victoria Arms where plans for the year were drawn up by the Committee. Throughout the trip everyone's fascination with Science was evident.

Many other members also stepped up to give presentations

on topics as varied as space travel and String Theory, through to the Science of cars and Schrodinger's Cat. In the Lent term we had our annual dinner which was preceded by a lecture by the brilliant Quantum Physicist Dr Serafini, from UCL, who delivered a fascinating talk titled 'Einstein and the Moon: a random rant about randomness and quantum mechanics'.

The year ended with the now traditional croquet match against the Biomedical Society during which the two Societies competed with friendly rivalry whilst enjoying a BBQ and each other's company. When rain stopped play, the Quantum Society were slightly ahead and we retired to the pavilion to hear speeches by the Presidents of both Societies. This highlight of the year once again showed how sociable our members are and how much they enjoy their shared love of science.

Mr James Tearle, MiC Quantum Society

Literary Society



Beyond the classroom, the biggest highlight of the year was the visit and performance of the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, who dined with members of the Sixth Form before going on to the Roxburgh Hall to perform in front of a much larger audience including members of the public. She was her usual witty self, full of wry observations on humanity and modern life. We also welcomed the Slam Poetry Competition Finalist, Kirsten Luckins who brought her own set of poetry, based on a year she had spent in India, and who showed the Stoics how poetry can be much more than mere recitation. We also celebrated Shakespeare's birthday with an intimate 'Bill's Birthday Bash' celebration, the highlight of which was a highly amusing reworking of a scene from 'Henry V', performed with virtuosic wit by Mr Palmer, Mr Purves and Mr Parnaby. Finally, we went to see 'The Importance of Being Earnest' with David Suchet playing Lady Bracknell, a riotous 'Dr Faustus' at Stratford-upon-Avon, 'The Tempest' at the Oxford Playhouse and we have also enjoyed several performances of visiting theatre companies at Stowe as part of the excellent Arts at Stowe programme.

Mr William Goldsmith, MiC Literary Society



Textiles

We have had a busy year and pupils have created a variety of great projects, ranging from small and beautiful silk paintings, to heat press and tie-dye t-shirts, felt work, textile pictures and cushions to brighten up their rooms. Many were on show on Speech Day and Charlotte Bird (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) was one of the stars with her excellent GCSE work. Our South African Scholars have also enjoyed learning new techniques and have had fun being creative.

Among our most exciting and ambitious projects were Milly Watkins (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) with her tie-dye patchwork bedspread and Philip Ilinich (Lower Sixth, Chandos) with his 'Pushka' clothing designs. It was good to see more boys coming in and enjoying designing t-shirts. Congratulations to all on completing so many imaginative successful designs and I look forward to welcoming more pupils to Textiles in September.

Mrs Jo Banks, MiC Textiles



Junior Literary Society



The theme for this year's Junior Literary Society started with the open question, 'What is Literature?', and members spent several sessions exploring a range of sub-questions aiming to expand their understanding of Literature's definition, categorisation, and relevance in the 21st Century. In the first meeting, 'What is Poetry?', Stoics interrogated a variety of texts including sonnets, haiku, performance poetry, cut-up poetry, pop and rap lyrics, nonsense rhyme and concrete poetry and had a go at recreating some of these forms for themselves. The second session, coinciding with NaNoWriMo, examined the question, 'What is a Novel?', and analysed Joseph Campbell's theory of story structure in order to equip

members with the basics for writing their own bestsellers. The final meeting built on discussions from the first two meetings to address the particularly relevant question of 'What is Worthy of Study?', and Stoics had the chance to evaluate the current school curriculum in English and propose their own revised version. This has been my second year as Master in Charge of the Junior Literary Society, and I have been consistently impressed by the outstanding level of academic enquiry, creativity and maturity that the pupils have brought to the sessions, which is reflective of the thriving intellectual rigour among candidates of English in this School.

Mr George Purves, MiC Junior Literary Society

Sophia Society

The aim of this new Philosophy and Religion Society is to engage Stoics in debates about fundamental questions about human knowledge and understanding. The first Sophia Society meeting welcomed Mr Floyd to the stage to present to us a thought-provoking series of questions about God from an atheist stand point. The first question being ‘Why am I here?’ everything in our knowledge has a cause and effect but if this is traced back to the beginning of the universe we seem to not know the answer. This sparked questions such as ‘is the creation of the universe part of a process or is it part of a plan?’ If it is part of a process then human understanding may one day be able to work it out through science, alternatively, if it is part of a plan then perhaps there is a separate entity which can be determined as God.

After this consideration it begged the question of ‘What is the Creator’s nature?’ Two answers could be determined – that he is indifferent, which suggests he has created the universe because he is bored, if this is the case then is

prayer necessary? The alternative answer is he acts as an agent who cares about his creation – if this is the case it can be followed with the question of ‘what is his intent?’ It is reasonable to suggest that he is malign because of the evil that is present in the world, but if this is the case why would evil be created in the universe? People argue that it is so we can appreciate good, however Stuart Law presents the ‘Evil God Hypothesis’ suggesting that it could be reversed and the creator put good in the world so we can appreciate evil.

More questions were explored such as ‘Can we influence the Creator?’ and ‘Can we get an intelligible answer to any of these questions?’ These thought-enticing questions set off a heated discussion at the end of the presentation, in which controversial statements mentioned by Mr Floyd were challenged.

*Annika Ormerod (Lower Sixth, Nugent),
Sophia Society President*

Corkscrew Society

Filling the shoes of Mr Dudgeon was something that filled me with trepidation as he had spent so many years making the Society the most prestigious one in the School. Luckily for me, I had Mrs Clare Hill-Hall (Chandos Matron) who ensured continuity was maintained. We were very lucky this year with the Stoics who met the strict selection criteria as they turned out to be exemplars of what Stowe produces so well: intellectually curious, open-minded, kind and courteous young people with a real sense of respect for each other and the privileges they are offered.

The year has involved tastings designed to educate the minds and palates of the members, drawing on a range of grape varieties, countries of origin and price, introducing the idea that English wine is now in a position to hold its own against more established producers (the Denbies dessert wine was a particular favourite), exploring the comparisons between different supermarkets (both budget and premium brands) as well as giving the Stoics the vocabulary and confidence to know what they like and to order without embarrassment in a restaurant.

We have had three speakers this year who have brought great expertise and passion for wine to their expositions – Ted Sandbach, owner of the Oxford Wine Company, who continues to be a great supporter of the Society, Anthony Sykes, former Master of the Worshipful Company of Vintners, who spoke with great authority on Burgundy wines, and finally our own Mr Robinson who spoke with his customary passion on Italian wine for our end of year dinner.

During our excellent dinner in May (with thanks to Geoff Higgins and his team), we held our customary competition for a bottle of the 1998 Château Latour from the cases most generously donated a few years ago. Johannes Henkel (Upper Sixth, Chatham), a Stoic with considerable connections to the wine trade, was the worthy winner of this year’s competition, testament to his passion for oenology and his assiduous attention to the sessions over the course of the year.

While I am moving on to a different school in September, I am more than satisfied that the Corkscrew Society will go from strength to strength in the future as Mr Ben Mercer will be taking over and Mrs Hill-Hall will continue to guide the Society with him next year. I am sincerely grateful for having had the opportunity to run such a wonderful and rare Society.

Mr William Goldsmith, MiC Corkscrew Society



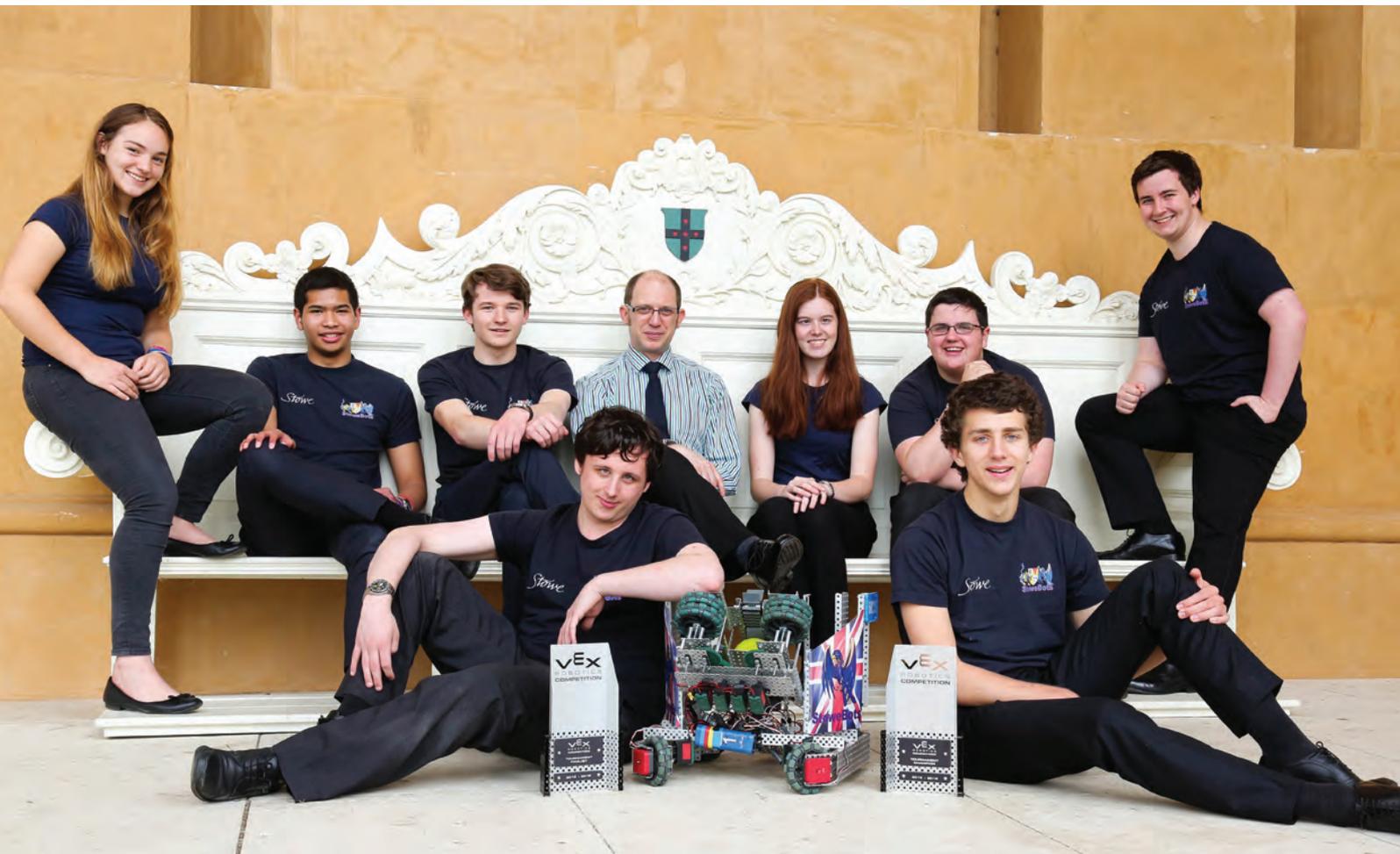
Robotics

Robots arrived at Stowe in February 2015 with a small team of Stoics, Sam Lodge (Upper Sixth, Walpole), Ben Barrett (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Artura Subowo (Upper Sixth, Chandos) and Toby Lawrance (Lower Sixth, Cobham) entering an international competition. Starting late, the team had three weeks to build a robot to compete in a Regional event. What they accomplished was outstanding as they made the semi-finals of the competition and gained a place in the National Finals. After a frantic redesign and rebuild they went to the National Competition hoping to win a game or two; instead they made the semi-final of the Nationals and caught the attention of far more experienced teams.

After the initial success, the Society has grown and attracted 18 Stoics from across all levels of the School. We launched the 2015-2016 season after Easter 2015 with two teams (Junior and Senior). With new challenges and a new game, all the pupils worked hard to design, engineer, programme and build competition-worthy robots. In this year's game the robots had to collect and fire balls into a goal to score points; the more balls in the goal – the more points. At their first Regional both teams' robots performed well, but it was the Senior team who walked away with the trophy for the Regional and earned their place at the National Finals. The Junior team still needed to qualify and had two Regional events to do it. At the next Regional both teams again made the play-offs, but it was the Junior team who went on to the final which they narrowly lost. Their final chance was at Stowe itself in a Regional held in

the Marble Saloon. Again both teams performed extremely well, but the Regional had attracted the country's top teams and proved to be one of the toughest and closest competitions of the year. The Stowe teams teamed up for the play-off matches and progressed easily to the semi-final, but came up against a strong pairing and were just beaten. However, because the teams that progressed had already qualified for the Nationals the Junior team also qualified for the National Final.

The National Final sees the top 40 teams from the 250+ teams across the UK compete for places at the World Finals in America. Throughout the qualifying matches of the competition both teams performed well with the Senior team finishing in third place and the Juniors not far behind in sixth. Both teams then went into the quarter-finals in separate alliances and won those with relative ease. At this point things got a little tricky as the teams found themselves facing each other in the semi-final. In the first match they drew (which is tough to do) with a score of 199:199, but it was the Senior team that prevailed over the next two matches to progress to the final match of the National competition. Hopes were high going into the final, but we knew it would be tough as we were up against a team who had won the National competition five times. In the end we were beaten two matches to one, but that result, and our place in qualifying, allowed the Senior team to gain one of the seven places at the VEX World Robotics Finals to compete against 500 of the World's best High School teams.



The World Finals was officially the biggest robotics competition ever, setting a Guinness World Record, with over 1,075 teams (split across four different divisions) from 32 countries and 20,000 people in the venue. The scale of the competition and venue was truly astonishing and beyond all expectations.

Over the three days of competition the team played ten qualifying matches in the hopes of making the play-off games. We performed incredibly well, holding our own in each match. Sadly the robot suffered some technical difficulties beyond our control. A change of CPU fixed the problem but the losses put us further down the qualification ranking than we could have been. The StoweBots finished winning four games out of ten and placed 56 out of the 100 teams in their group. However, every single game they played was close despite the difficulties. The other aspect that shows the strength of our performance was the SP score of the team. This is the total score that your opponents achieved in your games; the higher the score the closer and harder the games were. The StoweBots SP score was 1,658 and tenth highest in the group. Also, of the six UK teams that gained places at the World Finals, the StoweBots results placed them as the third best UK team behind two teams that have been competing for five years.

Toby Lawrance, Stuart Milner (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Artura Subowo, Jonny Reading (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Anna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Queen's) worked tirelessly

to compete to the best of their ability. They threw themselves into all aspects of the competition, collaborating with other teams from various countries and assisting each other. Our competition was not without its trials and tribulations; however they never lost heart and kept going right to the very end. They were wonderful ambassadors for the School. This has been a valuable experience for our pupils, including those that didn't go with the team to the World Finals, Ben Barrett, Laura Fras (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Sam Lodge, both for personal growth and for academic application. The competition takes so many core elements of the maths, physics, design, engineering and computer programming curricula and applies it to something very real.

Moving on to 2016-2017 the Stoics now face a new game with new challenges. We will compete with two teams, one team of Third to Fifth Formers and a Sixth Form team. We have now established ourselves as one to watch in future competitions. We've taken on new team members to replace Ben Barrett, Artura Subowo, Sam Lodge and Laura Fras who will be leaving Stowe this year after a fantastic year with the team. As we move forward we have learnt a lot from our first trip to the World Finals and will also be looking for sponsors to help us with future success. Our aim is to once again make the National Finals and go on to the World Finals and represent the UK in 2017 at what will undoubtedly be an even bigger World Final.

Mr Paul Thompson, MiC Robotics





Venatori Society

The Venatori Society is very much a Stoic run Society that supports field sports. It consists of 25 members who gather once a term to listen to a lecture from a distinguished guest and enjoy dinner afterwards in the Blue Room. This year we have had two speakers: Jim Barrington from the Countryside Alliance and Mark Osborne, father of Emily Osborne (Lower Sixth, Queen's), from William Powell gunmakers.

Mr Barrington spoke at our inaugural meeting in the Michaelmas term about the pros and cons of hunting with dogs in the UK. He brought a unique perspective to the argument, having previously held a senior position with the League Against Cruel Sports. Since his damascene conversion, Mr Barrington has worked extensively with Parliament to try to find a third way that focuses on protecting animal welfare, rather than the interests of any individual or group. This was his second time speaking at Stowe, having visited and spoken to the School once before when he was still on the other side of the debate – a brave move!

In the Lent term, Mr Osborne kindly came and gave a fascinating talk on William Powell, the guns they make and the history of the company. He brought in guns from his continental range and gave us a thorough analysis of the industry.

Sadly, we are leaving at the end of this year and therefore we have to hand the reins over to two new Chairmen. Louis Esquerré Gow (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Ben Skinner (Lower Sixth, Grenville) have been elected and we have full confidence they will strive to carry on the Venatori Society. We would like to thank the catering staff for all their efforts and Mr Wilson for being our Master in Charge.

William Motion (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Tom Buxton (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Venatori Society Presidents

The Gaussian Society

The Gaussian Society, has not been around for long but is gaining in popularity. The year began with a talk incorporating two subjects rarely mentioned together: Maths and English. Here, the academic antagonism was left behind and the two great forces united. The talk, titled 'The Language of Mathematics', spoke to both subjects, highlighting underlying factors such as how English is not just needed, but demanded for one's understanding of mathematics through the likes of the explanations of theorems. It was a definite highlight of the year.

Dr Marcus Appleby from Sydney University also came to speak to the society. His talk illustrated the basics of a theorem that isn't usually studied until undergraduate level:

Galois Theory. Embedded with history surrounding not only the theorem itself, but also that of the number zero, negative numbers and complex numbers, the talk brought much insight to a corner of mathematics that the group would not have been able to see or understand before. This pushed the boundaries of our comfort zones and evoked new links to concepts we already knew, only furnishing our knowledge further.

The future of the Gaussian Society looks bright and I hope it continues to go from strength to strength.

*Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson (Upper Sixth, Grenville),
Gaussian Society President*

GALLERY



Amy Jorgensen (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

Jamie Sharp (Fifth Form, Chatham)



Isabella Baillie (Lower Sixth, Queen's)



Daniela Fusco-House (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



Charlotte Bird (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)



Aliya Al Adwani (Upper Sixth, West)



Madeline Havard (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

SHIPT

Stowe House Preservation Trust reinvigorates Fame and Victory



The Work of Art. Prowess on the sports fields and a reputation for excellence have for long been hallmarks of Stowe but it might not be universally known that the ideals of fame and victory are displayed over the Eastern Grand Staircase in a painting by Francesco Sleter. For many years, the painting, an oil on plaster composition, has appeared unremarkable and, frankly, unloved. The Stowe House Preservation Trust invited conservators to examine the painting in 2014 with a view to its restoration as soon as funds would allow. The initial comments by one expert were that it looked as if black coffee had been spread over the surface while in places, large areas of paint had flaked off and there was a real risk that the painted surface would be lost.

The Artist. Born in Venice in 1685, Francesco Sleter worked at a number of English country houses through the 18th Century including the Duke of Chandos' home at Canons and the Palladian style Mereworth Castle in Kent, close to where Sleter is buried. Alongside Giacomo Leoni, Georges-Francois Blondel, Giovanni Battista Borra and Vincenzo Valdrè, he is one of the talented continental artists and architects to have left their mark on Stowe. He is credited with the risqué paintings in the Temple of Venus, the chinoiserie scenes on the Chinese Temple, murals in the Temple of Friendship and the interior of the Lady's Temple (now the Queen's Temple). Within the House, he completed the coving of the State Dining Room along with

the original octagonal paintings in the centre of the ceiling and further work in the area now occupied by Chandos House. The composition of Fame and Victory is consistent with the iconographic themes of victorious warfare and civil justice that Lord Cobham sought to represent through the house and garden. Further into the landing would have been a painting of Justice and Plenty or Plenty also by Sleter, but now entirely lost. The painting itself is therefore significant as one of Sleter's contributions to Stowe and also for what it tells us about Lord Cobham.

“The painting itself is therefore significant as one of Sleter's contributions to Stowe and also for what it tells us about Lord Cobham.”

The Challenge. The challenges presented by its conservation should not be underestimated. Firstly, the exact cause of the deterioration was not clear and nor was the extent of damage to the underlying plaster layer. As a first step, the plaster base layer was examined from above, removing floorboards in Temple Top Main to gain access. This revealed good news in that the laths were in generally sound condition, the plaster well keyed and there was no evidence of rot, the upper surface was dry and had clearly



been so for some time. The cause of the flaking was still not clear but it was possible that it had been caused by condensation forming where warm air from the landing met the colder air adjacent to the large window. A close inspection of the painted surface revealed some cracking of the plaster to which the painted layer had been applied and it looked as if a 'strap' had been applied to support the painting, resulting in a distinct line across the surface. Ultimately, it was agreed that this must have been caused by movement, perhaps of one of the laths to which the plaster is keyed.

The Analysis. Conservators were keen to establish the extent of re-touchings and earlier repairs to the surface. The best way to do this was to conduct a survey of the painting under ultra violet light, which would reveal work in different media that might help to identify the various interventions performed over the years. This, and a detailed examination of the painting, enabled the stages of work to be more clearly understood. It now seemed likely that, having been created in the 1730s or 40s, the painting had been re-touched in about 1844, either to repair failed paintwork or prior to Queen Victoria's visit in 1845. By this stage, the painting would have been in place for 100 years, exposed to full sunlight. There then appears to have been some selective re-touching using acrylic paints. This is likely to be dated to the 1960s and may have been the work of the Gibbon brothers, who restored other paintings, notably in the Music Room. This work possibly included a varnish coat applied over the top of the re-touching. Finally, there had been further work in the 1980s, possibly again by the Gibbon brothers. The approach agreed for conservation was to remove later re-touching and varnishes, isolate the original surface and apply varnish to provide an homogenous surface and protective layer after re-touching.

The Restoration. This is where the exciting work started. Hirst Conservation, well known for their work on other significant paintings, were appointed for the project following a competitive tender and they started work as soon as the plaster base layer was stable and dry. As their work progressed, the difference was remarkable. The darkening caused by deterioration of the earlier varnish layers was removed and the delicate task of re-attaching flaking paint, some of which had to be done before work could start from above, proceeded. At the time of writing, the full impact of Sleter's trompe l'oeil work is once more apparent, with the painting taking on its correct aspect, flowing from a coffered frame up to the





open sky, with the two allegorical figures once more clearly distinguished against a sky in which they emerge from clouds.

As with all SHPT's work, scholarship and scientific study preceded the actual conservation and the highest standards of quality were sought. The work has been completed to the planned timescale and within the agreed budget of £120,000. In terms of our overall commitment, this is a relatively small project but its significance is out of all proportion to financial considerations and the result will enhance the experience of visitors and of residents alike.

As with all SHPT's work, scholarship and scientific study preceded the actual conservation and the highest standards of quality were sought.

The Unexpected. The life of restoration projects, however, is never dull or predictable. In the very final days of the project, just as these words were being written, an amazing discovery was made... colours thought to have been simply uniform earlier layers of paint turned out to form patterns beneath the surface and extra time was allotted to the project to allow further investigation. Two days of painstaking work uncovered a very clear floral pattern not unlike designs found elsewhere in the house. Evidence was also found of work beneath later layers of paint that might suggest the "lost" paintings of the staircase might still be

there awaiting discovery. Brief searches of other examples of Sleter's work have revealed some intriguing parallels which could represent one of the greatest secrets ever found in the restoration of Stowe House. Theoretical research will now continue and grant funding will be sought to enable us to understand more of the work of a Venetian in bringing his distinctive style to Buckinghamshire.

The Future. Notwithstanding this latest discovery and the possibilities that it brings, SHPT's attention is now turning to its next projects, re-instatement of copies of the statuary that once graced the South Portico and restoration of the State Dining Room and Temple Room (formerly the State Drawing Room). Seven of the eight statues from the Portico have now been located and the current owners of six of them have granted permission for copies to be taken. Two generous donations have been received that will enable the return of two Hercules groups while fundraising continues for the four colossal female figures that occupied the niches at the back of the Portico. A substantial sum has also been received towards the State Dining Room but more is needed before work can start. Elsewhere, the generosity of private individuals has enabled work to repair damaged woodwork in a fanlight on the Chandos landing and other essential works that all add up to enable steady progress to be maintained in Stowe House's resurgence. It is hoped that, by 2019, SHPT will have been victorious in rebuilding the fame of this great house alongside the fame of the School that it hosts.

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

Bang. Thud.

Children are chasing each other around a room in some kind of purposeless game with no beginning, middle or end. They run in circles after one another, all the time screaming and laughing, perhaps they know the rules but to the adults gossiping monotonously at a table in the corner it appears pointless and repetitive. There are intensely coloured balloons strewn across the floor and a banner is suspended precariously above the door. "Happy Birthday!" it reads in generic cellophane letters. A pile of presents topples in the far corner, each one clearly wrapped by an experienced adult but all attached to envelopes that have 'Charlie' scribbled across them in unkempt kindergartener's scrawl.

Enchantment. Indulgence. Elation.

The scene changes. Suddenly he's sitting in a school gymnasium in the middle of one of about a dozen rows of desks. There's a clock on the wall straight ahead and somehow he knows it's taunting him. He wipes his clammy hands on his regulation uniform trousers and tries to swallow the uncomfortable lump that has appeared in his throat. On the desk in front of him are a chewed pencil and a white booklet. The words: 'GCSE ENGLISH' are printed on the cover. Most of his answers aren't even legible, just a chaotic blur of crossings and rubbings out. An unformulated nebula of words and phrases swirl through his brain but he can't quite manage to catch hold of one long enough to write it down. The print on the paper scrambles into strings of nonsense; he's almost certain that at least half the words in the question don't even appear in the dictionary.

Distress. Fear. Remorse.

He's wearing a dirty red polyester gown. It smells of nervous bodies and relief. A camera clicks just as the hats begin to tumble back down, a perfect textbook photo for his parent's mantelpiece. Without warning a black pit of trepidation engulfs his stomach as he realises that he's finished; he's alone, unprepared for the world and relieved, so very relieved.

Liberation. Foreboding. Release.

He turns the envelope over in his hands marvelling at the official font they had used to type his name onto the front. He tears it open and his eyes scan the contents in wonder. The number at the bottom makes his heart begin to beat faster and faster like a hummingbird. He's convinced it will grow wings and take off. A smile spreads across his face as he imagines the deposit into his bank account and later the new car that he has spent so much time pining for.

Completion. Satisfaction. Self-worth.

The chair beneath him begins to vibrate; he grips the armrests with all his might, knuckles turning white. Through the window he can see houses and cars dwindling. They could have been the toy models he once played with. Nauseous with vertigo he closes his eyes and leans his head back just hoping for an end. Suddenly they are stable, the vibrations all but a figment of his imagination. The houses are now veiled by layers of cloud, surely the texture of cotton candy? At this altitude, his home and the troubles that will await his return are just a dream.

Reprieve. Wonder. Amity.

The deep melody of an organ begins to resound through the church as the copious rows of guests in front of him stumble to their feet. He gazes down the carpeted aisle to see her walking slowly towards him, face covered by a delicate veil. She's staring at her feet and he knows it's because she's terrified of tripping in front of all these people. He realises that he's forgotten to breathe. The organ continues and it dawns on him that he made it. It was worth it; he got the girl. She arrives at the altar after what seems like an age and he takes her delicate hand in his.

Joy. Wonder. Affection.

The first time he held his child in his arms changed him. It was like something deep inside clicked into place. He could smell the cleanliness of new clothes and the sweet scent of talcum powder overpowering the bitter hospital disinfectant. Suddenly he felt responsible. In his arms he held his future and there was nothing anyone could ever do to hurt it.

Tenderness. Obligation. Love.

There are mascara-stained tears streaming down her face. He too feels the exhaustion that occurs only after persistent deep waves of sadness, but they have no choice. He has to go and provide for his family, and even if he didn't, there isn't anything in the world that could keep him away from the thrill of the chase. He hugs the child goodbye one more time and his wife straightens his hat. They both smile feebly through the tears as he teasingly salutes her and turns to board his flight.

Sorrow. Misery. Anticipation.

The story ends and pain seeps through the façade into his jacket. A crimson stain blossoming rapidly onto the khaki fabric of his camouflaged jacket as he lay in the grass. Someone has taken off his helmet; he is appreciative for the release as the heat was quickly becoming claustrophobic. Somewhere through the haze he can hear his name, being called over and over with fierce desperation. It's too far. A solitary tear slips out of his eye just moments before they close...

Nothing.



Music

An extremely musical year on which to report and it was on a Wednesday in September that the first concert of the season began with the new Third Form and Lower Sixth Music Scholars, who wowed the audience with their highly skilled performances. Olivia Elliott (Third Form, Stanhope) opened the concert with her soulful performance of 'Lay Me Down' by Sam Smith with Caspar Wallersteiner (Lower Sixth, Chatham) giving a very musical performance of the 60s number one hit 'House of the Rising Sun'. Alex Grinyer (Lower Sixth, Walpole) gave a sparkling, assured performance of Chopin's Berceuse followed by a performance of Mozart's Horn Concerto no.3. Jeffrey Au (Third Form, Walpole) gave a highly lyrical and spacious performance of Chopin's Nocturne in B flat minor and Theo Hayes (Third Form, Chatham) gave contrasting and technically impressive performances of a Chopin Nocturne in G minor and Humoreske by Rachmaninov.

