

the STOIC

Stowe School 2017/2018

Stowe House
Preservation Trust
The Moving Statues of Stowe

LEONARD CHESHIRE
Celebrations and record
fundraising mark the
charity's Stowe connection



Academic Life
First cohort of Stoics celebrate
new Higher Project Qualification

Stowe



*Front Cover: Stoics fundraising for Leonard Cheshire
Back Cover: National Schools Tennis Champions*

the STOIC

I often think that I have a rather odd existence at Stowe. I am not a teacher but I sometimes help pupils with their studies. For example, I 'advise' the editors of the Stowe Science Review on the design and editing of their wonderful publication. This isn't a chore at all, as they have often done all the hard work before it even reaches me, and I have the fun task of finding the only typographical error (and gleefully pointing it out, of course - note to self, there is bound to be one in here somewhere) or I am asked to share some hints and tips on how to use publishing software. So 'advise' is perhaps a little too strong a word for my role in this particular venture.

In other areas of School life, I have somehow made my way onto the staffing list for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, partly I think because I like hills, walking and can lug a huge rucksack. Again, I get to see some of the most enjoyable aspects of a Stoic's development. The teaching staff having done all the hard work in training and preparing the students for their expeditions, I turn up and these amazing kids show us how much they have learned and how they can put it into practice.

And then finally, I am sometimes asked to support students when they are working on their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). They may have settled on a research subject connected to Marketing, or perhaps Archaeology or Anthropology (as that was my area of study) and have been pointed in my direction by a member of the academic staff. This year, photography has been the focus (!) for a couple of Stoics for their projects, and one pupil in particular asked me to write a foreword for his book about Stowe. For the foreword I wrote that I feel very fortunate to work in one of the most beautiful houses in the world, with one of the most stunning views. That I am uplifted by the view of the Mansion each morning, as the sun rises behind it, having entered the estate as the mist sits on the Oxford Water. And that I feel spoilt for any other environment, I very much doubt that I could find another place to work quite as glorious as Stowe - the architecture and the landscape catches your breath.

To work in such an environment is, of course, special. However, I would argue that it is not the buildings that make it so. Working on the support side of the School, our roles continue into the school holidays and so as the teaching staff and Stoics leave, there is a moment, just a moment, when we breathe a sigh of relief. The Mansion falls silent, save for the Stowe House visitors who quietly make their way around the House. And for a short while, it feels calm and relaxed. However, it is not long before the quiet is too much and the staff miss the chaos of term - the queues for lunch in the Temple corridor, the creaking of the library floorboards, and the laughter and noise of the House brought to life by young people living and growing up in this special place. Stowe is beautiful, but it is made more so by being a living breathing space, it wouldn't be quite so inspiring without the Stoics who bring to life a building that so easily could have fallen silent.

I probably have one of the best jobs at Stowe. I get to see the result of all the teachers' and pupils' hard work and report on it here in this magazine. I hope you enjoy reading it.



Mrs Tori Roddy
Director of Marketing and Admissions
Editor, *The Stoic*

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Stowe School 2017/2018



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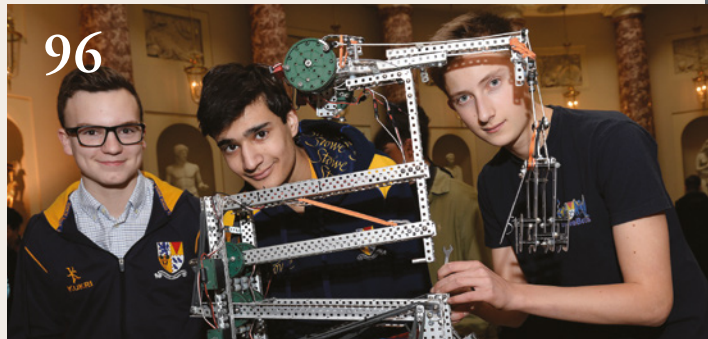
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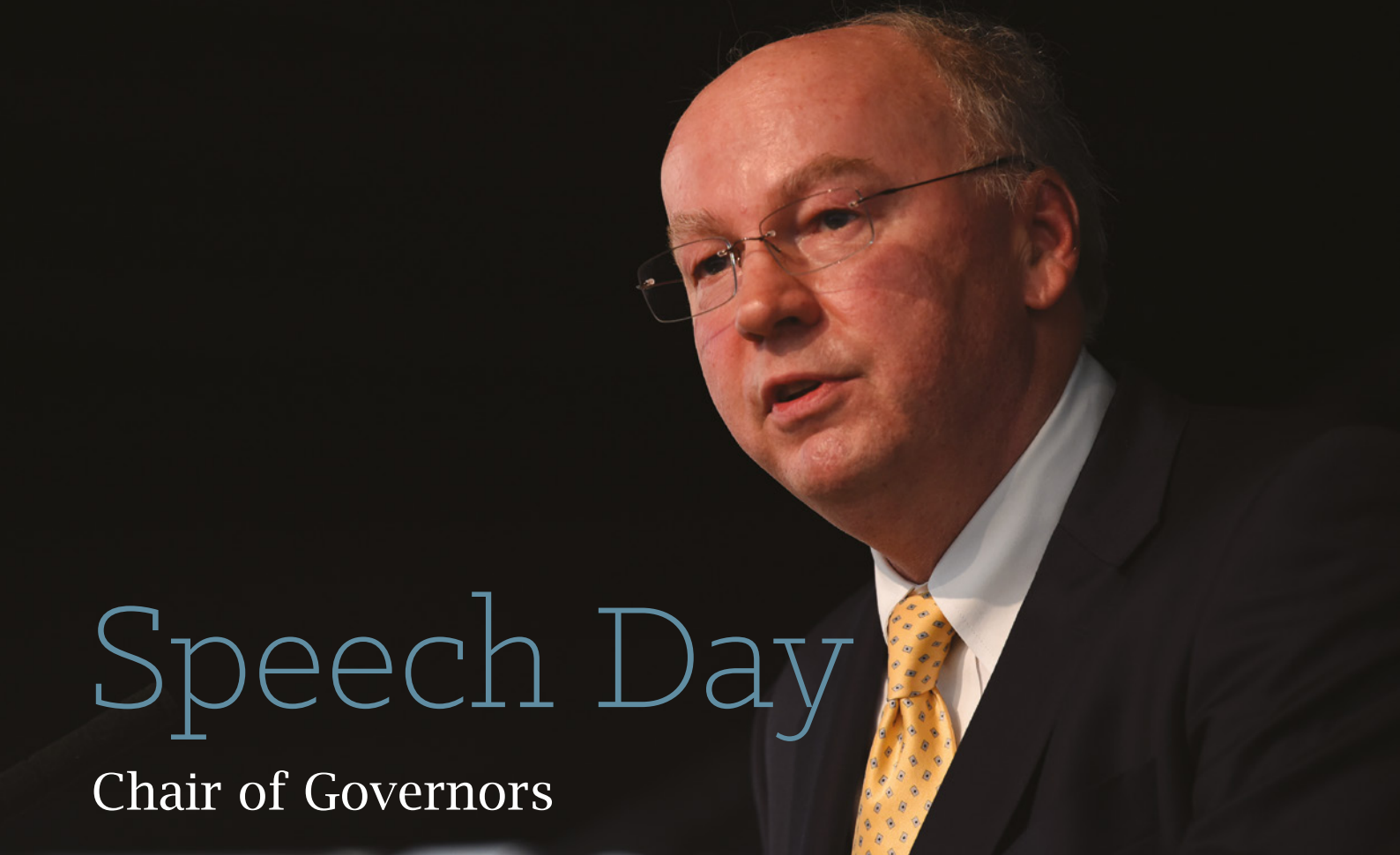
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Speech Day

Chair of Governors

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and a very warm welcome to Speech Day 2018.

One of the pleasures of being Chairman is that I have the opportunity to acknowledge and to thank publicly a number of people for their contributions to life at Stowe. And I'd like to start by thanking the pupils without whom there would be no Stowe School; your energy and fizz bring Stowe to life and it's a joy to see your achievements - whether those are academic, sporting, artistic, musical or in any of the other fields of opportunity that are provided here. But more than that, it's the way in which you develop and thrive as individuals within a community, something which I hope will hold you in good stead in later life.

“And I'd like to start by thanking the pupils without whom there would be no Stowe School; your energy and fizz bring Stowe to life and it's a joy to see your achievements.”

That takes me naturally on to parents; thank you for the trust you have shown in Stowe by deciding to send your children here and for your support at the myriad of events and performances in which your sons and daughters take part. The North Front and the Bourbon pitches can be spectacularly cold and yet there are always parents there, perhaps changing colour in a biting, northerly wind but steadfast in their commitment to supporting Stoics in their

endeavours.

This has been a distressing year for the staff at Stowe, with the terrible, untimely passing away of two members of the Common Room, Liz Chubb and Amanda Jorgensen. A school is a very close-knit community and the impact of the loss of two people who were respected colleagues and good friends cannot be underestimated. And despite their personal grief, the staff have continued to put the pupils first, not only helping them to try to come to terms with these tragic losses but also gently and sensitively refocussing them on their education. So to everyone who works at Stowe, whether in classrooms, Houses or in support roles, my heartfelt thanks for your continued loyalty and commitment, going as you so often do the extra mile.

My thanks as well to those who provide support through their exceptional generosity in helping us achieve our ambitions for Stowe as a great School and a landmark of heritage and beauty. We continue to work very closely with our partners at the National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust in restoring the mansion and the grounds; and in developing the School's facilities. There can't be many schools who have an hour's television programme devoted to the beauty and splendour of their buildings and grounds; although those who did watch it may wonder how many times Queen Victoria did actually dine here.

And my thanks as well to the august body of men and women behind me. When I was thinking about what I might say today, I mistakenly conflated the names of two temples in front of me and came up with the name ancient worthies; but I thought that some might take that the wrong way - and that, with this layout, some of you

may think about Julius Caesar's swansong in the Senate in Rome. My sincere thanks to all my Governor colleagues for the time that you devote to Stowe, for your wise counsel and support and for your unfailing good humour. It would be invidious to single anybody out - so that is exactly what I'm going to do. John Arkwright is standing down this summer, having been a Governor for nine years and having chaired the Estates Committee for more than seven years. As you might imagine, such a role at Stowe is a pretty active one and not without its challenges and John has been tireless in his dedication. Johnny, thank you.

Your happiness is important to all of us at Stowe and I hope you will therefore reflect on your time here in a way that brings a smile to your face.

Over the last two or three years, I have become more and more concerned about the use of language of hate in our society; about the way in which political, economic and social debate seems, at the moment, to be increasingly divisive, increasingly intolerant and increasingly bitter. Almost everywhere - the debating chamber, the media, whether accessed through your television, your tablet or your phone and whether as a provider or carrier of content - there seems to be a trend whereby language is no longer used to explain or reconcile, but is used to foster hatred and division. From a tradition of rumbustious debate in the House of Commons, we appear to have moved onto a stage where invective is a first resort - everywhere. At its heart, this is reflective of a lack of respect and consideration for others. I earnestly hope that all Stoics, and particularly those for whom this is a final Speech Day, have learned that language is a powerful tool - for good and for bad; and that you will not follow the poor example set by, amongst others, some of our political leaders. Each of you has an impact on others, through words as well as deeds. I am sure that we can all remember an occasion when words have hurt us - and there's a reason for that; neuroscientists have concluded that the brain's reaction to emotional and

physical pain is very similar. I hope that you have developed a sense of self-awareness which will only become sharper in years to come and which causes you to think carefully about your choice of words, whether spoken or transmitted electronically.

So what else will those of you leaving this year reflect on what your time at Stowe has done for you? I hope that you have learned that relationships are important to your wellbeing and happiness. Your happiness is important to all of us at Stowe and I hope you will therefore reflect on your time here in a way that brings a smile to your face. You will have formed friendships that I have no doubt will last and will provide you with great support in years to come; but, more broadly, I hope you have learned the importance of relationships to your progress and development as individuals. Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple, said that "Happiness = Smiles less Frowns." So how do you get rid of the frowns? There is no point arguing, complaining or blaming others - because to do so only upsets you. Strive to make your presence and contribution to others an uplifting experience; as Oscar Wilde said: "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go."

Last year I talked about the values of the age of the English Enlightenment, when Stowe House was created, and their relevance to today - of reason, logic and freedom of thought being stressed over dogma and blind faith; of the importance of ideals such as liberty, progress and tolerance. The Headmaster will talk more today about character education and how we have put that at the centre of learning at Stowe. Far be it for me to attempt to steal any of his thunder - always a dangerous strategy when somebody is speaking after you. But this year I wanted to conclude by referring again to that era and to a Swiss philosopher who spent much of his life in France, Jean-Jacques Rousseau. This quotation seems to me to be particularly relevant to an audience brought together by their connection with a centre of learning on a day when we are remembering the life and achievements of Leonard Cheshire: "What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness."

It is now my great pleasure to hand over to the Headmaster who has told me that he remembers happily the feedback he received last year on the length of his speech.

Mr Simon Creedy Smith, Chair of Governors





Speech Day

The Headmaster

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. A warm welcome to Speech Day and my thanks to the Chairman for his kind words.

It is my great pleasure to welcome Neil Heslop, CEO of Leonard Cheshire Disability, as our guest of honour in this centenary year of Leonard Cheshire's birth which also coincides with the centenary of the foundation of the RAF on 1 April 1918 when the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service merged. We have planned a rather special fly-past immediately after the speeches and prizes to commemorate these two auspicious anniversaries.

At the start of term we launched a punctuality drive and I've been doing my best to lead by example. All was going swimmingly until a few days ago when a phone call overran just before Chapel. I tore through the academic area at high speed - not a dignified sight - to discover a chronically disorganised Stoic shuffling in through one of the side doors. "Late again, Thomas!" I said in my most head-masterly, stentorian tones. "Don't worry, Sir", said Tom, "so am I... but I usually just slip in at the side and no one notices." One of the best things about working with young people is their constant ability to disarm and amuse.

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We are now officially on Inspection Alert and I am reminded of the time an ISI Schools' inspector visited a girls' boarding house. The Inspector came armed with his tape measure and clipboard, clutching a well-thumbed copy of the Minimum Standards for Boarding regulations

handbook. As he arrived at the steps to the front door of the boarding house, he noticed a stubbed out cigarette on the ground. He reached down to pick up the grimy stub, intending to present the offending item to the Headmaster as he passed judgement on the effectiveness of the School's discipline. As the Inspector examined the remains of the cigarette to ascertain the brand and country of origin, a Sixth Form girl bounded out of the house. A model of polite concern, the girl approached the Inspector and said, "Oh Sir, I shouldn't smoke that. It'll taste disgusting. Here, do have one of mine."

I am hugely grateful to both the teaching and support staff who have worked incredibly hard to get us to a state of inspection readiness. Let us hope that the gods of ISI, not ISIS, smile on us when the time comes.

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When asked, what is the most indispensable quality required to be a Headmaster?, I usually answer: a sense of humour, combined with an ability to keep things in proportion. That and an ability to survive on very little sleep.

The Senior Management Team recently spent an afternoon at New Inn, the National Trust HQ at Stowe, to determine the future strategy of Stowe. In order to help us set out objectives, strategy and tactics, we looked at the strategies



of prominent figures from Sir Richard Branson to Clive Woodward. Here's Donald J. Trump's strategy for Stowe:

1. Drain the swamp - the Eleven Acre Lake would make a great car park.
2. If pupil numbers fall or exam results are bad - blame the Mexicans, the Chinese, the National Trust or blame the Governors for approving such a lousy strategy. Never blame the Russians for anything.
3. Always take the credit for things that go well - building projects, budget surpluses, Oxbridge success, sporting triumphs. None of them would have happened without your leadership and example.
4. Remember you're a really smart and a very stable genius. Keep reminding people of this important fact. If you're going to tell a lie, make sure it's a really big lie.

The truth is that the leader of the free world represents the antithesis of this year's theme of character literacy which the Greeks called *phronesis*: encouraging Stoics to become the best versions of themselves by creating positive relationships, knowing what is worth striving for; reaching considered and well-founded judgements; learning from their mistakes; being clear-sighted about actions and outcomes; developing into confident well-rounded, compassionate and responsible young people who will contribute to society and the common good by serving others. We are not expecting perfection, believe it or not, I'm not perfect, just ask Valerie - and no two Stoics will progress in the same way or at the same speed. But there are some character virtues we can all aspire to: virtues like justice, honesty, compassion, gratitude, humility, integrity, respect, resilience and service - all hallmarks of a Stowe education, as devised by J.F. Roxburgh when the School opened in May 1923.

We have been so preoccupied with the "how" of education - the curriculum, exam specifications and constant testing - that other question, "what for?" has been forgotten. An education system which sees pupils as little more than capital in a future digital economy is woefully failing to fulfil its true purpose. The heart of education should be the education of the heart - teaching young people to learn and thrive in a transforming world. They will need skills, not just scores, in a world where routine linear work is being completely disrupted by technology. Stoics

leaving the School this year are likely to have an average of 17 jobs in 5 industries which will require a portfolio of competencies including digital literacy, fluency in languages, critical thinking, creativity and entrepreneurial skills. To be productive citizens in a free society, they will need Four Cs: communication, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration.

The future will be different from anything known in the past. Not of degree, but of kind. There is no period of change in history comparable to the one that we are about to experience. Artificial Intelligence will lead to a new generation of computers with the capacity to learn and to self-programme. Tomorrow's labour market will be a competition between humans and robots. Either we will be telling robots what to do or robots will be telling us what to do. The late Professor Stephen Hawking warned of the consequences of creating a machine which will match or surpass humans: "It would take off on its own and redesign itself at an ever-increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete and would be superseded." Without sounding alarmist, we face an existential threat which requires a re-evaluation of what it is to be human and this is why we have put character education at the centre of what we are teaching at Stowe.

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Techno-solutionists argue that schools are dead and that learning will become "disintermediated" as individuals armed with big data and learning analytics no longer need schools. They are wrong - look at what happened to Cambridge Analytica courtesy of Facebook and Mark Zuckerberg. School communities are built around teaching and learning eco-systems with shared values which require collaboration in the classroom, teamwork in sport, harmony



in music and ensemble work on stage to produce thrilling productions such as 1984. How else could the whole School come together to perform Handel's Messiah in Chapel a few weeks ago? In sport, this year's Senior girls' tennis team competed successfully to become National Champions, our golfers reached the finals of the Micklem Cup, the senior seven-a-side rugby team went through to the semi-finals of the national Rosslyn Park competition, U14 girls and U18 boys hockey teams won the County Cup, the 1st girls netball team became County Champions and went through to the regionals, the basketball team lost only one match all season, our water polo players achieved an undefeated run and the 1st XI cricketers remain unbeaten this season. Our special thanks go to Isaac Michael who steps down as Director of Sport after ten years of steady improvement in sport - further proof, if it was needed, of the value of three of our recent initiatives: growth mindset, marginal gain theory and the importance of character traits such as, perseverance, grit and determination.

We have become so accustomed to a narrow range of metrics to define success that broadening the focus seems almost unthinkable. But schools need to be more than exam factories, subject to a stifling regime of accountability and assessments. They need to be places where pupils learn to know, learn to do, learn to be and learn to live together.

Learning to know is how pupils are inspired by teachers who awaken intellectual curiosity with their subject knowledge, lighting fires - not filling buckets. The author, TH White, best known for his Arthurian novels, *The Once and Future King*, taught English at Stowe in the 1930s and his time at Stowe was recently documented in Helen Macdonald's fascinating memoir, *H is for Hawk*. Here is Merlin's advice to the boy who one day will become King Arthur: "The best thing for being sad is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails... that is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting."

Learning to do means acquiring not just reasoning skills, but a whole range of competencies such as teamwork,

creative thinking, resilience, and the ability to reflect on experience. Knowledge and logic will get you from A to B, but imagination will get you everywhere.

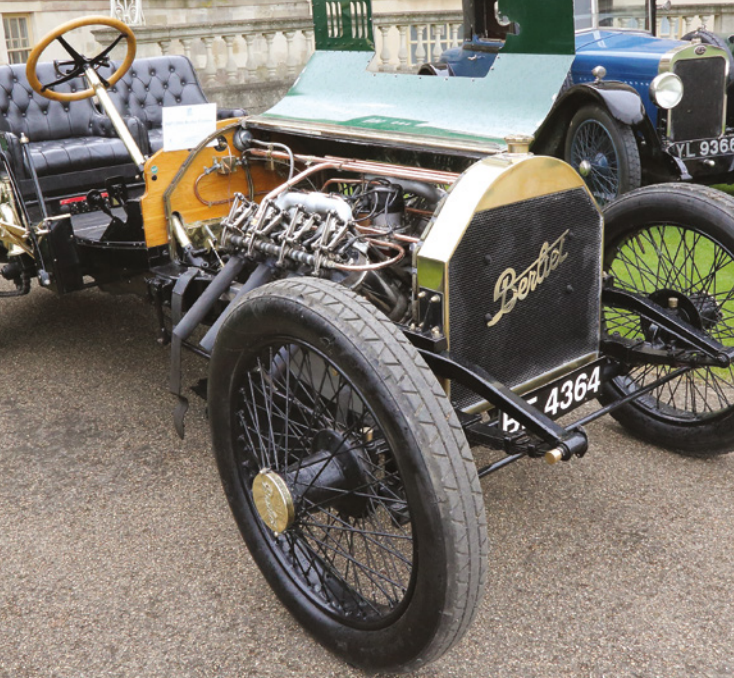
Learning to be means developing personality, identity, exploring ideas and beliefs, countering the spiritual anorexia which besets the modern world, dealing with the endless pressure of social media and becoming an autonomous and responsible individual.

Learning to be means developing personality, identity, exploring ideas and beliefs, countering the spiritual anorexia which besets the modern world, dealing with the endless pressure of social media and becoming an autonomous and responsible individual.

Finally, learning to live together means understanding other people, developing empathy, appreciating our inter-dependence and realising that global problems such as climate change, oceans full of plastic, resource depletion and 65 million people displaced by the lottery of latitude, have to be solved together or not at all. The old protectionist lies about blood and soil didn't work in the 1930s and re-tribalising won't work today.

The Harvard Study of Adult Development has tracked the lives of 724 people over 75 years and the director of the study recently summed up its findings with refreshing simplicity: "The clearest message that we get from this 75 year study is this: good relationships keep us happier and healthier. Period."

This has been a difficult year at Stowe with the loss of two wonderful, gifted and inspiring teachers: Amanda Jorgensen and Elizabeth Chubb. Ephesians tells us that God's plan for



the fullness of time is to unite all things in heaven and earth. We must have a vision of how to live our lives in this world and prepare for the next. Through their shared appreciation of art, Amanda and Liz possessed insights and talents which they passed onto their pupils. Their teaching and appreciation of art allowed them to transcend the here and now and reach into the higher realms of spirituality to touch the face of God. The School found comfort in Chapel as the physical and spiritual heart of Stowe, a place where the transcendent Christian narrative helps us to bear these tragic losses. We miss Liz and Amanda more than words can say and there are only three consolations: that they once lived, that we were lucky enough to know them and that their presence in this community can never be taken away. The exhibition of paintings of Stowe in the Music Room by Anthony Eyton, England's greatest living landscape artist, and Mark Flawn-Thomas, Old Stoic artist, and more importantly, father of the Head Girl, is dedicated to the memory of Liz and Amanda.

Let me finish with an instructive story of failure: last October, just before he left to attempt the crossing of the Antarctic land mass from Berkner Island to the Ross Ice Shelf, Ben Saunders gave this piece of advice to the Stoics: "The most important question to ask is not what happens if I fail, but rather what if I'm so afraid of failing that I don't even try." On 29 December, day 52 of the trip, Ben took the difficult decision to abandon his quest to complete Henry Worsley's solo expedition. Theoretically, the 600 km journey could still have been completed on half-rations, but rescue from the Ross Ice Shelf would have imperilled the lives of others and this was a risk Ben was not prepared to take.

George Mallory, who may have conquered Everest thirty years before Sir Edmund Hillary, said that his experience of climbing brought him "sheer joy and joy after all is the end of life. We do not live to eat and make money, we eat and make money to enjoy life. That is what life means and that is what life is for." In other words, it is the challenge, the doing, the trying and the persevering which gives everything true meaning, especially when you are operating at the edge of what is humanly possible.

And this is what Ben wrote in a personal message to Stoics on

2 January, his final day in Antarctica: "We must never forget that we are each writing our own stories, hour by hour, day by day, year by year, and as tempting as it is to feel at times that we are too young or too inexperienced, or that what we are doing is insignificant or imperfect or incomplete or irrelevant, we must never forget that our story will one day be an example to others when they in turn are seeking guidance and wisdom and inspiration."

We must never forget that we are each writing our own stories, hour by hour, day by day, year by year, and as tempting as it is to feel at times that we are too young or too inexperienced, or that what we are doing is insignificant or imperfect or incomplete or irrelevant, we must never forget that our story will one day be an example to others when they in turn are seeking guidance and wisdom and inspiration.

The challenge, therefore, is to have the courage to bear unflinchingly the burden that life imposes in return for its gifts; the courage to make our own individual responses, however modest, to the world. The courage to treat triumph and disaster, defeat and victory, as the reverse and obverse of the same coin. Defeat is always an opportunity and a lesson for the future while victory and success come in many forms. It is when we do our best and try our hardest that we find the true definition of Stoicism. The only real failure lies in letting defeat and failure win.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for listening and I now ask our guest of honour, Neil Heslop, to present the prizes.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

Speech Day - Neil Heslop



Thank you Headmaster and it is a great honour to be with you and be invited to share the Leonard Cheshire story. It is a remarkable story, a Stoic story, a story about a boy who eighty two years ago sat where you are sitting today, probably listening to a speech of dubious value from another grey-haired, middle aged slightly overweight worthy from somewhere or other. But I hope when I have told it as best I can, for those of you leaving in a few weeks to embark on writing your own story, it may leave you with a helpful thought or two in years to come. As the Chair of Governors said, we wish to reflect on the life and achievements of Leonard, to mark the anniversaries of a century since his birth and since the birth of the RAF, in a sense to honour the past. It is of course always important to honour the past, but if Leonard were here he would say honouring the past is only important if you use it to inspire the future. So let me tell you about Leonard Cheshire the man, Leonard Cheshire the movement and Leonard Cheshire the charity.

Group Captain Leonard Cheshire was born on 7 September 1917 near Chester. Educated at the Dragon School in Oxford, he took on its values of courage, kindness and respect. After Stowe and graduation in law from Merton College, Oxford, in 1940 he joined the RAF and flew a record one hundred operational missions. His exceptional courage and leadership were recognised with the award of three Distinguished Service Orders, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Victoria Cross, making him the most highly decorated bomber pilot of the war. However, he was so much more than that, he was an exceptionally senior officer at a remarkably young age. Leonard was profoundly affected by his experience as the British Government's official observer at the dropping of an atom bomb on Nagasaki. So much so that when hostilities were over, and still only twenty eight years of age, he was determined to play his part in honouring the tens of millions lost in war by building a peaceful and better world.

In 1948 in a single act of extraordinary human kindness, Leonard took Arthur Dykes, a terminally ill disabled ex-

serviceman into his own home and the Leonard Cheshire charity was born. In 1959, he married Sue Ryder whose own international charity was already well established, and theirs was to be a remarkable contribution to the charitable fabric of the world. In 1981 Leonard's humanitarian work was recognised with the Order of Merit and ten years later by a life peerage. Soon after, he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and he died on 31 July 1992. His impact was so great, that our patron Her Majesty the Queen broke with convention to recognise his inspirational spirit in her Christmas Day message to the Commonwealth later that same year. Her Majesty had seen first hand that in his lifetime his total respect for people with disabilities improved the lives of countless hundreds of thousands to achieve his ambition of making a better world.

The Chair of Governors reminded us through Rousseau of the wisdom of kindness and the need for respect in our discourse with others. The Headmaster spoke powerfully about courage and the very essence of character in a rapidly transforming world. It is true that we face change of unprecedented proportions but in Leonard's own words "Never underestimate the power of the individual to change their circumstances." Leonard's brand of courage, kindness and respect inspired the formation of more than 200 organisations in 54 countries that carry his name to this day. The movement to support people with disability he began around the world and which today we support through the global Cheshire Alliance is a remarkable legacy. Just six weeks ago I listened to the Secretary of State for International Development the Right Honourable Penny Mordaunt MP speak about our country's greatest achievements when she said this and I quote:

"Our greatest accomplishments have been driven by courage and values. To fight, whether it is with arms, with knowledge or science and discovery, against tyranny, hunger, disease, for humanity's sake. Our nation was the cradle for democracy, the fight against slavery and for universal suffrage. It was the provenance of the Paralympics and Amnesty International, for Live Aid and of Leonard Cheshire. The British people believe in 'we' not 'they'. There is only 'us'."

For an individual to be compared by a modern day cabinet minister to a nation's achievements in democracy, the abolition of slavery and universal suffrage gives you a sense of what Stowe gave to the world in Leonard Cheshire.

It is a huge privilege and profound responsibility for me to now lead Leonard Cheshire the charity. So what of our work now and why might it be of importance to you in the future? We exist to improve life choices of people with disabilities by supporting individuals to live, learn and work independently whatever their ability. Our 6,500 staff and 6,500 volunteers support more than 30,000 individuals in the UK and 15 countries in Africa and Asia. We have three areas of work. In the UK our network of residential settings support 3,000 people with disability in a variety of nursing homes, modestly adapted flats and community environments, and we support 6,000 16 to 30

year olds living independently with volunteering, skills, work and entrepreneurship programmes. Internationally we support 20,000 people with disability in the Global south with inclusive education, youth leadership and access to livelihood programmes. Wherever we work our job is to support individuals on their journey toward independence and to realise their full potential.

Our greatest accomplishments have been driven by courage and values. To fight, whether it is with arms, with knowledge or science and discovery, against tyranny, hunger, disease, for humanity's sake. Our nation was the cradle for democracy, the fight against slavery and for universal suffrage. It was the provenance of the Paralympics and Amnesty International, for Live Aid and of Leonard Cheshire. The British people believe in 'we' not 'they'. There is only 'us'.

Which brings me back to Stowe and today. Our job is not so different from yours. Today we celebrate the achievement of Stoics in many ways. The realising of potential and preparing for a successful and happy journey through life. Working hard, having fun, being kind, making the world a little better than how you find it by making a difference. Stowe is a special place. Listening to the Chair talking about this community of young people, of parents and teachers. Listening to the Headmaster talk of the heart of education and the education of the heart. Hardly surprising then that this was the environment that shaped the boy, who became the man who created a charity. Few have the impact of Leonard in their lives, but we can all aspire to his brand of courage, kindness and respect for all people especially those different from ourselves.

In 2018 the world has extraordinary challenges and even greater opportunities and it is for your generation to rise to them as Leonard did to make a difference for a better world. His charity expresses the essence of his spirit in our values. Positive, which for us means warm and empathetic, always looking to progress and improve. Proud, strong-willed and spirited, we are firm in our beliefs. Pioneering, confident and imaginative, we are creative change makers. What better examples of these things can there be than the Stoics who have supported our work as their charity of the year. Charlie buying Valentine's Day roses; Tom and his pizza night; Amelia's design and display of 100 years of clothing for a fabulous Fashion Show; Tom Mayhew who organised an Audience with Rory Bremner coming

so tantalisingly close to the Headmaster dancing Gangnam style. The sixty boys of Leonard's own Chatham House who did a sponsored relay on spin bikes, replicating the journey from Stowe to Lourdes. We are grateful to all of you and everyone else who has made the year such a great one. Particular thanks to Deborah Howe and her staff for providing the chamber orchestra for our Gala Dinner, for the Memorial Concert and your indefatigable support. Good luck to the parachutists and fundraisers for the rest of term.

I'd like to end with congratulations and to issue the Leonard Cheshire Education Challenge. Congratulations to every one of the pupils today for making Stowe such a special community, congratulations to all the prize winners and to the parents for getting through it all and having the good sense to choose Stowe. Congratulations to the Headmaster and his staff for another successful year. But what of the challenge? Well I have a challenge for Stoics and a challenge for their parents.

A somewhat tarnished political leader once said the top three priorities for any country are, education, education, education. Notwithstanding subsequent controversies he was right then and he is right about that now. There remains vast unrealised potential amongst the billion people with disabilities around the world, as we celebrate today here in a fabulous educational institution providing a great start in life for those who pass through it. Remember, for 90% of children with disabilities in the world, education plays no part in their lives. That's thirty million children like you who don't get to go to school at all. That's why Leonard Cheshire is working to get disabled kids into school across Africa and Asia for the first time. The money you have raised will go towards getting disabled children in East Africa into school. Already more than 2,000 girls in Kenya are today included in a mainstream school, transforming their lives and those of their families forever. Your support will help us make sure more make it to school in the years ahead. So, to Stoic parents, if you believe that the Leonard Cheshire story, a Stoic story, is more relevant and important today than ever before, then do please share it. Tell your friends, networks, social gatherings and the myriad connections you all have. Help us to inspire the next generation to share Leonard's vision and carry it forward.

To Stoics we are going to build on this year's termly Cheshire Prizes with a new annual Leonard Cheshire Prize for the Stoic who makes the biggest difference to people with disabilities or disadvantage each year. Leonard Cheshire has achieved so much since 1948, but so much remains to be done. So, if you want to help us carry it forward we welcome your energy. Whether it be a little or a lot, over a few hours or over a lifetime, your time, your talent and your generosity are hugely appreciated and I thank you in advance. Enjoy the summer and thank you.

Mr Neil Heslop, Chief Executive, Leonard Cheshire



Speech Day

Head Boy & Head Girl

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to start by thanking our guest of honour Neil Heslop for his inspiring and thought-provoking speech and I think I can speak for the whole School on this, we are honoured to be working with this amazing charity, Leonard Cheshire.

Georgia: Neil, we would like to present you with a small gift. These cufflinks were made by Charles Bourn, an Old Stoic and current parent. They are modelled on a pair of 18 carat gold cufflinks given by the School to J.F. Roxburgh in 1949 when he retired after 26 years as Headmaster, from all of us here at Stowe, thank you.

Georgia: This will be our last time addressing the School as Head Girl and Head Boy with our time here soon drawing to a close, and lately we've been reflecting on what we've valued most about our experience at Stowe.

Adam: What a year it has been. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, to not only all the Upper Sixth for being such a supportive year, but to the whole School.

Thank you to all the Prefects for your commitment in setting a fine example and acting as a superb support mechanism this year. And a very special thank you must go to Mr Wellington from the Prefects for his outstanding, non-stop commitment. We are all extremely grateful.

Georgia: Something we must acknowledge is the tremendous support that Mrs Wallersteiner and Mrs Creedy Smith give to the whole School throughout the year. As a small token of our collective appreciation and recognition,

we would like to present you both with flowers.

Georgia: And now to the Stoic Award. I think it speaks volumes about this year's winner that he has only been at the School for one year. In spite of this, just a few weeks ago, he told me that his ambition for this year was to learn every Stoic's name. While he may have just missed out on all 778, to have learnt the names and personalities of 650 is still a testament to how he has thrown himself into all aspects of life here. His talents are numerous - he has coached rugby and tennis, he attends every musical or theatrical event the School can offer and has been a fantastic addition to Stowe - and let's not lie, we all love his dog, Digby.

Adam: He is one of the most approachable, humble, and admirable people in the community, and I'm thrilled to present this year's Stoic award to Reverend Tim Mullins.

Adam: As a School, Stowe provides opportunities; perhaps the most valuable asset a school could offer, but one which I feel we all, to a certain extent, are guilty of taking advantage of.

Standing here now, it has never been so clear to me the importance of making the most of the variety and extent of what Stowe has to offer.

Yet, we hear it all the time: "Your five years at Stowe will fly by, take every opportunity you get," something that sounds all too familiar but rarely do we honestly reflect on this and act upon it in the here and now.

Opportunities are what shape our future. Like friendships, it's just about grabbing them with open arms and making the most out of what life throws at us.

Your time here will fly by, and before you know it, you will be sat in this room at your very last Speech Day.

Only then perhaps, will you take the time to reflect and possibly even appreciate how lucky we, as Stoics are, to have embarked on education here. So “Seize the moment, because some opportunities don’t come twice” and if you don’t, someone else will.

Georgia: So, many of us here today are Stoics or Old Stoics, but what does it mean to be a Stoic? It means, of course, a lifelong connection to this great School. To the wider world, it also means a connection to a particular philosophy of Ancient Greece. Either way, to be a true Stoic is not a paid-for privilege but something learned.

The simple version of stoicism, in the Greek sense, is about the need to keep a stiff upper lip, to man up and put on a brave face. But today, we need to explore a different interpretation of what it really means to be a Stoic.

Stoicism is responding to adversity wisely, not fearing it. On the contrary, seeing adversity as essential in helping us to develop resilience and strength of character.

We live in a world ruled by health and safety and yet however much we wrap ourselves up against the physical and mental challenges of the world, we will inevitably face difficulties at some point in our lives.

Every one of us has experienced some form of adversity. It may have been walking onto the pitch when you were insufficiently fit. Or going into an exam knowing you hadn’t done enough revision.

Of course, we can mitigate the challenges by adopting Lord Baden-Powell’s dictum for the Scout movement, ‘Be Prepared’. But the true test of being Stoic is how we face the adversity that strikes unexpectedly.

Adam: So Stoics, think back over the last year and remember the times when preparation got you through a tough challenge, but also those times that you were faced with an unexpectedly tricky, bewildering or frightening situation.

How did you handle it? You will have found a way, from your own inner resources, to face and overcome the problem - and you are certainly all the stronger for the experience.

Georgia: The truth is that our lives are shaped far more by the difficult times than by the good, what is important is how we face those issues for which we could not have prepared, as that will determine our real strength of character. Remember, it’s not always the obvious people who show mettle when it is most needed.

Adam: And so the time has come for me to hand over to my successor. Throughout his time at Stowe, he’s performed superbly on stage in productions such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Prodigy*.

He impresses regularly in rowing competitions and stands out as one of the most positive people in the School. His undeniable enthusiasm for life at Stowe is truly infectious.

He greets everyone he meets with a smile and I know he



will go above and beyond to serve the School to the highest standard.

It gives me great pleasure to invite Oscar Hill (Lower Sixth, Temple) to come up to collect the Head Boy tie.

Georgia: Congratulations Oscar. It’s now my turn to announce next year’s Head Girl. I expect she will bring as much charisma and energy to the role as she has to the stage. I’ve worked closely with her through our sports and so can attest to her enthusiasm and determination to do everything to the best of her significant ability. It is my pleasure to hand over to Helena Vince (Lower Sixth, Queen’s), and invite her up to collect the Head Girl necklace.

Adam: We wish all the very best to Oscar and Helena, along with the rest of the Prefect body for next year.

It has been a real pleasure to serve as Head Boy this year, being able to give back to the School that has offered me so much and provided this wonderful education in a supportive, friendly and united environment.

Time here really does “fly by” and for the Upper Sixth, it has now come to the stage to embrace the next chapter in our lives.

I will truly miss this place and the great people within, so thank you Stowe for so many special memories to treasure and providing an opportunity I shall never forget.

I have now come to realise that life is not a dress rehearsal. So Stoics, dream big, be bold, relish the challenges and most importantly, believe that hard work does pay off.

Georgia: It’s also been an honour to represent Stowe as Head Girl, and have the unflinching support of staff, Stowe friends and the Head Boy to fulfil the role to be best of my ability.

I won’t forget the overwhelming beauty of Stowe, but I will miss the people that have helped me, cajoled me and pushed me to embrace every opportunity that Stowe offered. I feel very lucky, and privileged, to have had an education at Stowe and I hope to be able to build on it in the years to come.

And finally, both Adam and I want to wish those taking external exams in the weeks ahead the best of luck.

Thank you.

Head Boy - Adam King (Upper Sixth, Bruce)

Head Girl - Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Upper Sixth, Nugent)



Dr James Popplestone

James Popplestone arrived at Stowe in September 2015, having previously taught at d'Overbroeck's in Oxford. Before entering the world of teaching, James had studied at the University of Southampton and undertaken research (and a DPhil) at the University of Oxford.

James quickly made his mark upon arriving at Stowe as the member of staff with the most entertaining surname. Despite sounding like he would be more at home in a Dickens novel (I actually referred to him extensively as Martin Chuzzlewit before he started), it quickly became clear that James' real home was the classroom. James' students of Biology felt truly fortunate to have such an inspiring, motivated and engaging teacher, and we all got over the hilarity of his surname eventually!

James threw himself into the life of a boarding school master, and was a non-resident tutor in Bruce House in his first year. There, he quickly made excellent relationships with the boys who always enjoyed a night when Dr P. was on duty. James' talents on the pastoral side did not go unnoticed for long, and at the end of his first year at Stowe, he was sought out for the role of Assistant Housemaster in West House. Little did he know at the time that this role would lead to James also becoming Acting Housemaster of West for the Michaelmas Term of this year - a challenge James rose to admirably, and the House and School are enormously grateful to James for this.

James leaves Stowe to take up a position at Radley College, where his wife Sarah also works as a science technician. Radley's gain is Stowe's significant loss, but we all wish James, Sarah and Megan the very best for the future.



Kaitlan Griffin

Kaitlan Griffin (née Biondi) arrived at Stowe in 2013 to take up the role of Head of lacrosse. She came straight from coaching the Swedish team at their first World Cup event. Her mission was to improve the lacrosse programme and this has certainly been the case. This last season was the most successful ever, following on from the 1st team previously achieving the honour of top 8 in the country.

Kaitlan has been the assistant coach to the England National Team and goes onto Luxembourg as Head coach for the 2021 World Cup. She has honed the skills of many girls but in particular developed international players for England, Wales and Scotland.

Luckily for Lyttelton House, Kaitlan became a much respected Assistant Housemistress having to step up to Housemistress for her final two terms. She was a fantastic source of inspiration for the young women in House and showed great empathy towards them. Her wise words calmed and nurtured, solving problems and generating a positive atmosphere.



Howard Hoare

Howard has spent five excellent years at Stowe and moves on to lead a department as Head of History at Thornton College. This is an excellent next step for him and we wish him every success with this new challenge. While at Stowe, Howard has developed a well-deserved reputation for approachability with both staff and Stoics. He has taught History with enthusiasm and rigour, bringing many new ideas and approaches to the Department. He has engaged brilliantly with classes across the entire age-range, in a friendly and patient manner, while doing everything he can to ensure their success in external exams. Whether teaching those who offers to study History at Oxford or those who find History incredibly tough, he has been patient, enthusiastic and encouraged his pupils to aim high. Within the History Department, his collegiate attitude and fervent preparation of shared resources will be sorely missed. He has also embraced boarding at Stowe, serving as the Temple Assistant Housemaster and supporting Brian Hart and the boys in Temple with enthusiasm. His leading role in the Duke of Edinburgh's programme has been vital and Howard has led several expeditions across the country, helping Stoics to explore the Cairngorms, the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia. He has also been an enthusiastic supporter of football, volleyball and badminton. Howard's contribution to the life of Stowe has been substantial and we wish him every success for the future.

Charlie Barker

Charlie joined Stowe straight from university in 2006 to teach French. He was swiftly seconded to the Politics Department and appointed Head of Department in 2012. He led the Department with imagination, charisma and utter professionalism and during that time the Department has grown in terms of the number of students taking the subject and the academic results. He leaves it in far better state than he found it. Charlie was also appointed head of Faculty in 2015 and there again his enthusiasm and passion for education have been instrumental in driving Humanities to bigger and better things.

Outside the classroom, Charlie was instrumental in the success of Stowe Ed, our INSET conference which sees increasing numbers of teachers from outside Stowe come to us for the day in January to participate in a conference that is at the leading edge of education. In addition to helping in Bruce House, he was heavily involved in coaching our rugby teams.

Charlie left us in December to become Assistant Head at Northampton School for Boys. Our loss is NSB's gain and given what he has achieved here, one can only imagine what he will achieve there with the whole school to play with.



Adam Gabriel

Adam came to us in 2015 as Head of ICT from Stantonbury Campus in Milton Keynes, to be Head of Computer Science, though he trained initially and interestingly as an architect. Because of his pedagogical and listening skills he was appointed Chair of the Social Sciences Faculty as well as providing much needed advice on a School MIS system as a knowledgeable member of the ICT Steering Group. He is a keen golfer and no doubt will be spending more time on the greens as he plays on towards full retirement.



Sally Whyte

As Nugent Under Housemistress and Hockey coach, Sally Whyte gave much to the School in her two years at Stowe. She was very popular in House and gave much time to the girls both on and off duty and, of course, worked hard to improve the playing of Hockey with tangible results.

Eva di Bartolo

Unlike many other MFL Assistants, Eva actually came to Stowe before she applied for the position of French Assistant. She also came highly recommended by our previous Assistant, Marie Derrien, which in itself is a sign of approval. With her natural independence, it didn't take her long to find her way around School and settled into Stanhope, where she did the odd duty. Always reliable and highly organised, she soon became an intrinsic part of the French Department. I don't think I ever heard Eva say "no" to a request for help, whether it be from students or teachers. In fact, she frequently offered to hold extra one-to-one lessons for students who needed some help, especially in the run-up to exams. As you can imagine she became very popular, very fast. Though quiet and discreet, she had an amazing presence in class and I am delighted she has decided to embark on a teaching career in France. Her students valued her straight-forward approach and well-structured lessons, as it allowed them to develop their knowledge of French society as well as their oral fluency. Her help in the Department has been invaluable, especially in times of stress, such as when marking 150 French Common Entrance scripts over one weekend. We will all miss her focussed and calm presence in the MFL Department and wish her all the best for her future.



Reva Cope

Reva came to Stowe from Akeley Wood in 2016 and worked assiduously in the Maths Department with her priority being the Stoics in her classes and working supportively with teachers new to the classroom. She strongly believed in and practised Achievement for Learning and monitored pupil development closely. Outside of the classroom, cycling was her forte and she would often modestly tell of long rides on her bike. She leaves us to be Lead Teacher in Maths at Elizabeth Woodville School, Milton Keynes and to spend time with her family at weekends and, of course, cycling.

Steve Grimble

Steve has been a long-serving technician in the DT Department, having been appointed in 1989. He was also a fixture in the Sixth Form Centre and, more recently, StoweBucks, sorting out the drinks, keeping an eye on the Sixth Form and advising staff of his views on all sorts of matters. In the Department, he was supportive of Stoics in the shaping and making of their DT coursework and there are many who owe their good grades to his advice and skills. We wish him well in his retirement.



Rory Akam

Rory Akam was one of our wonderful long-serving members of staff. He was appointed in 1988 with a Zoology degree from the University of Manchester, Naval training at BRNC Dartmouth, and experience of teaching at Hillcrest School, Nairobi, plus sports and a keen interest in ornithology and arachnology. He became our own David Attenborough with live webcams from nesting bird boxes to keep us all enthralled. In the classroom, he taught and cared for pupils of all abilities and he led the Biology Department from 1994 for many years as Head of Biology and then Chair of the Science Faculty. He developed a nature reserve at Stowe, stocking the lakes with trout for fishing and hauling out crayfish, but was never happier than when bird ringing which he now enjoys even more in retirement. Happily, his wife Sally is still with us so the Akam name is still among the first of the Stowe staff pigeon-holes. Urbane, witty and self-effacing, we wish Rory all the best in his well-earned retirement and many years more with his family and the birds.



Richard Knight

Richard joined Stowe School in 2002 after a successful telephone interview with the then Headmaster Jeremy Nichols who appointed him having not actually met him! Prior to joining Stowe, he was the Headmaster at St Andrew's School in Kenya.

He was appointed initially as a Housemaster for two terms in Grafton and then for seven years in Grenville. His senior experience coupled with his wisdom, charm and dry sense of humour quickly engaged the Grenville boys and their parents and his time in Grenville was very fruitful and fulfilling.

As a committed Christian, Richard has actively been involved in the Chaplaincy work at Stowe and he has frequently spoken in Chapel services. His talks have been inspirational and thought-provoking and Stoics have been challenged by the message he preaches. He has a gentle and forgiving spirit that always looks for the good in each person and this emanates from his strong faith.

In 2005, Richard and the Headmaster visited his old school in Kenya on a recruitment initiative. The welcome that Richard received from St Andrew's was akin to welcoming a tribal leader and a celebrity which was clear evidence of the deep regard and affection they had for Richard.

Many of his colleagues at Stowe have often commented how Richard as an experienced Housemaster would bring both wise and witty counsel to the meetings and he would be instrumental in often lifting the spirit of tired and stressful Housemasters. He had that innate perceptive understanding at tackling problems quickly and providing sensible solutions which saved hours of fruitless discussion. His comments and insight were never at anyone's expense but only at the comedy of the situation.

Richard has always been an outstanding all round sportsman but his first love is cricket. At Cranleigh School and at Durham University, he opened the bowling in the 1st XI cricket teams. Throughout his teaching life if he was not actively playing cricket, golf or Eton Fives, he would coach all the top school teams. In more recent years, he has concentrated on his golf and he now plays regularly at Buckingham Golf Club and at Aberdovey Golf Club.

Finally, Richard has made a significant and lasting contribution at Stowe School during his 16 years' service and he will be richly missed. We wish him every success for the future.



Brian Johnson

Brian had been Head of Art since January 2001 and only recently stepped down from the post. He prepared the architects' brief and oversaw the re-building of the new Art School so that its original Modernism was restored and complemented by its contemporary style. He continued to improve the reputation of the Art Department as not just a centre of excellence in the School with superb art work and the best grades, but also nationally. It has been under his leadership that some of our finest OS artists have been inspired and developed their own careers. He invited leading artists to speak to Stoics and with his advice in classes introduced many to an impressive range of contemporary art and installation work. Brian stood down as Head of Art in 2012 and then nobly took up the post again after the untimely death of Amanda Jorgensen, his successor. After many years of teaching, he can now enjoy his retirement close by and we wish him and his family all the best in the future.

Dr Alice Insley

Dr Alice Insley, fresh from graduating with a PhD on the painter, Wright of Derby, brought her art historical knowledge and skills in 18th Century British art, her youth and enthusiasm to the Department and the School. As a much valued Sixth Form Tutor, she was a wise and sensitive counsellor and as a colleague, she was unstintingly helpful and hard-working. She was also outstanding in helping out with rowing on the lakes and at regattas, while doing duties in West House where her gentle and wise touch was much appreciated. We have sadly lost her to Tate Britain where she was offered a curatorial post she could not refuse and so we look forward very much to future exhibitions and catalogues curated by her.

Ciaran Malanaphy

Ciaran Malanaphy sadly spent only a year with us as a Physics teacher, Under Housemaster of Bruce, leading the eco-group and coaching the sport he loves - football. After flirting with the idea of a PhD studentship in quantum research at the University of Utrecht, he decided to spread his wings and move to Markham College, Lima, Peru where he will, undoubtedly, continue to prosper.



Susan Hirst

Susan joined Stowe in 2016 to become a stalwart member of the Skills Support team. Many Stoics are grateful to her for the personal support, the skills she imparted and successful strategies given to help them achieve success and we wish her well in the future.

Steve Malling

When Steve Malling joined Stowe's Physics Department 23 years ago, it was clear that he was a natural and gifted teacher with a passion for the practical applications of Physics. With a background in mobile communication and software engineering, he was ideally placed to help Stowe take its first steps in using the newly emerging Internet. He helped to set up the first web pages for the School and was one of the very first users in the world of "Webphone" which amazingly at the time allowed people to have phone conversations over the Internet, therefore opening the eyes of his pupils at the time to a world that we now take for granted. During his time as Head of Physics, he led the way with the use of ICT and Stowe became a trial school for the Institute of Physics new "Advancing Physics" syllabus which used novel software to help deliver its innovative syllabus content at A Level.

Steve's input into the broader aspects of Stowe has been no less impressive and he played a major role in the CCF, going on to be in charge of the whole of Stowe's CCF operations.

Through his initiative, Junior pupils were given introductions to diving, abseiling and gliding amongst other things. Steve is a very keen rugby player and he coached the first XV for a number of years as well as being the lead SW Divisional coach and helped to train the South of England rugby team.

Another passion of Steve's is motorcycles and as part of a Science Experience initiative, his lab more resembled a motorcycle workshop when students were able to completely strip down a motorcycle to see how it worked. Many Stoics will be grateful for the lead he has taken in Engineering at Stowe as he has been the "go to" person for help with university Engineering applications.

As an outstanding practical Physicist, Steve has wowed many prep school students when he visited their schools with his liquid nitrogen roadshow. He has also led our own Sixth Form students to launch high altitude balloons which involved the design of payloads and developing high latitude experiments. As well as playing an important role in the Quantum Society, Steve has been a wonderful supportive colleague to all in the Science Department and we thank him greatly for all of the initiatives he has taken and the time he has given so generously to anybody who needed his help.

In short, he will be greatly missed by staff and Stoics alike and we wish him all the very best as moves to France. Although he may have "retired", Steve will be as active as ever, using his practical and entrepreneurial skills to set up a gin and vodka distillery. This has already got the backing from the regional French business community and all of his raw materials will be sourced locally. He will doubtless make a great success of this as he has done with everything that he has ever turned his hand to. We are very grateful for the many significant contributions that he has made during his time at Stowe.



Zara Crockett

Zara joined Stowe from Cheltenham Ladies College (CLC), and quickly established herself in her role in the Classics Department. She started her Stowe career as a Sixth Form tutor and after a spell attached to Nugent, she moved to West where she took on the role of Assistant Housemistress. Outside the classroom and House, Zara coached lacrosse and helped Phil Arnold with the annual ski trip. Zara leaves Stowe to take up a position at CLC.



Sarah Searle

Sarah served three Directors of Music: Simon Dearsley, Geoffrey Silver and the Interim Chairman, Hilary Davan Wetton. Sarah was the first smiling face for visitors and the voice on the phone of the Music School and she was the organiser supreme of many aspects of the life of the Music School: compiling programmes, Carol Service booklets, the Music lesson timetable, music exams, organising nibbles and drinks for special occasions, listening and advising on the woes of Stoics and colleagues and accompanying Stoics to concerts and performances across the country. After ten years at Stowe, she decided she wished to move into school administration and is happily using her charm and efficiency at a primary school. We thank her for her years of service and wish her well.



Rebecca Sharples

Rebecca joined us initially as an Art Teacher but found herself asked to help out in the History of Art Department for one year. Using her long experience and enthusiasm as Head of the History of Art at Harrow, she enthused about the High Renaissance to the Stoics for one of their exam papers and supported colleagues with material and resources of a very high standard. Although Rebecca leaves us to spend time with her young family, I am sure as she is nearby, she can and will return to the art historical splendour of Stowe at some stage.

Emma Wheatley

Emma was a Teaching Assistant in the Skills Department from September 2016 to June 2018. She helped out greatly as Under Housemistress of Queen's and as Third Form Tutor, she gave her all to the Queen's girls, academically and pastorally and grew in confidence herself. She has moved on to the Royal Latin School, Buckingham, to join the teacher training programme there and we wish her a successful career in the profession.



Andrew Wilson

Andrew joined us directly from the City in 2014 to use his Economics degree and business experience in the classroom. He had enjoyed a career in real estate and headhunting after five years in the Scots Guards. While at Stowe, he gained his PGCE and taught Business Studies and Maths as well as doing duties in Temple. Andrew also walked almost every morning to Stowe from home, rain or shine, so after the Army it was no surprise that he was also very valuable in the CCF, helped with rowing, DoE and was always available at short notice for the minibus driving and at weekends and in the evenings. Andrew accepted a post at Malvern College which makes life with his family much easier and we wish him continued enjoyment and success in his teaching career.





Amanda Jorgensen 1968-2018

Amanda joined Stowe in 2012 and brought with her an enthusiasm for art and its teaching that permeated not just through her Department in the Watson Art School but through the entire School. Joining a well-established Department, Amanda quickly became firm friends with those in her team and her serene and generous nature meant that throughout the School she was both respected and loved. She soon became the Faculty Chair for the Arts and played an important role in bringing together the Music, Drama and Art Departments and was hugely supportive of our 'Arts at Stowe' programme.

Such was her influence on her pupils it was natural that several were inspired to follow her into the teaching profession. Alex Estorick (Stowe's Head of History of Art) was a pupil of Amanda's at Westminster School: "We found her incredibly generous with her time and sensitive in her judgment of what each student needed at a given moment. She had that rare quality of being a light touch in how she gave advice but utterly lucid in what needed to be said. That was all down to her exceptional capacity for human empathy as well as her total selflessness. For a school that prizes student autonomy and an independent capacity to find creative solutions, her approach was the ultimate fit." She delivered her teaching in the same empathetic way that she approached her colleagues and all admired her as much as they were inspired by her.

Always greeting colleagues with her beautiful smile, it was hard to imagine that Amanda ever had a cross word to say, indeed, in the time I knew her, both at Westminster and then here at Stowe, I never once heard her make an unkind comment.

It had been at Westminster that Amanda developed her teaching skills and they were very happy years for her. During her time in London she married Alex, her childhood sweetheart, and they had their two wonderful children, Amy and Ben. It was then to Stowe that the Jorgensens moved when Amanda became Head of Art, with Amy and Ben joining the School as pupils.

To her subject at Stowe she brought new techniques for Stoics to immerse themselves in - her specialist print presses (rescued from Westminster School's Art Department when they were cruelly going to just dispose of them!) soon featured in her teaching and this form of art-making continues to thrive at the School today.

However, Amanda was not all she might first seem. Stowe Staff will remember those Safari Suppers in StoweBucks when she transformed into DJ Jorg, quite possibly the coolest person the Common Room is ever likely to know! She would groove the night away in the DJ's booth, lining up the tunes whilst she laughed with and at her slightly merry friends, as they made fools of themselves on the dance floor. This was Amanda; beguiling, gentle, calm, selfless, empathetic and surprising. Her passions were infectious.

Amanda was taken from all those who love her much too soon. Her beautiful family, of whom she was so proud, and friends miss her graceful, uplifting presence. Our lives are much enriched for having known her and the words of her former pupil are echoed by those whose lives she touched at Stowe, "The sadness of Amanda's passing is that she was so overwhelmingly the best of us."

Mrs Tori Roddy

Academic Report

The academic year 2017-18 started at Stowe with another wonderfully strong set of exam results from our 2017 GCSE students and leavers. An impressive 71% of all A Levels taken achieved A*-B and over half of these were at A*/A. This was an especially notable achievement considering that these students were the first to face a number of the new and more rigorous linear exams. There were particularly strong performances in Further Maths, Spanish, History, Economics, Latin, Design & Technology, Sports Science, Art and Drama, where half or nearly half of results achieved were at A* or A. There were also extremely strong Value-Added scores achieved by Computer Science and Design. Destinations for our 2017 leavers included Oxford, Edinburgh, Durham, LSE, Exeter, Bristol, Warwick, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, Leeds, Queen's Belfast, KCL and UCL. At GCSE 48% of all grades achieved were at A* or A, and all pupils achieved at least five grades A*-C. There were some outstanding individual performances, with ten students notching eight A*s or more and 21 more students who scored at least eight grades at either A* or A. Several departments celebrated a bumper crop of top grades, with Art, Greek, Latin, Music, Philosophy & Religion, Chinese and Russian all seeing over 70% of grades at A* or A. Those departments which saw over a quarter of their pupils achieve the very top A* grade include Latin, Greek, History, Philosophy & Religion, Chemistry, Physics, Art, Graphic Design, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French and German.

This will be the last set of GCSE results reported in letter grades, as the GCSE exams taken by Stoics this summer have nearly all been with the new and more difficult 9-1 exams. Preparing students for these exams has been challenging for schools across the country, as there are still only very limited examples of papers available and no one is yet sure what the grade boundaries will be! We have been very impressed, however, with the dedication and commitment with which this year's Fifth Form have approached this challenge and will no doubt be able to congratulate them on some fine results come August.

The academic life of the School is not, of course, limited to preparation for and achievement of, exam grades! 2017-18 has been another year where academic endeavour and societies have continued to flourish. The History Department and Arts at Stowe have been developing a fruitful relationship with the 'History Masterclass' programme, where we have seen a number of high profile, published historians deliver seminars over dinner to a mixed audience of Stoics and the ticketed public. Seminars this year have included Dr Sam Willis on: 'Nelson's Navy' and Professor Frank McDonough on: 'The Gestapo: Hitler's Secret Police'. There have been many other notable speakers who have come to work with Stoics this year. We welcomed author Lucy Christopher to the School to work with the Fourth Form on creative writing and BBC presenter Fergus Beely gave an open lecture on: 'Filming Wildlife in Challenging Conditions'. The Holocaust Memorial

evening in January on the theme: 'The Power of Words' saw a moving combination of poetry and text readings in both English and German, a musical tribute and also an appearance by one of the few remaining Holocaust survivors. Classics students travelled to Radley for a talk on: 'What Greek Tragedy Can Still Teach Us', and also welcomed Matthew Kneale to Stowe to speak on, 'Rome: A History in Seven Sackings'. The Politics Department hosted a talk by journalist, broadcaster and author Robin Lustig on: 'Why Politics Matters' and our economists had a very well-received talk by Mark Littlewood. The Sciences have now settled into the new Worsley Science block and Science at Stowe continues to go from strength to strength. In November, Stowe hosted a Medical Conference, involving those Stoics across the Fourth to the Sixth Form interested in careers in medicine, alongside students from neighbouring schools and the Biomed Society welcomed Professor Pali Hungin (BMA President) to lead a seminar. The Quantum Society remains one of our most popular and active extension groups in the Sixth Form. Stowe Physicists have also had many opportunities to excel. Robotics once again had a strong season, with regional competitions throughout the year culminating in the National Finals in March. In addition to these opportunities, Stoics this year have formed and led several new societies including a Psychology Society, an Investment Society and a new Philosophy Society, which this year has hosted Cambridge Professor Andrew Buskell, Dr Jonathan Beale from Reading University and Oxford Professor, Roger Crisp.

It has been a difficult year for both the History of Art Department and the Art Department, which were left devastated by the unexpected losses of first Ms Chubb, our extremely charismatic Head of History of Art, in August and then of our much-beloved Head of Art, Mrs Jorgensen, in the Lent Term. Although reeling, both departments continued to offer a full and enriching programme of trips and speakers. Music and Drama have given us many superb performances and those studying the disciplines have had talks on: 'The Origins of Pop' for Musicians and 'Careers in Performing Arts and an Insight into Undergraduate and Postgraduate Training in Acting, Directing, Filmmaking and Technical Theatre' for the Drama students. The Tooth & Nail Company gave a seminar to the Fourth Form in April in the lead up to their devised exam plays in May on the theme of the Grenfell Tower Fire. Their performances were superb.

The Careers Department at Stowe has really stepped up to the plate this year in terms of preparing Stoics from the Third Form to the Sixth Form for making key decisions about their futures. Talks from visiting speakers have included titles such as: 'Being a Young Entrepreneur and Starting Your Own Business', 'Routes into Business Development in the Insurance Industry', 'Careers in Business, Hospitality, Luxury Brands and Event Management', 'Careers Linked to a Passion for Art History: From a Love of History to the Discovery



Channel and Beyond' and 'Have a Go, Express Yourself, Grasp Opportunities and Create New Ones' by stand-up comedian, feature writer and broadcast journalist Dave Smith. There has been a lot more extension of careers and futures advice down into the lower years as well and Fourth Form tutor groups also attended seminars with Dr West on 'What Career Might I be Doing in 2028?'.

There has also been a full and fruitful programme for the academically selective Headmaster's Essay Society (for Sixth Formers applying for the most competitive universities and courses) and the Lower School Academic Scholars (LSAS) and a change in the structure has seen the Fifth Form LSAS encouraged to work more closely and read more extensively within their chosen areas of interest.

Other academic highlights of the year were the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Fair, which showcased some extraordinarily high-quality independent projects from the 2018 leavers in October and then our first Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) Fair for the Fifth Form in December. This is the first cohort to complete the HPQ

as part of Stowe's core curriculum and it was wonderful to see and hear them present on a variety of fascinating titles. The research, writing and reflective skills they have gained through this process will set them up very well for Sixth Form and beyond.

Finally, 2017-18 saw the launch of a more extended menu of Sixth Form 'electives', including not only the EPQ, but also, Core Maths and Further Maths AS over two years, as well as Practice for Advanced Level Musicians (PALM), Additional Foreign Languages (AFL), IELTS and the ILM Leadership Certificate through the CCF. From September 2018, this will be extended to include AS options in Maths, Music Technology and Psychology over two years.

We continue to take the 'pulse' of the School through survey and the Stoic Councils and all in all, there is a sense of commitment and real excitement in the air around academic pursuits at Stowe and Stoics are increasingly involved and ambitious in their chosen fields. Exciting times!

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)

English

A murder in Brighton and a peek into a 19th Century 'ragged school' were just two of the eye-opening extracts that Fifth Form students encountered in their preparations for the new GCSE English Language exams, making them Stowe's first cohort to sit papers under the reformed specifications, graded 9-1. In a welcomed step forward from the old-style examinations, these new papers are based on real texts from the real world, so the extract from 'Brighton Rock' by Graham Greene and a letter on the condition of education in 'ragged schools' by Charles Dickens, introduce students to snippets of great literary works which sit nicely alongside their texts in English Literature. We were also delighted to hear a range of excellent talks from our Fifth Form as they completed their Speaking and Listening Assessments - graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction - to complete the English Language GCSE. We stayed with our Cambridge IGCSE English Literature exams for one more year and are keeping fingers crossed that this year's cohort will enjoy a well-deserved bounty of A* to B grades, as did their predecessors the year before.

At A Level, students focused on either Comedy or Tragedy, with opportunities to explore their own interests through coursework. In an exciting innovation, the English and History Departments joined forces in the Michaelmas Term to host joint extension talks for A Level students. In one session, Head of History, Mr Griffin spoke in historical terms about the human cost of the American Revolution, followed by English teacher Dr Smith's literary analysis of Abraham Lincoln's 'Gettysburg Address'; putting these two disciplines together gave students of both subjects new ways of thinking about the formation of American identity. Upper Sixth pupil Ingrid Galler (Lyttelton) delivered a stimulating talk about the existential novel 'Slaughterhouse-Five', by Kurt Vonnegut, which offers a shocking journey into the mind of a Second World War veteran. Students also enjoyed a vibrant Literary Society programme which offered both cross-curricular and cross-cultural perspectives (see separate article).

The English Department seemed as busy after lessons this year as during them, with an impressive range of extension and support opportunities for pupils. Dr Smith's workshops for Upper Sixth pupils aiming for the A* grade were well attended, as were Ms Pickering Polláková's and Ms Eisenhut's extension sessions for the Lower Sixth. Mr Parnaby introduced new, more academically focused Junior Literary Society sessions which were also popular, and Mrs Ackroyd continued to raise the profile of debating at Stowe with her enviable organisational skills and a set of challenging motions for both Junior and Senior debaters. All English teachers ran one to one and group clinics for pupils and walking through the Department, seeing a teacher and pupil locked into discussion about literature has

become a gratifyingly common sight. I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to Mr Cook for his invaluable support as Second in Department; quietly and without fuss, he helped to keep the wheels of the juggernaut that is the English Department in motion. Special thanks go to Mr Peppiatt, Mrs Rickner, Mrs Ackroyd and Mrs Miller, who always give one hundred per cent commitment to their English teaching whilst managing substantial duties elsewhere in the School.

