

STAMFORD ENDOWED SCHOOLS

# STAMFORDIAN

2022



A YEAR OF STUDIES, SPORT, DRAMA, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, HOUSES AND COMMUNITY





## FROM THE STAMFORDIAN EDITORS

Welcome Stamfordians, to the seventh joint edition of the *Stamfordian*. After two years of interruptions, this academic year has proved that we are all able to bounce back, better than ever.

It has been a pleasure to welcome staff, students, parents, Old Stamfordians, the public and prospective Stamfordians back to the Schools.

From new Year 7s, who have quickly bought into the 'Stamfordian spirit', to Year 13s who embarked on their final exam season, this year has really proven how determined and dedicated our students are.

As members of the editorial team, we were able to see the magic behind the scenes, and be a small part of the bigger picture.

It has been eye-opening to see the number of trips the School has organised, and how students have enjoyed them. From Greece and Sri Lanka to Hunstanton and the Lake District, students outside the classroom have been able to gain knowledge from experience rather than only from their computer screens.

Perhaps because of the enforced reduction in activity of the previous two years, House competitions have been more fiercely fought over than ever this year. Enthusiastic captains have led their Houses to many successes, from the legendary House Music competition to the beloved House Football.

In this issue, we have delved into the subjects, new and old, taught at the Schools by inspiring teachers to passionate students.

Then there's been the opportunity to play matches against local schools again. There seemed to be dozens of matches every weekend, home or away, and they never failed to provide drama, jubilation, and perhaps the odd disappointment too.

How can we not mention the return of theatre and music concerts too. With all the choirs back for our first carol concert, Christmas has never felt so festive. Tickets were sold out for 'The 39 Steps' in March and the return of the choirs with the first carol concert in two years.

We were also able to bring back the historic Burghley Run, a famous tradition of the Schools, which was enjoyed by staff and students alike, despite some shocking weather!

Our boarding community were welcomed back to their school family too, which constantly reminds us how much of a community SES and we must not forget the people who keep the school going: cleaners, chefs, technicians, gardeners, admin staff, heads, and principal.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Miss Pepper and Mr Regis, who have provided the experience of being part of a close-knit team, and helped us hone our skills, so we can proudly call this our *Stamfordian*. This issue reminds us that no matter what comes our way, we will always come back stronger.

We hope you enjoy it. *Christ us Spede.*

By Zoë Richardson and Mollie Nottingham

**2021-2022 Stamfordian editorial team:** Zoë Richardson, Scarlett French-Pepper, Mollie Nottingham, Ellie Hattam, Lucy Britton, and Benedict Snowdon

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Sitting to write for the *Stamfordian* always fills me with such pleasure and pride as I evaluate the past academic year, and begin to look forward to the exciting one to come.

When I think of the achievements of last year, it is clear that we have certainly made up for the lost experiences in the Covid years, and together we have achieved so much.

Coming out of Covid, we launched an acceleration plan and we certainly hit top gear swiftly. This round-up is testament to the resilience, drive and passion that our schools have demonstrated, getting us to a new normal after two years of disruption and uncertainty.

Our schools have returned to the busy, vibrant and engaging places of education in every sense of the word, which is incredibly rewarding to see.

The Oswald Elliott Hall was once again filled with performances and audiences wowing at the incredible talent of our students. We've enjoyed performances from Charity Rocks, 'Bugsy Malone' and 'The 39 Steps' as well as a packed schedule of debates and guest speakers.

The Dance Showcase made an excellent return and getting back to sport and in-person fixtures has truly been a joy. Both the team and individual achievements of the pupils at the Stamford Schools is outstanding; I am incredibly proud of everyone who is a part of this and my colleagues who give so much.



One of my personal highlights of the year is always the Burghley Run, back after two years. More than 1,600 of our pupils and staff took part and Stamfordian Spirit was prevalent everywhere, none more so than the whole School giving the Reception children a cheer as they embarked on their first of 16 runs!

The *Stamfordian* is always a moment in time captured by our students of another amazing 12 months with us, and a record for future generations to look back on.

September 2023 will see the start of the move from a 'diamond' model school, with the Schools becoming fully co-educational over two years. This will be the most exciting, challenging, yet rewarding time in our history and I cannot wait to see our schools reshaped for a brighter, more cohesive future. *Christ us Spede* as we move onwards and upwards together.

**MR W PHELAN**  
Principal of Stamford Endowed Schools





## FROM THE HEADS



**MR N DAVIES**  
INTERIM HEAD OF  
STAMFORD SCHOOL



**MRS V BUCKMAN**  
HEAD OF STAMFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

The whole of the Stamford School community of boys, staff and parents, should feel immensely proud of what has been achieved this year.

So many wonderful events including trips, productions, visits, deployments, victories and a multitude of other opportunities and experiences, only come in addition to that of our core business: providing as high a quality of academic education as we possibly can.

The success of both students' and staff's efforts can be seen in this year's exam results. I thank everyone for their incredible efforts.

Of course, the other significant event this year was the announcement of the School's intention to become co-educational from 2023. Naturally, such a change to the structure is, as might be expected, a significant challenge, and a great deal of planning and preparation has already begun.

Our efforts to ensure a successful merger between Stamford School and Stamford High School will continue over the year ahead.

Finally, well done and thank you to all those who have contributed to this year's Stamfordian. It is a fantastic record of the year we have just undertaken and I hope the editorial team feels very proud of what they have produced here.

*Christ Me Spede.*

The academic year 2021-22 will be remembered as that year we "got back up to speed" after Covid - and we certainly managed that.

The pages here reflect the multitude of activities and experiences our students had - alongside the joy of being back in School and just enjoying the mundane aspects of life; live lessons, full assemblies, House activities and sitting around a table for lunch with friends.

Our young Stamfordians have shown tremendous resilience despite everything the last 18 months has thrown at them.

We've had concerts, plays, fixtures and trips, and have been able to walk round the school without having to follow a strict one way system and keep two metres apart.

"Courage to do or dare" as our School song so beautifully puts it; these last two years have taken much determination, and an awful lot of that much talked about Stamfordian spirit, and courage from us all.

Sit back and enjoy this magazine; it is great to be back, back celebrating the achievements of our students, back doing all those activities that make our School so special, back fulfilling our number one aim - to support our fantastic young people as they journey with us and out into the world beyond.

*Christ us Spede.*





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# ACADEMIC





DEBATING

# For Argument's Sake

DEBATING WAS BACK IN FULL FORCE THIS YEAR, THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOLS.

It has been a busy year for SES debating. Events included the usual mix of house debates, Sixth Form debates, the English-Speaking Union Schools' Mace, the Oswald Elliott Shield for Year 10 and Year 11, a Sixth Form Question Time, and a summer term competition for Year 8, the Cicero Cup, organised by Mr Hyams.

The debating season culminated with the annual Oswald Elliott Cup charity debate. Old Stamfordian Tom Watson (OS 2020) and Year 13 debating captain and Head Girl Kitty Henderson were awarded this year's cup in a research-rich and highly entertaining debate against staff team Mr Gallop and Mrs Sharman, on the motion: "This House would abolish GCSE and A-Level exams".

We were delighted to be able to hold the debate in the Ancaster Studio and to raise money for local mental health charity, Mindspace. The debate took place in front of a mixed audience of students of all ages, parents and staff, and was chaired by Year 11 Milo Herdale.

After exams were scrapped for two years during the pandemic in favour of teacher-assessed grades, the debate was pertinent, and raised questions about the mental and physical health of our students, and the value of exams as a form of assessment.

Judges Daisy Jowers (OS 2018) and Mr Hyams awarded the Oswald Elliott Cup, named in honour of Oswald Elliott, an Old Stamfordian who gave his life during WW1, and was involved with the Debating Society while he was at school.

It was lovely to welcome back two Old Stamfordians for the debate: Tom Watson, who has just completed his first year studying mathematical physics at the University of Warwick and Daisy Jowers, who has just completed her PPE finals at Magdalen College, Oxford. I'd like to thank Mr Hyams for his support of debating during the last three years and of course our excellent debating captains, Kitty Henderson and Sam Hughes. We will miss you!

MRS K LEETCH



PUBLIC SPEAKING

# English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition

This year, Stamford School entered two hardworking teams into the English Speaking Union (ESU) Public Speaking Competition.

One team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the second heat after a well-fought round, but the other team managed to progress all the way to the regional finals, held at Lincoln University. They were eventually beaten in a fierce bout by the subsequent national champions.

Competing has allowed us the chance to hone our speaking skills across three main roles: the speaker, the questioner and the chair.

ESU has been a truly amazing experience for us. The most important skills that we took away were being able to hold a room, and being able to articulate your point clearly.

Our confidence to engage a crowd was cemented when we won Best Speaker and Best Questioner in the second heat, securing a well-deserved win. The judges remarked that they were especially impressed with our well thought-out questions and structured arguments, as well as the upbeat and polite tone we displayed.

Successful articulation of our points and questions was particularly challenging during the first two rounds, when we competed via Zoom. The character of the participants was tested, but despite this we still held our own.

We found the ESU experience wholly positive, with mastering debating over Zoom by far the most memorable aspect for us. There was a sense of camaraderie as we all saw the hours we had put in come together in one moment. The adrenaline and pre-match nerves, despite being rather uncomfortable, confirmed to us that we really were reaching new heights.

To sum up, in the words of our teacher Mrs Herdale: "It was so fantastic to see the team's commitment rewarded and watch them improve with each round from total novices to competitors so professional they gave the soon-to-be national winners a real run for their money!"

MILO HERDALE AND HENRY MAHAN

ENGLISH LITERATURE

# A Dream of an Opportunity

On a sunny morning in late June (close to Midsummer's Night), our Year 7 English class were visited by performance artists Ultraviolet Productions. They gave a very insightful workshop based on Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

At the beginning of the workshop, the coaches began by giving us a warm-up that was based around alliteration of our names such as 'lovely Lucy' and 'amazing Annabel'. This was then incorporated into actions and movement.

We moved on to discuss clowns, and how they were there to laugh at, and entertain. Next steps were to exaggerate our actions and movements - to act as if we were clowning around! "I thoroughly enjoyed being a clown and learnt many skills," said Pearl.

After that, we did some mime, pretending we were moving a ridiculously heavy piano into a car. We learnt how to exaggerate our movements and the importance of doing this when acting, and using our facial expressions to tell the story, instead of speaking.

We then moved onto an extract of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' - the scene where Hermia and Helena were arguing. The Ultraviolet coaches taught us about iambic pentameter (the heartbeat rhythm Shakespeare used in his plays) where every line he wrote was 5 beats. The effect of this was giving a heartbeat feeling and we did an exercise where every time there was punctuation we would turn. This created a constant spinning circle, and that could mean whoever is speaking is going round in circles in their heads.

We looked at how the characters in the play might react to each other and the meaning of their words, working on the extract of Hermia and Helena arguing over love and betrayal in their lives in Athens.

At the end, a couple of groups showed their work, along with the actors presenting their scene. It was a truly great experience to watch them perform. They used a lot of emotion and showed us how to use space and use your face and body in storytelling.

Our class thoroughly enjoyed the visit and found it memorable and interesting, a real treat in learning. "I learnt so much about clowning and how to improve my acting," said Imogen.

LAUREN JELF AND DARCY WOOLSTENHOLMES-GREEN







**GEOGRAPHY**  
**SHS Worldwide Quiz Winners!**

The Stamford Schools won the local round of the Worldwide Geography Quiz, with Stamford High School becoming the champions of 2021.

The Worldwide Quiz involved schools from across South Lincolnshire competing against each other in a range of geographical rounds. Six schools competed in total, including, Stamford High School, Stamford School, Uppingham School, Jack Hunt School, Priory Ruskin Academy and Leicester Grammar.

Both Stamford School and Stamford High School competed in the quiz with two teams each - SS A and B and SHS A and B - involving Year 10 and 11 students. Other schools competed with a mixture of one or two teams.

This year the quiz took place virtually again, hosted by Mr B Morris, Geography teacher at Stamford School. The quiz consisted of eight rounds, some including quick fire questions, and others with picture reveals, multiple-choice or map-based questions.

Mr Smith, Head of Geography at Stamford High School, said: "I'm very proud of our SHS GCSE Geographers who took part in the annual Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz this year. Particular congratulations must go to our A team, who came top of the leaderboard – something that has never happened for an SHS team before!"

"The students worked extremely hard and really committed to additional study and practice in preparation – which clearly paid off. I was especially impressed with their performance in Round 6 where they had to answer a series of questions relating to the impact that air travel has on our changing climate. Really well done!"

MR M SMITH

**MATHS**

**Secrets of the Nazis and the universe**

EXPLORING MATHS DURING A VISIT TO ROYAL HOLLOWAY.

This year saw the welcome return of Royal Holloway University's 'Exploring Maths' day, designed to inspire future mathematicians. The day began with a brief history of the university itself, established initially for women who as a rule were excluded from higher education. The Founder's Building, and its stunning Victorian architecture, is in itself a reason to visit.

After this fascinating introduction the day continued with a lecture, delivered by a 'secret' guest from GCHQ (a key UK intelligence service department based in Cheltenham and elsewhere) outlining the functionality of the Third Reich's Enigma coding machine.

This was thought, by the Nazis, to generate an unbreakable code which all branches of their armed forces used to send encrypted messages. You are likely to have watched 'The Imitation Game' which provides a Hollywood interpretation of the work of Alan Turing, among others.

Following this lecture, the remainder of the day offered a rolling, repeated programme of diverse lectures which piqued the personal interests of all attendees. These covered topics as diverse as the mathematics of the shape of our universe (Topology) as well as the study of game playing and, the bane of many of us, the modelling of traffic jams.

I would certainly recommend this mathematical adventure to any aspiring Sixth Form students next year, and I am certainly hoping to make a return visit.

MR D BURKE



**HISTORY**

**Back in the day**

WE WERE ABLE TO GET OUT AND ABOUT AGAIN THIS YEAR, TO SEE THE LIVING HISTORY AROUND US.

The SHS History Department was delighted to end last academic year by inviting some exciting and engaging visitors to work with our Year 8 and 9 students. After a year of Covid-19 restrictions, which meant we were less able to get out and about to historical sites, it was refreshing to be able to bring new and diverse learning experiences to our students to enrich their understanding beyond the classroom.

Lesley Smith, historian and curator of Tutbury Castle, captivated students with her characterisation of Queen Elizabeth I. She deepened our understanding of Elizabeth's remarkable achievements, breaking through the restrictions placed on women in the early modern era. Dickie Knight, from Anglia Tours, added to our understanding of the First World War, with his marvellous array of artefacts, from makeshift gas masks to weapons deployed in the trenches.

This academic year saw the welcome return of trips, which led Year 7s to visit Warwick Castle on a glorious sunny day. They were able to see the defensive features they had learnt about in the classroom, and to consider different scenarios for attacking the castle. This built on a



very popular activity earlier in the year, where students designed castles on limited budgets, having to make sensible financial choices to best defend against well-armed invaders.

Several students constructed their own castles, demonstrating their creativity in transforming an array of household items (or cake!) into imposing structures! They were also able to imagine the life of the castle's former inhabitant, Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, a key character in their Wars of the Roses topic.

Both Year 8 and 9 visited the Black Country Museum to enrich their understanding of the changes brought by the Industrial Revolution. They experienced many aspects of 18th and 19th century life, including living in back-to-back housing, being

involved in traditional trades and the centrality of the canal network.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students also experienced a 'return to normality' with GCSE and A Level exams taking place for the first time in three years. Our students rose to the challenge admirably, and we enjoyed witnessing some of the more creative revision methods, including the famous Year 13 revision songs for the USA and Wars of the Roses courses.

We are proud and delighted that seven of our SES students are going on to study History and related subjects at university, demonstrating that passion for the subject extends way beyond our classrooms. To continue to foster this, our students were offered other opportunities to broaden their historical understanding beyond the curriculum.

To celebrate Black History Month, Dr Sue Bishop from the University of Leicester addressed students and staff on the experiences of those in inter-racial relationships in Leicester in the 1970s and 1980s. This not only gave our students insight into important aspects of our social history, but gave them experience of university-style lectures. Last month, the History Department helped to commemorate Pride Month with a talk on the partnership between the LGBTQIA+ community and the striking miners in the mid-late 1980s.

MRS S SHARMAN

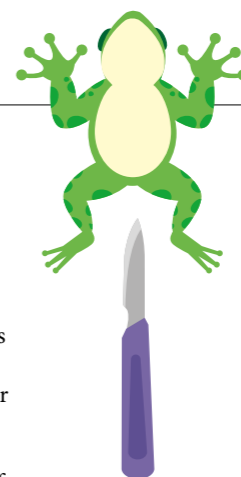
**SHS DISSECTION CLUB**

**Cutting Remarks**

The Dissection Club had a good year this year. At the start of September the uptake by SHS students was very high, with lots of Year 7 and Year 8 students signing up, along with a smattering of keen Year 9 dissectionists.

We also recruited a group of brave Year 8 students from Stamford School who tried to walk over for most of the dissections performed. We looked at many different organs and organisms and put together paper model structures of the creatures and organs we dissected.

Every session was run by the Year 13 Biology Prefects,



Sofia, Rafa and Eleanor, who practised their presentation techniques and ably helped the younger students to dissect the items in front of them.

We have managed to cover eye and heart structures, and looked more closely at fish, frogs, rabbits, rats and squid, as well as some other organisms, and next year we hope to expand this list, depending on what is available!

One of my favourite sessions was the rat dissection, where we had Year 7-9 students from both schools helping our Year 12 Biology students perform the dissection, assisted by my Year 13 Biology Prefects. It was wonderful to see a great mixture of all year groups from both schools working together.

MR G WEEKS



EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

# The benefits of the EPQ

First introduced by the AQA exam board in 2008, the Extended Project Qualification, or the EPQ, is now completed by upwards of 30,000 students annually. The project is based around a topic, usually in the form of a carefully-crafted question, chosen by the student and agreed by the centre.

Once a working title has been agreed, lessons on areas such as researching, critical thinking, analysis, and time management, to name but a few, are delivered over around nine months.

The students then use their own time and these general skills to create an independent, specific, and bespoke response to their chosen question, statement, or hypothesis. The student details their research progress in a production log document which evidences their endeavours and thought processes regarding the project.

At the end of Year 12 they hand in their completed project, and present their findings to an audience in the annual EPQ Fayre.

This currently takes the form of marketplace-style presentations and stands which summarise the student's personal and project related progress over the course. This year the fayre took place in the High School Hall and was attended by scholars, potential EPQ students in Year 11, staff, and parents.



There are plans to further expand the scope of the final presentations with a possible TED-Talk style format and an expanded, invited audience being discussed.

The final project can be a 5,000-word essay or an artefact. The artefact option is becoming increasingly popular, because it often allows the students better scope to respond to their research question in a novel and more accessible format. Recent artefacts have included podcasts, sculptures, and original pieces of music, each still accompanied by a shorter report detailing the research that led to creation of the artefact.

Inspiring and eye-catching titles from the last two years include:

- Essay - Should CBD be more widely available through the NHS?
- Artefact - Does music have an effect on people living with dementia?
- Essay - How successful is the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis with Viral Vector Gene Therapy, and will the development of Viral Vector Gene Therapy further aid treatment?
- Essay - How important was Twitter for the 2016 election of Donald Trump?
- Essay - To what extent does British post-war children's literature have a political agenda?
- Artefact - Sugar Plums, Swans and Symphonies': A composition displaying Tchaikovsky's signature features seen from the composers Mahler, Prokofiev and Williams in the 20th century

The EPQ is extremely beneficial to A-level students and although all the young people who have taken the qualification have found it challenging and tough-going at times, they have all agreed that the skills it develops will serve them well in the future. Indeed, the skills listed above enable students to 'hit the ground' running when they enter higher education. This is directly evidenced by the lower drop-out rates seen in students who have completed the EPQ.

From a personal point of view, I enjoy teaching this qualification immensely due to the incredible range of research topics that the students investigate. It is also a joy to see them developing the confidence to properly question information and evaluate sources. Finally, the sense of satisfaction that they radiate at the end of the course when they have given their project everything they have is quite profound.

MS R PETERSON



EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

## Challenge In Practice

For my Extended Project Challenge I chose to explore the ideas and sources behind inspiration. Where does inspiration come from and how can I express this in a piece of art work? I first began thinking about different origins of inspiration and decided to focus my analysis on five topics: Brain & Imagination, Experience, Places & Things, People, Characters & Fiction.

I questioned whether you could be inspired by your own brain and the creativity you were born with. I also looked at experience and wondered whether various adventures and encounters would influence you or inspire new ideas. I believe that every new and exciting destination or entity you see or visit could be interpreted differently to inspire each individual person. I explored the idea of people and decided that personalities, styles and even first impressions can inspire the way we think. And finally, I thought about characters - the fictional aspects of someone's imagination - and how they can help you learn a lot about yourself as well as others.

Using what I had discovered, I constructed a model of a head, using paper mâché, with my ideas entering and leaving it to depict inspiration flooding the brain. In conclusion, I believe that inspiration comes from so many different sources, everything from huge, life-changing events like a one-off adventure, to small things such as a good book or a pretty flower. It can come from anywhere and to anyone and so, whatever inspires you - embrace it and enjoy whatever comes of it.

ROSE MACKIE

LANGUAGES

# European Day of Languages

SES WELCOMED BRIDGET KENDALL MBE TO CELEBRATE EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES.

As the centrepiece of our European Day of Languages celebrations this year we welcomed Bridget Kendall MBE to the Stamford Schools.

Bridget Kendall is currently the first female Master of Peterhouse, the oldest college of the University of Cambridge, and she was joined by her partner Amanda Farnsworth, who is a renowned journalist in her own right, and Head of Digital Journalism for BBC News.

Before heading to Peterhouse, Bridget had a long and prolific career as a foreign and diplomatic correspondent for the BBC, reporting on events in Central and Eastern Europe throughout the 1980s and 1990s, at a time of real political, social, and economic change, coming live to our TV screens from both Moscow and Washington, and everywhere in between!

We were delighted that she was able to come to Stamford and to speak with our students, several of whom were invited to lunch with her, her partner, members of the Schools' SLT, and the Assistant Chaplain.

Her two talks (to Years 7-10, and Years 11-13 respectively) were very different, tailored superbly to the two age ranges, but at the heart of both talks was her message of how studying modern languages (particularly, in her case, Russian) can make you stand out from the crowd - a message, we believe, that all students should hear.

We were reminded that even though our subjects may be difficult, they are hugely rewarding and teach us so much about the world and about ourselves. This is especially true in light of recent events and the invasion of Ukraine, where it is clear



how important it is to train the next generation in the skills of cultural awareness, communication, and diplomacy.

She drew on her many and varied experiences to provide an inspirational and fascinating talk for our students, many of whom were encouraged to go away and complete further research into the historical events that she witnessed, including the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the USSR, and we were very grateful for her time and insights.

Part of what makes a Stamfordian education so special is the number of experiences beyond the classroom that our students enjoy, and we are glad that such events have been able to return this academic year, post-Covid.

MR B T O'NEILL, SES ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN 2020-22





PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

# Celebrating Holi

A COLOURFUL CELEBRATION OF A HINDU FESTIVAL.

This year, Stamford School students participated in Holi. The Hindu festival of Holi is celebrated during spring and symbolises the triumph of good over evil. During lesson time, students learnt about the story of Holi and its significance for Hindus around the world. As part of the tradition, coloured powder is thrown, covering all in attendance with vibrant colours. The colours symbolise new beginnings and joyfulness. Students were each given 5kg worth of coloured powder to throw on each other.

Reuben Sharpe particularly enjoyed it: "It was a great and exciting way to experience Hinduism. We were equipped with our protective, and very stylish sunglasses, and we were off and running around on the grass, throwing powdered paint at each other. It really opened my eyes to other cultures, too. I can't wait to do it again!"  
MRS N ODEDRA

SPANISH

## Iberian interests

SPANISH SUCCESS FOR STAMFORD SCHOOL AND STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

The return to 'business as normal' has meant that we have been able to resume the many activities that take place beyond the classroom in the Spanish Department.

As well as our well-attended Spanish clubs and GCSE clinics, we have been busy preparing students for a range of national competitions. For the first time ever, three Year 7 pupils from Stamford School qualified for the National Spelling Bee Finals, taking place at Cambridge University at the end of the summer term.

In addition, three Year 9 students gained places at the National Translation Bee Finals, also at Cambridge University, where one Stamford High School pupil came a fantastic second place in a competition entered by several thousand pupils across the country in September.

We have trialled new competitions as well this year: Year 7 have been completing Linguamaths passports, linking their knowledge of Spanish to mathematical puzzles, and students from Year 12 have submitted entries to the Flash Fiction competition run by Oxford University, in which they have to complete a piece of creative writing in a maximum of 100 words.

We have been lucky to have some Old Stamfordians visit the department to give advice to current pupils on au pairing in Spain and to help with competition training. We really appreciate those long-term relationships and continued support they give to the Schools

Alongside the opportunities in Spanish, we have started a Linguistics Society, which has been well attended by pupils across SES in a range of year groups, all of whom won awards in this year's UK Linguistics Olympiad.

Finally, we are delighted, after a three-year hiatus, to be planning for the Year 8 and 9 residential trip, and the Year 10 to 13 Spanish Exchange, and very much looking forward to giving the students the opportunity to practise their language skills in real-life settings.

MRS PIKE



PSYCHOLOGY

## Thinking about the future

THERE WERE MANY INSIGHTS IN THE BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CAREERS LECTURES.

In March 2022, the Year 12 students had the opportunity to attend a talk hosted by the British Psychological Society (BPS) on 'Your future in psychology'. It consisted of a variety of topics, including conspiracy theories and cyberpsychology, and the effect of video games. This was something unexpected as I had no idea there could be careers within these fields that also related to psychology.

The first topic was hosted by Dr Daniel Jolley (Assistant Professor in Social Psychology at the University of Nottingham). He talked about what a conspiracy theory is, why people believe them and how they spread. What he concluded was that there must be a proportionality bias, meaning that if there was a big event it must be explained by an equally big cause. He also discussed the harm of them. The example given was that people that are anti-vaccine are less likely to vaccinate their 'fictional' child.

Video games and cyberpsychology was hosted by Dr Simon Goodson (Nottingham Trent University). He talked about whether video games lead to violence. What he concluded from his research was that video games do not cause violence, but more often than not do desensitise people to real life events, whether that be war on the news or an assault on the streets.

Catherine Hitch (Queens University Belfast) hosted the Northern Ireland veterans section. She discussed the lack of help veterans were getting because of security issues associated with the armed forces. She also talked about how, before her, there had been no research done on NI veterans. Something crucial she talked about was the confidentiality of the veterans when conducting research, as many wish to remain anonymous and wouldn't participate if they were named. This gave us an insight into how psychologists conduct research and the challenges involved.

Finally, we got to speak to current psychology students and got involved in a Q&A. They discussed their experience and also the university they attend. Personally, I found this section really informative, especially as a student that hopes to study psychology in their higher education.

STACEY TAGG



## LANGUAGES - RUSSIAN

**To Russia, with love**

LANGUAGE CAN BRING PEOPLE CLOSER TOGETHER AND BUILD TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING AFTER THE UKRAINE WAR.

No-one will disagree that the invasion of Ukraine is unacceptable and that the actions taken by the Putin regime are hugely damaging to international relations and the reputation of Russia and the Russian people.

However, to demonise the whole country and its culture seems equally counter-productive and does not help us look positively towards the future.

In June 2022, the Sixth Form Russian class held a Zoom meeting with our partnered school in Khimki, Moscow. This was a great chance to improve our linguistic skills from a first-hand experience and getting to know what life was like in an alternative country.

I have already been accustomed to the Russian culture as I went on the Russian Exchange in December 2019. Here I met so many warm and welcoming Russian citizens and created lasting memories, travelling to see the Russian Circus and watching a national ice hockey match!

On the call were two of the previous exchange students that I had already met – Max and Fedor. It was great to strike up conversations and catch up with the people we met years before. As soon as we joined the call, I was taken back by how welcoming and friendly they were, and simply how much they were enjoying the conversations.

Languages can bring people closer together and build trust and understanding. Perhaps now more than ever we need this as the world tries to come to terms with the actions of one man.