In September several Stoics took part in a masterclass with Russian concert pianist Yulia Chaplina. Yulia instantly put the participants at ease and consequently they all performed extremely well. Lewis Bell (Lower Sixth, Grenville) gave a weighty and impassioned performance of Rhapsody in G minor by Brahms. Jeffrey Au gave a highly lyrical performance of Chopin's Nocturne in B flat minor. This was followed by Alexander Bernard-Bell (Fourth Form, Grenville), who gave a lovely performance of a set of variations by Schumann and Alex Grinyer's performance of Beethoven's 2nd piano concerto was both stylish and full of energy. This was a really memorable event and all of those who took part really benefited from Yulia's input on their repertoire.

The annual House Singing Competition took place in Chapel in October. This year's adjudicator was the former Director of Music at Barnard Castle School, Mark Mawhinney who had the most difficult of decisions choosing the winning House in a competition so packed with talent and enthusiasm. 'Grease' was this year's theme and each House chose to sing a unison song or to arrange a part-song from the musical. Highlights included Stanhope's win for the part-song arrangement with 'We Go Together' and Nugent's second place in the part-song category with a spectacular presentation of 'Beauty School Dropout'. Temple received praise for a refined performance of 'Blue Moon', an arrangement which is musically challenging for young singers. Non-Grease highlights included 'Get Down On It' (Walpole), 'Elenore' (Grenville), 'She Moves In Her Own Way' (Bruce), 'Shake It Off' (Chandos), 'Shine' (Grafton), 'I Don't Want To Miss A Thing' (Cobham), 'Wake Me Up Before You Go Go' (Queen's), 'Knocking On Heaven's Door' (Chatham) and 'Too Late To Apologise' (West). The overall winning House was Lyttelton with an energetic performance of 'Come on Eileen' as a unison offering that captured the hearts of the audience and the adjudicator. 'You're The One That I Want' was offered as a part-song and this most challenging arrangement was confidently performed with clarity. The girls must be congratulated for their efforts towards musical commitment and refinement. Ms Green's impressive cycle up the Nave under a Guard of Honour must also be noted.

Nine Stoics took part in a piano recital as part of the Sunday Coffee Concert series in November. All those who performed acquitted themselves well, playing a



diverse repertoire. Emily Woodhead (Upper Sixth, Nugent), opened the concert with Debussy's *Dr Gradus ad Parnassum*, Poppy de Salis (Fourth Form, Stanhope) performed Chopin's *Raindrop Prelude*, Finlay Sutherland (Fifth Form, Grafton) performed a Bach fugue and staying with the Baroque period, Alexandra Jordan (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) gave a technically secure and polished performance of *Giga* by the English composer Richard Jones. Mali Aitchison (Fifth Form, Nugent) performed Alwyn's *Prelude and Fugue on an Indian scale*, Alex Grinyer, Jeffrey Au and William Motion (Upper Sixth, Chatham) gave contrasting and fluent performances of works by Chopin including the *Berceuse*, *Nocturne in B flat minor* and a *Waltz in B flat minor*. Theo Hayes ended the recital with another impressive performance of *Humoreske* by Rachmaninov.

A 50 strong wind band travelled to King's Sutton to give a concert in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, opening with a brass arrangement of 'The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba'. This was followed by 'Days of Glory', a rousing march with some excellent snare drumming from the percussion section. The Clarinet Quartet gave a beautiful rendition of an 'Adagio' by Mozart and the Horn Ensemble was spectacular with their music from *Der Freischutz*. Sam Lodge (Upper Sixth, Walpole) performed 'The Bass in the Ballroom' as an impressive tuba solo, with the whole band accompanying him. The Brass Band performed Hyldegard's 'Surround Sound', with trumpets and drums playing from each corner of the church and the rest of the band in the middle, which was a conductor's nightmare, to quote Mr Gibbon. The concert ended with Harold Walters'

'American Folk Suite', displaying all of the different tone colours available from a large band, and a fun piece called 'Ole' by John Morrissey.

This year's fireworks display was as spectacular as ever. The Orchestra performed Handel's music impeccably, and they also gave an extra rendition of some of the movements before the actual display. All sections of the Orchestra played well despite battling with the wind trying to blow over the music stands.

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Sunday 8 November was an eventful day with the Remembrance Service in the morning, featuring the Chapel Choir's performance of 'Guests For the Fallen' and the organ voluntary of Elgar's 'Nimrod' that made the building shake when the bombard tubas were used. Later in the day Theo Hayes, Alex Grinyer, Jeffery Au and Lewis Bell gave stunning performances of movements from piano concertos composed over a period of 200 years.

The Autumn Open Mic Night was a popular and well attended event and we heard songs from Henry Gauvain (Fifth Form, Temple), Mali Aitchison, Isaac Ajala



(Upper Sixth, Walpole), Eloise Dobson (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Sean Martin (Lower Sixth, Temple), Sabrina Iskandar (Lower Sixth, West), Sophia Sander (Lower Sixth, West), Mina Haas (Fifth Form, Stanhope), Lucy Sutherland (Fifth Form, Nugent), Caspar Wallersteiner, Rhiannon Templeman-Horton (Fifth, Form, Queen's), Starzie Grafftey-Smith (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Arabella Coldstream (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and the band comprising Max Campbell-Preston (Fifth Form, Grafton), Dan Jolker (Fifth Form, Cobham), Dan Biss (Fifth Form, Grafton) and Charles Rivington (Fifth Form, Bruce). The music was enjoyed by all and Mr Nottage is to be thanked for his organisation and accompaniment towards the event.

Six Stoics took part in an improvisation workshop with world-renowned composer and educationalist, Christopher Norton in November. The young musicians taking part gained so many useful hints and tips on ways in which they can incorporate improvisation into their practice, and Christopher's unique and encouraging style of teaching really brought out the best in all the performers. It was a highlight to see the Stoics improvise together in a musical 'conversation' across three pianos in the Ugland Auditorium and to see them gaining in confidence at improvising in a variety of styles.

Dinner and Jazz always sells out very early and is one of our musical highlights of the year. This year's event featured more musical contributions than ever. There were three small Jazz Ensembles performing before and after the dinner, and the Chamber Choir entertained diners in the Music Room and Marble Saloon between courses. After the meal we were treated to an endless stream of vocal soloists (with many thanks to the vocal department) in the Music Room. Meanwhile the Big Band was on form providing two hours of dance music in the Temple Room.

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The start of the Lent term saw Sixth Form Organ Scholars Alex Grinyer and Lewis Bell perform a fine recital of organ music in Chapel; the organ at Stowe being the second largest school organ in the country. This was a special





occasion as we heard music from the king of instruments that we do not hear daily in Chapel, both recitalists presented us with many of the available and subtle colours found on the instrument within their musical programmes.

In February, a hugely talented cast of 31 Stoics put on an astonishing production of 'Beauty and the Beast' in the Roxburgh Theatre. Supported by a 22 piece orchestra, containing no fewer than 16 Stoics, the cast drew rapturous applause every night and effusive praise from both staff and pupils. The hugely ambitious production was a big hit and showed off the very best that Stowe has to offer in Music and Drama. Many thanks to our fantastic Assistant Musical Director Lewis Bell, members of the Music Department, the backstage team and all who helped with the production. A special thank you must be given to Mr Aitken for his inspiration, Stowe's very own Walt Disney!

In February, a hugely talented cast of 31 Stoics put on an astonishing production of Beauty and the Beast in the Roxburgh Theatre.

As a charity venture, we are proud that Stowe's Big Band again visited the Ullswater Valley and Glenridding, this time to raise funds for the devastation caused by Storm Desmond. The concert included a champagne reception to raise money for the Ullswater Environment Relief Fund. The Big Band played a wide variety of styles ranging from the 20s to the 70s. There were great solos from Finlay Sutherland, William Motion and Lewis Bell. Lewis also led the rhythm section with Alex McQuitty (Upper Sixth, Walpole) and Henry McQuitty (Fifth Form, Walpole) on bass and drums. There were fantastic vocal solos from Starzie Grafftey-Smith, Caspar Wallersteiner, Mina Haas, Emily Woodhead, Arabella Coldsteam, Lucy Sutherland and Mali Aitchison. They were a real credit to all of our singing teachers, especially Rachel Sherry who even stepped in to sing Gershwin's 'The Man I Love'. Many thanks go to Sarah Searle who worked so hard to help everything go so smoothly and to everyone who contributed to the £1,600 raised.

The String Orchestra and Wind Band gave a concert in the

Radcliffe Centre in February. The first half was given by the String Orchestra, on this occasion led by Theo Hayes. They played the Jig from Holst's St Paul's Suite followed by Britten's Simple Symphony. Mr Windass later commented that this was the best string playing that he had ever heard at Stowe. This was followed by Oscar Hill (Fourth Form, Temple) and Leonie Callow (Fourth Form, Queen's) performing two duets on the Marimba of 'Eleanor Rigby' and 'Let it be'. The second half of the concert was given by the Wind Band who played Espana Cani, Bugler's Holiday, featuring Emily Woodhead and Finlay Sutherland, and a medley from Phantom of the Opera. Between these pieces we were treated to contributions from the Horn Ensemble





and a great performance by the Clarinet Quartet; Oliver Norton (Lower Sixth, Walpole), Poppy Moore (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Guy Woodhouse (Fifth Form, Chatham) and Sam Flint (Fifth Form, Grenville), of an Adagio by Mozart. It was great to see so many Stoics involved in this concert, 12 in the String Orchestra and over 40 in the Wind Band.

“It was great to see so many Stoics involved in this concert, 12 in the String Orchestra and over 40 in the Wind Band.”

A large number of Stoics took part in the annual Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts. Over the course of the weekend Stoics took part in classes across a wide range of instruments and musical genres and they received some excellent adjudication from distinguished professional musicians. This was a record year in terms of Stoic prize winners and all those who took part represented the School impeccably. Following their festival success, four Stoics were selected from around 1,000 festival entrants to take part in the Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year competition on Saturday 5 March at Walton High School where Theo Hayes won the title.

Some of Stowe's most talented pianists visited Steinway Hall, London to give a recital to parents, Old Stoics and other distinguished guests. The concert featured some of the very best piano playing I have ever heard from Stoics and I was so impressed by both their level of professionalism in the recital and the sensitivity with which they all played. Before the recital, the Stoics had the opportunity to play the various pianos Steinway had for sale, and a particular favourite was the new Spirio, a piano that can recreate performances by world famous artists that is controlled by a tablet. They all enjoyed a tour of the restoration workshop and it was fascinating for them to

learn about the incredibly meticulous processes involved in the construction of each piano. In the recital, the Stoics all gave highly individual and accomplished performances of major works in their piano repertoire. To conclude the recital, international concert pianist, Philip Fowke made a guest appearance and treated us all to a wonderful performance of Billy Mayerl and Chopin.

The Holy Cross & St Mary Church in Quainton reverberated to the Sounds of Swing in March. This was a concert given to a large audience by the Big Band with guest singers. The evening began with a couple of Glen Miller favourites, 'Pennsylvania 6-5000' and 'Tuxedo Junction', and continued with a varied programme of music from the 20s to the 50s. Our guest singers for the night all gave fantastic renditions of their songs; Starzie Grafftey-Smith was first with 'Dream A Little Dream' followed by Nia Brown (Upper Sixth, Nugent) with 'The Man I Love' and 'Nice Work If You Can Get It' by Emily Woodhead. Our second half singers; Arabella Coldstream, Lewis Bell and Lucy Sutherland also gave very convincing performances and balanced out some very lively numbers by the Big Band. We had some great instrumental solos from Finlay Sutherland and Emily Woodhead on trumpet and from Henry McQuitty on drums. It is great to have such a good rhythm section driving the band with Henry on drums, Alex McQuitty on bass and Lewis Bell on piano. Even after encores we left the audience asking for more and £430 was raised for church funds.

The Uglend Auditorium hosted this year's second Open Mic Night in March. Whilst open to the whole School, most of the talent was drawn from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms, and they gave performances far in advance of their years! With over twenty artists on the playlist it could have been a long evening, but the attention of the audience was held throughout and the witty compering of Mali Aitchison and Henry Gauvain enhanced the renditions and kept things moving swiftly along. The range of styles was broad, encompassing everything from jazz improv from Theo Hayes on piano with Sean Carslaw

Tricot (Third Form, Grenville), to some serious rock drumming from Dan Jolker and his band-mates, Henry Gauvain and Max Campbell-Preston. There were a great many solo song performances interspersed with duets from Tom Fras (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Helena Vince (Fourth Form, Queen's) and also Arabella Coldstream with Starzie Grafftey-Smith and Florrie Antoniou (Third Form, Lyttelton).

They demonstrated an exceptionally high standard of musicianship across a wide range of instruments.

Ten musicians competed in the prestigious annual Mozart Trio Prize competition in the Uglund Auditorium. They demonstrated an exceptionally high standard of musicianship across a wide range of instruments. The adjudicator for the evening was Sam Dunkley, a distinguished singer and member of the British and International Federation of Festivals who delivered his adjudication with style and humour, and he was extremely complimentary about all the performances. Stoics who were congratulated included Catia Di Carlofelice (Lower Sixth, West), flute, Caspar Wallersteiner, voice, William Motion, trumpet, Emily Woodhead, trumpet, Alex McQuitty, double bass, Sam Lodge, tuba, and Arabella Coldstream, voice. Lewis Bell, piano, won first prize for his performance of Debussy's *La cathédrale engloutie*

and a Sonata by Haydn; Laura Brogden (Upper Sixth, Queen's), flute, won second prize with her performance of Doppler's Hungarian Fantasy, and Alex Grinyer, piano and French horn, won third prize for his performance of a Rachmaninov Prelude and Mozart's Horn Concerto no.3.

Thirty five Stoics from the Chapel Choir joined forces with 14 pupils from Cundall Manor Prep School to sing Evensong in Stowe Parish Church. The repertoire included Walmisley's 'Magnificat', 'Nunc Dimittis in D minor' and Balfour-Gardiner's famous 'Evening Hymn'. The pupils sang superbly and the Prep School children left thoroughly inspired.

To end the academic year, this year's May Day was celebrated slightly later than usual on Friday 6 May when the Stowe Brass Quintet featuring Sam Lodge on tuba, Ingrid Galler (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) on trombone, Alex Grinyer on horn, Finlay Sutherland on trumpet and Mr Gibbon on trumpet, met at the Rotunda at 6.00am. Just as the sun was rising above the trees, the quiet and still morning was broken with Purcell's Trumpet Tune. It was a rather magical feeling playing across the empty grounds on the start of a beautiful spring day. After several trumpet voluntaries, some dances by Praetorius and The Grand March from Aida, they were treated by a welcome delivery of coffee and pastries by Mr Higgins. They continued playing until 7.00am ending with three rousing marches; Slaidburn, Kenilworth and Ivanhoe. This may seem like rather an eccentric tradition but Stowe cries out for such things to happen, and this was a great way to celebrate!

Mr Keith Brown, Acting Head of Music





East End Tales

"Sleep in the day, come out at night. That's when I reckon y'see the real East End."

The established and much anticipated annual Fifth Form play took to the stage in March. Set 'in the round' in the intimate surroundings of the new Dobinson Stage Studio space in the Roxburgh Theatre, 'East End Tales' was an exciting and confidently performed production enjoyed by packed houses for the three performances.

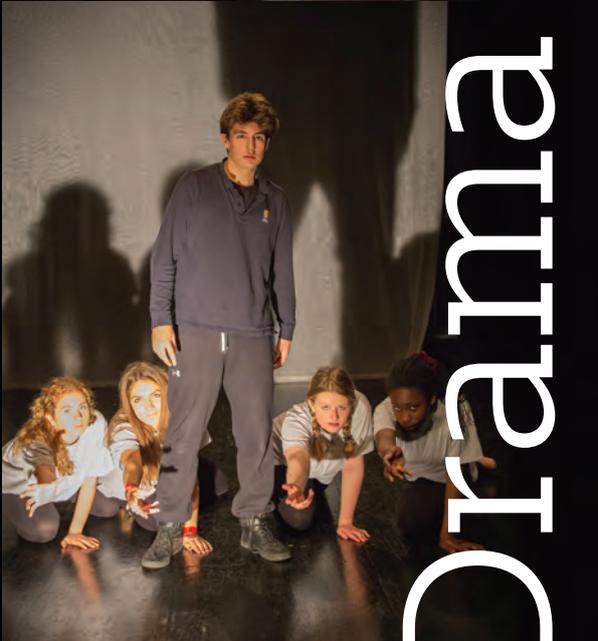
'East End Tales' is a series of nine stories inspired by photos and news articles from local papers from the neighbouring communities that make up East London. Written as part of The Half Moon Theatre's Script-Works Project in 2008, the story ideas were initially developed over a number of weeks, through a mixture of workshops, improvisation and written exercises, before being finally shaped and written up in a very definite lyrical style by Fin Kennedy.

The stories range from short contemplations on the nature of living in an ever changing and diverse East London, through to longer tales exploring issues such as domestic violence, the drudgery of low-skilled jobs, petty crime and high density living.

The 18-strong ensemble cast worked together superbly well to produce an exciting and vibrant production that not only entertained but also provoked a good deal of controversy and debate. The cast was drawn from the cream of the Fifth Form acting talent and they were ably supported by a small but super-efficient tech team that were capable of realising my design vision which featured the striking use of sharp black and white costume, UVF lighting, a screen with continually moving image displays and a contemporary cutting edge soundtrack featuring songs from Leftfield, Beck and Groove Armada.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





GCSE Drama

The two practical assessed components make up 60% of the GCSE Drama exam course. Both of them involve working in small groups and everyone managed to produce some stunning performances which never cease to impress and entertain.

In November, 39 Fifth Form Stoics performed their original, unique and at times breathtaking self-devised pieces linked to the umbrella theme of 'Shadows' as prescribed by the WJEC exam board. Throughout the day we were treated to an eclectic range of exciting, vibrant and challenging theatre pieces all staged in the intimate, brooding atmosphere of the new Dobinson Stage Studio.

All nine groups were highly creative and imaginative while at the same time being able to interpret the chosen theme by skilfully incorporating any number of sophisticated and imaginative physical theatre staging techniques into their work. We had pieces about disloyalty; haunting memories of traumatic experiences from surviving a war, to inner battles with depression, self-harm and the fall-out from caustic, punishing and damaging personal relationships. The Third and Fourth Form Drama sets that were lucky enough to see some of the performances were full of admiration and respect.

In May, our talented 2016 cohort efficiently and effectively tackled their chosen text extracts. It was a pleasure for me, Lucy Brassell and our audiences to be moved, entertained, engaged and enthralled by some challenging and well-rehearsed pieces. Each group used their planning and rehearsal time to great effect and were able to deal really well with the diverse range of classic and contemporary texts on offer.

Highlights for me included a very dark and brooding 'Far Away' by Caryl Churchill, staged in traverse with menace and power by Alexandra Orton (Lyttelton) and Annalise Muirhead (Lyttelton). Hannah Venner (Lyttelton) and Imogen Fitzjohn (Stanhope) took on a classic Churchill play, playing the troublesome teenage friends from 'Top Girls' and Karimat Adebayo-Karim (Nugent), Martha Combe (Nugent) and Lauren Taylor (Queen's) were simply stunning in their rendition of several hard hitting scenes from 'Girls Like That' by Evan Placey. Maya Tearle (Queen's) and John Balcon Perez (Walpole) easily coped with two nicely contrasting duologues from 'Educating Rita' by Willy Russell. We were all most impressed to see how the elegant layout of the State Music Room helped to recreate the requisite grandeur and style of 1890s Mayfair for Emma Grayson (Nugent) and Rosie Smith's (Queen's) delightful take on Oscar Wilde's witty and at times oh so cutting comedy of manners, 'An Ideal Husband'.

Our visiting examiners for both pieces were mightily impressed by the sheer contrast in the range of the work produced and for the commitment, attitude and approach shown by the Stoics. Both Lucy Brassell and I wish them all the very best for some favourable outcomes on results day.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



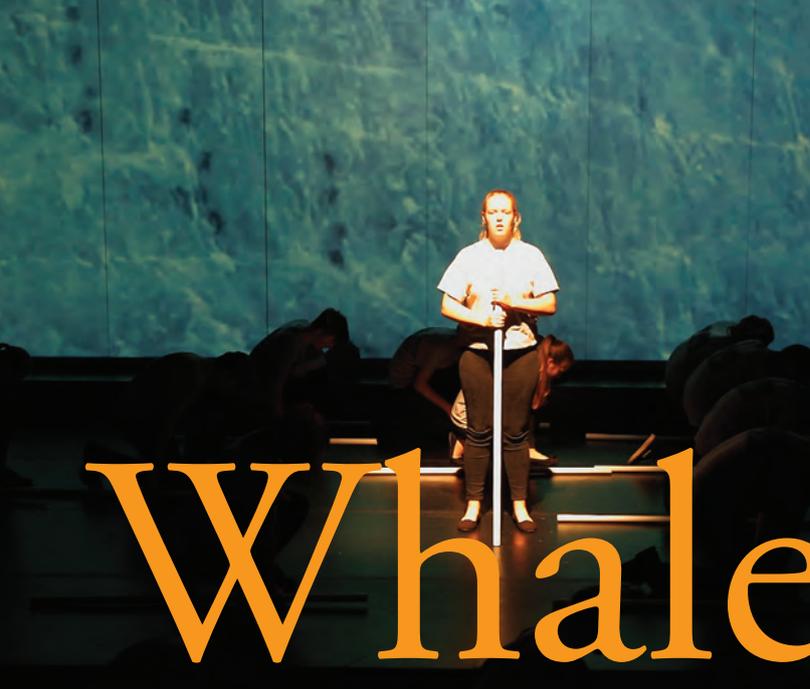
AS Drama

Once again it has been such a great pleasure for my colleagues and me in the Department to see the realisation of the varied, eclectic and engaging AS Level Drama Practical Performances. The 24 Lower Sixth Form Stoics, deserve huge credit not only for their mature and sensible approach to the stunning work that was created, but also for the way in which they supported, cajoled and encouraged each other throughout a long and stressful day in order to achieve their best.

Their unique self-devised scenes, linked so imaginatively and creatively to the theories and staging ideas of Antonin Artaud (visceral, challenging, dangerous and shocking) were powerful and thought-provoking. As a clear and precise contrast their sensitive and realistic text extracts, drawn from a varied range of contemporary and classic texts, were performed with more than a nod to the ideas and rehearsal techniques associated with the Granddaddy of modern realism, Konstantin Stanislavski.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





Whale



After giving 12 years of outstanding and dedicated service to his role in the Drama Department, Chris Walters bowed out with his final Congreve production in June.

His swansong was a play called 'Whale' by David Holman. It tells the true story of the events of October 1988 when three Californian grey whales were trapped under the Arctic ice-cap near Point Barrow in Alaska. The fate of Putu, Siku and K'nik became a matter of worldwide concern and united Inuit, American, Russian and Canadian people, together with a Soviet Naval icebreaker ship, in a bid to save them from suffering a tragic death.

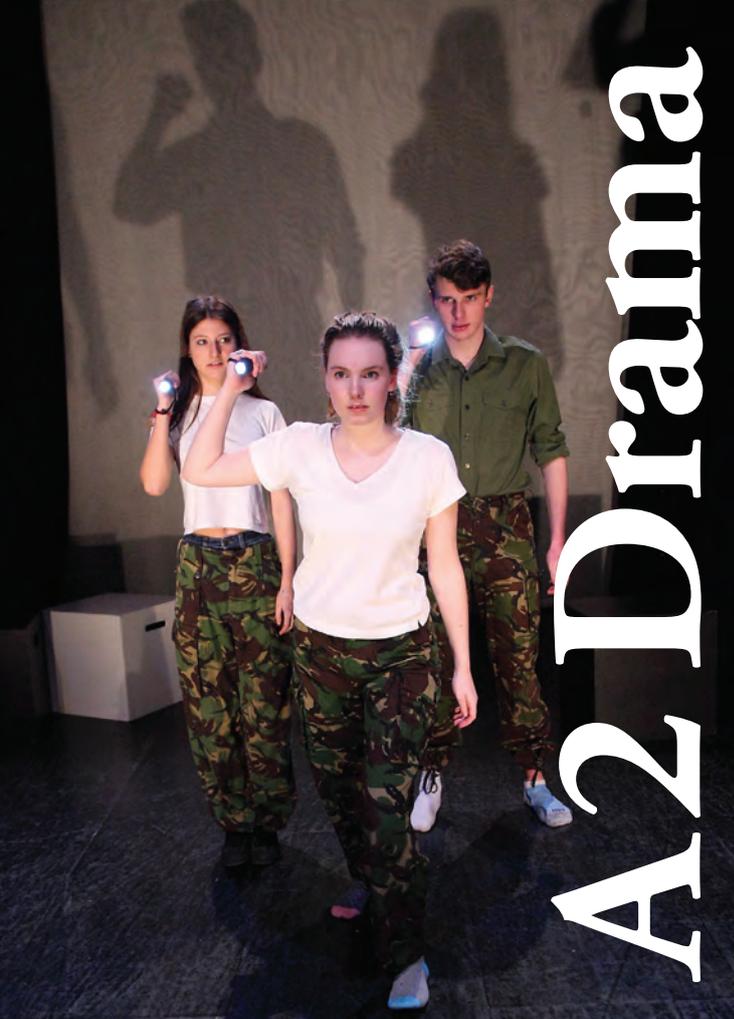
Chris's production involved an onstage cast of 26 Third and Fourth Formers, playing a number of roles ranging from Inuit Warriors to American High School children, Russian officers, American politicians, businessmen and many others.

The production had real style, incorporating some superb physical theatre techniques, dance, song and the most effective and imaginative use of props and accessories in order to tell this epic tale. Florrie Antoniou (Third Form, Lyttelton) played Raven with bags of skill, charm and onstage presence. She was ably assisted by accomplished, sincere and heartfelt performances from Ian Hsu (Third Form, Chatham), Emily Banks (Third Form, Lyttelton), Helena Vince (Fourth Form, Queen's), Tom Fras (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Sonya Sander (Third Form, Lyttelton).

My sincere thanks go to Chris and his capable and creative co-director Lucy Brassell. They marshalled and cajoled a superb cast who were able to demonstrate and sustain some accomplished performance skills. To all of those associated with the production, whether performing or offering much needed technical support and guidance backstage, we send our thanks and congratulations. 'Whale' was a triumph and a suitably fitting fond farewell from one of my most trusted and respected colleagues.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





A2 Drama

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

A range of varied, exciting and thought-provoking stimuli was offered by the exam board as the Stoics had to find an extract from any published play, irrespective of style, era or genre, in order to perform a piece from, 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 effectively apply that knowledge and understanding 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 off well and it was clear that we were going to be in for a real treat.

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

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





Senior Congreve 'Lysistrata'

'Lysistrata' is an out and out farcical comedy. Originally written by Aristophanes and performed in classical Athens in 411 BC, it is the hilarious account of one woman's extraordinary pledge to try to end the Peloponnesian wars. Along with her feisty female friends, Lysistrata persuades the women of Greece to withhold their sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate peace – a strategy, however, that simply inflames the battle between the sexes.

Our 2016 Congreve production of David Stuttard's version of the play (hovering very neatly between effective translation and a very free adaptation) bounced along very nicely, and the three packed houses in the Roxburgh Theatre in November certainly lapped up the heady mix of overt, exaggerated, cartoon style visuals; verbal ingenuity and the relentless double-entendres, giving the whole production a feel of an upmarket 'Carry On' film.

Olivia Riddick (Upper Sixth, West) played the title role with great aplomb and her comic timing and delivery in every show was superb. She carried the whole show and deserves great credit for such a superb effort. Olivia was ably assisted with performances of high quality from Congreve stalwarts Saskia Satchell (Upper Sixth, Queen's)

as the dotty and daft Fanny; Maddie Jordan (Upper Sixth, Queen's) as the man-mad Nikki and Aleksia Zivanovic (Upper Sixth, Queen's) as the Spartan heroine Claire.

As Directors we decided to make the traditional masked Greek chorus into a gaggle of old age pensioners, so our chorus was made up of ten very stereotypical old ladies and gentlemen, suitably attired in a mixture of polyester cardigans and skirts, dangling pearls, double breasted blazers, blow-up walking sticks, carpet slippers and bald man wigs. Carleton Tufnell (Lower Sixth, Temple) Harry Cook (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Charles Johnson (Upper Sixth, Bruce) were hilarious as the three bumbling Athenian politicians, desperate to make the best of an ever increasing crazy situation. Their verbal wordplay and exchanges with Olivia and her feisty friends was a pleasure to watch.

Having the set in traverse was a most effective choice as the fluidity of movement in the exits and entrances kept the pace and energy that is so vital for comedy. The company spirit was fantastic and everyone involved in the show, from actors to make-up assistants to technicians, worked tirelessly to bring the production to life.

Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama





The Duke of

The 2015-16 Expedition season started with a Gold Assessed and Gold Training Expedition to the Lake District in October. Participants were lucky to experience some of the best autumnal conditions the Lakes can offer and those on the Training Expedition were able to spend some quality time in the Langdales and on High Knott honing their navigation skills, before tackling the Old Man of Coniston where they were rewarded with breath-taking views across Cumbria to the coast. The Gold Assessed Expedition completed some of the best routes the Lakes can offer over Catbells, Maiden Moor, the Langdales and into Eskdale before summiting the Old Man of Coniston on their final day.

Despite running the Gold and Silver Practice Expedition later in the season this year, participants still faced some tough conditions in the Yorkshire Dales. Although generally dry, a late winter blast saw temperatures plummet at night and we awoke to a dusting of snow on the summits on day three – much to the consternation of one member of staff who had offered to “eat his hat” should it snow during the Expedition. The groups remained on top form however, coping with sub-zero temperatures at night and severe wind-chill on the summits. Our external instructors and Stowe staff alike were very impressed with the skills and campcraft that both the Silver and Gold groups demonstrated as they completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks.