Clara Tearle (Queen's) was a worthy winner of this year's Third Form Headmaster's Poetry Competition; her recitation of Carol Ann Duffy's poem 'Originally', was a convincing exploration of place and identity, delivered with an impressive level of engagement and confidence. All of the competitors deserve credit for braving the nerve-jangling experience of reciting difficult and thought-provoking poetry in front of their whole year group and the Headmaster. We also had a range of entries for the Lucy Christopher Creative Writing competition, details of which can be found in the Library report. A special mention goes to Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Fourth Form, Walpole), for his independently written and researched essay about Robert Louis Stevenson's influences in the novella 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'.

On Thursday 1 March, World Book Day became Snow Day. Scooped aside with the white stuff were a talk by renowned linguist David Crystal, the Luffield Festival Creative Writing Day involving eight local schools and young adult writer Rhian Ivory, another talk by young adult writer Lucy Christopher, and Mrs Foden's annual House Literary Quiz. Whilst we were able to rebook most of the speakers for other dates, we were so disappointed to lose the celebratory atmosphere that having all of these events on the same day was meant to create.

Other notable events this year included the Holocaust Memorial evening organised by Arts at Stowe, in which two members of the English Department, Vlasta Pickering Polláková and Heather Eisenhut, offered readings. In collaboration with Arts at Stowe, the English Department offered Fourth Form students the chance to see 'Jekyll and Hyde', a performed version of their GCSE set text, which also drew audiences from other schools and the wider community. The busy and productive year was capped by an outdoor interpretation of 'The Tempest' by the theatre company 'OddSocks', performed on the South Front for the Third Form and open to the public. Whilst few would have recognised any similarity to Shakespeare's play in the company's unusual approach, the comedy and farce hit the right notes with the teenagers at the end of a busy year and exam season.

Ms Allison Puranik, Head of English

Mathematics

It has been a busy year in the Maths Department with several new members of staff joining the team - Alec Stanworth came to us from Buckingham School in September, Mark Austen who has taught two Fourth Form classes as part of his final year of PGCE teaching along with this year's Harvard Fellow, Tasnim Ahmed. At Christmas, we were also fortunate to welcome Serkan Karakus who joined us from Walthamstow Academy in London. They all quickly got involved with life in the Department and have made great contributions to Maths at Stowe.

We were sad to say goodbye to Tony Webster who left at Christmas, and Richard Knight and Reva Cope who left at the end of the Summer Term, as did Tasnim, who had come to the end of her year at Stowe and is setting off back to the States to study medicine. We especially wish Richard Knight all the best with his retirement, and thank him for his many years of service as a member of both the Department and the School. He has been a huge support to all of us, always ready to share his wealth of knowledge and experience. We will miss him.

The summer 2017 GCSE results were very pleasing, especially given the fact that it was the first (and only) year of doing IGCSE. We had to adapt and make the relevant changes to the syllabus and teaching so it is a great reflection on the staff that the Stoics managed to attain such good outcomes.

A total of 25 A*s and 40% achieving an A or above are the best results we have seen in years. Sadly we again just missed out on the full pass rate with three students a few marks off a C grade.

At A Level we had a 98% pass rate and 39% A*-As but it was in Further Maths, the results were most impressive. 100% achieved A*-B with an impressive 33% achieving an A*. Congratulations to both Anna Wilson (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Angus Parsonson (Upper Sixth, Chatham)

who joined the small elite group of achieving A* in Further Maths.

The success of the Department is also evident in the increasing number of students opting for mathematics in the Sixth Form. We have had to create three sets for the new qualification Core Maths that we introduced to the elective option at Stowe this year and offer an extra set of AS Maths to accommodate all the students interested in doing these. This is while A Level Maths continues to be one of the most popular choices of A Level at Stowe.

In the Sixth Form, we have continued to offer extra support both between lessons and after school. These sessions have mainly been offered by Richard Knight, Tony McDaid, Alec Stanworth and Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe. In the Lower School, this was done by giving extra support in lessons and extra clinic times on Wednesday afternoons run by Mikkel Møller (Head of Maths) and Sharon Carter (Head of Skills). Building on the success of last year, when, out of the 15 students making use of the sessions, only one student missed out on a pass by just 1% and three students converted Ds at the end of Fourth Form to Bs in the final exams. One of biggest advantages of these sessions is that we can offer more support to students who find the content of the syllabus particularly challenging.

Mr Yadsan has expanded on what we offer to our most curious mathematicians with Vertical Stretch sessions now available to both Sixth Form and to the Lower School.

In Sixth Form, the focus was on giving students an opportunity to understand mathematics at a deeper level by making 'how serve why'. That is, in addition to learning how to use mathematics and trying to understand why things work in maths. From September to January, students studied a course on 'Number Theory' followed by a course on 'Mathematics of Quantum Mechanics' from January to April. Students looked at how to tackle and solve Schrödinger's equation, they studied partial differentiation

and partial differential equations. Focusing on the separation of variables, they solved Time-Independent Schrodinger's equation (TISE) for a particle in an infinite potential well and obtained energy Eigen-states. In the Summer Term, they studied Indeterminate Equations. Part of this course included learning how to solve equations using 'clever tricks'. These included factorisation, inequalities, quadratic and Euclidean methods.

In the Lower School, Vertical Stretch sessions included various topics in pure mathematics. In the Series and Sequences course, we covered convergent and divergent sequences, strictly increasing, and non-decreasing, decreasing and monotonic sequences. In series, we investigated geometric sequences and condition for convergence. We further explored how to use integral test and p-series to identify bounded-ness. Lower School mathematicians then studied alternating, harmonic, convergent, divergent sequences and series. We finished this course by exploring the Ratio tests.

To accelerate and challenge the brightest mathematicians at Stowe, the Maths Department offered two maths projects this year. From the foundations of mathematics to number theory; this year's projects varied from Cantor's Infinite set theory (leading to Gödel's theorem) to Riemann's Zeta function. Stoics who intend to study mathematics and mathematical sciences at the world's leading universities were invited to the Local Maximum Sessions. These involved Stoics tackling Oxbridge entry papers and World Maths Olympiad questions, as well as solving challenging questions and studying the inequalities that are used in the Olympiads. In these sessions, we focussed on 'questioning the question to find the best starting point to answer the question'.

Stowe's Maths Society, the Gaussian Group, had several successful meetings this year. In the first meeting, Mr Yadsan gave an inspiring talk entitled: "God at the subatomic level" where he showed the strong connection between mathematics, physics, theology and philosophy. One of highlights of the year has been inviting local schools to some of these Gaussian Group meetings. The essence of the Society is to promote a love of mathematics and to inspire young people, so we are excited about expanding on our network of mathematicians into local schools.

In October, we invited a mathematical magician to entertain and inspire our Third Form. Through a show filled with illusions and tricks, our visiting 'Mathemagician' demonstrated that mathematical logic underlies much of the visual trickery that one might see in a magic show. The event allowed the Third Formers to participate in card tricks, numbers games, and visual illusions that encompassed various topics in maths, including shapes, area, estimation, probability, and statistics. Following each trick, our Mathemagician would explain its basis using mathematical reasoning, which provided pupils with more innovative applications of the maths that they have already seen in the classroom. It was clear through their enthusiasm during the show that pupils were inspired to understand

how maths can be applied in different and fun ways. Several walked out of the lesson with entertaining tricks that they could show off to their family and friends.

The Senior Maths Challenge took place in November. The competition for the Best in School award was very close. Emily Barrett (Upper Sixth, Queen's), scored 93 just pipping Abzal Amirbay (Lower Sixth, Grafton) by a single point, both however did qualify for Gold awards and got to take part in the International Kangaroo Challenge.

The Inter-House competition for the Dawson Cup in January was hotly contested by all Houses. Grenville were captained by Cameron Chambers (Lower Sixth) and got off to a flying start in round one as the only House to score a perfect 22 out of 22 on the Algebra problems. They were not allowed an easy ride however as both Stanhope and Bruce were constantly on the heels of the early leaders. The final relay round was competed for most enthusiastically with answer sheets being hurriedly carried up and down the stairs in StoweBucks. Grafton edged the win in that final round but it was not enough to defeat Grenville who finished second in the round and winners overall with an impressive score of 105 out of a possible 132 marks.

The year finished with Junior School taking on the Intermediate Maths Challenge, here the Fourth Form students really showed the way. Five of them qualified for the Kangaroo Competition: Jiahao Zhang (Chandos), Vivian Zhu (Lyttelton), Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Walpole), Hamza Arbab (Grafton) and Emilia Havard (Stanhope) were also joined by Joshua Clarke (Bruce) in achieving Gold awards.

The Maths Review has continued to thrive with another issue out this year. It is available to read online for anyone who is interested in mathematics, mathematical sciences and philosophy. Hakan Yadsan put together this impressive showcase of mathematics at Stowe written by students and teachers, from advanced mathematical proofs to jokes. It provides a fascinating insight into the historical and philosophical aspects of the universal language of mathematics.

As we look forward to the new academic year, there is a lot to be excited about. In September, we will be welcoming four new members of staff. Michelle Matthews who is coming from Shenley Brook End school, Martin Johnson who is joining us from an International School in Dubai, Dr Charles Adkins who will be returning to teaching after seven years of running a family business and Lenny Murphy, who is the Harvard Fellow for 2018/19. We look forward to working together, inspiring each other and taking the Maths Department to even greater heights in the future. We would also like to congratulate Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe for her very well-deserved promotion to Head of Sixth Form Mathematics.

Mr Mikkel Møller, Head of Mathematics



Science

Coming to the end of our first full year in the magnificent Worsley Science Centre gives us a chance to reflect on the tremendous impact that it has had on Science at Stowe. In October, we held our first medical conference for school students where pupils from local schools joined Stoics to get an inspiring glimpse of the many opportunities to be gained by embarking on a medical career. Also, what it takes to be a strong and successful applicant to the profession. The conference was such a success that we will hold it biannually and in the year between, starting in October, we will hold an engineering conference.

As hoped, the extra space and facilities in the new building has enabled a wealth of science based extra-curricular activities and societies to flourish, inspiring Stoics to see the fascination of Science and to look beyond the classroom. Steve Malling led a team of Stoics to launch another high altitude balloon which gave would-be Engineers and Physicists the chance to design the payload and the experiments conducted as the balloon reached great heights. Paul Thompson led another very successful year in Robotics for both the Senior and Junior teams, as well as co-ordinating a regional competition which was hosted by Stowe. This provided Stoics with opportunities in robotic design, practical physics, engineering skills, software programming and allowed them to see what it takes to produce a robot that is robust and reliable enough to be successful in competitions.

Our Quantum and Biomedical Societies have flourished in their new surroundings which gives space for social events as well as good facilities to attract external lecturers, carry

out experiments and encourages members to present to their peers before leading discussions. The Science Lecture Theatre has been very well used by these societies as well as by many other societies across the School.

As the displays in the main Science Foyer have settled and evolved, Michael Righton has spearheaded the Biology Department's efforts to introduce more animals to the delight of both Stoics and visitors. A royal python arrived as did axolotls of various colours and an external enclosure was created for our chameleon. The fish have been breeding too and the number and colour in the fish tank is flourishing. Our Sixth Form societies have been building large molecules to display which should be on display soon. The Quantum Society has built a very large bucky tube and the construction of a 1,500 atom diamond molecule is well underway. Not to be outdone, the Biomedical Society is working on a 5m high model of DNA. The latest project to appear in the Science Foyer is a 1985 Mini Mayfair, the restoration of which is next year's engineering project, being led by Mr Donoghue.

Last summer, our A Level Science results were very good and being the first year of the new linear A Level, there have been plenty of lessons and words of wisdom passed on by last year's Upper Sixth to this year's cohort. The main message was start early and put in plenty of hours with both straight revision and going through past papers. The student working areas in each of the three science disciplines have been extremely well used as has the Sixth Form Science Centre. The Upper Sixth has really appreciated these, using them so well not only during the

day but also at weekends and well into the late evening. I congratulate our A Level students on just how hard they have worked and how well they have used these facilities. If their efforts and the many excellent summaries that appeared on white boards is anything to go by, then we should be able to look forward to an excellent set of A Level results this summer.

Our extra laboratory facilities have given us greater opportunity to spread the joy of Science beyond Stowe. Many pupils from prep and local state primary schools have come up to enjoy a morning or whole day of Science, including rockets, robotics and Chemistry. As well as putting on plenty of hands-on work in the laboratories, staff have given inspiring demonstrations and shared their passion for their subjects. It is so important to inspire the next generation of Scientists and allow everyone to see the high standards and level of interest in Science here at Stowe.

I must finish by paying tribute to Steve Malling and Rory Akam who retire at the end of this year and who have both made such a great contribution to Science at Stowe with a combined total of over 50 years' service. They are both passionate Scientists with many interests in Science, Conservation and Engineering. Both leading Departments in their time - Rory as Head of Biology and Head of Science and Steve as Head of Physics. Their contributions have gone way beyond the classroom and their Departments for they believe in practical applications that go beyond the boundaries of the excellent lessons that they are well known for. Both will be actively using their great knowledge and experience next year as they work on projects in their respective fields of expertise. We bid them a very fond farewell and are very grateful for all that they have done.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science



Biology

The Biology Department has seen a typically busy and successful year. Having now settled into our new laboratories, the modern facilities to work in provide a much better practical working environment. Departmental results continue on an upward trend and we were delighted that three candidates secured A* grades at A Level last August - congratulations go to Beth Ackroyd (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Skye Longworth (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Fabiola Koenig (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton). With the all new tougher linear A Level now in place, 48% of our 2016-2017 cohort gained A*/A compared to 68% of biologists securing A*-B, this marks an increase on a previously successful year. Our GCSE results were also notable with 50% A*/As in 2017, 20% achieving an A* and a further 30% gaining an A grade. These results highlight our continuing success and we are very proud of our students' achievements.

Most of our Sixth Form Biologists are members of the Biomedical Society which meets every week in the Sixth Form Science Centre. Here the weird and wonderful is examined; from the evolution of the eye to the current debate around the body mechanisms of Pterosaurs. Headed by Max Bishop (Upper Sixth, Grafton), members have been helping to construct a huge model of DNA through the use of molly-mods. We are hoping that the model will be large enough to extend from the ceiling to the ground floor of the Science Foyer. As well as guest lecturers and the students themselves giving talks covering their broad interests, the group have enjoyed Chinese meals, pizzas as well as the annual croquet match with the Quantum Society members - some of whom are also Biomedical Society members - split loyalty when it came to deciding the teams!

In July, we said our goodbyes to Mrs Judy Gracie as she retired her mortar and gown to return to her origins as Head Science Laboratory Technician, the post she relinquished to start teaching in September 2000. Luckily for us, Mrs Gracie is still with us in the Science Department disseminating her vast knowledge to the rest of the team. We were fortunate to gain Mrs Natasha Blake from Akeley Wood, and she has proved a huge success, slotting into the Department with ease and I just cannot believe that she has only been with us for the year. Mrs Blake took over the Psychology Society reins from me in January and with there now being an AS Psychology Elective from September, I am sure that the Society is going to become very popular amongst Stoics. In October,

we invited Old Stoic and former Biologist Olivia Ferrie (Lyttelton 13), to come to speak to us about what it is like to work at St Andrew's Healthcare, Northampton, which provides specialist mental healthcare for people with challenging mental health needs. Her talk proved very popular with both GCSE and A Level students and a number have applied to study Psychology at university on the back of Olivia's talk.

This year, five Upper Sixth Biologists competed in The Royal Society of Biology's Olympiad. Designed as a fiendish test of an individual's ability to use their biological prowess to solve a series of unforeseen problems. Under the tutelage of Dr Lakin, our Biologists performed very well with Victoria Beglin (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Upper Sixth, Nugent) gaining a Silver award; Kira Evans (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Lee-Ann Sule (Upper Sixth, West) a Bronze and Isabella Leondiou (Upper Sixth, Queen's) a Commended. As we bid farewell to our Upper Sixth, we wish them all the best for the future as they move on to extend their academic careers at university. We are delighted that there are a number wishing to pursue Biology in some form or another. Kira Evans (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Taisiya Danilitskaya (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Beth Ackroyd (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) have applied for Biological Science degrees; Lee-Ann Sule (Upper Sixth, West) and Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Upper Sixth, Nugent) for Biomedical Science; Isabella Leondiou (Upper Sixth, Queen's) a Medical degree at Cardiff University; Emily Barrett (Upper Sixth, Queen's) Neuroscience; Emma Sharp (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) Zoology and Matthew Barnes-Murphy (Upper Sixth, Bruce) is to study his life-long passion Palaeontology, having been given an unconditional offer at Leicester University.

I am once again indebted to the vastly experienced members of the Biology Department who enable such successes to happen. As the year draws to an end, we say our goodbyes to Dr James Popplestone, who even though he was only with us for two years, certainly made his mark on the Department and long standing Mr Rory Akam, who after 30 years of dedicated service at Stowe, retires his lab coat and goggles for waders and binoculars as he continues his passion of bird ringing with the British Ornithology Society. Rory will be missed by all those he has worked with, both inside and outside of the classroom and we wish him a long, happy and enjoyable retirement.

Ms Louise Carter, Head of Biology



Biology Field Trip to Pembrokeshire

It was, of course, a slightly disappointing day on the weather front as 15 eager Lower Sixth Stoic Biologists accompanied by Dr Lakin and Mr Akam, set off for 'sunny' Pembrokeshire and the annual A Level field course. Ominously, we encountered a water company van with a logo in the Welsh language before we even got to Brackley. As the hours drifted by, the chatter on the bus was all anticipation about succession, rocky shore zonation, barnacle identification and the like.

Day 1 at Orierton Field Centre dawned grey and drizzly. Short-tailed field voles and a lonely wood mouse were taken from traps set the previous evening, noted down as part of the 'cute' kingdom and released. The day was spent at Sordern Point sampling the rocky shore and assessing the adaptations organisms need to survive in their particular zone. We could barely make out the Valero oil refinery through the mist.

After evening and early morning classroom sessions, we set out on Day 2 for Broomhill Burrows - one of Britain's largest dune systems. Here, succession was studied using transects, point quadrats and plant ID guides. Thankfully, the sun eventually came out and there can be no finer beach in Europe than Freshwater West.

The final morning was devoted to the individual study (known as required practical 12) and the Stoics collected their data on how abiotic

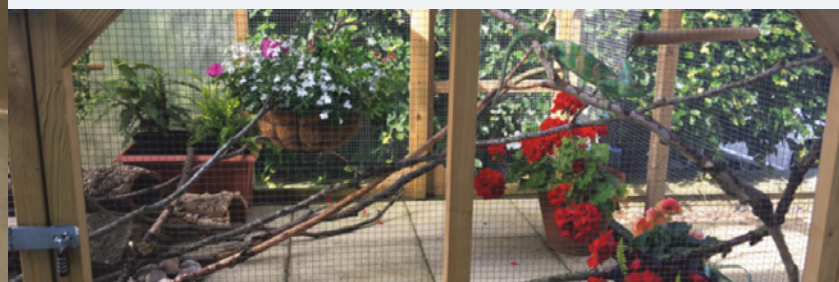
factors affect the distribution of organisms at various sites around the Field Centre. This went smoothly despite some Stoics working within feet of Hemlock Water Dropwort - comfortably Britain's deadliest plant!

Our course tutor, Steph, was excellent and the Stoics worked hard and enthusiastically to cover a good deal of the Ecology part of the syllabus and this should stand them in good stead next year.



Herpetology at its finest

Over the past 12 months, we have slowly been adding more and more reptiles and amphibians to the Department. Joining Smaug our Chameleon, we now have Squiggles the Royal Python, Aristotle the Tortoise, Toothless the Axolotl and to come in September, we will have two Bearded Dragons, donated to the Department from Old Stoic, Steven Duncan. Our animals prove to be very popular with the students and we even have an Animal Club where Stoics come to help feed, clean and exercise the animals. We have developed an outside enclosure (see below) which we use in the summer to house both Smaug and Aristotle. Can you spot Smaug?





Namibia

N/a'ankusê is an organisation which is trying to ensure that large mammals in Namibia are protected from poaching or being shot by farmers for causing damage to crops or killing livestock. It is also providing medical care for the native Bush People who find it difficult to obtain healthcare due to their partly nomadic existence.

N/a'ankusê has established five centres around Namibia to help achieve their goals protecting wildlife and supporting the Bush People and hope to become a financially self-sufficient non-profit organisation not having to rely on large donations from various Philanthropists. Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have provided huge financial support in recent years, which has allowed the project to expand and develop new initiatives, such as the Neuras site, which is a self-sustaining vineyard, where the profits are ploughed back into the system to provide support for threatened Cheetahs and Leopards in the area.

Nine Stoics and two members of staff (Mr Righton and Mrs Jenkins) flew into Windhoek via Johannesburg in August this summer for a two week stay at the Windhoek site as well as a second week at Neuras in the south of Namibia. The purpose of the trip was to expose the students to the challenges faced by those trying to protect these wild animals and also to take part in the rehabilitation and care of these animals. The Windhoek site has about 50 volunteers usually staying for 2-3 months plus students from schools to help and participate in the programme. We had a packed week, which included both lectures on the various aspects of animal conservation as well as hands on experience feeding and looking after some of the animals that were kept on site.

During our first week, we fed the Lions, Cheetahs and Caracals, all large cats that were rescued due to their mothers being shot while they were still cubs. These animals were on the whole wild but were familiar to human contact and as such, could never be released back into the wild. However, there were other cats that had been captured which were being kept until such time as a suitable release site could be found so they could return

to the wild. On the other days, we had to exercise the young Baboons, conduct a large animal survey in the Sanctuary where some of the wild animals are released, we had lectures on the issues facing these animals as well as discussions concerning the conflicts with farmers and the impact of human population. We heard how animals such as Elephants, for example, can cause considerable damage to crops and facilities, later learning about how to tranquilize large animals using rifles and blow pipes and the issues associated with their use. We had a hands-on session in the veterinary clinic on how to rehabilitate small animals that may be ill or injured. In the evenings, we had a couple of activities which included a BBQ out in the bush where some of us were able to observe the Zebra as they wandered along a dried river bed and we learned how to cook bread on a stick! We were also able to go out one morning on horseback and some of the group got quite close to the Ostrich and Zebra roaming not far from the Centre.

While at Windhoek, we did have a couple of rather exciting experiences not on the programme. About 2km from the Centre, there was a very large area that was heavily secured using high-electrified fences. These areas were where the adult Baboons were kept. A large adult baboon is five times stronger than a human and can undo the wheel nuts on a car with its fingers unaided. They also have very large canines which could bite straight through your arms not to mention the fact they could also probably tear one off! One of these Baboons was rather troublesome despite having been raised by the team since it was a baby. It liked going into the camp and would climb the electrified fence to do so. When this happened all the staff and volunteers would have to go to their tents, because if he was challenged, he could get very aggressive. This happened on four occasions during our stay and on one occasion, he came right up to the dining area. He was seen sitting on a table drinking a bottle of beer, then sitting in the bin picking out the food that had been thrown away! The next afternoon, the same Baboon managed to jump from the roof of one of our student's accommodation into the area where one of our girls was getting ready to shower!



Fortunately, he obviously found the situation equally scary and jumped out of the shower with the student's shampoo! We also had a fabulous Porcupine coming into camp most evenings that again had been rescued some years back, but seemed to like the company of the staff!

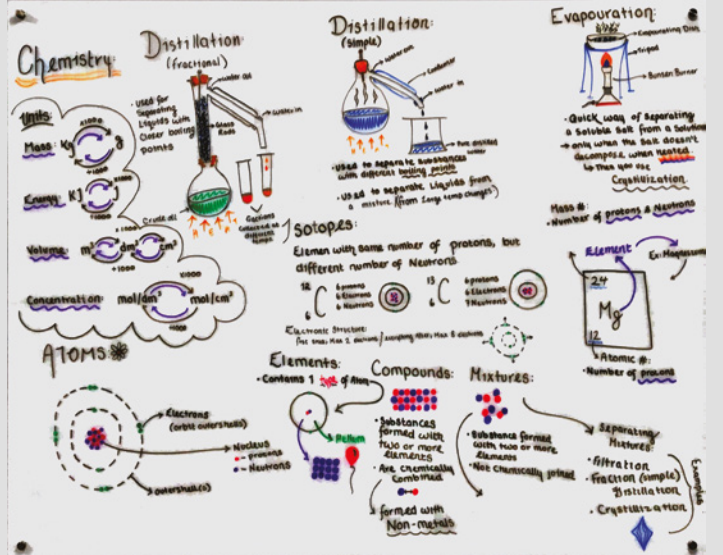
At the end of the first week, we moved down to the South of the country, a five hour drive on dusty roads and pot holes. The second week was at the organisation's Vineyard at Neuras. This business was purchased so it could provide funds to support the conservation of the animals in the area and to provide support and advice to local farmers who experienced issues with the local Leopards, Cheetahs and Jackals. On our arrival and after settling into our tented accommodation, we were whisked off in the 4x4 to a very large fenced paddock some 2km square. This was where seven juvenile Cheetahs were kept, which were rescued when their mothers were killed by local farmers when very young, but after they had been weaned off their mothers' milk. These animals would have died in the wild but were subsequently rescued. However, they were still virtually wild but having to be raised in captivity, they could never be released again. During the week, we fed these wonderful animals a couple of times and got very close to them, especially when we were tasked with cleaning up all the poo and gnawed bones left by the Cheetahs. During our stay at Neuras, we learned how to navigate using a GPS device, the grid reference points taking us through the most wonderful of dry gorges. We had another session where we helped out in the arboretum where they were trying to propagate trees and shrubs that had been removed over the years to improve the productivity of the farms. However, in doing so, the biodiversity of the area had suffered and the aim now is to try to re-plant these trees and bushes into the local farms. During our stay, they had a call from a local farmer (one hour away!) who had 13 goats killed by either a Leopard or Cheetah. The conservation team offered help to try to establish exactly what animal was killing his livestock and also offered to help improve his fence protection. It was decided that our group would go over and use local Sweet Thorn to build up and deepen the fence structure to prevent

the Leopards/Cheetahs getting in. They also installed a walk in trap, in the fence should the animal try to use this as the only way in. They also set up camera traps that would take photos of any animal that passed in front of it both during the day as well as at night to confirm what animal was actually preying on these livestock. Despite these bushes probably being the thorniest and most prickly plants on the planet, the group felt it was one of the most rewarding experiences of the trip. At the end of our stay, we took a three hour drive to the Namib Desert National Park, where we were going to hike to the top of the second highest sand dune in the world. A 5:30am start was bad enough, but the sub-zero condition in the 4x4 and the rutted and pot holed road was a challenge for us all sitting in a vehicle with no windows!! However, once we arrived at the National Park, the journey was well worth the freezing cold we all experienced during the drive. The colours and structures of the Dunes was nothing less than spectacular. We all managed to get to the top of the 1,000ft sand dune and once on the top, had a straight run down to the fossilised lakebed on which the dune is sitting on.

We would like to raise funds as a result of our experience on this trip that would enable us to purchase a GPS collar that could be attached to either a Leopard or Cheetah. These give vital information to the scientists about the movements and racing that these big cats undertake. They can also provide evidence to the farmers as well as the scientists about the whereabouts of specific predators when livestock are killed. It is an excellent method preventing the indiscriminate killing of such wonderful animals, such as Leopard and Cheetah, as they may not have been in the area when the killing took place. These cost around £3,500 and are a vital resource in the conservation of these animals.

Overall, this was a wonderful trip and gave the group a first-hand experience of the issues that predators face in the wild when they come into contact with human populations and the methods that scientists can use to help the indiscriminate killing of such animals.

Mr Michael Righton, Teacher of Biology



Chemistry

We began this academic year on the back of another pleasing set of external A Level and GCSE examination results. The Fifth Form, the final year group to certificate Chemistry GCSE with grades rather than numbers, achieved a 100% pass rate at grade C or above, and we saw our highest percentage of students achieving a B grade or above for a number of years. Our large cohort of Upper Sixth students were the first year to certificate under the new reformed linear A Levels, and we were delighted that over 60% of students achieved a grade B or above, whilst almost a third of all students achieved an A grade in this vigorous qualification. Particular congratulations go to Fabiola Koenig (Lyttelton 17), who achieved three A* grades at A Level, including Chemistry, and whose successful post-results application will see her take up a place to study Chemistry at Keble College, Oxford, in the Autumn of 2018.

Our outgoing Upper Sixth students have benefitted from the experiences of their predecessors and the increased availability of revision material and, along with 'boot-camp' revision sessions and all their hard work, they look set for a strong set of results in August. Encouragingly, we continue to see a number of students holding offers to study Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and related degrees at university. This year's outgoing Fifth Form will be the first to certificate on the new 9 to 1 specification, which is considered a more demanding course than we have previously seen. Internally assessed coursework has gone and practical skills are now assessed within the two, much longer, written papers. Students have positively embraced the challenges they face and we wait with interest to see how their efforts will be graded. This new GCSE course, with its increased focus on mathematical skills and a greater depth of chemical understanding, will ensure students are well prepared for the demands of a linear A Level, and we are about to begin an exciting first year where our new Lower Sixth Chemists have been prepared in this way.

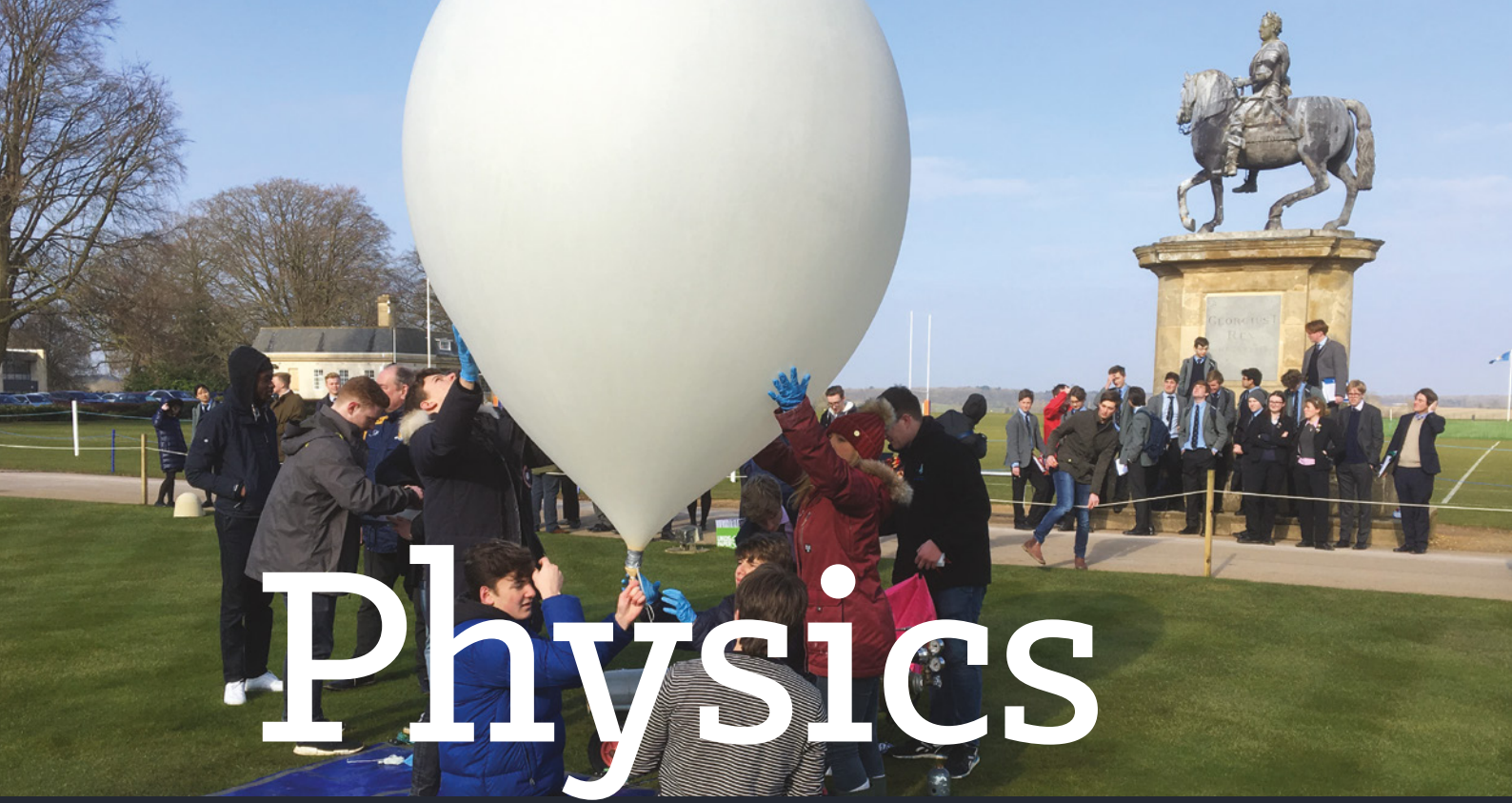
Following on from our participation in last year's Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, this summer a group of six Lower Sixth Chemistry students tackled this year's demanding paper. The aim of this national competition is to stretch and challenge interested students beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus and encourages them into a way of thinking which is more likely to be found

at university. Across the country, there were nearly 8,000 entries into this year's competition. For our students, copper certificates were awarded to Helena Vince (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Stefano Beni (Lower Sixth, Chandos), a silver certificate to Larry Zhao (Lower Sixth, Walpole), while Cameron Chambers (Lower Sixth, Grenville) received a Gold certificate, his mark having been within the top 8% of all entries received. My congratulations to all those who took part.

At the end of October, we said goodbye to our wonderful Chemistry technician and Senior Science Technician, Mary Treen. Mary had been with the Chemistry Department since 2001 and later took up the role managing all technicians across the Science Faculty. After the hustle and bustle of day-to-day activities looking after a busy Department, we wish Mary a very well deserved break and a long and happy retirement. We have been very fortunate to recruit Judy Gracie into the role. Judy has been at Stowe since 1989 when she was employed as a technician in the Biology Department. In 2004, she took up the position of Biology teacher, a role that she continued until last summer. Judy's understanding of life in the classroom and her willingness to help wherever she can is making her an indispensable asset to the Department and Faculty. In addition this year, we welcomed Mrs Natasha Blake as a teacher in both the Chemistry and Biology Departments. Mrs Blake has been teaching for 23 years, the majority of which were at Akeley Wood Senior School.

Fellow Chemistry teacher and Head of Science, Mr James Tearle, continues to amaze and fire up the imaginations of the younger students from various prep schools who visit the Department to attend enrichment events. This summer we also hosted a local primary school as part of their Science Week activities. Years 3 and 4 were entertained making rockets and slime, while years 5 and 6 respectively enjoyed a morning of robotics and the iodine clock competition, which involves pupils choosing the right volumes of certain chemicals to cause a reaction to turn blue at as close to one minute as they can. The response from students towards all of these events is overwhelmingly positive, and the inevitable flashes, bangs and smells that accompany Mr Tearle's demonstrations are set to inspire and enthuse our next generation of chemists.

Dr Alexandra Waine, Head of Chemistry



Physics

As we come to the end of another fantastic year, I reflect on what has been a very busy 12 months for the Physics Department.

My first praise is to the outgoing Upper Sixth Physicists. An A Level in Physics is a daunting prospect, and I've admired the manner in which the intrepid Leavers handled the task of preparing for these rigorous exams. As a Department, we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

A note of congratulation must also be extended to the Fifth Form. It's never easy to be the first year group through an entirely new exam specification, which is arguably harder than any before it, but the Fifth Form have tackled the new GCSE with quiet determination and resilience - well done to them all.

Outside the classroom, this year has been an exciting one in Physics. In the Easter holidays, Mr Hart organised a trip for the Sixth Form students to visit the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN laboratories in Geneva, Switzerland. It's a truly exceptional facility, and a brilliant opportunity for A Level students to visit a place that is at the absolute forefront of scientific discovery and innovation. Having studied the Standard Model of Particle Physics in the Lower Sixth, it only seems right that they have the opportunity to meet the people who discovered the Higgs Boson in 2012, the last key building block of the Standard Model. My sincere thanks go to Mr and Mrs Hart for organising and accompanying the Stoics on the trip - we very much hope to be able to repeat this trip in the future.

This year has also seen another series of High Altitude Balloon launches, organised with our partners at European Astrotech. These launches are not simply thrown together at the last minute - they are the outcome of a significant investment of time and effort by a large group of Stoics throughout the year. We were aiming for two separate

missions this year - one to try and capture video footage of two different masses falling at the same rate during the brief time of freefall after release, and another to try and set the UK altitude record for this type of ballooning. After some technical issues with the first launch, the second balloon reached an altitude of 32 km before detaching and descending to Earth (perilously close to the US Air Force occupied RAF Lakenheath!). Due to lack of ideal weather conditions for a launch, and the business of the end of term, unfortunately we have had to delay the second mission until the new academic year, but we are looking forward to launching a much larger balloon in the Michaelmas Term. Very pleasingly, this year-long project qualified our students for the Industrial Cadet Gold Award. This is an industry-led accreditation, and to have achieved a Gold award is a significant achievement. Congratulations go to James Carley, Adam Williamson, Jack Polturak, Max Bishop, Freddie Woods, Cameron Chambers, Ben Shamash, Alex Jones, Ed Anderson, Oscar Hill, Matthew Twining, Abzal Amirbay, Kamsi Mbanefo, Hugo Robinson and Stefano Beni for their awards and efforts towards this project.

This year, we say goodbye to two members of the Physics Department. Having only joined us last summer, it is with sadness we say farewell to Mr Ciaran Malanaphy who leaves us for sunnier climes as he relocates to teach in Peru. We are also sad to see Mr Stephen Malling leave as he starts his retirement after 24 years at Stowe. Congratulations Steve, and we wish you all the very best for your retirement in France. My sincere thanks go to the rest of the Department - Mr Paul Thompson, who continues to do amazing work with the VEX Robotics teams, Mr Brian Hart and Dr Tara Yates. We are looking forward to being joined in September by Mr Jonathan Davis and Mr Simon Rose.

Mr Craig Donoghue, Head of Physics

Geography

Learn; Case study; Fieldwork; Repeat!

As the whole of the UK has adjusted to the challenges of the new specifications at both GCSE and A Level, Stowe Geographers have enjoyed the myriad of new topics which the new specifications have to offer. More in line with undergraduate study, new topics at A Level have included, for example, climate change (ever relevant and vital to understand in today's climate, if you'll pardon the pun!) and Power & Borders (nation states, conflicts and sovereignty to name but a few of the concepts). At GCSE, pupils have studied new topics including, the 'challenges of resource management', both in the UK and wider world, focussing on the provision of food as a key future issue. They have also learnt about trade, aid, development and the global economy, again from the UK to worldwide scale.

Difficult as the transition has been, these new topics bring the ever-changing subject of Geography right up to date with relevant contemporary issues and continue to make it one of the most popular subject choices at both GCSE and A Level.

To bring learning to life, we spend time immersing ourselves in the world around us through the medium of fieldwork. Although always popular to do, exam boards have now mandated that pupils complete at least two days of fieldwork at GCSE and at least four days of fieldwork at A-level, so here's what we managed to do.

The academic year began with us paddling... Fifth Form geographers undertook a river study in the Cotswolds and on a bright October morning we set off in search of the River Windrush. Our aim was to sample the river in three different locations, to investigate how and why the width, depth, velocity and sediment type changed with distance downstream. Beginning near Guiting Power, we studied the narrow channel before moving to Naunton, where it widened, deepened and saw pupils close to maximum welly depth, but keen to get stuck in! We finished our sampling in Bourton-on-the-Water, looking at human influences on the river and as with most geography fieldtrips, the day ended with ice cream!

The Lower Sixth began their A Level fieldwork in Oxford, with a human geography theme. Understanding the nature of 'place' and how people identify with places is tricky stuff for the start of the A Level course, so immersion in the environment is vital. Starting on the Cowley Road, pupils assessed the environmental quality of the area, provision of services and diversity of shops, before moving to Blackbird Leys to do the same. In the afternoon, the rural village of

Woodstock provided an excellent contrast both in terms of size and place identity.

March saw a more exotic form of optional fieldwork with our biennial trip to Iceland, which ran during the Easter holidays, and saw pupils arrive to some typically changeable Icelandic weather. To combat the cold, the pupils very much enjoyed the geothermally heated swimming pool in the hotel, which was a pleasant way to get out of the wind! The exploration started off in Reykjavik sampling local culture, before taking in the 'golden circle'; namely Gullfoss Waterfall, Geysir (to see the famous Strokkur Geysir), on to the Kerid Crater (an extinct volcano) before walking through Thingvellir National Park - where two tectonic plates are visibly pulling apart (although at a rate of 2cm per year, it's not much of a spectator sport!). Strong winds (80mph+) curtailed a few of the activities on the second full day, but pupils still managed to walk around the back of Seljandsfoss, and the 'secret waterfall', testing their waterproofs. A visit to the lava centre followed and to Hekla volcano (overdue an eruption, always makes it exciting...) before standing on an earthquake simulator and being thoroughly shaken around. The trip was a great success and all of the pupils were impeccably behaved and learned a great deal about the land of fire and ice, as well as experiencing the dramatic Icelandic landscapes - and weather! My thanks go to Mr Elwell for organising the trip and Miss Penrhyn-Lowe for becoming an honorary geographer and helping to staff it.

May saw a period of unusually fine weather and also unusually, it actually coincided with our Lower Sixth fieldwork - not needing waterproofs on a fieldtrip is almost unheard of! We returned to Dorset for this compulsory residential course, this time locating ourselves very near to Corfe Castle and Swanage, where Brenscombe Activities Centre provided an excellent base for us on a converted farm. Using our three days wisely, we exposed pupils to both human and physical fieldwork locations and techniques, to enable them to start to plan their own fieldwork as part of the A Level course. Deprivation in Weymouth, pebbles, sand, groyne and waves in Swanage and Worbarrow Bay, and sand dunes in Studland Bay were all studied. Practical demonstrations led on to pupils having a go at the techniques themselves and sometimes devising new ones of their own. On the final day the fieldwork was completed with a paddle in the sea and an ice cream - not a bad way to do fieldwork.



The final field trip of the year saw the Fourth Form heading to Bristol. Despite a sunny forecast, we managed to find rain, just like last year, but it didn't dampen their spirits too much. Working in the Harbourside and Temple Quarter areas, pupils collected data on environmental quality of the area as well as land use types, to enable them to determine how successful they thought the regeneration of the area had been. Despite quite a lot of walking, nobody got lost, plenty of data was collected and everyone returned happy, perhaps helped by the presence of a food festival whilst we were there!

But please don't think that all of our time is spent in the great outdoors, as sadly it isn't! Throughout the year talks, extension classes and clinics allow the Stoics to delve deeper into the topics of interest and widen their

geographical knowledge. A good test of this knowledge then takes place in November at the Inter-House GeogSoc Quiz - a hard fought competition where pupils showed that they knew their Ars from their Elba (rivers) and could identify geographical terminology within songs - Justin TimberLAKE, Cry me a RIVER anyone? Chatham were the somewhat surprised winners!

As another busy academic year ends, I would like to leave you with this quote, which sums up why we work hard to educate the geographers of the future:

"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?" Michael Palin 2007

Mrs Sarah Murnane, Head of Geography



Sports Science and PE

Last year was a stellar year for our A Level results. The final year of the old modular style exams saw our best three candidates all come out with outstanding A* results. Bubby Upton (Queen's), Philippa Stacey (Nugent) and Thalia Felton (Queen's) thoroughly deserved these grades and were excellent role models for the subject throughout their time at Stowe. We have no doubt they will go on to achieve highly in anything they do in the future and we would welcome them back at any point to talk to current Stoics.

The Upper Sixth who completed their exams this summer have been the first cohort to go through the new specification and as such, are at the mercy of the exam board to a certain extent. Those who prepared fully for all areas of the course should hopefully be rewarded with the grades they deserve. The worthy winner of the Upper Sixth Speech Day prize for this year was Adam King (Bruce), with other worthy mentions going to Yasmin Mama (Nugent), Jessamy Money-Kyrle (Nugent), Clara Haggie (Nugent) and Olivia Thomas (Nugent). It is worth stating that Adam has won every Sports Science prize on offer as he has progressed through our subject and has been a model student throughout. He has done this whilst juggling all of his other School commitments and should be highly commended for all that he has achieved whilst here at Stowe.



The Lower Sixth have worked well this year and the sets are very enjoyable to teach. They have shown good character and have been willing to explore some of the more challenging topics with enthusiasm. The winner of the Lower Sixth Speech Day prize was Gemma Blane (Queen's) for her diligent approach to all areas of her studies, as well as consistently coming top of all internal assessments.

The GCSE candidates worked hard in the lead up to this new exam and felt they were as well prepared as they could have been. With the new specification providing more of a challenge and the exam boards not indicating where the grade boundaries will be set at, it will be very interesting to see their results in the summer. The GCSE Sports Science Speech Day prize went to Edward Snushall (Fifth Form, Temple) who has shown excellent commitment to the subject over the past three years. The end of year internal exams for both Third and Fourth Form identified further talent coming through, with the likes of Barney Denison-Pender (Fourth Form, Cobham), Robbie Haigh (Fourth Form, Grenville), Sam Birch (Fourth Form, Grenville), Emily King (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Matthew Ackroyd (Third Form, Bruce), Charlie Powell (Third Form, Cobham) and Xander Brett (Third Form, Grenville), all impressing with their results.

The Sports Science Society was particularly taken by their inaugural film night, when we showed the Russian Doping Scandal film, Icarus. This sparked lively debate and interest in the wider issues faced in modern elite sport and has certainly made the pupils think twice about the 'superhuman' performances they occasionally see at the highest levels. It is a sad position to be in for many sports enthusiasts, but an informed dose of scepticism allows for greater analysis of performance, a key skill needed by all Sports Scientists.

Our relationship with the Porsche Human Performance Laboratory in Silverstone has continued to grow and Mr Jackson has now established a strong work experience link with the Centre and several of our A Level candidates who are looking to study the subject at degree level have been to see what Sports Science in the workplace is like.

The Third Form core PE programme continues to grow and develop and we strongly believe all Stoics finish their first year at Stowe with a large breadth of skills from which they can then choose which areas they wish to pursue in the future.

I am stepping down as Head of Department after 10 years to become Housemaster of Bruce. It has been a pleasure to have worked with such a professional and dedicated team of staff throughout this time. Mr Jackson will be a superb new Head of Department and I really look forward to seeing him lead the pupils to even greater successes in the years to come.

Mr Philip Arnold, Head of Sports Science & PE

French

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” Nelson Mandela

As another academic year in the French Department draws to a close, last year’s exam results seem a distant memory but our 2017/18 cohort need to be acknowledged for their hard work and excellence. At A Level, Sacha Yonan (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Lisa Battilomo (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Amy Jorgensen (Upper Sixth, Nugent) all secured A grades and our congratulations to Lisa who was awarded a place at Oxford University to read French. Our GCSE students also excelled with 54% of pupils securing an A* or A grade and 12 students scored 100% on three of the four modules. Twenty-two students have gone on to take A Level and as such, the future of French at Stowe is looking bright and exciting.

While much of the focus for this year has been on delivering the new and challenging syllabus at both A Level and GCSE, the French Department has been alive with visits, trips, society meetings and plays; reminding us all that learning a language is an invaluable life skill as well as an academic subject. The Languages Society has continued to be vibrant and well supported by Stoics and staff and my thanks go to Mrs Desiree Podesta for leading the Society so well together with Alice Maclure (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Tom Purdon (Upper Sixth, Grenville).

This year, French A Level students have had the opportunity to see Molière’s ‘Tartuffe’ at the Royal Haymarket Theatre in London, having seen the adaptation of Molière’s hilarious farce ‘L’Avare’ at the Garrick Theatre last year. Our Lower Sixth linguists again travelled to Bath University for a thought provoking “Spotlight on Languages” day, giving them the opportunity to consider the options and merits of continuing their language at undergraduate Level.

The Lower Sixth trip to Paris in June was once again a great success for the Stoics who will be studying the Occupation of France and the impact of the Second World War on the people of France and how events from the previous three decades led to such a terrible episode in the history of the country.



Ten Stoics, accompanied by Mr Dobson and Mrs Browne, spent three days in the French Capital. They made three separate trips to the Musée de l’Armée where they enjoyed guided tours on the years leading up to the war and how Adolf Hitler came to power. Also, they learned about the fearful predicament in which the French people found themselves, having either to live alongside the Nazi invaders or choosing to risk their lives fighting against them and sabotaging the German war machine. Our third visit focused on the German defeat and the worldwide struggle that led to Adolf Hitler’s ultimate demise and suicide in the Berlin bunker.

The group visited the monument to the holocaust with its crypt and Wall of Names, hearing from our guide how the Germans, along with the French police, deported French Jews from Paris in the infamous ‘Rafle du Vél d’Hiv’ in June 1942 in which 66,000 men, women, children and babies were sent to the death camps. This visit is particularly relevant to the novel ‘Un sac de billes’ by Joseph Joffo, which is our set text in the Upper Sixth.

Stoics were also able to explore the Latin Quarter at Notre-Dame, the Rue de Rivoli with all of its shops, as well as Le Marais, the Jewish centre of Paris, where they visited the museum of Jewish Art and History. A particular highlight of the trip was the Tour Montparnasse, where the group climbed to the rooftop terrace on the 59th floor to enjoy the most spectacular panoramic view of Paris and where no shortage of selfies were taken!

Despite returning to Stowe exhausted on the last Saturday of term, all agreed that the trip was a resounding success and the Stoics will undoubtedly feel much better prepared for this aspect of their studies in the A Level French course.

Mrs Tracy Jones, Head of French



Lower School Study Tour to Nice

On the first Sunday of the October Half Term, Mrs Browne and I set off with ten Fifth Form students of French to spend five days in Nice, staying with French host-families and attending five three-hour French lessons at the Alpha-B Language School in the heart of the Midi and on the spectacularly beautiful Côte d'Azur.

Having arrived on the Sunday evening and been whisked off to their respective hosts' apartments for supper and for their first overnight stay, our intrepid tourists arrived for their first morning of lessons and were quickly put through their paces with their native French language teacher. The first afternoon's excursion was around Nice, old Nice and its unique flower market, the castle and its waterfall and finally, a visit to the world-renowned Confiserie Florian, where our boys and girls were able to sample the hand-made preserved fruits and boiled sweets that the company has spent so many years perfecting.

After lessons on Tuesday, the group set off to visit the town of Ezè and its medieval walled city and tropical cactus garden before visiting the Parfumerie Fragonard, another world-famous French brand producing exquisite perfumes and soaps, later in the day.

On the Wednesday afternoon, they took the train to Antibes, where they visited the Marina with its myriad of yachts and huge private boats and where they were able to explore the winding streets of this picturesque and historic market town. Probably the biggest hit with the group was the sandy beach, where they were able to swim and relax



after what had been, after all, a very intensive first half of the Michaelmas Term.

Thursday afternoon saw the group off on the train to Monaco and Monte Carlo, where they visited the spectacular aquarium and the Jacques Cousteau Centre Océanographique, the Casino and Prince Rainier's collection of exotic cars, which is always the high point for Mr Dobson!

On the afternoon of Friday, the last day, they all enjoyed a lovely pizza lunch at a restaurant in the centre of Nice, followed by a boat trip along the coast, taking in the view from the sea of Villefranche, home to the recording studio where the Rolling Stones recorded one of their first albums and where Bono and U2 have also recorded their music. The Stoics were also able to enjoy a trip along the Baie des Anges before heading back to England.

This was a great trip, and all of the Stoics showed that their French had improved in lessons and at home with their hosts.

Mr Simon Dobson, Teacher of French



THEATRE & PRIZES

In May, our Third and Fourth Form French students enjoyed the highly entertaining play 'Mes Chers Voisins' performed by native French actors, Marie and Jérémie from the Onatti Theatre Company in the Ugland Auditorium. The play was scripted very carefully to fit in with the level of language of the students so that they could get the maximum from the show. We have invited the Onatti Theatre Company to Stowe every year for over 15 years and the play did not disappoint. Our actors wasted no time in dragging some of our audience members up onto the stage to join in the action and to show off their French!

All of the Stoics were captivated from the start and those among them who were plucked out of the audience to join in, did so in such good spirit that it absolutely made the whole experience! Needless to say, next year's performance has already been booked and, as ever, I am sure that it will be just as great a success.

I would like to thank all the Stoics who have worked hard to improve their language this year in the Department and to congratulate this year's prize winners. Henry Gauvain (Upper Sixth, Temple) was awarded the John Webster Prize for French (Upper Sixth), Esme Foster (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) won the F.O.S. Prize for French (Lower Sixth) and Rohan Sekhri (Fifth Form, Walpole) the Capel Cure Prize for French (GCSE).

I would also like to thank all the teachers in the Department for their commitment, hard work and passion for language learning. They make the French Department a successful and happy place to learn and work.

Mrs Tracy Jones, Head of French

GERMAN

With this academic year nearing to its end, end of year exams needing to be marked and reports about to be written, I sometimes wonder why it is still so important to learn a foreign language and the answer came to me when I read an article by John Le Carré, published by the Guardian in July 2017. He describes learning a language as an act of friendship, and when if not now, has it been more important to build bridges amongst nations. Speaking a foreign language is understanding another culture, being able to appreciate cultural differences and ultimately being successful in this global world we live in. According to a CBI Educational and Skills survey from 2012, 50% of British employers rate learning German as useful for their business, placing it on top of any other language. With that in mind, it is no surprise that German continues to gain popularity at Stowe and I am delighted to announce the appointment of another full-time German teacher, Sandra Wheeler, as of September 2018.

Looking back at the results achieved by Stoics last August, I couldn't be more pleased, as Stoics achieved on average one grade higher than their predictions. This is no mean feat considering how challenging German is. To help them along their journey, the German Department has put on numerous clinics and exam preparation sessions, but what tends to make the biggest difference in terms of engagement, motivation and ultimately achievement, is what was offered outside the classroom. Events that will be forever popular are food-related days such as Weihnachtsplätzchenbacken (baking of German Christmas cookies) and Waldmeistertag (a day of sampling sweet woodruff products). You will be delighted to know that at Stowe, successful students not only get merits, commendations and Benes, they also get rewarded with genuine German sweets which have proven more popular than any of the above named awards, as they simply cannot



be found in England. So much so, that some Fourth Formers who have been on the German Lower School Exchange have brought back several bags of new sweets they discovered in Germany and were eager to share with the rest of the class. Talking of Exchanges, we are thrilled to have formed a partnership with Landheim Schondorf, a traditional Bavarian boarding School set at the foot of the Alps on the shore of the Ammersee lake. This Exchange enables a handful of Stoics to experience life at a German boarding school for three weeks in April. This is not only benefitting their language, but teaches them to be more independent, open-minded and resilient, three essential skills if you want to be successful in any walk of life. I am very proud of the four Stoics who became our first Ambassadors to Landheim, their behaviour was exemplary





and I dare say they got a lot out of this experience. The Upper School Exchange with Rossleben, Thuringia was equally successful in October, when Mr Smith and I took five Sixth Formers to this beautiful part of Germany. We have been doing this Exchange for a number of years now, but the sheer beauty of the landscape and wealth of interesting places to visit is quite simply overwhelming. Highlights for me this year were a visit to the Erfurt Cathedral, reading the *Erlkönig* aloud in Goethe's actual house, lunch in the Auerbachkeller where Goethe wrote part of *Faust* and our guided tour of the concentration camp of Buchenwald, which is always such a powerful reminder of what can happen when history goes wrong. We are now looking forward to welcoming the German

Rossleben students in June and showing them what Stowe and the surrounding region has to offer. Other events this year have included the Holocaust Memorial Day in which some Stoics recited the poem, 'Todesfuge' (Death Fugue) by Paul Celan. This surrealist poem depicts the absurdity of life in a concentration camp in a very poignant way and the Stoics who volunteered for this recital certainly did the poem justice. On a more entertaining note, we very much enjoyed the play, 'Hausarrest' (You Are Grounded) by the Onatti theatre troupe. Every year, they delight us with a new German play based on GCSE vocab and therefore accessible to all and this year's performance with lots of audience participation certainly didn't disappoint.

So, as you can see, Stoics opting to learn German at Stowe get exposed to more than just endless vocabulary lists and conjugation tables - although there is plenty of that too. I am not only grateful for their commitment to the language but would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ed Smith for all his help in the German Department over the last two years as well as Gwilym Jones, who after 10 years of teaching German at Stowe, will become MiC of Co-Curricular Activities as of September 2018 and will therefore no longer be teaching German. I cannot imagine the German Department without him, but I know how amazing he will be in his new role and wish him the best of luck.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Computer Science

Congratulations to Sean Carslaw Tricot (Grenville) and Alex Girling (Chatham). They were awarded the Fifth Form IT prizes this year and have worked hard to develop their skills in programming and improve their understanding of computational thinking.

Our groups at Sixth Form are making good progress with the new AQA specification, introduced last year to provide wider exposure to programming activities underpinned by increased mathematical rigour. Dr Pawson continues to bring his wealth of experience from industry and is developing high quality materials that are being shared through the Computing at School (CAS) organisation, as well as benefitting our own students. Mr Mellor is also teaching at Sixth Form level this year bringing his considerable systems knowledge into the classroom. Programming projects in Upper Sixth include an accounting system (Ed Harding (Chandos)), a golfing app (Freddie Woods (Chatham)) and an app designed to support activities in the School Shop (Max Bishop (Grafton)). We wish these students well with future university courses.

Lower down the School, all Third Formers who joined us this year worked through an introductory course in programming. For those not opting to study Computer Science at GCSE, it is hoped that pupils will benefit through development of problem-solving skills that can be applied to other subject areas. The GCSE groups are getting to grips with the new specification and we look forward to greater clarity on the national picture as reforms to the NEA controlled assessment are announced.

We have also be trialling a new course (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) that has been dubbed the 'Digital DofE'. Supported by the Duke of York, the course offers a wide range of entrepreneurial and community based activities linked to computing. Students can complete modules that combine to form Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The course may be introduced next year as a possible Sixth Form elective or as an alternative option to GCSE Computer Science.

Mr Adam Gabriel, Head of Computer Science



Spanish

Time passes ever so quickly at Stowe and another year has gone by with a myriad of accomplishments in languages.

Last summer, Stowe once again had a great set of results from the Upper Sixth Hispanists, achieving 91% A* - B grades at A Level. Many of them have continued to study languages at university and we wish them all the very best.

Last October, an unforeseen and exceptional circumstance left 24 of our Stoics without the opportunity to travel to Spain due to Monarch Airlines going into administration just days before our departure. It was with great regret that Mr Smith had to cancel the trip to Cadiz and Seville, after working desperately to find a suitable alternative flight but to no avail. Nevertheless, this trip will continue to be offered to our Fifth Form Stoics during Half Term.

This year, we embarked on the new challenge for our exam groups with new specifications at both GCSE and A Level. This has been a tremendously hectic year for the Fifth Form, as they have had to tackle a new and challenging Spanish GCSE, like the Upper Sixth who have also new exams at A Level, Stoics have taken on these new GCSE and A Level exams with determination, motivation and resilience, demonstrating character traits that have an instrumental value in enabling the intellectual, moral and civic virtues as one of Stowe's Building Blocks of Character.

In May, the Lower School Spanish Group welcomed a brilliant play written by Onatti Productions to complement Spanish language learning. The play called 'La Casa Encantada' (The Enchanted House) and some of our most illustrious Stoics participated in this crazy theatrical piece depicting two teenagers sheltering from a bad storm in a derelict haunted house. Staff and Stoics absolutely loved the performance. We are all looking forward to the next hilarious production, 'El Viejo Saloon'.

Many of the highlights this year were about bringing the

Spanish culture alive and enjoying the essence of Spanish gastronomy. The Lower School enjoyed some healthy treats with the demonstration and sampling of gazpacho. The Upper Sixth, accompanied by Mr Morales-Shearer, Dr Ferrero, and Ms Peña, travelled to Buckingham to sample a wide variety of Spanish tapas and as Ingrid Galler (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) stated, "washed down with a lamentably virgin Sangria." Ms Peña organised a series of activities during the meal to facilitate a mix of revision and casual conversation in which the Stoics relished the opportunity to express more informal Spanish. The Lower Sixth enjoyed the art of cooking the traditional churros with Ms Peña.

We are sad to announce that our wonderful Language Assistant, Ana Vidal García, is leaving us and moving back to Spain. Ana joined the Spanish Department three years ago. She has done a sterling job, not only in the Spanish Department but also as a tremendous Under Housemistress and tutor. Ana has brilliantly helped and supported Mrs Podesta in this year's Languages Society by organising talks, events and dinners. All of whom have had the pleasure of working with Ana will sorely miss her and we wish her all the best with her future endeavours.

Next term, Claudia Fernandez from León will join as a new Language Assistant. Claudia is currently finishing her Master's degree in Language Teacher Training at the University of León. She previously studied a degree in English Studies at the University of Salamanca, which included Spanish and English language teaching subjects as well as spending her Erasmus year in London.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside formidable and talented Stoics and Staff. The Spanish Department is looking forward to grasping the opportunities and facing new challenges next year to keep Spanish language and culture alive at Stowe.

Mr Julio Morales-Shearer, Head of Spanish

Classics

Classics at Stowe has enjoyed another productive and entertaining year that has seen record numbers of students continue both Latin and Classical Greek beyond GCSE. The A Level cohort delivered 100% A*-B results while the Fifth Form returned record figures of 93% A*/A. Particular mention should be made of Esme Foster (Stanhope) and Jamie Baillie (Cobham) who both delivered perfect scores in their two Latin papers; in addition Jamie delivered a phenomenal 398/400 in his Greek GCSE. We welcomed Ms Zara Crockett to the Department, and her googly-eye marking stickers and cartoon-based revision notes on Virgil's Aeneid soon became a regular fixture from the Third Form through to the Upper Sixth.

The meetings of the Classical Society began in September with a visit to Radley College to hear a fascinating and compelling lecture by Professor Simon Goldhill of King's College, Cambridge. His passionate and charismatic defence of "Why Greek tragedy remains relevant today" provided some inspirational food for thought for the Sixth Form Classicists and marked a first-rate start to the year.

As with other subjects, getting to grips with the nuance and content of the new exam specifications has proved an interesting task, with both the language and literature elements expanded, both in terms of the quantity of content and depth of examination. However, study of Classical literature in the original Latin and Greek remains a cornerstone of the A Level course, and it was therefore very useful for the Sixth Form Latin students to travel to Headington School in order to attend the first of what will likely prove to be an enduring series of set text seminars organised by the Oxfordshire Classical Association. Four lectures delivered by leading academics from Oxford University, each focussing on one of the A Level set texts, provided an invaluable and detailed examination of the exam material. Following the seminars, the students then had the opportunity of a guided tour of several of the university colleges, ending the afternoon by having dinner with two Old Stoics (Lisa Battilomo, Nugent and St Hugh's; and Emily Osborne, Queen's and Lincoln) who were undertaking their first year at university.

April saw perhaps the traditional highlight of the Classical Society's year, when Classics students of all year groups met for the annual Symposium, an opportunity to hear and discuss a couple of short papers on Classical themes over dinner and drinks in the Well Room. This year the lead was taken by Andrea Pironi (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Samai Lamberti (Lower Sixth, Queen's). Andrea delivered a well-researched and insightful piece, based on his submission to the St John's College, Oxford Classics Essay Competition, on the role of Fate and the Gods in Classical epic, drawing on Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, together with Virgil's Aeneid as well as other lesser-known works including Statius' Thebaid. Samai's passionate and clever piece drew together themes of satire with particular reference to the Roman poet, Juvenal and the seventeenth century Restoration poet John Dryden, and provided a refined demonstration of the fundamental links between Classical and Modern Literature.

To close the year, the Society shifted focus from Oxford to Cambridge: in the midst of the sweltering June heatwave, we visited the University Classics Faculty and the Museum of Classical Archaeology and toured several of the colleges both on foot and by punt. The day ended with a discussion session with Dr Neil Hopkinson, Director of Studies in Classics at Trinity College, during which the students made the most of the opportunity to discuss his latest research into the Hellenistic Poets as well as seeking invaluable first-hand advice on the notoriously demanding university admissions and interview process.

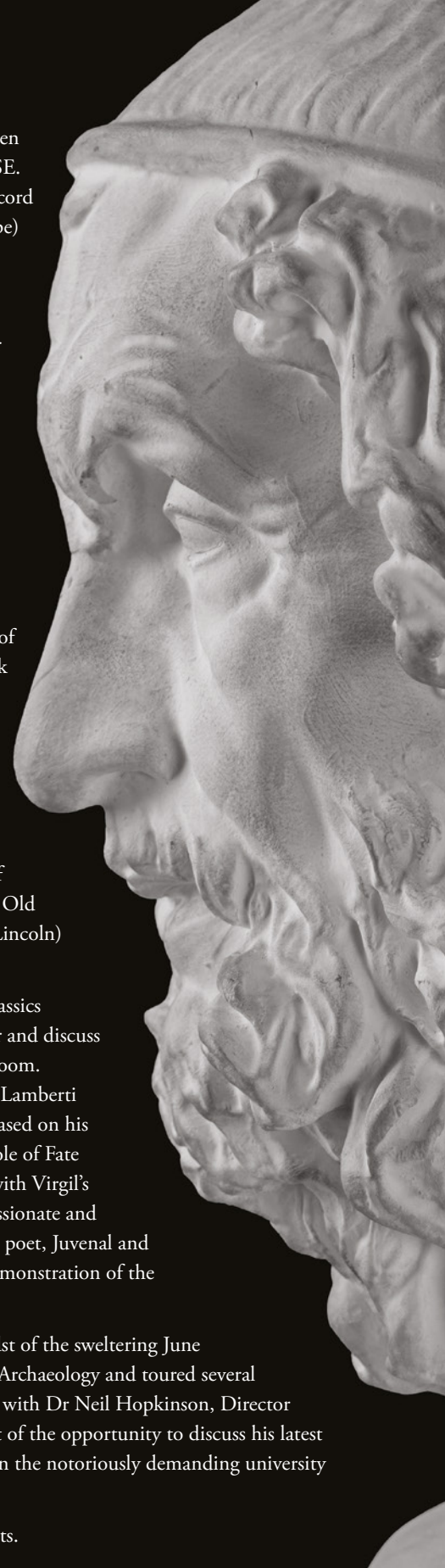
Overall, this year has seen another excellent performance from the Stowe Classicists. As ever, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Ms Crockett and Mr Bevington for their energy and enthusiasm in delivering Classics at Stowe.

Mr Jonathan Murnane, Head of Classics

Academic Prizes:

The Roxburgh Prize for Classics (VI):
Tallula Douglas Miller (Upper Sixth, Queen's)

The Quentin Bertram Prize
for Classics (GCSE):
Henrietta Gendler (Fifth Form, Queen's)



The combined Economics and Business Studies Departments have had another successful year, both internally and externally. Numbers remain high, and Marketing and Management degrees remain amongst the most popular for graduating Stoics. As always, the Microeconomic Department teaching has been centred around markets versus governments, a topic that inevitably leads to lively debate. We were delighted when the contentious columnist Mark Littlewood agreed to come and give a talk; as one of the country's most prominent Classical Liberals, he put forward a rugged defence of the moral and economic benefits of a free market. A few invited Stoics were lucky enough to attend a private dinner with Mark after the speech, and this is where the arguments became even more animated, with Mark clearly happy to play up his role as Devil's Advocate. Amongst other stances, he championed the rights of voters to sell their votes and for nations to sell the right to hunt endangered animals. Not all those present were persuaded, but everyone had their viewpoints thoroughly tested.

