

Stowe mail

STOWE 2015-16
NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

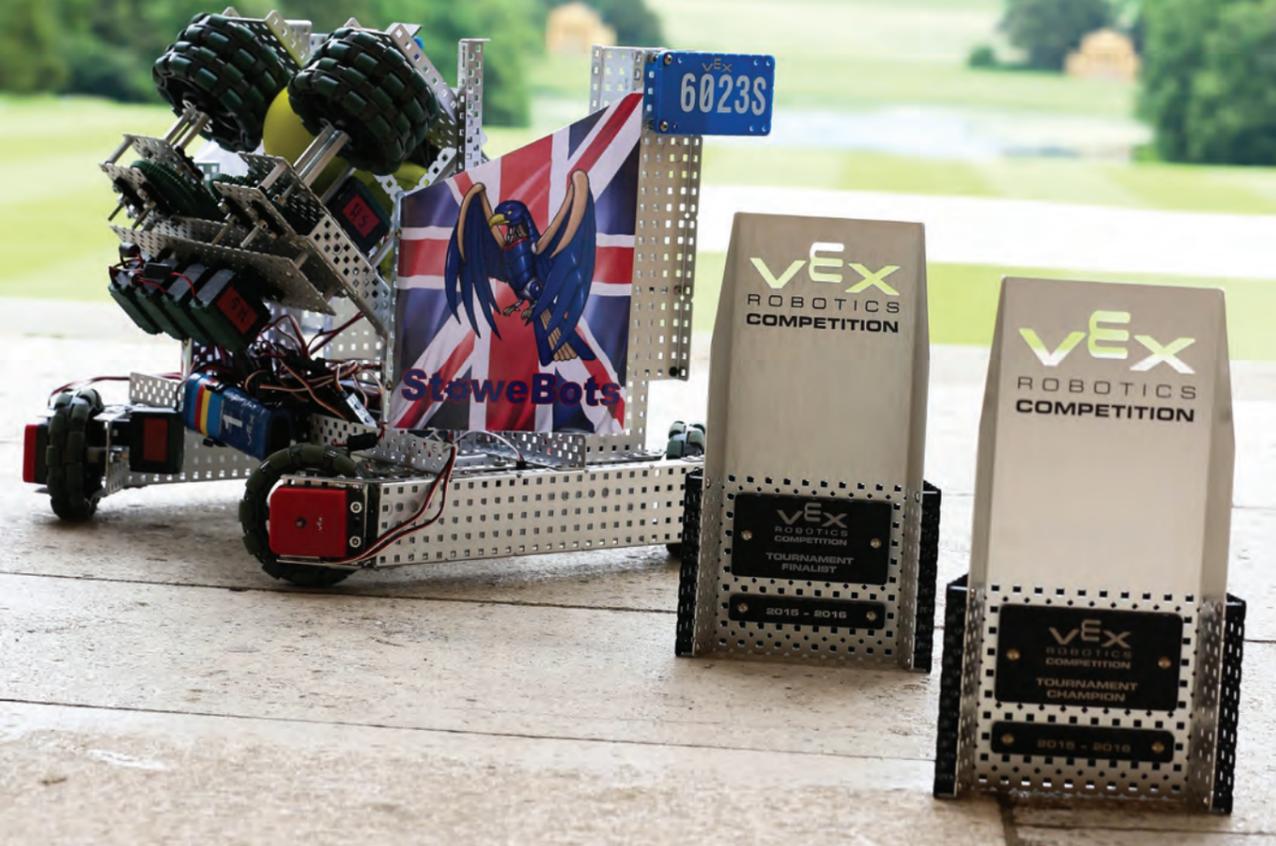
StoweBots take on the World

The 2015-2016 season of Robotics at Stowe saw the Junior and Senior teams qualify for the National Finals. Both teams reached the semi-final, but ended up facing each other. The Senior team prevailed and went on to become National Finalists and claim their place among 500 of the world's top teams at the VEX World Robotics Finals. The 2016 World Finals was the biggest robotics competition ever, setting a Guinness World Record with over 1,075 teams from 32 countries, and 20,000 people in attendance. The scale of the competition and venue was truly astonishing and beyond all expectations.

Over the three days of competition the team played ten qualifying matches in the hope of making the playoff games. The team performed incredibly well, holding its own in each match. Sadly the robot suffered some technical difficulties beyond our control. A change of CPU fixed the problem, but the losses put us further down the qualification ranking than we could have been. The StoweBots finished winning four out of the ten games and were placed 56 out of the 100 teams in their group. However, every single game they played was close despite the difficulties. The other aspect that shows the strength of our performance was the SP score of the team. This is the total score that your opponents achieved in your games; the higher the score the closer and more difficult the games were. The StoweBots SP score was 1658 and tenth highest of the group. Also of the six UK teams that gained places at the World Finals the StoweBots results placed them as the third best UK team.

Our pupils, Artura Subowo (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Stuart Milner (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Jonathan Reading (Lower Sixth, Grenville), Toby Lawrance (Lower Sixth, Cobham) and Anna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Queen's), worked tirelessly to compete to the best of their ability. They threw themselves into all aspects of the competition, collaborating with other teams from various countries and assisting each other. They were wonderful ambassadors for the School.

