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2023 BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

V 1 5 I S S U E 1 29 SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWS FROM STOWE





# Legacy Renewed at Stowe

Sunday 10 September 2023 marked a momentous day in the history of Stowe, as we witnessed the official opening of our 16th House, Croft House. Named in honour of the illustrious Colonel Andrew Croft DSO, OBE, Polar Medal, this boys' House is more than just a new addition to the campus. It serves as a living tribute to a man whose life was dedicated to exemplary leadership, integrity, and mentorship.

The day began with a Chapel service dedicated to the opening of Croft House. Will Crabb (Upper Sixth), the Head of House, and Oscar Dimbleby (Upper Sixth), the Marketing and Communications Prefect, delivered eloquent readings that set the tone for the day's events. Their words reminded us all of the man Andrew Croft was, and the qualities that the new House aims to instill in its members.

As we moved to Croft House, nine members of the Croft family treated attendees to heartfelt reflections. The speeches painted a vivid portrait of Colonel Croft's multifaceted life - ranging from his adventurous exploits in the Arctic to his transformative years as a Commandant shaping future leaders.

### **A New Chapter**

The Croft family members ended the ceremony by officially opening the House, symbolising the fulfilment of Colonel Andrew Croft's legacy and the beginning of a new chapter for Stowe.

We are immensely proud to be members of Croft House, knowing that we are part of a tradition rooted in the values of a truly extraordinary individual. His exemplary life serves as an ideal template that we can all learn from as we aim to become future leaders and responsible citizens. And so, as we venture forth this academic year, we do so in the spirit of Andrew Croft, guided by the principles he held dear linked to Community, Responsibility, Opportunity, Fun, and Teamwork.

"Explorer, soldier and leader of men"; traits that Croft House hopes to instil in pupils fortunate enough to call it home at Stowe. It is not merely a House; it is a legacy renewed.

**Dr Gordon West, Croft Houseparent** 



### **Five Guiding Principles of Croft House**

It is worth noting that the House ethos itself was designed around the five guiding principles that Colonel Andrew Croft so dearly embraced:

### Community

As Croft believed in sharing triumphs and disasters, the House aims to be a communal space where every member feels a sense of belonging and support.

### Responsibility

Croft House takes the lessons of its namesake to heart, encouraging its members to be accountable in their academic pursuits and personal development.

### **Opportunity**

Drawing inspiration from Colonel Croft's journey from explorer to leader, the House endeavours to offer many opportunities for every pupil to discover and develop their talents.

### Fun

It wasn't all work and no play for Andrew Croft; similarly, Croft House aims to ensure that along with hard work comes the chance for enjoyment and relaxation.

### **Teamwork**

Effective teamwork often underpins Colonel Croft's military exploits and leadership skills. Croft House aspires to instil the same spirit among its members, making teamwork a cornerstone in all its endeavours.

# Change Maker Activities

During Change Maker week (26-30 June) pupils took part in many Service@Stowe activities, these included:

Buckingham Primary School had a visit by Stoics with pupils helping with general maintenance tasks around the school and working with much younger pupils.



General maintenance such as sanding and coating chairs, and clearing waterweed from streams at Evenley Wood Garden.





Sorting donated items for resale at Willen Hospice.

The ForEver Stowe group invited the SEN Evergreen School from Warwick to bring 36 of their pupils and some of their teachers to Stowe for a day filled with fun activities. Stoics helped the ForEver group in hosting the pupils, acting as runners, showing the visitors to the toilets, helping with the activities and lunch, and generally making The Evergreen School pupils feel welcome. It was a great day out for pupils with serious life difficulties but also benefitted Stoics who had a great chance to perfect their empathy skills.

On Wednesday 28 June, our group went to the National Grid compressor site to help the conservation volunteers around the area.

Our job was to conduct a survey of planted trees to find out how many had died after the drought of 2022, and to construct an animal super-highway to allow all the wildlife to move freely between the surrounding fields. We also helped clear the fields from invasive shrubs that would have otherwise overtaken the landscape.

The visit allowed us to understand the important landscape that surrounds us and afforded us the opportunity to put our Change Maker skills into practice. We helped to give something back and it was great to help Katherine, Hazel and Chris, the conservation volunteers, in their endeavours.

Lilia Moller (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) & Jemima Hammond (Upper Sixth, Nugent)

75 pupils (largely from the Fourth Form with some from the Lower Sixth) worked with the National Trust on site. They raked deep piles of leaves (which were at risk of killing some of the trees, near our minibus park, where some had died and had been removed), painted fencing and removed wooden fencing to allow new trees to grow. All the activities benefit the environment and improve the aesthetics of the area near the School to the benefit of the whole school community and National Trust visitors.



# Change Maker Activities





### Florence Nightingale Hospice

On Tuesday 26 June a group of Lower Sixth Stoics visited the Florence Nightingale Hospice Furniture Showroom and Charity Shop. We were split into four working groups to sort, label, photograph, and record information about donated items to list them on eBay and raise the most money possible for this special cause. The hospice aims to generate money to help people who are less fortunate and cannot afford simple things that may better the remainder of their lives, for example, paying for a family to redo their garden. During our trip we learnt that even the smallest amount of donations accumulates to a great potential for change. The volunteers at the charity were key in demonstrating positivity and selflessness, which were traits that all the Stoics picked up on early. This, as well as the role we played in the work inspired us and we would like to visit again.

### Ceara Cusiter (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)

During the Summer Term Change Maker week, a team of twenty Stoics went to the Florence Nightingale Hospice warehouse in Aylesbury. When we got there, we were split into two teams, with half of us working on going through bags of donations and sorting them into different piles. At first, we were a bit lost and struggled with deciding and understanding how to select which items to keep or discard. After some time and practice, we all improved at spotting hidden gems and developed an effective system between the tables. Some of us sorting, some tagging the 'keep' clothes and then someone folding and preparing the clothes ready to be put in the shop or sold on eBay.

The other ten pupils worked on going through tagged items ready for selling on eBay and entered all the item of clothing details into a spreadsheet. This included the brand name, the sizing, the condition and much more. We also had to write a good description of the item, before researching similar clothes to find a suitable selling price. After this, we would hang the item on a rail and focus on setting up the clothes on a mannequin ready for photography.

After our lunch break, we swapped roles so everyone had a go at each job. It was enjoyable to use a whole range of new skills and we were all very grateful for the help from the amazing regular volunteers with inspiring stories. It was great fun and very exciting to see the ins and outs of how a charity shop runs!

**Camille Thornton-Izzard (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)** 



### **Christmas Gorse Woods**

On Monday 26 June, a group of Third Form pupils visited Christmas Gorse in Aylesbury Vale. This was part of our Change Maker week, where we developed our Change Maker skills including active learning and collaboration. At Christmas Gorse Woods the volunteers wanted us to help with the removal of excess vegetation and deadwood from the ground, to help with the development and cultivation of butterflies, which are a crucial part of our eco-system. By removing waste debris, we created open spaces that allow sunlight to penetrate, encouraging the growth of new plants, which butterflies depend on. My group worked as a team to clear the piles of logs that were dotted around the wood and put the logs into a cart to be transported to a dump site nearby.

The volunteers who gave up their time to help clear the woods were obviously very enthusiastic about the conservation of butterflies and the restoration of the previously overgrown woods and were very knowledgeable. We had the pleasure of meeting the champion spotter of the Black Hairstreak butterfly, which they were hoping to breed in

Christmas Gorse Woods. He gave us an interesting insight into all the breeds of butterflies and moths, pointing out to us the butterflies that inhabited the local area during our tour around the local meadows, which was very enjoyable.

During the day, I learned a lot about the different types of butterflies, as well as the conservation measures that are needed to ensure that butterfly numbers in the UK do not fall. I found the day extremely interesting, and I would love to do more to help these beautiful creatures.

Isabella Rivett (Fourth Form, Queen's)





# Ambassador trip to the House of Commons

On Thursday 21 September, myself and eight other Change 100 Ambassadors were invited to attend a Change 100 drinks party taking place in the House of Commons. The purpose of the event was to thank donors and to mark the progress of this forward-thinking initiative.

For those who don't know about Change 100, it is a programme run by Stowe, to raise £100 Million to fund 100 full bursaries at Stowe; this allows talented individuals to have a Stowe education, when they do not have the financial means to do so.

Arriving in Westminster Hall (after a thorough security check), the Head told us about the Gothic architecture that makes up the oldest part of the Parliamentary estate, Westminster Hall. We then proceeded through the historic gilded corridors (not too dissimilar to the newly renovated Stowe State Dining Room), eventually reaching the Central lobby, with the House of Lords and Commons at opposite ends.

As the evening progressed, we worked our way round a packed room and enjoyed conversations with donors (many of whom were Old Stoics with lots of stories to tell). Everyone was excited to hear of the progress and achievements being made by the current recipients at the School.

We all left around 10pm, collectively in high spirits: I think it is fair to say that it was a standout moment in all of our 'Stowe journeys'.

I would like to end by saying that becoming a Change 100 Ambassador is a great opportunity. Stoics from all years can apply to join, you just have to put yourself forward. You are working with Stowe's Development Team, which often means you can get involved with big events like this. You can put your own ideas forward (such as a Colour Run, which now takes place every year) and I would say it is one of the more accessible ways to make and see change in the School. Current Ambassadors will soon be giving talks in Stance about applying to become an Ambassador, something I highly recommend - a very nice tie or pin badge also happens to be a perk of joining!

