

Stowe

## Speech Day

Saturday 25 May 2024

We are  
Change  
Makers

Stowe School, Stowe, Buckingham MK18 5EH  
enquiries@stowe.co.uk +44 (0)1280 818000 www.stowe.co.uk

### Prize Winners 2024

Basil Williamson Prize (Head Boy)..... Toby Bursnall  
Drayson Prize (Head Girl)..... Alice Bryant  
Deputy Head Boy ..... Owen Gunn  
Deputy Head Girl..... Annie Flint  
J F Roxburgh Prize for Classics ..... Jemima Pearson-Gee  
Quentin Bertram Prize for Classics .....Carlo Galliani  
Peters Bone Prize for English.....Grace Barnett  
Euan Dawson Prize for English ..... Grace Nasmyth  
Basil Aimers Prize for English.....Anton Poon  
Gavin Maxwell Prize for Creative Writing for English Language..... Jonelle Famutimi  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Film Studies & Media..... Constance (Connie) Goodrich  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Film Studies .....Gracie Lavery  
John Webster Prize for French..... Isabella Fuller  
Friends of Stowe Prize for French ..... Paula Sanchez Podesta  
Capel Cure Prize for French..... Camille Thornton-Izzard  
J G Riess Prize for German ..... Leyla Baser  
Friends of Stowe Prize for German..... Andrii Mamakin  
Telford-Wardley Prize for Spanish .....Harry Langford  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Spanish..... Leander Sautter  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Spanish..... Daniel Flames  
Scott-Gall Prize for History ..... Sophie Lloyd  
David Arnold Prize for History..... Joseph Barnett  
Syrett Prize for History..... Grace Barnett  
Robert Barbour Prize for Philosophy & Religion ..... Jemima Pearson-Gee  
Burroughs Prize for Philosophy & Religion ..... Mia Ortola-Madden  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Philosophy & Religion..... Paul Ostroverhy  
Wainace Prize for Geography..... Emilia Scott-Copley  
Peter Bates Prize for Geography ..... Frederica Hodges  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Geography ..... Oliver Dickmann-Peña  
Humphrey Foster Prize for Physics..... Archibald (Archie) Jacobs  
Anthony Pedder Prize for Physics..... Ziwei (Gilbert) Xu  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Physics..... Luiza Cavalcanti  
W D Hards Prize for Chemistry ..... William Crabb  
Anthony Pedder Prize for Chemistry..... Ziwei (Gilbert) Xu  
Hayward Prize for Chemistry ..... Huanrui (Martin) Zhang  
Choyce Prize for Biology ..... Isaiah Rugasira  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Biology..... Kiaan Fesharaki  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Biology..... Xiaojuan (Grace) Huang  
Stewart Prize for Mathematics..... Leo Mullins  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Mathematics..... Jasper Hayes  
Pearman Prize for Mathematics ..... James Delap  
James Mayne Prize for Economics..... Josephine Parker  
Peter Longhurst Prize for Economics ..... Daniel Flames