In macroeconomics, Donald Trump is the gift that keeps on giving. His views on trade and tariffs meant that Brexit did not always have to be the topic of conversation (giving all staff a well-earned break!). Is free trade 'fair' trade or 'fool' trade? The general consensus is that a lot of people make small gains from open trade (mostly in the form of lower prices), but a small group of people (domestic workers) lose massively when their jobs are exported. Are small gains to many enough to outweigh large losses to the few? Poverty and inequality are also high on the agenda and it is good to see another generation of pupils willing to consider their initially strongly held beliefs that income is purely an indicator of hard work, and that money received is a moral

measure of a person's worth.

The Business curriculum has been enhanced through a programme of guest speakers who have supported Stoics to gain a greater understanding of business theory and how this could be used to assess and predict future industry and economic trends. From fashion (Condé Nast) and engineering (Reaction Engines) to young entrepreneurs (Ollie Forsyth) and this year's Upper Sixth research theme, chocolate (Callebaut). Students have been given access to a variety of job roles, including finance, HR, marketing, design, distribution and managing multi-site and multi-trade bloc firms. All from the perspectives of business start-ups and SMEs right through to multinational corporations. Business continues to be a diverse and fluid subject where Stoics learn beyond the classroom, evaluate domestic and global trends, helping our budding captains of industry prepare for the future.

Great success has been achieved in the national 'BASE' competition - a management accountancy scenario run by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. One team (initially made up of Joshua White (Cobham), Freddie Richards (Bruce), Nico Montgomery (Grafton) and Toby Maxa Fetterlein (Grafton)) has managed to make it all the way to the final, seeing off around 98% of the competition. Although Nico has had to pull out, we wish the remainder of the team all the best.

Sadly, Andrew Wilson will be moving on to pastures new in the summer, but we are looking forward to welcoming Anthony Ashfield as the incoming Head of Department.

Mr Richard Corthine, Head of Economics & Business

Politics

Yet another fascinating year in UK Politics gave Stoics interesting topics to debate in class as well as outside the classroom as the story of Brexit remained high up on the Government's agenda. The on-going saga of the Brexit negotiations gave A Level Politics students much to think about during the course of the year.

Of course, it is important for students to explore the world of politics for themselves and one of the highlights of the year was in June when 16 eager Politics students attended the second Politics Festival in London. Whilst there, they heard talks from John Major, Chuka Umunna and Nick Clegg. The hot topic was, of course, Brexit, but a discussion around drug reform was also held, and conversation also covered events in Uganda. Stewart Johnston (Lower Sixth, Chandos) and Veronika Phillips (Lower Sixth, West) were both thrilled to be chosen to ask questions of the politicians, and the evening proved a thoroughly enjoyable event for all, even if

some of the debates did get a little lively!

Back at Stowe, the Department was again involved in The Winton Cup, the School's humanities competition for Prep Schools. Attended by more than 200 children from 20 different schools, this year's theme was 'Fake News' and the Department's teachers pulled out all the stops to deliver an exciting programme on this important theme with our visitors exploring the work of the current US President in popularising this expression.

Our Upper Sixth Form performed incredibly well at the end of their time with us with more than 75% of the cohort gaining A*-B, a fantastic achievement, and they should be congratulated on their results. It was another good year for Politics at Stowe, and thanks to my Department, who have been a pleasure to work with.

Mr Andrew Bowman, Head of Politics

History

The History Department has grown in strength in many ways this year, with several projects coming to fruition. The work completed to prepare Stoics for the new style of A Level clearly paid off as over half (55%) of the Upper Sixth cohort scored an A or A* grade. This was the strongest set of History A Level results that we have a record for and it was excellent to see the hard work on new specifications having such an impact. This group included Emily Osborne (Upper Sixth, Queen's), who exceeded her offer and took up a place to read History at Oxford. We were incredibly proud of her and it was excellent to see the hard work put in through our extension programme paying off. Results were also amongst the strongest ever at GCSE, with 61% scoring A*/A grades; an impressive achievement by many talented Stoics.

Our role in hosting History Masterclasses, alongside Arts at Stowe, has also been an excellent addition for extending and challenging Stoics, with a range of high profile Historians coming to Stowe. We were very pleased to welcome Jessie Childs (OS) to speak on the Gunpowder Plot, Frank McDonough who opened up the truth of the Gestapo and Sam Willis, who led one of the best History

sessions that I have ever been to on the role and function of Nelson's Navy. These smaller format events of around 40 people have allowed pupils to engage with TV Historians on a more personal level, ask direct questions and study original sources in satisfying levels of depth. We were also very pleased to welcome Major General Peter Williams, who shared his experiences of espionage during the Cold War. Such an impressive level of expertise and presentation has been incredibly enriching and provided opportunities for Stoics to deepen their understanding of the past.

Having said goodbye to Dr Charlie Standley, we have been pleased to welcome Fran Shah to the teaching staff. She has made significant contributions across the Department but has taken a particular lead on trips and visits. As a specialist in the First World War, she has arranged two trips for selected Lower Sixth pupils as part of the Centenary Commemorations in Ypres and the Somme. Anya Cook (Lyttelton) and Toby Maxa Fetterlein (Grafton) were also sent with the Lessons from the Auschwitz Programme to learn more about the horrors of the Holocaust and presented a moving session to the History Society.

Mr Paul Griffin, Head of History



Projects

Vanguard

This year's Third Form Vanguard cohort have had a great year as the Department helps them transition from Prep School to Senior School. Using Daniel Coyle's 'The Talent Code' as our muse - the pupils have investigated areas such as Myelination, Deep Practice, It being ok to fail and Resilience. The pupils have further developed their digital literacy skills through 'Stowe the Game' and produced a digital project on something they are passionate about. These ranged from Scuba Diving to Maths! The pupils were also tasked with attempting their first literature review on a controversial article and this helped the pupils develop the necessary skills of research, source analysis and generating a bibliography. The year ended with the pupils getting out and about into the wonderful Stowe grounds as they took part in a Visual Education game and they created their own Stowe brochure. All in all, a very successful year and one that allows the students to hit their HPQ running in September.

HPQ (Higher Project Qualification)

This year has seen the first cohort pass through the HPQ Department. Whilst all pupils were requested to write a written report this year - it has further emphasised the assorted interests and ultimately, deeply inquisitive minds of the Stoics. There were written report titles ranging from 'Addiction in Adolescence' to 'Seven Wonders of the Natural World.'

The pupils who have followed the HPQ course will begin their A Levels equipped with all the essential skills (referencing, research, composing an academic piece of work) to allow them to be as successful as possible.

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

This year has seen the third cohort pass through the EPQ Department. Once again there has been an incredibly varied collection of Projects on display - ranging from 'Creating a TIBUA for the CCF' to 'Working out whether or not Las Vegas' water supply is sustainable?' The Projects produced really emphasise the eclectic nature of Stoics and the diverse interest that pupils have.

It is great knowing the pupils who have completed the EPQ will begin the next stage of their education equipped with all the essential skills (referencing, research, composing an academic piece of work) to allow them to be as successful as possible.

Mr Michael Rickner, Head of Projects



Philosophy and Religion

On Thursday 23 November, we took 52 of our Fifth Form students to an Ethics conference at Oxford Town Hall.

The first session challenged us to ask the question ‘Who was Jesus?’ Was Jesus really the blond-haired, lamb-cuddling pacifist so often depicted - or was he more radical, a real revolutionary? There were plenty of film clips challenging our preconceptions about Jesus and his teachings.

Then, the focus shifted to the Doctrine of the Sanctity of Life, considering its origins in the Hebrew Bible and Jesus’ teachings and how it has shaped Church teachings over two millennia. Three different approaches to Christian decision-making were outlined - Natural Law, Biblical Ethics and Situation Ethics - each of which aims to promote human welfare. How these approaches lead to quite different guidance on issues in medical ethics, such as the use of contraception and assisted dying were then explored. This concluded with a whole group discussion on the issue of assisted dying with Dr Vardy inviting reasoned contributions from the floor.

After lunch, we explored Christian Pacifism and the development of Just War Theory, still the primary source of teaching on War for the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist Churches, using clips from recent documentaries and news reports to bring the theory to life. We considered should Christians condone pre-emptive actions when they could prevent conflicts from escalating? Can the use of drones - armed or reconnaissance - be reconciled with Just War Theory? Has the line between weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons ceased to have much meaning?

Dr Vardy introduced the motion: “This house believes that there is no such thing as a just war!” and used video clips to bring the views of Lord Owen, Lord Ashdown, Barack Obama, Archbishop Justin Welby and Pope Francis, to life. The Stoics’ contributions were articulate and logical, making an excellent impression.

The day concluded with a very useful session focussing on exam technique, explaining how to develop written arguments that satisfy the requirements of the new GCSE. The conference definitely succeeded in extending and enriching the Stoics’ learning and creating a real “buzz” around the subject.

We have named the visiting speaker programme this year ‘Philosophy@Stowe’, coordinated by Dr Peter Dennis (Teacher of Philosophy & Religion):



“Philosophy@Stowe aims to bring cutting-edge philosophical research to Stowe by inviting leading university academics to talk about their work. Stoics have seen first-hand how real philosophers engage with contemporary issues, and have been getting a taste of what it might be like to study the subject at university. This year, they have been thinking about: the morality of espionage in WWII with Professor Susanne Burri (London School of Economics); the ethics of human enhancement with Dr Andrew Buskell (Cambridge); the ethics of cloning with Marianne Talbot (Oxford); the nature of authenticity with Dr Jonathan Beale (Queen Anne’s School, Caversham); and whether it is possible to be both happy and morally good with Professor Roger Crisp (Oxford).

Last term, we announced the appointment of two Lower Sixth Formers as President and Vice-President of Philosophy@Stowe: Jemima Priest (West) and Christiana Robinson (Stanhope). Jemima and Christiana have done a fantastic job of promoting the events, and have begun filming mini-interviews with each speaker. These will soon be on the School website, along with audio recordings of the talks so far. Going forward, our aim is to make the events open to the public and to students at local schools. Look out for future Philosophy@Stowe talks on the School’s twitter feed, and in the Arts@Stowe programme.” (Dr Peter Dennis)

We were again this year delighted with the very enthusiastic response of the Prep Schools to our contribution to the Humanities Prep School Day - many saying it was their favourite session - when we organised a Philosophon, debating the question of “What is truth?” We look forward to many more in the future and to developing our relationship with Prep Schools.

Mr Colin Bray, Head of Philosophy & Religion



THE OLD ATTIC

IN THE MANOR

The rafters sloped steeply down to the floor, each one had a different pattern on it, but they looked warped and tired from their job. One dim, gloomy bulb barely managed to light the room enough to see even one corner. Dented, dusty, damp cardboard boxes full of clothes and other forgotten items had been left and forgotten in the unused space. A carpet of dust was layered on the ground and on shelves that nothing was put on. Ugly ornaments were stuffed randomly around the place that looked like unwanted gifts from Christmas or birthdays. A strange green carpet that was rolled up and lying on the ground seemed to host a group of little animals or something due to the endless rustling sound coming from within it. Thousands of cobwebs clung tight to every nook and cranny of the beams and some of the fine, perfect, silver, threads even clung to each other. Even though there were endless amounts of them each of them looked just as neglected as the room they were in. A single crack in the ceiling let in a shard of light as sharp as a sword and as fine as a needle. Little dust particles danced in the shard of light as if they were caged prisoners. They were like thousands of tiny fairies in a perfect shard of glass. The rancid ceiling was like one from an abandoned shack in the middle of the woods, and should not have been from a recently abandoned manor house, and every couple of seconds, a metallic ting would echo through the room because of a slow drip that came through the roof and all that had been done was some person had put a rusty old bucket where the water fell.

The room was silent except for the strange creaking sounds that made it sound like a person was walking in the dark room alone and lost forever. The wind howled outside, like someone screaming with anger, and some wind pierced the small crack in the roof and caused flickering shadows to be cast around the room. The old rotten door had clearly been left unmaintained for years. The white varnish was cracked and peeling, and the iron door knob was now dull in colour. The wood was damp and cold to the touch. It was clear that the wood was now a meal to thousands of little creatures endlessly eating away at the room to feed their tiny families hiding away somewhere else in the attic. The room relished in a musty odour that coated every inch and every object so the wood. Every step I took gave a shudder to the room and every object in the room would shake with it. Moss was growing on the door to the roof so instead of an old door with peeling paint, it was now a soggy green door home to hundreds of little creatures. The door wasn't the only place with even though, you could see it had filled small gaps in the roof and there were even small patches of it on the ground here and there. The insulation in the roof had now gone grey in colour and you could see little holes in it that looked like homes to little mice or rats. The occasional bat could be seen still clinging onto the ceiling, but it was obvious that at certain times there would be many more than just one or two attached to the high plank at the top of the ceiling. Many had been there before and there were still many more to find a way to squeeze themselves into this room.

Louis Ford (Third Form, Bruce)

CREATIVE WRITING

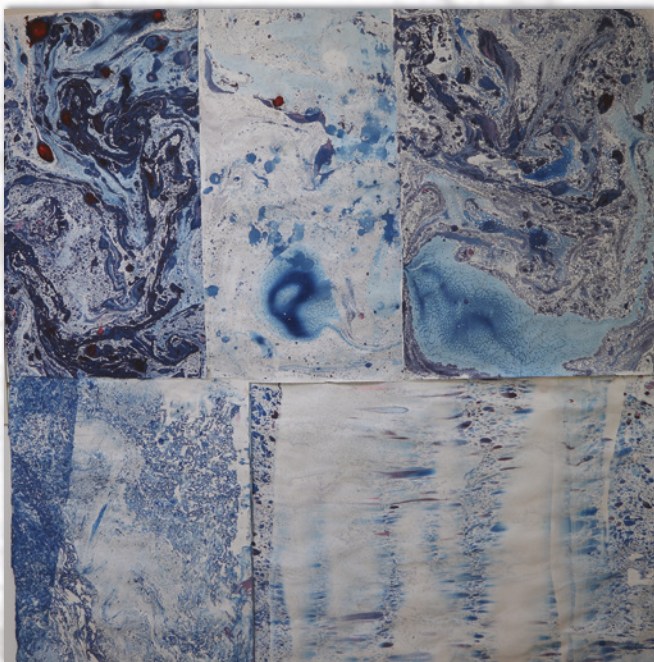


The last year has been a very difficult one for staff and students alike in the Art School who have been deeply affected by the death of two much loved colleagues, Elizabeth Chubb (Head of History of Art) and Amanda Jorgensen (Head of Art). It is at such times that we have experienced the remarkable strength of community and support that Stowe has to offer. We have been grateful for the additional teaching provided at short notice by Jo Banks, Rebecca Sharples and Guy Scott to help us through the year.

It has been a typically busy and challenging academic year for Art, which culminated in an excellent Speech Day exhibition of GCSE and A Level work that is represented by a limited number of examples featured in this year's Stoic. The extraordinary level of sophistication and range of individual outcomes reflected a very strong awareness and analysis of relevant contextual sources.

During the Michaelmas Half Term, students from both Art and History of Art benefitted from a very successful trip to New York. It took in the collections from the Metropolitan,





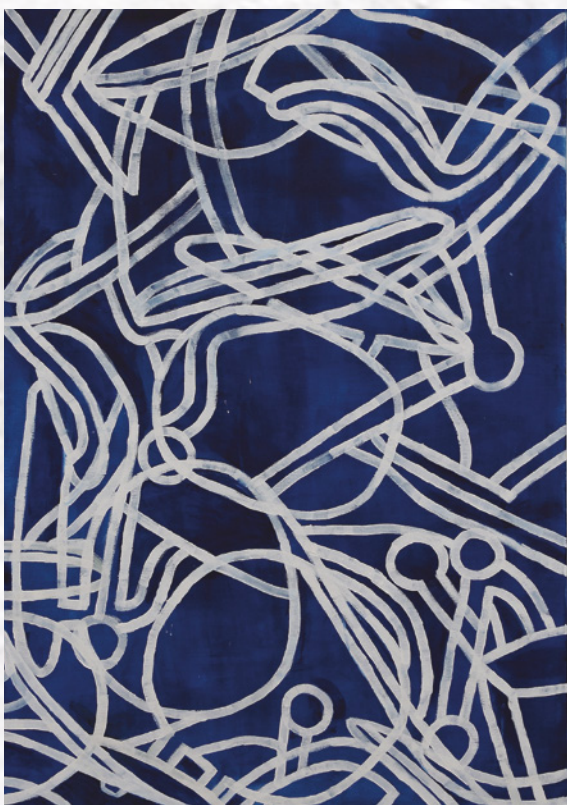
the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. This was complemented by a behind the scenes tour of Christies in New York and a very memorable evening hosted by the American friends of Stowe at Roosevelt House in Upper East Side.

Other notable gallery visits included the GCSE groups trip to Rachel Whiteread's retrospective at Tate Britain as well as the A Level trip to see the 'Impressionists in London' exhibition and the Antony Gormley special exhibition also at Tate Britain.

Given the very sad circumstances of the last year, it is appropriate to reflect upon the loss of two truly exceptional colleagues and dear friends, Elizabeth Chubb and Amanda Jorgensen.

Each brought enormous love and professional dedication to their roles, bestowing their unique and characteristic passion for their subjects to bring out the best in all of the students within their charge. May their unique spirits live on and remain dear in our hearts.

Mr Brian Johnson, Acting Head of Art



HISTORY OF ART

The History of Art Department at Stowe suffered a terrible loss at the end of the Summer of 2017, with the unexpected death of our Head of Department, Elizabeth Chubb, which came as a dreadful shock to her current and former colleagues as well as her many pupils. Liz defined and evolved a Department energetically engaged in the study of art and architecture, creating courses tailored to their ideal surroundings. She also recruited our current Lower Sixth, putting together plans and notes for our new high-level Pre-U qualification. She was a constant source of support to her tutees and students, preparing them for the last of their A2 exams.

The Department carried on as Liz would have wanted - with beaming smiles and much laughter. The Upper Sixth were taught a thorough study of sixteenth and seventeenth centuries by Dr Alice Insley, Rebecca Sharples (gratefully borrowed from the Art Department) and Crispin Robinson (Second Master). Meanwhile, the Lower Sixth were inducted into the Pre-U with challenging images from world cultures (not just European) and different historical eras, providing them with an introduction that has ranged between technique and style, religious and historical contexts.

External stimuli have come in the form of talks by Rachel Withers from Bath Spa University on the world of contemporary art, coupled with a discussion of the myriad career options open to art historians from the Director of Art History Abroad, Nick Ross. The realisation for members of the Lower Sixth of the ways in which art history underpins our own image-saturated culture was the real gift of Nick's talk, and the Department now hums with a vibrant critique of the ways images shape our lives: Facebook, Instagram, and all. It also impacted the students in their contributions to the 2018 Winton Cup for Prep School Students in the Humanities, whose topic of "Fake news" they were singularly capable of dissecting and exposing.

The Lent Term included one Sunday rich in Hogarthian as well as Albertian imagery at the National Gallery, with teams of students encountering key works for their Pre-U syllabus seen in the flesh. The new Upper Sixth will be the first cohort researching and writing extended essays as coursework on subjects of their choice, to be defended at a viva. Gaining the full benefit of the School's extensive art history library, students are currently preparing papers

on such topics as the scroll of Song-dynasty artist Zhang Zeduan, the Japanese floating world of Ukiyo-e and the liturgical space of English Gothic architecture. These investigations reinforce the importance of a global art history today, one which reflects Stowe's international make-up. That said, our studies of art and architecture rely as ever on the ultimate teaching tool: the School's own architecture, whose hybrid character and awe-inspiring grandeur demand close attention to terminology as well as an appreciation of its overall harmony. A truly current art history department is conscious of the ways in which imagery both reveals and disguises gender stereotypes across society, and with eight students currently applying for art history at university, the Department has sought to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the subject as it is taught at the highest level. Eyes are now trained not only on objects themselves but also on how we choose to view them - whether through a Marxist, feminist, postcolonial or any other lens. The shortlisting of work by our own Lucy Clements (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) for the 'Write on Art Competition', run by Art UK and the Paul Mellon Centre, is a testament to Lucy's tremendous intelligence and originality - embodying the fleetness of mind that we seek to support and nurture.

In June 2018, we said a sad goodbye to Dr Alice Insley who has moved on to a curatorial post at Tate Britain to continue her work on British painting. We look forward to seeing her scholarship and curatorship in future exhibitions and catalogues. With much hard work, high teaching standards and expectations, plus a sympathetic ear, Alice has been central to keeping the Department growing this past and difficult year, especially in the teaching of the British Art of the 18th and 19th Centuries. A former Head of Department of a certain school on the hill, this year Rebecca Sharples has brought us huge experience, as well as wonderful resources, high standards and great spirits. We wish her well as she spends more time with her family locally.

For 2018-19, Crispin Robinson and I will deliver the teaching to a new generation of Stoics in the 25th year since the Department's founding. We look forward to ensuring the students engage critically with their visual world and to continuing the world-class teaching of a global art history.

Mr Alex Estorick, Head of History of Art

Film and Media Studies

It seems to me that Mark Zuckerberg was correct when he said, “You’re not just sharing and consuming content, you are also building relationships with people and building an understanding of people.” Of course, he was talking about Facebook, but it applies equally well to our process as teachers delivering the Media Studies A Level.

Our Media students began their A Level course as digital natives with relatively developed media skills, however somewhat naive in understanding the socio-political processes underpinning this vast academic area. The same students have now completed the course having developed more discernment and an understanding of how and perhaps more importantly why media are created and disseminated.

It’s been an interesting and rewarding time to study the media. Brexit, Trump, the Facebook/Analytica scandal and another Royal Wedding, all featured in students’ exam work. Their Practical production work demonstrated technical competence as well as an increasing awareness of issues facing young people and how they are dealt with by the media machine. Next year, almost 40% of the Media Students are planning to take a Media-related course at university. As suggested by Zuckerberg, delivering this course has not just been about teaching content but also about forming the relationship between staff, students and the Media. Mark Zuckerberg had a point.

Meanwhile, the Lower Sixth students began the new linear A Level with the classic Hitchcock film *Vertigo*; the movie that knocked *Citizen Kane* off the top spot in Sight and Sound’s critic poll as the “best film ever made.” The new A Level specification contains a rich variety of films from various geographical places and artistic movements. It’s been exciting, refreshing and interesting to teach a completely new course from the outset. We have studied Documentary filmmaking, looking at *Amy* and *Stories we Tell*, silent films such as the *Buster Keaton Shorts* and *British and Hollywood films*. To support those students looking to study Film at university, our trip to the Film Museum in Covent Garden allowed an interesting insight into the

costumes, storyboards and props of James Bond over the years. I know many were interested in the Aston Martins and other fantastic modes of transport used in the Bond films; others loved the glitzy jewellery and dresses worn by the Bond girls!

We have been lucky enough to have had some wonderful guest speakers to support the curriculum this year: Teresa Churcher, the actress and scriptwriter, Fergus Beeley, the documentary filmmaker, and our very own Dr Pawson, who knows all there is to know about *Blade Runner*, one of the films on the Hollywood course. Their insight into the industry, tips on how to gain experience and their enthusiasm for the works of the media was inspiring. Outside the classroom, Ms Eisenhut has had fun showing off her beautiful old camera collection and discussing her favourite images and films. Approximately 50% of the current Film Studies students are planning to go on to study Film, TV or Media in the future and I know they appreciated the speakers and their insights.

Both the Media Studies and Film Studies courses share the goal of teaching students to think; to engage with ideas and formulate an argument and cite evidence. With the rapidly evolving technological and political landscape, as well as the rapid shift in skills needed for the modern workplace, this ability is to be highly prized. It’s been a year of transitions, saying goodbye to the old Media Specification and hello to the new Film Studies A Level. Next year, we look forward to consolidation and new experiences.

*Mrs Emma Ackroyd,
Head of Film & Media Studies*



Technology

Design & Technology

It has been another incredibly busy year for all concerned in the Department of Design and Technology, where staff continue to develop the learning resources for students to keep them in touch with the ever-changing face of design and the emergence of new and exciting technologies. The culmination of this was once again celebrated at our annual exhibition at StoweBucks on Speech Day and it was a delight to see Stoics proudly display their work, from A Level all the way through to Third Form. It's often difficult to comprehend that this is the work of exam students, but is testament once again to our dedicated body of academic staff, and the considerate facilitation of our technician Jan Lane.

We received wonderful news at the beginning of this year when we learned that Benedict Shaw (Lower Sixth, Temple) would receive a full Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, and we are incredibly thankful to Ward and Burke construction for Benedict's sponsorship as their engineering discipline is very well suited to Ben's own, with his application documenting his project in Kenya, in which he explored the possibilities of using a local water source to generate and store hydroelectricity for a nearby village. Following on from Ben's success, I was delighted to see Charles Garment (Fifth Form, Chandos) and Valentin Rummel (Fifth Form, Temple) go through this year's rigorous examinations for Arkwright's Engineering

Scholarship, and I offer the Department's consolations to Charles and congratulations to Valentin for his success in being awarded the 'Arkwright Associate', an accolade that demonstrates Valentin has the potential for a future career in Engineering. The Design and Technology Department is incredibly proud of Valentin's efforts and accomplishment, and we wish him well in using his understanding of new and emerging technologies to provide future solutions to existing design problems.

This academic year started with our Fifth Form making the trip to Warwick University once more as they experienced a series of inspiring talks on the importance of Design through 'Product in Action'. With a discussion from engaging fashion designer, Wayne Hemingway (MBE) discussing his vision on how to 'improve things that matter in life' and taking the Stoics on a journey from fashion to affordable housing and interior and furniture ranges, we were given an inspirational and thought-provoking insight into how self-belief and passion can be the keys to creative success. Coupled with further discussions from the BBC's curator, author and influential furniture designer, Pascal Anson, Jaguar's James Trim and Suzanne Trocme, students and staff alike were invigorated by what they heard and keen to begin the final journey of design at GCSE.



The trip followed on from last year when the Department formed a link with Fixperts Design Group, and their input allowed the Department to plan a series of ‘Designing with Stoic Days’ where parents were invited to learn about the ambition of Design at Stowe, and how students can engineer solutions to problems through ingenuity and to challenge the dogmatic thinking of traditional design. It was a pleasure to open our doors and allow parents the opportunity to think like Stoics and to roll their sleeves up and get involved with their sons and daughters. I am still asked “whose design was the best yet?” at Stowe gatherings by the occasional parent with an enthusiasm and twinkle in their eye that suggests that they still have a burning desire to become the next George Clarke or Kevin McCloud, but I never have the heart to say “unfortunately, not yours!”

One of the main highlights of the academic year was the successful application of Charlotte Bird (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) to study Architecture at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. Considering that Charlotte’s subjects at A Level were Biology, Chemistry and Product Design we were understandably thrilled for Charlotte to study at such an impressive institution as she will be a flag bearer for the Department for many years to come. Design is accessible to all Stoics, and can successfully, as a single Arts subject, led to a career in Architecture. Following her success, Charlotte made an unprecedented sweep this year, collecting the Worsley Prize for Design as well as the Andrew McAlpine prize for Graphics for her portfolio, which investigated the design problem her client currently faced which was the existence of a WW2 pillbox in farm land. Charlotte’s proposal explored the regeneration of the structure, incorporating it in an area that would bring tourism and interest. Coupled with her scaled model, the project was proudly on show at Speech Day. Further mention in Product Design with Graphics must go to Sam Flint (Upper Sixth, Grenville) for his proposals for a new Design Department, Thea Chisnall (Upper Sixth, Queen’s) for her wonderful landscaping project that allowed her to explore the reconfiguration of her client’s garden, and Anastasiia Nazarova (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) for her set design project that tied in with the wonderful and thought-provoking School production of 1984.

In Product Design with Resistant Materials, there were some fantastic products on display and Finlay Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Grafton) certainly generated a large amount

of interest in his decorative sideboard, which utilised a pebble in a resin top to help captivate the attention of many passers-by. Further products from James Cecile-Pritchard (Upper Sixth, Bruce) and his workshop storage solutions, as well as Henry Frisby’s (Upper Sixth, Chatham) hunting aid for the back of his client’s Land Rover and Emily Bourn’s (Upper Sixth, Nugent) well engineered tree swing which she manufactured successfully through the process of bending, joining and powder coating metal tubes.

At GCSE, special mention must go to Hugh Fox (Fifth Form, Chatham), George Buxton (Fifth Form, Chatham), Oliver Landau (Fifth Form, Grafton), Amber Capurro (Fifth Form, Nugent), Rupert Mathers (Fifth Form, Grenville), Charles Garment (Fifth Form, Chandos), Ed Snushall (Fifth Form, Temple) and Rory Trotman (Fifth Form, Temple) for their outstanding coursework grades this year.

The Graphic Products course, now in its final year at GCSE, continued to deliver some fantastic pieces of work. Phoebe Hill (Fifth Form, Queen’s) received the Friends of Stowe Prize, for Design with her architectural model of a café with supporting furniture that demonstrated a clear ability and eye for detail, along with her fantastic design portfolio, which will act as an exemplar for presentation for years to come within Design. Special mention must also go to Patrick Beglin (Fifth form, Temple), Sophia Galione (Fifth Form, Queen’s), Elliot Patel (Fifth Form, Cobham), and Lucy Tilleard (Fifth Form, Stanhope) for their outstanding grades in their controlled assessment.

We were very proud to also display the work of our Third Form, whose Product Design GCSE course is now in its second year. In StoweBucks, there were a number of items on display where the Stoics had shown high level skills, and this year was a first for the Department as it allowed us to showcase some of the equipment we use, with one of our 3D printers demonstrating its capabilities, giving visitors an opportunity to see how the Stoics can often use CAD CAM technology with the traditional hand skills to engineer solutions to problems, and manufacture component parts as well to products with precision and accuracy.

Mr Martin Quinn, Head of Design and Technology



International Department

2017-18 proved to be another successful year for the International Department at Stowe. With students representing over thirty nationalities and countries, the Department serves an important dual role, offering a range of academic English language (ESOL) courses and English tuition/extension opportunities, as well as organising social events for international pupils and providing pastoral support to enable new pupils to settle and flourish within the Stowe community.

We are proud of the excellent accomplishments of our international pupils and the high standards of achievement continued in 2017-18 with 82% of IGCSE ESL candidates securing A*/A or B grades in their final IGCSE ESL examination. IELTS results were also commendable with 100% of candidates meeting or exceeding their university entrance criteria and 50% achieving an overall score of 7.5. Some of our more ambitious students have opted to study for the CPE examination (the most advanced Cambridge English Language examination) in addition to IELTS. This technically challenging and high-level qualification is an impressive addition to UCAS applications when applying to top UK universities in an increasingly competitive market.

Speech Day was another enjoyable opportunity to celebrate excellence amongst many of our talented international students: congratulations to prize winners Liviu Topa (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Han Tong Li (Lower Sixth, Grafton), Muzi Jin (Lower Sixth, West), Jeffrey

Au (Fifth Form, Walpole), Evgeniia Zen (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Iaroslav Bobrov (Upper Sixth, Bruce), Dilyara Adilkhanova (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Jung Do Choo (Lower Sixth, Chatham) who have been recognised for their outstanding achievements and contributions at Stowe.

Friday 27 April 2018 marked another chapter in the International Society calendar - the much-anticipated International Society Dinner, which was a Sixth Form only event for the first time in its history. The intercontinental cuisine was much appreciated by all and the lively and vibrant atmosphere was enhanced by the joyous array of entertainment, ranging from Charlotte Brennan's (Upper Sixth, West) exquisite harp playing, Anastasiia Nazarova (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) on the piano and Mina Haas's (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) rendition of 'Halleluja', to Maria Khalfun's (Lower Sixth, Queen's) dramatic recitation of Russian poetry! Lower School international Stoics appreciated the summer BBQ event on the North Front - a fantastic opportunity to get together and relax as a group, and a wonderful reminder of the esprit de corps among the international pupils in the School.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Parnaby, the International Prefects (Dilyara Adilkhanova and Mar Martinez-Tomas (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and all students in the Department for their contributions, diligence and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Mrs Julie Johnson, Head of International Department



Library

This year has been a productive year, hampered only by the weather in the Spring.

We have been joined by a very enthusiastic new member of staff, Lucinda Stockley, who has already been pulled into the pastoral side as well as the Library, by becoming a Tutor to the Third Form in Nugent.

During the summer of 2017, we worked with Liz Chubb enhancing our stock of Art History resources to follow the new Pre-U course; we had some resources but due to the popularity of the course, we needed to extend it further. This has been a great success over the year and should be another tribute to Liz's legacy at Stowe, following her tragic death before the beginning of the school year. All the Art History has been re-catalogued, covered and mapped to the Pre-U syllabus on the Library search engine now, to increase ease of use.

Over the Summer, we challenged the new intake of Third Form to produce a vlog or film of their book review; reviewing one of a list of five books selected with the English Department so that they could show them in their first few weeks of school in their lesson. This was a great success and actually very difficult to judge; there were a great deal of excellent and creative entries. The final winners were presented with Amazon voucher prizes by Dr Lucy Christopher, our Writer not in Residence, this year; 1st Cecily Hopkins (Queen's), 2nd Alexander West (Grenville), joint 3rd Annie Saghri (Nugent) and Lucy Walduck (Queen's).

On 9 October, it was Co-Curricular day for the Third Form, giving them a carousel of activities related but extra to the curriculum as an experience. There were four activities with the students having to move around the site to each. One was a creative writing workshop with two award winning poets, Lewis Buxton and Cecilia Knapp. Another was what can only be described as an experience of Grammar with an ex-English teacher and musician from County Durham who has put together a show teaching students how easy grammar can be and how to use it in their writing. The third was a presentation from a Carnegie nominated author Rhian Ivory. And the fourth was Magic in Maths, organised by the Maths Department.

For World Book Day in March, we had organised a creative writing workshop with the Fourth Form and the annual Inter-House Literary Quiz, as alluded to earlier, we then managed to get snowed in and many of the teacher helpers were unable to get to School. We did try to rearrange the event for the following week but were then thwarted again by the weather. Managing another try was not possible for that term and because of the exams, sadly we had to miss out this year.



Over the Easter holidays, the students in the Third Form were set the task to either write 500 words on setting for the Lucy Christopher 500-word competition; or learn a poem by heart for the finals of the Poetry by Heart Competition. All of this to be in the competition on Shakespeare's birthday. The 500 word finalists were judged by Lucy Christopher herself and she presented the voucher prizes and books to 1st Louis Ford (Third Form, Bruce), 2nd Clara Tearle (Third Form, Queen's), 3rd Joshua Green (Third Form, Cobham) and special mentions to Alexander Crasneanski (Third Form, Walpole) and Constantine Chu (Third Form, Temple).

This was followed by the Headmaster's Poetry Competition, winners were presented by the Headmaster, 1st Clara Tearle, 2nd Archie Blake (Third Form, Grenville), both receiving a Bene for their efforts, 3rd Malek Salem (Third Form, Grenville), joint 4th Henry Hink (Third Form, Walpole) and Alex West (Third Form, Grenville), who all received a Commendation for their excellent interpretations of poetry selected from the Poetry by Heart Competition website. In the afternoon and while the poetry performance students were practicing, Lucy Christopher did a poetry creative writing workshop with a selection of enthusiastic poets in the Third and Fourth Form as well.

We now host 14 lessons a week reading with Third, Fourth and Fifth Form; along with two book groups to promote reading every day. Following this we have retested students in the Fifth Forms and their reading age - some have increased by as much as four years, which can only be to their advantage.

We have also managed to enhance the Library to support the students with their HPQ and EPQ qualifications by purchasing exactly the books that the students need for their research projects; they come and discuss what they are doing, and we select them together; this has certainly increased the eclectic and interesting mix of resources that we have in the Library.

All this and we have managed with the help of DofE students doing their service qualification, to reorganise and set up the English Library so that it is easier to use.

Mrs Lyn Foden, Librarian



Old Stoics

Over the last year, Stowe has been remembering the life and work of a great Old Stoic, Leonard Cheshire (Chatham 36) by celebrating the centenary of his birth. It has been inspiring to see an Old Stoic at the heart of Stowe's activity and it has served as a reminder of the wealth of experience, overwhelming achievements and strength of individuals that exists within the Old Stoic Community.

Once again, the Old Stoic Office has been a hive of activity. It is a pleasure to expand on the highlights of this year's programme for your enjoyment. I have included a selection of our best photographs, which capture the convivial atmosphere of our events.

This year's edition of The Corinthian was inspired by Leonard Cheshire's compassion. I was overwhelmed by the number of stories sent in by Old Stoics around the world who are championing local and international causes, to give back to their communities. The magazine was bursting at the seams, so we channelled content into our ever-popular online magazine, Corinthian.online. I'd like to thank all those who sent in articles and news for the last edition and encourage everyone to continue to share their news with the Old Stoic office going forward. It is wonderful to have a record of the achievements which exist among our ranks.

Once again, we've been working tirelessly to improve our Careers programme for younger members. We held our annual Careers Fair for Stoics in the Lower Sixth in November, Old Stoics from 42 different industries took part. Recent Leavers were invited to attend Summer

Networking Drinks with Old Stoic Mentors working in a range of industries at Chandos House in June. We finished the Summer Term with a Retail themed workshop at Stowe, led by two members of the Old Stoic Committee, Jonathon Hall (Bruce 79) and Jonathan Keating (Cobham 73). Stoics were asked to design products for the School Shop and present their ideas to the group at the end of the workshop.

Old Stoics seem to bond over a love of fine wine. The OS Corkscrew Club has once again managed to hold two sell-out events this year, including a tasting with Goedhuis and a chocolate and wine pairing. In September, they will be hosting a cocktail tasting - a departure from the grapes but I'm sure it will prove popular nonetheless.

In December, we held the inaugural OS Christmas Carol Concert at Chelsea Old Church. It was a wonderful occasion, bringing together 380 guests from the Stowe Community. Cressida Bonas (Nugent 07) and Miranda Raison (Lyttelton 95) delivered readings and the collection raised £1,300 in memory of Abby Webb (Nugent 09) for Penny Brohn UK. This year's concert will take place on Monday 3 December 2018, in memory of Tristan Voorspuys (Former Parent). A collection will be taken for the Tristan Voorspuys Conservation Trust.

Our regional activities took us to Edinburgh, with a Drinks Reception at Edinburgh Castle, followed by Dinner at a local hotel. The event took place on 10 November, so we paid tribute to Scottish Old Stoics who lost their lives in



conflict. Dinners were also held in Formby and Aldeburgh, by kind invitation of the Old Stoic Golfing Society, who were visiting to play fixtures. Old Stoics living nearby were encouraged to attend to swell their numbers. Old Stoics living in Hertfordshire were also invited to attend the Game Fair for Drinks. Over the coming year, we will be holding events in Yorkshire, Devon and the South East.

Once again, our events at Stowe have been a resounding success, with Old Stoic Day in September 2017 attracting 230 Old Stoics and guests, bringing together Old Stoics celebrating their 25th, 30th 40th and 50th Anniversaries. We welcomed Old Stoics who left in 2007 for their 10th Anniversary Reunion in October and managed to gather 98 OSs for an afternoon at Stowe, which is a record for an anniversary event. We hope to break the record with the 2008 leavers in November.

The Old Stoic Sports Clubs continue to flourish, with the Old Stoic Sailing Club taking part in the Arrow Trophy for the first time in many years. The Old Stoic Racing Club is now up and running and enjoyed a year of excellent sport with its first horse, Topper Thornton. Unfortunately, Old Stoic Sports Day was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions but will return next Spring to bring together Old Stoic teams to challenge Stoics at Hockey, Fives, Cross Country and Football.

Happily, a number of matches were played on Speech Day, with the Templars v Stoics cricket match adorning the North Front throughout the day, along with an amazing myriad of classic cars. Sasha Moss organised this year's display with the help of Marcus Atkinson (Chatham 90). A record 122 cars of various vintages attended and we laid on lunch for 150 guests in the State Dining Room, kindly sponsored by Hagerty.

A wonderful addition to this year's Speech Day programme was a collection of paintings and sketches produced by Artist in Residence, Anthony Eyton RA and Mark Flawn-Thomas (Grenville 72). The Headmaster has commissioned this duo to produce a series of work for the centenary. A preliminary exhibition of their work so far was displayed in the State Rooms on Speech Day, followed by a weeklong exhibition at The Cello Factory, in London, in June. Their paintings and sketches capture the beauty of the Stowe landscape and the vitality of the Mansion during the hubbub of the school day.

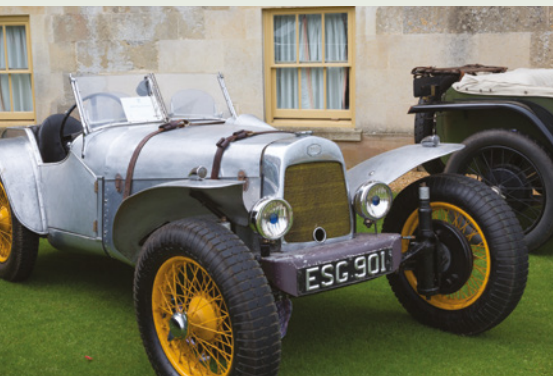


This year, we've focused on bringing together various facets of the Old Stoic community, to encourage networking among our members. Those working in the property industry gathered for a lunch in November and a summer BBQ, kindly hosted by Knight Frank. We held our first Oxbridge Dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club for those connected to the academic institutions and invited all those who were in Queen's House to gather for its 10th Anniversary in May. Once again, we brought together our more senior members at the SOS Lunch at the Savile Club in April. This year, 66 members attended which is our largest gathering of Old Stoics over the age of 70 to date.

I hope this overview helps to paint the picture of a year of diverse events and activities emanating from the Old Stoics Society. It would have been impossible to produce the programme without the wonderful assistance of Sasha Moss, Old Stoic Events Coordinator, who has worked tirelessly over the course of the year, getting to grips with her new role.

At the time of writing, we are gearing up for the Michaelmas Term, which is jam-packed with opportunities to return to Stowe and join us at various events around the country. It continues to be a great pleasure to work in the glorious surrounds of Stowe for the Old Stoics Society, which thrives thanks to its dynamic members.

Ms Anna Semler (Nugent 05)





Mariia Lukashenko
Upper Sixth, West

Ed Don
Fifth Form, Chandos



Hannah Laurence
Fifth Form, Stanhope

Phoebe Hill
Fifth Form, Queen's



Mar Martinez-Tomas
Upper Sixth, Lyttelton

Mariia Lukashenko
Upper Sixth, West

Gallery



Jemima Cecil
Upper Sixth, Stanhope



Charlie Seddon
Upper Sixth, Cobham



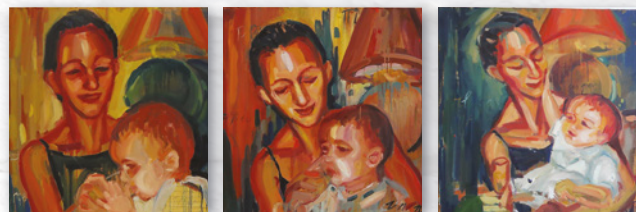
James Bridgwood
Upper Sixth, Chatham

Rosie Smith
Upper Sixth, Queen's



Mina Haas
Upper Sixth, Stanhope

Annalise Muirhead
Upper Sixth, Lyttelton



Bruce



BRUCE

It has been a great privilege to be the Bruce Housemaster for the last decade. I now change roles at Stowe and hand over the reins to the very capable Mr Arnold, so I am sure the future of Bruce lies in very safe hands. I have thoroughly enjoyed my spell in Bruce and can reflect on many happy years living in a very special community surrounded by supportive and helpful Tutors, wonderful Matrons and many, many extremely engaging, entertaining and impressive young men. Seeing the boys develop from their tentative beginnings at 13 to grow into confident and competent 18 year olds ready to contribute to society is a particular joy of the role of a Housemaster. This year's Leavers have been another most impressive group and I would like to thank them for their influence on the House this year. Charlie Rivington showed us how patience, perseverance and passion can lead to mastery with his electric guitar. Jim Jackman overcame a very severe shoulder injury to captain the hockey team and be a leading cricketer. Adam King managed to juggle being Head Boy along with being a 1st team sportsman in three sports. Calum Renshaw also managed the 'triple crown' and in fact, was among the best players in the 1st XV Rugby, 1st XI Hockey and 1st XI Cricket. Matthew Barnes-Murphy continued to push his academic thresholds displaying curiosity and self-motivation and Seb Salisbury made a huge impact on the drama scene with charismatic performances on stage. Iaroslav Bobrov showed impressive leadership to organise the Third Formers in the first term and Josh Riley, James Cecile-Pritchard, Felipe Maney and Liviu Topa, all added their own welcome contributions.

The Third Form this year was probably the calmest group I have had and they were certainly the tidiest! That makes for a happy Housemaster and Matron, so they quickly found themselves to be fondly embraced into the Bruce family. As usual, the Fifth Form find the pressure of looming GCSEs focuses their attention and they settled into good working routines and can be proud of the way they handled the exam period.

The Inter-House competitions at Stowe are a real highlight and provide the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of activities. As a House, we thoroughly enjoy the healthy competition and the boys can be proud of their efforts. It is

nice to win some trophies along the way, which are always followed by free pizza, but the real purpose is to firstly, have a go and secondly, to do one's best. We did manage to keep the Bruce trophy shelves reasonably full with cups for cricket, hockey, football (3 year groups) swimming (14 in all), athletics (9 victories) and basketball. Our close rivalry with Grafton saw them reverse some of the overall House cups we held from last year and we came a creditable second to them in athletics, swimming, and the Stowe Challenge. Other runner-up spots were in the Senior debating, a perennial area of strength for Bruce and also, the Inter-House singing.

Our top performers in each edition of the APGs get to have an evening at MK Xscape where they watch a film and eat unhealthy food. The regulars this year have included, Ed Anderson, Will Fox, Adam King, Jim Jackman, Thor Mager, Philipp Benedic, Ned Ellison, Josh Cowley, Matthew Barnes-Murphy, Fred Richards, Charlie Rivington, Seb Salisbury, Iaroslav Bobrov and Ethan Phillips. Well done to all of these boys for their impressive work ethic.

Our values in Bruce are to be friendly; supportive; united and competitive. The boys certainly lived up to these this year and they responded well to my ongoing pleas for them to develop good habits and be proactive in forming positive attitudes to their responsibilities and the opportunities that they are exposed to at Stowe.

One of the main lessons I have learnt after 10 years is the importance of having a good Tutor team and I certainly count myself lucky to have been supported by Craig Donoghue as Assistant Housemaster, a man of many talents and a gifted teacher and Amanda Penner, a quite superb Matron, who has an enormously positive influence on the House. My thanks also go to Ciaran Malanaphy, Nick Hill and Ivan Vargas, who contributed to the team as valued Tutors. I would also like to thank Mrs Sutton for her unwavering support over the years.

I wish the whole of Bruce House much success and happiness for the future.

Mr Craig Sutton, Housemaster



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Housemaster: Mr Craig Sutton
 Matron: Miss Amanda Penner
 Assistant Housemaster: Mr Craig Donoghue
 Under Housemasters: Mr Ciaran Malanaphy
 Mr Nick Hill

Head Boy: Adam King
 Head of House: Charlie Rivington
 Deputy Head of House: Jim Jackman

School Prefects: Jim Jackman, Charlie Rivington & Seb Salisbury
 House Prefects: Iaroslav Bobrov, Jim Jackman, Matthew Barnes-Murphy, Calum Renshaw & Seb Salisbury



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CHANDOS

Chandos has enjoyed a strong year of success and wider School involvement across a wide range of events. A number of Chandosians also enjoyed achievement outside School in rugby, fencing, cricket, hockey and academic competitions and this shows the diversity of interests, talents and achievement in a House that continues to place an emphasis on celebration. The year started well with the Senior boys winning the first House football event on the first Sunday of the year. They went on to win an outstanding, and rarely achieved, football double. 1st XI footballers Albert Oswald, Cameron Paterson and Ivan Titov produced some terrific performances. Freddie Tufnell, Max Moseley were also key to success and new Lower Sixth Former Luca Adjei proved to be quite the footballer helping the team to score a total of 13 goals as the team went undefeated.

Chandos once again maintained their fine form in House singing this year with a compelling rendition of Soft Cells' 'Tainted Love'. Directed by Arthur Mariott, Chandos performed well as a team, performing an entertaining, high quality act in both the Part Song and Unison, thus achieving third place in both categories. He led the House with excellence, enthusiasm and good knowledge. Further praise must go to the part song group, which included last year's contenders Cyrus Shirazi, Alfie Cliff, Tom Scott and Matteo Pangherz. They all committed significant extra time to prepare their acapella version of 'She's a Woman' by Billy Joel. The entry was carefully crafted by Arthur to great effect and helped secure a respectable third place finish to maintain Chandos' top 3 ranking for the 7th year in succession. Special mention must go to Freddie Tufnell who led the dance troupe on the front row to gain extra entertainment marks.

Chandos was well represented in the House rugby competitions and across the major rugby teams with the Seniors winning the plate competition and the Fourth and Fifth Formers winning the Junior's league, thanks to strong contributions from Charlie Maclure, Tom Scott and Josh McCallum. 1st XV involvement for Louis Armitage and Academy players Adam Williamson and Kristian Kay were limited due to major injuries. Williamson did go on to play for the Northampton Saints Academy but a remarkable recovery from a shoulder operation saw scrum half Kristian Kay play for Stowe in the Rosslyn Park Sevens, for the Wasps Academy in the final, gain International Honours helping Scotland U18 win the Home Nations competition and join the Glasgow Warriors Academy in Scotland.

The new Third Form won the hockey plate competition and George Foster, Fred Ross and Jack Simpson were a mainstay of the Stowe U14 rugby team and also county champions in javelin, high jump and shot putt respectively. Tom Youds won the inaugural Stowe golf tournament in Portugal, Chandos came 4th in House golf, Fred Ross won the Headmaster's Tankard with Mr Hill and six boys played for the School team at various points. Fifth Formers Josh McCallum, Charlie Maclure and Fourth Former Rhys Noble all gained 1st XI hockey honours whilst still in the Lower School and helped Chandos dominate the Junior hockey competition with a very comfortable 4-1 in the final over Cobham. Rhys was also part of the England Regional U15 programme as his Mercia Lynx team won the Futures Cup. He also played county cricket for Northants CCC alongside George Hooper and Oscar Watson but a strong Junior House cricket team could not replicate their form in the final losing to Cobham. Noble, Hooper and Fifth Former Chipper Shore-



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Housemaster: Mr Peter Deakin
 Matron: Mrs Clare Hill-Hall
 Assistant Housemaster: Mr Simon Dobson
 Under Housemaster: Mr Miles Nottage

Head of House: James Gill
 Deputy Heads of House: Adam Williamson
 Arthur Marriott

School Prefects: Adam Williamson
 House Prefects: Albert Oswald, James Carley, Freddie Tufnell
 & Cameron Paterson

Hollingworth also played in several 1st XI games.

Equally impressive was the retention of the Junior debating cup. Under the experienced leadership of Alfie Cliff, Tom Scott and Cyrus Shirazi blossomed and their preparation, research and rhetoric were strengths. This year's trio made light work of Chatham and Stanhope. A polished and confident performance in the final led the judging panel of the Headmaster, Ms Puranik, Head of English and Mrs Ackroyd to award us a unanimous win of 78-69 points over Bruce. Chandos came a respectable 3rd place in the Geography Quiz and Alfie Cliff and new Lower Sixth Former Jack Boswell gained prizes on Speech Day. The Stowe Model UN team had a strong Chandosian presence with Ilya Riskin, Aleksei Shefler, Stefano Beni and Jack Boswell involved and achievement also stretched into fencing and CCF honours. Ed Don won Gold at the Wales U16 British Youth Championship and went on to represent Wales in the Junior Commonwealth Games whilst Jiahao Zhang and Adrian Subowo led a Fourth Form team to the CCF challenge win. Chandos' Chapel service focused on humility with Alex Hamilton Stubber leading the Chapel service and on St David's Day, Mr Deakin's Chapel service explored the purpose and meaning behind mottos and developing your own personal motto.

The House welcomed several new Tutors this year with Mr Dobson taking over as Assistant Housemaster, Dr Dennis as Under Housemaster and Tutor Mr Righton and, alongside Mr Nottage and Mrs Hill-Hall, proved to be a very supportive and experienced House team. A strong Chandos Prefect team led very ably by James Gill instilled calmness, a friendly, caring and supportive atmosphere and a continuing growing sense of unity. We wish all the Upper Sixth Form Leavers well in their future ventures and look forward to defending many titles and capturing new trophies in 2018-2019.

Ivan Titov (Lower Sixth) & Mr Pete Deakin, Housemaster



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CHATHAM



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CHATHAM

During a graduation speech Professor Jim Ryan, the Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, challenged his audience to ask five key questions. He said these are questions that if answered, provide the path to a happy and content life. The first question he states is *'Wait, what?'* It is so easy in our day-to-day lives, just to listen to each other without really hearing. He said "To assume that we know what is being said without challenging is to lack intellectual curiosity." The academic achievements of the Chatham boys have seen 'peaks' and 'troughs'. The merit tables this year were topped by: Elliott Derville in the Third Form; Sebastian Smart in the Fourth Form; Henry Howard in the Fifth Form; Peter Wood in the Lower Sixth; and Freddie Woods in the Upper Sixth. I have been so impressed with the drive as we have approached external examinations. The Fifth Form particularly showed the value of hard work very well in their GCSE efforts. With huge changes to the GCSE and A Level specifications over the past two years, the Sixth Form have also managed their new A Level courses very well. The Upper Sixth have shown their determination and we look forward to seeing them achieve their excellent university offers. Mr Elwell and I were most proud to win the House Geography Competition with the team ably led by the vast general knowledge of Henry Howard. We have clearly strived to satisfy Professor Ryan's suggestion that we should all seek to push ourselves academically, in every sense, and to be keen to know more. The Academic Salver remains elusive though.

Professor Ryan's second key question is to ask ourselves *'I wonder if...'* That curiosity can be seen in our music and drama. Our Music Scholars led the way in challenging themselves to perform in some of the most incredible venues and at the highest level. Theo Hayes continues to amaze and entertain us all with almost any instrument he picks up. Whilst two new boys in the Sixth Form seem

Housemaster: Mr Liam Copley
Matron: Dr Rachael Scott-Copley
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Thomas Elwell
Under Housemaster: Mr Samuel Williams

Head of House: Jack Polturak
Deputy Head of House: Freddie Woods
Senior Prefect: Jack Polturak

School Prefect: Freddie Woods
House Prefects: Wilfred Fine, Henry Frisby, Peter Wang & Guy Woodhouse

to choose the most prestigious settings to display their talents, with Billy Baker playing jazz in 'Ronnie Scotts' and David Choo piano at the Royal Albert Hall. In terms of drama, many of the Chatham boys have featured on stage in Congreve. However, the joint House play with Nugent gave many of the House who would not normally act the chance to perform on stage in the outstanding production of 'Third Class'. The cast had a wonderful time under the guidance of Mrs Miller, Ben Shamash and Oscar Brett.

The third key question is one that we ask ourselves all the time and which has led to some excellent results in terms of sports and activities *'Couldn't we at least try...'* Peter Wang and his Senior badminton team got us off to an excellent start in the first term. Freddie Woods led us to the Senior V's trophy. The passion for water polo in the House continues and the Juniors retained the House trophy, with the Seniors coming a very close second. Our success in the pool continued this year and we will certainly miss the assured victories in the pool that Jack Polturak and Guy Woodhouse have brought over the years. Our dominance on the water continued with an excellent win in the House sailing for Jack Polturak and Hugh Fox. The Third Form showed great skill to win the rugby plate final. In the Summer Term, it was a story of losing finalists in both Senior cricket and tennis. However, our golfing team of Ed Wentworth-Stanley, Jack Nesbitt, Oli Taylor and Henry Saunders Watson brought home the spoils in the House event. Once again Henry Hobby single handedly won the House Equestrian. In our more extreme sports, we have certainly asked ourselves *'Couldn't we at least just try...'* with Luke Holland-Bosworth, Xan Kenlock and Conrad Spencer all making the School ski team, Theo Coley leading the way in the climbing and Victor Topa achieving his green belt 6th Kyu in Shotokan Karate.



The penultimate question is to ask ourselves ‘How can I help?’ and I do like to place an emphasis on social responsibility. It gave me great pleasure to read to the House a letter of thanks from a member of the Retirement Home where Ludo Mannion Miles and Dominic Saghri had been helping for community service. We chose to support the School’s chosen charity and Chatham Old boy Leonard Cheshire Disability this year. The boys took part in a sponsored cycle covering the distance of Cheshire’s first pilgrimage to Lourdes, with the boys cycling 1,500km. We managed to raise just over £7,000 for the Charity.

So to come to Ryan’s fifth and final question, we must ask ourselves ‘What truly matters to us?’ As I write this article, the Upper Sixth slowly leave the building and move on. What do they take with them? I hope happy memories of five years spent in the community of Stowe and all that it has to offer. But, more personally, a life in a home of 60 boys, six members of staff and one dog. Memories of time spent playing football on the lawn, joint House plays, giving everything for their House on the sports field, hot chocolate with Matron, having each other’s back in times of highs and lows. At this stage of term, we are always looking back with a

tinge of sadness as we say goodbye. Ivan Vargas has only been resident in the House for one year. However, he has had a marked affect on the community and his calm and caring approach will be missed by staff and pupils. To the Upper Sixth of 2018 we wish the very best of luck in the next chapter and look forward to you visiting us soon.

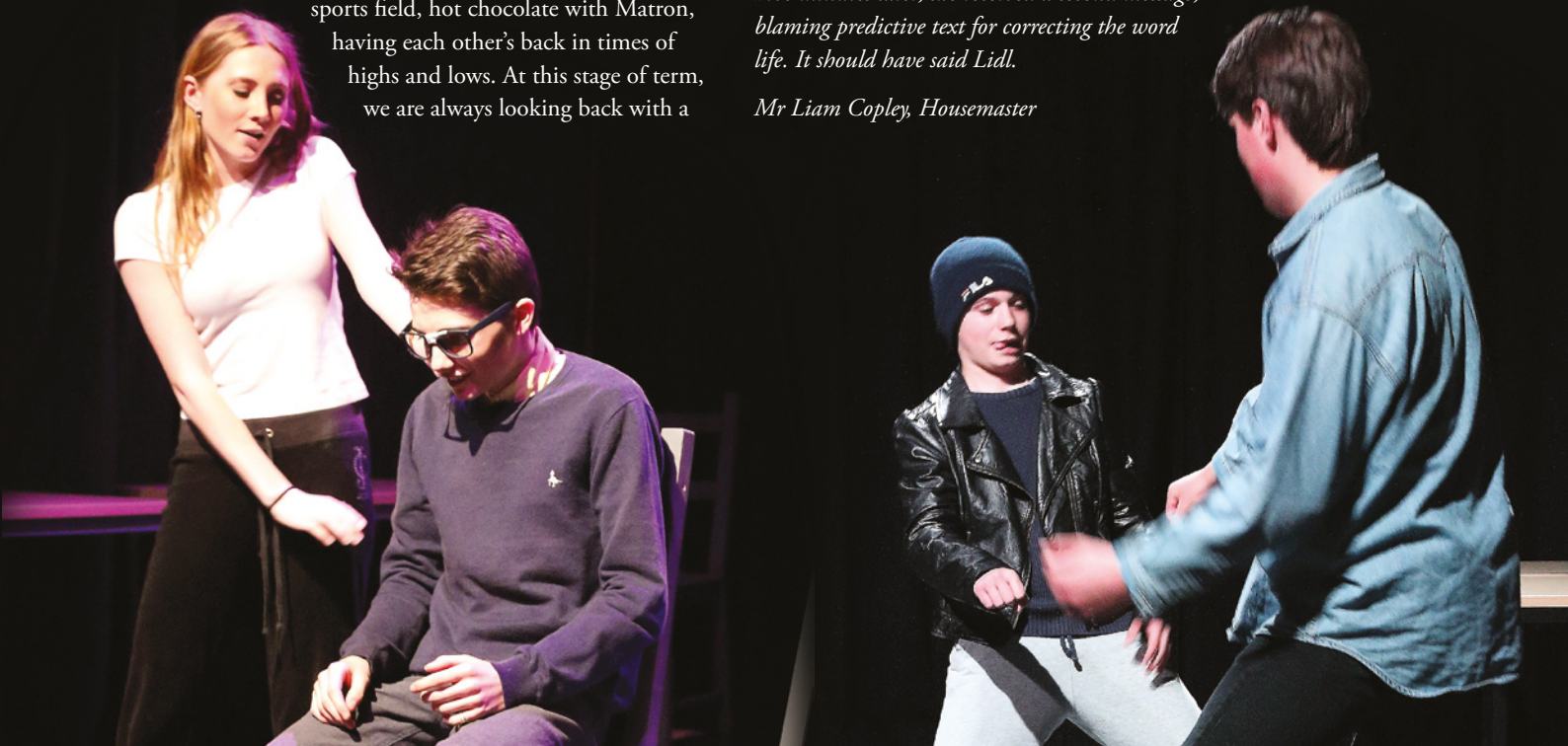
So ‘what truly matters to us?’ I leave that for you to decide. I know that for me it is that your sons grow up in the safe and secure knowledge that they can succeed on their own and help others in the process. A letter recently in the Telegraph read:

Sir, I was assisting my 16-year-old daughter with her homework when she received a text from her mum, which read ‘What do you want from life?’

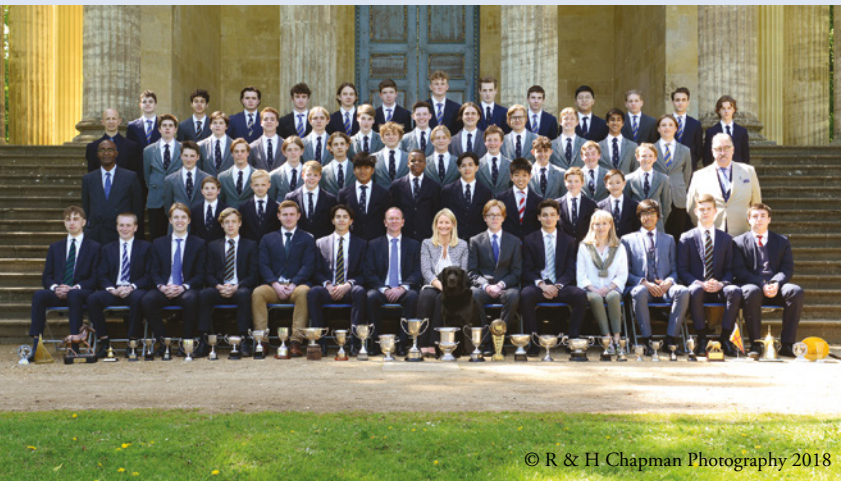
This was an unexpected and profound question for a teenager revising at the dining room table for her maths GCSE, but we thought about it long and hard and debated various answers; exam success, wealth, love, all three?

Five minutes later, she received a second message, blaming predictive text for correcting the word life. It should have said Lidl.

Mr Liam Copley, Housemaster



Cobham



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Housemaster: Mr James Peppiatt
Matron: Ms Jo Dalrymple
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Matthew Teasdale
Under Housemaster: Mr Chris Grimble

Head of House: Will Garrett
Deputy Heads of House: Daniel Jolker & Charlie Seddon

School Prefects: Charlie Seddon & Oliver Vince
House Prefects: Jamie Jackson, Gleb Oshchepkov & Ayrton Patel

COBHAM

It is hard to believe that after six years as Cobham Housemaster, I am sitting down to write my final report for the House. I began my first House report in 2013 with the words 'As veteran Housemaster colleagues advised me, nothing can quite prepare you for the first year of Housemastership, and there is no rule book for the job.' I'm not sure if anything can quite prepare you for the subsequent years either, and it is hard to think of a teaching role that can be more varied, challenging and rewarding. So what have been the highlights over the past six years?

First and foremost, it has been seeing the boys who come in at Third Form, many of them nervous and apprehensive, mature into confident young men ready to face the challenges of the wider world. For some, the Stowe journey is a relatively easy one, and they settle down into the patterns of Boarding School life from the start. For others, that journey can be less straightforward, bringing personal and emotional challenges that require resilience and perseverance to overcome - being an adolescent can be a messy business at times, and there is nothing more gratifying than supporting the boys through the various obstacles that can come their way.

The second highlight has been watching the boys excel in so many aspects of School life, from music and drama, debating and public speaking, to sport and their academics. Success in these areas can come more naturally to some than others, and it is a particular pleasure to see the progress that the boys make through sheer hard work. Whether it's the cricketer or rugby player that began the year in the D team and worked his way up, the musician who has sweated his way through to reach grade 8, or the debater who took his first tentative steps in the Third Form to be a polished performer by the Upper Sixth, the boys should be proud of the determination they have shown to succeed, despite the inevitable setbacks and frustrations they encounter.

The final highlight has simply been the enjoyment of

getting to know the Cobham boys better. A Boarding House really is like a family - there are the squabbles, irritations and occasionally full blown dramas, but more often there are the opportunities to develop relationships, laugh and simply enjoy each other's company. The day-to-day busyness of life in a full Boarding School means that I can often not spend as much time as I would like over a hot chocolate with the boys or watching England (at the time of writing) stay in the World Cup, but I never cease to be surprised by the insights and thoughtfulness that the boys can show during those relaxed conversations when there is no agenda and we are simply talking about anything from the latest Netflix series to the merits of Brexit. Working in a Boarding House as part of a pastoral team provides the opportunity to see and understand the boys in a whole new context, and it is part of the role that I know I will miss immensely.

And so on to a round-up of the successes of 2018. In the major House competitions, the Third Form began the year in fine style with victory in the House football and a valiant effort in the Seniors competition, which alas saw us just





edged out by Bruce in the final. In the cricket, the Inters took the trophy, and a special mention to James Cronie for his outstanding performance with the bat in the final (despite an inauspicious first round that saw him caught for one run). In the Seniors basketball, we also came out on top after a nail biting final in which Will Garrett scored the winning basket in literally the final second (exorcising the demons after that penalty shoot out in the football last year). Our basketball players also emerged victorious in that element of the Stowe Challenge, where we came second in the Obstacle Course and a very respectable third place overall. Our Seniors won the House debating this year, with the erudite team of Archie Figg, Ashwin Batey and Jamie Baillie, demonstrating some impressive oratorical skills on a range of challenging topics. On the academic front, we also won the Senior Academic Salver - a first for me in my time in Cobham and a great testament to all the hard work that the boys have put in this year. In House drama, Charlie Seddon continued to show his skills as a director with 'After Juliet', a combined effort with Lyttelton that demonstrated the strong acting talent in both Houses. As ever, there have been the individual successes as well, and I congratulate all of those in the House who made such outstanding contributions to Stowe life throughout the course of this year.

