

# Stowe mail

VOL 11 ISSUE 10: 29 JUNE 2020  
NEWS ROUND UP FROM STOWE

## Summer Term Ends

Over the course of this term we have delivered nearly 20,000 live lessons via Microsoft Teams and the School adapted remarkably quickly to the challenge of operating in a virtual world. We are particularly grateful to parents of Stoics who have helped to enforce timetables and routines during the lockdown and we recognise that this has not always been easy or straightforward.

This term's highlights have included the success of the Upper Sixth Enabling Futures Programme and the Fifth Form pre-A Level courses. We based these courses on two principles: first, there is great merit in the concept of education for its own sake, or as Montesquieu put it, "rendering an intelligent being more intelligent". At the start of his book *Culture and Anarchy*, the great nineteenth century writer, Matthew Arnold, wrote "Estote Ergo Vos Perfecti" (therefore perfect ourselves) which is the challenge we accepted when GCSE and A Levels were cancelled in March. The second principle underpinning these courses is the School's commitment to create Change Makers, educating future leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs to make a positive impact on their world. This culture of continuous improvement has seen Fifth Form pupils engaging in A Level work (I enjoyed teaching the Renaissance as a precursor to the Reformation) and the Upper Sixth embarking on pre-university work (I looked forward to historiographical discussions ranging from Herodotus to Marx every Thursday lunchtime). We state that a Stowe education empowers pupils to navigate, adapt and thrive in a turbulent world and this term has put this claim to the test. The cancellation of exams created opportunities for Stoics to learn how to solve and interpret and solve complex problems while developing their skills in original thinking and creativity. Gordon West and his team organised a staggering 32 careers talks over the course of this term with an amazing response from Old Stoics who were more than happy to share their expertise and experience with the current generation of Stoics.

Another great leap forward was in the number of pupils who used lockdown to volunteer and make a difference in their local communities. Projects included stocking and replenishing foodbanks, catering for key workers, helping vulnerable children in schools, combating the spread of Covid-19 in refugee camps and improvised settlements, keeping a school in Romania going during the pandemic, supporting animal sanctuaries and raising funds for Seafarers UK. The overwhelming majority of the School and many of the Staff engaged in the national effort to work collectively to create a better society. Young people are often unfairly accused of being self-absorbed, shallow, narcissistic and materialistic. These calumnies have been disproved by the generosity and public-spiritedness of our Change Makers: they have demonstrated resilience, courage, compassion, gratitude and a sense of service.

Mr Jones and Mr Sutton created a meaningful and engaging co-curricular and sports programme. A highlight was Sports Day on 22 May which saw some astonishingly impressive individual and collective performances: Dan Roberts (Lower Sixth, Grenville) cycled an impressive 200k (further in one day than I've travelled in three months) and many others pushed themselves to run further and faster than they had ever done before. Participation levels from Nugent (85%), Winton (83%) and Cheshire (82%) testify to their House spirit and will-power. We don't yet know what the sports programme will look like next term and this will come together over the summer break. We want Stoics to stay fit, motivated and competitive so that they are ready to compete when all sports are allowed to resume.

Two weeks ago we said goodbye to our Upper Sixth Leavers and now is the time to bid farewell to our Staff leavers. Among them are two titan of Stowe, Sally Akam and Crispin Robinson, who together have notched up 60 years of loyal and dedicated service to the school. Mrs Akam arrived in 1987 as Miss Bell and transformed the teaching of Geography when she became Head of Department. Ask Sally about the importance of her subject and she makes a very good case for Geography being the unifying subject which is concerned with setting and understanding the stage, earth's physical reality, onto which the whole of human drama unfolds. As Senior Tutor, Sally guided the School through numerous iterations of curriculum and time-table reform while supporting and advising Stoics on their academic journey through the School. Crispin Robinson joined the School in September 1993 following an MPhil from the Courtauld, doctoral research into the work of Fra Bartolomeo in the Dominican Convent of San Marco and a spell as Special Assistant at the British Museum. Crispin created the History of Art Department at Stowe, now a flagship department with stellar results, and rose to become Senior Deputy Head. A civilised, humane and compassionate scholar, known affectionately by former tutees as 'Red Robbo', Crispin is the consummate schoolmaster who teaches his charges "to assume at a moment's notice a new intellectual position, to acquire taste, discrimination, mental courage, soberness and, above all, to gain self-knowledge" (William Johnson).

Finally, the curtain falls on Nick Bayley's career at Stowe. Nick came to Stowe as Head of Theatre Studies and Drama in 2003 and oversaw the renovation and transformation of the Roxburgh Theatre. He introduced Stoics to more challenging and contemporary theatre, directed plays of the highest quality and taught his pupils to have the confidence to deliver memorable and powerful performances. Among the many tributes Nick has received over the last couple of days is this one from a Fourth Form pupil: "You have taught me so much these past years, you always say the right things to make your students feel confident within themselves. You are such an inspiration and have become more than a teacher to me...you deserve everything in the world now after what you've done not only for me, but every student you've taught over the last 30 years."

Our plans for re-opening the School on 1 September are well advanced and we look forward to the time that the whole Stowe community will be reunited as a School. In the meantime, enjoy the warmth of the summer sun and some welcome respite from the anxiety and concerns of recent months.

*Dr Anthony Wallersteiner, Head*

As Lockdown began, the School went into planning mode, deciding how to deliver classes online and how to make sure that Stoics continued to feel part of the Stowe community whilst away from the School and from this planning Stowe TV was created.

Thanks to the wonderful film-making of Stowe parent and photographer Jonathan Glynn-Smith and Tobias Brent, we have been able to film Assemblies, pieces on the history of the School and Stowe, and a final beautiful film featuring some of our very talented Sixth Form Leavers, *Perfect Day*.