The first of the Bronze Expeditions saw 77 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. Unfortunately, the Cotswolds weather was not as kind as it had been in previous years and the groups had their waterproofing techniques put to the test over the course of the Expedition.



Edinburgh's Award

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 of the Stoics' exceptionally positive attitude and focus over the course of the three days.

This year's main Gold Assessed Expedition took place in the Cairngorms in the last week of the Summer term. The Cairngorms are a highlight of our expedition programme as they offer a very remote and challenging experience for our participants in very mixed conditions. Amongst other peaks, groups summited Braerich, Ben Macdui and Cairn Gorm (the highest peaks in the range) over the course of the week, with some groups spending a somewhat chilly night camping by Loch Etchachan – the highest Loch in Scotland at 927m. This is a very remote and challenging area and we were all very impressed with the way that participants coped with the conditions. Some valuable lessons were learnt over the course of the Expedition, amongst other things: Lochs at 900 metres are very cold and laminated maps are the most useful bits of kit when it comes to sledging!

The Expedition season finished with the Silver Assessed Expedition to the Brecon Beacons in the first week of the

summer holidays. Mixed conditions meant that the groups experienced everything the Beacons Ridge has to offer, from glorious blue-sky days with views down to the Bristol Channel, to low-visibility experiences where you could just about see the person in front of you and compass work suddenly becomes very important. On the whole this was a very successful Expedition and I hope that the participants appreciated the more personal experience of an Expedition with only two groups on the hills.

As always I am particularly grateful to our staff team for their support and hard work, as it would not be possible to offer these invaluable experiences for our pupils without their patience, humour and willingness to sit for hours in the cold waiting for their groups! Thanks this year to Mr Hoare, Mr Møller, Mr Gibbon, Miss Penrhyn-Lowe, Miss Davies, Mrs McMahon, Mr Grimble, Mr Thompson, Mrs Ackroyd, Mr Wilson, Mr and Mrs Last, Mr Jaramillo, Mrs Searle (in particular for her culinary expertise!), Mr Webster, Mr Goodall, Mr Donoghue, Miss Ellis, Dr Ferrero, Richard Pickersgill, Simon Rose, Steve Rogers, Philip Pitcher, Tim Hunt, Nick Piper and Louis Staden. As always, of course, a final and special thanks to Fraser Liversage, the man who keeps us all organised!

Mr Gwilym Jones, Head of DofE





This year we welcomed Major de Gale as our new Adjutant and SSI; Flying Officer Murnane took over leadership of the RAF Section; and Major Goodall joined the Army Section. We were ably supported by Cadet Sergeant Major Fergus Paske (Upper Sixth, Chatham).

In October the entire Army section deployed to Yardley Chase Training Area, Northants, where the new Fourth Form cadets carried out an introduction to living in the field and basic fieldcraft, and the Senior cadets took part in blank firing night ambushes and section attacks. The RAF visited RAF Halton and the RN visited Portsmouth Naval Base for a tour of the historic ships. Every new recruit had a session target shooting with the No 8 rifle; the new RN and RAF cadets all had a chance to earn a Try Dive certificate

and the second year RN cadets completed a 1* kayaking course and a more advanced diving course. At the end of the month Major Goodall and I took up an invitation from the Bangladesh Adjutant General and visited Jhenaydah Cadet College in Bangladesh. The College is keen to establish links with UK cadet forces and the warmth of their welcome was striking. In December the RN visited Portsmouth for Firefighting and Damage Control, and learnt how to use a variety of hoses and extinguishers.

The Lent term was much fuller than in recent years. At the end of February we hosted a visit from Professor Farooq Khan of Jhenaydah Cadet College, Bangladesh, a cadet boarding school modelled on British boarding schools. He was fascinated to see Stowe close up and is keen for Stoics to go out to Bangladesh and enjoy the hospitality of the Cadet Colleges. We were granted an early Field Day for the Fifth Form in March when the Army visited Swynnerton Training Area, Staffordshire, which included night-time blank firing, Training In Built Up Areas, firing on the Dismounted Combat Trainer Range, a night-time inter-section fun laser battle, training for Operations in Built Up Areas and an obstacle course. The RAF visited RAF Benson, which included training in bailing out of a stricken light aircraft and were then shown around Chinook and Puma helicopters. The visit was rounded off by a visit to the helicopter simulator.

CCCF





In March, Group Captain David Manning RAF, Station Commander at RAF Northolt, came to carry out our Biennial Inspection. He found much to praise and the cadets made a real effort. The afternoon was structured as a competition with stands including firing the No 8 rifle in the indoor range, competitive archery and command tasks on the North Front; casualty evacuation; an obstacle course; and a blank firing close quarter battle lane on the Bourbon. Not everyone realises that the CCF is a partnership between the School and the MoD, and inspections of this sort are one of the ways in which the MoD checks that it is getting value for money and continues to fund and support our CCF.

The Summer term started with the Welbeck Science Technology Engineering and Maths Challenge, 11 Brigade's 2016 Military Skills Competition and a Field Day for the Fourth Formers. Ten Fourth Formers took part in the Welbeck Challenge, which included Jacob's ladder, command tasks, first aid, orienteering and STEM tasks sponsored by Airbus UK and the Bloodhound Supersonic Car Project. Meanwhile a team of two Fifth Formers and six Fourth Formers competed against eight other teams in 11 Brigade's Military Skills Competition coming joint sixth.

The competitions were followed straightaway by a Fourth Form Field Day. Six RN cadets travelled to Portsmouth

for basic navigation training on the 50' motor cruiser Blue Swan, tying up in Cowes, Isle of Wight for lunch. The Army cadets visited Major de Gale's old Regiment, 4 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps, Abingdon and took part in activities including live firing the SA80 rifle on the outdoor 25m range and the SA80 and GPMG on the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer. They also visited the REME Section where they were tested on their hand/eye coordination and then went to one of the Regiment's Squadrons to look at armoured vehicles, equipment and various weapon systems. They finished with an inter-section competition involving races loading up magazines, posting a grenade accurately into a trench, rowing machine timed races and timed fitting and taking off the rifle sling. Not to be outdone, three RAF cadets visited the historic Shuttleworth Collection of air material.

In mid-June 31 Fourth Form cadets spent two days adventure training at the RAF Adventure Training Centre at Inskip, near Preston. The first evening was spent on the air rifle and archery ranges followed by a cadets day spent in Alum Pot and Sunset Pot, Yorkshire's largest cave network. All faced a number of underground challenges, including the Cheese Press. Another challenge was appropriately entitled Hell: 200 yards of crawling over rubble and rocks on their stomach and knees. There was also an 18 foot cave abseil and a number of cave climbs; the finale was a





long, waist-high, corridor waddle out of the cave network through icy water. The final day was spent ghyll-scrambling, climbing up waterfalls and jumping from height into refreshingly cold rock pools. Meanwhile 29 Fourth Form cadets visited Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth for a two day acquaint. They were accommodated on the Hindustan, a former minehunter, and had to acclimatise themselves to climbing up and down ladders, avoiding ropes, wires, coamings and other unyielding steel obstacles and had to drive a twin-engine picket boat up and down the River Dart, venturing out to sea and then back in again past the harbour fortifications for manoeuvring exercises. Sunday saw a tour of the Chapel where Peter Entwisle (Fourth Form, Temple), Oscar Hill (Fourth Form, Temple) and Captain Corthine seized the opportunity and joined the College Choir to sing at the formal passing out service for the latest class of RNR midshipmen.

In the final week of the Summer term, 15 cadets took part in the Lake District Adventure Training Camp and tried out climbing, ghyll-scrambling, kayaking, orienteering, drone flying and the traditional climb to the summit of Skiddaw. Forty six cadets went to Wretham Army Camp, Thetford, for their Army Central Camp. All were challenged and had to dig deep on occasion through lack of sleep and home comforts. Some found the camp more challenging than others, but all can be proud of their efforts and proved

that they had more resilience than they may have given themselves credit for. As a team, they were engaged, worked hard, retained their humour and acquitted themselves well, earning compliments for their attitude and efforts. Twenty four cadets earned promotion to Lance Corporal and all proudly achieved their advanced live firing/shooting badges. Alex Harris (Fifth Form, Grafton) and Mar Martinez-Tomas (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) both earned promotion to Sergeant.

We say goodbye to Major Goodall, who is moving to Glenalmond, and wish him well for the future. We thank Lieutenant Eason Bassett, Mr Bray of Stowe Sub-Aqua Club, Colour Sergeant Parkin RM, Sgt Taylor and the staff of 11 Brigade Cadet Training Team and Sergeant Ray Cooper of Test West Area Squadron.

My personal thanks go to Major de Gale, to our dedicated and hard-working team of officers and adult volunteers, Captains Standley, Corthine, and Wilson, Lieutenant Peppiatt, 2nd Lieutenant Le Lacheur, Major Goodall, Flying Officer Murnane, Mr Parnaby and Miss Crook; to Mrs Rebecca Donaldson; and to our Admin Assistant, Mr Liversage. It has been busier than any year in the last ten years and the cadet experience that the team has enabled has been outstanding.

Lt Cdr David Critchley, CCF RNR



A group of beagles and their handlers in a field. The beagles are in the foreground, looking towards the camera. In the background, several people are standing, some holding leashes. The scene is outdoors with trees and a grassy field.

Beagling

We started off another busy year in September with preparations for the upcoming hunting season. As the opening meet drew close, the final preparations were being put in place, and our cohort was high.

The season commenced with the opening meet at Weston, with Bertie Alexander (Lower Sixth, Temple) taking the lead for his second season hunting with the hounds. The weather continued to be kind until October, where we enjoyed a tour of Northumberland and enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Wailes-Fairbairns and met at the home of Adam Waugh MFH (Bruce 89). While we were there we enjoyed a fantastic day of rabbit hunting with Bertie and Hamish Beaton (Upper Sixth, Walpole) where we were joined by the friendly faces of Michael (Bruce 10) and Hugh Leyland (Bruce 73) and Oliver Beazley (Chatham 14). Unfortunately the tour ended with a slightly leaden mood as the bad weather meant we had to cancel our day at the home of Mr and Mrs McKie.

The Michaelmas term ended with a lovely tour to Dorset where we stayed with the Alexanders. Bertie once again took the lead hunting the hounds and finished the two day tour on a high.

Our third and final tour happened in February, to the Bannisters in Yorkshire, where we were greeted by the familiar faces of Michael (Walpole 51) and Nick Bannister (Lyttelton 77). Unfortunately, the February weather caught up with us with the usual cold winds and snow but we were able to enjoy the warm hospitality of Mr and Mrs Sutcliffe, who graciously invited us to the wonderful grouse moors of Kildale Hall. We finished the tour with a day's worth of hunting in the Black Combe Beagles Hunt country and a day's rabbit hunting in the rolling hills of the Lake District.

The Hunt Ball was held in April at Stowe with 200 people attending. Our gratitude goes towards Alistair McGee (Lyttelton 73) whose presence with the beagles is invaluable. Without his help this event would have been a lot harder to organise. Furthermore, I would like to thank

the Stowe Events and the Catering Department, as without their help this would not have happened.

We finished the year on a high with the Puppy Show in June. The Headmaster generously allowed the event to be held on his lawn and it was judged by Adam Waugh MFH and William Spencer MFH. Thirteen puppies were entered and we would like to thank all the puppy walkers that took part.

During my speech at the Puppy Show, I briefly mentioned that part of the job of being Master of the Hounds is to constantly say thank you and express our gratitude. There are a few people whose names come up frequently, and for very good reasons: the Headmaster, without his support we would not be able to continue this activity at Stowe; Mr Strangman (Bruce 57), who supports and organises the Hunter trials which is our biggest fundraiser, without this we would not be able to fund the Beagles; Alistair McGee, who handles the more administrative side of the beagles (which we are all glad we don't have to do), and last but not least, Phil Kennedy, who has seen through countless masters and whippers in, and has always been a mentor and a close friend to us.

And thus, with a busy year gone, all that is left for me to do is wish all the best for the next year's Joint Masters Bertie Alexander and Roddy Bannister (Lower Sixth, Grafton). I know that the full accompaniment of all the hunt staff, Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Freddie Richards (Fourth Form, Bruce), Tom Gurney (Third Form, Grenville) and Harry Heathcote (Third Form, Grenville) will allow them to flourish, and I leave with the knowledge that Bertie's natural aptitude towards the sport and Roddy's encyclopaedic knowledge in the field will make them unstoppable. Annabel, Hamish and I eagerly wait to hear what marvellous feat they will accomplish.

John Shin (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Master of the Hounds



Warriors

Over the October Half term 17 of us confronted our fears and ventured not only to the other side of the world but also out of our comfort zones. We arrived in Johannesburg after the 11 hour flight not quite sure if we were ready for what we had signed up for. The Warriors team welcomed us enthusiastically and took us straight to Rustenburg to skydive at 11,000 metres! Luckily, everyone landed safely, some feeling less sick than others, and we spent the rest of the day relaxing and getting to know the other Warriors. We finished our first day with a Halloween party.

The next day we travelled to base camp and arrived in the evening where we had a traditional South African supper. That night we were lucky enough to sleep in cabins and managed to get a good night's sleep for the coming day. We woke up ready for the 30km hike and stopped on the way to slide down a steep rock face into a pool of water. Finally, after sunset we arrived back at camp, shattered but content with what we had achieved.

The following morning we travelled to Lenyenyeni to visit an orphanage to teach us how different life can be for others. The minute we entered the children were asking to be picked up and hugged. It was a truly touching experience. In the afternoon we had the opportunity to visit an animal sanctuary where we got to play with some young honey badgers and stroke a cheetah.

We travelled on to a luxurious campsite and set up our tents. The next morning we had a busy day visiting a reptile sanctuary where we learnt about the most poisonous snakes in Africa, got to hold a python and feed a lizard. We watched an exhilarating performance of traditional African dances that also explained the history of the tribe. We then got introduced to the lifestyle of the tribe and shared a meal with them, which was delicious. To finish the day, the bravest of us jumped off a 16m dam into freezing water that we later found out was crocodile infested. Later that evening we were trusted to make our own dinner on the braai with some mixed results!

The next day started with a big swing. This was a tandem jump off a cliff with a 68m free fall at 180km/h. After this thrilling activity we set off for 'Elephant Whispers' and learnt about the African elephant. Did you know that twice the circumference of an elephant's foot is its height? After lunch we went abseiling down Lisbon Falls, a 90m waterfall that features in Taylor Swift's 'Wildest Dream' music video. After this tiring day we were rewarded with a well-deserved meal out to celebrate our last full day.

On the last day we constructed our own bridge jump and trusted the rope when we fell face first off the edge of a busy main road bridge. On the way to the airport we made a pit stop at a sports centre to find that we would be mastering the basic skills of self-defence. After two and a half hours of intense exercise we were ready to leave with all our fears conquered. We said our final goodbyes back where we started and left for our flight.

This experience has been all that it was made out to be and much more. We think everyone who went would agree that they would go back to repeat the experience over again and we would recommend this to anyone considering it.

*Amelia Bowder (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)
and Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)*





Chapel

Chapel, the building and significantly, the worshipping life of the community, has continued to be a place for both vibrant and more thoughtful whole School gatherings, and also for quieter, more intimate prayer and stillness. Stowe is most fortunate in its wealth of choral singers and instrumental musicians, who illuminate the liturgy, the regular services of Morning Chapel and more formal Sunday Morning Prayer and Evensong. The amount of preparation and participation by Stoics and our Music Department should never be underestimated, and our worship of God in Christ is so enriched through their dedication.

The new red Cantata Stoica has become our new hymn book, full of both familiar and not-yet-familiar hymns and songs; one of the praise chants has even been adopted on the rugby touchline! I encourage us all to celebrate its nurturing and reflective collection, and even find inspiration in the illustrations.

It has also been very good to continue to encourage Stoics in their offering of House Chapels, which have focused on characteristics and explorations of diverse House themes, such as courage and perseverance. Readers from across all the year groups have offered themselves in Chapel, often showing themselves that initial trepidation can be transformed into poise, pace and confident delivery.

Remembrance Day, Carol Services, Confirmation Services (Anglican and Roman Catholic) and the Leavers' Service have marked the major moments in the path of the School year, and brought us together in both important commemoration and sacramental celebration. Weekly Holy Communion (Eucharist) has been offered, including prayers for the world and the School, and those who have come have found both calm and spiritual nourishment in the gathering and in the thanksgiving.

In addition to the Chaplains, members of staff have also led weekday Chapel, and we have been inspired by short talks on the Saints, Angels, Bible Translations, Peace, Sport and Faith, amongst others.

It has been particularly good to invite and receive the visits of Preachers, reflecting the diversity of both the Christian faith and the make-up of the School community. These have included the Revd Joanna Jepson, the Revd Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Revd Canon J John and the Revd Canon Vinay Samuel.

The Lent Sessions were given over to a practical faith-in-action theme, with welcomed and appreciated visits by a team from Send-a-Cow and a speaker from Christian Aid. Class visits by the former were enthusiastically engaged in, which was good to see.

Another Praise in the Nave Service was led by the Assistant Chaplain, the Revd Sue Sampson, at Stowe Church, where Stoics and staff joined in an informal worship and social occasion.

There were continued and welcomed visits into Houses, ongoing behind-the-scenes pastoral and confidential support for Stoics and staff, and a complementary site-wide presence of both Chaplains.

The new Wynne Society, an occasional invitation to explore and celebrate a journey of faith-in-art (in honour of OS David Wynne), was warmly inaugurated with the visit of Nicholas Mynheer, artist, within the Arts at Stowe programme.

Chapel and Chaplaincy will continue to offer positively and caringly, with the new mission of Revd Sue Sampson (Priest in Charge of Stowe Parish Church) to integrate and re-connect the Parish Church with Chapel in a more meaningful way.

While the whole Stowe community of parish and Chapel will continue to be served by Revd Sampson, Chapel as an encounter and a space will remain integral to Stowe, and it will go on being so. My thanks and blessings to all at Stowe who sustain, support, encourage and engage with the spiritual life of the Chapel.

The Revd Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain



Crossfire

It has been another year in which Stoics (and occasionally staff) have found themselves intrigued, challenged, engaged and encouraged by the person, work and claims of Jesus Christ. Friday evenings in StoweBucks have provided the opportunity to think about the big questions of life that rarely get a look-in during the busy school week.

Jesus Christ and James Bond

Not much similarity between the two, but since the term coincided with the release of 'Spectre' we used the titles of Bond films to think about aspects of the Christian Gospel. 'Live and Let Die' is a route in to thinking about what happened at the cross of Christ; 'Die Another Day' focused on whether we could trust in the eyewitness evidence for Jesus' resurrection; 'The Spy (Saviour) Who Loved Me' was a bit contrived, but it worked!

The BBQs after Half term were as popular as ever with some big questions for speakers to tackle along the lines of fulfilment, suffering and what Christianity says about life after death.

Mr Henry Swayne, MiC Crossfire

A New Purpose: Acts of the Apostles

It was brilliant each week to hear from our speakers of the joy, relevance, excitements and challenges of living for Christ, drawing on lessons from 2,000 years ago in the book, 'Dare to be a Daniel'. Stories of dreams, dens of Lions and downright hostility to a man of faith living thousands of years ago, we looked at the story of Daniel, who dared to stand up for his God in a hostile world.

The Corinthian Warriors

Trudging through in a perfect storm,
announces a moment of quiet sincerity.
Amid twinning lucid mirrors I sit and provoke an
ever so slightly nostalgic rhyme.

Over the bridge, ride the Corinthian Warriors,
charging the long drive with youth and laughter.
The cattle grid threshold slamming home
and in juvenile disbelief we succumb to the fact
that our youth is contained once more.
That sign, and lip-lacking rhyme,
saved me, enslaved me,
impatiently persuaded me to see things unseen
by those seeing things before, be five or be six,
numbers are all that matter in this place where
status is key.

It's not all bad though,
The North Front, a slow and solemn stroll as the
sun sits low upon it blood orange horizon.
George, in sly motionless guster,
is treading to the west,
with all the strength he can muster.

Social after supper,
and conversation magnified by a backdrop of fading
yellow magnitude.
The days are long, and the nights are short.

Summoned by the bell, and teaching ready to be
taught.

We feel safe in this place,
and don't pretend that you don't.

We gently adjust and see up and around it, ever
we complain, but just be glad you didn't end up at
Eton, Uppingham or Oundle.

Now I have never been one for giving advice, I
am bewildered myself, and so have never thought
twice.

But Monday morning is charging the horizon, and
with that, an ultimate opportunity to try and inject
some insight unto you, like so many teachers,
preachers, prayers and men, who have gaily stood
here and failed to do.

And it is this:

Happiness does not correlate with the size of your
home or the price of your shoes, or first class when
you have flown.

It accounts to doing as much of what you love as
humanly possible.

We are merely one more day into the innumerable
sprint, fearful of the finish but far from the
beginning, just do what you love Stoics, and one
day you might find yourself winning.

Alfie Marsden-Smedley (Upper Sixth, Walpole)

ARTS AWARD



Provided by Trinity College, London, the Arts Award programme is a nationally recognised qualification which offers pupils the opportunity to explore any area of the arts in which they have an interest, while developing their leadership skills, independence, sense of initiative and building their self-confidence. It is growing in popularity as an alternative to CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Stowe.

Miss Collette Storzaker and I have continued to lead the 2015-16 programme through many notable successes. Stoics have enjoyed undertaking projects in areas as diverse as photography, design, stage make-up, illustration, acting, singing, playing a musical instrument and writing poetry. Some of these were new skills to the Stoics and some have taken the opportunity to develop their existing talents.

A huge congratulations goes to the following Stoics who were successful in completing their Bronze Arts Award qualification this year:

Oscar Brett (Fourth Form, Chatham), Samai Lamberti (Fourth Form, Queen's), Drayang Lhamo (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Emilia Pacia (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Christiana Robinson (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Edward Rød-Larsen (Fourth Form, Chatham), Emma Rød-Larsen (Fourth Form, Stanhope), Isabel Ward (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Olivia Yan (Fourth Form, Lyttelton).

Doric Buxton (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Georgia Charlton-Briggs (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) also impressively achieved their Silver Awards.

We are delighted to now be able to offer the Gold Award at Stowe; with an increased emphasis on developing leadership skills, this will result in candidates achieving UCAS points to strengthen their university applications.

To enhance the pupils' understanding and appreciation of the arts, we run a number of Field Days throughout the year, inspired by the unique interests of the group. In the Michaelmas term they went to Milton Keynes Theatre and took part in a workshop that taught them how to apply special effects stage make-up to create gory-looking wounds and bruises – as we suspected this was a hugely popular exercise. They also took part in a directing workshop, which taught them some useful skills to bring back to the Drama classroom.

In the Lent term the group took part in a day's filmmaking workshop on creativity and expression. For many this was a new skill that built their confidence in making and editing videos and allowed them to reflect on the successes of their Arts Award journey so far. The final film was completed to such a high standard that it has subsequently been used to advertise the Arts Award to the Third Form Stoics.

In the Summer term the pupils planned their own trip to build their confidence and independence. They decided how best to incorporate the interests of all members of the group and the final result was a trip to Oxford to take in the Ashmolean Museum and see Bryony Lavery's creative new imagining of the classic novel, 'Brideshead Revisited' at the Oxford Playhouse.

We are extremely excited to welcome our biggest cohort yet of Third Form Stoics onto the Bronze Award next year and look forward to supporting them as they develop their creative passions.

Miss Lucy Brassell, MiC Arts Award





Arts at Stowe

Arts at Stowe continues to bring a wide range of artists, musicians and theatre companies to Stowe. It has been a year of many memorable performances and exhibitions.

The past year has seen many joint initiatives between Arts at Stowe and the Arts Faculty including workshops and exhibitions with professional artists in paint, print and textiles, masterclasses in music with the likes of Philip Fowke and most notably 'Don't Stand By'. This was a tribute to Sir Nicholas Winton MBE on Holocaust Memorial Day that showcased Stoics performing alongside The Adderbury Ensemble and some of our exceptionally talented teachers. An evening of music and prose that both delighted and moved the audience to tears from one moment to the next. Another successful partnership with the English Department brought about a stunning performance by the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy and LiTTLe MACHiNe with 'Dark Rose for Christmas'.

Some of our most remarkable evenings have been in the Ugland Auditorium, from the flutes of Luminance, with the upbeat vibe of the Dixie Project to the mellow tones

of Judie Tzuke, our audiences have not only enjoyed the performances, but also the beautiful sound of the auditorium. From the Japanese drumming of 'Way of the Drum', the complex jazz rhythms of Darius Brubeck to the intricate and complicated guitar playing of Antonio Forcione, the Auditorium is a testament to the pursuit of excellence in music at Stowe.

Theatre has been no less noteworthy, with a fantastic menu of children's theatre including the ever popular Blunderbus and the brilliant Lempen Puppet Theatre with 'Little Frankenstein'. We have enjoyed supporting School productions over the year and will continue to promote them to a wider audience. One of the theatrical highlights of the year was 'Stones in his Pocket', transporting the Roxburgh Hall to a Hollywood set in rural Ireland. It charmed the audience and offered Stoics a great opportunity to see high quality theatre on their doorstep.

Come rain or shine we have made the most of our beautiful grounds with the return of The HandleBards with outdoor performances of 'Much Ado About Nothing' and 'Richard III'. Thanks to stormy weather, we have discovered that the





South Front Portico makes a fantastic theatre space and Stoics playing football on the North Front provide great sound effects for the battle scenes of 'Richard III' when performing at the Temple of Concord and Victory.

Other stunning evenings have included the Fingask Follies, a black-tie dinner and revue by the wonderful Follies team at Fingask Castle in Dundee, enjoyed by our Senior Prefects as guests of the Headmaster. Stoics also enjoyed night of pop and rock with BEN² and appreciated an end of term treat with the Cambridge Footlights revue. Finally, a wonderful time was had by all at the Miles Nottage Jazz Concert where a local group raised thousands of pounds for the Cancer Research Relay for Life.

So, as we head towards summer theatre schools, chamber music courses, specialist art classes and the Florence Academy of Art, we are planning next year's menu of delights. These include masterclasses with Ingrid Jacoby, Martyn Jackson and Red Priest. Apollo5 will be working with all the Houses for the House Singing competition and we are looking

forward to a Christmas carol concert by the Choir of St Clare College, Cambridge. We have countless talks, workshops, art exhibitions and theatre performances throughout the year, all free to Stoics, and supported by a growing local audience and membership.

If you would like to know more about our programme or would like to support Arts at Stowe by becoming a member, please find us on the School website or email us at arts@stowe.co.uk.

Deborah Howe, Acting Director Arts at Stowe





Stowe Parents enjoyed another busy and successful year with a wide range of events at Stowe, in London and further afield.

We started the year with the Headmaster's Garden Tour, and whilst the weather was mixed, the tour was entertaining and informative, with the added bonus of champagne and lunch. Later in the year Anna McEvoy, the Stowe House Custodian took us on a tour of Stowe, explaining the story of the House and the family behind it, as well as detailing the work that has gone into the £22 million restoration of the Mansion.

Stowe Parents supported a variety of musical events at the School. The annual Remembrance Day concert included Piano Concerto performances, together with Mozart's Requiem. Beauty and the Beast came to the Roxburgh Theatre in February and Stowe Parents enjoyed a finger buffet and VIP seating to a show of West End standards. A completely different show was enjoyed by over 50 parents, when Wild Willy Barrett's French Connection brought us an eclectic mix of folk, blues, rock and punk, performed within the classical splendour of the State Music Room, accompanied by some lovely French cheese and wine. The Pre-Speech Day Concert was provided by Tony Hadley, supported by Miles Nottage's band and BEN², Stowe Parents picnicked in the sunshine prior to enjoying VIP seating for an amazing concert. We capped off the musical events in June with a rather soggy Summer Jazz, relocated from its traditional place outside into the Ugland Auditorium, but Stowe parents still enjoyed picnics on laps, together with champagne, whilst listening to our own Stowe Big Band and the Senior Jazz combo.

With London so easy to get to for many parents, we held a number of events there during the year. A great start is the Headmaster's London lunch, when over 100 parents joined us at the Lansdowne Club for a drinks reception followed by lunch. In March Stowe Parents went 'Around the World in 90 minutes' at the British Museum, this exclusive guided tour took in treasures of the museum and was followed by a delicious lunch in the Great Court restaurant. In June we took an atmospheric tour of the East and West Cemetery at Highgate.

Retail therapy is always enjoyed by our parents, and this year we managed two VIP shopping trips to Bicester Village, firstly in November and then in April. With exclusive use of the VIP lounge, champagne breakfast, light lunch and afternoon tea plus hands free shopping – it really is the best way to shop!

Our final event of the year was a day at the Henley Royal Regatta, with entry into the historic Leander Club, where we were hosted for luncheon and afternoon tea. We were lucky enough to watch the racing from the comfort of the Steward enclosure.

Leaving the best until last, in April 42 parents took a two day trip to beautiful Lake Como, staying in the 5* splendour of the Villa D'Este. On our first evening we enjoyed an incredible meal at the hotel in the Napoleon Room. A packed day followed, which included a walking tour of Como, a trip up the vehicular railway, a tour of Milan, lunch in the Dolce and Gabbana restaurant and finally a viewing of Leonardo Da Vinci's 'Last Supper'. In the evening we took a boat trip on Como to the Island of Comacina, where we followed in the footsteps of many Hollywood stars and dined at the restaurant on the island, finishing the evening with the 'exorcism of fire' made even more impressive as lightening forked across the lake.

