

the STOLIC

Stowe School 2012/2013

Exam Success

*Stoics achieve
excellent A Level
and GCSE results*

90th Anniversary

*A year of celebrations to
mark the School's foundation*

SOUTH FRONT

*The Medici Lions
return to Stowe*

Stowe



the STOIC

I consider myself very fortunate to have arrived at Stowe in this its 90th Anniversary year, and what a fabulous year it has been. The celebrations centred on the Anniversary have been remarkable and I hope have created wonderful memories for many in the Stowe community. In particular, I will not forget the Battle of Britain memorial flight over Speech Day, our Royal visitors, and Roger Hodgson performing to over 2000 guests on the South Front. I had thought this last year at Stowe was exceptional, however, a quick flick through previous editions of *The Stoic* reveal that every year here is extraordinary, and the calendar for Michaelmas term alone is packed full of more excitement. The interesting and special thing about the School is that Stoics are encouraged to pursue excellence in whatever they do. If there is an activity that a Stoic wants to be involved in or a challenge that they want to attempt they are helped to do so by teachers who push them to develop their talents inside and outside the classroom. The whole place works together to make it happen, and a lot does happen! I have been struck by how engaged the Stoics are during their time here (I very rarely see a Stoic doing nothing) and I am astonished every fortnight when we put together our newsletter, *Stowemail*, by all the academic and personal successes within our community.

It takes an army of people to put together a publication like *The Stoic*, from the many teachers who spend time on top of all their other duties penning the words for their departments, Houses, sports and activities to the team of proof readers. The wonderful photography is a team effort; we have snaps from Stoics, Staff and Parents as well as Alan Longworth and John Millar. Finally, I must thank our fantastic designer, Christine Carr at Turtle-Soup, who works patiently and creatively to fit all this news into the magazine (whilst gently suggesting that we probably cannot accommodate yet another article).

This magazine exists to record all the wonderful things that our pupils have achieved so that they can be reflected upon by the Stoics themselves, their parents and families and by the whole community that is Stowe. From this year's best-ever examination results to our many sporting successes, there are far too many achievements to fit into these pages. Stowe is such a vibrant and happy community and I hope that through this magazine you are able to get a sense of what an amazing place it is.



Mrs Tori Roddy, Editor
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SPEECH DAY	4-15
VALETE	16-19
ACADEMIC REPORT	20
Mathematics	21
English	22
<i>Creative Writing</i>	22-23
Science	24-26
Geography	27
History	28
Religious Studies	29
Sports Science and PE	30
Languages	31-33
Classics	34
Economics and Politics	35-36
ICT and Computing	36
Business Studies	37
PSHE	38
Art	39
<i>Gallery</i>	40-41
Design Technology	42
The International Department	44
Library	45
<i>Gallery</i>	46-47

OLD STOICS

90 Cars for 90 Years	48
Cyril Gray Tournament	49
Nostalgic at 90!	49
Roger Hodgson Concert	50-51

HOUSES

Bruce	52
Chandos	54
Chatham	56
Cobham	58
Grafton	60
Grenville	62
Lyttelton	64
Nugent	66
Queen's	68
Stanhope	70
Temple	72
Walpole	74
<i>Creative Writing</i>	76-77

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

XX Group	78
Pitt Society	80
Durrell Society	80
Literary Society	81
Oxford Society	82
Oxbridge and Medics' Society	83
Biomedical Society	84
Quantum Society	85
<i>Creative Writing</i>	86-87





SHPT

The Lions' Share 88

MUSIC

Music Report 92



DRAMA

Gizmo 97
 Twist and Shout 98
 After Juliet 100
 GCSE Drama 101
 AS Drama 102
 A2 Drama 103

ACTIVITIES

Duke of Edinburgh's Award 104
 CCF 106
 Beagling 108
 Cossfire 109
 Service@Stowe 110
 Chapel 112
Creative Writing 113



SPORT

Rugby 116
 Boys' Hockey 125
 Girls' Hockey 130
 Lacrosse 134
 Cricket 138
 Swimming 144
 Boys' Tennis 146
 Badminton 148
 Girls' Tennis 149
 Netball 154
 Football 155
 Cross Country 156
 Karate 156
 Golf 157
 Athletics 158
 Squash 160
 Karting 160
 Fives 161
 Water Polo 161
 Equestrian 162
 Polo 163
 Rowing 164
 Sailing 166
 Clay Pigeon Shooting 167
Gallery 168-9





Speech Day

Chairman of Governors

Your Royal Highness, Sheriff, my Lords, Fellow Governors, Headmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A warm welcome to you all on this special Speech Day celebrating our 90th Anniversary. I think I can safely say that in 90 years, Stowe has never seen a Speech Day like it.

Your Royal Highness, we are immensely grateful to you for committing your time to be with us today and, Sir, for the interest you continue to show in Stowe and the restoration of Stowe Mansion and the Landscaped Gardens.

In a few days' time we will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen – Her Majesty has been a constant in the lives of most of us gathered here today. Constancy is a theme for most institutions and Stowe is no exception. Stowe continues to uphold the traditions with which it started in 1923 – encouraging its pupils to challenge orthodoxies and develop their own independent minds; Stowe continues to inspire its pupils with the beauty of its architecture and landscape; Stowe continues to provide an all-round education to those who come over the Oxford Bridge, and to send its pupils out into the world more than able to hold their own, becoming leaders of business, creative arts, military service.

Contrary to some opinions, the restoration of the Mansion has been funded entirely out of the Stowe House Preservation Trust, and not by the School, and we are as ever extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to help with that project.

Today sees the unveiling of the two restored Medici Lions, returned to their proper home after a holiday lasting over 90 years in Blackpool.

At last, having secured the fabric of the Main Mansion, the Trust is able to move on to the restoration of interiors. The Music Room has been restored and is soon to see the reinstallation of the original Valdrè centrepiece for the ceiling – again funded by generous donations to the Trust. Next is the Blue Room and, in 2014, the North Hall.

The Egyptian Entrance will soon see the installation of a replica sarcophagus and two replica sphinxes – or is it sphinges? I'll let the scholars decide.

And what are we, the School, doing? Well, quite a lot.

Work converting Nugent to a full boarding house for 13 to 18 year olds is well underway and will finish later this year.

The Roxburgh Hall has had an amazing facelift and now looks like a theatre rather than an aircraft hangar – the last phase of our work dealing with the façade and the side and rear elevations will take place over the next 12 months.

The Music School is well underway although weather has delayed the project. It is now scheduled to be complete by the end of this calendar year.

The new Golf Course has been delayed by planning formalities; the course will be built next year and opened for play in 2015.

We are now looking at how we can upgrade the Science Building to give the Sciences a well-deserved boost – and we are beginning to explore how we reconfigure the boys' boarding facilities.

It is a remarkable testament to the inspiration, which Stowe generates in all those who come in contact with it, that we have been able to do so much. With our partners, the National Trust and Stowe House Preservation Trust, we have forged a highly effective team which has been and continues to be determined to put Stowe once more firmly

back into the position it held in the 18th Century as a leading centre, not this time of politics but of education and heritage.

We could not do this without all of you, and all those who cannot be with us today – parents and pupils who choose Stowe as a place of education, heritage *aficionados* who want to see the restoration of fabric and landscape, and those who just want to help the School to provide first class facilities.

To you all I offer my heartfelt thanks for the generosity of your sustained support, especially so in these difficult times, as without your help we could not have done all that we have, and could not do all that we desire.

Financially we are in good heart, sufficiently so to be able to continue to invest in improving our facilities and, importantly for you, to keep fees increases as low as possible, just about the current rate of inflation.

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

During our 90 years we have had seven Headmasters. It is the nature of schools that the focus is on the Headmaster, and not on the Governors – for instance who can recall the name of the first Chairman – indeed any Chairman?

It is entirely right that this should be so. Suffice it to say that my immediate four predecessors are all now deceased – so, and believe me on this, I am hanging on in office for as long as possible.

I would though like to pay tribute to one individual who is with us today. Michael Bewes served as a Governor for 33 years and two months – rather more than one third of the

School's existence – retiring in 2005. Michael – thank you for the service you gave, and the contribution you made to helping to shape Stowe.

Our Foundation, in 1923, can be credited to the perseverance of Edward Montauban, whose vision in 1920 of a new major public school was finally brought to life by the impulsive yet decisive intervention of the enigmatic Reverend Percy Warrington in 1922.

Percy Warrington operated, somewhat loosely it has to be said, under the auspices of the Church of England Trust, which morphed into the Martyrs Memorial Trust – who we consider today to be our founding fathers. Perhaps a little distant in recent decades we are looking to refresh our relationship with Martyrs Memorial Trust and I am delighted to welcome Mrs Gillian Morrison, one of their Trustees, to celebrate our 90th birthday with us today.

To my Governor colleagues – my grateful thanks for another year of your support and hard work, all given so freely and without complaint.

At the end of the Summer two governors retire: Sue van der Veen who has served and supported Stowe for five years, latterly as Chair of our Education Committee; and The Reverend Jonathan Fletcher, who has brought wisdom and his experience of Christian Ministry to our meetings for over 20 years. Our thanks go to both for their valuable contributions.

The Headmaster promised me that his speech will surprise me this year – Headmaster, I remain mystified as to whether you meant the content or the length – so now is the time to find out as I hand the baton over to our Headmaster, Dr Anthony Wallersteiner.

Christopher Honeyman Brown





The Headmaster

A warm welcome to our 90th Anniversary Speech Day, an occasion when we celebrate the achievements of all Stoics past and present and reflect on the successes of the last twelve months. The surprise, Chairman, is that this year I have decided not to parody our esteemed politicians, say anything negative about the Coalition's policies or put Michael Gove on the naughty step. I don't need to – my work is done, we have gone beyond parody. Welcome to the world of Omnishambles II – the Revenge of the Swivel-eyed Loons!

The second surprise is that Roger Hodgson, the star of last night's incredible show, has joined us this morning. He is an Old Stoic musician and songwriter of the highest calibre, best known as the founder member and voice of the legendary progressive rock band, Supertramp. He composed and sang the majority of their hits, including Dreamer, Give a Little Bit, The Logical Song, Breakfast in America, Fool's Overture and Take the Long Way Home.

Fifty years ago, in June 1963, Roger's prep school headmaster wrote enthusiastically to Stowe about Roger, describing him as a good sportsman, "tremendously well-liked" and a "kindly" boy. He went on to say that young Roger was an outstanding young actor and a brilliant chorister with natural musicality. As the Jesuits say, give me the boy and I'll give you the man. Roger gave his first concert while still at Woodcote House with nine original songs, one of them titled Stop This Torture. At Stowe he rose to become Head of Grenville, reached the rank of Able Seaman in the Naval Section before being seconded to the Police section. A less likely policeman is hard to

imagine. Roger joined the Music, Gramophone and Folk Song Societies and, fortunately for everyone, failed his Accounting exams. He is still a huge creative force, inspiring new generations with the gift of his music. It is with great pleasure that I ask our distinguished guest, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, to confer upon Roger the Distinguished Stoic Award.

Well, I promised that today would hold a few surprises and we're hoping to entice Roger back to Stowe to see the Roger Hodgson Room in the Music School when it opens in early 2014.

It is ninety years ago since the Martyrs Memorial and Church of England Trust rescued Stowe from demolition and created a school which would join the first rank of public schools within a decade of its foundation. It was our great good fortune that the governors chose JF Roxburgh as the first Headmaster and Stowe was his home for more than a quarter of a century. A supremely gifted classicist from Trinity Cambridge, not a bad college – although I could be biased - Roxburgh's influence has been profound, perhaps even greater than that of Dr Arnold, the reforming Headmaster of Rugby. JF's consideration for the individual was highly unusual at a time when headmasters were remote, aloof, begowned and bearded figures, destined more often than not for the cathedral deanery or an Oxbridge college. Roxburgh intuitively understood that Stowe's glorious past, shaped by the Temple-Grenville family, could be fused with the present to create an educational vision for the future. Just as Stowe had been at the very centre of 18th Century politics and culture, championing civil and religious freedom over despotism and bigotry, so it would become a school which celebrates the civilising and humanising

virtues of tolerance, intellectual curiosity, love of reason and a deep appreciation of the beauty of the landscape and its architecture. He understood what all of us as parents already know completely intuitively, that no two children are the same and we should embrace and celebrate these differences. Roxburgh was tolerant enough to forgive the occasional mistake and indiscretion. Stowe became an independent school in the true sense of the word: free from

personal skills, who are well-rounded, confident and yet not arrogant... nice to see last year's Head Boy paraphrased by the inspectors...Excellent governance has enabled the School to continually improve."

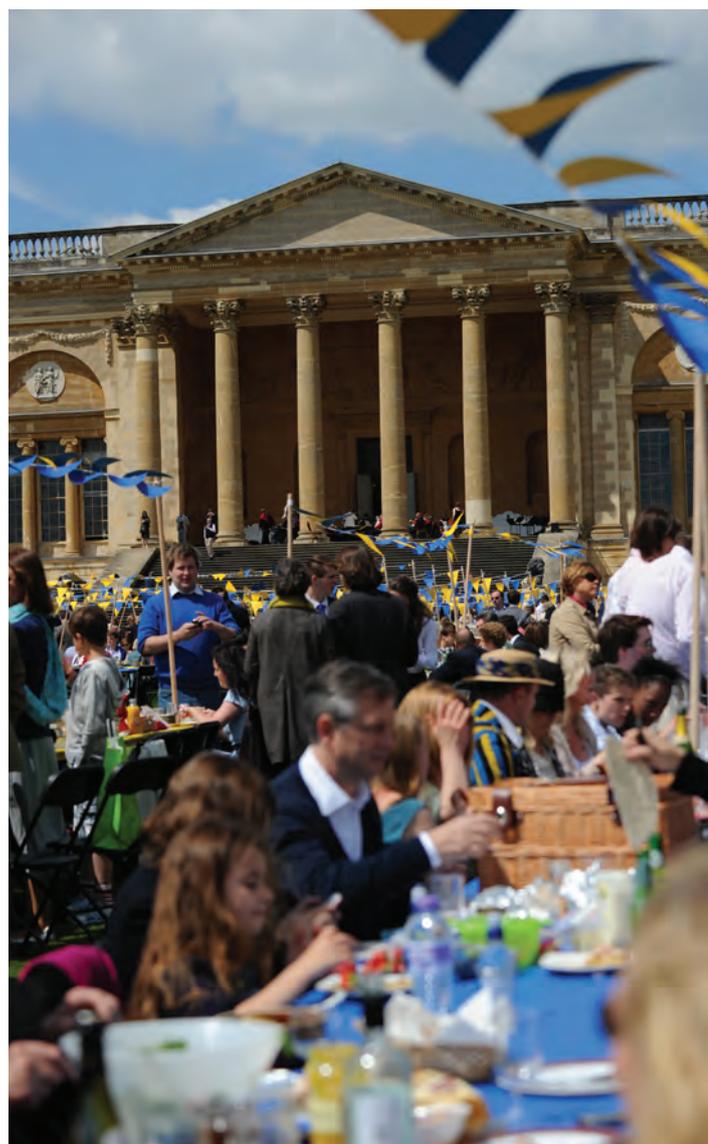
Since the inspection, we have received this year's value added scores for A Level, known as ALPS, the acronym for advanced level performance system. ALPS measure the performance of pupils and departments in public

“Fifty years ago, in June 1963, Roger’s prep school headmaster wrote enthusiastically to Stowe about Roger, describing him as a good sportsman, “tremendously well-liked” and a “kindly” boy.”

political interference and unique not just for the grandeur of its buildings and grounds, now so magnificently preserved and restored by the Stowe House Preservation Trust, the World Monument Fund and the National Trust, but more importantly because it offers an education which emphasises personal freedom, happiness (long before it appeared on the Wellington curriculum), promoting diversity and achievement in every field of endeavour. Individuality was and continues to be the prize. A Stowe education is not something to be endured in the way that a boring low-grade clerical job is to be endured, but something to be savoured and enjoyed.

Roxburgh wanted Stoics to take charge of their own learning and encouraged them to appreciate what is great and what is good. He would, I think, be pleased with the ISI inspection report which was produced after 12 school inspectors raked over every facet of school life for five days in October. By the end of their visit we felt that we had been well and truly Ofsteded. The inspectors summed up their findings as follows: “Stowe is a very successful school which meets its aims of providing pupils with a high quality all-round education and in inculcating in pupils a confidence and tolerance of others, and a strong sense of moral, social and spiritual responsibility. Pupils achieve well, both in the classroom and in public examinations, where they achieved their best results at GCSE and A Level this year (74% A* to B in A Levels in a year when nationally, the percentage of A*/A grades dropped for the first time in 21 years). They attain excellent standards in their extensive range of extra-curricular activities. This is because of good teaching, the pupils’ very good attitudes to learning, and the excellent provision of activities which engage them fully and which they greatly appreciate. The School’s aims of seeking to promote academic excellence, sporting prowess and artistic and musical creativity are realised. The personal development of pupils is excellent. They benefit from high quality pastoral care set within a supportive family atmosphere...the result of this is a contented group of young people who develop important

examinations against national benchmarks, so we can see how Stoics are performing compared to pupils at similar schools. Well, this year we scaled the Alps and were placed 11th out of more than 1,400 participating schools. My thanks, as ever, to all the teaching staff for their hard work,



commitment and unstinting dedication to looking after the academic and pastoral well being of the Stoics.

The Sutton Trust published a League Table of the educational backgrounds of the nation's leading and most influential people which, by an uncanny coincidence, also had Stowe placed eleventh in the country. The study

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was supposed to show the lack of social mobility in the United Kingdom, but any table which has Stowe ahead of Shrewsbury, Tonbridge, King's Canterbury, Radley, Oundle and Uppingham can't be all bad news.

Excellence can be reached by many different paths,

as demonstrated by the achievements of so many accomplished Old Stoics. Pursuing academic goals to the exclusion of all else does not lead to an overall performance which is better. I am certain the opposite is the case. Stoics develop their interests outside the classroom – in sport, drama, music and art. It is this rich hinterland which sets us apart from the dull Gradgrindian factory schools where children are battery farmed, processed, packaged and taught to do well in standardised tests. Standardised tests have a place – after all you would worry if the driving test had regional variations – but they are not the be all and end all of education. As a species we are naturally curious and creative and standardisation sits uneasily with individuality. We may think that our pets have personalities, but when my dog, Cosmo, spends hours staring into space, he's probably not going through an existential crisis after becoming disillusioned with logical positivism.

Free-range Stoics can be found breaking records in the swimming pool, rowing at Eton Dorney or on the Eleven Acre Lake, especially now that we have a superb new boat house and four new sleek and streamlined competition boats. Our athletes make full use of the new track and field facilities and excel at running, jumping and throwing,



while the Equestrian Centre which opened in September has got off to a flying start, quite literally when you see the height of the jumps and will be even better now that we have planning permission for the Mark Phillips cross-country course (although I am still baffled by the concept of needing planning permission for jumps on a cross-country course). Our polo team came second at the National Arena Championship and few schools are able to field four competitive teams, 16 players and more than 40 ponies. We wish the 1st team the best of luck tomorrow as they do battle with Eton, Harrow and Wellington to win the Copenhagen Cup. Stoic golfers are having a good summer, and we have still won the prestigious Micklem Cup more times than any other school. Last year our cricketers once again topped the School Cricket League Table and this season the 1st XI set a national record when they scored 302 for one wicket at a T20 game. Ben Duckett batted and kept wicket on this winter's England U19 tour of South Africa and now plays for Northamptonshire 1st XI, scoring 53 not out in his First Class debut against Leicestershire last week.

Without wanting to sound too triumphalist, Mr Hughes has had to recalibrate our rugby fixtures as schools like Bloxham, St Edward's and even Rugby won't play us after

losing entire block fixtures. The School was immensely proud of Jordan Onojaife who played in all three of England's U18 European Cup matches in March when the England team successfully defended its title, beating France in the final in front of 15,000 spectators. Hockey is enjoying something of a golden age, no doubt inspired by Mr Fair's performance at last year's London Olympics, with the Senior girls reaching the U18 regional finals, the U14 girls winning the Buckinghamshire County Championship for the third year running and the U14 boys winning the country and regional championships to reach the semi-finals of the South Eastern division. Last term's 1st lacrosse team was again unbeaten in full length matches, netball had its best ever season with the 1st VII representing Buckinghamshire in the Regional Finals of the National Tournament, while the girls' tennis team reached the national finals held at the Bolton Arena in March. Basketball attracted record crowds in the Drayson when Miss Koff's team completed an unbeaten season with a win over Buckingham University and earlier this term the junior clay pigeon shooting team won the top spot at the British Schools' and Young Shots Championship. There really is something for everyone – even trials biking with the Headmaster (clear evidence of a mid-life crisis) and our



speed merchants reached the Regional Finals of the British Schools' Karting Championships.

This has been one of the most excitingly creative years that I can remember, spurred on in no small part by the presence of our composer-in-residence, Harry Gregson-Williams and artist-in-residence, Alexander Talbot Rice. I commend the exhilarating exhibitions in the Art School and StoweBucks which showcase the diversity and creative talent of so many Stoics and it should come as no surprise that the latest edition of The Good Schools Guide highlights the strength of our Art, DT and Drama. This term's musical highlights include a miniature Glastonbury (or Pop Go the Worthies), an outstanding concert at St John's Smith Square, culminating in a magical rendition of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and the highest standard of playing at the Mozart Trio Competition that anyone can remember. The 50th anniversary of The Beatles playing at Stowe, clearly a milestone in the band's career, was marked by a spirited Congreve production of 'Twist and Shout' which recreated the excitement of the Fab Four coming to the small provincial town of Stowechester in 1963. Changing one letter, the Beagles celebrated their 50th anniversary with well attended dinners at the Caledonian Club and the newly restored Music Room and I congratulate the joint masters on another successful season of lawful activities with hounds.

And now we will have a musical interlude and hear from one of very talented Music Scholars, Francesca Stevens will sing 'O Mio Babbino Caro' by Puccini.

The pace of building and restoration has continued unabated this year and I'm reminded of the London Transport announcement which apologised for the deterioration in services while improvements are being made. The Music School, the newest temple at Stowe, is nearing completion (notwithstanding delays caused by the discovery of an asbestos pit and the difficulty of laying cement, bricks and stone in sub-zero temperatures). The Roxburgh Hall will soon be the superb new home for Stowe Drama when the final phase of its refurbishment is completed in the spring. Building and Works have a new headquarters up at the Bourbon and the conversion of Nugent House from a Sixth Form house to accommodate 60 girls aged 13 to 18 will be completed by the time Stoics return in September. SHPT handed back the restored Music Room in September and today we celebrate the completion of the external façades of the Mansion with the return of the Medici Lions and 32 copper urns. The lions are copies of the statues that once guarded the Medici Villa in Rome and can now be seen in the Loggia dei Lanzi in Florence. They symbolise all that has been achieved by the Stowe House Preservation Trust since its inception in 1997 and we express our sincere thanks not only to SHPT but also to the councillors of the city of Blackpool who approved their long-term loan from Stanley Park. Fear not, this is not an example of arrogant re-appropriation as the

Blackpool lions are being replaced with theft-proof replicas made of lead and this really is an exchange in which every gains. Councillor Blackburn, my sincere thanks.

2,500 years ago St Augustine observed that human communities are like olive trees that are always losing their leaves and yet are never bare. At Stowe we are constantly reminded of the ebb and flow of our community by the words above the entrance to chapel: "ingredientes, exeuntesque domine deus custodi" which roughly translates as O God; O Lord; look after those coming in and those going out. This applies not only to the Stoics leaving in a few weeks, replaced by new pupils joining the Third Form in September, but also to members of staff taking up new appointments and challenges at other schools or leaving

At Stowe we are constantly reminded of the ebb and flow of our community by the words above the entrance to chapel: "ingredientes, exeuntesque domine deus custodi"

for well earned retirement. Our congratulations and good wishes go to Tony Lewis, taking up the Headship of St Nicholas Prep School in London, Kevin Ryce, appointed Deputy Head of Ratcliffe College, Ian Findlay-Palmer who leaves to become Head of Physics at St George's College in Weybridge. James Pantom goes to Magdalen College School Oxford, Ben Ponniah will teach at Abingdon and James Fair moves to King Edward's School Birmingham. Philippa Gleave joins Lady Eleanor Holles School; Vicky Kinmond is leaving for Cheltenham Ladies' College, while Géraldine Guibert will not be far away when she moves to Swanbourne. We also say farewell and sincere thanks to Peter Staples, Simon Gabbatiss, Ellie Donaldson, this year's Stowe-Harvard Fellow, Abby Koff, language assistants, Hélène Hardy, Lisa Dossmann and Susana Bartolomé Bravo and I would like to make a special mention of Judy Gracie's ten years of outstanding pastoral care as Housemistress of Lyttelton. Our teachers are the lifeblood of the School, the engineers of creativity, intellectual curiosity and individualised teaching and learning. The seeds of what we become are sown in the classroom and underpin all our achievements. No one forgets an inspirational teacher.

It is now my duty to ask our guest of honour, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent, to present this year's prizes.

Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster



Roger Hodgson

Well never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be a part of Speech Day – let alone be getting an award...

It's very exciting to be a part of the 90th Anniversary and see and feel the changes here at Stowe and especially the new Music School. It was obviously wonderful to play for you last night. I was especially touched by the energy and joy of all the pupils.

I've thought long and hard about what I could say that could be of help to you pupils out there.

To tell you the truth I grappled for a while with getting an award and what that meant to me.

And what came to me was that it was not the success or the songs that I wrote that are deserving of an award, it was the fact that I never gave up on my dream, always followed my heart and never lost that core passion to want to be of service.

Stowe was very different when I was here. Living with 600 boys and all male teachers, in the middle of nowhere with no internet, no cell-phones, and no girls to balance out and soften the all male energy.

I left the School with a good education but also with a lot of questions and confusion about who I was - and what I'm realising now, with much gratitude for my experience at Stowe is that it propelled me on a quest to find meaning and healing and find my true self.

Plus it gave me a lot of great material to write about...

"then they sent me away to teach me how to be sensible... cynical..."

Music was where I found a safe place to express my confusion, my loneliness, my longing for love, and my deep yearning to know God.

The entertainment world is obsessed with fame and fortune and the truth is I've always believed music is a very special art form, the artist or singer is the voice of the people, the storyteller, telling the stories of our hearts, expressing our hopes and dreams, our joy and pain.

Somewhere along the way I recognised that what I loved to do the most was serve – that is what brings me the most fulfillment and it is I believe what keeps our passion alive as we get older.

As someone who's experienced fame, wealth and success and the challenges they bring, let me give you my two cents – keep your life simple. And whatever you do, whether you're a doctor, teacher, journalist or musician, find the place in yourself that wants to serve, wants to help make the world a better place – we're at a time in the world's evolution that giving and caring need to take the place of exploiting and taking – and one thing I've learned is that giving is the true source of happiness.

And the more life gives you, the more you have to give back.

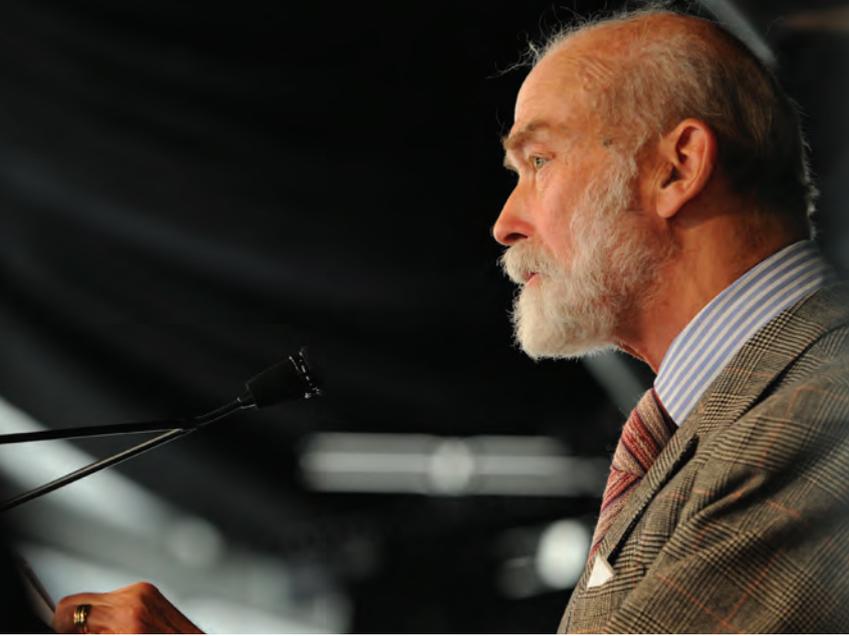
Therein lies fulfillment and people who understand this secret are usually the happiest.

And on that note, let us create a first for Speech Day – if you care to join me for one final song, a song that speaks to that principal.

"Give a Little Bit"

Roger Hodgson





HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO

It is a great privilege for me to have been asked to come and talk to Stowe School on your Speech Day. I hope you will not consider it a presumption, considering I was educated elsewhere. I congratulate Stowe, first, on attaining your 90th Anniversary this year, and second, on buying this beautiful house and grounds and thus ensuring its continued existence in the noblest possible way.

I am very tickled by the story of Queen Victoria's visit here in 1845. Its then owner, the Duke of Buckingham, who was reputed to be "the greatest debtor in the world, owing £100m", was not highly regarded by the Queen. The story goes that while she and Prince Albert stayed for three days of banquets, receptions, concerts and shooting, bailiffs dressed in ducal livery were busy making inventories of furniture and paintings. Queen Victoria even briefly contemplated buying Stowe.

Of more significance to me personally is that in 1929 my father presided over the dedication service which opened the School Chapel, designed by Sir Robert Lorimer. And his mother, my grandmother, Queen Mary, had laid the foundation stone two years earlier.

It seems to me that so often nowadays, pupils are prepped to pass exams to get them onto the next stage of their lives but not educated to become the fully rounded human beings they need to be if society is to function well in the next generations. There is much more to education than exams, and much more to a school than where it lies in the exam results tables. Are the children happy, for example? Are they well-disposed and generous-minded? Do they understand and appreciate art, music, conversation, wit, theatre, all the things that go together to make life civilised and better than just an endless and ultimately barren existence spent in getting and spending? Are they well-rounded as individuals who will all too soon have to go out into the wider world and make decisions for themselves? Are they learning the proper morals and values-based rules of life that will qualify them not just for the next few years of their journey from prep school to school to university, but for the rest of their lives?

The key ages of 13 to 18 are central to the development of the personalities and characters of the young adults they are about to become, and that goes far deeper and wider than merely how many As or Bs they have on how many pieces of paper from the GCSE. An intellect is a wonderful thing, and should never be wasted, but even more important is character, which is a complex phenomenon made up of any number of human attributes: the way an individual instinctively behaves in a crisis; trustworthiness; whether he or she has an inner core of belief; whether they are able to take criticism rationally; are they imbued with good manners, especially to those further down the social scale than themselves; a conscience; a sense of humour; a sense of honour; moral and physical courage. These are things that cannot be taught in a GCSE exam but they matter far more in life than any number of slips of paper from an examining board. This is not meant to be a sermon; it's just an observation from life that grows on me more and more as I get older and (hopefully) wiser.

And you here at Stowe have the great advantage of beautiful surroundings to help develop these important qualities.

You should consider the alternatives before stampeding for whichever job is offered you with the largest starting salary. Some of the most fulfilled people I know are not hedge-funders or property tycoons or mergers and acquisitions specialists – although there is much to admire in those people too, who are needed in any sophisticated modern economy – but instead are people who work for MI6, or *Médécins Sans Frontières*, or English Heritage, or wildlife conservation, or promoting road safety, or teaching English as a foreign language, or the National Portrait Gallery, or, in the case we celebrate today, making beautiful sculptures – like my good friend David Wynne because I have another great privilege. It is to be Patron of the David Wynne Sculpture Collection here at Stowe. David is a long standing friend of mine, an Old Stoic, and one of the country's most highly acclaimed figurative sculptors whose work is revered all over the world. With enormous generosity, David has left the School his unique collection of sculptures including the maquette for his most celebrated work, *The Boy with the Dolphin*, which draws so many admirers to the Embankment. David has also produced some of the most sophisticated and closely observed sculptures of wildlife and he has drawn inspiration from his many visits to Africa. Some of his models are on display today and I hope guests take the opportunity to visit and admire this unique British talent. Another tiny coincidence is that David worked closely with The Beatles who, of course, played a concert at Stowe exactly 50 years ago. David, I have long been in the van of your admirers, so it is with very great pleasure that I now present you the Distinguished Old Stoic Award.

Head Boy and Head Girl

Charlie: Your Royal Highness, My Lords, Ladies, Gentlemen and Stoics.

We would like to start by welcoming his Royal Highness to Stowe. We thank you for your enlightening speech and would like to present you with a small token of our thanks.

People forget the stress and anxiety Stoics put on our Headmaster and Governors and as a form of apology and thanks we would like to present these flowers to Mrs Wallersteiner and Mrs Honeyman Brown for the support they have given their husbands during their demanding roles and contributions to the School. This is especially as Mrs Wallersteiner has to deal with us, literally, on her doorstep.

Hugo: To the Headmaster, as it is your tenth anniversary here at Stowe, we cannot thank you enough for the improvements you have made to the School and the opportunities these have given each pupil. It's quite remarkable to think that when we arrived there was no Equestrian Centre, plans for a Music School or Art School. Yet, these are all a reality! You and the Governors can take satisfaction in the fact that you have developed and cemented your own legacy in the School. Being Speech Day, there is obviously much focus on individual achievement, with all the prize winners, which is well deserved. However, it's equally important to place emphasis on each individual Stoic, member of staff, the wonderful people who prepare our meals and those who keep the grounds looking fantastic every day. Speech Day is an occasion for everyone to celebrate and appreciate the efforts we have put in for one another.

Charlie: This leads us neatly on to the Stoic Award, a prize voted for by the pupils, and given to a member of the Stowe community who has greatly contributed to the School. This year's winner is a wonderful teacher who is

always helpful, cheerful and up for a laugh as she always enjoys a good joke. It just so happens that she is also my Housemistress. Mrs Gracie, as a Housemistress you have been perfect. The guidance, help and support you have given me and each amazing Lyttelton girl, past and present is immense. Yet, one of your most impressive achievements has been helping me navigate the mysteries of an A Level biology paper. Clearly everyone agrees that no one deserves this award more than you, so Mrs Gracie this is a thank you, not just from Lyttelton but from the whole School.

Hugo: Being Head Boy is a fascinating job. During my first week, I took it upon myself to help out on lunch duty. Being the idiot that I am, this duty resulted in me impersonating James Bond with a banana! Eventually one small innocent Third Form boy bravely walked within my radar and, being James Bond, the logical continuation of my act was, obviously, to blow his brains out. However, the riposte that followed was quite to my surprise as he confronted me with a question, stating "Are you Head Boy?" to which I arrogantly replied "Yes, the name's Brooks, Hugo, Brooks!" (I'm just joking I didn't actually say that, I would hate to think I'm that clichéd). Yet, my ego was demolished in one sweeping statement as he condescendingly remarked "Wow, you're Head Boy and you're shooting me with a banana", leaving me emotionally scarred!

Despite our moments of insanity, we have both learnt some valuable lessons. I have had two Housemasters at Stowe, Mr Knight and Mr Murphy. They embody two attributes that I deem to be essential. Mr Knight is as genuinely sincere as anyone around the School whilst Mr Murphy has a copious supply of enthusiasm that radiates through the orange of Grenville. With that sort of enthusiasm and sincerity, I have realised that opportunities parade themselves in front of you and I really cannot thank them

enough for their consistent and vigilant support. I would also like to extend that thanks to all my teachers and house staff, including my loyal and caring matron.

Charlie: Both Hugo and I feel that school isn't just about getting the grades. The experiences and memories we pick up on the way are equally as important, ranging from my first ever sports match to memories of my matron getting a pie in the face at a typical house barbeque. I have learnt that no one is perfect but Stowe has helped us pull together our imperfections to create stronger individuals. So on behalf of the School, I would like to take a moment to thank those who have helped each Stoic develop throughout their time here. To all of the teachers who have tried to keep us on task and motivated to get those elusive grades and to all the coaches and heads of sport whose skill and passion have led to a transformation in sport at Stowe. You have always gone the extra mile and for that reason you are an inspiration to all of us.

Hugo: A last privilege of the Head Boy and Head Girl is to decide the Branson Award! This is an award given to the most entrepreneurial Stoic and this year's project is an ethical clothing brand called Bunasai Apparel. 50% of profits from the company's t-shirts, hats and other accessories are placed into a micro-finance account which is then loaned out to fund business growth in the developing world! I am in the same house as the winner and he has much passion for his idea. So would Freddie Taylor, come up to receive his award.

Charlie: Lastly, Mr Wellington has worked very closely with the prefect body this year and it just so happens that

it's his birthday today so we feel he definitely deserves a round of applause! The prefect body has put in a sensational shift this year so thank you for all the hard work and we wish good luck to the new prefects who will take over after Half term. This takes us to the announcement of next year's Heads of School. It is my great pleasure to hand over the role of Head Girl to a fellow sportswoman who I have every confidence in, and I know will do a fantastic job. So please can the wonderful Lucy Horan come up to collect her flowers.

Hugo: Before myself, there had been three Chandos Head Boys. However, it gives me huge pride in announcing that next year's Head Boy will be another Grenvillian. We Grenvillians don't take ourselves particularly seriously, but the fact we are going to have two Heads of School in a row symbolises how far the House has come. I know my fellow Grenvillian will do a splendid job as he is a truly exceptional chap. So Will Chatamra, come up here and collect your tie!

Stowe is a unique school and we are all very fortunate to be connected with it. I think most people in our year are quite excited about leaving. Yet, this is not because we are bored and tired of the same routine, merely because we are prepared to develop ourselves, take our opportunities and shape the society of tomorrow.

Charlie: We hope you have a wonderful day and enjoy your picnics!

Charlotte Lechmere and Hugo Brooks



Susana Bartolomé Bravo

Susana joined us in September 2011 and proved to be such an amazing and energetic assistant that she stayed on with us for a second year. It goes without saying that she will be an extremely hard act to follow.

As soon as Su had found her feet in the department, she implemented an intensive programme of special exercises to improve all our pupils' pronunciation and intonation; Su comes from the País Vasco where people speak a particularly pure and beautiful form of Castilian. Perfectionist that she is, she could not bear to hear her beloved language being so mercilessly mauled, thus did something practical to change things: this is typical of her approach. Our pupils have all come to appreciate her dedication to their Spanish lessons and Su has worked tirelessly to improve not just their intonation but also their confidence and ability to converse both fluently and more accurately.

Su's talents extend well beyond the classroom. She is the most efficient and energetic organiser I have ever met, she

can sort out complicated timetables or upload resources in seconds and decorate a corridor in minutes. She fitted effortlessly into life at Stowe and found time to pursue her own interests; her art work is stunningly original and the pieces she has made in the DT Department are both intricate and beautifully executed. A prize-winning 'pinchas'-maker in her home town (pinchas being the superior Basque version of tapas), Su helped with cookery sessions on last year's 'Stoweaway' days as well as running another session for Language Society.

Pupils will remember Susana for her determination to help them improve, whether at beginners' or advanced level; they soon learnt that an immense reserve of kindness and professionalism underlies her directness and high expectations for all. Colleagues will remember her for always being there, prepared to give her time for whatever needed doing, at whatever time of day, and always with a smile.

Mrs Kate Dickson, Head of Spanish

Lisa Dossman

Always cheerful, Lisa has brought some French sunshine to the French Department. Her main task was to prepare the Lower Sixth for their oral exam, which she did with gusto. Not only did she not miss a single lesson, she also offered numerous extra sessions for whoever needed extra help, sometimes for hours on end. I have had the pleasure of having Lisa help me with my Fourth and Fifth Formers once a week. Lisa's positive and encouraging attitude enabled her to get the most out of them, as they felt at ease and very happy to give it a go, not always easy when you are a shy 14 year old.

Lisa wasn't just a great help with the Stoics, she was equally helpful with her colleagues in the MFL department, always happy to help with a smile on her face. I can testify that her tidying, organising and filing skills are second to none! Whilst she settled into English life in a Boarding School very quickly, she also retained her French "je ne sais quoi", introducing us to the delight of tartiflettes, rosé pamplemousse and crêpes. We will all miss her energy and good humour and wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German



Simon Gabbatiss

After a career in the print industry, Simon Gabbatiss turned his focus and energy towards education. Having taught at Henley College, he joined Stowe to head up the teaching side of ICT in September 2007. He led the way by introducing the subject for the first time at AS and A2 as well as becoming ECDL

centre manager and introducing many new Stoics to the delights of the Stowe Network. He will be remembered by those he taught as a very supportive teacher who encouraged everyone to do their best, no matter how limited their previous experience had been.

He was also a very caring Sixth Form Tutor in Lyttelton

and along with Bob Roberts, started the Oxford Society to broaden the chance for Stoics to see cultural, theatrical and musical events – recently including a trip to see the Welsh National Opera in Birmingham.

Many Stoics will remember his dedication to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the countless groups that he supervised. He was a very popular walking companion amongst staff too, where his great sense of humour helped overcome even the most arduous of conditions. A trip to Dartmoor last year also revealed his love of cream teas! Simon has helped with football activities, a sport that he loves alongside cycling, and was always happy to pitch in with the broader aspects of School life. He will be greatly missed by all, especially staff for whom his great camaraderie, calm and positive outlook plus great wit will be sorely missed.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science

Hélène Hardy

Hélène came to us from the University of Caen, where I interviewed her back in February 2012, and she impressed me then with her knowledge of French literature and how to use it in class. She settled extremely quickly into our busy school, and it soon became apparent that no challenge would be too great for her. Always willing to give up her free time, Hélène would advise Stoics on which French books to read, how to improve their grammar and how to develop their fluency.

Hélène is a very diligent and highly motivated person with a great desire to share and communicate her passion for French. One of her many strengths is to read a situation very well, and quickly adapt to it. This enabled her to teach well motivated and more reluctant pupils equally well,

as she always worked out what made them tick and took it from there. Her calm, non-confrontational approach has enabled pupils to feel at ease with her and they made excellent progress as a result.

Her enthusiasm extended beyond the classroom and she soon became part of the Queen's House team where she did one duty a week, much to Jane Hamblett-Jahn's delight. It has certainly been a pleasure for me as her line manager to work with someone so on top of her game. She will be remembered fondly by all of us in the department for her positive and relentlessly optimistic approach. We wish her all the best in the next step in her career as a teacher.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Géraldine Guibert

It is hard to believe Géraldine has only been with us since last Easter. Having joined her husband Chris who arrived a term earlier, it took her no time at all to settle in and start teaching the sets she'd inherited, not an easy task with only one term before the end of the year. Yet from the moment she took over a bottom set in the Fourth Form, it was clear she meant business.

She is one of those rare teachers who can inspire even the most reluctant linguist. Her no-nonsense, organised yet friendly approach, meant all the pupils were very clear about what was expected of them and it wasn't long before Géraldine had them working hard, achieving good results in a positive classroom atmosphere. Equally able to stretch more able pupils, she has done some French literature extension classes and offered numerous clinics for

pupils who needed extra help. When Tracy Jones went on maternity leave, she took over a couple of extra Sixth Form classes and prepared them successfully for their exams. Pupils like her for her efficiency and ability to engage a whole classroom, and colleagues value her for her positive attitude and many contributions to the department (her IT resources are amazing, her worksheets spot on and her willingness to help whenever and wherever she can, legendary). Swanbourne is immensely lucky to get such an inspirational teacher, but should you wish to teach A Level again, Géraldine, you know where we are! We wish you all the best for the next step in your career. You will be sorely missed.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German



Abby Koff

In the year that Abby Koff has been with us as Harvard Fellow, her energy and enthusiasm has rubbed off on many Stoics. As a Harvard Pre-Med Graduate she was ideally placed to take on the challenge of teaching Biology, Chemistry and Physics and the way in which she did this showed what a gifted teacher and communicator of

Science she is. It is fair to say that her classes loved her lessons and enjoyed the competitive element she injected into Third Form classes. Abby also led a very well received session on medical ethics for Stowe's Biomedical Society.

It was on the basketball court however that the true extent of her competitive nature and love of the sport became

clear. Abby injected that extra something that every sports team needs and raised the profile of Stowe basketball tremendously. "Coach Koff's" team had an unbeaten Lent term, including a fiercely contested win over Buckingham University and for the first time in a while they entered the nationals, only just missing out to the next round on goal difference.

The Junior girls in the Nugent Annexe will probably miss Abby most of all and really appreciated it when she was on duty. She helped to promote a great family atmosphere and her very caring and wise counsel was appreciated by them all. Chaucer, her beloved dog, was even adopted as the House pet whenever she was around. We wish Abby all the very best as she goes back to study medicine in the United States next year.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science

Victoria Kinmond

Victoria burst onto the scene at Stowe in the summer of 2011, having come from a very successful stint at Repton. Throughout her time at Stowe, she has been known for her enthusiasm and creativity in her teaching and, genuine concern for the girls in her charge at Nugent.

As well as her role as a teacher, Tutor and Assistant Housemistress, Victoria has also been invaluable on the pitch with lacrosse and has already been snapped up by her new school to coach a team when she starts.

One of Victoria's biggest achievements was to establish the Junior Literary Society, bringing literature to life for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Formers. As well as running regular book club events for the Society, theatre trips and the like. Her most memorable event was one Halloween night when

she took the pupils down to the Temple of Ancient Virtue in the dead of night for a reading of ghost stories. The event was a memorable one for all concerned, with candles creating an eerie atmosphere and strategically placed Sixth Formers hiding in bushes, giving everyone a fright they would not forget for a while.

This event characterises Victoria's sense of fun and her ability to go beyond conventional approaches in order to enthuse her pupils about reading and life in general. While we will miss her for this and many other aspects, we wish her and her partner Danny well, as she takes up a new position at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

Mr William Goldsmith, Head of English



Tony Lewis

Tony and Mouse plus their three children arrived at Stowe in 2001 when Tony took over as Housemaster of Temple. He joined the History Department as an amiable colleague with high standards of learning and teaching and an enthusiasm for History which he communicated through his passion for American topics.

Primarily, though, Tony was first and foremost a very fine Housemaster. He was regarded by the boys as both firm and fair, he dealt with both comedy and tragedy, possessed the teacher's ability to turn a blind eye where necessary and to be resolute on other occasions. He led his House teams of staff and matron with direction and enjoyment so that he supported both the staff and the Templars' rightful sense of pride in their House and School. As Senior Housemaster he fought the Housemaster/mistress corner with passion.

On a more personal note, he and his family will not easily forget how they endured the largest scaffolded roof in Europe, with attendant disruption, noise and dirt. Their move to their own house not far from Stowe finally created a more hospitable home for them all.

Stowe parents also have good reason to be grateful to Tony for his co-chairing of SPA (Stowe Parents' Association) and their fascinating and varied visits to diverse locations each term.

Tony has left Stowe to become Headmaster of St Nicholas Prep School in Kensington and no doubt he will miss walking his dogs in the grounds, mulling over the problems of the day and perhaps recalling the many good times he and the family have enjoyed. 'Templa Quam Dilecta' indeed and we wish him and his family all the very best in their futures.

Mr Crispin Robinson, Deputy Head (Academic)

James Panton

James came to Stowe in 2011. A strong intellect and keen wit gave him a firm foundation as a Politics teacher. His subject knowledge is outstanding and this enabled him to provide excellent extension lessons. James was keen to learn the craft of school teaching and quickly changed his lecture style and his classroom became a much more pupil centred environment. He was inspired to do more to develop his teaching and completed his PGCE bringing further innovation into the department. James was keen to teach Lower School pupils and was also a very successful Fourth Form History teacher.

His experience has been invaluable in supporting potential Oxbridge pupils. His references have been detailed and weaved a rich tapestry of a pupil's intellectual abilities and his knowledge of the interview process has calmed the nerves of

numerous Stoics.

An author and regular on Radio 4 commenting on political and cultural issues, James organised Stowe's very own Question Time last year which was a great success. He was an obvious candidate for MiC of debating and inspired the Stowe team into a formidable force, one which won the regional Debating Matters competition. James was also MiC of the Tennis Yearling As and Bs.

He has been a strong Tutor, he used humour very effectively with pupils, treating the Sixth Formers in a mature and intelligent fashion to get the best out of them. He is sure to be as successful in his new post as Head of Politics at Magdalen College School, Oxford. We wish him all the best.

Mr Kevin Ryce, Head of Politics and Economics

Ben Ponniah

Ben joined Stowe two years ago as a full time teacher and Under Housmaster in Chatham where he lived with his wife Dawn. He worked in the Economics and Politics Department as well as Business. Teaching both Economics and Business A Levels to a high standard and keeping two Heads of Department happy is never easy to do! He has coped with the demands of two different exam board specifications and his accurate and rapid marking helped pupils through their AS and A2 exams.

Ben is happy when stretching the gifted pupils with his well researched and thoughtful lessons. However, he also spent a great deal of time helping the weaker pupils and was often found in the Leoni building guiding those who needed his help through problems on a one-to-one basis. Generous with his time, he also invited pupils to Chatham for additional help during prep time. If not in Leoni or Chatham he was in the staff room poring over today's Sudoku or crossword puzzle with other staff members

where his humour and energy were appreciated by his colleagues.

He has been fully involved in all aspects of Stowe life. He has been a conscientious Tutor and has invested a great deal of time in getting to know the boys in Chatham. His commitment to sport at Stowe has been equally impressive with hockey teams in the Michaelmas and Lent terms as well as MiC of the tennis first and second teams. Ben is also a talented musician, he has been a bass in the Chapel choir, and is often a willing volunteer at Christmas and outside events. Not only a great singer, he is a very gifted composer.

Ben will be a loss to Stowe. He has moved to Abingdon as a teacher of Economics and Maths. This will allow Dawn to travel to London where she is in demand as an opera singer.

Mr Kevin Ryce, Head of Economics and Politics



Peter Staples

I hope Peter will take it as a compliment to be described as 'old school' as he personifies all the very best traditional values in education and his approach to teaching. His insistence on respect is unwavering – not just mutual respect between pupils and teachers but also respect for learning in general. The same

applies to his emphasis on tolerance for others, whatever their beliefs or lack of them. Peter is well known for calling a spade a spade; he is not afraid to tell it like it is. However unpalatable the truth may sometimes prove to the recipient, Peter's truth is always fair, perceptive and accurate. Master of the apposite anecdote and a wonderful story-teller, Peter is the Gabriel García Márquez of the Languages Department. He also has a wicked sense of humour, a keen sense of the absurd and a joke for every occasion. His reports have become the stuff of legend over the years and my favourites are the ones composed in rhyme.

Peter is a kind but firm Tutor who knows and understands each and every one of his Tutees. He is renowned for his no nonsense approach both in House and the classroom. His lessons are little islands of calm and serenity in the turbulent seas of Stowe, where every pupil, even party-animals or hirsute rugby-playing Sixth Formers quietly acquiesce to having a Spanish or French name allotted to

them. Interestingly, although he swears they are chosen at random, these names nevertheless often say something subtly illuminating about the recipient. As I have said, Peter is our very own Gabriel García Márquez in several different ways.

On a more serious note, Peter has given countless thought-provoking assemblies in Chapel, guaranteed to keep even the most somnolent Stoic wide awake. His boundless enthusiasm as Master in Charge of clay pigeon shooting has seen him mini-bussing his teams far and wide across the country and coming back laden with assorted trophies. Ever practical, Peter successfully substituted arrangements of sheep hurdles for exorbitantly expensive purpose-built shooting cages, which even our health and safety experts had to admit were every bit as safe as the real thing.

Peter will be remembered for many different things, not least for the enormous bucket of sweets on offer to pupils able to offer a little bit extra in terms of achievement, effort or enthusiasm. The same sweets have always been on offer to colleagues in need of a little pick-me-up between break and lunch – Peter is generosity personified. Stoics will also remember him for many happy sessions of picture bingo together with the kind of inspirational teaching which they will remember all their lives. Peter will be greatly missed by Stoics and colleagues alike and the MFL department will be a much duller place without him. We all wish Peter all the very best for his retirement which, in his case, is a relative term as I know he has a whole host of fascinating projects up his sleeve!