Will Crabb (Upper Sixth, Croft)



# Co-Curricular

As always this term there is a wide range of **Sport and Activities** on offer every afternoon and Stoics make their activity choices on SOCS. Here we highlight some of the

Here we highlight some of the different opportunities available this term.

### Service@Stowe

The Volunteering Programme at Stowe is a particularly important programme for those who are completing a **Duke of Edinburgh** Award, however we would also like all Stoics to consider how they are supporting the community this year. Miss Rowley and her team are expanding our Conservation and Climate Action Programmes, particularly important at a time when Climate Change is at the forefront of all of our minds. Events will be happening around the GAIA **Project** which sees a giant globe installed in the Marble Hall.

Mrs Arroyo is continuing to work with the **ForEver Stowe** group supporting school aged children in the area who have special educational needs and Ms Ackroyd's group is supporting local primary schools. These are particularly good opportunities for Fifth and Sixth Formers to develop their experience of working with young people.

Mr Gardener and Dr Adkins support a variety of groups offering **support to the elderly** members of the local community, both on site and at a local care home.

These are just a few of the opportunities available and Stoics should read their emails and have a look at **SOCS** to see how else they could be involved.

### Music

**Music Ensembles** have started back and the Music Department are looking forward to welcoming back old and new members to the following:

Symphony Orchestra (Monday 6:15-7:00pm) EVERYONE is welcome. ALL pupils having string, woodwind, brass and percussion who are Grade 3 standard or above are welcome to come to join the orchestra which will be directed by Mrs Bryden. Pieces this term include well known

movements from The Nutcracker Suite and from the classic winter animation, The Snowman.

**Wind Band** (Tuesday 6:15-7:00pm) ALL wind instrumentalists are invited to join Dr Rana for what will be a lively ensemble rehearsing a mixture of film music, popular music and

**String Orchestra** (Tuesday 6:15-7:00pm) ALL orchestral string players are welcome who are Grade 3 standard or above. This ensemble will be directed by Mr Windass.

**Chamber Choir** (Thursday 6:15-7:00pm) If Stoics are experienced vocalists looking to build their small vocal ensemble skills, they should contact Mr Hawkes to register their interest asap. Places are limited!

Chapel Choir (Friday 3:15-4:45)
The flagship ensemble of the School,
Chapel Choir returns to rehearsal
on Friday. Everyone is welcome
and there is no audition required to
join. If Stoics are interested in being
part of a potential Choir Tour to
Edinburgh next term, membership of
the Choir and regular attendance for
this term is vital.

Further information regarding **Brass Ensemble** will be announced soon.

### Clubs

Mock Trial is an activity available to the Fifth and Sixth Form. We are aiming to enter the national competition again this year and we will require a minimum of eight pupils to do so. If any Stoics are considering a career in a humanities subject or law, they should consider joining this team. Signing up can be done under the Academic Extension tab of SOCS.

**Trials Bike Club** (Thursday at 3:15pm) If Stoics are interested in learning how to ride a motorbike, or ride already and want to ride at School, they should pop and see Mr Whitby in D003. No experience is necessary, and all safety equipment is provided. There is a cost involved in this activity and places are limited.

Finally, **Debating** and **MUN** are very well-established activities at Stowe. Miss Stafford-Smith runs MUN on a Monday and Wednesday.

Gwilym Jones, Co-Curricular Co-ordinator



On Sunday 2 to Friday 7 July, seven Stoics and three Staff members embarked on a trip from Southampton - several had been on the first Stowe big boat trip in September 2022, but we were happy to welcome some new sailors to this trip. We were hoping for better weather on this July trip, but the weather Gods had other thoughts and wanted to re-test the Stoics ability to cope in the unseasonal near gale force winds!

Given the weather, we did as much as we could over the five days and visited Yarmouth, Poole, Cowes and Portsmouth, racking up over 160 nautical miles.

Everyone's highlight was seeing the dolphins, who escorted us across Christchurch Bay - they formed an escort party alongside the boat for over 30 minutes, darting across the bows and performing crowd pleasing jumps - that is longer than I have ever seen dolphins play with a boat.

As is often the case, the weather picked up for the last day and we sailed home in glorious sunshine.

I am happy to report that all the sailors completed their RYA Competent Crew course on the trip. In addition, and in recognition of how well the crew coped with the strong wind conditions, the crew were also awarded the Amory Award from The Rona Sailing Project - this means they will be invited to sail with the Project on other, more challenging trips. Three members of this crew have been accepted onto the crew for The Small Ships Race weekend, from Cowes in October.

If any Stoic would like to go on one of these memorable trips, please **contact me** to register your interest. The next trip is scheduled from Sunday 7 - Friday 12 April 2024.

**Duncan Syme, Head of Sailing** 



### **Alexander Quin Invitational 2023**

This year's AQ invitational took place at The Warwickshire Golf Club from Sunday 17 - Tuesday 19 September.

Some poorly timed wind and rain saw the players struggling against the conditions and two very challenging courses. Not deterred, they were in good spirits and looking forward to the first tournament of the year.

Three players made their team debuts: Aroa Ane Herran Berraondo (Third Form, Lyttelton), Hayden Sarfo-Agyare (Third Form, Cobham) and Ernest Ma (Lower Sixth, Temple). There were some standout performances with Miki Khursheed (Lower Sixth, Bruce) scoring the second lowest round on the second day, at two over par.

There was more individual success with Elliot Strickland (Upper Sixth, Grenville) finishing eighth and Poon Prachakrit (Lower Sixth, Grenville) finishing just behind on countback in nineth place.

A good performance overall with the A team finishing in second place and the B team in fourth.

Lauren McGinnis, Stowe Golf



# **Netball**

### **International Netball Representation**

Over the Summer, Phoebe Haynes and Izzy Kaye (both Upper Sixth, Cheshire) were selected to play Netball for Scotland and England, respectively, at the 2023 Youth Commonwealth Games in Trinidad and Tobago.

Both girls enjoyed a cracking tournament which finally saw England and Scotland playing for the Bronze medal. A hard match to watch, as we saw the girls competing against each other for glory. The final quarter proved to be the most nerve-racking with both teams desperate to clinch the bronze medal. It all came down to a power play, with only five points separating the teams. This quickly reduced to a one goal difference with one minute remaining, but England came through to score the final goal with 50 seconds to go.

Scotland came agonisingly close to the bronze medal, but it was England that finally reached the podium. We are so proud of both Phoebe and Izzy for their hard work and dedication to reach this pinnacle in their sports. Click **here** to read the full report of the tournament.

Their success continues, as it has been announced that both Izzy and Phoebe have been selected to play for their respective U21 squads and compete in next months European U21 Netball Championships in Sheffield. A fantastic achievement, good luck girls.

Cheryl Davis, Assistant Director of Sport





# Science Technicians Conference

During the Summer break, on Tuesday 4 July, Stowe hosted a Regional Science Technicians' Conference for 82 visiting delegates for both the state and independent school sectors. The event was sponsored by Timstar, but many other science suppliers also set up stalls in the Worsley Science Centre.

James Tearle opened the conference with some encouraging words, as well as several flamboyant and colourful demonstrations!

In Chemistry, nine different experiments were set up for the visitors to try. These included some useful extension ideas for A Level, such as oscillation reactions and chemiluminescence, as well as possible open day experiments to inspire budding young scientists.

Biology hosted microbiology technique workshops, where the delegates could practice the skill of spreading bacterial plates.

In Physics, Paul Thompson demonstrated and explained a wide variety of possible activities with robotics. This was well received as few schools have the expertise or robotic equipment that we have here at Stowe.

The whole of Stowe's wonderful Science technicians' team were at hand throughout the day to help enable the event to go smoothly. Catering provided an excellent lunch, and the event was enjoyed by all. Hopefully we can repeat the experience in the future, as the Worsley Science Centre is ideal for functions like these and the feedback we had from all delegates and exhibitors was tremendous. Matt Blake from Timstar presented a glass plaque to James Tearle to commemorate and thank us for the event.

### Judy Gracie, Chemisty Technician



# **Old Stoics**

# WHAT A CENTENARY SUMMER IT HAS BEEN!

With Autumn in the air and the Summer clothes packed away for another year, it is a good time to reflect on the wonderful Centenary Summer.

For those who attended, the Centenary Ball was a night to remember. Stowe sparkled with 1920s glamour, as 1800 guests dined, drank, and reminisced under the stars. The Mansion was decorated in high style as 650 guests enjoyed dinner, wine, and long overdue reunions.

Outside, The Goodwins took to the stage at 8pm, with music from the Jazz Age getting everyone in the mood to celebrate. The entertainment then moved into the marquee where the London stage came alive. We sang and danced to songs from Mamma Mia, The Jersey Boys, Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables, before heading outside to see the spectacular firework display that lit up the night sky for miles around. After dinner, everyone caught the festival-vibe, enjoying the fairground rides and carousel, the street food and the champagne bar. To round off the night, the Chance Band and a DJ (plus a couple of Old Stoics invited up on stage - bravo to Andrew Chance and Oliver Croom-Johnson!), played the night away with songs and memories from across the decades.