We have had a fabulous year, and really hope that even more parents will join us at events next year: all parents of children at Stowe are welcome, and as you can see, our aim is to have some fun whilst meeting other parents, and, of course, visiting some great places.

I should like to thank all the committee for organising the events and supporting them during the year.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the incredible support of the School, especially my Co-Chair Crispin Robinson, our Treasurer Liz Huxley-Capurro, and Elena Hughes, Tori Roddy and Arron Quainton, who all put in a huge amount of work to make sure all these events run smoothly.

Mrs Michelle Feasey, Co-Chair Stowe Parents



Development Office

Progress on the new Science Building is currently on time and on budget, with the fantastic new Science facilities due to become operational in the Michaelmas term. It boasts six Chemistry, Physics and Biology Laboratories, six Lecture Theatres, three Prep Rooms and a Sixth Form Study Centre. This new building is set to inspire and support from the Stowe community for this project has been incredible.

There are exciting plans elsewhere in the School: significantly the ball is rolling to revamp the Design and Technology Department, which is a challenging and vibrant part of the curriculum. The concept and user briefs are in place and we are looking to design and future proof the project.

The need to expand our indoor sports facilities has also come to the fore of late. The increasing provision of sports makes the need for indoor space pressing. Approximately 15 home fixtures take place on a Saturday with many additional fixtures during the week. We achieve incredible results against much larger schools, and even universities, in multiple sports. Talented sports stars of tomorrow are being educated and coached at Stowe: we have many international, regional and county players. With this need in mind, a concept for expansion has been passed and we are working on designs. We look forward to bringing you more news on this and other exciting developments in the coming months.

The impact of improvements to our facilities is immediately obvious through the increased achievement of Stoics. Since the opening of our stunning new Music School, Stowe's musicians have gone from strength to strength. Their thirst for improvement and their drive to succeed is inspiring, as are their achievements. This year alone, three of our Music Scholars have been accepted into the prestigious Royal Academy and another has been selected for the National Youth Orchestra.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the South African Scholars programme, which provides truly life-changing opportunities and experiences for young people from the Dominican Convent School, Johannesburg. These pupils spend a year at Stowe and have the opportunity to be educated by superb teachers in magnificent surroundings. Their time and friendships at the School also help Stoics to look beyond their own horizons, forge new partnerships, see how others live and demonstrate the opportunities available to them.

All the scholarships and bursaries available at Stowe sponsor the pursuit of excellence. They offer the opportunity to pupils from all backgrounds to add to the exciting and increasingly diverse Stowe community; every donation to our Scholarships and Bursary Fund is an investment in the future of a talented and deserving Stoic.

Mr Ben Mercer, Development Director

Rugby



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1st XV

Upon reflection, the 2015-2016 season will be one viewed with immense pride but also with an equal amount of frustration.

Following a brisk but tough Pre-Season in the north of England, Stowe quickly realised, via a bruising encounter with Kirkham Grammar School, the physicality and game management required to survive a fixture list that highlights Stowe's place as one of the top rugby schools in the country.

Stowe started the season incredibly brightly with a comprehensive 29-0 victory away to Oakham, with Charlton Kerr running riot and showcasing the potential that led to him being rewarded a professional 7s contract with the England 7s Academy. Stowe then continued with an incredibly exasperating loss to Warwick; but two excellent wins followed against RGS High Wycombe at home and Cokethorpe away in the NatWest Cup.

Sadly, Stowe failed to capitalise on this momentum and a poor performance against Oundle left us licking our wounds. The character of the team, under the mature and decisive leadership of Gregor Haldane, was shown to its potential as they re-grouped and put in a string of top performances to beat a highly thought after Epsom College in one of the best performances on the North Front this season, as well as Pangbourne College in the Cup competition. Furthermore, the Senior squad illuminated the character and strength in depth to lose by only a score to Bromsgrove, the eventual

NatWest Cup winners, with a team that was ravaged by injuries.

Following Half term, Stowe went on a five match unbeaten run – beating teams such as Uppingham, Cheltenham College and Monmouth. Stowe also progressed through to the last 32 of the NatWest Cup with a notable victory over Sir Thomas Rich's.

The last game of the 'normal' season was against Bedford away, and this game epitomised everything that is great about schoolboy rugby. Two very good teams going hammer and tongs for the full 80 minutes. Unfortunately, Stowe came out second best on the day losing 7-0.

After the Christmas break, Stowe progressed into the last 16 of the NatWest Cup with a comprehensive 34-7 win against Portsmouth Grammar. Sadly, Stowe failed to make an impression against RGS High Wycombe in the last 16, a game which we could, and should, have won but sadly we were on the wrong end of the scoreboard, losing 14-0.

Whilst this performance did leave everyone involved feeling incredibly frustrated, the season was a hugely successful one with Stowe winning 11 of the 16 games played. A huge thank you must be said to all the players involved – but especially to the Upper Sixth leavers who have been valiant servants of the game and to the School for their time here.

Mr Alan Hughes and Mr Michael Rickner

PLAYED 12, WON 3, DREW 1, LOST 8

Whilst the season statistics do not make for particularly positive reading, they do not paint an entirely clear picture of the week-to-week travails of the hard-working and committed squad of players who represented the 2nd XV.

An early Pre-Season match against Bedford went well and it ended in a 15-15 draw, so there was reason to be optimistic. Unfortunately those starting 15 players didn't play as a team again as the rigours of Senior rugby meant that injuries to the 1st XV became an issue that affected selection in ensuing matches. The games against Oakham, Warwick and RGS High Wycombe were lost, but by a margin of less than 10 points, so we were competing well, but did not seem to have the finishing power to score. The defeat to an impressive Oundle side was due to us being outpaced once they got the ball wide, despite our improving defensive organisation. The Stowe forwards were athletic and mobile, but were lighter than most opposition packs who found that they gained ground and points by using the catch and drive tactic which was very difficult to defend.

At the mid-point of the season the squad was growing frustrated with a lack of success, although it is always a mark of the strength of character of certain players who doggedly stuck to the task and remained positive and upbeat at each training session and match. Players like Captain Sam Riley, Oscar Pegg, Ollie Pell, Adam Ezomo, Jack Flood and Freddie Paling led by example and deserve much credit for their willingness to reflect maturely and reset their sights on the next challenge.

With four matches to go Mr Lloyd decided to change our pre-match preparation to one with an increased intensity. This had an effect and we hit the ground running against Uppingham. Stowe produced a determined and resolute performance and at last we enjoyed running in four tries and a comfortable victory which was certainly well deserved. With our spirits high, we maintained our desire and level of effort, gaining further wins against Shrewsbury and Cheltenham. A contributing factor for these victories was the emergence of Sol Boyd, who played at full-back. Sol's place kicking was outstanding and seeing the scoreboard tick over, as he successfully knocked over place kicks from seemingly anywhere in the opposition's half, lifted the team enormously.

The 2nd XV were by no means a weak side and all matches were relatively close encounters. The nature of the very tough fixture list however, does mean that we play big schools who on many occasions did have particularly good Senior squads. A lot was learnt from the season, even though some lessons were painful. Leaders stepped forward, the ability to control emotions was tested and resilience was required on several occasions. It will always be easier to have a season full of victories and that is what we will always strive for.

Mr Craig Sutton



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PLAYED 10, WON 10

From quite early on we knew this season would be a special one. After the game against RGS High Wycombe, perhaps the finest comeback of the season, the team sensed something remarkable might happen. During the post-match team talk a wager that involved a curry night if we went unbeaten for the entire season was arranged. Little did we know then that the team would go from strength to strength and that a curry night would be enjoyed by all.

We were lucky that we maintained the core of the team for the entire season, and managed to cultivate a magnificent team spirit that made each player strive for excellence in each and every game. To win every single match in a season is no mean feat and the boys should be hugely proud of the fact; a statistic that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

The team's success was built upon the strength of the pack, with the front five being dominant throughout. How many scrums were won against the head? How many lineouts did Harry Cook steal? Josh Laurence and Sam Lodge were solid all the way through the season and a set piece won most of the balls on offer. The back row personnel were more varied, but whoever played did so with determination and power to win the tussle at the breakdown on most occasions. Seb Stone, rightly promoted to the 2nds early on, started the ball rolling and the mantle was taken up by Jack Dickerson, George Markham and Nikko Elliott who all tackled their hearts out and produced quick ball for the back line.

At half-back, Edwin Rimlinger and Jack Foreman worked seamlessly together and both had the ability to spot a gap and accelerate through it. Edwin was unlucky not to win



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more Man of the Match awards, and was probably the most consistent player throughout the season. Our best weapons were the strong running and light of foot backs. How many times did Ollie Woodward or Allwell Opuala-Charles glide through the opposition's back line? How many times did Fabian Bevan put in thumping tackles to stop the opposition? Who could forget his try of the season when he ran like the wind down the touchline to score against Epsom? With the electric pace of Edward Tilleard and the dancing feet of Tobi Onafeko, who scored tries almost at will, our wingers were also huge in defence.

Individual matches do not need to be mentioned in this report, although I would like to mention two; RGS High

Wycombe and Bedford. RGS came with strong intentions and at half time were 5-0 up. However, from somewhere the boys summoned up enormous spirit to come back from the dead to win convincingly, scoring 17 unanswered second half points. After such a magnificent run, the finale was set up against a very fine Bedford side that had only lost once. Again, the team rose up to defeat the opposition away from home. Their 'never say die' spirit displayed itself against a surprised Bedford, who never really stood a chance. Emotions were high and the team celebrated with plenty of post-match Krispy Kremes in the changing room!

Two players stand out, the first an open side flanker who, despite his less-than-huge physical presence, could rip the ball out of anyone's grasp and sidestep and dummy his way over oppositions' try lines. Freddie Phillips has been our Man of the Season and his play was summed up with the magnificent solo effort against Bedford where he simply took the ball from the opponent and sidestepped through ten players to score a wonderful try. Finally the Captain, Harry Norris, has led the team from the front and has been a mature and charismatic leader. Team talks, inspiring emails when injured, big tackles and the inventor of the best kicking game, Harry has led this team from start to finish and can be delighted with all he has achieved. I am sure that when he looks back at his school life in years to come, he will remember his final year playing rugby more than being Head Boy!

Thank you for such a wonderful season, from both my co-coach Mr Teasdale and myself; it has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all.

Mr Brian Hart

4th XV

PLAYED 9, WON 4, DREW 1, LOST 4

Compared to the stellar seasons enjoyed by their colleagues in the 3rd and 5th XV's, this was by no means a gilded fourteen weeks for the 4th XV, but nevertheless an enjoyable and, at times, successful one.

The season began with a highly structured friendly at home to Bedford, the result of which (although we won handsomely) has been deposited down the Stowe sport memory hole. Consequently, our first game was a rampaging 57-19 victory at a struggling Oakham. We followed this up with a much tougher test against RGS High Wycombe, whose superior power subdued the Stoics. Similar results against Oundle and Epsom, neither side purveyors of pulsating rugby, but both strong and well-organised, prompted a revision of the Stoics' own Corinthian game plan.

They are a talented bunch but, unfortunately, talent was not enough to dispatch Bromsgrove in the final game before Half term: the Stoics dominated all aspects of play but could not see off their opponents and the match concluded, frustratingly, in a 19-19 draw.

It was a group depleted by injuries, university visits and other commitments, who gathered their passports for a trip to Monmouth after Half term. This make-shift line-up performed admirably to win 27-20 in a Welsh maelstrom.

Two home games against Uppingham and Cheltenham followed, and while the location may have changed, the conditions hadn't. The Stoics adapted well, dominating the Rutland boys in a 35-5 win then coming back from a losing position to win 24-15 in their best performance of the season against an organised Cheltenham outfit. Sadly they could not repeat their success in the final game of the season at Bedford where undoubted tiredness and ill-discipline in the face of some pedantic officiating saw them lose 27-17.

The season's statistics read: played 9, won 4, drawn 1, lost 4, with a points difference of plus 19. This shows how well-matched, in general, the Stoics were to their opponents, often from far larger schools than ours.

Of the regular 4th team players, several stood out. Captain Freddie Pope was 'Mr Reliable' with the boot and orchestrated with vigour a pacey back line. Outside him Harry Dunn and Arthur Vickers ran hard and fast and the mercurial Ben Peck scored some excellent tries. Charlie Leefe was ever-present at scrum-half. In the forwards, Tom Carr was dangerous in broken play, Freddie Allhusen was a solid presence in the engine room and in the back row we were blessed with George Markham and Nikko Elliott, who were ultimately elevated to the 3rd XV, while Jack Dickerson came up from the 5ths and was always in the thick of things. Alfie Kingham, James Creedy Smith and the terrier-like Georges Tasker all put in commendable shifts.



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Overall, we may not have enjoyed the glory of some of the other Senior XV's, but the 4ths, in their own way – at times accomplished, at others frustrating, but consistently upbeat – had a season to remember. My final words should be thank you to co-coach Mr Quinn, whose hard work and wry wit was genuinely appreciated by the Stoics.

Dr Charlie Standley

5th XV

The team went into their first official game against Oakham full of confidence on the back of a convincing win against Bedford. The Oakham game was fairly even in the opening exchanges with both sides creating good opportunities but lacking the end product. The emphasis during the half time talk was on keeping discipline and trying to off-load before going to ground. This was executed brilliantly in the second half and the 52-12 win was richly deserved, capping a great team effort with nine different try scorers.

Oundle used their strong ball carrying forwards to good

effect against a tackle-shy Stowe in the next game, where the team suffered their only defeat of the season. In atrocious weather conditions against Uppingham they took an early lead. Stowe took control of the game with three successive tries and then put another 17 points on the scoreboard in the second half to win 34-17.

In the Cheltenham match, the 5th XV matched a fine defensive performance with some scintillating attacking play. This was a great team effort and the 36-0 win was a fair reflection of the game.



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The team pulled out all the stops to end the season on a huge high. In the final moments of the game it was 29-22 to Stowe and both teams were defending for their lives. Eventually the pressure told with Bedford committing too many mistakes. This was another superb team effort and the 36-22 victory was a great end to a great season.

The team was superbly led by Captain Alvaro de la Vega and the following players should also be congratulated for their 100% attendance in all six matches: Avijit Nair, Jamey Lewis, Jack Staveley, Piers Edinborough, Luc Abbot-Davies, Miles Bell, Theo Lewis, Guy Seddon, Finn Shillington and Jasper Gibbons.

Mr Isaac Michael

Colts A

The Colts A team embarked on a Pre-Season tour with the 1st XV to Blackpool and a game against Kirkham Grammar School, resulting in a good win, started the season on a positive note.

The boys worked hard in training and narrowly lost a warm-up game with Bedford; they did, however, show promise of some very open running rugby to come. Taju Atta was chosen to captain the side, and players were challenged to play in a different more mature style. Our second

game came against Oakham, with Stowe prevailing 34-22. The boys squandered a few chances late on, and learnt some lessons about how to control a game from start to finish, as well as the need to play as a team.

The following week we played a very strong Warwick team and the boys let apprehension get the better of them – a key lesson for all young rugby players to learn. After Mr Moffat put the boys through their paces in training, and with a few changes to the starting line-up, the team bounced back with a 39-0 win over Oundle. The best win of the season. We were beginning to see regular try-scorers in Dan Biss, Kristian Kay and Will Garrett emerge, whilst Calum Renshaw kept the scoreboard ticking over nicely with an accurate boot and quality service from Adam King.

After a narrow loss in a hard game against Epsom College, the boys came back to play very well against Bromsgrove to win 25-21, with Dan Jolker very nearly scoring a length of the pitch break-away. Unfortunately, this was to be the final win of the season, and although the boys kept fighting hard, narrow losses against Monmouth and Uppingham (in terrible conditions) followed. We then travelled to Cheltenham College, where unfortunately in poor conditions Cheltenham scored in the final play to win the game, and once again confirmed the need to control games through to the very end.

The boys worked well all season and were ably led by Taju Atta, who was an inspiration. Many of the squad went on to make their 1st XV debuts in Cup competitions and all should be congratulated for the progress they made. Mr Moffat and I are confident that the boys will continue their good work in the Senior teams next season.

Mr Tom Elwell



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Colts B

The Colts B team had a challenging season against some strong sides and won three of their nine matches. All looked very promising with an outstanding 62-14 victory against Oakham in the first match of the season. The team ran in 10 tries with Tom Garel-Jones and Jim Jackman scoring a brace and Totse Jemide, Alexander Perez-Buchanan, Tom Pearson, Luke Aust, James Carley and Lucas Colville all chipping in with a try each. The team recovered after three straight losses with an excellent 38-19 victory against Bromsgrove and followed this with a fine 12-0 win against Monmouth. The team put in a great deal of effort in the last three games against Uppingham, Cheltenham and Bedford but were unable to force home a victory. The team has certainly improved its mental toughness over the course of the season and most of the team should be pushing for places in the Senior 3rd XV next season.

Mr Isaac Michael



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Colts C

This year's Colts C team displayed a fantastic level of group commitment and it was hugely impressive to see them pull together as an effective sporting unit. The high levels of skill within the C team underlined the incredible strength in depth that has long been a feature of Stowe rugby, and this year was no exception. Ably and effectively captained by our scrum-half Jamie Jackson, the C team came up against a raft of stiff opposition but continued to fight their corner for the entire season.

The highlight of the Michaelmas term was a thumping 26-5 victory over Cheltenham College, played with tenacity and teamwork to warm the heart. Special mention must go to the fearsome group of forwards, rightly feared by opposition sides. As undisputed pack leader, Pierse Odell cut an impressive figure as he routinely charged through the middle of the field, with legendary tackler Guy Woodhouse often found offering key support. Alex Harris and Murray de Klee worked overtime at every opportunity, alternately running out in open play or scything down the opposition in electrifying style while Philip Birdwood made a habit of scoring tries.

The back line had its own stars this year, with Jamie Jackson and Ed Huser making one of the most co-ordinated and effective scrum-half/fly-half combinations this level of rugby has witnessed in a long time. With James Gill and Nicholas Montgomery serving as powerful runners but also talented tacticians, this team really did work together in a positive and laudable fashion.

Mr Roland Johnson

Junior Colts A

Way back at the start of this academic year the Junior Colts A team began a very important season. This was the players' first taste of a National Schools' competition, giving them an opportunity to play schools off Stowe's traditional circuit and the excitement of a potential Cup run. So, it was with great optimism and energy that we entered Pre-Season training and a warm-up match against Bedford.

The team opened their account against Oakham, a match where the pieces we had been working on in training fell into place and the boys looked good for their 33-12 victory. Two difficult fixtures against Warwick and RGS High Wycombe followed, with a respectable display during a loss to Warwick being followed by one of the low points of our season, a 62-12 loss to RGS High Wycombe.

Early in October, Stowe welcomed Oundle for their annual fixture. It turned into a fantastic match, both teams deserving to come away with the victory. Unfortunately for us Oundle just won the game 17-15. Stowe played brilliantly and regained confidence going into their next match against Epsom College. Epsom's backs were quick and strong, causing the Stowe defence all kinds of problems, meaning we struggled for a foothold in the game and eventually went down 42-10.

A classy Bromsgrove side put on a spectacle the following week. With strength and depth across their whole squad, the Stowe team needed gutsy defence and determination to keep the scoreline to 57-3. Stowe continued their fine form in the Cup with a 14-10 win against Sharnbrook Upper School.



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Stowe travelled to Cheltenham College for their penultimate match. The Stowe pack had led the way for the majority of the season, but it was this game where the backs really fronted up. A re-match against Bedford was our last game of the season. We were by far the better team on the day, but the match came right down to the wire. Stowe had been unlucky at times during the season, but this time luck was with us and the team recorded a memorable 8-7 victory to cap the season off in style.

Well done to all those involved this season, your commitment and desire to improve at training will stand you in good stead for the future and I hope to see many of you representing the 1st XV in a few years.

Mr Andrew Jackson

Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B team won four of their ten matches played during the season and got off to an impressive start beating Oakham 24-12, with tries coming from William Osei-Poku, Al-Ameen Atekoja, Oliver Pritchard and Harry Arkwright. Captain Lochie Shillington converted two of the tries. Although the determination and hard work was there for all to see, the team had to wait five matches for their next win, which was an eagerly awaited 26-7 victory against Monmouth. Try scorers on the day were Tavish Struthers, Paolo Alvigini, William Osei-Poku and Rollo Jacobson with Lochie Shillington converting three.

Almost like London buses, two other victories followed in succession against Uppingham, 57-0, and Cheltenham, 24-7. The team really showed their character overcoming a string of defeats to finish the season strongly. This bodes well for next season.

Mr Isaac Michael



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Junior Colts C

It was an excellent season for the Junior Colts C team, winning seven out of ten games. The team was nominated 'Team of the Week' twice after excellent wins against Monmouth and Cheltenham. However, the best games are always the tightest ones and the team's fighting spirit was evident in last minute wins against Oundle, Epsom and RGS High Wycombe. Losses came due to the team's insistence on playing expansive rugby, despite unfavourable conditions, when a tighter game would have been more suitable. Individual stand-out performances and notable contributions were given by fly-half and reliable goal kicker Tom Worrall, 'never-say-die' Captain Max Satchell and second row engines Freddie Richards and Isaac David.

Mr Toby Le Lacheur

Yearlings A

PLAYED 12, WON 7, LOST 5

This was a challenging debut season for the Yearlings who came up against sides that were much bigger physically and although the boys showed tenacity in defence, as they say up North, "if there's anything that can beat a good little 'un, it's a good big 'un" and so it proved against the likes of Oundle who had some monsters.

That said, there are individuals within the squad who have some delightful skills and going forward they will hone these talents as they become elusive and imaginative in their play to seek space and gaps in the opposition's defence. It is hoped that as our players evolve and mature they will gradually overtake some of their illustrious counterparts in other schools.



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Yearlings B

We entered this year group in the County Cup to give them the opportunity to play a few games before the season began. The boys enjoyed success against their local state school counterparts and went on to reach the Final competing against RGS High Wycombe, who not only had some heavier individuals but also had more pace, and proved comfortable winners in the end.

As the season progressed there were changes in the side and eventually they gelled as a team and started to play some cohesive rugby. This culminated in their final match against The Perse which ended in a 26-26 draw after going down by two early tries from the opposition. This strength of character was also demonstrated in their penultimate match when they came from 17-0 down with four minutes to go to

bring the score back to 17-12. This will serve the boys well in their future years and bodes well for next season when their fixture list will be even more extensive.

Encouragingly, the side has the ability to move the ball wide and exploit space in those channels. Supporting those outside breaks is their next challenge. This style of wide-attacking rugby is something they must persevere with in order to achieve more success. We do not want to play like one or two of our opponents, who simply pick up and go around the fringes using their sheer physicality at the expense of talent wider out. It will be interesting to see this group of players develop over the next two years before they graduate into the Senior squad.

Mr Alan Hughes

The Yearlings B team have had a mixed season with some excellent victories and some close defeats. We started the season with a 41-5 win over QES Barnet, with a new set of players gelling well. A powerful forward display set the scene for the rest of the season with Theo Kyriacou opening the account. On the wing, Chipper Shore-Hollingworth used his pace to score and Harry Burnet, Captain and goal-kicker, converted. Next, a solid win against Oundle 25-10 with Dave Dooley crashing over from short range and Aymen Riahi finishing brilliantly.

With a good win against Uppingham in terrible conditions, confidence in the team and the season was growing, Finlay Dickerson added to his scoring account and the boys were playing good quality rugby, drawing players in before spreading the ball wide.

Unfortunately, the next game against Stamford led to our first defeat, with our previously solid defence leaking a couple of easy tries. With a loss to The Perse the following week, we went back to basics in training, working on defensive shape and structure. There was then a pleasing end to the season, with a re-match against Uppingham

leading to a 24-0 win; the boys put their training into account to not concede. Mr Hart and I would like to thank the boys for their hard work this season; we were pleased with their application in training and the effort they put into each match.

Mr Tom Elwell



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Yearlings C



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The Yearlings C team will look back on this season with a justified sense of pride about their achievement. With six victories from seven games and an excellent mean points average of 30 per game, the team is well positioned for success in the future.

The season started well with victories against The Leys and QES Barnet. There were some brilliant individual performances, notably from the finishing machine that is Felix Holland-Bosworth, who can effortlessly glide through a tight defence from often unthinkable scenarios. As the season progressed,

Yearlings D

the forwards began playing more as a unit and provided a solid platform for the backs to work from; Nathan Lavelle and Alfie Cliff provided much of the power and physicality in this area. The 10-12 partnership of Joshua McCallum and Oliver Taylor was magnificent with their chance creation for the wider men. Bertie Bryant and Rory Trotman finished on many occasions with aplomb.

The boys will be disappointed with their narrow loss to Oundle but this is all part of their rugby development. Mr Ray Dawson and I have been thoroughly impressed by what a hard-working team this is. With this approach I would not be surprised to see success on the rugby pitch for many years to come from this group of players.

Mr Matthew Teasdale

Out of the five games played the Yearlings D team achieved a great record with four wins against The Leys (48-5), Oundle (29-17), Uppingham (51-0) and The Perse (19-12), and a draw against QES Barnet (5-5). The team amassed 152 points, only conceding 39.

Despite the team's lack of experience it was clear from the start of the season that the boys would play each game with enthusiasm and determination. It was an excellent performance from the whole team and the boys are a credit to the School.

Mr Isaac Michael



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With the 1st XV doing well in the NatWest Cup, the beginning of the Senior 7s season was somewhat interrupted. However, under the expert guidance of Mr Sutton, the team was quickly up and running and into full swing by the time the Oakham Senior 7s tournament came around.

The team put in a superb effort throughout the day; beating Stamford, The Perse and Oakham on their way to the final, sadly losing to a very well-drilled Bedford School. However, this tournament highlighted the huge potential this team possessed.

The next tournament was the Solihull 7s. On a day where every weather system passed through south Birmingham, Stowe put together a variety of excellent performances, whether it was beating a very tough and much fancied Myerscough College team with a 'never say die' defensive effort, or beating Shrewsbury, King Edward's, Birmingham and Sandbach with free-flowing rugby. However, much like the XV's season, Stowe frustrated their coaches with what could be described as a thoughtless performance, with a loss to Warwick in the knockout stages of the competition.

However, much to the credit of the players, they then returned to Stowe and worked hard and prepared well for the Rosslyn Park National 7s.

Stowe entered the newly formed Cup competition – which must not be understated in terms of its ruthlessness, difficulty and pressurised environment. Only one team progresses from each extremely tough and competitive group, which is made up from five of the very best schools and colleges in the UK.

Stowe began the National Competition with a superb display beating St Benedict's, Ealing; however, this could not be built upon, immediately losing to a well-drilled Brighton College. Thus, the pressure was on Stowe: we needed to beat the final two teams in the group and beat them handsomely. Stowe, marshalled superbly by Charlton Kerr, was able to do this and we progressed from one of the toughest first day groups on points difference.



SENIOR 7S

Colts 7s

The Colts 7s rugby season proved to be one of deep frustration in the final reckoning as inclement weather meant only two tournaments were possible. Added to this, constant calendar clashes meant that the 7s training programme was decimated as only two out of the eight Thursday training sessions resulted in meaningful practice, when vital tactical awareness and fitness conditioning could have been instilled in a team which had huge potential.

The Oakham tournament saw Stowe dominate a tough-looking group with impressive wins against Bedford (31-12), Bromsgrove (41-0) and RHS Holbrook (32-19). Hosts Oakham were swept aside 31-16 in the semi-final before the team lost 12-10 to Uppingham in the final having ran out of steam when the side needed it most.

The National 7s tournament at Rosslyn Park was the finale to the season. Once again Stowe breezed through their group with strong wins against Birkdale (53-0), Woodbridge (57-0), St Olave's Grammar (31-0) and Arnold KES (19-5) before a resounding win against St Joseph's, Ipswich (35-12) in the first knockout match. In the last 16 Stowe took to the show pitch against a talented New Hall team. Leading 21-10 with 90 seconds on the clock Stowe looked to have booked their

place in the quarter-final until two last gasp tries saw the opposition pip Stowe 22-21 at the final whistle. This was undoubtedly an opportunity lost, given the opposition went on to lose in the final by a solitary point.

Taju Atta was the stand-out player of the team and he has a very bright future in this form of the game, being probably player of the entire tournament at the Nationals. Dan Biss, Adam Williamson and Calum Renshaw also excelled on a consistent basis whilst François Pearce, Kristian Kay and Will Garrett all shone on occasions during the two tournaments. Many thanks to Mr Copley for his expert guidance during the truncated season.

Mr Gavin Moffat



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On the second day Stowe faced Millfield School in the last 16 of the National Cup Competition. Unfortunately, despite a great performance, Millfield narrowly won 12-17. This placed the team back into a group competing in the National Plate Competition. Stowe, entering games six, seven and eight of the competition, put together three really top rate performances beating Coleg Sir Gar, John Fisher and St Joseph's.

Having displayed grit, flair and 'bloody-mindedness' in getting through the above group, Stowe deservedly found themselves in the National Plate Final against Barnard Castle School. Stowe proved far too strong, fit and superior in their 7s ability and defeated Barnard Castle 24-12 to lift their second piece of National silver in as many years.

Stowe finished this superb season having played 20 7s games, winning 16 and losing only four. A huge thank you must be said to all those involved in creating another hugely successful Senior 7s season at Stowe, especially the Upper Sixth leavers who have helped establish Stowe as one of the best 7s schools in the country.

Mr Michael Rickner

Having displayed grit, flair and



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Swimming



House Swimming

A lot of time and effort goes into organising House Swimming and it is one of the best spectacles of the Stowe calendar. In the Senior boys' competition Oliver Muhoho (Bruce) stood out winning the 100m freestyle, 100m butterfly, 100m individual medley and the sprint freestyle. In the Senior girls' competition Alex Curtis (West) was crowned girls' champion for the second year running. Special mention must go to Hamish Graham-Campbell, Daniel Strutt, Julian Ma, Poppy Moore and Georgia Flawn-Thomas as they all performed brilliantly on the day.