Mrs Kate Dickson, Head of Spanish



Academic Report

The theme of Celebration from last year (HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the magnificent 2012 Olympics), continued this year with the School's 90th Anniversary in May 2013. It has also been a very good year, academically, with much to record of note.

We began and celebrated the new academic year (2012-13) with our best ever A Level results: 74% A*-B at A Level, just under 7% improvement on last year. Furthermore, and for the first time, we have used 'ALPS' scores to assess our pupils' Value Added, in order to see how much difference is made, mostly very positively, between the grades as predicted and based on GCSE attainment and the actual grades achieved.

Our A2 and AS Level exam results are compared with those of all schools with data provided by the Department of Education. This information is then used to help set individual targets for improvement after AS Level. Departments, too, are compared nationally, though this is not easy with some smaller subjects, and graded accordingly. Our outstanding Academic Departments in 2012, with results above the benchmark 75% at A Level, were: Art; Design & Technology; Drama; Economics; English; French; German; History; Mathematics; Physical Education and Religious Studies. Stowe itself was commended by the ALPS organisation for coming in the top 1% (11th) of all the schools they serve nationally.

AS Levels were high at 54% A-B and our GCSE A*-A at 46%, our second best. These were stupendous results for all the Upper Sixth and Fifth Form Stoics and, of course, the teaching staff, for their efforts and achievements. The 'Year of 2012' should be congratulated.

Buoyed with these results we faced the ISI Inspection in the Michaelmas term. The Summer term and much of the holidays had been spent preparing, so when the phone call came through it was with a fair degree of confidence with which we braced ourselves for the visit. Twelve inspectors descended on the School to observe lessons, pore over policies and paperwork, inspect preps across all subjects and year groups and try to assess us, holistically, as a school. The ISI Report is available on the school website and from their comments, we found it most helpful to have pointed out by the objective inspectors one or two academic areas where we can and shall do better. These areas were immediately addressed and are the core of our ambition to be deemed 'outstanding' in the teaching and learning by the next Inspection (2018?).

The third area of academic interest is the fact that we have begun to teach the GCSE Courses in the Lent term to the Third Form. After a taste of all subjects in the Michaelmas term, they choose and embark on a seven term GCSE Course. The reason for this was to allow extra time for some enrichment beyond the narrow specifications, time to allow for the occasional missed lesson and time to allow for adequate preparation for linear exams in most subjects. Mr Gove's endless changes are not yet fully over I suspect and the advent of final end of year exams will be a challenge to all those used to the modular, bite-size system of recent years.

The most recent stage of the process of co-education will commence in September when the junior and senior sections of Nugent finally live together as a unified House. Vanbrugh's stable block has been converted into small rooms for the Junior girls and staff accommodation and the rest of Nugent has been fully refurbished. We now have

four full girls' Houses each of which plays an equal and, in their own ways and characters, a different role in the life of the School. How very altered is the atmosphere around Stowe now, compared with just ten years ago when girls were in the Sixth Form only.

As the School has expanded we continue to improve our facilities to match. The new Music School will be open in the late autumn to provide superb facilities (Steinway pianos and music technology). The Roxburgh Theatre, similarly, is in the last stage of its refurbishment and we anticipate a lot more exciting drama, with musicals, and more House plays to complement the splendid spaces. Most excitingly, plans are being drawn up to improve the Wolfson Science Building with a brand new lab in each of the three sciences, a Sixth Form study area and necessary ancillary spaces. Once that is complete, we hope to turn our attention to a new and affordable Design and Technology building to replace the old and limited spaces beside the Roxy.

We are also working more closely with local maintained schools on mutual collaboration in facilities, subjects and staffing, the closest to Stowe being the new UTC

with a focus on engineering, opening this September at Silverstone. When Stowe obtains Home Farm from the National Trust soon, we plan convert some of the spaces into classrooms to be used to teach courses in rural management and equestrianism. These subjects will be of interest not just to some Stoics but also to pupils in local schools. Collaboration is of mutual interest and despite being somewhat isolated physically, Stowe has much to offer and, equally importantly, to learn in return from our educational neighbours.

For those of us fortunate to be present at Stowe's 90th Anniversary celebrations at Speech Day, we took part in magnificent celebrations of all that is great about Stoics and Stowe. When I look back a mere ten years to the then academic record, the state of the mansion and grounds, we have progressed far, while building on the firm foundations of others. More recently, looking at photographs and reading accounts of the early years, ninety years ago, it was a brave vision to found Stowe School in a huge estate with such limited resources. I am sure JF Roxburgh would be equally proud to see the achievements of the School today.

Mr Crispin Robinson, Deputy Head (Academic)

Mathematics

The Mathematics Department continues to uphold the fine standards of education in Stowe, as staff and pupils continue to drive forward the development of Mathematics. With excellent results at both GCSE and A Level last year and large numbers continuing to take the subject through to A Level, the department can look back over the past year fairly and consider it to have been another busy, fraught but ultimately successful year.

The Third Form appeared in September, bright eyed and bushy tailed, with some of the best entrance results Stowe has seen for some time and they did not disappoint. Places for the top set have been hard fought for and their inventive and creative minds have produced some fantastic pieces of work. Working through the Fourth and Fifth Form, it is clear that the effort and enthusiasm does not stop at the Third Form, with large numbers taking part in the UK Maths Challenge – this year the highest performing Intermediate pupil was Oliver Song (Fifth Form). The top two sets sat their GCSE early back in November with 18 pupils achieving their A* early and the rest all achieving an A grade. There were a few nervous pupils beforehand but they should all be congratulated for their efforts, in particular Caspar Whitehead (Fifth Form) who achieved the highest score ever at Stowe of 188/200. In the Sixth Form the focus has been on the Lower Sixth with several of last year's record breaking top set taking Maths and

Further Maths as A Level options and hopefully looking to maintain their A* records. Again many sat the UK Maths Challenge where Toby Wightman (Lower Sixth) was the highest performing Senior pupil. Toby also qualified for the next round and achieved a score that placed him in the top 25% - a truly exceptional achievement. Outside the classroom there has been the usual number of visits and lectures in London and the puzzle day for the Third Form continuing to stimulate and interest all those who take part.

There have been few changes within the department on the teaching front with Valerie Green reducing her commitments as she has become the new Housemistress at Lyttelton. This has meant that a shortfall in teaching had to be covered with some new staff and from September we will be extremely fortunate to welcome into the Mathematics Department, Mrs Fiona James from Wellington College and Mr Zachary Sherwood (the School's Harvard Fellow) from Harvard (unsurprisingly). Both have exceptional pedigrees and, judging by the anguished wails from Wellington when they found out Fiona was leaving coupled with the hard work and care the department currently devotes to the pupils, it looks like Stowe could be in for a golden age in Mathematics for the next few years.

Mr Damian Blewitt, Head of Mathematics

English

There has been much “to wonder at” (to mirror the words of Alexander Pope) this year in English at Stowe. As ever, beyond their teaching duties, the whole department has been involved in providing a wealth of extra-curricular activities which have served to inspire our pupils and deepen their understanding and love of all things literary.

Underpinning this passion for our subject, the department was delighted with the examination successes of our pupils. In particular, we are delighted with the A2 and AS results from last summer where half of our pupils gained an A* or A in their final A2 examinations while 85% gained an A*, A or B grade. This was matched at AS with 83% of pupils gaining either an A or a B and represented excellent Value Added, with many pupils exceeding what were already ambitious target grades. GCSE was a little more mixed, as the change in grade boundaries between January and June modules meant a nationwide dip in results. However, despite these frustrations, our English Literature results still came out with over 50% A*/A grades.

While there will be separate reports from the Literary Society, run by Dr Miller, and the Oxford and Durrell Societies for which Mr Roberts is responsible, their hard work and dedication must be mentioned here, particularly as the programmes they operate are so substantial and of an excellent quality. As well as the Senior Literary Society, the ‘Junior’ namesake has also had a productive year under the leadership of Ms Kinmond, with the highlight being a trip to see the very successful play version of ‘Steptoe and Son’. With her departure, the baton is passed to Ms Ashe who is already programming an exciting series of events for the coming year. Mr Bashaarat has also gone above and beyond the call of duty again, running and hosting the Sixth Form Book Club in addition to his duties as Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral). Books have included J.M. Coetzee’s ‘Disgrace’ and Julia Copus’ collection of poetry, ‘The World’s Smallest Two Humans’ amongst others. Our final

regular event was the New Views playwriting competition, run in conjunction with the National Theatre in London where Sixth Formers learn the art of scripting plays. The programme is an excellent blend of theatre trips, on-site lessons and sessions with a visiting playwright who works individually with pupils on their work. We have been very fortunate indeed to have been assigned Adam Brace, an up-and-coming writer who works with the National. While we did not make the final shortlist, the experience has been very rewarding and it will be running again next year, hopefully in partnership with a local state school. Many thanks to Mr Dachtler, from the Drama Department, for running it with the English Department.

Other than regular events, English has also run several theatre trips, including ones to see the texts studied by the A2 classes – ‘Hamlet’ at the RSC in Stratford and ‘King Lear’ at the Globe, both of which were an excellent way of preparing the classes for their summer examinations. We also had a trip to see a small-scale production of the life of John Donne told through his verse which had a similarly beneficial effect, particularly as the A2 examination requires pupils to learn quotes off by heart. At the other end of the School, we had another very successful Third Form Headmaster’s Recital Competition and the Third Form also enjoyed a day with the successful writer of young adult fiction, Mark Robson. Finally, the department also hosted a very successful conference for Heads of English from some of our key feeder prep schools, so much so that this looks set to become an annual event.

Thanks to the department for their hard work and dedication, as well as their support for me in the whirlwind of a first year at Stowe. I am grateful in particular to Victoria Kinmond for her hard work over the past two and a half years.

Mr William Goldsmith, Head of English

excerpt from ‘Adam Michelson’

I never thought Adam could look more nocturnal, but over the next week he got progressively paler and sickly looking, with dark rings under his eyes. I suspected that he had been working through the nights. I wandered over to the caged rats in the corner and tried to work out what he was doing. They were larger now and moved around with ferocious energy, searching for a way out. To my horror, as I stared at one particularly huge specimen, it stared straight back at me with its beady black eyes and such intensity and anger I felt sure it was about to speak.

One night I stayed late to watch a school football match. Afterwards, I went into the main building to get my bag from my locker. Artificial light was glowing through the windows into the white corridors and creating misshapen shadows. The hairs on my neck prickled as I got the feeling that someone was watching me. Shuddering, I turned quickly to go out to my car, when I heard the distinctive sound of the rats’ sharp claws clicking as they scuttled busily around.

Ilona Ecott (Lower Sixth)

excerpt from 'The Last Move'

Thinking for a second, the consequences of my absence from work forming in my mind, spiralling into flamboyant scenarios, and uprooting memories of pain. I took my next step. Each foot flopped over, transferring weight, each process elongated over a small period of time, I realised that I had reached the train doors and, looking down, I noticed a crusted stain on the platform as if blood seeped out of a wound, trailing like a snail's slime from the foot platform that leads onto the train. This opened a long overlooked scar, one that had been left untouched since Christmas last year.

Too busy. I was too busy to answer the phone during Christmas, a time for family and friends, yet I was writing for The New York Times, a promotion I had worked solidly on for twelve years. I could faintly hear the phone ringing, a monster's stomach rumbling, slowly edging the cradle off the table. Knowing that I had to answer it before it shattered in contact with the ground, I stretched out my arm and engulfed the phone in my hand, bringing it to my ear with a growling attitude. However, as soon as I heard the voice of the caller I calmed, all forty six muscles used to frown relaxing into a speechless poker face. It was my grandmother, I hadn't heard from her in a while as my life had accelerated and I had started to prioritise my work over my family.

I remember the exact words that she said next and they grew to haunt me for so long: "Don't panic, promise that this will never affect the way you treat me, I have a brain tumour." The doctors predicted that she may only have three weeks to live, as they had not caught the symptoms fast enough and that I should enjoy the time that I could spend with her until then. "Memories" they said, "her memories will slowly reduce until there are none left and she can't remember what she has and who you are."

This crushed me within. I had always known that my grandmother would be there waiting for me if anything happened and that she would wrap me in a blanket and tell me that everything would be ok. Yet now I would be doing the same for her, and it would be the last thing that she would remember.

Clarissa Llanaj (Third Form)

excerpt from 'Barnes and Charlston'

I gripped my mug in my hands tightly, feeling the temperature of the coffee had decreased since Barnes had started to speak.

"So what do you propose to do first?" I asked.

"We must go and meet with The Close family at once! And from there on decide what to do." And with that Barnes left the room, door still wide open and I continued my book, anticipating what we would discover the next day.

The weather had mildly improved since the previous day, the early morning traffic had just settled down and Barnes and I were heading off to 224 Barker Street, Mrs Close's address a few blocks away from our apartment. Getting into the cab, I noticed the drizzle on the window from the night before; it had been raining hard I suppose, although I can usually sleep through anything.

Barnes was surprisingly quiet, the thrill of such an exciting case was apparently overwhelming to him, the mystery left him speechless for once and this made the car journey somewhat peaceful, although it was over in no time. So we pulled up, paid the meter and sent the driver on his way.

Lucy Alderton (Third Form)



Science

Science at Stowe continues to go from strength to strength both in terms of the numbers and quality of the pupils attracted to all three of the Sciences at A Level. The Chemistry Department was delighted to be Stowe's top department in terms of A* grades last year and with Biology and Physics also coming in the top four, Science has plenty to celebrate.

Our dedicated Science staff not only work tirelessly to support their pupils in clinics to help break down any area of misunderstanding, they also embrace technology and incorporate it into their teaching. The use of visualisers to show instant images of pupils' work and live close ups of demonstrations is now common place in lessons and we have been experimenting with the use of iPads in lessons. Virtual frog dissection apps have proved very effective and in the Biology Department some Third Formers have been using iPads to create animations to show how the body works to defend itself against foreign bodies.

Science staff have also been leading the way with the use of our new and emerging Virtual Learning Environment StoweNet which will be launched across the School in September. This will not only make resources like PowerPoint presentations, past papers and revision material available to pupils wherever they are and on whatever device they are using but also allows us to set assignments that pull these resources together which can then be submitted online. StoweNet makes rich media content like podcasts and video clips instantly available from department pages and provides ready access to online simulations to help our pupils get a great feel for physical processes. Whilst this is at the core of our mission to produce the best and most enthusiastic young scientists of the future, so is our use of traditional activities like class experiments and thorough exam preparation through the use of past papers. This combination helps our pupils emerge as imaginative scientists with a good grounding in core principles and with the grades necessary to successfully support ambitious university applications.

Increased numbers of pupils taking science has put pressure on laboratory space so we are delighted with the School's plans to build three new laboratories – one each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The building project will also provide space for a Sixth Form Science Centre and refurbish the existing Biology and Chemistry laboratories. This will match the refurbishment of all of the current Physics laboratories which was completed last summer to

great effect. The exterior of our cherished, although not particularly attractive, Science Block will also be enhanced. The future does indeed look bright for Science at Stowe with plans and fund raising to make this project possible already well under way.

The Science Department has been active on a broader scale in helping to spread the joy of Science beyond the boundaries of Stowe. We have again been delighted to put on prep school Science days and contribute to Science events outside of Stowe, most recently in Buckingham at a public science fair to celebrate National Science and Engineering Week. Easter saw us again hosting two "Extreme Physics" residential courses organised through the Institute of Physics and generously sponsored by the Ogden Trust which allowed teams of gifted and talented year 10 Physicists from around the country to gather and take part in competitions, challenges and lectures.

You will also see from the departmental reports and from the Quantum Society and Biomedical Society reports details of activities put on for our own Scientists. It is so important to stimulate learning outside the classroom and to foster scientific debate as a natural part of discussion amongst Stoics.

We ended the year with our Quantum Society versus Biomedical Society croquet match and barbeque – a wonderful occasion that assembles all of our keen Sixth Form Scientists in one place to do battle whilst enjoying each others' company and some refreshment on what turned out to be a glorious summer's evening. Well done to the Quantum Society for stealing a hard fought 7-6 victory.

Mr James Tearle, Head of Science

Biology

Another very successful year in the Biology Department closed with our annual field course in Pembrokeshire. The A2 Biologists were so excited at the prospect of sand dune succession and rocky shore zonation that they actually sang on the bus – as far as Brackley at least. We were, as always in Wales, blessed with fantastic weather. The field work proved successful and informative so that the Stoics now have an ecosystem or two that they are familiar with, even though they may not recall all the Latin names. They can now tell their *Fucus* from their *Pelvetia* and that is a life skill that you never know they may one day need!

Mr Rory Akam, Head of Biology



Chemistry

The year in Chemistry certainly began on a record-breaking high note with 34 Stoics (an incredible 36% of candidates) gaining an A* in their separate Chemistry GCSE – the highest number of A* grades of any department at Stowe and a testament to the hard work and judgement of these pupils and their teachers. Chemistry remains the central A Level for entry into Medicine and we were also delighted with the continued 100% success rate in this field, with Sophie Woodhead (Upper Sixth) gaining a place at Clare College, Cambridge and Matteo Di Carlofelice (Upper Sixth) heading to Imperial - both of them with predicted A* Grades at A2 Chemistry.

Our annual trip to Oxford University's Undergraduate Chemistry Laboratory was another success, with a mixture of Fifth Form and Lower Sixth pupils able to synthesise and analyse compounds using spectroscopic techniques

that would otherwise have remained purely theoretical concepts. As well as a tour of the Chemical Research Building, Stoics were invited to receive a grilling from an Oxford Chemistry Tutor and mention must be made of Hannah Dixon (Lower Sixth) and Caspar Whitehead (Fifth Form), both of whom stood their ground in the face of demanding questioning on topics beyond their current experience.

Stowe continues to buck the national trend by sending increasing numbers of pupils to read Chemistry and related disciplines at our top universities and we were pleased to learn of several Old Stoics graduating in Chemistry with Honours this summer, including Natalie McDaid (2009) from Hertford College, Oxford and former Head Girl, Monika Jurcic (2008) who gained a first in Chemistry from the University of Bath.

Potentially following in their footsteps, three of our current Lower Sixth have been lucky enough to secure work experience with Omega Ingredients, thanks to its CEO and founder, Dr Steve Pearce who was our guest of honour when the department hosted the 2010 Rugby Group Chemistry meeting. Omega specialises in the design and production of custom aromas and flavourings, with projects ranging from the more straightforward creation of bespoke food flavourings to the distinctly esoteric, such as creating the 'smell of the '80s' for Friends Reunited (incorporating shredded £50 notes!) and the smell of Space for NASA, in order to improve the realism of their astronaut training exercises.

No sooner had the last A2 examination brought formal academic endeavours to a close, than the department was staging a drama all of its own. As part of Stowe's Activity Week programme, 'Murder By The Book' saw Stoics attempt to solve the murder of obviously fictional author, M.T. Page by combining chemical and forensic techniques with deductive reasoning. With the suspects gallantly played by members of the department, pupils had the opportunity to use their scientific conclusions to find holes in their testimonies.

Mr Daren Jeffreys, Head of Chemistry



Physics

Stowe Physicists have had a great year for external learning experiences! Last summer some lucky Stoics had the extraordinary opportunity to visit CERN and actually go underground to view the LHC. The Sixth Form Physicists also enjoyed a day at the Institute of Education, London University, where they experienced a day of cutting edge Physics presented by high profile public speakers. During the year we also had many interesting lecturers and opportunities to widen our Physics experience e.g. three phase motor with Sixth Form, the XX Club made boomerangs and many Taster Days. Mr Malling also stole the show at Buckingham Gaol science fair.

We have some outstanding individual pupil achievements to mention: Seb Johnson (Lower Sixth) has gained the much respected Arkwright Scholarship; Charles Pilleau (Lower Sixth) has managed to secure a four week research opportunity with the Engineering Department at Imperial College and George Barham (Upper Sixth) was lucky enough to experience several days working with the Mercedes Formula 1 team.

Once again this year Stowe hosted the Extreme Physics event, where young Physicists from across the country competed in a three day Physics based competition. The event has become so popular that it is now run twice over Easter to allow for the increased uptake, which this year included our own Elliot Mitchell (Fourth Form), who describes his experience for us below.

“The course consisted of teams from multiple schools, each containing four pupils. Unfortunately, there was no Stowe team. As a pupil from one of the other schools had to drop out at the last minute, I joined a group of children from Judgemeadow Community College, in Leicester. The group was very welcoming and inclusive towards me and the staff from Judgemeadow, the other schools and the team running the course were really friendly too. Over the three days, we competed in many team challenges to win points as well as attending some excellent lectures by Mr Tearle and participating in activities such as indoor skydiving. On the final day, each group gave a presentation about a chosen scientist and their discoveries, before the winning groups were announced at a prize giving.

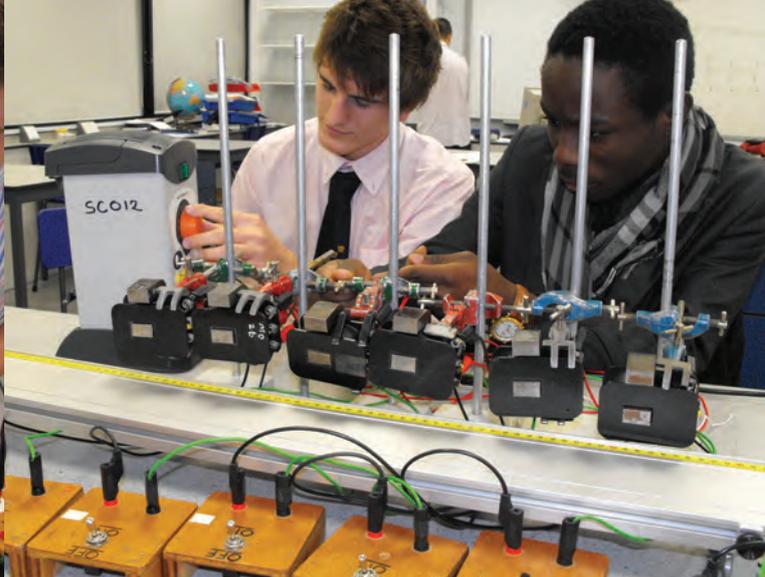
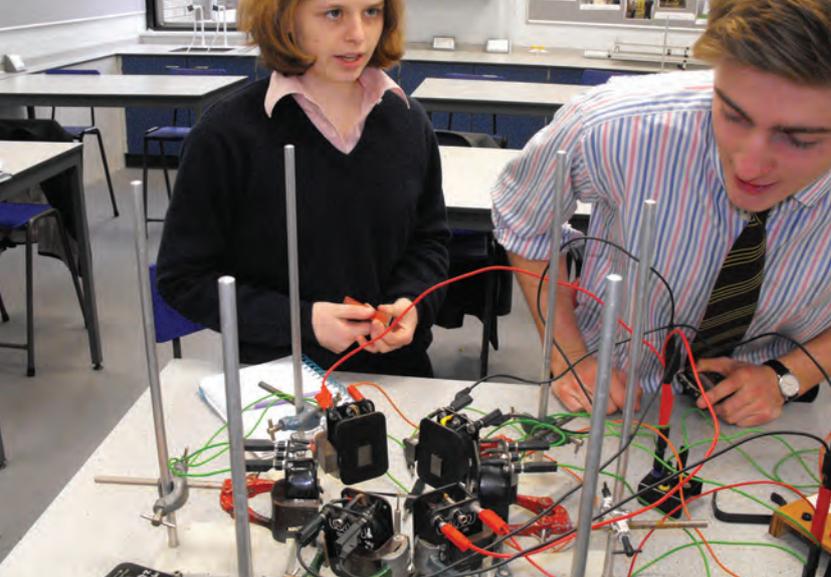
I thoroughly enjoyed myself over the three days, made some great friends and I would like to thank the whole

Extreme Physics team and especially Mr Carpenter for assisting me in securing a place.”

Stowe was fortunate enough this year to have a visit from Professor Alexander Martynov from Korolev, Russia's high-tech space city, where they are involved with the current space centre and a future planned journey to Mars. We are hoping to arrange a visit to Korolev next summer, to allow the Stoics a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit such a fascinating place.

There have been a few changes of staff within the department this year. Mr Ing left at Christmas to become Headmaster at Quinton House. Mr Findlay-Palmer is leaving us to become Head of Physics at St George's College Weybridge and is being replaced by Mr Thompson, a very able Physicist and keen hockey player/coach. We all wish them the very best in their new roles and thank them for their contribution over the years. Mr Malling stepped down as Head of Department at Christmas, after many years of superb service and fortunately is still teaching his exciting and varied Physics lessons at Stowe.

Mr Dick Carpenter, Head of Physics



Geography

The Geography Department at Stowe has enjoyed another exciting year. Having welcomed into the department three new members of staff: myself, the new Head of Department, Mr Deakin, Housemaster of Chandos and Mr Fair, hockey professional and Olympian, we had plenty of new teachers to augment the existing body. With record numbers of pupils taking the subject at both GCSE and A Level it was always going to be a busy year.

The Upper Sixth attended the North Wales residential course to undertake statistical analysis in support of the skills module to be examined in the summer. The weather was kind to the geographers and, despite signs of wind and rain, we were pretty much dry throughout, a real bonus given that pebble sampling on the coast of the Irish Sea can be a fairly miserable experience if the weather is inclement! Based out of the Snowdonia National Park Centre we enjoyed fabulous surroundings and were able to undertake a great deal of hard work preparing the pupils thoroughly for their forthcoming paper. Although we worked long hours everyone agreed that the trip had been most worthwhile and we look forward to repeating it again later in the year.

In the lower year groups our GCSE pupils took to the streets of Buckingham to investigate the nature of the central business district as part of their controlled assessment element and this, too, was a great success as

the Stoics gathered the necessary data with no problems encountered. Our Third Formers have also had the opportunity to analyse processes occurring within a river system with trips to Water Stratford to gauge the hydraulic radius of the Little Ouse River and measure its velocity using dog biscuits and oranges.

The Geography Society has also had a busy year with a number of presentations from speakers external to the School such as the Makam project who specialise in provision of water sources in the Sinai and also the Clipperton Project, an ecological expedition to the Pacific to investigate the impact of globalisation at a micro level. The Geography Society also enjoyed recreating world trade and considering the Brazilian authorities' response to policing the favelas of Rio through their BOPE units, a highly controversial issue. Next year we look forward to welcoming a number of eminent speakers including Mr Julian Attwood, the renowned Antarctic and Himalayan Explorer.

With yet more pupils choosing Geography for the forthcoming academic year, the department is in fine form and is looking forward to expanding its horizons as we take part in a joint expedition to China with the Business Studies Department in the Easter holidays of 2014.

Mr Matthew Perriss, Head of Geography





History

History at Stowe continues to flourish after another very successful and busy year. The examination results were the best in recent memory with 79% of A Level pupils securing an A or B grade. The subject has proved increasingly popular with Stoics and the department will teach the largest number of pupils in its recent history in 2013/14 with the increased demand resulting in the recruitment of an extra historian.

Part of the department's success must be attributed to the new A Level courses offered to pupils, whereby Stoics are given the choice to study two distinctly different programmes. The Early Modern course focuses on the changing nature of social order and royal authority in the late medieval and early modern period. Pupils delve into the huge religious and political upheaval of the Tudor era and are offered an overview of Spanish history in the same period. The Modern option examines individual rights and power relationships in the 19th and 20th Centuries with a specific focus on American and British Political history. The political side of the course has been further enriched by the visits of a number of retired politicians serving in the

various governments of the nineteen eighties and nineties who have given a personal insight into their experiences. Much credit must go to Mr Sayers for being instrumental in organising these visits.

The History Extension Society has risen in prominence with weekly meetings and formal dinners to celebrate the visits of notable historians to the School. In February we welcomed the eminent Tudor Historian, Dr Steven Gunn of Merton College Oxford, who gave a compelling talk on 'Accidental Death in the Tudor Period'. It proved fascinating to begin to consider the day-to-day existence of Londoners living in the 16th Century. When studying history we tend to concentrate on individuals at the top of the social order, it was therefore hugely entertaining to be regaled with stories of day-to-day mishaps. City dwellers had to contend with runaway bears, while carefully dodging all sorts of dangerous effluent in the streets. Perhaps the most bemusing fact was that the advised method of entering a river was to somersault into it and land on your back – unsurprisingly this also caused many deaths. All in all this was a very interesting and often funny

Religious Studies

It has been all change in Religious Studies this year. The end of the Michaelmas term sadly saw the departure of Dominic Mochan who went on to become the Secondary School Co-ordinator at the Tunku Putra School in Malaysia. However, it did allow the School to employ Colin Bray, who moved across Buckingham from being Head of Department at the Royal Latin School to become Head of Religious Studies.

Under Mr Bray's expert leadership there have been a couple of changes to the syllabuses and exam boards. Next year there will be a change in the GCSE syllabus from OCR – Islam: Philosophy and Ethics to AQA – Philosophy: Ultimate Questions and Ethics: Moral Questions. This new syllabus will focus primarily on Christianity, however, there is scope to teach other major world religions as well, allowing the pupils to gain an excellent breadth and depth of issues and religious world views on current and long standing philosophical and moral issues.

It is also all change at A Level. The new AS/A Level cohort will be studying Edexcel: Philosophy and Ethics instead of OCR: Philosophy and Ethics. The department hopes that examination results will continue to improve and thus give the pupils the very best chance of success.

This year's Upper and Lower Sixth Religious Studies pupils were treated to a great day of talks by Dr Michael Palmer, author of 'Moral Problems' and he has just released a trilogy on the historical and philosophical history of Atheism. Dr Palmer spoke to the Lower Sixth about the Cosmological Argument and the 'Atheist's Creed' and he spoke with the Upper Sixth about the 'Atheist's Creed' and Christian Ethics. The day was informative, engaging and it allowed the pupils to test their knowledge with one of Britain's premier Philosophers.

A special note must go to Liberty King (Upper Sixth). Liberty is the first Religious Studies pupil in 15 years to be offered a place at Oxford (Jesus College) to read Theology and Philosophy. An extremely tough process, Liberty had to submit two essays and a personal statement just to get an interview. She then obviously impressed at interview as well as doing excellently in the Philosophy exam which Oxford set, to be offered a place on three As.

The future is looking extremely bright for Religious Studies at Stowe as numbers continue to rise in the GCSE and A Level cohort and we are confident this year will be the best yet for results. We are all very much looking forward to entering into the new phase of academic development for the department at Stowe.

Mr Michael Rickner, Religious Studies Teacher



lecture which gave us all pause to think about how much has changed since the Tudor period.

The McElwee award continues to be a major highlight for all historians looking to broaden their cultural understanding of the subject. Bill McElwee taught at Stowe for thirty years (1932-1962) with a gap for service during the Second World War in which he was awarded the MC. Following his death in 1978 a Trust was established in his memory which has helped to fund travel scholarships for Stowe historians over the last thirty years. This year saw the award presented to four pairs of Stoics: Daisy Roe and Elspeth Down who will consider the influence of the Ottomans on Budapest; Hugo Kinahan and Henry Cox who are examining the English influence on Maltese architecture and culture; Archie Grossart and Toby Cole who are exploring the recent political and financial upheavals in Iceland; and Coco Anthony and Imogen Wallersteiner who plan to investigate Vienna's influence on utilitarianism, functionalism and secularism.

Mr James Hayden, Head of History

Sports Science and PE

This year has seen yet another growth in the numbers of Stoics taking the subject. Our AS and A2 pupils continue to be challenged in the three main topic areas of the subject; Anatomy and Exercise Physiology, Psychology and the Historical and Socio-Cultural influences on performance. The variety of subject matter and the differing skills required at A Level, give our pupils an excellent foundation from which studying a number of different courses at the top universities can be built. For these pupils, we are confident they could not have been better prepared for their two exams this year and we are hopeful that the results in the summer will bring further success. The A2 group this year was particularly diligent whilst completing their written analysis of performance coursework, where they had to compare themselves to an elite performer and use different theories that they have learnt over the two years to suggest reasons for this difference. It was around this work, as well as their superb application throughout the course, that we chose our winner of the Sports Science prize this year. Hamish Huxtable just snuck it ahead of Lucie Wellington, with honourable mentions to Henry Woodward, Charlotte Lechmere and Freddie Clarke. The Lower Sixth winner this year was Hugo Kinahan, just beating Alice Hughes and Lucy Horan.

Our GCSE Sports Scientists have been supporting the theoretical topics with practical examples throughout their two years and they have commented on how well this helps them to remember each concept. The Fifth Form pupils were once again highly commended by the external moderator on their performances in the controlled assessment day. Our Fifth Form winner of the Sports Science prize was Jamie Angle for his consistent A* level of work throughout his studies. We have had four sets of Fourth Form Sports Scientists for the first time and this has led to a vibrant and interesting atmosphere around the Drayson.

Also for the first time ever, we have started the GCSE course in the first year of the Stoics' career. Fifty Third Formers embarked on a new and exciting course in February, focusing on the characteristics needed to be a good leader and gaining practical experience of leading various activities and sports. This proved to be very successful and something that will bolster their UCAS applications and CVs. Alongside this course, we have continued to deliver our PE programme for every Third Form Stoic for the entire first year. Our target for this course is to introduce them to an activity that they will continue to participate in for the rest of their lives. Some of the activities we cover include: swimming, life-saving, personal survival, gymnastics, health related exercise, badminton, squash, athletics and tennis.

The members of the Stowe Elite Sports Squad continue to feature regularly in the School's successes. Ben Duckett made his full professional debut for Northants Cricket Club, as well as captaining the England Under 19 team on their tour to South Africa. Jordan Onojai also signed for Northampton Saints and played for England Under 18s. These two lead the long list of Stoics who currently hold places in Junior and Senior International squads and who are supported by our Elite Sports Squad.

This year also saw our pupils go out on a number of trips related to their studies. The Fifth Form were rewarded for their hard work in the lead up to their exams with a trip to Loughborough University, based at their new Stadium. They planned a day in the life of an elite athlete and then presented this to Twinelle Hopeson, GB 200m Athlete. We then returned to Loughborough with our AS pupils to give them a great insight into what an English Institute of Sport looks like and how it supports the country's very best sportsmen and women. On the tour, we were able to watch Jonnie Peacock and Dwayne Chambers train in the High Performance Athletics Centre. Once again the highlight was the laboratory session and 'VO2 max' test that they carry out. This allows the pupils to experience firsthand how elite endurance athletes are tested and also enables them to understand the role of Sports Science support in helping our athletes reach their overall goal. Interestingly, Mo Farah had been tested on the very same equipment just a few weeks beforehand. Our final trip was part of the end of term programme and we took a small group of pupils interested in studying Sports Science at degree level to The University of Birmingham for their Sports Conference. Here, pupils were given a tour of the campus, heard lectures on a number of relevant topics and witnessed physiology testing first hand.

I am extremely grateful to all our staff for the time and effort that they have put into this year and look forward to another busy year for the department in 2013-2014.

Mr Philip Arnold, Head of Sports Science and PE



Languages



Lower Sixth German exchange to Rossleben

German might be on the decline in other schools around the country, but at Stowe, it is very much alive and kicking. For a long time we have been looking for a partner school in Germany with whom we could do an annual exchange. It had to be a boarding school holding similar values to Stowe and this year, we have finally found our ideal partner in the Klosterschule Rossleben near Weimar. Having been a school owned by the von Witzleben family for 460 years, the Klosterschule sits in the heart of Thuringia surrounded by breathtaking countryside.

On Monday 17 June, we welcomed our German guests to Stowe, where for the next five days, we showed them around London, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire in our newly acquired red bus. Thanks to Mr Jones' wonderful organisation, we managed to pack in a lot of sightseeing and activities, much to the delight of our eight German exchange partners and Mr and Mrs Lucius-Clark, the two accompanying teachers. They were the most generous hosts in return when four Lower Sixth Stoics, Mr Goldsmith and I travelled back with them on Friday 21 June.

On Saturday, our first full day there, we were whisked off to Weimar, the "German Athens". To most non-Germans, the name of Weimar recalls the ill-fated republic which existed between the end of the First World War and the Hitler years. There is, however, much more to Weimar than that. Towards the end of the 18th Century, it became the intellectual and cultural centre of Germany, home to the theologian Herder as well as two of Germany's best known poets, Goethe and Schiller to name but a few. Needless to say we were all amazed by the sheer beauty of the town as well as the wealth of culture displayed in such a small place.

In the evening, the Lucius-Clarks and many teachers from the Klosterschule treated us to an international BBQ evening where we sampled many delicacies, including the famous "Thuringer Bratwurst". This was truly an international experience, as the Klosterschule's French exchange partners from Clermont-Ferrand were there at the same time as us.

On Sunday we went further inland to Saxony-Anhalt,

where we visited the stunning medieval cathedral of Naumburg, famous for its beautiful sculptures of Margrave Ekkehardt, the founder of the town and his wife Uta, reputedly the most beautiful woman in Europe at the time. On our way back, we stopped at Freyburg to visit one of East Germany's success stories, the Rotkäppchen Sekt (champagne) factory. Whilst many East German factories had to be closed down after the German reunification in 1989 because they weren't competitive enough, Rotkäppchen not only managed to escape closure but also to buy its West German rival Mumm and is now a very prosperous company producing exquisite Sekt, as Mr Goldsmith and I can testify!

On Monday, Stoics went to lessons to experience a typical day at school and on Tuesday, we spent our last day in Leipzig, guided by Alex Stone and Charlie Harris, who had planned a tour for us all. There, we discovered what it must have been like living in East Germany during the GDR time by visiting the history museum, an amazing place filled with GDR memorabilia and detailed accounts or people living in East Germany during the 40 years of its existence. The Stasi (secret police) museum was even more horrific as it brought to life the inhumane treatment GDR citizens received if they tried to escape the country or speak out against the regime. This gave Stoics a good insight of life in the GDR, our cultural topic at A2 next year. Sobered by this experience, we had some cake in Leipzig's oldest café and visited the "Museum der bildende Künste" Leipzig's art museum housing famous paintings by Caspar David Friedrich and Lucas Cranach. Fairly exhausted, we then headed for the airport and arrived back at Stowe at 3.00am, having had the most fantastic cultural and linguistic German experience anyone could have wished for.

My thanks go to Mr Jones who organised most of the exchange and Mr Goldsmith who accompanied us. We only touched the surface of what there was to see and very much look forward to taking more Stoics out there next year.

Mrs Alice Tearle, Head of German

Stoics



Spanish

At the end of March, myself and Mr Dobson accompanied 20 Fifth and Sixth Form Stoics to Granada for the Spanish study tour. The language school was situated in a beautiful old *cármén* (Arabic town house) with a garden in el Albaicin, the medieval Moorish quarter of Granada, and within walking distance of our host families. Pupils soon understood why they had been told to bring comfortable walking shoes as we all regularly covered several miles a day, trekking up and down hill between our families, the school and the centre of town. On the first evening we enjoyed a panoramic view of La Alhambra whilst listening to flamenco guitar as the sun went down, which set the scene perfectly for a memorable and very varied trip.

On Friday morning we explored Granada Cathedral, the Royal Chapel containing the tombs of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of the Spanish 'Golden Age', and an ancient Moorish madrasa, reputedly the oldest school in Europe (although I'm sure I heard a similar claim in Salamanca last year?). A paella cooked to perfection by Laura Welford and helpers at the school was followed by afternoon lessons, dinner with families and finally a flamenco session. On Saturday after lessons we headed up into the Sierra Nevada for a trek in the mountains with a handy pub with a log fire at the halfway point, which proved popular with the less intrepid; Hector would be up there still if we had not had a bus to catch. Sunday was a major highlight, with a day trip to Córdoba where we visited the medieval centre, the Jewish quarter and, of course, the 'mesquita'

or mosque/cathedral with its unique interior composed of candy-striped pink and white arches. Mr Dobson indulged his penchant for the darker side of Catholicism with a visit to the Inquisition torture museum; on emerging from the considerable horrors of man's inhumanity to man in the name of religion, pupils met the first of the Easter mass processions coming across the Roman bridge, with the medieval spectacle of penitents clad in conical black masked hats and robes bearing their saints decked out with flowers and candles and accompanied by very noisy bands and drummers: an experience that pupils will not forget in a hurry!

On Monday, a lengthy tour of La Alhambra was followed by an equally lengthy tapas lunch, much enjoyed by all as pupils could order whatever they wished to try – and did just that; we only just made it back to school in time for lessons. The kindness of our host families played a huge part in the success of the trip and our pupils really did enjoy practising their Spanish, participating in family life and learning about local culture. This was the first time we had taken Fifth Formers with Sixth Formers and another major plus point of the trip was how well the different age groups got on with one another. Trip awards were given for excellent company, for enthusiasm for Spanish food, and all were delighted to see Mr Dobson return to the place he was a student more than 20 years ago.

Mrs Kate Dickson, Head of Spanish

Onatti Plays

Interweaving language that is accessible to Lower School pupils with entertaining scenarios, Onatti performances are always a great success among Stoics, as they revise vocabulary and grammar without realising they are doing so. As always in Onatti plays, audience participation is key, which is something Stoics love and dread in equal measure!

In January, Onatti performed "Nichts Zum Anziehen" – a first for the German Department. Julian and Kirstin, the two

German actors, were fantastic and had the audience glued to their every word as they were portraying a love-struck couple going out on their first date, but encountering a myriad of problems along the way. We were also delighted to be joined by 20 pupils from the Royal Latin School who braved the snow to come and watch the play.

Our French play this year was entitled 'Les Filles.' As ever with these superb plays, Stoics are provided with vocabulary lists and, hopefully, sufficient practice in listening to allow them to follow and understand the plot,

and this year was no exception for our Fourth Formers!

The plot of the play was very straightforward and entertaining – annoyed about reports of his bad behaviour in school, his mum has grounded Nicolas. He cannot go out, but that still does not stop him inviting Céline round, a girl he is trying to impress. When his girlfriend Emily turns up as well, Nicolas panics and tries to keep them apart. It turns into an extremely stressful night and to top it all, he has to finish the household chores before his mum gets back.



French

This academic year has been a busy one for the French Department, and one of the high points was the trip to Nice in the Michaelmas term. On the Sunday before Half term, twenty of the Fifth Form, accompanied by myself and Mrs Browne, flew to Nice in the South of France for a week of French lessons in the Alpha-B language school and to stay with host families in order to practise and improve their spoken French, and also to sample the sights, tastes and climate of the Côte d'Azur (which was 24 degrees and sunny for most of the week).

On the first morning, Stoics attended language lessons with two of the school's French teachers, Delphine and Samuel. Lessons went on each day from 9.00am until 12.15pm, and our mid-morning break was made much more agreeable every day thanks to the numerous patisseries just around the corner from the school! On the Monday afternoon, we had a tour of Nice and the old town. Having recovered from the shock of the prices in the Chanel shop window, we went on to the old town of Nice, where we stopped at the Place Rosetti for ice creams and crêpes, and learnt that Nice actually has its own language and that it is taught at the university! We then went up to the Parc du Château with its waterfall and fabulous views over the coast to the east and west, and back inland across the whole of Nice.

The following day, after lessons, we went to Antibes to see the boatyard, where we saw some fabulous yachts, including Abramovich's huge boat, complete with a helicopter and helipad! Next was the Picasso museum, followed by some down time on the beach and a bit of swimming by the more intrepid of the boys and girls, and some roaming of the town itself, where we found yet more ice creams and some tasty savoury crêpes.

On the Wednesday, we went to Monaco to visit the Palace, the Oceanographic Centre with its spectacular aquarium, the starting grid of the Monaco Grand Prix, the Casino de Monte-Carlo, the Hôtel de Paris and the Café de Paris. There was no shortage of Ferraris and Bentleys at our last stop, and it was worth paying a fortune for our drinks at the Café de Paris just to watch the world go by for a

few minutes. The train back was jam-packed, thanks to industrial action by the French train drivers, and we had to phone our hosts, in French, to say that we would be late back – quite a linguistic challenge, but the Stoics coped admirably!

Thursday afternoon saw us on the tram and bus going to Eze, and the Fragonard perfume and soap factory. After a tour of the factory and some quite brazen pressure-selling by the guide, we took our purchases up to Eze village, a medieval walled town on top of a steep hill, and to the tropical cactus garden with its breathtaking views over the coastline. The bus back was an experience, as we had to battle with another school party to get on and it was standing room only for most of us!

On Friday afternoon, we all went for a pizza before shopping and bag-packing for the journey home. However, the rain that had started on the Friday morning had developed into a full-blown storm by the time we were taken to the airport, and it was touch and go as to whether the flight would be on. In the end, fortune favoured us and we suffered only an hour's delay, getting back to Luton at about midnight.

The trip was a great success and has been booked for October 2013, so 24 Stoics will be able to sample the temperate delights of the Côte d'Azur this year, just as the English winter begins to sink its teeth in for the long haul...

Other events in the department calendar have included a range of presentations to the Language Society, by members of the department and by Old Stoics (many thanks to Craig Browne, who came to talk to the Stoics about studying a language at university level). Other topics have been French Cinema over the last 100 years, French Music and The Origins of Language, to name but a few, and we are quite sure that there will be some more to offer for the new academic year.

Mr Simon Dobson, Modern Languages

The Classics Department was very pleased with some excellent results last summer. The Fifth Form Latin results included 13 of 17 entries at A (76%), while 26% of papers sat scored full marks. The Fifth Form Greek results were also pleasing with 83% of six entries for full GCSE at A*-A and 29% of the individual papers scoring full marks.*

Special mention should go to Caspar Whitehead (Fifth Form) who achieved a record of full marks in three out of four papers in Greek GCSE at the end of Fourth Form following lessons outside the timetable.

In September the Classics Department welcomed Natasha Lodge straight from Newcastle University as graduate trainee. She taught from the Upper Sixth to the Third Form, both Latin and Greek. She led the way in trialling Latin Literature at Level 2 with WJEC for the Fourth Form. She left in April and her place was taken by Mr Sandy Smith. He has had many years of experience teaching Classics and being a Housemaster at Harrow School so we were grateful that, living locally, he could step in. We look forward to his continued help during the coming year.

In November we welcomed Dr Jessica Hughes from the Open University. She spoke about her excavations and votive offerings, with special reference to body parts. She brought a variety of modern specimens to provide a starting-point, giving a different but interesting viewpoint on the ancient world from what is available in most Latin textbooks. We were also fortunate that Gary Marshall, an archaeologist with the National Trust, was able to visit in January. He has a wide range of local knowledge and related the Roman period to the area immediately around Stowe, including the pottery kiln near the Bourbon playing fields and the Roman Road running through the estate, along with the Roman mosaic from Foscothe in the Queen's Temple. Stoics particularly appreciated being able to handle original Roman material.

Visits to Greek plays this year have included 'The Trojan Women' at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London. University College students presented a powerful version of Euripides' moving study on the terrible effects of the aftermath of war

on innocent victims. We also saw Sophocles' 'Oedipus at Colonus' presented by King's College students in the original Greek at their theatre near the Shard. It is a rarely performed play but raises issues of family loyalty, immortality and true piety.

In late April Lower School Latinists joined with the XX Club to see the Pompeii and Herculaneum exhibition at the British Museum. It provided a unique insight into the stunning wealth and practical necessities of domestic life. The plaster and resin casts of the human remains were moving in a different way. Many of the Third Formers also used the Easter holidays to write an essay for entry into the Friends of Herculaneum Schools Competition. Congratulations to John Peatfield (Third Form) who won second prize nationally in his age group category.

It is good to see increased numbers opting for Latin both at the start of the Third Form and continuing to Level 2, and also at AS Level in the Lower Sixth. New films and TV series have helped many to realise the value of Latin and Greek in education both at school and later in life. Numbers attending Sixth Form lectures in London on Latin set texts show the subject's continuing popularity, and there is a growing number of new editions of these texts, including some which are now available digitally and online as well as in book form. Even Wikipedia can now be found in Latin and ancient Greek versions, and there are Latin and Greek news sites on the internet, all signs that the ancient languages at the roots of our civilisation continue to adapt to new opportunities and remain relevant to today's teenagers.

Mr Michael Bevington, Head of Classics



Gary Marshall showing Roman pottery fragments to Third Form Latinists.

Economics and Politics



Our excellent academic results have continued for the fourth successive year in terms of 'Value Added' and A/B ratios. The continued hard work of the department teachers is driven by our fascination in the topics we teach and by a desire to instil a passion for learning in our pupils. As a result, Economics continues to be the most popular subject at AS and A2 level in the School, and Politics has the highest retention rates from AS to A2.

In Politics, lessons are driven by the current machinations of our political leaders as well as the outcomes of recent elections in both the UK and USA. Technology plays an important role, Mr Barker's politics blog www.britishcitizen.blogspot.co.uk and twitter [@stowepolitics](https://twitter.com/stowepolitics) are fascinating as well as helpful for pupils for essays and revision. This is supplemented by extensive use of ICT, including Storify, which brings lessons to life. In Economics the continued Eurozone crisis and ensuing EU debate has brought into focus the relevance of the material we cover. Pupils receive weekly emails with up-to-date articles on issues which relate to their course.

Robert Stheeman Lecture

Robert Stheeman is the Chief Executive of the Debt Management Office and is responsible for keeping the UK government liquid; without him the bills would not be paid! A complicated job at the best of times but during the debt crisis an incredibly important role ensuring that the country does not default. Last year he was responsible for selling almost £3 trillion of debt. We were privileged to have him as a speaker and dinner guest with our top

performing pupils. He explained why the risk premium on UK debt and quantitative easing has allowed the government to borrow huge quantities of money at very low rates of interest.

Trip to Parliament

The trip to Parliament is a well established part of the Politics curriculum and, with a growing list of influential contacts; it is becoming an increasingly interesting and informative exercise. This year followed what has become standard practice, a tour around the Palace of Westminster followed by an exploration of the Supreme Court but the added value came in the form of an audience with Nicola Blackwood (Conservative, Oxford West and Abingdon) who literally broke from a Home Affairs Select Committee meeting to speak to us. Though evidently very busy, Nicola found the time to respond to our questions (of varying acuity) with patience and a quite refreshing candour before running off to Prime Minister's questions. She was joined in the Chamber by Matt Goddard and Will Barnes who secured tickets from Nicola's office and our most sincere thanks go to Nicola and to Jane Nelson-Lucas, Nicola's chief of staff, who arranged and made possible the meeting. Elsewhere, the tour around the Palace of Westminster was conducted through the pandemonium of the build-up to Prime Minister's questions and the state opening of Parliament and yet it still managed to be amongst the most informative experienced by the teachers and the visit to the Supreme Court no less valuable. Overall it was an excellent exercise of interest and use to all participants.

Bank of England Challenge

Alex Norton, Artem Kozlov, Vagan Khranyan and Harry Martin represented Stowe in the Bank of England 2.0 Challenge. Their task was to forecast inflation and determine the best course for monetary policy. Keen to make their mark, they independently learned regression analysis and impressed the judges with their statistical as well as economic knowledge. Although the team did not win, team captain Harry Martin enjoyed success later on in the academic year with an offer to read Economics at St John's College, Cambridge University. This is one of the most competitive courses to gain entry to within Oxbridge.

Trip to Washington

On 25-29 March a group of Upper Sixth Politics pupils visited Washington DC to further their study of the US political system. The trip was an intense tour of the power centres of Washington, including visits to the US Department of State, Congress, the Supreme Court and a K-Street lobbying firm. In the State Department, the Stoics were treated to a rare tour of the Operations Centre, and, while John Kerry and Hilary Clinton were absent, the pupils certainly felt in awe standing in the Situation Room. Briefings scribbled on the surrounding whiteboards made it clear what things were on America's mind that week (sorry, it's classified!). In Congress, it became clear that politicians

do not have all the power, much of the real influence is wielded by desk officers and staffers. Meeting a staffer for the House Foreign Relations Committee gave a detailed insight into how American politics works, not to mention the arm twisting and trade-offs that are required to get things done.

This was capped off by a visit to Jefferson Waterman International, a company offering advice and advocacy to foreign governments. Their work was eye-opening and their members all very authoritative. One was an ex-director of the CIA, making the company a source of knowledge for both politicians and foreign governments.

The politics was also complemented by cultural enrichments such as the National Museum for the American Indian, Air and Space and the Jefferson

Memorial. Pupils were given the opportunity to visit the Lincoln Memorial as well as visiting Georgetown and many of the excellent steak houses in DC! By the end of the four days, the pupils had all incorporated their new ideas into a piece of writing that appeared in the special Washington edition of the department magazine Stars and Stripes.