Paul Thompson, MiC Robots



Beauty and the Beast

A hugely talented cast of 31 Stoics put on an astonishing production of Beauty and the Beast from the 9-11 February in the Roxburgh Theatre. Supported by a 22 piece orchestra, containing no fewer than 16 Stoics, the cast drew rapturous applause every night and effusive praise from both staff and pupils. The hugely ambitious production was a big hit and showed off the very best that Stowe has to offer in Music and Drama. Many thanks to Keith Baker, our Technical Director, our fantastic Assistant Musical Director Lewis Bell (Lower Sixth, Grenville), members of the Music Department, the backstage team and all who helped with the production.

Lucy Brassell, Director, and Alex Aitken, Producer and Musical Director





Open Mic Night

On Sunday 13 March the Uglad Auditorium hosted this year's second Open Mic Night. Whilst open to the whole School, most of the talent was drawn from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms, but they gave performances far in advance of their years!

With over twenty artists on the playlist it could have been a long evening, but the attention of the audience was held throughout and the witty compering of Mali Aitchison (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Henry Gauvain (Fifth Form, Temple) enhanced the renditions and kept things moving swiftly along. The range of styles was broad, encompassing everything from jazz improv from Theo Hayes (Third Form, Chatham) on piano with Sean Carslaw Tricot (Third Form, Grenville), to some serious rock drumming from Dan Jolker (Fifth Form, Cobham) and his band-mates, Henry Gauvain and Max Campbell-Preston (Fifth Form, Grafton).

There were a great many solo song performances interspersed with duets from Tom Fras (Fourth Form, Walpole) and Helena Vince (Fourth Form, Queen's) and also Bella Coldstream (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) with Starzie Grafftey-Smith (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Florrie Antoniou (Third Form, Lyttelton). I would like to thank all the performers for their involvement and we look forward to next year's events.

Miles Nottage, Head of Rock, Pop and Jazz



HOCKEY

The boys' 1st XI travelled to Cardiff for their Pre-Season this year to play in the Cardiff Met Schools' Invitational. The squad started well against Pangbourne, claiming a convincing 1-0 victory. Next up were Stamford, unfortunately the team were beaten 2-0. On the Sunday they played Brecon College, knowing that a win would take them through to the final. After going down 1-0 in the first five minutes, the boys rallied and produced two good goals to clinch a well-deserved 2-1 victory. This meant another showdown with Stamford, the game finished 1-1, so into penalty shuffles we went. After both schools had taken their allotted five shuffles, the scores were still tied at 2-2, so it went into sudden death. Jack Dickerson (Lower Sixth, Cobham) made a great save and Brandon Lee (Lower Sixth, Cobham) scored his attempt, consequently securing the first trophy of the season for the 1st XI.

Luke Stone, Head of Hockey



FENCING

In the British Youth Championships Ed Don (Third Form, Chandos) came 34th in the U16 boys' Épée and Lauren Brigden (Fourth Form, Stanhope) came 30th in the U16 girls' Foil.

In the Luton Intermediate Mixed Competition, Lauren came third, Sam Lodge (Upper Sixth, Walpole) came fifth and Hugo Robinson (Fourth Form, Grenville) came ninth. Lauren also achieved 18th place in the Luton Women's Open.

Stewart Cowie, MiC Fencing



GCSE Drama

On Tuesday 10 November, 39 Fifth Form GCSE Drama pupils performed their original, unique and at times breath-taking self devised pieces linked to the theme title 'Shadows' as prescribed by the WJEC exam board. This practical assessment is worth 40% of the GCSE.

We were treated to an eclectic range of exciting, vibrant and challenging theatre pieces all staged in the intimate, brooding atmosphere of the Roxy Stage Studio. All nine groups were highly creative in interpreting the chosen theme and they skilfully incorporated several sophisticated and imaginative physical theatre staging techniques into their work. All the Stoics involved deserve a special mention for their commitment, approach and attitude throughout the day and both Miss Brassell and I look forward to some excellent results in the summer.

Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year

Four Stoics took part in the Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year competition on Saturday 5 March; Isabel Ward (Fourth Form, Stanhope) playing the recorder, Catia Di Carlofelice (Lower Sixth, West) playing the flute and Jeffrey Au (Third Form, Walpole) and Theo Hayes (Third Form, Chatham) both playing the piano.

Theo won the title of Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year and Jeffrey came joint third. Everyone won prize money, a shield and a certificate.

Ben Andrew, Head of Keyboard



ROWING

Over Michaelmas half term a small group of Sixth Form Stoics travelled to Boston USA to participate in the Charles Head of the River. This is the second time we have participated in this event with Dani Fusco-House (Upper Sixth, Lyttelton) taking part on both occasions in the Women's Youth Single Sculls. Alex Buswell (Upper Sixth, West) and Gleb Shcherbakov (Lower Sixth, Grenville) competed in the Men's Youth Double Sculls.