The Intermediate competition saw a clash of the Nugent titans with Kira Evans and Zoë Pollock going head to head in the backstroke, butterfly, individual medley and freestyle. On the day it was Zoë who took the title for the backstroke, butterfly and individual medley with Kira winning the 100m freestyle.

In the Junior competition Lucas Davis (Bruce) stormed to victory in the breaststroke and was 6.5 seconds ahead of second place. Toyah Mowat (Nugent) took the spoils in the girls' competition.

Bruce won the Senior House Cup and were the overall winners on the day, Nugent dominated the Lower School competitions with West winning the Senior girls' Bernadotte Cup.



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2015-2016 has been another good year for our swimmers and has seen a revival of boys' swimming. The U14 boys recorded a total of eight wins throughout the season and was captained by Lucas Davis. Ian Hsu really shone in this team and has perfected his butterfly throughout the year. Guy Woodhouse led the U16 team, who won nine of their 12 fixtures, and Jack Polturak made his mark as a very talented freestyle sprinter. The Senior boys were led by Oliver Muhoho who has proved to be an outstanding swimmer.

The U16 girls' team, led by Kira Evans, were also outstanding and shone through as a team which had talent in its ranks and they recorded a tally of nine wins and only one loss. Zoë Pollock excelled in every stroke. The Senior girls were led by one of the best butterfly swimmers we have ever seen at Stowe, Alex Curtis.

Lucas Davis, Guy Woodhouse, Julian Ma, Will Perry, Alex Curtis, Oliver Muhoho, Kira Evans and Zoë Pollock all

participated in the County Championships. In the disability class Will Perry won silver in the 50m and 200m freestyle and gold in the 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle. Will is currently training for the British Championships in Sheffield and won an award from the Sports Aid British Swimming Association in recognition of his on-going achievements.

We had a strong medley team to take to the Bath Cup with Julian Ma, Oliver Muhoho, Guy Woodhouse and Jack Polturak. They swam 23 seconds faster than the team the previous year. In the girls' competition Zoë Pollock, Kira Evans, Alex Curtis and Lily Marriott all made the finals and they also won two bronze medals in the Downe House relays.

It has been a year of improvement for all the swimming teams and may I say thank you to Alex Curtis who has now completed her final year and a two year stretch as girls' Captain.

Mr Stewart Cowie



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Basketball

Mr Isaac Michael

Boys' U18

In the first friendly of the season Stowe put out a relatively young team of predominantly Fifth Formers against a spirited Radley Senior side. All 12 players were given court time and Radley capitalised on the fact that Stowe was not playing the strongest players and were ahead until the last quarter. The Stowe team clawed their way back into the game and levelled the scores in the last minute of the last quarter, however, it was Radley who remained calm and scored the winning basket to win 28-26.

The second development match of the season featured Abingdon and

it was hard to separate the teams with Stowe trailing by one point at half time. There were just two points separating the teams in the final quarter but Stowe held on to win 45-43.

The Lent term began with the annual Wellington College Tournament. The team was disappointed to lose the first game by the narrowest of margins; 10-11 against Winchester with Sol Boyd, Oliver Pell and Seun Coker scoring. They needed to win the next game against Wellington in order to keep their team's hopes alive in the competition. The team stunned Wellington with a 16-14 win with Captain Sol Boyd hitting three 3-pointers. With Wellington beating Winchester the group was wide open and goal difference was taking on a more significant deciding factor in the outcome of the final group positions. Pangbourne were up next and, after a lacklustre first half, the team hit form to win 35-4. This left the group finely balanced with Stowe knowing that a win against Harrow by 12 or more points would take them into the final. Sadly it was not to be with Harrow displaying their best performance of the afternoon to win the game 13-15.

In the first competitive friendly of the Lent term, a full strength side hosted Radley. Stowe raced to an early 10-0 lead in the first few minutes through the inside play of Totse Jemide and the clinical finishing of Sol Boyd and Allwell Opuala-Charles on the fast break. Seun Coker was dominant on the defensive boards and used his outlet pass to good effect. Oliver Pell was soon to open his account and went on to be a potent threat throughout the game. The team thoroughly deserved their 102-37 victory and all credit to Radley for their commitment and team spirit throughout the match.



Boys' U17

In the first of two matches of the Nationals the U17s travelled to the European School, Culham. The opening quarter was very even with Stowe trailing by a single point. Stowe took charge in the second quarter and was leading 31-20 at half time. Henry Larkin, who had been immense on the defensive boards, was rested for the third quarter and in that time the opposition managed to claw back the deficit and take the lead. Jim Jackman and Sol Boyd were under increased pressure and just when Alexey Sviridov and Freddie Tufnell were growing in confidence, Henry Larkin picked up an unfortunate ankle injury and Jim Jackman fouled out. In the end European were deserving winners, 67-50, and all credit to the Stowe players for giving them a run for their money.

In the second match of the Nationals the team was up against the mighty St Columba's College. Freddie Tufnell had his best game for the School to date, both in offence and defence. We expected that St Columba's would go far in the competition and they thoroughly deserved their 96-39 victory.

Boys' U16

In the County Cup Stowe faced a strong Aylesbury Grammar School side that pulled away to an early 12-4 lead. The team rallied with the help of three baskets from Freddie Tufnell but trailed at the end of the first quarter by one point. The second half was a more even affair with Will Garrett probing away at point guard hitting 12 points in the match. Fourth Former Jimmy Davis came off the bench to good effect hitting one 3-pointer in his 9 point haul.

Although the team suffered three further defeats at the hands of Eton College (32-36), The Perse (26-29) and Bradfield College (56-64), all these games were very competitive and the players made great strides in their team and individual development. Stand-out players for the season were Will



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Garrett, Freddie Tufnell, Dan Biss and Sandile Tilibe. All these players have gone on to feature significantly in the U18 side.



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Boys' U14

After only a handful of practices the U14 boys' team finally got the chance to express themselves in a game situation against local side Buckingham School in the County Cup. The whole team played a full quarter in the first half and trailed 14-8 at half time. Dave Dooley and

Zahran-Joseph Obozuwa scored the first half baskets. Super outside shooting from Man of the Match Jacob Halabi narrowed the gap to 4 points after the third quarter and Stowe's superb defence restricted Buckingham to just 2 points. Buckingham responded with a late consolation but by this time the Stowe team had done a great job of stifling the game and running down the clock. The 24-22 victory was thoroughly deserved.

An understrength team took on the mighty Denbigh School in their second County Cup match. The team was valiant in their effort to compete against an England U18 player, with Zahran-Joseph Obozuwa doing a particularly good job defensively. George Holmes controlled the game superbly at point guard and opened up the Denbigh defence on numerous occasions, which allowed his teammates the opportunity to score well-worked baskets. Jack Comyn and Harrison Le Sueur worked hard under both boards with Harry Amorntien and Shane Ramos giving George Holmes good support on the perimeter. The team should be proud of their efforts, even though they went down 45-23 in the end.

Girls' U16

The U16s travelled to eventual National Champions, Aylesbury High School, in their first match of the season. Although not at full strength, the team rallied well and gave their all throughout the game. Captain Blossom Opuala-Charles claimed the Player of the Match award for her tenacious defence and excellent leadership which ensured the team remained fully committed throughout the match.

The girls showed great determination and team-spirit in their second match in the Nationals against John Madejski Academy. With a little more control in passing and composure



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when shooting, the scoreline would have been very different. All but two of the team got on the score sheet which shows potential for a lot more points in the future. John Madejski were very clinical finishers, however, the final scoreline of 43-21 did not reflect how evenly matched these two teams were.

The third game of the Nationals was against Denbigh School. The game was evenly poised for most of the first half. With the scores at 14 a piece Denbigh pulled away

to finish 26-14 up at the break. Vicky Beglin continued the fight and scored five of the eight second half Stowe baskets. Captain Blossom Opuala-Charles was immense in defence with Thea Chisnall everywhere on the court. Zizo Chuma and Dilyara Adilkhanova had to battle hard under the boards against a tall team and were unable to prevent Denbigh from winning 52-27. In the return match against Denbigh, this time in the County Cup, the team put in another fighting display but could not prevent a 20-37 defeat.

The U14 team took on Aylesbury High School's A team in their first ever game together and the game was closer than was reflected in the 21-1 scoreline – nothing a few more training sessions could not put right. Playing back-to-back games and having learnt a great deal from the match, the Stowe team set about finding a way to beat the Aylesbury High School B team. The 'Wildcats' were much improved in their second game and with a better understanding of the rules, they were much more thoughtful in their approach and used some good defensive tactics which resulted in several turnovers. Phoebe Hill and Milly White got more court-time and gained in confidence as the game progressed. Alyssia Dockerty and Amelia Leondiou made some excellent interceptions and their transition play was excellent, especially from offence to defence. Rhea Vankova-Martin and Maria Sharipova proved our biggest offensive threat with Rhea Vankova-Martin making good use of her height and Maria Sharipova shooting well from outside. The performance of the day came from Toyah Mowat who was outstanding in defence and quick to launch the attacks when regaining possession. This was a great first win as a team (16-7) and hopefully the first of many.

Badminton

PLAYED 10, WON 3, LOST 7

This has been an exciting year for badminton with some of the younger male players starting to challenge the Seniors. The boys' team was admirably led by Jeffri Indot. We had struggled to put out a girls' team the previous year but Clarissa Llanaj managed to rally her troops. My thanks go to both of them for their help and enthusiasm this year.

Despite the overall scorecard reading as played ten, won three, lost seven, some of the matches were extremely well contested and we only narrowly lost. Our team predominantly consisted of Fifth Formers who were playing against Sixth Formers, so we are very much looking forward to the challenges of next season where our cohort will be coming to fruition. Our regular team players of Henry Eleyin-Bingham, Freddie Woods, Sam Flint, Dominic Jessel, Hector Smiley, Tom Purdon, Jeffri Indot and John Coomber represented the School with aplomb.

Our coach Sara Sankey, ex-England International, continues to coach the team twice weekly and Sara invited Henry Eleyin-Bingham to attend her coaching sessions in Milton Keynes.

In the Senior boys' Inter-House competition, Grenville won the overall trophy, narrowly beating Chatham. The boys' doubles was also won by Grenville and the boys' singles was won by next year's Captain Henry Eleyin-Bingham (Grenville) who defeated Freddie Woods (Chatham) in a very close final. In the Junior competition Bruce were the overall winners and also won the boys'



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doubles. Hector Smiley from Bruce won the singles beating Herbie Wyatt from Cobham. Hector was a regular member of the Senior badminton team this year and will be a force to be reckoned with next year.

In the Senior girls' competition Lyttelton were victorious, with Nugent close runners-up. Lyttelton also won the girls' doubles with Clarissa Llanaj, next year's Captain, defeating Emily Woodhead from Nugent in a very close singles match. The overall Junior girls' trophy was won by Lyttelton with Stanhope winning the doubles. The winner of the girls' singles was Zizo Chuma from Lyttelton, who had a close match with runner-up Kianti Subowo from Queen's.

Finally, I would very much like to thank Mr Simon Dobson and Mr Howard Hoare who have assisted me throughout the year.

Mrs Hazel Browne



Polo

Despite this terms heavy rainfall the polo teams have had a fantastic season, with matches against Harrow, Tudor Hall, Radley and Heathfield, to name but a few. The finale of the school polo season is always the SUPA (Schools and University Polo Association) National Championships. This event is held at our home ground of Kirtlington Park Polo Club and sees schools from England and Scotland competing for the coveted National title.

This year the Stowe A team, (Jamie Grayson, Florence Berner, Nic Quirot de Poligny and Billy Hawkings-Byass), had an incredibly fast and furious match against Radley to win 10-4 to become the National Polo Champions: this is only the second time a Stowe team has achieved this title and it was made even more special as it was our Captain, Jamie Grayson's, last year with us.

Stowe entered all four divisions at the SUPA; Open, Intermediate, Novice and Beginners. We were very proud to be the only school in the country able to do this. Our Intermediate group; Steven Duncan, Isabella Baillie, Ivan Quirot de Poligny and Algy Stanley, came third in their

section. Our Novice team; Jamie Baillie, Oliver Pritchard, Louis Hink and Beau Carter, also came third. However, the Beginners' team; Nathan Dana, Tom White, Jack Nesbitt and Bertie Alexander, won their section and did brilliantly, demonstrating real promise for the future. Jamie Grayson was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, which is a fantastic accolade.

Many of our Stowe players have had success in non-school polo too. Jamie Grayson has regularly been playing in medium and high goal polo teams at Guards Polo Club in Windsor and Nic Quirot de Poligny and his team won the incredibly prestigious Archie David Cup at Guards Polo Club, which was an amazing achievement!

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to our Upper Sixth boys: Steven Duncan (who has never missed a polo session and brings such fun to the teams), Patrick Robinson (a regular A team player) and our fantastic Captain, Jamie Grayson. We wish them the best of luck for the future and hope to see them on the polo pitches.

Mrs Fiona Corthine



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Boys' Hockey

1st XI

PLAYED 21, WON 13, DREW 2, LOST 6

The boys' 1st XI had one of their most successful seasons for a long time in the Lent term, finishing with a win percentage of 62%. The season started well with the team winning the Pre-Season tournament at Cardiff Metropolitan University beating Pangbourne, Brecon College and Stamford in the final on penalty shuffles.

Full of confidence, the Stoics then took on Uppingham in their first Saturday match of the term. A fantastic team performance saw us win emphatically 9-2. Unfortunately we then came unstuck against a good Oundle team in the first round of the National Cup losing 3-2.

Not to be too dispirited, we followed this result with better performances against Bloxham and Chigwell in the

first round of the National Plate. We then came to play Hitchin Boys' School in the second round of the National Plate. Sadly it was not to be, and despite a mountain of pressure and opportunities in the opposition's circle, we couldn't convert these into goals and the game finished 2-1. The boys picked themselves up again and played some quality hockey in the second half of the term, beating the likes of St Edward's, Mill Hill, Aldenham, Kimbolton and Bloxham.

The Stoics were unlucky to lose 4-3 to a strong Bromsgrove side towards the end of term. The team showed real fighting spirit and stuck to the game plan perfectly in the second half to bring the game back from 3-1, to 3-3 before Bromsgrove snuck a late winner.

This team has improved immeasurably over the last two years; and as much as I'd like to claim the credit, it has been down to the boys' hard work and commitment to the programme that has made the difference. I believe the video analysis sessions have greatly enhanced their knowledge and the positive team spirit within the group has helped develop the boys into a hockey team that I am proud to have coached.

The Most Valuable Player award went to George Markham for his scything passes, strong tackles, consistent penalty corners and well controlled distribution.

A big thank you to Mr Warde for his encouragement, assistance and advice throughout both terms. I wish the boys the best of luck next year and I will be keeping a close eye on their results.

Mr Luke Stone



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2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a winning season, playing in eight competitive fixtures, winning five with one draw and two losses. The boys improved with each fixture as the season progressed and in our last few games they were playing with confidence, with link ups between the lines and with superb finishing.

The Player of the Season was Captain Jack Hechle, who led by example. His work rate off the ball and his positive attitude was a real asset to the team. Notable victories were over both of our local rivals, St Edward's, Oxford and Bloxham School.

Mrs Lorraine Campbell



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3rd XI

PLAYED 7, WON 5, DREW 1, LOST 1

This year saw one of the most successful seasons on record for the 3rd XI, with five wins, one draw and just one loss, which was against Repton School who are one of the country's top hockey schools. Highlights include a 5-0 win over Kimbolton and a 4-2 win over Bloxham, who are traditional rivals of the 3rd XI.

The main aim of the season has been teamwork and an enjoyment of the game. The boys showed time and time again that their teamwork and perseverance in tough matches led to much of their success. Alfie Marsden-Smedley captained the team with confidence and led by example gaining him the honour of Player of the Season.

We wish our outgoing players all the best as they move



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on from Stowe, but the future of the team is looking promising with some strong players coming through from the Lower Sixth Form.

Mr Paul Thompson



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Colts A

“Sticks down, lads.” It has been a great season with a superb group of boys who ended the term playing some excellent hockey and just missed out on the Regional rounds of the National Competition for the second year running.

Powered by Captain Fantastic Jim ‘the dynamo’ Jackman, aided by the clever skills of Alex ‘Messi’ Perez-Buchanan and backed up by Adam ‘the reader of games’ King at centre back, this was a memorable season full of enjoyment and success.

Highlights of the season include Oscar Price’s last gasp winner against Dr Challoner’s in the Cup, some of Oleg Solovyev’s saves in goal throughout and the 3-2 win against Abingdon, which is one of the best displays I have seen in seven years of Colts hockey.

Mr Henry Swayne

Colts B

The Colts B team went unbeaten this summer thanks to a very positive attitude throughout from the team. Nick Montgomery led by example – always first to training and tireless running in matches. Tom Mayhew backed him up nicely and was very solid in defence, as was Piers Odell who proved to be a highly effective goal scorer at short corners. Luke Aust ran his socks off all season and Oliver Millard once again won the Golden Stick award for the most goals. These were the stand-out men, but it was a collective team effort throughout.

Mr James Knott



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Junior Colts A

**PLAYED 8, WON 1,
DREW 1, LOST 6**

The boys came into this season having never won a game of hockey at Stowe and for a good part of the season it looked like luck would be against them and this would remain the case.

They started off with a close 3-1 loss to Repton, followed by conceding a frustrating last minute goal to go 3-2 down against Bloxham. Further close losses followed against Abingdon and St Edward's, Oxford, where another goal in the last play of the game denied them a well-deserved draw. Things then took a turn for the worse as Stowe lost heavily to Bedford and Kimbolton, before their season finally turned around.

In the penultimate game against a very good Bromsgrove side, they played out a thrilling match, with both goalkeepers being called to make vital saves. Two very close chances were spurned at either end and a draw proved to be a fair result. This was the team's first match that they had not lost and the relief was palpable.



This result was carried into their final match, a return fixture away at Bloxham. With more purpose and self-belief, the team defended stoutly and were relentless in attack. Tom Worrall scored twice to earn the team a memorable first ever victory. It was a fitting end to a difficult season. This team has plenty more to work on but with a more positive outlook they can now look forward to next year's fixtures.

Mr Philip Arnold



Junior Colts B

PLAYED 7, WON 3, DREW 1, LOST 3

The Junior Colts B team had a solid season winning three of the seven matches played, drawing one and losing three. The team amassed 18 goals averaging well over two goals a game and conceding 11. The highlights of the season were the 4-0 win against Repton, 5-0 against St Edward's and a pulsating 5-3 win against Bromsgrove. With all previous matches featuring at least three goals, the team was held to a goalless draw against Kimbolton in their last match of the season. The players have clearly enjoyed themselves demonstrating great team spirit throughout the season. Hopefully many will be pushing for a place in the Colts A team next season. Over the course of the season the team has been ably captained by Ollie Bowder and Louis Redfern and well supported by the squad.

Mr Isaac Michael

Junior Colts C

The Junior Colts C team had an excellent season, they were undefeated until their final match and scored over double the number of goals against their opponents as they had scored against them. They made a very strong start to the season in the first week of term in their match against Repton at home. They were two goals up before half time, and then, after the break and in driving rain, the attackers began to work together with some effective passing, leading

to a final score of 7-0. Alex Shefler and Max Moseley scored one each, Hamish Wood scored two and Captain Ollie Pritchard completed a hat-trick. Man of the Match Cameron Chambers held the defence together calmly and reliably.

Just after Half term in a home match against Bedford, Bedford made a strong start, but Stowe soon rallied and

Yearlings A

a goal was awarded after a strike by Hamish Wood and Max Moseley. Stowe then kept up the pressure, giving the Bedford goalkeeper plenty of practice. By half time Captain Hamish Wood had added two more. After the break Bedford came back with a goal but Stowe then returned to form and Max Moseley and Harry Hewlett each added another, giving Stowe a winning score of 5-1. Every member of the team played well and Man of the Match Cameron Chambers seemed to be everywhere towards the end, both in defence and midfield.

In an away match against Bromsgrove, the team achieved a 1-1 draw, with a tantalisingly slow but accurate distance hit across the goal from Oscar Brett. The final match in the last week of term, against Kimbolton away, was a disappointing end to the season. With five key players missing through illness, the team lacked the fire power to make any real attacks on the



opponent's goal. There was some skilled ball work from Man of the Match Babalola Bakare and Jayden Brooks-Hurst as Captain played well, but the opposition outclassed them winning 4-0.

Mr Michael Bevington

As with any new team it is always difficult putting players who are new to each other and to the Stowe hockey structure, together and expecting results immediately: the boys need time to get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses and learn new formations and positions. The task is made harder when the opponents are playing, in some cases, their third season together. So, when the first half of the season passes without a win, and the calendar shows return fixtures in the second half of the season, the boys might have been forgiven for feeling rather demoralised. However, this group of boys were having none of that and battled hard against superior opposition for the entire season, never once giving up on their hunt for goals and victories. Their first victory was thoroughly deserved, it was against Uppingham in the return fixture and was a great relief and payback for their positive mindset.

Throughout the season the team was well led by George Holmes, a dynamic, strong and skilful player who set an excellent example to others. Max Butler, often in the running for Man of the Match, was very good in goal and kept the team within touching distance in a number of matches with some outstanding saves. James Trumper demonstrated some superb stick skills and, towards the end of the season, started finding the goal as well. Henry Saunders Watson worked diligently at the back, always looking to improve his game. The coach must shoulder blame for allowing Bertie Bryant and Tom Scott to spend half of the season with the B team: both made

telling contributions when they were finally promoted. There were various changes to the team over the course of the season as different formations and selections were trialled, with a number of boys forced to play out of their usual position (the year group having a seeming dearth of defenders), but all of the boys who played made a contribution to the team. I would also like to acknowledge the strong support from some very committed parents who travelled to all of the games. This is always very much appreciated by the boys (and their coach).

The win-loss record for this season might not make the best reading but as this group of boys move through the School they will encounter a wider range of opponents and, as their physical strength and hockey skills develop to catch up with their fighting spirit, they will, I am sure, become a strong team who will go on to notch up many victories.

Mr Chris Warde



Yearlings B

The Yearlings B team enjoyed a fine season and were certainly the most successful Yearlings hockey team, winning four, drawing two and only losing two of their league matches, this placed them third in the league. Charlie Maclure captained the side superbly and was a creative midfielder. Oli Taylor worked extremely hard and covered the most yards on the pitch. Sam Holloway was superb at left back and Hugh Fox and George Gauvain were very solid in the centre. Felix Holland-Bosworth won the Golden Stick award for the most goals.

Mr James Knott



Yearlings C

The Yearlings C competition is always tough for Stowe teams as they come up against teams with more experience and practice together. However, this year's team held their own all season giving some of the closest results seen from a Yearlings C team from the beginning of the season. Their biggest points difference in a match was four goals. They pulled off two strong wins, the first against Berkhamsted and the second in a re-match against Stamford, in which they showcased the progress and development they made over the season. We had many stand-out performances; with a lot of personal development, skill and teamwork demonstrated from the boys. Many of the team will go on to higher teams and have great success in hockey.

Mr Paul Thompson



Yearlings D

The Yearlings D team played with resolve and, at times, success. In their first match of the season, away against Oundle, they played impressively, dominating the play in both halves and deserved to win. There were some excellent shots at goal by Man of the Match, Max Smith (Captain), Louis Hay and Patrick Beglin. In contrast, our goalkeeper touched the ball only once in the first half and Oundle scored on their only full excursion into the Stowe circle to win the match 1-0. In a team with some C team players, Stowe's D team performed well against Berkhamsted, especially in the first half. They created several opportunities before a long shot from Captain and Man of the Match Rupert Mathers, aided by Max Smith, eventually scored. In the second half, Louis Hay extended the lead but Berkhamsted put on the pressure to equalise 2-2. In the next match, Uppingham opened the scoring when a rogue shot crossed the line after being touched by the goalkeeper. In the second half, Uppingham added two more but Stowe came back convincingly with tireless work from Man of the Match Rohan Sekhri, and with a quartet of goals – two each from Louis Hay and Max Smith – to produce their first win of the season, 4-3. In the return game against Uppingham, in pouring rain and unexpectedly on grass,



Stowe did well to sweep the first goal. Thereafter it was a tussle between the two sides but Stowe's defence was often found wanting and Uppingham won 4-1. In the final home match against Oundle, Stowe found themselves up against a skilful opposition that consistently outplayed them in attack and defence. Oundle scored three times in the first half, but after the break Stowe rallied, led by Captain George Buxton and Man of the Match Ed Don, to dominate some of the midfield play; unfortunately they still found themselves outclassed in the circle.

Mr Michael Bevington

Girls' Hockey

1st XI

PLAYED 21, WON 7, DREW 4,
LOST 10

It would be fair to say that the girls' 1st XI had one of their most successful seasons for a number of years. Although the win/loss record doesn't necessarily reflect this, we did beat all our local rivals; Akeley Wood, The Royal Latin, Beaconsfield High, Magdalen College School, Oxford and drew with St Edward's, Oxford. We were much more competitive in the tough Midlands ISHL, putting in good performances against Rugby and Uppingham and reducing large deficits against Repton and Oakham.

Playing difficult fixtures regularly really helped set us up for the National Cup Competition. For the first time in Stowe's history we won the U18 County Cup, which is a great achievement. This took us through to the Regionals for the first time in a number of years, where we held our own and almost came out on top against St George's, Weybridge, Kingston Grammar School and Reeds, two of which eventually finished second and fourth in the South of England.

This year's team was a young team, with only three regular Upper Sixth Formers in the squad. This bodes well for next year, with most of the squad now understanding what it takes to get beyond the Regionals, where we feel we deserve to be. With another crop of talented U16s coming through, the future looks bright for Stowe hockey.

Special mention must go to Charlotte Oswald for representing England U16s in the summer of 2015. Charlotte thoroughly enjoyed and gained a lot from this experience, and regularly put into practice what she learnt in her training camps and matches when



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representing the School. Thalia Felton and Vicky Beglin also reached the Midlands U17 HiPAC and Midlands U16 Futures Cup squads respectively, only one step away from England trials.

An amazing 27 players represented the 1st XI this year, players from across every year group, which is a great achievement on its own, proving that we are steadily developing more depth throughout the programme and that hockey truly is a whole squad sport.

My thanks to all the players for the hard work they put in over the term. I wish the squad the best of luck for next September and beyond when they hope to go one step further in the National Cup. My thanks also go to Miss Evans for assisting with the team: her umpiring and guidance were a great help throughout the term.

The Most Valuable Player was Thalia Felton. She led by example, was tenacious on the pitch and was always willing to listen and improve. She is a fantastic role model on and off the pitch for the younger players.

Mr Luke Stone

2nd XI

While there were some glimmers of what might have been at various points in the latter half of the term, this was a season that never really took off. A mixture of more experienced opposition and a lack of clinical focus in front of goal meant that we struggled to achieve a winning season. Deserved mentions go to Laura Brogden for her resolute defence, Sophia Sander for her tireless efforts in the midfield and Captain Jemima Fitzjohn for plenty of surging runs at the opposition goal.

Mr Henry Swayne



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3rd XI

Despite some heavy defeats at the start of the season the 3rd XI showed some almighty resilience to come away with a win against Tudor Hall (3-2) with Amy Jorgensen opening the scoring after just 23 seconds. They played with energy and enthusiasm all over the pitch to win 2-1 against Mill Hill's 2nd XI. Goals came from Amy Jorgensen and Felicity Wilson who were assisted by Jemima Cecil. Hattie Webb played with superb confidence and put in a fantastic effort to be awarded Player of the Match. I hope our leavers, Olivia Walters and Sorrel Fenwicke-Clennell, continue to play competitive hockey after three years of great service to the 3rd XI.

Miss Lauren Ellis



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U16A

PLAYED 18, WON 7, DREW 1, LOST 10

This season proved to be thrilling and challenging in equal measure, as it saw the girls reach the Regional Finals as well as having several tough matches in the ISHL. It started with two very close losses as the team conceded

with only seconds left to play in both encounters. Their determination to improve on this heart-breaking start was evident in their next few matches, as they progressed strongly through the County Cup preliminary rounds. The 5-0 win against The Royal Latin in the County Cup Finals meant they qualified for the Regional competition. They started this competition well with a win against Tudor Hall, but were then beaten comfortably by a very impressive St George's, Weybridge side. This was a great experience for the girls and is the furthest a Stowe team reached in the National competition this year. A very hard-fought 4-4 draw against Oakham finished the ISHL on a positive note and was certainly the most complete performance of the season. They can be very proud of the way they have developed as a team and there will be several players who will go on to play in the 1st XI next year. They have been a joy to coach and have remained a bubbly and fun group to work with throughout the season.

Mr Philip Arnold



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U16B

The girls had an excellent season this year, securing six wins out of eleven matches played, as well as drawing one. Captain Jaimie McIntosh brought enthusiasm and determination to the team, leading the girls to several hard-fought victories with her trademark optimism and maturity. The impenetrable stronghold at the back, consisting of Georgie Vallings, Alice Pryse and goalkeeper Lara Oswald (occasionally replaced by Hannah Venner who proved an admirable substitute) was mirrored by the attacking 'holy trinity' of Imogen and Jemima Fitzjohn and Meg Winter at the front, whose combined fierceness was a force to be reckoned with. The filling in this 'power sandwich' was a sturdy group of midfielders comprising Alice Hastie-Smith, Tabitha McIntyre Brown, Francesca Cooper and Eleanor Trotman, who worked tirelessly to bind the team together and ensure some fine successes. Leading this group was central midfielder, Maya Tearle, whose effortless talent and striking sense of team spirit earned her Most Valuable Player of the Season. There were many highlights during the team's eleven games, but the one that will remain with me is the courageous collective effort the girls displayed when they beat Oundle 4-2 away in conditions that can only be described as tsunamic.

