

WDR FERNSEHEN
... für die Schule!

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Sendefolge	Life in a Boarding School
Zielgruppe	ab 8. Schuljahr
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Manuskript

Start TC: 10:00:00:00
00:04

Amongst the dreamy atmosphere of temples, lakes and beautiful gardens there is a sense that work needs to be done, and done seriously. Stowe is the perfect environment for thinking – and learning.

Stowe is a small place in the heart of England between London and Liverpool. At its centre is an 18th century country house and garden which was originally home to the Dukes of Buckingham. Nowadays it is a home for elite education – the boarding school Stowe.

00:44

**Life in a Boarding School
Cara and the Palace of Knowledge**

**a film by
Ghafoor Zamani**

01:01

Cara Dörenberg is a 16 year old from Lower Saxony in Germany who has been at Stowe for a year now.

01:15

Cara has quickly got used to the strict and well-structured timetable at the school.

01:23 O-Ton (1) Cara Dörenberg

„I get up at 7.30 every morning, and get ready, get on my uniform and get my books. And then we have assembly or chapel for 15 minutes till 20 to 9 and then our lessons start. And we have five lessons in the morning till 12.30 and we have half an hour break in between. “

01:48

She gets dressed for school. A year ago, Cara found wearing school uniform a strange thing to have to do every day. In the meantime, she now knows that these clothes show that she belongs to a particular class, or form as they call it in an English school.

02:06 O-Ton (2) Cara Dörenberg

„Well, the lower school, the third, fourth and fifth form, are wearing tweed jackets and the girls are wearing grey skirts to the knees and the boys are wearing grey trousers. And the upper school, the sixth form, are wearing trouser suits or skirt suits. And the older ones, the upper sixth is wearing – are wearing long skirts and black. “

02:29 O-Ton (3) Cara Dörenberg

„The first day I arrived it was wonderful weather, the sun was shining and it looked all really beautiful.

It was the first time I was wearing a uniform and I was a bit scared because I didn't know anyone and my English wasn't very good. As soon as you are here you don't have a chance to speak German because no one speaks German. But everyone was really nice to me and every one helped me in the first days.”

02:59

Monday. Half-past eight. School assembly in the chapel. The pupils are listening to what the headmaster, Dr. Anthony Wallersteiner, has to say about the events of the past week.

He praises and criticises some of the pupils and hands out awards for sport.

There are 600 “Stoics”, as the Stowe pupils are called, at the school. They meet here three times a week for communal prayer. Non-Christians must also attend, but, of course, do not have to pray. Stowe is open-minded. It is also one of the few elite boarding schools which accepts both boys and girls.

03:40 O-Ton (4) Anthony Wallersteiner, Headmaster

“At Stowe we took the decision that we feel a co-education... a co-educational environment is better for bringing up children, harmonizing the girls and the boys. Because for us that seems to be a better reflection of society to prepare people to live together, to work together, and co-operate.”

04:05

A chemistry lesson for just seven. The classes at Stowe are very small, allowing each pupil to be treated individually.

04:18

Cara needs to choose just three academic subjects for her A-levels. She can even study drama, photography, or theology. Graduating from Stowe often leads the way to Oxford or Cambridge University.

The use of modern technology goes without saying. Each classroom is equipped with a computer and projector for the teacher.

04:41

Lunchtime at Stowe. School meals are very varied here, there is always something for everyone's taste – the self-service menu changes each day.

14 year old Monty Lewis enjoys eating his jacket potato and salad whilst sitting beneath the grand paintings hanging in the large refectory.

05:06

Teachers and pupils eat together, within a friendly and familiar atmosphere – one of the main principles at Stowe.

Cara Dörenberg meets up with fellow pupils and friends of all nationalities when they eat lunch together.

05:24

In 2005, fox hunting was banned in Britain. Stowe School stepped in to save the out of work beagles from an early death by adopting them as part of their free-time activities. Teacher Philip Kennedy tells interested pupils on how to look after the hounds properly. The beagles have become an important interest for many of the pupils.

05:47 O-Ton (5) Philip Kennedy

„The boys and girls come down here every afternoon about three o'clock for an after school activity. And then obviously they are involved also on Saturday, particularly when we take them out. Wednesday and Saturday afternoons we take them out, in the countryside and do drag hunting with them. And we have got around 25 boys and girls who are particularly interested.“

06:11 O-Ton (6) Philip Kennedy

“Having the beagles here is good for the pupils. It’s teaching them responsibility. It’s a completely different side of life that in other schools they just would not see at all, you know.”

06:22

This means cleaning out the kennels themselves as well.

06:31

Traditions may change, but some hunting animals are still loved in Britain. Kit Dickinson prefers looking after the ferrets. Ferrets, unlike the beagles, are still allowed to hunt rabbits.