The call lasted 20 minutes and despite this seemingly short time, we had an insight into the interests and hobbies of the Russian people and their culture. We were connected through our interests and passions, regardless of being two different nations and the events that are currently happening in the world.



Whether this was the computer games we played or the books we read, we were always talking and forming conversations as there were a myriad of topics to talk about. Some of the Russian students even gave their contact details at the end of the call, hoping to talk more with us and improve their English. This was great as we also can further practise our linguistic skills while creating lasting friendships and bonds with various students.

Turning our back on Russian as a subject and boycotting all things Russian will be counter-productive in the longer term. I am hugely saddened by the events of this year, and although it is difficult, I am trying to look forward with optimism for the future.

All wars, no matter how abhorrent, come to an end and some means of reconciliation needs to be found. We have no way of knowing when and how the Ukraine war will end but let's pray for peace sooner rather than later. Understanding Russia, and its culture, and being able to communicate effectively with its people will be more important than ever, as will understanding the dynamics of region more broadly. As students, we will be the ones relied on to build peaceful relationships in the future.

FABIEN DARBOST

## CHEMISTRY

**Better batter and champion chips**

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY SCHOOLS' ANALYST 2022 COMPETITION TESTED PARTICIPANTS' SCIENTIFIC SKILLS TO HELP CREATE PERFECT FISH AND CHIPS.

An exciting opportunity arose for three Year 12 SHS students to compete in this year's Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst competition. Hazel, Isha and Evita worked as a team for six hours, giving up their own time to solve four practical analysis challenges.

We were competing in the East Midlands region, including against a team from Stamford School.

The challenges, based around the theme of 'fish and chips', were:

- Determining the best amino acid composition for a fish batter.
- Finding the optimum acidity for a chip-shop vinegar.
- Determining the ideal sugar content of potatoes for the perfect chip.
- Carrying out the decomposition of baking soda to discover the source of a soapy taste in cakes. FISH CAKES?

The team worked brilliantly together, developing their practical chemistry skills by carrying out techniques such as gravimetry, chromatography and titration. They thought carefully about potential errors in their procedures, and gave their answers to a suitable degree of precision.

Results from their experiments and their answers to a set of related questions were submitted to an online portal.

MS M COX



## MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

**Technological Advancement**

RECORD NUMBERS TAKING AN INTEREST IN THIS DIVERSE AND CREATIVE TOPIC.

This year, the Year 12 cohort for the Music Technology A Level was at a record number compared to recent years. A growing sector in the music industry, and a must-have skill for musicians, the Music Technology A Level focuses on studio and recording techniques and computer-based composition, both of which we can offer in our recording studio.

Some of the projects undertaken this year included students having to create their own podcast on one of a series of given topics, and to research relevant information and create a jingle based on a chosen topic.

Another project was that of vocal music. Students were tasked with creating a 1-2 track using only noises they could create with their mouths. They were allowed to edit these sounds using Logic, but the original sound had to be made by their mouths, with no instruments allowed!

There has been a new Music Production Club that has started for all year groups that focuses on the RSL music production grades and gives all students the option to take their grades in music production or simply just gain the skills without the pressure of taking grades.

We also hosted a Music Technology information evening which took a new approach this year. There were seven students from Year 12 and 13 A Level Music Technology who presented some of their work they had completed to an audience. They discussed what they had done, and how they achieved the completed tracks, before playing theirs, along with a deep dive on the big screen of the intricacies of the projects.

For students, or parents, who are interested in taking Music Technology at A level, whether they are in Year 7 to Year 11, they should contact Mr Wood. Samples of work and full tracks of students' A level Music Technology work can be found with the Music Technology QR code for you to enjoy.

BY MR J WOOD



SCHOLARS

# Scholars' Enrichment

THE INAUGURAL YEAR OF THE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME HAS PUSHED PUPILS TO EXPLORE NEW WAYS OF THINKING AND ACTING.

This academic year has seen an inaugural programme of enrichment events for scholars, aimed at gathering scholars from both Schools together to promote resilience and allow them to enjoy sessions which provide challenge and develop teamwork and communication skills.

## Key Stage 5

In addition to their fortnightly meetings, Year 7 academic scholars and aspiring scholars enjoyed an after-school enrichment event in November, led by The Problem-Solving Company.

The students were introduced to a range of challenges during the two-hour workshop: a Lego challenge, cube/prism building, working with Hanoi sets and building a 'skyscraper' with a crane. The aim of the session was to encourage key teamwork skills, including listening skills, respect for others, effective communication and a positive mindset - as well as the creative and lateral thinking skills essential for successful problem-solving.

Later in November, Year 8 scholars enjoyed a documentary and debate night, where they watched and then discussed a documentary, 'Joshua: Teenager vs Superpower', focused on a Hong Kong teenager and activist and his resistance to the education policy of the Chinese government.

In May, Year 7 and 8 scholars joined forces for an Escape Room Challenge, on the hunt for an explorer's lost memory. With morse code, invisible ink and even a spider or two in each group's 'explorer's backpack', two teams were able to beat the time limit by 20 minutes.

Later in the summer term, as a post-exam treat, Year 9 scholars benefited from a lively and informative debating workshop, led by Julian Bell, formerly Head of English and Debating at Godolphin and Latymer School in London. They learned a host of transferable skills and particularly enjoyed both the Zombie Apocalypse exercise and speeches for the presidential election in Mamamooland!

## Key Stage 4

In January, Year 11 scholars and aspiring scholars visited Christ's College, Cambridge as part of a long-standing connection with the college. The aim of the visit was to introduce students to the concept of university life and encourage them to think about A-level choices.

The students enjoyed lunch in the college Buttery, followed by a tour of the college with current undergraduates. The students were amazed by its size, which was like a Tardis of ancient and cutting-edge architecture, and full of green spaces.



The guides were animated and informative, telling the students all about college life – from supervisions, lectures and workload to rowing, choral societies and May Ball organisation. As part of their visit, the students took part in a question-and-answer session with the college admissions and outreach officer Ellie, and a group of current undergraduates, all from different disciplines.

Ellie provided a really useful and comprehensive introduction to universities, including Cambridge and its unique features, how to choose a course, how to apply to Cambridge and advice on A-level choices and subject combinations.

In March, Year 10 scholars were treated to a philosophy workshop, run by PH4E. Far from being a sedentary or entirely cerebral activity, the students found themselves participating in a philosophy and argument wrestling (imagine four simultaneous bouts of tag wrestling between teams of four people, but using arguments instead of headlocks) tournament. They explored moral dilemmas by first constructing an Evilometer, followed by a fast-paced debating game of argument wrestling.



create and deliver their own jokes: "What do you get if you cross Donald Trump with an alpaca?"

February's session made use of home-grown knowledge, with interactive lessons on learning unusual languages from scratch: Romanian (Alin, Year 12); Turkish (Sinan, Year 13) and Ancient Greek (Mr Hyams).

Our session in March took a slightly different turn, with a motivational workshop led by Inner Drive, who inspired the students with some wise and practical advice and stressing that taking responsibility for your own learning and your own successes or failures is key.

Finally, Year 12 took centre stage in a mini-TED-style event in May, where individual students presented 10-minute talks to their peers on aspects of the academic subject they hope to study at university.

Audiences in both groups enjoyed some well-researched and enthusiastically presented talks, on topics ranging from the biological case for Bigfoot and the benefits of cannabidiol, to the importance of language and literature in society and the mythology of the underworld.

**MRS K LEETCH, MR M ZACHARIAS AND MRS K JONES (HEADS OF SCHOLARS)**

## SCHOLARS' ACTIVITIES

# Dis-Comfort

PERFORMING SONGS SOLO AND DOING STAND-UP COMEDY TAKES YOU OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

This year, the Year 12 scholars all got involved in several valuable workshops, named 'Uncomfortable Learning,' with each session pushing us out of our comfort zone in various ways. I think everyone that attended can agree they did just that; however, they were also extremely valuable to achieve certain resilience skills which will carry us forward positively into Year 13.

The first session took place at the beginning of the year, and was run by a voice and coach performer in the West End: Jason Gray. This session was based around building vocal confidence, and, very much to our initial horror, we were asked to perform solos in front of the group! Though this provided a certain level of anxiety to begin with, we all left smiling and feeling proud that we did something that we would not necessarily choose to do otherwise.

I can confidently say that I shall leave the performance of 'Shape of You' to Ed Sheeran! However, we all learnt a lot with regards to vocal confidence and pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones, which bodes well for building resilience.

Along with this session, we also took part in stand-up comedy with Phillip Simon, learning a new language and 'mastery mindset' with a company called Inner Drive. Each session was very different, but together set us up perfectly for Year 13 and getting us to focus on things that we may not usually think to take part in.

I think we are all very much looking forward to what the next year of Scholars' activities has in store for us!

**ELLIE HATTAM**

## Sixth Form

Year 12 scholars' sessions became fully co-ed this year, reflecting the OneSixth ethos. The Sixth Form enrichment events were designed on the theme of 'Uncomfortable Learning' and aimed to encourage our brightest students to step out their comfort zones, become less risk-averse and begin to wholeheartedly embrace being challenged and put on the spot.

Our first session certainly succeeded in doing just that, as the students were challenged by Jason Gray (local voice coach and performer in West End shows) to sing solo lines from an Ed Sheeran song, sometimes to a backing track, sometimes unaccompanied, in front of their peers. Many admitted to being terrified, and those were the students Jason picked to take the stage and perform a solo.

Along the way, he gave plenty of useful advice about how to 'fake it till you make it' and how to channel fear and anxiety into positive energy and physical confidence.

For our session in November, we welcomed Philip Simon, a stand-up comedian who delivered a session on 'Looking for the Funny' and encouraged the students to





# CREATIVE



# ART at SHS

ONCE AGAIN, IT HAS BEEN AN EXTREMELY BUSY YEAR IN THE ART DEPARTMENT.

In October, the Year 10 and 12 artists began their courses with a fantastic day out at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, interacting with the work of Damien Hirst, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. They also worked with a professional artist, exploring concepts and ideas behind particular artworks, before creating sculptural responses to the pieces in clay.

November saw the first of two annual life drawing weekend workshops, with renowned life model Briony Lewis. Working from life really stretched our older students, and developed their skills in timed drawing and the analysis of the human form.

In the world of art, drawing from life is a very important skill to learn and keep, as it makes you think about the individual you want to draw through simplified shapes within a space.

When drawing from a model, a mutual respect is created between the artist and the sitter, which allows you to focus and learn the anatomy of the human form, and express it in your own way. Learning these skills makes it easier for you to draw more defined shapes and create more elaborate compositions in future works.

The Oxford Pitt Rivers and Ashmolean museums trip for Year 13 and the Art Scholars saw students investigating the theme 'Identities in Contemporary Art'. As soon as we arrived, the artists were keen to explore these unique and vast collections.

The scholars began by viewing the natural history section, which had examples of taxidermy, entomology and precious stones and fossils. There was also a fascinating interactive exhibition on the modern human diet and how vegetarianism can help reduce our carbon footprint, which was enjoyed by all.

The second part of the museum collection showed artefacts and cultural objects from all over the world. The students took part in a workshop which showed work from contemporary artists, Nyema Droma and Christian Thompson, and explored concepts of 'identity' and 'coloniality'.

The second half of the session took the form of a guided tour of the Pitt Rivers, exploring other contemporary art responses and focusing on self-representation through LGBTQIA+ histories within the museum's displays.

For the second year, Stamford Arts Centre exhibited work from every student who completed their GCSE or A level qualification in 2021. It is always such a fantastic experience, being able to celebrate student achievement and to highlight their outstanding abilities in the wider community.

The Stamford Mercury also advertised the event and it was once again very well attended. It also proved great inspiration for both current Year 9 and 10 students in their studies when we visited the exhibit during lesson time. Our fantastic technician Lee also created an amazing A level Virtual Gallery, giving students who had

not been able to attend the show the chance to see their work in a digital exhibition space.

The annual London trip in February gave Year 11 and 13 artists the chance to view the huge range of work. Contemporary art always creates much discussion with students, encouraging them to really explore the ideas behind the works they observe and the age-old question 'what is art?'

Although the students had spent almost a year creating their coursework portfolios, the visit offered a much-needed injection of inspiration for the development of their final pieces, and really assisted the progression of thought-provoking and conceptual outcomes.

Finally, we had a huge amount of success in competitions this year. The Rutland Youth Art Competition, this year entitled 'Global Whispers', was exhibited at Rutland Museum in Oakham and was available to view throughout March and April by the public.

Along with Rutland Youth Art, awards are also given by Rutland Art Society and Art Society of Oakham, and included work from several schools in Rutland and Stamford. A Private View was held in the museum one evening in March, and it was fantastic to see that Anna Smith, Sophia Harper, Olivia Scott, Penny Symonds and Poppy Taylor-Border all received special mention.

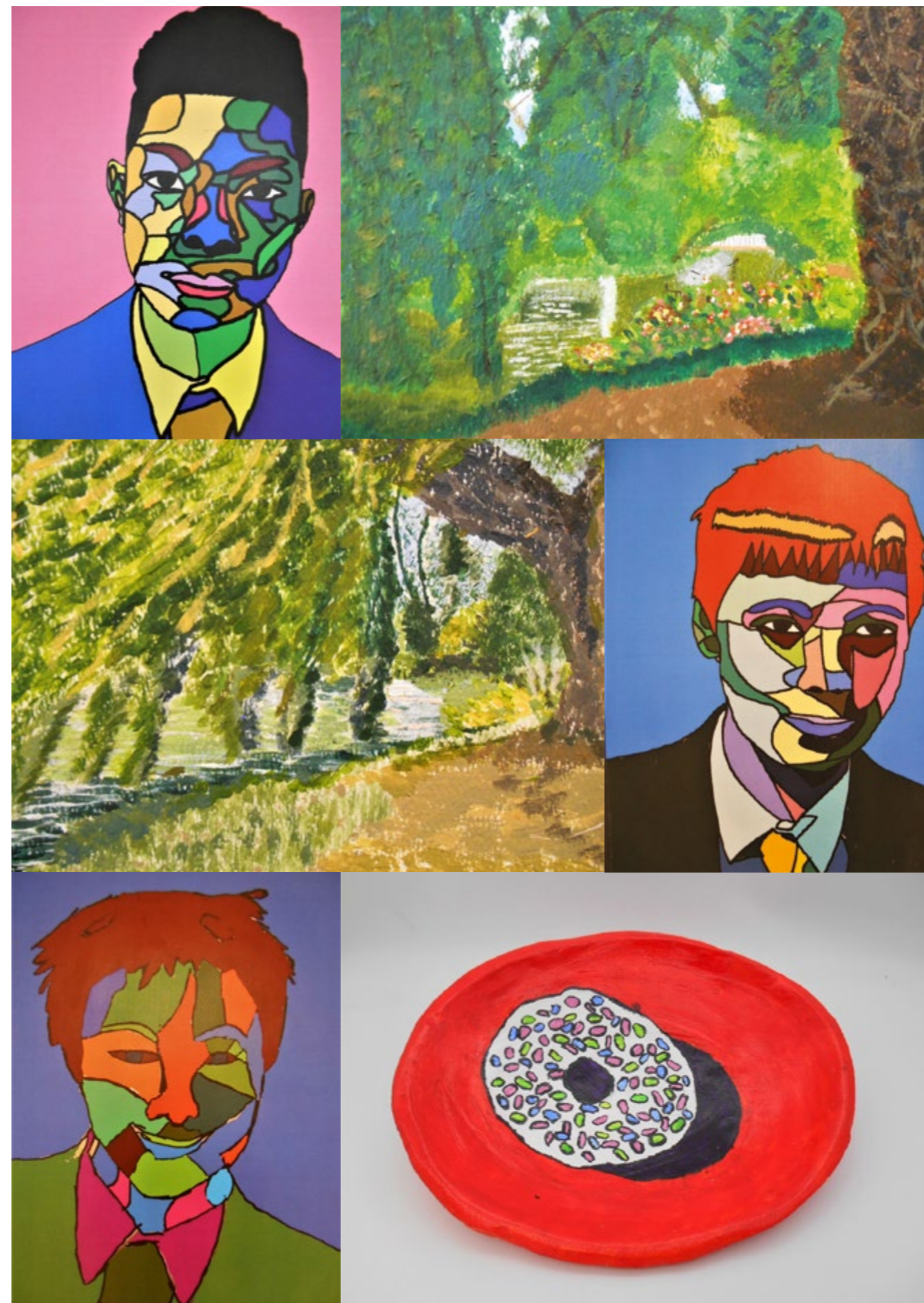
However, Amelia Callun was announced overall exhibition winner with her piece entitled 'Plastic Pollution' which included a thought-provoking poem. Incredibly, I was also approached by CEO Jonathan Brill from Eduvate, as he wanted to use Amelia's work on his LinkedIn profile as an example of financial literacy. Congratulations, Amelia!

Once again, we also had a great deal of success in the Stamford Rotary Art Competition. The brief this year of 'Colours of Nature' gave students a great deal of breadth for their investigations and, as a result, we had a range of exciting and engaging submissions from all our Art Scholars.

In the Intermediary category, Ellie Raymond received third place, Olivia Scott came second and Maliha Mirza received first place. In the Senior category, Imogen Spiby was awarded third place and Anna Smith came second. However, both Olivia and Anna were selected to go on to the regional competition where Olivia came runner-up, and Anna won! She now goes to the National Competition which will be exhibited in Birmingham.

Overall, the Art Department is truly astonished by the achievements of the students this year. Given the challenging circumstances they have faced over the last two years, it is evident that a number of students chose to really channel their experiences artistically. Well done everyone. Mrs Ashley, Miss Brown Needham and I are all very proud of you and all that you have achieved.

MS KENWORTHY







## Drawing inspiration

Ever since I was a young child, I have been creative. My mum would give me a pile of boxes, masking tape, stickers and scissors, and they would keep me occupied for hours! Since then, I've moved on from Play-Doh, stickers and hand printing, and I have been practising my artistic skills to improve them.

The level of artistic talent at Stamford is so high, so I was delighted to receive a scholarship, but seeing others' artwork has motivated me to spend some of my free time trying to develop as an artist. I enjoy working with a range of different art materials including acrylic paint, chalk pastels, charcoal, and even coffee. I am slowly gaining confidence using watercolour and oil paint, but at the moment I prefer working with acrylics and pencils.

For the past year I have been creating and selling commissions for portraits of people's pets as I find drawing fur challenging and fun. My favourite piece of art that I have ever produced is a commission for a dog called Reggie.

Furthermore, as a fun activity I paint on old CDs and vinyl records to put on my walls as well as art that I create for gifting, like my largest piece, a lion, that I gave to my mum. I sometimes work on more serious projects such as a charcoal piece I did of Captain Tom last year and, more recently, a blue and yellow pencil crayon study of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to raise money for Ukraine.

Art helps me relax so I can switch off, create and be content while being productive, and I find it very therapeutic, especially when I listen to music while drawing.

Being a scholar at Stamford has driven me to focus more on my output. I love the Art Department, the freedom to work on pieces for my GCSE, and the work that my classmates complete, as it always inspires me to do more art at home.

IMOGEN SPIBY



DT

## Point of Sale Advertising Talk

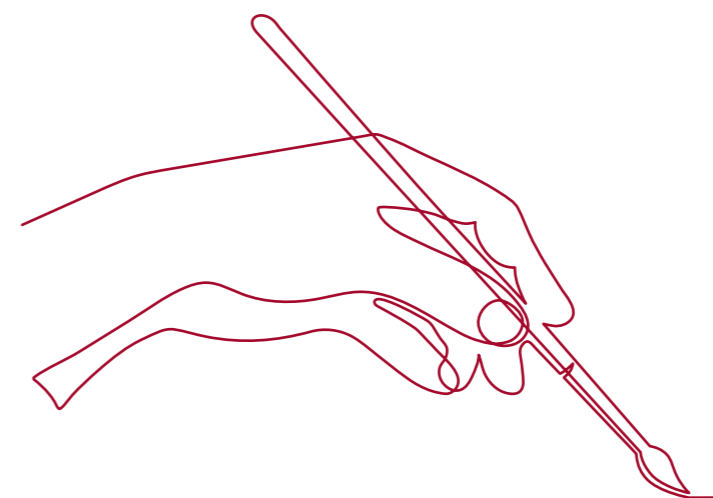
In October, the Design Technology Department hosted a talk by Mr Keith Talbot, who exhibited his entertaining and rare shop automata, providing a fascinating insight into point-of-sale advertising in a pre-video display, historical context. Some of his collection would be considered politically incorrect nowadays, but they reflect the social context of the time.

Among this collection was a classic Victorinox Swiss Army Knife, an item that many parents and grandparents will remember being mesmerised by in the 1970s!

This talk provided an excellent opportunity to explore mechanisms, corporate identity, point-of-sale displays and advertising. Many thanks to Mr Talbot for giving up his time and showing us his collection.

If any parents who work in design or engineering fields would like to talk to a small group of our students, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

MR M HOLDSWORTH







## Dance

In 2021, our dancers showed true grit adapting to rehearsals via Teams, and rose to the challenge of our filmed and streamed showcase. However, excitement mounted when we were given the go-ahead to get back to rehearsing in person and could tread the boards once again.

The razzle-dazzle of a live show, and the exhilaration of performing to an audience, made it even more exciting for those students new to dance, as well as our more seasoned performers.

Inclusivity has always been at heart of the Showcase; anyone who would like to dance in the show has an opportunity, and it has been lovely to get back to the hustle and bustle of groups sharing a rehearsal space.

The 2022 show was based on the much-loved children's story of 'Snow White'. The story provided a framework for creative ideas for the choreography; some dances were dramatic in nature, and others more light-hearted and entertaining.

Dances were based on delicate snowflakes, an array of forest animals, pretty flowers, a high energy chase through the woods by the Huntsman, a range of beautiful duets, and two powerful pieces involving the Evil Queen, and our Year 9 students danced to Dolly Parton's '9 to 5', as off to work they go!

Year 12 students from SHS and SS were a sight to behold as the seven dwarfs and brought laughter as they combined a touch of slapstick comedy with commercial dance.

The finale was choreographed by the Year 13 leavers. This has become somewhat of a tradition, a heart-warming number involving students that have participated in Dance at SES throughout their secondary school career. The dances were mostly choreographed by students, with guidance at their weekly rehearsals. However, I was delighted when Miss Emily and Miss Zoe from the Welland School of Dancing made their debut by kindly agreeing to choreograph a couple of dances for the show. The performance was exquisitely lit by Keir Spalding, and ably stage managed by Year 12 Lottie Bussey.

In other news, Year 13 student Marianne Vié has long had her sights set on a career in dance, and we were delighted that she successfully auditioned, and accepted, a place on a competitive degree course in Dance at Shockout in Manchester.

Budding dancer/choreographer Harry Forrester, in Year 12, was spotted dancing at the 'Can You Dance' Convention and has been shortlisted for the final of Dancer of the Year, which will be held in Liverpool in October 2022. Good luck, Harry!

MS WATSON



## Cooking

I fell in love with cooking around eight years ago. I'd always loved watching my mum bake all sorts of delicious and varied things. Eating them was quite pleasant too.

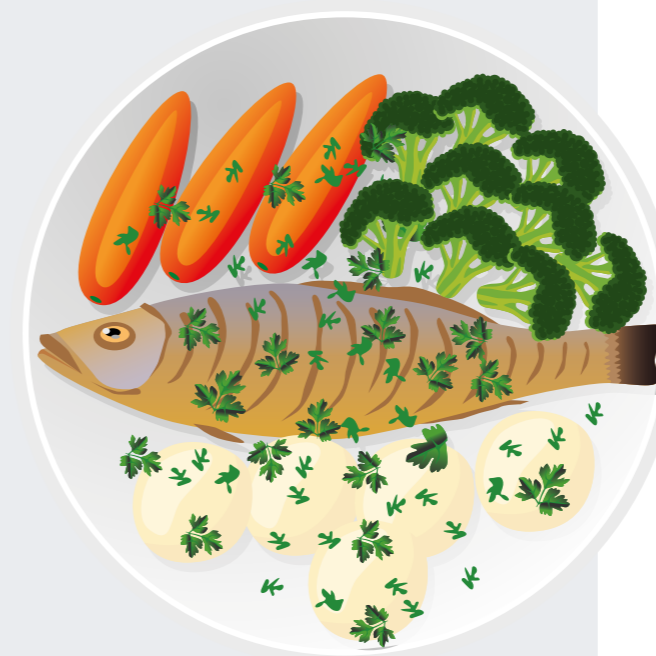
She began teaching me how to make shortbread and my passion developed from there, leading to more elaborate dishes. I particularly enjoy making iced buns, as there are many elements that I have to bring together to ensure it comes out just right. If I'm thinking about my health, I do love cooking fish of all sorts – it's one of my favourite foods.

In terms of my most impressive dish, I'd probably have to say it's my chocolate fondant cake with raspberry coulis and Chantilly cream.

This year, I entered the Young Chef Competition. I cooked a range of dishes, including tomato soup with focaccia, breaded hake and turkey meatballs and a chocolate and passion fruit cheesecake, with a chocolate molten cake on the side.

It was an absolutely incredible experience which was really useful, and it developed my cooking skills, pushing me out of my comfort zone. Working in a large industrial kitchen was exciting, and I gained lots of advice from the judges. I came first in the first round, second in the second round, and third in the third round.

RORY CULLEN



## Food

It has been a very busy year in the Food and Nutrition Department, getting back to normal after the pandemic. We have welcomed Mr Howells, who has replaced Mrs Bennie, who took a new teaching job in Scotland.

We also said goodbye to Mrs Cunningham, who has been our technician for almost 18 years, as she is retiring. She has kept us all organised (pupils and staff alike) and will be greatly missed.

In October we hosted the district Rotary Young Chef Competition with one of our students, Rory Cullen, taking first place. We then hosted the regional competition and Rory got through to the finals in Cambridge, where he came third. We are so proud of his fantastic achievement.

The Year 9s have achieved their Level 2 CIEH Food Safety qualification. The House Bake-Off was hugely popular again this year with lots of amazing cakes made. Year 8 Cookery Club continues to be popular, making a diverse range of dishes such as Christmas cakes, Moroccan tagine, key Lime Pie and spanakopitas (feta and spinach parcels).

We have seen our first cohort of boys taking their GCSE Food exam this summer too. The Year 11s produced some amazing dishes for their GCSE coursework, showcasing their skills, creative flair and food styling. Next year we see a record number of Year 8s taking the subject.

MS WILSON



DRAMA

# Back to Normal Extraordinary!

After staging shows in empty studios, performing to cameras and streaming more than five hours of digital performance work, in the autumn term students from Years 10 and 11 staged Rona Munro's adaptation of the Mary Shelley classic 'Frankenstein' in the Llowarch Performing Arts Centre.

Although still following Covid protocols, this tense and thrilling production was the first 'in-person' performance we had been able to stage since before the pandemic.

Fast forward to March 2022, two years to the day since the one-night wonder that was 'Legally Blonde', our last senior production in the Oswald Elliott Hall, with the rest of the run having been cancelled as the Schools went into the first lockdown. We were finally able to open up the doors, free of restrictions, for our SixthForm play, John



Buchan's 'The 39 Steps', adapted for the stage by Patrick Barlow. The sold-out three-night run was a triumphant return to the world of 'normal' production-making.

At the end of the spring term we welcomed Eugenio Contenti to Stamford. A choreographer, director and faculty member at the New York campus of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Eugenio ran a phenomenal choreography workshop with some of our most able Year 10-12 dancers.

In May, we delighted in welcoming Year 6 students to the Oswald Elliott Hall to perform their Spotlight production of 'Bugsy Malone', with splurge guns and custard pies a-plenty, to a packed house of family and friends.

In the second half of the summer term we were able to re-establish our annual Scholars' trip - something we haven't been able to do since the Summer of 2019 - taking our Year 9, 10 and 12 Drama Scholars to London for a day of drama enrichment. They participated in stage combat and acting for camera workshops and watched a performance of the critically-acclaimed stage show 'The Life of Pi'.

The year ended on a high with our Year 7-9 production of Philip Pullman's 'Grimm Tales', adapted for the stage by Philip Wilson, with its successful four-night run in the Llowarch Performing Arts Centre.

We look forward to another jam-packed year of extraordinary performances ahead!

