

CHANGE

Stowe

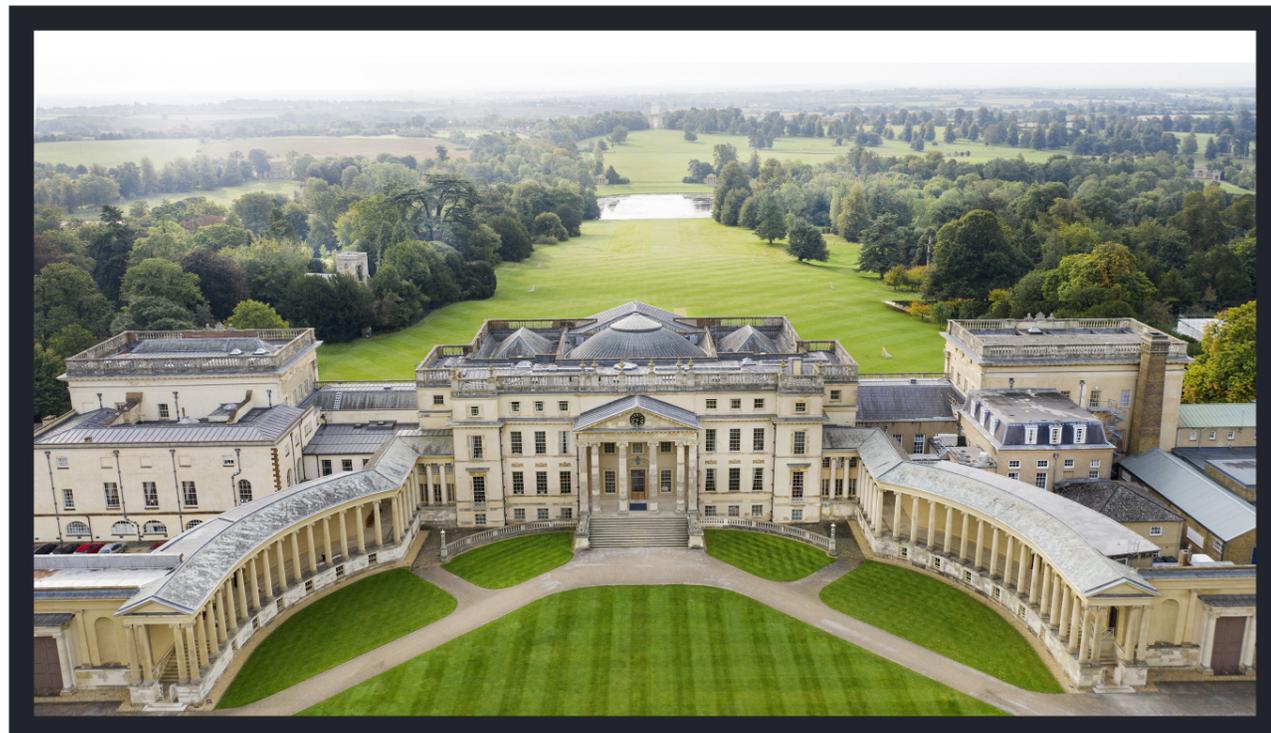
**Pastoral Care
at Stowe**

MAKERS

Introduction

I hope this handbook will give you an introduction to the wonderfully vibrant life Stoics live in their houses and explain why Stowe is such a delightful place for all those in its community. The Houses aim to afford a friendly and warm environment, where pupils value each other for who they are and what they can contribute to this special place, creating a sense of belonging, confidence and social awareness. It is our hope that during the five years that Stoics spend with us they will be enthusiastic, resilient, resourceful, thoughtful and open minded. Teachers will urge them to grasp the opportunities available and immerse themselves in academia, sport, art, music, dance, theatre and culture. We aim to impart morals, principles and values that will prepare them for the competitive world of modern life. We hope that they will leave their house with commendable life skills, manners, values, self-respect, reverence for others, and confidence as individuals. Life in the houses is ultimately based on harmony, loyalty and confidence in each other and we hope the friendships made at Stowe will become life-long.

Liam Copley



**As Deputy Head
Pastoral I would like
to extend my warmest
welcome.**

Pastoral Care



Here at Stowe we pride ourselves on our outstanding pastoral care. We believe that pupils learn best when they are happy, safe and secure. Every member of our Teaching and Support Staff endeavour to provide a warm and friendly wrap-around care where each boy and girl is treated as an individual.

Our supportive family atmosphere and Christian ethos encourage pupils to develop a lasting sense of moral, social and spiritual responsibility. Our House system provides a caring pastoral environment in which Stoics learn to consider the rights and needs of others.