If you haven't had time to watch these films, please do take a look. The live Assemblies are now also available to view on the Stowe YouTube channel. There are more films to come over the Summer, so do check into Stowe TV to see what we have been up to.

*Tori Roddy, Director of Marketing & Admissions*





Other cocktail making machines prices range from £399 to £850, however the W.A.I.T.E.R is an affordable £79.99, we will produce the machine for £30 and our target market are parents and those ranging from the age of 40 to around 70, who crave a refreshing cocktail after a stressful day of work. We are also expanding our target market by producing a range of cocktails for children in our deluxe version coming soon.

The W.A.I.T.E.R fits perfectly on any kitchen shelf and comes with a touch screen, where one can select the different types of cocktails one desires.

After asking 60 friends and family we have found that 93.4% of parents drink cocktails and that only 21% of these parents know how to make their ideal cocktail. Therefore, 72% of the parents who drink cocktails said they would buy our machine, due to its affordability, sleek design and their desire to drink cocktails demonstrating the demand for this good.

# DRAGONS' DEN

Most of us will have watched Dragons Den on TV. Perhaps we will have wished that it was we who came up with the ingenious idea for the detangling hairbrush, or the range of spicy BBQ sauces, or maybe the franchised swing dance classes. But very few of us would readily put ourselves in the shoes of the contestants as they contend with a barrage of questions from 'dragons' about product quality, marketplace demand, finances and so on.

So we should extend our appreciation and genuine respect to the all those who entered the Stowe 'Dragons' Den' Competition this term, and in particular the five teams who made it through to the final on Tuesday 16 June. Georgia Laurie and Clarissa On represented West, with their AssistMe Alarm, providing elderly people living on their own with a means for alerting neighbours if they are in need. Emily Wilson represented Stanhope, with an App-based solution to deal with the major problem of unnecessary food waste. George Foster for Chandos presented an intriguing bracelet that provided a solution for ensuring that social distancing guidelines are adhered to. Jack Colebrook, Thor Mager, Thomas Riley and Lyle O'Brien for Bruce gave us W.A.I.T.E.R - the artificially intelligent solution to all our at-home cocktail making needs ('Paradise only one click away'). Finally Mimi Price, Phoebe Haynes, Allero-Dawn Priestley and Martha Blake (all in the Third Form) represented Cheshire with Face Fever, a range of foundations and concealers that not only cover up blemishes in the skin but also treats them.

Our panel of Dragons formed a serious (perhaps even occasionally intimidating!) line-up, comprising: the Head, Mich Turner MBE, entrepreneur and Founder of the Little Venice Cake Company, Jo Peppiatt, Co-Founder of So Souk, and Mark Greaves, Director of Finance at Stowe. Each team was given ten minutes to present their concept and then up to a further ten minutes answering questions from each of the Dragons.

What truly impressed the panel were the range of qualities that all the teams displayed: the maturity they showed in holding their own in the face of some tough questions, the resourcefulness they demonstrated in making contacts with potential partners and suppliers, the ingenuity and originality of the product concepts themselves, the rigour they had applied to the background research and planning, and the collaborative spirit that brought them together despite the challenges of remote planning and presentation.

In the end, the winners were Georgia and Clarissa with their AssistMe Alarm, who win £200, and in second place were Mimi, Phoebe, Allero-Dawn and Martha. Congratulations, however, go to everyone who participated in the experience. Such was the quality of what they presented that we have decided that this should be an annual competition and we hope that it will help to ensure the continuation of the rich seam of successful Old Stoic entrepreneurs in the future.

Colin Dudgeon, Development Director

## Our Ethos

- Our Ethos is to provide quality makeup products that not only make you feel and look gorgeous but to treat your skin to perfection. Our ingredients have been carefully selected to enhance your skin.
- By choosing to wear our makeup your skin will thrive. Our first launch will be the Temple collection consisting of the Themelio Foundation and Krypton concealer.

## Food Waste Hero

### Discussion Points



WHAT IS OUR PRODUCT?



TARGET CUSTOMERS



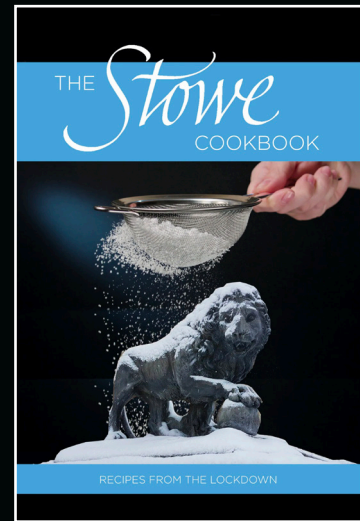
SALES CHANNELS



INVESTMENT REQUIRED



LONG TERM/EXIT STRATEGY



## Stowe Cookbook: Recipes from the Lockdown

We are so grateful to all of you who have already sent in recipes for and/or agreed to sponsor the Stowe Cookbook - we are building up a mouthwatering selection, from Dimebar Cheesecake to Prawn Fideua!

We are hoping to have all recipes in by Wednesday 1 July, and so if you would like to send in a recipe (or even two if you have more than one you would like to submit) and have yet to do so, we would love to hear from you. Instructions for submitting recipes, pre-ordering the Cookbook and acting as a sponsor for our fundraising efforts can be found at the [Stowe Cookbook Website](#).

With very many thanks for your support.

James Peppiatt and Sarah Sutton  
(Winton and Cheshire Houseparents)



# CAREERS TALKS

## IT, Programming and the Financial Services Sector - *Matt Lockyer*

As part of the many Careers Talks taking place this term, on Thursday 4 June we were treated to a presentation by Matt Lockyer (Chandos 05) on his career in the Financial Sector through Computer Science.