Which brings me to the thank yous to the many people who have made Cobham such a pleasurable place to work over the past six years. Jo Dalrymple has been a simply

outstanding Matron in her care and support of the boys, going above and beyond, to make sure they are happy and settled in the House. Matt Teasdale has taken on the mantle of Assistant Housemaster seamlessly, and I am extremely grateful to him for all the late nights and early mornings. Chris Grimble departs Cobham next year for a change of scene to Bruce, where I know he will continue to tutor the boys with as much dedication and commitment as he's shown to so many Cobhamites. Isaac Michael and Jonathan Sayers have only been with us for a year, but both have rapidly made their mark on Cobham, and I know will be missed when they step down. Our House Nurse, Sally Bloomfield, has been an ever cheerful presence during her House visits, and our cleaning team of Donna, Maxine, Sue and Nicola (the most important people in the House by far) never cease to amaze me with their unfailing patience and tolerance in dealing with a House full of nearly 60 boys. They have been a wonderful team, and I am hugely grateful to them all.

And finally, thank you to all the Cobhamites, past and present. It has been a huge privilege to get to know you all, and I shall be eagerly following the Stowe careers of all those who remain here. I shall certainly never forget the years spent in Cobham, and I know that Richard Corthine will continue to lead the House from strength to strength in the years to come.

Mr James Peppiatt, Housemaster



Grafton



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Housemaster: Mr Gavin Moffat
Matron: Ms Terri Bosman
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Richard Corthine
Under Housemasters: Mr Matthew Burch
Mr Martin Quinn
Head of House: Joshua Landau
Deputy Heads of House: Dan Biss & Alexander Harris
Senior Prefect: Dan Biss

School Prefects: Dan Biss, Alexander Harris, Joshua Landau, Thomas Mayhew & Nico Montgomery
House Prefects: Dan Biss, Alex Perez-Buchanan, Alexander Harris, Joshua Landau, Thomas Mayhew & Nico Montgomery

GRAFTON

Another year in the life of a busy Boarding School which I feel would make for compulsive viewing for a fly-on-the-wall documentary; think a heady cocktail of Fawcety Towers fused with Grange Hill with the occasional dash of St Trinian's charting the ups and downs of teenage boys coping with the pressures that adolescence entails - academic endeavour, relationships, sporting prowess, gracing the stage, musical grandeur, opportunities taken and missed, fatigue, the fairer sex, CCF Camps and DofE Expeditions, UCAS, the list is endless!

'Death or Glory' is the self-proclaimed House motto and whilst, in accordance with the former, I could often kill several of the boys for their behaviour on occasions, the glory achieved in the latter makes the whole cycle worth reliving once more. Deeds of derring-do in the House competitions makes Grafton a serious player and with a hat-trick of Stowe Challenges now completed, along with the Sports Day trophy again shining in the cabinet, the boys truly know how to show their mettle in the heat of competition. The incoming Third Form have proven their stripes and have

contributed hugely to the sporting success of the House with victories in their respective hockey, athletics, swimming and tennis competitions. Equally impressive have been the Seniors who have led by example collecting the rugby, tennis and swimming silverware to cap off another year of high performance in House competitions along with mass participation in many of the school teams. Whilst many pupils chose to toast the cancellation of Inter-House cross-country this academic year, Grafton eagerly awaits its return this coming October.

Always a personal highlight of the year for me is the House play and Grafton does drama very well. With Nico Montgomery, Dan Biss and Max Campbell-Preston excelling in Senior Congreve's adaptation of Orwell's '1984' and Archie Strong producing a powerful lead performance in 'Face', this year's Junior Congreve, proved dramatic talent is in abundance. Grafton took on the challenge of producing two productions of Robert Scott's play 'All by Myself', with the Senior cast of Harry Arkwright, Josh Landau, Alex Harris, Nico Montgomery and Max Campbell-Preston



producing highly entertaining and comedic viewing. Not to be outshone, the Junior cast of Ollie Landau, Seb Campbell-Preston, Archie Chisnall, Dave Dooley and Archie Strong played out a more nuanced and serious performance which was equally absorbing and for which deserves equal praise. Southside18 was the soundtrack to the Speech Day concert and to see both Max Campbell-Preston and Finlay Sutherland on stage working and wowing the audience with their exceptional talent was a source of great pride and I wish them the very best in their exceedingly bright future musical careers beyond Stowe.

And in the most important field of them all, namely academia, to see Charlie Crabbie, Ben Hartigan and Kevin Xiao consistently featuring in the top ten academic Third Formers, both in end of year examinations and APG results, is cause for much celebration. In the Sixth Form, Rufus Easdale and Lochie Shillington have both equally shown an excellent dedication to their studies, especially in Maths and the Sciences, which should bear fruit at the end of the A Level course.

One of the most pleasing aspects of House life is seeing the boys in all years raising considerable amounts of money for their chosen charities. Tom Mayhew ran a half marathon in Kenya to raise funds for the Tusk charity, a wildlife conservation organisation close to his heart, whilst Josh Landau completed a gruelling triathlon for Young Minds, a charity determined to help tackle mental health issues amongst teenagers. And finally, congratulations to Trennon Bettany who competed in the Cape Town cycle race and managed to raise over £5,000 to provide uniforms and provisions for school children in Mozambique.

The Prefect body this year have been a joy to work with. Head of House Josh Landau, ably supported by his two deputies Dan Biss and Alex Harris, have set the right tone of 'work hard, play hard' throughout the House this year. I would like to wish the departing Upper Sixth the very best of luck for their futures beyond Stowe, safe in the knowledge that they have contributed enormously to the School in their time here.

As always, I would like to pay my tributes to a fantastic Grafton House team who assist me in the running of all



aspects of the Boarding House. Sadly, two members of the Tutor team are moving on to pastures new within Stowe. Richard Corthine, Assistant Housemaster for the past three years, continues the Grafton tradition of AHMs being promoted to 'top dog' elsewhere and we wish him and wife Fiona the very best in his new role as Housemaster of Cobham. Richard has been a font of both academic and pastoral knowledge to the boys in House and he will be a great addition to our neighbours as he takes the reins in their new palatial surroundings over in the glamorous West End of School. Martin Quinn, Grafton legend and all round top man, will become a Sixth Form Tutor and we thank him for his humour, good nature and dedication to the Grafton cause. We wish him and his wife Lauren the best of luck with the most demanding job of them all, namely parenthood, and we look forward to seeing Quinn junior gracing Grafton in the near future. Vlasta Pickering Polláková has been our wonderful female recruit to the House and the Fourth Form chaps have been blessed to have such a devoted and professional Tutor in every respect. Matthew Burch has impressed pupils and parents alike with his in-depth knowledge of his Third Form Tutees who are lucky to have such a committed Tutor and soon-to-be Assistant Housemaster as from September. Lastly, the Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Mrs Bosman for her unstinting care and compassion for 'her boys' and for Mrs Moffat for patience in dealing with her husband's infinite impatience along with her amazing organisation of countless birthday parties and House events. To one and all, my heartfelt thanks for getting 65 boys of differing character and persuasion through another academic year in an incredibly busy and thriving Boarding House.

Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



Grenville



Housemaster: Mr Alan Hughes
Matron: Ms Julie Brenner
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Philip Arnold
Under Housemaster: Mr Edward Smith

Head of House: Tom Purdon

School Prefects: Sam Flint, James Pocklington & Tom Purdon

House Prefects: Sam Flint, Alex Holmes, Albert Johnson, James Pocklington, Tom Purdon, Kit Rigby & Alexey Sviridov

GRENVILLE

Yet another School year has come and just about gone, but what a year it has been in Grenville. In the Michaelmas Term the first trophy, or not as the case might be, came our way with a surprise victory in the House Singing tournament. I say surprise, I should have had no doubts relying on a master stroke of ingenuity and choreography pulled off by Sam Flint and ably assisted by Jamie Moir. I had my reservations, 60 boys dressed up as Britney Spears singing "Hit me baby one more time", had the potential of generating a job vacancy for 'Housemaster in Grenville' but the boys pulled it off in some style, even if waving a "Tinder" poster with my picture on gave Mrs Hughes an anxious few minutes. Winning the Whole Song and then coming second in the Part Song ensured what I thought would be glory for Grenville in assembly on the following Monday. Sadly somehow Temple went away with the Part Song trophy and it was only then revealed there is no trophy for the boys' overall winner. Well there is now.

The long dark nights crept in, although the new Third Form quickly had to correct their behavioural compasses, they brought a ray of light to proceedings, not just in terms of their improved APG scores but they delivered the Junior basketball trophy, another little trinket to add to the cabinet.

The Lent Term arrived and Spring wasn't too far around the corner and as befitting this time of year when new shoots spring forth then so too did the trophies. The Seniors waded in initially with the hockey plate, winning both the semi and final with a penalty shoot out centred around the 'cat' like acrobatics of a certain James Pocklington in goal. The academics in the House were then allowed to flourish in the 'Maths Challenge' and were ably led by Oxbridge candidate Cameron Chambers. On this occasion, the trophy was missing in assembly and the boys were awarded a box full of "ripples". Whilst this quenched their thirst for success, Mr Hughes was having none of it and suitably prised the trophy from a girl's House cabinet. The Third Form had built up a head of speed by this stage

and crushed Grafton in the Final of the Yearlings House rugby. Individually Xander Brett and Robbie Haigh both won their respective finals in the pool.

Summer arrived and after a couple of damp weeks, the sun shone persistently and with it the boys also produced the goods. Alex Holmes was "Top Gun" in the Inter-House shooting competition and Grenville retained the trophy whilst the family Trumper, Father and Son, retained the Speech Day trophy and just to prove William could do it alone, he won the Helmsmen Tankard for sailing. The Third and Fourth Form combined to win the Junior House cricket Plate and would probably have won the Cup if Robbie Haigh and Sam Birch hadn't had to attend a Lower School Academic Society trip. "We was robbed" came the cry from a Housemaster who has now developed an insatiable appetite for silverware. On Sports Day, the intermediates won the Inter-House athletics cup fielding the School sprint relay team of Toby Moore, Ollie Garson, Egan Brosnan and Ben Edeh. The Juniors led by Ollie Garson won the Inter-House fives tournament and the Seniors, most of whom were Upper Sixth, signed off by winning the volleyball competition.

The major triumph, however, came not on the sports field but in the classroom, when the whole House contributed to the winning of both the Junior and Senior Academic Salvagers, not achieved by a boy's House in recent history. No one is indicating that this will be reflected in straight As in the results come August, but it is an indication that the vast majority in the House are putting in the effort and for that I am very grateful for their endeavours.

The boys' contribution to other activities is widespread, from Beagling, to Duke of Edinburgh, Combined Cadet Force, Quantum Society, Venatori Society, Corkscrew, Robotics, Languages, Art and Textiles, the list goes on. In drama, we had boys from the Seniors, Kit Rigby and Alexey Sviridov in the Senior Congreve production of "1984" and Archie Blake and Alexander West in the Junior



production of 'Face'. Sam Wardlaw, Rupert Mathers, Sean Carslaw Tricot, Hugo Robinson and Sam Flint have contributed enormously to the various bands that perform representing the School.

By encouraging them to get their sleeves rolled up and become known around the School, I am sure this has gone a long way to Grenville having six boys named as School Prefects out of a total of eighteen. Rowan Brudenell, Alex Jones, Jamie Moir and Max Whitehead are joined by Cameron Chambers and Hugo Robinson as Senior Prefects. Jamie Moir is the new Head of House.

This leads me on to the boys who have fulfilled similar roles this year. The Upper Sixth ably led by Tom Purdon now move on, many with offers from universities of their first choice and some with deferred entries after their gap years. I hope that they can look back on their attachment to the House with fondness and friendships made, that along with their memories, will last them a lifetime and they are all welcome to pop back as and when time allows. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Finally, it goes without saying that "Team GB" (Grenville Boys) does not function without a team behind it as well as in front of it. Julie Brenner continues to provide them with her devotion and although some are chased for their untidy areas, they will be the better for it. Ed Smith has worked a minor miracle turning the Third Form around and Alec Stanworth is a constant source of advice for the Fourth Form and will be a huge steer for them next year.

Finally, we have to say goodbye to a Grenville stalwart Phil Arnold. Phil has been my Assistant since I started, we have seen the arrival of their two children, Primrose and Wilf and he has contributed hugely to the recent success the House has enjoyed. He has been a Tutor to most of the boys in the House and has probably taught and coached quite a few too.

He is not leaving the School but quite rightly moving onto become Housemaster in Bruce which I am sure will continue to flourish under his guidance and of course, he is always welcome to come back to Grenville to look at the Academic Salvagers!

Mr Alan Hughes, Housemaster



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LYTTELTON

The most memorable quality that, to me, has shone through this year has been the fabulous team spirit where all the girls have shown tremendous support for each other. Whether on the sports field, in the drama studio, listening to concerts, cheering on the debate team, the message has been clear, Lyttelton girls pull together. I am inordinately proud of the teamwork and commitment shown by all of the girls but can only mention a few here.

We started as we meant to go on with some tremendous football skills on display during the first weekend of term. Sadly we didn't win but were voted 'most spirited' on the day. Inter-House competitions continued throughout each term basketball, badminton, House singing, challenge cup, squash, fives, swimming, lacrosse, hockey, netball, debate, Sports Day, all of which were hotly contested. Special mention must go to Holly Stradling for sweeping the board in swimming, Rhea Vankova-Martin for achieving the double at Sports Day (100m and 200m champion), the Junior squash team for being narrowly defeated in the final and the pipped at the post Junior and Senior debate teams.

The academic prowess of the current Upper Sixth cannot be underestimated. Their GCSE results were outstanding and we're looking forward to results day. Charlotte Bird has

been offered a place at Cambridge to read architecture and we wish her good luck. We must also congratulate Fabiola Koenig a 2017 Leaver on being offered a place at Oxford, her dream come true! Evgeniia Zen must be mentioned for consistently remaining at the top of achievement in APG grades for the whole of the Fourth Form. Speech Day saw a stream of Lyttelton girls being awarded prizes; Ingrid Galler for English, Ellie Dudgeon for History, Alex Orton for Geography and EPQ, Georgina Vallings for Politics, Charlotte Bird for Design and Graphics, Sonya Sander for Drama, Anya Cook for the Harvard Book Prize, Jessica Foxwell for Woodwind, Evgeniia Zen for Junior Scholar. A most impressive list of very talented young women. Anya Cook won the prestigious McElwee Scholarship and also, an essay competiton at Cambridge University.

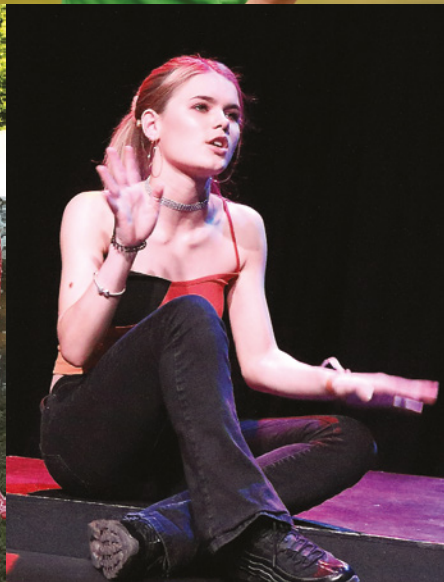
Musically, we have the highest number of members in the Choir and our traditions in this area are very strong. Audrey Au (violin), Jessica Foxwell (flute), Ally Jordan (flute), Vivian Zhu (piano), Emily Banks (voice), Alice Hastie-Smith (voice), have all made valuable contributions to the many concerts and performances throughout the year. Jessica Foxwell was invited to join the NCO (National Children's Orchestra), a huge feather in her cap and Ally



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Housemistress: Ms Valerie Green
 Matron: Mrs Tup Bertley
 Assistant Housemistress: Ms Kaitlan Griffin
 Under Housemistresses: Mrs Sarah Sutton
 Miss Kate Ware
 Head of House: Georgina Vallings
 Deputy Heads of House: Ellie Dudgeon & Alex Orton

School Prefects: Charlotte Bird, Ellie Dudgeon, Alex Orton, Mar Martinez-Tomas & Georgina Vallings
 House Prefects: Charlotte Bird, Taisiya Danilitskaya, Ellie Dudgeon, Ingrid Galler, Alice Hastie-Smith, Annalise Muirhead, Alex Orton, Alice Pryse, Georgina Vallings & Hannah Venner



Jordan was successful in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. Bring on House song next year, we are ready to win!

The drama productions this year have been fabulous and many of our girls were chosen for key roles. '1984' received rave reviews and was judged to be of a professional standard. Camille Gibson shows great promise as an aspiring young actor and is definitely one to watch. The House play 'After Juliet' ably produced and directed by Alice Hastie-Smith was very well received, stole the show and played to full audiences.

I am very grateful to Georgina Vallings and her team for leading the House so successfully this year. She will hand over the baton to Annie Roberts who has already shown great qualities of diplomacy.

Annie will be the oldest of the three Roberts sisters (Maisie in the Fifth Form and Jemima in the Third Form), all members of Lyttelton House, a new record I believe! Goodbye to the leavers who must reach for the stars. Welcome to what looks like a dynamic, talented and new cohort, who have a tough act to follow.

I must say a huge thank you to Ms Griffin who had to step up to become Housemistress following my accident in February. She was outstanding and we will be very sorry to see her go. We wish her every happiness. The whole team took on all the additional duties with a smile and good natured enthusiasm while I hopped about trying to help!

Kate Ware was fantastic and we wish her well completing her PGCE this year. Luckily we get to keep the super organised and fantastically fit Mrs Sutton for one more year before she becomes Housemistress of Cheshire the new day girls' House. Mrs McMahon continues as the experienced, cool, calm and collected Fifth Form Tutor for which we are grateful. Tup Bertley remains as the best matron ever. Thanks must also go to our tireless cleaners who keep the House sparkling, our nurse Carolyn who keeps us all in good health and listens most patiently and to our handymen who cheerfully fix all the things we break.

Ms Valerie Green, Housemistress



Nugent



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Housemistress: Mrs Jayne Duckett
Matron: Ms Marian Gallick
Assistant Housemistress: Mrs Lyn Foden
Under Housemistresses: Mrs Cheryl Davis
Mrs Lucy Miller
Miss Sally Whyte
Head of House: Liv Thomas
Deputy Head of House: Kira Evans

Senior Prefects: Mali Aitchison, Vicky Beglin,
Kira Evans & Alice Maclure
School Prefects: Emma Grayson, Clara Haggie & Liv Thomas
House Prefects: Mali Aitchison, Martha Combe,
Clara Haggie, Emma Grayson & Alice Maclure

NUGENT

There is a saying that sums up my feelings for Nugent: *Dream big, work hard, stay focussed and surround yourself with good people.*

Without a doubt, we have been that in Nugent for a very long time. However wonderful it is to win trophies, real success goes much deeper. It's about friendship, mutual respect, seizing opportunities, having a sense of humour, working through a problem - it's about young adults learning to be happy with whom they are.

It would be easy at this point to list the cups we have won over the three terms (hockey, lacrosse, netball, basketball, fives, swimming, water polo, volleyball, House music, Challenge Cup, Sports Day, Academic Salver), but the real story is based on a strength of character from everyone in the House, a real desire to do their best and an absolute refusal to accept that they can be beaten.

We are saying goodbye to a truly magnificent group of girls this summer - they have been outstanding role models in so many ways - academic, sporting, musically and within that group of 15 girls, we have had the Head Girl, five Senior Prefects, three School Prefects, National Champions, 1st team sporting captains in hockey, lacrosse, netball, tennis and swimming. Mali has held her own concert to a packed out house in the Uglad, Liv is going on to represent England at the U20 Europeans this summer in lacrosse, Lucy sang to us as we entered the marquee on Speech Day and Kira, Vicky and Yas represented Stowe in tennis winning the Nationals for the first time by a Stowe team. Yas went undefeated throughout the entire tournament.

We are particularly grateful to the House Prefect team led so efficiently by both Liv Thomas (Head) and Kira Evans (Deputy). The team who supported them - Clara Haggie, Emma Grayson, Mali Aitchison, Alice Maclure and Martha Combe have all been high achieving, talented and were always prepared to work together for the good of the House.

On the academic side, the girls continued to receive a terrific number of Merits, Commendations and Benes. Winning the Senior Academic Salver for two consecutive terms has perhaps dispelled the myth that our only strength is sport! We have continued to raise money for our House Charity - The Rainbow Trust, in a number of ways. Estelle Akeroyd Hunt designed a Christmas card for us all to sell and we continued with our famous cake sales in The Marble Hall throughout the year. The Lower Sixth combined with their families to create a fun Charity stall in the Summer Term and the girls totalled £2,137 that has gone to the Charity.

On the equestrian front, we have to celebrate Isla Holman-West's success as she represented England in the Mounted Games. The event happened at Windsor and the final was scheduled in front of the Queen. The England team had a fantastic final day with double points on offer and were worthy winners as they won by 33 points over Scotland in 2nd place.

On the drama front, we put on 'Third Class' with Chatham. A total of 30 Nugent and Chathamites were involved and special thanks must go to Jess Potts for Directing and Lucy Miller for encouraging and staying calm throughout. Numerous girls were involved in Junior Congreve and we continue to have many who go onto excel in GCSE and A2 drama.

On the music front - winning House music is always a very special occasion. Our Part Song 'Home' by Philip Phillips was led and choreographed by Mali and she was awarded the arrangement Prize as a result. We had hoped to sing on Speech Day but I suspect that the Headmaster is worried that we are going to take over if he lets it become a regular affair!

We are saying goodbye to a number of our Staff team - Lucy Miller who has been with us for four years is moving



to the other side as Sixth Form Tutor! We will miss her involvement in drama and her incredibly kind heart. Sally Whyte is going to do a PGCE and will be missed by the Juniors tremendously. We wish her the very best and hope that she will come and visit. Richard Knight - a Sixth Form Tutor attached to the House for many years is retiring and the girls will miss his impromptu Maths clinics on a Thursday night. For those who are remaining - Lyn Foden has been a remarkable AHM and although she is stepping down, she will continue as a Tutor. Lucinda Stockley has been a late addition to tutoring in the Third Form and we are fortunate that she is staying with us. Marian

Gallick, our hard working Matron, has unfortunately been ill recently and we wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her again in September.

I cannot finish without saying how much I have enjoyed the last twelve years. This place will always be a large part of my life and that is thanks to the girls and staff that I have had the pleasure to work with. Nugent is fortunate to have such a great couple - Tracy and Zak Jones taking over the helm at Christmas. I know that the girls and parents will all welcome them with their family and I look forward to following their progress with great interest.

Mrs Jayne Duckett, Housemistress



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Queen's



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Houseparents: Mr Mike Rickner
Mrs Sophie Rickner

Assistant Housemistress: Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

Under Housemistresses: Danielle Jordan, Emma Wheatley, Megan Wright

Senior Matron: Mrs Anne Reading

Head of House: Isabella Leondiou

Deputy Head of House: Thea Chisnall & Rosie Smith

School Prefects: Libby Flood, Isabella Leondiou & Rosie Smith

House Prefects: Zara Atta, Inez Banson, Kizzy Clark-Jones, Thea Chisnall, Tallula Douglas Miller, Libby Flood, Isabella Leondiou, Felicity Plunket-Checkemian, Rosie Smith, Lauren Taylor, Maya Tearle & Eleanor Trotman

QUEEN'S

We both knew that we would enjoy being Houseparents of Queen's, but we can certainly say that this year has exceeded our expectations, this is completely down to the dedication and ethos generated by your daughters through the many different facets of Stowe life.

The academic year kicked off (literally) with the Inter-House football tournament and every age group performed admirably; with the Juniors finishing in tied second place, the Inters losing controversially in the final on penalties and the Seniors taking home the glory - finishing the tournament undefeated to bring home the first silverware of the year. This was quickly followed by the much anticipated Inter-House hockey. The Seniors unfortunately, had (by their extremely high standards) a tough afternoon and sadly failed to make the final. The Juniors put in a superb effort with the light fading and temperatures dipping - the girls produced some eye-catching hockey to make the final, in the end losing to a well drilled Nugent outfit. However, it was our Inters team who were able to bring home the silverware. After losing 1-0 to Nugent in the group, they rallied to beat stubborn Stanhope and Lyttelton teams - which set up a final against the old foe; Nugent. The standard of attack and defence from both teams was of the highest order - which took the game to penalty flicks as scores finished 0-0. Again, nothing could separate the teams after 3 flicks each (with Koty King (Fourth Form) making a superb save to keep Queen's in the game). So, into Sudden Death we went... up steps Willa Hodson, and as calmly as you like - slots the penalty flick, Nugent then miss, the crowd are on their feet: Queen's win!

In the other myriad of sporting events held almost weekly - we are proud to say that Queen's have always been very well represented and supported and we have competed in many finals. From dodgeball, tennis, basketball and rounders (winners) to badminton, House swimming (well done to the Bewes sisters, Kizzy Clark-Jones and Clara Tearle

to name but a few), lacrosse, dressage, golf and netball (runners up), the girls have always acquitted themselves brilliantly and showed great grit, determination and sportsmanship along the way.

Sports Day was a wonderful event and whilst at the time of writing we do not know the official results - the girls performed brilliantly and we are incredibly proud of their efforts. Particular praise must go to those who won their events:

- Zara Atta - 100m and High Jump
- Tallula Douglas Miller - Triple Jump
- Senior 4X100m Relay (Zara, Tallula, Kianti and Helena)
- Charlotte Would - 800m
- India Case - Javelin
- Jodie Brogden - 1,500m and 800m

Queen's can also boast many talents outside of sporting events: Samai Lamberti was chosen to be one of the Stowe writers for Tatler Magazine, Leilia Paske featured in Horse & Hound due to her equestrian abilities (currently been shortlisted for the GB Junior European Team) and Maya Tearle was selected to play the lead female role in the whole School Congreve: '1984'. On the musical front - Queen's girls seem to always be performing, whether it is a whole raft of girls in the School Choir, or at Dinner & Jazz (Issy and Paris) or Clara Tearle, Helena Vince and Natasha Woods at lunch time concerts - there is a huge amount of talent both vocally and instrumentally in Queen's. Hence, not being crowned champions of the House Singing contest was a bitter pill to swallow: Stacey's Mum would have been proud.

There have also been a whole host of events that have taken place throughout the year in Queen's, whether it was the Halloween Party, when in almost Artic conditions, Queen's and Stanhope had a BBQ and turned their respective common rooms into 'party games central', the House



families went round and enjoyed a chocolate fountain, apple bobbing and trying to eat popcorn dangling from a piece of string without using your hands, to name but a few (rather than us!). Or, the inaugural Queen's Inter-Family 'Bake Off' competition. It seemed that the girls absolutely loved a Sunday afternoon baking cupcakes and biscuits and they must have been rather successful - as even the Headmaster paid a surprise visit, being lured in by the delicious aroma of home-baked goods. And finally, the much anticipated House dance competition. All the House families were requested to perform and we had a very varied display of dances, from reenacting the marriage of Harry and Meghan to something called a 'Ho Down' (whatever that is?). However, it was our residence dance troupe of Kizzy, Emily and Inez who stole the show with two seemingly professional level choreographed routines.

In the debating competitions this year (thanks to Issy, Samai, Helena, Amelia, Jasmin and Chloe) Queen's performed admirably but always seem to find themselves on the wrong side of the score sheet with both Seniors and Juniors going out in the quarter-finals.

The House Play (directed by Imy Oliver, Alex King and Helena Vince) was also a wonderful occasion, it all came together superbly on the night and every girl performed

with confidence and poise to put on a very professional piece of theatre.

Academically, Queen's have performed superbly and all year; the Juniors have won the Academic Salver in all three terms and the Seniors have consistently been very close runners up. This bodes very well for the exam results in August!

Queen's also celebrated a very special birthday this year with the 10th Anniversary Garden Party. The sun shone, the food was delicious and the girls who performed did so beautifully, making it a great day and a lovely opportunity to get many parents and friends together.

Queen's was also very well represented at the Sports Awards Dinner: Thea Chisnall won the Outstanding Contribution to Basketball, Zara Atta the same for athletics, Leilia Paske for equestrianism and Libby Flood for netball.

We would like to thank our wonderful Prefect team - led amazingly by the indefatigable Issy Leondiou and to our incredibly supportive and hardworking House Team for all their hard work and support of not only the girls, but also the two of us, it makes Queen's such a special place to live and work.

Mr Mike & Mrs Sophie Rickner, Houseparents



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STANHOPE



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Housemistress:	Ms Louise Carter
Matron:	Mrs Shona Cannon
Assistant Housemistresses:	Mrs Elena Hughes Miss Lauren Ellis
Under Housemistress:	Miss Ana Vidal García
Head of House:	Megan Winter
Deputy Head of House:	Florence Fox
School Prefect:	Florence Fox
House Prefects:	Dily Adilkhanova, Francesca Cooper, Immy Fitzjohn, Tilly Fitzjohn, Mina Haas, Lottie Hopkinson, Jaimie McIntosh & Lara Oswald

STANHOPE

Last year's Upper Sixth Leavers set the tone for the year having achieved some fantastic A Level results - particularly being the first year back to linear style examinations. Notable successes came from Beth Ackroyd A*AAB and Sophie Tilleard AAAC. Our GCSE results were also something to celebrate with the girls gaining grades between A* to C. Lauren Brigden and Esme Foster both with 9 A* 1 A, Poppy de Salis 8A* 2 As, Sienna Flanagan 4 A* 5As and the list goes on. 42 A* grades and 51 A grades were awarded between all of our current Lower Sixth which is tantamount to all the hard work that they put in.

As we embarked upon the new School year, our list of successes included: Junior and Senior badminton, Senior squash, Senior fives, Junior House swimming, Junior dodgeball, Inter girls Sports Day, Inter girls golf and the Inter-House Unisong competition. We had many runner up positions throughout the year and it was wonderful to see such healthy competition with the other girls' Houses along the way. Stanhope amassed an impressive 20 trophies, being one of our most successful years to date.

Michaelmas Term was action packed with House football, hockey, badminton, squash competitions to name a few. Our first taste of success as a House came with the Inter-House Singing Competition in October. This is a seriously sought-after accolade and results in a lot of 'free' time being used up by the girls practicing to enhance their performance. Megan Winter and Mina Haas were instrumental in enthusing the girls to go the extra mile to ensure all lyrics and moves were mastered. The Senior girls' House hockey later in the term, led by Lottie Hopkinson, brought us to the nail-biting final against Nugent. As a House we had not been close to a final before and as such we were a little overwhelmed with its significance. Special mention goes to Lottie Hopkinson in goal, Immy and Tilly Fitzjohn as well as Una Barclay and Esme Foster in field for

their courageous efforts

Lent Term kicked off with Inter-House swimming, captained by Jaimie McIntosh who rallied round to gather girls to ensure we had competitors for all events, even the dreaded Butterfly! Our success with Junior swimming was largely due to Rebecca Snell who won all her events: 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly and 100m IM, Sonia Steffanson came first for the 50m Breaststroke, and we won both the Junior girls 4x50m Medley Relay with Rebecca, Jemima, Sonia, Emma Wright and Maya Coleman as well as the 4x50m Freestyle Relay, sealing our overall win for the afternoon. Special mention to Jaimie McIntosh for her superb win in the Senior girls' 50m Breaststroke.

In March our talented debating team of Maria Sharipova, Octavia Comerford and Emilia Havard stormed through to the semi-finals. We were unfortunately beaten by the eventual winners, Chandos. This was a closely fought contest between two highly successful Houses. My thanks go to the girls for dedicating so much of their time in preparation for each debate.

Individual sporting success came from our fencers and skiers. Lauren Brigden was selected to represent the England Fencing Team in February to compete in Paris. Whilst Sofia Wright and Harriet Page qualified to represent Stowe at the School girls' International Races Competition held in Flaine, France.

On stage we witnessed mesmerising performances from our thespians as they took to the stage for our House Play 'What are They Like?' by Lucinda Coxon, ably directed by Una Barclay and supported by Christiana Robinson, both of whom also took on key roles. We were certainly in for a treat and I can't remember the last time I laughed so much throughout a school production - for all the right reasons! The talent we have in Stanhope from Juniors; Emilia Havard, Eloise Taylor, Jet West, Bo Jenkins and Zoya



Korotkova to our Seniors; Una Barclay, Maria Sharipova, Lula Goldsmith and Christiana Robinson, is outstanding and I very much look forward to more of the same next year.

Musically, we continue to shine through the talents of Rosia Li, Poppy de Salis, Isabel Ward, Lula Goldsmith, Mina Haas, Olivia Omotajo, Annabel Hing, Olivia Elliott, Celest Lamberti, Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki and Emily Wilson. Throughout the term they have been involved in a number of public performances that to list them all would take up too many pages. I have had the privilege to listen to all of the girls perform, whether it be at a lunchtime concert in the Music Room or on stage in the Ugland showcasing their talents and the huge amount of time and dedication they have given doesn't go unnoticed.

The Summer Term kicked off with our annual Challenge Cup on very hot May day. Jaimie McIntosh had opted to lead Stanhope in the pursuit of victory for her final competition. Jaimie put together a very talented and strong squad of girls taking into account when events were taking place to ensure that there was enough recovery time if girls were to represent the House in two events. All the girls involved must be congratulated for the teamwork and comradery shown on the day. Special mention goes to Hannah Gill and Lula Goldsmith for taking on the run with little training, Megan Winter for slotting into the swimming squad at the last minute and to Stephanie Ross for her valiant efforts on the assault course.

Sports Day soon followed and was another triumph, luckily the conditions weren't too extreme this year to allow us to battle hard throughout the afternoon. Two School Records were broken; Jemima Howden jumped 9.32m for the Junior girls triple jump and Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini ran the Inter girls 1,500m in 4m 30s, many congratulations to both girls. The Inter girls performed so well all round that we gained 1st place, retaining the cup from last year.

Summer was another busy term for our girls in the Chung Music School. Zoya Korotkova passed her Grade 5 singing, Izzy Ward completed an ABRSM in flute with Merit and Mina Haas achieved a Distinction in her Grade 8 singing. Rosia Li passed Grade 7 cello with Distinction and both Rosia and Poppy de Salis completed an ABRSM in viola and violin respectively but are still waiting for their results.

Poppy and Celest Lamberti took part in the Languages Society Open Mic Night, with Celest performing a beautiful Spanish song specifically written for the evening. Celest also performed in Summer Jazz, which is always a highlight of the musical year. Mina, Izzy and Poppy all performed in the Mozart Trio Prize and Izzy also competed in the Leamington Music Festival and was placed 1st in three out of five of her classes which is tremendous!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated House Staff and Sixth Form Tutors for keeping the girls on track and supporting them along the way. To our cleaning and maintenance team for looking after us and to Matron for all her kindness and positivity. This has been a fast paced, action packed year and I have enjoyed every last minute. A final message to our Upper Sixth Leavers: we all wish you good luck, good health and good fortune as you move on to your next chapter. I am very proud to have been your Housemistress and you have made this first year all the more special.

"Life is an adventure, dare it. A duty, perform it. An opportunity, take it. A journey, complete it. A promise, fulfil it. A puzzle, solve it. A goal, achieve it."

Ms Louise Carter, Housemistress



Temple



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Housemaster: Mr Brian Hart
Matron: Mrs Julia Greenwood
Assistant Housemaster: Mr Howard Hoare
Under Housemaster: Mr Alistair Last

Head of House: Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan
Deputy Heads of House: Francois Pearce & Henry Gauvain

School Prefects: Abdullah Albanawi, Henry Gauvain, Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan & Kyale Mwendwa
House Prefects: Josh Armstrong, Taju Atta, Sean Chiu & Josh Clipsham

TEMPLE

As our Stoic career ends, I would like to reflect on some of the highlights and best moments regarding Temple over the past academic year. It started off with the free transfer of four 'Westies' (West House boys) with the addition of a new Housemaster who may now be regretting taking up the role - however, we all feel he has settled better than we could have imagined and is now an outstanding role-model to the boys of Temple (if he stops wearing Chandos cufflinks!). This year has also brought the arrival of Mr Austen who I know is having a cracking time in Vanbrugh and has been made to feel at home. And lastly, the Third Form, who recorded their excellent win in the Third Form New Pupil's Weekend out of all the boys' Houses proving to be a prosperous year... the second win, is yet to come.

Inter-House achievements have come in thick and fast this year. Apart from a semi-final run from the debating team, led by Joshua Clipsham who is the self-proclaimed best debater in the School. Sporting accomplishments include, the Upper Sixth winning their semi-final in the Inter-House rugby, however being disqualified due to a slight miscommunication with the Med Centre for one of our players. Led by Taju Atta and Joshua Armstrong who were named captain and Vice Captain respectively for the 1st XI rugby side. House cricket also was of moderate success for the Seniors who secured victories over Chandos with a century from Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan who is also self-proclaimed best cricketer in the School. With special mention going to Sean Chiu with a golden duck.

The Stowe Challenge included a huge number of boys from the House, with a wide number of participants, with only Luke Aust doubling up events. Sports Day was successful too, with the Senior boys winning their overall events. Special mention must go to Mikhail Fedotov for winning both the shotput and discus, Taju Atta for a second consecutive win in the 100m, and the victorious relay team. The Inters and Juniors also did well, and I am sure will continue to develop in the coming years.

The staff have been extremely helpful with the smooth

running of the House, including Mrs Hart (the favourite) who has never failed to cheer the boys up, usually with a spot of baking and Matron, whom I know has been a massive support to all the boys, and who are all extremely grateful for her work. The House Tutors, Mr Last, Mr Hoare and Mr Austen have also been vital in looking after their respective years and ensuring the academic excellence we achieve so readily.

The House Play, 'America's Playground' was another highlight of the year, which was proudly produced and directed, and starred Oscar Hill, with the cast comprising Babalola Bakare, Adam Twining, Theo Finlan, Aaryan Aswani and Ed Ives. House singing was also successful this year with Henry Gauvain organising the rehearsal for the House Song and Part Song and who returned victorious in the boys' Part Song.

I think we can all agree on a huge congratulations to Oscar Hill for his outstanding achievement of being picked as next year's Head Boy, I know this will mean a huge amount to him and his family and is a well deserved honour which he will embark on fully for the course of next year.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our Assistant Housemaster, Mr Hoare, who moves onto pastures new in September. We will miss his dry wit, quiet authority, and determined cheating on the volleyball court. We send him our best as he leaves Stowe after six years. We also say farewell to Mr Wilson, who has delivered quiet, military efficiency on Thursday evenings for the past few years.

The House this year has been outstanding, the boys have all bonded well and there have been various individual achievements, which all contribute to the relationships amongst the boys in Temple. The memories and bonds made at this School will remain with every individual for years to come, and I can safely say on behalf of the Leavers that the School, and Temple in particular, have shaped who we all are and will continue to throughout our lives.

*Orlando Macdonald-Buchanan, Head of House,
edited by Mr Brian Hart, Housemaster*



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Walpole



Housemaster:	Mr Gwilym Jones
Assistant Housemaster:	Mr James Knott
Under Housemasters:	Mr Giles Cuddy Mr Fergus Parnaby
Matron:	Ms Jean Dufort
Head of House:	John Balcon Perez
Deputy Heads of House:	James Abbot-Davies & Max Shannon
Senior Prefect:	John Balcon Perez & Tom Leach
School Prefects:	John Balcon Perez, Tom Leach & Harry Pullin
House Prefects:	Philip Birdwood, Tom Leach, Harry Pullin, Harry Middleton, Harry Weiss & Nicholas Wood

WALPOLE

This has been another very eventful year for the boys in Walpole and it has been a real pleasure to share in their successes over the course of the year. As always, I have been very impressed with the commitment the boys have shown to the incredibly diverse range of activities they have engaged in both inside and outside the classroom.

Once again, the Walpole boys have demonstrated that academic endeavour is top of their priority list and there have been consistent stand-out rankings for Boni Yin, Crispin Marshall-Rowan, Harry Mehta, Rohan Sekhri, Larry Zhao, Harry Weiss and John Balcon Perez in the APGs over the course of the year. It was very pleasing to see commitment to their studies acknowledged with multiple prizes on Speech Day for Rohan Sekhri for French and History and prizes for Harry Mehta for Spanish, Physics and Chemistry. Tom Fras also received a prize for his commitment to his drama studies and Jeffrey Au, Henry McQuitty and Seb Foxwell were awarded prizes for their performances in their various music disciplines. Zak Edwards was awarded a Headmaster's Special Prize for his commitment to his studies and John Balcon Perez finished his Stowe career winning the Cumming Prize for Citizenship - the brief description of John in the Speech Day programme really sums up everything we could possibly hope a Stoic to be and he has set a fine example to the Walpole boys.

As always, music and drama have played a key role in life in Walpole and we have all been incredibly proud to see the talent of the boys in a huge range of performances. The musical year started as always with preparations for the Inter-House Singing Competition, unfortunately, and despite our best efforts, our renditions of 'Does your Mother Know?' and 'California Dreaming' were not enough to secure us a win, however we are confident that more focus on the theatrical side will see success next year! It has, as always, been lovely to hear the Walpole

trumpeters Louis Hink and Seb Foxwell play regularly each week for the Chapel Brass group as well as hearing many of the boys singing in the Choir. I have lost count of the number of accolades for their musical accomplishments for Seb Foxwell and Jeffrey Au over the course of the year, however their star performances have to be the piano concertos they played to a packed house in the Uglad Auditorium in the Lent Term. Senior Congreve was a major focus for both Tom Fras and Nicholas Wood in the Michaelmas Term and it was a real treat to see their very accomplished performances in this year's production of '1984', performances which obviously inspired some of our Juniors to audition for Junior Congreve later in the year. The Summer Term production of 'Face' by the Third and Fourth Form saw Henry Pearson, Henry Hink, Alfie Darling and Joseph Pullin all taking to the stage in a very enjoyable and moving performance. I am sure this will not be the last time we see any of these boys on the stage in one form or another.

Once again, Walpudlians have shown dedication and commitment to life outside the classroom and it has been great to see so many of the boys representing the School at varying levels in competitive sport and activities each week. Basketball seems to have overtaken water polo recently as the Walpole sport of choice and Walpudlians provided the core of the U16 basketball team in the Lent Term, with notable performances from Theo Crane-Robinson, Jacob Halabi, Chanatip Chinavicharana, Aris Hatzistefanis and Harry Efthymiou Egleton. Many of the boys are playing A-team level in their chosen sports and there were regular outings on the rugby pitch for Harry Reed and Rohan Sekhri in the Colts A team, Alex Man for the JCA team and Dmitrii Fedko and Boni Yin for the Yearlings A team. Soccer remained the sport of choice for our Upper Sixth in the Lent Term with almost every member of the year group playing for a School team and



Zak Edwards and Harry Weiss making regular outings for the 1st XI. Harry Middleton and Tom Leach continued the Walpole tradition, finishing their time with a great season in the water polo team - although we did not manage to hang on to the Inter-House trophy! Jamie Hungin and Louis Hink were regulars in the first squash team and Archie Morley has continued to be a regular fixture in the Stowe 1st squad, finishing his Summer Term rowing at the Henley Royal Regatta. The Summer Term also saw success for Oliver Reed playing with the JCA cricket team and George Hamilton Stubber, Rohan Sekhri and Harry Reed with the athletics team. Harry Reed finished the season in particular style as the Bucks County U16 Discus Champion. Alongside competitive sport, the boys have also been prominent in other areas, such as the Robotics Team, DoFé expeditions and the Stowe CCF. The boys in the CCF have had an outstanding year and there have been

numerous accolades and promotions throughout the year group. I look forward to seeing many of the boys taking the lead as Senior Cadets next year.

It has been a pleasure to welcome Mrs Huxley-Capurro to the Walpole staff team this year as a Tutor, the boys certainly benefitted from her expertise as Exams Officer in the run up to the exam season. My thanks as well as always to Mr Knott, Mr Cuddy and Mr Parnaby for their unfailing support throughout the year. In particular, a massive thank you to Ms Dufort, our Matron, for keeping us all in line and ensuring Walpole keeps running as it should! I look forward to another successful year next year with Archie Morley as our new Head of House, ably supported by Daniil Samiev, Jayden Brooks-Hurst and Patrick St Pierre as House Prefects.

Mr Gwilym Jones, Housemaster



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West



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Houseparents:

Mrs Julie Johnson

Mr Roland Johnson

Assistant Housemaster:

Dr James Popplestone

Under Housemistresses:

Miss Tasnim Ahmed

Miss Zara Crockett

Dr Alice Insley

Matron:

Ms Ilona Harding

Head of House:

Muthoni Kibaki

Deputy Head of House:

Lee-Ann Sule

School Prefects: Muthoni Kibaki, Charlotte Brennan

& Lee-Ann Sule

WEST

The 2017-2018 academic year has seen tremendous change within West House, and it is absolutely terrific to see the fabulous Stoics going from strength to strength in all aspects of their time at Stowe. In our new incarnation as an all-girls House, West has continued to strive, challenge and excel. With so many outstanding achievements and events to document, it is very hard to know where to begin!

There have been two specific areas that have been the focus for the development of West this year. These have been firstly the opening of the new West 5 building, and secondly, the strengthening of our new girls-only status. The new West 5 building has pushed the capacity of the house up to 50, and we look forward to welcoming a large cohort of Lower Sixth next year to fill the new places. With our new fully en suite 24-bedroom block up and running, we are in danger of becoming the most attractive accommodation in the School - something the girls have just about managed to cope with!

The all-girl West contingent powered to a strong start early in the year, coming third overall in the Sixth Form competition of the Inter-House football on the very first weekend. As the Lower Sixth had only just arrived, this was an outstanding effort of teamwork. The term continued strongly with a top-three finish in the House Singing for the Part Song, with an effortlessly emotive and elegantly harmonious performance that captured the heart of the judge. The term was rounded off with a fantastic Christmas Dinner, at which a semi-serious nativity sketch kept the gathered Westites amused.

As well as fantastically strong performances in the Inter-House competitions this year, West has continued to branch out into exciting initiatives and novel approaches to School life. The first of these in the Lent Term was our House photography shoot. The Westite girls threw themselves with great enthusiasm into a day of photographic modelling as they posed around the new building for professional photographer Fiona Scott, whose images have adorned publications as diverse and well known as Hello! magazine and Italian Vogue. The photographic shots were designed to upgrade our House webpage, as well as adorn the walls of the

new West 5 building. The West girls turned out to be more than ready for their close up - our new webpage is more than enough evidence of their modelling talent!

The sporting talent displayed by West House Stoics has also been a cause for celebration this year. Elisabeth Pran (Lower Sixth) enjoyed an incredible Lent Term of sporting achievement, winning no fewer than three cups and six medals at the Schools' Skiing Championships in France, as well as the not insignificant achievement of winning the LTA National Schools' Ladies Tennis Championships with the School tennis team. Other outstanding sporting achievements include our resident supreme sprinter Cleo Leather (Lower Sixth), who not only claimed two sprinting titles at Sports Day, but also this year represented Stowe's first ever girls' rugby sevens team, and caught the eye of the England Women's rugby scout. We wish Cleo every success as she considers taking up training with the England Women's squad. Sporting success continued as Lexie Cook (Lower Sixth) (next year's Head of House), Hermione Spencer (Lower Sixth) and Eliza Wauchope (Lower Sixth) won the 2018 Senior Girls' Clay Pigeon Shooting Cup, while Deputy Head of House, Lee-Ann Sule (Upper Sixth), and her band of intrepid basketballers claimed the coveted basketball-shooting cup at the Stowe Challenge in the first weekend of the Summer Term, continuing our run of Stowe Challenge success from last year.

Not to be outdone by the sporting success of the Lower Sixth, the Upper Sixth continued to strive and succeed in the many and varied areas of School life. From passing Grade 8 in two different instruments whilst also winning two Upper Sixth Speech Day Prizes (Ellen Arnall) to producing outstanding works of Art on a par with Picasso (Ellie Perriam, Mariia Lukashenko, Genevieve Sligo-Young and others), this year's Upper Sixth have experienced the full gamut of what Stowe has to offer, and have given so much to this House community. Charlotte Brennan organised our fantastic 'At Home' event in the Lent Term, which combined the musical talents of West House with an introduction to the delights of the new West 5 building for the parents.



It is with huge thanks and best wishes for their future that we say goodbye to this year's Upper Sixth. Muthoni Kibaki has led from the front in all things for West this year as Head of House, and we wish her and all our Leavers the very best for the future. Such has been the community spirit in West this year that it is hard to believe that our Upper Sixth have been with us for just two years. The impact that this group of wonderful young women have made on both the House and School has been little short of remarkable. The university courses and destinations that this talented group of Upper Sixth are aiming at make impressive reading, from Architecture to Biomedical Sciences to Politics at many of Britain's top higher education institutions. These young ladies will surely make their mark on the world, and it is with every fondness that we bid them farewell.

Our first year as an all-girls House has been a resounding success, with the black and white strip of West House becoming as feared on the Inter-House scene as the new West 5 building is revered for its outstanding level of boarding provision. With the House increasing in size next year, we are in the exciting position of wondering what Inter-School, regional or national level competitions we will stamp with the mark of West in the coming academic year. With the current Lower Sixth on hand to encourage and inspire them from their position at the top of the House, the next generation of West House Stoics can look forward to a Sixth Form experience they will always remember.

Mr Roland & Mrs Julie Johnson, Houseparents



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Academic Scholars

Lower School

This year, forty-four highly talented Stoics have been involved in the School's Lower School Academic Scholars' extension programme. They began the year as a single cohort, with the Fifth Form breaking off after Christmas to undertake research in their provisional university subjects under the guidance of Dr Julie Potter.

Michaelmas Term began with a Philosothon: a new discussion format which encourages participants to arrive at mutually acceptable conclusions on controversial topics. Alfie Cliff (Fifth Form, Chandos), Benedict Hartigan (Third Form, Grafton), and Isabel Omotajo (Third Form, Stanhope) all stood out for their ability to build agreement and steer the group towards shared intellectual goals. Other activities in Michaelmas included a construction challenge using just matchsticks and PVA glue, and a research task scrutinising 9/11 conspiracy theories.

In the Lent Term, we asked the Scholars to determine the biggest questions facing us today. Their suggestions included (climate change, AI, and population growth). The theme of big questions continued with Scholars presenting their ideas on the nature of truth, the possibility of knowledge, and whether there is too much news.

The highlight of the term was a day trip to Cambridge to hear the University's academics speak about freedom, euthanasia, miracles, and commoditisation of love.

The theme for the Summer Term was 'Life'. The Scholars approached this topic from all angles, and displayed an impressive grasp of DNA, the origins of life, life on other planets, and mass extinctions. There was also vigorous debate over whether Biology has been influenced by stereotypical assumptions about gender, provoked by an academic article which they had no difficulty in dissecting. We rounded off the year with a successful trip to the London School of Economics, where we attended a panel discussion on 'Animals', organised by the Forum for European Philosophy.

The Lower School Academic Scholars' Shield for this year's most accomplished Fifth Form Scholar was awarded to Harry Mehta (Walpole), with the Brian Stephan Junior Scholar Prize awarded jointly to Benedict Hartigan (Third Form, Grafton) and Evgeniia Zen (Fourth Form, Lyttelton). Many congratulations to Harry, Benedict, and Evgeniia for their terrific performances this year.

Dr Peter Dennis, MiC LSAS



Economics Society

Stowe's Economics Society welcomed Mr Mark Littlewood, Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs, to give a talk on morals in markets. The talk was well attended by both Economics students in the Sixth Form, and keen prospective students currently in the Lower School, as well as members of staff. Mr Littlewood presented a powerful argument defending the free market system and argued we should aim for less government intervention within the economy. The insightful points delivered by Mr Littlewood raised great interest within the audience, and many questions were asked by Stoics after. Select members of the Economics Society who had shown great enthusiasm for the subject and who had progressed well through the course, enjoyed a black tie dinner after the talk, where further current economic issues were discussed - most of which were probably too controversial for a more public forum! We would like to thank Mr Mark Littlewood for accepting our invitation and making it a truly wonderful evening.

Mr Richard Corthine, MiC Economics Society



Headmaster's Essay Society

This academic year has seen continued Oxbridge success for the School. The combined membership of the Headmaster's Essay Society (HMES) again yielded eleven calls to interview at the end of the Michaelmas Term, Fabiola Koenig (Lyttelton 17) received an offer to read Chemistry at Keble College, Oxford, while Charlotte Bird (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) has become the first Stoic in many years to receive an offer from Cambridge, to read Architecture at Gonville & Caius.

The Lent Term saw an influx of new aspiring applicants in the Lower Sixth keen to hone their intellectual edge during the seminars, discussions, debates and interviews that comprise the majority of the Society's weekly meetings. Splitting the sizeable cohort into separate seminar groups has again allowed each prospective candidate to focus their academic development on Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities, reinforced by the invaluable oversight offered by a broad team of staff mentors routinely offering subject-specific enrichment. The team from Oxbridge Applications followed up last year's introductory presentation with a carefully-tailored and well-received workshop in September refining each applicant's preparation for the challenging admissions tests and interviews at the heart of the Oxbridge application process.

Stoics have again also undertaken a significant number of independent visits to a broad range of Oxbridge colleges and faculties throughout the year. Such visits can be logistically challenging to parents and pupils alike, but they are an invaluable way to gain a first-hand comparative insight into the universities and departments before committing to any enduring decisions.

The HMES continues to deliver its remit to prepare candidates for the rigours of submitting a university application to Oxbridge as well as for all medical, veterinary and dental degrees. A key adjunct to this role has been the maintenance of a significant element of subject-specific activities whereby Stoics have routinely engaged in departmental extension sessions tailored to develop an in-depth and intrinsic knowledge of their intended degree subjects over and above the standard A Level curricula. I would like formally to record my thanks once more to colleagues in all departments who have gone out of their way throughout the year to help the School's Oxbridge candidates broaden their intellectual horizons and prepare themselves for their application campaign.

Mr Jon Murnane, MiC Headmaster's Essay Society



Biomedical Society

This has been another busy year for the Biomedical Society. We have been fortunate to hear from some outstanding research scientists. In the Michaelmas Term, we heard a talk from Bradley Roberts, Neuroscientist from the University of Oxford. This fascinating talk has led to a link with his lab and has allowed one of our students to spend some time in the lab completing work experience. A rare opportunity which has resulted in her determination to take this subject at University. We were also treated to a talk by Mr Liversage on Medical Detection Dogs, one of which, Stowe, is sponsored by the School. There were other excellent talks by some of the students who had researched their areas of interest to produce enlightening and thought-provoking presentations. Another project we undertook was the construction of a 5M tall DNA molecule. This was directed by the President of the Society, Max Bishop (Upper Sixth, Grafton), and all members took part in this mammoth task. This is the largest molymod model of DNA ever produced in schools and only the second time it has ever been attempted!

We also competed again in the Biology Olympiad gaining another set of excellent results. Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and Victoria Beglin (Upper Sixth, Nugent) gained Silver medals, Lee-Ann Sule (Upper Sixth, West) and Kira Evans (Upper Sixth, Nugent) gained Bronze and Izzy Leondiou (Upper Sixth, Queen's) was highly commended. For the first time, 10 students entered the Intermediate Olympiad, the results have yet to be announced.

The year was completed by the Biomed Dinner, expertly organised by Emma Sharp (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), this was a great success and enjoyed by the members of the Society.

Dr Mary Lakin, MiC Biomedical Society





Languages Society

Once again, this year, Languages Society has had the full support of our enthusiastic linguists in the Sixth Form and has organised various different and enjoyable events throughout the year, with the sole purpose of celebrating the different languages spoken around the world and indeed by our many talented Stoics.

The first event was held on Thursday 28 September, when the Languages Society held a talk on how a degree in Arabic Studies might benefit you. The talk was hosted by Gareth Browne, an Old Stoic who is now a freelance writer in the Middle East, covering the biggest stories about developments in the war against ISIS. He explained how studying Arabic at Exeter allowed him to be sent to report on the frontline of the war, one of the most coveted jobs in all of journalism. The talk also gave us an insight into one of the most exciting jobs that one could have.

During the year, we have also enjoyed other events including a Games and Crêpes night, organised by the French Assistants, Emma Windett and Eva Di Bartolo, as well as a film night, where the internationally acclaimed film *L'Auberge Espagnole* was shown and the students had the opportunity to listen to a range of different languages and discover the cultures behind them.

In January, I gave a talk on my birthplace, Gibraltar, a very unique and culturally diverse tiny enclave on the most southern tip of Spain. The students learnt about its fascinating history of invasions and conquests, from the Arabs and the Spanish to the British, and how this has contributed to making it the rich cocktail of languages and cultures it is today. Here different religions and people from all over the world, co-exist in harmony, peace and mutual tolerance. Stoics were also able to taste some of the home-made specialities of the region.

On Thursday 17 May, the Languages Society held its final event of the year; 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, allowing you to have a greater degree of mobility. It became obvious to us all, that languages are a 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 talk was followed by our farewell dinner where all the members were able to say goodbye to our President, Tom Purdon (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Vice-President, Alice Maclure (Upper Sixth, Nugent) and to the Spanish Assistant, Ms Ana Vidal García, and thank them for all their help and support this year in organising the memorable events to celebrate the world of languages.

Our great finale was our third amazing Open Mic Night, hosted by Mr Ed Smith, which once again turned out to be a truly unforgettable and magical evening of music, song and poetry. A total of 11 Stoics sang, played and performed in six different languages: Mandarin, Arabic, Danish, German, Spanish and French, showing the wonderful linguistic and cultural diversity we have at Stowe. Our ears and hearts were stimulated by a huge range of music genres from Chinese rap to piano led ballads.

I would like to thank everyone involved for making this year another huge success!

See you soon!
A bientôt!
Bis bald!
Hasta luego!
Se dig snart!
Zàijìàn!

Mrs Desirée Podesta, MiC Languages Society



Literary Society



The Literary Society has had a busy and vibrant year, featuring four prize-winning writers, cross-curricular activities with the French and History Departments, and a themed 'Great Gatsby' black tie dinner and dance, complete with jazz music played by Stowe's own Big Band.

Activities kicked off with a pizza evening to familiarise pupils with the plot of Voltaire's 'Candide', leading to a whole room debate on the nature of political satire. This was followed by a joint trip with the French Department to the Oxford Playhouse to see the play performed - a wonderful way to stimulate ideas and have some fun early in the year.

Our first speaker in the Michaelmas Term was Matthew Kneale, winner of the Whitbread Prize in 2000, and nominated for the Booker Prize for his epic novel, 'English Passengers', which tells the story of the Tasmanian genocide through a multitude of voices. After his talk about his new non-fiction book, 'A History of Rome in Seven Sackings', a panel of Upper Sixth students questioned Kneale about the ideas and inspiration behind that and some of his earlier work.

Words are inadequate to describe the electric atmosphere created by John Agard, who visited later in the Michaelmas Term. Over a hundred Stoics from all year groups turned up to the Music Room to hear this legendary poet read, sing and freestyle his work and share his musings with us. He introduced students to the politics of postcolonialism from a generous and open-minded perspective which was thought provoking and superbly entertaining. Prior to the event, a selected group of Stoics performed their 'Poetry by Heart',

which set up the unrivalled evening of audience engagement that followed.

In the Summer Term, the Music Room was transformed into a party in which one could have imagined the figure of Jay Gatsby making a quick appearance before disappearing back into the pages of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel. This was the Senior Literary Society's Dinner & Dance, in which the keynote speaker, David Crystal, cut quite a Gatsby-esque figure. A renowned linguist and Shakespeare scholar, Crystal mesmerised the audience in his after dinner speech by demonstrating the playful and infinitely elastic possibilities of language. The crowd favourite was a reading from a version of 'The Great Gatsby' written entirely without the vowel 'e'!

Towards the end of the year, a very small group of Stoics made the short journey down the hill into Buckingham to hear the Booker Prize winning poet and activist, Ben Okri, talk about his own work and a recent collaboration with artist Rosemary Cluny. What made this event notable is that it marks Stowe's first collaboration with the Buckingham Literary Festival through Arts at Stowe, who partly sponsored the event. That is an appropriate cue to thank Arts at Stowe, and in particular Deborah Howe, for supporting the English Department in hosting this year's stellar range of speakers.

The Literary Society wasn't all big events and high-profile speakers, and I would also like to thank Mrs Pickering Polláková and Ms Eisenhut for running the weekly Lit. Soc. meetings in which they gave students a chance to discover new texts, new writers and to eat a very large amount of cake!

Ms Allison Puranik, MiC Literary Society

Junior Literary Society

This Summer Term, the English Department hosted two separate Junior Literary Society sessions, each geared towards a separate facet of modern literature. The first was based on Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and the Gothic. The session was aimed at introducing students to the vampire as a literary figure, and gave a grounding in Gothic and Romantic literature, including a look at haunted houses, ghosts and ancestral curses. We even used a scene from Coppola's *Dracula* film and some classic film images right back to *Nosferatu*, to give a flavour of the genre and its pop-cultural significance.

The second session was based on J.D. Salinger's immortal teen novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*. This session focused on providing an introduction to the novel and its significance, and introduced the concept of the 'modern picaresque' or comic adventure story. This is a guaranteed hit with teens, and something everyone should read at least once.

We plan to have more exciting and involving sessions next term, so watch this space! All Juniors are welcome.

Mr Fergus Parnaby, MiC Junior Literary Society



Corkscrew Society

In the inter-regnum between the departure of Mr Mercer and the return of Mr Dudgeon, the management of Stowe's oldest pupil Society, The Corkscrew Society, fell onto the shoulders of Mr Robinson. Of course he could not have done it without the stalwart support and engagement of Mrs Hill-Hall (Chandos Matron) and Mrs Rickner (Queen's Houseparent).

It was an enlarged Upper Sixth Stoic group in 2017-18 as we all tested our basic knowledge, tasted the joys of German wines and listened to Mr Hopkinson-Woolley extol the virtues of being an oenophile. The Society continues to flourish and Mr Dudgeon has plans for the coming year!

Mr Crispin Robinson



Psychology Society

The Psychology Society was relaunched this year with a strong team of Stoics involved. Initially, our informative talks by Lee-Ann Sule (Upper Sixth, West) on the neurology of addiction and Lula Goldsmith (Fifth Form, Stanhope) on Psychopaths awoke the inquisitive nature of our students with a peek into the darker side of human behaviour.

Dr Alan Martin, Head of Psychology at Buckingham University, came to visit us and gave us an insight into what studying Psychology is like at the university, giving a realistic account and discrediting the belief it is not just learning about serial killers! Students were made aware of the research methods and the statistical analysis that is required to learn at this level.

Our final talk before the summer break was linked perfectly with the Stoics' obsession with 'Love Island' as we learnt from Miss Ahmed about the psychology of relationships. Throughout these events, the students have shown an excellent questioning and inquisitive nature. Through our new connection with Buckingham University, some Lower Sixth Form Stoics attended an 'A Level Psychology Researcher for a Day' course in which they experienced first-hand how to design a research study, collect data, analyse the data and evaluate and present their findings.

We look forward to many more inspiring talks led by both the Stoics and visiting guest speakers throughout the next academic year.

Mrs Natasha Blake, MiC Psychology Society



QUANTUM SOCIETY

There has been a great collective spirit in the Quantum Society this year thanks to the committed leadership of the Committee - President Freddie Woods (Upper Sixth, Chatham), Secretary Mar Martinez-Tomas (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) and Treasurer Alexey Sviridov (Upper Sixth, Grenville). The year started with the usual hustings and elections and things took off straightaway with a trip to Oxford to get books for the Science Library and visit the Museum of the History of Science. Many members pitched in to give presentations on a wide variety of topics from 'How to Survive if the Earth Stops Moving' and 'Aliens and The Origins of the Universe' through to 'Special Relativity' and 'Questions Raised by the Flat Earth Theory'. There were entertaining practical demonstrations by Cameron Chambers (Lower Sixth, Grenville) on 'Chemical Reactions' and Ben Shamash (Lower Sixth, Chatham) on 'The Physics of Food'.

The annual dinner was preceded by a very well attended and insightful lecture by Dr Samuel Henry from Oxford University on 'The Search for Dark Matter'. A world leading expert in the field, he gave a fascinating talk on the staggering efforts that scientists are making to try to find dark matter which, along with dark energy, is believed from theory to make up over 95% of the universe. Encouraged by this talk, a few weeks later, Julian Hyams (Upper Sixth, Grenville) unveiled his original theory on 'Dark Matter Annihilation' that he had been working on for a while. It was very thought

provoking and the good questions raised by members during this, gave Julian more material and problems to think about further and to resolve.

The Society marked the death of Stephen Hawking on Wednesday 14 March, fittingly on 14 March - International Pi Day (3.14) by hanging a painting of the great scientist by Peter Baker, a friend of the School, in the Physics Foyer so that it can be seen by many Stoics and hopefully inspire them on their way to Physics lessons.

Last year's Secretary Stuart Milner (Cobham 17) returned to bring a university friend, Tom Hughes, who gave a lecture on Meteors during which he showed just how much can be gleaned from meteors and how much fun can be had searching for them. Mr Yadsan entertained a joint meeting of the Quantum and Gaussian Societies by his thoughts on the famous "Schrödinger's cat" thought experiment and the history of the development of Quantum Mechanics.

The year was rounded off in customary style by the annual Quantum vs Biomedical croquet match and BBQ which was a fitting send off for our Upper Sixth Scientists who have helped so much to raise the profile of Science and set the tone so marvellously in the new science Building. We wish them all the very best for their futures, which for many, involve a science degree.

Mr James Tearle, MiC Quantum Society

Gallery



Anastasiia Nazarova
Upper Sixth, Lyttelton



Jemima Cecil
Upper Sixth, Stanhope



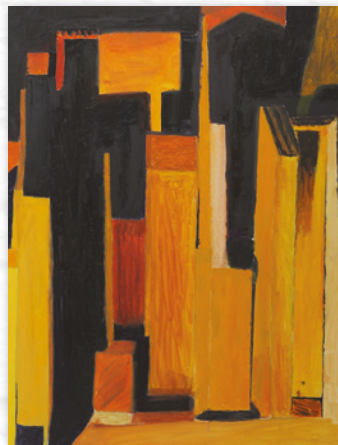
James Bridgwood
Upper Sixth, Chatham



Otilie Howard
Fifth Form, Lyttelton



Charlie Miller
Fifth Form, Grenville



Oli Nuttall
Fifth Form, Cobham



Mariia Lukashenko
Upper Sixth, West



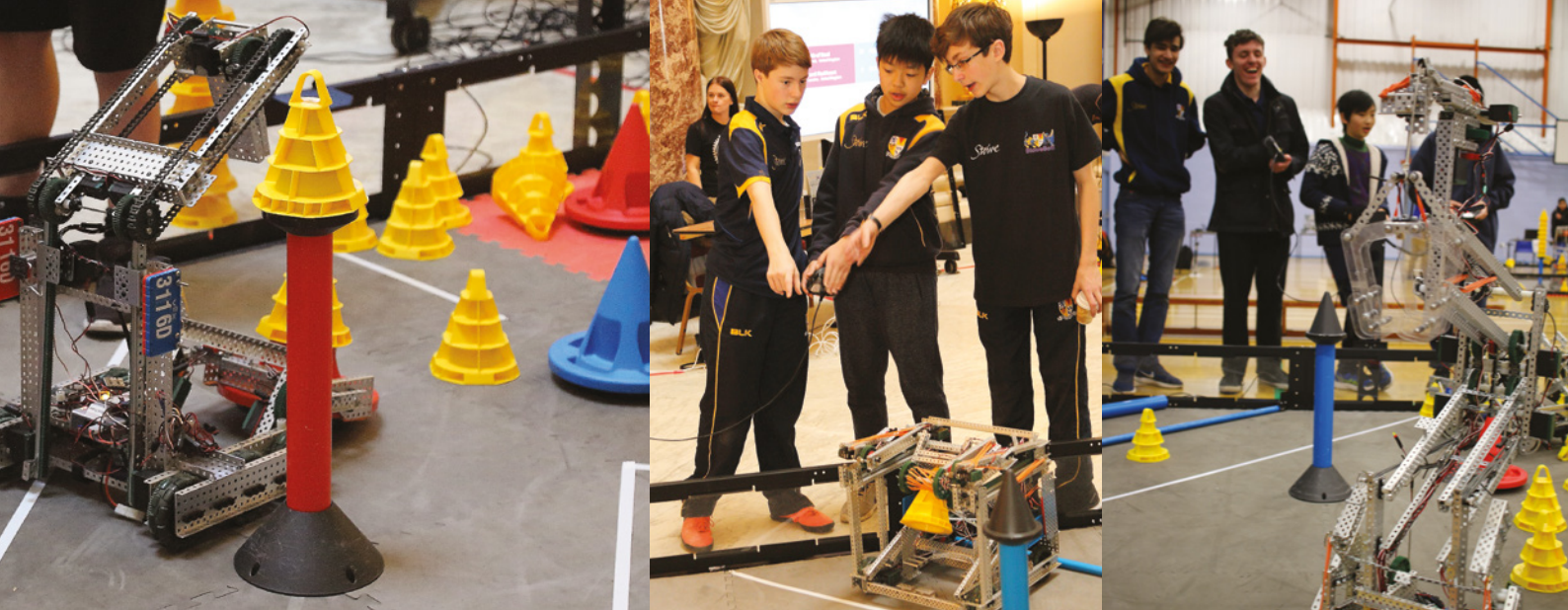
Robotics

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

for the past two years. The team has learnt a lot and were very competitive over the year.