A prominent feature of life at Stowe is its atmosphere of inclusion and acceptance. Pupils from different backgrounds form friendships and demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of different cultures. As a result, pupils look outwards, beyond the School itself.

ISI November 2018

Stowe Community



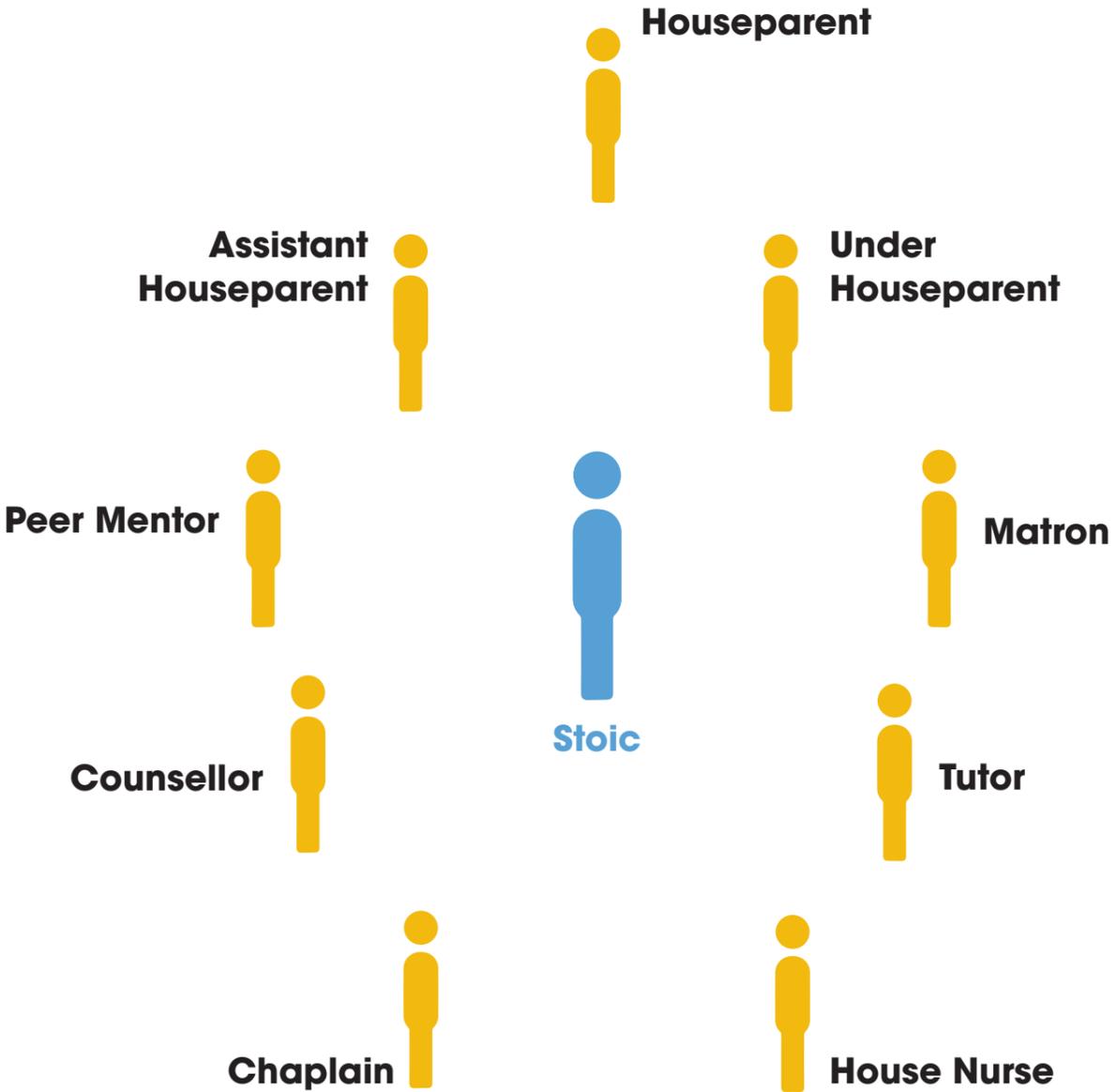
Life at Stowe is based around a sense of community.

Pupils work, develop and grow together; sharing moments, forging memories and caring for each other. There is a strong feeling of belonging forged in the houses and the wider community. This continues beyond the pupil's time at Stowe with The Old Stoics Society offering lifelong support and fellowship.

Stoics join us at the start of their journey in the 3rd form (Year 9). They will encounter many challenges along the way. They will

question the morals they hold and how they want to be perceived. Our pastoral system helps to guide them on this journey. The principal support is the Houseparent. Working in conjunction with them is the Assistant Houseparent and the Matron who takes care of the day to day physical well-being of the pupils. Meeting the pupils twice a week and working in the house are the tutors who are tasked with taking care of the academic progress.