Dani was in third place for two thirds of her race, unfortunately an aggressive manoeuvre from the eventual winner cost Dani valuable time which resulted in her finishing 19th.

The boys raced well and managed to complete the course without incident in a very competitive group. The aim was to complete the course and gain experience of such a large and prestigious event. They managed to finish in a good time beating several crews.

Michael Righton, Head of Rowing

Into Film: Into Space

Our journey into space began in December 2015 when the Lower School Scholars' Group undertook the challenge of making a film to enter the Into Film: Into Space National Competition. The Floccinaucinihilipilificaters group decided to tell the story of a girl wanting to be an astronaut and doing everything she could to be selected for astronaut training. In April we received news that our film 'To Infinity' was one of the winners in the 12-15 year age group. All of the winning films were then sent into space to be watched by British Astronaut Tim Peake on the International Space Station (ISS).

On Wednesday 25 May we were invited to the Picturehouse Cinema in London for the premiere of the winning films. Unfortunately our two main film-makers, Alex Orton (Fifth Form, Lyttelton) and Charlotte Bird (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), were unable to attend as they had their Physics GCSE that afternoon, but instead some of the Third and Fourth Formers who helped with some of the filming were able to go in their place: Oscar Hill (Fourth Form, Temple), Cameron Chambers (Fourth Form, Grenville), Esme

Foster (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Oliver Seddon (Third Form, Cobham), as well as two of the smaller members of the cast, Alice Murnane and Sophie Noble from Beachborough.

The event began with a little surprise, on the screen appeared a recorded message from Tim Peake announcing all of the winners and congratulating everyone, saying how much he had enjoyed the films. All the winning film-makers then got to see their films in true cinematic style, before being invited on stage to receive a winner's certificate and Principia Mission Patch from Libby Jackson, a former Flight Director with the UK Space Agency. Libby then managed to establish a live link with Tim Peake on the ISS and we were able to have a group chat with him in space.

The pupils worked extremely hard on this project and thoroughly deserve their win for a fantastic film. If you would like to watch the film, it can be found on our website.

Sarah Murnane, Lower School Scholars' Group Coordinator



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

During the October Half term, four Gold participants - Harrison Dockerty (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Harry Dunn (Upper Sixth, Grenville), Hannah Bernard-Bell (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) and Emily Woodhead (Upper Sixth, Nugent) - completed a very challenging Assessed Expedition in the Lake District taking in the heights of Catbells, Maiden Moor, the Langdale Pikes, Eskdale Pike and finishing by climbing the Old Man of Coniston in glorious weather on day four. The participants had a rare opportunity to enjoy the Lakes in all their autumnal glory in excellent conditions and our Assessor was very complimentary about their expedition skills. At the same time, ten Lower Sixth Formers completed a training expedition to prepare them for their Gold Expedition this year. The conditions meant that we were able to do some very valuable expedition and navigation training in the Langdales and around the back of Scafell Pike. Congratulations to all those involved in these challenging expeditions!

Gwilym Jones, MiC Duke of Edinburgh's Award



Senior 7s Success at Rosslyn Park

After our victorious campaign in the Festival Tournament in 2015, the organisers of the Rosslyn Park National Tournament put us into the new 'Cup' section this year. As a one term co-ed rugby school that practises 7s once a week, we were very different from the majority of schools in the Cup competition, most of whom were all boys', two term, rugby schools, or were colleges that had teams made up of academy players who study part-time.

We won three of the four matches in the group stage putting us at the top of the group, and we progressed to the next day as one of the top 16 schools. On the second day we won our matches against Coleg Sir Gar, John Fisher School and St Joseph's College and made it to the Plate Final against Barnard Castle which we won 24-12.

The demands of playing nine 7s matches over two days is fierce and only very strong characters can cope with it. The 'never-say-die' attitude of the squad saw them snatch victory in the last play of the game on two occasions.

The whole squad displayed enormous drive, persistence, team work and control of emotions under severe pressure. They were all heroes again and it was a fitting way for the Upper Sixth Form rugby players, who have served Stowe rugby so well, to end their schoolboy rugby careers.

Craig Sutton, Senior 7s Coach



NATIONAL POLO CHAMPIONS

Stowe entered four teams at the National Polo Championships on Sunday 19 June. In the Open section, Jamie Grayson (Upper Sixth, Grafton), Nic Quirot de Poligny (Lower Sixth, Chandos), Flo Berner (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton) and Billy Hawkings-Byass (Fourth Form, Cobham), won their 4 chukka match against Radley 10-4 to become the National Polo Champions.

In the Intermediate section, Steven Duncan (Upper Sixth, Chandos), Izzy Baillie (Lower Sixth, Queen's), Ivan Quirot de Poligny (Third Form, Walpole) and Algy Stanley (Lower Sixth, Chatham), came a very respectable third. In the Novice section, Oliver Pritchard (Fourth Form, Temple), Louis Hink (Fourth Form, Walpole), Beau Carter (Lower Sixth, Chatham) and Jamie Baillie (Fourth Form, Cobham) also came third and our Beginners, Nathan Dana (Fourth Form, Temple), Jack Nesbitt (Third Form, Chatham), Bertie Alexander (Lower Sixth, Temple) and Tom White (Fourth Form, Chatham) won their division and performed brilliantly.