The highlight of the season was winning the regional at Stowe and posting a game score not far off the National record. The team is also very proud of its Judges' and Design Awards for the quality of the design and innovative solutions to the game problems. We have also had some individual success from the team with Valentin Rummel (Fifth Form, Temple) using his design and engineering work on the robot as a basis for his application for the Arkwright Scholarship in Engineering, which he has now been awarded after completing the assignment, exam and interview stages.





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

We look forward to competing in the new game and season after the Summer which also brings some exciting advances in the technology and equipment available, with

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

Mr Paul Thompson, MiC Robots

DEBATING

The ability to debate ideas and issues on their merits, to acknowledge facts and evidence and to remain balanced and humane while pursuing the truth is a very difficult skill. Increasingly, young people are exposed to mediated and sometimes hysterical 'debate' via the mainstream media. These types of debates feature soundbites from people who speak from an ideological position, who don't listen to the other side and therefore, often speak at cross purposes. Thus, in our debates this year, we have been working on the core skills of listening and cutting through the details to find the core of the matter. As such, many of our in School debates this year, have had free speech at their heart. Chandos, the Junior Competition winners this year, demonstrated these very difficult skills at a very high level. Alfie Cliff (Fifth Form, Chandos), as the summary speaker, was outstanding in his ability to be incisive and persuasive and he was ably supported by his Fifth Form teammates, Cyrus Shirazi and Tom Scott. The Fifth Form runners up in Bruce, Micky Shillington, Max Butler and George Bonham Carter, were also worthy finalists in this tough competition.

The Senior Competition culminated with a final motion of, 'This House Believes that free speech is under threat in the UK'. Thankfully, the outcome of the debate showed that people think that the UK retains strong free speech traditions. Cobham and Bruce battled this one out for the final; two very strong debating houses with quite different styles. While the Bruce team were eloquent and confident with excellent rhetoric, this year the cup went to Cobham who won on the strength and breadth of their arguments. Both teams were awarded their debating colours for their resilience in getting through to the final of such a challenging competition.

The Debating Society also attended several external competitions, including the Oxford Union competition, the ESU Mace and the ESU Sixth Form Debate. Two of our younger debaters, Matthew Ackroyd (Third Form, Bruce) and Joshua Farchie (Third Form, Temple) did very well at the Oxford competition beating older and more experienced debaters. We will keep an eye on these budding debaters for the future.

Mrs Emma Ackroyd, MiC Debating

SHPT

The Moving Statues of Stowe

Stowe is full of surprises... where else might one spend an afternoon in May contemplating how to position nearly a ton of stone statue in a gap measuring less than a metre wide by two and a half metres high with a curved apex under the portico at the head of two flights of stairs? This was the dilemma faced by Cliveden Conservation and the Stowe House Preservation Trust as a project that had been two years in the making, neared completion in May 2018.

Things tend not to stand still for long at Stowe, either in terms of organisation or physical disposition.

Things tend not to stand still for long at Stowe, either in terms of organisation or physical disposition. Over the three hundred years of its existence, the historic estate has seen considerable change in its fortunes and usage as well as in the arrangement of buildings across the site. It is hard to believe that Wolfe's obelisk, now standing sentinel on the horizon to the north east of the House, was once the centre piece of a fountain in the lake on the South Front or that the Fane of Pastoral Poetry, at the end of the ha-ha towards the Bourbon, once stood to the south west of the House. That was the nature of the estate, constantly evolving, changing to meet different needs and tastes. It is easier to comprehend the movement of statues according to taste but even they, as we discovered, can be difficult to manoeuvre and one has to admire the vision and determination of those who sought constantly to perfect the layout of this great estate - or perhaps to try to fathom the restlessness that lay behind the changes that they regularly made to the disposition of monuments, sculptures and the very facades of the buildings.

The loss of items and artefacts through the two great sales is better known and well documented.

The loss of items and artefacts through the two great sales is better known and well documented. Since its formation in 1997, the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT) has sought, alongside its work in restoring the mansion, to trace, record and where feasible, return to their original position as many of the 'lost' artefacts as possible or at least to install copies of them. The Medici lions on the South Front, the Dance of the Hours painting in the centre of the Music Room ceiling and the urns on the south front balustrade are all examples of this painstaking recreation of detailed elements of the fabric of the Mansion.

The South Portico held a number of statues between the late eighteenth century and the early twentieth. Between 1788 and 1817, the niches at the back of the portico held four colossal female statues, which, following sixty years elsewhere in the garden, returned there soon after 1871 and stayed until 1922, when they were sold for twenty guineas. For some time, SHPT had contemplated installing copies of these along with copies of the statues that occupied the side niches and the spaces between the columns to the east and west of the portico. In October 2016, Michael Bevington wrote a research paper outlining the stages in the decoration of the portico and identifying the locations to which the statues had been dispersed. With the help of Martin Drury, a former Director General of the National Trust, who chairs the Stowe Advisory Panel, the provenance of the statues was confirmed and contact was made with the owners to ascertain their willingness to lend the originals so that copies could be taken for



installation at Stowe. A very generous donation from an Old Stoic, matched by our anonymous benefactor, provided the funding without which the project could not have proceeded.

A very generous donation from an Old Stoic, matched by our anonymous benefactor, provided the funding without which the project could not have proceeded.

The statues themselves are said to represent, in the niches at the back of the portico, Minerva and the Three Fates and, in the spaces between columns to the side of the portico, two groups showing the labours of Hercules. The Three Fates remind us that our time on earth is finite; Clotho, the spinner, draws out the thread that represents our life span, Lachesis points at an urn from which she draws the lots that determine the length of that life span and Atropos ('the inevitable') cuts the thread with her shears, signalling the end of life. Michael Bevington has commented in one of his authoritative works on the House that there is an added significance in the number three relating to the Fates; the third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, who died in 1889 believed strongly that there had only been three Dukes of Buckingham for each of its three creations while, in the 1870s, his descendants were three unmarried daughters. Michael adds that the features of the female figures may have been deliberately blurred by the sculptor to present them as mournful yet beautiful. Either way, they now form a gracious and dignified backdrop to the south portico, visible from a distance and signifying the taste of the owners, as they would have been in the House's heyday.

The Hercules groups depict: Hercules and Antaeus; and Hercules and Cacus. Antaeus, the king of Libya in Greek mythology, was a giant, who made all foreigners coming to his country wrestle with him. As long as he stayed in contact with the earth, he was able to crush his opponents but Hercules realised the source of Antaeus' strength and lifted him out of contact with the earth, thereby enabling him to crush his opponent. The statues were probably commissioned specifically for Stowe.

Cacus was a fire-breathing monster who lived in a cave on the Aventine Hill, where Rome would later be built. Hercules was angered when Cacus stole some of his cattle and, in his rage, Hercules stormed the monster's cave and slew him, thus ridding the district of this fearsome monster, a feat which brought him enduring honour. There is, however, a twist in the tale... on closer inspection, it is clear that Hercules appears to be fighting, not just with one person as would be expected, but with two... The statue has always been known as Hercules and Cacus in the House inventories, and its relocation from Stowe to the house where it has been since 1920 has been confirmed, but the subject matter remains mysteriously unclear. Was this just a case of mis-attribution? Further research will be carried out but this may remain a case of historical mistaken identity.

There is, however, a twist in the tale... on closer inspection, it is clear that Hercules appears to be fighting, not just with one person as would be expected, but with two...

In late 2017, all six statues were taken to the studio and workshops of Cliveden Conservation in Norfolk, where the copying was to take place. Once the statues had been cleaned, an impression was made of each using silicone reinforced by a case of plaster. The manufacturing process is described in detail in one of a number of essays in a brand new book on Stowe with the key activity being to pour into the mould a durable mortar of different aggregates bound with a mineral cement and coloured to give appropriate shading and texture. Once the mixture has set, the statues are removed from the mould and cleaned up. Thus completed, the accurate replicas of Stowe's statues were brought to Stowe in May 2018 and this was where the fun began.

As part of any major works project, risk assessments and method statements are required, detailing how the work will be carried out and assessing the risks that might be encountered along the way. At this stage, a vivid imagination is definitely not a disadvantage!

As part of any major works project, risk assessments and method statements are required, detailing how the work will be carried out and assessing the risks that might be encountered along the way. At this stage, a vivid imagination is definitely not a disadvantage! The process envisaged for installing the statues had been talked through, analysed and reviewed on the ground with the crane operator. On the face of it, the process was simple, if risky... the statues would be lifted off the ground and then, suspended beneath a 20 metre crane jib that would extend up over the steps, they would be moved (gently) into position. The whole operation proceeded just about to plan, the only slight amendment being the need for a good old fashioned 'block and tackle' to give a little

more flexibility in the final stages - £40 of extra cost to supplement the crane worth £250,000 that had been hired for the day.

The result of this long process of research, investigation, negotiation and craftsmanship is now clear for everyone to see. As we admire the statues in their historical location, it is interesting to reflect that, for 98 years, the niches had been empty and were accepted as such by countless visitors to the House, yet as soon as the statues were installed, they seemed so natural that it was hard to contemplate the empty spaces to which everyone had become accustomed. There remain two empty spaces, the niches to the sides of the rear of the portico. These were occupied by statues of the goddesses Cybele and Juno. The original Stowe Cybele is now owned by the Getty Museum in Malibu, California but Juno's whereabouts are unknown so, once again, further research is going to be needed to trace her before the whole portico can be completed.

SHPT's next project also involves statuary. A successful fundraising campaign has enabled us to plan the completion of the North Hall, where William Kent's magnificent painted ceiling was restored in 2014. Once again, painstaking research revealed the whereabouts of the bronze statue of Laocoön and his sons, one of the greatest pieces of statuary from the ancient world. That statue, at the time of writing, has been moved to a workshop and foundry where, with the kind permission of its owner, it is being copied ready for installation in the North Hall on completion of the restoration in February 2019. Before that, the modern terrazzo floor will have been replaced by a more appropriate stone surface, the walls will have been redecorated and the woodwork around the room will have been stripped of layers of paint to reveal the fine decorative surfaces and repainted in the correct colour for the period.

By the time that work is completed, planning will be well underway for the major work involved in the complete restoration of the State Dining Room and the two adjacent rooms, the small dining room and the Temple Room - at Stowe, things do not stand still for long!

Mr Nick Morris, CEO Stowe House Preservation Trust





MUSIC

It is very flattering for a grizzled old warrior to be called back to the battlefield some years after hanging up his boots. I was, of course, delighted when Dr Wallersteiner asked me to come and lead the Stowe Music Department for the 2017/18 academic year, albeit on a rather part-time basis. I had conducted annual concerts at Stowe in the late 1970s and early 1980s with my Milton Keynes Orchestra; sometimes they featured a Stoic soloist, sometimes Paul Drayton - a very talented member of staff - played a concerto. I remember the Stoics I met being charming and the facilities for Music being staggeringly poor. My next connection with Stowe was in 2006, when I was asked to assist in the preparation of a brief for the new Music School. As is the way with these projects, it took some time for the building actually to arrive. But, of course, I heard much about it when it was opened in 2014 and I was deeply impressed with it when I was shown round shortly afterwards. The facilities have changed radically but the charm of the average Stoic seems to me very much as before. Charm, of course, can have its disadvantages: it can be a substitute for sustained hard work, but I have been impressed with the way that Stowe Musicians get through a large number of events in the course of the School year.

“The facilities have changed radically but the charm of the average Stoic seems to me very much as before.”

The building is busy. More than 450 lessons are taught each week and there are at least 10 weekly rehearsals most of the time. The School also takes its outreach responsibilities seriously; groups go out to play from Stowe on a regular basis and we host both prep and primary school Musicians throughout the year. Inevitably, what I write below is a bird's eye view rather than a detailed

analysis but it was enough to impress me greatly and to remind me of the central role that music can and should have in a school of this kind.

Some events involve the whole School. The annual House Singing Jamboree is a strange combination of concert, competition, ritual and cabaret; it is not an easy event to adjudicate! Sam Dunkley gave Nugent (under the direction of Mali Aitchison (Upper Sixth)) the prize as the best overall House. Nugent and Temple shared the Part Song prize; Stanhope and Grenville, the girls' and boys' Unison class respectively. One of the most enjoyable features of the evening was the prevalence of student arrangements. Mali's hard work was rightly recognised by the prize for the best arrangement - a memorable version of 'Home'.

A rather different event took place early in the Summer Term when the whole School participated in a performance of Part 2 of Handel's great oratorio Messiah. Early morning rehearsals were taxing but approached with cheerful goodwill by the congregation. The performance featured full orchestral forces (Stoics 'side-by-side' with Visiting Music Teachers) and the Chapel Choir was augmented by parents, staff and members of local choirs. Most of the soloists were major National figures, notably Rachel Nicholls, who had just come back from singing Elektra in Zurich. However, 'How Beautiful are the Feet' was sung by Helena Vince ((Lower Sixth, Queen's) and next year's Head Girl) with elegance and grace.

Some of the concerts are very formal. I had the pleasure of conducting a full symphony orchestra - again with equal numbers of students and professional musicians - accompanying three very fine pianists in major concertos: Liszt's No. 1, Finzi's Eclogue and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. Jeffrey Au (Fifth Form, Walpole), Sebastian Foxwell (Third Form, Walpole) and Theo Hayes (Fifth Form, Chatham) gave performances which belied their age. They had all prepared with real diligence; there was



none of that slight sense of anxiety which can reduce the enjoyment of the audience in a student performance. All of them took the music by the scruff of the neck and delivered it splendidly to a capacity audience in the Ugland Auditorium. Of course, the Steinway D which the auditorium offers, is a wonderful instrument for any musician of any age to make music with - that helps! The Wind Band and String Orchestra gave their annual showcase on the eve of Speech Day. The high standards being achieved by both groups were clearly in evidence, and the number of younger instrumentalists playing sophisticated and demanding repertoire bodes well for the future. The Holocaust Memorial event in January provided another demanding challenge for our musicians which they rose to with aplomb. Evocative music by Bloch, Shostakovich and John Williams framed this powerful event. I particularly admired Archie Morley's Jewish Song, (Ernest Bloch), in which he negotiated the tricky quarter tones asked for by the composer with delicacy and style.

More informal - but equally sophisticated music-making was provided by the Big Band and the smaller Jazz Combo who produced entrancing performances for Dinner & Jazz in December, Champagne & Jazz in February and the alfresco Summer Jazz in June. The Big Band also joined a charity performance with Jacqui Dankworth and her band in Bletchley. By happy coincidence, Jacqui is one of my ex-students and I was delighted by the appreciative comments that she made to me about the Stowe Musicians after the event.

Inevitably, these kind of accounts can look like a shopping list or a public relations document - neither very edifying, in my view. But the truth is that Stowe Music flourishes and is still growing both in scale and standard. Singing is another major feature and the quality of the vocal faculty was recognised by the Royal Academy of Music which conferred the special distinction of ARAM on Rachel Sherry, our Head of Vocal Studies.

Rachel shared with me the Prep School Choral Festival Day in May. We prepared both some secular repertoire for a workshop performance in the Ugland Auditorium and material for a Choral Compline in the Chapel. Miles Nottage taught our young visitors a Jamaican song in the oral tradition by way of variety.

Towards the end of term, we hosted for the first time a Primary Schools' Orchestra Day. Instrumental musicians from seven local primary schools converged in the Chung Music School for a day of intensive music making, directed and organised by Christine Richards (Headmistress of Steeple Claydon Primary School) and aided and abetted by members of the Stowe Music Department. Nearly 90 children descended on Stowe for a 9.30am start to rehearsals which alternated sectionals (divided both by skill level and instrument) and full sessions in the Ugland Auditorium. The repertoire was chosen from a series of pieces - 5 Note Philharmonic & Friends - composed by Sarah Watts, who is not only a very successful composer, but also a Bassoon & Saxophone Teacher here at Stowe. The music was lively, accessible but challenging enough to require hard work from everybody. It suited the situation admirably, and the children gave a very good account of some of the repertoire in a workshop performance at the end of the day.

Audiences are growing at Stowe and it is important to remember that teaching young people to listen carefully as an audience, is almost as important as teaching them to play.

Audiences are growing at Stowe and it is important to remember that teaching young people to listen carefully as an audience, is almost as important as teaching them to play. I am delighted to report that the lunchtime concerts in the State Music Room have grown to an average audience of 50-60. Soup is provided for those who do not wish to hurry their lunch and varied programmes of solos and small ensembles have been much appreciated. Equally gratifyingly audiences outside the school, in King's Sutton, St Lawrence Jewry and St Paul's Bedford, have also relished Stowe performances. There was something magical about sitting in the beautiful surroundings of St Lawrence Jewry listening to our young pianists negotiating a slightly problematic piano with considerable skill.



The extraordinary vitality of popular music needs to be underlined. The Head of Rock and Pop, Miles Nottage, gave a memorable talk early in the Summer Term on the origins of Pop, lavishly illustrated by exhilarating live performances. It underlined the number of Stoics who perform in a variety of popular styles, many of them making fine recordings under the guidance of Ben Weston. The Southside18 concert in May was the biggest student led concert of its kind in recent years. Performers included the return of HUX (George Huxtable and Patrick Keating) playing a selection of their blues infused acoustic pop, followed by a variety of solos, duets and bands. Mina Haas (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Lucy Sutherland (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Mali Aitchison (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Henry Gauvain (Upper Sixth, Temple), Tash Woods (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Max Campbell-Preston (Upper Sixth, Grafton) were among those who showcased their own work and the evening was drawn to a close by Firing Line: a local band featuring two members of the Stowe Music Department (Ben Weston and Daniel Mills) who performed rousing cover versions of numbers by Led Zeppelin, Nirvana and Foo Fighters. I was particularly impressed with the depth of talent demonstrated on this occasion; every serious school will have a number of outstanding musicians but it is important that there is strength in depth and Stowe is developing that in a tangible way.

It has been a fascinating year for me. I have enjoyed collaborating with these talented and responsive instrumental musicians as well as with the Chapel Choir each Sunday. Stowe has been fortunate in having two outstanding organists, Jonathan Kingston (Director of Music at Bromsgrove and later at Kings, Ely) and Stephen Clarke (until recently Precentor of Radley) playing for the weekday and Sunday services respectively this year. The Chapel Choir has delivered some excellent motets to embellish the Sunday services and now sit in the sanctuary on all occasions so that they can lead the singing of the hymns. The congregation is not yet fully committed to the proposition that singing is good for you both physically and psychologically - despite some inspiring brass playing led by Nigel Gibbon at every Chapel service. It was obvious from the Messiah performance that the whole School can make an inspiring sound; it will be splendid if we hear it more often.

I must end with thanks to the entire Music Department for their warm welcome and friendly collaboration. My particular thanks are due to the redoubtable Sarah Searle who has occupied the role of Music Administrator for nine years. As she moves on to be School Business Manager, she leaves behind a legacy of gratitude and admiration from all who had dealings with her.

Mr Hilary Davan Wetton, Acting Chair, Stowe Music School





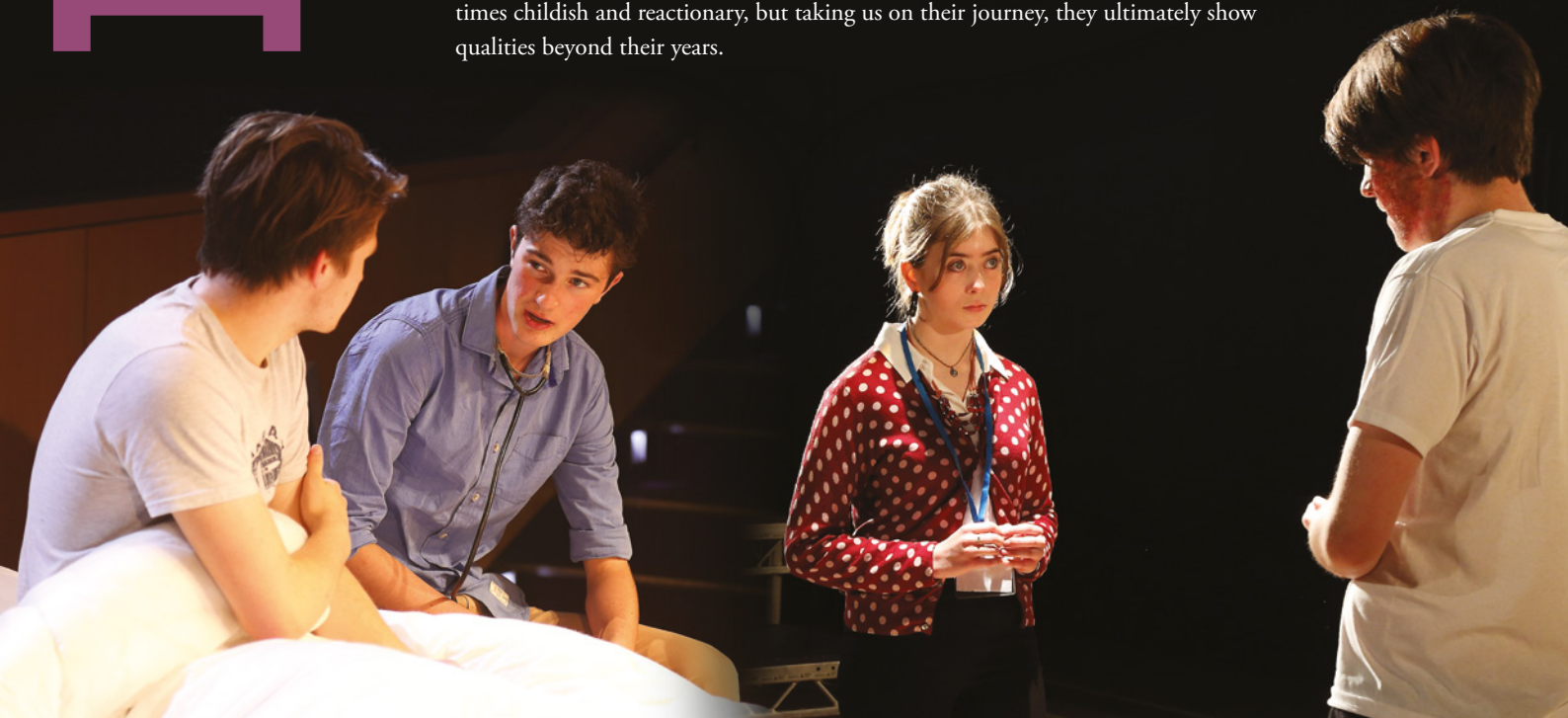
Face

Junior Congreve

The anticipation builds in the sparky silence of the opening moments of 'Face', as the Martins slowly, with trepidation, get a measure of one another. The traverse staging engages us all in an intimate fashion that has us observing one another observing the play - always a fascinating phenomenon. The fluorescent sports court and bleachers immediately conjure the atmosphere of a school gymnasium. The minimalist simplicity of the design under Mark Goodman's creative light beams, highlighted by haze, provide a multi-locational space where the events of the narrative unfold skilfully before our eyes. The staging is indeed exquisite, and what a realisation of Lucy Miller's vision.

From the opening sequence where the three Martins - convincingly played by Griffin Mills (Fourth Form, Chandos), Archie Martin and Matthew Ackroyd (Third Form, Bruce) - meet in a virtual space only to be surrounded by a chorus of taunting, cruel, unthinking teenagers, it is evident we are in for a treat. Each of the boys bring their own unique qualities to this shared role. While Matthew captures the carefree, somewhat arrogant Past Martin, Archie inhabits the Present Martin's desperation and isolation as he struggles to come to terms with the tragedy that has befallen him. Griffin, as narrator, adopts a wise, philosophical standpoint, clearly still deeply affected by his accident, and all three engage our sympathy as they share their story.

Sidekick Josh Clarke (Fourth Form, Bruce), who plays Matthew, is suitably wretched in his nervy portrayal of Martin's loyal friend and Alex West (Third Form, Grenville) as Mark, is a very strong young actor whose timing and detailed characterisation are both humorous and well-drawn. The boys perform such likeable, caring friends, who are at times childish and reactionary, but taking us on their journey, they ultimately show qualities beyond their years.



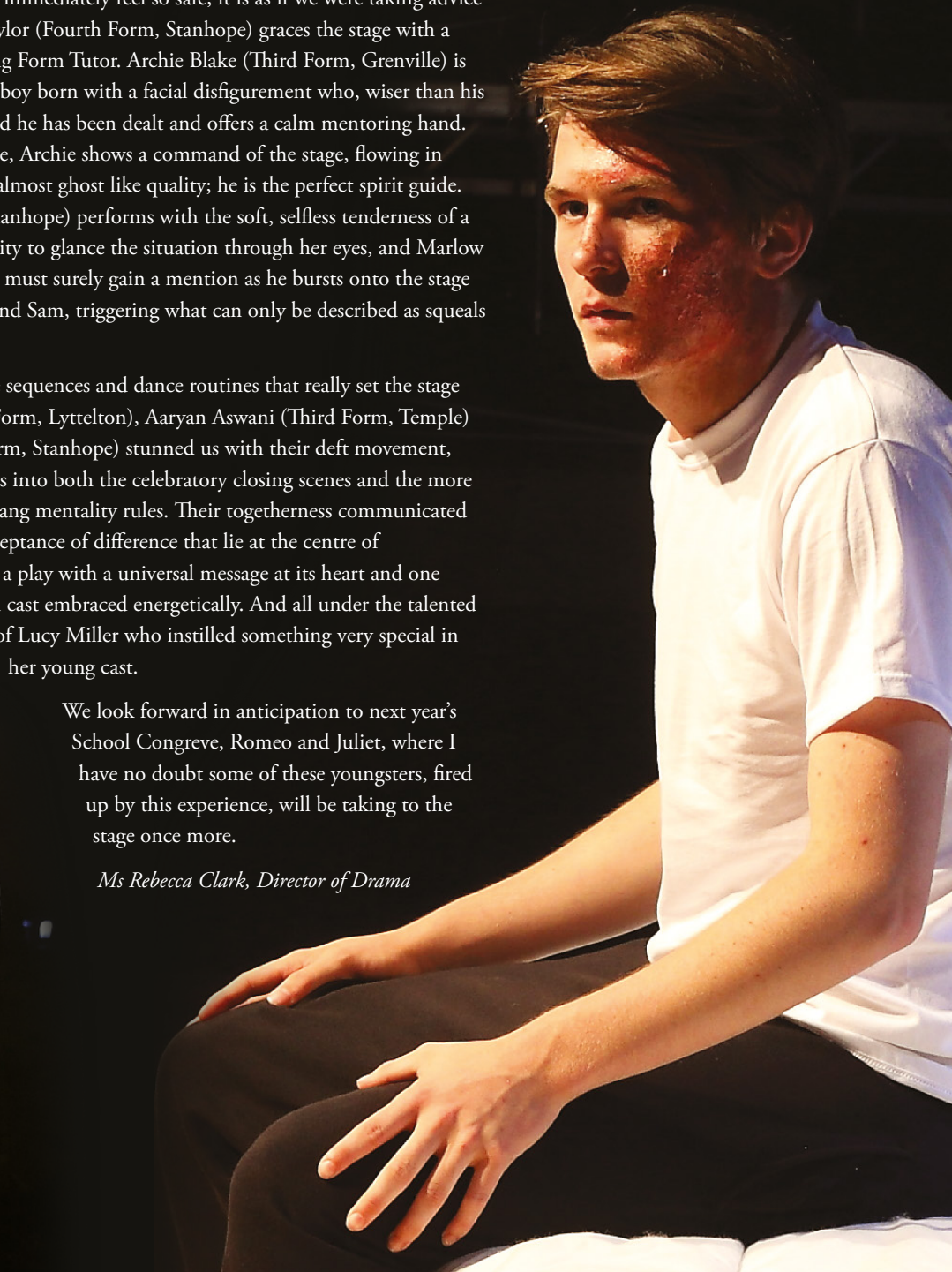


Theo Finlan's (Fourth Form, Temple) portrayal of Martin's consultant is so plausible; whenever he comes on stage, we immediately feel so safe, it is as if we were taking advice from our own Doctor. Eloise Taylor (Fourth Form, Stanhope) graces the stage with a quirky, likeable and well-meaning Form Tutor. Archie Blake (Third Form, Grenville) is quite delightful as Anthony, the boy born with a facial disfigurement who, wiser than his years, understands the unfair card he has been dealt and offers a calm mentoring hand. Moving fluidly through the space, Archie shows a command of the stage, flowing in and out of Martin's life with an almost ghost like quality; he is the perfect spirit guide. Emilia Havard (Fourth Form, Stanhope) performs with the soft, selfless tenderness of a mother, offering us an opportunity to glance the situation through her eyes, and Marlow Turner (Fourth Form, Cobham) must surely gain a mention as he bursts onto the stage as the radiant and kindly Reverend Sam, triggering what can only be described as squeals of delight from the audience!

Through it all, it is the ensemble sequences and dance routines that really set the stage on fire. Iryna Muravska (Third Form, Lyttelton), Aaryan Aswani (Third Form, Temple) and Olivia Omotajo (Fourth Form, Stanhope) stunned us with their deft movement, whilst everyone threw themselves into both the celebratory closing scenes and the more sinister, earlier moments when gang mentality rules. Their togetherness communicated the message of tolerance and acceptance of difference that lie at the centre of Zephaniah's poetic piece. This is a play with a universal message at its heart and one that the committed, characterful cast embraced energetically. And all under the talented direction of Lucy Miller who instilled something very special in her young cast.

We look forward in anticipation to next year's School Congreve, Romeo and Juliet, where I have no doubt some of these youngsters, fired up by this experience, will be taking to the stage once more.

Ms Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama





Photography by Alan Longworth, Maria Sharipova and Charlie Seddon



Scripted - X

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies students performed 'X' by Alistair McDowall in the Roxy auditorium to an external examiner and an audience of Stoics, Staff and Parents.

Millions of miles from home, the lone research base on Pluto loses contact with Earth. Unable to leave or send for help, the skeleton crew sit waiting. Waiting. Waiting long enough for time to start eating away at them. To lose all sense of it. To start seeing things in the dark outside. With fantastic set design by Charlie Seddon and Alex Orton, the play is a fascinating study of relationships and the human condition.



Devised Pieces

Created by members of the company

The students prepared five eclectic and dynamic pieces of original drama. While the pieces were all based on a single stimulus, Ben Johnson's photorealistic piece, 'Revisiting the Space Between', which depicts a doorway at the end of a corridor of mirrors, the pupils interpreted it in very different ways. One piece looked at the Stanford Prison Experiment, another at the 1920s movie industry, a third piece tells a 1940s love story through letters from the front line, while a further group took us on a feminist mission to the moon! The students worked in a range of styles, with some groups telling their story through verbatim text and physicality, and others adopting the energetic storytelling of theatre company, Kneehigh.

Ms Rebecca Clark & Mrs Lucy Miller



1984

Heading into the Roxburgh Theatre on the final night of the Stowe production of '1984', I wasn't sure what I was going to be witnessing for the next three hours. What form would a school production of Orwell's grim dystopian masterpiece, which climaxes in a lengthy torture of the main character with unimaginable horrors until he breaks, take?

The first thing that struck me was the transformation of the space. The previously bright pink walls had been painted grey, the floor had been darkened and the set was simple, with a collection of boxy cage-like props and two large fascist-style banners in black and red featuring the enormous eye of Big Brother.

Soon the oppressive atmosphere was driven home even further as opening scenes used large set pieces of carefully choreographed mechanistic movement to paint a picture of the highly-controlled and drab surroundings experienced by the main character Winston Smith, very ably played by Tom Fras (Lower Sixth, Walpole).

In fact, this was as much a dance as a play. The choreography throughout was superb, with not one of the broad cast of all ages putting a step out of place and slow-motion scenes used to illustrate not only the oppressive atmosphere but the inner thoughts and fears of Winston and his co-worker

and love interest, Julia (beautifully played by Maya Tearle (Upper Sixth, Queen's)).

After the interval, the story turned grim as Winston and Julia were finally and inevitably entrapped by those they thought they could trust. In these final stages of the play, Fras as Winston came into his own. Winston's journey from a determination to hold onto his feelings for Julia, the core of his humanity, to his final breaking point in Room 101, was artfully portrayed and the deadpan brutality of the guards was scarily realistic.

This was a serious and thought-provoking production, which is almost as relevant today as it was when the book was written in 1948. With fears of growing nationalism, infiltration of propaganda through social media and a president in the White House who is willing to cite 'alternative facts' that suit his agenda and decry anything that doesn't as 'fake news', it is not surprising that '1984' has once again become a best-seller. Hopefully through bringing this dangerously visionary tale to a new generation, Director Rebecca Clark has taken us one step closer to avoiding a world where everyone still has the freedom to say that two plus two equals four, whatever we are being told to the contrary.

Dr Julie Potter, Deputy Head (Academic)





The three productions were challenging, imaginatively staged and well-acted

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner



A Level Drama

Inspired by Netflix's Black Mirror, and its acute satirical tales exploring techno paranoia, true life crime documentaries and our seeming fascination with a dysfunctional world, the Lower Sixth A Level Drama and Theatre Studies pupils devised an edgy, thought-provoking and at times, disturbing body of work. Theatre is a mirror by which we can examine ourselves and our humanity. Tabi Sinclair (Stanhope), Imy Oliver (Queen's), Ugochi Ekpecham (Lyttelton), Una Barclay (Stanhope), Emma Rød-Larsen (Stanhope), Tavish Struthers (Bruce), Polly French (Nugent), Ally Jordan (Lyttelton), Alex King (Queen's), Tom Fras (Walpole) and Estelle Akeroyd Hunt (Nugent) undertook several months of intense investigation in rehearsal, exploring verbatim text and researching mystifying human stories, raising questions about the societies we live in, and presenting their truthful, poignant and sometimes distressing observations to an audience who they aimed to engage in their shared findings. Una Barclay (Stanhope) was chilling as an undercover agent investigating corruption in a virtual reality platform, starkly lit by lighting designer Tavish. Polly played a young girl who had grown up in captivity, returning to the cellar in which she was held to relive past events, giving us a haunting insight into a perhaps all too familiar story. Costume designer Ellie clothed Tabi and Imy, twins who have been separated when one escaped captivity, in contrasting but at the same time unifying attire, creatively emphasising the identical twin syndrome the pupils were exploring.





GCSE Drama

Tales from Lancaster West Estate

Using Verbatim Theatre to process and try to understand the circumstances that led to the tragic events of 14 June 2017 when Grenfell Tower was engulfed by flames, pupils developed and performed a series of theatrical work through practical exploration of the history behind the development of the Lancaster West Estate. They then explored the social and cultural demographic of the residents and the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the timeline of events on 14 June, including the rescue operation by London Fire Services, and the deadly combination of decision-making over decades that may have contributed to this disaster. In a moving presentation of their response, pupils invited audiences to share their work, consider the questions they posed and join them in paying tribute to those who lost their lives.

Verbatim Theatre based on current affairs is a fascinating medium to explore. The landscape is constantly changing as news stories emerge and details come to light. When the cast embarked on the creation of this piece of work, there were 71 victims. Now there are 72. It has been a process of continual updating and ongoing research, keeping abreast of developments in the inquiry and following the media to create these documentary style pieces.

Housed within a fluorescent footprint of the tower, designed by Sophia Batey (Queen's, Set Designer), each of our Fourth Form pupils contributed with empathy, delicacy and poise in the creation of a unique and important body of work; commenting sensitively on this tragic incident and its broader significance.



Zero for the Young Dudes!

By Alistair McDowall

The inmates at a bizarre summer camp are plotting a revolution. Or has it already happened? Spending a day watching their schedule of exercise, lessons and meals, a long history of unrest and injustice lies hidden; and as the day wears on, a violent future looms large on the horizon. The opening scenes saw Isobel Hopkins (Lyttelton), Ian Hsu (Chatham), Hattie Gendler (Queen's) and Sonya Sander (Lyttelton) setting an ominous sense of foreboding as they stare down the audience as if we are the enemies. Sonya captured the young voice of the interloper to the camp who questions the moral principles of this dystopian society, with sensitivity and heartfelt passion, engaging our empathy. Zero is a kind of montage or snapshot of moments in these young inmates' lives as they plan to take up arms against their captors in the most terrible and tragic act of rebellion. Ruby Redfern (Queen's) stunned the audience as the tragedy of her character's fate unfolds. Vitriolic in her accusations of a former camp member turned guard, she is soon faced with the same horrible decision and trembles in shock at the blood she now has on her hands. Washed clean by a too wise for his years George Bonham Carter (Bruce) and a distraught but passionate Maria Sharipova (Stanhope), Ruby leads the others to ultimate sacrifice. The text balances political fervour with sharp wit in its observational comedy. This is perhaps best delivered by Lucinda Tilleard (Stanhope) with her dry, deadpan mockery of Lucas Davis's (Bruce) character's madcap plans to stage a prison break. Lucinda, Lucas, Amelia Leondiou (Queen's) and Lou Bannister (Lyttelton) depicted this comedy as they fire toy guns at live targets on the range while shooting the breeze about sex education; horrified it could ever have been a thing. On dirt duty, Amelia delivers a monologue of her dream with a compelling sense of helplessness and childlike dismay as she outlines the dystopian landscape where people's heads are melted like ice-cream. We don't know whether to laugh or cry!

Ms Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama

GCSE Drama Plays

'The Exam' by Andy Hamilton takes as its premise the dreaded exam hall experience felt by many a stressed and worried teenager. Three very different characters are thrust together in a small room all sitting a re-scheduled paper. The anxious and nervy Andrew, played with tip top comic timing by Dave Dooley (Grafton), does his best to block out the incessant mindless chatter from Chas, the happy go lucky no-hoper, who has his eyes well and truly on getting an E in his Maths. Lyle O'Brien (Bruce) captured the humour and cheeky wit of the character and was a perfect foil for Bea, the studious academic high flyer, who is sitting an A Level Sociology exam two years early. Tessa Kach (Queen's) had just the right tone and distaste in her edgy but very funny interactions with both of her male colleagues.

In Gary Owen's 'The Shadow of a Boy', sci-fi mixes uneasily with childhood anxieties. Owen's hero, Luke, played with sensitivity by Cyrus Shirazi (Chandos), is a 10-year-old orphan who lives with his pious gran (a subtle and well delivered performance given by Flora Walters (Nugent)). Luke enjoys an uneasy friendship with the very knowing but cruel Katie, played with great aplomb by Alyssia Dockerty (Queen's). Luke escapes into his sci-fi comics and at his darkest times, conjures up the figure of Shadow: an alien sent to Earth to comprehend its people and judge whether they are fit to join the Galactic League of Civilizations. Jack Colebrook (Bruce) played Shadow in an understated but appropriate manner and did well to avoid the obvious temptation to overdo it all.

'Be My Baby' by Amanda Whittington is set in a Mother and Baby Home in 1964 in the north of England. The action follows the fortunes of Mary Adams, aged 19, unmarried and seven months pregnant. Forcibly sent there

by her over bearing Mother; firmly intent on keeping up appearances, Mary has to cope both with the shame and the dawning realisation that she will have to give the baby up for adoption whether she likes it or not. Rosie Ludlow (Lyttelton) and Georgia Glenser (Lyttelton), portrayed the brooding and unpleasant relationship between Mary and Mother most effectively and were ably supported by Chloe Daniel (Queen's) as The Matron of the home, who is on hand to dish out words of both comfort and stark reality in equal measure. All three girls deserve credit for capturing the spirit of the age and for sensitively throwing light on these types of homes that might well have been a well-kept secret in their day but nonetheless blighted the lives of thousands of young women to whom Whittington has so effectively given a voice to them in her play.

'4.48 Psychosis' by Sarah Kane is not an 'easy' watch and is certainly a terrific challenge to undertake for any exam assessment. The play focuses on clinical depression, a disorder from which Kane herself suffered. It is a very subjective presentation of depression, giving the audience an insight into one particular case (or perhaps on several individual cases). There is no strict narrative or timeline, issues and events are randomly dealt with and the effects and effectiveness of medication, self-harm, suicide and the causes of depression are dealt with in a very visceral and disturbing way. Lula Goldsmith (Stanhope), Juliana Ziemele (Queen's) and Georgia Page-Turner (Stanhope) were all superb in their collective response to the piece and with some powerful and creative lighting designs offered up by Edward Pickering (Grenville), their stimulating and highly energised performances brought to a close a most effective, eclectic and entertaining evening of theatre.

Mr Nick Bayley, Teacher of Drama

Girls Like That

by Evan Placey

When a naked photograph of schoolgirl Scarlett goes viral, rumours spread across smartphones like wildfire and her reputation becomes toxic, threatening to shatter the fragile unity of the girls she has grown up with. But how long can Scarlett remain silent? And why isn't it the same for boys? With effective sound design by Oliver Seddon (Fifth Form, Cobham), which transported audiences from the Roxy into a pre-adolescent pool party and then a school setting, Emily Banks (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) lit up the stage with her vibrant and well-drawn characterisation, capturing the preoccupations and insecurities Placey tackles in this play. Mia Dettori (Nugent) gave an outstanding performance as the ostracised Scarlett, while Madeline Marriott (Nugent) and Toyah Mowat (Nugent) were convincing as the catty and self-assured - but secretly insecure - classmates. Kora Haigh (Nugent) brought great humour and energy to her role as the girl from another school, who beats up Scarlett in the corridor before a crowd of nervous but transfixed onlookers, beautifully captured by Octavia Comerford (Stanhope) and Marika Guguberidze (Lyttelton).

Mrs Lucy Miller, Teacher of Drama

Dance

This year saw Stowe's first dance showcase with pupils from Third Form to Upper Sixth performing well-executed, well-choreographed work, demonstrating some impressive technique. New to Stowe in September 2017 were Chris Bradley and Melloney Owen, both experienced professional dance practitioners who are taking dance here at Stowe to a new level. There was a real buzz in the Roxy as the pupils prepared for the show, and they are clearly enjoying the new dance programmes. Polina Von (Queen's) and Emily Barrett (Queen's) wowed the audience with their Pointe work in the elegant ballet piece that opened the night. Contemporary soloist Kizzy Clark-Jones demonstrated excellent dance technique and gymnastics expertise in a fluid study. She was followed by the junior contemporary dancers Ella Mash (Queen's), Lucy Walduck (Queen's) and Sonia Steffanson (Stanhope) who gave a noteworthy first performance. The finale was superb as Emily Barrett, Kizzy Clark-Jones, Inez Banson (Queen's), Taisiya Danilitskaya (Lyttelton), Olivia Omotajo (Stanhope), Clara Pepera (Queen's) powered onto the stage performing a dynamic commercial number to the whoops and cheers of the audience.

Chris and Melloney are welcoming boys and girls of

any age to make suggestions about the type of dance they would like to take and will be running some taster workshops in Tap and Breakdance.

March saw the Roxy come alive with Stowe's second ever Dance Show. With an impressively sized audience, the dancers rose to the occasion, spurred on by a really appreciative crowd who whooped, cheered and even started dancing in the aisles. The programme included Ballet, Contemporary, Commercial, Jazz and a Physical Theatre piece inspired by Frantic Assembly's Chair Duets performed by Miss Clark's Fourth Form GCSE Drama set. The talented dancers including Kizzy Clark-Jones (Queen's), Emily Barrett (Queen's), Olivia Omotajo (Stanhope), Iryna Muravska (Lyttelton) and Inez Banson (Queen's), amazed the audience as they pirouetted and barrel-jumped across the floor. They showed a real diversity of skill as they executed quick changes to return and perform another well-choreographed routine.

Back by popular demand, the Dance Show also formed part of Speech Day celebrations for the first time this year.

Ms Rebecca Clark, Director of Drama





Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year saw 75 Bronze, 17 Silver and 23 Gold participants enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme at Stowe. As part of his Gold programme, we were also very pleased to see James Hungin (Walpole) in the Lower Sixth invited to attend a DofE Ambassador's training course, a new initiative which we hope will help us promote the Award at Stowe.

The Bronze Award expedition training programme on a Monday afternoon provides the basis for our Fourth Formers to prepare for their two expeditions in the Summer Term. The programme incorporates four navigation sessions, three sessions on stove training and preparing expedition menus, a refresher of the Heartstart programme and a session on emergency situations as well as a session on kit preparation and rucksack packing. The October Field Days allow the Bronze Participants to plan a two day Practice Expedition in the Cotswolds and a two day Assessed Expedition in the Shropshire Hills as well as affording the opportunity to practise navigation skills out at Wendover Woods and learn team building skills on our high ropes course.

The Expedition programme started in earnest in late March with Gold participants completing one day of training and three days of expedition in the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales. The expedition was based in the

shadow of Whernside, one of the Yorkshire Three Peaks. From their campsite on the first morning the groups had a beautiful, if somewhat frosty, view of the Ribbleshead viaduct, where the Hogwarts Express would not look out of place. Over the course of the next few days, the groups completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks (Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-Ghent) and really had the skills they had learnt in training put to the test as they navigated their way over the summits, in what were at times very challenging conditions. It was very pleasing to see our groups demonstrate excellent navigational skills in poor visibility and sub-zero conditions on the tops; hopefully in years to come they will remember the skills they have learnt and continue to be well-equipped in the hills, particularly as one group at least experienced their leaders offering assistance to members of the public on the summits who were not equipped for the conditions.

The Bronze Practice expedition to the Cotswolds in April also provided the participants with the experience of spending time in the Outdoors in very unseasonable temperatures. The northerly wind ensured that everybody kept wrapped up warm and, as it picked up overnight, the sound of whipping fly-sheets meant that sleep was limited for most. Fortunately however, the rain that was the subject of weather warnings in the run up to the expedition stayed away and the groups were able to enjoy the beauty of



the Cotswold countryside in hazy sunshine by the afternoon of the second day.

With the cold weather out of the way, late June and early July saw the Silver Practice Expedition and the Gold and Bronze Assessed expeditions take place in heatwave conditions. Staff were particularly impressed with the sensible approach that participants took to the conditions, everybody completed their expeditions tired and sun-kissed but having taken the high temperatures quite literally in their stride. The Bronze expedition to Shropshire enabled Stoics to enjoy views right out to the west coast of Wales and Snowdonia from the top of the Long Mynd and the Stiper Stones although they were not quite close enough to spot the Silver participants who were simultaneously completing their Practice Expedition in the Ogwen Valley area of the Snowdon range. The Silvers had an excellent opportunity to sample the best that Snowdonia can offer as they summited Tryfan and tackled the ridge of the Carneddau before experiencing their first wild camp in the valley below Carnedd Llewelyn. The Gold Assessed expedition returned to the Cairngorms this year, for what will probably be once in a lifetime conditions! Blue skies and temperatures of 20 degrees plus each day ensured

that everybody completed the four day expedition with dry boots - unheard of in the area! The four groups were lucky enough to enjoy the summits of Cairn Gorm, Ben Macdui and Carn a Chlamain in breathtaking conditions, with views afforded across the Cairngorms range and beyond. Needless to say the groups took full advantage of every opportunity to drop into a mountain stream to cool off! Once again, our staff and external instructors were very impressed with the way in which all groups acquitted themselves out on the hills.

It would not be possible to run this programme without the unwavering commitment and support of our staff team, so particular thanks are due to Mr Stanworth, Mrs Davis, Mrs Roddy, Mr Donoghue, Mr Gibbon, Mr Møller, Mrs McMahon, Miss Ahmed, Mrs Pickering Polláková, Mr Thompson, Mr Grimble, Miss Penrhyn-Lowe, Mr Williams, Mr Burch and Mr Malanaphy. In particular, we are very sad this year to say goodbye to Mr Hoare and Mr Wilson, who have both offered invaluable support to the expedition programme over their time at Stowe. Finally, as always, special thanks to Mr Liversage for making sure we all get where we need to be!

Mr Gwilym Jones, MiC DofE



CCF

This year we have welcomed our new School Staff Instructor, (SSI) Sgt Alex Sprules, (ex Royal Marines), and Officer in Charge of the Navy Section, Lt Nick Zamit (ex -Sub mariner, Royal Navy) to the CCF team. We were also very pleased to welcome Dr Fitz Smith, Miss Fran Shah and Ms Heather Eisenhut.

Sadly, we bid a fond farewell to Captain Andrew Wilson and Lt James Popplestone, we thank them for their dedication, hard work and humour, as they move onto new chapters in their lives. We also thank Fergus Parnaby for his sterling efforts, as he steps away from CCF to take on other School responsibilities.

Cdt Company Sergeant Major Alex Harris performed his duties as Stowe CCF Head Cadet with pride and success. He provided an excellent role model to our junior cadets and we thank him for his diligence, commitment, and hard work. We are pleased to announce that Cadet Company Sergeant Major Hugo Robinson will take up the reins from September.

2018 has been a productive and high achieving year for Stowe CCF, across all three of our Sections.

One of the highlights of the CCF year was the highly successful Biennial Inspection in February. It was the turn of the RN to inspect us and Commander Richard Pethybridge, the Inspecting Officer, was delighted with Stowe CCF's efforts, commenting: 'I had the honour to be the Reviewing Officer for Stowe School CCF. I was very impressed by everything I witnessed. The cadets were very well turned out and unfailingly enthusiastic, despite the weather; indeed, the judicious use of fake blood and vigorous acting made the casualty treatment stances most realistic. I witnessed

a number of different training evolutions, all of which were being very capably managed by senior cadets under the supervision of some equally enthusiastic adult staff. The leadership skills of those managing the groups were a pleasure to see, with authority sitting comfortably on a number of relatively junior shoulders, which bodes well for the future. It was particularly good to note the number of senior female cadets in positions of responsibility. The stances themselves were well chosen and provided a number of challenging activities for the cadets across a wide variety of disciplines. I was impressed by the commitment and interest shown by all officers of the detachment." Happily, we understand that the report was the best Stowe CCF has received in the last 15 years or so.

The Stowe Remembrance Sunday Service was an event that all of our Stoic cadets, ex-regular forces officers and staff felt proud to be a part of, and every effort was made by all Contingent members to look their smartest and pay their respects. The Headmaster and Lady Stringer inspected the Contingent prior to the Service of Remembrance and the Headmaster then made well-earned promotions across the three Sections. A number of senior cadets were involved in the Service in various roles, including escorting the wreath bearers into Chapel and throughout the Service, led in by the immaculately turned out Banner Bearers. All duties were carried out with dignity and pride. An enjoyable family lunch in the Music Room followed for the Headmaster, our governors, Chair of OS, CCF officers, guests, cadets with key roles and their parents.

In March, the Sixth Form cadet NCOs and CCF staff enjoyed the occasion of a formal Regimental-style Mess



Dinner Night, held in the Music Room. Brass 'Post Horn Gallop' played us into the dining room, large silver pieces adorned the tables and our guest speaker, Captain Anthony Harris, ex-Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, talked about some of the best qualities of a leader that he had observed during his time in the Infantry, (including six operational tours in 7 years). Every person in the room listened intently to his humbling, gritty, salient and inspiring words. The NCOs behaved in an exemplary manner, were excellent hosts, looked dashing and elegant, and all rose to the formality of the occasion, which will now become an annual event.

Individual Cadet Experiences

In October, Cadet CSM Alex Harris was successfully appointed Lord Lieutenant Cadet to Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckingham, and has enjoyed representing Stowe CCF, accompanying him on several public duties, and meeting members of the Royal family. Hot off the press, we have been informed that our bid to secure another Stoic cadet in the role next year has

happily met with success and Cadet CSM Hugo Robinson will have that honour in October.

Over the course of the year, cadets from all three Sections have embraced a variety of opportunities offered by the MOD:

Harry Kirby (Fifth Form, Temple) was successful in his bid for a place on the RAF Summer Camp in Gibraltar last Summer, an experience he thoroughly enjoyed.

Hugo Robinson (Lower Sixth, Grenville) and Cameron Chambers (Lower Sixth, Grenville) had a wonderful week in Bavaria, achieving CCAT Ski Foundation Course, Level 2, while in the UK, William Warde-Norbury (Fourth Form, Grafton) passed two advanced dinghy courses.

Over the year, Hugo Robinson, Cameron Chambers, Mar Martinez-Tomas (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton), Alex Jones (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Ben Shamash (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and Stewart Johnston (Lower Sixth, Chandos) successfully passed week long MOD Leadership Courses, learning much about their differing styles of leadership



and making the most of the opportunity to develop and improve.

We were delighted when we heard that six out of twelve School Senior Prefect appointments for September are CCF NCOs, demonstrating the physical benefits of leadership training that CCF offers.

Hugo Robinson was put forward by 11 Infantry Brigade (SE England) as the single nominee to attend the annual ACF Master Cadet Course. This was an extremely tough and demanding course, physically and mentally, offered for the first time to 10 CCF cadets across the UK. Our congratulations to Hugo for earning the Master Cadet qualification.

ARMY SECTION CCF

The Autumn exercise involved the entire Army Section of 100 cadets. It provided the Fifth Form with the opportunity to hone their field craft and blank firing skills, whilst the new Fourth Form who had only been in the CCF for three weeks, relished the opportunity to take part in an escape evasion serial, which included a gentle introduction to interrogation skills. The more amateur dramatically minded Stoics thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to ‘be vague, digress and avoid questioning’. Only one Fourth Form group out of the nine proved victorious, managing to avoid being caught by the select Sixth Form NCO Hunter Force (although they were quietly disappointed not to undergo

the interrogation serial).

In March, the Fifth Form Army Section and eight volunteer Lower Sixth NCO’s deployed to Swynnerton Army Training Camp, where the focus centred around an old CIRA (Continuity IRA) scenario, complete with Vehicle Check Points. They were tasked with correctly identifying known CIRA suspects (Lower Sixth NCO’s cunningly disguised) from mug shots, and faced the challenge of managing escalating mood crowd scenes, and dealing with suspected IED’s. There was an opportunity to fire on the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer, always popular, and to shake it up a little, the long obstacle course tested section team work and physical stamina as they were put through their paces by regular serving physical training instructors.

In March, eight cadets took part in the annual 11 Brigade Military Skills Competition. Having worked hard in the extra build-up sessions, they displayed their breadth of knowledge and skills in every challenge set before them, in some very adverse weather conditions. A commendable performance.

In April, 44 Fourth Form Stoics took part in an Inter-Section Patrol Competition, laid on especially for us by 4 Royal Logistic Corps, based out of Abingdon. There were a series of stands designed to test and challenge teamwork and military skills, including an observation stand, camouflage and concealment, shooting skills, an introduction to a high cardio indoors military obstacle course and logistic operational capability stands. The cadets thoroughly





enjoyed the experience - their first exposure, for most, to regular soldiers in an Army Barracks.

The Fourth Form also enjoyed a few days adventure training in Cumbria in June, where they took part in caving, rafting, canyoning and ghyll scrambling in Cumbria's refreshingly cool rivers.

Dr Smith summarised the end of year Army Section Summer Camp experience, attended by a record 71 cadets:

'But it was at the CCF Summer Camp that skills and character coalesced. Against the verdant hills of East Sussex, the Army Cadets participated in a week of challenges that stretched the pupils' endurance and proved their fine mettle. Across activities that ranged from weapon handling to axe throwing, tracking to evading, kayaking to mountain biking, archery to ambush, the Stoics rose to each task with a reliable blend of confidence and curiosity: they displayed a clear desire not simply to be the best, but also to learn more. Almost without exception, each stand's leading instructor commented on the Stoics' respectful attitude, with a currently serving Medic whispering that he wished his own troops had the same seriousness that the Fourth Formers brought to bear on their exercises.

Although spending most nights at the Army training base in Crowborough, the Army cadets glowed with good fortune: while occasionally testing hydration limits with heat, the weather was impeccable - and thus made for perfect camping on an overnight exercise, which culminated with a series of promotions for Fourth Form and Lower Sixth students. As a fitting coda to the week's training, the cadets took part in the camp-wide skills competition. Of the nine teams competing, Stowe's two teams took third and seventh places, securing top scores in several events. Of particular note was the School's representation on the 25m range, where we achieved both the top team but also the top shooter, with Tavish Struthers (Lower Sixth, Bruce) ranking as the best shot of the 430 cadets in the camp.

Scores and medals clearly are of value, but dim in significance with the actual achievements enjoyed by the Stoics. They comported themselves with dignity and, whether breathless on a mountain bike or eager on an ambush, they gained an insight into the discipline and self-reliance that will form the cornerstone of their future successes.'

Major Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander Stowe CCF

RN SECTION CCF

This last year, the RN CCF Section have been fully engaged in a number of exciting activities.

We have been working hard sailing on the School Lake, gaining some valuable sailing tips from our school sailing instructor, where the cadets have been practicing their seamanship, sailing handling and techniques, chart work and tying ship knots.

We secured field trips to Portsmouth where they could put some of this training to the test and sailed from Portsmouth to Cowes on the Isle of Wight sharing their navigational duties and taking the helm, eventually landing us in Cowes for a well earned fish and chips dinner.

During February, CCF was required to carry out an inspection where we undertook communications procedures, learning morse code, semaphore and flashing light exercises. The inspecting officer was highly impressed with their communication skills and the cadets received some very high praise in our final report.

In addition, we have also been under the water carrying out a Tri-Dive and more recently, we have been to Plymouth where the cadets undertook Damage Control (securing a ship with a flooded compartment) and fire fighting (on a very hot day in June) exercises!

It has been a pleasure working with the cadets this year. I feel that they have grown in confidence with the expectation of what is required from the RN CCF section and as we now break off for the Summer Term, I will be keenly looking at the syllabus and creating our timetable for the forthcoming year.

Lt Nick Zammit, RN Section Commander, Stowe CCF

RAF SECTION CCF

In this centenary year, both of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire OS and of the Royal Air Force as a whole, it is entirely fitting that the RAF Section of the CCF has seen one of its busiest years. For some it started even before the Michaelmas Term began: Cpl Harry Kirby (Fifth Form, Temple) was the first Stoic in recent memory to be selected to attend a cadet summer camp in Gibraltar where he spent a packed week living and working with the various RAF units on this most fascinating of military bases.



Once the Michaelmas Term had begun, the cadets soon moved into the swing of things. The traditional RAF start to the School year saw a closely-fought competition in the annual paper plane competition, a useful rehearsal for the more technical surface-to-air missile competition undertaken for the Biennial Inspection the following term. Elsewhere, with a touch more seriousness, several drill and uniform sessions paved the way for a first-rate showing at the School's Remembrance Service.

In a popular new addition to their usual land navigation exercises, cadets also learned some astro-navigation techniques. For example, finding their location and navigation with reference to the moon and stars, despite some fairly unco-operative weather. Lessons on land and sea survival were put to the test with a camouflage and concealment exercise conceived, planned and executed by the Fourth Form, while all year groups came together to start work on the Stowe RAF centenary commemorative geocache trail.

As always, the highlights of the year remain the field trips and flying opportunities. This year saw visits to the aircraft museums at Duxford and Shuttleworth as well as the opportunity for scuba diving in the School pool, while a memorable day's gliding at RAF Syerston (culminating in four cadets being awarded their Blue Gliding Wings) proved to be an excellent augment to the annual air experience

flying on the Tutor aerobatic aircraft at RAF Benson.

As the year ends, the cadets are getting ready for their next events. Spurred on by his Gibraltar experience last year, Harry Kirby (Fifth Form, Temple) will be spending this summer at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, while Sgt Rowan Brudenell (Lower Sixth, Grenville) has beaten considerable national competition to be awarded a coveted flying scholarship with the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme.

As ever, I should like to extend my sincere thanks both to the cadets for their spirit, humour and general willingness to get stuck in, as well as to Mr Parnaby and Mrs Murnane for their selflessness and professionalism in helping to run the Section.

Mr Jon Murnane, RAF Section Commander, Stowe CCF

So, another really good and busy year across all three sections. Of course, none of this could be carried out without the enthusiasm both of our cadets and of our fantastic group of officers and volunteer staff whom I thank most sincerely for their continued hard work, humour and professionalism. We look forward to delivering another successful year of cadet experiences, leadership and adventure training opportunities to all of our cadets next year.

Major Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander Stowe CCF



Bangladesh Cadets and Staff Visit Stowe School: 20-29 June 2018

Stowe and Stowe CCF were delighted to welcome a party of 12 Bangladesh cadets, aged 16-18, and 3 staff to Stowe in June.

One cadet from each of the 12 Bangladesh cadet colleges was selected, with each college place already hotly fought for, from a pool of 600 pupils. Needless to say the calibre of the cadets was extremely high and they were a pleasure to host.

The 10 day visit programme was truly packed...

After 18 hours of weary travel, our guests were quickly welcomed into West, Bruce, Grenville and Walpole Houses, where Housemasters, Matrons and Stoic Lower Sixth cadets scooped them up and made them feel at home. Their first day at Stowe started with Chapel and hymns, so classically British Public School at its best, with the brass pitching beautifully from the heights at the rear of Chapel. This, combined with the beauty of Stowe, as they were shown around the Mansion and its grounds, had a mesmerising effect and reminded us all how lucky we are to work in such a spiritually uplifting place. Our guests received an illuminating introduction and background to Stowe from the Second Master, Mr Robinson, and Dr Potter gave an academic brief which they also found intriguing. They were most interested to compare the vastly contrasting schooling and academic path that Stoics follow. The pupils were dispatched to different lessons with their Stoic Lower Sixth cadet host counterparts and thoroughly enjoyed their first taste of British academic lessons. Meanwhile the three Bangladesh Staff visited Mr Cuddy's history lesson. They had been studying the British Empire in India and one of the Bangladesh staff actually gave a small talk about how important 1857 was to them, personally, and for Bangladesh. Mr Cuddy relayed how: "The Stoics left the classroom buzzing as they had received an excellent alternative view."

After lunch, Mr Knott ensured a fine cricket match with Stoics from our first and second teams. Bangladeshis have cricket in their blood and love the game, but the sight of our boys did gently encourage them to happily accept mixing up the teams. It was a wonderful sight on the sun drenched South Front to see the match ensuing, (and a bit of football going on in the background as well, with some of the visiting German students joining forces with our Bangladesh visitors against Stoics.)

A BBQ followed the cricket and all of our Lower Sixth Stoic cadet NCO's excelled at hosting our visitors. The Headmaster addressed our guests, (who had all done their homework on Stowe and were able to answer most of his testing questions!) Exchanges of gifts were made and the Head presented each Bangladesh cadet and staff member with an individual crystal tankard and CCF tie or lapel pin.

The following day, they were driven into Central London, met at Wellington Barracks and escorted to Buckingham Palace to ensure a good view of the Palace Forecourt for the



Changing of The Guard. There they received a Ceremonial Brief and explanation of exactly how the Queen's Guard duty was to be handed over. Then back to the Officers' Mess in Wellington Barracks for coffee, followed by lunch and an opportunity to meet the Guard Commander and Company Sergeant Major of the Rifles' Palace Guard who was happy (and relieved) that the traditional 140 paces a minute march (almost run), off the palace forecourts went well; this was a 'first', expressly granted permission by Her Majesty the week before. It was a flawless and an impressive sight, and the CSM could breathe comfortably again.

A visit to Oxford was the next in the programme and the Ex-Bangladesh Cadet Society, based out of London, galvanised 15-20 to host the group, with Major de Gale and Sgt Sprules joining them for lunch. The curry was wolfed down by some who were homesick for Bangladesh food, (despite our Stowe chef's very best efforts!). More presentations and briefings ensued over the next three hours and then the stronger stomachs of our guests got seriously stuck into some major shopping. Primark and Sports Direct were the requested venues of choice and they were then not seen for the next few hours, returning with footballs to present to their Colleges and endless gifts for relatives and friends. Luckily, Qatar Airways has a 30kg baggage allowance.

The Bangladeshi cadets and staff were a pleasure to host and enormously grateful to all involved in looking after them and ensuring their visit was such a huge success. To their credit, after the culture of Stowe, Oxford and London, they all entered fully into the spirit and fast and furious pace of Army Summer camp for six days. They returned to Bangladesh having made good friends, and enjoyed a life enhancing and unique 10 day visit. Major Himel, the Bangladeshi Parachute Regiment Adjutant emailed to say: "The Journey from 20 to 29 June 2018 was colourful with lot lessons and joy. I think when you are there nobody can be bored anytime. All the members had been appreciating about the hospitality of Stowe staffs and will never forget the visit."

Dr Smith and I much look forward to taking 12 Stoic cadets to Bangladesh in October Half Term, to visit some of their Colleges, do some charitable work with the Rohingya refugees out of Cox's Bazaar and be exposed to culture and adventure of a country so different to our own, geographically, economically and culturally. We look forward to broadening our horizons on an utterly unique and tailor-made visit.

Major Jan de Gale, Contingent Commander Stowe CCF



Model United Nations

MUN at Stowe is back! Out of a busy room of thirty interested students, nine were selected to represent the School at CamMUN, a brand new MUN conference organised by the Stephen Perse Foundation. Representing France, Vietnam, and the DRC, the Stoics worked hard to prepare position papers and draft resolutions on issues including, sovereignty in the South China Sea, microfinancing in LEDCs, LGBTQ rights in the developing world, and cyber terrorism. They put aside their personal views to pursue the agenda of their allocated countries and persuaded their peers using a mixture of logic, charm, and cunning (in varying proportions).

It was a pleasure to see them grow in confidence in the space of a few days as they addressed audiences of up to thirty delegates at a time. One carefully drafted resolution

by Stefano Beni (Lower Sixth, Chandos) attracted ten signatures after a just few minutes of lobbying, and was voted through along with two other Stowe resolutions. Special congratulations go to Anya Cook (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), who won awards for Best Spoken Delegate in the Economic and Social Committee, as well as Highly Commended Delegate.

Congratulations to all the students involved, and a special thank you to Andrew Bowman (Politics) and Fran Shah (History and Politics) for their amazing dedication to MUN this year. Next year's Sixth Form: watch out for London International MUN in November and CamMUN in March!