Matt spoke about his journey from being a pupil at Stowe to where he is now, a director for Fiserv, a global financial services company. This included subjects such as asking the School to put in place a Computer Science A Level course, his time at university, first job experiences and his path to his current position. Throughout his presentation Matt gave great advice. The two pieces that stuck with me were the fact that Matt codes for around 2-3 hours a day everyday despite everything else within his life, showing his dedication and passion. The second was his emphasis on going to career talks and fairs early on and applying as many times as it takes for your first job.

After Matt's presentation, we had some questions provided by the viewers of the stream. These

included: what do you think the next Zoom-like success story will be (especially due to Covid-19); what benefits are there to having a computer science background in the financial sector; and to how to keep up with the forever changing advancements in technology? All of which allowed for a well-informed and interactive Q&A which I feel benefitted the viewers.

This presentation led to Matt offering to Computing Stoics the opportunity to work on a real project for Fiserv which can be their A Level course project. This is an amazing opportunity as it allows pupils to have a taste of what a future career in the sector would be like as well as having an A Level project that stands out compared to others.

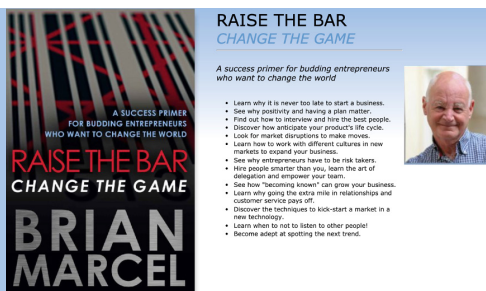
This event was a huge success. It is now on the VLE and YouTube, to allow for anyone interested to view it, along with the many other Career Talks that have occurred this term.

*Ned Ellison (Lower Sixth, Bruce)*

## Entrepreneurship, Starting Businesses and Building a Brand - *Brian Marcel*

On Wednesday 17 June, Society XVI and Careers at Stowe welcomed another fascinating guest speaker. We had the pleasure of hosting Brian Marcel who, using his experience as a successful entrepreneur, author, and consultant, presented on his journey as an entrepreneur and the importance of building a brand. Brian and his company, formed in November of 1982, were one of the first movers to develop and use bar code technology. Now Brian uses his 30+ years of experience to advise companies like Tiilio, Infinity Wealth by Design, Gradebase and IOTA.

Brian's talk was full of anecdotes and gold nuggets of information all evidenced by his vast experience in business. For example, Brian accounted how he "tried to kill the competition" by hiring their best salesman but this backfired horribly, and Brian ended up firing him.



Brian also served as a source of entrepreneurial motivation as he revealed how it truly is never too late to start a business. This is because Brian was serving in a corporate job until he was asked to leave and this gave him the kick he needed, in his 30s, to finally pursue his passion of business and start up on his own.

Finally, Brian outlined some of his key philosophies in business:

- The importance of hiring people smarter than you.
- Personal skill and talent will always be more valuable than a degree.
- Look for market disruptions to make moves.
- Working alongside your competition can often be more beneficially than seeking to beat them.

*Will Wright (Lower Sixth, Winton & member of Society XVI)*

## Careers Talks

Click on the title to watch the presentations from this term's speakers.

[Careers in Law](#)

[Careers in Media, Technology and Starting your own business](#)

[Careers in Journalism](#)

[Careers in Property](#)

[Careers in Law - Law as a stepping stone to other careers](#)

[Careers in IT, Programming and the Financial Services Sector - Matt Lockyer](#)

[Careers in Law](#)

[Consultancy and executive coaching in the public sector](#)

[Careers in the Marines and careers after the military - Charlie Mayne](#)

[Careers in Architecture - John Cahill](#)

[Careers in Marketing & Automotive Sector - Edward Bainbridge](#)

["From Chatham House Play to Netflix Series and Broadway and Back Again" - Arvind Ethan David](#)

[Careers in Medicine - Nigel Rossiter](#)

[Entrepreneurialism, adapting to change and having an eye for an opportunity - Jamieson Hodgson](#)

[Careers in Private Equity and Venture Capital](#)

[Careers in Logistics - How DHL have adapted during the COVID19 crisis - Mike Bristow](#)

[Careers in Property](#)

[The 'Big idea', business start-up's and the impact of Covid-19. - Tim Dew](#)

[Careers in Property - Edward Hall](#)

[Careers in Medicine & Sports Medicine - Dr Milke Rossiter](#)



# Twenty Twenty

These twelve months, said to be the year of years,  
Went from bad to worse and resumed with tears.  
Events that have never before occurred  
Now are the subjects that people have heard.  
The first six months have been and gone,  
Yet the rest of the year will be over anon.

The coronavirus pandemic, Aussie ablaze,  
World war three and protests for days  
Ended with statues of history  
Now due to become a complete mystery.  
The year is half over with so much to do,  
Yearning to start the next half year new.

George Hopkinson-Woolley  
(Fifth Form, Chandos)

'Through the darkness he pushes,  
On forward into the blindness,  
Unmoving his hand stares forward  
A sabre flashing towards uncertainty.

The smog closes around him, separated,  
the chill descends upon him, alone,  
deserted, he continues forward, further  
and further into the satanic jaws.