Mr George Purves



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U15 A

The U15A team had a fantastic season. They played in 12 competitive fixtures, winning nine with one draw and two losses. There were notable victories over St Edward's, Oundle and Uppingham with each of these contests being hard-fought victories. The success that the girls have had this season has been down to their hard work in training and their defence as a team unit. Our Player of the Season was Una Barclay who was a consistent threat as right striker throughout the season. The squad of 15 players have shown real promise on the hockey pitch and with continued hard work I'm sure they will do well in the future.

Mrs Lorraine Campbell



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U15B

The U15B season brought with it a mixture of excitement, determination and, at times, disappointment. Even though we lost more fixtures than we won, the majority were more evenly fought than our scorelines would suggest. Typically we held our own and dominated play during the first half but unfortunately we were usually unable to take advantage

of our high possession and numerous attempts on goal, which were either narrowly missed or unsupported. Working to such a high tempo would leave the girls a little spent regarding energy levels, which led to inaccuracy and timidity, allowing the opposition to take advantage and score, which ultimately led to our demise.

Regardless of the situation the girls could always be relied upon to give their all and support each other. My thanks go to our Captains Lydia Taylor and Mahlatse Mabitsela, as well as our season regulars Charlotte Platz, Cosima Sage, Polly French, Tabi Sinclair, Chloe Hechle, Lauren Bridgen and Annabel Havard. Special mention goes to our superb goalkeeper Isabel Ward who thwarted many attempts on goal and to Samai Lamberti and Gahsem Dorji for their relentless tackling and support. I wish the girls all the best as they move on to becoming U16 squad members.

Mrs Louise Carter



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U15C

The U15C team had a mixed season in terms of results but always played matches with a high level of enthusiasm and a good sense of humour. In their first game of the season, the girls claimed a deserved victory against Kingham Hill. There was some excellent defending from Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki, which set the tone for the season ahead under her captaincy. Overall it was a good competitive match, which finished 2-1 to Stowe.

The games that followed against St Edward's, Oxford and Rugby School were a tougher challenge and the girls showed great character to keep working hard and looking for the positives from each game despite losing. Against St Edward's the team began to develop the strong counter-attacking play which became a key tactic later in the season. Special mentions go to Jess Potts, who stepped in to play goalkeeper against Rugby School at the last minute and made some excellent saves, and Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki who was voted Most Valuable Player for the second game in a row.

The results picked up towards the end of the term and the result of the season came against a very good Oundle side. 0-0 was a fair result for a game which saw two well matched teams come up against each other. Oundle had the best of the attacking opportunities in the first half but solid defending from Lauren Bridgen and Kianti Subowo meant that we kept a clean sheet. The second half saw more



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attacking threat from the home side and this play resulted in an excellent Most Valuable Player performance from Alex King.

The U15Cs ended the season on a high with a well-deserved win away at Oakham. In the first half the defence worked hard and goalkeeper Clara Pepera made some good saves to keep the score at 1-0 to the home side. In the second half Stowe came out fighting and good counter-attacking play resulted in goals for Emma Rød-Larsen and Ally Jordan resulting in a final score of 2-1 to Stowe.

Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki was voted Player of the Season and Ally Jordan achieved the Golden Stick award for most goals scored. Well done girls for your commitment and eagerness this season.

Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

U14A

The U14As developed into an extremely cohesive team who enjoyed considerable success during the hockey season. In the Midlands ISHL we finished fourth, equal with Oakham, out of seven schools with wins against Uppingham (4-3), Oakham (1-0) and Repton B team (9-0). In our friendly fixtures we had success against St Edward's (3-1), Bloxham (2-1) and Mill Hill (6-1) and drew with Tudor Hall (1-1). With a winning season, we scored 29 goals and conceded 16 – often playing in torrential rain to really test our resilience and determination.

The Most Valuable Player of the Season was awarded to the Captain, Alyssia Dockerty, who scored seven goals and led the team by example on the pitch. Alyssia was selected for HiPAC, which includes the top 80 U15 girls in the country. Zara Vickers and Imogen Joyce are currently in JRPC and Imogen is on her way to HiPAC selection for 2016 which is a great achievement. The Most Improved



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Player was Mia Dettori and the Most Memorable Moment of the season was awarded to the goalkeeper Amelia White. This is a very talented group of players who have great potential and we look forward to following their progress as they move up through the School.

Mrs Sarah Sutton and Mrs Tracy Jones



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U14B

The U14B team had a very productive season winning five of their 11 matches, drawing three and losing three. The team averaged over two goals a game scoring 23 in total and conceding 14.

The highlights of the season were the excellent victories; 3-0 against St Edward's, 1-0 against Tudor Hall, 9-0 against Mill Hill, 2-1 against Oundle and 2-1 against Oakham. The three draws were against Repton, Downe House and Uppingham. The players have developed great team spirit and built a strong platform for the coming seasons. Over the course of the season the team was led by Georgia Glenser, Cecilia Mayne and Kitty Wemyss. Izzy Hopkins completed the last six matches as Captain. They were all ably supported by the rest of the squad.

Mr Isaac Michael



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U14C

In September the U14C team started playing hockey for the very first time. They began the season exceptionally well demonstrating fantastic teamwork and communication skills. Their sense of comradeship was outstanding and a special mention should go to Ruby Redfern and Hannah Laurence who often stepped up to the challenge of goalkeeping at the very last minute and playing a significant role in the results.

The team won their first two matches against Trent College (3-0) and St Edward's (3-1) and seemed to be filled with enthusiasm for the sport and excitement for the rest of the season. Unfortunately, despite their enormous determination, the team played some challenging matches towards the end of the season, including a particularly wet and muddy match against Oundle where the opponents managed to score five goals in the second-half leading to a 5-0 loss, and an incredible tension-filled game against Rugby where the team just lost 5-4. Overall, it has been a very promising

start that the Stoics can now build on as they continue to refine their hockey skills.

Miss Victoria Crook

Indoor Hockey

Mr Luke Stone



Boys' U18

The boys treated the season as a development season and ended up really enjoying the experience. Although not as successful as the U18 girls, they did reach the Regionals and came up against a number of well-drilled schools that were very familiar with the indoor version of the sport. I have definitely seen the benefits of developing this sport for the outdoor game and I know the boys are keen to continue next year after their recent experiences. Well done to the squad on their commitment to the programme. With the majority of these boys being in the Lower Sixth, the team should be able to make good progress in the National competition next year.

Girls' U18

Considering this is the first year that Stowe has played competitive indoor hockey, this team did incredibly well. Due to limited Sports Hall availability, training was alternate weeks on a Monday evening, and was generally well attended. Our first fixture was against Beaconsfield High and we were convincingly beaten 7-3. At the end of the term we played them in the Regional Finals and we lost 1-0. Beaconsfield High then went on to finish third at the Nationals, proving that we are close to mixing with some of the best in the country. On the way to the Regional Finals we beat Chesham Grammar, KCS Wimbledon and Alleyns. At the Regional Finals we drew with Ardingly and narrowly lost to Kingston Grammar School. To even be in contention to reach the National Finals is an amazing effort and to be in the top eight schools in the South of England is a great credit to the squad's commitment and dedication: massive congratulations to you all.



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Boys' U16

The boys seemed to enjoy the new experience of learning about indoor hockey. Their first matches were in the County round (a steep learning curve!) where they played RGS High Wycombe, Abingdon and Magdalen College School. RGS showed their experience and beat us comfortably, although we took the lead against Abingdon, they came back to clinch a close win. In the final game we squeezed out a well-earned draw against MCS. The boys learned and developed with each match and were grateful for the experience of taking part in the tournament.

Girls' U16

Unfortunately the team only managed to play one match at the start of term against Beaconsfield High, which they lost 6-2. They relished the experience of learning the nuances of this fast and exciting sport. Sadly due to other school commitments, we were unable to field a team for the County tournament, which is a great shame as it would have been a brilliant experience for the girls. Nonetheless, a lot was learned and utilised in the outdoor game and I'm sure the girls will be keen to get stuck into indoor hockey again come September.

Cricket



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1st XI

**PLAYED 24, WON 7, DREW 6, LOST 5,
ABANDONED 6**

The season was very much affected by the weather but the 1st XI still managed to have a winning season. There was a strengthening of the fixture list with the likes of Cranleigh, Marlborough, Harrow and Bromsgrove being added.

The season kicked off with two T20 matches against Cranleigh on the first day of Pre-Season. Stowe were comfortably beaten in the first match, but handed out a thrashing of their own in the second match. Ben Maynard announced his arrival with fifty in his first outing in a Stowe shirt and Oliver Clarke picked up 5 wickets for 13 runs in the second match.

The second day of term saw us drawn against Bedford in the National T20 competition: the side collapsed from 90 for 1 to 115 all out and Stowe exited early from the competition again. The team bounced back well to post 250 for 7 against Uppingham in the next game. The cornerstone of the innings was 117 for Brandon Lee and there were contributions from Oliver Clarke (38) and Adam King (49). Brandon scored more runs against Bedford Modern and Stowe won reasonably comfortably.

A much tighter and tense affair followed against Bradfield College. With a reasonable score on the board, Stowe opened the bowling with off spinner Henry Hoare. Oliver Woodward also bowled tight at the other end and looked dangerous all the way through his spell.

A resounding victory followed against Abingdon thanks to another tight bowling display which saw Abingdon reach only 98 for 8 in their twenty overs. Stowe successfully reached the target in the 15th over.

On a slow benign pitch, Stowe made 200 for 5 against Rugby, but it took 64 overs, leaving Rugby fifty overs to chase the runs down. Oliver Clarke (40), Adam King (37) and Ben Maynard (60*) were the mainstay of the Stowe innings. Runs and wickets were hard to come by and in the end Rugby just fell short with only four wickets down.

Charlie Leeffe took his first five wicket haul for the 1st XI as Stowe bowled Oundle out for 180. In reply Stowe raced to 80 for 0 thanks to a superb opening stand from Oliver Clarke and Brandon Lee. Stowe were well on course for victory, but then the heavens opened and the match was abandoned as a draw.

Speech Day brought the Old Stoics back and it was good to see that they brought a relatively young side with them

PLAYED 8, WON 7, LOST 1

The 2nd XI enjoyed great success this season; we started brightly against Uppingham and took that momentum forward winning our first five matches before suffering a shock defeat to Oundle, which took not only the players by surprise but also both coaches. After this loss, however, the team re-grouped and managed to win the remaining two fixtures. The last two matches of the season were unfortunately lost to rain meaning we didn't get to play against Xavier College, Australia or Bromsgrove.

We went through a whole term of cricket without once batting first; you would have thought, given our record at chasing down totals, at least one team would have let us. There was an array of fantastic bowling, backed up by some quite superb batting meaning more often than not we came out on top. The stand-out performances with the ball came from Charlie Leefe who, during the first two games of the season, picked up hat-tricks in each game and also ended with 5 wickets, his best figures being 5-13 against Bedford Modern School in a T20. There were stand-out batting performances throughout the season, no more so than Jarrod Van der Westhuizen bludgeoning 99* off 57 balls to give Stowe the win against a very strong Oakham side.

The best bowling averages throughout the season belong to Oliver Pell who took a total of 9 wickets at an average of 15.4, Henry Larkin who took 8 wickets at an average of 9.37 but topping the wicket taking tally and with the best average was Charlie Leefe who took 13 wickets at an average of 9.15. The best batting averages throughout the season go to Nikko Elliott who scored a total of 130 runs at an average of 43.3 and a top score of 52* against Bedford School; Alex Smith scored 256 runs at an average of 51.2 with a top score of 71 coming against Rugby School. But due to a phenomenal end to the season Jarrod Van der Westhuizen came out on top, scoring a total of 267 runs at an average of 66.75 and a top score, as mentioned earlier, of 99* coming in our last fixture against Oakham. What a superb way to end a fantastic season.

with lots of familiar faces. The Old Stoics won the toss and asked Stowe to bat. Brandon Lee scored 65 and there were contributions from Calum Renshaw (37), Ali Martin (20) and George Markham (22*), Stowe posting 196 for 6 in their 40 overs. The Old Stoics collapsed to 151 all out. Henry Hoare took three wickets as did Charlie Leefe and Will Garrett picked up a wicket on his debut.

In June the team played against a touring side from Xavier College, Australia. Xavier won the toss and batted but were quite cautious in their approach only scoring 146 in their 40 overs. Stowe chased the total in just 27 overs.

On to Cricket Week and the two day game against MCS Oxford, who brought a good (if young) side. Stowe won the toss and took full advantage bowling MCS out for 151 in 64 overs. Oliver Woodward bowled superbly for his four wickets and Oliver Clarke took three wickets in a long uninterrupted spell. Stowe only needed 37 overs to knock the first innings runs off 45 minutes into the second day. Both teams agreed to play on and Stowe went on to score 297 for 7 declared with Henry Hoare registering his first century for Stowe and finishing unbeaten on 108*. MCS completed a couple of their second innings overs before the heavens opened and the rest of the day was abandoned.

Two draws completed the season. Another rain-affected game against Radley meant a comfortable chase became a

very difficult one and from 100 for 0, (Brandon Lee another fifty), Stowe had to settle for a draw as the run rate climbed.

On the final day of term Stowe played Mount Albert from New Zealand who scored 242 for 9 declared. In reply Stowe were soon in trouble at 25 for 3. Ali Martin and Calum Renshaw steadied the ship but Ali got out trying to lift the run rate. Oliver Clarke and Calum set about batting out the remaining 23 overs for a draw. They were nearly unbeaten, but Oliver nicked behind with three overs to go. It was tense for a few overs, but Sam Riley and Calum saw the team through to the close, Stowe making 150 for 7.

It bodes well that our leading run scorer, Brandon Lee, and leading wicket taker, Oliver Clarke, are back again next season, although it will be a re-building year in 2017 as we lose six of the side. That can start early though as the squad travels to Dubai for a tour at Easter.

I must say a big thank you to Steve Curley and his team, who had such a difficult job preparing the pitches due to the weather. The fact that we got any cricket played at all was due to their commitment. Also thanks to Phil Arnold for his assistance throughout as well as Mike Harris and Graeme Frost – our two regular umpires.

Mr James Knott



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3rd XI

The irrepressible young men of Stowe's 3rd XI enjoyed another successful season. Despite some dreadful late-season weather, they managed to play six matches, winning all but one of them.

There was a Cobham core to the side including one of the coaches, Mr Rickner, and the team Captain, the unflappable Harry Bunting, as well as top-order batsmen Guy Seddon and Jack Dickerson, and glove-man Georges Tasker.

After an excellent start to the season with the bat, Vice-Captain Piers Edinborough was often required by the 2nd XI. In the bowling department, James Creedy Smith managed to extract pace and bounce on all surfaces. His new ball partner, Seb Wood, bowled straight and with swing, and took a deserved four-for in the team's convincing win at Bedford.

Dominic Strong lived up to his name with a stand-out performance. Coming in at number six he changed the tempo of a number of matches with his clean hitting. A 30-ball 47 in the victory over Rugby was a highlight. However, the Player of the Season was undoubtedly Sam Holland-Bosworth. In a manner redolent of the legendary Pakistani Inzamam-ul-Haq, he would saunter, blinking, to the wicket as if recently woken from an afternoon nap and then proceed to smash the ball to all parts with strokes both graceful and powerful. Unlike 'Inzy', Sam also took some valuable wickets with his accurate medium pace bowling. Scores of 83 and 80 in successive games against Abingdon and Rugby were the cornerstones of both victories.

Other wins came against schools with no less cricketing pedigree: Uppingham, Bradfield and Bedford were all vanquished and the team's only defeat came in a rain-affected game at Oundle.

Nevertheless, 2016 was a fruitful and enjoyable season. The fact that all bar two of the 3rd XI regulars were Lower Sixth Formers bodes well for 2017. Finally, many thanks must go to Mr Rickner who performed the lion's share of coaching duties and to Mr Last and Mr Peppiatt for their forbearance when their 4th XI players were called up at the last minute on a Saturday morning.

Dr Charlie Standley



4th XI

The 4th XI, the Gentlemen's XI, played only two games this season and, very generously, they allowed their opponents to travel home with the warm glow of having "got one over on us", in cricketing terms. However, in terms of sartorial elegance and witty repartee at the crease, Stowe won both games convincingly. All the gentlemen who represented the 4th XI and attended weekly net and middle practices, honed their rhyming couplets as effectively as they did their forward defensive shots. The tradition of a fine afternoon spent in the sun, dressed properly and enjoying the company of friends continues undaunted. Gentlemen, thank you and always remember: "Pasce Ignem".

Mr Peter Last



Colts A

Traditionally, the Colts A season is truncated by the highly effective combination of GCSEs and English weather.

Traditionally, the Colts A team finds itself denuded of some talented cricketers as the restlessly roving eyes of the 1st XI coaches result in selection envelopes appearing under Fifth Form dormitory doors.

Traditionally, the Colts A team is unbeaten, despite the aforementioned pressures.

With the exception of a closely fought loss to Abingdon with a significantly weakened team (due to GCSE Art and Drama coursework wielding the selection scythe), this season followed these hoary traditions.



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The match that will surely stick in the memory for all who were present (and could see through driving rain and gloaming) was at Bradfield. It was an extraordinary game of cricket in which all three results were possible going in to the final over, with the home side needing six runs to win with only one wicket remaining. Tom Pearson was involved in most of the match highlights: he was dismissed by an outstanding catch at backward point before effecting two run-outs by direct hits. However, his game was not over yet, as he found himself with the ball in hand for the final over. He was not the ideal choice of bowler but was forced into bowling as a result of being the only player fulfilling two important criteria: firstly, he had not used up his allotment of overs and secondly, he was wearing spiked shoes that would afford him some purchase in what was fast becoming a quagmire. He sent down a delivery which was missed by the No.11 batsman. Bradfield tried to steal a single but Will Garrett, forced to keep wicket to allow Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan to bowl, sent the ball back to Tom Pearson who ran out the No.11 and won the game.

Whilst there were contributions from a large number of the boys, a few are worthy of particular note. Will Garrett provided intelligent leadership, superb fielding and useful runs, but it was his graceful yet destructive bowling which made him stand out, as the top order of Uppingham and Bradfield would testify. Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan proved to be a true all-rounder, providing all four disciplines over the course of the season. A very useful bowler, excellent fielder and powerful batsman, he also fell back on his muscle memory from his years at Sunningdale to keep wicket on occasion. Albert Johnson was watchful with the bat, very watchful with his running between the wickets and provided a tight and probing off spin. Tom Pearson scored a superb century against Rugby. Albie Oswald was enigmatic and occasionally rolled back the years to when he was the highest rated batsman in the Northants U12 set-up and Henry Gauvain toiled manfully up the South Front slope and into Baltic winds and rain to provide support to Will Garrett.

So, another Colts season ends and another group of boys move up to the Senior ranks to augment and replace those who have gone before them. There can be no doubt that this particular group will provide some excellent cricketers to the Senior teams in the coming two years. As was the case last year, it is only right to acknowledge the work done by the coaches of the Junior teams, as well as Mr Knott with all the work he does in the indoor nets over the winter, because the calibre of cricketer at Colts level has, once again, been high, making our job as Colts coaches very straightforward.

Mr Chris Warde

Colts B

The Colts B cricket season is always rather truncated by the GCSE schedule and this year they only played four games. However, there was still plenty of opportunity for some high quality cricket and with three wins against Bradfield, Uppingham and Radley, and one defeat against Bedford, the boys can reflect very positively on their achievements. It was a big squad, which made the selection process tricky, but all of these boys showed how much they enjoy their cricket and they should go on to form the core of the 3rd and 4th XI next year, so they can look forward to a much fuller season than they have had this year. Mr Griffin and I have found the boys a real pleasure to coach and they should be proud of their efforts. Throughout the season Jamie Jackson captained very well but it was a team of knowledgeable and skilful cricketers who all helped to make it a successful season.

Mr Anthony Macpherson

Junior Colts A



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PLAYED 12, WON 6, DREW 1, LOST 5

This has been a summer of extremes: from the weather to politics to sport, we have been pitched this way and that to the extent that determining what exactly is normal has become a bit of a challenge. Which brings us to the JCAs.

The final tally reads played 12, won six, drew one and lost five and the team ended the term as Country T20 Champions. This may seem a reasonable return but the problem remains that the squad offers so much that it is hard to be satisfied with anything less than the best.

The season has seen Ed Wentworth-Stanley, Freddie Horlick and Tom Worrall put bowling to the sword while Oscar Brett, Lochie Shillington and Rufus Easdale did much the same to batsmen and precious little got past Ben Solomon behind the stumps. These are all names that will surely feature large in the story of cricket at Stowe but they owe it to themselves and to their teams that their talent is not squandered.

The main area for improvement is psychological. It is not about talent but about application and the ability and determination to apply that talent. While it is true that these players are talented and knowledgeable, none is what might properly be considered a student of the game and this means there is much to be learned, not only in terms of technique but also in strategy. The way you train is the way you play and this team failed to take training seriously enough and then found, to the surprise of themselves, if not their coaches, that when push came to shove they could not perform as hard or well as the opposition.

Cricket is an exhausting game both physically and mentally, the ability to alternate between periods of light attention and moments of intense, calculating concentration is where the team fell short, in the psychological aspects of bowling,

batting and fielding. Too often the concentration wandered, mistakes were made and the pressure on the opposition released.

Of course, there have been some heroic individual performances along the way, especially Freddie Horlick's batting and Rufus Easdale and Lochie Shillington's bowling. The best 'shop-window' for the JCAs was perhaps the County semi-final at RGS High Wycombe, a game that saw Lochie Shillington and Oscar Brett bowling magnificently, catches being taken left, right and centre and Freddie Horlick making merry hell with the bat. This combination of aggressive bowling and batting was the JCA at their best.

Batsman of the Season goes to Tom Worrall. His technique never faltered and trusting in that saw him improve across the term. Bowler of the Season goes to Rufus Easdale. With more control (and better fielding) will come better stats but both of these two are players to watch in the future. Player of the Season, Freddie Horlick is also one to watch: he has been critical to the team's success this season and when he too can ally a little more control and composure to his talent he is sure to make waves wherever he plays.

So, this season offered a tantalising glimpse of what the future might be like if this team decides to get its sensible head on. I hope that they do see sense and try to become the team they can be as cricket will certainly be the better for that.

In closing, I would like to add my personal thanks to Gavin Moffat, Andy O'Connor and Elizabeth Chubb for all their efforts across the season, both in terms of coaching, umpiring and scoring and for the sense of humour and mutual encouragement that got us through the stretches between the good bits.

Mr Paul Floyd

Junior Colts B

PLAYED 5, WON 1, DREW 1,
LOST 3

The performance of the season came against Rugby; it was not due to just one or two individuals but a whole team performance that secured a victory. The boys can be very pleased with their tie against a strong Bradfield College side, with both teams scoring 126 runs off their 20 overs and Harry Arkwright scoring 50. The strong bowling attack of Ludo Mannion Miles, Ben Shamash and Max Mash caused the other games of the season to be close,

with the loss to Oundle under testing conditions being a particularly narrow defeat. Excellent fielding skills have been demonstrated and I'm sure Herbie Wyatt's run out against Rugby will live long in the team's memory.

The team must be thanked for their enthusiasm over the term, often in damp conditions. It is a shame the weather has prevented more fixtures being played as this is a talented group of players.

Mr Matthew Teasdale



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Junior Colts C

This season proved to be a frustrating one for the boys as the weather conspired against them, disrupting both fixtures and outdoor training sessions. Despite the season not going quite as the boys may have planned or wished, there were some excellent performances. James Hungin developed into a very dependable all-rounder, worth a wicket a game and an exciting individual to watch with the bat. Isaac David progressed throughout the season as a bowler and is an exciting prospect for next season, finding his pace and length in the last few fixtures to take wickets at an excellent economy.

The Grenville pairing of Cameron Chambers and Hugo Robinson worked well, opening fiercely with both bat and ball; their absence early on in the season's fixture list was felt keenly. Captain Freddie Richards led the squad well and his own personal development at the crease with the bat was great to see. The development and progression made by the boys was fascinating to witness



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and I know they will be able to continue further over the summer break and in the off season.

Mr Giles Cuddy



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Yearlings A

In spite of the unsettled elements, the summer of 2016 goes down as one of the most productive and enjoyable Yearlings A seasons in recent memory, full of good cricket, lots of useful lessons learnt about this great sport and some very enjoyable times on and off the field with this pleasant and receptive group. Results-wise it was a positive season that came to a close with a County Cup Final win on a sunny North Front on the last day of term. Well done to all the boys.

Mr Henry Swayne



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Yearlings B

The Yearlings B team have had a positive season, with many players making some real progress and fighting for their places. We started the season away at Uppingham, on a very windy cold spring day. Unfortunately, having bowled Uppingham out for 158, we fell short of their total by 29 runs. Max Butler batted well and was top scorer with 35. With squad players fighting for positions, and the boys putting more work into training, a close win against Abingdon followed, Stowe chasing down their score with 2 wickets remaining. Monty Fenwicke-Clennell was top scorer with 23 playing in the lower order, and somewhat saving the game.

We took this confidence into our game against Rugby, possibly our best performance of the year. Stowe batted first and scored 166, Monty Fenwicke-Clennell scoring a season's best of 61, and Captain Harry Burnet calming

down a slight collapse and batting very sensibly to score 39. Rugby came into bat, and excellent bowling from Tom Riley (who bowled consistently all season) and Jack Comyn (striking fear into opposition hearts) kept Rugby's run rate low to begin with. Arthur Channon's spin gained him 3 wickets and Felix Holland-Bosworth bowled line and length to keep the run rate low and picked up 2 wickets in 3 overs. Rugby eventually scored 143, with tight fielding and good bowling keeping their score down. After a game against Oundle was rained off, Bedford arrived at Stowe to play on a soggy pitch. Bedford posted a big score of 167 in 25 overs, but again Tom Riley picked up a couple of wickets. Unfortunately, the big score panicked the Stowe boys a little, who decided to go for it from the off; six players were eventually caught out trying to score big. Another cancelled game against Oakham and a narrow loss against Bromsgrove finished off the season.

Harry Burnet captained the side well all season, with Max Butler keeping wicket. Finlay Dickerson and Max Smith fielded stoically and chipped in with runs, while George Gauvain, our only constant opening batsman, steadied the ship. Harry Hall became a specialist boundary fielder with a rocket of an arm and added runs with the bat as well.

Mr Tom Elwell

Yearlings C

It was a frustrating season for the very strong Yearlings C team with so many games being cancelled due to the weather. In the few games played, they dominated the opposition from the first ball with excellent bowling from the opening bowlers, Archie Chisnall and Jack Nesbitt, with our best opening spell having Bedford School 8 for 7 off 7 overs. Our fielding was also very good, ably led by Captain Henry Howard and often restricted teams to low scoring totals. This set an excellent platform for the opening batsmen of Henry Howard, Jack Nesbitt and the outstanding Charlie Maclure, who were able to accumulate the required runs quite quickly. It was a fantastic achievement to have an unbeaten season and the whole squad should be immensely proud of their performances.

Mr Toby Le Lacheur



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Yearlings D

In their three matches played this season the Yearlings D team recorded one win and two losses. The highlight of the season was the 7 wicket win against Uppingham. They were restricted to 61 runs in just 19 overs. Uppingham started their innings with a flurry of boundaries, however, by the third over the Stowe bowlers found their line and length with Nathan Lavelle taking a wicket. Rohan Sekhri and George Bonham Carter were the only two bowlers who managed maidens with Bonham Carter achieving a 2 wicket maiden in his 3 wicket haul. The other wickets fell to Sam Holloway, Josh McKelvey and Ivan Burrell. John Bitar had a strong game as wicket keeper with two catches. The defeats against Radley and Bedford did not detract from a very enjoyable season.

Mr Isaac Michael



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Lacrosse



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1st XII

This year proved to be a very successful season for the 1st XII, in fact one for the record books. With an experienced team on the field, led by Camilla Harvey-Scholes, the girls pushed the boundaries this year and saw fantastic results.

They opened up the season with a strong 8-3 win over North London Collegiate School and kept the momentum up with big wins over Bedford Girls' School, Cheltenham Ladies' College, St George's, Moreton Hall and St Helen and St Katharine. We also saw tight games against 2015 National Champions Wycombe Abbey with a close 8-10 loss and Benenden School, 7-11. The girls also had an excellent match against Birmingham University's 1st team.

Our attack was led by Camilla Harvey-Scholes, Philippa Stacey, Olivia Thomas and Emily Ulmann. They were a force to be reckoned with and although there were chinks in the armour at time, the girls fought through to victory. In the Lent

term we had a record-breaking weekend at the Rathbones English Lacrosse National Championships. Friday saw an excellent first day that began with a tough start against Wycombe Abbey. This saw the girls' only loss for the day 1-4, as they bounced back to beat Bradfield 4-0, Godolphin 4-3, Harrogate 6-0 and Sedbergh 10-0. They then went on to tie 1-1 with Benenden, who sat at the top of the group, to secure second place in the group. The second day saw the 1st XII in the top Championship Division and playing the best schools in the country. A tough match against St Catherine's to start saw a 0-3 loss for the girls, who then went on to play a heart-breaking 1-2 loss against Caterham. They then played St Paul's Girls' School to decide their fate in the pool and came out with an excellent 6-2 win. The final 16 knockout play began with a game against a tough St Mary's Calne. The girls used important scoring opportunities to secure a 3-2 win and move on to the quarter-finals. A tough match against the eventual National Champions, Berkhamsted, followed and although Stowe controlled the ball the entire first half, four failed shots meant the score did not fall in our favour. The team ended in the top eight schools in the country, the best result in Stowe history.