Dr Peter Dennis, Teacher of Philosophy & Religion

CREATIVE WRITING

This room has seen rainbows of emotion and untold anecdotes. It's silent, but this absence of sound creates room allowing my thoughts to swim freely. If you were to peep through the crack of this office door, what you would see isn't anything but ordinary. Ahead of you is a sofa with a blanket thrown over it - probably showered with rogue cat hairs. To the right stands a wooden desk, scratched and dented from endless nights of relentless work. A chair sits just underneath the desk, its spine slightly bent but still a relief for its user none the less. Resting dormant in the four tiered cabinet of drawers is a multitude of documents. These haven't been looked at for years; however, they have become a part of this room for those who know it. Ninety degrees to your left is a mirror. Gold detailing lines the outside, framing the image in the middle with a certain air of sophistication. And next to that, a piano - the pièce de resistance. This wooden upright proudly looks over the room, its ivory teeth caged by the lid masking the beauty that lies inside. This room is perfectly adequate office space. Until the music starts playing, then it becomes a room filled with so much more. Inspiration.

In the spotlight that one beam of light produces, dust pirouettes and twirls in time with the waltz. As do the pictures sitting on the surface of the piano, they come alive too. These memories start to flood the room, charging the fingers tickling the piano so delicately to play with even more emotion and persuasion. A piece of paper looking like a complex join-the-dots is what's conducting the music that electrifies this small space. The solitude of this room offers a sanguine place for me to go. It's a place I retreat to as a safe haven and turn my encounters of the day into pieces of music, something to reflect on. Spectators occasionally float in and out of the room. However, the music overwhelms and consumes. Ridding you of any sense of space or time, removing one's inhibitions - it takes over. The bars of music control the atmosphere of the room and the furniture duly becomes an audience that listens intently until the piece is finished.

The scent of this wood infused room before the music starts playing is both refreshing and calming - but when the keys are played, the smell becomes heightened and suddenly you become aware of the metallic rusting of the cabinet, and the smell of read books that lie on the desk. All these smells are blended together, creating a blanket of pleasantness to fall over the room. This space is my comfort smell. My source of inspiration. My happy place.

Welcome to my music atelier.

Clara Tearle (Third Form, Queen's)



Beagling

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by so quickly. My joint-master Freddie and I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of beagling this year from hunting each Wednesday and Saturday throughout the hunting season, to the annual puppy show held in June. We've been fortunate enough to have been on tours up and down the country. The season commenced with a fantastic tour up to Northumberland by the kind invitation of the Leylands. Freddie hunted the hounds well on the unfamiliar terrain up by the Scottish border and the hounds flew for two days, then Harry Heathcote (Fifth Form, Grenville) had a go on our third and last day, and despite the rough conditions, led the hounds excellently. After Half Term, we continued to hunt in our country and meeting on both Wednesdays and Saturdays experienced the ups and downs of the scent. Shortly before Christmas, a fantastic tour down to Hemsworth Farm in Dorset with the Alexanders was much appreciated which gave the hounds a good boost and run! Hunting continued throughout January, February and early March, with a final tour in Coniston, Yorkshire which was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all, a sincere thank you to the Bannisters!

I'm sure Freddie and all other whips will agree that this season will be one to remember.

The annual Hunter Trials held at Primrose Hill, Gawcott was a huge success with valued funding for the coming year. Huge thanks to the Strangmans for the excellent effort and organisation.

Our puppy show held in June was great fun and enjoyed by all, with help from the warm weather. 'Davenport' was the winning hound and special thanks go to all those who were involved.

Both Freddie and I would like to thank all of the whips and followers we have had this year for their continuous support, but the biggest acknowledgement goes to Philip Kennedy, our KH and Lucy Kennedy for their unwavering patience and help throughout this season.

Freddie and I are very grateful for the opportunity to have been masters this year and we both look forward to the coming season!

Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley (Lower Sixth, Stanhope)

CROSSFIRE

'Come and see', is what a disciple once said to his brother after meeting Jesus Christ. The same invitation is extended via Crossfire each week to the Stowe community!

Friday evenings in StoweBucks this year have as usual been marked by the warm atmosphere, Geoff Higgins' biscuits and by a short but thought-provoking talk from the Bible with a range of engaging speakers, mainly from outside Stowe but also from an expanded home team. The 'Parables that Punch' series in the Michaelmas Term did just that, and provoked thoughtful discussion and responses to the greatest teacher of human history. Into the Lent Term and a series on 'The Character of God' - quite a big question answered expertly by our speakers under such titles as 'A God of Compassion in a World of Suffering' and 'A Personal God in a World of Billions'. The Summer Term's series on 'God's Wisdom for His World', based mainly on the Psalms, was full of the joys, challenges, assurances and purpose of the Christian life.

Other notable highlights included the Summer Term BBQs (during the heatwave) and the Lent Addresses (during the freezing 'Beast from the East'), led this year by Rupert Shelley, an ex-army officer now working for a Christian charity, who spoke engagingly on thought-provoking issues.

Mr Henry Swayne, MiC Crossfire



Creative Fashion Textiles

This year has been an exciting year. With increased space in the Art School, pupils have been able to produce more imaginative, creative projects, many requiring a high level of skill. Some of these featured in the Charity Fashion Show organised by Emilia Pacia (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) in March. This was in aid of the Leonard Cheshire Disability Charity. A substantial amount of money was raised and it was one of the highlights of the year. Pupils have learnt new techniques to produce a variety of bags and accessories with jewellery making being a hit with all year groups. For the second year running, Myles Ryan (Fourth Form, Grenville) has been awarded a prize for Fashion, many of his innovative designs were modelled in the fashion show and Olivia Omotajo (Fourth Form, Stanhope) has been awarded a prize for her creative design projects. Congratulations to them and to all my enthusiastic pupils, well done.

Mrs Jo Banks, MiC Textiles





The Arts Award Programme has enjoyed its most successful year yet, with over 20 Stoics completing their Bronze and Silver Awards. Particularly outstanding projects were undertaken by Mimi Pearson-Gee (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Celest Lamberti (Fourth Form, Stanhope), both of whom recorded original songs; Theoharris Efthymiou Egleton (Fourth Form, Walpole), who wrote a collection of poetry in a variety of forms; Crispin Marshall-Rowan (Fourth Form, Walpole), who wrote and recorded a piano composition and Olivia Omotajo (Fourth Form, Stanhope), who designed and made her own clothing. We hope that many of these Stoics will feel inspired to pursue the Silver qualification next year.

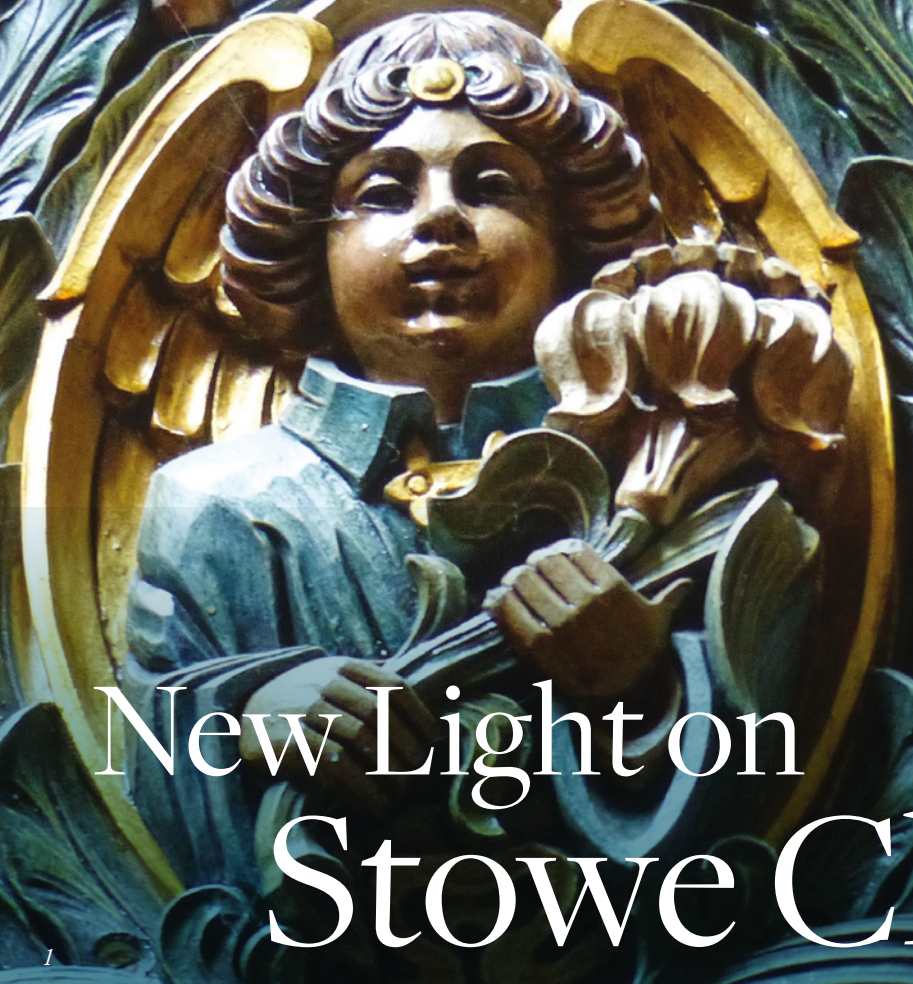
Special mention goes to Samai Lamberti (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Isabel Ward (Lower Sixth, Stanhope), both of whom completed the Silver Award this year. Samai undertook a series of portraits in a variety of media and Isabel designed and made a collection of jewellery. Each of them also undertook a leadership project, working with young children at a Stowe House open day to produce Easter-themed arts and crafts. Both girls will complete their Gold Awards next year, which offer all-important UCAS points to boost university applications.

The Stoics have relished the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of field days this year. In October, a visit to the Northampton Theatres complex, which comprises the Derngate, the Royal Theatre and the newly opened Errol Flynn Filmhouse, was very informative. Stoics enjoyed a backstage tour with Trudy Bell, Head of Creative Learning

at the theatre, and the opportunity to see Simon Curtis' critically acclaimed new film, 'Goodbye Christopher Robin'. In April, we set out for Stratford-Upon-Avon for the opportunity to engage in a fascinating backstage tour at the Royal Shakespeare Company's 'The Other Place'. We were shown around their large rehearsal spaces, visited the new studio theatre and saw the vast array of costumes that the company hires out to other theatre, film and television companies. For our June field days, the Arts Award group embarked on their three day programme of workshops in dance, drama, creative writing and singing, culminating in a much anticipated trip to see 'Matilda' at the Milton Keynes theatre on the Wednesday. The three days were hugely enriching for the students and their appreciation of the show was greatly enhanced by the insight they had gained into the range of skills and roles that bring a play from page to stage. I was incredibly impressed with the positive attitude demonstrated by the Stoics, all of whom threw themselves wholeheartedly into each of these activities, often stepping out of their comfort zones to embrace new challenges.

I would like to thank Mr Bayley for helping me run the Arts Award so successfully this year. It has been a pleasure to see the young people take the initiative to explore and excel in a range of art forms and a privilege to help facilitate each of their individual arts journeys. We look forward to another varied, enriching and inspiring year in 2018/19 with our new uptake of Fourth Form Stoics.

Mrs Lucy Miller, MiC Arts Award



New Light on Stowe Chapel

Stowe Chapel is one of the last and longest commissions of Sir Robert Lorimer, a lover of music and one of Scotland's most famous architects, apart from Edinburgh's Scottish National War Memorial. Lorimer personifies the Scottish Romantic Movement, and Stowe Chapel is England's most outstanding Scottish Romantic building.

In 1926, the Governors asked four architects, including Lorimer, to submit designs for a Chapel that would re-use the panelling from the Aurelian Room, and would seat 600, with scope for later expansion. They wanted the Chapel to form one side of Chapel Court, although there were those who thought the site of the derelict Temple of Concord and Victory would be more practical. They hoped to spend £20,000 'on the actual fabric'. Lorimer's design was based on basilicas such as Rome's Santa Sabina, but in Renaissance style to harmonise with the Mansion. He re-used columns from the Temple of Concord and Victory and featured a spacious and lofty nave, a slender bell-tower, a chancel and apse, a transept projecting into Chapel Court for the organ, and space for expansion, facing what is now Queen's House.

The Governors then revised their requirements. They now wanted to build the whole Chapel at once; they did not want any transepts; instead a pillared entrance portico at the south end, and they hoped to spend £30,000-£35,000. Lorimer revised his design, and it was his revised design on which the Governors finally settled. The design exemplifies what Lorimer regarded as the qualities of great building: "dignity, rhythm, light and shade, mystery, and an appropriate use of materials."

Lorimer estimated the new design at £39,304 including a stone-clad exterior, heating, lighting, and fees. Detailed discussion then followed with the builders, who agreed to build the Chapel for £44,595 8s 6d.

“The design exemplifies what Lorimer regarded as the qualities of great building: “dignity, rhythm, light and shade, mystery, and an appropriate use of materials.”

Always concerned about ratio and proportion, in designing the Chapel, Lorimer started from the height of the columns from Concord and Victory, which was 22' 5", multiplying and dividing that figure by $\sqrt{2}$ and $\sqrt{3}$ to obtain the key dimensions.

Roxburgh had said that seating for a choir was not needed, since Stowe concentrated on congregational singing, but he later became concerned about where the staff would sit. The answer was to insert stalls down the sides of the Chapel, which gave an effect much closer to that of an Oxbridge College Chapel. To ensure that the stalls did not block any incoming light, Lorimer raised the windows above the level of the stalls by adding extra courses to the walls. This gave additional wall space on the inside above the arcades, prompting him to replace his first plan, for an inscribed

frieze running along the top of the arcade walls, with sixteen large angel roundels.

Leading Edinburgh craftsmen contributed. Charles d'Orville Pilkington Jackson a graduate of Edinburgh Art College noted for his ability to lead a team of carvers, took on carved stonework. Herbert Hendrie, Head of Design and Crafts at the College, provided the stained glass window. Phyllis Mary Bone, a graduate of the College who had studied sculpture in Paris under Edouard Navellier, modelled the animal sculptures. William Myles Johnston, another graduate of the College and later a noted painter of animals and birds, took on the colouring. Thomas Hadden, a leading craftsman and ironworker, made the chancel screen. Morris Meredith Williams, a well-known war artist, designed the tableau of David and the Lion over the South door and painted *The Supper at Emmaus* above the communion table. John R. Sutherland, heraldic painter to Lord Lyon King of Arms, designed the heraldry. Lorimer himself designed the communion table, the Minister's Stalls, the Founder's Stall, and the organ cases. The wood carving was executed by famous Edinburgh names: the two Clow brothers, Nathaniel Grieve, Messrs Whytock & Reid, and Messrs Scott Morton.

The Chapel used innovative building techniques. Lorimer specified extensive use of steel-reinforced concrete, making the Chapel the first major building in Buckinghamshire to use reinforced concrete.

Lorimer was particularly interested in acoustics, and insisted that the builders develop a special acoustic plaster for the upper halves of the walls to absorb sound and give improved acoustics.

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It was at Stowe that Lorimer first used cast or reconstructed stone. The contractor supplying the stone specialised in this material, and the clerk of works, George Pennington, persuaded Lorimer to try it. Simple stone blocks were already machine-sawn not hand-carved, but casting meant that moulded profiles could also be mass-produced. Carved and figured work could be cast close to the desired shape, and then only needed finishing off. This produced a great saving in labour, and reduced the costs of carved work by more than two thirds. Casting is now again being used to reproduce stone sculpture: Lorimer was using this technique at Stowe ninety years ago.

The angel roundels are cast in Parian cement. The original



1. *Angel in Heaven Holding Lily Symbolising Purity*
2. *The Founder's Stall designed by Lorimer*
3. *Singing Angel from a Screen*
4. *Openwork Organ Panel designed by Lorimer*



models were made of plaster and plasticine: two casts were taken from each, but the plasticine details were changed for the second casting so as to give the impression that each angel was different. The castings were painted and gilded in Edinburgh and shipped ready for installation.

The Chapel is a treasure-house of Christian symbolism, drawing on a deep-rooted Christian tradition anchored in the New Testament, though Lorimer naturally omitted any elements that were specifically Roman Catholic.

The Chapel is a treasure-house of Christian symbolism, drawing on a deep-rooted Christian tradition anchored in the New Testament, though Lorimer naturally omitted any elements that were specifically Roman Catholic.

The Chapel exterior addresses all, whether Christian or otherwise: the symbols on the column capitals in the portico represent the Holy Trinity, Christianity's key theological idea. The wreaths and shields were intended to display symbols of Faith, Hope, Charity, Truth, Courage, Wisdom, Justice, Purity, thus presenting the Christian life in psychological terms; but Roxburgh, fearing the Governors' reaction, had them replaced with the coats of arms of the School's Boarding Houses.

The symbols at the heads of the projecting bays represent the four winged beasts of the book of Revelation round about the throne of the Lamb; while the symbols on the pilaster capitals represent the twelve apostles, linking the walls of Chapel with the walls of the heavenly Jerusalem as described in Revelation. The exterior angels with their mouths open in song are those described by Revelation as singing, Worthy is the Lamb. The lion and tiger rainwater heads represent wildness and violence driven outside the Chapel.

Above the main door are symbols of Christ, the Chi-Rho and Alpha and Omega, and a carving of David, Christ's ancestor, to give effect to Christ's statement, I am the Door.

In the nave, the organ cases depict plants, birds, and monster heads, illustrating the power of the organ to reflect all human emotion. The golden Archangel Michael above the organ with his flaming sword symbolises Righteousness overcoming Wrong. The stalls display the Christian life in parable form: the flowers and fruits remind us of God's gift of nature; the playful monkeys symbolise self-indulgence; inoffensive animals represent the Christians; whilst carnivorous animals, grotesque heads, and monsters represent Evil. Higher up on the stalls, angels in Heaven play.

The angel roundels symbolise the heavenly realm. Lorimer took the content of their discs from the Benedicite, but by placing the angels in Heaven, and by depicting the priests, the men, the beasts, even the fishes, with their mouths open in song, he has merged the Benedicite with the song of Revelation, Blessing, and Honour, and Glory, and Power, be unto the Lamb.





As we enter the chancel and apse, the bronze figures on the chancel screen again represent the heavenly throne's four attendants, while the twelve bunches of grapes represent the twelve apostles. The angel on the chancel arch keystone bears a flaming heart, representing Enthusiasm or the state of mind needed if we are to make our way into Heaven. The marble selected for the chancel flooring, with its watery appearance, reminds us of the sea of glass like unto crystal described in Revelation. In the stained glass window, the twelve stars recall the crown of the woman clothed with the sun, and the seven circles surrounding the sun recall the seven principal planetary orbits. The steps leading up to the communion table represent worship's capacity to lead us up to a higher reality. Everything comes together in the communion table itself, the Chapel's architectural climax, which represents the Throne of the Lamb.

The costs became clearer as the Chapel progressed. The builders eventually charged £47,330. Professional fees, sculptured stonework, chairs, window casements, the heating system, and other extras took the total up to £57,155 3s 7d; while the organs cost £4,248 and the stalls (funded by donors) £5,330 2s 9d. In total therefore, the Chapel cost £66,733 16s 4d, or in 2018 prices £4.25M.

In purely architectural terms, the Chapel is a remarkable building, technically innovative and skilfully ornamented. More importantly still, it is a parable of the Christian life and an earthly representation of the heavenly Jerusalem.

In purely architectural terms, the Chapel is a remarkable building, technically innovative and skilfully ornamented. More importantly still, it is a parable of the Christian life and an earthly representation of the heavenly Jerusalem.

David Critchley has been studying the Stowe material in the Lorimer archives in Edinburgh. This is a shortened version of a paper delivered to the Lorimer Society at Kellie Castle, Fife, in May 2018. It is hoped that a full report will be published in Records of Buckinghamshire 2019.

Mr David Critchley

Photography: Alan Longworth and the author

5. Roundels Showing Winds and Lightning Praising the Lord - Two Variants of the Same Model
6. Symbols of the Twelve Apostles
7. Cheeky Tortoise and Squirrel
8. Angel Playing the Harp
9. Monkey Defending its Young
10. Chancel Arch Keystone Symbolising Enthusiasm
11. Winged Lion Symbolising St Mark
12. The Original Chapel Alms Dish
13. War Memorial Book of Remembrance
14. Pelican Feeding its Young with its own Blood Symbolising the Sacrifice of Christ
15. Phoenix Symbolising Resurrection





Rugby

1st XV

In what has proved to be a very testing season, the players who represented the 1st XV this year, have on the whole acquitted themselves exceptionally well and their effort and enthusiasm cannot be brought into question. The weekly fixture list saw the addition of Eton, Rugby and Marlborough, the latter being the first game of the season, and after the rather comic ending that created a Stowe victory - we always knew it was going to be 'one of those seasons.' The only other Saturday win was against the local rivals: Uppingham and it was pleasing to win the last home fixture. In the National Cup - Stowe entered the Natwest Champions Cup which sees the best 32 schools in the country battle it out and a very convincing first round win against St Albans saw Stowe produce their best performance and victory (for some years) to defeat Millfield 19-12 on the North Front - a great afternoon that will hopefully live long in the memory for the players.

Thanks to Taju Atta for Captaining the team and the host of Upper Sixth Formers who ably supported his endeavours.

Mr Alan Hughes & Mr Mike Rickner

2nd XV

This was one of those seasons that does not look good on paper. However, when the season is dissected in more detail, there are many positive points that lie underneath the win/loss record that can be held up as 'victories' when viewed in a

different light. There is no doubt that in adversity, one's true character is exposed, and when the going got really tough, I was genuinely impressed with the irrepressible attitude shown by some of our Senior players. It is this strength of will and resilience that will hold these young men in good stead later in their careers. Harry Weiss, Luke Aust, Freddie Horlick and Alexey Sviridov would certainly come under this bracket, with 'never say die' attitudes right through to the end of the season. Leadership is far harder when the team is not getting much return for their efforts and whilst we necessarily had to change the Captain several times through the season, I was very impressed with Jim Jackman, who unfortunately had a season-ending shoulder injury in week three, Henry Gauvain, who then got promoted to 1st XV duties, Jack Polturak who was willing to adapt and play several positions to help the team and finally, Alex Harris who was simply a superb example of a school boy leader with unquestionable integrity and effort for his team. I take my hat off to these young men who I am sure will all go on to have very positive influence on others in the future. Tayo Sotuminu was our most potent attacking threat, with sheer pace and an unpredictable style that proved to be very entertaining for the Stowe team and spectators. Nick Wood,



Luke Aust and Mark Kanjana had several remarkable ball carries, with surprising acceleration seeing them through the first line of defence. Tom Worrall and Rufus Easdale did their best to organise the defence and add some structure to attack. Unfortunately our pack was far lighter than the opposition, so first phase ball was difficult and once the opposition found out they could gain easy yards through keeping the ball tight, we were powerless to stop them.

Most matches ended with scores that were within 20 points and this was usually the difference due to the opposition's

superiority in the forward pack. In open play and phases of free flowing rugby we were a match for most teams. With a team that had to be changed for every match of the season, training was made ever more challenging but again the team made the best of the situation and kept their energy and spirits up to the end.

The enduring memory I have of this season is the strength of character shown by some very impressive young men. That, for me, was a great success.

Mr Craig Sutton



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3rd XV

The 3rd XV enjoyed a mixed season, with a tough beginning of the season leading to a more pleasing end. The first game against Marlborough was difficult having only had one session together, but the boys showed some resilient defending in wet and challenging conditions. The next game against Cheltenham was an agonising last second defeat, where the boys had come back from 12-0 down to draw 12-12 with tries from Tufnell and Jacobson. Unfortunately a last ditch penalty cost us and we lost 15-12. Against Stamford on a windy day the boys didn't perform well and were beaten convincingly against a hard running team. With a hard fought defeat against Eton coming midweek, in blazing hot conditions, the season was off to a poor start with 4 defeats from 4. The boys then went to Oundle and in a frustrating match defended poorly to lose without registering on the scoreboard.

After discussions at training, hard work and a more focussed approach, everyone understood it was time to turn the season round. Orchestrated at fly half by Lochie Shillington, the team went out against Bromsgrove with renewed focus. In the back line Moseley was an imposing figure, making breaks and defending well. Watkins attacked from 15 with style, and Harry Fennel provided good service. Whitehead and White anchored the scrum at prop, and Woodhouse

hooked well all season, growing into the position, he began running at pace with power. Birdwood and Holmes began regularly winning lineout ball, and showing dancing feet to get the ball moving forward and the team on a roll. The loose forwards of Baker, Jacobson and Hawkings-Byass pounced on ball in the loose and tackled like demons. A tightly fought 14-10 victory was sealed, and with a 'W' behind them, confidence was up. With the silky Will Garrett and powerful Josh White coming back in, and Aderogba on the wing, quality and quick successive victories against quality schools Rugby (17-12) and Bedford (26-21) meant the boys were on a roll and had the chance to have a positive season with three games left, having lost the first 5. A comprehensive victory against Kingham School (53-0) was backed up by a very pleasing win against Uppingham (22-0) with both defence and attack dominating the opposition. Having played 10, lost 5 and then won 5, the boys had proved their early promise. Unfortunately, on a freezing cold day away at Oakham, the conditions (and referee) were not in our favour and we lost a competitive fixture, twice coming back into the game. A disappointing end to what turned into a good season, and with the majority of the team coming from Lower Sixth students, valuable experience for all.

Mr Tom Elwell & Mr Brian Hart



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4th XV

In September of 2017, the 4th team began their Michaelmas journey at home to Marlborough College, a big and capable opposition who put them to the test right from kick off. Despite some solid commitment from James Watkins and Max Whitehead, Marlborough found it too easy to exploit the gaps and ended the match 0-47, giving the Stoics plenty to think about before their next game.

A coaches returned, and a return to form followed, with a 41-0 victory against Cheltenham College with tries from Atekoja, Montgomery, Edwards, Percy and two fantastic braces from James Watkins, with Louis Redfern successfully converting three of the scores and the team gave a performance that suggested they were back to winning ways.

Following the loss away to Stamford (19-7), the defeat away to Eton (37-12), the narrow loss away to Oundle

(17-15) and the defeat at home to Rugby (34-12), the 4th team found their winning stride. A return from Half Term saw a victory at home to Radley College, with Stowe dominating the first half and going in at the break 31-5 up with a hat-trick of tries from Louis Redfern. Radley rallied in the second half but Stowe added a further 3 second half tries to seal a 52-10 victory.

Confidence surged through the veins of the boys, and it was evident in the training sessions as Senior players such as Niko Montgomery, Harry Middleton, Tom Mayhew and Zak Edwards stepped up to the mark to lead the 4ths through a series of challenging training sessions, ensuring that we would build on our recent success. And build on them we did, with further victories coming at home to Uppingham School (49-7) and a personal highlight which was a dogged win away against Oakham School (17-5) demonstrating that this cohort were more than a match for many of their opposition.

Once again, to be the sole coach in charge of these boys was very much a privilege. What remained very much intact over the course of the season was the culture of the 4th team; playing with dignity, competing with cohesion and a respect for the sport that any coach would be proud of. Well done boys, you made my Michaelmas 2017 one to remember.

Mr Martin Quinn



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5th XV

The mighty 5th XV has had another outstanding season and ended the season with the best playing record above Yearlings level winning 4 of their 6 matches played. The players were committed to the open free flowing style of rugby which epitomised what this team stands for. Training was fun and a joy to have such committed players at this level. The season kicked off with a home fixture against Marlborough. Marlborough took an early lead but the two sides were level 17-17 at the interval. Two further tries helped seal a fine 27-22 victory.

The first of two defeats came at the hands of Stamford. By the time the team had got the bus journey out of their system they were 14 points adrift. Unfortunately, the team was unable to convert their possession and territory into points and there was no additional score by either side in the second half.

Eton took an early lead in the next match but the Stowe pressure finally took its toll and the teams went in level at half-time. An impressive second half display saw 4 tries scored with three converted and the 31-10 victory was thoroughly deserved. In the away match at Oundle the team trailed 24-0 at half-time but a spirited second half performance saw 4 tries scored. With seven regular players out the 52-24 loss was by no means a disgrace. With Rugby School unable to field a 5th XV the 5th XV's next encounter was against Radley where the team ran in 8 tries in an impressive 52-10 victory. With Uppingham and Oakham unable to field a 5th XV the Bedford game alas was the last game of the season. The team did not disappoint and pulled away after a tight start to win 25-5.

Another quality season with a quality group of players! Captains James Carley and Charles Rivington were outstanding!

Squad and appearances below:

James Abbot-Davies (5), Thomas Abbott-Drake (5), Harry Arkwright (3), Al-Ameen Atekoja (1), James Carley (5), David Choo (2), Isaac David (6), Arthur Fenwicke-Clelland (4), Edward Harding (6), Zachary Ibraheem (3), Arthur Luard (3), Julian Ma (5), Felipe Maney (2), Arthur Marriott (5), Henry McQuitty (6), Nyle Neckel (3), Max Omlie (6), Harry Pullin (5), Joshua Riley (3), Charles Rivington (6), Hugo Robinson (6), Sebastian Salisbury (5), Max Shannon (2), Hector Smiley (3), Oleg Solovyev (5), Victor Topa (2), Edward Wentworth-Stanley (6), Ralph Williams (3).

Mr Isaac Michael

Colts A



Played 11, Won 5, Lost 6

Having seen the team endure a difficult season at U15 level, the Summer Term was used by me as key preparation for the U16 season ahead. During the weekday evening skills sessions, it soon became clear that there was a great deal of enthusiasm and talent within the squad with which to work and with correct selection (getting the boys playing in positions suited to their ability and needs of the team) and a decent pre-season then the prospects ahead looked positive.

Lessons were learned at the pre-season competition at Abingdon and the strengths and weaknesses of the squad quickly evaluated and although the first two games of the actual season were lost, versus Marlborough and Cheltenham. Both games were tight affairs and the team enjoyed long periods of possession but lacked composure in attack. The key to success was overcoming the initial psychological hurdle of gaining that first initial win which would infuse the team with self-belief and allow them to see that their hard work in training would pay off in terms of results. This all-important victory came in round three versus Stamford when the team blew away the opposition with running rugby on a fine Autumnal day on the North Front scoring 5 excellent tries in the process. From that moment on, the team won 4 of their next 6 matches with excellent wins recorded against Oundle 20-19, Kirkham GS 65-7, Bedford 25-21 and the highlight of the season being a stunning 36-14 away win against Bromsgrove with a brand of aggressive 15 man rugby which was a joy to watch for all those on the touch lines. Two very narrow and highly frustrating losses, versus Rugby 10-12 and Eton 7-12, when the team played most of the rugby on the afternoon, were the only blots on the mid-season landscape.

The team then lost to a very impressive Uppingham 12-26 but again were in contention for large parts of the game whilst the very narrow 24-28 loss to Oakham on the final game of the season was an excellent advert for schoolboy rugby with two committed teams playing attacking rugby with the opposition scoring very late to take the spoils. However, this didn't take the gloss off a final tally which read P11, W5, L6.

In terms of personnel, Captain Egan Brosnan made the team tick and proved a very attacking fly half who was a constant threat to the opposition. How refreshing to see him being allowed to develop his game away from the spotlight of 1st XV rugby and help his teammates prosper. The centre partnership of Holmes and Eden provided the rapier and the bludgeon and the wingers saw plenty of ball all season. Le Sueur and Trotman proved dangerous with ball in hand and improved their positional awareness considerably during the season. Fountain at full back proved ever dependable with a good pair of hands under the high ball and looked to counter whenever possible in accordance with the team's ethic of keeping the ball in hand as much as possible. The pack of forwards was a joy to coach. Often much smaller and lighter than their opponents but always hard working, the forwards were courageous and never took a backwards step. The Walpole nuggets of Sekhri and Reed were solid in the set piece and dynamic in the loose, carrying well with ball in hand. Kyriacou and Dooley were from the same mould, clearing rucks and doing the unglamorous work and were probably the two most improved players in the team. Holloway at hooker was ever dependable with his lineout throwing and belied his stature by constantly carrying the ball hard around the rucks and doing the hard yards. In the back row, Comyn at number 8 was the chief ball carrier and when in the mood often sacrificed opposition players with his tackling. Saunders Watson and Butler were the fetchers who provided that important link in attack with their tireless work at the breakdown. Murray came into the team after Half Term once he'd recovered from a long-term injury and showed real talent. All told, the team were a joy to coach, always punctual to training, always eager for the challenge and never shirked the tough fitness sessions in readiness for match day. I wish them the very best for Senior rugby safe in the knowledge that they will be great ambassadors for the School on future Saturday afternoons in the Michaelmas Term. Lastly, a huge thank you to Mr Myring for his expert assistance in coaching the team throughout the season. I know he echoes my thoughts on how enjoyable the season was for players and coaches alike.

Mr Gavin Moffat

Colts B



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The Colts B team had a solid season achieving a feat that few teams will ever have managed at schoolboy rugby level, drawing 3 out of their 9 games. The season got off to a rocky start with 3 losses and a draw in the first 4 matches, however, this did not dishearten the boys and they were determined to come back better and stronger. Touch rugby was used in training to really sharpen their skills and speed up the pace of their game and this was evidenced by a fantastic win against Oundle, 31-22. This was followed by two draws against Bromsgrove and Rugby who provided stern opposition meaning the boys struggled to get themselves over the line for the victory. It was fair to say

that our side wasn't the largest, but they made up for it in their skill levels and often had the pace to run round opposition defenders. Special mentions must go to Finlay Dickerson and Louis Newman who worked tirelessly every game for the forwards and Jack Colebrook, Ollie Taylor, Lyle O'Brien and Micky Shillington for their tireless work in the backs. Mr Teasdale and I would like to thank all of the boys who turned out to play for us this season and thank you for an extremely enjoyable term of rugby. We look forward to seeing many of you represent the Senior sides next year.

Mr Matthew Burch

Colts C

A difficult challenge this season for this squad where a small core of players held the team together. We spent a great deal of time looking to go forward and attack spaces, providing fun sessions during training. Several key players attended under duress but did seem to develop over the season. Getting 15 players together for a Saturday was also a challenge meaning we rarely were able to field a full strength side.

Heavy defeats early on against Marlborough, Eton and Oundle meant digging deep in training. Eventually the side developed structure with a flair for gaining ground and making breaks. A win against Bromsgrove and Rugby School were well deserved and the team grew in confidence. The next match looked daunting against an unbeaten Bedford side with some big scores behind them. With everyone at last available we took them on and won the game 12-5 showing great variety in our play against a highly drilled and predictable attacking side. Although we lost our last game against Oakham, the Bedford match really showed how the team had developed playing rugby that was a pleasure to watch. The team was well supported by parents on the touch line throughout.

Mr Steve Malling



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Junior Colts A

Following a successful and fun tour to Cornwall, having beaten Truro School, the JCA squad competed at the Abingdon School Tournament on Saturday 2 September. This is where the players proved their potential for the season ahead, going unbeaten with wins over Abingdon, Colston's and Solihull. All of which was great preparation for the challenging fixture list to come.

On the first Saturday of term we travelled to Marlborough, and unfortunately Stowe came up against the second best team we were to play all season, they were a very physical side who dominated the ruck area for large elements of the game. Stowe came flying out from half-time, scoring the try of the game, with Toby Moore going over in the corner after great team build up play. A few injuries followed for Stowe, which contributed to the 7-30 score line. A much stronger performance followed against Cheltenham College. Stowe had the lion's share of the possession for the majority of the game, however Cheltenham's ability to finish off limited chances made Stowe pay. Archie Strong and Udo Ekpecham were leading from the front, but players were finding themselves isolated after 5 or 6 phases. Stowe went into half-time 5-0 down, but had played up the slope, so confidence was high for the 2nd half. Xavier Treacher was having his best game so far, with high work rate and great aggression on ruck clear-out. Out wide Archie Holmes looked dangerous every time he touched the ball, but the wingers saw the ball all too infrequently, with dangerous runner Moore starved of possession. This was a well matched affair and Stowe were just edged out 12-17.

A very strong performance against Stamford saw them gain a well-deserved 29-7 victory. The crowd did not have to wait long for the first try, when Ekpecham went bounding through the Stamford defence to dot down. This early pressure did not let up, and great interplay and handling from the Stowe backs saw Ben Sarraff as the beneficiary, who

showed a great turn of pace to get away from the chasing defenders. Play made its way out to Moore on the wing, who showed speed and power to finish near the corner. Ekpecham was a constant thorn in their side, making huge territorial gains with each carry. Oli Garson finished off a superb team try in which offloading and strong running cut the opposition apart. Late on, Tomi Akinyemi dived over for the last try after good forward pressure. Stowe followed up that win with a monumental victory against Eton College. The Stowe team once again started at a ferocious pace, with the forwards making good ground around the ruck and backs making territory with strong running. After five minutes of early pressure, Archie Holmes was tackled just short of the line, but quick thinking from scrum half Flynn Mulcahy allowed him to dive over for the first score. Stowe's tails were up, and off a scrum on the opposition 5m line, Ekpecham picked up from the back, and with two strong hand-offs went over to score. It was now Alex Man's turn to hurt Eton with a hard run, this led to Ekpecham being tackled just short, but once again Mulcahy showed opportunism to dive over from short range. The second half was a scrappy affair with neither team piecing together good phases of play. The big difference between the teams at that point was the 'speedy' Eton winger. Twice he found space and a route round the Stowe defence and punished them. The Stowe team rallied and showed great heart and determination to win the game with last minute tries from Hamza Arbab and Ekpecham.

Further wins against Sir Thomas Fremantle (55-0) in the National Cup and Oundle (17-5) followed. Unfortunately a loss against Bedford in the NatWest National Cup 2nd round meant we were out of the competition, and the following week Stowe faced the strongest opposition of their season, Bromsgrove, who beat us convincingly 0-33. Next up were Rugby School and Stowe came out on top from this scrappy affair and were happy to go into the Half Term break with a win. In slippery conditions both teams

struggled to put together phases, so it was Stowe's strong runners that prevailed. The half-time whistle went, with the score tied at 19-19. Stowe were the first to break the deadlock in the second half, Ekpecham picked blind from a scrum on the opposition 5m line and crashed over. Soon after Ekpecham was once again the happy recipient of a long break from Sarraff who was brought down just short of the try line, creating an opportunity for him to dive over against a disorganised Rugby defence. It was Oli Garson who had the last impact on the scoreboard, when he ran blind off a maul to outwit the Rugby defence, giving the Stowe boys a pleasing 39-24 win.

Stowe came back from their Half Term break with a bang! Following a motivational video created by Mr Copley the boys were raring to go and they produced their best all-round performance of the season. The team made a typically fast and ferocious start with Kirkham Grammar on the back foot straight away. It was from a really well worked lineout move that Stowe crossed the whitewash; Conrad Flint Wood controlled at the back and was we driven over the line. The next score was a beauty, from a set move, a Jack Mercer dummy scissor with Ben Sarraff, created a big hole for Hamza Arbab to accelerate through, he then beat the full back and blindside winger with pace to score a magnificent backs try. Kirkham rallied in the second half and scored three quick tries of their own. This sparked Stowe back to life, the ball

made it wide to Moore following a turnover in the midfield, and Moore showed his trademark pace and finishing skills to dive into the corner. Man of the Match Maxi McNally capped a superb individual display with great support play following a break from Arbab on the wing. A very sweet victory against Bedford School followed. After them knocking us out of the National Competition the boys really wanted this one and put in a workman-like performance to win 24-12. A 62-7 win away at Uppingham proved just how far this rugby team had come, a match they dominated from start to finish. Unfortunately silverware was not to be, when Stowe were edged out of the Buckinghamshire County Semi-Final 7-8. A win on the last Saturday of term was a fitting end to the season. Stowe welcomed Oakham and both sides produced some great rugby in a tight affair, Stowe just edging it 19-17.

Twelve of the squad did not miss a single match, which gives you an indication of their commitment to the cause. Udo Ekpecham was unsurprisingly the team's tops try scorer with twelve and Jack Mercer converted nineteen times. This squad was unified behind an inspirational Captain Archie Strong who was supported superbly by a leadership group of Ekpecham, Flintwood, Mercer and Holmes. This leaves us optimistic for the boys' rugby playing future at Stowe and beyond.

Mr Andrew Jackson & Mr Liam Copley



Junior Colts B

Played 12, Won 6, Lost 6

A very difficult term for our boys this year. We were beset with injuries, sickness and moves to the As. The team worked hard in training and with luck that will show in September 2018.

Not all "Doom and Gloom", however as we have uncovered some real talent. Oscar Koomen has been going well in the backs and Garret O'Keeffe running riot as a front row forward. Hugo Manners has been an excellent Captain, always leading from the front. Good Luck for 2018.

Mr Ray Dawson



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Yearlings A

The U14s promised a great deal and going forward this age group will blossom into a very strong year group which will combine well with the year above them and hopefully the new recruits below them.

Their season was a very stop start affair where we experimented by playing a block against Rugby School which was a risky strategy as we knew Rugby were very strong at this level and had a very good track record as opposed to our boys not having played a competitive game as it was their hockey term. Without little preparation the U14s pulled off a significant victory against their local rivals with a 28-14 victory which was underpinned by both the B and C teams also beating Rugby, what a start!

They didn't have any more games until after Christmas and with a comfortable win against Stamford 37-7 they picked off The Leys and QES Barner before coming up against another arch rival Oundle who put up a real fight on a snow laden pitch that prevented the electric back line functioning but a last minute winner secured their

unbeaten run. Then the weather really did turn sour and a variety of fixtures were lost which robbed them of match sharpness as they faced RGS High Wycombe in the County Final and a their lack of game time cost them particularly in the 1st half where they gave away a rash of penalties and had to come to terms with the RGS forward dominated play. Sadly time ran out and they went down 15-12. They recovered their composure to beat Oundle at home and show their strength in depth comfortably winning 34-19.

Several of the boys caught the eye of the Northampton Saints and have been asked to join the Development Player Programme with them and I suspect there will be further honours down the line for several of this group. As a collective they have some big forwards who if they can raise their work ethic could be a very dominant pack and they have several backs who have blistering pace and balance and given sufficient possession will cause a number of schools a lot of headaches. It will be interesting to watch this group evolve.

Mr Alan Hughes

Yearlings B

Played 8, Won 8

A fantastic Term for this very talented group of boys.

They have worked very hard to get it right, a pleasure to coach. In any other year, many of these boys would have been in the As. Their whole group attitude has been only positive. Well done all. There have been many stars, so I will not list names. However it would be wrong not to thank our Captain, Tom Martineau, great Job!

Mr Ray Dawson



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Yearlings C

The Yearlings C team had a very positive and unbeaten season, scoring 208 points whilst only conceding 72. The boys made progress throughout the term, with many moving up to represent the B team as well. Although the unexpectedly cold weather meant some matches were cancelled, the boys should be congratulated on the way they played.

The season started with an away fixture at Stamford; the boys hit the ground running, and scored freely to take a first half lead. Although Stamford came back in the second half, Stowe won the game 40-15 with Captain Wilf Wyatt scoring a brace of tries. Next we played The Leys and in a confident performance scored another 42 points, with Josh Cowley and Charlie Powell scoring two tries each.

Our toughest game of the season came against QES Barnet, where both teams battled for supremacy. Stowe got an early lead, but Barnet came back strongly and pushed back in the second half restricting Stowe to a 24-12 win. Lewin Mullarkey showed his potential kicking future with a couple of difficult conversions, and more boys got onto the score sheet.

Due to frozen pitches, our final two games of the season were away at Oundle. The first game was a very strong performance, winning 49-0. The boys started aggressively and Oundle's defence evaporated in the second half letting the boys run in a number of well worked tries. We played some flowing rugby, with Harry Bryant's distribution from fly half a key component. George Palin held the full back position firmly, and Bertie Fountain was tireless in the loose, tackling and winning possession back.

In the second instalment we played a much improved Oundle team who took a 14-0 lead at half-time. The boys showed immense character in the second half to come back with Charlie Powell especially running hard and scoring a hat trick of tries. George Carpmael kept the midfield secure and Charlie Crofts and Johnnie Sutherland provided size in attack as we narrowly won 20-14.

Mr Hart and I would like to thank all of the boys for their hard work during the matches in what was a frustrating season due to weather conditions.

Mr Tom Elwell

Yearlings D



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This year's Yearlings D side showed a level of determination and courage that was a true testament to the strength in depth of the team. As a group of hard-working and persistent individuals, this year's Third Form D team pulled together and produced an entertaining season's rugby, filled with the charming combination of spontaneity and dogged teamwork that frequently earns rewards. There is no doubt that the highlight of the season was the incredible victory over Oundle School (one of our biggest rivals in terms of Schools rugby). With only moments of the game remaining, winger and all-round superstar Mwai Kibaki powered through the massed ranks of the Oundle defence to score a fantastic individual try, giving Stowe the win in the dying seconds by a margin of just 2 points. It was a shame that the season's fixtures were curtailed by poor weather, as it was becoming very clear that this was a team full of exciting possibilities and big rugby personalities. Particularly strong performances across the season from Josh Green, Mwai Kibaki, Tom Gibson and Toby Buck (among others) just go to highlight that this is a year group with talent to spare when it comes to crushing our long-time rugby foes. Well done to all who played this season.

Mr Roland Johnson

Colts 7s

Due to the very inclement weather, the U16 rugby 7s season was severely depleted after Christmas. The first tournament at Uppingham School saw the Stowe team make the semi-final having won three of the group games before losing to the hosts and eventual tournament winners. Alas, the Stowe and Oakham tournaments were both cancelled due to the 'Beast from the East', leaving the Rosslyn Park Nationals to conclude the season. Once again the team won three group matches but a first match loss to Whitgift meant the team didn't progress to the knockout stage.

Mr Gavin Moffat



Senior 7s

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Ending the season in the top 4 out of the 194 schools that entered Rosslyn Park was a fantastic achievement and one the squad can be rightfully proud of. With this tournament very much in our sights, we began the season with a large squad and some warm-up tournaments. Uppingham was our first run out and we equipped ourselves reasonably well with a couple of wins against Uppingham and The Leys and some tight near misses against St Joseph's and ultimately Harrow in the semi-final. The freezing weather meant that Oakham tournament was cancelled, so match practice was rather limited as we approached the most important month in the 7s calendar, March. With a longer second half of term this year, we decided the Surrey which is held at Richmond RFC. This is a huge tournament and

a good indicator of who is looking strong for the National 7s which is held two weeks after it. Our first opposition was Hampton School, last year's Champions. Our squad was not at full strength, but this match proved to be the most important of our season. We lost, badly. Our defence was penetrated with ease and we did not manage to convert our possession. The boys were down hearted and puzzled. A further loss to Reeds didn't help the mood, although we did end with a win against UCS. The analysis of those performances was going to prove crucial as we needed to recognise the appropriate attribution (Sports Science students will know all about this!) and work out how we could improve the performance in a short space of time. It was clear having watched the replays of the

Hampton match, that we were doing the right things, but at the wrong intensity. We were too slow, too gentle and we were simply blown away. With our focus firmly set on playing with increased intensity, we trained hard, now with our Academy players back in the squad, and set our sights on Rosslyn Park. On paper, our group would end with a decider against Rugby School. Things did go to form and we had solid wins against Gresham's, Pocklington and Simon Langton, to set up the big group decider. The next 14 minutes saw the Stowe squad hit the 'ZONE' All the prepared moves came off perfectly and this time it was Stowe dictating the pace. Playing with creativity and cohesion, our extremely sharp attack racked up try after try and our ferocious defence proved too well organised for the opposition with a final score of 33-5. Kristian Kay was razor sharp at scrum half and scored a memorable one on one try against the Rugby speedster. Calum Renshaw controlled the game at fly half and Adam Williamson added much of the unseen assisting work to set up the space for our flying winger, Taju Atta to finish off. This was the best performance of the season and to produce this at the crucial time was a joy to watch. The day was not over however, and we needed to get past RGS Newcastle to qualify for the Cup knockout the following day. With the squad on such a high, we simply maintained the form and won comfortably. Josh Armstrong and Dan Biss are not the sort of lads the opposition wanted to tangle with when they are in full flow and they combined very well in the forwards with the wonderfully athletic and fit Ed Anderson.

The night at the Wimbledon Premier Inn after a victorious first day is one of the highlights of the rugby season, as the boys have licence to eat what they wish in order to prepare for the finals day. The second day is organised into

groups and Stowe had Epsom and St Peter's, Gloucester. The match against Epsom certainly looked close on paper as they had enjoyed a very successful season. We started superbly, but never quite got ourselves clear enough to relax. An unfortunate ankle injury to Adam Williamson was a huge blow to the squad as he had proved to be an extremely important factor in our success thus far. At this stage of the tournament we needed to call on the full squad to play their part as the fatigue built within the group. Jamie Moir and Benedikt Spiess were capable and adaptable so could fill in wherever we needed fresh legs. Dom Saghri, Egan Brosnan and Harry Hewlett all slotted straight into the backs and it was notable that they brought increased energy and ideas to the field of play. All 12 players acquitted themselves very well and, in fact, it was Dom Sagri who went on to score the winning try against Epsom by using his impressive pace to outflank their winger. An easy win against St Peter's saw us progress to the semi-final. We beat The Leys easily enough and then faced the 'favourites' Blundell's, who had knocked us out of the Champions Cup in the XV a side competition. A dynamic and confident start saw us go into the lead after six minutes, although they scored on the stroke of half-time to pull ahead by 2 points. The second half saw Blundell's turn on the style and to be fair they deserved the victory and were to go on to the final match and win the whole competition.

Mike Rickner has been fantastic a coach alongside me this season and again we end another 7s season with great memories, having maintained the strong reputation of Stowe 7s and the squad should be immensely proud of their achievements.

Mr Craig Sutton

Senior Girls' 7s



The inaugural Stowe Girls' 7s team took to the field at the Rosslyn Park National Schools' Tournament, the biggest of its kind in the World, knowing that they were breaking new ground. This group of players were the spark behind the team being created and they should be commended for their enthusiasm and commitment. We began training in the Michaelmas Term on an ad hoc basis, due to other sporting commitments, but it was clear right from the start that the squad had what it takes to compete at the required level. The squad of fourteen players was slowly whittled down over the coming months due to injury or lack of time to commit, leaving us a core group of eight players to travel to the tournament on 23 March. Our first game saw us pitted against the eventual winners, Exeter College (who had dropped down from the elite

competition). This was always going to be a baptism of fire for the girls, but they acquitted themselves magnificently showing grit and determination against a well drilled and experienced side. Cleo Leather managed to outpace four of their players, one of which is a current England player, and cross the try line, only to lose control of the ball over the dead ball line. But with this one piece of action the girls proved that nothing was unachievable, however Stowe lost 30-0. With their first real competitive game behind them, Stowe went from strength to strength. Llandoverly College were up next, another hotbed of girls' rugby, with their squad containing a number of Welsh Internationals. This did not scare the Stowe players and they showed their metal, scoring three tries, all coming from speedster Cleo Leather and all perfectly converted by kicker, Olivia Thomas. Yasmin Mama was proving herself to be the 'general' in defence, with some massive hits and great organisation. The scores went back and forth between the two sides, unfortunately Llandoverly had too much fire power, in the end winning 34-21. Had the girls played them in their final game, with another match under their belt I believe they would have won!

At this point Stowe knew they were not going to qualify for the knockout round, but still went into their final match against Sir William Borlase's School determined to get a win. The opposition had reportedly been training for two years with this group of players in preparation, but given our performances in the past two games, we were confident. The Stowe girls smashed their opponents 27-5, with a dominant performance in both defence and attack. Thea Chisnall grew in confidence throughout that game and had some really good touches, and with Jessamy Money-Kyrle and Jaimie McIntosh getting their hands on the ball more, it was a real team performance. Cleo Leather, once again, provided three tries, showing pace and power in open spaces, and Captain Yasmin Mama was rewarded for her hard work with two tries, with Olivia Thomas converting one.

The girls were able to go home with their heads held high, knowing that after only a handful of training sessions and a depleted squad, they faced two of the best sides in the tournament and did not look out of place. The Stowe squad



had attracted attention all afternoon Olivia and Yasmin were interviewed for an HSBC advert and Cleo Leather was scouted by England, who are interested in her joining their elite player pathway. A successful day all round. Well done to all of you who committed to training, I hope you will carry the positive experience with you for the future!

Squad: Yasmin Mama (C), Olivia Thomas (VC), Jessamy Money-Kyrle, Jaimie McIntosh, Thea Chisnall, Jemima Cecil, Cleo Leather, Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki.

Mr Andrew Jackson

FIVES

It has been an unusual year for fixtures. The majority of fixtures are usually played in the Lent Term, but due to the 'Beast from the East' 1 & 2, we had to cancel fixtures due to poor travelling conditions and falling snow sliding off the court roofs. On the upside, we have kept Fives going throughout all three terms which has not happened in at least the last six years. The highlight of the year is always the Inter-House competition where 98 Stoics take part, some for the first time. A great team spirit always runs through this event and hopefully, it will encourage some to sign up to play as an activity next year. Finally, it was nice to see a couple of recent Old Stoics come back to play on Speech Day.

Mr John Skinner



Swimming

The Michaelmas Term always kicks off the swimming calendar with the English Schools' Relays. Stowe fielded a full team sheet of U15 & U18 girls, welcoming new pupils Clemmie Young and Lexie Cook into the Senior Team and Izzy Moffat and Rebecca Snell into the Intermediates. Both teams swam well finishing 8th in the Medley Relay and 5th in the Freestyle Relays. The U15 boys put in a brave performance against schools fielding club swimmers, finishing 5th in the both the Medley and Freestyle Relay. The U18 boys of Guy Woodhouse, Julian Ma, Julian Muhoho and Lucas Davis stole the show for Stowe, coming third in the county round in both Freestyle and Medley Relays.

After Christmas, we headed into the Inter-House competition, but the Lent Term highlight is the Bath Cup,

where we took both U18 boys and girls teams to the Olympic pool in London. It was a tough field for the girls Rebecca Snell, Emily King, Holly Stradling and Jaimie McIntosh swimming against larger schools. The boys' team of Jack Polturak, Guy Woodhouse, Sascha Clark-Jones and Lucas Davis swam their hearts out in the 4 x 100m Freestyle and were pipped to the post for the final, being first reserves.

In February, we saw County representation this year from Lucas Davis swimming 100m Freestyle in the Oxfordshire and North Buckinghamshire County Championship in Aylesbury.

The Lent Term ended with a new fixture against the RGS, High Wycombe and our first ever fixture against Eton, again the Senior boys beating the opposition with convincing wins.

Inter-House

- Junior Boys' Champion: Kevin Xiao, Grafton
- Junior Girls' Champion: Rebecca Snell, Stanhope
- Intermediate Boys' Champion: Lucas Davis, Bruce
- Intermediate Girls' Champion: Holly Stradling, Lyttelton
- Senior Boys' Champion: Guy Woodhouse, Chatham
- Senior Girls' Champion: Kira Evans, Nugent

Boys' House Champions

Juniors - Grafton
Intermediates - Bruce
Senior - Grafton
Overall - Grafton

Girls' House Champions

Juniors - Stanhope
Intermediates - Nugent
Senior - Nugent
Overall - Nugent

On 25 March, Stowe held the final of the Inter-House Swimming Competition, with the heats held during January, the teams had been drilled to perfection by Housemasters, Housemistresses and Houseparents and the trophy was up for grabs.

The Junior competition was top quality with fresh talent entering the pool. Rebecca Snell won the Junior girls' Over Cup and gained the points for Stanhope Juniors to take the Team Cup away from Nugent who have held the Cup for many years. The boys' competition was thrilling with Kevin Xiao taking the Overall Cup, but great swims for Ryan Thomas (Cobham) and Xander Brett (Grenville) gained those Cups in the 50m Butterfly and Breaststroke respectively.

The Intermediate boys' competition saw domination from Bruce, with all the individual trophies going to Lucas Davis and Sascha Clark-Jones. Not surprisingly Bruce took the Intermediate Boys' Overall Winners' Cup. The Inter girls saw Holly Stradling (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) take the Overall Girls' Inter Champion Cup, but Nugent dominated in the Relays

winning the points to take the Inter Girls' Team Cup.

The Seniors had something to prove and the competition was high! The Senior boys had been in training for months and they kicked off with the 100m Front Crawl, the money was on Jack Polturak to take the title, but he took a flying start and was DQ'd, meaning Daniil Samiev (Lower Sixth, Walpole) came in first on a 1:06.97. Guy Woodhouse (Upper Sixth, Chatham) and Julian Ma (Lower Sixth, Bruce) were both fighting for the Overall Senior Boys' Champions Cup and it all came down to the Individual Medley where we saw Guy Woodhouse take the crown. The Senior girls' saw Kira Evans finish her time at Stowe still on top and she showed the School what an excellent swimmer she is winning the 50m Backstroke and Fly and the 100IM and taking the overall Senior Girls' Cup.

Four School Records were broken: Intermediate boys' 50m Freestyle and 100m Individual Medley by Lucas Davis (Bruce), the girls' Open 100m Freestyle by Holly Stradling (Lyttelton) and the girls' Freestyle Relay by Nugent Intermediate girls. Impressive swims came from the Cobham and Stanhope Juniors, Intermediate Nugent and Bruce, and Grafton and Nugent Seniors, all winning both their relays. Fifth Formers won both of the School's Open events this year: 50m Freestyle by Lucas Davis (Bruce) and 100m Freestyle by Holly Stradling (Lyttelton).

Mrs Cheryl Davis

Fencing

The Stowe fencing team has had an impressive year, entering both Cadet and Open competitions, and showing development in both technical and tactical ability.

We now have fencers in all three disciplines of Foil, Épée and Sabre. Training times have increased from one to three sessions per week. Two fencers, in particular, have entered all the British Fencing Cadet competitions and the Elite Épée circuit. These competitions are held in different locations from London and Bristol to Manchester.

Lauren Brigden claimed Gold in East Midlands Women's Foil, starting the BF Cadet ranking at 42 and finishing the season at 20. Edward Don, claimed Gold in Elite Épée Northampton, Silver in Luton Open and Silver in BF Cadet Men's Épée. In addition, Edward won Bronze at the Cambridge Winter Open!

Edward lost 8-15, in the semi to a 31 year old Swedish fencer who is in the Swedish National Team and has been fencing for 21 years! Lauren Brigden was selected to fence in Paris with England fencing U17 - a superb achievement! She also came second in the West Midlands Regionals Championships and has now qualified for the British Youth Championships.

For Public Schools we had four entrants:

Hannah Laurence - Fencing Foil and Épée
Lauren Brigden - Fencing Foil, Épée and Sabre
Hugo Robinson - Fencing Foil, Épée and Sabre
Edward Don - Fencing Foil, Épée and Sabre

At the Public Schools' Fencing Championships held at

the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Edward Don fenced brilliantly to win Silver in the Junior Boys' Épée having finished 24th out of 134 fencers last year. In the Junior Girls' Épée, Hannah Laurence won Bronze but came close to winning Silver. Lauren Brigden won Bronze in the Senior Foil and was unlucky not to progress further. Lauren finished 2nd overall in the combined results of Foil, Épée and Sabre.

Congratulations to Lauren Brigden, Hugo Robinson, Edward Don and Hannah Laurence on being awarded their fencing colours!

The Fencing Club on Tuesday evenings is proving as popular as ever and the younger ones have been inspired by the successes of our team fencers.

We are indebted to Coach, Baldip Sahota, whose guidance has inspired our fencers to new heights. Mr Sahota has attended a Wheelchair fencing training camp in India as Lead Coach. In addition, he has attended the World Championships and the IWAS World Games.

On the teaching staff, Mr Jonathan Cook has supported the fencers throughout the year and ensured their attendance at Towcester Fencing Club every Wednesday evening.

It was a pleasure managing the team at the Public Schools' Championships and seeing their amazing improvement from the previous year. Who knows, there may be a Gold Medal or two for the taking next year!

Mr Isaac Michael

Basketball



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We have enjoyed a thriving Tuesday and Thursday Basketball Club for Junior and Senior boys and girls wishing to play some basketball games where the emphasis is on playing and having fun!

In the Inter-House competitions the Third Form kicked things off in the Michaelmas Term. In the boys' competition, Grenville beat Bruce and Grafton beat Cobham in the semi-finals. Grenville were crowned champions having beaten Grafton in the final. In the girls' competition, Queen's were crowned Champions after winning all their matches with Nugent runners-up, having won 2 of their 3 matches.

At the beginning of the Lent Term. It was the turn of the Juniors to do battle. Bruce beat Chatham and Chandos beat Walpole in the boys' semi-finals. Bruce beat Chandos in the final to be crowned Champions. In the girls' competition it was Nugent's turn to win all their matches, and were crowned Champions with Queen's runners-up.

There were some very tightly contested matches in the Senior competitions. In the boys' competition, Cobham beat Grafton in the semi-final and Temple beat Chandos 8-7 in the other semi-final. Cobham beat Temple 8-7 on the buzzer to be crowned Champions. In the deciding match in the girls' competition, Nugent beat Queen's 8-6 to be crowned Champions.

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

The U16s were not to be outdone and won their match against Bradfield 46-31.

The Senior girls played Thornton twice winning 46-22 in the Michaelmas Term and 45-37 in the Lent Term. Congratulations to Olivia Thomas who scored 35 points in the latter match and set a new individual scoring record for the girls.

Joint Captains Will Garrett and Freddie Tufnell had an outstanding season with great support from the other Upper Sixth players: Alexey Sviridov, Ralph Williams and Adam Williamson and Thea Chisnall who has led by example as girls' Captain for two years!

Basketball colours were awarded to:

Alexey Sviridov, Ralph Williams, Adam Williamson, Ed Anderson and Dave Dooley. Olivia Thomas, Alexandra Harrison, Kianti Subowo, Lily Marriott, Helena Vince, Sonya Sander, Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki and Dilyara Adilkhanova.

Boys' U18 squad and appearances from:

Michael Chen (10), Udo Ekpecham (7), Dave Dooley (8), Edward Anderson (8), David Choo (3), Isaac David (6), Peter Entwisle (3), William Garrett (10), Zachary Ibraheem (2), Lily Marriott (1), Kamsi Mbanefo (6), Alexey Sviridov (10), Frederick Tufnell (10), Ralph Williams (7) and Adam Williamson (6).

Girls' U18 squad and appearances from:

Jemima Laurence, Sonya Sander, Rhea Vankova-Martin, Charlotte Brennan, Gloria Carvalheira-Mobaraki, Thea Chisnall, Tallula Douglas Miller, Alexandra Harrison, Mint Kanjana, Lily Marriott, Leilia Paske, Kianti Subowo, Lee-Ann Sule, Olivia Thomas and Helena Vince.



Boys' U16 team:

Tomi Akinyemi, Michael Chen, Chantip Chinavicharana, Theoharris Efthymiou Egleton, Aris Hatzistefanis, Adrian Subowo, Theo Crane-Robinson, Dave Dooley, Jacob Halabi and William Murray.

Thank you also to the staff, Mr Møller, Mr Morales-Shearer and Mr Karakus who assisted with the coaching during the training sessions and match day organisation. Last but not least - many thanks to Dilyara Adilkhanova for volunteering her assistance as a table official over the last four years.

Mr Isaac Michael



Badminton

This has been a very good year under the Captaincy of Peter Wang with the team performing to a high standard, reporting wins over Wellingborough, Bloxham and Rugby. The team had two very narrow defeats against MCO and Bromsgrove. We were delighted to welcome Rosia and Ben Li and Ellie Butler (competitions permitting) to strengthen our team considerably. As we say goodbye to the stalwarts of the team for the past four years, namely Peter Wang, Freddie Woods, Sam Flint and Dom Jessel, we are also delighted to have welcomed an array of Lower School players namely, Olli Reed, Salmon Chinavicharana, Bijan

de Palleja Fazeli and Eric Stewart Carter, all of whom have represented the School at least once this year.

In the Senior Inter-House - Freddie Woods of Chatham beat Hector Smiley of Bruce in a closely fought final. In the Senior girls, Lottie Hopkinson of Stanhope beat Liv Thomas of Nugent.

In the Junior Inter-House singles, it was a family affair - Ben Li was victorious in the boys' competition whilst Rosia claimed victory in the girls' event.

Mrs Hazel Browne



Cycling

The Stowe School Cycle Club has continued to encourage anyone with an interest in cycling to make use of the facilities and exercise benefits, be that social or for competition. As such an array of Stoics complemented their other sporting interests throughout the year, be that indoors or out on the road. The likes of Jolly Koska, Trennon Bettany, Harry Middleton, and Henry Kirby, all made the most of the Michaelmas Term on indoor trainers in the Drayson classroom with help from Mrs Cope.

Discussions have been taking place over the past two years to include spinning bikes and classes as part of the School's activity programme. A venue was eventually found to enable the vision to become a reality. Of course, being at Stowe this was made even more exceptional with the Queen's Temple as the designated space for twelve new spinning bikes, delivered and installed in the Christmas holidays. Having a bike at Stowe or being out on the road was no longer an obstacle to enjoying this form of exercise. As part of the envisaged plan, this enabled Stoics of any ability or level to take part at the same time. Since their arrival, the bikes have been a great success, used for testing, alternative rugby training sessions, recovery sessions and sponsored money raising events by Stoics. Spin classes take place almost every day of the week courtesy of a team of staff led by Ms Shah, working through a range of sessions and playlists using the giant screen and sound system!

Harry Kirby has been the competitive constant of Stowe cycling making this his main sport and flying the flag in the various competitions that he has entered this academic year. A carefully constructed programme ensured that he

was able to be competitive during this important GCSE year. The goal at the end of last season took place in the Michaelmas Term at the National Youth Championship Final for South East Midlands and the GHS Trophy. The 10 mile time trial took him 23 minutes and 12 seconds, placing him in 35th place out of 132 competitors. One week later, Harry competed at the Road Time Trial Council's National Championship. It was a windy, undulating 11.8 mile circuit and Harry just missed a medal in his category, coming fourth in a time of 26 minutes and 24 seconds. He was the 3rd fastest 15 year old and 11th Junior out of a total 74.

As the year has progressed, so too has Harry's time trialling results, the first big test being in April in the qualifiers for the 2018 GHS trophy, in his bid this year to improve on last year's results. His dedication paid off as he was the fastest rider of the day by over a minute over the 10 mile course, averaging just under 26 mph in a time of 23 minutes and 18 seconds. Harry is the current South East Midlands District Champion and entered for the GHS nationals in September. The first objective accomplished. Harry has since been racking up personal bests while training in both 25 mile and 10 mile time trials and looks set to make this his most successful year to date.

The future continues to welcome new cyclists such as Daniel Roberts and Alex Goodhart, who joined in the Summer Term, providing new pace and positivity. Best wishes to Harry Middleton who was one of the original enthusiastic members as he leaves Stowe and its peloton.

Mr Chris Grimble





It has been a fantastic year for Stowe polo. Throughout the year we have welcomed many new players into our ever growing squad. Some complete beginners and some returning to polo after a few years away from the sport. We welcomed our first girls' team (Natasha Woods, Bella White and Coco Brookes) who successfully won their division at the Schools' National Winter Championship. Stowe also took four teams for the Winter Arena Nationals which was the most number of teams entered by a school. This Summer Term has seen fierce battles played on some of the country's best pitches. We were invited to play at Guards Polo Club in Windsor and the high goal Black Bears pitch at Henley for the Copenhagen Cup coming third out of eight teams. I think the A team thoroughly enjoyed the weekend of fast and challenging polo. The Stowe A team (Billy Hawkins-Byass, Ivan de Poligny, Jamie Baillee and

Henry Hobby) then went on to battle for the Schools' SUPA Nationals held at Longdole Polo Club. They came second in the country, beating Millfield and Cheltenham College, only to lose by a single goal in the final to Rugby School. However the real glory came on the last weekend of term when the A team took on the Sandhurst Army Officers at Sandhurst Military Academy. They all played incredibly well with goals from Billy Hawkins-Byass, Ivan de Poligny and Jamie Baillee in a hard match - to win 7-4. Billy Hawkins-Byass who will be Captain in September was named Most Valuable Player by the Head of British Army Polo, an incredible honour. We look forward to welcoming any new players this year and hope that our winning streak continues!