Fiona Corthine, MiC Polo

OS Stamp Presentation

The Royal Mail has issued six stamps to honour the UK's greatest humanitarians and their achievements. On Friday 22 April Royal Mail representatives including Head of Delivery Performance, Doug McLeish, Delivery Sector Manager of Milton Keynes and Bedford, Eugene Mahon and our Postman, Martin Hedger came to Stowe to present the Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner with the Sir Nicholas Winton commemorative stamp, which recognises the Old Stoic's life and contribution.



CROSS COUNTRY

At the English Schools' National Championship in Nottingham on Saturday 5 March, Georgia Flawn-Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Jemima Grant (Upper Sixth, Stanhope) were representing Buckinghamshire in the biggest cross country race of the season. Georgia had a solid run in the Inter Girls' race finishing in 209th position and was third in Buckinghamshire. Jemima was competing in her second cross country race ever and did extremely well finishing in 196th position in the Senior Girls' race and also finishing third in Buckinghamshire.

The cross country season came to a close at the Inter Counties Championships in Birmingham on Saturday 12 March. Georgia competed for Buckinghamshire in the U17 age group. Due to tight pen restrictions she started at the back and got boxed in at the start but progressed through the field for the first 2k and was looking for a solid finishing place in the top eighty but unfortunately she was clipped from behind and one of her spikes came off and then the other spike decided it had enough of the race as well and came off in a very boggy section of the course. Georgia did not hesitate and continued to race hard but just could not keep up with the other girls around her and finished in a very respectable 154th position and was still the first Buckinghamshire athlete to finish.

It was a very successful cross country season with more athletes competing for the School than ever before.

Kyle Bennett, Head of Cross Country



Senior Congreve

'Lysistrata'

Lysistrata is an out and out farcical comedy by Aristophanes. Originally performed in classical Athens in 411 BC, it is a hilarious account of one woman's extraordinary pledge to end the Peloponnesian War. Lysistrata persuades the women of Greece to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate peace - a strategy, however, that simply inflames the battle between the sexes. The Congreve production of David Stuttard's version of the play (hovering very neatly between translation and very free adaptation) bounced along very nicely and the three packed houses in the Roxy on 26-28 November lapped up the heady mix of overt, exaggerated, cartoon style visuals; verbal ingenuity and relentless double-entendres giving the whole production the feel of an upmarket 'Carry On' film.

Nick Bayley, Drama Department



Old Stoics on Dragons' Den!

On Sunday 21 February, Harry (Bruce 04) and Charlie Thuillier (Bruce 06) faced the Dragons on BBC2. They pitched for support for their hugely successful company, Oppo, which produces healthy ice cream. A year after its launch, Oppo is now stocked in Waitrose, Ocado, Wholefoods Market, Holland and Barrett, Budgens and Co-op and they recently won the Guardian's Start Up of the Year award.

Harry and Charlie presented themselves extremely well and pitched very professionally but unfortunately, they didn't receive any backing. We're not sure they needed it anyway; Charlie hinted that they were only in it for the exposure. He said, "Getting Oppo in front of 4 million viewers was too good an opportunity to miss. So the third time we were invited to apply by the BBC, we took a deep breath and said yes. We had no need for funding since we had just raised £300,000 from a community of 197 investors. And now we have just completed our latest round of £350,000 from over 550 supporters - thank you if you invested in Oppo!"

Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director

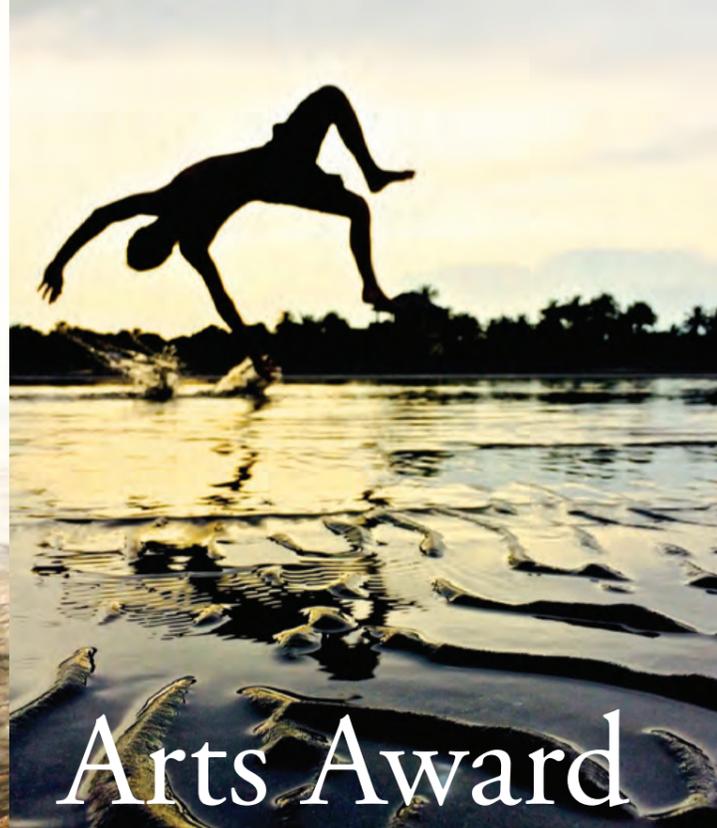


Cadets Go Caving and Ghyll Scrambling in Yorkshire

Thirty one Fourth Form cadets, led by Major de Gale, Major Goodall and 2nd Lt le Lacheur recently based themselves at the new RAF Adventure Training Centre at Inskip, near Preston, and from there spent two days being exposed to some undoubtedly challenging adventurous training. Friday evening was spent on the air rifle and archery ranges and then playing sport outside. Saturday was spent in Alum Pot and Sunset Pot, Yorkshire's largest cave network, where all faced a number of underground challenges, including the 'Cheese Press', in which you have to squeeze yourself into a horizontal slither of 14", and then manoeuvre yourself along, face down, on stomachs for several metres of claustrophobic fun. Another one was appropriately entitled 'Hell' which entailed 200m of crawling uncomfortably over rubble and rocks, mainly on the stomach and hips. There was also an 18 foot cave abseil and a number of cave climbs; the finale was a waist high, long corridor 'waddle' out of the cave network through icy water, amidst some high pitched exclamations from some of the Fourth Form's toughest rugby players! Sunday was spent ghyll-scrambling along a river-bed in Coniston, Cumbria, climbing up waterfalls attached to ropes, tackling traverse climbs (and falls into rock pools), and jumping, or sliding, from impressive heights into refreshingly chilling rock pools. It was an invigorating way to spend a few overcast hours in the Lake District and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

David Critchley, Lt Cdr RNR CCF

CCCF



Arts Award

The Art Department had a very hard decision to make with over 100 entries submitted for this year's photo competition. Congratulations to the following people on winning: Ms Evans, Mr Jimenez Jaramillo, Ms Rawlins, Antonina Kozhukhova (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Jamey Lowis (Lower Sixth, Cobham), Katie Harmon (Lower Sixth, Nugent), Fabiola Koenig (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton), Alexandra Curtis (Upper Sixth, West), Alice Hastie-Smith (Fifth Form, Lyttelton), Octavia Comerford (Third Form, Stanhope).

Amanda Jorgensen, Head of Art

Iceland Expedition

On the final day of term before the Easter holidays, 22 Stoics, Mrs Akam and Mr Elwell set off on an intrepid expedition to Iceland. As with many tours, our first stop was the famous blue lagoon, where we bathed in naturally heated water and spread natural volcanic mud on our faces. This was a great way to unwind after a busy term. From there it was on to Reykjavik, the small Capital of Iceland, to engage in a little culture and test out the steep Scandinavian exchange rates.

On the second day of the trip we were to undertake the famous 'golden circle'. Unfortunately, we were met by the more famous Icelandic weather! We visited Thingvetler National Park, where we witnessed the Eurasian and the North American tectonic plates pulling apart. We also visited Geysir, seeing boiling hot water ejected 20 feet into the air. Here, the conditions really closed in and the horizontal sleet really tested the quality of our waterproof clothing. We moved on to the Gulfoss or Golden Falls, which is the largest waterfall in Iceland and we were all impressed by the power on show. We returned to our hostel for a warm shower and hot food.

Day three was spent looking at the other large waterfalls in Iceland. We started with Seljandjafoss which is 40m high where we had the chance to walk behind it. We then went to

Skogafoss and climbed all the way to the top of the 60m high waterfall to look down and witness how the landscape has been carved by hydraulic action. From here we travelled to Solheimajokkul and walked up to the edge of a glacier, being able to touch the ice. Having seen old photographs of previous locations of the glacier it was clear to see how quickly the ice is melting. After a quick visit to Vik, with a black sandy beach we headed home, stopping at Kerid crater on the way to climb an extinct volcano, with excellent views down into the crater.

On the final day of the trip we went to the base of Hekla, which is a large volcano overdue an eruption. We had a talk from a local business owner who wasn't at all concerned about the potential for a large explosive eruption at the bottom of his road. After a short walk to gain better views of Hekla and the Icelandic landscape we went to climb another extinct volcano called Stordimon. After a steep short climb we revelled in the panoramic views of dramatic landscapes almost untouched by humans. We then travelled to our local public swimming pool, which was of course naturally heated and outside. It was great to end the fieldtrip with a relaxing dip, Icelandic style.

Thomas Elwell, Geography Department



Whale

After giving 12 years of outstanding and dedicated service to his role in the Drama Department, Chris Walters bowed out with his final Congreve production on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 June.

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

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

The production had real style, incorporating some superb physical theatre techniques, dance, song and the most effective and imaginative use of props and accessories in order to tell this epic tale.