MS C HILL



MUSIC

# Re-Choiring

There are times when going back to the drawing board is necessary. A year ago, it became clear that this would be necessary regarding senior choirs at the Stamford Schools. The plan was to change Choral Society from a Year 7-13 choir that mopped up all the strays, to a cohesive Year 10-13 mixed choir.

It seemed like the right thing to do and the right time to do it, and it has worked out very well. The Choral Society in its new configuration is flourishing.

Rehearsals began in September 2021 with energy and enthusiasm. The first concert was three months later in November where the Choral Society performed two contrasting pieces, 'Crazy Little Thing Called Rock', a combination of two rock ballads, 'Crazy Little Thing' with 'It's Still Rock and Roll to Me', and the classic and ever popular 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen. This performance delivered an excellent vocal blend, and together with the well-coordinated rhythms, impressed everyone, attracting rapturous applause. A fabulous beginning for this new venture.

Later in December during the Christmas Extravaganza, Choral Society entertained their audience with the iconic and classic 'The Christmas Song' by Mel Torme to create a truly magical festive atmosphere.

In March, Choral Society led the morning service in Chapel for the first time. Their enthusiastic Introit, 'O Sing Unto The Lord' flowed through to the upbeat, jazzy, gospel-style anthem 'It Is Good To Give Thanks'. The service was expertly closed with John Rutter's famous blessing 'The Lord Bless You And Keep You'.

The annual Choral Concert at the end of the spring term was an opportunity for Choral Society to perform 'Fill Your Hearts With Joy And Gladness' and a cheeky upbeat arrangement of 'Billy Boy', again to enthusiastic applause.

It is with a sense of great achievement that we end a very successful year with a group of vibrant, happy and fun-loving young people, who have genuinely enjoyed making music together to such an extent that rehearsals continued into the summer term until the Year 13s and 11s started their exams.

It is with great enthusiasm and a real sense of anticipation that we look forward to another successful year filled with singing and performing together.

MS BOND AND MR MCILRAE





# COMMUNITY



# Charity

It's been an enjoyable year for charity and community events, and wonderful to see the students again, and to get back to face-to-face interaction with the Stamford Schools' community, and with the wider community.

Priorities for this year have been getting as many students involved as possible, maintaining our good links with the local community and, as the year has developed, supporting Ukrainian refugees. As much as possible has been done jointly between SS and SHS, while the foodbank collections have also involved SJS. The students have chosen to fundraise for Macmillan and for Wear It Pink - both cancer charities. Our local charities include the Evergreen Care Trust, the Foodbank, Mindspace and, where possible, Second Helpings.

Fundraising has raised the following sums: over £4,200 (for Movember); £848 for Mindspace (Charity Rock); over £2,800 for the Evergreen, in part to pay for the costs of the Christmas Party and the Summer Tea Party; £670 raised for Don't Lose Hope (2200 challenge); over £1,000 for the Polish Medical Mission (£400 from the Year 8 sleep-out, and over £675 from Cakes for Ukraine, across all age groups).

Other activities include the donation of 700 Christmas cards, made by students for the Evergreen Care Trust, together with 500 donations of shortbread. Similarly, about 280 Easter eggs were sent. A very well-received Christmas party was held at SHS for the Evergreen members, and students have attended the Evergreen Trust wellbeing activities, including one visit by musicians.

Staff and pupils with family in Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, and Romania have monitored events for supporting Ukrainian refugees in surrounding European countries. As a result of this, a member of staff used money donated to collect and personally deliver items needed to the Warsaw foodbank in the Easter break.

A further collection has taken place across all three schools for items to support Ukrainian mothers and babies supported by the Warsaw food bank. Closer to home, members of staff have been involved in providing English lessons to Ukrainian refugees who are staying nearby.

There have also been our regular harvest and summer foodbank collections for the Stamford Foodbank. Fundraisers undertaken by individuals have included Rebecca Steele's sponsored half-marathon, Mrs Sismey's cycling of the Way of the Roses, for Mind, and boot-polishing for Scotty's Little Soldiers by Aaron Bird.

In future, our ambitions are to do more jointly with SJS, and to extend our programme to include some outreach, perhaps with local schools. Other events this year included: the Evergreen Care Trust Summer Tea Party; the Sponsored Walk; the Mental Health Debate in aid of Mindspace and SAID fundraising (using rainbow tattoos) for Stonewall and Mermaids.

At Stamford School, we are also sad to say goodbye to both Aaron Bird and Andrew Inskip, who have both served on the charity committee for five years or more.



Both have shown outstanding qualities of leadership, worked hard throughout (including during the various lockdowns) and brought much cheer to our regular charity meetings. We wish them well for their futures.

At Stamford High School, we would like to say thank you to Zara Williams and Ella Bevis, who led the way as Charity Prefects, when the School took on the difficult challenge of restarting charity events after social distancing rules were relaxed. The SHS Charity Committee would like to wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

**HELEN CHEW, JILL DICKSON, KATIE ALUZZI  
MICHELLE SPARSHOTT - CHARITY CO-ORDINATORS**



## Running for money

I completed the London Landmarks Half Marathon in April 2022 in support of Tommy's Charity. This is a charity that conducts research into the prevention of pregnancy loss and provides assistance to women who are pregnant.

I began training in January 2022, and despite a slight setback occurred when I sustained a concussion while playing netball, I continued to run and train. During this period, I was encouraging others to donate by spreading the word to friends and family.

When race day arrived, I was apprehensive and unprepared for the distance I was about to run, but I took it slowly and kept going. The crowd's support and strangers yelling my name was incredible, and seeing my family who had travelled down to see me was a really emotional experience. I ran all around London, passing choirs, dancers, and charity stations along the way.

I raised £727.50 in total, much exceeding my goal, and my next objective is to run the London Marathon in April 2023.

**REBECCA STEELE**

## Help for Ukraine

When we learnt of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the SES Charity Committee we thought long and hard about what and how we could help.

We decided on raising money for NGOs and charities that are directly involved in the region, such as the Red Cross. So I decided to set up a GoFundMe page hoping to raise £1,000. The total raised now stands at £4,500.

During Easter I took my daughter and we travelled to Warsaw to help in an aid distribution centre for Ukrainian refugees. We spent a week there, meeting some amazing people.

While in Warsaw I met refugees who were wishing to come to England, as the Homes for Ukraine scheme was up and running, and on my return to the UK, I embarked on finding hosts willing and capable to welcome families in need.

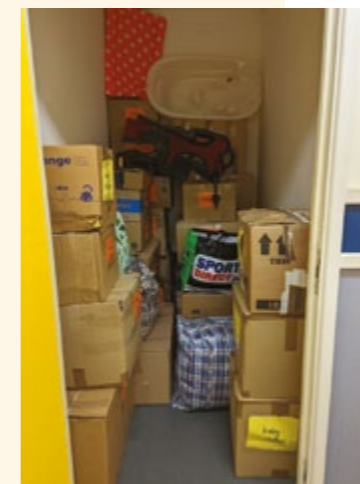
This is where the SES community really stepped up, and we had several Stamfordian families hosting. Our own Mrs Salt opened her home to a mother and daughter from Kyiv, the Gallop family donated toys to help them settle in, and I'm told an impressive Barbie collection is now resident in the Salt household.

The School open its doors to students awaiting a place in local schools. Helen Chew and her department have also been helping those from Ukraine by providing English lessons too.

With the help of the Charity Committee, Amy Svoboda co-ordinated the mammoth task of organising the collection across SES.

This conflict has not ended and the longer it goes on, the bigger the need for humanitarian aid will be. We will carry on throughout the summer and next academic year, so watch this space.

**MRS McENERY**



## Cake sales

Over the course of Year 9, I have hosted two bake sales. Running these sales with my friends and form tutor, Mr Regis, has been great fun, and it was amazing to see all the support there was from all the people who brought in cakes. It's given me great skills in how to organise events and how to work with other people.

At times it was a challenge finding people to bake cakes or finding people to help me run the sale. However, my friends were always there to help. I've loved running these sales so much and I will definitely be doing them again!

**OTIS HERDALE**

## A night under the stars

Along with my classmates Arthur, Will and Seb, I took part in the sponsored sleepout for Ukrainian refugees organised by Mrs Chew. I participated because I wanted to raise money for people in need (and how better than a sponsored sleepout with your friends?) and I am deputy charity rep for my form.

Obviously, if we wanted to get the feel of life as a refugee, then all electronic devices were confiscated. Now, this is what we did...

We started off the memorable night with team-building exercises with the CCF and, although rain interfered, we had a great time and managed to continue the activities inside. Then came the den building, where we made a 'top-quality, state-of-the-art' cardboard mess! The frustrating Sellotape issues and tearing carboard were accompanied by lots of doughnuts - small compensation.

Once the den was complete, we headed off to Browne House where we were welcomed with tomato soup, lots of biscuits and even more doughnuts. The tomato soup was in the style of meals that Ukrainian refugees have at soup kitchens.

After a filling dinner, we were taken to the chapel by Reverend Phillips. We listened to music played by the Kyiv Cathedral choir and were given bread - a sign of welcome in a Ukrainian household (which we just toasted on the candles in the chapel before eating). We ended the night with a quick reinforcement of our cardboard den and we then found ourselves completely alone in the playground at night. The sky was clear and all the stars were visible - it was so cool! (though we didn't get to sleep until around one).

In the end, we raised over £300. This was a great experience that I would definitely take part in again.

**REUBEN SHARP**

## Our Final Goodbye

For the last five years I have had the absolute privilege of being part of the Charity Committee at Stamford, helping organise and being involved in many events arranged by the committee. I

Charity work is an excellent and very rewarding mechanism to bring people together. We all care about charity, as it is our way to make a difference, giving back and providing assistance to people who need it. Anyone can help and be a part of the Charity Committee, from raising awareness of upcoming events to taking part in them.

For me, learning new skills, meeting new people, generally making a difference, leading, providing assistance when needed and giving back a little are just a few of the reasons I have enjoyed being a part of the committee.

Our thanks go to all parents, students and staff who have contributed so much over the year.

For now, I would encourage as many as possible to get involved in any way you can and give back just a little. To the wonderful staff, goodbye and thank you; it has been a pleasure working with you all.

**ANDREW INSKIP**





# CCF Back in full force

THE CCF HAS DELIVERED A FULL AND CHALLENGING PROGRAMME THIS YEAR.

The gradual relaxation in the rules surrounding the pandemic has allowed the CCF to deliver an active and challenging programme of events throughout the year.

A stay at the Cadet Training Centre, Inskip, was the first residential trip that the Schools had conducted for 18 months, and the impact upon the cadets was marked.

Suddenly they were unconstrained and had the space to be young people again; they literally, and metaphorically, threw themselves into and off every activity. It was a fantastic return to normality.

This normality saw the resumption of competitions. Army and RAF teams achieved notable success in their respective events. This was especially gratifying as both teams contained a significant number of junior cadets. Routine activities such as afloat training and Air Experience Flying have returned, and weekend and holiday courses have been well-attended, while demand for field days and residential remains strong.

The contingent continues to grow in strength with large numbers of cadets opting to remain in the CCF. This increase in numbers is highly gratifying, but does put the pressure on CCF staff. Because of this, the CCF is always looking to recruit new members of staff. CCF staff are drawn from school teaching staff, school support staff, parents and local volunteers. While some adults have a military background, most don't.

All CCF staff, known as Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAV), receive comprehensive training from both the contingent and their chosen service. Once trained, CFAVs can apply to attend a wide variety of courses. Any adult interested in joining the CCF is invited to contact the Contingent Commander.

The CCF would be nothing without the cadets. However, I'd like to thank each one of them for their commitment and support over the year.

TIM HEYWORTH, CONTINGENT COMMANDER

## Army

The Army section of Stamford's CCF has had a busy year, starting with one of the biggest intakes of new Year 10 cadets joining the section, leaving it with the largest number seen in years.

The Year 11-13 cadets started September with a field weekend which included blank firing, recce patrols, CQB lanes and section attacks, to name a few activities.

November brought the Remembrance Parade for the first time in three years, which the section worked very hard on, perfecting their drill to do the parade proud. It led to lots of praise from attending dignitaries regarding the section's drill and turnout.

Moving into December, all three sections took part in Exercise Dark Compass, which is an annual orienteering competition, and resulting in some competitive times.

The new Year 10 cadets worked towards their 'passing-in' to the section during their beret awarding parade on the Dell, which was the first time the section has carried out this parade.

In March the senior cadets from Year 12 and 13 attended 7 Brigade's Combat Cadet competition, which included CCFs and ACFs competing from across the country.

The team did well, taking part in patrol lanes, march and shoots, and CASEVAC procedures in FIBUA villages, including a lot more across the Thetford training area. As a result, the team finished second out of 18 teams, doing the section and Schools proud, and leaving next year's team eager to win.

The Army section has carried out beneficial and interesting lessons throughout the year, preparing the younger cadets for the field weekends that they can take part in. Year 12 and 13 cadets played a large role in organising and leading the training through their Cadet Forces Instructional Techniques qualifications, along with the help of all staff members who made this whole operation happen.

The year ended with a residential summer camp, and the entire year across the Army section has been hugely active. With new heads of sections taking over, it can only improve further on top of what it has already become.

CADET SERGEANT MAJOR EVANS



## Navy

It has been wonderful this year to be able to get back into the swing of things, and participate in all of the events the Royal Navy has to offer.

The water sports at Rutland Water in the autumn and summer terms were a highlight, with the younger years thoroughly enjoying learning to sail for the first time, the Year 12 cadets windsurfing, and the Year 13 cadets mastering the art of paddle boarding.

May saw the Junior Field Day, where the Year 10 cadets practised their orienteering and mountain biking skills. At the end of the summer term, we were able to go over to Rutland Water for two whole days of sailing with Royal Navy instructors, enabling us to refine our techniques further.

In addition to the activities in the Navy section, there have also been whole contingent events.

Cadets from all sections felt honoured to be taking part in the November Remembrance Parade where they integrated with other representatives from Stamford town. We were proud to be able to demonstrate our newly-polished drill skills.

In December, Exercise Dark Compass put Year 10 and Year 11 cadets to the test, navigating under a time pressure in the cold and dark, with Year 12 and Year 13 cadets manning the check-points. The RN cadets acquitted themselves very well, and the best team was from our section.

In March, the Inspection Day at Burghley Park saw high-ranking military personnel observing each section taking part in different teamwork activities run by the Year 12 and Year 13 NCOs, who enthusiastically stepped into their new leadership roles. Following this was the eagerly-anticipated CCF Formal Dinner, where everyone appreciated the opportunity to dress for fine dining.

Reflecting back on this last year, our skills would not have been quite as impressive if it wasn't for the hard work of Able Cadet Lucy Barber (Head of the Royal Navy section), Petty Officer Cadet Will Lewis and the rest of the Year 13 NCOs, who had a huge part to play in the running of the section.

I am looking forward to stepping into their shoes, aspiring to live up to the high standards they have set, and working alongside my 2 i/c Able Cadet Owen Frost.

Of course, none of these opportunities would be possible without the great organisation and commitment of our RN officers, Lts Johnson and McClarty and S/Lts Smith and Stephenson.

I know that Lt Johnson and S/Lt Smith recently enjoyed a week's training at the prestigious BRNC Dartmouth, and we are sad to be losing S/Lt Stephenson as he joins a new school in September.

We have had a highly successful post-Covid year and I am excited for what next year has in store.

ABLE CADET FLORA BAXTER



## RAF

This has been our busiest year yet within the section. With the return of events, services and classroom teachings we sadly couldn't attend to last year, we were surprised, but not overwhelmed, with how booked the calendar was.

It's fair to say the RAF section was amazed with how smoothly things went over time. First, the Year 10s were introduced into the basics of being part of the RAF section, covering a wide range of subjects from polishing boots and ironing, to identifying planes and the history of the RAF.

Due to the scrap of the Covid rules, the lessons were able to run at the most favourable state, thanks to the efforts of the Year 13 NCOs. Thankfully, all of the Year 10 cadets were able to pass PROF 1, allowing them the privilege of wearing berets instead of bush hats after their showcase of drill.

The next big event was the Regional Air Squadron Trophy competition which took place at the Shuttleworth Collection. With Aaron setting up drill practice on Sunday mornings leading up to the event, the team was ready to perform at their highest standard, but sadly Covid hit us strong, eliminating half the team. With luck, we came fifth overall.

We achieved best shooting team, with Jamie Broom getting best shot in the whole competition! In addition, we also came fifth in the marching, losing points in missing members due to Covid. However, we did get complimented from the Queen's Colour Squadron, which was a pleasure to hear from the best in the business. This year's Remembrance Sunday came back in full force, with 150-plus cadets marching into Stamford to commemorate those who have fallen in all wars.

Heads and 2nd Heads of sections helped out in the Armistice Day services provided across all three sites, all led by Reverend Goodman. Above all this, the RAF section was pleased with the amount of luck they had with weather and opportunity. The cadets went on many trips across England, from canoeing in Coniston to flying Grob Tutors at RAF Cranwell.

They improved the skills they've learnt in previous years in the RAF section, such as weapons drill. The RAF section has massively improved from past years, with a strong team of Year 13s (NCOs) and keen cadets, this is what drives the section to excellence. It was a pleasure to have the roles of Head and 2nd Head, and we hope the future heads lead by example.

FLT SGT AARON BIRD AND SGT SASHA EVANS





## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

The first full expedition season since 2019, and it has been a long time. All of the groups are now back in their traditional stomping grounds with the Golds in the Lake District and the Silvers in the Peak District.

The Easter expeditions luckily avoided all of the snow that was forecast, even if the first night was rather chilly! The Bronze have completed now and the assessed performances of both Stamford School and Stamford High School was very impressive.

It is great to be back and seeing just how much all of our students step up to the plate on expedition and also grow throughout their DofE journey. You only have to see the difference between a Gold Assessment and a Bronze Practice to see how far the student's progress.

I'd like to finish with a final thanks again to Richard Astle, Chair of the Langdyke Trust who was our guest speaker at the awards evening this year and gave a great speech about the value of volunteering throughout our lives.

He spoke to us right before he headed off to drive medical supplies he had fundraised for to Ukraine. Richard is a great example to all of us and proof that the skills and attributes gained from D of E can serve us for a lifetime.

Last year 97% of those who did their Bronze expedition completed their Bronze Award so I look forward to seeing an equally high number at our awards ceremony next year.

MR SMITH

### Student DofE highlights...

#### BRONZE

**Oliver Cengarle Desforges:** Singing songs to pass the time whilst walking through the rain and the soggy fields.

**Jasmine Withers:** Camping and marshmallow making in the evening!

**Annalise Barwise:** Playing cards in the tent huddled together with my friends, whilst the rain poured non-stop outside. We were able to keep warm and keep our spirits high in each other's company. I also enjoyed seeing some very friendly animals such as horses, cows, sheep and even llamas during our expedition.

#### GOLD

**Flora Baxter:** Having deep conversations without the distraction of phones.

**Owen Frost:** His teammate's snoring and cooking some of the best pasta.

**Lucy Clark:** Feeling an overwhelming sense of achievement when finally getting on the minibus home!

**Elliot Dee:** Having the food back at camp and scavenging for other left-overs. The food was bussin'!

**Logan Carter:** Pushing yourself to your limits and proving you can do more than you ever believed.

**Charlotte White:** Socialising with people and making long-lasting memories.



## Cairngorms Winter Trip

In the week that Storm Eunice tore the roof off the O2, a small group of intrepid adventurers made their way to the snow-covered Cairngorm National Park. William was back again, Thomas, James and Miss White on their first trip, with everyone hoping that Mr Smith really can navigate and that he's not just faking it.

After a very long drive to get to up into the hills we were able to check out the snow on Drumocter Pass and start to make a plan for the following day. Day one we had the best-looking forecast of the week, so the objective was to get high if we could. Despite 60mph hour winds on the summit we were able to get to the top of Cairngorm and then carry on round over Cairn Lochan to bag another winter Munro.

After a tough first day and with the weather due to be awful we spent the day low down learning essential skills such as cutting steps and building emergency shelters. Then on our final day we walked into the famous Coire an t-Sneachda and made the most of

the overnight snow which the wind had blown into huge drifts and we built a snow hole.

Although we would not spend the night in our creation the calm quiet atmosphere was a great contrast to the howling wind and blowing snow outside. A trip to the Scottish mountains in winter is an acquired taste. It is unpredictable, often a battle, but always epic and unforgettable. If you haven't tried it but love a real adventure, then I hope to see you next year!

MR SMITH



## Climbing Club

Despite our local climbing wall being shut the climbing club has refused to give in and we have managed to get more students out on trips this year than ever before. Each half term there have been day trips to large indoor walls such as Loughborough and Northampton.

Miss Allen as ever has been a stalwart and attended every single trip, the club could not run without her. We have been bouldering and climbing with ropes both indoors and out. In the summer term we have been twice to the Peak District and climbed out on the rocks at Birchen Edge and also the Roaches.

There have been a huge mix of ages from across the schools and it is great to see so many people coming out to experience the challenge and excitement that climbing has to offer.

MR SMITH







**BUSHCRAFT CLUB**

**Drive to survive**

LEARNING HOW TO MAKE THE PERFECT CAMPFIRE.

**B**ushcraft Club, under the guidance of Mr Smith and Mr Nicholson, has seen many exciting events. The trips to White Water have seen students trying new survival techniques, and thriving at making fires, using different lighting techniques. We have also used knives to create wooden pegs, and attempted to make wooden whistles. We will soon rival Ray Mears in bushcraft skills!

Here is what some of our bushcraft apprentices say about the club:

“The part I look forward to most in bushcraft is making the fire. Not just the lighting of the fire, but the gathering too - finding the perfect

shape, size, and colour fuel. I enjoy making sure I have enough, and when I light it, I feel a sense of pride. I have given life to a few sparks and created a roaring flame. I love watching it crackle and spit, the flames dancing in the wind.” Ella Thurston

“My favourite thing about bushcraft was the fire building. I enjoyed this because we got to use a flint and steel, and gather wood. Flint and steels are really fun to use. Another thing I like about bushcraft is that we get to meet Pippin and Remy most sessions! They are such cute dogs.”

**SAANVI BHANDHARI**



**Ospreys**

**A**s an Osprey Ambassador of the school it is my job to raise awareness of these amazing birds. Ken Davies is one of the leaders of the Rutland Osprey Project. His job is to go from school to school teaching young, aspiring students about these prehistoric-looking birds.

Once a month the Rutland Osprey Ambassadors meet up at the Rutland Water Nature Reserve to watch and observe the ospreys grow (there is a lot of cake involved!). I strongly advise you to search and find information about ospreys, but for now here are some facts about them:

Ospreys are piscivores: they live on a diet of only fish. Interestingly, they get all their hydration from the fish they eat, so have no need to drink water!

Another fact is that ospreys have the same mate for life.

It’s a really great experience and an amazing chance to try something new.

**MILLIE WILLIAMS**

**SAID**

**Diversity and togetherness**

**I**n the last school year, SAID has done many things for the Schools as a whole: making numerous displays for the communal boards; providing tutor time PPTs; supplying rainbow socks, shoes and ties for IDAHOBIT; running a temporary tattoo fundraiser for Pride Month and presenting a film festival to celebrate Diversity Week.

But, as well as helping the Schools as a whole with wider-reaching activities, SAID has also had a multitude of inter-societal events as well. There have been two SAID dinners, both of which went down well and were good opportunities for many who had had little to do with each other to bond over shared passions.

There have been weekly meetings where the new plan of action is created; we brainstorm future events and discuss how previous ones were received. A key part of SAID is the newsletter, curated by Miss Docherty and filled with articles written by students from all years, talking about all manner of days and events, from media reviews to discussions about LGBTQIA+ travel.

This has been a great experience for all involved to meet new friends and develop a new social group. So, whilst also functioning as an organisation to help improve diversity at SES, it also has enabled many great moments between its members, building a strong sense of togetherness and making new friends.

**MILO HERDALE**



**SAID**

**Well SAID**

**D**iversity and Inclusion’ is a topic that wasn’t broadly discussed back in Hong Kong, or at least in my case.

When I first came to Stamford in Year 10 and heard about SAID, I immediately jumped at the opportunity to join. Countless things I learnt from the internet and RE lessons were catalysts that fuelled my interest and broadened my awareness of different societal issues.

SAID is a student-based committee that allows everyone to be included – no matter your sexuality, gender, race, religion, etc. It is a safe space that allows us to discuss the different issues surrounding us.

Some events have really stood out to me this year in SAID, such as International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, where lots of students and teachers wore coloured ties and socks to school. Though I wasn’t able to participate, with GCSEs taking place at the same time, it was heart-warming to see others participating with joy.

The celebration of Chinese New Year was another event that stood out to me. A lot of my friends from Hong Kong and China weren’t able to celebrate this holiday with our family due to Covid restrictions,

and, for some of us, it is our first year celebrating away from home.

SAID organised an after-school session for us to make Chinese New Year decorations like ‘Fai Chun’- which is a traditional Chinese decoration with phrases that include our hopes for the coming year.

I remember my friends’ excitement when I invited them to come. To us, this made us feel included and closer to home. Through SAID, we celebrate our differences and learn from each other – something that I had longed to do, am doing, and will continue to do in the future.

**SOPHIA CHEUNG**





# Boarding

## Browne House

In last year's Stamfordian, Seb Porter, the outgoing Head of House, wrote about all the ways the staff and students living in Browne House made the most of being confined to site.

Well, this year has been a different story. Life in Browne has been well and truly back to normal.

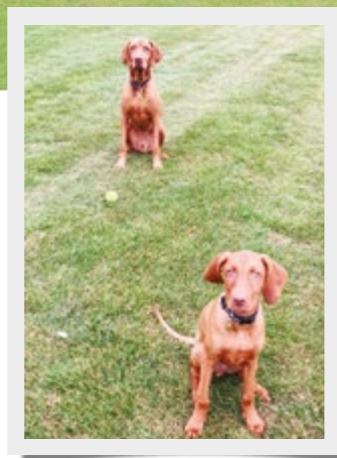
It all began in September with our new arrivals: the new Year 12s, two new members of staff (Mr Seymour and Mr Harris), and two new puppies, Dylan and Kite. This energetic and fresh new bunch immediately started to make the most of life in Browne.

The warm evenings in September offered the perfect opportunity to get to know each other by playing cricket in the garden and spending hour upon hour kicking a ball around in a circle – something made fun, I am told, by the fact that if you let the ball drop there is a forfeit.

This year was all about making the most of the world outside of the House. The cinema trip to see the new Bond film was high up on the agenda, and saw an unusually high number of boarders stay for the weekend. Paintballing was back and led to the usual tribalism and attempts – and attempts is the only word for it – to bring down Mr Ware.

Food continued to form a major part of the life of being a Sixth Form boy, so a trip to the World Buffet went down exceptionally well, alongside visits to Pizza Express and OK Diner. Bowling, Alton Towers and Lincoln were all great days out too, and showed that an excuse to find somewhere to go on the minibus was always easy to find.

Yet, not all of our favourite moments involved going out. We still kept one of the most popular lockdown creations alive: cheese and wine night. It is considered a significant cultural event in the



Browne calendar.

The food and drink is not simply thrust out to be consumed. Mr Ware – dressed in black tie – takes the House through a range of cheeses and wines over the course of the whole evening, carefully explaining how you must not cut the nose of a cheese, which wine pairs with which cheese and how the terroir of a particular vineyard affects a wine's flavour. The whole House agreed that Bob's Knob was the favourite cheese of the evening.

There were other highlights over the year which took place in the House. Uno made its debut and was seen being played in the foyer and kitchen every weekend. The Christmas Feast for boarders was a real treat and was followed with the tradition of Browne House boarders serving Christmas lunch to the rest of the school. Never have the boys appreciated what the catering staff do quite as much!

As the summer rolled in, many Year 13 boarders took part in the girls vs boys netball competition, and only grumbled for a week about losing. However, ever aware of the way to bring back cheer to the House, Mr Ware put on three BBQs, which – apart from setting off the

fire alarm once – seamlessly served 50 boys with hotdogs and burgers. The arrival of Browne House stash was the cherry on the cake and most boys could be seen standing around the BBQ in their hoodies, jumpers or gilets.

It has been tremendous to see Browne back to normal, which means the sound of excited chatter and laughter flowing through the corridors, people going in and out of the front door constantly as they head off to different activities, and getting together as a whole House to spend quality time together.