Overall, this was another highly successful trip to Washington and the pupils were a credit to the School throughout the trip. Pupils involved were G-T Svanikier, Ed Bensted, Mungo Kilgour, Annie Beck, Ben Suthers, Arthur Lonsdale, Sadiq Abbagana, Diran Kazeem, Robbie Henriques, Harry Allhusen, Jamie Wace, Nick Paine and Tom ter Haar. The trip was led by Mr Barker and supported by Mrs Dawson.

Mr Kevin Ryce, Head of Economics and Politics

ICT and Computing

The academic year has seen the launch of GCSE Computing. A set of budding Fourth Form programmers have begun their GCSE course, covering a number of the theory topics, and preparing their computer programs in the controlled assessment environment. Computing Stoics carry out two controlled assessment assignments of 20 hours each. The topics are set by the examining board (OCR), and pupils have to investigate, design and program their own solutions. Fourth Form pupils have now completed their first assessment, and will focus on theory work for their exam next Spring, along with preparation for their second controlled assessment. A group of Third Form Stoics have also embarked on GCSE Computing, and are proving to be an extremely talented class.

Other developments for the new academic year include the introduction of the MIT “App Inventor”. This is

a development by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) which allows pupils to create their own Apps which can then be run on Android smart phones. It is planned to introduce this development to the Lower School to encourage budding programmers in an environment that is both fun and challenging. Who knows, we may have some new commercial games developed here at Stowe in the near future!

Stowe continues to offer the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) qualification. This year’s Fifth Form ICT sets achieved a 100% pass rate in the ECDL Extra qualification. This qualification has been re-graded, allowing candidates to achieve a grade equivalent to an A* at GCSE.

Mr Simon Gabbatiss, Head of ICT



Elliot Mitchell (Fourth Form) and Jordan Lowe (Fourth Form) completing their GCSE Computing Controlled Assessment

Business Studies

The Business Studies Department has had another busy and fruitful year. The Business Society continues to thrive as a regular and committed group of pupils are eager to engage and to listen to a range of outside speakers. The topics have included talks from a BMW dealership franchise outlining the niche market of luxury cars and a group change manager who gave us an overview of some of the challenges of integrating Citroën and Peugeot in the UK. These are just a few of the topics covered throughout the year.

This was the first year of running a young enterprise group, aimed exclusively at the Fourth and Fifth Form pupils. This gave them the opportunity to develop team working skills and gain a basic understanding of the product development process, business plans and financial accounts.

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When we began, we attracted over 50 pupils who were very enthusiastic about the idea of setting up and running their own business. The pupils embraced the programme fully, and came up with a range of creative ideas. We are looking forward to running this again next year and who knows with more budding entrepreneurs ready to share and develop their ideas we might have a new generation of Richard Bransons!

During the autumn our pupils were busy preparing and revising for their January exams. This is the last time our pupils will be able to sit their exam modules in January as the exam boards will now only timetable exams in the summer. The exam results in January were very encouraging and two pupils were awarded the annual prize for outstanding achievement. James Hill (Lower Sixth) and Daisy Anderson (Upper Sixth) were our worthy prize winners.

In March 2013 we took 54 pupils on a revision day in Birmingham at the Vue cinema complex. This was organised and run by tutor2u which provided invaluable tips and strategies for pupils to help them tackle their unit two and unit four modules in the summer. Pupils were amazed at how many other pupils congregated to fill two

very large cinema venues. Pupils were positive about the revision day and were motivated and encouraged by the effervescent and charismatic Jim Riley, the founder of tutor2u. Hopefully we will be able to repeat this next year to give every opportunity for our pupils to prepare for their terminal exams.

In June we welcomed our AS pupils back from their study leave and we set them a Business Newspaper simulation. This was designed to help them develop their awareness and knowledge of current business issues which is a key requirement within the Upper Sixth course. Pupils were then given the challenge to research, select and to write their business articles which were later collated into a Business Newspaper. Topics included: "Why sponsor sport?", "The effect of subliminal advertising", "Fat cats and tax avoidance". The second task for each group was to produce a televised news report on one topic and this brought out the hidden creative talent of many of our pupils. It might even motivate a change of career for some of them! The prize winners were Alex Fitzjohn (Lower Sixth) and Edward Brook Shanahan (Lower Sixth) with their creative news report on Concorde. The best film news reports have been uploaded onto the Business Studies VLE.

Finally, the term came to an end with our bumper annual Business Studies quiz and each group was very competitive and eager to win this prestigious tournament. The winners were Isabelle Le Fevre (Lower Sixth) and Tom Forde (Lower Sixth). The successful winning teams from both the Newspaper simulation and the annual quiz enjoyed a relaxing evening with their teachers eating pizza and watching a film.

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Looking ahead to next year we look forward to welcoming 40 new pupils who have chosen to study Business Studies at AS. We have also planned an exciting trip to China which will take place at Easter in 2014 and this is already creating a wonderful buzz of anticipation with our Business groups. Roll on next year!

Mr Panos John, Head of Business Studies



PSHE

The PSHE Department extended itself beyond the classroom this year. From the multiple visits by the local police, the Sixth Form acting as Peer Support Group mentors, a ‘Safe Drive, Stay Alive’ theatre production and the Kidscape weekend, all Stoics have reflected, empathised and hopefully gained some perspective about their neighbourhood, their community and their world.

In June, over a weekend, the anti-bullying charity ‘Kidscape’ visited Stowe and brought with them eleven children ranging from the ages of 12 to 16 who had been severely bullied. The aim of the Kidscape weekend was to challenge them and to give them the confidence to stand up to the bullies. This was done using a range of activities and workshops that built up confidence and social skills.

Ms Kirsten McLintock, Head of PSHE

“Throughout the weekend we saw a significant change in each and every one of the children, for instance one of the youngsters, Hannah, struggled to find the confidence to even say her name on Friday afternoon, however by the end of the course, she had gained enough confidence to stand in front of the parents and give a speech about the weekend. To see such a change in her was very rewarding for all of us and credit should be given to India Cornish

who was her buddy. Not only this but George started off the weekend loudly and by the end Hugo Ellison had taught him to think about what he said to people before he said it. All other mentors really helped their buddies as well – everybody had changed somehow by Sunday. We both overcame personal challenges. I found the drama workshop particularly challenging but by the end I felt comfortable performing in front of the group. Personally I was extremely nervous about the leap of faith, but the group put me at ease and I managed to jump and catch the bar. These are just a couple of examples of the challenges everybody had to face. Everyone who took part in the weekend had a great time; we all came away having learnt more about bullying and how to prevent it as well as about ourselves as individuals.”

Eden Davies (Lower Sixth) and Fred Desmond (Lower Sixth)

“It is incredible to watch how the children grow in confidence. One child arrived not being able to speak, his face contorted with fear. By the end of the weekend he could contribute to group discussions and participated in every activity. Another child was reluctant to leave Stowe saying how much she felt at home, the experience had been overwhelming for her.”

Peter Bradley, Deputy Director Kidscape 2013

Art

If you visit the Art Department during the working week you are very likely to find a whole range of exciting activities taking place across our two open plan floors. You will find a calm and purposeful atmosphere with pupils working on paintings, prints, photography, 3D construction or research. One of the great benefits of our new building is that the design of the studios encourages pupils to observe each other's work and join in the culture of sharing good practice across the year groups.

The sketchbook forms the hub of each pupil's creative journey. Every one will be different and will reflect the individuality and personal concerns of our pupils. The viewer may find forceful marks jumping off the page, lively experiments with mark making, colour or mixed media or the smashing together of materials and techniques. A sketchbook might be filled with noisy visual statements that fight for attention, there may be apertures, fold-outs, pop-ups, architectonic forms or other playful uses of paper. Or, there could be order, calm placement and quite composition. The diverse nature of creativity is celebrated every day in our department. Pupils learn to develop their skills and explore new techniques and then bring their own

particular preferences and enthusiasm to each mode of expression.

The contextual element of our work is central to the creative journey and to exam success, and our department's extensive Art library is our pride and joy. We continue to expand our beautiful and inspiring collection every year and a great way to do this is to find books whilst travelling. Our New York trip in the Lent term was perfect for this. The Metropolitan Museum, The Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim all had wonderful exhibitions with catalogues to match. The Japanese avant-garde exhibition entitled 'Gutai-Splendid Playground' opened the door on a new pocket of Art history for many of us, starting with the amazing sculpture over our heads forming a beautiful array of suspended coloured liquids. We were also able to contribute to the piece 'Please Draw Freely' which was originally created in the 1950s in Japan to break down the barrier between the artist and the public. This incredible show of creative freedom was juxtaposed by a smaller exhibition 'Paper like Skin' which included delicate prints and objects by the Indian born artist Zarina. Our visit to the Guggenheim was a truly international experience.

Later in the year we took a trip to London where we were lucky enough to meet the New York based artist, Leonardo Drew, on the eve of his new show at the Vigo gallery. Lower Sixth pupils were fascinated by Leonardo's amazing energy and passion and were able to ask him directly about his work in the gallery. He was very generous with his time and we are very grateful to Toby Clark, the gallery director, for allowing us to take over his space for a morning.

Back in the studios at Stowe we were thrilled to see so many friends and family members during the Speech Day celebrations this year, and we wish our Upper Sixth Leavers the best of luck with their future creative careers. We were delighted that every one of our Art school applicants was successful this year. They all took inspiring portfolios to be seen by the Art schools, and we hope they have a wonderful time at St Martins, Kingston, LCC, Brighton, Leeds and at the Architectural Association. Well done to the hard-working pupils and teachers of the Art Department.

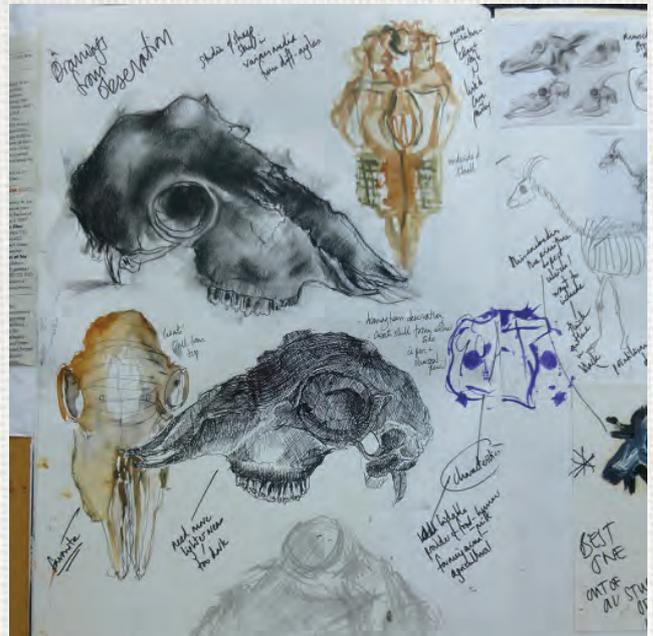
Next year we will be exploring how our new iPads, that were very kindly funded by the Scott-Ichinose Trust, can be used to enhance and develop our creativity, and we will be looking at ways to combine traditional techniques such as darkroom photography and printmaking with this new technology. We will also be exploring ways to expand our three dimensional facilities as we prepare to install a kiln, and we look forward to showing the results of these experiments and new developments in our Speech Day show next year.

Mrs Amanda Jorgensen, Head of Art





Annabel Rushton, Fifth Form



Genevieve Roxburgh, Upper Sixth

sketchbooks

Jack Edmonstone, Fifth Form



Charles Lockyer, Lower Sixth



gallery



Bulat Safaev, Lower Sixth



Genevieve Roxburgh, Upper Sixth



Ellie Holt, Upper Sixth

Design Technology

The end of year show in StoweBucks was another phenomenal success this year. Held on Speech Day and highlighting the creative talents of a bumper group of A2 Level pupils, the projects displayed showed wonderful creativity and flair and were testament to the hard work and determination that Stoics continue to put into their studies. Of note this year were George Barham (Upper Sixth) who looked at the redesign and engineering of a sustainable lighting unit for LEDCs (Less Economically Developed Countries), Rosie Marsden-Smedley (Upper Sixth) who looked at an innovative modular furniture and storage system for a child's bedroom and Tamara Rowan-Hamilton (Upper Sixth) who produced a visually appealing and quite unique storage system encompassing a huge range of manufacturing processes. Within Graphic Products, two pupils really shone as future stars – Freddie

Wheeler (Upper Sixth) and May-May Lee (Upper Sixth) – both produced some exquisite work that was truly breathtaking in its complexity and detailed development and design.

The AS and A2 pupils continue to excel in the public examinations under the expert guidance and tutelage of the department's experienced staff. Stoics' design folders continue to be the envy of many schools and frequently attract positive comments from university admissions tutors citing the maturity of thinking and detailed analysis that is contained within them, often in advance of first year undergraduate work according to them!

Our GCSE cohort produced some of the most challenging and creative work that the department has produced to date. Some real flair and designerly thinking saw



outstanding projects from Jamie Angle (Fifth Form), Paul Henkel (Fifth Form) and Ed Gorst (Fifth Form), which really exemplified the current direction and level of work that is being produced.

Over this year we have seen some outstanding practical projects produced at the examination levels, a true combination of the modern computer controlled equipment that aid accurate and precise manufacturing to the integration of the more traditional skills such as aluminium casting and some wonderful wood turning on the traditional lathes. The latest revolution in technology has been embraced and we have started to see the first pupils really starting to get to grips with our industry standard CAD software SolidWorks and our Hewlett Packard 3D printer for rapid prototyping and modelling.

We continue to invest in new technology and aim to stay abreast of developments within the subject, providing an environment where Stoics can work safely and creatively to realise their ideas – from a sketch on paper to finished product – there's nothing else on the curriculum that offers this holistic thought process and cyclical thinking which is valued so greatly by employers now. We ask Stoics to question why they do things, why things don't work as well as they should, how they could make it better, how it could look better. We encourage creativity, freedom of thinking, and a different way of thinking to that of many subjects; that's what makes us different, and that's why we're successful.

Mr Myles Nash, Head of Design Technology



The International Department



The International Department at Stowe School is concerned with the pastoral well-being and academic success of international Stoics. With pupils representing over thirty nationalities and countries, the department serves an important dual role, offering a range of academic English language (ESOL) courses and language tuition as well as organising social events for international pupils and providing pastoral support to enable new pupils to settle quickly into the Stowe community.

In a world where effective oral and written communication skills are of paramount importance, the International Department aims to enable pupils to develop the highest levels of linguistic competence, which should in turn enhance academic achievement in other subjects as well as improving university prospects.

We are proud of the excellent achievements of the pupils in the department and 2012/13 has been no exception. The IGCSE ESL course was introduced at Stowe in September 2010 and has proved to be a popular choice amongst our Lower School pupils with 64% of candidates achieving A*/A grades in 2012. This has also been a record year for IELTS results to date with 100% of candidates meeting or exceeding their university entrance criteria. Some of our more ambitious pupils have opted to study for the CPE examination (the most advanced Cambridge English Language examination) in addition to IELTS. This technically challenging and high-level qualification is an impressive addition to UCAS applications when applying to top UK universities in an increasingly competitive market. By popular demand, TOEFL has also been introduced this year to cater for the growing number of Sixth Form international pupils applying to universities in the US.

Speech Day was another enjoyable opportunity to celebrate excellence amongst our pupils: congratulations to prize winners Oliver Song, May-May Lee, Anastasia Lopoukhine, Vagan Khranyan, Sena Öztosun, Artem Kozlov, Carmen Thompson Perea and Lisa Battilomo who have been recognised for their outstanding achievements and contributions at Stowe.

One of the highlights of the year enjoyed by all was the International Society Dinner on Tuesday 19 March

where 140 Stoics and staff gathered in the Temple Room for an evening of international food and entertainment. Cultural diversity was celebrated with an impressive array of traditional costumes and a range of world cuisine. Entertainment acts ranged from songs and raps to classical guitar music and dancing by our South African Scholars. This was followed by the international quiz where the 'Russian' team emerged as the worthy victors. Sixth Form IELTS/TOEFL pupils have also enjoyed termly restaurant and cinema outings.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs Kitchen, the international prefects (María Bartolomé, Matteo Di Carlofelice and Luke Pepera) and all pupils in the department for their contributions, diligence and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Mrs Julie Johnson, Head of International



Library

As I sit down to write my review of the year I am surrounded by over 30 members of the Upper Sixth, my constant companions over the last term as the imminent arrival of their A Level examinations finally revealed to them one of the joys of their beautiful School library - a quiet and calm atmosphere in which to revise! I remember encountering many of them during their Library induction lessons in the Third Form and it is hard to believe that their five years at Stowe is coming to an end.

As well as providing a place to study, a good School library performs an essential role in supporting the learning of pupils and here at Stowe the Library staff has enjoyed another year of providing opportunities for Stoics to develop into effective independent learners and readers.

Every year we hope to bring authors into School to inspire reading for pleasure and this year was particularly successful. Mark Robson, author of the 'Imperial Spy' and 'Dragon Orb' series, spent a day with the Fourth Form, leading creative writing sessions and speaking to them about writing his first stories during his career as an RAF pilot and developing the skills he needed to become a popular author for teenagers. We were also privileged to have Antony Penrose to speak to the Third and Fourth Form XX groups. Antony is the son of the famous fashion model and Second World War photographer Lee Miller and artist Roland Penrose. During his childhood the world famous artist Picasso became a family friend and Antony told the pupils about his experiences and of how he was inspired to write a children's book 'The Boy Who Bit Picasso'.

I'm delighted to report that reading for pleasure seems alive and well in the Third Form and they have produced some wonderful book reviews for the School Library website this year using IT software like Pinterest and Prezi.

Our main initiative this year was to continue the theme of embracing new technology so we added a set of 16 iPads to the Library resources. Several teachers had expressed

an interest in using them with classes so we researched and downloaded apps ranging from rat dissection and 3D Interactive Heart to Leonardo da Vinci Anatomy and TED talks. They can be booked out through an online booking system and so far have been used really successfully in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Business Studies, Art, Sport and Learning Support. Mrs Carter from Biology says:

"The versatility of the iPad, from surfing the net at the touch of a button to producing spreadsheets and graphs to display data produced during a practical has helped to enhance the learning experience of the Stoics. Having access to the ever-expanding number of educational apps has allowed the pupils to explore in depth some of the areas of Biology that were once out of reach."

The Inter-House Literary Quiz now has an annual slot in the diary as the Library's way of celebrating World Book Day each March. Members of the English Department and the Library joined forces this year to think up some interesting and fun questions and came up with the topics of places, people and crime in literature, quotations from literature and a picture round as well as a challenging round on literature from other countries. The questions were taken from a wide range of novels, plays and poems, from 'The Hunger Games' and the novels of Steig Larsson to works of Shakespeare and W H Auden. The girls' houses had dominated in previous years but this year Temple, captained by Oscar Page, came through to win. This was a great cause of celebration for Oscar as he had been a member of the team since the Third Form but had never won before.

The Library stays open until 9.30pm in the evenings so that pupils can use the facilities during evening prep. I'd like to express my huge thanks to my fantastic assistants Mrs Chapman and Mrs Rudman for staffing these sessions as well as for their constant support for myself and for the Stoics throughout the year.

Mrs Carol Miller, Librarian





George Jones, Upper Sixth



Charlotte Hodson, Fifth Form



Madeleine Jordan, Fourth Form

gallery



Charles Wentworth-Stanley,
Lower Sixth



Siana Vere Nicoll, Upper Sixth



Hannah Tilleard, Fifth Form

Old Stoics

An aerial photograph of a classic car event held in a large courtyard in front of a grand, classical building with a portico. The courtyard is filled with a wide variety of vintage cars, including convertibles, coupes, and sedans in various colors like blue, green, silver, and black. People are seen walking around the cars, some looking at them and others talking. The building in the background has a prominent portico with columns and a pediment. The sky is bright and clear.

Thank you so much for all your organisation of the Classic Car event, lunch was delicious and hugely appreciated and, as always, it was good to meet fellow Old Stoics especially with such a common interest...

David Lees-Jones (Grenville 65)

Stowe Wins The Cyril Gray Tournament

Stowe won the Cyril Gray Tournament on 29 June at Worplesdon Golf Club in a nail-biting final against the clear favourites Merchiston 2 matches to 1. Victory was sealed at the 19th hole by the top pair myself and Simon Chilton after the score had been levelled at 1 game all with our anchor pair David Julius and Martyn Palmer winning their match 3 to 1 in typical convincing fashion but with David Lucas and Greg Choyce succumbing to a blistering performance from the Merchiston third pair.

Stowe drew Merchant Taylors in the first round, which was a tense and competitive match that Stowe won 2-1, followed by the gritty Dulwich College who we similarly dispatched 2-1 followed by Canford (our sister school) who we also beat 2-1 with David Lucas and Greg Choyce coming back from 1 down with 2 to play to win with steel and determination and a particularly majestic 5 iron to the 18th green by Lucas to 15 feet. Then came the evergreen Edinburgh Academicals who always field a strong team. By this time Stowe was building a head of steam and we trounced them 2½ to ½ with David Julius and Martyn Palmer and David Lucas and Greg Choyce winning with ease.

Whilst Stowe was progressing through the bottom half of the draw, Fettes and Merchiston were ploughing through the field, finally coming head to head in the semi-finals with Merchiston beating Fettes by the narrowest of margins 2:1 which was decided by a winning putt on the 18th. It was interesting to note that Merchiston had an abstemious and quite serious lunch before the final afternoon round as opposed to Stowe who rehydrated with pints of Pimm's and Smiths bitter and several bottles of the Club Claret in true Old Stoic style.

We had a great team this year and before each match we pondered for a moment in memory of our dear friend and former Cyril Gray Captain David Hadfield and collectively agreed to "do it for him". Each member of the team played

their part in this amazing victory and made their Captain very proud. Notable mentions must go to our anchor pair playing second string – David Julius and Martyn Palmer, both of whom played inspired and consistent golf all week, peppering the pin more often than not. David Lucas and Greg Choyce, playing third string, twice carried the pressure decider, holding their nerves to prevail at the 17th and 18th holes with style and class enabling Stowe to progress. Finally, my partner Simon Chilton was solid and hit some spectacular shots over the five rounds, most notably a pressure laden but booming drive down the 19th against Merchiston with a shade of draw pulling up just short of the cross bunkers – pure bliss and the rest is history!

Mr Stewart McNair

The Cyril Gray is a foursomes' scratch match play knockout for the over 50s with 32 schools playing over four days. Stowe last won this tournament in 2003 and previously in 1998, 1995 and 1992.

The winning team from left to right: David Lucas, Martyn Palmer, Stewart McNair (Captain), Simon Chilton, David Julius and Greg Choyce



90 Cars for 90 Years

Ninety classic cars adorned the North Front on Speech Day this year, with Old Stoics, Parents and Friends of Stowe bringing a myriad of cars representing every decade from 1870 through to the present day. The 1920s cars provided the perfect decoration for the Jazz Age Speech Day theme. We were simply delighted to reach ninety cars for the ninetieth year of Stowe School!

We were incredibly lucky to secure some extra special cars to be part of the display, including Steve McQueen's

Ferrari, rumoured to be worth over £6 million and the Jaguar XK from the Bond film, 'Die Another Day'.

The drivers enjoyed a marvellous lunch kindly supported by Hagerty International and we were very lucky to be joined by renowned motor journalist, Ronald Barker (Grenville/Walpole 38). Thank you to all those who lent a hand with this year's display and thank you to all those who brought their cars to be part of it.

Miss Anna Semler, Old Stoic Society Director



Roger Hodgson Concert

Stowe's 90th Anniversary Celebration

Old Stoic, Roger Hodgson (Grenville 68) took to the stage on the eve of Speech Day to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Stowe School. The evening was a sell out, with nearly 2,500 parents, Old Stoics and current Stoics filling a gigantic marquee on the South Front. Old Stoic, Andrew Chance (Chandos 71) and his excellent production team pulled out all the stops to create the perfect setting for Roger Hodgson and his support acts. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side, but stoic as always, our excited guests filled very inch of the porticos, colonnades and covered spaces to enjoy their picnics before the show. We were honoured to welcome Sarah, Duchess of York and throughout the evening, £6,000 was raised for Children in Crisis, the charity of which she is patron.

Two Old Stoic support acts warmed up the crowds: Regan Vincenza (Nugent 05) and her band Ryker Sear kicked off the concert with their rock and roll beats followed by Orlando Seale (Lyttelton 91) and The Swell who gave an enchanting performance. Roger Hodgson took to the stage amidst rapturous applause: the atmosphere was electric. What followed will be remembered by all in attendance as a truly amazing and magnificent performance which marked the 90th Anniversary perfectly. All those who admire Stowe came together to celebrate this significant occasion.

Old Stoic, Nigel Milne (Chandos 68) interviewed concert producer, Andrew Chance (Chandos 71) to find out what went on behind the scenes.

NM: Andrew. You were responsible for the production of

the entire evening – concert and VIP packages etc. How does one begin to put on such an event?

AC: I agreed the concept and a potential date with Dr Anthony Wallersteiner and Colin Dudgeon at Stowe and then set about producing a proposal which covered all aspects of the organisation and potential costs. It was clear that our best option was to share some facilities with Speech Day so the proposal needed to be extremely detailed from everyone's point of view.

This included all aspects of staging Roger Hodgson, potential support acts, creation of marketing material, insurance, specification and size of marquee, production, lighting, sound, power and all personnel required including security, stewards, hostesses, catering and bar staff, first aid and even the attendance of an ambulance. We considered hiring 2,500 chairs, other furniture, miscellaneous items and not least cleaning and contingency for ground damage. A Box Office had to be set up to enable online and telephone ticket sales.

Having worked out the potential costs our team then prepared a budget showing the revenue streams that we needed to achieve to break even. This included standard tickets and three levels of VIP packages. I was honoured that Stowe Enterprises agreed to be our Joint Partner in the venture, it was now up to me and my team at Chance Organisation to deliver the goods!

It is incredibly nerve racking once you have committed and gone public, but our grateful thanks must go to our sponsors and those who kindly purchased Premium Packages which made the concert financially viable. Early



interest at the Box Office was also encouraging and we actually sold out with just over two and a half thousand people attending. As the concert producer, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who attended for their amazing support.

NM: How did you succeed in persuading Roger Hodgson to take time out from his busy schedule and to perform especially for Stowe's 90th Anniversary celebrations?

AC: We successfully staged Roger Hodgson in concert at Stowe in 2008 and knowing that the occasion had meant a great deal to him, when I approached his management he was very receptive and supportive of the idea. He was honoured to be involved with Stowe's 90th Anniversary celebrations. The key, this time, was to have Roger's full and exceptional band as I knew how good they were and how wonderful the concert could be.

NM: The marquee, staging and lighting were all terrific, as was the quality of the sound. Organising the right sound levels for each of the three acts who play very different styles of music and with only a short change-over period between each act must require consummate skill and artistry. How on earth did you manage this so seamlessly?

AC: Good planning is essential for a seamless show and we use only the best people who understand the complexities of intricate technical production. We gather our team together for several meetings prior to the concert to work out the technical design and operation. These meetings have no time limit and we try and calculate the timing of every single stage movement inbetween acts. The audio

team pre programme mixing consoles to take into account every input from all the acts and our lighting designer pre programmes in advance to choreograph the lighting and effects to Roger's songs.

NM: Were there any nail biting or humorous moments backstage that you could share with us?

AC: The weather was our main problem that day as during the afternoon it was raining, windy and very cold. One of the entrance Pagodas blew down ripping a hole in the concert marquee and a leak appeared in the roof. As early guests were arriving, they would have seen two men suspended from the canvas repairing the damage. Roger and the band members were so cold in the sound check that we had to find special stage heaters at the very last moment. I must admit I do not recall any humorous moments backstage because as producers we take our role and responsibilities rather seriously!

NM: What was Roger Hodgson's personal view of the whole occasion?

AC: Roger was thrilled and very moved by the whole occasion and the amazing reception that he received from the audience who clearly are huge fans of him and his music. He thought the concert had a wonderful atmosphere and I think most people would agree that he looked as though he was loving every moment!

The Old Stoic Society would like to extend their thanks to Roger Hodgson and his Band, Chance Organisation and Stowe Enterprises for putting on such an excellent evening, which was enjoyed and will be remembered by so many. We feel honoured to have been part of the celebrations.

Bruce



Housemaster:	Craig Sutton
Matron:	Helena Sundstrom
Assistant Housemaster:	Charlie Barker
Under Housemaster:	James Knott
Head of House:	Luke Pepera
Deputy Head of House:	William McGovern

School Prefects: Luke Pepera & William McGovern

House Prefects: Sadiq Abbagana, Liam Forster, Ashley Howatson-Tout, Tom Humphreys, Artem Kozlov, Folabi Lawal, Luke Pepera, Tristan Phipps, Courtney Raymond, G-T Svanikier, Petru Topa, Russell White

Our aim in Bruce House is to create a comfortable, caring and supportive community, somewhere the pupils can relax and enjoy spending time together, confident and happy to express their individual characters. The Tutor team have a role to play in creating this, but so do all the pupils and, in particular, the Senior year group. The Bruce Upper Sixth are all House Prefects, taking it in turn to be on duty for one day a week. They all have their individual identities, and get a chance to influence the atmosphere in House, whilst interacting with the Junior years. I was pleased to see the customary friendly and supportive character of Bruce being further strengthened and they certainly added a good deal of fun and amusement to the routine. Following their hard work over the past five years many of this year's Leavers have won exciting and creditable offers including Head of House, Luke Pepera at Oxford, Liam Forster gaining a place at the Trinity Conservatoire of Music, G-T Svanikier being awarded a scholarship to Washington College (USA) as well as other fine offers from institutions including UCL, KCL, Loughborough, Manchester, Leeds and Queen Mary. Fingers crossed for the results day!

The Bruce lads were thrilled to have their consistency in attaining encouraging APG results rewarded by winning the 'Academic Salver' in the Michaelmas term. As a House, this was our top priority and demonstrated that the boys had set off with a good attitude to their academic endeavour. The APG grades gave us a chance to find out who has been working particularly hard and reward them with trips to Xscape in Milton Keynes, to watch a film and consume as much fast food as they can in 30 minutes! Luke Pepera, Patrick Devlin, Alec Pultr and Jack Walker-Payne should be congratulated for being consistently near the top of the House. If a year group in Bruce manages to get a higher average effort score than the other boys' Houses, a mountain of Chinese takeaway awaits. The Fifth Form and Lower Sixth Form have feasted well this year!

Another aim has been to finally win the Inter-House singing competition, having come second for the last two

years. The Senior boys, with our gifted Music Scholar Liam Forster, Tristan Phipps and Ashley Howatson-Tout taking the lead, managed to find the hidden vocal talent lying within our collective group. The whole House pulled together to give a rousing performance and were all delighted to hear that we had finally won the Unison Song. Mr Andre, a Bruce Tutor, helped Liam to polish up The Beatles number 'Here comes the Sun' as our part-song. An impressive performance earned them an excellent second place overall, to end another great House singing campaign.

On the sporting front the Bruce lads gave their all as is expected. We had some mixed results, but there was plenty of competitive spirit on show. We dominated the basketball scene winning all three Inter-House trophies. We were runners up in the Senior rugby; won the plate in Senior cricket; and were runners up in the Junior and Senior football. On Sports Day we gained six 'Golds' which were won by Courtney Raymond (Senior Shot), Jack Wallis (Senior Discus and School Record holder), Will Scrase (800m), George Ellison (Inter 800m & 1500m) and Josh Goodall (Junior 300m).

Away from the sporting arena, the Senior Debating team won the trophy for the second time in three years. Artem Kozlov, G-T Svanikier and Hugo Ellison worked very hard to put together some well-researched and balanced arguments which were skilfully presented. It was a pleasure to watch several pupils participate in the School Drama productions. Kemal Eyi, Alec Pultr, Hugo Ellison, Patrick Keating and Tristan Phipps performed in the Senior Congreve 'Twist and Shout' and in the Junior Congreve 'After Juliet' Jack Hechle, Hallam Smith and Charles Johnson contributed significantly.

A favourite House event for the boys are our BBQ evenings. Whilst the weather made these rarer than hoped, we did manage to get everyone together on a couple of occasions for a mass game of football, touch rugby and,



with the influence of Miss Sundstrom, rounders. Once the appetite is worked up, burgers, sausages and marinated chicken are all appreciated, having been cooked on our huge new BBQ! These evenings do show the particularly strong integration between all the year groups in Bruce.

Our current Lower Sixth Form have been very enthusiastic with their efforts to 'put their hand up' and give something back to the community. Alec Pultr, Hugo Ellison and Kemal Eyi volunteered to lead a Chapel Service and Harvey Derby, Matthew Pryse and Hugo Ellison gave their time selflessly to help with the 'Kidscape' weekend. With no

fewer than six of them being elected as School Prefects next year. Alec Pultr and Hugo Ellison (Senior Prefects) and Jack Walker-Payne, Jack Wallis, Max Marston and Patrick Devlin (Prefects), I am sure they will go on to lead Bruce through another happy and positive year.

I would finally like to thank the Bruce Tutor team of Mr Barker, Mr Murray, Mr Knott and Mr Andrew for their hard work in guiding the boys and would also like to extend a huge vote of thanks to Miss Sundstrom for her outstanding efforts in her first year at Stowe.

Mr Craig Sutton, Housemaster



Chandos



Housemaster:	Peter Deakin
Matron:	Claire Hill-Hall
Assistant Housemaster:	Roland Johnson
Under Housemaster:	Lewis Brito-Babapulle
Head of House:	Tom ter Haar
Deputy Head of House:	Jake Olley

Senior School Prefect:	Tom ter Haar, Jake Olley
School Prefects:	Freddie Clarke, Harry Martin

House Prefects: Tom ter Haar, Jake Olley, Freddie Clarke, Jonny Constant, Will Watson, Harry Martin, Angus Craven, Guy Turner, Oli Jackson, Charlie Wright, Haris Salihovic, Oleksiy Popov

Chandos has gone from strength to strength in 2013 and there has been a great atmosphere and sense of community in the House. We have had huge individual successes from Chandosians this year with people such as Jamie Angle, Freddie Clarke and Harry Martin all receiving A44 in the APGs at one point or another, with Freddie Clarke getting it twice. We have also had an almost endless list of sporting and musical achievements.

The year started well with the new Third Formers securing the Inter-House football cup with Kurt Leimer, Abdul Adebayo-Karim and the engine room of Olly Clarke featuring strongly. In January the Senior House rugby team won the plate with Jake Olley playing a major part and Olly Wright scoring a couple of tries in the final against Temple. The Third and Fourth Form played some excellent volleyball on our doorstep in the summer, thrashing Temple in the in the second set 21-8 with Roman Dubois-Pelerin captaining the side to an excellent victory. The Senior House hockey team and both House cricket teams reached the semi-final stages and although we could not emulate the athletics successes of last year, we did have some outstanding achievements. The Intermediate relay team comprised of Toni Kuku, Adam Ezomo, George Olley and Will Thompson, who not only came first, but also qualified for the Nationals. Olly Clarke and Oliver Woods both secured top ten places in the Third Form cross country and Hugh O'Donoghue gained third place in his first triathlon. We are extremely upset to see Hugh leave this year as he is emigrating to New Zealand with his parents, and we wish him all the best in the years to come.

On the rugby field, Fifth Formers George Silk and Ben George have both had incredible individual seasons training and playing rugby for Northampton Saints Academy and starring for their School teams. This year saw four Chandosians playing for the 1st XV. Piers Fountaine and Olly Wright made their debuts and Fifth Former George Silk showed great maturity and skill as

a pivotal member at fly half all season. It also saw Jake Olley, astonishingly in his fourth 1st XV season, score all the points for the first five games. Unsuprisingly, he was named player of the season and won a Headmaster's prize after captaining the 1st XI cricket team and partnering Ben Duckett to a National Schools' T20 batting record. There have also been some great performances from Will Thompson, and Toni Kuku for the U15s in the Daily Mail Cup.

Harrison Dockerty showed Chandos at its best when he not only won the Intermediate cross country in the Lent term, but also beat the School record. The Simon Hewitt cup (awarded to the Chandosian who has contributed the most to House sport) was won by our very own Head of House for next year, Henry Cox in the Michaelmas term, our Greek Anthony Deriziotis in the Lent term and by William Thompson in the Summer term. Not to be outdone by our 1st XI cricketers, Olly Clarke has been the mainstay of the successful U14A batting this year and helped them *en route* to win the county cup with a superb 90 not out in the semi-final. Will Thompson and captain Ali Martin have also been dominant forces in the U15A successful run of winning the county cup and regional finals.

We have been incredibly lucky this academic year to have three exchange pupils in the House. Harry Penrose, from King's College, Auckland, became a huge part of the Chandos community and many of us were shocked to hear that he was leaving at the end of the term, as most of us hadn't realised that he was on a one term exchange. He played a huge part in Chandos sport but also sang as one of five boys in the House part-song which helped us to come second overall. Our South African Scholar, Smanga Mthethwa, always had a smile on his face and contributed to Chandos in many sports; football, rugby, water polo, cricket and volleyball. We will be sad to see him leave but are also looking forward to welcoming our new South



African Scholar next term. Our final international pupil for the Summer term was Akshay Sarawagi. He strengthened the U15A School cricket and nearly helped us win the Junior House cricket. We wish him the best of luck as he returns to The Doon School in India. On the topic of travel abroad, both Oliver Jackson and Freddie Clarke won the McElwee travel scholarship last year where they were given £1,200 to travel in Europe. Henry Cox managed to follow in their footsteps and win this coveted travel grant to set up his adventures in Malta this summer.

Music is a huge part of Chandos, and it always has been. We came second in the part-song this year and third in the House song, thanks to our talented singers Jonny Constant, Miles Clark, Tom Gordon-Colebrooke, Harry Penrose and Archie Forsyth and creative lead Guy Turner who organised the whole performance. However, it does not end there. Our extraordinary talent of music was shown at the end of Exeat in the Summer term where parents were invited to come and experience our fantastic taste of music. Furthermore, Chandosians featured heavily in the incredible plugged-in concert. Charles Lockyer, Guy Turner, Miles Clark and Harris Salihovic all performed in front of the whole School and made the whole House proud during one of the most memorable nights at Stowe.

Guy Turner continued his success as one of our most outstanding musicians in the School. People were in awe of his clever use of technology in producing ‘one man band’ like loop pieces at the Mozart Trio competition and became one of the youngest saxophonists to have played at Ronnie Scott’s in the Spring.

No less than four Upper Sixth Formers were School prefects this year and for the smallest House in the School we continue to punch well above our weight as demonstrated by Chandosians gaining many prizes on Speech Day. Freddie Clarke joined Jake Olley to win Headmaster’s prizes and further Speech Day prizes demonstrated the House’s diversity with Jamie Angle, Charles Lockyer and Harry Martin all winning academic prizes on the day. Two out of the six special prizes were also fittingly secured by Guy Turner, winning the Old Stoic Goblet for outstanding contribution to music, and our Head of House and Captain of CCF, Tom ter Haar, was awarded the Lord Lieutenant Cadet of the County and the Cumming Prize for Good Citizenship. Although the House did not secure as much team silverware this year, the cups keep on coming.

Alex Fitzjohn, Lower Sixth



Chatham



Housemasters: John Ing and Alan Hughes
Matron: Chrissie Curtis
Assistant Housemaster: Ian Findlay-Palmer
Under Housemaster: Benjamin Ponniah
Head of House: Kit Dixon-Smith

School Prefects: Kit Dixon-Smith, Nick Paine, Will Plant, Henry Plant, Matteo Di Carlofelice

House Prefects: Kit Dixon-Smith, Matteo Di Carlofelice, Nick Paine, Henry Plant, Will Plant, Mungo Akerman, Jack Barham, Boyan Burov, Josh Gentry, Hamish Huxtable, Harry Mayo, Antonio Muñoz Ballester, Charles Samuelson, Charlie Sargent, Dominic Smith, Frederick Wheeler

This year Chatham House saw a lot of change; John Ing announced he was leaving just before the boys returned in September. We saw the arrival of our new matron Chrissie Curtis. Then the announcement that I would be stepping in as Acting Housemaster for the Lent and Summer terms and the new arrival of Mr Copley in September 2013.

In terms of silverware this year started very impressively, with the first major event being the highly anticipated House singing competition. For the part-song we sang, "Help" by The Beatles and the House song was "Hero" by Enrique Iglesias. We came out as overall winners in the whole competition, winning the part-song and coming second in the House song. It was a really fantastic effort; special mentions must go to Joshua Gentry who organised the part-song and the Huxtable brothers, Hamish and George.

The next event was one Chatham have an excellent pedigree in, the Coldstream Cup. Over the past few years we have managed to finish in the top three every time, and this year was no different, going two better than last year's third and taking the major prize. The team consisted of Kit Dixon-Smith, Jack Edmonstone, Sam Riley, Jasper Upton, Rory Knight and Thomas Johnson.

After the Coldstream Cup it was the turn of the beloved Inter-House cross country; special mentions go to Rory Knight and Kit Dixon-Smith who came fourth and seventh respectively.

The Senior House rugby competition was delayed until after the Christmas holiday due to bad weather. When it finally came around our Senior boys put in a monumental effort by winning the whole thing, beating Grafton on the way and meeting Bruce in the final, who were the huge favourites to win. We beat them five tries to one.

In the Inter-House swimming we had some fine performances with George Huxtable winning the Intermediate butterfly and Alexandre Yonan the Junior freestyle.

House hockey was another tournament in which we were joint favourites for but unfortunately we met Grafton in the semi-final and lost out narrowly.

Then we eventually got to exam season, with Senior cricket quickly upon us. We unfortunately lost to Grafton again but to no disgrace as they probably would have given some school teams a run for their money. A certain Ben Duckett was dismissed through a Dixon-Smith combo; bowled by Harry Dixon-Smith and caught by Kit Dixon-Smith. Then it was the turn of the Junior teams, who were odds-on favourites, but having reached the final we were denied the services of two of our key players George Markham, injured and Sam Riley, Congreve. With Archie Dixon-Smith scoring 80 and a cameo performance from Will Motion our Junior cricket stars were pipped at the post by Cobham.

The Senior House tennis team lost to our archrivals Grafton in the final but our Juniors went one stage better and comprehensively beat Grenville 3-0 in the final, Freddie Pope, Max Bourne, Ed Good, Tom Buxton, Archie Dixon-Smith and Harry Norris made up the three pairs. Finally in the last major House event of the year, Sports Day, the Senior boys won the trophy with a superb win in the very last event, the 4x100m relay. There were some fine individual performances: special mention should go to Nick Paine who broke the School record for high jump, jumping 1.93m, winning the long jump, and being the fourth member of the Senior boys 4x100m relay team consisting of Harry Dixon-Smith, Kit Dixon-Smith and Charlie Sargent. Jamie Ropner won the Intermediate high jump and Rex Adams won the Intermediate hurdles.

In the first term Chatham languished in seventh place for the Academic Salver but a transformation in approach saw Chatham win the salver at the end of the Lent term. There have been many other academic successes; Matteo Di Carlofelice has an offer from Imperial College to study Medicine in September. Of the 16 leavers in the Upper



HOUSES

Sixth, ten currently hold offers from the top twenty-four Russell Group universities. Currently Toby Wightman (Lower Sixth) is preparing himself for a place at Cambridge next year, we wish him well. Nine of our boys received prizes at Speech Day, with Rory Knight and Chris Parsonson collecting the Myles Henry Award for overseas travel.

It is not just in School where our boys excel and it is the variety of talents that make up a house like Chatham and a school like Stowe. Algy Stanley, (Third Form), was Junior Champion Jockey last year and has won the Anglian Championship again this year. Along with Will Motion they both featured in the Stowe Junior Shooting Team that won the National Clays Championship. Ben Barrett (Fourth Form) and Will Plant (Upper Sixth) represented the School in the Junior Karting Championships finishing third overall. Will has also won the National Junior Drivers Championship in the Morgan category. His brother Henry is the English Shooting Champion. Fergus Paske picked up the Glebe trophy for his sailing exploits. Ollie Beazley and Rory Knight have been made Joint Whips in charge of the Beagles next year and Charlie Clover continues in his campaign to secure a place in the Great Britain Junior Eventing team. Our fingers are crossed.

On stage Kit Dixon-Smith, Sam Riley and Cosmo Oliver have all played significant parts in the Senior and Junior Congreves and Chatham has been blessed with some outstanding musicians this year. Josh Gentry and Hamish Huxtable (both Upper Sixth), have given much to music at Stowe and, with the likes of George Huxtable and Will Motion, music is in good hands for the future.

I hope that I have kept the ship stable and as I hand over to another Yorkshireman, I am sure in Mr Copley's safe hands Chatham can look forward to a bright future. I am pleased to announce Harry Dixon-Smith, Rory Knight and Jasper Upton have been made School Prefects. In Chatham next year Harry Dixon-Smith will be Head of House with James Hill as his Deputy. Ed Brook Shanahan and Rory Knight will also be House Prefects.

It only leaves Elena and me to thank all the boys and parents for all your support in the short time we have been in Chatham, To Ian Findlay-Palmer, Assistant Housemaster, Ben Ponniah, Under Housemaster, Mikkel Moller, Fourth Form Tutor and Alex de Trafford, Third Form Tutor, my grateful thanks for all you have done for the boys and the support shown to me. Our support staff who keep the House tidy and in one piece and of course a special thank you to a special lady, Chrissie Curtis. She is a wonderful asset to Chatham and she should be cherished by all. Houses are as strong as the Housemaster and the Matron and Chatham have a rock in Chrissie. It has been a wonderful experience and we will miss the intensity, drama, pain and pleasure, not to mention the magnificence that is Chatham House. My one abiding memory that captures all the above was George Markham teeing off from the third and in the far distance watching helplessly as Tom Forde took a direct hit on the head and keeling over. Pain and drama at the time and intense laughter forever, thank you.

Thank you to all at Chatham for making my time in the house so interesting.

Mr Alan Hughes, Housemaster

Cobham



Housemaster: James Peppiatt
Matron: Jo Dalrymple
Assistant Housemaster: Michael Rickner
Under Housemaster: Chris Grimble
Head of House: Josiah Hartley Matthew
Deputy Head of House: Harry Consett

Senior School Prefect: Ben Wild
School Prefect: Josiah Hartley Matthew

House Prefects: Nathan Charlesworth, William Hawke, Edward Howes, Ben Wild

As veteran Housemaster colleagues advised me, nothing can quite prepare you for the first year of Housemastership, and there is no rule book for the job. How right they all were, and while my wife Jo, the children and I are all looking forward to the summer break, this has been an exciting and memorable first year as Cobham Housemaster. There are two things that have characterised Cobham for me this year. Firstly, the fundamentally affable and good-natured character of Cobhamites as a whole – the boys have welcomed us wholeheartedly, and Jo and I have hugely enjoyed getting to know them all better. What has also struck me is the diversity of talent within the House – from county sportsmen to musicians, academic scholars and dramatists, there is an overwhelming breadth and depth of skills in Cobham, and it has been a pleasure for me to see so many of the boys flourish in so many different fields.

And specific successes, both individual and as a House, bear testimony to those efforts. The Third Form began the year in fizzing style, showing their strong hockey credentials by producing an unbeaten run in the Junior House leagues. In October, there were some memorable (if exhausting) 6.30am sessions with the Coldstream Cup team, who went through several practice sessions on the assault course. I'm delighted that their dedication and dogged perseverance paid off and, for the third year running, Cobham brought back the Assault Course Cup, and set a new School record of 3.27.78. A tough one to beat, but one for the boys to set their sights on next year. The Michaelmas term also saw a spirited rendition of 'Hey Jude' in the House singing competition, and some excellent *a cappella* performances in the Cobham House part-song arrangement of 'Georgia On My Mind'. Alas, no cups for the House singing this year, but I know the Lower Sixth are already putting together the campaign for Michaelmas 2013...

The Lent term brought further success in the Junior House rugby, where the Third and Fourth Form took on Chatham in the final to produce an impressive win against a strong

opposition. The Seniors also made it into two finals, in basketball and hockey, although our rivals got the better of us in both cases (Bruce in the basketball and Grafton in the hockey). This was more than compensated for in the House swimming, however, special mention must go to Toby Pemberton, who brought home an impressive four cups for the House. In the Summer term, the highlight in terms of House team competitions has to be our wins in the Senior and Junior House cricket, where we managed to secure victory against Grafton and Chatham respectively, in two finals that showcased some of the impressive cricketing strength within the House.

The Summer term also saw the Cobham House Twelve Hour Football Marathon, organised primarily by Josiah Hartley Matthew and Ed Bensted. All boys played at least two hours on the day, with many playing for longer – one Third Former, Avijit Nair, put in an impressive five hours. The House raised just over £1,500 for the Lost Boys and Vasculitis UK charities, and my thanks to both parents and pupils for their donations and efforts on the day. We also had the At Home, with some excellent group and individual performances from our musicians – and something of an undiscovered talent in the shape of George Jackman, who gave an outstanding performance of 'Seven Nation Army' on the mike!

So, an intense but rewarding first year for a new Housemaster, and I very much hope we can have more of the same next year. My thanks to several 'key players', particularly Josiah Hartley Matthew, who has been an exceptional Head of House in leading the boys from the front and helping me to deal with the (one or two) trials and tribulations that have inevitably arisen. Thanks also to an outstanding House team of Michael Rickner (who, incidentally, managed to pick up an Oxford Blue in rugby this year), Jo Dalrymple, Chris Grimble, Peter Staples and Brendan Reilly, whose unstinting support, advice and good humour have been invaluable. And to the House cleaning staff of Debbie, Jacqui, Ann, Emma, Janet and

the handyman Tim – the House would literally fall apart without you! Lastly, my wife Jo has been nothing short of extraordinary this year. As well as holding down her own teaching job, she has found time to take care of our three children (and the dog), make sure our house remains immaculate, and take an active interest in the lives of all the boys, including having each and every one of them in

for Sunday lunch or dinner at various stages throughout the year. I know the Cobhamites appreciate her just as much as I do.

Congratulations to the whole of Cobham on all they have achieved, and I look forward to the second round in 2013-14!

Mr James Peppiatt, Housemaster



Grafton



Housemaster:	Gavin Moffat
Matron:	Terri Bosman
Assistant Housemaster:	Brendan Reilly
Under Housemaster:	James Fair
Head of House:	Will Jones
Deputy Head of House:	Henry Woodward
Senior School Prefect:	Henry Woodward
School Prefects:	Lucas Worsdell, Will Jones
House Prefects:	Oliver Findlay, Louis de Montfort, Jamie Wace

The 2012-13 academic year has once again proven to be a vintage in the Grafton annals. Academic endeavour is always at the forefront of the House priorities and it has been a constant source of pleasure for me and the House Tutors to see Grafton boys leading the way in the APG analysis. In terms of effort and engagement in their work the Grafton Lower Sixth have been outstanding with the Fifth Form and more recently the Upper Sixth following their example.

The 'work hard play hard' mentality of the House has again been greatly evident outside the classroom. I have two personal highlights of the year. The first has to be seeing Angus Tyrrell, Guy Gibson and Jack Strong grow into accomplished public speakers in the debating arena. The trio won through the first three rounds of the Inter-House Junior Debating competition before eventually defeating a talented Stanhope team in the final, urged on and supported by the whole House. The second is winning the Sports Day trophy due in no small measure to the Juniors and Intermediates winning their respective competitions and resulting in Grafton winning the overall House trophy. In a year when an old Graftonian Henry Cavill (1996-2000) played Superman in 'Man of Steel', I would like to think we had several superheroes on the track on Sports Day. Watching the Junior 4x100m relay team was pure poetry in motion.

The Senior boys have continued to win trophies and House leagues in abundance during their time at Stowe with the departing Upper Sixth having contributed hugely to the sporting success of the House – they will be sorely missed on the games field. The Senior tennis and hockey trophies, along with the rugby and football leagues, all have pride of place in the trophy cabinet. Not to be outdone, the Juniors have taken the lead from their elders and bagged the water polo league title. Just as pleasing is the arrival of a very talented Third Form who destroyed all before them *en route* to a demolition of Chatham in the final of the Inter-House rugby competition. Lastly on the sporting

front, and by no means least, is the retention of the Inter-House cross country trophy for the sixth consecutive year. This is a remarkable achievement and the one which means the most to the boys as it is the one competition in which the whole House competes. To win the competition by over 1,000 points is testament to the togetherness and camaraderie of all the boys across all five year groups. To cap off another vintage year of House sporting success, three Graftonians have represented their country this year. Jordan Onojaife represented England U18s in their successful defence of the European Rugby Cup, Jack Strong played rugby for England North at the Wellington Festival whilst Ben Duckett captained England U19s on their recent cricket tour to South Africa as well as making a first-class debut for Northants against Leicestershire, scoring 53 not out on debut.