Stowe Wrap-Around Pastoral Care



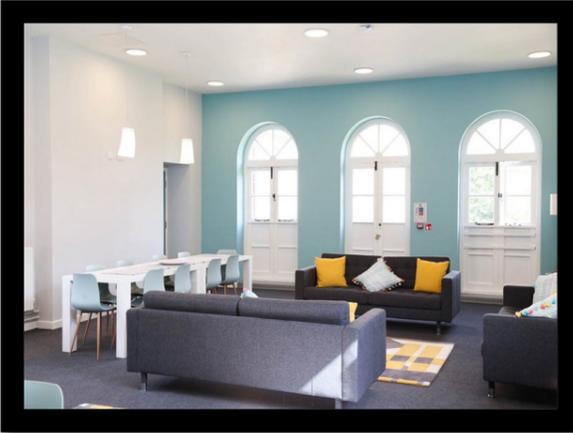
The House system at Stowe is the foundation of our pastoral care.

The House provides a physical space in which every Stoic can feel a sense of belonging and is valued as an individual. It becomes a second family; a community where Stoics encourage, comfort, share and laugh together. All Stoics are members of a House, whether they are day or boarding pupils. There are 15 houses (13 boarding and 2 day; 9 boys and 6 girls), each of 60 - 70 pupils, with approximately 12-14 pupils per year group. One girls' Boarding House, West, is Sixth Form only.

Each House is led by a Houseparent who is supported by a team of House Staff: an Assistant Houseparent, an Under Houseparent, dedicated Third, Fourth, Fifth Form Tutors, a team of Sixth Form Tutors, a Matron and Housekeepers. This team of experienced practitioners allows pupils to access exceptional pastoral care. They are supported by the Medical Centre which is manned 24 hours a day, our School Counsellors and Chaplain. We also have a well-established system of peer mentoring.

Houses

The role of the Houseparent is to create and maintain a happy and balanced home from home. Each Houseparent is supported by an Assistant and Under Houseparent. Our pupils enjoy outstanding care and support in our houses, each run by dedicated and highly experienced staff. The role of a Houseparent involves: steering, reassuring, encouraging and sometimes intervening. During the five years the pupils are with us, it is important that every experience helps mould their lives in a positive manner. Houseparents encourage them to be determined academically and to develop an appreciation for sport, art, music, dance, theatre and culture.





Houseparents

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Matrons

Each house has a Matron who works closely with the Houseparent and are an integral part of a Stoics pastoral care. They are ubiquitous throughout the House and ensure a warm, purposeful and pleasant atmosphere. Not only do they oversee the smooth running of domestic arrangements, they have regular contact with the Stoics and often know the pupils best. They support the Stoics in all aspects of their School life and often spot issues before even the pupils are aware of them.



Tutors

Each house has seven or eight Tutors attached to it. All tutors show a close interest in their Tutees' academic and extra-curricular activities and provide guidance and support to ensure the Stoic gets the most out of School life. Each Junior Tutor has 12-14 tutees' from the same year group who will meet twice a week. When the pupils first arrive they will be allocated a Tutor for the first year who specialises in the transition between prep school and Stowe. The initial months focus on settling the Stoics into the frenetic life of a senior school, developing their organisational skills and helping them transition to the greater academic demands. In their second year pupils will be allocated a Tutor that guides them through their two years of GCSE. Sixth Form Tutors are again allocated to the House and generally have groups of eight. Sixth form Tutors have more regular 1:1 meetings to discuss progress. The Tutor will be the first point of call for parents on academic issues.



PSHE

The PSHE course is thematic and holistic in its approach, incorporating amongst others the academic disciplines of Philosophy, Theology, Psychology and Sociology. The course is designed to instil in students skills and dispositions such as empathy, critical thinking, resilience and meta-cognition. PSHE delivery at Stowe requires pupils to passionately and actively participate in each lesson through debate, questioning, presentations and enquiry. In addition students are encouraged to cogitate on their disposition to acquire skills in the following six areas: Self-Management, Working with Others, Critical and Creative Thinking, Leadership, Enquiry and Reflection. Pupils will formally self-assess their progress on the development of these dispositions throughout their Lower School career and these reflections are recorded. The PSHE curriculum is delivered to all Lower School Stoics for one session a week.