The end of the year always brings the departure of our Year 13s and we wish them, and everyone who has been part of this community, the best of luck in their futures.

MR J STEPHENSON



move with aplomb – such a distinct group of young men who are ready to take the school by storm now that they are well and truly settled. Look out 2022/23 – Byardians are ready for you!

One of the highlights of our year that I was very proud of was the boys' fundraising effort back in the spring term. The amazing hampers they contributed were raffled off and raised over £300, which is going to the Little Miracles Foundation in Peterborough. We will definitely be looking to build upon this next year with new initiatives, as the boys were so engaged with our first venture.

Our annual in-House competition has been flourishing this year and, with new tutors on board, this has brought about new ideas. The joy that Miss Dewey's 'Byard's Got Talent' brought was brilliant, from the scratch band to the comedy duo and the Ghostbusters' dance routine, to name a few of the acts.

The judges – myself, Matron Tamar and Mr O'Neill – were rolling in the aisles at times, and were so impressed by the boys simply throwing themselves in wholeheartedly.

Undoubtedly, our sporting events are always popular and bring out the competitive spirit in the boys, be it traditional five-a-side footie, water polo or street basketball. We are a couple of weeks away from finding out who the winners are for this year and I am sure Mr Di Cataldo will keep the anticipation going to the last minute!

This year sees us say a sad farewell to the wonderful Mr O'Neill as he heads off to Prague to take up his new position at the international school over there. We will really miss him! The boys are enormously fond of him and so enjoy their foyer chats or the occasional blind eye turned to a late night game of Monopoly in their rooms! We wish him all the very best for the future and absolutely expect him to visit us when he passes by Stamford in the future.

I am as ever indebted to the Byard House team who support me so brilliantly. My amazing sidekicks, Mr Di Cataldo and Matron Tamar who are my stalwarts through thick and thin. And of course Mr Wood, Mr Cheatley, Miss Dewey, Mr Webb, Matron Rosie and Mr O'Neill, who are the backbone of the House. The boys and I are very lucky to have such a caring and capable group of people looking after us all, and I can't wait to work with them all again across next year and beyond.

Roll on 2022/23 - the Byardians are coming for you! If you want to follow our antics via social media, do follow us on Twitter (@ss\_byard) and Instagram (Byardians) to see the candid snaps of us in action.

ANNEKE DAVIES, BYARD HOUSEMISTRESS

## Byard House

Bouncebackability! I think this defines Byard House, its many and varied residents, and how 2021/22 has been for us all.

It is very strange to remember that our new school year began with us still feeling somewhat dominated by Covid-19 and all that brought to bear, from masks, weekly testing, isolating and the like.

Yet we entered the season of Sports Days, Prizegiving, school plays, field trips to the beach and lovely long summer evenings out on Mainfields, and those memories were genuinely fading away.

I am enormously proud of all of the boys who have navigated this time with such resilience and genuine good spirits and who, at the end of the year, are such a positive, happy bunch ready to take on what the world throws at us all as we head towards a new school year.

It is the time of year when we will be saying farewell to our Year 9 leavers as they move on up the school. What a glorious group of young men they are. Ably led by Rishon and Rojan as our Head and Deputy Head of House, this is a really tight-knit group of boys whose genuine camaraderie sets the benchmark for the rest of the House.

They are, every one of them, great fun, kind and caring, and have been excellent leaders for all of the boys in Year 7 and 8. and we will miss them very much. The Year 8s are ready and raring to go to step into those leadership shoes and I know already that the House will be in very safe hands as they take over and lead Byard onwards and upwards across the next academic year.

Finally, our Year 7s have been a delight! It's a big transition moving up to secondary school, and even more so on the back of a pandemic, and they have made this





## St Martin's

It was wonderful to experience a full year in boarding without the disruption of Covid, which meant that St. Martin's could revel in a full programme of events.

Our Sunday trips were a highlight every week with activities and destinations ranging from Go Ape, Thorpe Park and Alton Towers, to visiting the Richard III Museum, Elsie's Pottery Barn (where the boarders painted some amazing art work on chosen items) and the Escape Rooms. What is there not to like about sharing such special times with your friends!

Evening activities kept the boarders ticking through the week with lots of baking and crafts, swimming and gym visits to the Sports Centre, not forgetting the effervescent end of the week Games Night on Fridays! The experience of boarding at St Martin's is truly wonderful and, with the high-quality pastoral care the boarders receive from the House staff, the pupils really want for nothing – except maybe more opportunities to make Oreo smoothies!

We wish the Year 8 boarders all the best as they move into Welland next year, and we offer a huge warm welcome to our prospective Year 7's joining St Martin's in the autumn term!

**MS D SMITH, HOUSEPARENT**



## St Paul's

A place to call home. Those of us that are in St Paul's would very much say it's the happiest House. Even in a fleeting visit, you will notice smiles on the faces of all within, but just as important is the number of old St Paul's pupils that constantly return for food, a game of pool or just for a chinwag.

The sense of belonging is key to a St Paul's boarder, as well as integrity, generosity, and kindness, all of which they try their utmost to display in order to live up to these expectations.

We try to celebrate every individual's achievement, whether it's our Year 10's Kenny Hu becoming a digital leader, Gabriel Gibson gaining thousands of pounds in sponsorship for his go-karting team, or Tom Hamble kicking in the National Final rugby,

We also celebrate the individual talents of our Year 11s - musically, John Lin on the guitar, or Teddy Coen and Paul Chan on the sporting front; we hope we have some more success when they all get their GCSE results.

The opportunities are many, with several boys completing Bronze and Silver DofE, community work within the town's local charity shops and enjoying the number of co-curricular aspects to Stamford School.

It is all about making the most of the opportunities that are on

offer at Stamford School, the ones that get the most fire in your belly going. Some stand-out moments within the House have to be Year 12 Logan Carter (newly appointed Head Boy for September '22) returning to cook for the St Paul's boys on a Friday night; Rob Hill catching a number of large fish from the River Welland; and maybe the Housemaster, Mr Kersey, winning the teachers' National Schools Golf Competition. Did I mention that...?

The House is a place where boys feel secure and loved, and that is evident and reflected in their personalities. It is a place for the boys to call home, a place where they can relax and be encouraged to do their very best in whatever they put their talents to.

All those that have walked, slept, laughed, cried, lived in St Paul's will know that a St Paul's boarder is always on the move from one thing to the next - it doesn't feel that long ago that the current leavers in Year 13 were just starting out at school.

We look forward to next year and a new chapter by welcoming many new faces to St Paul's as we move to a Year 12-only House for the new school year. I am grateful for the energy and commitment shown by the AHMs, matrons, and tutors, and I would like to thank them all for their support.

**MR A KERSEY, HOUSEPARENT**



Then came the 'Non-Negotiables'. These are the habits of success that we instilled by the implementation of a formal sanctions system. We knew it was a case of gritting our teeth and hanging on for dear life, but it was one of the best things we ever did to create a thriving home based on standards, routine and expectations. It wasn't pretty or fun for a few weeks but the outcomes and growth in the independence, accountability and development of our boarders has been undeniable.

However, we were also acutely aware that we wanted to form a culture and ethos based on recognition of positive conduct and behaviour and so - 'tada!': a set of House values.

When these values were brought to life, they were 'merit points'. Points mean prizes, right? In addition to a passionately scheduled family House competition, all merits formed a Family Leader Board, with the winning family at the end of each term lapping up a meal of their choice. Whether it was dodgeball, 'old school' sports day races, rounders, water games or bench ball, the squeals, cheers, competitiveness and energy were always infectious and inspiring.

The pinnacle of the week was always our Sunday outings. I wanted to come up with a completely new set of activities and experiences for our boarders and so ventured to create new memories and moments. From drop sliding and tobogganing, hiring a hot tub, axe throwing, investing in a 24m water slide, restaurant meals, going to an indoor water park, city visits and our end-of-year extravaganza at Spring Lakes, there were so many wonderful opportunities.

We have embraced differences through our Citizen of the Week awards, acknowledged triumph and resilience by our Welland Warrior of the Term accolades, showcased our journey through our social media platforms and built a community with our weekly update and lovingly updated the aesthetics of some key rooms in the House.

It was my mission to create a home, and while we are not completely there, and I haven't always nailed it, I cannot question the dedication and commitment of the team and I can proudly say that we have an amazing group of boarders who make my heart full and are completely at the core of everything we do!

**FRANKI HALL, HOUSEPARENT**



## Welland House

Being given the responsibility and trust to care for the children of others is one of the most privileged and rewarding roles. Having moved from London, along with my family, to start my new life in September as a devoted full-time Houseparent, and blessed to be located in an incredible Georgian building in an amazing riverside setting, I was determined to make this historic structure a thriving and nurturing home. What a fantastic journey it has been this year...

I am not sure if you have ever been in a room introducing yourself to 38 teenage girls between the age of 13 and 16, but let me tell you it is not for the faint-hearted! Now imagine a completely new staffing body by your side, and it was always going to be controlled chaos, balancing familiarity with change.

In order to bring everyone together and strive for pastoral excellence, I had a few initiatives up my sleeve! Firstly, I designed a crest for Welland, cleverly crafted to provide a sense of identity and signify the one thing that keeps us all united and safe, the foundations of the building.

The colours of the crest also became the formation of a Welland Family Structure, aligning all boarders to a 'family' which not only provided mentoring support but reflected a vertical sisterhood led by a student Family Leader and Staff Mentors.



# Leaving Staff

## Kendal Mills

Kendal Mills leaves Stamford after a quarter of a century of outstanding service and devotion to the School, its pupils and every part of life here – from the very high profile to the sensitive and behind-the-scenes work.

Loved by generations of students as an English teacher with a sparkle in his eye, and a tale for every occasion, Kendal will be greatly missed as he embarks on his next adventure.

Mr Mills is the most talented man I know. Who else can play any song in the world without sheet music? Mr Wood, a fellow musician who performed the now legendary Meatloaf tribute alongside Mr Mills at this year's House Music competition, writes: "Since meeting him three years ago he has blown me away with his kindness, patience and musical ability. He is the type of musician I love to hate. The kind that can play anything you give them with no rehearsal necessary, and in any style.

"We have played in a band together for a few years, and he was always so enthusiastic about performing and playing and wanted to include students as much as possible. He will be sorely missed."

The staff band, Days Before, like all legendary musical moments, played only a small number of local gigs before being consigned to the record books, and people will surely recall in years to come that "I was there". Perhaps, not quite.

But what they heard was Kendal's passion and enthusiasm for the old and recent, the famous and obscure, the soulful and the melodic and that there was always something new to hear.

A lover of poetry, books and music, Mr Mills is, without doubt, a highly educated man. He joined Stamford School as a fresh-faced young English teacher in 1997 and immediately made a great impression with his enthusiasm for learning and the care he showed towards the students.

Whenever Old Stamfordians return to the School, the first person they enquire about is Kendal Mills, such is the influence he had on them during their time. He was a hugely successful Housemaster of Exeter, Head of Year, Head of Middle School and, in recent years, Deputy Head Pastoral, as well as finding time to coach the 4th XI cricket team, something he enjoyed a great deal.

He ran hymn practices with aplomb and led many a House singing rehearsal. Somehow, the Houses he helped always seemed to be victorious. I will never forget the competition, which took place in October 2014, where he compiled a trio of WW1 songs 'from the trenches' which the boys sang beautifully. Mr Mills always got the best out of the boys he taught.

There are countless students, parents and colleagues over the last 25 years who are hugely grateful for his unrivalled care. A great listener, he always gave well-considered, expert advice and guidance to all who sought his help, and I know just what a huge impact he has had on the lives of so many young people.

Mr Mills was well known for seeing solutions rather than problems. He remains a proactive and forward-thinking innovator and all who know him regard him as an excellent communicator, famous for delivering interesting and thought-provoking assemblies to the students.

A remarkable man and colleague who had untold influence on so many. All at Stamford School, past and present, wish him all the luck in the world as he starts his new adventures.

MR A PIKE



## Nick Gallop

This summer, with much regret, we said goodbye to our exceptional Headmaster, Mr Nick Gallop. Mr Gallop has been Headmaster for six years, since arriving here from Portsmouth Grammar School in September 2016. During this time at the helm, Mr Gallop has navigated the School through some stormy waters - not least the rigours of the Covid pandemic.

Despite this and a multitude of other challenges, he has provided tremendous leadership to Stamford School, thanks in part to the inexhaustible support he extends to his colleagues but also (as those of us who know him best will attest to), his fabulous sense of humour.

Indeed, it has been a pleasure to work alongside Mr Gallop. Throughout his tenure, no matter the predicament, he has never (outwardly!) displayed any frustration, nor anger, nor anxiety, but instead consistently works calmly with colleagues to adeptly find the best solution to the latest 'challenge', whatever that might be.

He is blessed in this approach by a considerable intellect and some well-honed analytical skills, which, as well as making him a feted educational author and publisher, also allow him to bring rigour and insight into the management of our School.

As well as his leadership qualities, Mr Gallop is a passionate educator, who cares deeply about the students in his care. He has worked at five different schools thus far in his career and has developed a wealth of experience regarding young people and the power of a good education to shape a young life.

Consequently, without ever being guilty of haranguing colleagues, he strives constantly and with abundant positivity, to ensure that our School is doing the best job it can for our pupils. It is in this vein that he takes such time and effort to support each of the students. Mr Gallop writes personally to every Year 13 student at Stamford School, to wish them success before their exams and has held birthday 'get-togethers' for all Year 7 boys during the month of their birthday throughout his time as Headmaster. Such gestures play a very emotive role in helping every boy to feel that they do matter, despite the size and bustle of our school.

With Mr Gallop in charge, the School has received a great deal of plaudits. Top of the list would include being awarded an 'excellent' rating in our latest inspection

report. Other, more recent examples include the School being shortlisted last year, for both the Independent School of the Year award and the TES's Independent Schools' award for sport.

While Mr Gallop would never wish to claim personal responsibility for these accomplishments, (indeed he never misses an opportunity to recognise the contribution of the wider staff in the School's success), rest assured that it was Mr Gallop's efforts in rigorously promoting the School that was the main driver in our first being nominated for these accolades.

He has innovated in many other areas too, as anyone who has attended a prize giving or Open Day event at Stamford School in the last six years will bear witness to. Undoubtedly, these occasions have become both great fun and inspirational.

As a member of staff, watching these events unfold, you cannot help but feel immensely proud to be part of Stamford School. It is Mr Gallop's energy, his meticulous preparation, his careful direction and the desire of so many of his staff to support him in these efforts, that bring these to fruition.

Mr Gallop leaves us to become Headmaster of Brighton College, Bangkok. The difficulty of moving abroad is of course significant, but, like every other challenge he ever faces, this is one which I know he will approach with thought, care and a boundless amount of good humour.

I know I speak for many, many colleagues at Stamford School when I say that we are bitterly disappointed to see him go. We wish him, his wife Nichola and his daughters Phoebe and Martha, the best of success with their new lives abroad.

MR N DAVIES

### Mr Nick Gallop: Q&A

#### What will you miss most about Stamford School?

I have been lucky enough to work in five schools over the last 25 years and really don't think any of those schools have such a committed, supportive, kind and caring set of teachers as Stamford School.

I have watched so many lessons and training sessions, seen clubs and societies in action, heard half-time team talks, watched drama and music rehearsals, seen the nurses look after injuries and the teaching support staff help boys when they need it most. Every day, the care and dedication of the staff is a marvel.

#### What's next for you?

After six years at Stamford School, I am delighted to be doing something completely different. I'm off to Bangkok to be Headmaster of Brighton College International there. A change of scenery, a great job and the added bonus of living in and exploring Thailand and South-East Asia.

My message to the boys of Stamford School - use your time at School wisely: take up every great opportunity that comes along; make lifelong memories; read widely; support others and do your best.





## Reverend Mark Goodman

The Reverend Mark Goodman joined Stamford Endowed Schools as chaplain in September 2006 from his parish in Dalkeith, Edinburgh.

From the outset, Mark proved more than capable of fulfilling the vast range of tasks and commitments asked of him as SES chaplain, whether it was as 'Revvie G' at the Junior School, or leading religious assemblies, and Chapel services at the senior Schools.

His ability to get the occasion 'just right' was amply demonstrated in his first year with us when a popular student was killed in a helicopter crash. The sensitive and compassionate way he navigated the School community through this tragedy, and subsequently, that of the untimely deaths of two other students early in his tenure, cemented the pivotal pastoral and spiritual role Mark played at Stamford.

His duties, of course, have also included marrying several Old Stamfordians, and past and present members of staff, as well as carrying out numerous baptisms in Chapel.

The chaplain's considerable skills in the classroom were also put to excellent use. Many years of grateful students of philosophy and ethics have undoubtedly benefited from his knowledge and wisdom, with lessons delivered in his characteristically enthusiastic and charismatic way.

His leadership, and at times diplomatic, skills were also employed when he chaired the Common Room for eight years. During his tenure he was a great ambassador for the staff and would always act in the best interests of his colleagues.

His talents also extended to the hockey pitch, where he coached both the U16Bs boys' and girls' teams, and they both enjoyed considerable success under the Rev's guidance. His warmth, compassion and enthusiasm has shone through in all that he has done at Stamford, and he is going to be missed in so many areas of School life.

Mark and his wife, Gwen, were looking to return to their beloved Scotland for some time, so we were lucky to hang on to him for as long as we did. However, despite the *Culicoides impunctatus* (the Highland midge!) and the west coast weather, a Scottish parish proved to be too strong a calling to prevent him from leaving Stamford, and he left us at Easter to take up his position as Rector of St Columba's Episcopal Church in Largs.

We hope that he will always remember us as fondly as we will undoubtedly remember him, and to both the Rev Goodman and Gwen, in their new endeavours, we wish them Christ's Speed.

MR N PORTEUS

### From the Reverend

Before I arrived in Stamford in 2006, the Schools wanted something new, a Chaplain for all three Schools. Dr Mason, my first Principal, just let me get on with it. If only I had had an inkling of what was to come.

My first Chapel service was at Stamford School with the Sixth Form. I remember the queue in the Old Gym (Library in new money) then going into Chapel, seeing it full and feeling a bit intimidated.

Then I had a thought: 'what have I done that was more intimidating than this'? What sprung to mind was the first sermon I ever gave, in the chapel at Portland Prison. This was going to be all right.

Over the years there were a lot of services, assemblies, MAD Week events, sport and trips. Things did go wrong from time to time. It was then you realised how great our girls and boys can be. I once got stuck with SHS Year 9 in a religious building in London where the IT had broken down. An elderly leader spoke for an hour, holding up A4 slides to about 80 girls sitting on the floor. There was nothing we could do. The girls were brilliant.

There were times we did push the envelope: putting on an opera in a week in MAD Week. Miss Davies and Mrs Walklin and the Music Department probably still wake up in a cold sweat. Using a mobile phone when the ISI Inspectors were in Chapel was fun. Fortunately, the Inspectors 'got it'. Lighthouse at SHS had a life of its own, thanks to Mrs Harte and the Psychology Department.

Junior School assemblies were just great fun: creating characters like the Great Luigi, the world's greatest painter; Professor von Kalamity with his failed experiments; and Archie who always had a bag full of ridiculous things, including his pet stone with a story attached. Staff joined in and, on one occasion, a jiving Miss Craig!

What I will take away with me, though, will be the day-to-day things of School life: lessons, sport and clubs at all three Schools, and the Churchillian half-time talks to the SS U14C team to send them back to certain defeat.

At the end of it all, though, you always hope that, in some small part, what you have left behind has made a difference. If I did, this was only possible because of colleagues and students. I have had a ball.

So to Miss Harrison and the Philosophy and Ethics Department; to Mr Turner, the Music Department and Chapel Choir; to Mr Porteus and the Science Department; to Mr Buckmaster and the hockey coaching team; and to all the Principals and Heads for putting up with me, a very particular thank-you.

And to you all, thank you, and, if you're ever up in Largs, St Columba's is easy to find!



## Becky Short

### What is your favourite memory of SHS?

I have had many stand-out moments in my two years here, whether it be with my school family in the boarding house, the constant laughter of the PE office, or celebrating success on the sports field.

However, a particular highlight has to be the recent Sri Lanka cricket tour, which I was lucky enough to go on. Taking 65 students across the world, playing some outstanding cricket, and seeing the students appreciate how fortunate we are back in England is a memory I will treasure for a very long time.

### Who will you miss most?

The Park House boarding family, the PE Department and weekly Friday visits from Gino!



## Sebastian Hyams

### What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?

Not a particular moment, but summery afternoons watching the First XI rank highly.

### What will you miss most about Stamford School?

The sense of community, particularly in boarding and Browne House. And Ancient Greek Club too.

### What is the funniest moment from Stamford School?

Ring my Head of Department to explain I would be late as the bathroom lock had slipped. The ever-dependable MOs booted the door down just in time.

### What's next for you?

A DPhil in Latin Literature at Oxford.



## Abbie Mills

### What is your favourite memory of SHS?

I think for me the highlight of this year was the leavers' awards for my Year 11 form on their last day. It was lovely for them to spend a final day together, celebrating each other's success. I have also enjoyed lots of the inter-House competitions and sports fixtures that I've been on.

### What and who will you miss most?

There will be a lot of people that I will miss, and especially the other grads. I will also miss all of my students, particularly the boarders in Welland. There is never a dull moment living with 40 teenagers!

### Funniest moment at SHS

There have been so many funny moments this year. The sleet at the start line of the Burghley Run while most people were all in shorts and t-shirts, and then watching all the students crossing the river definitely provided a lot of laughs.

## Oli Gent

### What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?

There is a litany of special moments that springs to mind, many of the most potent coming from the sports pitches. I am particularly enjoyed my involvement with Lord Byron Society, as well as its accompanying Christmas Ball. But my fondest memory is certainly the Greece trip, led so well by Mr Smith. The food, the history, the landscapes, the company - it was a true education for staff and students alike.

### What will you miss most about Stamford School?

Our boys, when they are at their best, are outstanding. Our finest know how to be considerate, charming, reverent, sincere, humorous and competitive, while always maintaining the grounded courtesy of a true Stamfordian.

### What is the funniest moment from Stamford School?

The rugby tour to Australia and New Zealand certainly had its memorable moments, and unwinding in the evenings with the boys and staff, often after an exhausting day of travel, training, and fixtures, often brought the

kind of hilarity only those circumstances will provide. A quiet evening in 'The Tav' of Sydney particularly comes to mind.

### What's next for you?

I'm off to Bradfield College to teach English and Classics there.







## Mr O'Neill

### What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?

As Assistant Chaplain, I have had a unique opportunity to speak the School community, week-by-week. Gathering together to worship, to sing hymns, and to pause in the middle of the busy school day is something that's easy to take for granted. Covid was a difficult time for the Schools but also brought the community together in many ways, and I have fond memories of working with boarders of all ages during that time.

### What will you miss most about Stamford School?

Undoubtedly the people. I have been lucky to have some fantastic colleagues and to teach some wonderful students across SES. I'll also miss Byard Foyer - a real hub for the boarding community, complete with good conversation, cards, and board games. I'll also miss the Chapel, but, thanks to the generosity of Byard House, I'll have a visual reminder of it above my mantelpiece.

### What is the funniest moment from Stamford School?

Being approached by two Year 10s who were keen to take a closer look at my new sunglasses. The first pointed out how cool I looked, like a character out of 'Top Gun'. Just as I was beginning to feel my self-esteem rise, the second added a counter-suggestion: that there was an even closer resemblance, to one of the three blind mice in 'Shrek'. The jury's still out on that one!

### What's next for you?

I'm off to Riverside School in Prague, which is an international school. It was an opportunity I couldn't refuse, and I'm excited to explore a new city and country, though naturally very sad to be leaving SES.

I'll be teaching German, as I have at SES, but also Latin. There is no chapel as such, but there is a Christian ethos and they do have assemblies, to which I will undoubtedly contribute. I'll keep an eye on the Schools' social media accounts to see what is going on.

## Mr Kirkpatrick

### What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?

Too hard to answer with so many. But every Saturday, in the sun or snow, listening to the boys talk about tactics, how they want to play, what they want to achieve and, after the game, seeing boys sit with their opposition in the Dining Hall laughing together and chatting about the contest they have just engaged in with each other - this really is what it's all about.

### What will you miss most about Stamford School?

My colleagues and friends, without whom I don't know what I would have done. The boys themselves, who can challenge and test you each and every day.

### What is the funniest moment from Stamford School?

The Edinburgh rugby and hockey tour in 2016. We were travelling back on the train when the confirmation of major delays came through the audio system after high winds had blown a tree onto the track. Nightmare! After an hour of being completely stationary at Alnmouth station with 60 Year 8 and Year 6 pupils, tensions among staff were high.

A giddy Mr Morris plonked himself down directly opposite a tired Mr Laventure and in attempt to break the awkward silence, Morris looked at Laventure and said: "When did you get on then..."

After a brief period of being slightly concerned for Mr Morris's welfare, we simply all fell into a delirious state of uncontrollable laughter.

It was a great example of how important having good people on tour is, and something I will always laugh about!

### What's next for you?

I am starting at Bedford Modern School as Director of Sport and Fitness - a really exciting time.



## Mr Esson

### What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?

It was one of the last days of the summer term. The 1st XI had just played their last game and I was sitting on a bench outside the pavilion watching Year 13s playing boundary bowls with younger members of the team. Having finished their A levels, the Year 13 cricketers could have been partying elsewhere with other leavers. Instead, they were enjoying their final hours on Mainfields, and passing the baton on to youngers boys. Leadership, camaraderie, great people!

### What will you miss most about Stamford School?

The boys

### What is the funniest moment from Stamford School?

Sports tours often bring people closer together and they have certainly produced some amusing moments. However, the one memory that springs to mind was in the boarding house. A boy was sound asleep in the middle of the day. His friends were worried about his health because he was dead to the world, so I went to wake him. I had to give him a fair rattle.

Thinking that I was one of his mates pestering him again, he told me where to go with some fairly colourful language. The other boys were in hysterics and I could only laugh. Needless to say, he was very apologetic. His health was fine too.

### What's next for you?

I am moving to Uppingham School. After seven years at Stamford, I am excited about opening a new chapter. I have loved teaching Stamfordians. I will no doubt return for fixtures and will do so with the utmost respect for my opposition.

## James Stephenson

### What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?

Boarding has been hugely entertaining. BBQs on a sunny evening, insect eating challenges and late night debates in the foyer have all made it great fun.

### What will you miss most about Stamford School?

The freedom to take classes out into town. Down to the river, the Priory, and to the odd café for a lesson. Not many schools are happy for you to do that.

### What is the funniest moment from Stamford School?

Filming a welcome video for Year 6 in lockdown that gave a tour of the school using a teddy bear

### What's next for you?

Moving to south London to look after Year 12 boarders. A natural progression from living with 50 Sixth Form boarders for four years. Every pupil in the School believes I will be stabbed.



## Dave Tuck

### What's your favourite memory from Stamford School?

We had some wonderful Politics trips to New York and Washington and so many happy memories. The trip was a bit of a logistical nightmare to organise, and I was always so grateful to the staff who came along over the years: Liz Salt, Rupert Dexter, Holly Naismith, Amy Halliday and Katie Aluzzi have all been on the trip and were all brilliant.

### What will you miss most?

I'll miss the students. Teaching A Level Politics has never been more exciting, and it's been fun helping students reach their potential. We've had a big increase in numbers taking Politics for A level in the last seven years - so that's something the whole department is very proud of.

I'll also miss the staff and going to the library on a Friday evening for our book club. It's very much a staff version of the Phoenix Room. I'm not going to list everyone, as I know I'll miss someone out, so, I will just focus on my wonderful department. Liz Salt has been my rock really; what she doesn't know about politics isn't worth knowing, and I've been guided by her experience and expertise. Rupert Dexter's zen-like calm has been much appreciated and his map reading skills in Arlington Cemetery came in very useful when I got lost. Nick Gallop's probably been the most important person in my entire career, and his support and belief in me is something that will I always remember and be grateful for.

As the students will know, I don't like to talk about the numerous articles and internationally

acclaimed textbooks that I have written, but none of them would have been possible without Nick Gallop's encouragement. Finally, it's been great working with Tom Cheatley. He's going to be a fantastic new Head of Politics and I wish we'd had a longer period of working together. I should also thank my various line managers over the years: Denise Adams, Lorraine Johnson, Suzy MacCarthy and Nick Davies.