It is a continual source of delight for me to watch the Grafton boys leaving the House at 3.30pm every afternoon for destinations all over the Stowe site. Many off to the sports pitches, some to the lake for rowing, some off swimming, others to the Equestrian Centre... what a great life they have!

The Coldstream Cup was certainly another highlight in the School and House calendar. Long hours spent training for the assault course, the long run, shoot and finally the tank pull paid off as Grafton produced their best achievement for some years. The team broke the four minute barrier for the assault course for the first time before coming in a very respectable third place overall. With some young blood in the team hopefully the boys can target next year as the time to strike for gold.

Drama is equally a passion for many a Grafton boy and it was extremely pleasing to see so many from Grafton on stage this year. Will Jones, Lucas Worsdell, Robbie Henriques and Jack Chaplin all had cameo roles in the Senior Congreve play 'Twist and Shout' whilst Luke Lindsay and Guy Gibson were equally impressive in the

Fifth Form play. With another House play in the pipeline for 2014 I am confident that amateur dramatics will continue to flourish in Grafton. As does music, with almost a third of the House taking music lessons throughout the week. Our top musician is undoubtedly Rex Roxburgh.

Looking back over the course of a School year it makes one realise just how much the boys can pack into three incredibly hectic terms and I am immensely grateful to the roles that the House Tutors (Mr Hughes, Mr Mellor, Mr Fair and Mr Young) play in guiding the boys in all aspects of their School life, both in and out of the classroom. Equally important in setting high standards within the House are the prefects who have recognised the importance

of their roles and carried them out with enthusiasm and distinction. Will Jones has been an outstanding sheriff ably supported by his deputy, Henry Woodward. Lieutenants Louis de Montfort, Oli Findlay, Jamie Wace and Lucas Worsdell have contributed to a very effective team. We bid a fond farewell to Mr Fair after his one year in House. He will be sorely missed by all the boys in House, but especially by his Third Form tutor group. We wish him a wonderful wedding day with his fiancée Hannah. Lastly, Mrs Bosman has continued to be the rock upon which Grafton is built – what a heroine along with my wife Mrs Moffat.

Mr Gavin Moffat, Housemaster



Grenville



Housemaster: Andrew Murphy
Matron: Heather Jacobs
Assistant Housemaster: Myles Nash
Under Housemaster: Stephen Dachtler
Head of House: William Drinkwater
Deputy Head of House: Joshua Maziak-Amey

Head Boy: Hugo Brooks

Senior School Prefect: William Drinkwater
School Prefect: Ben Copping

House Prefects: Hugo Brooks, Ben Copping, Ben Suthers, Artemiy Sinyukov

What can I say? Two in two! Superb congratulations to William Chatamra on being awarded Head Boy, taking over from the suave and sophisticated former Grenvillian, Hugo Brooks. Talk of the Grenville academy looking to go for three in three, could and should be on everyone's lips for 2014!

Success has been attained in many guises this year, most notably in sports throughout the year and also through many hard fought second places. Congratulations to the badminton Seniors and Juniors who literally performed a clean sweep winning both doubles competitions and also by having an all Grenville singles final for both the Seniors and Juniors! Has ever a sport been so dominated by one House? Congratulations to Christian Baldwin and James Greenley for bringing home the singles honours. The squash and fives Juniors were successful with Greenley and Tom Carr forming a formidable duo, with youthful talent of Ned Hiley and Gilles Griffiths lending able support. Artem Ioannesyan won the Intermediate table tennis competition and the Intermediates and Seniors won the inaugural 'video gamers' trophy; highlighting some of our boys' passion in the holidays! The Senior swimming team secured a hat full of trophies and set new records along the way. We have the fastest Junior and Senior in the School for athletics; with Tosin Segun and William Chatamra blasting away the competition in both their 100m and 200m events – simply breathtaking to watch!

I am privileged to announce that we had two new members of staff join the Grenville family. Myles Nash as Assistant Housemaster, along with his wife Sara and baby Poppy, have brought a welcome injection of energy, experience and sense of fun to the House. Stephen Dachtler as Under Housemaster has quickly learned the ropes, being fresh out of university, and manages to blend the talents of teaching Drama and rugby; a first I am certain.

Sadly we say farewell to Henry Swayne who leaves us as Non-Resident Tutor to be promoted up to Assistant

Housemaster in Chatham. The Grenville academy is not just for the pupils, but also for the staff it seems. I hope the boys do not hold it against Henry for becoming a Chathamite, and that there will always be Grenvillian orange blood flowing through his veins. We welcome Judy Gracie from Lyttelton who will bring her effusive energy, ten years of Housemistressing, and bountiful kindness to the boys here in Grenville.

It has been a fabulous year in Grenville with a wonderful Sixth Form shepherding the troops to success across the many spectrums of life at Stowe. William Drinkwater has been a fabulous Head of House, leading the boys by his first class example and showing great warmth and empathy along the way. Joshua Maziak-Amey has been an enthusiastic and able Deputy and between them have harmonised the House. The House prefect team of Ben Copping, Hugo Brooks, Ben Suthers and Artemiy Sinyukov were a well oiled unit, never missing a duty, have made prefect meetings on a Sunday something we all look forward to and always have a good laugh. We also say goodbye to Amana Atawodi, Christian Baldwin, Nicholas de Bruyne, Adam Jones, Arthur Lonsdale, Rayyan Nazir, Nikita Skoch, Frederick Taylor and Ibrahim Umar – a bumper year group of 15!

So what's next for the mighty Grenville? More academic success with continuing our excellent quantity of merits, always being first or second among the boys' Houses, and continued dominance in Academic Progress Grades with faultless Quality of Work and Engagement scores putting other Houses to shame. I cannot thank all the boys enough for their supreme energy levels, their enthusiasm for House, and their desire to succeed. We continue to grow together and develop, and I have to pinch myself that we are four years in; time has simply flown by. I see only more success, bundles of fun, and happy boys in abundance for the next six years.

Mr Andrew Murphy, Housemaster



Lyttelton



Housemistress: Judy Gracie
Matron: Olive Pohlmann
Assistant Housemistress: Philippa Gleave
Under Housemistress: Chelsea Wagner
Head of House: Gigi Bacon
Deputy Head of House: Georgia Stone

Head Girl: Charlotte Lechmere

School Prefects: Daisy Anderson, Rosie Marsden-Smedley, Sophie Gordon Cumming, Gigi Bacon

House Prefects: Rosie Marsden-Smedley, Sophie Gordon Cumming

Lyttelton

I was delighted with all the great achievements this year in what proved to be a long and busy time. It was the 90th Anniversary of the School and my last year in Lyttelton. On Speech Day many girls were awarded prizes and Charlotte Lechmere, our Head Girl, ensured proceedings went smoothly as well as delivering a great speech.

Lyttelton is well represented in all the sports teams and we have several fine musicians. Daisy Anderson and Gigi Bacon produced our House Play with Grenville. It was a comedy called 'Jackpot Joy' and played to full houses for three days. Many commented on how professional and polished a production it was. Flora Marriott, Annabel Wailes-Fairbairn, Lauren Carley, Priscilla Powell, Bella Kelly, Maddie Wackett and Georgia Stone all had roles. The cross country went very well with Charlotte Lechmere retaining the trophy for the Seniors. Evie Roxburgh came third and Shona Drummond and Katkin Farr were hot on her heels. In the Intermediate section Jessica Burke and Polly Stuart-Mills were in the top ten, and the first Junior girls in were Celia Marment and Poppy Moore.

Lucy Smith directed the House singing which was a

superb opportunity for all the girls to work together, and dress for the occasion in Lyttelton green ribbons and immaculate white shirts. Clarissa Llanaj played the piano accompaniment. In the part-song Helena Locke sang a solo in a small group with Anastasia Howard-Jenkins, Charlotte Lechmere, Celia Marment, Fabiola Koenig, Polly Stuart-Mills and Lucy Smith. The Coldstream Cup saw our hardy, intrepid team winning again. They stayed together and pushed each other to the limit. It was good to see some Fourth Formers, Mia Kinahan, Jess Burke and Polly Stuart-Mills, joining the more experienced Shona Drummond, Katkin Farr, Maddie Wackett, Charlotte Lechmere, Georgia Stone and Honor Turner. Shona is playing lacrosse for Scotland U19 which is a great achievement.

Arabella Coldstream played the role of Livia in the Junior Congreve 'After Juliet'. In the House swimming Elsa Desmond had a great season breaking her own records and getting four trophies. She has also been playing water polo with the boys' team. Danni Fusco-House, Rosie Williamson and Valeria Gridneva have been awarded rowing colours which is outstanding in the Fourth Form.





Savannah Courtenay is our karting champion and she is competing nationally, as is Amy Struthers who has had a great season in horse riding and eventing. We like to win the Literary Quiz but we were just beaten, our team this year was Mia Kinahan, Lucy Smith, Katkin Farr and Clarissa Llanaj. Fabiola Koenig won the XX Group Salver for her project on Fibonacci numbers. She impressed the Governors and all the staff with her lucid explanation. On Sports Day, Charlotte Lechmere won the 100m, 200m and 400m in quick succession, which was impressive and Priscilla Powell broke the shot putt record, Katkin Farr won the 800m, Pitan Aganga the long jump which along with some other placings ensured we won the Senior

trophy. Edwina Longe won the 200m and Elsa Desmond the discus. The Junior girls have now seen how Sports Day should be so I am sure they will shine next year.

Thank you to those of you who came to our At Home in November with your delicious puddings and the sunny picnic in April. Naturally I am very sad to be leaving Lyttelton this year and I can honestly say it has been the best job, with never a dull moment. The laughter and fun we have had in the House far outweigh any problems or worries. I will still be at Stowe and able to keep interest in how the girls' careers progress.

Mrs Judy Gracie, Housemistress



Nugent



Housemistress: Jayne Duckett
Matron: Marian Gallick
Assistant Housemistresses: Ellie Donaldson and Vicky Kinmond
Under Housemistress: Natasha Lodge
Head of House: Lucy-May Wallis
Deputy Head of House: Imogen O'Brien

Senior School Prefects: Sophie Woodhead and Liberty King
School Prefects: Mariá Bartolomé, Tilly Salvin, Ella Johnson, Lucie Wellington, Imogen O'Brien, Paola Cymet Monroy

House Prefects: Mariá Bartolomé, Tilly Salvin, Paola Cymet Monroy, May-May Lee

There are so many debates in society about the death of the art of communication and whether we have lost a sense of unity because of the chatter that goes on behind a screen nowadays. Twitter, Facebook, and all other forms of social media are splitting the old and the young and even my own children laugh at me because I cannot multi task or rather I cannot walk and send a text. I mention this only because the greatest concern we (and parents) had at the start of the academic year was based around our split site and whether we would be able to engineer any sense of belonging for our small Third Form group. Would the Sixth Form be willing to get to know them and would the Third Form feel comfortable about being in the main House with 45 older girls? Can there be unity within diversity?

The girls have created a fierce loyalty and a sense of spirit that has brought with it a list of trophies. However, there are probably two competitions that should be mentioned, The Coldstream Cup is the one demanding a true sense of character; early morning runs, battles with the mind as they sometimes overcome fear of small places in the tunnel and an unwillingness on the day to admit they are beaten. Watching Liberty King being sick but carrying on running to get the team across the line doesn't happen at many girls' schools in the country. So under the captaincy of Lizzie Gilson winning that trophy for the second year was sweetness itself. House swimming is another and of course this year we had our Juniors competing. We were offered a spectacle of talent as our captains Holly Campbell and Ella Johnson pushed their teams to the limit and walked away with 15 trophies on the day. Holly broke three school records in the 50m butterfly, breaststroke and Individual Medley in the process.

Academically a number of them have received truly spectacular results to date and special congratulations go to Sophie Woodhead (Cambridge - Medicine) and Liberty King (Oxford - Theology). All our Upper Sixth have worked hard to get offers to a whole host of top universities and my fingers are crossed for results day. Skye Longworth

was the worthy recipient of the Junior Scholar prize on Speech Day and our Third Form have just totalled 41 As and 26 A*s in their end of term exams! Two of our Third Form are part of the Junior XX Group and a number of our Lower Sixth have been a part of The Headmaster's Essay Society with hopes of applying to Oxbridge next term.

On the artistic side we have many contributing to Drama, Music and Art. We watched Jess Tomson and Tilly Salvin deliver on the stage in 'Twist and Shout' as well as Ivy Freeman-Attwood in 'After Juliet'. The Mozart Trio prize saw Frankie Stevens win the coveted prize for her emotional and mature performance, Hannah Dixon win second prize, Sophie Woodhead, Senior Brass prize and Lucy-May Wallis, Senior Keyboard prize. Taylor Silk entertained us in true Glastonbury style down by the lakes in Unplugged and our musicians went to St John's Smith Square to perform 'Dido and Aeneas'. However, a word has to be mentioned for Frankie Steven's performance at Speech Day, where there was not a dry eye in the House, I promise!

Our artists continue to impress; Lizzie Gilson was awarded the Art prize at Speech Day along with May-May Lee the Design prize and Sophia Last has just returned from Cambridge following her Curwen Print Scholarship award.

At the end of this year, thanks must go to my School Prefects; Sophie Woodhead, Lucie Wellington, Ella Johnson, Tilly Salvin, Mariá Bartolomé, Immy O'Brien, Paola Cymet Monroy and Liberty King. The impressive long list suggests how magnificent my Upper Sixth have been and the contributions they have made to School and House will not be forgotten. My Head of House, Lucy-May Wallis has been a true role model from start to finish, conscious of the need to look after the Juniors and providing a positive atmosphere alongside her Prefect team (Tilly, Mariá, Paola, Immy and May-May). None of the above successes this year would have been possible without a very strong staff team in House. In particular I would like



to single out Vicky Kinmond who leaves us for Cheltenham Ladies' College – we wish her all the best. Ellie Donaldson has made a terrific impact on the Third Form in the Annexe and we will miss her so much and of course Marian Gallick for her tireless devotion to the girls in both Houses.

And so to end our initial year – there is no doubt that we

have all risen to the challenge. I will never be able to text and walk – but our girls do feel a sense of belonging and we are a better House for the 11 girls that came to us last September so thank you for putting up with a split site and thank you to everyone who made it work!

Mrs Jayne Duckett, Housemistress



Queen's



Housemistress:	Jane Hamblett-Jahn
Matron:	Anne Reading
Assistant Housemistress:	Lucy Ashe
Under Housemistress:	Hannah Knott
Head of House:	Laura Welford
Deputy Head of House:	Charlie Bradshaw and Hatty Comyn
Resident Tutor:	Emily Sinclair
Non-resident Tutor:	Carol Miller
Senior School Prefect:	Becca Dale
School Prefects:	Hatty Comyn and Becca Dale
House Prefects:	Issy Berner, Charlie Bradshaw, Hatty Comyn, Siana Vere Nicoll, Laura Welford

I'm often asked what makes Queen's different and whilst it's tempting to reply that Queen's girls are simply special – in some cases very special – I try to explain that the girls are bright and sparky, determined and eager to do well and are always willing to have a go. Once again the Warriors Trip had a huge impact on the Lower Sixth who won a place. Lily Comyn, Georgie Jack and Charlotte Berrill packed their rucksacks in October and Lettice Carter coped with being the only girl among the 14 Stoics who flew to Johannesburg in February. A number of our Fifth Form have now submitted their applications for next academic year and so have been cataloguing their achievements, personality traits and talents in an attempt to persuade the Headmaster to send them off to South Africa to get up at 5am each day for a run and then jump out of an aeroplane or off a bridge before working in an orphanage or an animal sanctuary – you get the picture. I'm sure Caroline Schaufelberger and Heloise Kleinwort will be similarly challenged by their Myles Henry Award trip to Romania this summer where they will be volunteering in a care home.

The Upper Sixth hold university offers from Russell group universities to read English, English and Film, Spanish and Portuguese, Law, Art History, History, Philosophy and Spanish and three of them are off to top Art schools for foundation courses. A number of Queen's girls were up on stage to receive School prizes for Drama, English, French, History of Art, Latin, Politics and Spanish. Fingers crossed for results day in August. The Lower Sixth are similarly ambitious and have started their round of university open days and visits. Congratulations to both Heloise Kleinwort and Ilona Ecott for coming joint second in the Lower Sixth individual projects competition at the end of term. A number of girls have found themselves on the list to have a celebratory supper with the Headmaster after nearly every set of APGs and huge numbers have featured regularly in dispatches for coming in the top 20 in their year. Having won the Senior Debating Competition last year the heat

was on this year and both our Junior, Rosie Dickson, Hannah Tilleard and Claudia Wace and Senior teams, Charlie Bradshaw, Lily Comyn, Ilona Ecott and Bella Wallersteiner, made it to the semi-finals.

We have quite a number of talented musicians in the House who contribute a huge amount to the School. We are represented in Chapel choir, chamber choir, orchestra, wind band, horn group, string orchestra and quartet. We also managed to persuade Charlie Bradshaw, who usually shies away from public performances, and Becca Dale and Siana Vere Nicoll to sing at the House Picnic and enjoyed hearing Siana and Ilona Ecott sing at Plugged In too. Charlie and Siana directed Queen's entries in the House singing competition back in October and we came third with our Unison song 'Mr Postman' and part-song 'Mr Sandman'.

Queen's girls' drive and determination is reflected in the House competitions that we have won this year. We dominated cross country winning the Intermediates, Seniors and overall team competitions. Annabel Simpson won the Junior race setting a new School record of 9.06 minutes and Annabel Rushton and Tilda Bevan came first and second in the Intermediates race. We were similarly impressive on Sports Day where we won the Juniors, Intermediates and overall Girls winner team trophies. Stand out performances came from Captain Caroline Schaufelberger who won the Senior 1500m by 25 seconds, Thalia Felton who won the Junior 100m, hurdles and long jump and Annabel Simpson who set a new record in the Junior 800m and won the 200m. Congratulations also go to Ellie Clark, Georgia Alderton, Leli Zivanovic, Jeanie Gibbs, K-J Cecile-Pritchard, Annie Brunette-Jacobs and Alice Hughes who all won events. My thanks also go to all those non-specialists who slotted in to complete the team and gave of their very best on the day. This willingness to turn out for the House is really tested each year at the House swimming and yet again the girls came up trumps even though only Hannah Tilleard and Annie Brunette-



Jacobs came away with silverware.

In the team sports we won the Junior and Intermediate House hockey tournaments in tightly contested competitions but had to live with second place in the Seniors competition (much to Laura Welford's chagrin). We also won the Junior and Intermediate lacrosse and netball and came second in both Senior competitions and the Third Form won the basketball too. Quite a number of the Queen's girls are representing their counties and even regions in hockey, lacrosse and netball. On a lighter note, our pancake tossers, Carmen Thompson Perea, Tonya Kozhukhova, Ellie Clark, Caroline Schaufelberger, Heloise Kleinwort and Miss Knott, retained the coveted golden frying pan (Mr Murphy's art work leaves something to be desired) having sprinted at full pelt around the North Front triangle tossing crêpes. Our Coldstream Cup team, Ellie Holt, Caroline Schaufelberger, K-J Cecile-Pritchard, Jeanie Gibbs, Leli Zivanovic, Thalia Felton, Annabel Simpson and Carmen Thompson Perea, managed a good time on the assault course and a really excellent run only to

find that we couldn't do the lake crossing so the run didn't count towards the final scores. There's always next year...

Queen's girls have enjoyed treading the boards this year in our House production of Jean Anouilh's 'The Orchestra', directed by Issy Berner and Miss Sinclair, the Fifth Form production of 'Gizmo' by Alan Ayckbourn, Senior Congreve's 'Twist and Shout' by Amanda Whittington and most recently Junior Congreve's 'After Juliet' by Sharman Macdonald which saw really strong performances from our own Saskia Satchell, Leli Zivanovic, Laura Brogden, Thalia Felton, Emily Osborne and Laurine Heerema.

The Leavers go with all our very best wishes for the future and we also say farewell and thank you to Miss Hardy and to Miss Knott, who takes up the post of Assistant Housemistress in Nugent. Matron and I have continued our stand-up routine in House meetings and I owe her and the staff team an extra special thanks for all their help, support and hard work.

Mrs Jane Hamblett-Jahn, Housemistress



Stanhope



Housemistress: Sue Harmon
Matron: Lynn Smith
Assistant Housemistress: Gemma Bonner
Under Housemistress: Julie Johnson
Head of House: Ellie Pinnock
Deputy Head of House: Chloë Last, Ella May Sangster

Senior School Prefect: Ellie Pinnock
School Prefects: Chloë Last, Ella May Sangster, Sophie Merrell, Louisa Gibbs

House Prefects: Sophie Merrell, Louisa Gibbs, Jahnai Hall, Alicia Cranwell

"Education is not the filling of the pail, but the lighting of the fire." William Butler Yeats

At the start of the academic year we welcomed Mrs Bonner (née Fordham), as our Assistant Housemistress; newly wed to Barney over the summer, and their spaniel Jerry. Emma Whiting and Izzy Le Fevre joined as new Lower Sixth girls and Thuli Thabethe, Fourth Form, joined us from South Africa as one of this year's Scholars, and in addition, fifteen new Third Formers completed the largest House on the block. With 74 wonderful girls in Stanhope there were certainly plenty of fires to be lit. And so it was, as the first weekend passed in a flurry of footballing brilliance, we swept the board with wins in every age category of the Inter-House football competition. I am not sure it was so much 4-4-2 tactics, more to do with plucky determination.

Academic success from all quarters ensured that we retained the Academic Salver this year, with the Senior girls achieving the most merits amongst the Houses. Shannon Devlin along with Emma Whiting and Imo Wallersteiner achieved a top set of Academic Progress Grades in all three categories. During the Summer term, Speech Day saw nine of our girls achieve ten academic prizes from various departments across the School, with the Headmaster's special prizes being awarded to Ellie Pinnock, Ella May Sangster and Sena Öztosun.

Further success has come our way, but not without some closely fought battles. Chloë Last led us to a fine victory in the Unison section of the singing competition and we gained second place in the part-song. There will be some big boots for Clara Holden and Coco Anthony to fill next year. Musically, success has come in many forms with memorable performances, in particular the duet by Molly Suthers and George Huxtable and solos by Shannon Devlin and Theo Briggs at the special Plugged In concert organised by Harry Gregson-Williams, memories which will stay with us for years to come.

Setting the standard for others to aspire to, Lucy Horan, Captain of the 1st lacrosse team, was also selected to play for the England U19 Squad. Lucy also marks her place historically as the first Stanhopian to become Head Girl, taking the mantle for the academic year 2013-14. However, the Third Form are also not without talent and Octavia Cavill has proven herself to be a strong and gifted sports woman excelling in hockey, lacrosse, tennis and athletics. Her achievements this year have been outstanding. At the tender age of 14 she has successfully played 1st team lacrosse for Stowe, achieved third place in the 'Road to Wimbledon' national tennis matches and amazed us all on Sports Day by breaking not only the Junior but also the Senior girls' high jump record. Watch this space for more achievements from this very talented young lady. Lucy Shamash and Amelia Bowder headed up second and third place in the cross country run and Camilla Morandotti has shown us what she is made of in the swimming pool. Although I am limited to one page, and could name each girl individually I would like to highlight just a few further achievements in other areas; Rebecca Wild won first place in the rowing quad at the Birmingham Regatta, Alicia Cranwell completed a rugby refereeing course, the only girl to do so and Izzy Le Fevre is awarded the position of Stowe's first girls' fencing captain for 2013-14, Molly Suthers achieved Grade Seven in ballet and Anastasia Beck achieved an Advanced Certificate with distinction for the flute.

For those of us lucky enough to attend what can only be described as the highlight of the year, The Charity Fashion Show, in aid of The Cancer Vaccine Institute, organised single-handedly by Ella May Sangster, we were dazzled not only by our glamorous Stoic models but also by the professionalism of this outstandingly successful evening. Ella May raised a staggering £5,000+. Further charity money has also been raised by Marina and Lucy Oswald and Molly Suthers who recently ran a 5km 'Race for Life', raising almost £2,000 for Cancer Research. Closer to home

the House organised a ‘Cocktails, Crafts and Canapés’ evening where, thanks to the generosity of the parents, we managed to collect £1,000 for the ‘Twins’ Schools Charity, which the House is supporting.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our Upper Sixth Form girls, eleven of whom started in our brand new palace as Third Formers five years ago. Amongst the Upper Sixth I would like to thank Ellie Pinnock for her dedication to her role as Head of House, leading a team of caring and able Prefects; Chloë Last, Ella May Sangster, Alicia Cranwell,

Sophie Merrell, Louisa Gibbs and Jahnai Hall who have all helped with the smooth running of the many Inter-House events, prep times and bed settling. I would also like to thank my wonderful Stanhope staff, whose continued excellent pastoral care has been unfaltering. My sincere thanks go to Gemma Bonner, Julie Johnson, Elena Hughes, Sharon Carter and Lynn Smith. A final thank you goes to the cleaning and maintenance staff who work tirelessly to keep the House in such good order.

Mrs Sue Harmon, Housemistress



Temple



Housemaster: Anthony Macpherson
Matron: Pamela Dennison
Assistant Housemaster: Gwilym Jones
Under Housemaster: William Hearne
Head of House: Harry Warden
Deputy Head of House: Freddie FitzHerbert

School Prefects: Freddie FitzHerbert, Wyn Clayton and Vagan Khranyan

House Prefects: Harry Warden, Freddie FitzHerbert, Wyn Clayton, Mungo Kilgour and Vagan Khranyan

Even though I have lived on site for two years, with such extensive grounds here, I still occasionally come across monuments and sculptures for the first time. In a similar way, Temple boys often display abilities and interests that I was previously unaware of. As such, my sense of Stowe is increasingly of a school where impressive endeavours are hidden around every corner and the discovery of these is one of the great privileges of running a House here. I never cease to be impressed by the way the boys in Temple strive to make the most of opportunities available to them, recording significant personal successes along the way. With this in mind I asked the boys to tell me their proudest individual achievements of the year in order to complement the Housemaster's bias with which I begin.

Temple has enjoyed another busy and rewarding year and the boys have contributed to the House and the School in a variety of ways. The stand-out achievements for the House have been our victories in some of the competitions: The Literature Quiz, squash, swimming, Senior fives, Junior dodgeball, Fourth Form football and we must not forget the pancake race around the North Front on Shrove Tuesday. We also finished second in the water polo, Junior

basketball and the Senior Debating. Incidentally, the Third Form managed to construct the "sturdiest shelter" during the Bushcraft Weekend at the start of the year – so the future Ray Mears may very well be in our midst. All of these serve to reinforce the fact that we are a House comprised of many talented individuals, but from my point of view it is far more rewarding to see that the boys are keen to participate together because of the strong sense of allegiance and pride that they feel in the House.

That said, genuine achievement is bound to be a relative term so some of the personally significant moments in the boys' own words can be seen opposite. Now for the first time, as a parent myself, I appreciate the joy of seeing one's child performing to the best of their ability and gaining confidence through achieving something new, even if this consists largely of rolling around on the living room floor. The individual boys and the House together have taken great strides forward this year and as ever I am indebted to my fantastic House team who help to maintain this forward momentum.

Mr Anthony Macpherson, Housemaster



Getting to the final of the Headmaster's Poetry Recital Competition

Being selected for the School's fencing team

Getting 74% in my end of year Maths paper

Scoring five tries in half a match for the 3rd XV

Passing Grade eight on the trumpet with Merit

Acting the lead role in the Fifth Form play

Getting 87% in my end of year History exam

Getting an A in my Art exam

Being made a School Prefect

Competing in the Mozart Trio Prize

Cycling from Coast to Coast

Breaking the School 2000m Steeplechase record

Being made a House Prefect

Getting into the 1st team for tennis

Passing my Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Setting up a recycling scheme for the House

Being promoted from the 4th XI straight to the 2nd XI in cricket and taking three catches in my first match

Captaining the Colts A football team

Coming third in the 1500m on Sports Day

Playing in the Junior Unplugged Concert

Winning the javelin on Sports Day

Coming second in a national essay competition with a piece on Herculaneum and managing to utilise the longest word in the English language in the process: pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis (a lung disease caused by the inhalation of very fine silica dust)



Walpole



Housemaster: Pete Last
Matron: Terry Saunders
Assistant Housemaster: Kevin Ryce
Under Housemaster: Tom Higham
Head of House: Alex Levett-Scrivener
Deputy Head of House: Jamie Lemos

School Prefects: Alex Levett-Scrivener, Josh Dickinson, Jamie Lemos

House Prefects: Alex Norton, Josh Dickinson, Orlando Whitehead, George Barham

Walpole has had a successful year in all aspects of the House, in particular through academic achievements and sporting successes.

Firstly, the academics of the House get stronger and stronger every year; this has been shown through the ever improving APGs which have been consistent in each year from Third Form through to Upper Sixth; alongside this were the January module results which looked promising in leading to getting well deserved grades in the summer for GCSEs and A Levels.

Secondly, the sporting results in the House have remained consistently good, beating off much competition in many sports including coming second overall in the challenging Inter-House cross country. The Third Form were outstanding in House swimming, comfortably winning the Junior age division by winning seven events, many of them superb individual performances from Hamish Graham-Campbell. Not to be outdone in the pool, the Fifth and Sixth Form water polo team were also victorious in the Inter-House water polo. As is always the case in Walpole,

the boys who are representing the House give 100% whether they are drawn against the eventual Inter-House champions in Inter-House rugby or they are battling the wind and rain on the South Front in the Inter-House volleyball competition. Next year we will be trying to win even more trophies, not least the highly prized Coldstream Cup, which was snatched from our grasp this year by a faulty rescue boat at the lake crossing.

One of the undoubted highlights of this year has been House Drama. Earlier this year, we put on a production of 'Blackout' by Davey Anderson, a tense, biographical play based on the true story of a young man embroiled in drugs and alcohol who turned on his own mother. The cast was Isaac Ajala, Sizwe Mntambo, Will Lewis, Alfie Marsden-Smedley, Will Hulbert, George Gill, Patrick Robinson, Josh Choi, Josh Dickinson and Orlando Whitehead. This was a very intense play which the ensemble cast performed superbly well, bringing many of their audiences to tears. In such a play it is hard to single out individual boys, but the main character (James) was played really sensitively by Orlando Whitehead, with some really powerful cameos





from Alfie Marsden-Smedley and Patrick Robinson. Isaac Ajala led the 'Greek Chorus' narration with solemnity and tremendous strength. It was great to see Orlando and Isaac then selected for main roles in Senior and Junior Congreve respectively.

I would like to thank all members of staff for all their valued efforts over the past year whether it has been through duties in the evenings and being great Tutors. I would like to make a special mention of Mr Ryce who has served five happy years in Walpole, and wish him the best of luck for the future in his new job and beyond.

This year's Walpole Cup for the best all-round contribution by a Third Former was won by Piers Edinborough and The Walpudlian Cup for the best all-round contribution by any boy was won by Jamie Lemos. Both of these trophies are voted for exclusively by the boys, with no input from staff. I wish to thank Alex Levett-Scrivener, Jamie Lemos and all of the departing Upper Sixth for their contributions to the House this past year. Head of House next year is Harry Pettifer, with Cameron O'Brien as Deputy.

Mr Pete Last, Housemaster and Alex Levett-Scrivener, Head of House



Diary Entry of Hetty Sorrel

Dear Diary,

I don't know how to feel. Everything is going to be gone soon and I'm truly terrified. When they announced my death, I didn't want to believe it, I couldn't believe it. I couldn't breathe, I felt like my throat was closing up as I thought of my life being snatched away from me.

I've been in this dark jail cell for around an hour now, although it feels like I've been here forever. I am now just waiting to be taken to my death. Wondering whether Adam will come see me, just thinking about him makes me want to scream. I betrayed him, I used him. He was completely devoted to me and I used that love. And the baby, it's an unbearable ache in my heart, thinking about such a sick thing. I killed my own child, it was a part of me and I destroyed it. I still hear its screams, its helpless cries, its cries for protection I was meant to provide.

At the time, it seemed as if I had no other option, I would have been an outcast in the village, and so would the child. It looked as if the only way I could keep my life perfect was to end another's, putting it like that, I realise how disgusting and selfish it was. I can only blame Arthur now, even though this whole thing isn't his fault. I know I have made his life a misery too; he had an affair with a killer. And despite all of what he's done, loved me, used me, abandoned me and the baby, I still miss him, which is so wrong. I am meant to love Adam and Adam only, but I can't help thinking about him, and missing him, and wishing that he'd care the same about me that I do about him. I think, maybe he'll come see me? But what kind of a man in decent mind would visit the woman that has turned his life upside down?

It's not like I have much time to grieve, it will all be over soon, maybe I can look at death optimistically, I can't live with myself, I killed an innocent child. I am close to God, he is real and true to me, but now that death is so close, I keep having thoughts, unthinkable thoughts. What if there's nothing after death? What if I just become a faint memory of a sick criminal who gave birth to a bastard and killed her own child? I can only pray that God sees the good in me and I do not go to hell. But now I'm not sure if there even is one.

I don't want to accept that I shall die. I keep thinking that some miracle will stop me from dying. I keep thinking that maybe this is all a terrible dream and I will wake up in Arthur's, I mean Adam's arms and I'll be safe from death. But I know, this is real, it's really happening. I am the convict and I am going to be hung. People will be celebrating my death, and thanking God that a sick woman is off the Earth and in hell where she belongs. Perhaps my family will be too, happy I'm gone. No, of course they'll miss me. Does he? Does Arthur? Is he thinking of me? Is he worrying about my death? Or is he too thankful that I'm out of his life, that I won't come back to him, be searching for him. Things for him would be so much easier if I just became a memory.

So diary, I finish with a goodbye, this will be my final entry. I don't know what is going to happen to me, where I'm going to go, what will be done with you, diary, but I only hope that I'll be remembered as the woman I was before all of this, not the woman I've become. Goodbye.

Celia Marment (Third Form)

The lost track

Past memories of iron and steam are trapped in the undergrowth,
60 years linger in the leaves,
An infantry of fireweed now hold the redundant secrets of battle,
While layers of fallen comrades are concealed by decades of decay,
Oak veterans whisper regretful accounts of their forgotten friends,
This is where nature starts, and the railway ends.

The railway's abandoned, but traces are left,
Footprints in mud, and sleepers, and iron,
No point returning, let nature take hold,
The war is long over, and the plants have won.
There is a strange beauty that some can see,
The plants wave a wild tapestry,
And if you could see it – then and now,
You would be staggered, and wonder “how?”
The railway's abandoned, but traces are left,
The line has ended. The railway is dead.

Euan Mitchell (Royal Latin)
Clarissa Llanaj (Third Form)
Jack Good (Winchester House)

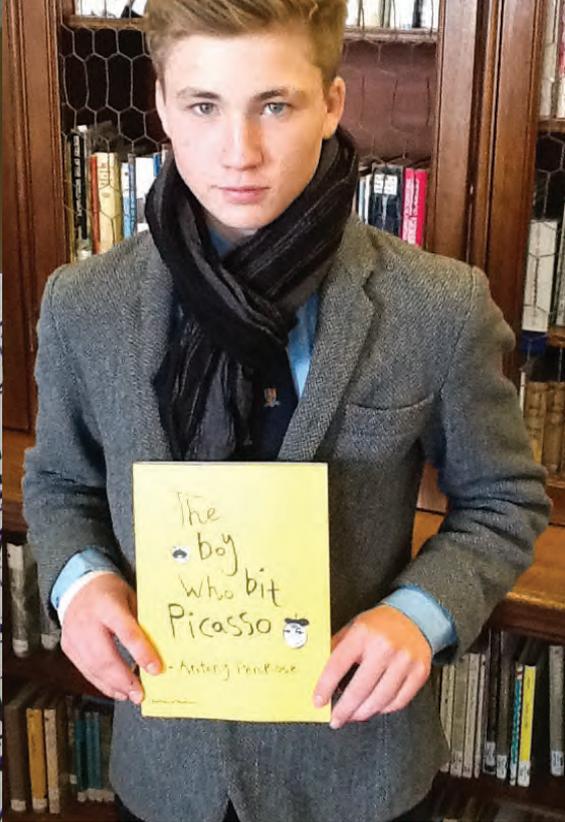


Sonnet

My love for you is great, each single day,
All caring is my duty, if you wish,
Treats are what I give you, if you obey,
Or if it is your birthday; a nice dish.
A wash now and then, a brush of your fur,
A meal for the morning, one later too,
If you need walking, then outside we merge,
You may be sleeping: I'll have to make do,
And now you see the level I devote,
So does what I say become crystal clear?
But what you may say, I cannot now quote,
As your language is myst'ry to who's near,
Yet you are the one, that one perfect cog,
And you're in my life, my one perfect dog.

Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson (Fourth Form)





Third Form

Early on in the Michaelmas term, each of us arrived back from afternoon games to find a mysterious envelope resting on our desks. Little did we know that these nondescript envelopes, which contained invitations for us to join the XX Group, actually foretold the challenges that we would face through the course of this academic year, opportunities which would stretch our intellects and reform our perceptions of the world.

The year having now passed, we are grateful to have faced those challenges. The year was filled with XX meetings every Thursday evening, when we talked in depth about everything and anything, thanks to various presenters coming in to talk to us about their range of unique and interesting passions; practical sessions investigating the nature of Yoga were balanced with discussions on Philosophy and lectures on Japanese animation and sustainable food supplies.

There were also regular trips to look forward to, all extremely stimulating, in which we would venture out to a carefully chosen selection of locations. Expeditions started early to avoid traffic and included visits to the Royal Courts

of Justice (for a mock trial in the Admiralty Court – replete with wigs and gowns), the British Library and St Paul's Cathedral, as well as a backstage tour of the Les Misérables set and a private tour of the tailoring workshops of Huntsman on Savile Row. Yet, some memories are stronger than the others: on top of Elizabeth Tower, standing aside Big Ben, we looked out over London from the bell tower and heard the sounds of London masked through the faces of its legendary clock. On a personal level, the most affecting experiences were an opportunity to engage in a reading programme with pupils at the local primary school on World Book Day, and an evening picnic on Dragon's Hill, facing the Stone Age White Horse at Uffington.

The highlight of the year though must have been our presentations, in which we each spoke to Stoics, staff, parents and visitors in the Marble Saloon on 18 varied and different topics: Market Trading at the Grand Bazaar, the Contagious Nature of Yawning, Applications of the Fibonacci Number Sequence, inter alia. The presentations were very slick and engaging, and the vast majority of the visitors were enthralled by the knowledge imparted in interesting and innovative ways.

The XX Group

Fourth Form

It has been another busy year for the Fourth Form XX Group. The Michaelmas term was focused primarily on inviting in Heads of Department to the weekly meetings to impart their knowledge about anything they were interested in. Mr Goldsmith came to speak about the influence and variety of the Media, Mr Talbot Rice spoke to the group about his experiences of working in, living in and travelling around Afghanistan, Mrs Capurro spoke to the group about Current Affairs and Mr Perriss came and ran a very emotive and interactive 'World Debt Game'. The Michaelmas term was supplemented by a visit to the British Museum to see the world renowned 'Hajj: Journey to the centre of the world' exhibition. The rest of the year

was spent carrying on with highly energised debates about philosophical and current affair questions as well as the group pitting their wits against the occasional MENSA puzzle! There were three more trips for the group as the year progressed. They attended the British Museum twice more to visit the 'Shakespeare' exhibition and the much publicised 'Pompeii and Herculaneum' exhibition. The group also accompanied some German exchange pupils to Oxford for the day and enjoyed a guided tour of the city and some colleges by Mr Goldsmith.

The group has been engaging and enthusiastic throughout the year and I wish them the very best of luck as they enter the final year of their GCSEs, as many begin their journey towards excellent grades and ultimately some of the best universities in the country.

Mr Michael Rickner



Pitt Society

not only managed to pass on his great enthusiasm for his subject but also his abundant knowledge of Stowe and its history, something for which the whole Society is grateful.

Many of the enriching talks have been followed by thoroughly enjoyable dinners, where pupils have had an opportunity to meet the speakers in a more relaxed atmosphere. The McElwee lecture stands out as a particular highlight and it must be said that the Stowe catering department have not faulted in consistently delivering superb cuisine.

Often members of the Society have expressed their thanks by contributing themselves, be it sharing an area of history they are particularly fond of, or by extending invitations to guests to present to the group. Notably Oscar Page successfully delivered an interesting overview of the reign of Attila the Hun. Lucy Smith and Ben Suthers also produced an equally commendable presentation on the Napoleonic Wars. Overall the Pitt Society has been overwhelmingly successful and will undoubtedly continue to attract the keen intrigue of history pupils. Finally, I would like to thank, on behalf of the Society, Mr Hayden whose commitment to the Society and relish for its meetings have been essential to its success and continued running.

Ben Wild (Upper Sixth)



This year the Pitt Society has continued to nurture Stoics' passion and interest for history. With weekly meetings, open to all Sixth Form historians, the Society explores exciting events, periods and movements from the past and encourages independent thought and debate. Regular external talks and occasional trips have also been stimulating features of the Society. This year, highlights include a thrilling trip to Oxford with Mr Lewis to hear a debate on Stalin and an exhilarating lecture about the continuing story of Civil Rights in America. The visit of Steven Gunn, an eminent 16th Century historian, to Stowe also attracted school wide interest and his talk on accidents in 16th Century England left listeners positively captivated. A regular guest speaker this year has been the colourful Mr Rudolph, a former Head of History at Stowe. He has



This is the second year of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust support group at Stowe. Last year the group arranged for the School to adopt animals at the Trust and sold refreshments at events to the extent that we were able to send the Trust £2,500. It was hard to find a new approach for this year but the team's creativity and willingness to volunteer was incredible. Part of the focus of the year was to explore Gerald Durrell's autobiographical bestseller, "My Family and Other Animals", with a view to encouraging its reintroduction in schools. Three Third Form English sets studied it and some wonderful artwork was created by Martina Fidanova, Dima Georgieva, Petra Nenkov and Will Lewis with a view to enlivening teaching resources for the book. As usual, members of the support group also sold refreshments throughout the year on various occasions to raise further funds, with great success on Fireworks Night. However, it was the brilliant idea of Ezzy Abdy Collins and Jac Candler to have a raffle and an auction on Speech Day, and the Headmaster's kindness in allowing us the platform, which was the outstanding success of the year, and particularly due to the generosity of the prize givers: Mrs Emma Abdy Collins for a week in Camel Quarry House in Cornwall; Mr and Mrs Moor for sharing their box in the O2 Arena to see Michael Bublé; Mr and Mrs Jessel for a week in their villa in France; Mr and Mrs Burke for two nights in the Atlantic Hotel, Jersey; Mr and Mrs Whitmore for a night in their box in the Royal Albert Hall; and Mr and Mrs Parsonson for a week in the Chalet Khamariah in Switzerland. James Fair's donation of his GB Olympic hockey shirt (signed by the squad) and many other member of staff's great kindness also deserve mention and thanks. Overall we have made more than £10,000 for the Durrell Trust this year. Huge thanks to all the crew, and in particular Jac Candler and Ezzy Abdy Collins whose selflessness, generosity and enthusiasm have really made that happen.

Mr Bob Roberts

Durrell Society

Literary Society



A production for Five Voices

In October, Daphne Wright recalled her humble beginnings as an editor and her initial forays into life as a novelist. She then regaled us with uproarious accounts of how her career brought her into unlikely and sometimes scandalous situations, before being bombarded with probing questions from Stoics.

At the end of November we received a comprehensive analysis of the six different endings of Charles Dickens' 'Great Expectations'. Professor John Drew of Buckingham University demonstrated to us how, with subtle adjustments to the word order and to certain key words, Dickens finessed the tone for the conclusion of his masterpiece and radically altered the reader's perception of the future of the protagonist, Pip.

In the midst of mass snowball fights, aborted lessons, and other carnage ensuing from a dousing of snow in January, Ash Dickinson arrived at Stowe, a multiple poetry slam champion who draws on hip-hop and intricate word-play to craft humorous, often satirical, works. With such natural and deceptively intuitive lyrics, it was sometimes difficult to differentiate between Ash's poems and his unpretentious explanations of anecdotes which inspired him.

In February, a dramatic presentation about the life of Lee Miller, the Surrealist photographer, model and war correspondent was complemented by the exhibition of her photographs in the Art School. A production for five voices, compiled by Miller's only child, Antony Penrose, involved a slide show displaying over 400 photographs taken by Lee and her husband, photographer Roland Penrose. We shared the intimate journey of her life through her early career as a model in Manhattan for magazines such as *Vogue*, her involvement in the Surrealist movement with such figures as Man Ray and Picasso and her reincarnation as a war correspondent in 1944-45 before she transformed herself into a more "domestic" writer in her latter years.

The rich diversity of American culture was illustrated in March by three short papers presented by the members of the Committee. Oscar Page focused on 'No Country for Old Men', a novel by Cormac McCarthy filmed by the Coen Brothers; Orlando Whitehead discussed Jack Kerouac's beat-generation classic, 'On the Road'; and Ed Bensted introduced us to political oratory, including celebrated speeches from Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King. Because the three speakers so obviously cared



deeply about these texts, their enthusiasm was infectious.

On a beautiful April evening, about sixty Stoics and staff assembled at the Queen's Temple to celebrate Shakespeare's 449th birthday. With the Temple, the south-facing steps and the grass below them as the performance area, the audience was treated to a comic sketch, a selection of sonnets, a piano duet, two extracts from 'The Merchant of Venice', a performance of an original poem, the lovers' argument from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and a country dance to round off the Shakespeare-themed performances. The last words were Prospero's 'Our revels now are ended' spoken as the light waned in the west.

In May, critically-acclaimed biographer Paula Byrne introduced us to her work, 'The Real Jane Austen: A Life in Small Things.' With buoyant energy, Ms Byrne dispelled the notion that Jane Austen had led a quaint and uneventful life in provincial England. Instead, with an intricate investigation of artefacts which had sentimental significance to Austen, Ms Byrne revealed the author as a charismatic figure who was not afraid of making outrageous jokes and speaking (or rather, writing) her mind with nonchalant dry wit.

To conclude the year's programme, two nights before Speech Day, there was a gala dinner for the Literary Society leavers, with home-grown entertainments including recitations, songs, a performance of a sequence from Milton's 'Paradise Lost' Book IX, a sketch based on 'King Lear' and a comic re-enactment of the blood-bath at the end of 'Hamlet'.

Ed Bensted, Oscar Page and Orlando Whitehead (Committee); Dr Paul Miller (Chair)



Oxford Society

This is the second year of the premier Sixth Form Arts and Culture club and we have extended our range accordingly. One of the early highlights was a trip to see Alibi Theatre's production of 'Curiosity Shop' at the Oxford Playhouse, a modernised re-imagining of the story which in 1841 had New York shipyard workers shouting up to English sailors 'Is Little Nell still alive?', as the last instalment of Dickens' novel arrived. Lively, inventive and powerful, the excellent cast expertly wrapped us all up in poor Nell's hard world. A wholly different, visually mesmerising 'Life of Pi' at the cinema was equally spell-binding, and Ang Lee's 3D special effect wizardry (gaining more Oscars than anything else) was thought-provoking in many different ways. Its thematic central poser, "Why should we care that it did not happen?", divided English Literature pupils and History pupils neatly down the middle.

Also at the Playhouse we watched a dramatisation of Jane Austen's 'Mansfield Park', which perfectly captured the visual beauty of the Georgian period and the warm humour Austen pokes at her characters. Another fantastic recreation of a period was Baz Luhrmann's 'Great Gatsby', a stunning representation of New York's Long Island in the 1920s. Many of the Stoics had a passion bordering on fealty towards either the book, the film, or both, and that made the experience all the richer. However, surely the greatest event of the year was our trip to the Welsh National Opera's 'Madame Butterfly'. It wasn't 1900s Nagasaki: it was out of this world! With thanks to all who made it such a rich, fun year, and who were such enjoyable, knowledgeable company at dinner, especially our regulars: Pitan Aganga, Harriet Stringer, Alice Hughes, Amir Ansari, Anastasia Lopoukhine, Hannah Dixon and Chrissie Fusco-House. Also, a huge vote of thanks to Mr Gabbatiss, whose vision and drive established and have characterised this society, who leaves us this year and who will be much missed!

Mr Bob Roberts

Oxbridge and Medics' Society

A typical Oxbridge candidate often has to negotiate an aptitude test as well as an interview. Those who succeeded are then set a demanding offer such as A*AA (sometimes more!). Every year the vast majority of applicants are unsuccessful (1 in 6 make it). Stowe has had a very positive year, out of 15 applications five pupils received offers (1 in 3). This is significantly above the national average.

A further pupil was pooled at Cambridge and was unfortunate that there was no place for them. Of the 15 applications 13 were interviewed which is also significantly above the national average.

The high success rate is down to the excellent tutor system which supports our pupils and the detailed references the Common Room puts together for each of our candidates. Although the Tutors are key to this, they are reliant on thoughtful subject references produced by teachers. This happens because of the depth of opportunities at Stowe such as the Biomedical Society, Quantum Society, the Bank of England Challenge and, of course, The Headmaster's

Essay Society. Pupils are pushed in the extension activities on a Monday afternoon. It is the collective effort of the staff room which moulds our pupils' minds and for that we are all grateful.

There is also a very productive relationship with the local grammar school, The Royal Latin, which includes an exchange of practice interviews. This runs in conjunction with the mock interviews that the Stoics receive from the academic departments.

The Oxbridge process is much more than pupils winning places at prestigious colleges. Throughout the Sixth Form the pupils should be discerning what subject and university they will apply for. For those who are not made an offer we hope they have benefitted from all the work that takes them to the interview.

There will be two new MiCs of Oxbridge for the coming academic year and they have already started to put in place plans for further improvements to the provision next year.

Mr Kevin Ryce



Biomedical Society

This academic year the Biomedical Society continued to attract a strong cohort of Sixth Form Stoics. With each passing year the variety of biomedical interests of the group increases and the quality of the discussions at the weekly meetings just keeps on improving. While the Biomedical Society is at its core an academic extension group for Stoics interested in any biomedical-related discipline at university, we are also very proud of the support we can offer to those Stoics applying for Medicine. Both of this year's medical applicants succeeded in gaining a place to read Medicine, giving Stowe a 100% record for medical application success across the last two academic years. Our two medical applicants this year were Sophie Woodhead (Cambridge) and Matteo Di Carlofelice (Imperial College London). As well as the medics, our members have also succeeded in winning places to study a number of biomedical, biochemical, biological and chemical places at top-ranking universities.

This year the Society's President was Mariá Bartolomé, who has been an inspired and inspirational leader for what has become one of the heavyweights among the academic societies at Stowe. The Society wishes Mariá the very best of luck for next year as she pursues a degree in Biomedical Science.

The weekly meetings of the Society provided members with the usual cut-and-thrust of medical and ethical debate, covering topics such as autism and the long-term treatment of diabetes. This year saw the first Biomedical Society

annual dinner, which proved to be a fantastic success. The Society dinner was accompanied by the first lecture of the year, given by highly accomplished medical writer Dr Janet Dawson. Dr Dawson delighted and intrigued her audience with her knowledge of the inner workings of the pharmaceutical industry and the administration of large-scale drug trials. Our second guest speaker of the year was Dr Chris Spencer, a consultant obstetrician and medical admissions tutor at the London School of Medicine. During this lecture-demonstration Stoics were able to experience first-hand the use of laparoscopic surgical equipment (in a simulated environment of course!). Our third and final guest lecture was hosted by the medical education charity Medic Journey International, who gave our burgeoning medics a few hints and tips on how to begin to prepare for their upcoming UCAS applications.

Next year's programme promises yet more inspiration for our biomedical scientists. The second annual Biomedical Dinner is planned for the 15 November, which will be combined with a return visit by Dr Chris Spencer, who will be giving a lecture on the fascinating topic of medical ethics.

As ever, the Biomedical Society looks forward to welcoming the next wave of young medic, vet and biomedical hopefuls in the coming academic year. With the success of those moving through our ranks, new members will have a lot to live up to!