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

Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



Stowe Challenge Cup

The Stowe Challenge Cup took place on Sunday 1 May. In the boys' competition Bruce won the swimming relay and the sprint relay, Grafton won the obstacle course and the run and log carry, Chandos won the command task and Cobham won the .22 shooting. Overall Cobham came third with 49 points, Bruce came second with 68 points and Grafton came first with 69 points.

In the girls' competition Queen's and Stanhope were joint first in the command task, Queen's and Lyttelton were joint first in the .22 shooting, Stanhope won the swimming relay and Nugent won the obstacle course, the run and log carry and the sprint relay. Overall Stanhope came third with 55 points, Queen's came second with 68 points and Nugent came first with 71 points. Photos from the event can be seen on our website.

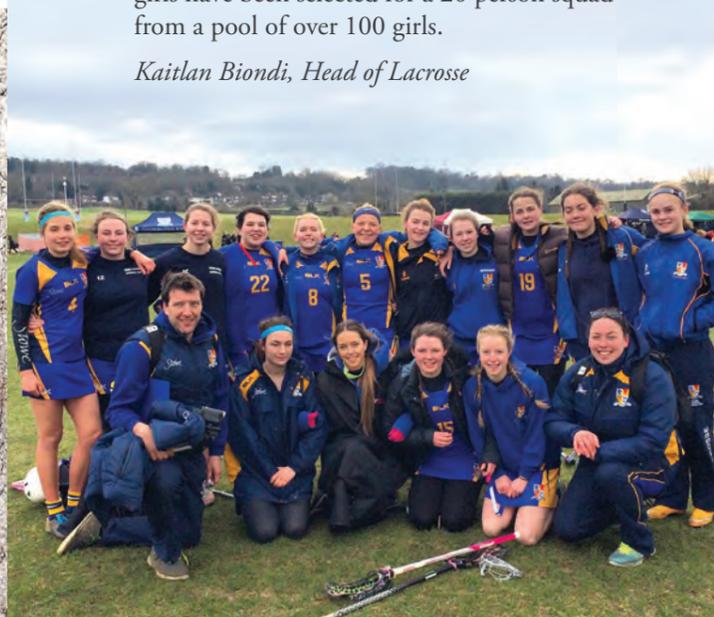
Isaac Michael, Director of Sport

LACROSSE

In the Nationals held on Friday 26 February, the 1st team had an outstanding first day finishing second in their group and going through to the Championship Division with wins against Bradfield, Godolphin, Harrogate and Sedbergh. On the second day a win against St Paul's put the team in the draw for the last 16. They went through to the quarter finals with a win against St Mary's, Calne but went out to Berkhamsted, the eventual winners. The team made history by securing their best ever position of top 8 in the country.

India Chadwick (Upper Sixth, Nugent), Olivia Thomas (Fifth Form, Nugent) and Philly Stacey (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) have all been chosen for the England U19 US tour this summer. These girls have been selected for a 20 person squad from a pool of over 100 girls.

Kaitlan Biondi, Head of Lacrosse





Warriors

Over the Lent term 15 intrepid Sixth Formers flew to South Africa to participate in the Warriors' programme with pupils from other schools. The activities took us well out of our comfort zones, with the first event being a skydive from 11,000 metres. It was really daunting and some of us felt sick but everyone landed safely. Our next main activity was a 30km hike, during which we had a break and slid down a natural slide made by a steep wet rock face into a pool of water. It was breath-taking!

The biggest challenges included a tandem jump off a cliff with a 68m free fall at 180km/h, abseiling down a 90m waterfall at Lisbon Falls that features in Taylor Swift's Wildest Dream music video, and some of us bravely jumped off a 16m dam into freezing water which we later learned was infested with crocodiles. We also constructed our own bridge jump and had to fall face first off the edge of a busy main road bridge.

We had a truly heart-warming experience at an orphanage in Lenyenyene. The minute we entered, the children asked to be picked up and hugged.

We saw young honey badgers and cheetah in an animal sanctuary and learned about the most poisonous snakes in Africa, held a python and fed a lizard at a reptile sanctuary. We also learned about tribal life in South Africa and watched an exhilarating performance of traditional African dances, hearing about the history and lifestyle of the tribe and then shared a delicious meal with them.

This experience was everything we had hoped for and much more. We would recommend the Warriors' trip to anyone considering it.

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

EQUESTRIAN

The Michaelmas term was an extremely busy term with our Equestrian Teams and Individuals attending a number of competitions. We kicked off the year with the Beachborough School Equestrian Challenge where two of our teams came 4th and Trinity Ford (Fourth Form, Queen's) was placed 6th individually. A smaller selection of riders attended Dressage at Quainton Stud with individual placings for Chloe Livesey (Third Form, Stanhope) and Katy Webb (Lower Sixth, Stanhope). Next was Show Jumping at Addington Manor. Again there was a 4th place team result and an individual 4th for our 1st Team Captain, Anna Wilson (Lower Sixth, Queen's). On the same day, Katy Webb took her two horses to an Eventer Trail at Aston le Walls where she dominated with a first and second. We also attended an Eventer Trial at Keysoe with mixed results and no placings on this occasion in very large classes, but fun was had by all. The term was nicely finished off with an in-house Team Christmas Show Jumping Competition organised by Jaimie McIntosh (Fifth Form, Stanhope) and Coco Brooks Fourth Form, Lyttelton). It was great to see the team spirit with team members dressed in Christmas fancy dress and to have Christmas music playing in the background. Many more competitions were entered in the Lent and Summer term and the teams continued to go from strength to strength.