Mrs Fiona Corthine

Boys' Hockey

1st XI

The boys' 1st XI had a successful year starting with victory at the Rugby School pre-season tournament. As part of the pre-season tour, the 1st XI played against two Beeton School sides that featured National League Premier players and were able to play twice at Highfields Sports Ground - a brilliant experience. On the Saturday, Stowe travelled to Rugby School for a four team tournament.

Stowe defeated Rugby 3-0 in the first match. Fourth Former, Rhys Noble opened the scoring and goals by Bertie Bryant and Captain Jim Jackman, sealed a 3-0 win. Next up was Culford School. Culford dominated the first 15 minutes and Stowe struggled to find their rhythm. Luckily, Culford missed two clear chances and Stowe took advantage. Louis Redfern broke down the left hand side and his reverse stick cross was converted by Oscar Price. Price doubled Stowe's lead with a shot into the roof of the net after more good work by Redfern. Redfern got on the score sheet himself before Culford scored a consolation goal. 3-1 to Stowe.

Stowe went into the last match against Bloxham knowing a draw would be enough to win the tournament. A scrappy first half ensued mainly due to the tiredness of both teams and Stowe conceded early on. Calum Renshaw equalised via a penalty stroke before Bloxham again went ahead. Renshaw equalised for Stowe for a second time through a short corner strike, 2-2 at half-time. Bloxham took the lead for a third time before Rhys Noble equalised for 3-3 and the match ended a draw. Stowe won the tournament and this proved a great springboard for the season.

The first match of the season was in the National Cup

at home to The Leys. Stowe put The Leys under a lot of pressure early on and Rhys Noble scored for Stowe to give them the lead. Although Stowe only led 1-0 at half-time, Stowe were in control and after Jamie Jackson scored his first goal for the 1st XI, the result was never in doubt.

A disappointing performance followed as Stowe lost 3-1 to Bloxham. Alex Perez-Buchanan scored Stowe's only goal. Stowe were the better team for long periods but didn't perform as they could.

Stowe worked very hard in defeat to an impressive Abingdon side and goals from debutant, Max Satchell and Captain Jim Jackman, kept the scoreline looking reasonable.

A classic match away to Uppingham followed. Stowe were dominant in the first half and scored twice through Perez-Buchanan and Noble to give the away side a 2-0 advantage. The second half was very different as it was Uppingham's turn to pile on the pressure. Midway through the second half, Stowe conceded which led to a very nervy finish, however Stowe hung on for a great win.

Stowe made the long journey to play Norwich School in the second round of the National Cup. Stowe were without Vice-Captain Calum Renshaw and played against a very strong Norwich side. Stowe lost 6-0. In their next match, Stowe were 1-0 up against John Hampden through Jamie Jackson but a second half full of mistakes meant Stowe lost two on the bounce.

Stowe travelled to Kimbolton on Saturday 3 February in what was a very heated match. Kimbolton started very aggressively and gave away quite a few fouls before eventually conceding a penalty stroke. Calum Renshaw



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converted to give the away side a 1-0 lead. Charlie Maclure impressed in midfield and helped set up Oscar Price to double Stowe's advantage and take a 2-0 lead into half-time. Stowe did well to keep their discipline after further bad challenges from Kimbolton and had to call upon goalkeeper Oleg Solovyev to save smartly after Stowe conceded a penalty stroke. Calum Renshaw scored his second from a short corner to give Stowe an excellent 3-0 win.

Stowe hosted Bancroft's School in the National Plate the following week and gave one the best performances of the season. Despite losing 3-2 to a last minute winner, Stowe were fantastic in coming from 2-0 down to pull things level. Louis Redfern scored both goals. Next up, Stowe hosted St Edward's and were again involved in a thrilling match. Stowe went 2-0 up through Jackson and Perez-Buchanan before St Edward's pulled a goal back before half-time. Calum Renshaw extended Stowe's lead midway through the second half and Stowe should have seen the game out. Stowe had dominated for large periods however, conceded two late goals from crash balls into the D - the second deflecting in off a defenders stick past Solovyev.

The match ended 3-3 and goes down as yet another thriller against local rivals, Teddies.

Due to bad weather, matches against Bedford and Pangbourne, were called off and the 1st XI had to wait nearly three weeks for their next match. Stowe hosted a triangular against Pangbourne and RGS High Wycombe - the RGS match was played for the County Cup. Stowe dominated the County Cup match and goals from Satchell (2), Price and Renshaw, sealed the Cup win for Stowe. Stowe then defeated Pangbourne 2-0 with goals from Jackson and Perez-Buchanan.

After another match was cancelled due to bad weather, it was left for the 1st XI to play the hockey staff! The game was played in great spirits with the boys winning 8-2.

Captain - Jim Jackman
 Vice-Captain - Calum Renshaw
 Players' Player - Jim Jackman
 MVP - Rhys Noble
 Most Improved Player - Charlie Maclure
 Top Goalscorer - Calum Renshaw

Mr Ben Scott



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Played 7, Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 2

The 2nd XI have had a winning season. Unfortunately, the weather had an impact on the number of games played, as the snow forced the cancellation of three of our fixtures. The team started the season strongly with a win against a strong Bloxham side away from home. We had to dig deep to come back from 0-1 down to win the match in the dying minutes, both goals being scored by Tom Worrall, our team's top goal scorer of the season with 8 goals from 7 matches. This match was closely followed by a mid-week home fixture against Abingdon

2nd XI

boys. Abingdon are a very strong boys' school and we did well to keep the result to 0-3 having had some opportunities ourselves. We then played Uppingham and put in another strong performance to win a close 2-1 match, this time goals coming from Louis Redfern, our MVP of the season and Tom Worrall. King Henry VIII School, Coventry gave us a good game which resulted in a 1-1 draw, again another mid-week match. One disappointment was our result away to Kimbolton where we lost 1-3. We played well and created a number of chances but unfortunately, we were unable to convert them all. The weather then had a part to play and our matches against Bedford and Pangbourne were snowed off. I was pleased that the team came back strong from our defeat against Kimbolton to have two wins on the trot. First a 2-1 win in a fantastic performance at home to Warwick followed by a 4-3 win away to Cokethorpe with a weakened team. Tom Worrall managed to score a hat-trick in this fixture and was awarded MVP for his performance. Unfortunately, the mini 'Beast from the East' led to the cancellation of our final match of the season at home to Bromsgrove. Overall, it has been a good solid season with a number of the squad having the opportunity to play for the 1sts.

Mrs Lorraine Campbell



3rd XI

It was an enjoyable season for the 3rd XI with good team spirit and energy on the pitch. The team had a tough start to the season suffering three straight losses to stronger opposition. Our fourth match saw a draw against King Henry VIII School with the team scoring their first goal of the season. The season improved, from there and finish with two strong wins against St Edward's and Warwick. Max Mash stepped up for the team as Captain with the able assistance of Luke Aust who was our 'Player of the Season'. Winning or losing, the team always displayed great sportsmanship and enjoyment of the game. Many of the team were Lower Sixth and if they stay together next year, they will hopefully continue to work well together and be an effective team.

Mr Paul Thompson



Colts A

This season was the story of plenty of dominance on the pitch for this talented group, albeit missing four from last year's Junior Colts either through injury or 1st XI call ups. Dominance apart from two key areas though - the bits between the penalty spot and the goal line, at both ends. Even though we struggled a little to finish goals we should have scored and keeping goals out we should have saved it was a positive season nonetheless, highlights including, a resounding win over Warwick and some good work in the County Cup. Mentions in dispatches to Captain Henry 'body on the line' Saunders Watson who drove his players along with energy and enthusiasm, and wing backs, Ollie Taylor and Tom Scott, who were reliable throughout.

Mr Henry Swayne

Colts B

The Colts B got off to a fantastic start in their season, but the term was unfortunately marred by a series of cancelled matches. The boys began with a dominant 6-0 win against Bloxham, showing a superb amount of energy on the pitch. A common comment from the School's full-time hockey coaches was that the boys worked harder in matches than any other team, which led to some impressive results against challenging opponents. The boys enjoyed an unbeaten season until a nail-biting midweek match against Sir William Borlase's; with a series of goals from Jack Colebrook and Jack Nesbitt, the boys managed to come back from 4-1 down to 5-5 until Borlase's managed to sneak in a goal in the closing minutes with a final short corner. Unfortunately, after Half Term the season ground to a halt with three matches in a row being cancelled due to poor weather. The boys persisted in putting excellent work into training, but frustratingly, did not have a chance to show off their hard work in matches. The season rather ground to a halt with only five matches having been played.



Special mentions have to go to the dynamic midfield trio of Hugh Fox, Jack Nesbitt and Archie Chisnall, who showed flair and determination on and off the ball throughout the season. Harry Burnet ably held the Captaincy for the first part of the season before being snatched away by the A team, whereupon Jack Colebrook took up the role. Archie Irvine showed great development as goalie throughout the season, having never put on the pads before the first training session. All the players worked hard and put in impressive performances throughout the season despite the frustrations of cancelled matches.

Mr Mark Austen



Junior Colts A

The JCA XI worked very hard this season and showed character and resilience to bounce back from three early losses to then go on an eight game unbeaten streak, before coming unstuck in their last fixture against Bromsgrove. The team improved immensely as the season went on and was typified by a strong team spirit and work ethic. Captain Archie Holmes led by example and set the tone for the side playing in defence and midfield. The defence of Adam McKelvey, Gracie Potts, Theo Finlan, Archie Barnes and William Bursnall (who also played midfield) worked well as a unit and were solid throughout. Their calmness under pressure stood out. Theo Finlan deservedly won the

'Best Defender Award' for the season - his tackling was superb. Archie Holmes, Ned Ellison, William Bursnall, Hugo Manners and Freddie Smith were the engine of the side throughout with Freddie Smith winning the 'Hardest Worker Award'. Upfront, Angus Pollock, Max Vesty and George Hooper did a good job of keeping the opposition on their toes and Max led the way with six goals to win the 'Golden Stick Award'. Overall, a really good season where everyone played their part. If they keep improving as they have done this season, they will make a fine 1st XI in a few years' time.

Mr James Knott

Junior Colts B

The U15Bs' season was one of mixed results but highly enjoyable and with plenty to celebrate. The season started with a great 2-0 win over Bloxham, with Arthur Dobbs and Conrad Flint Wood, demonstrating some deadly skills in front of goal. Three defeats on the trot then followed but did nothing to dampen the boys' spirits.

The boys returned after the Half Term break with renewed energy and optimism. They played extremely well at St Edwards, winning 3-1 and then enjoyed a great win against Warwick where they totally dominated the game. The final fixture of the season at Bromsgrove was played in challenging weather conditions and the boys were dealt a tough defeat but took it well and still managed to walk off the pitch with smiles on their faces.

The Reverend Tim Mullins and I are both extremely proud of the hard work the boys have put into their hockey and the positive attitude with which they have approached all their matches and training sessions. The 'Player's Player Award', as voted for by the team, went to Captain Hamza Arbab, who led by example and proved himself an outstanding defender and all-round team player. All the boys deserve a mention in one form or another but special mentions go to Flynn Mulcahy as the 'Most Improved Player', Alex Mann for his enthusiasm and determination and James Cronie, who has shown some great potential in only his second season of hockey.

Mr Sam Williams

Junior Colts C

The U15C team have had a very successful season this spring. Despite a lot of the players having a range of other sporting commitments, they have attended all training sessions with enthusiasm and dedication to improve. The boys have all demonstrated significant gains in their playing, with much better passing skills being demonstrated as the season progressed. Alongside this, the team have greatly developed their ability to set up plays, in order to ensure they are more successful when attacking.

There have been a number of highlights of the season, with opposition goalkeepers being knocked out, goals being scored in the final 30 seconds of play and own goals being scored. There certainly hasn't been a dull moment for the U15Cs! Special mention must go to Barney Denison-Pender, who has trained fantastically as the goalkeeper and has been vital for ensuring success during matches. His enthusiasm and energy throughout the season has motivated the rest of the team fantastically. An excellent season of hockey had by all!

Ms Fran Shah



Yearlings A This was one of the most successful Yearlings A seasons for some time with the team winning six matches, drawing three and losing five. The highlight was a 2-0 win over Oundle in the Lupos League. The team was identified by its competitive nature on the pitch. Ed Collins and Charlie Crabbie stood out in defence and Jack Simpson was very reliable in goal. Captain Harry Bryant moved to central midfield playing at the bottom of the diamond early in the season and his distribution paid dividends. Luke Holland-Bosworth and Bertie Fountain showed great skill on the ball with Ryan Thomas and Trennon Bettany using their pace on the wings. Up-front, Archie Burnet and Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart were a constant threat with Archie taking the 'Golden Stick' Award. An excellent season and some talent there to work with as they go through the School.

Mr James Knott



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Yearlings B

It was a tough season for the Yearlings B with many of the team playing 11 a side for the first time and discovering the large step up needed for hockey at this level. However, they showed some good promise and achieved some close results over the season, notably coming ever so close to a draw in their second match against Stamford, just missing a chance or two in the second half, finishing 1-2, having bounced back from 0-2 at the half. This was followed by a draw against The Leys in which the team worked together well, but just were unable to convert their chances. After a

few more losses, the team gained a well-deserved solid win against RGS High Wycome to finish their season on a high.

The team was Captained by Ben Hartigan who showed excellent maturity in the role and led the team well, keeping them together and focused even under pressure and behind in goals. Philipp Benedic finished the season as top goal scorer. The whole team though worked well through the season and developed well as a group. It was an enjoyable season and if the boys continue in hockey, they will develop into very strong and capable players.

Mr Paul Thompson

Yearlings C

The Yearlings C began their hockey career at Stowe with a great deal of uncertainty. A number of the team had never played the sport before and were uncertain upon both positions and rules of the game. Despite this, the boys attended training with enthusiasm and developed their skills throughout the season well.

By the end of the season, a number of the players had developed their hockey skills greatly, with a much heightened understanding of the sport and also, how to successfully work as a team in order to make victory more likely. The training sessions always saw the team leaving with smiles on their faces, often due to some interesting warm ups and cool downs, being led by Sebastian Campbell-Preston! If the boys continue to train well, there are definitely some players in this team who could have a successful hockey career in front of them.

Ms Fran Shab

Yearlings D

The Yearlings D season kicked off with a home fixture against Oundle School. For many of the boys, this would be the first time they have played a competitive game of hockey and a chance to put the first couple of training sessions into practice. Centre forward Xander Brett displayed some great ability, scoring a hat-trick, with Jayden Preko also scoring, to end the game with a 4-0 win, a great start to the season. The second game of the season against The Leys resulted in a 2-1 win for Stowe, another great result. From this point on the season became much tougher, with a loss against The Perse, a draw in our return fixture versus The Leys, and a crushing defeat against a much strengthened Oundle side. It was very much a character building second half of the season but the boys kept their heads held high and represented Stowe with great sportsmanship.



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The 'Most Valuable Player' Award went to Captain Oscar Watson, who led from the front and inspired the team

throughout the season. 'Most Improved Player' to Haochen Li, who has developed into a very strong and dependable defender, and 'Top Goalscorer' to Jayden Preko. The boys really bonded as a team over the course of the season, with a number of them showing great potential as C team players for next year.

Mr Sam Williams



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Girls' Hockey

1st XI

Played 18, Won 12, Drew 1, Lost 5

The girls' 1st XI had another remarkable season. After the success of the 2016-2017 squad, there was high expectation of the team that contained eight players who made the Regional Finals the previous year.

The squad went on a pre-season tour to Sussex which was very successful both on the pitch and off the pitch. The girls won all three of their tour matches, playing against Senior ladies sides. Stowe won their first match 4-1 against Mid Sussex in a thrilling encounter. Goals from Alice Maclure, Yas Mama and debut goals from Imogen Joyce and Charlotte Would led Stowe to victory. Clara Haggie was outstanding in centre midfield. On the second match day, Stowe defeated South Saxons. A frustrating first and second 30 minutes meant Stowe had to be patient despite dominating the match. Eventually, Yas Mama found the back of the net with a short corner strike and goals from Tallula Douglas Miller and Charlotte Would sealed the win.

The last match of the tour was against Eastbourne Hockey Club. Stowe won 8-0. Yas Mama claimed a hat-trick and braces from Joyce and Would and a second goal of the tour from Douglas Miller, led to an emphatic win. Yas Mama and Alice Maclure won joint 'Player of the Tour Award'.

The first match of the regular season was away against Saints Ladies 2nd XI. This was to be a tougher test as Saints 1st XI were playing in the National League and the Club

boasts a lot of strength. Stowe soon got used to the water-based pitch and Alyssia Dockerty made the breakthrough. Another goal from Dockerty and a first for the season from Georgia Flawn-Thomas, sealed a 3-0 win.

Stowe first tasted defeat against Beaconsfield, a 3-1 loss at home to the U16 National finalists. Una Barclay scored her first goal for the 1st XI.

Stowe faced Oakham 2nd XI in September at home and won 8-0. Olivia Flood claimed a hat-trick and Martha Combe scored twice with goals from Dockerty, Mama and Maclure.

The next match was against arch rivals St Edward's in what was a very tight game. 0-0 at half-time but Stowe had the better chances and were the first to score through Alice Maclure. A Yas Mama short corner strike doubled the lead and although Stowe conceded late on, they held on for the win.

In the North County Cup, Stowe defeated Akeley Wood 5-0 (Dockerty, Vicky Beglin, Mama, Douglas Miller x 2) and The Royal Latin (Douglas Miller and Barclay hat-trick) to qualify for the County Cup two weeks later.

Saturday wins against Bloxham, 3-1 (Douglas Miller, Mama x 2) and a brilliant away performance against Rugby 1-0 (Immy Joyce) meant Stowe were on form as they contended for the County Cup.

Stowe won their first match against The Royal Latin (Maclure) but after dominating against Beaconsfield and missing a host of chances, Stowe lost 1-0 meaning they had to beat Borlase's to qualify for the Regional Heats. Despite

Stowe's best efforts, Borlase's scored twice on the break and Stowe went down 2-0.

Stowe bounced back with a great performance away at Uppingham and a 1-1 draw was a fair result after both teams enjoyed long periods of domination. Martha Combe scored the goal for Stowe. Despite taking the lead away at Oundle through Libby Flood, Oundle came back and won 3-1 but again, Stowe performed extremely well.

The Stowe 1st XI turned defeats against Rugby and Oakham the year before into victories and defeat to Uppingham into a draw. Great progression.

The last friendly match of the season saw a depleted Stowe side take on Magdalen College School. For the second year running, Stowe dominated the match but this time ended up losing the match 2-0.

The last match of the season was against Repton 2nd XI in front of a huge crowd at Stowe. A brilliant game unfolded and Stowe took the lead halfway through the second half

through Olivia Flood. With the game in the balance, Captain Vicky Beglin picked up the ball on the right, dribbled into the D and unleashed an unstoppable reverse stick shot into the bottom corner to seal a win. A great end to a great season.

Special mentions have to go to Issy Leondiou (centre back) for her consistently solid displays and her attitude in training. Her leadership from the back was invaluable. Clara Haggie was immense at left back, centre back and centre midfield and was sorely missed during the County Cup campaign.

Captain - Vicky Beglin
 Vice-Captain - Clara Haggie
 Players' Player - Vicky Beglin
 MVP - Isabella Leondiou
 Most Improved Player - Olivia Flood
 Top Goalscorer - Yas Mama

Mr Ben Scott



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2nd XI

The girls' 2nd XI hockey team led by Captain Imogen Oliver had very strong but up and down season. They quickly become a very supporting and well-gelled team. Everyone worked hard at the training sessions and only missed a session when necessary.

The 2nd XI played 10 games, won 3, drew 3 and lost 4. They won their matches against St Edward's 4-0, Kingham

Hill 2-1 and Magdalen College 9-0. The girls scored 22 goals in the 10 matches they played.

The end of season awards were given to Helena Vince (MVP), Lucy Bourn (Players' Player), Mali Aitchison (Top Goalscorer) and Emma Grayson (Most Improved Player).

Ms Sally Whyte & Mr Jaypee Wentzel

3rd XI

This has been a fabulously competitive season of 3rd team hockey - gone are the days of letting 15+ goals past us! We have gained a goal difference of +7 this season which is testament to some huge wins and staying right in the mix of more challenging games. Our final game was against Repton's 4th XII. This was an emotional final match for our Upper Sixth Leavers who have been fully committed to five years of hockey at Stowe. They took to the pitch with grit and determination to do their very best in every

game and this game was certainly no different. They were organised, clinical and intense in their play but missed an early chance to go ahead. They went into half-time 2-0 down but determined to come back. Despite some hard fought tackling and dribbling, particularly down our right wing, we couldn't quite craft the goal but did only let 1 past our keeper. A determined end but it wasn't meant to be on the day. A fantastic season for a great group of girls!

Miss Lauren Ellis

U16A



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Played 19, Won 8, Drew 2, Lost 9

This was an excellent season for the girls' U16 A team. It was a tale of two parts, the Midlands league competition and the National Cup. The girls struggled in the Saturday fixtures in the league, where they came up against some of the strongest hockey schools in the country. This said, they always battled hard and one of their best battling performances came in their 1-1 draw with Uppingham. It was disappointing to just lose out to Oundle in a thrilling game, which went down to the final few minutes. The Cup Competition was much more fruitful, with the girls playing some of their best hockey in the early rounds. They won the County Cup with an excellent result against Wycombe High School. This progressed them to the Regional Cup at Wellington College, where they lost narrowly in their first two games, making it impossible to go any further. To reach this level of the competition is an

impressive achievement and shows how far their hockey has come. Charlotte Would was excellent as Captain and Imogen Joyce was the 'Stand Out Player of the Season'. It was a pleasure to have worked with all the girls in the squad and I have no doubt they will go on to bigger and better things with their hockey.

Player of the Season - Imogen Joyce

Top Goalscorer - Imogen Joyce

Squad - Emily Banks (GK), Lucy Bourn, Georgia Glenser, Imogen Joyce, Amelia Leondiou, Maddie Marriott, Cecilia Mayne, Toyah Mowat, Jasmin Smith, Charlotte Would (C), Stephanie Ross, Sonya Sander, Chloe Daniel, Tilly Howard, Connie Dutton and Izzy Hopkins.

Mr Philip Arnold

U16B

It was a tough season for the U16B girls. Playing eight matches in total, but winning only two. However, this year, the team came up against particularly strong competition from Oakham, Kimbolton, Rugby, Uppingham, Oundle and Repton. The girls fought hard and were close on a few occasions against these strong sides. There were great wins against local rivals St Edward's, Oxford and Tudor Hall. Well done to all the girls who contributed to the excellent team spirit and whom we hope will continue to develop their hockey skills as they progress up the School.



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U15A

In strong resemblance to José Mourinho's other teams, this season's girls' U15A side promised to be strong at the back, possessing some quality up front and mentally tough throughout.

Captained by the formidable Gracie 'you shall not pass' Potts, who had the better of strikers in nearly every one-on-one situation all season, and backed up by the excellent Alex 'David De Gea' Trumper in goal (our joint 'Players of the Season'), this was a Jose team built on firm foundations. Holly Phillips was our Paul Pogba who always threatened up front and provided creativity in the final third and India Case's

athleticism and strength on the ball down the right hand side was a key asset throughout the season.

The Match of the Day Highlights package of the season includes a thrilling end to end 1-1 draw vs St Edward's, an even more thrilling victory over Rugby via a sudden death Immy Bewes' penalty shuffle at the end of normal time and a 6-1 victory over Northampton High School having been 1-0 down at half-time. Oh, and team jogs up to the astro every Tuesday, which was really enjoyed by all participants!

Mr Henry Swayne

U15B

The U15Bs had a demanding season having won 5, drawn 2 and lost 4 out of a total of 11 games. The girls played some outstanding hockey against several strong teams, they demonstrated high energy levels, enthusiasm to progress and a continuous positive mentality, on and off the pitch. During matches, the U15Bs would often start off a little slow but after a motivational team talks from Celest Lamberti, Niamh Dudgeon and Emilia Havard during half-times, the girls would put on their game faces and the games would usually turn around in our favour. Deserved mentions go to Felicity Hill, who did an impressive job

of reading the game and was always in the right place at the right time, Koty King, who played in goal and made some outstanding saves, Antonia White, who progressed the most throughout the session and to Caroline Leach, who was awarded 'Players' Player' for her outstanding performance in each game and her positive attitude during matches and training sessions in all weather conditions. It was a pleasure to coach the U15Bs. I wish them the best of luck in their upcoming season.

Miss Kate Ware

U15C

The U15Cs' season was full of hard work, good fun and plenty of progress from all involved. The season got off to a rocky start, with a 7-1 loss to a very strong Oakham side but the bonding experience of a catastrophic loss set the light-hearted tone that was the greatest positive of the season. It was not long before the girls turned the season around, however, with victories over Tudor Hall, St Edward's, and Rugby. Standout performances came from Charlotte Morgan and Camille Gibson, who ably volunteered to be goalie. The standard of hockey rose throughout the season, as the girls put hard work into training and matches. All the players took feedback on board well and as the season progressed, the girls formed an increasingly strong unit, culminating in a strong 3-0 victory over Oundle.

Atlanta King did a stellar job early in the season as Captain, until an unfortunate injury took her out of play for the rest of term. Felicity Hill came into her own as a player throughout the season, building her confidence on the pitch and taking over from Atlanta after Half



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Term, before being promoted to the B team. Emily King took over the final shift as Captain, ably guiding the team through some tricky matches and always showing a huge amount of commitment and effort on the pitch. All the girls mixed fun with hard work and though the season saw losses as well as victories, the girls should be proud of the accomplishments they made as a team.

Mr Mark Austen



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U14A

Team: Lauren Yeowart (Captain), Fleur Fenwicke-Clennell (Vice-Captain), Violet Arkwright, Eleanor Blane, Jemima Howden, Bo Jenkins, Olivia West, Rosie Grayson, Otilie Hewlett, Isla Holman-West, Isabella Lloyd, Lucy Mehta, Poppy Mowat, Florrie Combe and Lavinia Primrose (GK).

The U14As will be remembered for their cohesive team spirit; a good sense of humour, competitive edge, exciting hockey, willingness to improve and winning season. They were crowned County Champions, and were a delight to coach. In their first game, they played Beaconsfield High School, winning 3-1, in preparation for the North Bucks County Cup, which they won at home scoring 19 goals, conceding 0! This led to success at the County Tournament where they became Buckinghamshire Champions to represent the county in the Regional Heats. In other fixtures, they enjoyed wins against St Edward's (3-2), Bloxham (3-1), NHS (5-1), Uppingham (2-1) and Rugby (3-2). The Top Goal Scorer was Isla with 10 goals and the Most Valuable Player, was awarded to Lauren at centre midfield who was also selected for PC trials. It was a joy to be part of their first hockey season at Stowe and we will follow their future through the School with keen interest - well done girls!

Mrs Sarah Sutton & Mrs Tracy Jones





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U14B

Played 8, Won 4, Drew 2, Lost 2

The U14B side had a competitive season with 4 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses. Despite hockey being an 11-a-side game, 23 different girls represented the U14Bs and all acquitted themselves very well when called upon.

Wins against Bloxham and an Oundle side were hard fought as the teams were well matched. Both draws were disappointing 0-0s despite Stowe having the better chances against Rugby and St Edward's, Oxford. Before Half Term, the team struggled, to convert chances into goals but after Half Term, the girls fortunes changed. The girls enjoyed a high scoring match (10-0) v Downe House and saw off local rivals Akeley Wood, by 8 goals to nil.

Top scorer Bibi Mash (6 goals) initially started the term in the C team squad, but was called up to represent the Bs

after some excellent performances. Bea Maydon was also instrumental in the forward line and had a total of 4 goals at the end of the season. Captain Amalie Mager stood out from day one for her communication skills on the pitch. Always eager for the ball, she worked hard and set an example for others with both her actions on the pitch and her motivational chats off it.

Our best hope for promotion to the A team next season lies with Florrie Combe whose passing skills are superb. It was no coincidence that our heaviest defeat of the season came when Florrie was missing from the side. She was invaluable and thoroughly deserved the award for 'Most Valued Player' this season. I have chosen to mention a few individual highlights; however, the team as a whole were a pleasure to coach. They enjoyed their hockey and showed great improvement throughout the season. I look forward to seeing what they will go on to produce at U15 level.

Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe

U14C

The U14Cs had a really promising first term of hockey at Stowe. Despite some of the girls having never played hockey before, they turned up to every training session with high energy levels, willingness to learn and an extremely positive attitude. Our season started with an away fixture against Oakham, which was a challenging fixture for the girls' first proper 11 a-side hockey match. The girls showed great perseverance to comeback from 4-0 at half-time to lose 5-3; their only defeat of the season. By the following Saturday against St Edward's, it was clear the girls were beginning to have a better understanding of the formation and their roles on the pitch, which saw them out class Teddies with an impressive 7-0 win. Another win in a friendly against Rugby's U14Ds helped the girls grow in confidence going into their match against their counterparts at Rugby, the following weekend. This had to be the most exciting game of the season, although I'm not sure the girls would agree as they didn't quite come away with a win they deserved with 2 goals being disallowed and Rugby scoring a last minute equaliser. The girls did not let this phase them and finished the second half of the season with a win against Uppingham



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(5-0) and a draw against Oundle (2-2). Unfortunately, their last game of the season against Repton was cancelled because of snow. Special mentions go to Isabel Omotajo, who was awarded 'Most Valued Player' and our goalkeeper, Kate Savina, who was awarded the most improved player after voluntarily stepping up to play keeper having never had pads on before she joined Stowe. I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching the U14Cs this year and I look forward to following their progress next year.

Miss Megan Wright

1st XI

This was another very good season for the 1st XI with some notable performances both as a team and from some individuals. There was a narrow win on the first Saturday against Uppingham, where Stowe collapsed from 70 for 1 to 86 for 7 in pursuit of the 109 target. That they got over the line was thanks to a composed 20 not out from Fifth Former Ed Snushall.

The following Saturday the team were away to Bradfield on a cold wet day. Stowe had the worst of the conditions in the field and did well to restrict Bradfield to 229 in their fifty overs. Olly Taylor was the pick of the bowlers with 2 for 35 off his ten overs with Jim Jackman also getting 2 wickets with his medium pace. In reply, openers Jackman and Adam King saw off the new ball before Jackman was dismissed for 10. Then followed a brilliant 179 run partnership between King and Calum Renshaw who gradually got on top of the bowling and started to dominate. King fell just short of his century scoring 94, but Renshaw went on to score 108 unbeaten runs as Stowe knocked off the runs for the loss of only two wickets with 3 overs to spare.

At the National T20 first rounds hosted at Rugby School, there was a comfortable win against Uppingham in the first game where Stowe scored 117 on a difficult pitch (Renshaw 30, Jackman 36) and then bowled Uppingham out for 63 with Albert Johnson and Charles Shore-Hollingsworth taking 3 wickets each. In the final we played Rugby and with the pitch suiting spin Stowe opened with Albert Johnson who cleaned up both openers in taking 2 for 21 and James Cronie recording the same figures. Ed Snushall and Tom Worrall also took a wicket each with their part time spin as Stowe restricted Rugby to 95 for 7 to win by 9 runs.

Against Northants U17s there was another superb bowling performance. All the bowlers took at least one wicket, but it was the opening spell between Rufus Easdale and Tom Olsen that set the tone for the innings. Jim Jackman (39) and Calum Renshaw (29) were the main stay of Stowe's reply and it was that man Snushall again who was there at the end to see the team home.

A dull draw with Oundle followed on the Saturday with Stowe posting 221 for 6 in fifty overs. There were 30s for Adam King, James Cronie and Tom Worrall, but the mainstay of the innings with Tom Olsen who scored 89 off

59 balls to set up the declaration. In reply Oundle made a positive start but a brilliant spell of bowling from Olly Taylor (4 for 30) and some fine catching from Adam King and Calum Renshaw pegged back the Oundle chase, which petered out. They fell well short - 6 wickets down.

Against The Leys in our National T20 quarter-final there was a positive start from the opposition but they were pegged back by the off spin of James Cronie who took 4 for 16 in his four overs and Tom Worrall also bowled well. They Leys scored a par score of 122 for 6 off their 20 overs. When King and Jackman were dismissed James Cronie and Tom Worrall (35 not out) took the team over the line.

Sadly we faced a loss to Bedford when Fourth Former, George Hooper, batted solidly for ten overs to try and secure the draw but in the penultimate over of the day Rufus Easdale fell LBW to a ball that turned sharply, as did Charles Shore-Hollingsworth a few balls later.

The next National T20 game was drawn away to Stamford which sadly we lost, and following this disappointment Stowe needed a good performance to get some momentum back. At Oakham, we got off to a flying start thanks to George Hooper (25 off 29 balls), who cashed in on any width and Adam King (76) who batted positively and sensibly throughout. James Cronie also batted very well for 38 as he and King hit a 97 run partnership. Stowe should probably have scored over 200 in their 40 overs, but a lower order collapse led to Stowe being bowled out for 181. The team knew they needed a good start with the reduced Oakham to 67 for 9. They put on fifty before Tom Worrall took the final wicket to seal the game. A big win for Stowe against one of its toughest opponents.

When the team travelled to Bromsgrove it was hard work for all of the bowlers with James Cronie (1 for 21 off 10) the only one to bring some control. Bromsgrove posted 260 in their fifty overs which was 20 above par. In reply Stowe made a good fist of it with a fifty opening partnership between Adam King and Jim Jackman and there were also scores for Tom Olsen, Olly Taylor and Ed Snushall. It was King though who got the major score - scoring 111 - but unfortunately it was not quite enough to win the match.

Cricket week started with a timed game against Menlo Park from South Africa who are one of the best cricket schools in the country. Stowe won and the players rushed the pitch to huddle Snushall who was instrumental in the victory. Another good bowling performance the next day accounted for Wellingborough. Stowe had no trouble knocking the runs off with Jim Jackman batting through for 69 not out, with James Cronie the other not out batsman.

In our T20 festival, Stamford, Harrow and a Bucks U17 XI made up the four teams. Bucks were first up and again another brilliant bowling display cut through Bucks to bowl them out for 68. Albert Johnson and James Cronie again were the main wicket takers with four wickets each. Stowe lost Jackman early in the chase for 14, but Adam King (23 not out) and Calum Renshaw (23 not out) saw Stowe home without any problems in 9 overs. Harrow beat Stamford in the other match which set up a Stowe versus Harrow final. Harrow opted to bowl first and Stowe battled up to



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121 on a wearing track against a good bowling attack. There were contributions from King, Jackman, Olsen, Worrall and Snushall. With the ball Stowe were superb again, with Albert Johnson (1 for 6 off 4 overs) and Tom Olsen (1 for 19 off 4 overs) bowling with great control with the new ball. James Cronie and Tom Worrall carried on the mantle - hardly bowling a bad ball and Jim Jackman picked up 2 for 8 in his 3 overs - Harrow falling well short to be bowled out for 88. A great way for Stowe to finish their season.

Adam King was once again the leading runs scorer and he also kept wicket very well throughout the season, as well as

Captaining astutely. Tom Olsen was the leading wicket taker (just pipping James Cronie) and Tom Worrall picked up the best fielder award.

Overall, a high quality season and my thanks as ever go to Phil Arnold for all his support throughout the summer. Thanks also to our umpires David Tooth and Graeme Frost, as well as Lynn Allen our scorer. Lastly, to Steve Curley, Kevin Beasley and all of the Grounds Team for all of their hard work in a demanding term where so much is packed into a short space of time.

Mr James Knott

2nd XI

The 2nd XI have enjoyed a testing but enjoyable season, having played 8, won 4, lost 3 and had 1 abandoned due to rain. The season started well with a convincing win away to Uppingham in which James Watkins' 42 was key in ensuring Stowe set a competitive total, winning in the end by 66 runs. The highlight of the season for me came when we travelled to MCS, Oxford for a midweek T20 match. MCS posted 123 from their 20 overs, the main bowling standout went to Elliot Mullarkey who picked up 2-11. It was the second innings that stands out though, after losing a couple of early wickets, Freddie Horlick batted with maturity to see the game home, he carried his bat hitting an unbeaten 64 to see Stowe home with 2 balls to spare. After beating Akeley Wood in the third match, after losing the games against Bradfield and Abingdon to rain, we'd had three official wins from 3 games and it was looking like another strong season for the 2nd XI. However, after having the match abandoned half way through against Haileybury when we were struggling having only posted 116/5 thanks to 42* from Max Moseley the rain probably saved us. Once it came to exam season and we started losing some Senior players, the side struggled with no one able to step up and take responsibility. We suffered defeats to Oundle, Bedford and Oakham and again the season was in the balance 6 games, 3 wins and 3 losses. The final Saturday fixture of the season saw the side have an opportunity to play on the North Front, the weather was perfect and after winning the toss, Stowe elected to bat first. James Watkins and Freddie Horlick put on 50 for the first wicket before Wentworth-Stanley came to the crease. Fresh from 52 against Oakham the week before, Wentworth-Stanley continued where he left off, dispatching any loose bowling and adding



some impetus to the innings. He finished with a well played 41 not out from 28 balls. Stowe finished the innings 144/2 and then completely blew Bromsgrove away with the ball. The pick of the bowlers was Oscar Brett who picked up 3-14 from his 3 overs.

All in all a good season for the 2nd team, plenty of positives and areas for improvement for next year but with the majority of the side being Lower Sixth it is looking positive for next Summer. Congratulations to Oscar Brett who was the leading wicket taker, he claimed 12 wickets at an average of 9.00. James Watkins was the highest run scorer, he scored 187 runs at an average of 26.71 and a highest score of 42.

I'm looking forward to next season already! My thanks go to Jaypee Wentzel for all his help at training throughout the season.

Mr Matthew Lowe

3rd XI

Part of the peculiar appeal of cricket is the strength of role afforded to the supporting cast. Every sport has its stars and while they have to play the game as it comes to them, they are clearly the protagonists and largely masters of their own fate. A footballer might change his studs to fit the surface, the balls at Wimbledon are born, battered and recycled and the swirling winds of Twickenham are as distrusted by the players as they are hammed up by the commentators. But these are plot devices whose only function is to move the story on; in

cricket these supposedly minor characters can change not only the tenor of the contest but also the outcome, making and breaking stars in the process. The indefinite combination of earth, air and ball changes throughout the contest, steering and shaping the game to give cricket an infinite variety of which it aficionados cannot tire and those not so inducted will never get.

To confound simple metrics further, at 3rd XI level it is impossible to anticipate what sort of hand Fate is going to deal. It could be a collection of wastrels accidentally harvested from a bus queue or it could be, as it was this year, a team



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of extraordinary potential: bowlers who could hit a length, batsmen who could hit a ball and fielders who could read the game and respond with acuity and accuracy - players who in any normal year could expect to be plying their trade at a much higher level. But then, just as the prospect of batting to 9 and efficiently taking 10 wickets makes Saturday afternoon a prospect to be relished, perfidious circumstance awakes and fixtures are lost to rain, exams and flakey opposition.

The 3rd XI managed to complete only three of its official fixtures this season but in returning three handsome victories they did themselves proud while hinting gnomically at what might have been. It is always hard consistently to produce a team with so much going on, particularly when all teams are facing the same trials and battling for the same resources, resources that run pretty thin pretty quickly, even before the Upper Sixth are removed from the equation.

First up was Uppingham, a 30 overs game that saw a deeply modest Uppingham XI dispensed with aplomb after a thunderous 77 from 67 balls from Harry Middleton saw Stowe to 178 for 7. With roles reversed, Elliot Mullarkey tore through the Uppingham order, taking 4 wickets for only 13 runs and reducing them to 37 for 5 after 9 overs. That it took another 8 overs and 24 runs to put the Uppingham innings out of its misery was as close to tedious as the season was ever to get.

Magdalen College School is a bit of an unknown quantity at this level and with the sun struggling to have any impact at all on a filthy Wednesday morning, it looked like remaining thus for another year. Nevertheless, and more in hope than expectation, the XI spilled out onto the surprisingly sunny and luxuriant reaches of the Magdalen College grounds on Marston Road, there to play out a game almost as dramatic as the violent storm clearly visible to the north as it made its way straight to Stowe. So as the North Front endured snow and hail, the 3rd XI faced a very tidy and disciplined MCS attack. This time it was Charles Rivington's time to shine, driving and punching his way to a classy 48. The MCS bowlers were giving nothing away, however, and it was only after some late order pyrotechnics from Harry Arkwright and Guy Woodhouse that the score started to look defensible,

their 26 and 12 coming from 11 and 8 balls respectively and seeing the team to 136 off the statutory 20 overs.

While the MCS attack had looked ordered but uniform, this was one of those rare occasions that the XI brought accuracy to its trademark variety. Rivington showed he could occasionally bowl as well as he could bat with his nagging and deceptive medium pace earning him 3 for 23 and Ludo Mannion Miles netting 2 for 18 but it was to be Arkwright's day. Returning with the ball, he bowled with pace and swing to bag a handsome 5 for 23 to complement his explosive cameo with the bat. Good as these individual performances were, it was a massive team effort to defend what had seemed a low total: MCS were all out for 114 and suddenly the drive down through the rain didn't seem like such a bad idea and the rest of the season significantly more exciting.

So it was with mounting excitement that the XI made its way Oundle, a fixture to which was added the further incentive of locking horns with Dr Stanley, formerly of this parish. A bright start saw Dr Stanley's XI teetering at 86 for 7 with Mannion Miles making the ball sing and sharing the wickets with Mullarkey and Josh Riley. At that point, however, Stowe seemed to run out of bowlers just when Oundle finally remembered how to bat. The final 9 overs saw Oundle pile on 114 runs and while Mannion Miles returned to mop up the innings and collect a very estimable 5 for 30, Stowe was staring at a 200 total and what looked like certain defeat.

Things did not start well and while Arthur Fenwicke-Clelland proved that his place in the Seconds was earned more on batting than bowling merit, at the other end wickets were coming quicker than runs. Rivington, Middleton and Ashwin Batey all got in but struggled to bat with the sort of fluidity of which they are all capable and with 5 overs to go, Stowe were deep in it at 138 for 4 and the defeat that had earlier looked likely now seemed inevitable. But apparently no one had told this to Woodhouse, announcing himself with a second ball six to the longest boundary in the ground, he unleashed a fusillade of unremitting vehemence. This assault turned the game towards Stowe and as time and overs ran out, the Oundle nerve cracked and the final over saw a flurry of wides, byes and even wickets before Stowe hauled themselves over the line with one ball to spare.

No one was to know that high point was also to be the end to the season and with so much talent on show it is unfortunate that the games petered out as they did. But this is not going to be the end for these cricketers, many of whom have not been mentioned in this dispatch but all of whom contributed to a season that, truncated as it was, also generated some high calibre cricket. Most of those playing here will go on to play at higher levels at Stowe next season while the rest will get the chance to play the game at universities up and down the country. I thank all for their efforts and achievements this season and wish all well as they continue to navigate and negotiate this most capricious game's many delights.

Mr Paul Floyd

Colts A



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The Colts A cricket is a season often curtailed by the weather and definitely interrupted by GCSE exams. But thankfully, only one game was lost to rain - Abingdon away.

However, it does provide an opportunity for a short sharp intense series of games where the players can give it their all both in training and in games.

This year, Captained by George Holmes - the season started superbly with an 8 wicket win against Uppingham, with Tom Youds top scoring on 48. Ed Broughton was the pick of the bowlers on that day with 3 wickets.

The next game was a tough away fixture to Bradfield. Whilst George Holmes top scored with 70 n.o., he sadly spent most of the day at the crease unaccompanied and Stowe fell 13 runs short of securing victory. This game was not helped by several lapses in fielding which allowed Bradfield a few more runs than they should.

The penultimate game of the season was against an older

and more experienced Bloxham side. They amassed 131/5 off their 20 overs and despite a quick fire 31 from Fin Dickerson, the run chase left much to be desired and Bloxham won by 22 runs.

This game provided the impetus needed as the Colts headed into the last game of the season against Oundle on the North Front. In a 30 over game (the only non T20 of the season) Stowe put on 205 for 2 wickets, with George Holmes leading from the front, scoring 92 not out and he was ably supported by Louis Newman who scored 57. This was then followed up by a controlled and efficient bowling performance - with Charles Shore-Hollingworth, the pick of the bowlers - getting 4 wickets off 5 overs, 2 maidens and going for just 16 runs.

We would like to thank all the players for their hard work and energy throughout the season.

Mr Gavin Moffat & Mr Michael Rickner

Colts B

The Colts Bs year was very much affected by cancellations in the early part of the season, the team still managed a comprehensive win over Uppingham in their first match of the season by 8 wickets. Felix Holland-Bosworth and Max Butler had good seasons with Felix rewarded with some A team cricket later in the term. Well done to all of the players:

1 AWC Chisnall, 2 MS Butler (C), 3 ONW Landau, 4 AAF Bryant, 5 HT Howard, 6 ARG Irvine, 7 JPW Trumper, 8 JR Colebrook, 9 AH Cliff, 10 FA Holland-Bosworth, 11 GN Bonham Carter, 12 RP Mathers

Mr James Knott



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Junior Colts A

The Junior Colts A cricket side had a very good season enjoying two cup runs and a range of competitive weekend matches. The first weekend saw an impressive victory over Uppingham. Tommy Cranmer took two A team debut wickets as well as Sam Birth taking two. Archie Barnes and Rhys Noble took a wicket each. Jack Mercer was quick behind the stumps as he took two stumpings. Mercer and Captain George Hooper opened the batting and made a steady start before Noble and Birch chased down the target with four over to spare - Birch 40*.

The JCA XI suffered back to back defeats in their second and third match. A T20 on the North Front v MCS saw James Cronie hit 40 but unfortunately Stowe fell short. Stowe then travelled to Bradfield and after bowling and fielding well, couldn't quite manage the total set by the hosts. Hooper and Mercer batted well along with Holly Phillips but the lower order fell cheaply.

Stowe hosted Aylesbury Grammar School in the first round of the T20 County Cup and won convincingly. James Cronie, George Hooper and Rhys Noble all scored well as Stowe hit 143 and won by 32 runs. The next match was the first regional round of the National Cup away at Abingdon. Josh Weru made his debut and took two early wickets and Oscar Watson was brilliant behind the wickets - a great catch and a stumping on debut. Stowe restricted Abingdon to 126 off their 30 overs and Cronie and Hooper saw Stowe home with a very impressive batting performance. Stowe won by 10 wickets.

The JCAs travelled to St Paul's for next round of the National Cup. The outfield was very slow and it was a tough wicket to score. Stowe only managed 119 and the impressive St Paul's openers saw the home side through.

Stowe hosted Haileybury on the Bourbon but unfortunately the match was abandoned when Stowe looked good for the win. Flynn Mulcahy and Jack Mercer had made a great start in chasing down the Haileybury total.

Back to back Saturday defeats to Oundle and Bedford followed. The first was very disappointing as Stowe had

got themselves into a winning position. A brilliant 75 not out from Rhys Noble meant Stowe posted 169 and looked good to defend. Halfway through the Oundle innings, Stowe hadn't given away any extras but a combination of bad fielding and lack of concentration meant the extras finished at 29 as well as numerous overthrows.

The next match was the County Cup final against RGS High Wycombe on the South Front. This was a very clinical bowling and fielding performance as Weru took four wickets and Cronie two wickets - both boys were very economical as well. Further wickets for Barnes and one for Mercer off his first ball ended the RGS innings with the away side only managing 56. Stowe chased this down through Cronie, Mercer, Noble and Hooper with the loss of two wickets.

The T20 competition then reached the regional rounds and Stowe played Abingdon again but this time on the South Front. Stowe restricted Abingdon to 86 from their 20 overs. Weru, Cronie, Mercer and a debut wicket for Trennon Bettany ripped through the Abingdon batsmen and left Stowe with a very gettable target. For the second time this season Stowe beat Abingdon by 10 wickets. Cronie and Hooper coasted through their innings to send Stowe into the last 8 of the South region.

On Friday 22 June the JCA XI took on Bradfield in one of the most exciting matches seen on the South Front in recent times. Having already lost to Bradfield earlier on in the season, Stowe knew they were in for a tough match but performed very well in the field. Josh Weru took an early wicket and James Cronie was very economical from the other end. A superb run out from Holly Phillips kept the pressure on the Abingdon batsmen. Wilf Wyatt made his debut and only knew he was in the starting XI minutes before the match started. Wilf bowled the last over and took consecutive wickets to dismiss the Abingdon 10 and 11!

Stowe lost an early wicket but began to score well through Mercer, Hooper and Noble. After Mercer and Noble were dismissed after the 16th over, Josh Weru came in and provided Hooper with some good support. Stowe needed 9 from the last over to win and this turned into two off the last two to win. Weru was run out coming back for a second on the penultimate ball meaning the scores were tied. As Mr Knott was frantically trying to find out what a draw would mean, on walked Wilf Wyatt to face the last ball of the innings. The field were in close and Wyatt fended off a bouncer to square leg. Hooper backed up and was easily in and Wyatt sprinted to the other end. A bad throw over the bowlers head meant Stowe won the match on the last ball and were through to Regional Finals at Millfield.

The regular season ended with defeat to Bromsgrove however there were two fantastic knocks. Mulcahy hit 57 and Phillips 42 to cap two excellent seasons.

Stowe travelled to Millfield in the first week of the Summer holidays to face King's College, Taunton and Canford in a three way tournament. The winner would progress to the

National Finals. The Stowe squad of 12 players included five Third Formers - a great experience for the young players. Stowe faced Taunton first and Taunton batted first. They had a very big side and hit a huge 189 from their twenty overs. In reply, Cronie scored a nice 50 for Stowe but was unable to form a decent partnership with a teammate and Stowe fell short of the total. There was still a chance of qualification if Stowe could defeat Canford and set a decent total by batting first. George Hooper hit a fantastic 88 and although there was a chance of a century with an over to spare, had to take a few risks to get there. In reply, Canford batted well and had it not been for a couple of dropped

catches, Stowe may well have gone on to win. Although the tournament ended with two defeats, it was a very impressive and very enjoyable journey and Stowe were officially the third best side in the south and west this season.

The top batting averages for the season across 30 overs and T20 - Cronie 82, Noble 74, Hooper 43, Mercer 36, Mulcahy 22, Phillips 19.

MVP - Jack Mercer, Batsman of the Year - James Cronie, Bowler of the Year - Josh Weru, Fielder of the Year - Holly Phillips, Most Improved Player - Flynn Mulcahy.

Mr Ben Scott

Junior Colts B

The Junior Colts B team are a great bunch of sportsmen who have sometimes lacked that little bit of cricketing nous to take them over the line to victory. The season got off to a fantastic start with a 7 wicket victory over Uppingham with Tristan Montague, the stand-out performer taking 5 wickets for 10 runs off just 3 overs. Unfortunately, our next 3 matches were cancelled due to rain and this halted our progress and killed the momentum as the team did not win again. Despite this fact, the boys put in some spirited performances, losing to The Oratory U15As by just 8 runs and narrowly missing out on a victory against Akeley Wood U15As. Stand out performers with the ball go to Tristan Montague and Jack Brown, who have bowled very well and a special mention must go to Udo Ekpecham for his 45 not out against Dr Challoner's Grammar School. Thanks to all the boys who turned out to play and I look forward to seeing you representing the School for the Colts teams next year.

Mr Matthew Burch



Junior Colts C

The JCCs were denied several matches at the beginning of the season due to foul weather and opposition cancelling matches against them. Yet when they were able to take to the field, the enthusiasm and plucky nature they displayed carried them on through several difficult matches. The team spirit displayed throughout the season was impeccable and saw them fight to the very last ball no matter the opposition.

Mr Giles Cuddy



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Yearlings A

Having likened this team in the early stages of the season to Stoke City (I thought we'd need to work hard for our results), we were pleasantly surprised when we went on to win four of our first five games. Three of these ended in nail-biting final-over finishes and it was particularly pleasing to see a togetherness and strength of character which enabled us to get over the line in two of these, against Magdalen College School and The Oratory, perhaps having learnt from being on the receiving end of a last ball defeat against Uppingham in our first outing. It seems that, like England's excellent white ball outfit (our inspiration, naturally) at present, we were always better seeking to chase down totals rather than set them.

Highlights of the season included an excellent six wicket victory over Oundle, courtesy of a swashbuckling 65 from Wilf Wyatt, a successful County Cup run to the final and some excellent cricket in the end of season 50-over festival

in which we narrowly lost to Cheltenham in the unofficial final.

Particular mention goes to Oscar Watson, who performed the job of Captain, wicket keeper and opening batsman with enthusiasm, maturity and skill and capped the season with plenty of runs in the festival. Joshua Weru, who joined us this term from Kenya, added a five wicket haul in the Festival to some destructive stroke play throughout the season. I'm not sure I have seen a 14 year old regularly hit sixes which have travelled at head height from the middle to the boundary! Trennon Bettany's insatiable desire to improve and attitude both on and off the pitch was a dream for the coaches and Inigo Orchard's wily off spin contributed vital wickets throughout the season. All earned call ups to the U15s for their National Tournament.

Mr Henry Swayne

Yearlings B

Despite the first half of the season being disrupted by heavy rain and waterlogged pitches, the U14Bs had a positive season with an even win ratio. The boys acquitted themselves well and backed up strong fielding performances with some dynamic running between the wickets and some big individual scores.

The first game of the season was against Uppingham, where the team were a little naive in the field and we didn't capitalise on pressure. Although Charlie Crabbie picked up a wicket (C&B) with the first delivery of the season, Uppingham managed to build a partnership and score heavily. Stowe's chase fell short by 62 runs due to some excellent wicket keeping (4 stumpings!) by the opposition.

With the next three games abandoned, our time in the middle was kept to a minimum. Stowe did manage to bat strongly against Haileybury, with Mwai Kibaki scoring into the 80s before the match was rained off. Our first victory of the term came against Oundle; we fielded excellently to keep them to 131, with Rocky Farquhar's spin taking 6 wickets for 22 runs. A strong partnership between Kibaki and Xander Brett (27 and 57 runs respectively) secured a victory by 4 wickets.

We, unfortunately, then closely lost a 20:20 match vs



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DCGS, not quite chasing their total down in the time provided. Some uncharacteristic lapses in the field let us down. The following Saturday we ventured to play a very strong Bedford team, who reduced us to our lowest total of the season. In return, we did manage to get a handful of wickets, but they easily surpassed our total - the boys learnt a few lessons that day.

With renewed focus, we approached the final two games of the season, realising that we needed victories to provide some reward for all our hard work in the nets. Luckily, the boys saved their best performances for the end of the

season, with two excellent victories. Against Oakham we batted first and made an impressive 177 for 3; Xander Brett top scored with 86no, with Kibaki and Simpson adding a few runs each. Some tight bowling by Crabbie and Shellabear took out their top order and with Mullarkey chipping in with a wicket, we restricted them to 91 all out for victory.

In the final game of the season, more quality bowling limited Bromsgrove to 85, which Stowe managed to reach with relative ease - even though most batsmen were required to help out! The boys were ably led all season by Ed Collins as Captain, who maturely approached the fielding

placements and organised a bowling order that rotated, giving everyone a chance to shine.

When he was absent through promotion, Cameron Baker stepped in to provide a similarly mature approach and should be congratulated for his fielding prowess, as well as always scoring runs when called upon. Bertie Fountain kept wicket with determination and also provided some positive vocal performances, keeping the team focused. I would like to thank all the boys that have represented the School this term and wish them well in the future.

Mr Tom Elwell

Yearlings C

The Yearlings C team had an emphatic opening victory against Uppingham followed by a period of cancelled fixtures due to May's downpours. They resumed with a convincing win of 23 runs against Oundle (Constantine Chu 43* and 2 wickets, 1 maiden off 3 overs bowling) to go into the Half Term break undefeated.

The team narrowly lost against DCGS in a midweek fixture before returning to winning ways to finish the season with victories against Oakham (by 4 wickets) and Bromsgrove (by 90 runs). The team were a pleasure to coach, with all games being played in exactly the spirit they should be.

Mr Matthew Teasdale



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Girls' Cricket



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It's been a second unbeaten season for the girls' cricket team after starting last year. This season has seen three fantastic performances - the first coming against Bedford Modern School where the girls had to bat hard to beat the 51 runs Bedford put up in 15 overs. For the final two matches we put out a much younger side of U14s and

U15s who showed huge determination to do their best, both in the field and between the stumps. Special mention to Emily Banks for being a superb Captain at the start of the season and Holly Phillips for stepping up during the exams. Girls' cricket at Stowe is on the up!

Miss Lauren Ellis

Equestrian

What a record breaking year this has been for the Stowe Equestrian Centre. We have competed in the highest number of competitions in one term since the opening of the Equestrian Centre in 2012. Despite the poor weather conditions in the Michaelmas Term, which resulted in events being cancelled, we still managed to attend a full day's hunting with the Grafton meet at Stowe and the teams have shone through for the Summer Term.

We had two teams qualify for the National Schools' Equestrian Association Eventers Challenge Championship at Hickstead 27-28 May. The first team of Charlotte Morgan, Rosie Grayson, Sofia Wright and Francesca Macleod Matthews all rode fabulous rounds on the Sunday. Monday was the turn of our second team of Henry Hobby, Jemima Howden, Josh White and Tilly Hawkings-Byass. Thirty schools had qualified for this particular class and Stowe came away with second place. An amazing achievement.

Four teams took part in the NSEA Show Jumping Qualifier at Keysoe, hosted by Wellingborough School. The teams consisted of Tilly Hawkings-Byass, Sofia Wright, Cecily Hopkins, Emma Wright, Francesca Macleod Matthews, Charlotte Morgan and Rosie Grayson. The 80 and the 90 team both came 6th out of the 12 schools that took part with Rosie Grayson and Cecily Hopkins being placed 1st

out of 60 competitors in the 'Best Turned Out' category.

Stowe was represented by Joshua White at the Gawcott One Day Event, who rode the best show jumping round I have ever seen him do, but unfortunately had a refusal in the XC section.

Henry Hobby represented Stowe at the NSEA Eventing Qualifier at Broadway Inter-Schools One Day Event. With a little help from Ernest Dillon for the dressage section, after Henry's success in the Polo Championships, he was placed 3rd with 'Harry' and 8th with 'Boy'.

A record number of Stoics took part at this year's Stowe Beagles Hunter Trials. 5th place in Class 1 was Lydia Taylor. 6th place in Class 3 Coco Brooks. For Class 4, Henry Hobby was just out of the rosettes in 10th place out of 23 starters. Rosie Grayson 7th, Josh White was 4th and Jemima Howden came 3rd, also winning the highest placed Stoic Cup and Shield. House points were awarded for all competitors and helpers for the day which were put towards the Equestrian Inter-House Competition.

Seven Stoics competed at Elmwood NSEA one day event. Charlotte Morgan came 2nd with an impressive dressage score and double clear xc and show jumping with Rosie Grayson 13th in the same section. Jemima Howden came 10th with Scottie and 15th with Ed. Sofia Wright took 16th place.





On Wednesday 6 June, we ran the dressage section of the Equestrian Inter-House Competition along with a BBQ for parents and pupils. We had over 25 entries giving pupils who do not own horses an opportunity to compete using School horses. For some, this was their first ever equestrian competition. The results for the Intro were: 1st - Bo Jenkins, 2nd - Aki and 3rd - Paris O'Broughton; Prelim 1st - Henry Hobby, 2nd - Cecilia Mayne, 3rd - Cecily Hopkins, and for the Novices 1st - Leilia Paske, 2nd - Henry Hobby and 3rd also Henry Hobby. With the combined points gained from the XC section, run alongside the Stowe Beagles Hunter Trial earlier in the month, the overall winner was Chatham House. They were presented with the Sir Howard and Lady Stringer Equestrian Trophy.

For Speech Day the Equestrian Centre put on a display demonstrating how pole work can improve your dressage scores. Cecilia Mayne rode her own horse 'Lou Lou' and Polly French rode a School horse 'Monkey'. Both pupils and spectators found it interesting and educational.

The Old Stoic Racing Club visited the Equestrian Centre bringing their racehorse 'Topper'. He enjoyed his short stay with us before going to the South Front for photographs.

In May, Lady Stringer unveiled the plaque for the Equestrian Centre's British Horse Society (BHS) approval

for livery yard and riding school. We achieved several highly commended grades in the following sections: Horse Welfare, Customer Care, Teaching, Tack and tack room and Grassland Management sections. Due to achieving this, we have been able to offer joining the 'BHS Participation Project'. This enabled Polly French to become the first Stowe pupil to achieve the British Horse Society Progressive Stages 1 to 6 in Stable Management and 1 to 5 in Riding. Polly has been training at the Equestrian Centre each week. This opportunity is now being extended to any Stowe pupil who is registered at the Equestrian Centre.

Leilia Paske and 'Yam' have been chosen to represent Great Britain at the Junior Europeans in Fontainebleau where I'm sure she'll meet up with Bubby Upton on 'Cola'. We wish them both the best of luck.

Isla Holman-West achieved her dream of riding for her Country as she trialled and was selected to represent England at mounted games at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. This was a huge privilege for the team to ride for their Country in front of the Queen and to win was the icing on the cake. England finished on a massive score of 209 and in doing so broke the record for the highest ever scoring winning team!

Mrs Angela Haycock, Equestrian Centre Manager



Lacrosse

1st XII

The 1st XII Lacrosse team had a challenging year. They started the season off strong with a convincing day at the Moreton Hall 'Top Test Tournament'. They had three solid wins against Shrewsbury, Birkenhead and Queen Margaret's. They also saw three draws against strong northern opponents. The girls then carried on and had fantastic wins against St Albans Girls' School, Uppingham, Tudor Hall, St Helen & St Katharine and Cheltenham Ladies' College. The season then took a turn and the weather defeated us on most weekends. The 'Beast of the East' tore through the tail end of the lacrosse season and, unfortunately, that meant that the 1st XII were unable to compete in National Schools and the final fixtures on the calendar. The attack was led by Captain Olivia Thomas who confidently scored 68 goals.

We also saw fantastic performances in the midfield and attack by Holly Phillips, Amber Frost and Milly Cranmer. The defence was anchored by Hannah Venner with over 125 saves this season. Defensive standouts were Jessamy Money-Kyrle, Thea Chisnall, Amber Capurro and Annie Roberts. Although they are a young team, they have a ton of talent and I have no doubt that they will see great success next season. Congratulations go to Olivia Thomas for representing the South East A team and on being selected to represent England in the U20 European Championships this Summer in Poland. Congratulations also go to Hannah Venner, who was selected as the team's 'Most Valuable Player' for the 2017-2018 season.

The Captains for the 2018-2019 season will be Lily Marriott and Annie Roberts.

Mrs Kaitlan Griffin

2nd XII

The 2nd team had a great first half of the season with some excellent victories over Guildford High School and Cheltenham Ladies College. Possibly the best result was the draw against Radley Boys with superb performances from two Fourth Formers - Cosima Prestwich and Frankie Macleod Matthews. The shape of the team inevitably changes after Christmas with hockey players coming back into selection and U15s returning to their own year group. The new partnership of Lucy Bourn and Charlotte Munn behind the goal looks excellent and let's hope that they both push for 1st team places next year. Defensively, Sonya Sander, Izzy Hopkins and Hannah Laurence look strong - they are athletic and tactically astute. In attack - Maddie Marriott, Georgie Leefe and Martha Scott Knight, are all capable of pushing for 1st team places in attack.



Snow affected the momentum of the season and many matches were cancelled - including Nationals, which definitely affected morale. However the signs are good for next year and let's hope for better weather!

Mrs Kaitlan Griffin

3rd XII

The 3rd XII were extremely positive and enthusiastic individuals who put 110% effort into all their games. The girls had two outstanding wins against The American School in England (TASIS). During the first game, Stowe found themselves without a goalkeeper but still managed to play a remarkable 12-4 victory with Imy Oliver scoring an impressive 6 goals. For the second game, the girls from TASIS put up more of a battle but Stowe were eager to continue with their winning streak against them and fought for another 6-1 win.

Unfortunately, the 3rd XII lost their final two games but frequently demonstrated excellent team spirit on and off the pitch and continued to progress by learning set

plays around the goal which they later transferred into the games. The girls became much more vocal during the second half of the season and communicated effectively with one another when transferring the ball up and down the field and could recognise what they needed to improve on to help them play to the best of their abilities.

Deserved mentions go to Imy Oliver, who was our top goal scorer of the season, Hannah Laurence, who is a defensive player for the 2nd XII but stepped up and helped the 3rd XII by playing in goal without having any experience in the cage, she was fearless and did an excellent job, and to Ruby Redfern who made tireless runs up and down the pitch from her defensive position and even managed to add her name onto the scoreboard. The 3rd XII were a pleasure to work with and I wish them all the best in the future!

Miss Kate Ware



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U15A

The U15As started their year with the Top Test Tournament at Moreton Hall. The squad played matches against Rencombe, Cheadle and Lancashire, with the final game of the day against the hosts Moreton Hall which was the only Stowe loss on the day. However, the performance was one of the best, special mentions to Bella Robertson and Imi Laurence who hunted the Moreton Hall ball carriers, hounding them and winning possession from them multiple times. Atlanta King also stood out, making attack darts in to the opposition fan and causing problems for their defence. Maisie Roberts shone and her efforts were rewarded with the 'Most Valuable Defensive Player' honours for the day.

The following weekend saw the squad at the super-counties on a very pretty autumnal Sunday. The mental challenge of giving up another Sunday and travel to an away venue, the second of the weekend for some, would be telling. The first match was a tough affair, both teams displaying tenacious defences that gave away very little. The Stowe defence only just coming off second best as they girls went down 1-0 in a very close game. The midfield working hard in both directions to transition the ball to the attack and share the defensive responsibilities, Tilly Jones making a noticeable

difference on her return to the squad and Luciana Butler continuing from where she left off last week. Next up the Stoics would face Wycombe Abbey, local rivals and a school with a strong lacrosse programme. The girls had no time to rest from their match against St Helen and St Katharine before entering the fray against Wycombe. The back to back games told and Stowe were two down at the half and despite fighting back a win was not on the cards as a breakaway by Wycombe saw them score with mere seconds remaining on the clock, a very deflating loss and a result which didn't reflect the match statistics. The final fixture saw Stowe face the home team, North London Collegiate and if there was ever a demonstration that it might not be Stowe's day this would be it. As the final whistle went and Stowe fell just short of the victory they had been hunting it struck me that this squad of athletes had played three high intensity matches, two of them back to back and after a hockey match the day before.

At our fixture against Moreton Hall, they came out of the blocks fast and never looked back. Stowe in comparison were struggling to keep pace with the visitors who made very few mistakes throughout the match and who were clinical in front of goal. That said the visitors didn't have it all their own way, Eliza Percy pulling Stowe back with a solo effort, driving from behind the goal to coolly finish

past the goalkeeper. The second half started and despite a re-shuffle it was very much the same one way traffic. Willa Hodson scored for Stowe and despite getting more looks on goal the girls were unable to convert. Not the start to the year the team was looking for but some key areas were highlighted for the girls to work on in the coming weeks. Needless to say the girls came back fighting.