There have been a number of noticeable achievements away from Stowe with some of the 1st XII being selected for their County, their Region and even their Country. A huge congratulations to all the girls and good luck in your fixtures over the summer.

It has been an impressive year for many of the girls in the team. We are very much looking forward to hitting the field in September and picking up where we left off.

Miss Kaitlan Biondi

2nd XII

PLAYED 14, WON 6, DREW 1, LOST 7

The 2nd XII had a good year; they were a strong team who achieved some good results and showed vast improvement throughout the year. We were lucky to have such a rich, diverse and talented pool of players in our squad.

We had strong leaders on the field who led by example and the whole squad should be proud of the way they played on every occasion. Our Captains, Carmel Hobbs and Skye Longworth led the team well in defence throughout the year, with consistently strong performances from Thea Chisnall, Mali Aitchison, Eliza Podesta, Clara Haggie and Lula Goldsmith. The highlight of the season was reaching the finals of our section at the National Championships. Sadly we lost by one goal but the team performed exceptionally well, holding their composure and integrity under the pressure of the finals.



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I wish the girls in Upper Sixth all the best as they move on to pastures new and I hope the girls remaining at Stowe are looking forward to next term, building on such a strong finish to their lacrosse year.

Ms Helen Fryer

3rd XII

The 3rd XII were able to play three games this season. In each performance the girls gave it their all and fought hard throughout the entire game. They played Benenden, Oakham and Haileybury. The first game of the season against Benenden was full of individual performances that slowly merged into a strong and confident team as the game went on. The girls were very good when they got hold of the ball and quick transitions and quick shots became their main trick. The stand-out performance of the match was Chloe Livesey who had to stand in as our goalkeeper; as a Third Former this shows just how strong a player this young lady truly is.

The second game was a strong showing against Oakham's 2nd team. The game finished 14-2 with Sorrel Fenwicke-Clelland finding the back of the net four times, Zara Atta scoring three goals, Amy Jorgensen adding two and the rest scored by Alice Hawke, Jemima Cecil, Lily Muirhead, Emily Bourn and Olivia Walters. The 3rds had a similar performance to the first game, in that they attacked the goal quickly and each time they regained possession they were looking to get up the field.

The final game played was against Haileybury which was a hard fought 5-1 defeat. The hard work of the Stowe defence, led by Hannah Venner, made the shooting angles for Haileybury difficult and the score at half time was 2-0. Sorrel was working hard in the opposition's half of the pitch and put in a great performance; however, they were forcing her to make quick shots which often meant they were not well placed. However that did not stop her from taking a shot every time she got the ball.

The team had a strong attack all year and their transition game was always quick and moving to goal. Training with these girls was always interesting as many brought new ideas as to how we could achieve more goals. Lots of them were floating between the 2nd and 3rd XII, which kept competition strong for places. Many thanks to the regular players who always worked hard in training and in games. The girls can be very proud of their commitment to the team and the sport. I wish each and every one of them good luck with their future.

Mr Matt Cheney

U15A

At the start of the season the squad was overloaded with attacking players and it took the first few games to convert a few to defence and work on tactics. Starting the Lent term with a game against Benenden only highlighted the gaps in our game and we spent a number of training sessions teaching attacking plays and cementing our team defence. An early tournament showed how much they had improved as we beat St Helen and St Katharine and had a close game against Wycombe.

Ella Dettori, Annie Roberts and Polly French worked tirelessly in midfield, not being afraid to take a shot at goal if they got the chance. All three were deserving of colours at the end of term.

In attack we learnt to be disciplined and score off attacking plays when we got the chance. Georgie Leefe scored five and Zara Vickers (whom we brought up from the U14 team to play centre) scored four. Our top goal scorer was



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another Third Former: Georgie Mercer who topped the stats with ten. The team was led by Milly Cranmer and a final call should be given to our goalkeeper Imy Oliver who got us out of trouble on many occasions and her fantastic clears set up chances in attack time and time again.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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The U15Bs played an aggressive brand of lacrosse, its high tempo unsettling most of the opposition they faced. This style of play was demonstrated throughout the team from hockey goalkeeper convert Bella White, pouncing upon the ball and redistributing it quickly up the field to Izzy Garrett, Una Barclay and Gahsem Dorji, who contributed with goals in most of their games.

As the season progressed so did the girls' ability to instinctively know where each other would be on the field, allowing them to work together efficiently to win the ball cleanly from the opposition and dominate the ground ball game. The ability to execute this aggressive brand of lacrosse for the duration

of most of their games says a lot about the fitness and camaraderie of the squad, never giving up on each and every play, giving their all until the final whistle blew. The girls are proud of their season and rightly so; they wanted to play their own brand of lacrosse and for the most part employed it successfully, coming unstuck in only a few matches.

Mr Giles Cuddy

U15B

U14A

The ladies of the U14As worked extremely hard throughout the season: their tough fixture list tested them from the start and they rose to the challenge. With some of the girls playing lacrosse for the first time, I cannot fault the dedication and determination they brought to each practice session and fixture. Watching them play their final game of the season and see the transition they had made was remarkable and I could not be more proud of all they had achieved. Twice facing opposition a year group above them, the girls narrowly lost to Benenden 6-4 away at the beginning of the season and beat Haileybury 7-2 near the end, with attacker Lucy Bourn recording a hat-trick of goals.

As the girls built towards the National Schools' Championships the team's morale and confidence grew. Despite not making it out of the group stages, they demonstrated an athleticism and determination that drew admirable comments from the opposition players and coaches, with some players stunned to discover that this was their first season of lacrosse.

New goalkeeper Chloe Livesey was a stand-out performer all year (even being called up to the 2nd XII for one match): her talent for stopping shots and beginning new attacks confounded the opposition. Toyah Mowat was a rock in defence, covering the opposition's best attackers – a duty she performed with aplomb. Amelia Leondiou was a dynamo in midfield controlling the draw and dictating the pace of the game like a seasoned veteran, her energy and enthusiasm rippling out throughout the team. In attack, Lucy Bourn led a dangerous unit and formed a very effective partnership with Mia Dettori who led the team in assists. Overall the squad's progression was commendable and they are a fearsome prospect for next season.

Mr Giles Cuddy



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U14B

The U14B had a tough season and only won one match. Although the weather certainly was not on our side, forcing the cancellation of four matches, the girls fought hard and had a season they should be proud of. The girls' outstanding win came against Uppingham's U15A team. Great teamwork and solid passing helped the girls to a solid 7-1 victory. There were great performances throughout the season by Olivia Elliott and Ruby Redfern, who scored almost all of the team's goals. The girls have learned a lot this season and the progression from the first week to the last is some of the best we have seen here at Stowe. 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



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U14C

The U14C team had a very good season. Although they did not play many games, all of the girls put in so much effort, many of them starting out with little to no previous lacrosse experience. They all quickly picked up the basics of the game and started to show which areas were their strongest. In each training session the girls had a drive and hunger to improve their game, eager to learn new skills and try out new ideas. Players such as Emily Wilson, Hannah Gill and Flora Walters started to stand out as strong defenders. Sophie Yeowart, Lucy

Tilleard and Tessa Kach became strong attacking players throughout the year. Sophie has a very powerful shot and became the main focus of our attack. Mimi Pearce found herself quickly becoming a problem player for oppositions, her control and speed making it difficult to get the ball out of her stick. Each and every one of the girls can be proud of their progression this year. This bodes well for the future.

Mr Matt Cheney

Netball

Miss Lauren Ellis

This year it has been a delight to be able to offer four Senior teams for the first time ever. We were also fortunate to be invited to three major tournaments at Bedford Modern School, Bradfield College and St Helen and St Katharine and we also had great success in the England Netball National Schools' Competition. There has been a truly pleasant feeling of effort and determination at the Shop Courts this year of which all the girls should be very proud: I wish all our leavers well and hope they continue to enjoy playing netball as they have considerable potential.

1st VII

A young 1st VII are to be applauded for having a fantastic season with masses of potential for next season. We have played ten matches of high level netball coming away with some fruitful wins which saw over 140 goals scored by Stowe.

The most thrilling fixture of the season came against Mill Hill where we came away victorious in a hard fought 26-22 win. The game was an extremely tight and exciting affair. Stowe was determined to win on the back of beating Cokethorpe 36-33 the week before. Both games were goal for goal with superb movement and composure from the whole team, implementing new defensive tactics. A particular mention must go to Tilly Smith for captaining the team so brilliantly all season and to our other leavers; Jemima Fitzjohn and Jemima Grant, who have been ambassadors for netball during their time at Stowe.



2nd, 3rd & 4th VII

The 2nd VII have shown remarkable progress this season scoring 210 goals over the course of 11 matches. They ended the season with an exciting win against Dean Close, 17-11. A special thank you goes to Mrs Sarah Sutton who has coached the 2nd team fantastically all season.

The 3rd VII have had an exhilarating season playing ten matches and coming away with five victories including wins over Oundle, Princethorpe and Bradfield, which is testament to their dedication, teamwork and concentration during training. Special mention must go

to Sofia Sander for being awarded Player of the Match on many occasions. My thanks go to Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe and Mrs Cheryl Davies for guiding the team so superbly.

The 4th VII had the opportunity to play three competitive fixtures this year. They unfortunately didn't manage to come away with any wins but showed fantastic grit and determination throughout all their games. This is the first 4th VII Stowe has ever put out which is a superb achievement. Well done to Mrs Cheryl Davies for providing the team with huge determination.

2nd VII



3rd and 4th VII



Juniors

This year, we entered both the U14 and U16 County Tournament. After an exciting day of netball the U14s narrowly missed out on qualifying for the next stage of the competition and finished third overall on goal difference. The U16s played superbly against some very tough opposition and went through to the South Region Finals.

Despite two wins the girls could not progress through to the next round and finished eighth overall in the whole of the South Region. We look forward to building on this next year.

During their Tuesday and Thursday netball activity, nine teams across the U14s and U15s had the opportunity to play in block fixtures against some local schools but unfortunately suffered a lot of unavoidable cancellations. All teams showed brilliant improvement and achieved four wins against Akeley Wood at the end of the season.

I look forward to continuing the progress the Juniors have made this season by entering a new local league giving the opportunity for more fixtures next year.

Inter-House Results

The winners of the 2016 Inter-House Netball Competition were:

- Senior – Nugent
- Intermediate – Queen's
- Junior – Nugent

U15A



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U15B



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U14A



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U14B



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Football

1st XI

With a strong cohort of Upper Sixth players it promised to be an exciting and successful season for the team. This materialised right from the start of the term, when Stowe put Wellingborough then Uppingham to the sword. Both fixtures saw Stowe really utilise their searing pace up front, whilst also playing with more width and taking their time on the ball creating some fantastic goals. Stand-out players of the team early in the season were Alvaro de la Vega and Oscar Pegg, both of whom worked tirelessly to win the ball and distribute accurately to fellow team members. Ugo Anyamele also started well scoring five goals in two games.

Stowe's momentum was somewhat halted after an 'ice rink' pitch at Akeley Wood meant a lay off for the boys. However, the squad was able to continue their winning ways the following week when they took on King's Ely at home. They came flying out and went 1-0 up within five minutes, but the rest of the first half was a frustrating affair full of missed chances and players being caught offside. What had become a trademark 'de la Vega cross'TM led to another goal for him, earning him Man of the Match. The second half was even more pleasing when pressure and opportunities on goal were duly converted, leading to a 5-0 win.

The weather once again got the better of us and St Edward's pitch was under water. The Stowe squad marched on to a crunch match with local rivals The Royal Latin. A positive start to the match led to frustration, Stowe did not capitalise on a couple of early chances, which could have made the game a tighter affair. As it was, the team was made to pay by a classy opposition whose slick passing and finishing were too much for us on the day.

March was not a good month for the squad, following a cancellation due to weather against Dr Challoner's, the team had a very well matched 2-1 loss against the MK Dons BTEC squad. Further losses against Oundle and a 2-2 draw against Akeley Wood in the re-arranged fixture left the players feeling rather deflated. In the annual Old Stoic fixture, the old boys managed to turn around the heavy loss from last year to record a 4-1 win in a tighter match than the scoreline suggests.

The players will certainly feel a little disappointed but must take heart from some fantastic early performances and safe in the knowledge that at their best this year they were capable of sheer brilliance in attack. The team was a pleasure to manage, showing commitment to training and a desire to improve as players. I wish the leavers every success in their footballing future, and look forward to working with the Lower Sixth players again next year. The 1st XI will be embarking on a mid-season tour to Florida during February Half term next year.

Mr Andrew Jackson



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2nd XI

Despite having half of their matches cancelled the 2nd XI football season was far from unsuccessful. Beginning the year with their first match, just two days after training started, the team led 1-0 against Wellingborough for the entire first half. Unfortunately it was their lack of communication that allowed Wellingborough to settle at a comfortable 3-1 win in the end.

After this less than ideal start to the season, team leaders Tom Carr, Archie Forsyth, Inigo Lendrum and Harry Norris set a high standard in training with enthusiasm, focus and optimism and after several weeks they drew 2-2 with King's Ely. Hoping to come away from their next game with a win the team continued to intensify their training.

Despite losing the final game of the season 5-1 against Oundle, the team who played in those last 90 minutes showed marked improvements in ball handling, communication and positioning in relation to when they first set foot on the practice pitch months before. We are looking forward to seeing the 2nd XI players continue to develop and contribute to the School's football programme next season.

Mr Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo



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3rd XI

This season has been a highly impressive one from Stowe's 3rd XI: two wins and one draw, with 20 goals scored and just the one conceded. The fixtures this term were a little stop-start, with three of their games cancelled owing to poor weather, which affected the playing conditions. However, all the players approached the three games played with fantastic levels of maturity and intensity.

The season kicked off with a romping 9-0 away win at Wellingborough College, seeing hat-tricks from Federico Albertini, Inigo Lendrum and Allwell Opuala-Charles, as well as rock-solid defensive performance from the likes of Miles Bell and Caspar Wallersteiner. With Lendrum and Albertini being called up to the Stowe 2nd XI, some re-grouping was needed before the next game against King's Ely. The team responded brilliantly with a thumping 11-0 win over Ely at home, as James Creedy Smith, Tom Brooke and Fabian Bevan ran riot. Creedy Smith provided a contender for Goal of the Season, sending a half-volley into the top right-hand corner of the goal from 25 yards away.

The final result of the season, a draw against Uppingham, was potentially the sweetest of the three, given the circumstances of the game and the strength of Stowe's opposition. Uppingham, an athletic and technically slick side, imposed their dominance in the first half, heading home from a corner to make it 1-0 before missing a multitude of chances. The second half, however, was a different story as Stowe looked sharp and creative. After missing a penalty it looked as if luck was not on their side, but if there was a moment that encapsulated the team's drive and tenacity this season it was the goal that levelled the game 15 minutes from time: collecting the ball from a poor goal kick, 35 yards from goal, Luc Abbot-Davies took one touch to control before shooting the ball straight into the back of the net in incredible fashion. A great goal!

Mr Jack Palmer

U16

The U16 football team played five matches in the Lent term due to difficult weather conditions with four games being unfortunately lost due to waterlogged pitches. The team kicked off the season with a fine 4-0 victory over a strong and physical Wellingborough 3rd XI side. The team coped well with the difficult and muddy conditions. Harry Weiss made several important and brave saves in goal and first half goals from Captain Dan Jolker and Totse Jemide settled the team – two fine finishes from Man of the Match Tom Pearson was just reward for a solid all round performance.

The team performance of the season came against King's Ely in the following match. The back four of Dan Biss, Sean Chiu, James Gill and Peter Wood were growing in confidence and the strong midfield dominated proceedings. Ed Huser, Tom Pearson and a hat-trick from Dan Jolker was too much for the Cambridgeshire side. Even though we conceded two goals this was a comfortable win.

After losing two fixtures, the season lost momentum and many of the Fifth Formers' minds were on their mocks when they travelled to Abingdon after Half term. Abingdon were by far the strongest opposition the team faced and a 4-0 defeat was a low point of the season. Injuries to a number of players including Tom Pearson, the engine of the midfield, was a blow but the team bounced back straightaway against a challenging Oundle team in a game that resulted in a 2-2 draw. The next day the team travelled to Quinton House School but could not come up with a positive result losing 4-2.

Even though there were a couple of disappointing results, the team stayed together and played some very expansive and attacking football. There were also some very good individual performances during the season. Harry Weiss was consistent in goal and it was pleasing to see midfielders Henry Gauvain and Albie Oswald develop their games. The team is in safe hands next year with Fourth Formers Peter Wood, Ivan Titov, Gabriel Armstrong and Tom Percy leading the forward line. The squad depth was also important with Peter Wang and Max Campbell-Preston both serving the team well. The boys had some tough games, often playing against more physical and Sixth Form aged teams and their commitment to improve during training impressed all the coaches involved. Special mention must go to Vice-Captain Henry Gauvain and Captain Dan Jolker who both led by example in training and on the pitch. I have no doubt that many of this side will be pushing for 1st XI places next year.

Mr Peter Deakin





Rowing

The rowing season at Stowe started with a win for Gleb Shcherbakov and Ilya Riskin at the ISIS Sculls in Oxford shortly after our return from the summer break. These two have been a regular combination throughout the year and listening to the two of them shouting Russian instructions to each other has been entertaining. As the two are in different year groups, Gleb in the Fourth Form and Ilya in the Lower Sixth Form, it has meant that Gleb has had to prioritise his commitments to the Lower School team instead of their partnership.

Gleb, Alex Buswell and Dani Fusco-House all travelled to Boston, USA to compete in the Head of the Charles River race, the largest event of its kind in the world, and our second visit to this event in as many years. Staying with Minna Blair in Manchester on Sea, the squad did really well against a strong and large entry and raced in freezing conditions on the day. The trip was a real success and an inspiration to those who participated in this enormous event. Dani has received a full scholarship based on her rowing to a US university commencing September 2016.

At home, Ilya was teamed up with Archie Morley and won the J16 Double Sculls at Cambridge Small Boats Head. Later in the term Andrew Rudkin teamed Rhea Vankova-Martin up with a crew from Hollowell to take part in the Avon County Head of the River race, and the team was

successful in winning the J15 Women's Quad. At Evesham in the Summer term, Dani Fusco-House went on to win the very competitive Women's Senior Single Sculls event.

Birmingham was our big success of the year in terms of wins. Archie Morley won the Men's J15 Singles, James Pocklington and Ayrton Patel won the Men's J16 Doubles and the Quad of Archie Morley, James Pocklington, Oscar Hill and Max Bishop won the Men's J18 Quad. This combination of wins put Birmingham as our best ever set of results from a single regatta.

The year saw us change direction in terms of training. We had a regular fitness circuit once a week for those involved in racing as well as a weekly Ergometer session supported by Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo; his expertise in this area has been greatly appreciated by all. We have purchased some more boats and Ergometers this year which included a coxed four and a new single scull to add to our fleet. Our resources are improving year on year, and this can only benefit those participating in rowing at Stowe. I would like to thank all the members of staff who have coached this year, Andrew Rudkin, Andrew Wilson, Alicia Davies, Alejandro Jimenez Jaramillo and Gwilym Jones who have turned up in the rain, cold and even snow at times!

Mr Michael Righton



Water Polo



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The 2015-2016 season was always going to be hard for our Senior team as there was a lack of players in the Upper School, therefore they relied on the U16 team to field a team for matches. The fixture list was sporadic due to exams and cancellations but the games we did play were well fought and great to watch. We beat Oundle 12 goals to 3 with Kit Rigby scoring the majority and thanks to the solid partnership of Tom Leach and Harry Middleton, we knew we were covered at the back.

We had an enthralling match against Bedford in our next fixture. We were two goals adrift at half time but came back fighting. With positive thinking and encouragement from the pool's edge the game ended 6-4. Captain Kit Rigby was voted Player of the Year for the Seniors with Alex Harris being voted as Most Improved Player. Next year Alfie Kingham is taking the reins as the Senior Captain.

The Junior team came away disappointed at the English

Schools' Championships as they went out in the semi-finals of the Plate competition. However, it made them more determined to come back fitter and stronger. Alex Girling was appointed Captain; he has developed as a very good centre back and has the added bonus of being ambidextrous. Goalkeeper Felix Holland-Bosworth showed off his electric reflexes in every game and Ed Don, Ian Hsu, Henry Howard and Hugh Fox all played brilliantly throughout the season. Edward Akeroyd Hunt displayed his talent of stealing the ball from the opposition and changing direction with lightning speed, which earned him joint title of Player of the Year alongside Sam Holloway who was aptly nicknamed 'The Playmaker' by his teammates. The Most Improved Player went to Rory Trotman, who started the season as a complete novice but has turned into a human cannon whenever he gets his hands on the ball.

Mr Stewart Cowie



Boys' Tennis

1st VI

PLAYED 6, WON 1, DREW 1,
LOST 4

The boys' 1st VI have enjoyed an entertaining and competitive season and managed to produce some impressive displays of doubles tennis. As a team we only beat Bedford School, but Captain Freddie Pope and Gabriel Chauveau won the majority of their sets as first pair and their standard of play was a match for anyone on the circuit. Other regular team members were Ned Hiley, Fabian Bevan, Jamie Metson, Ed Good and Tom Buxton, with Freddie Woods and Henry Eleyin-Bingham stepping in for the Bedford victory.

A pleasing aspect of the season was the sportsmanship and camaraderie displayed by the team and Freddie Pope deserves particular mention for his excellent leadership and organisational skills. With the majority of the squad being Lower Sixth, and with some promising Fifth Formers about to move up, the prospects for next year look bright.

Mr Rory Akam



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2nd VI

This has been a challenging season for the 2nd VI, but the good nature of the group, coupled with their willingness to reflect on their mistakes and improve, has meant that the learning experience has been a valuable one.

The season opened with promise, as Stowe won 6-3 at home against Oakham; Ed Good and Anton Kondrashov played particularly well, winning all three of their matches. Sterner tests followed though, with Uppingham and Abingdon both proving too consistent for the Stoics' game. Cameron Hay and Hamish Graham-Campbell came close in a number of their matches as first pair, and they were unlucky in several tight games against opponents. Testing afternoons presented themselves for all involved against St Edward's and Rugby, although a triumphant afternoon of mixed doubles away at sunny Bloxham bookended the year nicely.

As we say farewell to Tom Buxton, a Stowe tennis stalwart since the Third Form, next season looks promising for the 2nd VI with the likes of Samuel Montgomery and Ben Skinner in particular demonstrating some excellent ground-strokes.

Mr Jack Palmer



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Colts A & B

This year's Colts squad have been extremely keen, reliable, focused and willing to listen to advice. As a coach I could not have asked for more than this and as a consequence of their attitude, they improved dramatically and had a very successful season.

The A team was captained by the lively and enthusiastic Freddie Woods, who did a wonderful job in leading by example. He partnered Henry Eleyin-Bingham in all five matches in this truncated season (due to GCSE exams). Freddie and Henry managed the superb achievement of winning every single set they played this season, congratulations to them!

Nick Montgomery and Oscar Price played as second pair and also had a winning season. They have great potential and I hope they play tennis throughout the winter so they can develop into strong Senior players next year. Sam Flint and Harry Weiss played as third pair. Their consistent effort meant they regularly picked up victories against better ranked pairs from the opposition which often got the team off to a great start.

A convincing win at home against Oakham set the season off to a great start. A long trip to play Uppingham on very low bouncing astro courts proved to be the only time the team lost this season as we went on to beat Abingdon, St Edward's and Oundle. As the season developed, the boys learned and implemented the basics of doubles tactics, which can be summarised as: dominate the net and volley cross court... Ok there is a bit more involved, but this is the fundamental plan!

The B team of Arthur Marriot and Konstantin Abramov as first pair, Tom Purdon and Matthew Gardner Martin as second pair and Max Shannon and Harry Pullin as third pair had an enjoyable season. They picked up a comfortable victory over St Edward's, although the matches against Uppingham and Abingdon ended as losses. In common with the A team, their attitude was very positive and their performances improved throughout the season.

Mr Craig Sutton

Junior Colts A & B

This year the Junior Colts were once again able to field a strong A and B team. Both teams experienced a challenging but successful season in which they competed on a par with some of the biggest and most competitive (in tennis terms) schools in the south and east of the country. Captained by Tom Percy, the JCA team very quickly found their rhythm and were well able to challenge at the highest level. The highlights for this particular team were two hard-fought, but brilliantly executed, victories over two of our greatest rivals – none other than Oundle and Bedford. With these high-class performances in mind, the JCA team should be proud of their standing at the end of the season.

The JCB faced similar challenges but equally managed to hold their opponents to account, even if in the end



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some schools provided just too great a challenge overall. Striking performances by the individual pairs at both JCA and JCB level promise great things for the future of tennis at Stowe. Congratulations to all who represented Stowe at Junior Colts level this season.

Mr Roland Johnson



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Yearlings A & B

The small Yearlings squad was always keen to train and perform in matches. As the newest year group it is always a challenge to select the best pairings early on in the season. However, as the term progressed some strong partnerships were formed. The A team had some very close matches, but too often just came up short at the final hurdle. Many lessons were learned by this and will be carried forward to better results next year to make them a stronger team. The Bs however had a much better win:loss ratio and it is hoped some will be knocking on the door for an A team place next year.

Mr John Skinner

Girls' Tennis

1st VI

The year started on a very positive note in the Michaelmas term when a team of four played in the round robin stage of the Senior Schools' Competition. Winning their group by beating Rugby and Northampton Girls' School, they progressed to the knockout stage in January. They got through to the last 16 in the country by beating Bedford Girls' School and were one match away from going to the National Finals. In the last 16, a team from Beauchamp College were stronger on the day. Well done to Izzy Oliver (Captain), Bubby Upton, Kira Evans and Vicky Beglin for progressing to the latter stages of the tournament.

The squad for the Summer term comprised Izzy Oliver, Bubby Upton, Charlotte Oswald, Frankie Knight, Antonina Kozhukhova, Kira Evans and Vicky Beglin. The first three matches played were dominated by Stowe but as exams loomed the results did tail off a little. Having said that, all the girls played their best in every match they played. At times there was some very impressive play, with



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many points being won at the net. Four of the squad will return in September with some strong contenders coming through from the 2nd VI. Kira Evans has been appointed Captain for next year.

Mr John Skinner

2nd VI

The team players for the 2nd VI were Lottie Hopkinson, Alice Maclure, Izzy Jessel, Celia Marment, Annabel Simpson, Laura Saffari, Delphine Alvingini and Zabby Tucker. With only one Upper Sixth in this squad, all the others will be back next year. Some may move up to the 1st VI, but the girls will be determined to try to get a 100% winning record. Lottie and Alice were the most successful pair of the squad with some outstanding serving from Lottie and some fantastic work at the net by Alice; this was a new partnership which worked well. The 2nd VI always worked hard on training days and it was good to see their enthusiasm and energy taken through to match day.

Mr John Skinner



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With the largest pool of players for some years to choose from, the first three practice sessions of term were match play based. The results from these three days were used for team selection. The teams then took this fighting spirit to match day, and after many close points, rallies and games it was unfortunate they did not get the rewards they deserved.

The teams were made up from the top three year groups in the School and as exams came and went, so did the players. In the latter part of the Summer term some of the Lower Sixth found themselves promoted to higher teams and always put in a great performance. Well done to the whole squad for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Mr John Skinner

3rd VI & 4th VI



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U15A

The U15A tennis team had a successful term and the same six that started the term are the ones that finished it. Captained by Lily Marriott, Georgie Leefe, Ellie Bewes, Gemma Blane, Milly Cranmer and Imy Oliver were well deserving of the Junior colours that were awarded in assembly at the end of term. They started the season with two strong wins over Oakham and St Edward's and although there were defeats by Oundle and Bedford the matches were close and their doubles tactics have been noticeably improving match by match.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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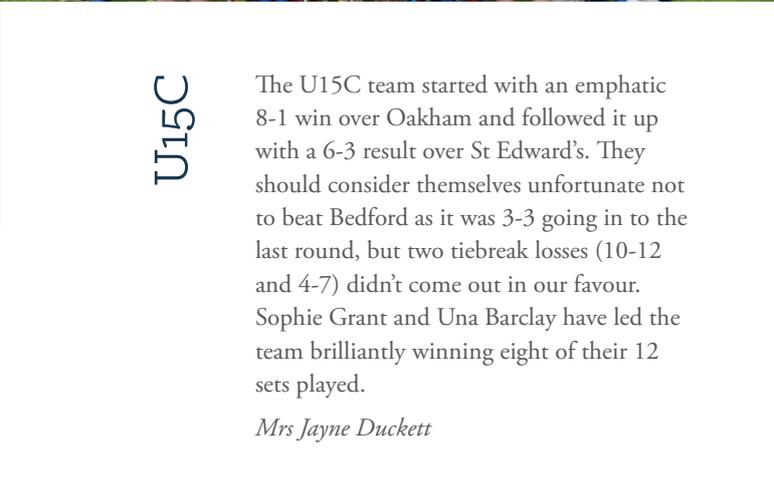
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U15B

The U15B team secured two excellent wins against St Edward's and Bedford and losses against Oundle, Rugby and Oakham. The team has grown in stature since their very first game and the first pair of Samai Lamberti and Liza Zakon have led the way with victory in nine of the 12 sets played. Amazingly five of those sets were won in a tiebreak.