He feels the heat of the battle fall  
upon his quivering shoulders,  
the responsibility cascading  
upon his mind and soul,  
pulsing through his guilt

And he collapses through,  
the exhaustion sweeping from his body  
a serpent, yet he undoubtedly realises the  
graveness of the situation,  
men to his right

To his left he leads once more into the  
satanic jaws of hell'

Harry Bryant (Fifth Form, Cobham)

[You can clearly see the inspiration I  
took from Charge of the Light Brigade  
– this poem is about the simple  
willingness of man to never stop  
fighting no matter what.]

## 2020

2020 was to be THE year,  
The summer of my life as a reward  
For the age-old tradition of exams just before.  
But lo and behold the world is ending

We are living through a pandemic,  
Isolated and uncertain  
Worried for the future  
droning on and on about the 'new normal'

We are lost  
Love and compassion are dead  
Fighting and stress are rife  
2020 is an uncomfortable year for change.

Australia was in flames  
A war nearly started  
We're in a pandemic  
Protests lionhearted  
The people are dying  
The calendar is ending  
The next 6 are months fatefully pending.

Paris Broughton (Fifth Form, Queen's)

## #Lockdown@Stowe

Mini Busses all parked in a row,  
Red Bus too, no place to go,  
George sits majestic watching North front lawn,  
He's there at dusk and at dawn.  
No Students, no sport, no noise or hullabaloo,  
Stowe has laid dormant for a month or two.  
Silent Swimming Pool, Squash Courts & Drayson Hall,  
Temple State Dining room to get a new floor,  
Every board from its fixing they gently rip,  
Some of it will only be fit for the skip,  
Some of it salvaged and mixed with new,  
I think this will take time, but there will be a few,  
Empty classrooms that all look the same,  
This deadly virus has changed the game,  
Blinds pulled down, Computer screens sleeping,  
Some people left almost weeping,  
It may take a while, but for sure we all know,  
There will be an end to this exile,  
Normality & Life will return to Stowe.  
Paul Stuart, Security Team

# STOWE LOCK DOWN

## poems

### Silent Crowds and Contemplations

When weekly shops turn into missions,  
With gloves and masks equipped,  
When daily walks turn into escapism,  
What a bizarre time this is.

Although with much trepidation,  
I began my first trip for months.  
Instead of finding pandemonium,  
I just found rubber gloves.

There was no noise, no maze,  
Not even a queue as I boarded that flight.  
I positively welcomed the silence,  
A quiet crowd for once in my life.

After months of walks,  
shopping missions and home,  
When we flew I could think of nothing more  
Than what I had left below.

But now I feel it's time,  
To embark on some new quest.  
And couldn't help but smile,  
When I felt another's heart beating on my chest.

Clara Tearle (Fifth Form, Queen's)



# CAREERS TALKS

P Careers in Media and Journalism - Augusta Anthony - 8th June - 4pm



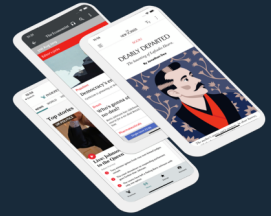
## Augusta Anthony

Journalist based in London.

Reporter, writer, producer, photographer.



**Puggip is the publishing platform that powers the world's leading media brands**



Tortoise

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

News Corp

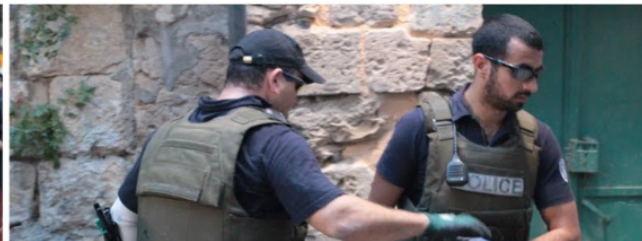
HEARST

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Economist

Condé Nast

CONDÉ NAST



## Media & Journalism - Augusta Anthony

Augusta Anthony (Nugent 11) is currently a producer at CNN International on the digital video news team. She left Stowe in 2011 and took a gap year before studying history at the University of Edinburgh with a year abroad at the University of Virginia. She did various work experience stints during university holidays including a month working on a congressional campaign outside Boston, a couple of weeks at a couple of Law firms (before realising Law wasn't for her!) and short placements at The Times and The Week.

After graduating, she flew to Hong Kong and worked for an educational charity which placed her in a secondary school teaching English and Drama. From there, she moved to New York and did her master's in Journalism at Columbia University's Journalism School. At Columbia, she got into multimedia production; working on a weekly news radio show, learning to shoot video and producing a 30-minute audio documentary detailing how immigration status affects mental health. She was also selected for a scholarship which included a reporting trip to Israel and the West Bank and worked for the international director organising events and campaigns around press freedom.

After graduating in 2018, Augusta started doing research and reporting for a forthcoming book about US intelligence services in the Middle East by one of her old professors, which she is still working on. Augusta then joined CNN's New York bureau, working on the news desk covering the North East region of the US. She reported news wires, wrote stories for digital and worked in the field including staking out President Trump's lawyer in a freezing Manhattan January! In 2019, Augusta moved back to London and

freelanced on the news desk in CNN's London bureau which covers Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Augusta also worked for the Economist on their daily news podcast. In September she started her current role at CNN overseeing video news on their international platforms. Augusta produces, edits and programs video news, which involves everything from writing headlines and verifying video footage to directing breaking news coverage such as last year's British election and collaborating with our reporters and producers worldwide.

After Augusta's presentation Stoics asked a range of questions including: How do you ensure your work is accurate and factual? What are you reading at the moment and why? Some news stations and publications seem to have a political agenda and maybe bias. Is this true of CNN? How do you keep up to date with the different perspectives of international news? How do you validate what a source tells you is true? Some Journalism courses require an interview. What is the best way to prepare for this, and how do you prepare for an on-screen test? How do you manage to keep up with deadlines of getting a story to air before your competitors? What stories have you written or presented that have had the most impact? How do you think subscription news services will compete with services funded by taxation such as the BBC? Do you think that printed media has had its day? How did you manage to get such a variety of work experience? A recording of this careers talk can be found on the Careers VLE page.