### What is the funniest moment from Stamford School?

The time I lost all the students on a Politics trip, back in 2015. Our trip coincided with a public protest and the police closed the road during lunch time, so the students could not get back to the rendezvous. I told the Inspector that if he didn't let them cross I was going to call Mrs Buckman on my mobile and he could explain it to her. Mrs Buckman must have crossed swords with the Metropolitan Police in the past because he didn't want that chat, and he backed down very quickly, letting the kids through, but no one else.

Furious city workers then proceeded to shout abuse at me, using the kind of language that you don't hear in a family school...

We then got waylaid as all the students suddenly found themselves being interviewed by the Indian state media who were covering the protests. It was a truly surreal day.

### What's next for you?

I'm going to be Head of History and Politics and an Assistant Housemaster at Harrow International School, Hong Kong.







## Gary Whitehouse

**What is your favourite memory of Stamford?**  
After 19-odd years here, it's difficult to pinpoint a favourite moment and some must always be kept between those that we have shared them with...

What I always take immense pleasure from, though, are those chance meetings with ex-pupils who have now grown up and done proper stuff in the big wide world. It's great to hear how they're getting on, what they're up to and how they always fondly reminisce about their time at Stamford. That'll be you one day. Makes me feel that I've done my job.

**What will you most miss about Stamford?**  
I will genuinely miss teaching all of you guys, along with the camaraderie, humour and, dare I say it, the banter. I always say that I learn something new from whoever I teach, and I always take it on to help me teach whoever comes along next. Believe me when I say that it has been truly my privilege to be a part of your journey.

**What was your funniest moment at Stamford School?**  
I think my funniest moment concerned OS General Sir Mike Jackson, ex-Chief of the General Staff. He was due to inspect the CCF and it was decided that my office was to be designated as his changing room. On the day, I shifted out accordingly, but me being me, I had left a file in there that I needed for an important meeting later that day.

I knocked on the door and a thunderous voice boomed "Come in!" - which I did, and there fixing me with a steely stare was General Sir Mike Jackson standing in his boxer shorts. Memorable but on second thoughts, perhaps that was my most terrifying moment at Stamford...

**What's next for me?**  
Bit of this, bit of that. Duck and dive. Keep my Peaky Blinders' cap pulled down low over my eyes and just like Tommy Shelby, I'll keep right on into the big blue that lies just around the corner.

## Nicky Jeffs

**What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?**  
One memory immediately springs to mind, and it involves Scarlett French-Pepper. I had been teaching some wonderful poetry by Carol Ann Duffy, including a poem called 'Recognition'. At the end of the poem, the speaker has a moment where they fail to recognise the person they have become, and there is a real sense of disappointment and sadness.

I was having one of those lessons where I was failing at multi-tasking: I was trying to set my computer up so that some students could access the lesson online, and I was also trying to manage the Year 11s in front of me as well as take a register and sort out some resources.

To cut a long story short, I fell off my chair and hit the floor. As I lay in a crumpled heap, reflecting on what my life had become, I heard Scarlett say: 'It's like watching 'Recognition'. Perfect timing Scarlett - and a hilariously accurate observation.

**Who will you miss the most?**  
I will of course miss sharing a confined office space with the most talkative person I've ever met: Mr Zacharias. I will also miss Mrs Dexter and her recommendations for local walks and good recipes - hopefully, I might still get those.

The English Department have been a joy to work with and I will miss them all greatly. I've also made some good friends: Ms Heaton is always there with some one-liners to keep me smiling; Mrs Gregory is great for cheese recommendations and Mr Panesar has helped me out on more than one occasion with IT issues - I bet he's glad that's over now.

**Naughtiest thing you've done:**  
Well, I'm a bit of a magpie and I'm often looking for the next interesting thing I can use in my classroom. Pre-Covid, I had proudly acquired an adjustable stool from languages, a music stand from the music school, a guillotine from reprographics and a bright pink aerobics step from PE - Lottie Bussey's personal favourite. I will of course return them all (she hastily adds...).

## Louise Scotcher

**What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?**

There are so many! I have thoroughly enjoyed a number of trips and expeditions, from wild camping on Gold DofE in the Lake District, to leading a month-long expedition in Costa Rica. From the joys of fortnightly English departmental meetings, to teaching some of the texts I love best. There have been lots of happy times here, made happier by the staff and students I work with.

**What will you miss most about Stamford School?**

Definitely the students and staff! I have thoroughly enjoyed being in the classroom here at Stamford School, particularly the humour of many of the students I have taught. I have certainly enjoyed being kept on my toes and looking for ever more interesting and exciting ways to encourage everyone to love English!

I will also miss conversations in the staff room - there are some truly lovely people working here and I wish them all the best. I will also miss DofE expeditions, watching students who sound confident heading off in entirely the wrong direction, and discovering the joys of dehydrated expedition food and the exotic wildlife to be found in Lincolnshire and beyond!

**What is your funniest moment from Stamford School?**

Being trapped in an escape room in Cambridge with the SS English Department! This would have been fine, were it not for the nature of the escape room being entirely maths-based - this was not a strength for six English teachers and meant we left the room without very much success. At least we got out!

**What's next for you?**  
After 20 years of teaching, I'm off to explore other avenues and to search for other adventures! My family and I are relocating and moving to North Wales where we are planning to learn Welsh, climb mountains, walk on beaches, visit castles, all mixed in with some growing of vegetables, chickens, Airbnb and online English tuition.

## Chris Brace

**What is your favourite memory from Stamford School?**

The numerous tea parties that we have put on for the Year 13 physicists on their last lesson. We started off with just a few crumpets, cakes and crisps, and then progressed onto the full afternoon tea service - with silverware, obviously!

**What will you miss most about Stamford School?**

The banter and laughs with the students. Our students are incredibly nice individuals (well the vast majority, anyway!) and some of the time they even laugh at my jokes.

**What are your funniest moments at Stamford School?**

There are just so many. The time when a Sixth Former touched the Van de Graff generator and I told him that if he got off the chair straight away then he would get a nasty shock. I told him that he needed to wait 15 minutes, dismissed the class, and noticed into lunch that he was still on the chair waiting for the allotted time!

There's the time when a student fell asleep after his test. I dismissed the class and let the student stay sleeping. About 30 minutes into lunchtime he was still asleep, and so we woke him up. He was very confused, especially seeing himself asleep on a picture on the board! We took a picture of him, printed it out and posted it.

There was also time when I didn't realise that I taught two sisters and said 'Well at least you are not identical twins' (they were!). In my defence they did have different hair styles and different styles of glasses!

**What's next for you?**

A little bit of travelling for a start. This year it's touring the UK. The start of 2023 is inter-railing in France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Croatia, Greece, and finishing off in Austria and Germany. Towards the end of 2023 it's around the world, starting with USA and Canada then New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and back home. Then it's back to share dealing (day and long term), running, walking, chess, reading and generally relaxing. I might even start going to the gym (although probably not!).



## Hermione Lange

**What is your favourite memory of SS/SHS?**

Teaching my linguists is my favourite memory, but I particularly appreciated some fixtures. I was always extremely excited when the cross country and athletics season arrived (my favourites!), volunteering for every fixture possible. Mr Di Cataldo even nicknamed me 'The Queen of Athletics'.

**What and who will you miss most?**

My students of course! They made me feel so happy and loved for two years, always waving at me and screaming "Bonjour Mademoiselle Lange!" across the School or welcoming me in class with lovely notes and drawings on the board.

I was so lucky to teach these wonderful students and I am grateful for being the favourite teacher of some of them. I will also miss my supporting and friendly MFL Department who helped me so much through my teacher training. And finally, I will miss my boarding team, with whom I shared exceptional adventures. Thank you to you all!

**Funniest moment at SS/SHS?**

My funniest moments were probably when my students in SS were telling amazing jokes in class and we would all laugh together. I remember having trouble to stop laughing sometimes. In boarding, it would be when the boarders dressed up for Halloween or when we organised murder mystery evenings. It was always hilarious.

**What's next for you?**

I will start my qualified teacher journey as an MFL teacher in Long Field Spencer Academy in Melton Mowbray.



# New Staff



## Reverend Phillips

My first term in Stamford has been very busy and I've had lots to learn, but it's also been a hugely joyful and exciting time as I've settled into a new role.

My overwhelming impression is that it is a very friendly community to be a part of. Whenever I've had a question to ask or needed some help, there is always a student or member of staff who is willing to lend a hand. And yet, this is also a community which thinks deeply, appreciates the chance to ask meaningful questions about the wider world, and ultimately desires to make a positive contribution to society.

It's been a great joy to begin to oversee Chapel this term, but also to simply share life with the SES community – both the good moments, but also the more challenging times too.

Looking forward, I'm hoping that my previous training and experience offering pastoral care within a parish context, along with my previous teaching experience at undergraduate level, will help me to continue to inhabit the role of Chaplain in the years to come.

My vision is that Chapel continues to be a welcoming space for members of the SES community to learn from each other, ask big questions about life and find inspiration for their lives.

I also hope that the chaplaincy office is seen as a place where all staff and students can pop in for a chat about anything and everything, with the confidence they will be listened to and taken seriously. Do look out for me around the Schools and say "hello" – the dog collar will probably give you a clue as to who I am, unless somebody-else has decided to turn up to school in fancy dress!

## Miss Munro

**What made you want to become a teacher?**

My experience of working as a teacher in France confirmed that this was the profession I wanted to pursue. I decided to undertake a master's afterwards, but I really missed the rewards of teaching and the sense that I was making a positive impact. So, for me, returning to teaching was a no-brainer! I guess the holidays aren't bad either...

**How has your first year at Stamford been?**

My first year at Stamford has been busy and full of variety! This is my first experience of the independent sector and I've discovered that there is far more to the role than I had anticipated. I've even surprised myself, seeing my maternal side come out while doing boarding duties at Welland!

**What would you be if you were not a teacher?**

If I wasn't a teacher, I think I would still stay in the education sector, perhaps working for university outreach. Alternatively, I would return to Spain and hide away on the beach for as long as possible!



## Miss Cox

**What made you want to become a teacher?**

My mum is also a science teacher so maybe it's in my genes! I love communicating about something that I'm passionate about, and teaching allows me to do that every day.

**How has your first year at Stamford been?**

I have really enjoyed my first year at Stamford. It has been a busy one (as every school year is!) but it has been a pleasure getting to know all my students and the community. I would like to say a big "thank-you" to everyone who has helped to make me feel so welcome!

**What would you be if you weren't a teacher?**

Miserable! And lecturing all my friends and family about chemistry, probably.

## Mr Howells

**What made you want to become a teacher?**

When I was four, I wanted to become a dustman. However, as the desire to wear reflective clothing diminished, I worked in a local restaurant on weekends and in the sixth form I completed work experience in some local primary schools.

I was in two minds whether to go into catering or primary school teaching. By the time I got to the end of my degree, I decided to look again at teaching, as there wasn't much call for cooking every day in primary school (except in the dining hall). Thus, I went to Cardiff University to train and have been teaching ever since.

**How has your first year at Stamford been?**

It has certainly been busy! Getting to grips with the 'Stamford way', meeting lots of new people and different ways of working. A hoot! **What would you be if you weren't a teacher?** Well, the dustman idea was knocked on the head by the clothing; phases of train driver, soldier, gamekeeper, master butcher and restaurant owner all passed me by. I think, given the paucity of tradesmen near to me, plumber or electrician would be handy. I like working with wood, so maybe a cabinet maker!



## Mrs Sissons

**Why did you want to become a teacher?**

From a young age, I knew that I wanted to teach and that I wanted to teach English. When you love a subject so much, it's natural for you to want to share that passion. For me, English language and literature have so much to offer everyone – no matter what their age.

**How has your first year at Stamford been?**

Everyone has been so welcoming at Stamford – always willing to help. Great support, inspiring buildings and, best of all, enthusiastic students have made teaching a delight.

**What would have been in you weren't a teacher?**

If I wasn't a teacher, I would be a writer of children's books.



## Mr Blumfield

**What made you want to become a teacher?**

I have always loved sport. Playing or coaching, it doesn't matter. I felt it was the best thing to do. To be involved in sport is more of a lifestyle and I get to do what I love every day.

**How has your first year at Stamford been?**

Since Covid it has been very busy. Getting back into the routine of Saturday fixtures has been amazing and something I love doing. Doing the mains sports each term of hockey, netball and cricket has been brilliant.

**What would you be if you weren't a teacher?**

I always wanted to be an architect



## Mr Webb

**What made you want to become a teacher?**

I have been surrounded by teachers my entire life, through family and friends and so I suppose, naturally, I was drawn to the idea. My last job didn't provide the same thrill and enjoyment that I get from the busy life of teaching, and I think you'd struggle to find any teacher who doesn't love the amount of holiday we get a year.

**How has your first year at Stamford been?**

My first year back after previously being a student sat behind the desks here has been an eye opener. I was allowed to finally cross the threshold of the staff room without being herded out and asked to wait outside the door. This year has been an amazing start to my teaching career and I have enjoyed being able to be in the classroom, sports field and boarding houses to see exactly how the school functions and build relationships across all aspects of life at SES that I never took the chance to experience before as a pupil here.

**What would you be if you were not a teacher?**

That's a tough one, I always struggled with the concept of my "dream job". I think if not for teaching, I would have tried at the police force. They have an amazing graduate programme and no 2 days would be the same, like with teaching, which is something that I look for in a job. However, I would have to get out the mindset that working in the police would not be like an episode of Brooklyn Nine-Nine.



A large group of students is posed on the wide stone steps of a building with a traditional tiled roof. The students are arranged in several rows, some sitting on the steps and others standing behind them. The entire scene is bathed in a warm, orange-red light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word "TRAVEL" in a large, white, serif font. The building has a prominent arched doorway in the center and a tall, narrow tower-like structure on the right side. The ground in the foreground is paved with cobblestones.

# TRAVEL





## We Cam, we saw

THE YEAR 9S GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE LOOKED AT SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

On a bright Monday morning, we braved the A14 and headed to Cambridge. Our first stop was Longstanton Park & Ride to assess sustainable transport initiatives in Cambridge. We left our coach here and took a relaxing ride from the Guided Busway, which began operation in 2011, to the Science Park.

We had a lecture beforehand to inform us about the history of the Guided Busway and its expansive development. It is the longest in the world, at 15 miles, and was built on the old railway line.

The Science Park was vast. We walked around the park assessing the buildings of life sciences companies such as AstraZeneca and technological ones such as Microsoft. We perceived it to be a pleasant and peaceful place to work, and we saw many fascinating and important companies too, which all contribute to Cambridge being a Regional Economic Hub.

There are many green spaces and parks to sit and have a picnic in Cambridge, which is just what we did in Queens Park, a convenient spot for people watching. Refuelled, we were ready to begin our fieldwork skills mission: getting people to answer our questionnaire concerning sustainable travel in and around Cambridge, and assessing the environment, using an environmental quality survey.

We worked around the Market Square and on King's Parade, a

hotspot for tourists. Let's just say some were more helpful than others! Having worked so hard, we deserved a break and embarked on a 45 minute punting trip along The Backs, where several colleges of the University of Cambridge back on to the River Cam, which was enhanced by learning about the history of the colleges and bridges along the way. At least we stayed dry, which was not the case for some other unfortunate punters!

After the relaxing trip on the River Cam, we were ready to return home, so we headed back to the bus and drove through the relatively new settlement of Cambourne. It was developed in the late 1990s to accommodate the rising population in Cambridge, although the houses are still not very affordable.

Cambourne is home to a Holiday Inn, for those who wish to stay over, as well as Cambourne Cricket Club and the Monkfield Arms - a commemoration of the name of the original farm in the area. We even saw the famous delivery robots which deliver groceries to your door from the local Co-op, which is a convenient and futuristic investment for the town.

Overall, the Cambridge trip was a thoroughly enjoyable and highly educational trip, which, coupled with the glorious sunshine, made for a wonderful day.

**Y9 GEOGRAPHERS**

## Artistic directions

ART SCHOLARS VISITED THE TATE MODERN IN SEARCH OF INSPIRATION.

Art Scholars from Stamford High School went on a trip to the Tate Modern in London. Year 11 and 13 students visited the gallery to support their coursework and find inspiration for their own pieces. All students have been creating a self-directed project, investigating a wide range of themes, ideas, materials and techniques.

Mrs Ashley, teacher of art, said: "I was really pleased by the way the students participated in the visit. The galleries in the Tate Modern include many pieces of artwork by artists known to the students such as Henry Moore, Henri Matisse and Roy Lichtenstein, but are also filled with challenging pieces that make the viewer really think.

"I was really pleased with the open-minded approach that all the students took to the visit and by their excitement about the work they had seen. They all seemed to be very impressed by seeing the actual, original art work they already knew well, as well as being inspired by new artwork styles and uses of media.

"All of the students returned to lessons with a sense of how their art coursework could move forward in new and exciting ways."

**MRS H KENWORTHY**



## Great, outdoors

THIS YEAR'S YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL WAS IN THE PEAK DISTRICT, AND PROVIDED A GREAT TEAM BUILDING EXPERIENCE.

Amid the beautiful colours of autumn, the Year 7s of Stamford High School enjoyed three fun-filled days of team-building activities in the beautiful Peak District.

We all headed off on two coaches full of expectant Year 7s and happy staff, all clad donned in our activewear, ready for our time at Mount Cook Adventure Centre, an institute for outdoor learning close to Matlock.

The centre itself prides itself upon "pushing boundaries and opening minds", which proved evident from the outset. Pupils had to work together in a number of brain games and team challenges, overcome personal fears for things like heights, and recover from disappointments.

Activities in which the pupils participated included the Mount Cook Challenge, archery and archery tag (which combines elements of dodgeball and archery - using foam-headed arrows, just to reassure you!), high ropes and zip wires, as well as orienteering in the Peak District National Park.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by very excitable Stamford School pupils who were waiting to head back to Stamford, having had a fantastic few days. SHS pupils were shown to their dorms, before being introduced to the centre leaders and oh-so-famous vending machine!



They then headed out in their groups to enjoy their first activities. Every activity was designed to help pupils build their team-working skills and develop self-confidence.

The most popular activities had to be the zip wires and high ropes, both providing adrenaline rushes and a total sense of accomplishment upon completion. For those scared of heights, these activities really pushed pupils to their limits, but everybody supported and cheered one another, developing the pupils' camaraderie throughout the trip.

I was most impressed with my group during our time at the high ropes. I personally couldn't face the leap of faith to grab the bar, but so many did brilliantly. Alice Wharton was the first of my group to be so courageous, and was then able to advise and support her peers when it was their turn to jump. I remember Millie Williams and Bella Wienand, among others, also celebrating success with this!

We were blessed with good weather, particularly on the final day, where the sun shone in blue skies and spirits were high. This made for a fantastic time orienteering out in the National Park, where pupils gained map-reading skills and had the opportunity to show these off later on during the walk as they went off on their own.

One of the centre's group leaders, Jamie, did a sterling job of rescuing groups that perhaps weren't so proficient at navigation, but overall they did very well indeed. Katie Brown also suffered from a trip but was supported by her friends and still arrived back to the centre with a smile on her face!

At the end of the trip, the pupils were jubilant and there was a strong sense of achievement among the year group. New friendships were developed as pupils had spent time with others outside of their tutor groups.

I hope this year's Year 7 cohort can look back fondly on their memories from the trip in years to come, and have many tales to tell about the enjoyment they experienced!

**MISS RILEY**





## Those in glass houses...

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHERS VISITED KEW GARDENS TO LEARN ABOUT ECOSYSTEMS.

It was a warm Monday morning and Year 8 at SHS were eagerly anticipating their upcoming geography trip. Once all lunches were distributed, we piled onto the coach preparing for the long journey to Kew, South-West London: the home of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

When we arrived at Kew, we took a brisk walk across the thriving landscape towards our first port of call: the Glasshouse.

During our education session, we extended our knowledge of ecosystems. Focusing on studying the climate of different ecosystems, we practised measuring elements such as: soil temperature; air temperature; humidity; soil moisture; vegetation and sunlight. We started by taking our measurements outside the Glasshouse using specialist Geography equipment such as soil thermometers, quadrats, a Lux Meter and hygrometer.

Following this, we entered the Glasshouse to take the same measurements there. As we walked in, we were immediately enveloped by hot air. The heat is a great contrast to the outside temperature. But, the steamy climate of the Glasshouse is no surprise, what with this being the Temperate Glasshouse.

First opened in 1863, the Glasshouse's temperature is specifically designed so that it can house plants that you would normally only find in countries with a temperate climate. We took our measurements and discovered that the majority of them are quite different from the outside.

For example, the soil and air temperature readings from inside the Glasshouse are all somewhere around 25 degrees centigrade, whereas the readings from outside tended to be in the teens. Meanwhile, we discovered that there is more light outside than inside the Glasshouse.

Using this information, we came to the conclusion that some plants need things like soil temperature to be high in order to grow, but don't need a lot of light. For some plants, this works the other way. Different species of plants need a different climate in order to survive.

After a much-needed lunch, we were refuelled and ready to explore the gardens further. Our explorations took us past a captivating medley of exquisite tulips, thriving under the warm, spring sun. The walkway led into another Glasshouse – this one smaller yet still sharing the elegant, Victorian beauty of the previous – that houses many of the world's rarest tropical plants. Our final activity was the Tree Top Walkway. We walked around, trying to ignore the shaking wire pathway below us. We were welcomed back on the bus by the incoming rain. To top the day we visited everyone's favourite site: the service station.

REBECCA CROSS



## Glacial progress

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHERS HEADED TO THE LAKE DISTRICT TO LOOK AT GLACIAL LANDFORMS.

All the Year 12 geographers (myself included) travelled to the Lake District as part of our study of 'glaciation', as well as our human geography topic of 'changing spaces and making places'.

Not knowing what to expect, we arrived at our destination and were all pleasantly surprised as to how beautiful and picturesque this location was - despite the long and rather bumpy bus ride!

On our first day, predominantly travelling, we stopped off at National Trust's Aira Force to see its incredible waterfall and to witness the glaciated landscape. After what seemed like a rather long, uphill climb, we reached the top of the hill and were able to see a full 360 degree view, which was really captivating.

We then drove to the venue we were staying in, Blencathra, and had a briefing on what the next couple of days would entail. The following morning, we travelled to the villages of Grasmere and Ambleside.

Many of us were really fascinated by being able to see in real life the concepts we have been learning in the classroom. All the glacial landforms, in particular the infamous Roches Moutonnées, were incredible to witness in all their glory: I particularly enjoyed our guided tour of the glaciated landscape around the village of Grasmere.

This was followed by a quick café stop in Grasmere,

where we all enjoyed a slice of cake! That evening, we had a lesson where we went through some of what we had learnt during the day, and the ways in which we could present the data we had collected.

On our last night, my friends and I spent hours after dinner playing basketball (incorporating elements of rugby) which really brought out all of our competitive sides, as well as making the evening a particularly memorable one.

On the Saturday morning, we set off for Manchester to see the Salford Quays. This was my favourite part of the trip. As soon as we arrived we had a walking tour of the regenerated area and, yet again, it was really interesting to be able to see this in person and not just view photos from the textbook. The Nando's lunch that followed did not disappoint either, putting us all in good moods for the long journey home...

Although this trip was undeniably beneficial to our understanding of glaciers and regeneration, as we were able to see it all for ourselves, I also found that these few days really brought the geographers together and we shared some memories that I'm sure we will all cherish for life.

From playing basketball just before bed, to singing Miley Cyrus at full volume on the bus, this trip was an all-round incredible, enthralling experience, and one that I would recommend to current Year 11s who might be interested in taking Geography A Level. They might even get to see Upsy Daisy like we did!

NATASHA QUETGLAS-PEACH



# The Cradle of Civilisation

THE CLASSICS TRIP TO GREECE VISITED MANY OF THE IMPORTANT ANCIENT SITES.

The Classics Department has had a very successful year, in terms of pupil numbers, participation and enjoyment. One of the highlights of a classical education is the residential trips to classical sites, and in February 2022 we were finally able to go on our trip to Greece, which had been delayed since 2020 by the pandemic.

The trip lasted six days and included many of the most important sites of the classical world, including the Acropolis and Dionysus Theatre at Athens, the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion, the ancient city of Mycenae, the theatre and sanctuary of Epidavros, the temple and stadium of ancient Nemea, the sanctuary of the ancient games at Olympia, and the sacred precinct of Delphi.

Here, members of the Sixth Form write about their experiences of the sites – and the wonderful food!

'On arriving in Greece, we landed during a beautiful sunset - really setting the mood for the whole trip. The bus ride at night to our hotel was equally entertaining, as we could see the silhouettes of mountains in the distance and could get a feel for what Greece was like at night.

'Our first hotel had an amazing view of the Parthenon lit up and I have to mention the delicious chocolate hazelnut mousse we had for pudding, which everyone enjoyed. The next day, we went to Athens to visit the Parthenon, which had stunning views of the whole of Athens.

The walk to the top of the Parthenon was hard, but we walked by the Theatre of Dionysus, where Mr Smith gave one of his many informative speeches, which captivated us all. The Temple of Athena was especially beautiful, and, coming back down, we walked past an olive tree and a well, where Mr Smith explained to us the competition between Athena and Poseidon over who should be the Patron God of Athens.

Of course, Athena won the competition by offering an olive tree, whose olive oil had many uses, including cooking, cleaning and fuel, whereas Poseidon provided them with a well full of salt water - not useful for anything.

Before our visit to the Parthenon, we went to the museum where we saw a huge pediment which would be on the front of a Greek temple, along with many statues, swords, pots, and bronze figurines. After the Parthenon, we visited the temple of Hephaestus, surrounded by colourful gardens offering many picture opportunities! Athens itself was also beautiful; there was music played in the streets, creating a friendly atmosphere, and the food was excellent.

On the third day we visited the Argolid, including Mycenae, Tiryns, Nemea, and Epidavros. We visited lots of ruins, which seemed to now be home to many cats - some pupils counted more than 50.

We had the opportunity to look around these ancient



monuments and even raced on the track at Nemea, while followed by a dog, named Hagrid by some pupils. The boys ran first against some eager teachers. The results were unclear as there were some false starts, but Mr Gent claimed to have won, although this is hotly disputed.

Then there was a calmer girls' race, where we had fun going around the track. We went through a tunnel, Greek club leading, where we examined the ancient Greek graffiti which Mr Hyams kindly translated for us.

At Epidavros we saw the famous theatre. This was an incredible experience and it was easy to imagine the ancient Greeks (and later, Romans too) sitting there watching the performance below. It is often difficult to imagine the size of monuments such as this one, and we found out how big it really was by climbing to the very top and looking at the stage below.

In Olympia on day four we were able to see the famous stadium, where the games began. We were able to run the 'stade' race on the track, and learn about the ancient sacred precinct, the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, the Treasuries and the Sacred Truce between Greek cities during the games.

After this we visited a local shop where we had the opportunity to taste and try their local olive-based products - not only olives and olive oils, but skin products too. They described the manufacturing process to us and then we were able to taste and buy them. It was interesting to experience an authentic Greek shop and the difference between it and shops in England: there was a more genuine atmosphere rather than a commercial one.

On the last full day of our trip to Greece we visited Delphi, the home of the Oracle and the Temple of Apollo. After the long bus journey, we arrived and caught a glimpse of the sacred mountain of Delphi, which was definitely worth the lengthy drive. Walking up the stone path to see the ancient Theatre of Delphi and the towering, steep mountainside was an amazing experience, made even better by the warm weather and, of course, the running commentary from Mr Gent and Mr Smith, regarding the importance of the Delphic Oracle of Apollo in ancient times and its key role in the history of ancient Greece.

For me, the most memorable part of our visit to Delphi was the blossom tree that looked out onto the distant mountains and sea, the pink flowers and the sublime backdrop like something from a painting, and looking

around it to see the amazingly intact ancient Greek architecture that held so many stories. This was definitely my favourite day of the trip.

Of course, the day would not have been complete without an authentic Greek lunch, and the food on this day was a stand-out. Given our location by the sea, we were treated to a lunch of fresh calamari. From there we walked round the Museum of Delphi, filled with ancient relics and statues, then reluctantly said 'goodbye' to the sacred precinct.