As our last guests left at 3:30am, dawn was breaking on the horizon. Everyone involved in the Centenary Ball had done Stowe proud, marking one hundred years in style and being part of a remarkable evening. One of the things that the Old Stoic Society does so well is to bring people together across the generations. That network and camaraderie is invaluable and much prized by everyone lucky enough to be part of it.

A few days later, and in a moment of madness, we said, "it was such fun, let's do it all again!" Perhaps we will, and we certainly won't leave it another 100 years before Stowe once again puts on its black-tie, sparkly dresses and dancing shoes to celebrate this truly remarkable School.

Bev Kelly, Interim Old Stoic Director



### Stoic Chemistry success in C3L6

In June, just before we broke up for the Summer, 15 of our Lower Sixth Chemists took part in the annual Cambridge Chemistry Challenge (C3L6). This National competition aims to stretch and challenge students interested in Chemistry, and although designed to be accessible to first year A Level pupils, it deliberately takes them significantly beyond their syllabus, encouraging a way of thinking more likely to be found at university. Across the country, there were over 10,000 entries into this year's competition. Awards were given out to students in the top two thirds of the national cohort and congratulations go to Isaiah Rugasira (Grafton), Hemish Rajguru (Bruce), Will Crabb (Croft), Vanessa Nsofor (West), Jamie Leelapojsan (Stanhope), Satis Johnson-Greene (Stanhope), Alvin San (Walpole) and Martha Blake (Cheshire) who received Copper certificates and to Archie Jacobs (Winton) whose mark earned him a Silver certificate and a score that placed him within the top 15% of all entries received.

**Alix Waine, Head of Chemistry** 



# Medieval History Trip to Normandy

19 Stoics thoroughly enjoyed two days in Normandy exploring the nature of power and state-building in the Middle Ages, taking in a wide range of visits in a jam-packed schedule with Dr Potter, Miss Stafford-Smith, Dr Wallersteiner and Mr Griffin. The trip focused on William the Conqueror and Henry V, contrasting the way in which they exerted power through military force, propaganda and their relationship with the church.

Arriving by ferry on roughly the same route used by invading English armies in the 15th Century, we examined the castle and abbeys in Caen that formed William's base of power in the 11th Century. The existence of the abbeys speaks to William's genuine personal piety but also his careful management of his relationship with a papacy upset by his marriage to his third-cousin Mathilda. The castle was an impressive symbol of his military might and need to control his territory through strength of arms.

A visit to the spectacular Bayeux Tapestry provided a unique first-hand look at a medieval source that highlights vividly the role of propaganda and the importance of perceived legitimacy. This was followed by the Abbey of Jumièges, which prompted consideration of the central role of reforming monasticism across Europe and the way in which ideas can be transported by charismatic leaders.

Dinner in Rouen allowed us the opportunity for a quiz, which was closely fought by Stoics who had clearly retained a great deal of information from the day's visits. We continued the religious theme, with a visit to Rouen Cathedral, St Maclou Catholic Church and the monument devoted to Joan of Arc, which prompted more discussion of the role of religion in history and a crash course in architecture spanning the Romanesque and Gothic styles. On our way to the channel tunnel, we stopped at the Agincourt Museum, which offers engaging displays and a presentation that puts you right at the heart of the battle.

Having stretched their knowledge beyond the confines of their current course, pupils have the chance to compete in an essay competition based on what they have learned about power and state-building in the Middle Ages. Stoics are especially indebted to Dr Potter for her expertise throughout the trip and the organisation of Mrs Davis in advance. Having gone well beyond the regular curriculum, we hope that the trip provided an excellent opportunity for Stoics to extend their knowledge and provide a good foundation for further study.



# Music



### **Bagpipes**

Congratulations to our talented and popular Bagpipe teacher Mr Richard Jasper on winning the Division 4 'English Championships' 'Quartets' category with his band 'Banbury and District - Laidlaw Memorial Pipes and Drums'.

Richard spent August performing at the Edinburgh Tattoo as a member of 'The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Pipes and Drums' band and is pictured outside Edinburgh Castle with two members of The King's Guard of Norway.

Emma Bryden, Director of Music



### **Bells**

The ringing of bells has meant many things to people for centuries: the call to worship, a marking of time, an alarm for danger, the joy of marriage, the sorrow of death.

Composer Jill Jarman's new piece for internationally renowned percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie with viols and voices mixes the sounds of old and new, life and death, celebration and mourning, and examines the call of bells pealing across the centuries of human experience.

This performance will take place in the Roxburgh Hall Theatre on 1 November at 7:30pm and will last for 70 minutes with no interval. Tickets are available **here** and seating will be unreserved.

**Emma Bryden, Director of Music** 

### **Emma Bryden**

Towards the end of the Summer holiday, Emma Bryden (Director of Music) wrote and recorded string parts for a forthcoming single for British Hard Rock band Valhalla Awaits. The tracks were recorded in the Stringer Studio by Ben Weston (Head of Popular Music Performance and Music Technology) and will be released later this year.



### **Pre-Season Tour of Germany and Holland**

The girls arrived at Stowe in the early morning on Sunday 20 August, and were quickly ready for the annual Stowe 6s' festival.

The Senior and Junior players were divided into several smaller squads each with an individual coach. The Stowe teams all played against excellent club and school opposition throughout the day, with one of the Senior sides finishing Second in the competition.

The girls rested overnight at School before an early departure for Dover to then travel onto Calais finally arriving at Duisburg in Germany. After a day of travel and early morning training, the U15s and 1st XI faced Uhlenhorst, and the 2nd XI played Raffleberg, all top-level German sides.

Wednesday saw another early morning training session followed by the U15s and a combined Senior side playing Raffleberg. On Thursday the squad travelled to Holland and enjoyed a day at the Tikibad Water Park. The Friday saw Stowe play three games against HC Push with some great performances from all teams and an impressive win for the 1st XI.

The final fixtures of the tour involved the three teams playing HC Schiedam, which again saw improved performances as the 1st XI got a convincing win. The girls had a final meal out at a restaurant in Holland before a full day of travel back to Stowe on Sunday. Everyone arrived back safe, and absolutely exhausted!

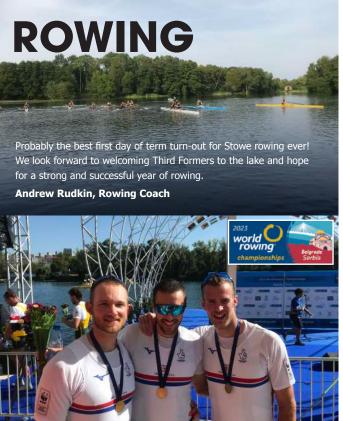
A brilliant week away with a fantastic group of players who will undoubtedly take all of their tour experiences into the new season.

**Dominic Blackmore-Beales, Assistant Head of Hockey** 









Congratulations to Old Stoic James Rudkin (Walpole 12) who as part of the Great Britain men's eight won the Gold medal at the World Rowing Championships in Belgrade, Serbia at the beginning of September.

James is part of the Great Britain men's eight, who were defending World Champions from 2022. After retaining the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, on the build-up to the world championships they were beaten by Australia in Luzern.

In Belgrade, they knew what they had to do, and produced probably their best-ever race, digging deep and driving on relentlessly in the second half, to retain their world title. The Netherlands took the Silver medal and Australia Bronze. These nations, joined by Germany and Romania, secured their qualification for the Paris Olympic Games. USA were devastated to miss out.

The GB rowing team had an exceptional championships, winning world titles in six Olympic and Para-Olympic class boats.

James is not the only Olympic qualifier with local roots. Georgie Brayshaw learnt to row at Northampton and Lauren Henry started at James's club at Hollowell in Northamptonshire. We hope that our young rowers at Stowe can draw inspiration from them.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing

### **RUGBY**

### **Pre-Season Report**

The U15s, U16s, and a Senior squad assembled the week before the start of term for a pre-season training camp in preparation for the upcoming season.

Alongside some intense Rugby sessions, all three squads took part in some social activities, these included paintballing, a visit to Box End waterpark in Bedford and finishing with a more chilled afternoon on Friday at the cinema.

Saturday then saw all the squads play against Warwick School in some competitive fixtures that rounded off a hardworking, but enjoyable week both on and off the field.

Good luck to all Rugby players this term.

**Grant Seely, Director of Rugby** 

# GCICI Exhibition

The magnificent Marble Saloon at Stowe House is the perfect space to display the three-dimensional, six-metre floating sculpture of Gaia by internationally acclaimed artist, Luke Jerram.

Visit with your friends and family to enjoy timed entry to the exhibition, allowing plenty of space to explore this multi-sensory experience and soak up the atmosphere - you can even lay on the floor to encounter Earth's surface as it would be viewed from space using detailed NASA imagery!

Working in partnership with Stowe, pupils will be exploring the environment and the impact of climate change. Workshops and talks will be given, inspired by having Gaia - and the opportunity to see our planet as never before.

Simon Wales, Chief Executive of Stowe House explains, "We are very pleased to host this thought-provoking artwork by Luke Jerram in the unique setting of the Marble Saloon. We hope that visitors of all ages will experience Gaia in our historic house, and we are offering extended opening hours to ensure that Gaia can be viewed during day and night conditions."

The artwork is named after mother nature. In Greek mythology, Gaia is the personification of the earth and the ancestral mother of all life. This installation is the sister sculpture to Jerram's previous work, Museum of the Moon, which has now been seen by over 3 million people in more than 25 countries.