Mr Roland Johnson



*Matteo Di Carlofelice
and Sophie Woodhead*

Quantum Society

Stowe's Quantum Society continues to attract many Sixth Form scientists interested in the Physical Sciences, indeed this year sees our highest membership ever. Very ably led by President Nathan Charlesworth and Secretary Rebecca Woods the Society has gone from strength to strength.

One of the core activities of the Society is its members presenting topics to their peers, this year on topics as varied as gyroscopes, superconductors, quarks and thanks to Tom Humphreys a memorable and messy demonstration of non-Newtonian fluids. Professor Peter Read from Oxford University's Physics Department gave a fascinating insight on climate change on Earth before looking at what effects seasonal changes on Mars in his lecture 'Milankovitch on Mars'. Real footage filmed by the Mars Rover of dust storms on the planet was particularly striking and memorable.

Mr Malling led a very vivid session on quantum levitation, using our new liquid nitrogen storage facilities to great effect as he demonstrated just how well he had got some superconductors to actually float in mid-air. This really does need to be seen to be believed!

Our ever popular book reviews, as usual over a Chinese takeaway in the labs, gave us the chance to discuss 'Quantum Science Can't Hurt You' by Marcus Chown and 'Six Easy Pieces' by the great Richard Feynman. Both of these gave us the chance to look at some of the fundamental concepts that underpin the behaviour of matter. Well done to Kalil Ali on winning the Quantum Book Quiz.

Mr Malling led a very vivid session on quantum levitation, using our new liquid nitrogen storage facilities to great effect...

With many new members in the Lower Sixth, we look forward to next year's presentations and events as well as seeing who they will pick to promote as their scientific heroes or heroines.

Mr James Tearle



The Annual Quantum vs Biomedical Society croquet match

The harsh reality of the Modern Age

"Sometimes they trip you and you fall. When they laugh, you think maybe you had a stupid expression on your face as you fell or maybe someone said something funny that you missed. Sometimes you laugh with them, because after all, someone falling flat on their face is kinda funny, right? Sure." (Oddoneout, Imagine This)

This is how bullying starts: The random comment. Maybe every so often someone will slip in the odd line as a joke. But this is when the victim will start to get insecure; this is when the victim will start trying to change themselves because they feel self-conscious. Call them fat, they might start wearing baggy clothes, say they have bad skin, they might start wearing lots of make-up and so on.

Problems would escalate from there. The one person that might have said it before will turn into two or three or even more. The random comment will become the everyday insult. Soon enough the child will become even more intimidated and will feel trapped in their own little world where all they can hear is insults.

However bullying is no longer the classic, stuffing the weaker kid in a locker and taking his lunch money, although that could be seen as clear harassment. Verbal bullying recently has become much more of an issue.

Being a teenage girl, I am able to talk much more about verbal bullying between girls. Teenage girls are the super humans from outer-space, they have the self-entitlement of a celebrity heiress and the determination of a high class assassin, feeling absolutely no guilt as they mentally shred their victim to pieces. They stop at nothing to make their chosen victim feel worthless, unloved. They'll call them names, they'll ridicule them until they feel unloved, unwanted.

Taking a deeper look at bullying. It appears adults could be the root of the issue, with adults in the media and verbally abusive parents almost encouraging anti-social behaviour, for example a radio presenter telling an offensive joke about an overweight person or a parent telling their child that they are a waste of space, almost permitting the action by doing it themselves, especially since we are always told to respect adults and what they do.

But now in the revolutionising of technology, a new form of bullying has arisen. Cyber bullying. This, in my opinion, is the worst form of bullying. The bully no longer has to be the popular girl at school, or the tough guy that everyone likes to see beat up the weaker kid. It can be anyone. They feel like they can hide behind a screen and say anything and the victim doesn't even have to know who it is saying these things.

This is why cyber bullying is one of the most dangerous forms of bullying. The predator feels powerful as they pretty much cannot be stopped. They won't just stop at one child, they'll ruin the lives of many, because they know, they are almost unstoppable. The victim will feel trapped. They can't get away from the insults. Once they are posted, everyone that owns a social device can see what's being said to them, and in most cases people will join in. All the child can do is log off. And then what? As soon as they log back on, the insults will be there, waiting to be read.

One third of all teens feel they have been bullied in some way. Thirty per cent of these teens have been bullied online, and eight per cent of those teens tried to commit suicide.

These statistics show how much cyber bullying and bullying affects people. It's impossible to get away from it. Especially as a teenager they feel it's hard to tell anyone about it. Leaving them hopeless. The victim will feel hated, and soon enough, they'll begin to hate themselves, thus leading in some extreme cases, to suicide.

They say bullying is a part of growing up. But how could something as destructive as this be a part of childhood? Making someone feel worthless, how can that be a stage of life?

Bullying. Verb: *Use superior strength or influence to intimidate (someone), typically to force him or her to do what one wants.* (Wikipedia)

Bullying. Verb: *The act made by a heartless superhuman, making someone else feel worthless and unloved. Destroying what they think of themselves and reducing the victim down to nothing more than shattered persona.* (My description)

Celia Marmont (Third Form)

The relationship between a ping pong ball and bat

A relationship with its ups and downs,
A rise, a fall and some bounces are tough
On a bat and a ball whose shape is round.
Soft and white, bonding with hard and rough.
Separated by the choice of racket,
The ball is forced to cheat on its lover,
With a grand bat of a new packet.
The ball is bashed with no time to hover.
A glance at the ball is all he can get,
Before she is pounded by another.
Left in a box to fear, worry and fret,
That one bang may change to a new lover.
Nay, as the ball stays faithful to her bat,
And together they grow old, happy and fat.
Harry Norris (Fourth Form)

excerpt from 'Absorption'

Again, there was silence, only penetrated by the repetitive 'boom' of the throbbing clock as it consistently hit the 59 second mark, returned one stop, and tried again. The whole platform was seemingly entranced by some dark hole in the concrete – they were all lined up symmetrically, apart from one apparent leader. He was in front; his body depressed into a slouch as sweat poured down through his pale white make up and beat down onto his matted black shoes, eventually dripping down into the black crevasse. Soon a chilling scream was echoing through the tunnel, stabbing blindly at my ear whilst dazzling headlights assaulted me, preceding a tormented train that screeched towards us.

Simultaneously, the leader leapt out above the pit, like an abused insect fleeing the web of an incredulous spider. As he landed, his body caressed the polished tracks and he smiled, satisfied. However, immediately the train crashed to a stop, having been recently updated so as to automatically stop should a human be endangered. Briskly two uniformed men scooped him off the ground and he was carried away in tears – broken.

Once more there was silence, only decimated by the relentless ticking of the clock.

Tom Burke (Lower Sixth)





The Lions' Share

The unveiling of the South Front 'Medici' lions by HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO and Councillor Simon Blackburn during Speech Day 2013 marked the culmination of nearly two years of negotiation, conservation and restoration work that represents another milestone in the restoration of Stowe House.

In August 2011, Blackpool Corporation contacted the World Monuments Fund, who have supported our restoration work since Stowe was placed on their 'Watch List' of endangered buildings in 2000. Concerned that the lions were vulnerable to metal theft, the Corporation raised the possibility of lending the lions back to Stowe in return for exact copies to be displayed in Stanley Park, where, since 1926, the originals had graced the steps in front of an elegant Art Deco style cafeteria. The lions had found their way to Blackpool after a Mr John Magee, who ran a successful brewery, purchased them in 1922 and gave them to Blackpool for display in the Italian Garden at Stanley Park, which had been created to relieve unemployment.

A loan agreement was duly drawn up and so began the latest project in the progressive restoration of Stowe's former glory. The prospect of bringing back the lions gave good reason to advance work on the balustrade that separates the parterre gardens to either side of the South Front steps from the south lawn. The progressive deterioration of the balustrade necessitated considerable repair work and the cost had for some time been deemed excessive. However, judicious contract negotiation reduced the cost to an affordable level and, frankly, the prospect of re-instating the lions without work to the balustrade was not really an option.

Years of exposure to the elements, not to mention being 'ridden' by countless visitors to the park had taken their toll on the lions. A spell of 'therapy' in a conservation workshop restored the spring to their step and, on a crisp bright day in April, they set out on the last stage of their journey home. They have now taken their rightful place guarding the entrance that has welcomed thousands of visitors since country house visiting became fashionable in the 18th Century.



©Andy Marshall / World Monuments Fund Britain



The lions themselves are copies of marble lions that now stand outside the Loggia dei Lanzi in Florence having been commissioned for the Villa Medici in Rome. Although they are a matched pair, the lions come from different parentage. The lion to the west side of the steps is copied from an antique lion apparently cut from a relief sculpture by Sciarono in the 16th Century while the second was sculpted by Flaminio Vacca in 1594. An inscription

A spell of ‘therapy’ in a conservation workshop restored the spring to their step and, on a crisp bright day in April, they set out on the last stage of their journey home.

recording Vacca’s work has been reproduced in the lead and can be seen today on the outside face of the base of the Eastern lion.

The re-location of the John Bickerdike’s ‘Jazz Age’ lions was the subject of some debate but all those involved in the process agreed that there could be no better place than the plinths of the School Chapel. They blend well with the contemporary style of the Chapel and complement the iconography of the Chapel exterior.

Restoration of the balustrade has been completed with the re-instatement of exact copies of the thirty spun copper urns that had adorned it from the 18th Century until they were sold in 1921. Stoics may be disappointed to learn that there are no plans to add the oil lamps that the urns once held and that were used to illuminate the South Front but SHPT hope that everyone will agree that they do complete the appearance of the balustrade.

None of this work would have been possible without the generous support of our donors and benefactors or the skill of the stonemasons, artisans, craftsmen and architects who drew up and implemented the plans for the restoration. Carried out through one of the worst winters in recent years, the work was particularly demanding as stone can only be laid when temperatures rise above a specified minimum level.

Earlier in the year, SHPT returned to the School the magnificently restored State Music Room. This project





SHPT

was unusual in that we tried to accommodate within the restoration an earlier restoration completed in the 1960s. Records were sparse and so much depended on the detailed analysis of successive paint schemes and judicious interpretation of the results to agree the scheme that most likely represented the correct appearance of the room in the 18th Century. In the course of the work, a great deal was learned about the history of the room and, as with the library ceiling some three years earlier, we discovered a considerable amount of gilding that had lain hidden over many years and has now been re-applied. A gentle clean of the upper levels and careful filling of cracks in the walls and ceiling has lifted the appearance of the room and restored its graceful appearance without overdoing any of the decorative touches.

As so often happens during work to the listed fabric of the mansion, the Music Room revealed one great surprise in the decoration applied to the faces of the window shutters. Early in the project, one of the conservators discovered fine floral decoration on a gold base. At this point, the need for more detailed analysis was accepted and two weeks of detailed work were agreed. The result of those two painstaking weeks was the discovery of further decoration including a head surrounded by floral decoration in one of the upper panels. Time and cost precluded further work

and, given that it was impossible to date the overpainting of the shutters, it was agreed to leave the uncovered panels visible to visitors and repaint all the other panels with the prospect of returning for further discoveries in the future!

“the Music Room revealed one great surprise in the decoration applied to the faces of the window shutters”

Finally, a telephone call to SHPT in January 2013 led to another unprecedented opportunity as the original painting of the ‘Dance of the Hours’ was offered for sale to SHPT. After inspection by the Headmaster, we agreed to purchase the painting, which now awaits restoration and re-installation in the Music Room. Just like the lions, this is another significant acquisition that re-inforces the importance of the Grand Tour and Italian art to the tastes of the 18th Century. In this case, the painting is a copy by an 18th Century painter, Vincenzo Valdrè of a painting by one of the Renaissance masters, Guido Reni for the Villa Borghese in Rome.

Mr Nick Morris, Director of Operations



MUSIC

This has been one of the most exciting years in my 26 years of teaching. It began with the arrival of the esteemed and unrivalled film composer Harry Gregson-Williams (OS) to teach at Stowe; then the appearance and weekly development of the New Music School outside my office window; followed by the generous support given by Sir Howard and Lady Stringer to allow us to put nearly a quarter of a million pounds worth of music technology into the New Music School, and just recently, and finally a donation by Dr Cheung of £200,000 to complete the £400,000 campaign to raise money to allow Stowe to become an All-Steinway School.

At the centre of all these extraordinary decisions to raise large sums of money to build a fine building, and fill it with endless opportunities to make music, has been the overriding educational principle to allow Stoics to express their creativity through music, and further through any genre of music that appeals to them. This past year has seen the Music Department glimpse the future, and both Stoics and staff can barely contain their excitement.

The year began with Harry Gregson-Williams moving into Queen Charlotte's sewing room with his entire studio from Venice Beach. Before term began, Harry and his team of assistants went to work to create a world class film composition studio as well as a recording studio for Stoics. The disjuncture between 21st Century music technology equipment and the stately beauty of the Queen's Temple did not jar at all; in fact they seemed made for each other. Harry making it his creative home made perfect sense, and I know for all of us entering into that room standing and

watching Harry work and teach made it become a hub of endless creative ideas and music making.

With Harry, the pupils at Stowe have been writing songs, recording songs, creating sound-scapes of orchestral instruments to accompany songs, and, of course, they have been learning about the world of film music. On Wednesday 6 September Harry gave a presentation in the newly refurbished Roxburgh Hall; it was a really tough gig, and without the team of Upper Sixth Stoics, Jamie Lemos in particular, the presentation would not have taken place. Stoics, parents and Governors sat amazed as this magician brought up film after film, and showed how he had created themes, motifs and percussion backdrops. He showed how he manipulated sounds, how he brought orchestras to life, and how they both intricately frame and enhance the images moving on the big screen.

After the presentation so many Stoics went up to the Queen's Temple to work with Harry. When I asked them how they were getting on, they would all regale me with stories of what Harry said, what Harry did, how Harry helped them. Harry Cockbill, a highly talented Upper Sixth Form Music Scholar, was looking in a catalogue of music technology instruments. Harry asked what he was gazing at; it was a drum machine with really fun coloured buttons on it. Harry Cockbill thought it looked really cool. Harry ordered it! Harry later laughed and said it turned out to be a really good buy, and really great piece of kit! He has taken it back to LA with him, but he has also bought one to leave behind at Stowe, such has been Harry's endless generosity during this year.

Harry bedded into his routine of teaching, recording, encouraging and, of course, coaching hockey in the

afternoons. Harry's first big School moment was the House singing competition, where he was the adjudicator. To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Beatles appearing in the Roxburgh Hall we had decided that each House needed to present one song written by The Beatles. I am so grateful to the Houses who took this idea and presented the most musically fulfilling House singing competition in my five years at Stowe. The Houses competed with a great sense of *joie de vivre*, and produced excellent performances. The decisions were very difficult, as the standard was so high, but Chatham won, which delighted among many, the outgoing Housemaster, John Ing.

At the end of August the Music Department heard some terribly sad news, that the Head of Brass, Woodwind and Percussion, Debbie Borthwick had unexpectedly passed away at the age of 41. We were all in shock and astounded by her death. She had worked at Stowe for 16 years, and was a very warmly respected teacher, and an outstanding performer. It was with great pleasure that we welcomed many of Debbie's family, in particular her Mother and Father, to Stowe, as well as her adored husband Murray Borthwick and her beloved son Jack to a concert to celebrate Debbie's life. Old Stoic Musicians from around the country gathered at Stowe, and in the first half a massed choir performed Fauré's 'Requiem'. It was so appropriate that Debbie's long term colleague at Stowe, former Head of Strings, Robert Secret, led the Orchestra with his characteristic style and warmth. In the second half we welcomed members from the two bands Debbie was very involved with, the Coventry Big Band and the world-class Desborough Brass band. They played beautifully and

many of us sat listening with tears in our eyes. The final numbers brought together all of Debbie's musicians (we had 28 first trumpets, 22 second trumpets and 60 other

It was a poignant and a deeply sad occasion, but it was one that allowed reminiscence, yet was filled with delight and celebration for a life that was too short, but a life that filled so many current and former Stoics with the love of music.

Brass and Sax players). We finished with 'Build me up Buttercup' which was always the last song that Debbie chose to finish the many Big Band events. To say it filled the Chapel does not even describe the sound. The audience leapt to their feet and roared "Encore!". On the second play through I think it could be heard from Oxford to Northampton. It was a poignant and a deeply sad occasion, but it was one that allowed reminiscence, yet was filled with delight and celebration for a life that was too short, but a life that filled so many current and former Stoics with the love of music.

The night before, the Orchestra gathered on the South Front Portico for our now annual performance of Handel's





‘Musik for Fireworks’; the ability to play and watch the beautiful fireworks is a skill the Stoics continue to develop. As the conductor with my back to the visual explosions, I could only smile at the awe and wonder that filled the faces of the Orchestra as they looked out across the night sky.

Our Christmas Charity Concert raised £1,000 for the Helen and Douglas Hospice for young people in Oxford, taking our total amount raised for this charity to £5,000. The newly formed Windband under Lewis Brito-Babapulle

It has really lifted the spirits, and many Stoics have commented to me how much they enjoy the sound of the Trumpets in Chapel.

played ‘Firework and Clocks’, and created a really fine performance. The Chamber Choir sang a medley of songs from the popular West End Show ‘Wicked’ and the Orchestra played a number of Christmas arrangements.

The Big Band has never sounded better, and they performed at Dinner and Jazz along with the Senior Jazz Combo and the Chamber Choir. While the meal was taking place in the State Music Room, we engendered a feeling of a jazz cafe by having a number of singers perform solo repertoires from the 30s and 40s, including Henry Nelson-Lucas, Francesca Stevens, Chloë Last and Alice Speakman. In the summer The Big Band returned at the request of Earl Spencer to the Althorp Literary Festival and also performed on a quite cold summer’s evening on the South Front Portico.

The Chapel Choir has sung at its best during the last year, and much of that is to do with Lewis Brito-Babapulle’s extraordinary ability (which is a gift and a talent) to accompany the Choir easily from the West End organ. The Choir commissioned Harry to write a carol, so he chose the text by Christina Rossetti ‘In the Bleak Mid-Winter’. The music he created was contrapuntal and infused with beautiful endless melodies, the Choir really enjoyed singing the work. Arabella Coldstream sang the solo ‘Once in Royal David’s City’ beautifully at the Lower School Carol Service and Clara Holden sang the same solo with equal



style at the Upper School Service. We were joined by outstanding Brass players, including our newly appointed Head of Brass, Wind and Percussion, Nigel Gibbon.

In the Lent term the Chapel Choir went to St Peter's College, Oxford where we joined forces with their Choir and Roger Allan, Director of Music at St Peter's, conducted the Choir. The event was well attended by parents and we then all retired to Pizza Express before enduring a mercifully short journey back to Stowe in blizzard conditions.

Lewis and Nigel have transformed the musical experience at Chapel services. Lewis treats the recessional moment as an opportunity to play recital repertoire, and so the School regularly hears impassioned and virtuosic organ music as it leaves the building to begin a new day of learning. Nigel has written and arranged about 40 hymns during the Summer term, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as on Sunday mornings, the first verses always have Brass and the last verses inspired and exciting re-harmonisations and descants. It has really lifted the spirits, and many Stoics have commented to me how much they enjoy the sound of the trumpets in Chapel.

We also welcomed Ben Andrew as our new Head of Keyboard; he gave a virtuoso piano recital in November on the Bosendorfer in the State Music Room. In the Lent term Ben got over 60 pupils to play in external Festivals, including the Oxford Festival, the Milton Keynes Festival, the Northampton Festival, the Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year and the South Eastern School Chamber Music Competition; Stowe walked away with a number of certificates, and many were prize winners; William Motion, Francesca Stevens, Lewis Bell and Clarissa Llanaj. Francesca, Lewis and Clarissa were also invited to perform in the Milton Keynes Final Festival Concert.

We have had many inspiring talks and concerts given by professionals during this academic year, aside from the constant presence of Harry Gregson-Williams. In the Michaelmas term we welcomed Paul Harris, who impressed us with his research on his forthcoming book on 'How to Practise'. We were delighted to welcome back Robert Secret and the group he plays with 'The Metzger Ensemble' who gave a beautiful concert of Chamber Music in the State Music Room. The highlight for many Stoics was the *a cappella* group 'All the King's Men'. They sang and danced and in the afternoon coached many of the House part-songs for the House singing competition taking place the following weekend. Paul Harris returned to perform with his colleague Victoria Soames; it was a truly uplifting concert, and our own Liam Forster joined them to perform one of the earliest Trios for Clarinets by

The Summer term has also seen the New Music School become a reality, and the infrastructure is already in place...

Handel. For the rest of the Michaelmas term we relaxed into two completely different piano recitals, but both termed Jazz; Martyn Croston in his familiar relaxed style gave a wonderful account of a number of Jazz Standards, while Miles Nottage drove the piano hard, inspired by his Chicago South Side Blues style, joined by the Sax player, Dave Graham.

In the Lent term we focused on repertoires associated with strings, and Chris Windass, Head of Strings, and Viv Mclean, Piano, gave an inspiring duo recital. Chris returned with members of the Adderbury Ensemble, and we were not disappointed by their imaginative and sublime performances. The highlight for our string players came about when the Carducci String Quartet came and gave an afternoon of workshops, and then gave an extraordinary performance of Britten's 'String Quartet No. 2'.

In the Summer term we focussed once more on Stoic performances culminating in three extraordinary events, a Plugged In Pop and Rock concert at the Temple of Worthies, sponsored by Harry Gregson-Williams. Harry organised for there to be a large outdoor stage, and lighting and sound rig, and the very best Stoics who had worked



with Harry during the year performed outdoors to the whole School. The views were breathtaking and the music was of the highest quality imaginable. Shannon Devlin performed her own song, along with George Huxtable performing his own material with Molly Suthers. The whole event was managed by Miles Nottage and Fred Desmond, who also performed.

The second event took place at St John's Smith Square in London. We took the School Orchestra and the Chamber Choir, and with the professional Stowe Festival Orchestra, we created a programme which we called 'The Glories of English Music'. The first half included three film score suites by Harry Gregson-Williams. Hannah Dixon played the first movement of Vaughan Williams' 'Oboe Concerto', Lewis Bell played 'Eclogue' by Finzi and Liam Forster played the first movement of Finzi's 'Clarinet Concerto'. The second half was dedicated to Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas'. Francesca Stevens – Dido, Joshua Gentry – Aeneas, Sophie Woodhead – Belinda, Clara Holden – Second Woman, Priscilla Powell – Sorceress, Christina Fusco-House – First Witch, Hannah Dixon – Second Witch, Liam Forster – Sailor. The chorus was sung by the Chamber Choir. The Orchestra was made up of players from the Stowe Festival Orchestra. It was a very exciting event, and more than 300 people attended.

The third event was the Mozart Trio Prize. This year I

invited about 30 Stoics to enter into the competition. They had to choose a contrasting 10 minute programme. seventeen Stoics entered and the marvellous Stephen Dummer, Conductor and Clarinetist, adjudicated the event. The State Music Room was packed with parents, teachers and Governors, and all were astounded by the high standard of music that each Stoic produced. The second half was equally superb, and the audience retired to the Temple Room for supper, while Mr Dummer made his decision. In joint third place came Liam Forster (Clarinet) and Joshua Gentry (Voice), in second place was Hannah Dixon (Oboe), and the winner of the audience prize, was Francesca Stevens who sang Purcell, Wolf and Puccini.

The Summer term has also seen the New Music School become a reality, and the infrastructure is already in place, as over the summer they begin the internal fit, so that we can hopefully begin to move across from the Roxburgh Hall in November of this year. Schools are always astonishing places to work, as one is always pleasantly surprised by the talent of the pupils, but also by the development that takes place over time. This last year has seen all areas of Music take a leap forward, and I look forward to welcoming you into the New Music School, where we will be able to reach further, and allow Stoics to achieve more.

Mr Simon Dearsley, Director of Music

‘Gizmo’

Each year, under the BT National Connections scheme, the National Theatre of Great Britain commissions ten well-known playwrights to write an original play specifically to be performed by young people, and as this scheme has been running for a number of years, a rich vein of these plays has been created. In recent years, the Stowe Drama Department has mined that seam with some success; ‘Sparkleshark’ was a particular success some three years ago, while more recently ‘Blackout’ proved a powerful House play for Walpole, and this summer’s Junior Congreve, ‘After Juliet’, is another product of the scheme. This year’s Fifth Form production, ‘Gizmo’ by Alan Ayckbourn, was an early product of the series and has all the ingredients of a classic Ayckbourn scenario.

The plot revolves around Ben Mason, a cocktail bartender who has witnessed a horrific double murder, during which time he has become so traumatised that he is, at the start of the play, in hospital, paralysed. The conceit of the play is that he has been fitted with a device, the gizmo of the title, that means he exactly replicates the movements of someone who wears a special transmitter. By a complicated series of events, this transmitter is passed through a series of characters, finally ending up with the criminal boss who instigated the murder, and leading to a confrontation between Ben and the murderer himself.

Much comic business derives from the simultaneous movements of Ben and his various controllers, and clearly this took a lot of rehearsal, with Ben (played expertly and confidently by Will Dinsdale) having to learn not only a

host of lines, but also the precise series of movements that goes with them.

More comedy derives from the other quirky characters that Ben meets along the way. He starts in the hospital, where we meet Guy Gibson and Ella Womersley, as the eccentric originators of the ‘Gizmo’ project, Henry Sylvester as the doctor who is just a little too much in love with himself, Oscar Marment as his sardonic nurse, and Lucy Oswald as his eager-beaver physiotherapist. When Ben goes for a walk in the park, he is set upon by a gang of young hooligans, played with convincing “chavviness” by Annie Brunette-Jacobs, Alex Ford, Paul Henkel, Edwina Longe, Flora Marriott and Ben ter Haar. Finally he ends up in the flat belonging to the criminal mastermind (with Miles Clark winning many laughs), where he also encounters the whispering hit man Lando, played with menace and a good sneer by Luke Lindsay, and Claudia Wace as the glamorous gangster’s moll who is not all that she seems to be.

Each of these characters was presented entertainingly by the cast, but the major plaudits have to go to Will Dinsdale, who not only had the lion’s share of the lines, being on stage virtually throughout, as well as some complicated movement sequences. It is to his credit that he showed us the man behind the moves, and presented a winning, somewhat self-deprecating hero. Direction and design was handled in the usual expert way by Mr Walters and all the cast and production team deserve huge credit for staging such an engaging piece of work.



'Twist and Shout'

Not too long after the curtain went down on the March 2012 Senior Congreve, thoughts turned to what was going to be produced for this year. The Headmaster and myself were very much aware that 4 April was a pretty significant date in the calendar, as we had a great opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Beatles, (yes THE proper, bona fide Beatles!), playing to a Stowe School audience, on the same evening in 1963. Sadly, once the diary was checked we quickly knew that the School community would all be on their Easter break so the initial excitement about a 'concert featuring well known pop stars of today all playing early Beatles songs' was quickly shelved and thoughts turned to other ways of recognising such a memorable date in Stowe's illustrious 90 year history.

Luckily I remembered a play called 'Twist and Shout', a delightful comedy-drama written by Amanda Whittington. I remember being immediately struck by the way in which Whittington had managed to capture and indeed celebrate the early days of Beatlemania. Whittington had originally set her play in Mansfield (North Nottinghamshire), but with enormous dollops of 'artistic liability' I decided to relocate our action to 'Stowechester', that mythical small town nestled somewhere on the North Bucks/South Northants border.

The plot of the play revolves around that genuinely exciting time in early 1963, when The Beatles, the relatively new and up coming 'beat group' who were beginning to make headlines as being THE new band to watch out for. Whittington imagines them coming to a small town (they really did gig everywhere and anywhere!) to play a show and local band Rocky Storm and the Rainclouds manage to get a supporting slot on the bill. Of course, every 'with it' schoolgirl in town is desperate to get to see the show but 16 year old Shirley Sutton has a very personal reason for wanting to meet her idol, John Lennon.

So it was then, that on Saturday, 16 March 2013, 'Twist and Shout' ended its four night run in the Roxy. Over 900 Stoics, parents, friends and visitors had been in attendance for the shows. Directed with the usual style, imagination and gusto by yours truly and ably assisted by Emily Sinclair and the very wonderful Graham Ray as Technical Manager, the on stage cast of 30 Sixth Formers and one Fifth Former (guitar hero Patrick Keating) were supported by 15 of the 'crew', including long time Congreve technical wiz kid, Tom Humphreys and other assorted stage technicians, costume assistants and make-up girls.

Jess Tomson was utterly convincing in the leading role of the fiery and feisty Shirley. She was able to switch



her emotions so easily and she captured perfectly the frustrations of the sixteen year old, who is so desperate to break out from her humdrum life and seek out pastures new and exciting. Tilly Salvin played her best friend Carol with the just right degree of big sisterly tenderness and concern while Izzy Berner, Marina Oswald, Lucy Thompson and Liberty King provided fantastic support as her close friends. Daisy Anderson and Tristan Phipps also gave accomplished performances as Shirley's little sister, June and her less than compassionate father, Stan.

The aforementioned 'Rainclouds' in the play are a close knit bunch of lads, who all work on the same factory floor and like Shirley they dream of something better. Orlando Whitehead, as 'boyfriend' to Shirley and also singer and guitar player Rocky, Kemal Eyei as Johnny on the drums, Charlie Harris as Baz on guitar, Hugo Ellison as Terry on the bass and Pat Keating as Phil on lead guitar, all worked superbly together on stage and added some much needed light relief with their banter, quips and wicked humour.

Alec Pultr as Marco, the factory owner's privately educated and privileged son gave a great comic performance and his self deprecating put downs were a treat to hear each night. Harry Roberts as Frankie Colorado, the band's manager; Hugo Brooks as the dull as ditchwater Youth

Employment Officer, Mr Masters; Jack Chaplin as the cynical stand up comic, Billy Bright, Will Jones as Honest Fred the dodgy ticket tout and Penny Thompson, as the ever so strange Ringo Starr fan, Judy, also gave memorable cameo appearances. However, it was the 'double act' of Lucas Worsdell, as the cutting edge designer, Pierre and his spray on tee shirt wearing assistant, Gunter, played to the very max by Oscar Page, that brought the house down each night. Terribly 'non PC' and all that but both lads were hilarious and added just the right note of 'other worldliness' to the grim, closeted and dull existence of the majority of the characters in the play.

Musical guidance was provided by Nick McNulty, Miles Nottage and Lewis Brito-Babapulle. The wonderful Angela Cammish and her excellent team of helpers, were once again responsible for making everyone look suitably authentic. There were some fabulous outfits that really helped to bring the period to life.

Finally, we were delighted to receive so many lovely messages and positive comments from our audiences, which made all those long and at times frustrating rehearsal sessions, seem so worthwhile. To everyone who came to see it and supported the cast, crew and production team so well, can I say thanks to you and see you next time.





‘After Juliet’

This summer’s Junior Congreve saw Sharman McDonald’s play ‘After Juliet’ come alive in a punk/rock inspired performance in the Dobinson Theatre directed with great skill, imagination and flair by Emily Sinclair. The play seeks to tell the story of what happens after the deaths of the world’s most famous tragic lovers, Romeo and Juliet, and is centred on the plight of Rosaline, Romeo’s ex-flame and her emotional journey through dealing with the loss of the man she loved and her desire to seek revenge.

Saskia Satchell easily rose to the challenge of playing the central character of Rosaline whose emotions ranged from anger, bitterness, love, frustration, betrayal and revenge - most of which we heard in her four page long monologue! Saskia’s depiction of the volatile Rosaline certainly kept the audience on the edge of their seats and her hard work, commitment and dedication to this role paid off in an electrifying and memorable performance. The serious nature of the play was broken up by the comic relief provided by Sam Riley, Jack Hechle and Alistair Martin who were excellent as the comedy trio. Their characters’ teenage worries and carefree attitudes were warmly received by laughs from the audience.

The play had something to suit all tastes, from laughter to tears, singing to live music, knife fights to dance. Madeleine Jordan provided some excellent choreography which helped create the illusion of the barriers breaking down not only between the two households of Capulet and Montague but between life and death. Romeo and Juliet, played by Florence Fox and Cosmo Oliver acted as overseers of the play, watching over their families and the

continuing feud. The opening to the play which showed a series of freeze frames of some of the scenes from the original story certainly brought a few tears to the eyes of many audience members.

The Montague boys, Benvolio and Valentine, were excellently played by Harrison Dockerty and Isaac Ajala respectively. Harrison, playing the love sick puppy desperate for Rosaline’s affections contrasted perfectly with the classic bad boy role taken by Isaac, whose character was left bitter and vengeful following the death of his brother Mercutio and best friend Romeo. Though she was only on stage for a relatively short amount of time, Aleksia Zivanovic was outstanding as Angelica the Nurse. Others who also caught the eye and ear were Thalia Felton and Emily Osborne, who shared the role of the troubled soul Bianca; Arabella Coldstream as Livia, who was consistent and focused in her support for Rosaline, Laura Brogden as the flute playing Helena and Ivy Freeman-Attwood, who had just the right air of arrogance and conceit as the prissy Alice.

The cast worked so hard together to create a hard-hitting and powerful performance which was enjoyed by all who came to see it over its four night run. The hard work, time and effort put into the rehearsal process certainly paid off and recognition must be given to Charles Johnson and Hallam Smith who provided the lighting and sound, which only helped add to the intense atmosphere of a sun-drenched and dangerous Verona.

GCSE Drama

On 5 December 2012, the GCSE Drama pupils faced their first assessment, in which they had to present original pieces of their own devising, based upon one of a number of stimuli provided by the WJEC exam board. Each group also had to decide upon a particular theatrical style, and the majority chose physical theatre, incorporating mime, slow motion, soundscapes and various other non-naturalistic, stylised approaches in order to bring their scenes to life.

In view of the large number studying GCSE Drama this year – 39 in total – there is only time to refer to a small number of these scenes, but one that undoubtedly stood out was a stylised performance in which four girls – Elsa Desmond, Flora Marriott, Lucy Oswald and Claudia Wace – recounted the tragic tale of a bullied and abused schoolgirl. They employed a most sophisticated approach, with all four changing characters throughout, and each playing the doomed central character at some point. Stylistically, the most notable feature was their clever use of four sheets, which were manipulated to show both their scenery – walls, etc – and props: a rope, a phone and a young child.

An equally dark and disturbing piece showed the abduction of a young girl, movingly played by Letty Rothschild, by the convincingly creepy neighbour, played seriously out of character by Henry Sylvester, while Lauren Carley and Lizzie Witkowski provided strong support. The moment when the girl was surrounded by human, whispering walls was authentically chilling.

One group decided to perform their piece as musical theatre. We saw the rise to fame and descent into despair and suicide of a young singer, beautifully sung by Molly Suthers. Miles Clark also sang as the creepy manager, while

Ben George and Lily Holland-Bosworth provided comedic and dramatic support.

On 2 May, the pupils presented their second practical piece, this time performing extracts from published scripts. Some challenging pieces were selected, and a number will lodge long in the memory. Lauren Carley, playing the infamous Lady Bracknell, made a spectacular entrance via the South Front steps onto the Portico, and commanded the audience's attention, while Will Dinsdale was suitably clipped as Jack Worthing, in their scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In a similarly classic role, Annie Brunette-Jacobs tackled Eliza Doolittle, the flower girl from Shaw's *Pygmalion*, and was equally strong as the cheeky cockney and the sophisticated lady into which she transforms. Both of these performances benefitted from being played in the grandeur of the Mansion, but two performances in the Dobinson demonstrated that powerful theatre can also be created in a sparse studio space. Paul Henkel and Luke Lindsay gave a wonderfully sharp and physical performance as Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in Stoppard's play based on the characters from *Hamlet*, while Patrick Keating and Claudia Wace showed smouldering chemistry in a powerful extract from Strindberg's *Miss Julie*.

One of the major successes of the day was Willa Barham, who switched from performer to designer, and produced an outstanding pair of costumes for Eliza Doolittle and Mrs Pearce in *Pygmalion*, showing both artistic flair and technical ability, not merely in designing the costumes, but making them too, and having to explain her entire creative process to our visiting examiner. Congratulations go to all the performers this year who worked so well together to create some exciting and engaging moments of theatre.





Eleven Lower Sixth AS Level Drama and Theatre Studies pupils took part in their practical assessment module this year. This unit, worth 40%, requires the Stoics to work together in a group of no more than five and no less than two, on an extract from a set text play as well as devising their own, original work. Both pieces are developed and rehearsed simultaneously and have to be performed on the same day. The devised piece needs to demonstrate an understanding and practical awareness of the ideas and techniques associated with a particular theatre practitioner, while the scripted extract is presented in another contrasting style from that of the devised scene.

Once again the devised scenes created by our Stoics were directly related to the performing methods advocated by English actor, director and playwright, Steven Berkoff, whose extreme and visceral approach to creating theatre is based upon exaggerated mime, physical theatre techniques and larger than life, grotesque caricatures.

Coco Anthony, Kemal Eyi, Charlie Harris, Marina Oswald and Harriet Stringer decided to present their scene in the café bar area of StoweBucks, which was ideal as their piece was set in a busy, East London 'greasy spoon' café. Various quirky, eccentric and grotesque characters, which would all have made Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse proud, were then paraded through the café in the space of one busy day and all five performers deserve great credit for their hilarious take on the absurdities and loneliness of big city life.

Berkoff's style can just as easily lend itself to the dark and macabre and it was this element that Andrea Middleton, Maddie Wackett and Olly Wright decided to explore to the full. Olly's disturbing 'friendly man in the park' was a superb demonstration of a classic Berkoffian character and his interactions with the characters played by Andrea and Maddie, were thrilling and engaging to watch.

Alfie Hardman, Priscilla Powell and Jess Tomson took a more physical and energetic approach to their scene, which contained some excellent 'social comment' and clearly displayed their fondness for disturbing, absurd comedy.

All three groups were able to present to their audience, some very creative, thought provoking and accomplished theatrical moments: Above all each and every one of them demonstrated a clear understanding and appreciation of Berkoff's techniques, which was the aim of the assessment procedure from the outset.

The 'text' extracts followed later in the day, and were all influenced by the techniques and ideas created by Konstantin Stanislavski, one of the pioneers of the development and consequent acceptance of what we now know as 'naturalistic' drama. All these text scenes were exciting, challenging, thoughtful, brave and utterly enthralling and it was a real delight for myself and my colleagues in the department, to see such clear and marked contrasts as displayed by each Stoic.

Coco and Charlie were suitably convincing as the newly married Shirley and her more than a little friendly best man and brother in law, Kenneth from 'Night on the Tiles' by Frank Vickery.

Olly and Maddie captured the middle class angst of Dr Bill Windsor and his depressed and confused patient, Susan in the opening scene of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Woman in Mind' and Jess and Alfie were authentically provocative, seductive and vicious as the two main protagonists, Julie and Jean, in a mashup from Strindberg's masterpiece 'Miss Julie'.

Priscilla and Andrea were engaging in their interpretations of the two feuding sisters, Blanche and Stella from an early scene in 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams and Marina, Harriet and Kemal completed proceedings by looking at another thrilling scene from the same play, when the arrogant and tempestuous Stanley, expertly played by Kemal, makes the birthday celebration for the troubled Blanche, sensitively and beautifully handled by Marina, a day she will never forget. Harriet, as her confused and worried sister, Stella, was totally convincing as she succumbed once more to the physical charms of her less than gentlemanly husband, Stanley.

We look forward with confidence to some outstanding results in this unit come results time in August. All eleven Stoics should be proud of their achievements in creating such excellent work.

AS Drama



A2 Drama

This year quite a few of our A2 Drama and Theatre Studies pupils faced a couple of pretty intensive ‘production weeks’ as their practical drama exam assessment took place on the Friday before they began their run for the Senior Congreve. A range of exciting and thought provoking stimuli was offered by the exam board and it was down to myself, Chris Walters and our two new Graduate Trainee teachers, Emily Sinclair and Steve Dachtler, to help guide our 16 A2 drama pupils, to find an extract from a published play.

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

Daisy Anderson, James Drax, Jonathan Constant and Saskia Leboff worked very effectively together to create a piece which centred on the last living moments of a man driven to despair through failed relationships, an over extravagant lifestyle and substance abuse.

Tilly Salvin, Gigi Bacon, Harry Roberts and Christophe Carrelet took inspiration from some of those outrageous Hollywood style ‘end of the world as we know it’ disaster movies and managed to create a very amusing and well observed piece that had some superb comic moments.

Jack Chaplin, Tristan Phipps, Kit Dixon-Smith and Penny Thompson were drawn back to the overt and threatening performing techniques associated with Berkoff for the inspiration for their piece, which saw all three boys play a different ‘aspect’ of the same, broken and disillusioned man.

Finally, Isabelle Berner, Rebecca Dale, William Jones and Siana Vere Nicoll took as their starting point the reaction and, at the time of performance, the continued fallout following the Levinson enquiry into press standards.

In the afternoon session each of our groups of four then rearranged themselves into eight pairs for their scripted performances, and as usual we were privileged to see an eclectic range of text choices. Daisy and James acted out the very sensitive and provocative opening scene from Patrick Marber’s modern classic ‘Closer’ with Daisy as the enigmatic and disarming Alice and Dan, played with just the right amount of reserve by James.

Issy as Hedda and Rebecca as the timid and shy Mrs Elvsted, gave us a thoughtful insight to the rumbling, emotional undercurrents ripple through ‘Hedda Garbler’ by Ibsen. Saskia as the monstrous Martha and Jonny as her less than happy husband George, brought some much needed humour to the proceedings, with their playing of the opening duologue from Edward Albee’s ‘Whose Afraid

of Virginia Woolf’ and Kit and Penny squeezed every ounce of emotion out of their scene from ‘Mogadishu’ by Viv Franzmann, in which the suspended and despairing teacher, Amanda played by Penny, is trying to convince her one time colleague and ‘acting’ Head Teacher Chris (Kit) to let her come back to work.

Jack as the hapless Mugsy and Tristan as the laid back Chef, Sweeney, perfectly captured the camaraderie and affection between these two best mates, when they tackled the opening duologue from another Patrick Marber play ‘The Dealers Choice’ and Harry as Mike and Chris as Les certainly caught the eye and ear by superbly interpreting the opening duologue from Berkoff’s masterpiece ‘East’. Will and Siana played out the emotional, heart rending final scene from Jim Cartwright’s ‘Two’, where the Landlord of a pub and his bitter and resentful wife, argue viciously over an incident seven years previously which resulted in the death of their only son. Finally, Tilly as Margaret and Gigi as Jackie, pulled out all the stops to act out one of the many fraught and edgy mother-daughter relationship scenes in Charlotte Keatley’s ‘My Mother Said I Never Should’.

Well done to all sixteen candidates and we now await the results in August with optimism and a good deal of confidence.

All Drama articles by Mr Nick Bayley, Director of Drama



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to be a popular option amongst Stoics with more participants than ever signing up this year. It has been pleasing to see many more participants getting all elements of their Awards completed and signed off - in particular congratulations to the 15 Stoics who were awarded their Gold Awards this year.

DoE participants complete a comprehensive training programme over the course of the year, which starts with the Field Weekend in October. After a day of team building, navigation and campcraft training, Stoics then have to sit down and start the serious business of planning the Expedition section of the Award. This year we were fortunate to have the support of our external Mountain Leaders and also a team from Real Adventure who worked with the Silver participants. Before departing on their Expeditions in June, participants also had the benefit of an inspiring presentation on Leadership and Teamwork

from Ken Hames who, amongst many other achievements, led the Expeditions in the BBC's 'Beyond Boundaries' documentaries.

The Expedition Season this year was hit by the prolonged winter, which unfortunately resulted in the cancellation of the Silver and Gold Expeditions to the Lake District. This meant that the Gold participants faced the challenge of the Cairngorms without the benefit of a Practice Expedition. Undaunted, 38 members of the Lower Sixth travelled to Scotland at the end of term to experience the challenge of travelling for four days through the mountains without a campsite in sight! The prolonged winter helped to keep the midges at bay and the weather was relatively kind, with all the participants acquitting themselves well in this remote environment. Staff were particularly impressed with this year's Gold participants and they are now well prepared to face the challenges of Dartmoor at the end of August.



Congratulations to the 15 Stoics who were awarded their Gold Awards this year.

Similarly the Silver participants were thrown straight into the challenges of the Brecon Beacons for their Practice Expedition. In contrast to last year's deluge, the groups were faced with temperatures well into the twenties and a much higher midge count! The instructors from Real Adventure were very impressed by the groups as they took on the challenges of Pen y Fan, Cribyn, Corn Du and Fan y Big. Unfortunately they are very unlikely to face such warm, dry conditions in the Lake District in October for their Assessed Expedition.

The Bronze Expeditions this year also benefited from favourable conditions and it was a pleasure to work with such a highly motivated and well prepared group of Fourth Formers. The Expedition to the Cotswolds tested the skills participants had learnt during their training and provided an excellent basis for them to move onto their Assessed Expeditions. This year we had two Assessed Expeditions, one to the Shropshire Hills and one more locally in the Buckingham area. The Shropshire Expedition proved to be a game of two halves; day one was sunny and warm and enabled Stoics to enjoy the beauty of the Long Mynd

and the Stiper Stones, whilst the grey mist of day two put navigation skills to the test! The Expedition in the area around Buckingham was no less challenging; although the weather was kind, participants still found their navigation skills put to the test in the maze of footpaths and bridleways in the area. A massive congratulations to all of the participants who successfully completed these expeditions.

As always my thanks go to all of the staff, without whose support and expertise none of these Expeditions would be possible: Mr Pickersgill, Mr Aston, Mr Moller, Mr de Trafford, Mr Grimble, Mrs McMahon, Miss Knott, Miss Donaldson, Miss Green, Mrs Browne, Mr Gibbon, Mr Higham, Mr Floyd, Simon Rose, Philip Pitcher, Steve Rogers, Brian Wagstaff, Louis Staden and the guys from Real Adventure – Steve, Kat, Emma, Liam and Hazel. Finally a special thanks to Mr Gabbatiss who leaves us this year after five years of dedicated service to the expedition programme at Stowe, we shall miss your support and humorous approach – whatever the weather!

Mr Gwilym Jones, MiC Duke of Edinburgh's Award



“A young man who does not have what it takes to perform military service is not likely to have what it takes to make a living.”

John F. Kennedy

In reviewing the CCF over the last year, Kennedy’s quote is especially apt. Of course we are not trying to undertake any military service per se with the Cadets but to evolve Kennedy’s quote we do ask the question: “Do they have what it takes to perform a service to others?” The training year is punctuated by three Field Days and a camp in which this training is consolidated.

The Autumn Field Day was, for the Cadets, a first time out in the field. They needed to pull together as a team as well as learn to look after themselves. Both the RAF with their survival exercise and Cheshire Company with their introduction to Field Craft fulfilled this aim. Anderson Squadron, the Seniors, were tasked with a stretching COIN exercise involving working together as disparate teams to establish key information about a renegade team within the grounds at Stowe. On the second day, the RAF had organised a Chinook helicopter to come to the School and the RAF and ‘A’ Squadron were able to make use of the flight time that was available.

In the Spring Field Day, the Juniors (C Company) decamped to Yardley Chase. Here they spent a night in a forward operating base and undertook a review of their training to date culminating in Section Attacks on the second day. The Cadets were able to benefit from putting into practice the full range of military skills that they had been acquiring. ‘A’ Squadron decamped to the Garrison

at Bicester where they were hosted by the Light Aid Detachment (REME) of 23 Pioneer Regiment. The day was an exceptional one and the Cadets’ experience varied from welding, vehicle guiding, crane control and vehicle maintenance. The RAF conducted a day of teamwork and personal development which included making visits to Xscape in Milton Keynes and the RAF Museum in Hendon.

The Summer Field Day allowed the Army Section to enjoy a treasure hunt, very ably organised by WO1 Ray Dawson, which allowed them to explore beyond the bounds of School in teams, whilst also prioritising individual tasks in order to achieve an overall goal. On the second day, they made a visit to Abingdon where they were able to make use of the live firing ranges, obstacle course and command a Tiger Tank in a video game simulator. On the first day, RAF Cadets who were not involved in exams, were taken to RAF Benson and then flown back to Stowe in a Merlin helicopter to spectacular stunts, views and cheerful faces. On the second day with the whole Section together, they were given leadership and command tasks in order to develop their skills in these areas.

Summer Camp was only available to the Army this year. The Longmoor team put together an excellent package which involved four days of survival, ranges, personal development and a competition followed by an overnight exercise. On the Survival Day the Stoics so enjoyed making their shelters and were so disappointed at having to dismantle them that some asked if it was possible to build shelters for their overnight exercise. This was made possible for them and, as one or two commented, it was the

CCF

warmest night out they had ever spent in the CCF. Despite the heavy rain and a drop in temperature that night, it was excellent to see the Stoics remain so cheerful throughout, whilst building on a lesson they had been taught on the first day of Camp. On the Range Day the Stoics conducted themselves extremely well drawing favourable comments from instructors on their politeness, thoughtfulness and co-operation with other schools. On the Personal Development Day, the particular highlights were one Stoic coming third in the overall Archery competition and another whizzing round the mountain bike course repeating the phrase "I am having so much fun!"

Overall, the training has gone well in the CCF and, without question, all of the Cadets have demonstrated that they do indeed have what it takes to perform a service to others.

This year has seen the moving on of two key personalities in the CCF, both of whom have made a huge contribution to both the School and the Cadet Force. Lt Col John Ing left the CCF in December 2012 after many years' service in the Royal Marines, the Royal Marines Reserve and the CCF at other schools as well as at Stowe. Major Ian Findley-Palmer was a long serving Officer in the CCF of various schools.

Many thanks to all members of staff who make the CCF so successful, it would not be possible without you. All three sections are flourishing and suitable recognition of time, effort and contributions is a must. Thank you.

Finally, the CCF Contingent would like to warmly welcome Capt Charlie Standley, formerly of the Royal Anglian Regiment, to the position of Head of the Army Section. He has had a lot of operational experience but has also been involved as a platoon commander at the training garrison in Catterick. He brings with him plenty of experience as well as fresh ideas and vigour.

Capt S A Nelson-Lucas, Queen's Own Yeomanry,
Acting Contingent Commander

Royal Naval Section 2012-13

The section has continued to offer Cadets a varied range of water-based activities. We have increased our focus on the formal syllabus in line with the new priorities of HQ CCF RN: all our Fourth Form recruits had completed the Able Seaman's syllabus by Christmas, and by the end of the year all our Fifth Form Cadets had completed Emergency Aid training and passed Naval Proficiency. October saw a trip down to Portsmouth: we went afloat in MV Black Swan and STC Amaryllis, sailing across to Cowes where we moored up for the night. Cooking supper at a small galley stove was a novel experience for some, as was sleeping in a small boat. There was good sailing the following day. April gave us the chance to repeat the exercise but with the cadets changing vessels. GCSE modules played havoc with the summer programme, but we managed to include some map reading around the estate and some power-boat training on the 11 Acre Lake. Annie Brunette-Jacobs will be remembered for her lesson on how to wear a buoyancy aid; Lauren Carley and Rosie Devas for their initiative amid the swirling water of the DRIU and Rex Adams for completing his idiosyncratic path through the section. Jamie Milne leaves to focus on his A Levels; Magnus Sligo-Young came back from leadership training at Half term and having earned his Petty Officer's badge is off to HMS Raleigh for training during the summer, while Jimmy Ondari hopes to take part in a Royal Marines 'Look at Life' course in December. The section is a small one at the moment, which makes us one of Stowe's best-kept secrets: all the Cadets get a high proportion of hands-on activity.

We welcome Sub Lt Johnson back from maternity leave: she heads off to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, for training in October. We say goodbye to CPO Simon Blick, who as our Area Instructor has been an immense and popular support. We look forward to Colour Sergeant Steve Parkin, RM, who succeeds him. Thanks are also due to Mr Eason-Bassett, Lt Tremaine, and Mr Liversage, who have continued to bolster the support team.

Lt D J Critchley CCF RNR





Beagling

The season this year started well with lots of good days, such as those at Crockwell Farm and Farthingstone, and we are very grateful for the continued support of all of our farmers and landowners who let us hunt on their land because without their continued support we wouldn't be able to hunt. I would particularly like to thank the Fountains as they host a number of meets on their land and therefore we are very grateful.