But our day did not end there. When we got back to the hotel, we were welcomed with the surprise of a boat ride, organised by the Lido Hotel Xylokastro. Going on a private boat ride in the Corinthian Gulf at sunset was magical, especially given that it was Valentine's Day, making the day even better than before.

In the evening, we were treated to a last-night feast, consisting of an array of traditional Greek foods and local delicacies, including local fish, hummus, tzatziki, lamb kofta, and fried whitebait.

As it was the last night, it was only right that we all celebrated together in the evening, which we did through a long recitation of the Odyssey by Mr Gent, a final goodbye from the Year 13s, and a few karaoke ballads, sung beautifully by Mr Smith and others. Overall, our trip to Delphi, paired with a sunset boat ride, made our final day in Greece magical, and, although it made it more difficult to leave the next morning, this rounded off the trip perfectly.

I am sure everyone will treasure their memories of Greece, and I hope we will return again.

**MR A D SMITH, LOTTIE FARLEY, JAMIE BROOM, HAZEL BELL, MADDIE PIKE AND ISSY SHARPE**

## Norfolk knowledge

GCSE GEOGRAPHERS INVESTIGATED THE IMPACT OF TOURISM IN NORWICH.

Sixth Form Year 11 students embarked on a geography field trip to Norwich in September, to develop their skills and knowledge required for their IGCSE coursework element.

The fieldwork the students undertook in Norfolk enabled them to prepare for and begin writing their coursework, where they tested a series of hypotheses about how tourism has impacted this part of the UK.

All students did a great job of completing questionnaires, land-use surveys, environmental quality surveys, impact of tourism assessments and interviewing an economics lecturer at UEA.

**MR SMITH**



## Linc'ed in

YEAR 7S HISTORY TRIP TO LINCOLN SAW THEM END UP IN PRISON.

In June 2022, Year 7 took a memorable trip to Lincoln. The year was split into form groups and each visited three famous sights including Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln Castle and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life - all of which were interesting and exciting.

Our first location was Lincoln Cathedral, a marvellous building built in 1072. The mesmerising structure was truly beautiful. I remember just standing there looking up at it, and admiring the detail of every single different pillar and statue. I liked the great size of the building, and inside the very high ceiling in the nave.

Down the hall, you saw stained glass windows and at the part of the church called the crossing, light flooded in due to two massive stained glass windows. We then visited the tombs of the bishops, and all of us lit a candle and placed it in the sand.

Our next activity was the castle walk, which was my favourite part of the day due to its stunning views and great stories about castle life, from the dungeons to the watchtower.

Our teacher was our tour guide, and once we had scaled the whole wall, we proceeded to have lunch on the bank leading up to the Red Dragon statue.

The next part of the trip was to the historic prison in Lincoln Castle. We first visited the prison chapel. It was split up into compartments, with high walls meaning the prisoners could not see each other. We then went to see the women's cells, which were fewer than the men's. In one of the men's cells, they had displayed what the bedrooms might have looked like. The beds looked very uncomfortable, and three were packed into one room with a toilet in the corner.

To end the day, we visited the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, which was very interesting and cool as we got to see one of the first ever tanks. We also got to sit in an old-fashioned classroom to see exactly what it was like. The classroom itself was wooden and dark and the boys and girls sat separately. Teachers were strict, and used physical punishment when someone was naughty.

**FELIX BELDERBOS**





# Cracking the coast conundrums

YEAR 7'S GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO HUNSTANTON CONTAINED MYSTERIES TO SOLVE.

In June, the Geography Department at Stamford High School took Year 7 on a trip to Hunstanton. We arrived at sunny Hunstanton at 9:30 after an exciting hour-and-a-half on the bus, and were split into our form groups, and given a booklet.

In this were four mysteries we were asked to solve: the first was 'Why has Michael put rocks at the base of the cliff?' The second mystery was: 'Why is Mrs Goggins at No. 53 Sea View not worried about coastal erosion?'

We solved the last two mysteries after lunch, which were 'Why is the sea brown and which direction does it move?' and 'Why has Mrs Buckman chosen to go to Hunstanton for her summer holiday this year?'

To solve mystery one, we first looked back on the predictions we made in class to see if they were different from our views now. Our mystery-solving-mission took place at the base of the cliff opposite the rocks, and here we learnt about the importance of stopping coastal erosion and preventing the loss of the cliffs.

We also learnt that the rocks Michael places at the base of the cliffs hinder the sea water's ability to hit the cliff side. This helps protect the cliff because the sea water is not consistently damaging the cliff. This is also why Michael replaces the stones regularly. Otherwise, they would disappear and eventually so would our precious cliffs.

For mystery 2, we headed down to the sea, and as with all of our other activities, looked at our earlier predictions. I said it depended on the tides and I was half right. However, it more depended on longshore drift: this is where the movement of the waves approaches the beach at an angle but returns directly away from it. To see this in action, we threw oranges in the ocean and waited exactly five minutes.

While we were waiting, we conducted another experiment on why the sea is brown. Our teacher, Mrs Moody, collected the sea water while everybody else got to work laying out the filter paper over the cup. We then poured the sea water over this and watched it filter out. From this we learnt that the particles of sand and dirt in the water are what make it brown. After this, our five minutes were up and we were amazed to see how far our oranges had travelled.

Then we looked at the groynes and the sea wall and saw how they protected the coast and community. We found out that a metre of concrete for the sea wall cost over one million pounds!

Finally, we headed up to the High Street, and recorded all the types of shops and places in different categories on our maps. After completing this, we found why we think Mrs Buckman would like to go here for her summer holiday: Hunstanton has a lot of tourist shops and activities.

On behalf of the whole of Year 7, we want to thank all the staff for a brilliant day, everything was amazing. All the food we had was lovely, the bus journey was definitely funny, the views were beautiful and the British weather was surprisingly nice for once.

AMELIA BANGURAH AND IZZY DENNETT

# The scene of Tudor triumph

THE YEAR 8S VISITED BOSWORTH, TO SEE WHERE THE TUDOR DYNASTY BEGAN.

The Battle of Bosworth took place on August 22, 1485. Set among stunning countryside, the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre is a true English rural gem.

Upon arrival you would have no idea that nearly 600 years ago a major battle was fought here, and wandering among old agricultural buildings and looking over the pasture lands of the battlefield is quite marvellous.

To start our day, we headed to the 'White Tent', an armour and weapons exhibition. Boys go to live out dreams and practise as a knight unit, while an experienced weapons master detailed the ins and outs of mediaeval conflict and its weapons.

Once our time in the 'White Tent' was finished it was time to head to a more solid building: the museum, which was packed with exciting features and buckets of history. Every detail one would want to know about life at the time is documented and shown.

Beyond the museum is the Bosworth Country Park. A mass of fields and meadows comprise the land commonly believed to have hosted the Battle of Bosworth. A guided walk across the battlefield took us through tall, majestic woodland, alongside a quaint memorial to Richard III and the more substantial memorial to the conflict that shaped England.

This little corner of England is packed with details about one of the most eventful days anyone could wish for and one of England's most important battles.

NOAH DUROSE



# The Commons touch

THE YEAR 12 POLITICS DEPARTMENT TRIP TO THE SUPREME COURT AND HOUSE OF COMMONS GAVE THE STUDENTS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF GOVERNMENT IN ACTION.

In May, Year 12 politics students travelled to London, excited to visit the iconic centre of UK politics, the House of Commons, as well as explore the Supreme Court.

Upon arriving in London, the first stop was the Supreme Court, which sits just across the square from Parliament. It was fascinating to see the court, which came about due to the Constitutional Reform Act of 2005 (something that we learned about earlier on in the year).

Being able to sit in on a court case was incredible, and even being in rooms where landmark rulings were made such as the Gina Miller v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and the Nicklinson v Ministry of Justice, was in itself a fascinating insight into the inner workings of UK law and the work of the Justices.

We were fortunate enough to visit the House of Commons the day after the State Opening of Parliament, and being able to visit one of the select committee rooms was particularly interesting.

However, the most exciting part of the day (at least in my opinion) was when we were able to sit in on a debate in the main debating chamber. Looking down on the famous green leather seats of the Commons was surreal, and watching 'big beast' MPs such as Home Secretary Priti Patel debate with opposition MPs was utterly enthralling.

Our guide to the Commons was very helpful and gave us an insight into the inner workings of

Parliament, as well as testing our knowledge of electoral systems and political structures. We were then led down the grand corridors lined with paintings and historic scrolls to Westminster Hall.



I was surprised to learn that Henry VIII actually used to play tennis in this hall, and now here were, a group of Year 12 students, standing in the very same spot Henry would have been practising his backhand, no doubt!

The MP for the Grantham and Stamford constituency, Gareth Davies, came to see us in the Westminster Hall and expertly answered any questions we had. In a way that felt not dissimilar to that of Question Time, we asked occasionally tricky questions that ranged from quizzing him on the Government's handling of climate change and the cost of living crisis, to questions about the Ukraine-Russia situation.

It was very interesting to speak to a MP about his experiences in Parliament. It is of course a busy job, so it was very generous of Gareth Davies to come and see us.

After leaving Parliament, we emerged into the rainy Parliament Square and boarded our bus back to school, having gained an abundance of new knowledge about the UK's political systems and structures, and having experienced surreal moments such as watching a live debate.

The trip was a lovely way to encapsulate many of the topics we have been taught this year, and I personally came away from the trip with a much better understanding of Westminster politics, having now experienced some of it first-hand!

SCARLETT FRENCH-PEPPER



# Touring teams

THE SRI LANKAN CRICKET TOUR WAS PIONEERING, TAKING BOYS' AND GIRLS' TEAMS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

In March 2022, we departed for the Sri Lanka cricket tour. It had been a long time coming, as it was initially arranged for 2020, so there was a lot of excitement and anticipation building up as we arrived at Heathrow Airport on that beautiful, early Thursday morning.

The tour party comprised over 60 pupils, ranging from Years 9 to 12, and it was the first time that the girls had come on a cricket tour, which is a real indication of how girls' cricket is growing at Stamford.

Mr Headley and Mr O'Connor have been pivotal in helping the girls' game at SHS, developing girls' teams from under 11 right through to under 18, with the under 13 team reaching the national final, which was played at Lord's.

Despite only being in Sri Lanka for a dozen days, due to the many different experiences we had, it felt like we had covered the majority of Sri Lanka. From seeing 'wonders of the world', such as Sigiriya Rock, to enjoying fun activities such as water sports, the tour flew by!

A few weeks before the tour Mr Headley had arranged for pupils at the Schools to donate any cricket equipment that was too small, or old pieces of equipment, to schools that aren't as fortunate as us in Sri Lanka.

Later on in the tour we gave out kit to different schools and clubs - more than 10 full cricket bags worth of equipment! This was a real eye-opener for everyone on the tour about how fortunate and lucky we are to have such great facilities and equipment at Stamford. We had a wonderful time with the students from the various schools and cricket clubs, and playing games against them will be a memory that lasts forever.

As for the cricket, it was a challenging but enjoyable experience to play in the searing Sri Lankan heat. Due to the numbers we were able to take, Stamford managed to put out six teams for each of the five fixtures.

There was a range of cricketers, from those in the 1st team to those in the U14C team, but Mr Headley and all the staff made sure that everyone was in the appropriate team in order to enjoy the encounters against the local Sri Lankans.

One of the main things I learnt about playing in Sri Lanka was the need to support each other when batting, bowling, and fielding. Throughout these games, the close bond that I developed with my team-mates has no doubt stood me in great stead throughout the school season.

Off the field, the tour was just as much fun! We visited many Sri Lankan cultural sites such as Buddhist temples and elephant sanctuaries, which we found really interesting thanks to the expert tour guides we had for the duration of the tour.

On the penultimate day, we went to a water sports park where banana-boating and water skiing proved an exhilarating way to round off the tour. We also had the luxury of relaxing in the hotel pool before and after the matches. All in all, the tour had something for everyone and was an experience we will never forget.

MR D HEADLEY





A group of students running a race on a track, with the word 'SPORT' overlaid in large white letters. The image is tinted green. The runners are wearing athletic gear, some with 'Stamford' and 'Eagle' logos. The background shows trees and a fence.

# SPORT



# Sport at SES

It has been nothing short of inspiring to see the pupils back on the rugby pitches, astroturfs, squash courts, and in fitness suites, swimming pools, cricket nets and elsewhere, in the full swing of competitive sport once again - a sight we became so accustomed to not seeing.

Post-pandemic life has well and truly taught us the importance of sport and physical activity. Whether the focus is on developing performance, maintaining physical fitness or just interacting with each other socially, it is truly immeasurable.

Sport, we are so glad to have you back as part of our lives. We missed you!  
MR B KIRKPATRICK

## Hockey - Girls

It was fantastic to be back and allowed to play hockey fixtures. There was a definite sense of purpose and excitement back, from all the pupils and coaches. With the new development at Kettering Road starting over the summer we had to play a considerable amount of away fixtures, which to the pupils' credit didn't deter them from representing the school.

High School hockey started with an intense pre-season, and we quickly went into the weekend fixtures on week one against Stowe. Having missed a year of competitive hockey, every school started on the back foot and it was a big learning experience for everyone on and off the pitch.

We entered teams into the England hockey cups at U12, U13, U14, U16 and U18 age groups. The 1st XI enjoyed a competitive cup run having lost their initial game in tier 2, and they then beat Kimbolton and Stephen Perse in Tier 3 before losing to Felsted in a very close fixture, conceding in the final minutes of the match.

We put out 21 teams on Saturdays for the block of fixtures and enjoyed a mixed season in all ages, with some very good performances and results, but also some tough games that we had to learn from. All teams showed progression through the term which we have aimed to build on with sessions available during both the spring and summer.

We had a successful pre-season for Stamford School with early morning sessions for each age group as well as training & a couple of fixtures for the senior squad which meant despite not playing for two years, we started the term off moving in the right direction.



U18A HOCKEY



U18B HOCKEY



3rd XI HOCKEY



U15C HOCKEY



U16A HOCKEY



U14A HOCKEY



U16B HOCKEY



U14B HOCKEY



U15A HOCKEY



U14C HOCKEY



U15B HOCKEY



U13A HOCKEY





U13B HOCKEY



U12B HOCKEY



U13C HOCKEY



U12C HOCKEY



U13D HOCKEY



U12D HOCKEY



U13E HOCKEY



U12A HOCKEY



U12E HOCKEY

“We put out 21 teams on Saturdays for the block of fixtures and enjoyed a mixed season in all ages, with some very good performances and results, but also some tough games that we had to learn from.”



1st XI HOCKEY



2nd XI HOCKEY



3rd XI HOCKEY

## Hockey - Boys

We entered teams into the England Hockey cups at U12, U13, U14, U16 and U18 age groups, as well as in the Autumn term entering an u18 team into the regional indoor finals.

We were able to put out 18 teams for block fixtures across U12 through U18 groups with all teams showing good development through the term and giving everyone an opportunity to play that chose too.

The 1st XI lost their Tier 2 first round game against The Perse in a very close game, where we were unable to take the opportunities we had. Our next game was against Oundle where we took our chances in the second half to progress in Tier 3.

We then faced The Leys for the second time in the term and had an equally close game. It was a game for the neutral with both teams playing a fast-paced attacking style of hockey but ultimately went to penalties that we lost on.

In other cup runs, the U16s showed improvement, having lost their initial game in Tier 1 to Uppingham on penalties, when they beat Bedford in a close game and then lost to Oakham. The U12s showed their potential at the regional finals where they came third playing an attacking style of hockey.

It's been brilliant to see so many pupils furthering their hockey outside of school and representing clubs this year, and we have had players at Peterborough, Kettering, Cambridge, Bourne Deeping and Spalding, to name a few clubs, in both junior and senior teams. This has led to players entering the England hockey pathway at both county and regional levels.

As previously mentioned, the new development has taken shape over the year and we now have two fantastic new pitches at Kettering Road that we have started to use already. Along with pre-season hockey we've had five parent and pupil evenings where we've had up to 40 players on the pitch from all year groups, with their parents enjoying the new facility.

The 1st XI started the year with three pre-season fixtures, looking to prepare them for the season ahead. We were led by Mr Buckmaster with help from Mr Harris, so we knew we had a good season coming up. Two convincing wins against Uppingham and a narrow win versus The Perse ensured that the perfect preparation was made in what was to be a thrilling year.

To start off the season, we faced Oundle. With a big

home crowd, an exciting show was put on by Stamford as we brought home a 4-2 win. This good start was to be tempered by a narrow loss to The Leys the week after. The boys showed a lot of fight but it just wasn't meant to be on the day.

In the following two weeks we faced two tough opponents in Bromsgrove and Trent College. Some stand-out performances from captain Jake Leeds and Ben Saunders saw us win 2-1 and then 4-2.

Our run in the national cup was cut short due to a lethargic performance against The Perse, resulting in a 2-0 loss. Despite this, we managed to progress to the third round of the national plate, where we beat Oundle 6-1, but unfortunately then got knocked out on penalty flicks to The Leys.

Our last home game came a few weeks before the end of term. For the majority of boys it would be their last time playing for the school on home soil, so it was a huge occasion. It was against Uppingham, a team we had already beaten twice before that season. This game was no different, with a comfortable 2-0 for the team.

Prior to the final game of the season we faced Stowe. Yet another outstanding performance from Ben Saunders secured an electric 5-0 win. Kimbolton was our last opponent, and Ben Hopperton was excited to face his older brother in what would be a feisty affair.

Our Hopperton came out on top, though, getting his own brother sent off. We went into the second half 1-0 down with some unfortunate events not going our way. However, with some stellar defensive performances from Tom Dancy, Roddy Mountain and Andrew Inskip we were able to stay in the game.

With not long left, Ben Goold tucked away a nice goal at the far post to level the score. In the final minute of the game our captain, Jake Leeds, scored the winning goal. A fitting end to what was a great season for the 1st team, ending with 13 wins and four losses.

MR D BUCKMASTER





U16A HOCKEY



U14B HOCKEY



U16B HOCKEY



U14C HOCKEY



U15A HOCKEY



U13A HOCKEY



U15B HOCKEY



U13B HOCKEY



U14A HOCKEY



U13C HOCKEY



U13A HOCKEY



U12B HOCKEY



U13E HOCKEY



U12C HOCKEY



U12A HOCKEY



U12D HOCKEY



# Sailing

Sixth Form students Issy and Ewan took part in the RYA Youth National Championships in Pwllheli. The pair competed fiercely in the ILCA 6 (International Laser Class Association) sailing class. Ewan reached 22nd out of 61 sailors, and Issy achieved a fifth place overall, and was the third placed British sailor in the women's competition. On her success Issy said: "I am really pleased to have come fifth overall and to have been in the third best British boat after a challenging week of light winds in Pwllheli."





1st XV RUGBY



2nd XV RUGBY



3rd XV RUGBY



U16A XV RUGBY



U16B XV RUGBY



U16C XV RUGBY



U15A XV RUGBY



U15B XV RUGBY



U15C XV RUGBY



U14A XV RUGBY



U14B XV RUGBY



U14C XV RUGBY



U13A XV RUGBY



U13B XV RUGBY

# Rugby

There was great excitement and hope around the playing fields come late August 2021, and the prospect of rugby returning to the hallowed turf of Stamford School. It was difficult to know who was the most excited: the parents, supporters, players or coaching staff!

The season that followed produced the usual smattering of high drama, emotion, challenge and memory-making moments for all those in the Stamford rugby community.

The new boys in the Under 12s gave a great account of themselves in their first season and made excellent progress in their development. The same can be said of the Under 14 teams who, despite a revolving door to the physio's office, never gave up!

It was, however, the Under 13s who turned heads at every opportunity, from the Ds to the As, playing some superb rugby, punching well above their weight and also winning the prize for the continued highest attendance at training - whatever the weather...

The Middle School teams showed great strength in depth across the term with many boys stepping up to the higher tiers when demanded. The 15Cs only lost two, the 15Bs won all their games and the 15As only lost one regular season game, and then topped off an amazing year by defeating The Oratory School in the National Plate Final at Allianz Park London. A great achievement from the coaching staff and a huge squad who all played their part.

The 16Cs won more than they lost, the 16Bs only lost once and the 16A side went unbeaten in 2021. A big well done to skipper Luke McKeivitt, Hugh Seary, Ted Coen, Lachlan Peck and Dom White on representing Leicester Tigers in the 16s TDG programme, and to Milo Chisholm with Northampton. An even bigger well done to Will Delaney, Jack Haynes and James Egerton, who have gone on to achieve selection for the 17s Academy.

In the seniors, the 3rd and 4th XVs produced the usual champagne 'Barbarian'-inspired rugby and physically outlasted many an opponent, although sadly bore the brunt of some pandemic-related cancellations.

The 2nd XV were the team to beat before half-term, before a string of cruel injuries slowed their pace on what was an excellent season. A very young 1st XV played some outstanding rugby and represented their school with the usual outstanding level of commitment and pride, putting in a number of superb performances, notably against Berkhamsted, Warwick, Uppingham and Oundle. The

Sixth Form sides cumulatively won more than they lost and can reflect on 2021 with great pride.

Well done to 1st XV skipper Will Baker, who represented Northampton Saints in the academy league, and also to Osian Thomas, Phelton Tandoh and Sam Williams who donned the red, white and green of Leicester Tigers. More congratulations to Danny Green, Will Burrows and Tom King on representing NLD, and to Ethan Shewring who made the England Counties and Schools squad.

There was plenty to celebrate in the shortened format of the game. The Under 13s finished joint top at the Leicester GS 7s and the Cambs 7s before losing in the final of the Saints Community 7s. They also won five from five at Rosslyn Park. The Under 16s squad won the Leics GS trophy and topped their group at Rosslyn Park, narrowly going out in the last 16 on day two. The 18s took the Bowl Final at Oakham before the highlight of the season qualifying for the cup finals on day two of the National Super Tens at Sedbergh School.

All in all, it was the usual story of bumps and bruises outweighed by big smiles on faces. Ultimately another successful season hugely enjoyed by parents, supporters, pupils and staff alike. Roll on the 2022 season!

MR D LAVENTURE





U13C XV RUGBY



U12B XV RUGBY



U13D XV RUGBY



U12C XV RUGBY



U12A XV RUGBY



U12D XV RUGBY



## Touch Rugby

After a successful relaunch of the SHS Touch Rugby squad in the summer of 2021, a strong core of Year 7 and 8 SHS students continued to build on this momentum, training throughout the autumn and spring terms.

During all weathers commitment was impressive, and the rapid gain in skill level and understanding, under the expert coaching of Mr Gonzalez, was clear for all to see. Modern coaching has clearly come on since my time playing, when a try was 'worth' four points! The highpoint of the season was our performance in the Peterborough RUFC Girls' Invitational Touch Rugby Festival.

Involving teams from eight other schools from across the region, across four age groups, it proved a fantastic, enjoyable day for all concerned - players, coaches and the parents able to spectate.

Glorious weather and the spirit of play, from all teams, really made this a special event. At U14 level we were able to field two teams, admirably captained by Ruby Wright and Tilly Stevens. Impressive performances were in evidence across the board, with particular special mention due to Emilia Edwards and Millie Rees, who played at a level far in excess of their experience of the sport.

Both teams proved strong competitors, playing excellent rugby and scoring a high number of tries, with Ruby's team the Plate winners.

Many thanks to Peterborough Rugby Club for organising the tournament, to coaches Mr Gonzalez, Mrs Pretsell, Tilly Stratford (Year 12), and Harri Denton (Year 10) for preparing the players so well, and to Miss Short for all her support on the day. Squad training continued in the summer term, with more fixtures to come.

MR DBURKE



## Cross Country

It has been a fantastic year for cross country, with record numbers running during the week and some outstanding individual and team results in the various competitions we have entered.

The season got off to a fast start, with more than 30 boys running regularly on Thursday afternoons. This meant we had over four Year 7/8 teams and two Year 9/10 teams in the local Fenland League competition.

The first round was held at Snowdon Playing Fields in Crowland, and the Year 7 and 8 A team won the opening leg, with top placed finishers including Tom Hughes, Toby Gaul and Archie Mahan. The next race at a new venue, Hampton School, was a fast flat race and, despite a heavy downpour at the start, the boys did really well with more than seven finishing in the top 20. Some new Year 7s such as Theo Wan, Charlie Metcalf and Eddie Price were showing their potential.

There was then a break in the Fenland League, and we had the individual district, county and team competitions. We qualified for the regional round of the team competition and finished a credible seventh out of 20 overall.

In the individual district competition, three boys finished in the top five for Year 7, with Toby Gaul winning, and Toby Parkhouse and Milo Grey just behind. Ten boys qualified for the Lincolnshire Championships at Burghley and Toby Gaul continued his excellent form, winning the Lincolnshire Championships. Milo Grey and Toby Parkhouse also qualified for the final round at Woodbridge School. The boys ran really well, with Toby finishing in the top ten and Milo just outside in 15th.

It was then the final two rounds of the Fenland League, and with some excellent running at the home Burghley race, Stamford Year 7 and 8 won the overall league, and the B team came fourth. It was then on to the final race of the season, with the relay race back at Hampton. The Year 7/8s came second and the Y9/10 team came sixth.

It has been the most successful season for over five years and so many boys have worked hard to create this success. Well done to all involved.

MR J MITCHELL



## Equestrian

At the Epworth Showjumping Competition held in November, a number of pupils qualified for the county championships across a variety of heights. Congratulations to Alice, for winning the 70cm and 80cm individual, qualifying for the Championship at Hickstead.

Further congratulations went to Tash W for winning the 1.10m pony section, qualifying for the county championships, and to our 1m team, James W, Tom W, Georgie D and Izzy K, who also won and qualified for the county championships and Hickstead Elite in August.

Miss Halliday, said: "In a sport where age and gender do not matter, with all competing together, I think it's great we have so many students actively involved."





# Cricket - Boys

The summer of 2022 will go down as a successful one for boy's cricket at Stamford for many reasons. Firstly, there were only a handful of matches lost to weather, meaning the amount of cricket played was at record levels.

The season started with another successful tour of Sri Lanka, which enabled 54 boys to get a head start for the season and the season didn't disappoint.

The U12s were finalists in the county cup, and the U13s won their county competition. The U14s won the county cup at their age group, which means they qualify for the Bunbury U15 National Cup in 2023.

The U15s won the county T20 cup to qualify for the ESCA Midlands T20 cup, only losing in the final. They also made it through to the final of the Bunbury National Cup, staged just down the road at Oakham. However, after a valiant comeback they just fell short to finish runners-up.

Nearly 1400 schools enter each so these are notable achievements by the team, and place them in the top eight and top two in the country respectively in those competitions.

The U17s and the 1st XI reached the last 16 and last 32 in their respective competitions.

This is only part of the cricket success at Stamford School though. Fixtures were competed at A, B and C teams from U12 to U15, and for the first time the U13 could field a D team. The 2nd XI started playing 40 overs instead of 30 overs in some games, and the 3rd XI played



right up to the end of term. However, to now have a 4th XI that played right up until two weeks out from the end of summer term probably shows just how cricket is thriving here at Stamford.

The school entered a festival with Seaford College, Eastbourne College and Framlingham College for the first time in a decade. Three days of intense cricket to celebrate the summer, and the hosting of it here was a spectacle to behold. Local cricket clubs Burghley Park, Oakham and Uffington were instrumental in the festival's success by allowing us to use their facilities.

The season ended with the annual visit of the MCC. A perfect way to end the season with the 1st XI, captained by Ben Saunders, creeping over the line in the penultimate over.

In the off-season, special mention should go to Alex Green (Year 10) for representing the Midlands at the celebrated Bunbury U15 Festival, and Josh Hull who was called up to the Young Lions Emerging U19 XI in August.

Lastly, a big thank-you from all the boys and I for the support given from the coaching staff, ground staff, catering team and operations staff that make all the logistics happen, to create the special environment afforded to us.

The season created many memories and for those who are departing, thank-you for your commitment and hope you continue to enjoy this game at whatever level. Come back and visit any time!

MR D HEADLEY



1st XI CRICKET



3rd/4th XI CRICKET



2nd XI CRICKET



U15A XI CRICKET



U15B XI CRICKET



U13B XI CRICKET



U15C XI CRICKET



U13C XI CRICKET



U14A XI CRICKET



U12A XI CRICKET



U14B XI CRICKET



U12B XI CRICKET



U13A XI CRICKET



U12C XI CRICKET



## Cricket - Girls

Girl's cricket at the High School really came into its own last season. With the arrival of a new Head of Girl's Cricket, a full season of fixtures and of course the amazing weather, cricket developed into one of the leading sports at the High School.