**Melanie Whitrow, SHPT** 









### **CCF Update Michaelmas 2023**

Michaelmas Term brings change to Stowe CCF, with the arrival of Capt Gerrard the new CCF Contingent Commander. Capt Gerrard has 19 years' service in both the Regular and Reserve Army. She commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 2008 and served in Germany, Afghanistan and throughout the UK. On leaving the Regular Army in 2015 she trained as a Chemistry teacher and transferred to the Education and Training Service, where she is still an Army Reservist, alongside side her CCF role. An outdoor enthusiast, Capt Gerrard is a qualified mountain leader and mountain bike instructor and mad about orienteering. husband Tim, who is a serving military police officer, and her young daughter.

It also gives us great pleasure to announce the new Head Cadet and Head of Sections for the CCF:

Cadet CSM Natalie Nylaende (Upper Sixth, Queen's) - Head Cadet

Cadet Colour Sergeant Nick Gaichenia (Upper Sixth, Walpole) - Anderson Company Sergeant Major

Cadet Colour Sergeant Daniel Flames (Upper Sixth, Cobham) - Cheshire Company Sergeant Major

Chief Petty Officer Martha Blake (Upper Sixth, Cheshire) - Head Cadet Royal Navy Section

Chief Petty Officer Max Cowper-Hart (Upper Sixth, Winton) - Assistant Boats Training Officer Royal Navy Section

Flight Sergeant William Woodmansee (Upper Sixth, Winton) - Head Cadet RAF Section

# CCF

## Institute of Leadership and Management Qualification

The following Sixth Form Cadet NCOs successfully attained their Institute of Leadership and Management Level 3 qualification over the Summer, gaining a useful leadership and management qualification to add to their CVs. At future interviews, they will be able to talk credibly about practical leadership skills gained in CCF, leading Junior Cadets in their Sections, giving examples of adapting their leadership style to the circumstances and how best they communicated and motivated their teams. Reflections made during the course enabled them to improve their leadership style and skills - all useful attributes to CCF, Stowe, and any future employer.

Congratulations to Upper Sixth pupils, Natalie Nylaende (Queen's), Nick Gaichenia (Walpole), Alice Bryant (Queen's), Toby Bursnall (Grafton), Isabella Reeder (Cheshire), Oliver Jendon (Chatham), Aurora Flanagan (Stanhope), Martha Blake (Cheshire), Aston Rigoll (Chatham), Emmanuel Brobbey-Gyening (Chatham), Henry Clare (Winton), Will Crabb (Croft), Archie Jacobs (Winton), Katie Dens (Stanhope), Joshua Parker (Croft), Ned Lehmann (Croft), Michael Oduguwa (Bruce), Ela Shah (Cheshire) and Freddy Wildblood (Grafton) and Rafe Gordon (Winton 23).

Lieutenant Colonel J S de Gale, Former Contingent Commander



During the Summer, I spent two weeks working for the NELational Combined Cadet Adventure Training Team.

The first of these was spent in Bavaria, where Cadets from all over the UK took part in a multi-activity programme. They enjoyed climbing, mountaineering, canoeing, rafting and completing a klettersteig. The Cadets were put through their paces, but all had a fantastic time.

The second week took place at Capel Curig in Wales, where Cadets completed intermediate courses in mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing and mountaineering. These courses are designed to develop skills which will allow Cadets to progress further and complete their formal qualifications in different sports.

Both weeks were excellent fun, and are a great opportunity for both CCF Staff and Cadets to get involved. The multi-activity programmes are available to anyone Fourth Form or above, and the sport specific ones are available for those in Fifth Form or above. I strongly suggest Staff and pupils make use of this great facility, as it's a great way to meet new people and learn new skills!







# Inter-House Football

On Sunday 10 September, once the threat of an electrical storm had passed, the annual Inter-House Football bonanza got under way with the usual high levels of enthusiasm, energy and commitment. There were definitely more goals scored this year and the standard of play from all Year Groups, was impressive, which bodes well for the boys' and girls' teams next term.

This year's Champions are:

### Third Form

Boys - Cobham | Girls - Queens

### **Fourth Form**

Boys - Bruce | Girls - Nugent

### Fifth Form

Boys - Grenville | Girls - Queens

### **Lower Sixth**

Boys - Winton | Girls - Nugent

### **Upper Sixth**

Boys - Bruce | Girls- West

The afternon was great fun and the support from all the parents who came to watch was, as always, very much appreciated.

### Cheryl Davies,

**Assistant Director of Sport** 

# **ROWING**

Rowing got off to a good start, with 15 rowers travelling to our first competition, Isis Sculls in Oxford. They raced in two boys' quads, a girls' quad, and mixed quad. The U15 boys beat a crew from RGS High Wycombe. Ari Lewis (Fifth Form, Walpole) stroked both the Senior boys' quad and the mixed quad, setting a good rhythm that others could follow.

Most of the team also raced in singles. It was encouraging to see more of our rowers gaining confidence and skill in this challenging boat class - the building block for successful crews. Congratulations to Coco Bartoszewski (Fifth Form, Nugent), Bella Bawden (Fourth Form, Stanhope) and Max Frohnsdorff (Fourth Form, Temple) for racing singles and to Ned Curry (Fourth Form, Croft) for attending his first rowing competition. Max Poliza (Upper Sixth, Grenville) beat Oxford undergraduates from Keble and Trinity Colleges. Benjamin Cousins (Fourth Form, Bruce) finished Second in U15 boys' singles, shading Hecco Harrison (Fourth Form, Temple) by two seconds. Agnès Edwards (Fourth Form, Stanhope) produced Stowe's best result, winning the U15 girls' singles.

Many thanks to the families who supported at Oxford, carrying boats, getting crews afloat, loading the trailer, and ordering mountains of pizzas! Mark Lewis again took excellent photos which have been so well received on the School's social media.

The team were accompanied by Ms Keenan - who coxed the mixed quad, and Mr Donaghy, our new coach, from the GBR team. We hope to see Third Form girls and boys Rowing after Exeat, to continue on the path set by the older rowers. Our next competition is at Cambridge on Saturday 7 October.

Andrew Rudkin, Head of Rowing





# RUGBY

### Rondebosch High School, Cape Town Exchange

During the Summer break I was lucky to participate in a school sport exchange to Rondebosch High School in Cape Town. I played against five of the top schools in the country, including Paarl Gymnasium, who were filled with huge Afrikaans farmers, who seemed extremely aggressive compared to our normal rivals.

I was in South Africa for seven weeks in total and made great friendships inside and outside of school. Saturdays were filled with rugby and would build up through all the 20 teams of the School, until it was the first team game. The atmosphere during that game was phenomenal and extremely exciting with all the spectators and war cries.

I learnt so much about the country and their culture. I had the best time, and I am hoping to go back.

Woody Hamilton Hurst (Fifth Form, Bruce)



# **Street Child Update**

The Stowe School Street Child committee meet weekly, every Monday. On 11 September, the Committee had a meeting with Anna Lloyd, a member of the Street Child charity, to discuss future fundraising ideas and to find out about Street Child's big projects. However, the top priority, in that moment of time, was to raise as much money as possible for the Moroccan earthquake and Libyan flooding appeals. The Committee came together and decided to hold a home clothes day as soon as possible, on Monday 18 September. As a result, approximately £2,000 was raised to be sent directly to the Moroccan and Libyan crises.

However, our main 2023/24 target is to raise £20,000 for a school in Liberia, by the next Academic year. The Committee began their fundraising process on Speech Day 2023, during which we held a successful raffle. Our £20,000 target will aim to build a safe, reliable learning space for the children in Liberia to receive teaching and learning support. A school not only provides a learning space for children, but it provides the children with a future occupational pathway, as well as the opportunity to make life-long friends. The Committee have many fundraising ideas which we are pursuing to make this goal achievable.

Any donations to the charity would be greatly appreciated and can be donated **here**.

Alessia Capella (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) & Martha Blake (Upper Sixth, Cheshire)



### A Level Art Trip to Oxford

On Tuesday 12 September, A Level Art pupils visited the amazing museums in Oxford. We visited the Ashmolean Museum showcasing art from Egyptian mummies to contemporary art, the Pitt Rivers Museum displaying archaeological and anthropological collections and the Natural History Museum with its specimens ranging from fossils to taxidermy. Before we set off to these destinations, we were reminded to research the museums and to locate any exhibitions or artworks that were relevant to our topic.

For me personally, the Ashmolean Museum appeared to fit my topic requirements (movement in the urban environment). It was fascinating looking at paintings from five centuries ago and how they captured tiny details through their techniques and used symbolism to express the message behind the piece. The Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museum were not directly relevant to me, but I found ways of connecting artefacts such as coins and different currencies to express movement in an urban space. During our visits we brought drawing materials to capture the work first-hand. I came across an oil painting depicting ruins of a town in the foreground with Rome standing firm in the background, expressing the contrast between order and chaos.

### Polly Clinkard (Upper Sixth, West)

For my personal project, I have been focusing on the concept of 'hidden nature', and how the use of colour and light, come together to create intriguing compositions of flowers, petals, etc. When visiting the Ashmolean, I particularly focused on an exhibition from the two artists, Flora Yukhnovich and Daniel Crews Chubb, who have made a series of contemporary paintings which contrast in stylistic development. Both focus on expression and how various compositions flourish through the use of different palettes.