In October we took a tour up to Northumberland by kind invitation of the Wailes-Fairbairns we had two amazing days hunting in beautiful surroundings on the Lanton estate and at Bowmont Hill. It was very kind of the Newcastle and District Beagles to allow us to hunt on their land so we thank them, and we thank the Wailes-Fairbairns for very kindly hosting us in their home for three days. On the journey back down South we drove to the Thompson's house and had an excellent day on the moors at the head of Teesdale and once again we are very grateful to the Weardale and Tees Valley Beagles for giving us permission to hunt within their country and to the Thompsons (parents of Joint Master Penny) for hosting us overnight.

After this we had more good days down south in our usual country including a particularly good day at Little Preston. Then in the Christmas holidays we took a group of whips to Shropshire by kind invitation of the Beazleys. This was a county which the Stowe Beagles had never visited before in their history and provided some exciting hunting, with a great day on the Welsh border. The Beazleys' hospitality was unbelievable and every possible need catered for, so thank you very much to them for inviting us up and we hope to be going to visit Shropshire again next season.

We then continued to have more good days in January although toward the end of January the scent became rather poor leading to a few frustrating days. However we were then invited up to Norfolk to the home of the joint master Oliver Beazley for two days' hunting on some flat, yet challenging country and had two terrific days, with some amazing work from our whips and the hounds. We are very grateful to the Norfolk beagles for letting us hunt on their land and ever indebted to the amazing hospitality provided by the Beazleys. The second day was hosted by Henry Edwards (OS) at his home, Hardingham Hall.

We then had a good few days toward the end of the season despite our annual Joint Meet with the Old Berkeley at Claydon House being cancelled due to a cycle race. After the end of the season our annual Hunter Trials were held at Primrose Hill Farm which as ever proved to be a huge success and is a big fundraiser for us and we are once again grateful to the Strangmans for kindly hosting this event for us.

The hunt ball proved to be a successful event this year and was held in May due to certain factors beyond our control, however it was still very popular and was good to see a great number of Old Stoics returning. Finally the puppy show: this year's puppy show was much shorter than usual because we only had three pairs of puppies. However we are very grateful to all those supporters who walked puppies for us this year and I would like to thank Mr Thompson and Mick Wills, the Grafton Huntsman for judging the puppy show.

Henry Macpherson (Upper Sixth)

CROSSFIRE

Friday 12 October

BLUE Room

9.00 pm

The King of Creation

Speaker: Rupert Shelley



We've had an excellent time at Crossfire this year, each week finding out more about Jesus Christ and his relevance in our lives today. Crossfire is a great opportunity for Stoics, whatever they believe, to look into what being a Christian is all about.

Each term we've had a different series and Stoics and staff alike have found themselves intrigued, challenged, engaged and encouraged over the year. It's offered the chance to think about the big questions of life that rarely get a look-in during a busy school week.

Michaelmas – 'The King and I' – we began the year engaging with the amazing account in Mark's Gospel of the life, death and resurrection of God's King, Jesus Christ.

Lent – 'The Great Escape' – a humdinger of a (true) story in the book of Exodus of how God's people were rescued from slavery in Egypt via plagues, the Passover and the Red Sea... Even more exciting than those events were the lessons about God's character and his commitment to His people.

Summer – 'Questions of Faith' – 'What do Christians really believe?' 'Is there really such thing as life after death?' 'Isn't the Bible's view of sex and marriage really out of date?' and the like. Surprise, interest and encouragement were common reactions.

What's gone on each week

Meetings are very informal and open to everyone, whatever their age, background or beliefs. We usually meet in the Blue Room every Friday at

8.40pm with time for chatting and games as people arrive – Stoics often comment on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere as soon as you walk in the door, regardless of what year or House you are in.

A Sixth Former or member of staff then interviews our visiting speaker and we find out who they are, how they became a Christian, as well as other interesting information such as their favourite film, mastermind special topic and desert-island essentials. Next we hear a short talk from the Bible, sometimes with group discussion, and at the end there's a chance to ask any questions as well as plenty of time to hang out, eat brownies and chat.

Mr Henry Swayne

Highlights

- 25/30 Stoics coming on a weekly basis to hear about the good news of Christ.
- The North Front Pavilion hosted the excellent Easter special in March. While Creme Eggs were consumed, we heard a great talk from Old Stoic Malcolm Riley on 'Why Good Friday is so good'.
- The Crossfire BBQ on the last Friday of the school year. Following burgers and sausages Rich Duncan, an ordinand at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, spoke to 60 Stoics on 'What's so amazing about Grace?'

'WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE?' (+ Crossfire BBQ!)

CROSSFIRE

Speaker: Rich Duncan
NF PAVILION
9.00pm
Friday 21 June

Service@Stowe

Many Staff and Stoics engage voluntarily in everyday acts of generosity and service, which contribute positively to the flourishing of life at Stowe. In addition, 'Service@Stowe' is the co-ordinating collective, that encourages and enthuses specific areas and activities of service. Some Stoics particularly offer their service as an integral component of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Mostly operating on Monday afternoons, though not exclusively, the activities this year have comprised the following:



It has been particularly good to see the Visiting in Residential Care Homes thrive once more, after the initiative and vision of Mr Goldsmith, and the re-introduction of the creative Puppetry Theatre, led by Mr Sayers. Mr Walters' and Miss Sinclair's Drama Workshop has been a welcome new addition.

The annual Community Christmas Party, led by Mr Goldsmith and his team of Sixth Formers was wonderfully colourful and entertaining, and Mr Nottage led the carols

with characteristic aplomb. The Headmaster's bingo calling was also of some note.

Above all, the weekly energising and gathering-in and inspiring the Stoics is a tribute to the patient generosity of staff, as is the flourishing diversity of their activities. Significant thanks to them. To all Stoics who have caught the vision – thank you!

The Revd Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain.

Arts Award

This year saw Stowe pilot its first group of Arts Award pupils in collaboration with the Service@Stowe Monday afternoon slot. The Arts Award is a nationally recognised qualification which looks to challenge pupils in any art form for which they can achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold level. The group of seven Fourth and Fifth Formers created a Theatre in Education performance of 'The Peacemakers' which they rehearsed, developed and then took to Beachborough School. They were warmly received by two classes of Year Fours and were able to teach the children about friendship and not judging a book by its cover. Following this the group went on to focus on their Arts Award portfolios ready for external moderation. It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that each of them successfully completed their Bronze Award for which they received certificates.

Prep Support Club

On Monday and Friday afternoons we run a prep support club for Lower School pupils. Helping out are Sixth Formers who sit with the younger pupils explaining what they should do. Pupils love being helped by an older peer, it makes for a less formal and more relaxed atmosphere where the younger pupils feel confident to explain what they don't understand. Having studied these subjects in the past three years, Sixth Formers know the content of the topic and are able to explain it in 'teenage friendly' terms. As well as helping younger pupils, the process gives a sense of responsibility to older pupils which helps to develop their confidence and leadership skills.

Mrs Sharon Carter, Head of Skills

National Trust

The National Trust section of Service@Stowe started the year working on the ha-ha running alongside the road to the Bourbon. A small team of dedicated Lower Sixth volunteers, along with Fourth Form Duke of Edinburgh trainees, cleared all the brambles and unwanted shrubbery, revealing stonework that had been completely overgrown. Once this was completed the group moved to the ha-ha alongside the road leading to Lamport.

Without a doubt the highlight of the year was the Lower Sixth Form boys, lead by Ben Jenkins, Ed Cecil and Hugh Evans, removing their coats and shirts, following a dare and working topless for three minutes on one of the coldest and windiest days of the year. The look on the face of a horrified dog walker was priceless but made me feel like I was running a chain gang rather than a voluntary activity!

Mr Mike Dawson

Tennis Leaders Course

This year another five Stoics took the Tennis Leaders Course, completing it in the Michaelmas term. They all are now qualified to help a club coach teach children aged 10 and under. As a school, in the last two years we have now trained 13 Stoics to a level to achieve this qualification

Mr John Skinner,
Head of Tennis and Fives

School Shop

The Stoics who came to gain experience of a retail environment were surprised at what they learnt. Not only that a warm welcome and a friendly smile is required but willing hands to perform many different tasks from stock control to product display. They all were enthusiastic, asked questions and gained an understanding of a product from design through to making a sale.

Mrs Jacqueline Bishop

Wardrobe Group

This year the Service@Stowe Wardrobe group created a line of eco-friendly garments. The designers bought items from local charity shops and transformed them using an array of recycled materials. The garments were modelled for a photo shoot on the South Front. They are about to be sold on Camden Market for charity as part of the end of term programme.

Mrs Angela Cammish

Puppetry Club

After rehearsing a series of variety acts and the play 'Hansel and Gretel' we finally put on a marionette performance before an audience of children and their parents on the stage of the Roxburgh Theatre on Monday 29 April. Marionettes are string puppets and are very difficult to operate but the Stoic puppeteers were very effective. Timing is essential and scene changes were quick and interspersed with me using Bruce, a hand puppet of an Australian 'Digger', with cork hat, who entertained the audience to clean Australian songs and jokes. The audience was small but enthusiastic. Murray Aichison seemed to be in almost every act and Fenella Barrons, Tom Hunnable, Molly Suthers and Best Wangmontri worked very effectively as a team. Tom Hunnable operated the four (yes four) dancing witches simultaneously. There was some good interplay in Hansel and Gretel with Best, Molly, Murray and Fenella. A good time was had by all and next term we have invited pupils from Beachborough to attend the next show. It is hoped that this will become a termly fixture.

Mr Jonathan Sayers



“From the vastness of the structure that it is, to the intimacy of a meditative early morning Communion, Chapel exists at the heart of Stowe.”

Chapel

‘Chapel’ is both the sacred space to enter and dwell in, and the activity that is for engaging in and experiencing. From the vastness of the structure that it is, to the intimacy of a meditative early morning Communion, Chapel exists at the heart of Stowe. How Chapel is received and encountered by each person largely depends on our openness to the possibility of inspiration, challenge, blessing and spiritual nourishment.

We have indeed been blessed continually through the offering of sacred music, thanks to the generous and vibrant work of Simon Dearsley (Director of Music), Lewis Brito-Babapulle (Chapel Organist, Academic Musician) and the Chapel Choir. And, latterly, Nigel Gibbon (Head of Woodwind, Brass & Percussion) has added the resounding of trumpets, played also by Stoics.

We have received from several staff and some Houses, in addition to the Chaplain, thoughts and talks throughout the year, based on titles of Beatles’ Songs, Universal Values, Saints’ Days, and The Apostles’ Creed.

We have stood in rightful solemnity at a particularly stirring Remembrance; we have embraced the Holy Nativity of Christ with carols and readings; we have celebrated Confirmation within the Holy Eucharist, presided over with personal care by the Rt Revd David Jennings.

Chapel, one might say, has continued as ever. But it does not do so without careful preparation, the coming together of prayer and practicality – and the conscious affirmation of the potential for spiritual flourishing, and the essential place of Chapel in our nurturing.

Four notable things that have made this a special year: Preachers, Lent Sessions, Material Refreshment and David Wynne. Firstly, Chapel has been able to welcome some transformational preachers this year – those who have helped us to changed ways of thinking about God in the

world, in addressing authentic living faith: The Revd Lucy Winkett, the Revd Clive Hillman, Mrs Margaret Sentamu, the Revd Richard Coles, the Revd Steve Chalke – we thank them for their ministry here, particularly given their significant commitments. Secondly, the Lent Sessions centred on the ongoing relationship between Art & Faith, where two artists (Roger Wagner and Debs Last) brought their skills and faith to bear in class, full Chapel and smaller gatherings. Thirdly, we were enabled to refresh the material aspects of the sacred space, through the colourful and worship-enhancing embroidery of Juliet Hemingray – in altar frontals and the stall curtaining. These have made such a difference! And, fourthly, esteemed Old Stoic artist David Wynne joined us for the thanksgiving and blessing of his maquette of the Risen Christ, now mounted in Chapel. Here was a moment of delight, truth and spiritual homecoming.

May Chapel ever be a place that welcomes all in the name of Christ, that encourages thinking and prayer, that faces us with our true selves – and above all opens us to the possibility of an encounter with a real God.

The Revd Christopher Huxtable, Chaplain



Village Of Fire

During the summer of 2010, I was given responsibility for our village, my family, and my house. This experience made me into an adult.

My family spends every summer in the depths of the remote Russian countryside, experiencing the vistas of a seemingly eternal landscape and assuming our place in a time-honoured village community. The village comprises a street of traditional wooden houses surrounded by fields and forest. Each house is occupied by a large extended family with many children, at least one bossy grandmother and cows outside. Such families have lived this way since time immemorial.

However, in the summer of 2010 this traditional circle of life was threatened by a fire cutting a swathe through vast tracts of European Russia, destroying farms and houses until it danced close to our village, waiting for the wind to blow it further at will. In the mornings I would normally open the window to see nature at its best. That morning I saw nothing but a milky grey uncertainty. Dry smoke invaded my eyes, throat and nose, penetrating my lungs, making breathing difficult. The heat was intense. The sun burnt orange through a grey blanket. Even the flies and mosquitoes had deserted us.

We kept the television on, hoping for information about a possible evacuation but the screen offered only video clips of people walking on grey liquescent tarmac, leaving imprints of their tread. The commentary advised people to stay at home and to breathe through a damp cloth. No evacuation was forthcoming.

Three days melted into one another. The nearest fire brigade, operating pre-revolutionary equipment, was two hours away, and once we realised that our only resource was ourselves we formed a plan surprisingly quickly. Everyone, the youngest being eight, would do a two hour shift, walking round the village with a kalatushka, a wooden pan with ball and string attached, striking the pan to create alarm if the fire threatened.

Age in rural Russia is seen differently from Western Europe. Once a girl reaches her teens her priorities after completing school are marriage, children, and knowing how to milk a cow, prepare food, gather firewood for winter and shoot. A thirteen year old is considered a fully functioning adult, so the extreme situation which confronted us required me to play my part on a lonely walk through the village of fire.

My shift fell between one and three in the morning. My mother woke me and passed on the kalatushka. Her eyes were bloodshot with smoke and exhaustion. Outside the air was hot. The darkness of the moonless night contrasted with the white ghost-like smoke. There was utter silence. Everything smelt of burnt ashes and a taste of scorched caramel filled my mouth. My throat was dry.

Whilst walking I felt the immense burden of responsibility to my community. My family roots weren't from this village. We could have left and we argued for this but my mother, who had sat quietly, stood up and said: *"If the village is going to burn then, like a ship's captain, I would have to stay on the bridge."* For the few hours of my shift I was the captain. I realised that the reason I felt everything was going to be all right was because the villagers knew that someone, in this case me, was keeping a watch against the flames which might annihilate them.

Our village lay at the epicentre of the fire but strangely was untouched by the blaze that ravaged the surrounding countryside. But that night, when I had to take my share of responsibility for the fate of the village, was the night I left my childhood behind and began my adult life.

Anastasia Lopoukhine (Lower Sixth)

creative writing





SPORT



sport at *Stowe*



Rugby

1st XV

PLAYED 14, WON 8, LOST 6

There are no longer any easy matches on the fixture card, no bankers where you know you can count on a win, everything has to be fought for and as such this team produced a terrific set of results, Only Whitgift outplayed us and recorded a convincing margin.

Oakham and Cheltenham were both 10-8 home wins either side of the Whitgift game and then we took on another giant in the shape of Epsom College at the Honourable Artillery Company's ground in London going down 14-6 in another tight affair. At this point it is only right that I mention Jake Olley who was our sole contributor to the score board, a testimony to his accuracy, the balance of the fixtures and perhaps an indication that the back line consisted of only two Upper Sixth boys and just lacked a cutting edge for much of the season.

Oundle saw the forwards start to flex their muscles with two tries from Jordan Onojaife and Captain Oscar Page. The forwards would go on to prove their physicality and dominance as the season wore on. Ousedale proved an opportunity to gain confidence in the Cup but the following Saturday without Onojaife we just lacked the muscle to outgun Warwick who ironically went all the way to the Cup semi-final.

After dipping our toes in the water at the St Joseph's Festival, an experience that wasn't to our liking with many key players absent, we returned to our domestic fixtures in the second half of term. A half time scare at Bloxham in the Cup prompted a disciplined second half display before two straight defeats to Bromsgrove and Uppingham brought the side to life. A battle on the North Front in the fifth round of the Cup saw the side edge home 18-15 in dreadful conditions against Portsmouth GS. This made for a comfortable win against Loughborough before the big test in the Cup away at an undefeated Marlborough.

As alluded to before, we were very dominant up front and went out with the intention of playing to these strengths but some wayward kicking from midfield and some pitiful defence on two occasions meant the home side held a 17-7 half time lead, but with slope and elements to come, the game was still to be had. Sadly an unfortunate leg injury to Charlie Mason saw us lose concentration and concede a soft try but the forwards then took it to the opposition and nearly brought off the come-back of the season.

In the first ten minutes of our final game against local rivals Bedford we looked like a side still suffering from



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the hangover of going out in the Cup. Off pace and being pulled apart at will by a very good Bedford side, we could have been 20 or 30 points adrift but slowly and surely we got a grip of the game and in the second half the forwards again rose to the challenge and took the game to Bedford with satisfaction of finishing on a winning note 29-17.

The front row was young but mobile and quickly learnt to scrummage: all will be present again next season, Ryan Eveleigh, Harvey Derby and Charlie Mason have much to look forward to. A long term injury prevented Jack Chaplin contributing more on the field though his humour was always in evidence. The backbone of the side was made up of Jordan Onojaife and Tristan Phipps. Phipps was the ever-present unsung hero who gave his all whilst Onojaife collected the plaudits in the form of England U18 honours and a professional contract with the Saints. He has a bright future ahead of him. The back row took various forms due to injury and positional changes. Harry Consett was a consistent performer and Courtney Raymond had all the athletic qualities to be a real handful but struggled with the subtleties of playing 8. Hill and Murray Aitchison took on the mantle of openside, but as Lower Sixth and Fifth Form respectively, they lacked dominance in the contact area, but both will have honed their skills for next year and beyond.

At half back we had three boys Will Jones, Henry Woodward and Kurabe Makiura who all had different strengths and eventually Woodward's pass earned him possession of the No 9 shirt. Indicative of the inexperience of the back line was George Silk at 10. Although the youngest, he was the most influential, steering the forwards around the field and releasing his older partners in midfield: he will be a key contributor to the next two years of rugby at Stowe. The centre partnership of Harry Dixon-Smith and Drew Todd had a baptism of fire, and the loss of George Jones meant even more Lower Sixth presence on the wing. Myles Coe and Will Chatamra both benefitted from his absence. Charlie Sargent rose to the

fore and produced some solid performances out on the flank. At fullback we had the player of the season and Vice Captain Jake Olley. Accurate kicking and passing off both hands are his trade mark and he added bite to his defence. His absence in the Cup matches was felt and it will be strange after four years of putting his name on the team sheet not to do so again.

Stowe has a lot to thank him and the Captain Oscar Page for. Oscar has been a leader of this year group from the first week he joined. Passionate, physical, focused and blessed with some fine speeches he has always led from the front. He doesn't suffer fools gladly but you know

what you are going to get every Saturday afternoon from this individual and sheer honest endeavour has a big part to play in both the game and in life. Well done young man.

Finally a huge thank you to James Hayden in his first year as forwards coach, his competitive edge never far from his delivery. Thanks also to Mr Malling and Mr Barker for their support running the 2nds who ultimately feature strongly in all our preparations and not least to all the boys who represented the 1st XV.

Mr Alan Hughes

2nd XV

The 2nd XV had to overcome several major obstacles this year including injuries to key players and promotions to the 1st XV. One of the big conundrums was the position of fly-half, and after Henry Woodward's call up to the 1st XV it was Piers Fountaine who stepped in having originally played 4th XV rugby, and had an outstanding season, summing up the amazing progress the entire team made throughout the season. Early losses to Oakham and Oundle were frustrating, but they were both incredibly close matches that were eminently winnable. The resolve and character of the 2nd team to overcome these disappointments with focused training and practice started to show with an emphatic win against Mill Hill. In that game the props were

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outstanding and it was great to see Alex Fitzjohn trampling tacklers in several stampeding runs. The team really started to realise its potential with a huge win over Bromsgrove but the massive clash on the horizon was with the undefeated Uppingham 2nd XV, who were beating every opponent in sight. The game was played in damp conditions and Uppingham played like a team used to winning, running with confidence but shunning chances to take points at goal when prevented, preferring to go for the try. But on this day, Stowe came prepared to defend for their lives, and at one try each, it was Hugo Kinahan's penalty goal that separated the teams. Stowe came away with the scalp they had wanted all season, the Uppingham undefeated streak. Overall, this was an excellent season with a really inclusive team effort to get the wins they earned. Once again, it was a pleasure and a privilege to coach this group of young men.

Mr Charlie Barker and Mr Steve Malling

3rd XV

PLAYED 11, WON 9, LOST 2

This has been an outstanding season for the 3rd XV this year. The start of the season, again, saw us up against a historically tricky Oakham side. In previous years, Stowe has always been slow to start their season and usually find Oakham difficult to wear down. This year, however, saw Stowe sweep them aside 40-5 with Kalil Ali scoring four tries. This set the tone for the season with Stowe playing some ruthless rugby against Whitgift 40-5 and Cheltenham 24-5. Oundle posed a difficulty where again they played their usual ten man rugby and Stowe tried to beat them at their own game rather than relying on the swiftness of hand

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and the pace on the wings and lost 20-10. A ridiculous match against RGS High Wycombe saw the 3rd XV take on their 2nds for a mismatch losing 43-8. From that point, however, Stowe notched up some outstanding wins against Warwick, Uppingham, Kingham Hill, Berkhamsted and Bedford but none as memorable as the tough game against Bromsgrove away.

Despite being under pressure for the first ten minutes, a clearance kick and some poor defensive play allowed Alex Fitzjohn to crash over for an unconverted try. This first try was followed by a swift reply from Bromsgrove. Fortunately nerves began to settle and a George Jackman penalty followed by some lovely interlinking play before Wyn Clayton finished it off with a try in the corner. Hugo Hiley began and finished off a move five minutes from the end of the first half scoring in the corner. A rare mistake from Stowe allowed Bromsgrove to score from the kick off to make the half time score 18-10. Bromsgrove started the second half like a team possessed bringing the scoreline to 18-17 before Will Jones dummied his way over the line for an unconverted try. From this point on it became one of the most frantic and tense games seen. Bromsgrove, however, scored a converted try with two minutes to go

creating a one point lead of 24-23. Stowe threw everything at Bromsgrove who held fast and when Stowe spilled the ball on the Bromsgrove 22 it seemed it was all over. The referee played on, however, giving the scrum to Bromsgrove who, inexplicably, did not see the ball emerge from the back of their own scrum. Captain and Man of the Season Dom Smith latched onto the rolling ball and broke away, drew a defender and passed to Will Jones who also drew a defender and passed to Ali who, despite the despairing crunching tackle of his opposite number, touched down in the corner for one of the best wins 28-24 I have seen at Stowe.

In total, 45 players have played for the 3rd XV this season and coaches, myself and Mr Arnold would like to thank every one of them, reserving special praise for the main stalwarts who have been absolutely fantastic in terms of attitude and effort: Captain Dom Smith, Hugo Hiley, Jonny Dann, Fergus Jones, Ed Cecil, Harry Cockbill, Alexis Lazareff, Kalil Ali and Alex Long all having played more than half the fixtures. The standards keep getting higher and higher.

Mr Damian Blewitt

4th XV

The 4th XV had a rather disappointing season. The boys started the season promisingly with a fine win over Oakham on the Bourbon. Unfortunately, injuries to players in higher teams and players unavailable, forced us to play with weakened teams against strong oppositions. The best match of the season was against RGS High Wycombe where the team played with a real depth of character against what seemed to be their 3rd XV, and only lost by a single score in the last minute. Captained by Charlie Samuelson and Christophe Carrelet jointly throughout the season, the team was unlucky in many of its games as defeat seemed to be snatched from the jaws of victory.

Mr Brian Hart

Colts A



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A season which started so well, five straight wins with the team playing a high tempo and well structured brand of rugby, ended in bitter disappointment with four consecutive losses for a team who really deserved a far better end to the season. Prior to Half term the forward

pack always dominated the opposition and was the difference in the narrow victories. The set-piece was excellent and they had the best U16 lineout on the circuit. The scrum was equally rock solid and provided a great platform for Murray Aitchison and Ben George to do some serious damage working together off the base. Having won five out of the six fixtures going into Half term the prospects looked very good for the second half

of the season with a 'lighter' fixture list on the horizon. However, this was not meant to be and a mixture of poor performances and losing key players at crucial times to the 1st XV and to injury (which plagued us throughout the season) meant Uppingham and Bromsgrove, to name but a

few, got the better of the Colts in the second half of term. Highlights of the season were two great wins against Whitgift and RGS High Wycombe on the North Front in front of some big crowds. Captain Murray Aitchison and Vice Captain Ben George must be thanked for all the hard work they put into leading the team this year. A huge thank you to Mr Moffat for his tireless energy and

enthusiasm once again, to get the best out of the players. And last but certainly not least, thanks to every player who represented the Colts A this season. Whilst some results did not go our way this year, each player put in a huge amount of effort into each game and to improve as the season went on.

Mr Michael Rickner

Colts B

Red Dawn enjoyed a good season, ending it with an over 50% success rate with some notable victories over the likes of Whitgift and Oundle. In a season dominated by injuries to the A team, the B team at one time played eight players down; the real credit therefore for the successful season must go to the many C team players that stepped up and were not found lacking. The backs proved our greatest strength but games cannot be won without the forwards winning the ball first and in this role they made up with tenacity for what they often lacked in size. Too many players

made their mark for all to be named and whoever was made Captain seemed to immediately get promoted to the A team; Nicholas Joiner Straughan and Angus Tyrrell being the main post holders although Caspar Whitehead and Toby Pemberton did a stint. A measure of the team spirit that made them such an enjoyable side to coach was their strength of character that enabled them to come back from four consecutive defeats to win the last four games on the trot. I would like to express my gratitude to the many parents who supported us; their welcome presence on the touchline added much to the season.

Mr Ian Findlay-Palmer



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Colts C



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to be ranked first out of all C teams in the country was the crowning moment of the season, won by the sheer hard work of every Stoic who represented this side. Stoics involved in the Colts C XV turned out every week, trained with composure and dedication, honoured their opposition teams and displayed humility in victory. This year's C team played expansive rugby and enjoyed victories over Oakham, Uppingham, Bedford (our closest scoreline at 22-0), Cheltenham College (a new fixture) and The Oratory School, with more besides. Captain Jack Edmonstone was a worthy leader, encouraging and inspiring his team in equal measure. Notable performances throughout the season came from George Barham in the pack, Ed Elliott in the half-backs and Artem Ioannesyanyan on the wing with a truly astonishing try tally. Congratulations to all the players on a fabulous season.

Mr Roland Johnson

As rugby C teams go, the Stowe Colts C XV has traditionally been an outstanding showcase for the strength possessed by the School's Fifth Form boys. However, the Michaelmas 2012 season proved a greater testament to the flair, skill and dedication of the C team fraternity than was the case even in the impressive preceding years. To complete the season unbeaten is a tremendous achievement.

To outscore every opponent by a minimum of 22 points is another achievement. However,

Junior Colts A

The team produced an outstanding season this year, losing only two games to two very worthy opponents. From the very start of the season the side showed a great deal of potential and determination to succeed, however they had needed a great deal of coaching and guidance in order to guide them towards fulfilling their true potential. The side possessed a huge amount of strength and speed with players such as Tosin Segun, Toni Kuku and Seun Coker scoring an impressive amount of tries throughout the season and wowing spectators with their ability to create scoring opportunities out of nothing. Charlton Kerr was able to steer a side through a game using his very potent running and kicking game which saw us beat very good schools such as Warwick, Rugby and Whitgift quite convincingly. As well as these outstanding individual performances there were a number of players who worked themselves into the ground in order to provide the side with the ball they needed to win games, as well as defending their own try line relentlessly. Alex Diaconu, Alex Smith and Jack Hechle were highly dependable around the break down and Thomas Johnson developed a reputation

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for delivering huge tackles game in game out. The side grew massively over the course of the season and showed a very satisfying progression in their all round game play week after week. This resulted in a strong Daily Mail Cup campaign which culminated in a 17-7 loss to Bedford on the North Front. On a good day this Stowe JCA team could easily have been the side to lift the U15 Daily Mail Cup in 2013.

Mr Tom Higham

Junior Colts B



me in the season was the 3-0 defeat of Bromsgrove in front of a home crowd. That is when everything started to click for the JCBs. The season effectively built to a climax, with our last game being Bedford away. Stowe played some very good rugby and narrowly missed out on the win to a very well-drilled Bedford side. Overall the season has been very successful and they should be very pleased with their efforts. Special mention for a few who stood out for me this season: Freddie Paling, Harry Bunting, James Moor, Adam Ezomo, Inigo Lendrum, Gregory Atkinson, Zach Coupland and Triumph Opuala-Charles, with Tom Buxton showing the most amount of improvement in the season. Well done boys – a great effort.

Mr Stephen Dachtler

PLAYED 12, WON 9, DREW 1, LOST 2

The Junior Colts Bs have had a very successful season this year winning nine out of twelve of their fixtures. Captained by Freddie Paling, for the second season in a row, we tried to play to our strengths, keeping the ball away from contact and using our pace on the wings to create opportunities. When we played to our game plan we could score tries against any opposition, even dominating Whitgift in parts, but often we were our own worst enemies and gave away soft points. The turning point for

Junior Colts C

This was a season which began with unconvincing rucking and ended with questionable backs' decision-making, but within that framework most of all this was a season of individual star turns. Nai Chi Tsai, our flanker, came to embody the team's determination, driving forward with great power, ball tucked under an arm and two or three opposition hanging and sliding off him. Angus McCrorie-Shand, our other flanker, seemed fearless, intelligent, level-headed and reckless all at the same time, and was a vital figurehead for the team. John Shin, our prop, maintained and perpetuated his upbeat, enthused attitude from the

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first to the last minute of term. In the backs, it passed understanding how Ed Tilleard remained a winger in our team and not the Bs, for he was fast as light and tackled time and again when there was no one else to prevent a try. George Olley, our No. 12, was another man who must be up against some severe competition in the As and Bs, for he was everywhere on the pitch, in attack and defence, with a natural leadership and an inspirational work rate, attitude and skill set. Again, George Markham at No. 10 had such talent with the ball in hand and such ability to convert that he is clearly one to watch for the

future. Our two scrum-halves both showed promise: Brennan Gough slipped in two tries and two conversions and Hallam Smith kicked 10 points. Tom Carr too showed plenty of skill. We ask forgiveness from those we have not had space to name individually here, but suffice it to say there is such individual talent here that when those concerned have a growth spurt, commitment spurt, or develop their sense of whole-team play, B team players may well be caught out!

Mr Bob Roberts and Mr Ray Dawson

Yearlings A

This was a peculiar season in so much as we entered this year group in the County Cup for the first time which is played before Christmas. This gave us a chance to have a look at the talent we had which as it turned out, proved a bonus as the weather after Christmas prevented as much development as we would have liked.

The side is blessed with some very talented and influential players but what further impressed me was the development of some of the other individuals who blossomed over the second term.

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In Tosin Segun the side and the School has a try scoring machine. He scored, over two terms, 66 tries and could have scored more but more importantly he listened and recognised how to bring other players into the game around him as he knows he will need to harness these attributes when others grow and develop physically. His centre partner Jarrod Van der Westhuizen is also fast, elusive and physically strong, not as natural a try scorer but incisive and able to play Tosin into space and he too developed his vision and decision making as the term evolved.

For centres to shine they need half backs who can release them and in Diggory Slee and Dom Shaw they have just that. Slee's passing off both hands is exceptional, he is strong and has an eye for a break. Shaw can hold a defence with the timing of his pass and also penetrates gaps when presented. The wingers need to work on their pace but Pepe Leyte showed promise at the end of the season while Max Bourne and Robert Turness are both strong defenders. At fullback Brandon Lee is safety personified and has some wonderful evasion skills.

The pack settled down with both props Hamish Murray and Josh Laurence offering strong set-piece, their next target is to get their hands on more ball in the loose. Ben Solomon is a technically gifted hooker who is strong in contact and when he grows will be a menace around the field. Both second rows would prefer to play back row but

Adebambo Adejebi and Josh Goodall offer inspirational pieces of play but too sporadically at the moment to win places in their preferred position, both know they can add much to their game. Oscar Holmes is fearless and Fabian Bevan a work horse as a flanker. Both will become outstanding players as they grow. Archie Dixon-Smith can play anywhere on the back row and was an instant hit with the Saints scout. Along with his pack he has developed immensely and their ability to provide continuity to their game became a feature of a pack of forwards who initially looked very one paced and pedestrian.

Sadly their first match of the second term was the Cup Final against an unbeaten Aylesbury side in January and they went down 14-12. It may have been a different result in March. Their only other loss was to a formidable Warwick side that was played in three inches of mud and snow and the result was as much about a state of mind than ability. There were notable victories along the way, Uppingham had recruited well and had Stowe under much pressure until the forwards came of age with a 40m drive as was finished off by Segun. Beating Oundle twice is no mean achievement and The Perse and Solihull were no push overs but both schools caught the boys at the end of their season when they were in overdrive and playing Super 16 Rugby not Premiership. It will be interesting to watch them develop.

Mr Alan Hughes

Yearlings B

With a slow start to the season due to weather issues, the Yearlings B started their season against Oundle and played in a similar fashion to England v New Zealand matches. Stowe retained much of the possession but when ball was turned over, Oundle ran away to score. Stowe made some lovely foraging play and tried to move the ball well – a strategy that would serve us well for the remainder of the season - but Oundle's defence soaked up the pressure and eventually ran out winners with a scoreline of 30-10.

Fortunately that did not discourage the side from playing in the same manner and resounding victories against KES Stratford 43-5 and Stamford 33-7 demonstrated the capability of the players. A loss to Warwick in atrocious conditions followed by a tough close game against Shrewsbury saw Stowe lose at the end by a conversion 7-5. In the remaining three matches Stowe saw the side bolstered by a couple of new names and victories against Uppingham 19-5 and the Perse 22-12 were ultimately more comfortable than the scoreline suggested although the return fixture against Oundle resulted in a similar loss as Oundle played exactly the same as at the start of the season and Stowe struggled to contain them.

Many congratulations go out to the side and in particular the following stalwarts who held the team together throughout the whole season; Jack Foreman was a tower in the centre and led on several occasions while Messrs Rimlinger and Leefe constantly battled for the right to wear the No. 9 shirt. Sam Holland-Bosworth grew in stature

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throughout the season resulting in some magnificent thunderous runs in the final few matches. He was complemented by Tom Carne whose strength and power made the scrum indomitable; the back row comprising at various stages Messrs Kingham, Vickers, Brooke, Browning and Wood caused no end of disruption for the opposing sides and the attacking skills of Georges Tasker and Rory Hunnable and in the latter stages of the season (with a unique running style) Cosmo Oliver under the direction of Sol Boyd created plenty of scoring opportunities. However the man of the season for his 100% commitment in every single game is Henry Russell.

Many congratulations to the whole team for laying such excellent foundations for the future of Stowe Rugby.

Mr Damian Blewitt

Yearlings C

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Shillington. He has been a great leader and a tough player. Harry Cook and Jamey Lewis have been the stalwarts of our forward pack and Jack Staveley is one to watch for the future. Miles Bell has kept the ship steady at fly half and Oli Woods is, for me, the find of this season. Stuart Milner suffered a long term injury but he will add to the team next autumn. All in all, not a bad set of results, but it will be interesting to see how this team develops. Good times ahead I think.

Mr Ray Dawson

PLAYED 7, WON 4, LOST 3

Mr Barker and I had the great pleasure of coaching this team. They have been a great bunch of lads, and good to work with.

We started with a great win against King Edward's Stratford at home 43-5. Like all other teams we were beaten by our British weather and not able to play another game in January. The rest of our season went with alternate wins and losses. Because of injury and illness, we used a lot of players this term.

It is impossible therefore to mention all, but we must mention our Captain Fantastic Finnian

Yearlings D

Cold or wet weather wrote off many fixtures this season for the Yearlings Ds so it was difficult to settle into a stride. However, Sam Montgomery displayed pace and confidence in attack; as he learns to pass once he has broken the line he will surely develop into a greater threat still. Avijit Nair steadily improved as both attacker and defender and we look forward to seeing more from him – likewise the other second row forwards Hamish Graham-Campbell and Josh Dolder.

Our front row had injury issues over the season but mention must be made of Toby Lawrance's brave, pained efforts; him limping back into the fray was a regular sight on the pitch. In the backs Oliver Woods and Charlie Sheaf were particularly effective in attack and defence and we look forward to seeing them develop more in the Junior Colts. Likewise scrum half Louis Esquerré Gow and fly half Olly Clarke shared accurate hands and good decision-making, a pairing which we hope will continue. Luke Wace at inside centre showed himself to be a very capable young man and if he sticks with it hopefully he will make his way up into the Cs.

In short, fingers crossed for an autumn season with good weather and plenty of fixtures so that the talents of these and other individuals, who we have not had space to name, will get a chance to properly develop in match play. Our real thanks to a group of lads who were absolutely brilliant to work with, in snow, hail, downpour, ice, fog or, occasionally, a temperate day!

Mr Bob Roberts, Mr Brian Hart and Mr Dick Carpenter

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Rugby 7s

With over 20 players regularly attending the indoor touch and fitness sessions in the Drayson Sports Hall throughout the early part of the term, we knew the 2013 squad had depth and commitment. Early season outdoor sessions were hampered by the adverse weather, but the glimpses that we saw suggested it would be another good year for the Stowe Senior 7s.

Our season kicked off with a tournament at KES Stratford. This proved to be an excellent afternoon, as we progressed with ease through the early stages. A solid test against RGS Worcester in the semi-finals required us to hit top gear, but we did just that and reached the final where we faced the home team KES Stratford. A tight first half was put behind us and when we eventually relaxed, we scored at will and picked up the inaugural trophy. Jake Olley showed his class scoring five tries and Courtney Raymond showed his raw power and picked up four. The squad scored 23 tries in total and conceded just three.

The following Sunday took us to Windsor. We opened

with a comfortable win against Brighton College B, but then struggled to get going in the freezing cold wind and stumbled with a disappointing loss by two points to Radley, a team we should have beaten. We picked ourselves back up with solid victories against St Edward's, Windsor and Hampton, which took us to the semi-final of the Cup competition. We met our first 'Acer' (Academy schools for premiership clubs) school of the season as we were drawn against Henley College. The Stowe team fought valiantly, but the final bounce of the ball went their way and we just lost by four points. Oscar Page, Tristan Phipps and James Hill came through the day with much credit as they demonstrated the grit and 'never say die' attitude required.

Our third tournament was at Northampton School. We were the Champions in 2012, so were major targets for the other schools. Early matches were comfortably negotiated with Drew Todd elegantly gliding in for several tries. Our first big test was when we met Moulton College (another Acer school, with many Saints players). A hard fought 14 minutes saw them come out on top, but only by one try.



We realised that we would most likely meet them in the final, and with wins against their B team in the semi, that is what happened. Unfortunately for us, Moulton brought on a fresh side full of well known representative players and our tired team took an uncomfortable thrashing. We did not enjoy that very much, but when the going got tough certain players stood out including George Jones and Piers Fountaine.

The first major tournament of the season is the Surrey 7s. This is a 52 team tournament where schools from all over the country converge to flex their muscles before Rosslyn Park. We have done well here in the past, but it is a day when one poor game can mean your afternoon is cut short, there are no second chances. An initial win against RGS Guildford settled the nerves, with George Silk turning the game with some dazzling running. Unfortunately we then lost our way, as minor injuries depleted our side and we lost to a passionate Pangbourne side (unfortunately coached by my brother who now has bragging rights in the Sutton household until next year!). A final match against Truro College (Exeter Chiefs Academy) was also lost, so we returned disappointed with our efforts.

The end of season National Tournament at Roslyn Park is definitely the highlight of the season and usually sees the Stowe team rise to the occasion. This year's tournament was played in atrocious conditions, with deep mud, pitches that were tiny and had boundary lines which were non existent

for most of the extent of the pitch. However, our powerful side adapted to the conditions well and dominated our group, beating Cleave, Marling, and the British School Abu Dhabi. The performance of the morning came from Charlie Sargent who scored four tries in one match against his friends at Abu Dhabi. Harry Consett, Oscar Page and James Hill were also standing out on a day when the finer arts of sevens play were shelved and old fashioned brawn was the order of the day. A group stage decider against Sevenoaks was our final match and with our confidence fully restored, Stowe won to progress to the knockout stages, which meant a return the following day. A rather unfortunate draw saw us face Wellington, the team we met in the semi-final last year and the perennial winners. The conditions were now even worse, but we took to the field with little to lose. Unfortunately their power and organisation was as impressive as ever and we struggled to break their line, baring one fantastic run from George Silk, who scored from inside our own half.

As ever it was an intense and demanding season. At the end of the season we paid tribute to an excellent group of Upper Sixth Form players who have given much to the 7s scene including – Jake Olley, Oscar Page, Tristan Phipps, George Jones, Courtney Raymond, Harry Consett, Charlie Sargent and Jamie Wace. My thanks also go to Mr Hayden for his limitless enthusiasm throughout the season.

Mr Craig Sutton

Boys' Hockey

1st XI

PLAYED 11, WON 5, DREW 1, LOST 5

The Stowe 1st team had a season of two halves and just managed to finish successfully winning as many as they lost. In the first half of the season everything that was hit on target was converted and in the second half of the season too many chances went begging allowing the opposition to take the initiative away from the team. In a season of snow and cancellations I think we would have picked up a couple more victories.

The team's successful start to the season was built on a great pre-season where the team travelled up to Worksop College and had played against some good teams beating a depleted Repton, drawing with Uppingham and beating Worksop College. The team were being well led and marshalled by Will Jones, who was 1st team Captain, and he was a key player all season as his linking between defence and forward line were very effective. The pre-season not only got the players some fitness but also established a solid defensive line and this was key for our first game of the season against The Leys, who with an England U18 player, were denied numerous times in a two all draw in a cracking game. Will Drinkwater really stood out at left half playing his way out of pressure with ease. His injury to his shoulder would be a great loss to the team but as ever he showed great desire to come back and regain his spot for the end of the season. This desire was shown in spades by Will as he has worked very hard at his game to establish himself as a Senior player.

Another highlight would be the 5-2 win over Uppingham with Nick Paine unleashing his drag flicks with pace and power scoring four goals and taking the game away from the opposition. Nick went on to be top goal scorer for the team scoring 17 out of the 31 goals and was a real threat of short corners. The other forwards all caused trouble to the opposition and worked very hard in defence and Kit Dixon-Smith was the leader in this department. He was a powerful forward giving the team great defensive structure and was always keen to get on the ball and scored a couple of well taken goals in the season. Another Upper Sixth player leaving is Russell White who having played 3rd team all last season was electric in pre-season and forced himself into the 1st team, evidence of progression through the School.

In the County Cup the squad were looking strong in the early rounds beating Aylesbury and Dr Challoners, however, they would not get past the semi-final as they lost out to John Hampden in a game they could have won.



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This was a disappointing finish to the campaign; this with other commitments and poor weather at the end of season really impacted on training and this affected momentum. However, in these losses the boys continued to try and play in the right manner, passing the ball on and creating chances which unfortunately were not taken.

The defence was also made up of Upper Sixth players all who have moved up the ranks in the School teams. Harry Martin secured his spot in central defence and was a calm and dependable player keeping it simple with strong passes and good block tackles. His central defensive partner was Henry Woodward who was a real revelation this season as he covered huge amounts of ground in defence whilst maintaining calmness on the ball. Henry was the coaches' player of the season and was fantastic throughout. Behind the defence, Angus Craven made some spectacular blocks on his line when the ball was struck hard at him and he was always confident sliding off his line making some vital smothers and interceptions. Other Upper Sixth Formers who stepped up and played were Jack Chaplin whose basic skills and desire were a great strength and Mungo Kilgour whose quick and nimble footwork and skills were a dangerous threat. As always I hope that the leavers will go on to play hockey in some format in the future.

The squad will have a very different look to it next season, however, there are some very strong individuals that have played throughout this year. The midfield of Jackman, Todd and Dixon-Smith, Hill up front and Walker-Payne in defence were key players this year and I look forward to seeing how they progress next season. My thanks go to Mr Pickersgill who has been fantastic in his support and coaching of the team.

Mr James Fair

2nd XI

PLAYED 7, WON 4, DREW 1, LOST 2

There were victories over Haberdashers' Aske's, Bedford, St Edward's and Stamford. The spoils were shared in the first match of the season against The Leys. In the end a 3-3 draw was a fair result. Henry Wheeler opened the scoring and then Captain Jack Chaplin scored the second and then produced some outrageous individual skill where he skipped past three players to set up Jasper Upton for the equaliser. Man of the match was Mungo Kilgour. After an indifferent performance against Uppingham the next win was a fine 3-1 victory over Haberdashers' Aske's. George Jones opened the scoring. Henry Wheeler slammed in his third goal of the season to make it 2-0. Robbie Henriques and Arthur Newman were rock solid at the back and Oliver Jackson extinguished all hopes of a Habs come back by rounding the keeper to slot home number 3. A mid-week victory over Bedford was followed by a fine 3-0 win against St Edward's. The boys saw this as their biggest game of the season and this was evident from the quality of warm-up and preparation. It also helped having Ben Duckett available and his two goals helped settle the team with Henry Wheeler adding a third. Players of the match went



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to Jonathan Dann and Robbie Henriques who stopped any advances towards Will Barnes' goal. The seven goal thriller against Stamford saw George Jackman bag all four Stowe goals to complete an outstanding afternoon in front of goal. Will Barnes and Robbie Henriques were also on top of their game. The team has made an enormous amount of progress over the season and those going into the Upper Sixth should be knocking on the door of the 1st XI.

Mr Isaac Michael

3rd XI

PLAYED 6, WON 2, DREW 1, LOST 3

The highlights were the two wins, the first coming against The Leys on the first Saturday of term. The team held on to win 1-0.

The 3rd XI had a resounding 7-0 victory against Haberdashers' Aske's with hat trick hero Will Hawkes leading from the front as skipper, ably supported by Will Plant, Charles Pilleau and Hann Morgan. This was a

very strong performance by a team that played to good structure, holding position well and moving the ball into the danger zone with great speed and skill. The finishing was as effective as the build-up play. On the last Saturday of term the team worked well as a unit, producing some good hockey and eventually settled for a 2-2 draw. Those returning next year should be looking to push for a place in the 2nd XI.

Mr Isaac Michael

Colts A



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In spite of being one of the least successful in objective win/loss terms this was one of the most enjoyable terms of Colts A hockey I can remember as a coach. Here was a group of boys who were keen to play attacking hockey, to work hard at their game individually and collectively and who only came up short mainly because of the lack of an out and out goal scorer and a natural central midfielder. A stellar County Cup win and a gritty, backs-to-the-wall 0-0 draw against a skilful St Edward's side just after Half term were probably the highlights of the season. Special mention should be

made for the heroic efforts of central defenders Angus Tyrrell and Best Wangmontri and in particular the saves made by goalkeeper Ed Gorst.

Mr Henry Swayne

Colts B

The Colts B showed some significant flair in all areas of play and great determination this season, which started with a 1-1 draw against The Leys. Then came the snow and a couple of cancellations, followed by a particularly hard game at Uppingham in which Ed Elliott put away an exemplary penalty corner. Against Haberdashers' Aske's we won 1-0 and then lost to St Edward's, 1-3, having been

1-0 up. Another 1-1 draw against St Albans at home and a loss at Stamford. George Barham, Jack Edmonstone and George Gill were the most improved players and Ben ter Haar deserves special mention for his super 'quick feet' and leadership, before moving up to the A team. Well done to all who played.

Mr Alex Jorgensen

Junior Colts A

PLAYED 7, WON 2, LOST 5

In what was always going to be a difficult season, with five away games, the boys struggled early on to get a win. A tricky trip to The Leys left them with a disappointing 5-2 loss. Jack Hechle and Alex Smith scored for Stowe and there were flecks of promise for the remaining games. A 6-1 loss to Uppingham followed, despite an excellent first half performance, with a goal from Sam Riley. Unfortunately, things did not get any better when we travelled to Haberdashers' Aske's, a tight first half was followed by a poor second half where Stowe let Habs back in the game. Hechle added to his total for the season and the game included the goal of the season by Alex Smith where he dribbled past five players and then unleashed a missile undercut into the top of the net. Just a glimpse of what this talented young player can do.

Just before Half term, Stowe got their first win in an excellent performance against Bedford. It also saw the first sight of Alex Diaconu, the find of the season, who had made a great start for the JCBs and who managed a hat trick on his home debut! Alex was far too quick and strong for the Bedford defence, and Stowe managed to change their game plan to suit this dominance. This game was won comfortably 4-2, with Smith also adding another goal to his season.

Stowe continued their good form after Half term, with an excellent win against local rivals, St Edward's. Diaconu led



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the team forward again, with a second hat trick in as many games, with Zach Coupland and Smith also scoring. This sadly came to an end against Stamford, who were a strong side and Stowe lost 6-1, with Diaconu adding his final goal of the season. MCS Oxford were our last opponents, and despite a superb game from Isaac Ajala, we lost 6-0.

A disappointing looking season, however, there are a number of excellent hockey players who will have great success in the future and I'm sure we will be reading about them in magazines to come.

Mr Ben Ponniah

Junior Colts B

PLAYED 6, WON 3, LOST 3

The season ended very well with three straight wins against St Edward's 2-0, Stamford 1-0 and MCS Oxford 3-2. Up until then there had been several cancellations due to the weather and the team had found it hard to get into form and lost their first three matches.

Isaac Ajala was superb in goal all season and eventually made it into the A team as did Freddie Paling who was impressive in defence. Guy Seddon, Alex Diaconu and Harry Bunting also all made the move up into the A team at various points during the season. In Freddie's absence, Alfie Marsden-Smedley played well at centre back and Kit Gordon Cumming did a good job as sweeper. Ed Tilleard

finished the season brilliantly at centre midfield as did Freddie Phillips who played on the right. Ali Martin came good on the left wing and Oscar Williams (who was a goal keeper last season) was a revelation on the right wing.

Harrison Tucker, Oli Kenyan and Tom Constable-Maxwell were solid performers throughout.

If not for poor weather I think this team would have hit their stride earlier and had a winning season. As it is, they have to settle for evens. Great finish to the season though and it was great to see so many of them progress into the A team.

Mr James Knott

Junior Colts C

PLAYED 2, WON 1, LOST 1

It was a short season for the boys due to the extraordinarily inclement weather. The first match was against St Edward's during which the boys struggled to convert, despite having a great deal of possession. Ben Alderson worked his legs to the bone during this game, and as such was man of the match. The second and final match of the season was against MCS Oxford. The boys played vintage champagne hockey and earned their 3-1 victory. Freddie Pope started the goal scoring and had a couple more shots on goal. Much learning had been taken from our previous loss and

it was clear that Freddie had been putting in extra shooting practice beyond the scheduled sessions. A few players joined the team from the B team including Hallam Smith, who was a useful communicator and, as a consequence, morale raiser. George Olley often worked tirelessly on the pitch and played out of his skin on a number of occasions. He was not afraid to move up and down the pitch, which is impressive at this level. Patrick Robinson was a good Captain for the C team this term, and his flair earned him a position in the B team.

Mr Ben Ponniah

Yearlings A

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The Yearlings A team had a fantastic term this autumn; their skill and motivation has made it one of the most successful Yearlings Hockey terms in the School's recent history. They have developed a fine team spirit with all the players in the squad playing important roles within the team both on and off the pitch.

The season got off to a great start with a win over rivals Oundle and this victory set the tone for the rest of the term. The team enjoyed continued success against teams such as The Leys, The Perse and Stamford while our only loss came from Uppingham.

The consistency the boys showed allowed them to be victorious in the inaugural Lupos league. The Yearlings A team were also crowned County Champions and finished fifth in the South region of the National Championships. The team was well Captained by Rory Hunnable throughout the season but there were also exceptional performances from Brandon Lee, two hat tricks during the season, Gabriel Chauveau and Archie Dixon-Smith, although naming a few players seems harsh due to the exceptional efforts of the squad as a whole over the course of the season. The future for Stowe hockey certainly seems bright at the moment. Thanks to Mr Fair for all his help coaching the boys this year.