A new three-year development plan has been launched to give the girls access to cricket, no matter what level they are at. The aim of the plan is to make Stamford a school of cricket excellence for girls. The development will see the girls play both soft ball and hard ball cricket, with hard ball being statutory when they reach U13s.

The exciting T20 format has now been introduced to all A teams across the age groups, with varying formats for other teams, with the aim to make cricket fun and accessible, while offering a clear pathway of development and success.

Pre-season started with a mixture of (very) early morning and afternoon sessions, focusing on techniques and tactics in bowling, batting and fielding. It really was amazing to see so many of our students attend these intense sessions.

The hard work over the winter months certainly paid off as we went into the season with more than 100 fixtures planned. It was wonderful to see our Senior Girl's XI playing on the Stamford School 1st team pitch - the first time this has happened in the history of Stamford, and a great example of how all the Schools are coming together.

Our U12s had three teams

playing each Saturday and it was exciting to see their transition into hardball cricket. It's never about the winning, but it was great to see their development give them the success they deserved.

The U13s have become formidable, with our A team being one of the strongest squads in the programme. Having been entered into the prestigious ECB schools indoor cricket competition, they qualified and won the county championship, progressed and became regional champions and reached the national championship, played at Lord's, the home of English Cricket.

Although they didn't win the final, the energy, commitment and teamwork they put in reflected superbly on them, and the School.

Our U15 teams performed strongly in a number of fixtures and competitions, getting through to the county final of the ECB indoor cricket competition, and competing in the School Sport Magazine T20 competition.

Our cricketers also enjoyed a number of tours throughout the season, including the tour to Sri Lanka, where the girls really immersed themselves into the culture of this beautiful country, and played high-level cricket too. Our senior squad also enjoyed a cricket festival in Eastbourne, which was a time to bond as a team, as well as play.

The strength of our girls' cricket programme continues with affiliations with a number of county cricket clubs and Loughborough Lightning. These clubs are now recognising the quality of players coming through our system and are keen to develop close relations into their pathway and EPP programmes.

Finally, I would like to give a personal thanks to all the players that took part in the cricket programme. The hard work, commitment was exceptional, but it was the camaraderie and fun that made the season so memorable for everyone involved.

MR M O'CONNOR



1st XI CRICKET



U15A XI CRICKET



U14A XI CRICKET



U14B XI CRICKET



U13A XI CRICKET



U13B XI CRICKET



U13C XI CRICKET



U12A XI CRICKET



U12B XI CRICKET



U12C XI CRICKET



U19 GYMNASTICS



U13 GYMNASTICS

## Gymnastics

Three teams from Stamford across multiple year groups competed at the ISGA (Independent Schools Gymnastics Association) competition.

The ISGA National 5 Piece Premier Championships were held at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School in Elstree. Teams from Stamford competed in the Under 10s, Under 13s and Under 19s competitions.

Students in our Under 10 team started their day performing new floor routines, showcasing some of their newly learned skills, with their vaulting proving a particular highlight and receiving praise from the vault judge.

As this was their first time working together to learn a particularly hard group routine, the Schools and students are very proud of their performance. The judges praised their consistent teamwork, presenting them with the 'Team Spirit' award.

The Under 13 team were very proud of their routines, especially their group routine, which narrowly missed a medal. They were very supportive of each other throughout their competition and this was recognised by the judges who awarded them the Team Spirit Cup.

The Under 19 team rounded everything off with some exceptionally strong performances to a very high standard, in a close competition. They held their own to receive 6th place medals as a team and an added bonus of a 6th place medal for their group routine, which was described as 'phenomenal'!







GIRLS U15 FIVES



BOYS U15 FIVES



BOYS U14 FIVES

## Fives

Fives continues to flourish at the Stamford Schools, with enthusiastic squads of young boys and girls.

We play on the Schools' squash courts on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays, with players from Years 7 to 12.

The pupils have continued to compete with determination both against local schools such as Oundle and Uppingham, but also further afield, heading to Winchester College, Sherborne, St Paul's in London and, most recently, Malvern College.

The pupils have had a very successful season building on the success of last season's boys, who won the U14 National Doubles Trophy. Things began early in the season with the Ladies' Cup at Cambridge in October, and showed the signs of things to come; a very enthusiastic bunch of girls and boys played in the tournament, and the novice player Miss Fletcher joined in the doubles and carried her partner Mr Smith through the tournament to win the trophy, much to the delight of their watching pupils!

Then came the West of England Schools' competition in January, where Chase Burgess and Cameron Drutman, our top Year 10 pair, competed hard in the U16 event. This was soon followed by the Midlands Regional at Oundle, where Stamford dominated, with Chase Burgess winning the U15 Singles, and the U15 Doubles with his partner Cameron.

The girls were not to be outdone either. Jasmine Withers won the U15 Girls' Singles, and, with her partner Georgie Cameron, the U15 Doubles. The younger years also triumphed, with Charlie Burrows winning the U14 Singles, despite being a year young, while the singles runner-up Connor McNaughton teamed up with Charlie Sharpe to get his revenge over Charlie and partner Euan to win the U14 Doubles. Bea Grindal won the U14 Girls'

Singles and, with Tilly Stevens, the U14 Girls' Doubles.

Thoughts then turned to the Nationals. The U13 event came first, where the Stamford squads encountered tough opposition from schools around the country, and in particular a strong Berkhamsted squad. But Stamford managed to secure some silverware, with Burrows and Hunter winning the U13 Doubles Plate, and Euan Hunter won the Singles plate. Hari Jones also reached furthest in the main singles draw before being knocked out by the eventual winner.

The Year 9 boys managed a similar feat at the U14 Nationals, with Connor and Charlie (the Midlands winners) taking the U14 Doubles Plate. In the U16 competition, Stamford's squad were all a year young at Year 10, but played fiercely. Stamford's 1st pair, Chase Burgess and Cameron Drutman, also reached the U16 Doubles - further than any other Year 10 players - where they were beaten by the team from Alleyn's School. Meanwhile, Stamford's 2nd pair, Dan Britton and Ollie Collett, beat the St Paul's 2nd pair and won the U16 Doubles Bowl (second plate).

Then it was the turn of the female pupils at the School Girls Nationals, held at Oundle in April. The girls in older age groups found the going tough in U16 and U18, playing against more experienced opponents as they were a year young, but Georgie Cameron managed to reach the U16 Singles Plate final, where she was beaten by her opponent from Edinburgh.

In the junior age groups the girls had fantastic success - Bea Grindal reached the Singles Final where she lost against a very strong opponent from Alleyns, so finished with a silver medal. However, with Tilly Stevens she had her revenge in the doubles, as they saw off the opposition to become U13 Doubles Champions. Flo Cavaciuti and Emily Tyler also played really well to take U13 Doubles silver, while Ruby Wright teamed up with a girl from Alleyn's in the U14 and they won the U14 Doubles Plate (bronze).

The final moment of the season came late on with the girls from Year 8 taking on adult women in the Winchester Ladies Fives at Malvern College. They were very impressed and excited to be playing some of the best ladies in the country, finishing a great day with some more silverware, when Bea Grindal and Tilly Stevens won the Winchester Ladies' Doubles Plate.

So overall we have had another fantastic season, and I am very grateful to have so many keen young players, and thank their parents for their unwavering support. All we need now are some proper courts to play on regularly!

MR A SMITH

## Football

The football season started very quickly and the boys were certainly thrown straight in at the deep end. After a few training sessions, 1st and 2nd teams were quickly established, and before we knew it we were experiencing our first fixture away at Oundle.

The group quickly bought into Mr Di Cataldo's philosophy and style of play, and despite a silly penalty and a controversial refereeing decision, the first outing as a group showed signs of real balance, quality and determination from the group.

We played three games and won three on the bounce after this, with comfortable wins against Pitsford, Stamford Welland Academy and then a great win 2-0 away at Bedford Modern, who only had one shot on target, which proved how dominant our style of play was becoming.

Lapses in concentration and silly mistakes when trying to play the right way cost us dearly at Wellingborough, where we were the better team for large parts of the game, but came away with a defeat that was difficult to accept.

After half-term, a huge challenge awaited with a friendly away at Repton School, who have won the ISFA Cup two years on the trot. The game was an outstanding display of just how well this group of boys can do, holding their own, playing really good football and dominating large parts of the game throughout.

The boys went in 1-1 at half-time and took the lead early in the second half, before Repton equalised and then quickly took the lead. The individual brilliance of certain Repton players certainly stood out but, regardless, the boys continued to try and play and their hard work rewarded them with a penalty to equalise again and make it 3-3.

We were pushing for a winning goal as it was still tied at the 75th minute, but unfortunately more rotations for Repton paid off and some lucky breaks resulted in our boys conceding three goals in 10 minutes, which did not reflect the game at all in the end.

Following on from this, a similar result emerged as Bedford Modern came across to Stamford. They took a 2-0 lead very early, again due to mistakes of our own, but we responded just before the half, and then early in the second, to bring the score back to 2-2.

Again, we dominated the game, played really good stuff, but unfortunately a literal 'slip' caused Bedford to get a one-on-one with the keeper and score one of their rare chances in the second half, to win 3-2.

The boys responded really well with an impressive win over Arthur Mellows, with some great goals being scored in a 6-1 win, ahead of the final game of the season away at Oakham. This was the first game where we experienced being the lesser team in terms of possession and quality in front of goal, but we still came away with a result in the form of a 1-1 draw.

All-in-all, it has been a really positive first season, with a group of boys who have bundles of potential. With more time, patience and buying-in to the philosophy Mr Di Cataldo is trying to get across, the results will most certainly start to match the performances and Stamford will make a name for itself as a footballing outfit.

Next year will see entry into the ISFA Cup and ISFA Shield, where opposition will be strong. We lose fantastic Year 13 boys in Josh Cothill, Bruce Ayonote, Charlie Willis, Stan Brake and Alejandro Knaeur - but the Year 12 boys will carry the mantle into the next academic year with Dan Herman (the 'metronome' of the team) in the midfield, players such as Andrew Tafeni and Sammy James being relied on going forward and players such as Tommy Bealby, Anshul Banerjee, and captain Jake Tarling leading us from the back.

It really will prove to be an exciting year ahead for the football programme.

MR D DI CATALDO



1st XI FOOTBALL



2nd XI FOOTBALL



## Athletics

It has been another fantastic season of athletics this year at Stamford. Pleasingly the sun shone at every event, which was a welcome relief from the wind and rain that the athletes faced last year. We have had record numbers of students competing and it was great to see a Sixth Form team back competing on the local circuit for the first time in several years.

The season got underway at Uppingham for the juniors, inters and seniors, and it was brilliant to see everyone competing. There were several strong performances from Tom Hughes, Joshua Sackree and Sam Bull in the juniors, James Edgerton, Milo Chisholm and Lachlan Peck in the inters and Andrew Tafeni and Joe Hughes in the seniors. Against a number of strong schools the team performed really well, and it set up what was to be a great season.

The Year 7s and 8s were up next at Oakham for a relay competition and with the Year 7s winning every race, they literally got off to a flier! Stand outs were Toby Gaul, Milo Gray, Sam Bull and Billy Chen, and this would be the start of their many successes this year.

Meets at Oundle and Oakham followed, with a number of our students winning events. Joe Hughes began his dominance of the senior discus, and he won every event he entered, and Joshua Sackree started his winning run in the high jump.

Next up were the district trials at a windy Newark. In the race of the season, Milo Gray came from 50 metres behind with the strongest kick I have ever seen to win the 800m, and this was shortly followed by Frazer Barclay doing exactly the same thing to win the junior boys' 800m. In total, 10 boys qualified to represent Kesteven at the Country Championships, which is a fantastic achievement, and the Year 7s once again won the team competition.

Special mention must go to Jacob Harte and Sam Bull, who qualified in the 200 and 300m respectively at the Prep Schools' national finals. This is a great achievement and continues the success that Stamfordians have had in the past at this event.

Overall, we have had more athletes competing than ever before, and it's fantastic to see the sport going from strength to strength.

MR J MITCHELL



BOYS ATHLETICS



GIRLS ATHLETICS



BOYS ATHLETICS

## Squash

We have had a huge improvement in the quality and level of the squash players throughout the Schools. The volume of kids in lessons and coming to clubs has increased, and there has been a fantastic buzz and energy around the squash courts.

As a result, we have a number of young players who have improved dramatically and made their way into the squash team, with a number of players who have competed at national, regional and county events.

It's also been great to see many of the pupils join the squash club so they can also play and practise outside of school, and they have joined the leagues and club nights regularly.

It's been brilliant to see more girls at the courts too and they have been developing their games well and enjoying playing.

MR T BAILEY

## Swimming

Swimming was well and truly back this year with a full calendar of training and fixtures. The pool has been full to the brim with swimmers from all year groups training, both before and after school.

Participation is the highest it has ever been, and it has been such a wonderful sight to see with everyone mixing again. Team captains Sam Hughes, Maisie Weeks, James Rothwell and Izzy York-Forward have led the way in bringing the team together, working with the younger age groups to regain our swimming family feel. Making the most of our fantastic facilities, we have been training both in the pool and in the gym, mixing it up throughout the year.

Some big competitions saw the team compete at the Warwick 50s and 100s event, the Stowe Relays and the Bath and Otter Cup, to name a few. The team also travelled around to compete against local rivals Oundle and Uppingham and remained strong over the age groups to come out on top.

Many of our swimmers also compete for external clubs, with many looking ahead to compete at the English, Scottish and British nationals. These swimmers have also been competing at local grand prix meets, open meets, county championships and regionals, with many hovering around the top 10 spots in the country for their respective events.

It is with great sadness we say goodbye to three of our long-standing team members who have over the years gone above and beyond for our swim team.

Sophie Reeves joined us back in 2014 and has been our leading female sprint swimmer since she arrived, leaving a great hole in the Sixth Form team. James Rothwell is one of our veterans who has been with us since the very beginning. This all-rounder has been not only a superb swimmer but also a great coach on poolside, and James will be greatly missed by all. As our vice captain he leaves some big fins to fill.

Sam Hughes, our 2021-2022 captain, also moves on after being here since the start. He finally learned that putting his ears in his hat makes him more streamlined, and we are incredibly sad to be seeing him leave. He has



been a real asset to our team but won't be leaving any fins behind; he's managed to swim a whole school career without using his legs.

The year ahead looks set to be another busy and exciting one with the calendar already filling up with lots of competitions. Thank-you to all who have made it one of our best years yet and good luck to those who are moving on to new adventures.

MISS A WHITE

### Swimming Superstars

Rufus Bennett and Joshua Sackree, both in Year 9, are Stamford School's swimming superstars. Both Rufus and Joshua began swimming young, with Rufus being just three years old and Joshua only three months! They began swimming competitively in primary school and have been competing consistently since.

Joshua moved to England from the United States last year, where he was in the national top 8 in two events: the 50m and 100m breaststroke.

Both boys have a rigorous schedule, training seven or eight times a week, morning and evening.

Recently, Joshua and Rufus competed in the Scottish Nationals in Aberdeen. Joshua made the Open B final, coming 10th in the 400m Individual Medley.

"It was difficult but fun in the end" says Joshua. "It was great practice for the upcoming nationals. I can't wait to put all my hard work to the test."

This summer sees the boys, having qualified earlier this year, entering the British and English Swim Championships.







## Basketball

What a year! Thirty-five games across six teams. An unbeaten season for the First team, amazing performances in the debut season for the Second team and some really promising performances from Year 7, 8 and 9 as the year went by.

Junior basketball has enjoyed six fixtures across all three lower school teams, with some super performances and potential shown across the groups, with special mentions to Sebastian Sackree in Year 8 and Rishon Chakamanga in Year 9.

The newly formed Second team competed and beat First teams at Loughborough, Oundle and Oakham, and an unbeaten season was on the cards if it hadn't been for a narrow loss to Uppingham First team.

The First team had a season to remember for record point scores. First with 78 points scored against Loughborough, followed by 80 against Rugby School and then topped off in the County Cup with 87 points against Boston, with Will Burrows scoring a school record 41 points.

Tough wins were ground out against the likes of Bedford School, Stowe and Uppingham on various midweek and Saturday fixtures, while matches in the County Cup slid in between these friendlies.

Some of the team have been with Mr Di Cataldo for five years or more, such as Harvey Ratcliffe and Bruce Ayonote, who leave the school this year and have been superb servants to the basketball programme. Lachlan Peck, John Lin and Ali Dresner, as Year 11s, have played regular First team games since Year 9 and new joiners such as Osian Thomas, Will Burrows, George Watt slotted in really well to the team this year.

James Bennett, Guy Larter, Paul Chan and James McSorley made a huge difference in the Second team in the early stages of the season and solidified places in the First team by the end of the season, making real differences in the cup victory.

The season finished with that cup victory away at Carres Grammar School, which is a very challenging court to play on, and it showed early on in the first and second quarter. The boys trailed ever so slightly in the first and then took a narrow lead at the half, with various boys receiving foul calls very early on.

Lots of rotation in the third quarter saw players having to really come together as a group while star players took some time on the bench, and in that moment everyone stepped up to the plate and pulled together to win the school's first county cup. Next year we look forward to the national competition with a group who will only get stronger.

MR D DI CATALDO

## Netball

It has been an action-packed and exciting year for netball at Stamford High School, with 25 teams competing, from U12s through to the 1st team. The 1st team, ably captained by Isla Nasey and Evie Sanderson, set the standard throughout the year, showing commitment and dedication to the programme and producing some excellent displays of netball, with notable performance against local rivals Uppingham and Stowe School.

However, you could say we left the best game until last, as the game of the season may well have been when the 1st VII took on the 1st XV in a hotly contested game, raising money for Ukrainian refugees.

The U14s also enjoyed a successful season, with the A team qualifying for the National School Finals tournament after being crowned East Midlands Regional Champions. The tournament brings together the top 18 schools from around the country to compete in an action-packed day. Each game was hotly contested, and the team displayed excellent skill and determination throughout, encapsulating the Stamfordian spirit.

We are incredibly proud to have a number of students involved in representative pathways, including county netball and the Loughborough Lightning Academy. Most notably, Year 9 pupil Emily Darrell was selected for the Loughborough Lightning U15 Futures Squad, debuting for the team against Scotland U17. We look forward to many more success stories over the coming season!

MISS O MASON



1st VII NETBALL



2nd VII NETBALL



U15D XI NETBALL



3rd VII NETBALL



U14A XI NETBALL



U15A XI NETBALL



U14B XI NETBALL



U15B XI NETBALL



U14C XI NETBALL



U15C XI NETBALL



U14D XI NETBALL





U13A XI NETBALL



U12A XI NETBALL



U13B XI NETBALL



U12B XI NETBALL



U13C XI NETBALL



U12C XI NETBALL



U13D XI NETBALL



U12D XI NETBALL



U13E XI NETBALL



U12E XI NETBALL

## Tennis Boys

The senior squads worked well together throughout a long and cold pre-season, and the ever so unpredictable spring evenings meant that the players often had to make decisions quickly: is it tracksuit and woolly hats? Is it shorts and sunscreen?

Weather aside, the development shown through the six weeks of pre-season was evident, forming a solid platform for success moving into the summer term. The depth of squads this year is testament to the hard work of the players in their formative years, particularly through the pandemic where training recommenced relatively quickly.

Our Senior first, second and third teams faced tough opposition in Uppingham, The Perse and Oakham in the first three weeks of term. Strong opposition posed a fantastic opportunity for the senior squads to implement the skills developed through pre-season. While results, on paper, may not have favoured Stamford, impressive displays of tactical awareness, determination and resilience on the court were arguably more pleasing to witness.

Kimbolton, Framlingham College and Warwick School all provided highly competitive learning experiences for the senior groups in the lead up to half-term. Long-standing local rivals Oundle were a well-drilled outfit, and our younger senior boys' squad competed valiantly in a thrilling five match to four boys senior fixture, with the girls producing an equally entertaining six sets to three victory.

A well-established Bedford School side put our team through a difficult set of challenges, yet the young Stamford side came away earning a very respectable set of results.

While 'senior' by title, it has been hugely impressive to see how the younger members of the squad have developed as senior players. Chase Burgess (Year 10) has impressed consistently throughout the course of the year. Talent aside, Chase has worked hard on his leadership and continues to inspire his peers.

First team debutants Jamie Anderson and Will Dymond (Year 11) have fitted in well to the senior first team, and we look forward to seeing more of them through their Sixth Form years.

I am grateful to all players for their commitment to the tennis programme, particularly to those who continue to commit to training and fixtures throughout the exam period - well done.

It has been pleasing to see the growth in Middle School tennis. Both Year 9 and Year 10 have been fielding strong A and B teams, with a great deal of depth behind them. Tough starts against Uppingham and The Perse set a high standard for the term ahead, and Stamford pupils fought valiantly throughout, often needing to adjust to a range of surfaces.

Mirroring their senior peers, they produced an excellent collective set of results against very competitive Oakham, Warwick and Kimbolton sides. It is clear to see that the Year 9 and 10 teams have enjoyed their tennis this

term. I look forward to seeing them compete for senior team selection next year.

The Year 7 and 8 'junior' teams have been able to access the most competitive fixture programme that the school has offered, thanks to a full block of fixtures with Warwick, The Perse, Trent College, Witham Hall, Oakham, Laxton and others.

It has been fantastic to see the commitment from the youngest group of players who continue to produce four full squads between them. The learning and development has been clear, and we look forward to seeing this young group of players progressing through the ranks into Middle School tennis.

I thank all pupils for their commitment to tennis at Stamford, all parents for their support on a Saturday, and of course, all staff for their committed investment into ensuring all pupils have access to a professional and engaging tennis programme. A special thanks goes also to Mr Selvidge, our head professional, who assumes the role of Director of Tennis from September.

MR B KIRKPATRICK



SENIOR TENNIS



U15A TENNIS



U15B TENNIS





U14A TENNIS



U12B TENNIS



U14B TENNIS



U12C TENNIS



U13A TENNIS



U13B TENNIS



U12A TENNIS



U18A TENNIS



U15A TENNIS

Girls



U15B TENNIS



U14A TENNIS



U14B TENNIS



U14C TENNIS



U13A TENNIS



U13B TENNIS



U13C TENNIS



U12A TENNIS



U12B TENNIS



U12C TENNIS





## Fencing

We returned to the Public School Fencing Championships after an almost 20 year hiatus. Pupils from both SS and SHS competed in a pool of 1,250 entries, spanning a wide variety of skill levels, including European champions.

A squad of nine Year 8/9 boys attended the Mount Haes Boys' Epée competition made up of two poule rounds with 20% cuts, followed by knock-out rounds.

Six out of our nine fencers successfully progressed to the second set of poules, with Rory D leading the way with three out of four victories.

The second round saw five Stamford fencers into the knock-out round, with William B missing out by a couple of points and Joshua H, Stanley A and Rory D all winning three out of four matches to be joined by Alex S and Ellis B winning two out of four matches.

At this point, only King's Canterbury had more fencers (with six) still remaining in the event, with Stamford matching the likes of Whitgift School and Eton College – schools with a long, successful fencing history and ahead of Brentwood and Millfield Schools, who were down to four and three fencers respectively.

The knock-out stages (top 51 fencers) with matches to 15 hits saw closely fought matches, with Ellis B experiencing the comeback of the whole event.

The top 32 round, saw Ellis in another close match, losing 15-14 to his Bromsgrove opponent, with Rory D losing out to a fencer from Benedict's Ealing. Joshua H beat the 10th seed, King's Canterbury opponent, 15-12 to make the top 16.

In the last 16, Joshua caused more upset to King's Canterbury to take a 15-12 win against the 7th seed to make the quarter final.

This matched Joshua against Sean Q, again from King's Canterbury, a top Chinese national fencer and, after a tough fight, Josh lost 15-6. Sean went on to win

his semi-final 15-2 and then become the eventual winner of the competition. Josh's score of 15-6 was a strong performance, particularly given that he only started fencing when he joined Stamford School in Year 7.

Day two of the championships saw a squad of three girls attending the Mount Haes Girls' event for Year 8/9 pupils, running to the same format as the boys' event.

The first round saw Florence H, having only started fencing this term, fighting well and securing some great scores, including a 5-4 loss against far more experienced fencers, but she failed to proceed through the round.

Honey F joined her, having started slowly, securing a win in her fourth match and a narrow 5-4 loss in her last match, but missing out on progressing by one place and one point, ranked 41st, with 40 fencers qualifying to Round Two. Sophia H, by far the most experienced fencer in the group, won three out of four matches to progress comfortably to Round Two.

In the second round, Sophia won all four matches, including a win over the number one seed after Round 1 to make it into the knock-out rounds (involving the top 28).

Nicely controlled matches against opponents from Millfield School (15-10) and Queensgate School (15-8) took Sophia into the quarter finals, where she met the No 1 ranked Under 14 fencer in Great Britain for 2021, from Putney High. The match was close, with Sophia trailing 9-8 going into the final period of the match, but the time pressure meant Sophia had to take risks to try to catch up and she lost out with 12-9 to secure another 7th spot for Stamford. The only fights Sophia lost on the day were those against the eventual winner and the other finalist, while winning nine matches.

Chris Howser, Stamford School Fencing coach, said, "The performance across both squads was amazing – so much learned, much worthwhile experience gained and most of all, great support and team spirit in evidence on both days. Well done everyone."

MR C HOWSER

## Badminton

The Sixth Form badminton squad have had an excellent year, and it was so lovely to be playing again after such an awful year of pandemic regulations restricting play for indoor sports.

The team played mixed matches against Uppingham, Oundle, Repton and Oakham, and 'boys only' matches against Bedford School. It has been very pleasing to see the improvement in technique and ability from all the players throughout the first two terms; we have gone from strength-to-strength since the start of the year and finished a very respectable third place in our East Midlands League.

This is due to the players really 'putting their all' into every game, and also into our Tuesday and Thursday night squad training sessions. I will always remember the session where our coach got everyone warming up to dance music. I'm proud of how the players, when off the court, have supported each other throughout the season, while also discovering an obsession for eating cake and coronation chicken sandwiches – particularly Fabien!



Notable overall performances included beating both Oakham and Repton Schools rather convincingly on every occasion, and the wins the first team had from their meetings with Oundle and Uppingham. Our most challenging rivals were Uppingham and Bedford.

The boys who must be congratulated for winning the most games throughout the season are Anu Mitchell (16 games) and Harvey Morse (eight games). In terms of overall points won, the top scorers were Anu (522) and captain Tom Upton (407). For the girls, Marianna Tuleja (21 games) and Grace Dymond (20 games) won the most games, with Grace scoring the most overall points for the team (555), and Chloe Mak (Year 11) coming in second (402).

Joey Liu and Tom Upton, the captains, have done an absolutely splendid job in organising and motivating the team each and every week. I am very grateful for their help and support, and wish them all the best for the future. I also want to say a massive "well done" and "goodbye" to the rest of the Year 13 squad. Thank-you for everything you have done for Stamford badminton – it's been a blast! Make sure you keep playing.

I very much look forward to seeing how the squad develops next year, with our Year 12s transforming into Year 13s and a fresh influx of new Sixth Form players from Year 11.

MR M SMITH



1st BADMINTON



2nd BADMINTON

“Notable overall performances included beating both Oakham and Repton Schools rather convincingly on every occasion, and the wins the first team had from their meetings with Oundle and Uppingham.”





# HOUSESES



# Anderson



This year began with the welcome return of the House Music competition. Our superb House Captains, Heidi Brown and Eve McClarnen, did a wonderful job arranging both the Whole-House and Senior Choir songs.

The Whole-House song, 'Wonderwall' by Oasis, was sung with true Anderson energy and some beautiful harmonies, which resulted in a beautiful rendition and, although third place was awarded, I am confident that Liam and Noel would most certainly have approved.

As always, the Senior Choir tugged on the heart strings with their version of 'Slipping Through My Fingers' by Abba, and a well-deserved second place was awarded. None of this would have been possible without superb conducting from Heidi, who earned herself the honour of winning conductor.

These shining examples of Anderson team spirit led to our being awarded joint second place overall. Certainly a result to be proud of.

Unfortunately, the rest of the year has left us with little to sing about, but, regardless of position, every pupil who represented Anderson in a competition did so with enthusiasm and a smile, and I couldn't ask for more than that!