The remainder of the team, Charlotte Platz and Amber Frost as second pair and Martha Scott Knight and Annie Roberts as third pair have all played their part and improved their net play as the season has progressed.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U15C

The U15C team started with an emphatic 8-1 win over Oakham and followed it up with a 6-3 result over St Edward's. They should consider themselves unfortunate not to beat Bedford as it was 3-3 going in to the last round, but two tiebreak losses (10-12 and 4-7) didn't come out in our favour. Sophie Grant and Una Barclay have led the team brilliantly winning eight of their 12 sets played.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U15D

The U15D team started their season with a close 5-4 win over Oakham and continued with the same result over St Edward's. We called on ten girls to represent Stowe and it is good that we have strength in depth at this level. Esme Foster and Helena Vince played first pair and won all six of their sets played which was excellent.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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U14A

The U14A have enjoyed some competitive fixtures and have developed their play to work well with their doubles partners to create opportunities for success. Overall we played nine fixtures, winning four and claimed 39 games to 41. We defeated Tudor Hall (5-4), St Edward's (8-1), Bloxham (7-2) and Kimbolton (7-2), narrowly losing to Oakham (4-5) and Oundle (4-5). A memorable match was away at Tudor Hall in difficult weather conditions when at 4-4 the final set rested on Lucy Bourn and Toyah Mowat who, affected by the rain, had gone 0-3 down. Fortunately, the sun came out and they played themselves back into the game to win the set and therefore the overall match 5-4. Maddie Marriott and Toyah Mowat had a great match against Bloxham's first pair where they had to be really creative to exploit gaps and stay focused to win 6-4. Isobel Hopkins and Maria Sharipova notably defeated the Oundle second pair and Maria won the singles Road to Wimbledon competition at Stowe going



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through to the County Round at Marlow. It was a most enjoyable season and much to look forward to in the future.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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U14B

The U14B have been a positive and enthusiastic team who tried their best throughout the term. Although they did not win all their matches, they developed their understanding of doubles play, working well with their partner to become increasingly confident both with individual skills and their game strategy. Overall they played nine matches defeating St Edward's (8-1) and Bloxham (9-0). Charlotte Would and Ruby Redfern at first pair had a notable win against the Oakham first pair 6-4; Octavia Comerford and Connie Dutton at second pair had a fantastic result at Oundle defeating the first pair 6-4 and Chloe Livesey and Kitty Wemyss performed well at St Edward's to win all three sets. These girls have so much potential and I hope they will continue to practise so they can represent the Senior teams as they move up through the School.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U14C

The U14C met some challenging opposition but once they were able to manage their nerves they made progress and enjoyed some really good games. They improved significantly to gain a greater appreciation of the tactics of doubles and had comfortable wins against St Edward's (7-2) and Bloxham (9-0). Kora Haigh and Amber Capurro were on fantastic form against Oakham to defeat both their second and third pair 6-4 and also stepped up to play for the B team against Bloxham to win all three sets. Tilly Howard, partnered with fellow Lyttelton girls, Georgia Glenser and Caitlin Thomas, all became more consistent and confident, especially with serving and volleying. Mia Dettori and Amelia White enjoyed success against our local rivals and always seemed to be having fun.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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U14D

The U14D proved to be the most successful team, showing the strength in depth at Stowe. They found a great balance between enjoying playing and developing their skills, while maintaining their competitive streak to win four out of their five fixtures. Well done to Imogen Joyce and Eleanor Haggie, Mimi Pearce and Georgia Page-Turner and Olivia Elliott and Alika Andriienko who won 29 matches overall, conceding only 13. This included Oakham (6-3), Tudor Hall (7-2), St Edward's (9-0) and Bloxham (6-0). Thank you to Chloe Daniel and Emily Banks who stepped in to play on occasion. I have appreciated the positive attitude of this team and their continued effort throughout.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

Rounders

It has been a busy term for the girls in the rounders teams as we were trying to fit in matches around the other key sports. We managed to get six games in the diary and won five and drew one, which is an excellent set of results.

The U15A team had a brilliant match against Thornton College and scored 25 rounders in total in both their matches. The U15B team had a fantastic match against Kimbolton School winning by a huge 9.5 rounders. The U14A team had a nail-biting match against The Royal Latin and ended up drawing 21-21 but scored a total of 51 rounders. The U14B also had a really great game against Kimbolton and managed to secure a 6.5 lead over them with some great quick-thinking fielding. Overall I am really happy with the girls' efforts this year. The U14A, U14B and U15B teams are still unbeaten which is fantastic and I'm sure they will be able to do it again next year.

Every Saturday we have been running the Inter-House Senior and Junior rounders competition alongside the matches. All the girls have really enjoyed playing against their peers and showing their competitive side. The winners of the Senior competition was Nugent and the winners of the Junior competition was Queen's.

Miss Cat Evans

Fencing

There has been an exciting leap forwards for our fencing team this year in two disciplines, Foil and Épée. This is all down to our Captain, Sam Lodge. Sam has encouraged us to enter more National competitions and increase the amount of training sessions. Baldip Sahota, our head coach, has worked very hard with the squad to reach greater heights and his enthusiasm and psychology has helped to produce an elite group of fencers who want to win.

Our Foil brigade shone with great performances from the Captain, who got to the last 64 in the Welsh Senior Men's Open. There was disappointment when he drew with one of the top ranking fencers at the Public Schools' but he was able to pick himself up for the British Youth Championships. Sam's best results came in the East Midlands and Luton Open where he gained silver.

Next year's Captain, Hugo Robinson was able to go one better and won gold at the Luton Open. He has excelled this year gaining bronze in the East Midlands Open.

Next year's girls' Captain, Lauren Brigden was able to match Hugo in the medal tally: 18th place in the Public Schools', a commendable third in the East Midlands Open and gold in the British Youth Championships. Lauren was selected to fence for the intermediates at East Midlands level, which is a fine achievement as she is only in the Fourth Form.

In Épée, Hannah Laurence was able to perform at a high level. The advantage of being left-handed confused many opponents on her way to coming 12th in her category at the Public Schools' at Crystal Palace. This bodes well for her future.

Épée guru Edward Don was, to me, the outstanding fencer this year. He has only just finished the Third Form and it is clear that an impressive future lies ahead. Edward achieved a commendable 10th place in the Public Schools' and has been training with GB's top fencers at Towcester Fencing Club on a weekly basis. The icing on the cake for Edward was to be selected to represent Wales at the 2016 National Schools' Games at Loughborough University in September. This event will see 1,600 elite fencers dual.

Finally I would like to say thank you to all the fencers this year and also for the support of their parents and Housemasters and Housemistresses. Thank you to Captain Sam Lodge for a great year, well done and good luck for the future.

Mr Stewart Cowie



Sailing

This term we have welcomed several new sailors into the Third Form with previous sailing and racing experience. In addition we have had several others wanting to learn how to sail, including Sixth Formers, and it has been good to see them improve rapidly over the course of the year. We have provided three afternoons of sailing, which has allowed a good number of Stoics to have time on the water. The pressure of exams, however, has severely reduced the number of team matches against individual schools, although this has allowed the 2016 team to claim an undefeated record – the first for several years.

There were light winds for the Individual Helmsman's Tankard Competition in April. In the first race, Jack Polturak overtook Fergus Paske in the second lap, coming in first. Fergus was over the line at the start of the second race, allowing Jack to build up a good lead and come in first again and Will Trumper edged just clear of Fergus at the finishing line. Therefore overall Jack won and Fergus and Will were equal second.

In the home match at Great Moor Sailing Club against Bloxham in May, Stowe won 2-0. The conditions were ideal with a good breeze and sunshine. The first race was keenly contested, with Stowe coming from a losing combination to win. Jack Polturak took first place and also took the lead in the second race, with Will Trumper

coming second and Fergus Paske fighting to overcome the consequences of being forced the wrong side of the mark at the start. It was good to see three new members of the team as crews.

In the Inter-House sailing competition in May, nine Houses entered. All the teams produced a pleasing standard of sailing, despite a massive downpour of rain at one point. There was some keen competition and, although Chatham easily won their heat, Grenville trumped them in the final and so proved the eventual winners. Chatham came second, Stanhope third and Temple fourth.

In addition to regularly using the excellent fleet of Firefly Dinghies at Great Moor Sailing Club, we were able to return to sailing Toppers on the Eleven Acre Lake at Stowe as the Sailing Island Hut was extensively renovated last year. There are now individual racks on each side of the hut that are just large enough for a single boat. We also have some new marker buoys allowing courses to be set on the lake.

My sincere thanks go to Mr Gwilym Jones and Mr David Critchley for their continued invaluable help in running the sailing, and also to Mr Liam Copley who has joined the team this year.

Mr Michael Bevington





Athletics

Led by Captains Thalia Felton and Isaac Ajala, athletics has had a successful year with 15 School Records broken.

The boys' teams competed at Harrow, Eton and Bromsgrove and, although low on numbers due to exams, they did really well and produced some great results. The girls' team competed at Cheltenham and Bromsgrove with a much better turnout of athletes and they finished in the top three at both events.

In the County Championships we won two gold, three silver and two bronze medals and in the Buckinghamshire Schools' Championships there were gold medals for Zoë Pollock and Georgia Flawn-Thomas and second place finishes for Ed Anderson, Mark Kanjana and Olivia Thomas.

Zoë Pollock was selected for the Buckinghamshire squad for the English Schools' National Track and Field Championships in Gateshead in July and she made it through three rounds, finishing eighth in the final with a Personal Best of 25.11 seconds in the 200m. She has also been selected for the Combined Events Finals in September after finishing third in a recent Regional round.

Olivia Thomas was selected to compete for Buckinghamshire in the Southern Inter-Counties' Competition in Bromley for javelin. Although a little tired after returning from the lacrosse tour the morning before, she did very well for her first competition at this level finishing in 12th place.

Mr Kyle Bennett



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Cycling

The academic year for the Stowe Cycle Club kicked off in motivational style. Harry Middleton, Josh Riley, Archie Morley, Max Shannon and John Balcon Perez all made the trip to London in September to meet the Cannondale-Garmin pro-cycling team before they raced around the central London streets in the final stage of the Tour of Britain.

Over the course of the year Stowe cycling has certainly started to establish itself both in and outside the School's community. Wednesday activity sessions have provided the opportunity for Stoics of all abilities to enjoy the sport, be that socially or on a competitive basis. We have covered an array of topics that enrich the enjoyment of the sport, from how to ride in a group to racing tactics and training programmes. Ollie Seddon, Josh Riley, James Cecile-Pritchard, Harry Middleton and Ms Goodman have all profited from cycling sessions as an active recovery session or complementing other sports by providing additional fitness benefits.

Harry Kirby and Freddie Paling have been flying the competitive flag throughout the year. During the Michaelmas term they continued to compete in cyclo-cross races while building up the base miles throughout the week. Proof of that base came in the form of the Icknield Sportive in May. Setting out from Ampthill, Freddie and Harry took on the 100 mile route through the Buckingham and Bedfordshire countryside completing the course in 5 hours and 22 minutes, averaging 29.9km/hr. impressively; this was Harry's very first 100 miler.

Following on from this success Stowe cyclists (Stoics and staff alike) entered their first time trial of 2016 at Bicester Millenium Cycle Club's weekly event at the Weston-on-the-Green Airfield with a three-man (including Mr Sutton) and two-man team entry finishing 9th and 20th respectively. Since then the lure of completing four laps of the airfield in an attempt to beat your previous time



over the 10 mile distance has become an enticing draw every few weeks. The likes of Freddie Paling, Harry Kirby and Archie Morley have all flown the Stowe flag at this event and there have been impressive improvements and times posted from week to week with Harry top of the 2016 leaderboard and Archie Morley showing the greatest improvements and innovative riding techniques.

Excitingly, Stowe School Cycling Club gained British Cycling affiliation, such that the School can now enter and be represented at racing events that carry points and prizes. Harry Kirby and Freddie Paling got the wheels turning at the Milton Keynes Bowl. Freddie took on the Category 3-4 racing on Thursday evenings with Harry entering the Junior events on Wednesdays. Freddie acquitted himself well in his very demanding adult category and Harry secured second place on two separate occasions. The Summer term's events were rounded off at the Wallingford Cycling Festival in which Harry achieved third place.

As the largest growing sport in the UK there is exciting potential ahead with plans and aspirations to establish a spinning class as part of the Stowe sports programme, a sportive event and a cycling camp.

Mr Chris Grimble





Cross Country

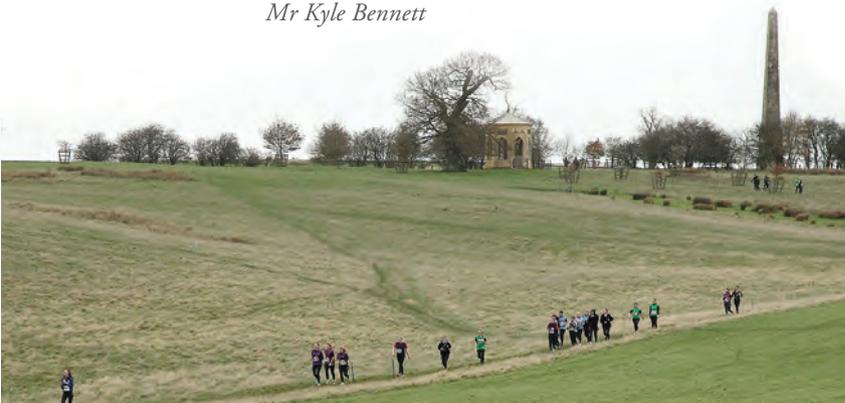
Led by Captain Georgia Flawn-Thomas the season was a successful one. For the first time we had athletes join the Milton Keynes Athletics Club and compete for them in the Chiltern League; Harrison Dockerty, Max Bashaarat, Dan Jolker, Oliver Vince, Georgia Flawn-Thomas and Rosie Smith all competed well.

At the Buckinghamshire Schools' Cross Country Championships there were some great performances including a gold medal for the Senior girls' team.

At the English Schools' National Championship in Nottingham, Georgia Flawn-Thomas and Jemima Grant both represented Buckinghamshire in the biggest cross country race of the season. Georgia had a solid run in the Inter girls' race finishing in 209th position and was third in Buckinghamshire. Jemima was competing in her second ever cross country race and did extremely well finishing in 196th position in the Senior girls' race and also finished third in Buckinghamshire.

The season came to a close at the Inter Counties' Championships in Birmingham in March. Georgia Flawn-Thomas was competing for Buckinghamshire in the U17 age group. Due to some difficulties during the race involving her spikes, Georgia finished in a very respectable 154th position and was still the first Buckinghamshire athlete to finish.

Mr Kyle Bennett



The annual Inter-House cross country competition took place on Sunday 29 November. In the boys' team competition Chatham won the Junior and Grafton won the Intermediate and Senior competitions. Lyttelton won the Junior and Senior girls' team competition and Nugent won the Intermediates.

The individual results were as follows:-

Junior Boys:

- 1st - Thomas Fountain (Third Form, Cobham)
- 2nd - George Holmes (Third Form, Grafton)
- 3rd - Christian Linton (Third Form, Bruce)

Intermediate Boys:

- 1st - Daniel Jolker (Fifth Form, Cobham)
- 2nd - Billy Vestey (Fifth Form, Grafton)
- 3rd - Freddie Woods (Fifth Form, Chatham)

Senior Boys:

- 1st - Harrison Dockerty (Upper Sixth, Chandos)
- 2nd - Charlton Kerr (Upper Sixth, Cobham)
- 3rd - Oscar Pegg (Upper Sixth, Bruce)

Junior Girls:

- 1st - Alyssia Dockerty (Third Form, Queen's)
- 2nd - Georgia Glenser (Third Form, Lyttelton)
- 3rd - Amber Capurro (Third Form, Nugent)

Intermediate Girls:

- 1st - Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent)
- 2nd - Rosie Smith (Fifth Form, Queen's)
- 3rd - Mali Aitchison (Fifth Form, Nugent)

Senior Girls:

- 1st - Jemima Grant (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)
- 2nd - Annabel Simpson (Lower Sixth, Queen's)
- 3rd - Bubby Upton (Lower Sixth, Queen's)



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Squash

PLAYED 9, WON 5, LOST 4

Things have a habit of balancing out and the squad found itself on the wrong side of the law of averages. We had a handful of new players join the squad but in the end the loss of a core of experience and ability proved inimical to the team's progress.

All of which said, there was much to admire on the court. Hugh Buxton grew ever more accomplished as a player with an exceptional range of shots and an expert reading of the game; Alex Smith gave his all as he has done throughout his time at Stowe and proved himself tenacious and talented in equal measure. This year also saw Edwin Rimlinger, Charles Granby and Charlie Leefe emerge as real talents and Jack Hechle led the side with dignity and decorum. Down the School there are some exciting talents that will surely blossom over the next few years so there is plenty of scope for optimism; this year, however, has been a year of tough lessons and the important thing will be remembering and learning from them in the future.

Next year will see a tweaking to the House Competition which will hopefully engage the younger players. Hugh Buxton will take the reins from Jack Hechle as Captain and will surely prove a charismatic and inspirational figure for the developing players. And of course, Fraser Liversage will remain on hand to deliver a level of expert advice and coaching any school would envy.

Mr Paul Floyd



Clay Pigeon Shooting

In March the Stowe A and B teams took part in the annual Warwick Challenge. Having contested with the talented opposing teams and shot at some very difficult stands, Stowe emerged in a very respectable, well-deserved fourth place with a team score of 149. Stowe's top gun of the day was our very own A team Captain, Ben Skinner who shot a commendable 35 out of 50 clays. Ben has led the team this year with notable wins over the Warwick A team as well as two wins over Kimbolton. Ben continues as Captain next year and is keen to encourage more Stoics to take part and aspires to establish an all-girls' team.

Grenville confidently won the Inter-House shooting competition earlier in the year, with top gun going to Ben Skinner, and it was wonderful to see the Stoics beat the Old Stoics on Speech Day. The parent and child competition was a very close competition with Tavish Struthers and his father winning the cup by one bird.

Thanks must go to Clive Harris and his team of outstanding shooting coaches who have enabled the Stoics to improve their shooting skills – we hope this will pay dividends in the 2017 National Shooting competition. Special thanks go to our departing Upper Sixth shooting team members, especially William Motion who has consistently performed well in competition and encouraged younger Stoics to embrace this most noble of sports.

With matches scheduled against both Kimbolton and Warwick in the Michaelmas term, Stowe's shooting teams look forward to an amazing 2016/17.

Dr Gordon West and Georgie Skinner (Lower Sixth, Nugent)

Fives

Fives has become even more popular over the last year. For the second year running George Adams has been boys' Captain and Savannah Courtenay has been girls' Captain. We continue to have three sessions a week during the Michaelmas and Lent terms, with professional coach Matt Wiseman coming in on a Friday to help teach the tactical side of the game. During the Michaelmas term we played a few matches with mixed results. It was encouraging that for the second year running we were able to put out an all-girls team against Berkhamsted. The Senior House competition also took place with Temple winning the boys' competition and Lyttelton winning the girls' competition.



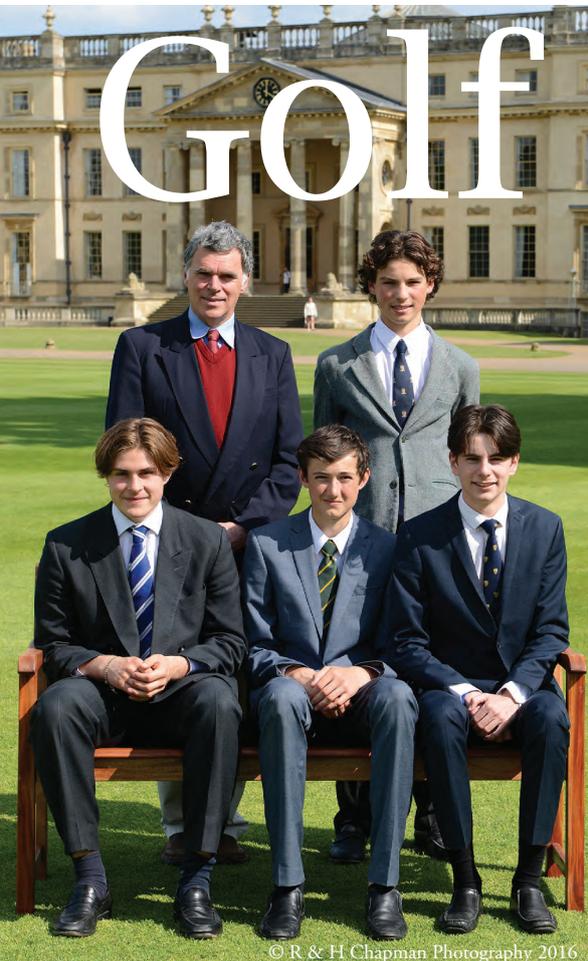
In the Lent term, four girls went to the Ladies' Open Competition at Eton. Congratulations to Savannah Courtenay and Frankie Knight who reached the semi-finals.

The Junior House fives competition took place during the Lent term with Bruce winning the boys' competition and Nugent winning the girls' competition. Each House had six players; this meant that 72 Juniors had the opportunity to play, some for the first time.

Our usual three matches (one in each term) against the Old Stoics were all played with great spirit and after the Old Stoics had won each match they kindly paired up with a current Stoic to continue the game. Their support and encouragement is greatly appreciated, and long may it continue.

Our current Captains have one more year with the School and will no doubt, in their third year, continue their good work encouraging more players into the game.

Mr John Skinner



Golf

With a wide range of fixtures, casual golf and coaching opportunities over the three terms, golf continues to flourish at all levels. The fixture list comprised an exciting match against Loughborough Grammar School in the HMC Foursomes; a triangular match against Cheltenham College and Radley; four fixtures at the magnificent Stoke Park against Wellington, Winchester College, Harrow and the Old Stoics; and other matches at Frilford Heath, Studley Wood, Buckingham and Broadway.

There are huge numbers of Junior Stoics playing golf and our two fixtures with Radley, though unsuccessful, were very well supported. Twice a week a minibus leaves Stowe for the range at Buckingham Golf Club where expert tuition is delivered by Greg Hannah (PGA Professional). Experienced golfers, alongside complete beginners, relish these sessions and marked progress is made by all.

In March the golf team travelled to Woking for the annual Micklem Tournament played over two days. Acquitting themselves extremely well in some very wet weather and playing some impressive golf, Stowe reached the Plate Final with a fine win over Winchester College. Debutant James Watkins, playing at No. 5, scored a resounding 9&7 victory against his opponent. Long-hitting Piers Odell fought back valiantly to win his match and Alex Smith also played some fabulous golf. In a hard fought final on the second day against Rugby School, Olly Clarke led from the front with a second victory over a first string opponent; Olly had also beaten the Winchester No. 1 in the morning. Kit Gordon Cumming also recorded a victory in the final. A 3-2 defeat in the final was a disappointing end to a most enjoyable and productive trip. Captain Olly Clarke (handicap 5) was awarded his colours after this year's Micklem.

The Summer term ended with the traditional Headmaster's Tankard competition: this year's winners were Louis Hay and Gavin Moffat.

Mr Richard Knight

Equestrian

Having taught the pupils of Stowe prior to the Equestrian Centre being built in 2012, and for the past three years, I felt honoured to be recommended for the post of Equestrian Centre Manager whilst Mrs Price was away on maternity leave. The Equestrian Centre continues to flourish with waiting lists for not only the next academic year but also for 2017-2018.

Prior to my role beginning, I escorted 13 Stoics to the Grafton Hunt meet at the School. It was a very proud moment, seeing pupils that I have taught go hunting for the first time and being educated on hunting etiquette and countryside management.

The Inter-House competition, run as an Eventers' Challenge, was a huge success. Whiteboards and flowers were placed in the arena for the dressage section and the cross country course was flagged and numbered, with the occasional show jump placed within the track to give a true competition feel. The only thing we couldn't guarantee was the weather. When it rained it poured. Even the dressage judge had to put the windscreen wipers on to see the competitors, but the pupils were determined to carry on and gain points for their Houses. Nugent came first, Chloe Livesey won the individual prize in the jumping section and Cecilia Mayne won the individual prize in the dressage section.



This year's diary has been full of competitions with the Stowe team being placed fourth at Beachampton's Eventer Challenge and pupils awarded rosettes at both Gawcott and Quainton Stud's Eventers' Challenge. Bicester Pony Club ran a one day event where Coco Brooks came first in her class along with Sophia Galione who placed 10th.

The Stowe team competed in the Grassroots Regionals Show Jumping Qualifier and placed third in both classes with Sienna Flanagan being awarded Best Rider in her class of 40 other riders. This means they have qualified for NSEA Regional Championships in November 2016. Finally, the Equestrian Halcyon Cup for Improvement this year has been awarded to Bella White.

With lots of exciting activities planned for the next academic year, including side saddle taster days and Denjie horse feeds talk on nutrition and how to feed your horse, it promises to be an eventful year.

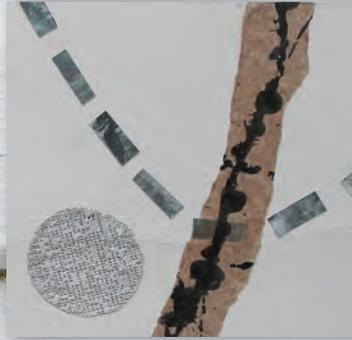
Mrs Angela Churcher



GALLERY



Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton)



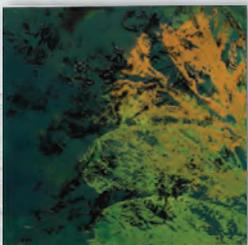
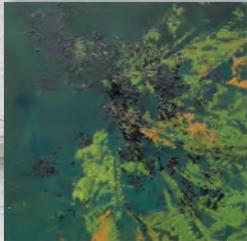
Erica Chadwick (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton)



Alina Lavrenteva-Pak (Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Murray de Klee
(Fifth Form, Grafton)



Karimat Adebayo-Karim (Fifth Form, Nugent)



Olivia Walters
(Upper Sixth, Stanhope)



Kyle Mwendwa (Fifth Form, Temple)



Charlie Seddon (Fifth Form, Cobham)

Governing Body

Correct as of 1st September 2016

Simon C Creedy Smith, BA, ACA (Chairman)

The Rev Peter Ackroyd

John R C Arkwright, FRICS

Jonathan M A Bewes, BA, FCA

Ms Julie C Brunskill, BSc, MRICS

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent,
KCB, CBE, MA (Cantab)

David Carr, MA (Cantab)

David W Cheyne, MA (Cantab) (Vice-Chairman)

Ms Juliet Colman, BA, Dip Arch, RIBA, SCA

Professor Guy Gibson,
BA, DPhil, FMedSci, FRCPsych

Mrs Joanne Hastie-Smith

David Hudson, MA (Cantab)

Mrs Andrea Johnson, BSc, PGCE

Robert A Lankester, MA (Cantab)

Mrs Catriona Lloyd, MA (Cantab)

The Lord Magan of Castletown

Mrs Elizabeth Phillips, OBE, BA, MA, AKC

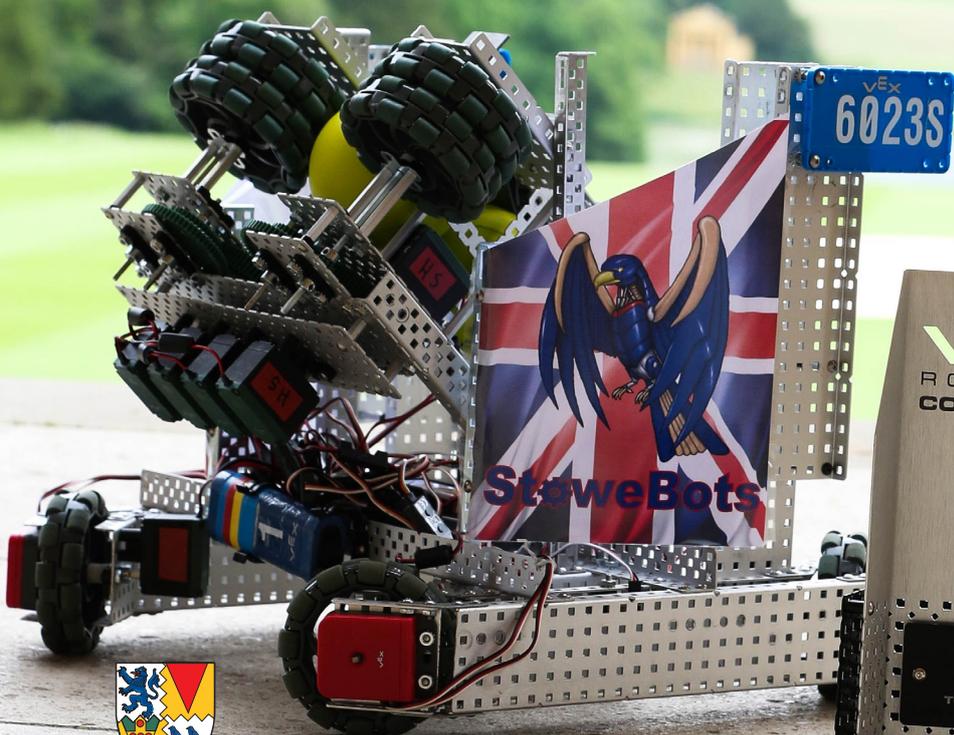
Lady Stringer, BSc, MB, BS, LRCP, MRCS

Christopher J Tate, BA, MIMC

Michael B M Porter, BA, MSc
(Secretary to the Governors)

Jonathon Hall, FIDM
(Chairman of the Old Stoic Society)

Headmaster: Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



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