Mr Richard Pickersgill

Yearlings B

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PLAYED 12, WON 5, DREW 2, LOST 5

A very inexperienced squad started the term nervously and unsure of themselves as many of the team had not played hockey before arriving at Stowe. Added to the fact that the team were now in the Lupos league it meant that the start of the season was a difficult one. There were some heavy losses initially. However by Half term the side had started to develop and were putting into practice what they had been working on in training.

This resulted in a productive second half of term where the team managed to turn round some of

their defeats from earlier in the season. They defeated Stamford 4-0, drew with Oundle having lost to them 3-0 earlier in the season and defeated The Perse 3-0 having lost to them 5-0 earlier in the season. Add to this wins over RGS High Wycombe, Chesham High and a draw with Sir William Borlase.

Jack Foreman impressed as Captain and eventually won a call up to the As for the last game of the season. He also won player of the season. Jack Dickerson was the coach's player of the season having had an impressive season in goal. Edward Rimlinger was the most improved player and Sam Montgomery the most hard working. The defensive back four of Hamish Graham-Cambell, Piers Edinborough, Carlie Tufnell and Nikko Elliot played to their strengths and tackled determinedly and skilfully. Rob Barclay and Charles Granby set up many goals from the wings.

In the end a very satisfying season where the team showed great commitment and a determination to improve.

Mr James Knott



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Yearlings C

The C team was particularly transient this year, due to movements between the C and B teams. However, a solid win against Stamford lifted spirits. Sam Holland-Bosworth, James Browning and Cosmo Oliver deserve special mention for this victory. There were many close games and man of the season has to be George Williams, whose perseverance was admirable.

Mr Michael Bevington

Yearlings D

The D team was an exceptionally hard working group of young men with a very mixed range of abilities. It was impressive to see so many boys learn so quickly and force their way into the teams above. Training sessions were competitive and the rivalry with the C team was especially pleasing and provided an opportunity to hone our skills and make certain of our positional play. The D team was undefeated at home, but struggled on the road. I do hope that this fine body of men keep up their Hockey and continue their development of the game.

Mr Andrew Murphy

Yearlings E

The E team played with commitment and increasing skill, but lacked enough strikers to ensure victories. They scored goals in all but one of their four games against Oundle and Uppingham.

Mr Michael Bevington

Girls' Hockey

1st XI



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PLAYED 18, WON 9, LOST 9

Stowe had one of their most successful seasons to date with a winning season in their Saturday matches and qualifying for the Regional tournament for the first time. Throughout the season they have improved and this was due to a culmination of hard work, willingness to listen and desire to put new skills into practice. The improvement in the quality of hockey was highlighted by the girls turning around a 1-3 loss against Bradfield in their first game to beating them 5-3 the second time around. This victory was one of the highlights of the season with goals being scored by Charlie Lechmere, Steph Robinson, Tilly Upton, Laura Welford and Val Madojemu. The ability to share the goals amongst the team was one of the reasons for their success as in the past teams would only see goals from one player but there was a good battle for the golden stick with Charlie Lechmere and Steph Robinson sharing the top goal scorer award. Clara Holden was nominated player of the season and Georgia Stone was players' player of the season.

Even in defeat the girls showed grit and determination. In a 2-3 loss to Bloxham the girls never gave in and continued to attack and create chances and on another day could have got a draw from the game. This 'never say die' attitude was shown in spades in the Regional tournament where they pushed Kingston Grammar, who went on to qualify for the Nationals, to the wire and nearly pulled off a fantastic result. The team's endeavours in the Regionals were based

on qualifying in second place in the County beating Beaconsfield High, Akeley and Royal Latin on the way. In these games the girls made life easy by making sure they got on the score sheet early by playing with great intensity and desire to score first.

The team's success was built around girls who have played for the first team for two or more seasons. Georgia Stone has been fearless in goal and saved her best performance until last, making crucial saves against Bloxham. Steph Robinson and Claudia Bett have worked tirelessly up front and became real threats in front of goal. Lucy Wellington at the back stepped up to become a rock at the back, tackling hard and improving her distribution. The midfield combination of Charlie Lechmere, Laura Welford and Becca Dale have provided a great base from which to attack showing great skill and speed. They have also defended like their lives depended on it at times. This dedication combined with good humour and spirit will be missed from all the leavers but I am sure that their work ethic has rubbed off on our Fifth and Lower Sixth Form girls who have stepped up to the speed of Senior girls' hockey and I hope they continue to improve. My thanks go to Ms Knott who has been a good role model for the girls and done a fantastic job helping the team and me.

Mr James Fair

2nd XI

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This year's team had a successful winning season beating Bloxham, Bradfield (twice), Bedford Modern, Wellingborough and Mill Hill. The drawn games were against Pangbourne and Bloxham. The only three losses came against Oakham, Tudor Hall and St Edward's. Over the course of the season the team was ably Captained by Rosie Marsden-Smedley, Ellie Pinnock and Helena Lewis and Willa Barham had an outstanding season in goal. She set her standards high from the very first game against Pangbourne where she gained player of the match in the 1-1 draw. The first wins of the season came in the triangular match involving Bloxham and Bradfield. India Cornish scored the only goal against Bloxham and was on the score sheet again in the 2-0 win against Bradfield with Annabel Rushton the other goal scorer.

The next win came in an away fixture against Bedford Modern 1st XI on a very cold and wet afternoon. This did not prevent some exhilarating hockey from the team, spurred on by an early injury to Captain Pinnock. Bella

Wallersteiner was fantastic in the middle and Honor Turner rock solid at the back. This solid spine of the team enabled the other players to shine with goals coming from Helena Lewis, Ruby Mills, Hattie Comyn and India Cornish.

The 1-0 victory over Wellingborough was followed by a comfortable 3-0 win over Bradfield. Bradfield had no answer to the speed of Georgia Alderton and the Stowe front line. three goals in 15 minutes effectively ended the game as a contest in the first half. Annabel Rushton continued her fine form with a brace against Mill Hill in the 5-0 victory. Other goals on the day came from Helena Lewis, Georgia Alderton and Lucy Smith. In her only game for the 2nd XI Laura Welford hit two goals against Oakham and also claimed player of the match along with Hattie Comyn.

Some fine hockey was played this season by a very settled and committed squad of players, many of whom should be pushing for places in the first team next season.

Mr Isaac Michael

3rd XI

PLAYED 8, WON 4, DREW 2, LOST 2

The 3rd XI also had a winning season. There were wins against Bloxham (twice), Bradfield and Wellingborough. The team followed the defeat against Pangbourne on the first weekend with a five match unbeaten run. The first game on this run was a 1-0 victory against Bradfield with Lizzie Highwood scoring the decisive goal and Edwina Longe awarded player of the match. Lizzie was on the mark again in the 2-0 win over Bloxham with Claudia Wace also getting on the score sheet. These two victories left Stowe triumphant in the triangular with Bloxham and Bradfield.

Lizzie Highwood starred again in the 1-1 draw against Bedford Modern scoring and claiming player of the match. In the same game Rebecca Wild made two outstanding saves in goal and Alica Cranwell was hard to stop on the right wing. Sophie Robertson and Jo Jackson had particularly strong performances in an eight goal thriller against Wellingborough which resulted in a 5-3 win for Stowe. The girls finished the season with a fine 3-0 team performance against Bloxham and should take heart from some great performances over the season.

Mr Isaac Michael

U15 A

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The U15As had a winning season with some pleasing progress individually and collectively. Highlights included a superb passing display to dismantle Bedford Modern 5-1; a thrilling 4-4 draw with a strong Bloxham team on the last Saturday of the season; overturning a 1-0 deficit away at

Bradfield to win 2-1. Special mention to Captain Caprice Critchley for determined midfield energy, Polly Stuart-Mills for similar hard work at the back and Jemima Grant who was regularly the best player on the pitch.

Mr Henry Swayne

U15 B

PLAYED 8, WON 4, DREW 1, LOST 3

It has been a season of two halves for the U15B team this year. Right from the first game I could tell it was going to be an interesting term as we travelled away to Pangbourne. The girls showed considerable determination and concentration in every match they have played this season. They have improved each week into a real team unit.

The turning point in the season has to be the draw against Bradfield. With a change in formation and positions, Captain Asthina Badcock was moved into the centre of midfield and strengthened our attacking play. The draw was the start of a fantastic run of four games unbeaten, winning our last three matches of the season against St Edward's, Oakham and finally Bloxham.

A real highlight of the season was the away match against Oakham where the girls played some excellent hockey. Having conceded an early first goal, the girls never gave up and were sublime all over the pitch. Jess Burke troubled the defence down the left wing with her pace, and the two goals by Saskia Satchell were well deserved for her fantastic wing play throughout the game. The team could not have achieved what they have this term without a strong goalkeeper behind them. Frankie Knight has been extremely unlucky not to play in the A team this season and I am confident that if she continues to put in similar performances next year, she will no doubt get her chance. Tilly Smith has been a leader in defence throughout the season and always puts in a mature performance each week. Anna Bevington, Siana Griffiths and Sasha Plunket-Checkemian have been extremely solid at the back. A special mention is needed for Thuli Thabethe at the heart of defence, who has been sublime throughout the season. Laura Brogden is calmness personified at left midfield and Georgina Walker strikes the ball with remarkable power. The dynamic duo of Sorrel Fenwicke-Clennell and Olivia Walters have been both a handful, and pleasure to coach this term.

Their teamwork and support of each other all through the season, in particular the last four games has been a pleasure to witness. I am extremely proud of what the girls have achieved and I wish them every success in the future – Well done girls!

Mr Chris McGhee

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U14 A

PLAYED 11, WON 10, DREW 1, LOST 0

The U14A team had a remarkable season and should be proud of their achievement in their first term at Stowe. As a group they arrived full of energy and enthusiasm and quickly bonded to form a dynamic, cohesive team - full of potential! Throughout the term they won an impressive 10 out of their 11 inter-school fixtures drawing only to St Edward's 1-1. Incredibly, as a team they scored a staggering 58 goals and conceded only one with their most notable performances against Wellingborough 6-0, Bloxham 4-0, Bradfield 6-0 and Oakham 3-0. Isabelle Upton was highest goal scorer with 17 goals playing at centre forward, followed by Octavia Cavill, a dominant force at right midfield, with 12 and Celia Marment on the left wing with 10! Amy Cairns, the goalkeeper, had some quiet games but, having been selected to trial for JRPC we were confident we were in safe hands when under attack! Thalia Felton, who has also been selected for JRPC, was awarded player of the season for her significant contribution to the team playing at right forward. Further to their success representing the School, the U14A team were also crowned U14 Buckinghamshire County Champions (this was the third consecutive year that Stowe have won this tournament at this age group). They then went on to represent the county at the Regional heats and look forward to returning as U16s in the future. Charlotte Oswald is to be commended for her role as Captain and for her strong leadership on the pitch as centre midfield, scoring nine goals. I have been teaching a few years now and it not often you have the privilege to work with such a talented group of girls – well done!

Mrs Sarah Sutton



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U14 B

PLAYED 12, WON 9, DREW 1, LOST 2

The U14B girls' hockey team had a tremendous season going from strength to strength. We played, as always, with a large squad enabling as many girls as possible to take part. In total we scored 43 goals and due to our excellent goalkeeper only conceded eight. The team spirit was strong and each match was played showing great determination to win. Individual skills, tactics and team play improved considerably during the season. I look forward to watching some of the girls playing for the 1st team in the future.

Mrs Valerie Green



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U14 C

PLAYED 2, WON 1, LOST 1

The U14Cs have had a very good term. Their enthusiastic commitment to training three days a week on grass in all weather has resulted in some very enjoyable and skillful hockey. Playing only two fixtures, the girls have done extremely well to maintain a sense of focus and it was a delight to see them passing the ball with such fluidity in their first away game at Oakham. Indeed, the goal they scored within the first few minutes of this match was picture perfect. Well done to everyone in the squad.

Mr Alex Jorgensen



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Lacrosse

1st XII

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The attack came together this season, and the team can attribute their success to individual accountability and offensive cohesiveness. A strong attack relies on balanced and unselfish play. As a unit with multiple scorers in any given game, Stowe’s attack certainly grew into a unit worthy of praise. When any given one of the seven is capable of scoring multiple goals in every game, it shows maturity both in game sense and overall attacking motion. Lucy Horan and Megan Duckett led, contributing a combined 105 goals in the season. Two of our younger attackers, Aleksia Zivanovic and Octavia Cavill, strengthened the attack tremendously and will be pivotal to the success of Stowe in years to come. Charlotte Berrill’s contribution should be noted as well as Charlie Lechmere’s ability to control the midfield and support the attacking ride.

Priscilla Powell’s strong presence in cage along with efforts from the likes of Shona Drummond, Katkin Farr, and Lily Comyn at low defence kept the opposition to fewer than six goals in five out of six matches this year. The transition defence has improved as the year has progressed and will continue to do so. Tireless running from Charlie

Lechmere meant that we were often able to create goals out of nothing and there is no doubt that her presence will be sorely missed next season. The settled side of the defensive restraining line has also become tighter and increased communication has been the key to a steadfast defensive seven. Credit should be given for their aggressiveness and tenacity in getting the ball back. They have done an excellent job this year and kept us in the tight one goal differential wins of St Helen and St Katherine’s and Berkhamsted.

Stowe’s 1st team had an excellent second part to the season, winning all of their friendly fixtures and placing well at Nationals. The firsts beat St Helen and St Katherine’s, Birmingham University 2nds, Bedford, Berkhamsted, Cheltenham Ladies’ College, Queen Anne’s, Haberdashers’ Monmouth, Malvern St James and St George’s Harpenden. This is a very young team and they should be incredibly proud of their accomplishments this year. Thirteen of the fifteen 1st team players will be returning for next year’s season, and they are sure to put Stowe back in the hunt for next year’s medals.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

	Goals	Assists
Megan Duckett	57	13
Lucy Horan	48	5
Charlotte Berrill	25	4
Aleksia Zivanovic	24	4
Charlie Lechmere	9	5
Octavia Cavill	8	2
Shona Drummond	5	-
Tilly Upton	5	-
Laura Welford	3	-
Tessa Horan	2	-
Katkin Farr, Mara Rowan-Hamilton, Fleur Congreve	1	-

2nd XII

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The 2nd team had a very successful season, becoming stronger as a unit with every match they played. There were several close encounters that resulted in Stowe pulling off a win through teamwork and constant effort. They had an extremely hardworking core of midfielders led by Maddie Wackett, Bella Kelly, Lettice Carter, Ellie Clark, and Tilda Bevan. These girls worked relentlessly throughout the matches, constantly fighting for groundballs and winning interceptions to gain possession for Stowe in the midfield; on the attacking end of the pitch they led in goal scoring. Lettice Carter was the leading goal scorer with 13 goals, and Tilda Bevan followed her closely with 12. Bella Kelly, Maddie Wackett, and Izzy Boorman scored 11 goals each this season. Annabel Rushton had several assists and was the main reason for many victories.

On the defensive end of the pitch, Mia Kinahan played goalkeeper in the first term, whilst Immy O'Brien played in the second term. Both of these girls seemed to come up with great saves when it was absolutely necessary to keep their team in the match. Tilly Salvin and Lottie Hodson played close defence and were constantly making good slides to protect both Mia and Immy from attackers coming down to shoot at full speed.

Memorable scores were against Westonbirt in the first term 6-5 and Malvern St James in the Lent term 8-6. Both games saw the refusal of the Stowe girls to give up and with everyone pulling together to produce competitive defence and creative attack play. They came out victors on both occasions. This became more evident at Nationals when they were put against some of the top teams in the country. Managing to make their way into division one and then losing in the semi-final to Berkhamsted by two goals proves how much progress had been made. With very few Upper Sixth girls in the squad the future looks bright.

Miss Kelly Curran

U15 A

Stowe's U15A lacrosse team is packed with talent and potential. This team is exciting to watch and will be even more exciting to see what they can do over the next few years. The team's defence is led by goalkeeper Izzy Oliver, who made several vital saves throughout the season but more importantly showed discipline and patience when it was needed most, and defender Polly Stuart-Mills. On the attacking end, Philly Stacey led the goal scoring with 21 goals throughout the season. She was followed closely by Milla Harvey-Scholes with 18 and Anna Fox with 17. Every girl on this team made a difference when they stepped on the pitch and as a team they are so successful because of their intense aggressiveness and their strong push toward the goal.

In regular matches, they beat St Helen and St Katharine's, Bedford, Malvern St James, Westonbirt. They suffered a one goal loss to Berkhamsted, which was much improved from their loss to this team at the U14 level a year earlier. They made their mark at Nationals though, beating Heathfield, St Helen and St Katharine's, Clarendon and Lady Eleanor Holles (LEH) and narrowly losing to St Swithun's. The match against LEH was the biggest win this team has achieved while at Stowe.

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The game was aggressive from the first whistle. Luckily Stowe's Philly Stacey drove to goal to score the first goal of the match. Later in the first half, LEH and Stowe exchanged goals to make the score 2-1 at half time, with Stowe in the lead. The second half was scoreless. LEH possessed the ball for much of the last few minutes on Stowe's defensive end, doing anything they could to try to find the back of the net. However, this is where Stowe truly showed their perseverance and composure. The defence, led by Polly Stuart-Mills, Asthina Badcock and Dot Holt, was brilliant in holding them out. Goalie Izzy Oliver really stepped up and made a couple of great saves, and realised that she needed to be careful on her clears to maintain

possession once we got it. In the last minute she showed the poise of a remarkably experienced goalie. Knowing her team was winning by a goal, she held the ball for as long as she could in the crease, stepped out before it was a turnover, then got the ball up the pitch, leaving it so that LEH did not have enough time to get the ball back up the pitch to score. Stowe beat LEH 2-1. Unfortunately, with the way points are awarded in this tournament for wins, losses, and draws, there was a three-way tie between these three teams for first place in the section. The first and

second place teams in the section move on to play-offs. With much anticipation, Stowe learned at the end of the day that they would not move on to play-offs due to goal difference. This was a heart-breaker after all the hard work they had put in, but all the girls knew that despite this upset, they had proved that they are a stand out team.

Watching this group of talented lacrosse players grow and evolve into even more disciplined players over the next year will be very exciting.

Miss Kelly Curran

U15 B

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The term started well with a convincing game against St Helen and St Katherine's 9-5 and then the snow affected the continuity of the term and we were beaten in close games by both Malvern and Bedford. Some girls played across both the A and B team and others such as Mia Kinahan played in goal for the 3rd team as well. Both Sorrel Fenwicke-Clennell and Olivia Walters played in games where they were the stand out scorers (six goals a piece). Saskia Satchell should be congratulated on some excellent play in the centre as well as Frankie Knight and Laura Brogden being stalwart defenders. There is a lot of talent amongst this group and if they carry on with the sport they will be part of the Senior teams over the next few years.

Miss Chelsea Wagner

U14 A

The U14As had a fantastic run this term. Many of the players on their team were complete beginners and individuals such as Thalia Felton, Clarissa Lllanaj, and Holly Campbell are prime examples of these lacrosse stars. The girls won five out of six matches making it a memorable season. At Nationals, Stowe faced several strong and competitive teams but they were able to keep up with each team and win three out of their six matches.

There were many positive experiences this term; upsetting Berkhamsted and beating Queen Anne's at Nationals to name but two!

Midfielder, Charlotte Oswald was Stowe's leading scorer having scored 17 goals in total. Aside from her goals scored, Charlotte did an amazing job on the draw winning numerous draw controls which lead to many scoring opportunities for Stowe. Octavia Cavill was second in line with the most goals scored as she scored nine goals this term. Octavia spent most of her time playing with the 1st team although she appeared in two of the U14A team matches and was able to score nine goals in those

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two matches. She contributed to many positive plays on the pitch and the U14A team was lucky to have her in those two matches. Both Issy Jessel and Celia Marment contributed to the goal tally and definitely stepped up to the mark when Octavia was moved to the Seniors.

The midfield were lucky to have Thalia Felton as she was a major asset to the team. Her consistent hard work and determination in the midfield allowed Stowe to have several caused turnovers which led to Stowe's possession of

the ball. Another stand out player this term was goalkeeper Clarissa Llanaj. Having saved roughly 35 shots, Clarissa proved herself to be the backbone of their team. She was a crucial part of Stowe's defence and her long accurate clears helped Stowe transition the ball into the opponents' defensive end.

Overall it was a great term for the U14A lacrosse team. Having such a young and inexperienced group of girls was

daunting back in September, but these girls have grown so much and applied their knowledge and skills during each match which allowed them to succeed. Each individual player was eager to learn during each training session and equally as eager to win during each match. They have accomplished so much as a team and it is exciting to see how they do next lacrosse term.

Miss Kelly Curran

Goal scorers:	Total number of goals scored:
Charlotte Oswald	17
Octavia Cavill	9
Issy Jessel	7
Celia Marment	7
Flo Berner	5
Flossy Fox	5
Millie Watkins	4
Annabel Simpson	2
Thalia Felton	1
Ivy Freeman-Attwood	1

U14 B



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For a group of girls who have come to Stowe without ever playing lacrosse before this U14B team look to be very impressive. With wins over St Helen and St Katherine's, Berkhamsted, Malvern and Uppingham and a narrow defeat by Bedford shows how well the girls have developed their skills. Jess Amies in the centre, Flo Stanley and Savanna Elliott in attack and Carmen Thompson Perea in midfield are perhaps the stand out performers, but there is no doubt that a lot of them will be knocking on the door of the A team next year. They came to practice every week with a desire to learn and there is no reason why, next year as U15s, they cannot put in a presence at Nationals as a B team which would be a first for Stowe girls.

Miss Chelsea Wagner

U14 C

This is the first time that we have been able to field a C team in lacrosse and how proud we are of their achievements. Wins over St Helen and St Katherine's, Malvern and Berkhamsted bring back many memories with impressive performances from Skye Longworth, Poppy Moore and Fabiola Koenig. Our two goalkeepers, Laurine Heerema and Camilla Morandotti, both stepped in the cage this term and look to be excellent prospects for the future. Their skills improved as the term progressed and it was noticed that their understanding of the tactics and field play got better as they played more competitive games. It's always a tough start when all of the other schools start at the age of 11, but the girls should certainly feel that they can start next year with confidence.

Mrs Jayne Duckett



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Cricket

1st XI

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**PLAYED 17, WON 11,
DREW 3, LOST 3**

Highlights were big wins over St Edward's, 4 wickets, Oundle, 143 runs, Uppingham, 122 runs, Eton, 133 runs and of course the record breaking T20 win over The Oratory where we set 302 for 1 in our twenty overs and bowled them out for 114 to set up a huge win by 188 runs.

Ben Duckett scored 700 runs at an average of 70, his best innings 140 not out against a strong St Edward's side. Jake Olley scored 558 runs at 40. His best 131 not out in the record innings was against The

Oratory. Russell White also had a good season with the bat scoring 413 runs. George Jackman finished strongly scoring 86 against Menlo Park.

With the ball our seamers more often than not did the job for us. Henry Woodward finished the highest wicket taker with 32 wickets, his best being a six wicket haul in the drawn match with Oakham. Russell White always set a good tone with the new ball, more than often knocking the opening batsman over. He finished with 20 wickets, his best a five wicket haul in the win against Eton. Lastly Jack Keeping, in his first season in the 1st XI, played an important part and took 30 wickets. His best five for eight against Uppingham, where he ran through their lower order to secure victory. Tom Young finished the season strongly and took five for 14 against Marius Viljoen. He finished with 14 wickets at 12 runs apiece.

A lot of this side were Upper Sixth and we thank them for all of their efforts over the past few years for Stowe cricket. It will be a rebuilt side next season, but hopefully the players who are still here will have learnt a lot from the likes of Ben, Jake, Russell and Henry and put some of those lessons into practice next year.

A special mention must go to the Captain Ben Duckett who made his debut in the Third Form and scored 15 centuries and just under 4,000 runs along with 50 dismissals behind the stumps. He has signed a professional contract with Northants and has made his debut for the 1st XI in all competitions, scoring 53 not out in his first class debut.

A big thank you to those who helped make the season what it was. Firstly, Phil Arnold the assistant coach. Mike Harris and Cliff Pocock – our two full time umpires. Lynn Allen – our scorer and, of course, Steve Curley and his team who produced pitches of outstanding quality throughout the season.

Mr James Knott

BOWLING

Name	M	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avg.	Econ.	S/R	5wh	Best
HWH Woodward	18	119.4	16	376	32	11.75	3.14	22.50	1	6-30
JBR Keeping	18	103.3	14	396	30	13.20	3.83	20.70	1	5-8
RDR White	18	101.5	15	313	20	15.65	3.07	30.65	1	5-33
TE Young	11	55.5	6	174	14	12.43	3.12	24.00	1	5-14
JRF Hill	15	14.0	3	45	8	5.63	3.21	10.50	0	3-11
FE Ulmann	7	34.0	7	148	8	18.50	4.35	26.25	0	2-19
CD Carrelet	7	50.0	6	157	8	19.63	3.14	38.50	0	3-33
A Newman	10	32.1	1	139	7	19.86	4.32	28.00	0	2-17
JR Chaplin	11	27.0	6	108	5	21.60	4.00	32.80	0	3-23
JA Olley	17	18.0	0	66	2	33.00	3.67	54.00	0	2-26
HJR Martin	14	26.1	1	129	2	64.50	4.93	78.50	0	1-0

BATTING

Name	M	Inns	N/O	Runs	Avg.	Top	50s	100s	S/R	4s
BM Duckett	11	11	1	700	70.00	140	1	4	120.90	107
JA Olley	17	15	1	558	39.86	131*	1	2	87.46	68
RDR White	18	15	1	413	29.50	71*	2	0	69.41	50
GL Jackman	18	17	2	336	22.40	86	1	0	69.28	36
HWH Woodward	18	16	2	295	21.07	55	1	0	50.51	32
HAA Dixon-Smith	18	13	3	168	16.80	41	0	0	72.10	14
JRF Hill	15	11	3	138	17.25	33*	0	0	52.67	15
JBR Keeping	18	13	5	108	13.50	30*	0	0	57.75	9
HJR Martin	14	7	2	54	10.80	21*	0	0	37.50	6
A Newman	10	4	2	52	26.00	25*	0	0	36.36	3
TE Young	11	5	3	41	20.50	27*	0	0	46.07	2

2nd XI

PLAYED 9, WON 5, DREW 1,
LOST 3

Once again the 2nd XI have had an enjoyable and successful season. Only three matches were lost to rain against Bloxham, Pangbourne and Bedford. The defeats came at the hands of Abingdon, Eton and Oakham, however, there were many highlights over the course of the term. Wicket-keeper batsman Will Jones broke his finger in a middle practice which effectively ended his season, however, it gave Sam Whitbread the opportunity to keep wicket for the whole term and he certainly did not disappoint with numerous catches and stumpings, and hardly any byes given away.

First up was Oundle in a timed game. Batting first, Stowe amassed 179 for 7 in 35 overs with man of the match Drew Todd top scoring with an impressive 79. Oundle managed 163 for 5 in reply to draw the match.

The first win of the season came against The Oratory in a T20 game. Excellent bowling from Christophe Carrelet 2-13, Ed Selby-Lowndes 2-13 and Charlie Wentworth-Stanley 2-15 restricted The Oratory to 90 for 7 of their allotted 20 overs. Stowe knocked them off with ease for the loss of four wickets with seven overs to spare thanks to a great knock of 39 not out by man of the match Harry Martin.

The game of the season was against Uppingham with everything you could ask for in a game of cricket. Uppingham were bowled out for 136 with Harry Consett taking a wicket with the first ball of the match. It was certainly a day for the spinners with 8 of the 10 wickets to fall going to Arthur Newman 5-36, Harry Martin 2-22 and Charlie Wentworth-Stanley 1-13. In reply, Stowe made



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a steady start but then lost wickets at regular intervals. Freddie FitzHerbert played confidently for his 18 but was then the first of three crazy run outs. This left Ed Howes needing to score one run to win with three balls remaining. He made good contact but lofted the ball and was dropped at backward point who then had a shy at the stumps and almost run out Sam Whitbread who was backing up the quick single. The Uppingham players collapsed to the floor knowing they were so close to tying the game in dramatic style. Stowe edged home by a wicket.

In the next game against Bedford Modern School (BMS) the team put in another fine bowling and fielding performance, this time in a 30 over match. Harry Consett 2-13, Ed Selby-Lowndes 2-15 and Tom Young 2-22 did most of the damage, restricting BMS to 118-9 in 30 overs. Classy batting from Freddie FitzHerbert (36 not out), Harry Consett (25) and Tom Young (20 not out) saw the team home to win by 7 wickets with 13 overs to spare.

Toby Wightman came to life in the game against Rugby School on the North Front – clearly a man for the big stage. His 2-8 along with Harry Consett 3-52 and James Drax 2-15 helped restrict Rugby to 115 all out. In reply Stowe were making hard work of chasing a modest target until Wightman arrived at the crease and proceeded to launch the ball to all parts of the boundary, scoring 27 not out to help the team win the game by three wickets.

In the last week of term a youthful 2nd XI played touring South African side Marius Viljoen coming out on top to

win by nine runs in a 40 over match. Stowe amassed 242 for 5 thanks to a maiden century from Alistair Martin and 41 from opening partner Brennan Gough. Marius Viljoen made 233 for 9 off their 40 overs with Sam Riley, Alex Smith and Charlie Wentworth-Stanley the pick of the bowlers.

Many of the 2nd XI squad went on to play some matches for the 1st XI which was great for their cricketing development.

Mr Isaac Michael

3rd XI

Stowe 3rd XI had a fantastic start to the season picking up early wins against both Oundle and The Oratory. Although a more relaxed team, the boys really showed their drive for the sport by continuing their undefeated season, beating Uppingham in a closely fought match where Tristan Phipps showed his true class picking up three wickets. Even after losing a few key members on the team due to exams, Stowe won their next match against Bedford Modern, this time Edward Howes picking up the hat trick. This took the

results to four wins out of four. The next match was against Eton, a team that Stowe has not played for years. Sadly the fairytale could not continue and despite how well the boys played they could not beat the power and speed of the opposition. Stowe finished the season second in the league table and could well have gone on to win if the weather had been kinder.

Mr Will Hearne

4th XI

PLAYED 6, WON 5, LOST 1

This season the 4th XI have been outstanding. The team has been extremely fun to be in and we have enjoyed every moment. Mr Last has been a fantastic coach and has led us

to cricketing glory, finishing second in the country in the schools league for 4th XI teams. Thank you very much for a great season and remember to 'feed the fire'.

Hugo Ellison, Lower Sixth

Colts A

PLAYED 6, WON 5, LOST 1

I was impressed how the boys gelled together and played in good spirit. With the 1st team raiding two of our finest Colts A players, there was renewed competition for places and I am pleased to see transition up and down between Colts A and B teams. Captain Kyle Browne led beautifully from the front with excellent batting and strong insight in his field placings. Tom Hunnabe and Ed Elliot formed a mean opening bowling combination squeezing out wickets for very few runs and a bucket full of maidens. James

Scott was our most reliable middle order batsman seeing us home on many an occasion, as well as keeping very tidily behind the stumps. Nick Bell should be commended for his spirited personality on the pitch, raising the boys' energy levels, with his timely witticisms and being a thorough team man. Five wins out of six is a strong return on investment. It is time to hang up the stripy umpire blazer for another season.

Mr Andrew Murphy

Colts B



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PLAYED 4, WON 2, DREW 2

The Colts B team really enjoyed their brief season, winning two and drawing two of the four games they played. The positive attitude of the Stoics and the aggressive stroke play of some of the batsmen led to some captivating matches, with the Uppingham game being particularly exciting. Stowe scored 180 runs in thirty overs which proved just too much for Uppingham to chase down. The game was not secure until the last over which had a number of parents as well as a nervous coach on the edge of their seats. The positive attitude displayed by the top order also paid off with a fine win over Oakham.

The side was very well led by Captain Jack Edmonstone who contributed some important runs and set some excellent fields. He was aided with some accurate seam bowling from Murray Aitchison and Ben ter Haar who both starred in the victory against Uppingham. Special mention should go to Jack Strong whose explosive batting and athletic fielding often proved the difference between Stowe and the opposition.

Mr James Hayden

Junior Colts A

The Junior Colts A team started the term lacking in confidence so our primary role was to instill some confidence into a talented group of players. Confidence came by the bucketful after a good pre-season session and excellent early results against The Oratory and Uppingham. All the players in the squad have made an impact at some point or another, with some of the most memorable moments being George Constantinidi's five wicket haul at The Oratory including taking one catch using his calf muscles! Ali Martin and Brennan Gough also showed class with the bat scoring centuries and Sam Riley achieving an opening spell of five maidens in a row against Uppingham. The team certainly started and finished the term strongly and they have finished as County Champions and Three Counties Champions. At the time of writing they are still to attend the South Finals in the school holidays and we wish them the very best of luck in this competition. Well done to all the players in the squad for an exciting and memorable year of cricket!

Mr Richard Pickersgill



Junior Colts B



PLAYED 9, WON 8, LOST 1

Stowe Junior Colts Bs have had a victorious season winning eight of their nine games. The best matches included a fantastic run chase against Eton when the boys chased down 164 runs, knocking off the winning runs with four balls to spare and only losing two wickets. There was also a great result against Akeley Wood's A team who had restricted Stowe to under 100 in 20 overs, however, the team bowled them all out for 80 runs. These two fantastic team performances were on the back of good wins against Rugby, Uppingham, Oundle and The Oratory. Victories were set up by good batting. Inigo Lendrum and Tom Carr formed a solid opening partnership, with Lendrum finishing top run scorer for the team scoring three fifties and one hundred,

and this was followed up by aggressive middle order batting from Jack Hechle, Harry Bunting and Williams who all scored 50s in the season. With the ball, wickets were shared around, Allwell Opuala-Charles and Toni Kuku bowled fast and quick and this was supported by Will Allen and Edward Tilleard who both bowled tightly throughout the season. The occasional bowling of Guy Seddon and Williams, who both would have bowled more in a different year, also picked up wickets including four and two respectively against Uppingham. Overall, the team have thoroughly deserved a successful year as they have practised hard and applied themselves in matches. The star man was Inigo Lendrum's aggressive batting which allowed the team to get off to match winning starts.

Mr James Fair

Junior Colts C and D

PLAYED 4, WON 1, LOST 3

The Junior Colts C cricket season was cut short to just four matches in the end due to bad weather and other cancellations, which meant that their season never really got going and it was hard to build up momentum. They were on the wrong end of three of those results, but there was a fine win against a strong Abingdon side. Abingdon batted first and in their 30 overs posted a commanding 168 for 8. Stowe chased it down in quick time only six down. This win showed that there is talent in this team and there is something to build on as they move up to Colts level next season.

Mr James Knott

PLAYED 6, WON 5, LOST 1

The Junior Colts D have enjoyed a successful season this year. Although the emphasis has been on participation rather than competition, at this level it is still really good to see the boys battling hard, both home and away, to secure victories. The winning matches came against some local rivals and familiar names: The Oratory, Aldenham, Pangbourne and PRS. The boys should be very pleased with their efforts. Special mentions go out to Zack Coupland, Benoit Ferrand, Hallam Smith, Kit Gordon Cumming and Santi Stockton for making it a memorable first season teaching cricket and to Hamish Beaton, whose attitude to the game and training, cannot be faulted. I would like to wish the boys a restful summer and thank them for their efforts. It has been most enjoyable to be part of their season and I look forward to seeing what they can produce in the future.

Mr Stephen Dachtler

Yearlings A

PLAYED 16, WON 8, DREW 1, LOST 7

Although it may sound like a back foot defensive shot (especially in the light of some unconvincing stats above) much of the focus for the Yearlings each year is on the learning process. Getting used to senior school cricket is more of a jump for many than one might expect (the size and weight of a cricket ball is different for a start) and there will inevitably be moments of madness in a season when as a coach one must remember that these boys are only fourteen years of age...

A huge amount of positives came out of this season. The improvement as a fielding unit over the term from poor to strong in the course of ten weeks (hugely gratifying as a coach and thanks to Mr 'John Buchanan' Deakin for some fearsome drills); a great victory against the odds to reach the final of the county cup chasing eight an over from the outset; a thrilling tie with an unbeaten Oakham side in the last Saturday game of the season; a Captain's hundred for Brandon Lee at the Ardingly festival; a six from Archie Dixon-Smith against Cheltenham.

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I could go on but suffice to say that a few of the losses will be turned into wins next season as the boys mature and grow stronger physically and mentally. I shall look forward to following their progress up the School; they are a great bunch of characters and I thank them for being such good company for me throughout the season.

Mr Henry Swayne

Yearlings B

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The Stowe Yearlings B have had a superb season, expertly Captained by Piers Edinborough. They have shown dedication, motivation and enthusiasm. These three attributes have meant that they have been a pleasure to coach and training has always been meaningful and enjoyable for all. This year we have recorded excellent victories against Oundle, Bloxham, Uppingham, Abingdon and Dr Challoner's Grammar School. There were also close fought matches against The Oratory, where the game went down to the last ball and a moral victory against Eton as our 'tail wagged' for ten overs to ensure we at least batted our allotted 30 overs. It is a testament to everyone's cricket this season, that so many players have featured for the A team this year. It really has been an all-round

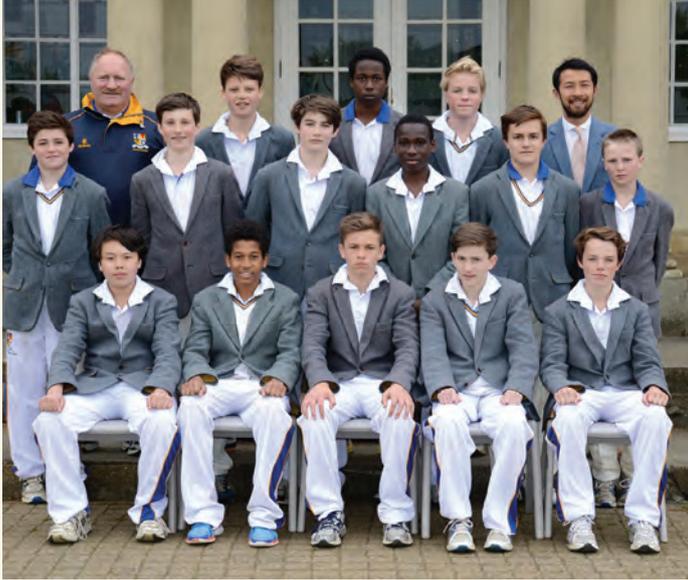
team effort however, notable mentions must go to Georges Tasker for his work with bat and gloves, Jack Foreman with the bat and ball, Archie Forsyth and Piers with the bat, Oscar Holmes with excellent fielding and batting and

finally Dom Strong, Seb Wood, Sol Boyd, Harry Cook and Freddie Faulkner with the ball. Well done!

Mr Michael Rickner

Yearlings C

© R & H Chapman Photography



PLAYED 12, WON 10, DREW 1, LOST 1

The Elysian fields of Lord's or Edgbaston might be a long way from Yearlings C cricket, but some things are universal in the game and remain undiminished: through all the matches this year, there have been wide smiles as deliveries have crashed through the stumps, and these schoolboys' ears have perked at the familiar sound of leather ball whizzingly thwacked away to the boundary. Indeed, this is a season less characterised for its success, and more memorable for the wonderful spirit and upstanding sportsmanship with which this team has played all year.

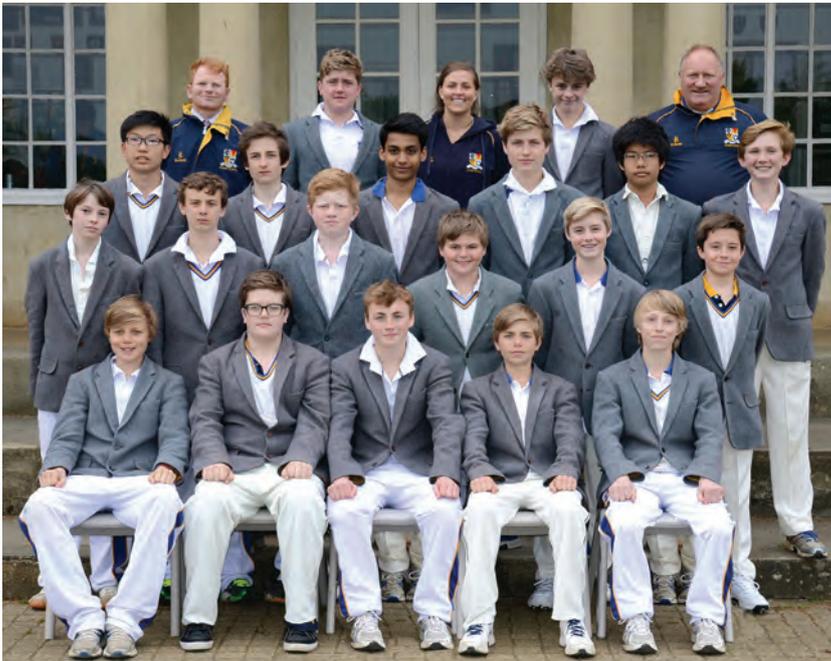
Highlights have included: Diggory Slee's innings of 86 in the season opener at Oundle; Charles Granby's six wickets on a lively strip at Rugby; dashing half-centuries from Bertie Alexander

and Edwin Rimlinger against Uppingham and Wellingborough respectively; a thrilling tie at home to Abingdon; George Adams plundering five wickets and Adebambo Adejobi making 43 from 18 scoring shots in the final match of the season at Oakham; and Freddie Faulkner's devilish delivery against Dr Challoner's, which cleanly cleaved the middle stump into halves.

Mr Tony Chan

Yearlings D and E

© R & H Chapman Photography



PLAYED 6, WON 3, LOST 3

The Yearlings D team started the season out strong with three great wins against Uppingham, Kingham Hill and Pangbourne. The end of the fixtures list proved to be tough competition and the boys ended with a 3/3 record losing to Radley, Eton and PRS. Jack Staveley led the team in wickets while Jack Dickerson led the team in total runs on the season. The boys were all able to try their hand at batting and bowling and their play greatly improved as the term progressed. Overall, very well played.

Miss Chelsea Wagner

The Yearlings E in their first full season found it difficult to get into their stride. With only four games, three against Radley and one with Eton, they found the opposition just too hot to handle. There were some good performances, most notable from Henry Moore against Eton who had a hat trick. Final figures, 4-9 off 3 overs. Although the results were not as positive as we had hoped, a great deal of fun was had and there was a real sense of enjoyment of the gentleman's game in matches and training.

Mr Kevin Ryce



Swimming

We returned to Stowe in the spring to start what was going to be an action packed term's swimming. The House Swimming Championships was once again upon us and the gauntlet was set down by last year's winners, Temple. In the Senior boys' team there was a clash of the titans between last year's Seniors and the new U16 swimmers. Ivan Popov proved very strong and was able to beat a field of talented swimmers. Ivan was able to win the Freestyle and the Butterfly, where Charlie Harris unfortunately faltered on the Backstroke allowing Seb Johnson to take the honours. Guy Riches came through to win the Breaststroke in style, giving Ivan enough points to win overall. Grenville was potent in the relays breaking the House record and taking the Cup for the best House in the Senior competition.

In the U16 Toby Pemberton was outstanding and with the Chandos 'freight train' William Thompson out of the equation with an injury, this Cobham boy sailed to victory. Toby's time had come to change three silvers into three golds.

Junior boys saw a new talented swimmer in Hamish Graham-Campbell. He was able to win at this level with a hat trick and his Butterfly was superb. Hamish's only rival was Sacha Yonan who had to settle for a single win in the Freestyle for Chatham.

The Senior girls' event was dominated by the 'Latin Express' Ella Johnson. She was able to win the Freestyle, Butterfly and the 100m Individual Medley over her competitor Ellie Pinnock, who swam well and scraped a win in the Backstroke as a consolation. Ella Johnson's team were fantastic in the relays, breaking the School records for Medley and Freestyle. Their point tally was extraordinary!

The outstanding U16 girls swimmer was Elsa Desmond. She lifted most of the cups on offer and she is one to watch next year.

The future looks good for the Junior girls with the addition of superstar Holly Campbell, who was able to break



* Colours for swimming

Senior Girls' Team Won 8, Lost 0	Junior Girls' Team Won 6, Lost 2	Senior Boys' Team Won 4, Lost 6	Intermediate Boys' Team Won 4, Lost 6	Junior Boys' Team Won 6, Lost 2
E Johnson (Captain)* E Pinnock (Vice Captain)* E Desmond* P Cymet Monroy* C Fusco-House A Bishop L M Wallis J Jackson	H Campbell (Captain) L Reid I White I Freeman- Attwood P Moore L Heerema C Morandotti A Bowder	G Riches (Co Captain)* W Chatamra (Co Captain)* I Popov(Co Captain)* S Johnson C Harris O Roe M Marston	T Tserni (Captain) G Lee T Pemberton L Reddyhough H Tucker O Williams W Thompson	C Hay (Captain) H Graham-Campbell O Milne-Skillman H O'Donoghue A Kondrashov S Mthethwa S Yonan
Swimmer of the season: E Johnson (Nugent)	Swimmer of the Season: H Campbell (Nugent)	Swimmer of the season: G Riches (Temple)	Swimmer of the season: G Lee (Chandos)	Swimmer of the season: H Graham-Campbell (Temple)
Most improved swimmer: E Desmond (Lyttelton)	Most improved swimmer: P Moore (Lyttelton)	Most improved swimmer: C Harris (Grenville)	Most improved swimmer: T Pemberton (Cobham)	Most improved swimmer: S Mthethwa (Chandos)

three School records (eight in the whole year). Camilla Morandotti won the Freestyle event. Both girls would have performed well in the Senior girls category.

Nugent was able to win the overall girls' House trophy. Temple was able to win the boys' overall Big Bowl with a very strong team of swimmers at U16. This year we were able to give out middle distance cups. New cups were awarded to George Lee. George was powerful over the 400m open event. Ivan Popov won the 200m Freestyle. Ella Johnson won the girls' 400m Freestyle and Holly Campbell won the open 200m Breaststroke. This bodes well for the future. George Lee went on to win against Cheltenham and Clifton College in his golden event, smashing his record every time he swam.

The Summer term saw us very fit due to the amount of water polo played in the Spring as well as hard swimming training. In the Bath Cup in London we were able to

achieve our best results for the girls' 'Dream Team' (Ella Johnson, Paola Cymet Monroy, Elsa Desmond, Holly Campbell and Camilla Morandotti) who came 23rd and 24th in the relays that day, breaking the School record in a long course pool. The team went on to win with the addition of Ellie Pinnock to lift the Annie Nichols Cup for Freestyle for the second time in succession. The icing on the cake was that they also went on to win the Galvin Shield for Medley. This was a first for this elusive award.

In all swimming matches since October the Senior girls' team have been winners, sealing an unbeaten season.

We now say goodbye to our girls' Captain Ella Johnson and wish her success in the future and reflect on a vintage girls' performance this year.

Many thanks also to all matrons and staff for their endless support of the swimming team this year.

Mr Stewart Cowie

Boys' Tennis

1st VI

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PLAYED 9, WON 3, LOST 6

This year's 1st VI was Captained by William McGovern. Kit Dixon-Smith, William de Boinville, Harry Rees, Hugo Kinahan and Toby Cole were the players who made up the rest of the team. The weather this year, believe it or not, was relatively balmy compared to last year, allowing the boys much practice time. They won three of their matches comfortably, the most impressive of which was their win against Oakham 6-3.

Mr Ben Ponniah

2nd VI

PLAYED 6, WON 2, LOST 4

There was a good level of tennis this term, despite the inevitable paucity of players due to other commitments and leaving Sixth Formers. The following players represented the 2nd VI most often: Harry Warden, Harry Cockbill, Thomas Noest, Archie Brogden, Oliver Beazley, Arthur Lonsdale and Henry Wheeler. The boys had convincing wins against Oakham and Bedford. Both of these were 6-3 victories.

Mr Ben Ponniah

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Colts A

© R & H Chapman Photography



PLAYED 9, WON 3, LOST 6

The weather in the early part of the Summer term was not conducive to tennis in any way whatsoever. Strong winds buffeted the Astro courts and just hitting the ball in court was an achievement. Our first match was played in such conditions and Uppingham dealt with it all far better than Stowe, mainly because they were more proficient net players, therefore negating the need to adapt to a swerving ball flight. We went down 2-7 and recognised the areas we needed to improve on.

A characteristic of the Colts squad this year has been their enthusiasm and willingness to listen to advice. A couple of changes to the partnerships were made and the basic doubles tactics of getting to the net whenever

possible and hitting cross court were introduced. We began to settle into good practice routines and the standard was definitely on the up. A strong Abingdon side proved to be too good for us, but it was clear we were on the right tracks and implementing the correct strategies. George Ellison and Ed Hopkinson were playing as the 1st pair, Luke Lindsay and Toby Pemberton as the 2nd pair and Leo Marmion and Jamie Baring as the 3rd. The exponential improvement then started to reap rewards as we went on to gain pleasing victories against Bedford 9-0 and St Edward's. With the arrival of the GCSE exams in the fifth week of the term, the season was suddenly over, but we can reflect on some very pleasing progress and I was certainly impressed with the attitude of the players throughout.

Mr Craig Sutton

Colts B

PLAYED 4, WON 3, LOST 1

The Colts B team consisted of Felix Spooner and Barth Rougier as 1st pair, Henry Sylvester and Ed Rolls as 2nd pair and James Simpson, Angus Tyrrell, Jake Lussier and Ryan Eveleigh all playing as 3rd pair in at least one match. They were a very pleasant group to work with ending the season with a creditable three wins and one loss. The team managed victories against Bedford, Abingdon and St Edward's, with the team only losing to Uppingham. A positive attitude and their fun loving approach blended well to make it an enjoyable season. Well done!

Mr Craig Sutton



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Junior Colts A and B



© R & H Chapman Photography



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While this season has had its ups and downs, it has been very encouraging to see the tenacity and maturity exhibited by Stowe's Junior Colts tennis players this season. With most Stoics of this age group allocated to cricket, the fearless band of tennis stars who populate the Junior Colts teams should be commended on the enthusiasm with which they propagate the School's reputation on the tennis courts of South East England.

The season started with a dramatic success over Uppingham, which proved a major feat considering the JCA team was the only one to come away with a victory across the block fixture. Stowe's form continued with a strong win against Oakham which demonstrated the calm and collected nature of our two U15 teams. As ever, the Junior Colts teams were pitted against very strong rivals in order to test their resolve, and a few tough matches in quick succession gave our Junior Colts a chance to reach for that elusive higher level. Commendable performances in many of the matches illustrated that many of these boys are ones to watch for the future.

Freddie Pope and Tom Constable-Maxwell led from the front as first pair for most of the season, and there is no doubt that these two will feature large in Stowe's tennis future. James Greenley and James Moor also worked hard in the middle order of the A team, ably supported by Tom Buxton, Alvaro de la Vega, Freddie Paling, Seb Stone and Ben Alderson. The A and B teams were treated as one continuous squad, and healthy competition ensued all season for the higher-placed pairings. Will Younger, Harry Dunn, Charlie Cook, Jordan Lowe and Ollie Kenyon all performed superbly in their respective pairings to bring a great positivity and enthusiasm to this group. The coaching team wish to thank and commend all the players this season for their dedication and willing during a highly competitive and sometimes challenging Summer term. Well done to all who took part this year.

Mr Roland Johnson

PLAYED 9, WON 3, LOST 6

It was a difficult season for the As where we met a strong Uppingham side initially going down five and half to three and a half but a good recovery the following week against Oakham saw them win comfortably seven and a half to one and a half. After losing eight-one to Abingdon due to cancellations, the boys did not have any further matches before Half term which meant a lack of match practice. This told against Rugby but the highlight of the season followed when they beat Warwick five four in a close encounter. The boys went on to beat Akeley Wood but fell to stronger opposition in the form of Oundle and Marlborough at the tail end of the season.

Gabriel Chauveau and Max Bourne eventually formed a strong first pair, both having excellent first service games and strong forehands. Fabian Bevan filled in for Max on occasions but also partnered Ed Goode and Gilles Griffiths as the second pair, all of whom have some good strokes but their positional play as doubles partners proved all too often to be their undoing. Kurt Leimer was another boy to represent the As and could be a strong player in the future. These boys will develop as they mature and develop physically and I sense they will start to enjoy more success as they proceed through the School.