Then came the House Bake-Off. This has traditionally been an Anderson dominated event and while victory couldn't be taken for granted, our competitors did not disappoint!

With entries from Year 7 and Year 12, Anderson had it covered. The Year 7 entries from Lauren Jelf and Cara Pearson were outstanding, particularly considering their young age.

The Year 12 entries were equally impressive, with some lovely cupcakes in the first round from Olivia Jeffrey, who unfortunately had to withdraw from the competition due to injury. It was Ellie Hattam's Eton mess cake, however, which really stole the show and was the Bake-Off overall winner, retaining Anderson's title!

Bake-Off success did not end there, as our loyal Miss Docherty was also the staff winner for her lemon cake, with homemade lemon curd. I can't wait to see what is produced next year.

One of the final events of the year was the House Dance competition and Anderson gave some beautiful performances. The dancers themselves had worked incredibly hard on both choreographing and rehearsing their dances. A special mention must go to Sharuki Sivarajah in Year 9 for her outstanding solo performance.

What a fun-filled year it's been, and I look forward to seeing what next year brings to Anderson House.

MRS K ALUZZI



# Beale



Beale's new House Captains, Angharad Jones and Evie Sanderson, started their House duties in the summer term. And they had a great start, managing to motivate Beale to achieve first place on Sports Day, which was a huge achievement, of which I was particularly proud as a newly appointed Head of Beale.

On returning in September, Year 7 Bealians were welcomed into the House with a party and games in the first week. A great time was had by all, and it served as a fantastic team-building exercise, and introduced our young students to the House. Forgive me for mentioning that they also won the tug-of-war competition.

Unfortunately, earlier success was not duplicated in the next fixture on our House calendar, the House Singing. Despite me wearing a red dress, Beale came last. Although we were disappointed, we took some positives from this experience. Mrs Hawkins liked our Senior Choir song so much that she cried while listening to the students' performance.

The Christmas period consisted of a number of sports competitions and great success for Beale in hockey: winners of the senior hockey and overall joint winners. The Sixth Form finished the term with a bang, winning the Senior House Quiz, with Angharad's knowledge of violin taking them over the line.

The start of the spring term brought many fun activities like House Fashion and Bingo. Beale continued on the path of success with a win in the House Spellathon, a daunting competition to take part in front of the whole

school. Therefore our competitors deserve a special mention: Jess Tinton, Daisy Elliott, Matilda Keeble, Sanvi Bhandari and Arianne Bellamy.

Beale was also proudly represented in my favourite event of the year, the House Bake-Off, which could not take place without our dedicated Mrs Hawkins, or St Michael's boarders, who helped Mr Murphy with judging.

A special mention goes to Esmee Powell for taking part for the first time, Poppy Doney for amazing flavours, Emily Tyler for fantastic decoration and Rachel Hart for taking part in every single Bake-Off competition.

Kathryn Linsell helped Beale win the House Dance competition, despite being the only Year 10 volunteer - and another event that would not happen without the commitment from our colleagues. This time thanks go to Mrs Watson.

A Beale Spirit Award was created by Lara and Lily in 2019, and this year went to Arianne Bellamy, for stepping up and showing commitment to Beale.

In May we waved goodbye to Evie and Angharad, and we wish them all the best for the future. I am also stepping down as Head of Beale, with great sadness, as this is the happiest job in the School. But I will be leaving Beale in the capable hands of Miss Fletcher.

MRS K McENERY





# Cavell



The year 2021-2022 will go down in House history as the year when normality returned – at least for the most part. We were very pleased that we were able to keep a remote House programme running during the lockdowns, but there is nothing like a proper House competition in person, as our first House Singing competition since 2019 proved.

After getting off to a rather shaky start, as a result of which the prefects took the bold decision to change our Whole-House song two weeks into rehearsal time, we were all thrilled with the final results: first place in Whole-House and first place in Senior Choir – the first time, I think, that one House has won both categories. Many thanks are due to our House Captains and Year 13 students, Millie Moyses, Ella Grundy and Ellen Bloomfield.

We are also indebted to Chloe Lorentzen in Y12, who accompanied both songs and provided invaluable help in so many ways.

That success spurred us on to further victories in the autumn term: we came first in the first ever One Sixth House Debate, joint-first in hockey and a close third in the SES Sixth Form Quiz.



More success came our way in the spring term, when we won the inaugural Sixth Form Hockey Tournament, as well as House Fashion. Just before the end of term we were placed second in House Netball and joint second in the Spellathon. The final icing on the cake was winning the coveted Burghley Run.

Our wonderful House Captains this year – Immy Dee and Louisa Jaggard – have worked tirelessly to keep the House motivated and enthused and their efforts really have paid off with Cavell winning the overall competition.

I would also like to thank our year reps, who have proved invaluable this year, and our fantastic Year 12 assistant prefects, who have done such a tremendous job supporting their individual year groups. Fingers crossed that 2022/23 is our year, Cavell!

**MS WILSON**



# Eliot



Yet another fantastic year for Eliot House with excellent participation and commitment shown across competitions. Our fantastic House Captains, Grace Beadsley and Sasha Evans, have led the House with tremendous dedication and shown themselves to be excellent role models and motivators across competitions – a big “well done” to them and we wish them all the best in the future!

In true House fashion, one of the first competitions for pupils to be involved in was the infamous House Music, which has been greatly missed over the past two years. With a change in structure of rehearsals, Grace and Sasha did a marvellous job in motivating and engaging all pupils in such a short space of time, with the end result being a beautiful rendition of ‘Steal My Girl’ by One Direction, alongside a wonderful cover of ‘All I Want’ by Kodakline for Senior Choir.

A huge well done and thank you to both Grace and Sasha alongside all of the Senior Choir who worked tirelessly in that first half-term.

Later in the term saw one of SES’s first joint House competitions, which was the Senior House Quiz. This proved to be a tightly contested event, with both Kasia and Lucy and their counterparts progressing comfortably through to the finals. Sadly, this was against an extremely strong opposition, resulting in us leaving with a very impressive runners-up place.

Throughout the year, House sports have continued to be at the core of all things House-related with Eliotians continuing to demonstrate teamwork, dedication and commitment and as a result seeing success across sports including hockey, netball and the infamous House Football.

Alongside the traditional competitions, it was wonderful to see the return of other smaller events, including the House Bake-Off with some wonderful masterpieces created across year-groups.

A special shout-out and congratulations to the Eliot finalists who included Riley, Hannah, Flo and Sienna!

Additional highlights of the year include House Fashion and the debut of House Bingo, with high levels of enthusiasm and success shown across both events.

With another year nearly done, it has been an absolute pleasure to lead such a marvellous House and work alongside two fantastic captains – Grace and Sasha! With just a couple of weeks left, I am very much looking forward to seeing the final competitions take place including House Dance and the event of the year: Sports Day!

A big well done to all involved in House this year and I very much look forward to the next – let’s go Eliot!

**MISS Z LEDDY**





# Ancaster



## Junior

We began the year with a new Year 7 cohort and three new House Captains: George Hix, Sam Ryder and Joe Streater.

The first term's highlights started with an early second place in the Year 8 General Knowledge competition, before a win in the Year 8 Tug-of-War, which gave the House great confidence.

We had some super entries for Inktober, where the creative side of Ancaster was brought out, and we secured a well-deserved second place. Shortly after that, the mathematicians of Year 9 managed to come second in the Maths Problem Solving competition – showing the team's strengths do not just lie on the sports fields.

Towards the end of the term, Finlay Hames and Tobias Snape came second in the Year 9 debate, after a fabulous spectacle that the entire year got to see. We finished the term with our super Year 7 and 8 rugby players taking second place in the touch tournament, finishing our year on a high.

At the start of the spring term, we started with promising first and second place finishes in House Music with the set song 'Fly Me to the Moon' and our song of choice, 'History' by One Direction, before some super performances on the Astro in the hockey competition, with our Year 9 and Year 8 teams both finishing second after a brilliant display of resilience.

As the end of term got closer, the time came for the Burghley Run. On a day when the weather was not certain and rain threatened the runners, all Ancastrians endured and made it to the finish line, with Year 7 and 8 coming a respectable third and the Year 9 group in their last Lower School Burghley Run taking first place!

Into the summer term, the sun shone, days grew longer, and this motivated the boys to be outside more, and participate in even more events, including petanque, relays and tennis, where we performed well.

The ACT competition is an event the housemaster Mr Di Cataldo is always very enthusiastic about, and rightly so, as it is one of the most inclusive events that allows boys to showcase their creativity!

As always, the entries across all three year groups were superb, which resulted in first place in Year 8 and respectable second places in Years 7 and 9.

The final event of the year is always one of celebration, and at the annual Sports Day it was great to see so many boys out representing Ancaster in the best way possible. This year we achieved the goal of getting more boys than ever before representing the House, which really is a superb achievement for all.

Next year, we will be back stronger and going for glory once again with a new exciting group of boys leading the House: Harry Brooks, Tom Ainscough, Will Coen and Charlie Utting. Red will prevail!

**SAM RYDER, JOE STREATHER,  
GEORGE HIX, MR D DI CATALDO**

**“The first term's highlights started with an early second place in the Year 8 General Knowledge competition, before a win in the Year 8 Tug-of-War, which gave the House great confidence.”**

## Senior

This year saw a return to many of the activities that had been affected by lockdowns over the previous two years, including the return of the stalwart of the calendar, the Music competition.

As eagerly awaited (by some) as the return to face-to-face teaching, the opportunity to stake an early claim on the overall House standings meant a burst of activity as soon as we returned in September.

With a strong song choice in the Elvis classic 'Suspicious Minds', the boys entered into rehearsals with gusto, coming together brilliantly on the day under the conducting of Jacob Young. After the usual back-and-forth, it was decided that the part song should be 'Wellerman', a sea shanty with which Mr Mills worked his magic in the arrangement and Aaron Bird took on the lead part.

With two good performances in the bag, attention turned to Jamie Munns, Billy Wegg, Aaron Shardlow and Lucas Skelton in the ensemble, with an accomplished rendition of the rock classic 'Hotel California'. Ancaster walked away with second places in the unison and part song and a win in the ensemble. The same musicians also took the title in the House Rock competition a few weeks later, making an excellent start to the year.

Sporting competitions were hot on the heels of the music, with football and basketball running across several weeks in the autumn term for Years 10 and 11, and attention turning to chess as the weather increasingly drove us inside.

Football was not our greatest strength, despite moments of Messi-esque midfield mastery, a James Silcock lob from halfway in the Year 10 competition, to see off Brazenose, and some solid finishing from self-proclaimed super-sub Hugh Seary in the Year 11 victory against Radcliffe.

We fared slightly better in the other competitions and my thanks go to all the boys who turned out with enthusiasm for some dramatic lunchtime encounters, particularly Joe Genever in basketball and Yaseen Razaq in chess.

Covid has meant many disruptions and I was pleased to be able to return to House meetings and award colours and badges that were in some cases long overdue, particularly for our senior boys. At Sixth Form level, we have been able to hold some very successful mixed events,

with Ancaster joining with Beale House from SHS.

In the spring term, the mixed hockey was a great success and a well-fought competition where we came second overall. Deputy Head of House Sinan Senol and Lucian Pazour were victorious in the mixed quiz and Sinan also represented Ancaster in the mixed debate.

Elsewhere, in debating, Teddy Coen, George Sansom and Dylan Turnell took the Year 11 trophy, with the final being held with a full audience in the OE Hall.

The culmination of the spring term can mean only one thing: the Burghley Run. So, naturally, it snowed. A fantastic afternoon full of House spirit saw some impressive performances, notably Logan Carter of Year 12 taking the overall win with ice-cold focus.

And so, into summer where all years enjoyed volleyball on Mainfields over several weeks, despite some hazy interpretations of the rules in what emerged as a very popular event.

Tennis took place for Year 10, and the Sports Day team was shaping up nicely at the time of writing for the rearranged date due to poor weather. I looked forward to seeing the Red Army putting in some more impressive performances in both track and field competitions.

Finally, Henry Andrews of Year 11 received the OS Prize for services to Ancaster for his contributions and involvement throughout the year. My thanks to outgoing Head of House Oliver Macintosh and his deputies Sinan Senol and Will Baker for this year as they leave Stamford, and welcome to the incoming Head of House, Billy Wegg, and his deputies Ed Richardson and Anshul Banerjee for the year ahead.

**MR P TURNHAM**





# Brazenose



## Junior

After two years of missing the fun and buzz of the House competitions, this year we have been excited to be able to get back to the full range of activities.

We have had a competitive time in the House events this year and everyone has had a great time competing. In the autumn term, Brazenose finished joint-second, slightly behind Radcliffe.

We managed to win quite a few events, which gained us most of our points in the first term. We won the Year 8 general knowledge, Year 8 basketball, Year 7 maths problem solving and Year 7/8 touch rugby competitions.

In the spring term, we hit something of a dry patch in our winning streak, but Brazenose got the most merits, therefore winning the much-coveted merits trophy, which shows that, as well as our many talents, we are all studious and well behaved!

At the end of the spring term, we were in third place, just 2.5 points ahead of Ancaster. In order to maintain our third place, we knew we would need to win many of the House events in the summer term! Participation in the ACT competition was key, and we came a sturdy third place in the petanque competition. Our talented athletes put in a good shift at Sports Day too, showing we keep doing our best, no matter what!

FRASER BARCLAY



## Senior

House competitions can be compared to battles: some you win, some you lose, but either way, blood is always spilt (metaphorically, of course).

Take the House Music competition, for instance. The unison song was our Rorke's Drift moment. After having exhausted a number of options, I was convinced by certain influential members of the Sixth Form to choose 'Leave it all to me' by Miranda Cosgrove. A controversial choice, some might say, but we persevered. It was performed admirably and sung with gusto.

Joe Hughes was awarded a Victoria Cross for stepping into the breach and conducting our valiant troops through the hailstorm of bullets. Though outnumbered by our competitors and their more melodic tunes, our firepower was delivered at a steady rate and we held our ground. I was proud of my boys.

And then there was the part song. This was more like Isandlwana (Google it). Massacre would be an understatement. But perhaps, dear reader, you are more familiar with another battle from an earlier war, this time in the Crimea.

"C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre: c'est de la folie," said the French general Bosquet on witnessing the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854, as the British cavalry advanced towards the Russian guns. This was the part song in action. Bold, daring, but we didn't quite pull it off. There were casualties along the way. Think Arnhem 1944. Think forlorn hope at Badajoz 1812. There were plenty of posthumous awards for gallantry. However, I don't think we could blame this one on the pandemic.

Thankfully, we were able to keep the wolves at bay with the ensemble's rendition of the aptly named 'Don't look back in anger' by Oasis. This was our Jutland (1916) moment, because while we claimed a victory, that's not how the judge saw it.

The inter-House run was an excellent afternoon, with individual stories of heroism and valour. Much like the Somme in 1916, many floundered at the start, with the flower of Brazenose boyhood being sacrificed on the fields of Burghley. However, sheer grit and determination by the more able runners gained precious ground and points, but sadly it did not change the outcome of the war/ House ranking.

Isaac Fell deserves a Mention in Dispatches for winning the Year 11 race, as does Robbie Williams, our



illustrious commanding officer, for winning the Year 13 race.

We won many victories this year, ballads about which will be sung for generations to come: Year 11 basketball and table tennis, Year 10 tennis, and joint winners of Year 10 chess, to be precise.

The final glory goes to Joe Hughes, of Music competition fame, for winning the Victor Ludorum prize for Sports Day.

Lastly, thanks go to the whole House for taking part and giving their all. In particular, Toby Dalrymple was essential with his musical contributions, and, coupled with Charlie McClaren, was a force to be reckoned with in the House debating.

For 2022-23, the House captain will be Phelton Tandoh, who will be ably assisted by his loyal lieutenants Andrew Tafeni and Elliot Klemstine. I'd like to say this year was, in the words of the Iron Duke, "a damn close-run thing", but we came a convincing fourth. Next year, we will take no prisoners.

CAPTAIN DEXTER (RETIRED)



# Exeter



## Junior

Exeter House progressed extremely well throughout the year, with every student getting involved with exciting events, leading to us being in first place with 156.5 points near the end of term. There have been many highlights along the way.

Right-back in September, we started the year by first taking part in the House Chess competition, with our Year 8s and 9s taking first place in their separate competitions.

Then we moved on to House General Knowledge and our Year 9s took first place in that competition. We then moved on to the first sporting event of the year: House Basketball. Year 7s and 8s took second place and the Year 9s took first place.

We then moved on to Inktober - a fun competition where the students who took part made art works during October. All of Exeter did very well, and we took first place.

The next competition was maths problem-solving, and Year 8 and Year 9 both took home excellent first places. To finish the term, the Year 7s and 8s took part in the House Rugby competition and the Year 8s took first place in the contact rugby.

The Year 9s took part also in House Debating at the end of the autumn term. At the end of the term, Exeter led the House competition with 60.5 points.

We then kicked off the next term with our first major competition: House Music. With our ensemble taking first place with a rendition of 'Stand by me', Exeter also won first place in the music choice song with the whole Junior House coming together and singing 'I'm Still Standing' by Elton John.

The next competition was House Table Tennis, where Year 7s took first place and Year 8 and 9 took second places. House Hockey followed with Year 8s A and Bs both winning for the House.

We then had the Burghley Run, with Exeter's Year 8s winning their event.

Adding up at the end of the term, Exeter House was still in the lead with 108.5 points. In the summer term, we had the ACT competition, where students who took part made a piece of artwork, a short story, a cake or cookie, photography, or Photoshop, all on the theme of 'layers'.

Year 7 Exeter House and Year 9 took first place overall throughout all the competitions.

This year as House Captain I have enjoyed being able to organise the House, gain leadership skills and encourage students to get involved. By doing all those things I have been thrilled to be Exeter House Captain.

**MATTEO CENGARLE DESFORGES**



## Senior

What a great year for Exeter House this year! I am proud to have played a small part in all the great things our students have achieved. It has been incredible to get back to some kind of normality at school and have so many activities and events on throughout the year. I have enjoyed seeing a different side to so many Exeter boys, out of the MFL classroom.

A BIG thank you is due to all members of the House for their involvement and enthusiasm in House events. A special mention to all of our Year 13 Exeter students, in particular House Captain Raffa Parker-Humby and his deputies Asa Monahan and James Rothwell.

They have set an amazing example to the rest of the House, and have been hugely involved in organising and taking part themselves in all activities.

I am sure all members of the House will remember how amazingly Asa directed in House music - a hugely talented individual. We wish our Year 13 Exeter students well in their future endeavours at university, travelling, working abroad, or whatever they plan to do.

Many of our boys have played a part in our House hockey, football, badminton, table tennis and volleyball matches during the year. It was fun and exciting to watch how well they worked as a team, and to see how eager some were to step in at the last minute sometimes!

A special thanks to Ben Beech and Dom White in Year 11, as they were absolute stars helping to organise and be part of the Year 11 sports teams. Also, thank you to James Laud and Oliver Cengarle-Deforges in Year 10 for always putting themselves out there to take part in sports events, chess or debating.

A massive "well done!" to all the boys in my House for conducting themselves so well this year. Thank-you to all our tutors, Heads of Year and the other three housemasters who have supported me this year with all the events. There has been a fair amount of healthy competitiveness and camaraderie amongst us.

I am so grateful to have worked with such an amazing House and look forward to the activities next year.

**MS R M NUZZO**





# Radcliffe



## Junior

Thankfully this school year has seen a return to a full calendar. As ever, Radcliffe has been up for the challenge in every House event, putting in some dominant displays to win many competitions.

At the beginning of the autumn term, Radcliffe started off strongly, winning the first event of the year which was the Year 7 chess. They then followed that up with a Year 8 second place in the chess.

Year 7 continued their winning streak by taking the maximum four points in both the general knowledge and basketball competitions. The Year 9s flexed their muscles to take the tug-of-war crown (with a special mention to Tony Chen at the anchor), along with a respectable second place finish for our Year 8 team.

Two more successes followed in both Year 7 and 8 rugby, ending the term on a good note. It meant Radcliffe finished the autumn term in a healthy joint second place, six points behind Exeter.

We continued this momentum into the spring term with the first event being House Music. Despite a disappointing result in the choice song, we sang our hearts out in the House song, to be awarded second place behind Ancaster. All age groups then competed in the table tennis tournaments with amazing results, winning the Year 8 and 9 entries, and the Year 7s coming a close second.

To follow on from their recent successes, Radcliffe took another double. This time it was in House hockey, when Year 7 and Year 9 both took wins.



Furthermore, Year 7 smashed the Burghley Run, ending a remarkable term for the whole of Radcliffe. This meant we narrowed the gap to Exeter, who were still in the lead.

The most recent competition was the House relays, which yet again, Radcliffe won. Radcliffe took 11 out of 12 points, which was a great result.

A special mention and thank you to Mr Pike and Mr Jordan for their continuous encouragement and commitment to making all the House events possible. We couldn't do it without you!

I would also like to say a big thank you to the deputies of the House, Connor McNaughton and Ted Parkinson, for all their support. The effort and determination that they have both put in is an example for everyone.

**CHARLES SHARPE**



## Senior

The first half of the autumn term was largely dedicated to the House Music competition. A handful of boys performed a stunning rendition of 'Stand By Me' and the whole House performed 'I want It that way' in the unison song.

The boys practised with great persistence and by the time we reached the competition, they were making a remarkably great sound! The judges didn't mark in our favour, but we certainly felt we were in the mix to win it.

Our musicians were rocking the House again at the Charity Rock Concert in November. They performed 'Freaking Out The Neighbourhood' and 'New Flesh'. David Turner, Mansell Harvey, Oliver Mollett, Will Sanderson, Sean Doody and William Lewis have all been hugely influential in the music programme. In particular, I must thank David Turner, Deputy Head of House, who led the music so passionately.

Sport heavily features in the House programme and it was a slow start to the year for Radcliffe. However, a victory in Year 11 badminton got the ball rolling, and this was backed up by a win for the Year 10 chess team. We then closed out the autumn term by topping the merits.

During the spring term, the Year 10 table tennis and squash players did the House proud, and we capped off the term with some courageous running in Burghley Park. Seeing so many boys participating in this event is always a cherished moment, but even more so when you see the 'Blue Army' battling for places, firm in the belief that every point counts. As we closed out the spring term, with 67 points on the board, we were down in third place in the overall standings, and a whole 15 points off the leaders, Exeter.

Radcliffe boys don't die wondering, and the summer term has certainly been a collective effort. Volleyball is clearly our strength (and height) as we swooped up the Year 10 and Sixth Form titles. Such is the strength in depth, we were fielding two teams, subbing them in and out like a professional NFL team.

A huge number of Year 10 and 12 boys represented the House as we chased down the overall title. We won the Seniors and came second in the Colts competition. Sadly, despite a valiant summer term for Radcliffe, we came up four points short of Exeter, who won the overall title. However, the collective effort and unity shown is something of which to be proud.

A huge thank you to Harvey Ratcliffe for leading the House and to all the leavers who have played their part over the years. As I leave Stamford School, I hand over to Mr John Wood, who I know will continue to drive the House forward in September 2022.

**MR C ESSON**

“A huge number of Year 10 and 12 boys represented the House as we chased down the overall title. We won the Seniors and came second in the Colts competition.”



# Burghley Run 2022

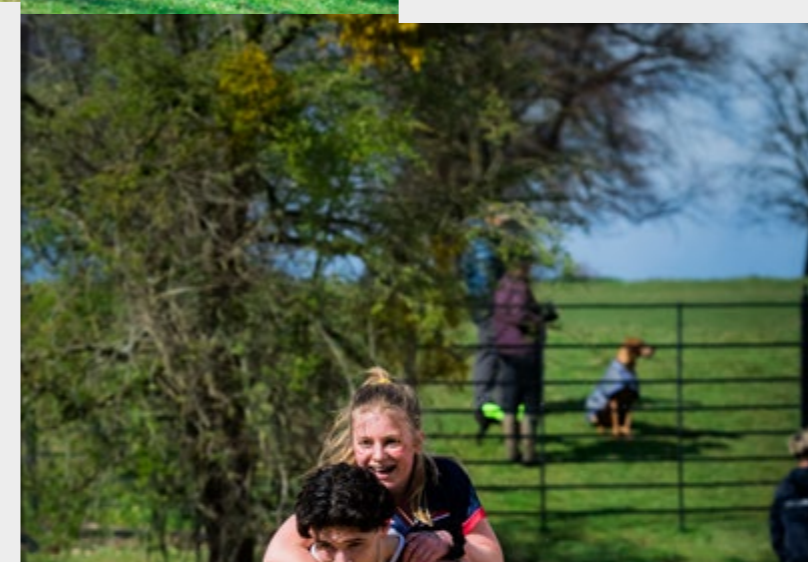
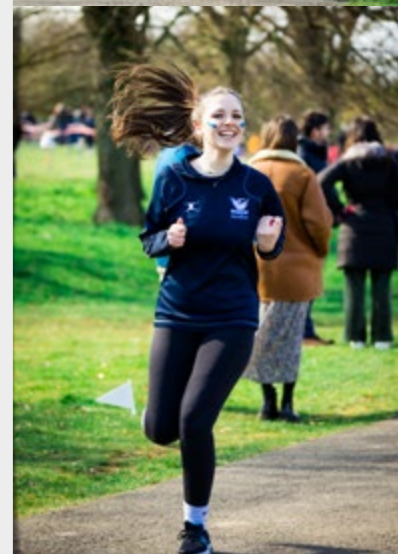
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE COVID, THE WHOLE SCHOOL TOOK PART IN THE BURGHLEY RUN. A HEAVY SNOW FLURRY AT THE START INSPIRED EVERYONE TO COMPLETE IT AS FAST AS THEY POSSIBLY COULD...

Over 1,600 Stamford students unite for Burghley Run... Celebrated as a major annual cross country fixture in the Stamford Endowed Schools' calendar, the Burghley Run was held in March, bringing over 1,600 pupils from all three schools together at the same time running the same route. Pupils from Stamford Junior School were joined by boys and girls from Stamford High School and Stamford School all starting and finishing in the same place with different routes designed for different age groups.

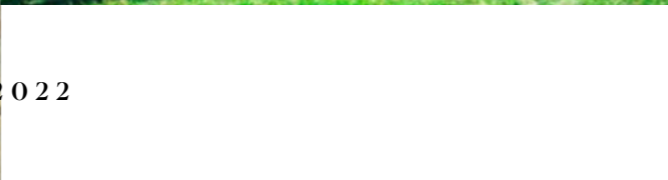
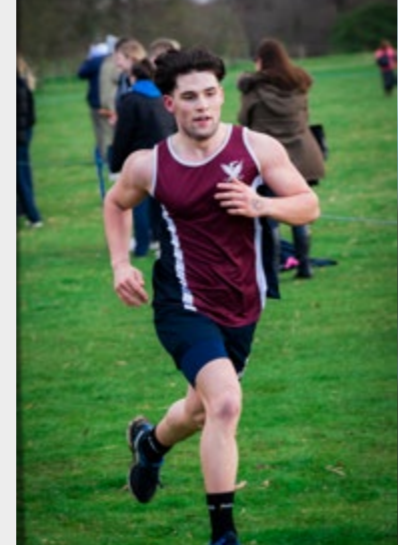
A long-standing tradition originating at Stamford School, the Burghley Run now includes all three schools and encapsulates perfectly the feeling of community and Stamfordian spirit, starting from as young as reception children at Stamford Junior School. Pupils of all ages are supported by their peers no matter which school they attend evoking a true sense of belonging and sportsmanship for all.

The run, which varies in length depending on age, takes place on a specific route around Burghley Park and whilst it is a test of endurance and determination it is, more importantly, a celebration of the enjoyment of outdoor sport and running in the stunning surroundings of Stamford.

Director of Sport for the Stamford Endowed Schools, Mark Nasey, comments, "The Burghley Run provides a wonderful opportunity for all pupils from reception to Year 13 to come together and hopefully start their lifelong enjoyment of sport. The memories created at sporting events like these last a lifetime and we hope our students, from as early as reception, can learn the enjoyment and reward that can be gained from a healthy, well-balanced lifestyle that can be hugely beneficial in later life."











# STAMFORD



[stamfordschools.org.uk](http://stamfordschools.org.uk)

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