We found this experience and the opportunity to go to these museums very beneficial for our A Level project and our work has been developing positively since.

Egle Formichetti (Upper Sixth, West)

### Music

### **New Music Staff Members**

The Music Department is delighted to welcome two new members of Staff this term. Dr Leena Rana completed a fully funded PhD with the University of Southampton and the National Trust in 2013, on the topic of domestic music-making in late 18th Century England. Her thesis examined the social and cultural contexts of the music collections held in Killerton House, Devon, and Tatton Park, Cheshire. After completing her PhD, Leena worked in the Textiles Department of The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, as part of the Connecting with Collections Internship, and she examined schoolgirl samplers of the 18th and 19th Centuries. Her research on samplers culminated in an online exhibition, a journal article, a workshop for school children and a conference paper. Leena has taught students music to university level. Her main instrument is the flute, and she has attended several flute courses in the UK, Spain and France performing as a soloist and as part of an ensemble.

Thomas Hawkes has worked as an organist in schools and cathedrals, including St David's Cathedral, Wales and across the UK. He spent last year studying church music at the Musikhochschule in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. Thomas has appeared on radio including BBC Radio Cymru, in television broadcasts and on recordings such as the St David's Cathedral 2022 Christmas CD. Thomas performs as an organ recitalist both in the UK and abroad and is delighted to be sharing his passion for organ music with both pupils and Staff at Stowe.

**Emma Bryden, Director of Music** 



# Music

### **Third Form Taster Session**

All new Third Form pupils were treated to an introductory session in the Music School, where they were able to see and try out a sample of the vast array of instruments available at Stowe.

The day was supported by a collection of our talented visiting music teachers (VMTs) who provided taster sessions on string instruments (harp and violin), woodwind (saxophone, bassoon and bagpipe), popular instruments (electric guitar, bass guitar and drums) and music production. Pupils were delighted by the performances given by the VMTs and the event marked a positive and vibrant start to the new academic year

We look forward to arranging individual taster sessions for interested pupils from all Year Groups and any enquiries relating to instrumental, vocal or music production lessons should be sent to the Music Administrator and classical VMT Co-ordinator, Jane Horwood.



# ALLOTMENT

Although the Stoics were not here to tend to the allotment over the Summer, the rainy weather (and additional care from Matron Sue Zundel) did our produce the world of good. During the first week of the Michaelmas Term, we were able to harvest raspberries, strawberries, courgettes, cucumbers and runner beans, and with plenty more produce ripening every day, our harvest this year will hopefully be a bountiful one. The yellow Autumn fruiting raspberries are a particular highlight.

Over the course of this term the allotment team are planning to dig some more beds, plant bulbs and plan for next year. If any parents or members of the wider Stowe community have spare gardening tools or even an old greenhouse, we would welcome any donations. Visitors are also welcome to come and see what we have been up to.

It is great to see the pupils' enthusiasm for gardening develop and there is plenty of room for more Stoic volunteers on a Monday afternoon. Everyone is most welcome.

Sophie Penrhyn-Lowe, Service@Stowe



## **NSEA Showjumping**

On Sunday 17 September, 12 members of the Equestrian Team travelled to Rectory Farm, Cirencester for the NSEA Showjumping competition.

The day started with two teams in the 80-85cm class, which saw fantastic clear rounds for Lola Price (Third Form, Cheshire), Bea Pinner (Third Form, Stanhope) and Daisy Edwards (Fourth Form, Cheshire) earning them Third place as a team.

Flora Edwards (Third Form, Queen's), Bunny Hales (Fourth Form, Nugent) and Mercurie Smith (Upper Sixth, Queen's) also rode very well to take Fifth place as a team. A special mention to Bunny Hales who also took individual Sixth place in a strong field of 43 riders.

The highlight of the day came in the 90-95cm class where Lola Price, Ruby Sturgis (Third Form, Stanhope), Clemmy King (Third Form, Queen's) and Rupert King (Lower Sixth, Chandos) won team First to bring home The Crabb Challenge Cup. Lola Price absolutely flew around her course of 12 show jumps in just 34.25 seconds, winning the class and The Karisto Saint Hymer Trophy by five seconds, with Ruby Sturgis just behind to take joint Second.

Finally, in the pouring rain, Ruby Sturgis, Clemmy King, Rupert King and Grace Haig (Upper Sixth, West) took team Second in the 1.0-1.05m class and congratulations again to Ruby who also took individual Third place.

The success of our teams in the 90cm and 1m classes means they have qualified for the Championship event due to be held in October, as well as Lola and Ruby also qualifying as individuals.

A wonderful day for the Equestrian Team who once again showed fantastic commitment, competitive spirit and support for each other throughout.

If anyone is interested in joining the Equestrian Team, we will be running a programme of competitions, talks and events throughout the year.

Please contact **Becky Coote**, Head of Equestrian.

### **Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian**







### **Equestrian Success for Jonty Gordon**

Having qualified in June, Jonty Gordon (Lower Sixth, Croft) competed in the Pony Club National Championships at Offchurch Bury from 11-19 August. This is the highlight of the Pony Club competition year, and Jonty rode as part of a three rider team in the coveted Championships in the PC100 Showjumping.

After two rounds, less than 100 of the 117 starters survived elimination. In the final reckoning, Jonty's team achieved a fabulous second place out of 31 teams.

### **Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian**



### **Araminta Spencer-Churchill**

The Summer holidays were an exciting time for our Equestrians, with many taking part in competitions and Pony Club Camps and events.

A special mention for Araminta Spencer-Churchill (Lower Sixth, Stanhope) who concluded a very exciting eventing season with a win at Sapey on Sunday 3 September in the Open Novice Under 18 Class. Araminta has been improving throughout the season and this was only her second Novice competition. At this event she was the only double clear within the time, for her section. Araminta has finished Third in the Under 18 Central Region for British Eventing. Huge congratulations to Araminta and her super horse, Lily.

**Becky Coote, Head of Equestrian** 



# Languages Society

Back in April, the Languages Society hosted an event in which Federico Rioja's (Upper Sixth, Bruce) gave us a top-notch presentation on what to see and discover in Mexico. Whether it was the food in Oaxaca, to picturesque colourful towns like San Miguel de Allende, we all left the evening wanting to book flights to Mexico as soon as possible! An overall very enjoyable night where once again, the Languages Society became the melting pot of cultures and a platform to exchange traditions at Stowe.

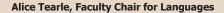
### Sofia Tangsrud (Upper Sixth, Stanhope)

In May, the Languages Society hosted its annual Open Mic Night. Despite the peak season of exams, a lot of Stoics from all Year Groups turned up to watch and support the performers. These ranged from a Chinese rap, to an acted-out performance of a German poem, to a display of Sanskrit language (an ancient Indian language). It was a very enjoyable evening for the audience, but also for the very talented performers, whose performances shall not be forgotten. If you want to find out more about this event, click on this <code>link</code> which will take you to a short mash-up.

### Alex Kozlov (Upper Sixth, Chandos)

In June, we held our last event of the year and were most fortunate to have Bossoro Ngo as our guest speaker. Bossoro has spent many years in China working as the Head of Communications and Public Relations at the French Embassy, organising many events such as francophone festivals. He also talked to us about his many travels, months spent in Austria, Cuba and his many jobs working with Air France and now as Chief Communications Officer for ReMark. His love of languages and travel was infectious, prompting many Stoics to ask him questions about what it was like to work in a communist country and what best to study if you want a career in the diplomatic world.

This ended an exciting year of Language-related events, and I would like to formally thank Sofia and Alex for having been the most wonderful President and Vice-President respectively. We are looking forward to this year's events.











The CCF Summer Camp 2023 was an extraordinary experience for all participants. Held over five busy days, this action-packed camp offered a wide range of thrilling activities aimed at challenging and developing the skills of the Cadets. From clay pigeon shooting to kayaking, the camp was a true testament to the spirit of adventure and teamwork.

Under the scorching sun, the atmosphere was filled with excitement as the participants geared up for a memorable experience. Amongst the standout activities at the Camp was clay pigeon shooting, where the Cadets showcased their marksmanship skills and discipline. The top three performers in this event were George Longsdon (Fifth Form, Queen's), Charlie Hodges (Fifth Form, Chatham), and Oliver Lamberton (Fifth Form, Grenville). Their exceptional accuracy and focus were truly commendable. Additionally, Romulus Flanagan (Fifth Form, Cobham) deserves a special mention for his outstanding performance, pushing the boundaries of his own capabilities.

Another highlight of the Camp was the obstacle course, which tested physical strength, agility, and problem-solving skills. The Cadets all had remarkable energy and unwavering determination. Among the participants, Leo Clare (Fifth Form, Croft) deserves a special mention, his ability to overcome obstacles with sheer determination was an inspiration to all.

Mountain biking provided an exhilarating adventure as the Cadets navigated through challenging terrains, showcasing their cycling skills and endurance. Raft building required teamwork and collaboration, and the Cadets worked

together to construct sturdy rafts capable of withstanding the weight of the whole section. Climbing and kayaking activities pushed the boundaries of physical abilities and challenged mental resilience.

The CCF Summer Camp 2023 provided an ideal platform for the Cadets to develop essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and resilience. Each activity was carefully designed to foster personal growth and cultivate a sense of adventure and discipline.