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PLAYED 6, WON 2, LOST 4

Ben Skinner and Cammie Hay were the first pair for the B team and in fact stepped up to represent the As on a couple of occasions. They were a tenacious pair and often ground out points through perseverance. After the first pair there were several players who enjoyed their tennis and showed great commitment all season but they will need to spend more time practising their strokes in order to compete and win crucial games to build towards winning their sets. Ned Hiley, Anton Kondrashov, Luke Williamson, Jasper Gibbons, and Hamish Graham-Campbell all showed glimpses of a brighter future but consistency is the name of the game in tennis and this can only be acquired by playing more.

Mr Alan Hughes

Badminton

Boys' badminton

This season we were able to consistently field two boys' teams with the development of some interesting pairings.

Alas, their success was not as evident as that of the girls' but the B team were victorious against Uppingham. I would commend the fighting spirit of the boys in the face of some fierce competition.

The Senior boys' Singles tournament was won by Christian Baldwin, who defeated Freddie Taylor and the doubles competition was won by Grenville. Grenville were also victorious in the Junior Singles, with James Greenley emerging victorious over Ned Hiley. With the support of our new coach next season, an ex England international, we are hoping to have a successful season under the Captaincy of Jamie Hardinge.

Mrs Hazel Browne

Girls' badminton

This was our most successful girls' team ever, led admirably by Paola Cymet Monroy with Vice Captain May-May Lee. The team won all matches this year and our second pairing of Martina Fidanova and Sofia Purgina, although novices on the badminton court, were able to use their tennis skills to their great advantage.

We were also delighted to draw on the skills of two Third Formers, Clarissa Llanaj, who played every match with the Sixth Form and Octavia Cavill. The Senior girls' Singles title was won by Sofia Purgina who defeated Martina Fidanova in the final after a close match. Nugent won the Senior Doubles Competition. Junior girls' Singles was won by Clarissa Llanaj who defeated Millie Bromley-Davenport in the final. The Junior girls' Competition was won by Lyttelton. We look forward to increased success next year with a new coach under joint Captains Martina and Sofia.

Mrs Hazel Browne

Girls' Tennis

1st VI



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PLAYED 7, WON 6, LOST 1

This year's team comprised Megan Duckett, (Captain) Charlotte Berrill, Sofia Purgina, Martina Fidanova, Alice Hughes and Tilly Upton. The top four players got off to a flying start in the Michaelmas term winning their group in the National Senior Schools Tennis Competition. In the Lent term they continued their success in the knockout stages winning their way through to the top eight schools in the country, which took them to the National Finals in Bolton in February. Finishing fourth in their group at Nationals was a fantastic achievement and with all the squad being here for the next year we hope to make it to the finals again.

At school level the girls beat Uppingham, Oakham, Bloxham, Bradfield, St Edward's and Rugby, with their only defeat being against Oundle when three of the team were unavailable for selection. Senior colours were awarded to all 1st team players, and Megan Duckett will continue to Captain girls tennis for another year. In the House matches Nugent wouldn't let go of the Senior trophy, Stanhope won the Intermediates and Lyttelton won the Juniors.

Mr John Skinner

2nd VI

PLAYED 7, WON 4, LOST 3

A good season for the second team who saw their overall results better than the previous season. Last year's 1st pair of Bella Wallersteiner and Becca Dale continued to be strong again this year and will be missed as they leave us. A new pairing of Paola Cymet Monroy and Fleur Congreve soon struck up a good partnership and were always tough to beat. Another new pairing of Maddie Wackett and Annabel Rushton were always the last to finish each set, and often picked up that one important set that won us the match. Bella, Paola and Fleur played up into the 1st team on occasions standing their ground and always making it difficult for the opposition.

Mr John Skinner



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3rd and 4th VI



© R & H Chapman Photography

PLAYED 4, WON 3, LOST 1

The girls' 3rd tennis team had a very successful season. They played well producing consistent performances to beat Oakham, Bloxham and St Edward's schools. It was good to see some Fifth Form girls stepping up to the mark and this bodes well for next season. The improvement in working closely together as a team was impressive. Well done girls!

PLAYED 4, WON 1, LOST 3

The girls' 4th tennis team had a disappointing season only winning one of their four matches. The win was against Oakham School. All matches were played in a good spirit and the girls really enjoyed testing their skills in a match situation. Hopefully budding partnerships started this year will continue to improve next year.

Mrs Valerie Green

U15 A

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PLAYED 8, WON 6, LOST 2

The season started out in Portugal with a number of girls going on a pre-season trip to the tennis centre at Vale de Lobo. This was the first time we had managed to organise this, and looking at the results, it is definitely something that the girls are keen to do again.

Eight matches were played and the girls secured six strong wins against Oakham, Rugby, St Edward's, Tudor Hall, Bradfield and Bloxham. Their tennis improved dramatically throughout the course of the season and they managed to overturn a heavy loss against St Edward's last year to confirm their maturity and passion for the game. All three pairs played consistently all season and all contributed to the wins. Izzy Oliver and Millie Davenport won 21 sets of the 24 sets played all year. Jemima Chauveau and Frankie Knight won 13 sets and Tonia Kozhukhova and Mia Kinahan won 13 sets. There is no doubt that their understanding of how to attack and defend together as a pair brought about some of their excellent victories and I am convinced that the future of Stowe tennis looks promising as these girls move into the Senior programme next summer.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

U15 B

This was a very strong unit which competed well against all the large schools; if there was a weakness, it was their ability to concentrate at key moments of the game, sometimes losing a set when they knew that they were the better players overall. Two tough encounters with Oakham and Oundle (both losses 4-5) were disappointing results when the loss of just one set either on a tie break or 6-5 meant that we didn't come out victorious. Hopefully, with maturity, this will be ironed out as they move into the Senior programme. Excellent wins against St Edward's, Rugby, Tudor Hall and Bloxham though showed our strength in depth. Asthina Badcock and Siana Griffiths must be congratulated for their performances in the A team when required.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

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U15 C

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The U15C started brilliantly with dynamic wins against both Uppingham 7-2 and Oakham 7-2. Had this team been able to stay together they would have been a powerful presence but with injuries to team members in higher teams there was a lot of movement and results were affected. Other schools were also unable to field C teams and many fixtures were changed at the last minute. As players, they improved both at net and at the baseline and top pair goes to Milla Harvey-Scholes and Saskia Satchell who won eight of the twelve sets played.

Mrs Jayne Duckett

U14 A

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PLAYED 8, WON 7, LOST 1

The U14A team has enjoyed an excellent term, narrowly missing out on an unbeaten season by losing only one fixture 4-5 to Oundle which came down to the last round of games! The team comprised Octavia Cavill, Charlotte Oswald, Bubby Upton, Millie Watkins, Celia Marment and Isabel Jessel with Flo Berner and Annabel Simpson playing on occasion to support them. The most notable results were against Uppingham 5-4, Oakham 5-4, St Edward's 7-2 and Rugby 6-3. Octavia and Charlotte, at first pair, did not concede a set all term which is an extremely impressive achievement and, to their credit, when playing as second pair, Bubby and Millie won 11 out of their 12 sets. Celia and Isabel consistently played together and became a difficult third pair to beat, winning 15 sets in total and losing only three. Octavia deserves a special mention for finishing third in the county round of the Road to Wimbledon Tournament. Overall, this is a talented group of tennis players and an exciting future lies ahead as they progress through Stowe – well done!

Mrs Sarah Sutton

U14 B

PLAYED 7, WON 3, LOST 4

The U14B team had some challenging fixtures winning three out of their seven matches. The highlight of the season was their strong team performance to win against Oakham 6-3, Bloxham 7-2 and St Edward's 5-4. The team comprised Georgina Skinner, Isabella Baillie, Annabel Simpson, Florence Berner, Claudia Carbutt and Imogen White but often there were changes due to other school commitments and therefore Amelia Bowder should be mentioned for her contribution later in the season. There is much to build on and these players will continue to make a significant contribution to the future success of Stowe tennis.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

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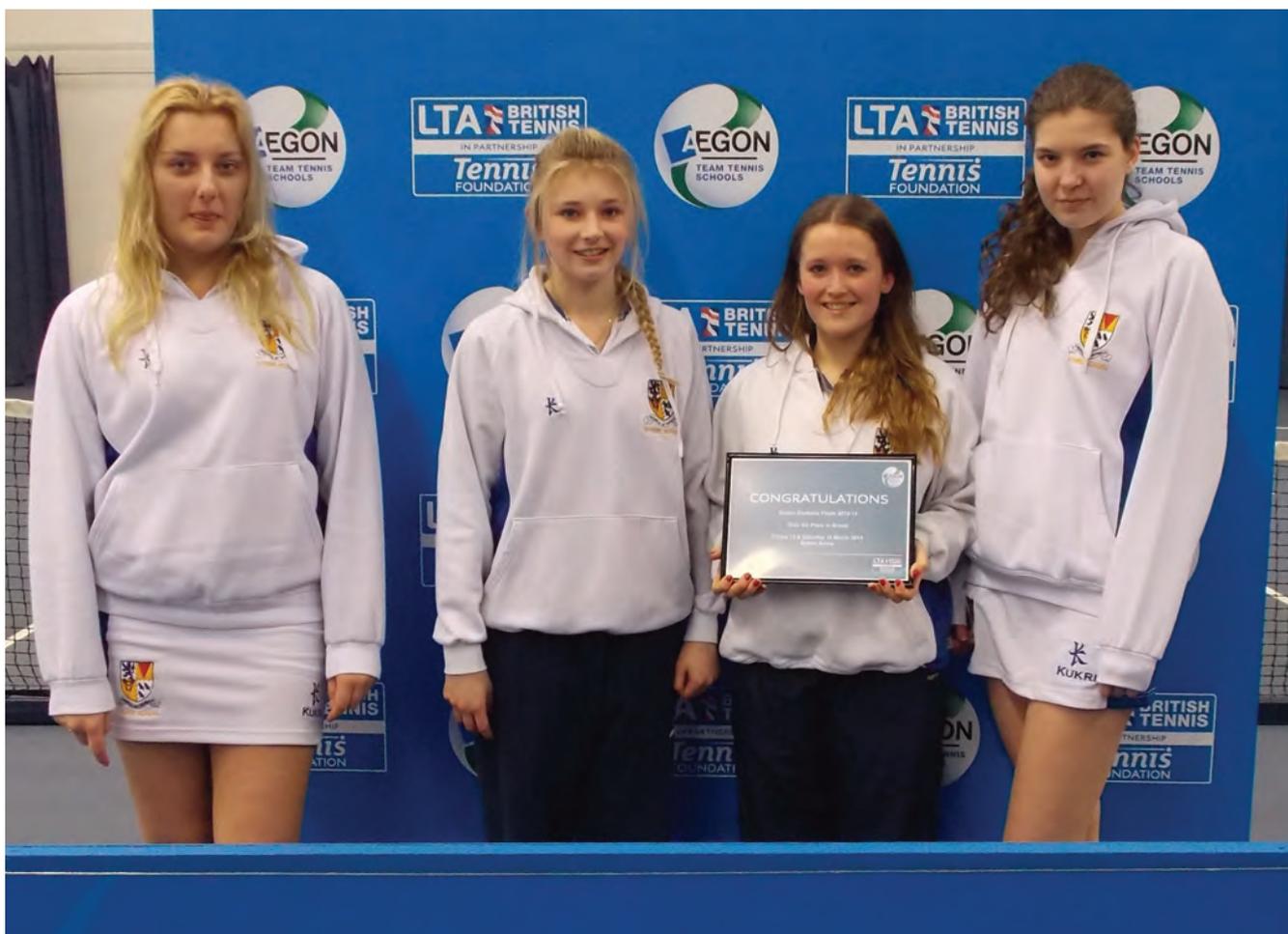
U14 C

© R & H Chapman Photography



There was a large squad for the U14C team due to the number of girls who really enjoyed having the opportunity to play a good standard of competitive tennis. Amelia Bowder, Arabella Hobby, Savanna Elliott, Ivy Freeman-Attwood, Savannah Courtenay, Arabella Coldstream, Florence Fox, Emily Baring, Jessica Amies, Meredith Bashaarat, Alice Hawke, Florence Stanley and Amy Cairns all represented the School this term, juggling their other commitments to drama, riding, athletics and rowing. They are to be congratulated on their wins against Oakham 6-3, St Edward's 9-0 and Akeley Wood.

Mrs Sarah Sutton



The Road to the Bolton National Finals

For only the second time, Stowe School entered The Aegon National Senior Students Competition.

The Competition started back in October 2012 where four local schools are put in a round robin group to compete against each other. The four schools were Stowe, Tudor Hall, Northampton High School and The Mark Rutherford School. The format for the competition is four singles matches and two doubles matches. If the score is three sets all at the end of the six matches, then a doubles tiebreak is played to 10 points to decide the winner. Having been runner up in their group in 2011, Stowe went one better this time by winning their group. This gave the team a place in the knockout stage to be played from January to March.

The girls involved throughout were Megan Duckett (Captain), Charlotte Berrill, Sofia Purgina and Martina Fidanova.

Their first opponents were Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College from Leicester. Winning three out of the four singles put Stowe in a strong position going into the two doubles matches. An overall score line of four sets to two saw a comfortable win through to the next round.

The next round Stowe came across Comberton Village College from near Cambridge. All the girls were aware that the winner of this round would put them through

to the National Finals. After a slightly nervous start by all the girls, Stowe went into a three sets to one lead after the singles. With the nerves a little more under control, Megan and Charlotte won their doubles six games to one, and Sofia and Marty won theirs six games to love. This was a very conclusive five sets to one victory for Stowe.

The finals weekend, 15 -17 March 2013, was played at Bolton Arena over two days with schools having won through from all different parts of the country. Every school in the finals put on a brilliant display of tennis and Stowe finished fourth in their group. I am extremely proud of the girls for making it to the finals. All the hard work they have put in through the winter months has paid off. The girls were so excited to have got to the finals, and after the event they all said what a fantastic experience it had been. Isaac Michael, Director of Sport commented: "This has been a super tournament for our Elite tennis players over the winter period. They should start their main tennis term in the summer much sharper as a result. With all the girls still at Stowe next season there is no reason why we should not progress even further in the competition next year. We are all thrilled with what the girls have achieved this year." One final note of congratulations goes to Sofia who, throughout the entire competition, never lost a set of singles.

Mr John Skinner

Basketball

U18 Team

Due to the continued development of basketball in recent years the Senior basketball team was ready to enter the National Competition. We had the added bonus of the enthusiastic Coach Koff (Harvard Fellow) who was given the role of Head Coach for the season. She worked the team hard in training and they were physically and mentally ready for their first National match against Cherwell, Oxford. Strong defence stifled Cherwell's outside shooting threat and the team came away with an impressive 42-28 victory. The next National game against Northampton School for Boys attracted a capacity crowd in the Drayson Hall. The atmosphere was electric and Stowe raced away to an early lead against last year's finalists. Unfortunately, the team was unable to sustain the early high tempo and the experienced Northampton side clawed their way back to win 77-65. In the third National game, Bishop Stopford were the visitors. Although the team was pleased with the 68-60 scoreline the victory margin should have been greater. The Central Pool too had three teams finishing on seven points and to our huge disappointment Northampton School for Boys went through on goal difference.

On the first weekend of the Lent term, Coach Koff took her team to the Wellington College Tournament. The team cruised through the group games, beating Charterhouse 19-10, Winchester 23-14 and Wellington College 19-6. In the semi-final the team stormed to a 34-12 win against Pangbourne which paved the way for a final against Bishop Wordsworth School. The game went 'down to the wire' with Bishop Wordsworth edging it 20-17. This was the best performance of a Stowe team at the tournament to date.

In the regular Inter-School matches the team remained unbeaten with wins against Ousedale, Oakham, Rugby, Pangbourne, Bedford and Bradfield. The final match of the season was against Buckingham University. This proved to be the best match of the season with both sides holding no quarter and going flat out for victory. Although the University had better players man for man, it was the great

team work and organisation which in the end helped Stowe to an impressive 49-43 victory.

Coach Koff, Captain Sadiq Abbagana and the team should be delighted with their achievements this season and will be a very hard act to follow.

U16 Team

Morris Chen, George Huxtable, Oliver Song, Jamie Angle, Sizwe Mntambo, Santi Stockton and Seun Coker benefitted from training with the Senior Squad and playing in competitive matches. Due to cancellation of fixtures due to poor weather, only three games were completed this season. There was one defeat at the hands of Dr Challoner's Grammar School and two fine wins against the Royal Latin (57-30) and Bradfield (44-11).

U15 Team

The U15 basketball squad is not only blessed with talented players but there are also a significant number of boys in the squad. Finding enough matches and getting the boys court time has been a big challenge this season. Three members of the team had Senior Team experience and this had a steadying influence on the other players. The squad had a narrow 34-32 loss against Dr Challoner's Grammar School, however, they had home and away victories against Buckingham School 47-32 and 27-20.

U14 Team

Many of the U14 team squad took advantage of the evening taster sessions in the Michaelmas term and by the end of the season the team had made significant improvement. The matches were played in their main rugby term and therefore contact time with the team was very limited. That said, they should be delighted to have beaten Buckingham School away 42-12, the Royal Latin 27-20 and Buckingham School at home 51-12.

The players have been supported and guided at training and during matches by a group of dedicated coaches, so thank you to Coach Koff, Coach Michael, Coach Moller and Coach Bonner.



Netball



The 1st VII is to be congratulated for having the most successful season of any Stowe netball team. Having already become a cohesive unit in 2012 it paid dividends as, for the first time, we were able to continue to build on their successes and set targets this year. In the Michaelmas term the team performed exceptionally well to finish 2nd in the U19 North Buckinghamshire County Netball tournament. They played six highly competitive matches winning five and losing only to the overall winners, Aylesbury High School. This meant they were through to represent the county in the Regional Finals! This was a fantastic achievement for the team and the first time Stowe has reached this stage. At the Regionals, they played some superb netball and were certainly able to hold their own against the opposition in their group with scores of 9-12, 8-9, 8-8. It was a great experience and a level to aspire to in the future. In their Inter-School fixtures they had a busy time performing at a very high level, winning seven of their ten matches amongst a competitive circuit. Their most memorable games were against the Royal Latin 38-15, Northampton High School 22-21, Cokethorpe 31-13 and Pangbourne 13-11.

The highlight of the term was an invitation to the exclusive Bradfield Tournament. The team was impressive on this day, finishing third overall, defeating Wellington College in the playoff. We were very proud! The player of the season was awarded to the Captain Lucy-May Wallis for her tireless efforts at goalkeeper and her leadership on the court as well as Rebecca Dale at wing attack for her execution of skills in the attacking phases of play. However, Colours were awarded to the whole team for their excellent performance and significant contribution to Stowe netball - well done! A special mention to the coaches, in particular Karen Toft who has inspired the players and shared her expertise, giving a focus to the technical aspects of the game.

Mrs Sarah Sutton

The 2nd netball team welcomed new Fifth Form and Sixth Form players to the squad which brought new dynamics to the team. Over the season, they came up against some very strong opponents which was challenging, yet we learnt a lot from each game. Lizzie Highwood (GD) was an excellent Captain and led by example. Other players who showed strong commitment and drive were India Cornish, who also represented the 1st VII on occasions, Harriet French (GA) and Claudia Wace (GK).

Ms Eleanor Donaldson

The U14 netball team had a very successful season winning all of their matches showing good improvement on each occasion. It was noticeable how much of the hard work from practice and training filtered through to the actual performance in the matches. Towards the end of the season they really began to gel as a team, understanding the benefits of working together to defeat the opposition. A strong foundation has been laid and I am sure the girls will continue to enjoy competing in the future.

Mrs Valerie Green

The Inter-House tournament winners for 2013 were: Juniors - Queen's, Inters - Queen's, Seniors - Nugent.



Football

As Lord Cobham looks down from his mount I hope, he will be proud that Association Football is now being played again at a competitive level on the hallowed grounds of Stowe. The green athletics track framed the pitch for what would be a season of heroic performances by all of Stowe's fine men. The Queen's Temple grounds, now favoured amongst Stowe's hardened sports fans, witnessed battles through frost and rain.

Stowe had fine wins over Oundle 3-1 and Uppingham 4-1 as well as an epic late 3-3 draw against Welbeck. Jonny, 'the cat', constant in goal, steadfast and solid, leapt around the goal mouth with enthusiastic dives and rolls. Wily Will Watson rose righteously each game for sold clearances and once to an unfortunate Welbeck face! Ed Bensted the 'God of Thunder' himself, timed tackles and jokes, with the same skill that will see him succeed through life's long game. Ollie Findlay glided nimbly, darting to and fro, faked to the left and right, looking for spaces to go.

Frustration and anger set in for many teams but they could not break Stowe's spirit. Ben Wild stepped in against Denstone and battled hard, breaking old regimes. His attitude and tenacity was rewarded with Man of the Match. Ben Copping kept stopping attacks and played each match like a man filled with the strength of Zeus, combined with control and composure seen at the highest of levels. He was Man of the Match against Wellingborough.

Will McGovern's support and enthusiasm on and off the pitch continued to tug the opposition into uncomfortable areas. Many times he donned the hat of Houdini as, through his back heel flicks and wily tricks, his glances to and fro managed to evade the opposition, slyly slotting slick balls through to Stowe. He was Man of the Match against Uppingham.

Hugo Brooks, like Nureyev was strong and graceful, dancing past the opposition. As Head Boy, he set a fine example – his voice strong and solid, never wavering from the mantra of "Stowe, heads up". His positive attitude and perseverance rippled through Stowe's team, Stowe's hearts and Stowe's souls and deservedly was Man of the Match against Oakham.

Amana Atawodi, with ferocious feet, pressurised teams throughout the season and was rewarded with a well deserved goal against Oundle. Antonio Muñoz Ballester coolly and calmly consistently collected the ball and quickly whipped up cocktails of beauty and skill last seen in Brazil. He tackled and tangoed with the opposition to their discomfort and scored with a confident finish for Stowe against Oundle.

Charlie Sargent, as versatile as De Niro, slotting into any role as comfortably as a Chesterfield on a winter's night, took up various positions. He surged and sliced his way through opposition defences and scored magnificently

against Loughborough Grammar School. George Jackman against Uppingham rounded two defenders, looked for a pass and saw the opening before the opportunity had even presented itself. Uppingham's keeper was six inches out of position and Jackman lifted the ball beautifully, spotting the gap. A lob from the heavens and goal on 26 minutes bringing a smile to his onlooking mother's face.

Josh Dickinson, as if on the Cresta Run, slid past the opposition and delivered constant high curling balls into the box. His solid play was awarded against Welbeck with Man of the Match. His brother, Caspar Dickinson on the right wing, excited with his bursts of speed like a thoroughbred warming up for the Gold Cup was delighted to score a scorcher against Oundle.

Goal of the Season is awarded to joint top scorer Folabi Lawal. When Caspar Dickinson whipped down the right channel and crossed a high whooping ball he did not envisage what would happen next. Time seemed to slow as the spinning sphere approached the vicinity of Lawal. The crowd silenced at they witnessed a majestic Lawal rising from the pitch like a soaring salmon, writhing and breaking for freedom. A scissor kick chosen from his expansive armoury and a beautifully timed volley straight into the top left corner of the net set the crowd alight that night.

1st Team Player of the Year is awarded to joint top scorer and Mercian League North Representative Hugo Kinahan. Many times Hugo, with his periscope up, surveyed the waters overhead. He was a calming influence on the team, and on three separate occasions scored goals for Stowe – one in injury time and one free kick that was like a torpedo nearly ripping through the netting of the goal as it penetrated the top left hand corner against Oundle. He was also Man of the Match against Oundle and will Captain Stowe next year.

Outgoing Captain Josiah Hartley Matthew acted like a rock of ages, steering his crew through the year towards goal. He was so solid whilst travelling, it was as if he could control the moon. He scored and was Man of the Match twice through the season. His innate instinct and sixth sense of vision, control and calm will, I'm sure, stay with him through his sporting career.

The season ended without silverware. However, as all the players gathered round after the last whistle, the smiles on Stowe's faces said more than this. They spoke of team spirit, comradeship and the unmovable force of all Stoics who will never give up will always rise again.

Mr Brendan Reilly



This year has been a bit of mixed bag for cross country. The weather early in the term stopped us travelling and lack of numbers meant that we often competed with incomplete teams, although this did not deter Caroline Schaufelberger and Harrison Dockerty who produced fine runs at the King Henry Relays.

The county championship took place in the Hawkwell Field this year and saw a welcome return to the team for Orlando Whitehead. Sadly, we were not able to reproduce our dominance of a year earlier. The term finished with a swan song performance from Josh Dickinson in the Old Stoic race, however neither he nor any of the Old Boys could prevent Harrison completely dominating the race.

Mr Tony McDaid



Golf

The School has enjoyed a successful and, above all else, enjoyable golf season. Players have been selected from all year groups and, as in the past, we have been fortunate to compete with our traditional opponents at some of the most desirable golf courses in the land. Stoke Park remains one of our home venues and this year we entertained Bedford School, Radley and the Old Stoics there.

A highlight this term was our match with Canford School; to celebrate the 90th anniversaries of the founding of our two schools 16 players from Stowe (Stoics, Old Stoics and staff) did battle in the rain at Frilford Heath... the result was entirely incidental.

Victories this year have been as numerous as our defeats and there is no doubt that all along the team has shown both talent and potential in equal quantities. Matteo Di Carlofelice has been a fantastic Captain and playing off five has secured a number of fine scalps playing at number one. Other regular team members include: Josh Choi, Ben Jenkins, Edward Selby-Lowndes, James Scott and George Tucker. There are a number of promising Juniors coming through the ranks and next season I expect the golf team to go from strength to strength. Ben Jenkins has been appointed the new Captain of Golf for 2013-14.

Mr Richard Knight



Athletics

The green athletics track cradled between Lord Cobham and The Queen's Temple, is truly an inspirational place to train and compete and did indeed lay witness to a season of heroic performances by Stowe's athletes. Led by Captains Josh Dickinson and Caroline Schaufelberger, all Stoics managed to compete with schools strong in athletics and gave fine performances at our home matches.

First was Stowe v MCS, St Edward's, Thornton and Akeley Wood where Stowe won the overall match by over 200 points, with the Match of the Day going to the Junior Girls who won by one point – a fine battle. Next came the meet with Bedford, Cheltenham and Malvern where Stowe again won the overall match by over 300 points. The Match of the Day was the Senior Girls' where they beat Cheltenham College by two points with seven victories to six – a very fine result indeed. After tough encounters with Harrow and Eton, Stowe finished the season strongly with a 160 point overall victory over Marlborough and Cheltenham College.

Bucks County Championships

Medals in the County Championships for:

Gold: Rory Hunnable, Junior Boys' Javelin.

Silver: Octavia Cavill, Junior Girls' High Jump.

Bronze: Rex Adams, Intermediate Boys' High Jump and Hurdles.

Bronze: Harry Cook, Junior Boys' High Jump.

Sports Day

Stowe's first attempt to host Sports day was halted due to horrendous weather conditions and a newly named home straight of 'Gazebo Alley'. After a short delay of two or three days, action resumed and what an afternoon of excitement was had! In total, Stowe witnessed five School records and seven Oxford Half Blue standards.

Outstanding Achievements: a special mention to: Jack Wallis, Caroline Schaufelberger, Josh Dickinson, Caspar Dickinson, Will Scrase, Najib Afghan, Rex Adams and Carmen Thompson Perea for their dedication, hard work and overall attitude. They are a credit to themselves and their parents.

School Records broken this year include:

Jack Wallis, Senior Boys' Discus: 41m 15cm

Nick Paine, Senior Boys' High Jump: 1m 93cm

Priscilla Powell, Senior Girls' Shot: 10m 80cm

Elizabeth Highwood, Senior Girls' Discus: 23.68m

Octavia Cavill, Junior Girls' High Jump: 1m56cm (Higher than the Intermediate and Senior Girls' Records)

Lauren Reid, Junior Girls' discus: 20.38

Congratulations to: Jack Wallis for a spectacular 41m15cm and an English Schools standard; Priscilla Powell 10m 80cm (English Schools standard); Will Chatamra for his 11.0sec 100m clocking at the last race of the season.

Other notable athletes include: Kalil Ali, Folabi Lawal, Charlie Mason, Myles Coe, Thomas Abbot-Davies, Nathan Charlesworth, Seun Coker, Thomas Johnson, Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson, Charlton Kerr, Adam Ezomo, Seb Cecil, Alfie Marsden-Smedley, Isaac Ajala, Jamie Ropner, Triumph Opuala-Charles, Jose Leyte, Josh Goodall, Rob Barclay, Josh Laurence, Charlotte Lechmere, Lucy Horan, Amber Shepherd, Caprice Critchley, Holly Campbell, Annabel Simpson, Amelia Bowder and Skye Longworth.

In total, over the year, six School records were broken, 14 Oxford Half Blue Standards achieved and over 34 lifetime best performances recorded. It has been a marvellous year with potential for even better next year. Best Girl Athlete this year goes to Priscilla Powell for her 10.80m in the shotput. Best Boy Athlete goes to Jack Wallis, throwing a massive 41.15m in the Discus.

Mr Brendan Reilly



Squash

The Senior squash team once more endured a season beset by opposition cancellations, but in true Stoic spirit the team came together in fine style for the matches that went ahead. Once again the Stowe 1st V squash team recorded a number of victories – most notably against close rivals Uppingham (at both 1st V and 2nd V levels), Bedford and Berkhamsted. Captain Jack Chaplin led from the front and proved himself a very strong contender at the highest levels of school squash. Combined with next year's Captain of squash, William de Boinville, at number two, the senior squash team was well able to compete with other strong schools in our area. The other major contributors to the Stowe 1st V squash team were Dominic Smith, Nick Whitmore, Harry Rees and James Greenley.

The squash department was also very pleased with the commitment and skill shown by a number of our younger squash players. While other schools are seldom able to put out a lower school team, the Stowe squash department appears to have no such trouble, and there is clearly a fine pedigree of players rising up the ranks from Third Form

all the way through to Sixth Form. As rising Fourth Form squash star James Greenley has proven, selection for the 1st V team is based on merit alone, and it is to his credit that James has kept his place in the School's top team. This year some of the Third Form players making their presence felt on the squash scene were Edmund Hiley, Charlie Leefe, Algy Stanley, Tom Carne, Jonathan Dale and Jack Staveley. We hope to see them and any other willing Lower School players in the coming seasons.

An exciting development on the squash courts in the last few seasons has been the rise in the number of players taking up racketball as both a recreational and competitive activity at Stowe. The girls' Inter-House racketball league has now completed its third year and the contest between the Houses was as fierce as ever this season. The eventual winners of the Lent term were Nugent, who won all of their matches. Congratulations to the girls who turned out on a Saturday afternoon to challenge for the Racketball Cup.

Mr Roland Johnson

Karting

Due to the growing number of karting enthusiasts in the School, two teams were entered into the British Schools Karting Championship (BSKC) 2013. After the practice run on 6 February, before the regional semi-finals on the 27 February, Antonio Muñoz Ballester was unable to compete in the semi-finals due to football commitments which created an opening for Ben Barrett to be selected. He joined the other two members of the B team, Will Plant and Augusto Bartolomé. The A team of Savannah Courtenay, Ben Skinner and Tayan Chinawongwatana was very young with two Third Formers and one Fourth Former. The ruling limiting each team to only one MSA licence holder unfortunately meant that our strongest drivers, Will and Savannah, had to be in separate teams.

The B team came an impressive 2nd in the BSKC 2013 Milton Keynes semi-final held at Daytona Milton Keynes on Wednesday 27 February. The team successfully qualified for the Midlands Regional Final held at Daytona Milton Keynes on Friday 19 April.

In the semi-finals, five of the eight teams present recorded faster times than the winners of the other semi-finals. This B team who qualified for the Regional final was placed second behind Cooper School (Bicester). Will Plant won the last race of the day to secure maximum points for that race and pipped the Royal Latin into second place. Savannah Courtenay won both her races and gave the A team every chance of getting through but two black flags for her team mates left the team with too much to do in the end and the A team finished a commendable fourth, ahead of Cedars Upper School, Chiltern Way, Lord William's and Manshead Upper School.



Will, Augusto and Ben should be congratulated on finishing ninth out of 26 schools taking part in the Regional Finals. We were very close to going through to the National Finals as one of the top five teams. Will Plant did particularly well to come first and second in his races and was clearly the best driver at the event.

Hopefully, this will be the springboard for future karting success and, with most of the team still at school for the next few years, the future of karting at Stowe looks very rosy.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being team manager of both teams and look forward to more fun times next year.

Mr Isaac Michael

Fives

Eton Fives continues to thrive with three training sessions a week during the Michaelmas and Lent terms.

One session per week is supported by a professional coach. During the Michaelmas term we had just the one away match versus Berkhamsted, but in the Lent term we had eight fixtures set up. Unfortunately, due to the snow some had to be cancelled as the road conditions were not favourable.

In the Summer term we had a match against the Old Stoics on Speech Day which is always a great occasion. Having played the match, the Old Stoics then mixed in with the boys and coached them in the art of Eton Fives.

Inter-House matches were well supported, and gave both girls and boys an opportunity to play.

Mr John Skinner



Water Polo

Senior Team, Won 8, Lost 2

This has been another good year for our Senior boys' team. Harry Pettifer, who took over as Captain from his brother, was on a mission to do better with practically the same team. In School matches we found it difficult to beat BMS and went down to them by a couple of goals. We had to pick ourselves up for our match against Warwick but faltered again. This meant that we would have to get fitter and faster for the other matches which lay ahead.

At the English Schools' Water Polo Championships we played a lot better, beating Cheltenham and drawing with Eton College. This was good enough to take us through to the semi-finals where we were able to hang on thanks to Charlie Mason in goal. The final came around and we were up against some strong competition. We played well, with goals from Guy Riches and Will Chatamra. Ivan Popov was able to score a few as well. We put Brentwood to the sword and we were able to get a narrow win against St Paul's before drawing with Dulwich College. This went to penalties where there were some close misses and on this occasion the chance of progressing any further sadly vanished.

The rest of the season saw us lick our wounds and go on to beat Marlborough College and Harrow. We saw the Old Stoics put up their best ever result against the School on Speech Day. Sam Morris and Louis Staden (player of the year 2010) were outstanding. The late goal by Ivan Popov for the School diminished the OS attack in the dying seconds. The score was six to five for the School.

The Best Player this year went to Guy Riches and Most Improved Player was our goalie Charlie Mason.

Many thanks to Harry Pettifer who hands over the reins to Oliver Constantine.

U16 Team, Won 5, Lost 1

The Junior team this year was led by Sebastian Cecil. He was a good leader with a strong work ethic. This worked well in fitness sets during training sessions. This season started well with matches against BMS where we were able to beat them convincingly. This was a great achievement due to an influx of speed and strength thanks to Oscar Williams and Toby Pemberton, with Sebastian orchestrating the moves.

Elsa Desmond was able to play for the Junior team when we made changes to it. We went on to beat Harrow, with outstanding play by Barth Rougier in goal. Will Hulbert had an amazing way of disguising a corner shot. This was a good team playing well.

At the English Schools' Water Polo Championships we were able to progress through to the Cup event at this level for the first time ever. In previous years we only got through to the Plate rounds. We went to Walsall but this proved to be a bridge too far for us. We had to field a B team for this match due to the Controlled Assessments taking place on the same day. This took out the Fifth Form with many of our good players not able to play. We did put up a good fight against St Bede's but Grantham shattered us. However, we still went away feeling good as we had achieved something.

Mr Stewart Cowie



Equestrian

Equestrian activity has increased hugely this year with the opening of the new Equestrian Centre. Horse riding has become a popular sport with boys and girls who have never or rarely ridden and those who have ridden in the past. The Equestrian Centre has 20 stables with space for 15 pupil liveryes and has been 75% full for most of the year and it is looking like being full from September 2013. There are also many more keen riders signed up for lessons starting in September to add to the 20 regular riders we have already.

At the other end of the scale we have seen some great successes from some of our more accomplished riders. To mention a few, Charlie Clover and Bubby Upton have been selected for the GB Junior and pony squads, respectively, in their chosen discipline, Eventing, and have

been very busy competing all season. Ivy Freeman-Attwood competed at the Badminton grass roots championships in May which she qualified for last year. Also Amy Struthers has represented Stowe in National Schools' Equestrian Association competitions throughout the year and has been placed in the top five in most outings and had a few wins along the way.

In February some of our Stoics enjoyed a day out of School to follow the Grafton Hunt which met at the School on the North Front. Some horses and parents travelled for hours to participate and all riders thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Speech Day also inspired the riders. A display aimed to demonstrate the work of the Equestrian Centre took place with nine riders of different levels showing off their skills.

Polo

This has probably been the most successful season of polo played at Stowe on record. Having won the Under 16 National title, placed third at the prestigious Copenhagen Cup and been narrow runners-up in the National Arena Tournament, Stowe has had a fine record this season, having won over 80% of our games and played nearly 200 chukkas. 25 players have represented the School on the polo pitches of England this year and in some cases further afield, on well over 40 ponies. Able to field five full teams, there can be few schools that can match Stowe for numbers playing the game. Outstanding performances in our first team came from Harry Allhusen, Captain of the club this year. He surely will go up to be a one goal in the mid-season handicap changes. Harry has played outstandingly well at the back for the School this year and has been a very tough nut for opponents to crack, such has been the skill and determination that he has shown. The future for the club looks bright with a number of really talented younger players, most notably Jamie Grayson who, still in the Fourth Form, is a regular on the first team and shows all the signs of playing top-level polo.

With polo in such fine form, it seems as though another trip abroad must be imminent and, with moves afoot to tour Argentina, this seems a likely occurrence.

Mr Matthew Perriss



It started with three novice riders demonstrating some flatwork and jumping, followed by some more experienced riders showing some dressage school movements and jumps up to 90cm and finished with three polo riders working their horses and practising with stick and ball. The riders had fun and enjoyed the opportunity to show what they have accomplished to their parents and other visitors to the School.

All in all a successful first year for the Stowe School Equestrian Centre. Next year will see more horses in the stables, more riders taking up, continuing or revisiting riding as a hobby and lots more competing. Perhaps we will even see the Headmaster on a horse!

Mrs Krista Price



Rowing



After the nine Olympic medals (four Gold, two Silver, three Bronze) achieved at the London 2012 Olympics, it was little surprise that in 2012/13, Stowe Sculling Club saw a dramatic uptake of pupils wishing to scull. However, this also allowed us to build up a solid set of crews from the Third Form to the Lower Sixth Form.

For the majority of the year, our eyes were not only set on the excellent efforts of the pupils on the water, but also the progress of the rebuild of the sculling boathouse, located on the Eleven Acre lake. After the initial frustrations of poor weather and a delay in planning consent, the construction got underway in the snowy days of March. All of us were amazed at how rapidly the old shed came down (perhaps the wood was more rotten than we thought) and, like a phoenix, the new boathouse (it is beyond being called a 'shed') arose within six weeks, to allow us to enter and admire the new racking, Velux windows and electrical lighting which itself is powered by solar panels discretely placed upon the roof. In addition, the employment of a boatman has aided the rapidity of the repairs required to the ageing fleet as well as bringing an excellent level of knowledge and experience regarding the fine-tuning of the equipment to the pupils' needs.

The majority of the Michaelmas term had the pupils training hard upon the water in smaller crews of doubles and a quad, only to be thwarted at the cancellation of several of the regattas due to unseasonably poor weather. This continued throughout the Lent term and the morale of the club was at an all-time low. There were some successes for the Third Form octuple at Eton Dorney, and two 'friendly' matches against Hollowell Scullers and Action 4 Youth at Milton Keynes, allowed our crews to still get some racing experience.

However, we were not to be overly despondent about this, and on returning from Easter, all the hard work paid off. The girls' 1st Quad of Rebecca Wild, Rosie Williamson, Valeria Gridneva and Daniela Fusco-House, and Max Marston, in a single, all performed with excellence at the Birmingham Regatta to win medals. The 1st boys' Quad sadly missed out losing to RGS Worcester in their race.

These wins in early April, combined with the return of the sunny weather, were the catalyst required to help Stowe Sculling Club to show their prowess on the water. On Sunday 12 May, a cool morning greeted our scullers as we returned to Eton Dorney for the Southern Region Ball Cup. This prestigious event aimed at small sculling

*Medallists at the
Birmingham Regatta*



clubs saw a Third Form quad, (Savannah Courtenay, Gleb Shcherbakov, Jonathan Reading, John Peatfield and Stuart Milner), race at both Junior 14 and Junior 15 level. The talent was just too great in the more senior race, but they had good success in the J14, reaching the final before a technical hitch prevented them from attaining medal positions. Max Marston once again outclassed the competition to comfortably bring home a gold medal for the School. A silver medal was achieved for the girls' 1st Double of Valeria Gridneva and Daniela Fusco-House in a race emulating that of Zac Purchase and Mark Hunter in the Lightweight Men's Double at London 2012. The girls led the race of their final with an incredible performance, only to be overtaken in the last 100m as their stamina fell away.

Once again, this year has seen an extremely generous donation from a benefactor of the club which allowed us to purchase another quad for the Senior 1st Boys. Using the Old Stoic contact of Ted Bainbridge, who is a lead coach at the Leander Club, we were lucky enough to trial this boat down the Henley mile.

To round off the term, several members of the club were treated to an audience with Sir Steve Redgrave at Milton

Keynes. Sir Steve was able to show us his gold medal from Athens, as well as sharing his stories of the pain of training for Olympic events and the uniquely exhilarating buzz holding the Olympic flame at the 2012 Opening Ceremony.

Last year, I wrote about the transition of James Rudkin from the School to Newcastle University. I am pleased to report that James is now currently rowing for the 1st VIII and in May, they became the BUSA Champions.

As always, this year's successes would not be possible without the support and commitment of the staff, Michael Righton, Philippa Gleave, Ellie Donaldson, Sarah Murnane, Magnus Bashaarat and Chris Grimble who willingly give up their afternoons and weekends to spend sitting on launches in the pouring rain and cold.

This year has re-energised our crews and we are busy planning for an even more successful year in 2014. Our hopes are pinned on being able to race at both Women's and Men's Henley Royal Regattas, so keep your eyes open for the next potential Olympic Champions!

Mr Jonathan Peverley

Sailing



There has been some excellent sailing this term. Almost every sailor has grown significantly in skill and confidence, especially in handling dinghies in a variety of wind conditions. It has been good to see some enthusiastic Third Formers becoming familiar with the 420 dinghies and starting to appreciate the challenges of racing. More experienced racers have developed skills in the tactics of team racing, although a series of days with strong winds has sometimes meant the focus was on improving more fundamental abilities.

The team is still relatively young but it is gaining in experience. Several of the schools they sailed against

boasted sailors of national or international standards, so it was to Stowe's credit that they put in some solid performances, although basic boat speed can still be a challenge at times.

Against Rugby at Great Moor in late April there was a strong but gusty breeze, which some sailors relished but proved too much for others. Rugby, with two national standard helms, took the first match easily with 1,2,3. In the second match, however, the two leading Rugby boats both missed a mark from the course, leaving Stowe as the winner, although one Stowe boat had retired as unable to cope with the difficult conditions. We were unfortunate in the start of the third and final race, one boat being penalised for crossing the line a fraction of a second too soon, and the other hit the start boat, meaning that they never had a chance of recovering their position. Charlie Barnes and Fergus Jones showed especial promise during the afternoon. Against Bloxham at Boddington Reservoir, again in a good wind, Stowe sailed competently but were outclassed by another school with a national sailor as their first helmsman. Theo Shepherd-Smith led the Stowe team on two of the races, neatly overtaking two boats at the wing gybe mark in the first race, and Charlie Barnes put in two useful performances. Stowe helms showed the need to improve boat speed, especially to windward, but they demonstrated mainly improved starts.

The team finally showed their best against Merchant Taylor's at Datchet Water in mid May, scoring a 2-1 victory and achieving the prized status of "Team of the Week". The first race was in strong winds and a ragged start meant that Stowe could not quite bring through their third boat to claim a victory. In the second and third races Stowe assumed commanding positions ensuring two convincing victories. All the three helms, Charlie and William Barnes and Theo Shepherd-Smith, sailed well. In the British Schools' Racing Association Eastern Championships at Rutland Water the Stowe team sailed competently in breezy conditions. Although they finished in the Bronze fleet, Charlie Barnes and Michael Kitchen scored promising individual places in some races.

A highlight of the term were the House matches, postponed to mid June because of clashes with examinations. Strong winds tested the abilities of some competitors who were unfamiliar with the dinghies and location, but all of the six Houses present coped well with the demands and showed impressive commitment, skill and fair play. Cobham, with two School team helms, won but not without some challenges.

We now look forward to the arrival of new Firefly dinghies for next season. My thanks go to Gwilym Jones and David Critchley whose help has been invaluable and productive.

Mr Michael Bevington

Clay Pigeon Shooting

This has been an extraordinary year with a rich cornucopia of events, competitions, new equipment, new venues, matches and, lest we forget, a memorable triumph at national level. I cannot recall a year in which more has happened, and I'll do my best to compress it into a few paragraphs.

We have been blessed with an excellent Captain, Henry Plant, who, in his second year in charge, set the note for the younger shooters. We started the year with three straight wins, two against Warwick and one against Kimbolton, before finally losing in February to Bloxham (no disgrace there, they are national champions).

In March, because of the building work going on at the top end of the Bursar's Field, we had to temporarily de-camp and we went down to shoot at a farm in Whitchurch, near Aylesbury, for a few weeks.

Also in March, we took part in the Warwick Challenge, but came away empty-handed. A week later, we lost to Kimbolton and it began to look as if the wheels were coming off our season.

I need not have worried. At the end of April we went down to shoot in the Nationals, at E J Churchill's shooting ground in West Wycombe. This was the highlight of our year. The A team came a very creditable fourth on the red course, but the B team stole the show by winning their competition on the blue course outright. Warm congratulations to Ben Skinner, Rory Smith, Oliver Milne-Skillman, Algy Stanley, Jamie Harding and Elliot Mitchell.

In early May, we welcomed the visiting prep school headmasters, before, later in the same month, hosting the Old Stoics on Speech Day. This year, the Stoics (with William Hawke in fine form) beat the Old Stoics 86-72 to



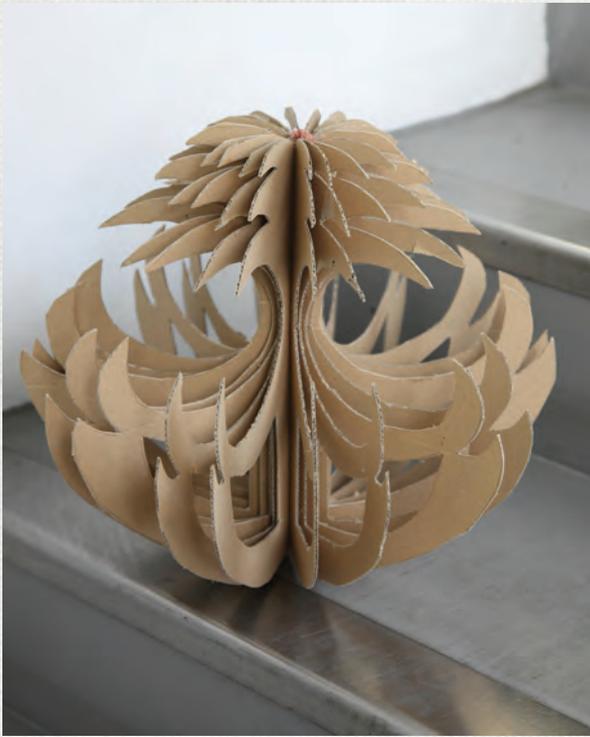
retain the Galetzine Cup. On the same day, the Father and Son's competition was won (for the second year running) by Simon and Felix Grant-Rennick, who retain the Wyvill Cup.

We shall be losing some very useful shooters this summer, including both Plants, Henry and William, William Hawke, Tom ter Haar, Freddie Taylor, Alex Levett-Scrivener and Theo Vorotyntsev. But, as we speak, new young talent is being trained up to fill their empty shoes.

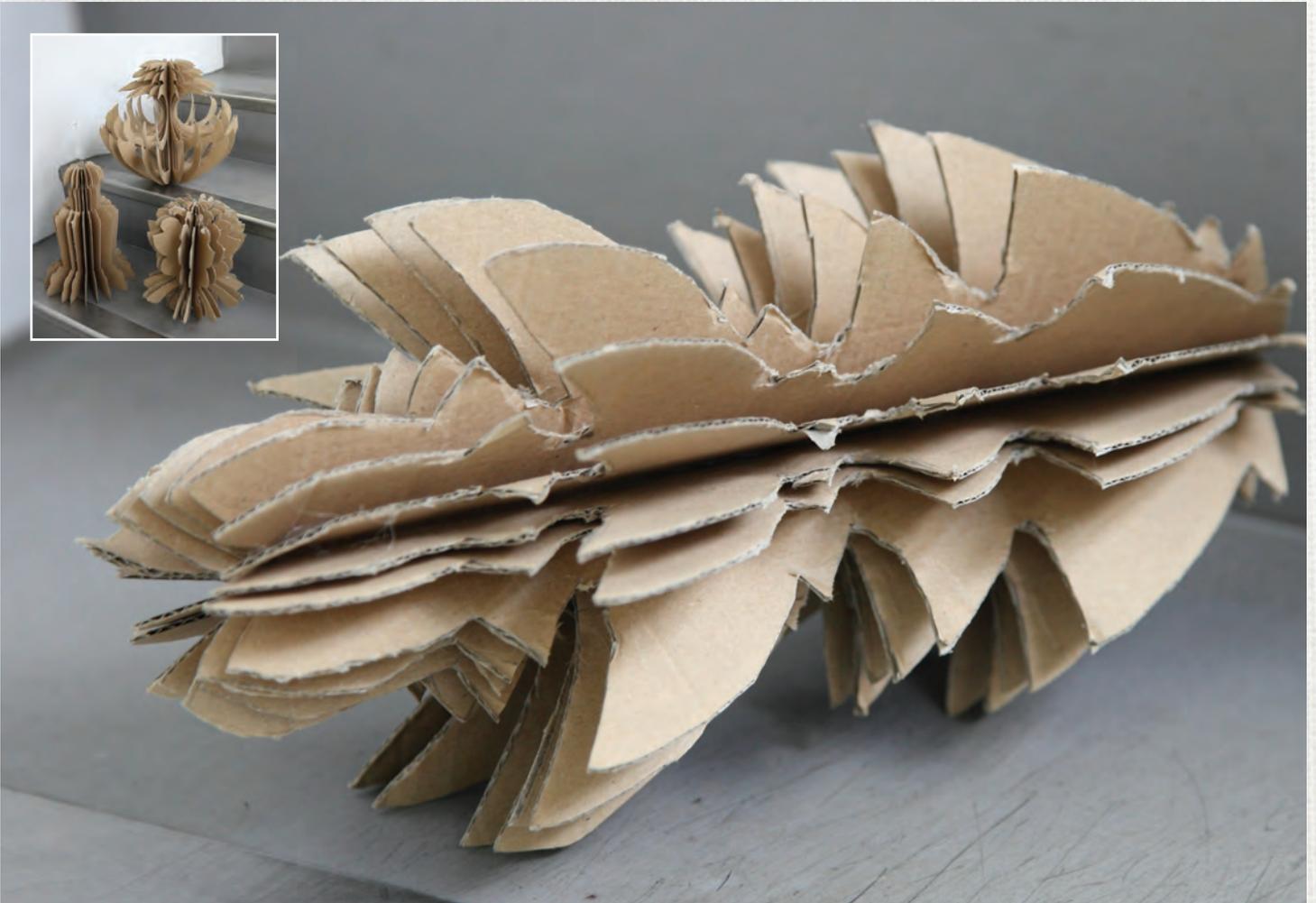
Next year's Captain is Henry Sylvester.

Mr Peter Staples





Third Form Sculptures



galleru



Louisa Gibbs,
Upper Sixth



Olivia Walters, Fourth Form



Bea Howe, Upper Sixth

Governing Body

Correct as of 1st September 2013

Christopher Honeyman Brown (OS)

John R C Arkwright (OS)

Jonathan M A Bewes (OS)

Ms Julie C Brunskill

Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent (OS)

David W Cheyne (OS)

Ms Juliet Colman

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