A rainy, windswept field hosted the U15s at St Helen and St Katharine, braved by some very welcome supporters who saw the Stoics put in a determined performance that was on the back foot for most of the match. Struggling in the weather conditions, the Stowe girls were unable to convert on the attacking opportunities they had. The injury-hit squad also travelled to St Helen and St Katharine to take part in the Top Test Tournament. Six games against some of the top lacrosse playing schools in the country and the

tournament certainly lived up to its name. While the girls didn't record any victories the squads development through the day was significant and will stand them in good stead for National Schools in the near future. Willa Hodson led the scoring on the day and stays at the top of the table for the squad this season. Frankie Macleod Matthews following hot on her heels. The defence led by Captains Tilly Jones and Bella Robertson fought tirelessly throughout and showed the increasingly impressive cohesion that will serve this squad well.

Sadly, the remainder of the season was lost to the 'Beast from the East' with matches cancelled and postponed and the girls didn't get the chance to complete their fixture list, which was a disappointment for all.

Mr Giles Cuddy

U15B

The U15B team played an aggressive brand of lacrosse. It was a tough season for the girls with fixtures being cancelled and losing most matches in close margins, their perseverance paid off with a fantastic 8-all draw against the Oakham U15A team. Although the matches did not end in

our favour, the girls always left everything on the field and with their heads held high. We saw stand out performances this year from: Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini, Sophia Batey, Emilia Havard and Koty King. This is a very promising group of young women and we look forward to seeing their progress as they move up to the Seniors next season.

Mrs Kaitlan Griffin



U14A

The U14A team developed quickly this season, both as individuals, and as a committed group of young athletes. In a term plagued by snow, the matches that could be played ended in a record of one win and three losses. Starting with losses to Moreton Hall and St Helen and St Katharine, the team couldn't have come up against many tougher oppositions, however it gave the team something to aspire towards; the girls dug their heels in, and doubled down on their energy in training. This showed with a strong 7-5 victory at Tudor Hall. Wycombe Abbey handed the girls a bitter loss on their visit, however the girls were always able to get on the scoreboard. Savannah King was a reliable finisher throughout the year, while Jet West was a solid anchor in goal, regularly making more saves than goals allowed. Annie Saghri, who Captained several games, gave

many polished performances in defence, and subsequently, has been selected to train with the Regional Academy. To finish off the season, the team competed at the U14 County Tournament hosted by North London Collegiate School (NLCS), where they showed incredible passion, managing to take home a win, a draw, and two losses. Their determination to grind out a draw against NLCS, with a last minute goal from Jemima Howden, earning her the team 'Most Valued Player' at the tournament. The girls have brought maturity and ability beyond their years to the field, with one opposition asking on the sideline whether the Stowe team had been playing since Year Six, and being very shocked to find that much of the team had started only this school year. They have been a pleasure to coach and I thoroughly look forward to seeing their progress through the lacrosse pathway at Stowe.

Mr Robert Ingham Clark

U14B & U14C

The U14Bs had a tough season as they played against some exceptionally strong teams who had played lacrosse for years, whereas, the majority of the U14Bs had never picked up a lacrosse stick let alone played a game. The girls were very enthusiastic to learn and displayed a positive mentality as soon as they stepped onto the pitch which made training sessions enjoyable to participate in and to coach. The U14Bs were quick to pick up the skills required for the game and their positive attitude and team spirit enabled them the progress throughout the season. Although we

did not see the results, we hoped for this season the girls gained a lot from each game as they were able to learn from more experienced opposition. Deserved mentions go to Lavinia Primrose for her fearless performances in goal, Paris O'Broughton for her numerous energetic runs to the opposition's goal and Kiera Haines for her fantastic defensive play.

The U14Cs only played one match this season, away against Wycombe Abbey School, which they lost 8-4 despite fantastic effort.

Miss Kate Ware



Karate

It was with great regret and a very heavy heart that I had to say goodbye to all of my karate students in the Summer Term, due to them all being in the Upper Sixth, but before we parted company, I arranged an hour and half lesson for three of the students who I thought were ready for their next grading at the end of term. Unbeknown to them they were undergoing their last grading with me. They trained exceptionally hard during the whole lesson going through their own individual grading syllabus. At the end of the lesson, we had a group photo taken, followed by a very unexpected belt and diploma presentation with some very happy faces and tears.

Victor Topa achieved his Green belt 6th Kyu, Alex Orton achieved her Brown Red belt which is 1st Kyu and Mar Martinez-Tomas achieved her Shodan Intermediate Brown

Black belt (intermediate Black). Mar is the first student who has trained at Stowe to achieve this grade. I hope as other students have, they all go on with their training and allow karate to help them through their lives outside Stowe as it did inside the School, because Karate isn't just something to help defend yourself, it's a way of life and helps you through many stages of your life. I am so proud of them all and will miss them dearly. We not only became a very close-knit club but also a family.

I wish them all the luck in the coming years and know that they will carry on being the respectful and wonderful students that I have seen grow into wonderful adults.

*Mr David Smith, Chief Instructor Sensei,
Shotokan Karate Instructor*

Golf

I have been delighted with the way in which golf at Stowe has continued to develop and thrive during the course of this academic year. Expert PGA coaching is readily available during the golf activity programme throughout all three terms and in addition to this, private golf lessons can be arranged. We have witnessed the arrival of Stowe's inaugural Golf Scholar, Max Faulkner, who has contributed enormously to our Golf Programme and developed his golf to a very high level. Max has, without question, had a superb year with the highlight being his selection as Captain of the Independent Schools Golf Association (ISGA) England U15 team in the inaugural England v Scotland event at Collingtree Park Golf Club. The Golf Scholarship programme has been a very exciting introduction as we now prepare to move towards the launch of the Stowe golf Academy and with construction now well underway on our superb new golf course, there really are exciting times ahead for Stowe Golf. With significantly longer and more challenging holes, along with much larger greens that will be constructed in accordance with USGA guidelines, we believe that our new golf course will be one of the finest school golf facilities in the country. It will allow Stoics to combine golf coaching and development of the highest quality with a first-class academic education. For any aspiring sporting talent, there is always the challenge of balancing the need to gain an exceptional all round academic education with a dedication to sporting achievement - the Stowe Golf Academy will provide an opportunity to do exactly that.

With a significant increase in the number of both Junior and Senior golfers opting to either learn or play the game, performances in our varied school fixtures and competitions have been very encouraging indeed. We have once again been fortunate to visit a number of superb and iconic golfing venues including Stoke Park (courtesy of Chester King, OS), Sunningdale, Woburn, Woking, Luffenham Heath, The Buckinghamshire, The Berkshire and the delightful New Zealand Club. Our Junior team has recorded some comprehensive victories and I have been pleased with the growing contributions from Hugo Manners, Archie Barnes, George Hooper, Fred Ross, Sam Wardlaw and Elliott Derville. We eagerly look forward to more Junior fixtures next year.

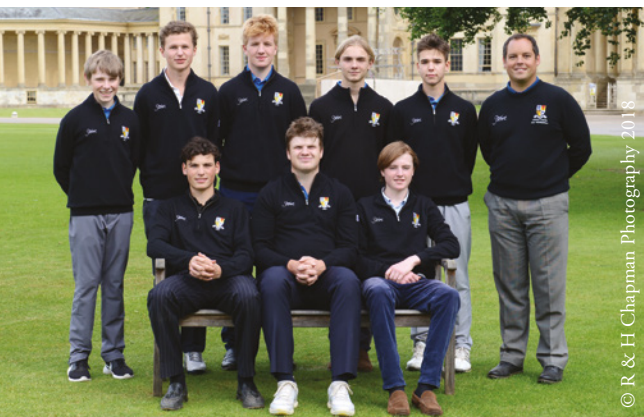
Led by Captain Pierse Odell, our Senior team has had one of the most successful campaigns for many years.

We have claimed some very good scalps with particularly notable victories against Harrow, Radley, Charterhouse, Rugby, Haileybury, Uppingham, Wellington and the ever-competitive Old Stoic Golf Society.

We enjoyed a positive run in the ISGA National Match Play Championship with a comprehensive 5-0 victory against Rugby in the opening round before narrowly losing out to a very strong Warwick in the second round on away soil. Special mention must go to our outgoing Captain, Pierse Odell, who has led the team magnificently throughout the season and acted at all times as a fine ambassador for Stowe golf. We wish Pierse all the very best as he moves towards a future career within the golf industry whilst at the same time welcoming Lochie Shillington who will take on the mantle of golf Captain for the upcoming campaign.

Gerald Micklem Trophy

The highlight of the competitive year, however, came in March when we travelled to Woking Golf Club for the annual Gerald Micklem Trophy. The Gerald Micklem Trophy was inaugurated in 1954 and is a traditional and extremely prestigious invitational golf tournament played at Woking Golf Club every year between eight of the top Public Schools. Each year, we compete against Eton, Harrow, Wellington, Charterhouse, Rugby, Bradfield and Winchester with Stowe still holding the record of winning the Micklem more times than any other school. This year, our team of five was led by Captain Pierse Odell and consisted of Lochie Shillington, James Watkins, Max Smith and Stowe's inaugural Golf Scholar, Max Faulkner. Following a solid and well earned 4-1 victory against the Old Stoics, we entered the first round of the Championship in good spirits and capitalised with a magnificent 5-0 win over Rugby. We then progressed to the semi-final and faced an experienced Charterhouse - superb wins by Max Faulkner, Pierse Odell and Max Smith paved our journey to the final. We then came up against Wellington - currently ranked number one golfing school in the UK - and took them to the wire eventually losing 2-3. Special mention must go to Max Faulkner, who beat Wellington's No.1 player 3&2, along with Max Smith, who recorded a superb 2&1 victory against Wellington's Captain, who played off a handicap of +1. Although we didn't quite manage victory, I was extremely proud of the Stoics throughout a very intense



tournament at Woking - they were all a real credit to both themselves and Stowe.

PGA Coaching & Development Trip - Portugal

At the beginning of the Easter break, Stowe golfers set sail for the sun-kissed fairways of the Algarve as we embarked upon another exciting six-day PGA Golf Coaching and Development Trip to Portugal. With 19 Stoics participating, we based ourselves at the award winning Amendoeira Golf Resort, home to both the Faldo and O'Connor Championship Courses, along with a 9-hole Academy course and superb practice and teaching facilities. With daily coaching, the Stoics made significant progress with both their golf technique, short games and overall on course performance. Through use of the latest V1 digital golf coaching software, Stoics were able to compare and contrast their biomechanical swing patterns during both practice sessions and on course competitions, thus developing their understanding throughout. In addition to playing the O'Connor and Faldo courses at Amendoeira, we visited two of Portugal's most prestigious and iconic venues - Quinta do Lago and Vale do Lobo. In a very closely fought contest, Tom Youds was crowned winner of the inaugural Stowe Golf Portugal Classic after recording the lowest 36-hole gross score. Max Smith was a very close runner-up and played some superb golf on the Faldo Course. In the handicap competition, Edward Wentworth-Stanley finished runner-up to Freddie Smith, who capped off an excellent overall performance. It was also particularly pleasing to see Ed Snushall playing such good golf and clearly making excellent use of the coaching available throughout the trip. In summary, the trip was a huge success and I must thank Mr Panos John and Mr Craig Sutton for assisting me and supporting me throughout the duration of a very busy and demanding trip.

Headmaster's Tankard Golf Competition

On Friday 22 June, the annual Headmaster's Tankard Golf Competition took place around the iconic Stowe Golf Course and the event was very well supported by staff and Stoics alike - a total of eight pairs competed with the format being 9 holes Foursomes Stableford. Playing conditions were extremely challenging seeing as the recent run of fine weather had made the golf course very firm and fast in places so the emphasis was very much on judgement and course management. The Headmaster and I were delighted to see some very good golf on display - Mr Panos John and Lochie Shillington (Lower Sixth, Grafton) paired up as a team and finished runners up. The main silverware and rather handsome Headmaster's Tankard was claimed by the winning pair of Mr Nick Hill and Fred Ross (Third Form, Chandos) who played some superb golf and doughtily as a foursomes pair. The prizes were awarded by the Headmaster who commented on the quality of the golf and how impressed he was with the overall event. We very much look forward to next year's competition.



Inter-House Golf

On Sunday 20 May, the annual Inter-House Golf Competition returned to the schedule and it was excellent to see both Queen's and Stanhope entering a team of four golfers. The boys' Inter-House event was won by Chatham (42 Stableford points) with Bruce finishing runners-up (41 Stableford points). The Chatham team consisted of Edward Wentworth-Stanley (Lower Sixth), Jack Nesbitt (Fifth Form), Ollie Taylor (Fifth Form) and Henry Saunders Watson (Fifth Form). The girls' Inter-House event was won by Stanhope, thanks to an outstanding individual performance from Emily Wilson (Fifth Form). The 'Laddie Lucas Trophy' - a prize awarded to the person who records the lowest gross score over 18 holes - was won by Max Faulkner (Third Form, Temple) and the net competition was claimed by Elliot Mullarkey (Lower Sixth, Grenville).

Mr Andrew Hancox



Netball



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Seniors

This year, it has been a delight to be able to offer four Senior netball teams, once again, plus a new U16 team! We were also fortunate to once again be invited to three major tournaments by Bedford Modern School, Bradfield College and St Helen and St Katharine and had much success in the England Netball National Schools' Competition. We have had a record breaking season, winning a huge 58% of 105 matches, which is fantastic! There has been a truly determined approach by all the girls this season. I wish all of our Leavers well and hope they continue to enjoy playing netball as they have considerable potential.

1st VII

The 1st VII this season have been a truly fabulous squad, led wonderfully by Captain Alice Maclure. They are to be applauded for having a fantastic season many in their final year at Stowe. We have played 18 matches of high level netball coming away with 12 fruitful wins which saw over 270 goals scored by Stowe. This smashed our target set at the start of the season.

We started the season at the England Netball County Rounds finishing as County Champions with wins over Akeley Wood, Denbigh and Ousedale, which saw us head to the Regional Rounds over Exeat.

In the Lent Term, the most thrilling moments came at the St Helen and St Katharine tournament. They faced five teams in the group stages starting with the hosts in the 1st game. From the start, it was clear it was going to be a close match but the Stowe girls kept calm and came back from behind to draw 3-3. From this point, the team just went from strength to strength, winning the rest of their group games and winning the group with a +65 goal difference!

The semi-final saw Stowe play Tudor Hall and win in a thrilling game. The final saw a repeat of the opening game verses the hosts and both teams definitely stepped up to the occasion. Stowe went out strong but came up against strong opposition and couldn't quite hold out, with the game finishing with the hosts winning. The girls were awarded with Silver medals and Alice Maclure and Olivia Flood were awarded 'Players of the Tournament' in recognition of their consistently fantastic contributions

Well done to Olivia Flood for being awarded 'MVP' for the season.

2nd VII

An extremely busy season for the 2nd VII, playing 13 matches throughout the term, scoring over 200 goals in total! They started well with a convincing win against Princethorpe College (22-8) and enjoyed some competitive fixtures with Tudor Hall, St Edward's, Bloxham, Downe House, Rugby and Wellingborough. Early in the term, they played Bedford Modern, narrowly losing 16-21, then notably played them again towards the end of season to win 15-12. The biggest challenge was managing the cold facing freezing conditions for the majority of the games, and training sessions, with resilience being the focus to help cope with the very cold fingers! Lee-Ann Sule led by example on the court, motivating and encouraging the team as well as playing superbly as goalkeeper making an excellent partnership with Mo at GD. I wish the Leavers all the best and hope they will continue to enjoy playing netball beyond Stowe.

3rd VII

The 3rd VII have had an exhilarating season playing 9 very competitive matches and coming away with a win on their opening day against Princethorpe College 27-4. They went on to win against Wellingborough and Downe House. They kept a strong team spirit up all season and most definitely made sure they enjoyed all of their netball. Well done to Georgie Vallings for a well earned 'MVP' this season as well as netball colours.



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4th VII

The 4th VII had the opportunity to play four competitive fixtures this year. They came away with 2 wins, a draw and a loss, which was absolutely fantastic! This season is the first time our 4ths have come away with wins in competitive games. The highlight was definitely against Silverstone UTC which finished as a 12-12 draw against their 1st VII. A great season of fun netball!

U16A

We had our first ever U16A team which were a hugely successful development team and ended the season with a great win against Downe House and also competed in the St Helen and St Katharine tournament which broadened their experience greatly. Well done to Toyah Mowat for being awarded 'MVP' for the season.

Juniors

The Juniors have had an extremely successful term. The U14As, U14Bs and U15Bs finished winners of the Aylesbury District League and the U14Cs have been unbeaten all term. The U14A team won the end of season tournament - therefore, the U14As are now County Champions - a testament to how far they have come this term.

This year, we took the opportunity to enter both the U14 County Tournament and the U16 County Tournament once again. The U14A team didn't have a massive amount of preparation for the County Tournament but that did

not stop them on the day. In their first game for Stowe, the U14s had an incredible tournament showing a multitude of positive attributes including phenomenal passing through court, a very high shooting conversion rate and a tangible team spirit. They opened the tournament with an 8-3 win against Cottesloe and followed this with wins against Thornton College (8-5), The Grange (7-0), Aylesbury High School (10-5), Sir Thomas Fremantle (13-0) and Waddesdon (8-1). The tournament was so hotly contested that the top two places went down to goal difference with Stowe coming out 3rd by 1 goal! They even beat the winners - Thornton! A really heart wrenching end to a fantastic debut performance for this team with a really exciting future. The whole team showed real promise for a thrilling Lent Term. Miss Ellis was not only blown away by the horrendous weather conditions but also the skill of the whole team! All the girls demonstrated fantastic court discipline which can be really tough at this level.

During their Tuesday and Thursday netball activity, six teams across the U14s and U15s had an opportunity to play in fixtures against some local schools in the North Bucks Schools League. All teams showed brilliant improvement.

U14A

The U14A team opened the league with a thrilling win against Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. They finished the league as winners after just one close loss. Going into the end of season tournament, the girls were really determined and were crowned the winner! It was fantastic for them to finish the season as County Champions. A huge testament to the whole team led by Captain Ele Blane who was awarded 'MVP'.

U14B

The U14B team have been one of the most successful B teams in recent Stowe history, building on the success of last year's U14B team. They have won all but 2 of their games this season. The first of those defeats was a highly fought 5-9 loss against Bedford Girls' School which was a great test. A truly fantastic squad of girls who came away with winning medals. Well done to Precious Wakhungu for earning 'MVP' this season.



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U14C

The U14C team played the season with much determination and resilience. They had the opportunity to play seven competitive fixtures this year - more than we have ever played before and came away unbeaten! This included the end of season tournament which was a fantastic experience for them all. A few of these girls had never played Netball before coming to Stowe so this is an excellent achievement. Well done to Millie Fooks for gaining 'MVP' for the season.

U15A

The U15A team had a fantastic start to the season with a win against Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. They went on to win and lose alternately all season! This included a hard fought game at Aylesbury High School. Both teams started strong, with all to play for after the first quarter. The girls stayed focussed and determined to win every 50/50 ball, keeping the intensity up until the final whistle. The girls came back winning 15-12. Well done to Annie Preston for being awarded 'MVP' for this season for being so diverse on court.

U15B

This has to be our most hard working and resilient team

in the School! This squad worked hard every minute of every game played, even when on the back foot. They started the season with their closest scoreline of 7-5 in a win against Bedford Girls' School which was a tough test. They couldn't quite claw out a win against Tudor Hall in the final game of the season losing 12-10. This was despite relentless hard work. They finished winners of the league which was very well deserved. Well done to Kitty Dutton for being awarded 'MVP' for the season.

U15C

The U15C team played the season with much determination and resilience. They had the opportunity to play four competitive fixtures this year, managing to win against Wellingborough 9-6. In the final game of the season, they worked hard for a 10-10 draw. Well done to Koty King for being awarded 'MVP' for the season.

It has been a pleasure to coach all the Senior and Junior girls this year alongside Miss Megan Wright and Mrs Sarah Sutton. Many thanks to Miss Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, Mrs Lucy Miller and Miss Lauren Cartwright for their umpiring assistance.

Miss Lauren Ellis



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Inter-House Results

The winners of the 2018 Inter-House Netball Competition were:

Seniors - Nugent

Intermediates - Nugent

Juniors - Nugent



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Water Polo

We have had an exceptional year for Water Polo with the U18 boys' team achieving an undefeated run, coming up against tough teams such as Harrow and Bedford. Throughout the season, they won six and drew one. All of the U18 Upper Sixth boys have played water polo for their entire time at Stowe and have matured into some exceptional players. The 'Player of the Season Award' goes to Kit Rigby (Grenville) for his commitment to the team as Captain and as our highest goal scorer.

Most of the U16s played up for the U18 team, but in their own U16 matches, Captained by Alex Girling (Chatham), again held an unbeaten streak against Harrow, but losing our last game to Northampton Boys' School in a friendly. Alex has gone on to be the U18 Team Captain for the 2018/19 season.

Inter-House Leagues

The Inter-House Water Polo League took place in the Lent Term and was completed in style with a gripping final on the last weekend with Grafton taking on Chatham, winner takes all with Grafton taking the Senior Cup. The Intermediate Cup was conceded with two weeks to go, where no other House could catch the Chatham Intermediate boys, scoring an impressive 28 goals over the tournament.

Mrs Cheryl Davis

Old Stoic Water Polo

Do Stoics lose their competitive streak when they leave the School? Definitely not if you watched the Old Stoic v U18 Stowe team on Speech Day. A thrilling match from the start and by the end of the third quarter the score was 5-4 to the Stoics, the Old Boys showing they still had the skills and stamina. The last quarter was amazing and everyone came out fighting with the score in the final minutes drawing at eight all. Our U18 Captain Kit Rigby was not going to lose this one and unleashed down the pool, to score and on the final whistle the Old Boys were defeated 9-8.

A big thank you to Old Stoic Water polo Captain Sam Morris (Chatham 08) for helping to organise the event and the rest of the Team; Charlie Mason (Grafton 14), Seb Johnson (Grafton 14), Jonathon Hall (Bruce 79) and Charles Pilleau (Grafton 14).





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Football

1st XI

Stowe's 1st XI football team did not have a stellar season but it will be remembered for a group of players who stuck at it and produced some really good football. With a win ratio of 33%, for the pure statisticians amongst you, it is clear we struggled to consistently piece play together on the pitch this season. However, with a tough fixture list, against footballing schools such as Bedford Modern, King's Ely, Wellingborough and Loughborough Grammar, the boys stuck to the task and never let their heads drop. Top goal scorers were Tom Percy and Cameron Paterson, with two goals each. Other players also wanted to get in on the act with our 12 goals coming from 10 players across the squad. It was a similar story with 'Man of the Match', with six different players picking up the accolade across our nine games. The first team's 'Most Valuable Player' was Peter Wood who showed enterprise to get forward from right back but also defended staunchly against some talented opposition.

The first of our two wins of the season came against St Edward's. The boys started the game sharply and within 2 minutes were 1-0 up. After good pressure on the ball, Dan Jolker gained possession and found Max Campbell-Preston on a darting run with a well-placed ball. In an advanced position, Jolker got it back and put the ball in the danger zone. Tom Percy duly got on the end of it to header past their keeper who was blinded by the low sun. Stowe continued their pressure and had the better of the two sides for the first 15 minutes. However, St Edward's drew level through a powerful drive into our 18 yard box, splitting the Stowe defence to finish well in the bottom left corner. Stowe were looking good at the set piece and from

a corner, they once again took the lead. Jolker produced a beautiful delivery for defender James Gill to rise the highest in the 6 yard box to put his team 2-1 up. Adam King and Abdullah Albanawi looked a solid pairing at the back for Stowe, cleaning up any real St Edward's opportunity. The first half finished with Stowe looking on top in both possession and territory. St Edward's unsurprisingly came out for the second half with new intent and had a good period of pressure but were unable to capitalise. Substitute Peter Wood put the game beyond the visitors, showing great control in the box to finish superbly under pressure. Cameron Paterson was producing a 'Man of the Match' classy display of passing, creating a number of chances for his teammates.

The MK Dons BTEC fixture was the other main highlight of the season. It was undoubtedly our best game of the season, in which Stowe demonstrated killer instinct in front of goal and real work rate for each other, winning the game 3-1. Stowe looked like a completely different team both mentally and physically to the one we saw at most matches this season. Their intent to work for each other was top notch, and this led to pressure on the opposition who struggled to get a foothold in the game for long periods of this game. The deadlock was broken when Cameron Paterson tried to lob the centre back but it went straight up in the air, he adjusted well and guarded the ball as it dropped, he brought it under control and fired a half volley past a flailing keeper. That took Stowe into a deserved 1-0 lead at half-time. Early in the second half, Stowe were awarded a free kick, Albie Oswald delivered it into the 18 yard box, Paterson flicked it on to find Luca Adjei at the far post, his ball across goal was met first by Josh Armstrong who failed to finish, but Captain Dan Jolker obliged. Stowe

looked good for their two goal lead, and Fifth Former Henry Howard, making his 1st team debut, kept the opposition out with a superb diving save, reaching far to his left hand corner. Oswald produced a moment of genius, when he brought down a high ball and struck it early and sweetly into the bottom left corner of the goal giving the keeper no chance. The MK Dons pulled one back late on but the damage had been done. Stowe should have come away with lots of confidence for the future league games

but they never really recreated the consistency of that game. Well done to the players who fully committed to training throughout the season and were proud to pull on the Stowe kit. I hope that the departing Upper Sixth learnt a lot from this season and can take those lessons into football beyond Stowe. To the Lower Sixth and Fifth Formers, I look forward to seeing you take the next step in your development next season.

Mr Andrew Jackson



2nd XI

Most Valuable Player - Ed Huser

Most Improved - Harry Pullin

Top Scorer - Micky Shillington/Max Shannon with 3 goals each

The 2nd XI football team have had a mixed season and two wins out of eight does not do them justice. They battled hard in every game, leaving nothing on the pitch and unfortunate defensive errors cost them at key moments. The boys put in some fantastic performances including a 3-2 win against St Edward's, Oxford and a thumping 5-0 win to round off the

season against Akeley Wood. 'Player of the Season' is awarded to Ed Huser who Captained the side for almost every game and led by example on the pitch, dominating the midfield. Other stand-out performers throughout the season were Max Shannon, John Balcon Perez, Harry Pullin and Max Campbell-Preston, who all played almost every game and worked tirelessly in and out of possession. Special mention must also go to the U16 boys who stepped up to play when numbers from the Seniors were low - the future is bright. Thank you to all who played this season and made it such an enjoyable term of football.

Mr Matthew Burch

3rd XI

This season has not been the most successful in terms of win ratios for the 3rds, however it has been a good season for player development with several players coming into the 3rds and showing a real affinity for football. 'Man of the Season' has been Phil Birdwood who has put in a great shift as Captain and worked hard with the team. However all of the 3rds should get a special mention for having a great attitude both during games

and in training, showing themselves to be great sportsmen, even in defeat. Special mention for all the U16s who filled gaps for us when needed and proved to be strong footballers even when playing up an age group.

My personal highlight has to be from the game against Wellingborough, which ended as a draw, with Jamie Abbot-Davies scoring a screamer from within his own half as a last-ditch attempt on goal.

Mr Alistair Last



U16A

This season has been very disjointed for the U16s, however, it has been very encouraging. We started off the season with a comfortable win away at Uppingham well Captained by Egan Brosnan. Our pace up top with Harry Amorntien and Ben Edeh opened holes in the Uppingham's defence, which we made the most of. Our defence was exceptional with good performances from Thor Mager and Joe Nuttall. They kept it tight and helped keep a well-earned clean sheet. This win was very pleasing to see considering we had only been playing as a team for under a week. In training sessions, we focussed a lot on taking more shots to put the keeper under pressure.

In our next game against a very strong Bedford Modern side we took a while to get into the game conceding a soft goal early on. We looked strong again in defence and started

creating more chances later on in the first half. We were unlucky in that we had a lot of debatable offside decisions given against us. We carried on taking more shots and going into the last 5 minutes still 1-0 down, we knew we deserved at least a point. We got what we deserved with a bit of magic from Lyle O'Brien with a great run down the right wing cutting onto his strong left foot and place it into the bottom right corner to finish the game 1-1.

We went into the Half Term break positive with what we thought would be another four games to come. However, the 'Beast from the East' took three games away from us which was very disappointing.

Our last game of the season was against Loughborough Grammar School. The team were desperate to finish on a high, however the weather wasn't encouraging. We knew playing in a blizzard was going to be tough but we conceded early which made us drop our heads. There was a glimmer of hope to get back into the game when they went down to 10 men. There were some good plays between Micky Shillington and Udo Ekpecham, however Loughborough were clinical and we suffered a heavy defeat.

Throughout the season, we have developed a lot and improved on all aspects of the game. Lyle O'Brien was our top scorer, scoring in almost every game and Micky Shillington controlled our midfield exceptionally well throughout the season. Thor Mager and Paul Purdon have been extremely solid at the back as well. Overall, this season has helped us develop as footballers and prepare us for Senior football next year.

Mr Ciaran Malanaphy & Mr Pete Deakin

Squash

The 2017-18 squash season has to go down as a very successful one. With a higher percentage of Stoics taking up the sport and team results improving as the season went on, it is clear that the current outlook is now shifting from a 'transition phase' to a purple patch for the School in general.

After some tough fixtures and mixed results during the early part of the season, our teams really began to put in the hard yards and played with passion and commitment. Results started to turn in our favour with successive victories against Oundle, Bedford, MCS, Oxford and Berkhamsted.

The team then put the cherry on top of an excellent season by beating a very tough Uppingham side on Thursday

15 March. Lottie Hopkinson, Josh Landau and Arthur Fenwicke-Clennell, all won their final matches representing Stowe, and there were also brilliant wins for Hector Smiley, Louis Hink, Joss Walker and James Cronie.

Special mentions also go to Jamie Hungin and Arthur Dobbs, who both recorded impressive victories throughout the season and who will provide the backbone of the new team moving forward into next year.

Finally, a big thank you must also go to our coach, Fraser Liversage, who has been instrumental in the improvement across the board. It's a promising time for our squash players and I'm very much looking forward to next season.

Mr Edward Smith



Clays

With this academic year's theme of 'character' in mind, the members of the Clay Pigeon Shooting teams began the year on the same note with which it ended: with enthusiasm, optimism, respect, and determination. The Bursar's Field bustled every week with new additions to the shooting register, while also maintaining steady practice for the Stoics with easy familiarity with the traps and guns.

The many competitions over the year brought to light the depth of the Stoic shooting stable, and more than a few of the events ended in nailbiting shoot-offs. In the Michaelmas Term, the annual Swan Cup was complemented by the creation of the Pen Cup, which goes to the School's top girl shooter. On the afternoon of the Swan Cup, the competition ended in a tie, with Tavish Struthers (Lower Sixth) and Alex Harris (Upper Sixth) both shooting an impressive 41 of 50 clays. The tie was broken in a shootout the following Wednesday, when Tavish Struthers shot 17 of 25 clays during a minor tempest. The newly christened Pen Cup went to Kianti Subowo (Lower Sixth) for her top gun score of 36 out of 50 clays.

As the year advanced, so did the intensity of competition, which manifested itself in the Inter-House Competition held in March. With an impressive representation from the houses, the shooting took place on a glorious Spring day, which saw the Boys' House Cup remain on the trophy rack in Grenville, but won by its B Team, comprising Alex Holmes (Upper Sixth), Hugo Robinson (Lower Sixth), and Cameron Chambers (Lower Sixth). The Girls' House Cup now resides in West, secured by the steady shooting of Lexie Cook (Lower Sixth), Hermione Spencer (Lower Sixth), and Eliza Wauchope (Lower Sixth).

After a series of challenging selection shoot-offs, Stowe sent three teams to the National Clay Pigeon Competition,

hosted at Sporting Targets, Riseley. On both the A and B Courses, the Stoics faced down demanding stands with top-flight competition. They were competitive in the best way: accepting error or setback with equanimity, and applauding each success as their own. Although narrowly missing honours in our respective categories - in a few instances, by one shot - each shooter comported him or herself with pride and honour. The A Team faced an absolutely formidable course, and the B team and girls performed with the right balance between competitive spirit and camaraderie. Special mention goes to Tom Fountain, Dulcie Hopkinson-Woolley, Max Whitehead, Cameron Chambers and Alex Jones for shooting perfect scores on individual stands, and top shot for the A team was Tavish Struthers.

The Speech Day competitions rounded out in similar spirit the year's many accomplishments. The Parent-Stoic Competition was fierce, yet confidently settled by the steady aim of Will Trumper and his Father. Through the morning's drizzle, the Stoics held off a redoubtable effort by the Old Stoics to claim the trophy, with the trophy nestled for another year on the awards shelf of the Stoics themselves.

This year's many successes - be they formal competitions or simply a single pupil beating a personal record during the Wednesday activities slot - could not have been possible were it not for the indefatigable commitment of Clive Harris, the lead instructor who brought energy, seriousness, and a wry humour to each shooting session. The Team Captain, Tom Leach, dispatched his responsibilities with aplomb, handing to the upcoming year's Captain, Tavish Struthers, a thriving team of shooters hungry for competition and eager to display the richness of their character.

Mr Fitzpatrick Smith

2 BUCKS

1 BERKS

SHIPLAKE

STOWE

RACE No. 82

AT

FAWLEY
TIME

ROWING

Rowing at Stowe has moved on a pace this year with many achievements across the board for our squad. We decided to move some of our training to Hollowell Reservoir, where each Wednesday the crew would be driven to the lake for training with the rest of the week being based at the School's 11 Acre Lake. With 140 acres of open water, Hollowell is one of the best rowing resources in the country, allowing us to train virtually every Wednesday. With the support of Andrew Rudkin, Andrew Wilson and Dr Alice Insley, we were able to provide training four afternoons a week. We attended some home events throughout the year including, the Isis Sculls in Oxford, Pangbourne Sculls, Norwich Head, Schools' Head, Birmingham Regatta and the Ball Cup Regatta held at Dorney Lake Eton, home of the 2012 Olympic rowing regatta. We had some very good achievements with 1st place for our Senior Quad at Dorney, as well as a Gold medal for Archie Morley in Junior-17 Single Sculls, a Silver medal for Charlie Chick in Junior-15 Single Sculls and a Bronze for Oscar Hill in Junior-18. At the Isis Sculls, our Senior Quad came 2nd by 0.9 second to Falcon Rowing Club. During the October Half Term, we took a crew to Boston, USA to compete again at the Head of the Charles River. Staying again with Minna Blair at Manchester by the Sea who yet again was a wonderful host for the crew, the crew had a spirited race in the Men's Youth Coxed Quads coming 28th in this competitive event down the Charles River through the centre of Boston. We have already been

accepted to compete in this event this coming October where we hope to move up the results table as virtually the same crew will be racing and will be older and stronger as well as having a lot more experience a year on.

The highlight of the year was to qualify for Henley Royal Regatta in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup. This is the Premier Event at Henley for school eights and is highly competitive. There are 32 entries available and is open to schools from across the world, each school only being allowed to enter one crew. We managed to put together a crew from a squad of 11 with students from across four year groups, with four of the crew coming from the present Fourth Form. With this younger element in the crew, it was obvious from the start that we would find any race challenging, but to compete at this very prestigious event would be a first for the School, with Stowe never having competed at this event in the School's history. The eight was put together in the early Spring having spent the earlier part of the year in quads and double sculls. This is a very good way of improving the boat skills and technique of the students and allows us to mix the crews with ease, should we wish to switch students from one seat in the boat to another. Our first event in the eight this year was at Birmingham Regatta at Edgbaston Reservoir, just after Easter. In the first round, we beat University of Birmingham and then raced St Edward's School, Oxford in the final, who put in a very competent and strong Junior



crew. Stowe initially led this race but Teddies just managed to pip our crew at the finish line. This was a very good start for the crew and suggested that an entry into Henley would be a good possibility later in the year. In the penultimate week of term, we found out that we had qualified for Henley so it was decided that we should move our training to there, so five days of training was organised to familiarise the crew with the course and to prepare for the demands of the race itself. Daily trips from Stowe to Henley in the lead up to our race took place and the crew could be seen to improve day by day. On the eve of the Regatta, we held a friendly race with another Princess Elizabeth Cup crew, The Oratory School, who row on the Thames at Reading, resulting in a thrilling dead heat. Unfortunately, on the Saturday evening, we discovered that we had been drawn against one of the favourites, Shiplake College, who are the 3rd fastest crew in the country, with 100 pupils in their boat club and a track record of success at Henley. However, undeterred (and with Shiplake having the benefit of two stone per crew more) our resilient Stoics continued to take their training seriously right up to race day. Supported by a good number of parents, students and staff from the School, the crew put in a very spirited effort. They held Shiplake from the start until the end of Temple Island from where Shiplake took a small lead... the race was commented live on YouTube by Greg Searle MBE who described Shiplake as, "Going off like a rocket!" By the Barrier, Shiplake were ahead and had clear water between the boats, however, the Stowe crew held together for the rest of the course and past the Stewards' Enclosure showed true determination

and very good technique. While losing to this highly experienced crew, the Stowe crew came back onto the slipway, knowing they had done their best and were more than pleased with their performance given the quality of our opposition. (The following day Shiplake put out the top school from USA.) Once the race was over and the boat was put back onto the trailer, there was a lovely gathering of the crew and supporters where everyone was able to express their thanks for all the support given during the year to get the crew to this point.

The squad this year has been very committed and the atmosphere amongst the group has been very encouraging with many good appearances in the various events we have participated in. We have been very fortunate in having a parent donate sufficient funds for us to purchase a new eight and trailer and this enabled us to participate at Henley in a boat that allows us to compete on a level playing field. We are also in the process of receiving two new high specification single sculls which will significantly enhance our fleet given the frequency in which we use this class of boat at regattas.

Finally, I would like to thank all those parents that have stood in muddy, wet and windswept fields at the various events we have taken part in this year. Thankfully, Henley Royal Regatta took place in full sunshine and virtually cloudless skies! Rowing and Sculling are available to all students at Stowe and the earlier you start, the better chance you have at getting into and forming a good crew.

Mr Michael Righton



Boys' Tennis

1st VI



Stowe 1st VI enjoyed a season of entertaining, good quality tennis and ended up with a 60% win rate. Early narrow victories over Oakham, Rugby and Bradfield were followed by less successful encounters with Oundle and Uppingham. Team selection remained much the same throughout: Freddie Woods and Nico Montgomery at first pair, Harry Hewlett and Tom Percy second, followed by Sam Flint and Hector Smiley. The first two pairs, in particular, were competitive throughout and the overall standard of their doubles play was impressive.

Much credit goes to Freddie Woods as Captain, who is not only a shrewd and talented player, but also carries out administrative tasks flawlessly. Harry, Tom and Hector will form the nucleus of what should be a strong first team next year and they all featured in an 8-1 mixed pairs victory at St Edward's in June.

Mr Rory Akam

2nd VI

The Senior 2nd team had a short but difficult season coming up against strong opposition in each of their matches. The best result was a closely fought battle against Rugby School at home that went down to the wire. The boys lost the match in the final head to head but showed good heart to battle to the end. Several of the team will be looking to build upon their performances this season as they progress into the Upper Sixth next year and hopefully overturn some of the bigger defeats. A special mention to the Senior 2nd Captain Jamie Jackson for leading by example and bringing together a team for every fixture.

Dr James Popplestone



Colts

The tennis season for the GCSE cohort is confined to the first half of term; thereafter exams take over and tennis gives way to keepie-uppie on the North Front.

However, in a few short weeks, this talented group of players made good progress. The season started with two narrow defeats to Oakham and Bradfield, where on both occasions we managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. However, we rallied well, ending on a positive note with tight wins against Rugby, Uppingham and Oundle. This last win was thanks in large part to Oundle arriving with only five players!

There was strong competition for the prestige of playing as first pair but Charlie Maclure and Thor Mager secured this berth by dint of their consistent, attacking play. The flair pair was Harry Burnet and Henry Saunders Watson, who have plenty of promise for next season and with more consistency in critical match situations, they could be a force to be reckoned with. George Buxton and Tom Fountain are one of the better 3rd pairs on the circuit; Tom's athleticism combined with George's touch again bode well for the future.

The season was short but sweet, but the boys' all-court game improved considerably, and most importantly, the game was played in a friendly, sporting manner.

Reverend Tim Mullins



Junior Colts A and B

This year the U15 boys were once again able to field a strong A and B team. Both teams experienced a challenging 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 Maximillian McNally, the U15A team fought hard in a number of closely-matched encounters. While the individual pairs managed some outstanding performances at various points in the season, bringing an overall win against the likes of Uppingham and Oundle proved a step too far. With these high-class individual performances in

mind, the U15A team should be proud of the tennis they have played this season. The U15B players faced similar challenges but equally managed to hold their opponents to account. Striking performances by the individual pairs at both U15A and U15B level promise great things for the future of tennis at Stowe, in particular from our top pair of Maximillian McNally and Kamil Benjelloun Perez-Carballo. Congratulations to all who represented Stowe at U15 level this season.

Mr Roland Johnson

Yearlings A

Played 7, Won 4, Lost 3

This year's U14A team comprised of Archie Burnet, Benedict Hartigan, Darius Shirazi, Fernando Fournon-Berodia, Robin Vane-Tempest Stewart and Tom Gibson.

The boys played some excellent tennis this season, appreciating the need to focus on the more attacking aspect of their game and coming into the net in order to dominate and to win points. As the term progressed, the boys tightened up on their service games and it was great to note the increase in both pace and determination to get ahead, whoever the opponent may have been and however tough the match situation was. We were fortunate this year to have some strong players join the Third Form and out of the eight matches that we played, the boys won four and lost two. A good season and I am sure that the Fourth Form will see these boys pairing up again and developing their game yet further. A great season of gamesmanship and tough competition - well done boys!



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Yearlings B

Played 6, Won 2, Lost 4

The U14B team this year comprised of Jayden Preko, Oscar Parsons, George Hopkinson-Woolley, Rupert Fox, Alex West and Ben Li.

B team pairings were much easier to work out this year. The boys' pairings worked well together in training and it was gratifying to note the steady improvement through the Summer Term that the boys made at each of their training sessions. Much attention was paid to the consistency of the boys' serve and volley games, while accuracy in returning and covering the court was a real focus that paid off towards the end of term. The boys played six matches, winning three and conceding the other three. That said, much of the match play that I observed at both home and away matches, was fierce and determined and it was great to see the boys play with such sportsmanship and good grace. Return journeys to Stowe with the boys were always a positive experience with them reflecting upon their respective performances, regardless of the result. As ever, it was a pleasure to see them represent the School so positively.



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Girls' Tennis

1st VI

Played 14. Won 13, Lost 1

This year's squad of seven were Kira Evans (Upper Sixth, Nugent) (Captain), Vicky Beglin (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Yasmin Mama (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Lottie Hopkinson (Upper Sixth, Stanhope), Elisabeth Pran (Lower Sixth, West), Lily Marriott (Lower Sixth, Nugent) and Bella Lloyd (Third Form, Nugent). This has been one of the most successful and rewarding seasons in the history of girls' tennis at Stowe. In the Michaelmas Term, the girls played in the Senior Schools' Competition, having won all their matches in the group stages, they progressed into the

knockout stages in the Lent Term. Winning through to the National Finals by getting to the quarter-finals, they then spent two days in Bolton in March competing for the title which they won. With five fixtures in the first half of the Summer Term, they won all but one. The loss to Rugby, with a very close 4-5 defeat, was the only game that put a dent into a 100% record. All the Upper Sixth were awarded tennis colours last year, and Elisabeth Pran was awarded her tennis colours this year.

Mr John Skinner

2nd VI

With the depth we have in talent, it was hard to choose a second VI. A total of 12 girls played in the six fixtures we had in the Summer Term. The fight for a place in the team was always very competitive. The results achieved did not reflect the quality of the squad and a couple of very tight matches which ended up 5-4 in the favour of the opposition could have gone either way. The team was represented mainly by Lower Sixth and Fifth Form so we are in a good position for some of these players to represent the School in the first team next year as there are four first team players leaving.

Mr John Skinner





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3rd VI

Practices were hampered severely by exams at the start of the term which then was swiftly followed by study leave. However, there were some impressive performances from the 3rds against both Bradfield and Uppingham. Maria Sharipova and Izzy Hopkins went undefeated for most of the season and were consistent in their desire to train throughout study leave. They will surely be pushing for a regular place in the 2nd team next year. New partnerships have been formed and old ones revived and it has been impressive to see the numbers and talent that is coming from the Lower Sixth.

Mr Brian Hart

4th VI

The 4ths have trained well and there have been strong performances from Upper Sixth (Emily Bourn and Hannah Venner), Lower Sixth (Amber Frost and Lucy Clements) and Fifth Form (Charlotte Would and Ruby Redfern). They enjoyed success over Tudor Hall and competed against Oundle and they were 3-3 going in to the last round. Study leave affected the training schedule but a number of the squad will be Lower Sixth next year and Senior tennis looks strong.

U15A



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Played 8. Won 5, Lost 3

The U15A tennis team had a great first win of the season against Oakham away. India Case and Willa Hodson had three strong wins of 6-1, 6-0 and 6-1 against their 1st pair. Eliza Percy and Imy Bewes also had three great wins of 6-4,

6-3 and 6-4. Luciana Butler and Celest Lamberti beat their opposite pair 6-4, however struggled to beat Oakham's first and second pair losing 1-6 and 1-6. A tough fixture against a strong Bradfield side followed. They just lost 5 sets to 4, with some great tennis on display from both teams. India

and Willa (1st pair) struggled against Bradfield's 1st pair losing 6-1, they beat their 2nd pair 6-5 and lost to their 3rd pair 6-5. Eliza and Imy (2nd pair) had a great game and beat Bradfield's 1st pair 6-4, however lost 6-3 and 6-5 to their 2nd and 3rd pair. Luciana and Celest (3rd pair) came out strongest with two wins out of the three, beating Bradfield's 2nd pair 6-4 and their 3rd pair 6-3. They lost 6-0 to Bradfield's 1st pair. At Tudor Hall the team had a convincing performance with an overall 8-1 win. India and Willa won all their games 6-1 (1st pair), 6-0 (2nd pair), 6-2 (third pair). Eliza and Imy also did brilliantly and won all their games 6-4 (1st pair), 6-0 (2nd pair), 7-5 (3rd pair). Celest and Luciana won two out of their three games, losing 6-7 (1st pair), winning 6-3 (2nd pair), winning 6-3

(3rd pair). At Uppingham, the team finished 7-2 up with India and Willa winning all their matches 6-1 (1st pair), 6-2 (2nd pair and 6-0 (3rd pair). Eliza and Imy also won all their matches 6-2 (1st pair), 6-0 (2nd pair) and 6-3 (3rd pair). Celest and Luciana struggled to get into a rhythm in their first two matches losing 2-6 (1st pair) and 3-6 (2nd pair). They however gained a strong result against Uppingham's 3rd pair winning 6-0.

As the season progressed the team had very strong wins (6-3) against both Oundle and St Edward's, but the end of the season saw narrow losses to Bloxham (4-5) and Rugby (3-6).

Overall a very positive seasons for the U15As, well done girls!

Ms Sally White

U15B

Played 8, Won 6, Lost 2

The first match of the season started with a great win again Oakham. Maisie Roberts and Niamh Dudgeon played well together for the first match of the season. They won all three of their matches 6-5, 6-4 and 6-4 helping the team to a great first win of 7-2 overall for the U15B team. A strong start to the season.

The next fixture was challenging and sadly they lost 6 sets to 3 to Bradfield. However May brought a positive run of matches with wins against Tudor Hall, Uppingham and Oundle. Sadly our winning run ended with a match against St Edward's with a very close match and Stowe going down 4-5. However we bounced back against Bloxham winning 7-2. Caroline Prestwich and Rosia Li have been very committed this season and have grow as a pair in the Summer Term. They fully deserved to be selected for the B team and it was brilliant to see them winning 2 out of the 3 matches only losing to Bloxham's 1st pair. They won 6-1 and 6-0 to their 2nd and third pair and lost 4-6 to their 1st.

We ended the season on a high as we beat Rugby comprehensively 8-1. A good season for this wonderful B team.

Ms Sally White



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U15C

Played 8, Won 8

The team of 6 used 14 different girls throughout the season to make this such an outstanding performance of results. Tilly Jones (played 8), Bella Robertson (played 7) and Caroline Leach (played 6). Koty King, Alex Trumper and Rosia Li, all played five fixtures. Every match they played, they turned up with only one goal, to win. This positive attitude was very apparent in the first match of the season against Oakham, where determination and holding their nerve at the crucial moments meant they came away with a 5-4 win. The first match of the season is always a nervous one for both players and coach. The remainder of the matches were played with much less nervousness and the tennis just got better and better. The next three fixtures were comfortable wins and then there was another nail biter against Oundle when the girls pulled off another 5-4 victory. The girls finished off their season with a couple of 9-0 victories. With 14 different girls playing in the squad, it shows that U15s have good depth in ability.

Mr John Skinner



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U15D

Played 3, Won 3

A very good season for the D team even though they only had three fixtures. It was a shame that some of our opponents were not able to field a D team. All three matches were won by 6 sets to 3. A total of 12 different girls were used for the three fixtures which enforces the number of girls playing tennis and wanting to compete. For next season, their fixture calendar is already busier than this. Four girls put in two appearances: Bella Brown, Martha Shillington, Pandora Smiley and Tess Clarke, and were the backbone of the D team. The hard work they all put in at training plus the positive attitude going into the matches gave them their just rewards. Their three wins were against Oakham, Oundle and St Edward's.

Mr John Skinner

U14A

Played 8, Won 7, Lost 1

The U14A team are to be congratulated on the most successful tennis season. They played eight fixtures, winning seven, narrowly losing only one, which involved winning 54 out of the 72 sets! It is extremely impressive to defeat Oakham (8-1), Bradfield (6-3), Tudor Hall (8-1), Uppingham (6-3), St Edward's (7-2), Bloxham (7-2) and Rugby (8-1), just losing to Oundle (4-5) in a thrilling match. Isabella Lloyd who is a superb player, and her partner Rosie did not concede a set and Rosie proved to be the player who won the most sets all term. Ele and Fleur were a very consistent partnership and together they strived to develop their game, communicating to dominate the net and apply relentless pressure, enjoying many competitive matches. Fleur won the singles tournament played throughout the term. Otilie and Olivia became an established 3rd pair and were able to give the opposition's 1st pairs an excellent game with some very dynamic tennis. Above all, they are a delightful group of girls who are so talented and a cohesive unit who have therefore been a pleasure to coach.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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U14B

The U14B team reflect the strength of the U14 girls with a fantastic sets of results for their first tennis season at Stowe. They narrowly lost their first fixture to Oakham (4-5) but then never looked back, going on to win their next seven consecutive matches! This is a superb achievement and it has been exciting watching them play. Their notable wins were against Bradfield (8-1), Tudor Hall (8-1), Uppingham (8-1), Oundle (6-3), St Edward's (9-0), Bloxham (9-0) and finally, Ruby (6-3). They won an incredible 59 sets,

conceding only 13! Lauren Yeowart was the player to win the most sets, 19, and played mostly with Sonia whilst Sophia and Izzy were the most consistent pair winning 16 of their overall 24 sets! Savannah and Violet played well together and, when Savannah was off competing on the athletics track, Poppy also made a great partnership with Violet. There is considerable potential amongst this wonderful group of girls and I look forward to following their success as they progress through the School.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U14C

The U14Cs have had a pleasing first season of tennis at Stowe against some very strong sides. The girls played a total of eight games, winning three and losing five. The girls had a shaky start losing their first two matches to Oakham and Bradfield 3-6 and 2-7, respectively. However, this did not stop them from turning up to training with any less enthusiasm, instead they were more determined to improve their tennis, which they did! Their commitment to training paid off in their strong 9-0 wins against Tudor Hall, St Edward's and Bloxham. The girls were very

unlucky in their matches against Uppingham and Rugby, narrowly losing both 4-5. In both fixtures, the score was all level at 3-3 going into the final sets against their opposite numbers. The final result came down to the score of the third pair's last set against Uppingham and first pair's last set against Rugby. A special mention goes to Tilly Dubsy and Florrie Combe for winning the most sets for the C team, well done! The girls should be proud of the improvement they have made in tennis this season. I hope they continue playing next year and I look forward to following their progress if they do.

Ms Megan Wright

U14D

The U14Ds should be pleased with the steady progress they have made throughout the season, especially as many of the girls had played very little tennis before joining Stowe. Despite the girls only having three matches, they were keen to learn and improve their tennis, which they did! This is echoed in their results which got better as the season went on. They lost their first match against Oakham 0-9 and their second against Oundle 3-6 but got their first win in their last fixture of the season against St Edward's 9-0. I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching the girls and I hope they continue playing tennis next year.

Ms Megan Wright



Skiing



The Stowe Ski Team had a very successful year and acquitted themselves very well in the competitions they represented the School in. They forged stronger links with the Milton Keynes indoor Ski Slope and were able to train regularly in the lead up to these competitions. Miss Crockett and Mrs Browne were a huge help in both accompanying the Stoics to these training sessions, as well as on the trips themselves.

Over the January Exeat, Stowe sent three teams to compete in the British Schoolboys' and Schoolgirls' International Races in Wengen and Flaine, respectively.

In the boys' races, the U18 team came second in the Dual Parallel Slalom Plate Competition and the U16 team came runners up in the dual parallel slalom Trophy. In the Individual Registered Category, Matteo Pangherz came 6th in the Slalom and 15th in the Giant Slalom and Louis Hay came 15th in the Slalom and 17th in the Giant Slalom. The following boys raced well in the Individual Unregistered Category: Tom Scott; Archie Barnes; Ollie Horton; Xan Kenlock; Luke Holland-Bosworth and Conrad Spencer.

In the girls' races, the Stowe team of Elisabeth Pran, Sofia Wright, Harriet Page and Lucy Walduck had a very successful championship. In the U18 group, Elisabeth won Gold in the Non-Registered Slalom, Giant Slalom and Combined Competitions. She came second in the combined overall and third in Giant Slalom. This was by far the most successful individual performance by a Stowe skier in the history of the School and bodes well for next year, as Elisabeth is still only in the Lower Sixth. In the U14 Group, Sofia Wright came an impressive second in the Non-Registered Slalom and Giant Slalom Competitions, which was the best performance ever by a Third Form Stoic in these Championships. The whole Stowe team came third in the Unregistered Group.

If any current or future Stoics are interested in joining the Ski Racing Programme, please do not hesitate to contact me. Training will now take place during activity time on a Wednesday afternoon and should allow for further improvements to be made in competitive skiing by Stoics.

Mr Philip Arnold



Sailing

Sailing at Stowe goes from strength to strength, having extended the sailing season this year.

Our race squad now sail in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms and there are opportunities to learn how to sail in the Summer Term, so there's something for everyone interested in sailing during their time at Stowe.

During the Summer Term, we have also been taking pupils who are newer to sailing and 'teaching them the ropes'.

It has been a great pleasure to see the smile on the face of pupils as they helm a boat for the first time. We have plans to gain RYA Recognised Training Centre status for the school next year, so we can award our sailors qualifications under the RYA's Youth Scheme.

Our race team finished the season unbeaten in any matches. Much of the racing we undertake is in the team racing format. This is a highly tactical form of the sport and is the format of racing seen in all schools and universities, so what we do really builds on the opportunities for Stoics in later life.

Inevitably, we have lost some sailors who have now completed their studies at Stowe and I wish Will Trumper and Alex Holmes, fair winds in the next stages of their life

'passage'. The race team is now re-building and we have a number of sailors with both enthusiasm and potential to keep the team's success rate going forwards, but we also welcome any new sailors who want to join this team - experience is not necessary, but commitment to the team is. We have a number of National competitions we will be entering next academic year and I hope to be able to share our achievements at these next year.

At the time of writing, we are about to set off for three days of sailing in the coastal waters at Itchenor Sailing Club in their Schools Week Regatta. It will be a great experience for our sailors to sail in a sixty strong, fleet of boats.

I hope that sailing will continue to grow as a key part of school life for the pupils who get involved. We have a great bunch of sailors with a real team ethic and we are very happy to hear from any pupil wanting to join our team and learn to sail or race at Stowe.

I am indebted to Mr Liam Copley, Mr Gwilym Jones and Miss Heather Eisenhut for their help and support in delivering sailing at Stowe.

Mr Duncan Syme





Athletics

Overall, 2018 saw an excellent Athletics Season with over 85 athletes competing for the School at four meetings throughout the season: 2 at Bromsgrove School against 7 other schools each time, the Guy Butler Shield at Harrow School for the boys against the likes of Harrow, Eaton and St Paul's and then the Buckinghamshire Schools County Championships held in Milton Keynes at the end of the season.

The 1st meeting of the season at Bromsgrove School saw the following highlights:-

Team

In the Boys' Competition - Overall 2nd, Seniors 1st, Inters 3rd, Juniors 2nd. In the Girls' Competition - Overall 2nd, Seniors 3rd, Inters 2nd, Juniors 2nd.

Senior Girls

Helena Vince - Javelin 2nd, Ugochi Ekpecham - 100m 2nd, Zara Atta - 100m 1st, Zara Atta - High Jump 1st, Connie Barnes - Triple Jump 2nd, 4 x 100m Relay 1st.

Senior Boys

Taju Atta - 100m 1st, Dom Saghri - 100m 2nd, Taju Atta - 200m 1st, Josh Armstrong 400m 3rd, Luke Aust 1500m 3rd, Ed Anderson - Triple Jump 2nd, Ed Anderson - Long Jump 1st, Mikhail Fedotov - Discus 1st, 4 x 100m Relay 2nd.

Middle Girls

Emilia Havard - 800m 2nd, Tiffany Sole-Scarpellini - 1500m 3rd.

Middles Boys

Ben Edeh - 100m 1st, James Studholme Colver - High Jump 2nd, Oliver Garson - 200m 2nd, Toby Moore - 200m 3rd, Micky Shillington - 400m 3rd, Egan Brosnan - 800m 3rd.

Junior Girls

Annie Saghri - 100m 2nd, Isla Holman-West - 100m 3rd, Kristina Martindale - 200m 3rd, Jemima Howden - 300m 1st, Emma Wright - 300m 3rd, Emma Wright - 800m 1st, 4 x 100m Relay 1st.



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Junior Boys

Joey Gwena - 100m 1st, Seb Campbell-Preston - 200m 1st, Barney Cunningham - 200m 2nd, Seb Campbell-Preston - 300m 1st, Fred Ross - High Jump 1st, George Foster - Javelin 4 x 100m Relay 1st.

In the 2nd meeting of the season at Harrow School, we saw these highlights from the Boys:-

Juniors

Fred Ross - 1st in the High Jump, Opualabo Seriake-Dickson - 1st in the Shot Putt, Joey Gwena - 2nd in the 100m, George Foster - 2nd in the 100m, Seb Campbell-Preston - 3rd in the 300m.

Inters

Harry Reed - 2nd in the Discus, Ben Edeh - 3rd in the 100m, James Studholme Colver - 3rd in the High Jump, Dave Dooley - 3rd in the Shot Put.

Seniors

Dom Saghri - 3rd in the 100m, Dom Saghri - 3rd in the 200m, Freddie Tuffnell - 3rd in the High Jump. We came 4th in the 4x100m relay.

At the 3rd meeting of the season hosted by Bromsgrove School, we saw these highlights:-

Team

In the Boys' Competition - Overall 2nd, Seniors 2nd, Inters 1st, Juniors 2nd. In the Girls' Competition - Overall 3rd, Seniors 4th, Inters 3rd, Juniors 2nd.

Junior Girls

Annie Saghri - 100m 1st, Jodie Brogden - 800m 1st, Iryna Muravsky - 800m 3rd, Jodie Brogden - 1500m 2nd, 4 x 100m Relay 2nd.

Inter Girls

Triple Jump (Junior) Jemima Howden - 1st, Sijeh Fongho - 100m 2nd, Rhea Vankova-Martin - 200m 2nd, Kitty Dutton - 300m 3rd, Sijeh Fongho - High Jump 2nd, 4 x 100m Relay 3rd.

Senior Girls

Zara Atta - 100m 3rd, Cleo Leather - 200m 1st, Cleo Leather - 400m 1st, Helena Vince - Hurdles 2nd, Tallula Douglas Miller - Triple Jump 2nd, Zara Atta - High Jump 1st, Connie Barnes - High Jump 3rd, Helena Vince - Javelin 2nd, 4 x 100m Relay 2nd.

Junior Boys

Joey Gwena - 100m 1st, Seb Campbell-Preston - 100m 2nd, Joey Gwena - 200m 1st, Seb Campbell Preston - 200m 2nd, Ben Calabro - 800m 1st, Ben Calabro - 1500m 3rd, Baz Calkin - Hurdles 3rd, Fred Ross - High Jump 1st, George Foster - Javelin 1st, 4 x 100m Relay 2nd.



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Inter Boys

Ben Edeh - 100m 1st, Ben Edeh - 200m 1st, Dan Roberts - 800m 1st, Dan Roberts - 1500m 1st, Egan Brosnan - Hurdles 2nd, Toby Moore - Long Jump 2nd, James Studholme Colver - High Jump 1st, Harry Reed - Discus 1st, Harry Reed - Shot Putt 2nd, 4 x 100m Relay 2nd.

Senior Boys

Dom Saghri - 100m 1st, Adam Williamson - 100m 3rd, Jack Polturak - 200m 3rd, Luke Aust - 400m 1st, Cameron Chambers - 800m 2nd, Cameron Chambers - 1500m 3rd, Peter Wood - 1500m 4th, Freddie Tufnell - Hurdles 2nd, Ed Anderson - Hurdles 3rd, Ed Anderson - Triple Jump 2nd, Oleg Solovveyev - Triple Jump 3rd, Ed Anderson - Long Jump 2nd, Babalola Bakare - Long Jump 3rd, Babalola Bakare - High Jump 1st, Mikhail Fedotov - Javelin 1st, Mikhail Fedotov - Discus 1st, Adam Williamson - Shot Putt 2nd, Mikhail Fedotov - Shot Putt 3rd, 4 x 100m Relay 1st.

The season ended on a high with 10 County Champions being crowned at the Stantonbury Campus Athletics Track in Milton Keynes:-

Joey Gwena - Junior Boys 100m (12.0s), Joey Gwena - Junior Boys 200m (23.9s ESAA Standard) and a new School Record for Junior Boys, Fred Ross - Junior Boys High Jump, Jack Simpson - Junior Boys Shot Putt, Teide Lokpobiri - Junior Boys Discus, George Foster - Junior Boys Javelin (40.93m New PB)

Lyle O'Brien - Inter Boys 100m Hurdles, Christian Linton - Inter Boys Javelin, Harry Reed - Inter Boys Discus, Udo Ekpecham - Inter Boys Long Jump.

Other noticeable performances were:

2nd Place, India Case - Inter Girls Javelin, Joshua Weru - Junior Boys Discus 2nd, Ben Edeh - Inter Boys 100m (11.3s), Egan Brosnan - Inter Boys 100m Hurdles

3rd Place, Precious Wakhungu - Junior Girls Discus, Isla Holman-West - Junior Girls Long Jump, Jemima Laurence - Inter Girls High Jump, Emily Wilson - Inter Girls 80m Hurdles, Kitty Dutton - Inter Girls 200m, Ed Collins - Junior Boys 80m Hurdles, Ben Hartigan - Junior Boys 800m, Ben Hartigan - Junior Boys 1500m

4th Place, Annie Saghri - Junior Girls 100m 13.5s, Jemima Howden - Triple Jump (Competing in the Inter Girls competition because there was no Junior Girls Triple Jump) and a new School Record for Junior Girls with 9.33m, Savannah King - Junior Girls High Jump, Sijeh Fongho - Inter Girls 100m, Amelia Leondiou - 4th 80m Hurdles, Kitty Dutton - Inter Girls Long Jump, Tiffani Sole-Scarpellini - Inter Girls 1500m, Ben Calabro - Junior Boys 300m, Baz Calkin - Junior Boys 80m Hurdles, Opualabo Seriake-Dickson - Junior Boys Discus, Toby Moore - Inter Boys Long Jump, Logan Brown - Inter Boys Javelin, James Studholme Colver - Inter Boys High Jump, Ben Sarraff - Inter Boys 200m

5th Place, Paris O'Broughton - Junior Girls Long Jump, Olivia Omotajo - Inter Girls Shot Putt, Aaryan Aswani - Junior Boys Triple Jump, Aaryan Aswani - Junior Boys Long Jump, George Hamilton-Stubber - Inter Boys Javelin, Harry Reed - Inter Boys Shot Putt.

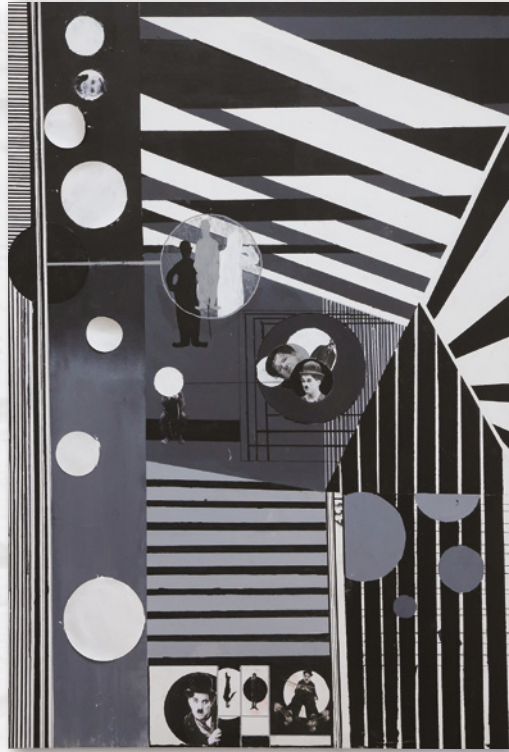
Mr Nick Hill



Gallery



Jessamy Money-Kyrle
Upper Sixth, Nugent



Nick Wood
Upper Sixth, Walpole



Juliana Ziemele
Fifth Form, Queen's



Georgia Page-Turner
Fifth Form, Stanhope



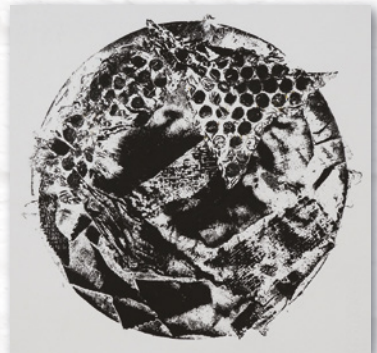
Ethan Phillips
Fifth Form, Bruce



Una Barclay
Lower Sixth, Stanhope



Thomas Gurney
Fifth Form, Grenville



Cecilia Mayne
Fifth Form, Nugent

Governing Body

Correct as of 1st September 2018

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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-Chair)

Ms Juliet Colman, BA, Dip Arch, RIBA, SCA

Miss Elizabeth de Burgh Sidley BA, FRICS

John Frost BSc, MRICS

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Michael B M Porter, BA, MSc

(Secretary to the Governors)

Jonathon Hall, FIDM

(Chairman of the Old Stoic Society)

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