06:46 O-Ton (7) Kit Dickinson

„What we do is: we put these down the rabbit holes and we put a net over the hole. And what this animal does is it drives the rabbits out. And then we kill the rabbits and then we feed them to the ferrets or we eat them ourselves. So this is a hunting animal. And this is what it’s bred to do- it’s bred to actually hunt things and that’s it’s life, that’s what its supposed to do“

07:11

Nowadays the playful, trusting and energetic beagles enjoy long walks, wandering with the boys through the parkland at Stowe.

The development of the beagle breed is exclusive to England. The Romans acquired the small Greek dogs and brought them to this country for trading and hunting.

07:29

Not only the pupils live in buildings in the landscape garden, but also the teachers and house staff. Just like a large family estate with house and park.

07:41

Although not all boarding houses at Stowe are from the 18th century, they are still named after members of the Duke of Buckingham family.

07:51

The housemaster, Isaac Michael, is in charge of the boys' pocket money.

07:55 O-Ton (8) Dialog: Isaac Michael und Monty Lewis

„Next one please!“ – „Three pounds for the tuck shop please.“ „As much as three!?“

08:03

The housemaster is also responsible for the bank. Boarding is just like living in a family home. Each house has its own housemaster or housemistress, who perform the role of parents.

08:22

They look after their “children” like a mother and father, know everything about them, have control, and are someone to trust.

08:32 O-Ton (9) Isaac Michael

„It's quite a demanding job, because at the same time as being a father figure, you have to be a disciplinarian and you have to make time for your own family as well as the boys in the house. And also you have to deal with the parents, the pupils and the staff. So sometimes you are caught in the middle of all three of them“

08:58

Lyttelton is a girl's boarding house, strictly separated from the boys. Judy Gracie has been a housemistress here for 14 years.

09:16 O-Ton (10) Judy Gracie

“Sometimes you just have to sit with them and talk to them if they are homesick or they are crying or if there is a problem. Sometimes we just talk. When they come everybody is homesick – and I actually think that's a good thing. If a child is happy at home and they miss their parents that's really good. The problem is if they don't want to go home then that is far more of an issue for me, if it comes to a holiday and they actually do not want to go home.

09:41

The house parents spend a lot of free time with their “children”. This brings them closer together. Monty and his friends have lots of possibilities for playing and relaxing after lessons – but there is hardly ever enough time for it.

09:56 O-Ton (11) Monty Lewis

„Sometimes it can get pretty annoying at times doing quite a lot of work. But then we have the weekends where we can do loads of stuff we've got sports matches in between other houses. There are quiet a lot of activities to do. A few weeks ago we had the Boot-Leg Beatles a band playing in the Roxy and that was good fun”.

10:28

Sunday morning. The only free day of the week. Watching horror films in pyjamas is part of it. Cara and her friends can relax whilst breakfasting in their boarding house. The younger

boys and girls have to eat in the refectory. No-one here needs to lay the table, clear away or wash-up in the kitchen. They live here all-inclusive – for just 30.000 pounds a year.

10:59

Monty likes being more active on Sunday mornings. He plays rugby with his team. Many of the talented rugby players at Stowe have been trained by professionals.

11:17

Rugby seems harmless compared to the military drill and hard survival training which the girls and boys at Stowe can choose to put themselves through.

11:58 O-Ton (12) Trainer

„That was perfect, absolutely perfect!“

12:02

Quite a few pupils choose military training as part of their education. Basic military discipline has always helped public school pupils to climb higher up the social ladder. In the United Kingdom there is no compulsory military service. Those pupils who decide to join the military service later, consider this as excellent preparation for a professional officer's career.

12:27

A Royal Guard from Buckingham Palace and an army officer check the parade of recruits at Stowe. The already strict public school discipline is pushed to its limits with a Royal inspection.

12:42 O-Ton (13) Guard from Buckingham Palace

“You look like a cowboy.”

12:44

Apart from training the pupils how to march, they also control the correct fit of the uniforms.

13:02

Cara prefers to dance rather than to march. She has already won the world championship in tap-dancing. But her tight school timetable and the many other free-time activities on offer allow little room for romance.

13:23 O-Ton (14) Cara Dörenberg

„It’s allowed to have a boyfriend as long as you don’t do public display of affection. And so it is kind of allowed to hold hands but you’re not allowed to kiss in public or to hug each other. I mean, they don’t mind if you do it at your home or at their home, I mean, they can’t control that.”

13:44

Night falls over Stowe School. The girl’s rooms are no-go areas for the boys, and vice versa. Cara’s housemistress comes to say goodnight...

13:56 O-Ton (15) Dialog Judy Gracie und Cara Dörenberg

„Good night Cara!“ – „Good night Mrs Gracie!“ – „Sleep well!“ – „Did you have a good day?“

13:59

...and to check if everyone is in their own bed.

Time to turn out the lights. Dreams of learning in a place like this are not cheap. Not everyone can afford Stowe and have the world at their feet.

14:30 *Letztes Bild nach dem Abspann*