Beyond the individual performances, the Camp was an opportunity for the individuals to forge lasting friendships and create memories that will stay with them for a lifetime. The shared experiences, challenges, and triumphs during this intensive Summer Camp built a strong sense of camaraderie among the participants.

The success of the Camp was made possible by the dedicated instructors and staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and enjoyment for all of us. Their guidance and expertise provided the Cadets with a supportive environment to learn and excel in each activity.

Overall, Summer Camp was an unforgettable adventure that pushed the boundaries of physical and mental capabilities. Through activities such as clay pigeon shooting, obstacle courses, mountain biking, raft building, climbing, and kayaking, the participants were able to challenge themselves, develop new skills, and create lifelong memories.

Nat Nylaende (Upper Sixth, Queen's), Head Cadet

# CCF

# RAF Section National Air and Space Camp

This Summer, I took part in the National Air and Space Camp with the RAF section. The Camp ran from Sunday 20-26 August. Throughout the week, I took part in several engineering-related activities.

On Monday, I went to RAF Syerston where, in the morning, we did something called RAF90SU. We learned how the RAF uses drones for humanitarian missions. I also learned how to wire an RJ45 plug and how to splice fibre optic cables. Later that day, we did a workshop by Raytheon, a military contractor that works on vehicle systems and is also a weapons manufacturer. In this activity, we were given a brief, a budget, and a list of parts. We had to design a wing with a fixed length that could withstand the highest load. We earned additional points for the efficiency of the aerofoil and general aesthetics. Points were also awarded for using less money, and points were deducted if we exceeded the budget. My group consisted of six people, all of whom were doing A Level Maths and Physics. We ended up winning the competition by £415,000. Second place had £250,000 and third place had £30,000.

On the second day of the camp, I was at RAF Wittering, where I spent the whole day doing Ground Based Training Modules (GBTM). GBTM was conducted on the simulators at RAF Wittering. We had to complete several plane control and navigation tasks, including joining a circuit, navigating to an airfield near our location, and returning to RAF Syerston. Those who had a good grasp of the simulators went on to do a full aerobatic formation. We did a few loops until we finished with the Red Arrows Break, where someone goes straight up, one to the left, one to the right, and someone keeps going straight.

The third day was a special day. In the morning, we had a career day where we got to talk to the top aerospace engineering universities and employers, including Rolls-Royce, BAE Engineering and British Airways. Later in the day, there was an airshow featuring two Spitfires, a Eurofighter Typhoon which did a high-speed pass and several high-G aerobatic manoeuvres. There was also an F35 that did a very low and fast flyby at Mach 0.99 at a height of 500 feet, where you could see the Mach cone starting to form. There were also two decommissioned Tornados, and at the end of the airshow, the Red Arrows performed, which I watched while sitting in the tornado!

On the fourth day, I went gliding and managed to achieve my blue gliding wings. During the gliding, I assisted with the launch, flew the flight itself, went into a few thermals, rejoined the circuit and then landed the glider.

On the fifth day, I had RAF engagement, which covered everything joining the RAF has to offer. We also did some command tasks where we were given tasks to complete within a set time. Later in the day, I had a drone workshop where we learned how to safely operate a drone and had to fly through a set course

I really enjoyed this camp, and I would highly recommend it to anyone in the RAF section who is interested in a career in aerospace engineering or any type of engineering, as it is not just for aerospace - they also have activities on general mechanical engineering.

William Woodmansee (Upper Sixth, Winton)



On Sunday 25 August we departed from Stowe and headed to Portsmouth, where we had dinner at HMS Excellent (a naval base) and afterwards went for a stroll on the beach.

On Monday, we woke up bright and early and left our accommodation at 06:45. We had breakfast at HMS Excellent to prepare for our day full of activities. Our day started with firefighting; we first had a theory lesson where we learned when each fire extinguisher would be of best use, how different attachments to the fire hose work, the principles of the fire triangle and how a team works together to extinguish a fire in a ship. I also got to try on a firefighter suit. Following the theory lesson, we went to test out all the equipment we had learned about, including using the foam fire extinguisher on real fires. At the end of the session, we were able to use a delta attachment and a thermal camera on a real fire.

In the afternoon, we went to the DRIU for damage control. The DRIU is a room that looks like the inside of a ship; it has holes in it and the room floods. We had to work together as a team to slit timber, place in the holes, and then hammer down, to prevent more water from coming into the room. It was an excellent team-building exercise which was very interesting to see how people reacted to a sinking ship.

After finishing the activities, we went for a cold swim at the beach. Although the water was freezing, we played catch with a rocket toy and had a great time. We ate fish and chips, followed by ice creams to finish the day.

On Tuesday, the last day away from School, we left again for HMS Excellent, where we had breakfast and divided the group in two to depart in a yacht and a cruiser called Blue Swan. I went on the Blue Swan. My group learned navigation principles such as finding the bearings where the boat must turn to, finding how much time it takes to do a route, what each buoy means, and how to interpret charts. We all got a chance to drive the boats and log the

journal. Since my team took shifts to make work more efficient, we all got a chance to take a little nap, which was very much needed after two full days of activities. On our journey back to Stowe we had a supper stop at McDonald's, which everyone was very thankful for. A lovely way to end our trip.

On Wednesday, we were based at Stowe. Two people from the RN, Louise and Ryan, came to do adventure training and leadership exercises with us. The day started off with 30 minutes of football, followed by ice breaker exercises, riverbank bridge, heads, shoulders, knees, toes and cone, and untangling our hands. Afterwards, we chatted about what makes a good leader and examples of good and bad leaders. Then we had an activity which required us to lift and pass people through holes, which increased our trust in our friends and made us listen to the people leading.

After lunch, we did a communication and trust exercise where one person was blindfolded, and another led them without touching them. The people who showed interest in leadership got a chance to do it, and those who did it best were congratulated at the end.

On Thursday, the RN and five RAF Cadets went to Great Moor Sailing Club. The boats were split, with one experienced person was in each boat. We all had the chance to steer, and some got a chance to go on the power boat. We had lunch and then played pirates. The goal of the game was to capsize other boats and not capsize ourselves. We returned to Stowe and the week was officially over.

All the RN Cadets had great leadership opportunities - we learned so much, gained communication skills, our trust in each other developed, and our understanding of teamwork and leadership grew. I am so thankful that Stowe offers these opportunities.

Luiza Cavalacanti (Fifth Form, Lyttelton)

## **British Royal Navy Camp 2023**

I was fortunate enough to take part in the British Royal Navy Camp (BRNC) this Summer. While staying at Dartmouth, I brushed up on my sewing skills, polishing boots, and room/uniform inspection. Each day before activities started officers would hold a two-hour practice session on marching and drill all to prepare us for Saturday's passing out ceremony. Throughout Monday to Thursday, we learned and practiced the syllabus for lifeguarding. My group came back to revise for the written assessment after mess dinner each evening. It was fully rewarding when we passed and received the qualification on Friday morning, after three elements to the test (first aid, pool speed, recovery of casualties, and a written assessment).

On Friday afternoon a group of University Royal Navy Unit (URNU) students held an activity session for all Cadets, activities including, Swedish Football, Football, Bouldering, Bulldog, and Bucket Ball. Cadets were split into groups of 15 and I was made IC in my group, so I got to practice some leadership skills. On Friday evening the Camp held a formal Mess Dinner with all Cadets wearing NO3. The food was lovely, and the band played beautifully for us. At the end, lots of songs were sung such as Britannia, Rule the World, and the National Anthem. It was a

very exciting and fun night and I think the memory will last a lifetime.

After Saturday's passing out ceremony there was a short speech by the Captain, and Cadets got to spend an hour with parents, giving them a small tour of the College. I was very grateful that my mum could watch and witness all the Cadets' hard work and improvement in the passing out ceremony as well as get some pictures and videos of us.

On Saturday afternoon the packing began, but only for a short while as we had a banyan rig BBQ. Everyone wore their loudest, most colourful shirts and the atmosphere reflected just that. URNU held a quiz later in the evening; Cadets were split into groups of ten. Our group (The Spanish Ladies) won the quiz, I was nominated best dressed but unfortunately just missed the title.

We were very well looked after by the staff. All Cadets left longing to stay on Sunday morning. It was lovely to have a week with no phone or electronics. I would fully encourage anyone to sign up for it. I hope to do the BRNC Camp next year

**Darcey Moran (Upper Sixth, West)** 



# **BADMINTON**

For their first matches of the season the boys' and girls' 1st and 2nd teams travelled to Cheltenham College on Saturday 16 September.

An excellent all round team performance pulled the boys' 1st team through to a 6-3 victory. All three pairs won two matches a-piece with a strong Cheltenham 1st pair winning all three of their matches.

The boys' 2nd team had a very exciting match against Cheltenham College. The 2nd pairing combination of Oliver Dickmann-Peña (Fifth Form, Winton), Martin Zhang (Fifth Form, Grenville) and Jerry Liu (Fifth Form, Chandos) won all their matches. 3rd pairing of Sam Zhang (Lower Sixth, Walpole) and Jack Tian (Upper Sixth, Cobham) beat their 1st pair 21-18 and going into the final game of the afternoon the team score was finely balanced at four matches a-piece. Playing against their 3rd pair counterparts, Jack Tian (Upper Sixth, Cobham and Albert Wang (Upper Sixth, Walpole) lost their first game 11-15 but then stormed back to win the next two games 15-13 and 15-12 to clinch victory for Stowe by the narrowest of margins 5-4.