David McDonough Prize for Politics ..... George Smith  
James Mayne Prize for Politics ..... Samia Tinubu  
James Mayne Prize for Business ..... Lula Packshaw  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Business..... Madeleine (Maddie) Baker  
Robert Houghton Prize for Computer Science ..... Thomas Bicknell  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Computer Science..... Jasper Hayes  
Barrus Prize for Computer Technology ..... Zhewen (Ryan) Zheng  
Worsley Prize for Design ..... Archie Small  
John Holland Prize for Design ..... Isabella Reeder  
Andrew McAlpine Prize for Design..... Tamsin Cusiter  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Design ..... Caroline (Coco) Bartoszewski  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science..... Charlotte (Lottie) Moffat  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science..... Madeleine (Maddie) Baker  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Sports Science..... Oliver Dickmann-Peña  
Tattersall-Wright Prize for History of Art ..... Meila-Bella (Mimi) Price  
William Dady Prize for History of Art ..... Amelia Storer  
Richard McDougall Prize for Art ..... Satis Johnson-Greene  
Richard McDougall Prize for Art ..... Yi Lin Wan  
Anthony Howard Prize for Art ..... Ceara Cusiter  
J F Aimers Prize for Art ..... Pia Glynn-Smith  
Ian Jenkins Prize for Drawing and Observation ..... Diana Kordenkova  
Ian McCarey Chorister Prize ..... Jemima Pearson-Gee  
Patricia Roxburgh Prize for Singing ..... Holly Ford-Langstaff  
Coxe Prize for Outstanding Progress in Music ..... Owen Gunn  
Burchett Prize for Contribution to Stowe Music ..... Constance (Connie) Goodrich  
Leslie Huggins Prize for Excellence in Music..... Eva-Grace Ng  
Mozart Trio Prize ..... Kaiqi (Milo) Xing  
Andrew Croft Prize for Drama Performance ..... Camille Thornton-Izzard  
Bryan Henshaw Prize for Drama ..... Claudia Kilonback  
Bryan Henshaw Prize for Drama ..... Sophie Lloyd  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Drama ..... Arabella Williams  
Jonathan Kreeger Cup for Lower School Drama ..... Victoria Lee  
Bell Quaiach for Drama..... Finley Simpson  
Aikman Cup for Drama ..... Holly Ford-Langstaff  
Brian Stephan Prize for Engineering..... Martha Blake  
Elizabeth Chubb Prize for Psychology ..... Emilia Scott-Copley  
Friends of Stowe Prize for Psychology ..... Amelia Taylor  
Friends of Stowe Prize for EPQ Projects ..... Jemima Pearson-Gee  
Friends of Stowe Prize for EPQ Projects ..... Sienna Houghton  
Head's Special Prize..... Hemish Rajguru  
Head's Special Prize..... Joshua Parker  
Head's Special Prize..... Isabelle (Izzy) Kaye  
Head's Special Prize..... Phoebe Haynes  
Head's Special Prize..... James (Rafe) Witheat  
Head's Special Prize..... Louis Haley  
Head's Special Prize..... Araan Sobhan

# PAUL'S FINAL ESSAY

## BIOETHICS

### **“Case Study: Against A Physician-Assisted Death” (Using Principlism to Evaluate the Morality of PAS)**

Physician-assisted suicide (PAS) is deliberately terminating a patient's life to relieve them from suffering. A patient is unable to travel elsewhere and wishes to receive assisted suicide from a physician, but this violates local law. The following analysis has been developed using principlism to decide whether the physician will accept the patient's request for assisted suicide. I will argue that the patient must not commit PAS based upon three primary arguments: the violation of established law, the difficulty in determining a patient's mental capability and a physician's duty to preserve the sanctity of human life.

Physician-assisted suicide is distinctly different from euthanasia. Both are made for the purpose of terminating a patient's life peacefully and painlessly to end their suffering. However, euthanasia involves a doctor directly terminating a patient's life to prevent them from further suffering, whereas PAS allows the patient to choose the time of their death. This facilitates a self-administered death and the choice to change opinion at the last possible moment. This is very important because in a situation where a patient is unconscious, euthanasia allows a close family member to decide whether the patient must die. In PAS, it is up to the patient to decide whether they want to die, but also the physician to agree to deliver the patient the necessary lethal drugs. PAS is currently legal in Canada, Spain, New Zealand, Switzerland, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, parts of America and Australia. Whilst the constitutional courts of Columbia, Germany and Italy have legalised PAS, it has still not entered legislation (Wallace).

A patient has the right for self-determination. The *Bouvia v. Superior Court* (CA) states that “The right to die is an integral part of our right to control our own destinies so long as the rights of others are not affected (Morrow).” A patient who will suffer must have the decision on how they would like their suffering best treated, even if this results in death. For example, people suffering chronic illness or those that have incurable suffering may wish to end their lives now rather than personally suffer. A patient could have a proper goodbye with their loved ones and put everything in order if they know that they will die at such-and-such moment of their life, rather than living in the uncertainty of the future. As such, we must uphold the patient's right for autonomy and they, rather than institutional entities, should be the deciders of their fate and what they should do with their body.