Mrs Krista Price, Equestrian Centre Manager



Speech Day Celebrations

May came to a close with a couple of exciting days at Stowe. On Friday 27 May the sound of the Eighties returned as Tony Hadley and his band arrived at Stowe and delighted an audience packed with Spandau Ballet fans with some of their classic songs. His repertoire also included songs from other artists and many of the audience spent the evening trying to relive their youth, while many of the Stoics experienced the musical delights of the Eighties for the first time! Tony had a hard act to follow as he was supported on the night by some of Stowe's musical talent. Miles Nottage, Ben Andrew and Ben Western (BEN²) from our Music Department were the support acts and got the evening off to a wonderful start as our guests picnicked on the South Front.

The following day, we were delighted to see so many parents and Old Stoics join us for this year's Speech Day. The sun shone on Stowe as we celebrated our pupils' wonderful achievements and listened to some inspiring words from this year's Guest of Honour, Tatler Editor and Old Stoic, Kate Reardon (Nugent 87).

For those arriving early on site there were the traditional Stoic v Old Stoic showdowns in the sporting arena with teams put out for clay pigeon shooting, golf, squash, water polo, fives and cricket. And an excellent riding display got underway at the Equestrian Centre as the Classic Cars arrived and were beautifully displayed on the North Front. As Stowe's Big Band struck up, the flow of parents and Old Stoics increased and it was not long before the marquee filled up for the main event of the day.

This year's Speech Day was special for many reasons but particularly so as it was Christopher Honeyman Brown's final Speech Day as our Chairman of Governors. Both he and the Headmaster commented on just how spectacular Stowe's development has been and how much has been achieved by Stoics, staff and supporters. Musical interludes were provided by some extraordinary Stoic performers. After the prizes were awarded, Kate Reardon spoke of the importance of having fun and how enthusiasm and reacting positively to situations can truly make a difference to your life.

As picnics were unpacked, we were treated to the sounds of The Virtuosi GUS Brass Band and a brilliant air show by the Yakovlev Display Team who this year brought four planes to Stowe for their aerial acrobatics. To finish the day, the beagles made an appearance and then two Classic Cars, brought to Stowe from the Brooklands Museum, were fired up (with a little help from a push start) and proceeded to roar around the North Front.

Many of our visitors called into the Watson Art School and StoweBucks to see some excellent work by the Stoics, produced during their Art, Textiles and Design Technology courses. Speech Day is about celebrating the work and achievements of the School community and these exhibitions, the musical performances by the Stoics and the prizes given for a range of achievements highlighted just some of the pupils' talents here at Stowe.



Fashion Show

Fifth and Sixth Form Stoics gathered together in Chapel on 2 December for this year's charity fashion show in aid of Children in Crisis. The show's organisers, Valentine Sozbilir (Upper Sixth, Grenville) and Aleksia Zivanovic (Upper Sixth, Queen's), prepared for weeks and both were very pleased with the final outcome. The show was kindly supported by Philip Treacy and his remarkable hats which were modelled by Sixth Form models. In total, £1,750 was raised for Children in Crisis and awareness has been raised about the lack of education in Afghanistan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The organisers were very pleased with the quality of the choreography and the overall success of the show.



Science Progress

The Science Centre is nearing completion and we're all itching to step through the doors for the first time. I was lucky enough to be taken on a tour of the new building recently with the site manager, and I am pleased to report on the improvements that have been made.