The girls' 1st team came up against a very strong Cheltenham side. Although the final score was an 8-1 defeat, most of the matches were very competitive. The one win came from 1st pair Annie Flint (Upper Sixth, Queen's) and Madya Liu (Fifth Form, Stanhope) who beat their 3rd pair 21-5.

The girls' 2nd team came up against a strong Cheltenham College side. On their debuts, 2nd pair combination of Tia Sibanda (Fourth Form, Lyttelton), Emilia Combastet (Fourth Form, Lyttelton) and Helena Shen (Lower Sixth, West) had an excellent afternoon beating their 1st pair 21-20 and their 3rd pair 21-6. They almost went unbeaten in their matches but lost narrowly to their counterparts 9-15, 15-11, 13-15 which meant Cheltenham took the match overall 7-2.

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton

# Triathlon

The Inter Regional Competition (which is the National Finals for Triathlon) took place at Mallory Race Course on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September. Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire) had qualified first in the South Central region in a series of races over the Summer to earn her a spot at the National competition, a year young (the top four finishers in each age and gender qualified to compete for their region, of which there are 13 regions in total).

The race took the form of two heats with the fastest ten from both heats through to

the important A-Final. Mollie raced well over the first heat, coming out of the water and onto the bike in 13th place. She made up places on the bike but lost the advantage in transition as someone had racked their bike in her spot. She went onto the short run in 13th place and finished Sixth so earning a spot in the A-Final.

The Final was more challenging with Mollie coming out of the lake in 18th place. Over the bike leg she managed to work her way up to 14th and after a much smoother transition, she ran hard to finish Seventh in the country. A great achievement, well done Mollie! Sunday was the mixed relay and Mollie's team finished Second in their heat.



### **Senior Inter-House Badminton**

The Senior Inter-House boys' and girls' Singles and Doubles Competitions were held on Sunday 17 September. The results were:

### BOYS:

**Doubles Final** - Cobham beat Walpole 21-6; 21-11; 18-21

**Singles Final** - Arin Chatsuwan (Upper Sixth, Grenville) beat Alvin San (Upper Sixth, Walpole) 21-17

### GIRLS:

**Doubles Final** - Queen's beat West 21-7; 21-9; 21-11

Singles Final - Madya Liu (Fifth Form, Stanhope) beat Annie Flint (Upper Sixth Queen's) 21-6

Isaac Michael, Head of Badminton





# **WATER POLO**

The Water Polo team travelled to Abingdon to play a triangular against Stamford and Abingdon on Thursday 21 September. The match against Stamford was particularly exciting with Stowe's team, Captained by Michael Shpurik-Eronat (Upper Sixth, Chandos), holding on to win 6-5.

Cheryl Davis, Head of Water Polo







The Stowe Parents' Association is run and managed by a team of School parents, together with representatives from the School, who volunteer their time to help run events for parents.

During the Summer Term, a race day took place on Friday 19 May. The day began with a yard tour and champagne with OS trainer Jonathan Portman (Chatham 83) at his yard in Lambourn. An afternoon at Newbury races with lunch followed. An excellent day was had by all, made even more exciting when OS Racehorse, Sweet Reward, trained by Jonathan, was agonisingly beaten in to Second place in a photo finish!

The next events in the Stowe Parents' calendar are an evening at the Gaia Exhibition, with the Head, where drinks and canapés will be served, during this must see experience on Friday 13 October; a tour of the MK Gallery 'Beyond the Page: South Asian Miniature Painting and Britain' on Sunday 29 October and the Head's Dinner at the Oriental Club in London on Thursday 16 November. Download the event brochure here.

**Eleanor Lyttle, Stowe Parents** 

# Stowe Group LinkedIn

The Stowe Group has its very own LinkedIn page, which is used to communicate internally and externally about activities across the three Schools - Stowe, Swanbourne House and Winchester House. The purpose of the LinkedIn page is for clearer communication about The Stowe Group and what makes us a great place to work by using this page to attract talent, share information and good news stories.

The People Team advertise current vacancies on the LinkedIn page and regularly post about the Stowe Group life. Please do like and follow our **new page.** 

We hope you enjoy the page and if you have any questions, please contact the **People Team.** 

Jodie Hudson, People Team





## Film and Media **Studies**

### **End of Term with The Beatles**

Third Formers at Stowe were fortunate to take part in a number of Beatles activities at the end of Summer Term as part of Change Makers' Week, and the Media and Film Department were on hand to get the pupils to make short Beatles inspired pop videos using locations around the School, including, of course, The Roxburgh Theatre with its Blue plaque celebrating the group's performance at Stowe 60 years ago.

After a brief introduction by myself, which revealed that, for many of the Third Formers, like vinyl records, the band was "ancient history," they were then divided into groups and tasked with choosing a song by the group and coming up with a video concept. To assist them they also looked at a few of The Beatles' appearances on film, their album covers, and some contemporary pop videos, supplied by Head of Film and Media, Emma Ackroyd.

Once a central concept for the video had been decided, the groups set about putting together their projects which were completed by lunchtime to be screened to the whole group in the afternoons.

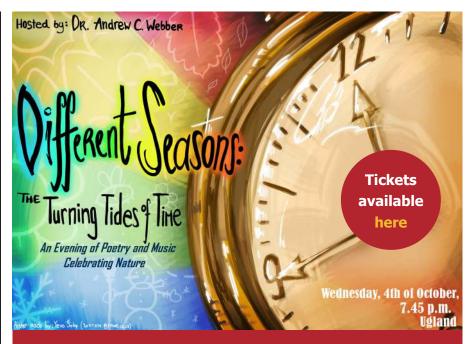
In addition to the screenings of the videos, we also looked at the record sleeve designs and they worked on with the Art Department and listened to songs they had recorded themselves with the Music Department.

Awards for best videos will be announced in an assembly during the Michaelmas Term - judging was made exceedingly difficult by the high quality of work the pupils

Change Maker skills including teamwork, working independently, and thinking outside the box certainly came into play during the sessions, which were enjoyable but equally were exhausting!

And, you never know, a few of the pupils may even have gone onto check out 'The White Album', which is, arguably, The Beatles' finest hour.

Dr Andrew Webber, **Teacher of Film & Media Studies** 



### Different Seasons: An evening of poetry, prose and music celebrating the Changing Tides of Time

### Wednesday 4 October 7pm, The Ugland

Regular readers will know that over the last few years Stowe teachers and pupils have been developing spoken word performances and recordings using poetry as inspiration.

Two years ago we celebrated TS Eliot's 100th anniversary by recording 'The Waste Land' (which sadly turned out to feature one of the late Revered Mullins' last appearances at Stowe) and last year as part of our Halloween preparations we launched 'UNCANNY: An Evening of Gothic Terror!' which is still sending shivers down our spines.

On Wednesday 4 October, I am proud to announce we will be premiering our latest collection of verse entitled 'Different Seasons: the Changing Tides of Time' an evening of poetry and music with the seasons as its focus.

This new show will feature works by Keats, Wordsworth, Jennings, Browning and many more, read and interpreted by another stellar cast including Dr Wallersteiner, Dr Smith, Ms Ackroyd, Mrs Rickner, Mr Cole, Mr Scheppe and myself.

Taken as a whole, the evening gives you a chance to listen to some of the finest poems in the English language, brought to life by music tech supremo Ben Watson and recorded in our own Stringer Studios.

Although I can not speak for everyone, but I think this may well be our best effort yet and I for one was overwhelmed when I first heard it as a whole. It brought tears to my eyes more than once and made me think about the landscape, our heritage and the power of literature in fresh and moving ways.

I reach 60 this year. These poems have walked by me most of my life and will continue to guide me into the future.

I do hope you will be able to join us for the show.

Dr Andrew Webber, 'Different Seasons' Producer & Teacher of Film & Media Studies

**Updated Supervision Features for Facebook Messenger and Instagram for Parents** 

### Safeguarding@Stowe Who can you contact for help and advice?



MIKE RICKNER Designated Safeguarding Lead 07467 949 767 01280 818 412



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead 07887 558 692 01280 818 458



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



JENNY TOMPKINS Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## **Specific updates for Messenger:**

In June 2023, Meta rolled out some new parental features for Facebook Messenger and Instagram. Since

- Updates on their contact list.
- Notification if the child reports someone.
- View who can message their child.
- View who can see their child's stories.

### Specific updates for Instagram:

Before being able to message someone who doesn't follow them, people must now send a text only invite photos from people you don't follow). No further interaction can take place unless the recipient accepts the invite.



Independent Listener: independentlistenerstowe@hotmail.co.uk

Other important numbers which young people can use include:

- therapy@stowe.co.uk Childline: 0800 1111 (24 hours)
- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 (24 hours)
  The Line: 0800 884444 (3.30 9.30pm weekdays, 2.00 8.00pm weekends)
  The Mix: 0808 808 4994 (4.00 11.00pm everyday)
- OFSTED: 0300 123 1231 (8,00am 6,00pm weekdays)
- Report Abuse in Education: 0800 136 663 / help@nspcc.org.uk SHOUT: Text YM to 85258





# LACROSSE

### **Pre-Season Tournament at Bath 8s**

After a successful four days of pre-season at Stowe, a squad of ten went to compete at the annual Bath 8s Tournament. Stowe were drawn against Hillcroft, Cheltenham Cougars, Reigate, Rainbow Rexes and Bristol Bombers.