*Dr Gordon West, Deputy Head of Sixth Form & Head of Careers*

## Media, Technology and starting your own business - Jonny Kaldor

With the exponential growth in electronic readership numbers seen in recent year, more so since the lockdown, publishing companies have been looking for ways to grow their paid subscription revenue. Thursday 11 June, over 60 Stoics attended a careers talk with Jonny Kaldor (Chandos 88). Jonny is Founder and CEO of Puggip, the publishing platform that powers the biggest names in media from The Economist, Condé Nast and News Corp to Hearst and Tortoise. Prior to setting up Puggip, Jonny was MD, Technology and Product Development at News Corporation's Digital Media Group, focusing on building new digital brands. This followed three years as CTO at News International, where he was responsible for technology delivery across the business. Before joining News, Jonny spent his days, weeks and months trying to build a global digital supply chain for EMI Music. Addressing Stoics from his home in London, Jonny spoke about his experiences in Technology Consultancy, living and working in the USA, France, Italy and Australia (among other places) before starting Puggip, a digital publishing company allowing the biggest names in print media to move online.

He shared his inside knowledge of the differences between careers in Consultancy and the various media careers available. His insights into working in both worlds were different and helpful to Stoics choosing their careers. "Consultancy" he said, "gives a structured path, easy to predict and the job rewards those who know what they want and are prepared to ask for it." Media, on the other hand, "favours those who can make their mark, be authentic and not be affected by the industry politics." And when it comes to getting your foot in the door, "networking is key", use LinkedIn, a powerful marketing and networking tool; use the Old Stoics network and, if you've got a business idea, don't wait too long to start it. A year working in your own start-up will provide much more learning than a year studying an MBA (even if that's a controversial thing to say). The Media world is a small place and once you're in, you'll find your niche. Jonny is available to contact through the Old Stoics office or speak to Dr West.

*Emma Ackroyd, Head of Film and Media*



# Head's Poetry Competition

Poetry is sometimes approached by pupils with a certain wary distrust as some sort of diabolical puzzle: why can the poet not just say what they mean? On closer inspection, it turns out that this is precisely what the best poets do, communicating, as the critic and poet Keith Sagar has written, 'with incredible power and economy' using 'just the minimum number of simple words and images designed to slide irresistibly into the mind of the reader and detonate there'. Sagan was writing about some of the poems of William Blake, the eighteenth century radical visionary and dreamer, one of whose most haunting works, 'The Tyger' was cleanly and clearly voiced in the early part of the Head's Third Form Poetry Competition by Scarlett Wates. (No easy feat - try it yourself to feel the language echo the twisted sinews and 'fearful symmetry' of the subject.)

These ideas about poetry sliding into the mind and detonating ran through the works selected by all the finalists of this year's competition. Will Crabb ('The Shout', Simon Armitage) and Jasmine Sakiyama ('Richard Cory', EA Robinson) brought us face to face with the realisation that others' calm surfaces can hide troubled depths. Constance Sharp ('Blackout', Grace Nichols) and Helen Sharp ('A thousand martyrs', Aphra Behn) both selected poems which widened the voices heard in the competition in terms of time, gender and heritage. Alice Bryant ('The Month of May', Wendy Cope) and Ned Goodrich ('Stop all the clocks', WH Auden) subtly but clearly dramatised and inhabited the emotions reflected upon in their chosen pieces, with the judge particularly impressed by Third-placed Ned's presentation of quiet grief.

Oliver Jenden detonated the full, relentless force of Wilfred Owen's bitter anger in his recital of 'Dulce et Decorum Est' to take Second place. Performing to an audience of their own image on a laptop screen must have been odd and difficult for all the competitors, but Oliver's steady gaze was compelling as he delivered the relentless, damning indictment that forms this lengthy poem.

First place was awarded to Annie Flint for her presentation of an exasperated Hamlet giving the benefit of his wisdom to the players visiting Elsinore. In accordance with her character's own advice, Annie pronounced the speech 'trippingly on the tongue', taking her listeners through the twists and turns of Hamlet's thoughts - and Hamlet, as you will recall, is not noted for his concision and decisiveness - in a way which impressed the judge not only with her delivery, but also with her obvious understanding of the text.

Congratulations are due to all, especially the winners, and the event was a splendid afternoon despite the occasional detonation of thunder. Our thanks are due to Dr Wallersteiner for delivering his considered judgements as well as offering his own pertinent remarks about the extent to which his life, and indeed all our lives, would be impoverished without poetry and song. Final particular thanks go to Paul Griffin without whose technical wizardry and calm production management this event really would not have been possible this year!

*Jonathan Cook, English Department*



## Grace and the Elephant Bird egg

"Can you imagine the size of bird that laid this egg?" the Head said, last Autumn. Well, having a vivid imagination, I can - but how exciting it would be to have a life-size skeleton of that bird to go with the egg! Now, that is easier said than done. There are no complete, real elephant bird skeletons in the world - those we see in museums are composites, re-assembled from bones taken from multiple sites - and anatomical arrangement varies considerably. Research led us to a company that manufactures dinosaur models for museums and they agreed to custom make a bespoke model from a 'skeleton map', thought to be the most scientifically accurate anatomical image of the bird. Standing 2.92m tall and 2.75m in length, the people who crafted her, named her Grace. Despite Coronavirus delays, Grace is now en-route to Stowe and we are looking forward to the day she makes her debut in the Science Department Foyer, standing tall over her egg.