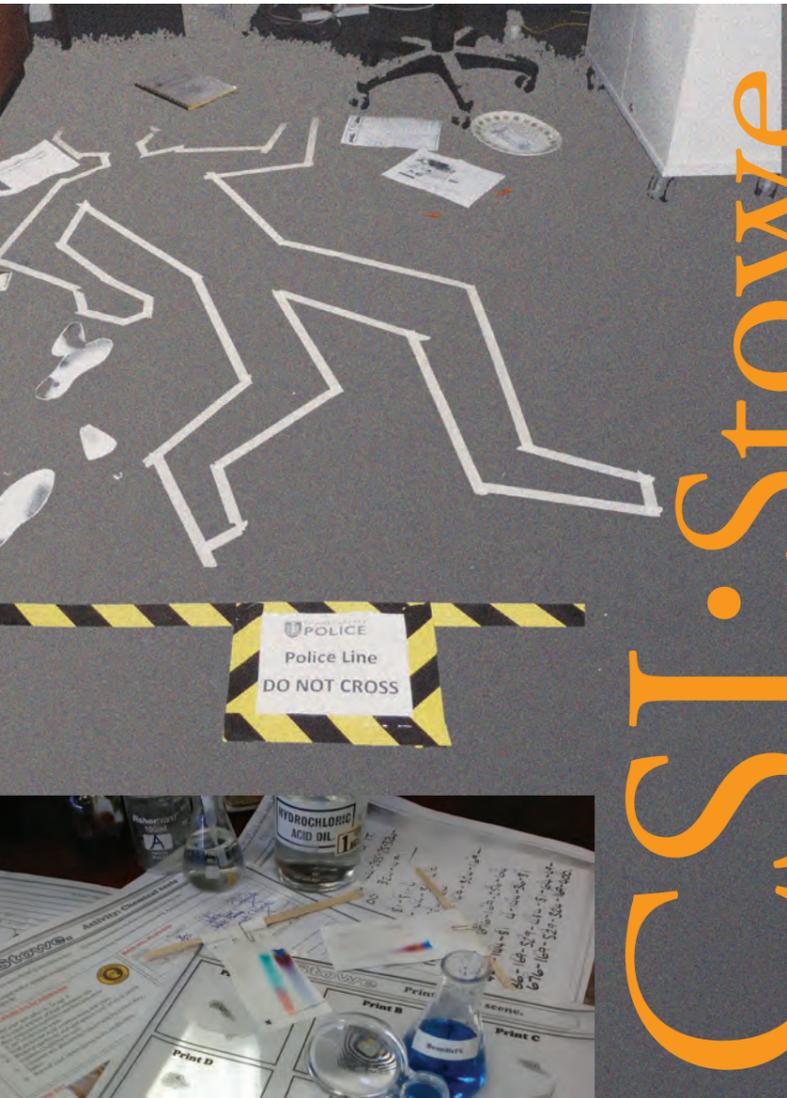
The extension and renovation began less than a year ago: remarkable progress has been made since. The new contemporary two storey building already looks awe-inspiring. Chemistry, Biology and Physics each have two generously sized teaching labs, as well as an informal study area each. There's also a modern Sixth Form study area, and a new lecture theatre which can fit 60 Stoics.

Working within the existing footprint, features blend the old with the new. The second stage of our programme began early in the summer, with the refurbishment of the existing building. Externally, the extended new building showcases extensive glazed façades and beautiful Bath stone cladding. An attractive and open atrium welcomes you inside. This spacious new entrance has been fully glazed and is protected with a sun shading system. Science truly has had a makeover.

The transformation of Science continues as Chemistry and Physics have now moved over to the new section and the Biology Department remain in the temporary laboratories for now. I am extremely excited to report that all work should be finished by October half term, so that pupils and staff can fully settle into the new Science Centre straight after the break.

Thanks to the fantastic work of the Building and Works Estate Management Team, we are on time and on budget. The transformation of Science at Stowe is very close and we look forward to passing on further news.

Hannah Al-Anazi, Development Manager



CSI: Stowe

Yellow and black sticky tape declaring 'Police Crime Scene' isn't what every Third Former expects to see on entering the Science Department - unless it's National Science Week. For the week commencing 14 March, the Science Department staged the alleged murder of Head of Science Mr Tearle, by one of seven suspected teachers and every Third Former became a forensic scientist trying to discover the identity of the murderer.

Allocated to teams of four, under a chosen team leader, every science lesson engaged the Stoics in a series of independent forensic examinations that eventually led to the elimination of six of the seven suspects. Skilfully choreographed by Mr Thompson, the pupils made notes of the crime scene, analysed substances found there; measured blood spatter patterns; chromatographed the poison pen letter; decoded a secret cipher; DNA tested hair; matched fingerprints to the suspects; calculated the pressure of footprints on the floor and examined potential weapon indentations. With no one telling them whether their conclusions were right or wrong and competition between teams, there was pressure to pay attention to detail and work together. At the end of the week, each team leader presented their report, naming the culprit and giving evidence for their choice. The Third Form engaged with the activities with whole-hearted enthusiasm.

"This week we've really enjoyed the CSI Stowe week. In each lesson we conducted different experiments

to eliminate some of the suspects. We had a really interesting and exciting topic to cover and it was a great way to end the term." *Zara Vickers (Stanhope) and Tair Udovenchuk (Bruce)*

"I learnt how to work with other people. The responsibility of being a team leader was quite stressful but my team worked well together." *Max McLeish (Walpole)*

"I enjoyed being a team leader. It was quite stressful at the beginning getting my team to work tasks to a deadline but it got easier as the week went on because everyone in the team got really involved." *Rory Trotman (Temple)*

"I really enjoyed CSI week, we had to think on our feet, pay attention to detail and help each other." *Jacob Halabi (Walpole)*

"It was cool because it taught us how the real scientists do these things." *Fin Dickerson (Cobham)*

The Third Form would like to thank Mr Thompson, Mrs Gracie, Dr Coomber, Mr Donoghue and the Science Technicians for their commitment to this brilliant experience.

And the murderer? Commendably bypassing the red-herring that was Miss Davies, some teams were able to accurately determine that it was Mr Teasdale!

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