However, the patient has no right for self-determination when their mental capacity for decision-making cannot be determined. In evaluating the factors that are influencing the patient's decision, the physician must find out whether emotional and circumstantial factors are influencing the patient's choice. The patient could be a victim of forced coercion, abuse and exploitation. A survey done in 2011 entitled ‘Does This Patient Have Medical Decision-Making Capacity?’ suggests that determining a patient's mental capabilities is not so easy (Sessums, Zembrzuska, Jackson). This results in a physician's incapability to see whether the physician's request meets the criteria. Furthermore, in the case of the USA, if the patient is terminally ill, evidence requires prognostication of the patient to determine how much time they have left. Even if they are qualified terminally ill and are predicted to die within six months, the prognosis could be inaccurate and thus the patient has a slim chance of survival. Every patient cannot do as they please because they may be mentally incapable of their decision.

We cannot concede to a patient's demands of assisted death without first taking into consideration the principles of beneficence and non-maleficence. Physicians are here to reduce as much harm as possible to the patient and to anybody that could suffer from the consequences of the patient's death. Perhaps it is best for them to die, for after all it is as they see fit. The outcome remains the same regardless of what we decide; the patient will eventually die. A patient may want to terminate their life to also relieve the financial burden that a terminally ill patient's treatment may entail for themselves and their immediate family. If the patient is willing to donate his organs after his timed death, then we would be maximising good in not only relieving the patient from suffering but also saving people's lives. A physician would therefore uphold his duty if he helps the patient to die, because that decision would help their family with grief and provide other people in critical need of organ donations.

However, the physician must take into account that a patient's autonomy cannot be given priority over established law. Directly violating law may result in legal punishment. The physician may face legal repercussions from the family if he allows the patient to die, for whatever reasons. That family could well have been opposed to the patient's death and further aided by the illegality of the act, seek to legally punish the physician. Also, a physician has the right to object in assisting a homicide upon religious and personal reasons, especially if PAS will result in mental distress. Furthermore, if the physician is subordinated to a medical institution, violating law could threaten to uplift the existing medical institution that is needed to help save other people's lives. We must consider the stakeholders and understand that the physician carries the right for objection and that fulfilling a patient's wish remains a crime punishable in the eyes of the law. This outweighs the benefits described above.

To reiterate, the physician cannot deliver the necessary lethal drugs for their patient to die because they would be breaking the law. Furthermore, in looking at all aspects of principlism, most of the stakeholders in this case are likely to suffer more than the patient if they fulfil his request. Despite the right for personal autonomy, the patient must prove his mental capability which is not easy to determine. The physician has the right to abstain from such a procedure for a variety of reasons. Even if the patient is terminally or chronically ill, writhing in pain and losing the will to live, their decision-making could be influenced by abusive entities intent upon exploiting the patient for personal interest. Deontologically speaking, a physician remains obliged to fulfil his duty in protecting the inherent value of human life and thus the patient is not to be delivered physician-assisted suicide.

Paul Ostroverhy  
Paris, 14/04/2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature appears to read 'Paul Ostroverhy' and is enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

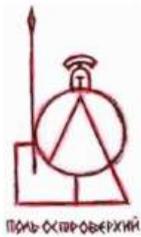
## Works Cited

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Morrow, Angela RN. "What Are the Arguments for and against Physician Assisted Suicide?" *Verywell Health*, Verywell Health, 3 Jan. 2021, <https://www.verywellhealth.com/opposition-to-physician-assisted-suicide-1132377>.

Wallace, Dean. "Where Is Pas Legal." *Isalegal*, 3 Sept. 2022, [https://isalegal.info/where-is-pas-legal/#Where\\_is\\_PAS\\_legal\\_in\\_the\\_world](https://isalegal.info/where-is-pas-legal/#Where_is_PAS_legal_in_the_world).

Sessums LL, Zembrzuska H, Jackson JL. Does This Patient Have Medical Decision-Making Capacity? *JAMA*. 2011;306(4):420–427. doi:10.1001/jama.2011.1023



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**PAUL OSTROVERHY**  
**2023**