*Sheilagh Rawlins, Science Department*

## The Great Stowe Camp Out

The evening of the Saturday 13 June saw many Stoics heading outdoors for the night in support of Street Child, a charity which supports children living in poverty around the world. Although many of us were hit by thunder storms and torrential downpours, it was great to see such participation from Stoics all over the world. Thank you for all of the review forms we received - we have decided to award prizes in the following categories:

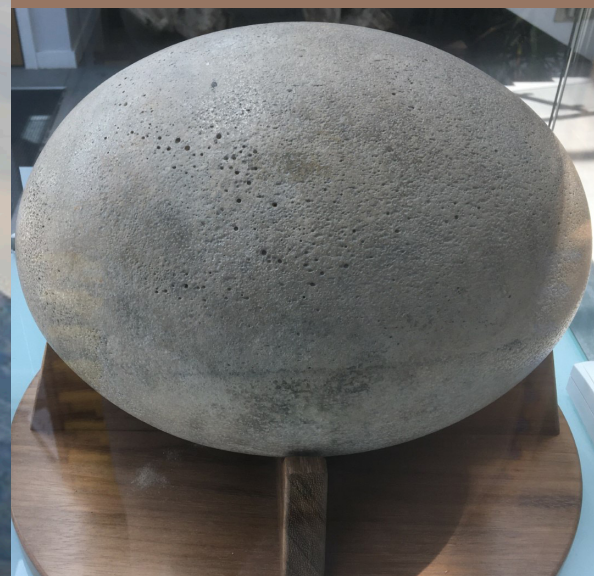
Best Menus - Bo Jenkins (squirrel and nettle and mint soup), Ben Hagger (steamed grab and rice in Pitcher Plant Cup).

Best Shelter - Sophie Taylor (hammock conversion), Max James (hammock conversion)

Best Photo - The Downpour by Willow Kenlock

The fundraising total from this event stands at an amazing £2,485 which will go towards Street Child's programme supporting remote education for children living in poverty during the current pandemic. If you would like to support this fundraising campaign please donate [here](#).

*Gwilym Jones, Head of Co-curricular*





# Old Stoics on the Front Line of Covid-19

Old Stoics in the medical and health care profession have been involved on the front line during the Covid-19 outbreak. True to the character of Old Stoics, some have been involved in innovative and resourceful ways that are making a huge impact. From Marc Koska (Bruce 79) and his company Apiject which is working with the US Government to provide an innovative delivery system for a future Covid-19 vaccination. To Julian Nessbit (Chandos 07) who has been providing free Mental Health support to NHS workers through his online service, [www.dr-julian.com](http://www.dr-julian.com) as well as providing remote mental health therapy from NHS patients.

Old Stoics have been on the front line of care of Covid patients in our hospitals. Emma Whiting (Stanhope 14) found herself being rushed through her final qualifications so she could work on the wards as soon as possible. Here we share the personal stories of three Old Stoics who found themselves right in the middle of the outbreak treating patients in the wards of London's hospitals.

*Anna Semler, OS Society Director*



## Imy O'Brein (Nugent 13)

"I normally work as a Musculoskeletal physiotherapist in a GP practice in Fulham but I volunteered to redeploy to the Nightingale at the Excel where I led the proning team during my shifts. Proning - the technique of laying patients on their front - was incredibly important for the treatment of Covid-19 patients and was one of the more effective treatments that we had at our disposal.

It was quite the change from my everyday, having never worked in a ITU setting but along with the highs and lows it was an incredible experience. I have felt inspired by the other healthcare professionals I met and privileged to have been able to play a small part."

## Michael Spira (Chandos 62)

We are aware that for many people, coping with the Covid-19 and lockdown might have brought with it isolation, loneliness and anxiety. Michael, the Medical Director of The Smart Clinics shared his awareness and concern about the increased levels of mental health needs during the outbreak.

"A common issue that patients want to discuss with their doctors is their mental health. This is a worrying and uncertain time, and many people feel bored, anxious, lonely or low. Modern technology (e.g. FaceTime, Zoom) has proved a lifeline for many as has Netflix and Amazon Prime! It is important to talk about your worries with your loved ones and if you have serious concerns don't be afraid to discuss them with your doctor. Exercise regularly, avoid excessive alcohol, and try to maintain a regular sleeping pattern."

## Emma Whiting (Stanhope 14)

"As the first cases of Covid started to grumble at the beginning of the year, I was a final year medical student preparing to take my final exams. I had a 3-month elective planned (a period working in Vanuatu, putting my new medical skills into practice and exploring the South Pacific), before starting work officially in August. Little did I know that all these plans would be turned upside down.

I took my final exams in the weeks just before lockdown and, my graduation and registration as a doctor were expedited to allow us to help with the Covid crisis. Shortly afterwards, I was launched into my first job as a doctor in a busy London hospital that had been hit particularly hard by the pandemic. It was not what I imagined would happen at the end of my time at medical school and I was terrified to enter the NHS at such a critical time.

It has been the steepest learning curve of my life but has only made me more prepared and excited for work in the future. Even during the most hectic of days with the most unwell patients, there is always something to reflect on of which I am proud. It has been humbling to see an (already strained) NHS come together so fantastically - new skills have been learnt incredibly quickly; jobs have changed with little notice; working hours have increased and new doctors, along with those coming out of retirement, have jumped at the chance to help. Whatever their skillset, everybody has relished the opportunity to make a difference wherever possible. This is something that is very special indeed.

I am due to start a different job on a respiratory ward in August and I feel as prepared as I can possibly be. I'm sure there will be time to explore the South Pacific later in life!"