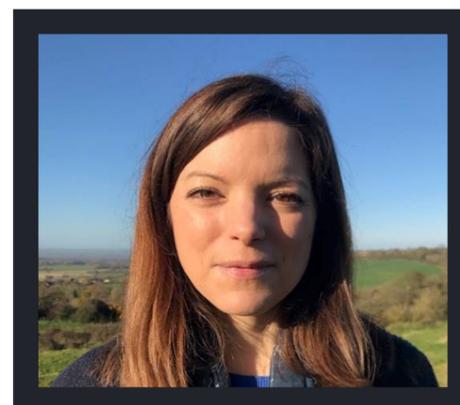
In the Sixth Form, a selection of inspiring external speakers are utilised; these are fundamental to furthering our pupils' empathy for the subject matter encountered in the Lower School. Experiencing the narrative of someone who has life experience in dealing with such challenges as addiction, resilience or disability is inestimable.

Safeguarding

At Stowe, we believe that a policy on child protection is founded on the right of all children to be safe and feel safe, and that it is the fundamental obligation of the School to secure this right. We are committed to the safeguarding of children and child protection and we recognise our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people in our care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Mike Rickner and he provides guidance and training for all Staff members, Governors and other visitors. He acts as the main point of call for any matters regarding child protection. Louise Springall our Senior Counsellor is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. The full Safeguarding Policy can be viewed [here](#). Email: mrickner@stowe.co.uk / lpringall@stowe.co.uk



Counselling at Stowe



As part of our wrap around pastoral care at Stowe, we have a counselling team who support the well-being of our pupils and staff.

There is clear evidence that emotional well-being is a key indicator of academic achievement, and subsequently improved outcomes in later life. At Stowe, School Counselling is provided by respected professional practitioners who work within the pastoral team framework based in the School's Medical Centre. All members of the counselling team are registered members of The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.



Medical Centre

The health and care of your child while at Stowe is very important to us all. The School's Medical Centre is permanently staffed during term time by a team of qualified nurses, and the School Doctors hold a morning surgery every weekday between 8.00am and 11.00am. Each Boarding House has a nominated nurse who is a link with Matron and a contact point for any pupil with a long term medical

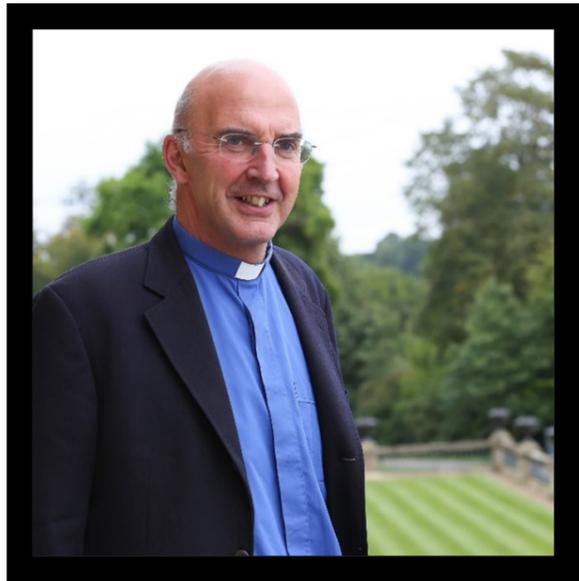
condition. The medical centre is run by our Senior Nurse Manager, Helena Hughes. Excellent consultants, both NHS and private, are available in Oxford, Aylesbury and Milton Keynes and the services of private physiotherapy, podiatry and clinical psychology are also available at the Medical Centre. Parents are always contacted before routine referrals are made.

Chaplaincy

Our Chapel sits at the heart of the School – both literally and metaphorically. The building bears witness to all who have gone before us and honours their memory. The security which welcomes all of the pupils who pass through its doors resonates throughout every aspect of the community. The Chapel is open every day and accessible to every member of the School community. Chapel is often seen a place of quiet refuge and a space that offers the opportunity for reflection. All Stoics come to whole-School Chapel where inclusion, openness and prayerful encounter is clear. We actively encourage students to take part in leading House chapels, taking part in sketches and creative readings, readings and prayers.



The Chaplain Reverend Mullins is integral to the pastoral care the school offers. He visits boarding houses in the evening and is available to all members of the school, irrespective of faith. Some come by appointment, others on the off-chance, most because they need someone to listen to them and advise.



Peer Mentors

Peer Mentors are Sixth Form students who play an important role within the school, offering guidance and advice to new Third Form pupils. Peer Mentors are given training to support their mentees throughout their first year in the School. When a pupil arrives at Stowe, they will be allocated a Mentor in the Lower Sixth to help them settle into their new environment. Peer Mentors are matched with mentees and this is often based on their previous experience, skills and interests. Within the Day or Boarding House each pupil becomes a part of a family. This is a vertical group of approximately 10 children divided with two from each year group. This is often headed by a House Prefect. Creating a supportive system, where the older pupils take responsibility for those in their family in the year below. It also allows for a healthy competitive element within the House.



Stowe

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stowe.co.uk