The first match saw us take on Hillcroft, a long-standing club from London. The girls battled very well taking a 1-0 lead initially, but ultimately lost 4-2.

After making some tactical adjustments the next fixture was against Cheltenham Cougars. Stowe were drawing 2-2 at the half with goals from Maddie Baker (Lower Sixth, Queen's) and Jessie Frost (Upper Sixth, Nugent), however in 8s the score line can change very rapidly, and we conceded three quick fast break goals, with the result ending 5-2 to Cheltenham.

The third fixture of the day was against Reigate, which was a closer game, with excellent work on both sides of the ball against an experienced side, including a skilful caused turnover by Ally Ter Haar (Lower Sixth, Lyttelton). Stowe took the lead with Hannah Campbell (Fifth Form, Nugent) scoring after a great fast break down the side. We went into the half 2-2 but unfortunately, we conceded at the close and lost 3-2.

Our penultimate game saw Stowe take on Rainbow Rexes in a thrilling match. This is where Stowe showed excellent transition and finding that extra pass. An early lead was gained for Stowe and the management of the game was excellent, particularly from goalkeeper Martha Bond (Lower Sixth, West) as she dictated the pace of play through slowing down the clears. Stowe came out deserved winners with a score line of 5-4. Greta Loughran (Upper Sixth, West) scored a fantastic goal in this game, made extra sweet by the fact her sister was in goal for the Rexes!

The last fixture was by far the toughest against a strong club side from Bristol Bombers. The girls played extremely well and did not make the game easy for Bristol. However, the experience prevailed, and Bristol won 8-4.

Overall Stowe Seniors had a fantastic pre-season, which culminated in the tournament at Bath. The team loved the 8s format which is very fast and end to end. One key factor in the tournament was it enabled players to take responsibility in areas of the pitch which they do not usually find themselves in.

Many thanks to all players for attending and to all our parents who came along to watch!

**Rob Ingham Clark, Head of Lacrosse** 

### **CRICKET**

### **Summer Cricketing Success**

Stowe Cricketers have enjoyed a successful Summer.

James Bristow (Lower Sixth, Bruce) scored a century vs Cricket East for Northants U16s. Blake Macleod (Fifth Form, Bruce) bowled consistently well for Northants U15s. Ewan Hughes-Rowlands (Walpole 23) and Charlie Oldershaw (Upper Sixth, Winton) both made their Northants Academy debuts, with Charlie scoring a hundred against Somerset. Both these players are now playing for the Northants 2nd XI, alongside Aadi Sharma (Upper Sixth, Winton). Aadi scored an Academy hundred against Warwickshire and he top scored with 46 for Bucks 1st XI against Sussex 1st XI, as well as representing the South & West at the ECB Super 4s competition.

Wilf Pickard (Upper Sixth, Cobham) also played for the Northants Academy but, unfortunately, was unavailable for much of the Summer.

Lower down the School, Archie Lazarus-Ingman (Fifth Form, Croft) has performed well for his age group and has been representing the Northants EPP (Emerging Player Programmes) regularly. Aayush Baluja (Fourth Form, Bruce) is the leading run scorer in the entire Essex pathway. Blake Macleod (Fifth Form, Bruce) has bowled consistently well for Northants U15s, and Toby Sutliff (Fourth Form, Bruce) has done well for Bucks and played up in their age group sides as well as representing their EPP XI.

Charlie Oldershaw (Upper Sixth, Winton) has been offered an academy contract by Northants County Cricket Club. Charlie played most of the Summer holidays for the academy side as a wicket keeper batsman scoring a century versus Somerset. This performance led to four games for Northants 2nd XI at the end of their season. He joins Aadi Sharma (Upper Sixth, Winton) in the Academy and we wish these players well as they enter their final year at Stowe.

James Knott, Head of Cricket

### **SWIMMING**

The Swimming Team competed in the first round of the English Schools' Relays at Abingdon School on Friday 15 September.

Both the Senior girls and boys raced well for the first gala of the year, but the Intermediate boys' team of Johnson Sun (Fourth Form, Bruce), Sultan Saigol (Fourth Form, Grafton), Amory Baxter (Fifth Form, Cobham) and Seb Hughes (Fifth Form, Croft) shone, coming Second in both the medley and freestyle relays.

A big well done to Mollie Davis (Third Form, Cheshire) for racing with the Senior girls. A fabulous start to the year.

**Cheryl Davis, Head of Swimming** 





### Unveiling the Justice System: Harnessing Online Resources for Aspiring Law Students

In an effort to bring about transparency and improve public understanding of the justice system, the broadcasting of judges' sentencing remarks in England and Wales' Crown Court became a reality on 28 July 2022. This move, revolutionary in its own right, provides an invaluable resource for individuals considering a career in law, especially pupils preparing to embark on their university journey.

Historically, recording and broadcasting in the Crown Court was prohibited under Section 41 of the Criminal Justice Act 1925 and the Contempt of Court Act 1981. This resulted from the disruption to courts caused by the introduction of portable cameras in the early 20th Century. This legislation remained in effect, despite the evolution of technology and society. However, recent reforms have allowed for the recording and broadcasting of judges' sentencing remarks, providing an enlightening window into the justice system's workings.

The Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court have already been broadcasting their proceedings for some years. Adding the Crown Court, including high-profile courts such as the Central Criminal Court or the Old Bailey, further opens the justice system to public scrutiny and understanding.

For aspiring law students, these broadcasts offer unprecedented access to the inner workings of the court system. They provide a first-hand perspective on sentencing decisions and their rationale, forming a solid foundation for understanding legal principles and court procedures.

### Skills pupils could develop using these resources?

**Critical Analysis:** Watch the proceedings and attempt to analyse the judge's sentencing remarks. What factors did the judge consider? How were they weighed against each other? Understanding this will help develop your analytical skills, which are vital in the study and practice of law.

**Legal Research:** Use these resources to supplement your study of legal principles. Observe how these principles are applied in real-life scenarios. How does theory compare to practice?

**Communication and Debate:** Discuss the cases you watch with peers or mentors. This will improve your understanding of the cases and your communication skills, which are critical for any successful legal career.

**Note-Taking:** Practice summarising complex cases succinctly. This will improve your ability to identify key points and arguments, an essential skill in legal studies.

**Empathy and Ethics:** Pay attention to the impact of the law on people's lives. This will help foster empathy and an understanding of legal decisions' ethical considerations.

To read more about the study skills required by aspiring Law students, please visit our Law Society pages.

In conclusion, aspiring law students can benefit from these broadcasts. By cultivating analysis, research, communication, note-taking, empathy, and ethics skills, they can better prepare themselves for their journey through law school and beyond.

Step into the world of law, watch proceedings on the Judiciary's YouTube channel and get a taste of your future. Happy viewing!



### **Useful Links**

### The Court of Appeal (Civil Division) - Live streaming of court hearings

Most cases from the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) are live-streamed on the judiciary's YouTube channel. Live-streaming of selected cases began in 2019 to improve public access to, and understanding of, the work of the courts. They are working towards making it possible for all appropriate cases to be live streamed

View previous cases on the Court of Appeal video archive page.

**Sky News - Courts:** Watch the latest cases captured by Sky News cameras in the Crown Court and Court of Appeal in full. Please be advised that videos may contain graphic descriptions of serious crimes, including murder and sexual offences.

**Dr Gordon West, MiC Law Society** 



# Cricket tour to Dubai



In February half term 2024 James Knott and Andrew O'Connor will be running an U17 cricket tour to Dubai. The tour is aimed at experienced cricketers (U14 – U17) who would like to develop their game further with the overall aim of the tour being player development in terms of skills, tactics and the mental aspects of the game.

We will be playing all 13 in each match so everyone will get four games of cricket on tour. We will be seeking opposition that will match our playing level so that all of the matches are constructive, competitive, enjoyable and stretch the players. The matches will be a mix of 40/50 overs and T20 (two in a day).

After our second match we have a day off to enjoy one the biggest water parks in the world and see some of the sights including the Burj Kalifa. The tour will be rounded off with an awards dinner. We will be staying in the Holiday Inn (Festival City), which is close to local amenities.

To register interest in the tour please email James Knott at admin@cricketcoachingmasterclass.co.uk

# Bike Maintenance and Servicing

Bike maintenance and servicing is available to all Staff and pupils across The Stowe Group. The opening hours are indicated below, however, they are very flexible so do please **contact me**, before visiting, so that we can ensure my availability.

Monday - 09.30 - 13.00 Tuesday - 09.30 - 13.00 Thursday - 14.00 - 16.00

In addition, there are a small number of bikes (MTB, Retros and Road Bikes) that have been donated which are available for sale. If anyone is interested in purchasing one of these bikes, please **contact me**, for further details. A percentage of the costs raised from the sale of these bikes will be donated to St Peter's Church, Brackley for their 800 year celebration fund.

Nick Zammit, Bicycle Maintenance and Repair





Stowe School Stowe Buckingham MK18 5EH

**Liam Copley** 

t | +44 (0)1280 818000 e | stowemail@stowe.co.uk

w | www.stowe.co.uk

Editorial Team:
Mrs Cath Clarke
Mrs Eleanor Lyttle
Mrs Tori Roddy