## Lucie Wellington (Nugent 13)

"I usually work within a team that focuses on the rehabilitation of elderly patients, with some weekends spent helping on the intensive care unit (ICU). During the pandemic, I was redeployed to ICU full time, working as a respiratory physio. This included things such as optimising positioning, assisting with chest clearance, helping reduce ventilator support and post intensive care rehabilitation.

It was mentally and physically exhausting but the support from the local community and beyond made coming into work to an unknown challenge every day a little easier.

I was so pleased to see the coming together of voices to praise those working in the NHS. I even found out one of my friends from School (Imo O'Brien) was working at the Nightingale Hospital after seeing a picture of her on Twitter being thanked by a colleague.

I feel so lucky to have worked with so many amazing people who worked tirelessly to save so many lives during the pandemic and I have never been prouder to work for the NHS."

If you have suffered from mental health issues during the Covid-19 lockdown, you can seek support and information by clicking on the links below:





# CAREERS TALKS



## Property

### James Knight (Chatham 10)


James left Stowe in 2010 and went to university to read for a degree in Business Studies at the University of Leeds. From undertaking work experience in numerous industries during his time at Stowe and university, he decided to pursue a career in property due to the personable nature of the industry, as well as the diversity of the everyday workload. Subsequently, he applied for a master's degree at Oxford Brookes in Real Estate Management. This provided him with a broad exposure to the property industry that enabled me to apply to a wide variety of property firms' post-university.

James offered some outstanding advice on securing work experience and how to prepare for the world of work using his own career to date as an example. His first job out of university was at a residential development company based in Central London, where he worked for four years. The company was small, but he had great exposure to the full property lifecycle, gaining experience in acquisition within a property portfolio, through to sales and asset management, and all in between. He left the firm just over six months ago and he is currently a project manager on the consultancy side of the industry working on developments for a range of major investors including Goldman Sachs, Legal and General and Qatar Holdings.

After this, James explored the value of studying the masters degree which allowed him to gain professional accreditation and added industry specific training beyond his general undergraduate degree.

After his talk, James answered a range of questions including: Why did you choose property over other careers and why did you choose to study the masters? What are some of the most significant deals you have brokered in the last 5 years? What do you think are the biggest regulatory threats to the property sector? What potential threats and opportunities might Covid-19 bring to the property sector? Where do you see the market going this year? With economic uncertainty and rising unemployment, would you invest in commercial or residential property? What is your attitude to risk during a recession? What is the most important trait for someone to be successful in the property sector? Who are your biggest competitors and how do you compete with them? What differentiates your firm? How did you secure work experience and do you have any top tips for A level students in securing a work placement with a top firm? To see the recording of the careers talk, please visit the Careers VLE page.

*Dr Gordon West, Deputy Head of Sixth Form & Head of Careers*



**WHAT BENEFITS ARE RECEIVED from a Private Counsellor?**

- Planned family succession
- Protection of assets
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- Increased control of business and external lawyers
- Agreements drawn 'with Client's needs in mind

**“The law as a stepping stone to other careers”**  
- *David Dawes*

David Dawes (Old Stoic) is an international Wealth Management Counsellor with offices in Mauritius and Singapore. He is qualified as an Australian lawyer and as a barrister of the Supreme Court. He is a resident of both Mauritius and Singapore. David explained that at 28, he was sought out to become “Counsellor” to a leading member of the inner circle in Oman until the latter's death in early 2000 setting up one of the first Private Family Office Structures in London for family wealth management. “It is important to be flexible” in industry, as you never know what is around the corner. During the careers talk, David explained how he has been involved in the purchase and management of several well-known large yachts, large private aircraft, real estate, syndicated and non-syndicated investments, as well as international oil and gas projects including the largest LNG find in Asia which is owned by a major oil company. He has set up complex corporate and ownership structures integrating diplomatic status and residency with tax and successional planning where appropriate.

“Being at Stowe prepared me for a successful career.”

“What you get from Stowe is an unforgettable setting. You take a lasting imprint of friendship, of special moments and fun you have had. You gain the ability to communicate, work in a team and you learn to survive in a community with others”. This is wonderful preparation to be successful in a career in Law.

Throughout David's presentation he echoed advice that pupils should ensure that they focus on working hard, doing well in their A Levels and studying Law at a top university. This will then give you an advantage when applying to work in the top firms. David guided pupils through what it means to be a lawyer and used the acronym SPECIAL to explain this. Special Counsellor, Provides guidance, Experience, Client care, Independent advice, Advanced solutions and Lateral thinking. David then explained how these skills and industry experience are essential in differentiating your applications for other Law roles or to help you be successful in other careers. David concluded his presentation with some examples of the scope and nature of his work and gave some outstanding advice on how pupils should take advantage of the Old Stoic network in gaining access to mentors that may be able to help pupils prepare for work experience, university and graduate careers.

*Dr Gordon West, Deputy Head of Sixth Form & Head of Careers*



# CAREERS TALKS



## Society XVI Talk - Venture Capital and Private Equity *with David Scowsill*

On Tuesday 9 June, Society XVI welcomed David Scowsill to present on his career in Venture Capital and Private Equity. David is highly equipped with industry expertise with his vast directorships, chair positions, knowledge working with publicly listed entities as well as personally working alongside 25 different private equity funds - our panel was keen to begin.

During David's presentation he outlined in great depth the hierarchy of finance, starting with firms like Founders Factory who build businesses up from a single plan all the way to the titans of private equity. David also provided insight into the thinking of venture capital firms and how they often desire first mover start-ups as the competition hasn't set in yet, or how if 6/10 investments fail as long as the final four grow or even one succeeds they're still happy.

What I found most interesting was how David revealed that the venture capital firms themselves are often not innovative/disruptive compared to the start-ups they invest in. Perhaps a disruptive new entrant from Stowe needs to shake things up in the venture capital world? However, David revealed how often the best way to start

a venture capital firm is to gain experience in industry and then branch of independently alongside a partner of a previous fund.

After David's insightful talk the panel (Lorenzo Perrotta, Lara Blott-Wickins, Sam Morten and myself) opened up with questions ranging from how to set up your own fund, the importance of a language degree and what working in Columbia was like during the height of Pablo Escobar's rein.

Perhaps one of the greatest takeaways from David's talk was the importance of speaking another language:

*"When I look back, it has been an amazing asset over time, whether dealing with drugs trafficking things in Colombia, reading legal documents, listening to business conversations without letting on that I spoke Spanish or making speeches at conferences. It was not all accidental!"*

We hope to welcome David back to Stowe very soon!

*Will Wright (Lower Sixth, Winton and Society XVI member)*



## Journalism - Jonathan Wheeler

Jonathan Wheeler is an award-winning journalist who took the traditional route from weekly papers (Chard & Ilminster News, Glamorgan Gazette, Port Talbot Guardian) to an evening newspaper (Leicester Mercury), where he first specialised in agriculture and moved on to freelancing for mainstream and specialist press and broadcasters - everyone from the Daily Telegraph, BBC to Pravda - and started taking photos to accompany his own stories to maximise earning potential. He has also spent time working in public relations, both for agencies and as in-house press officer, notably for the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

After guiding us through his career, Jonathan discussed the importance of being flexible and available for opportunities as they arise. Tenacity and resilience led Jonathan to not give up when he was not successful during his first two interviews. He later accepted a short-term position which led to a full-time position.

Jonathan shared a range of resources to help Stoics prepare to apply to study Journalism and their first graduate position. These resources are available on the Careers VLE pages where there is a comprehensive list of activities, links to professional bodies and universities that specialise in Journalism.

Stoics submitted a range of questions related to Journalism, agriculture in the UK and the potential impact of BREXIT in the sector. To hear Jonathan's responses to these questions please visit the Careers VLE pages.

*Dr Gordon West, Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Head of Careers*







## NEW CROSS COUNTRY CYCLE COURSE FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

September 2020 sees the launch of a new on-site cross-country cycle course for mountain and cyclocross bikes. Cyclo-cross is a family friendly cycle format involving navigating a short off road circuit that includes varied terrain with tight turns and occasional dismounting to negotiate low barriers. The discipline has seen a huge increase in interest with weekly events and local leagues. This will be a new activity and Co-curricular provision at Stowe, available for all year groups and any Stoic irrespective of their cycling abilities or experience. The aim is to build on the increased demand for cycling as an activity that can operate during these uncertain times.

Details as to the times and use of the course will be provided at the start of next term. Therefore, any Stoic interested in this activity or road cycling whether for fun or competition please plan ahead and ensure you bring your bike and helmet next term. For further information ahead of September please contact [Mr Grimble](#).



## Business Tea

Two metres distancing won't get in the way of good company, delectable food and the staff in the Business department catching up before the end of term. To thank the staff in Business for their hard work, resilience and dedication to academic excellence throughout the lockdown Summer term, Dr West brought tables, chairs, camping crockery from home and too much food to surprise the teaching staff with an afternoon tea at the Portico. Mr John, Mrs Bristow, Mr Freeman, Mr Ashfield, Dr West and Mrs Dr West enjoyed a well-deserved sumptuous selection of freshly made food, made by [Mrs West](#).



## Tents for hire

The Burnet Brothers have 3 x 6m BellTents (sleep 8 per tent) and will be happy to rent them out over the Summer to any Stoic families and/or their friends who live within a 10 mile radius of Stowe.

Excellent for summer parties, overnight stays. Hire includes: delivery, installation, collection plus internal furnishings which include foam mattresses, rugs, throws and lanterns.

All for a special introductory Summer 2020 price of £125 per tent. Harry and Archie will be donating £10 per tent hired to the NHS charities.

Please contact the boys on the numbers below to book.

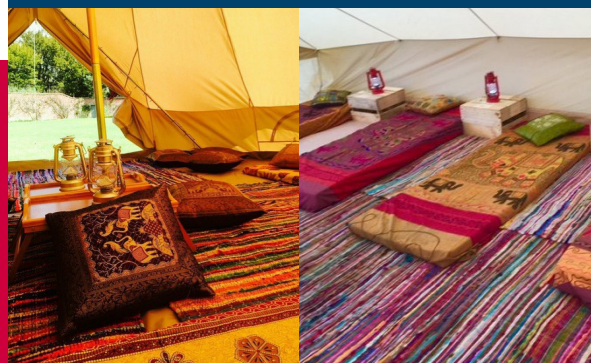
*Harry & Archie Burnet (Fifth and Upper Sixth, Grafton)*

Harry mobile: 07885 462214

Archie mobile: 07712 671872

## 'BLM' Bikes

On Thursday 2 July, Tebi Fongho and Oscar Koomen (Lower Sixth, Bruce) are going to cycle 100km on 'Boris Bikes' across London to raise awareness for the Black Lives Matter movement and the Yemen Crisis. They have planned a route that stops at various memorials and statues celebrating black lives and achievements, or buildings that are linked with what we are trying to raise awareness for. These buildings and statues include The Yemen Embassy, the 'Gilt of Cain', 'Nelson's column', 'Cleopatra's Needle', 'The Bronze Woman', The 'Nelson Mandela statue', and the 'Stephen Lawrence memorial plaque'. If you would like to donate to their causes please click [here](#).



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