

Perseptions

The Perse School newsletter • School news and developments • Issue 24



Introduction

I am delighted to report that we continue to make good progress in both raising and spending money as part of the school's Access to Excellence campaign.

We have now raised about £2.2 million out of our £3 million target to finance bursaries and building projects. We have another £800,000 to raise and hope to reach our target through the generosity of both large and small donors. We will be running an alumni telethon in late August/early September to encourage Old Perseans to support the campaign. In particular, we hope that those OPs who benefited from 'Direct Grant' places at the school will be willing to help fund Access to Excellence bursaries, so that the next generation of children can also benefit from a Perse education, irrespective of family means.

The Access to Excellence fund was always intended to be an expendable endowment with the school using donations immediately. I am thus pleased to report that Access to Excellence gifts are already funding pupil bursaries and that the Pelican Hall (one of three building projects supported by the campaign) has been completed and is in use. The Hall has had a major impact on Pelican pupils, greatly extending their opportunities for music, drama and physical education.

We remain very grateful to all those parents, friends and Old Perseans who have supported the Access to Excellence campaign, and as a small thank you donors will have received invitations to a Garden Party on Tuesday 1st July.

Edward Elliott, Head-Elect

PELICAN

New Hall

The builders were as good as their word and we officially took possession of our splendid new Hall the day before the Summer Term began – a whole term ahead of schedule. It is a wonderful space, being more than double the floor area of our 'old' hall, and teachers and pupils alike are enjoying being able to spread their wings. We are looking forward to our official opening ceremony in the autumn, when members of the Britten Sinfonia Orchestra will be performing an original composition alongside the pupils. The Association of Pelican Parents are wasting no time in planning a large-scale social function for next term, which up to now has been impossible due to space constraints.



PREP

Inspirational author visits

It is wonderful to see the reaction of the children when they meet the person behind some of the books they have seen on library and bookshop shelves.

The effort that we put into preparing for the visits opens the children's eyes to a new area of interest and the visits have never failed to arouse a huge response from them.

The children are inspired to work at their creative writing, to read more, to realise that scope for their own work lies in everyday events all around them; they need only keep their eyes open for inspiration for their own characters and plots. The visits also serve to introduce the children to a wide range of genres, to make them

more amenable to books that they might not otherwise have picked out for themselves.

Normally, we welcome two or three authors into school in a year. However, in 2007, the children had access to five authors, and so far in 2008, to four. Since September 2007, they have met Lucy Hawking, Jeremy Strong, M.G. Harris, Eoin Colfer, Paul Cookson and Dominic Barker. Already booked for 2009 is illustrator, Korky Paul.

The reason we have been lucky enough to meet so many authors is largely due to the excellent links we have with Heffers and Waterstones bookshops in Cambridge, who have brought authors into our school as part of their visit to the stores.

PELICAN

The Little Red Hen

The children in the Reception classes performed the story of The Little Red Hen with great enthusiasm.

They brought their characters to life with their wonderful costumes and fantastic singing and dancing. The audiences showed their appreciation by donating £119.21 to SOS Children's Villages.



PREP

Trip to France

Forty-five Year 5s had a very successful and sun-filled weekend trip to France during May. We had a new excursion to the aquarium in Boulogne, followed by the usual visits, with an exercise in the local market and a bit of shopping, making mayonnaise with a French chef, discovering how chocolate is made (including the necessary tasting session) and learning about goat farming. As always, there were lots of evening activities for the boys and we were victorious once again in our annual football match against Pinewood Prep School, with a winning goal from Oliver Cantrill. This year we went to the seaside town of Berck and conducted a questionnaire with the very patient residents and visitors to the town. The boys made a sterling effort to speak French and were much complimented by all they met.

PELICAN

Science day

On April 16th the Pelican held a day of Scientific Investigation. The whole school was involved in the planning, preparation and excitement of this day. We were ably assisted by Mr Michael Hinton and our good friends from the Babraham Institute.

The children had an opportunity to take part in hands on discovery and observation of a full range of scientific activities, including changing states (using ice and goop) and forces (building boats and testing cars on ramps). We attempted to build some strong structures using spaghetti and marshmallows and experienced the full force of water and air pressure using pumps and the spectacular Coke and Mentos mint experiment.





GEOGRAPHY

Lower Sixth Form visit to the Cevennes National Park

Thirty-two Perse geographers spent a week in April at the Eagle's Nest Field Centre in the Cevennes National Park in Southern France. The Cevennes is an excellent area for geographical fieldwork, with a wide range of physical environments from granite peaks to limestone escarpments, as well as providing an excellent opportunity to examine human geography in a different country.



CHARITIES

Perse pupils 'Sleep Out' to raise money for Emmaus

A group of Third, Fourth and Fifth Form pupils at The Perse aimed to raise as much money and awareness about Emmaus as possible within the school by spending a night sleeping rough, and experiencing first hand what the homeless consider everyday life. Emmaus is a charity that provides food, clothing and shelter to help people move on from homelessness. Companions (residents of the Emmaus community) are given a chance to make a fresh start, by working full time renovating and reselling furniture donated to their charity. So far, the school has raised £2,700 for Emmaus from the Sleep Out, non-uniform day and Charity Cabaret.

ENTERPRISE CONFERENCE

Dragons' Den

Doug Richard with the winners



The 4th Annual Perse School Enterprise Conference was held on June 10th at The Moller Centre, Cambridge. Eleven schools attended and the day was made possible by the kind sponsorship of a number of businesses. This year we were extremely fortunate to welcome special guest speakers, Doug Richard, Julie Meyer, Andrea Blakesley, Chris Harris and Claire Lander, who highlighted opportunities for entrepreneurial success and answered questions about their business careers. A 'Dragons' Den' was recreated in which the school teams pitched business concepts to the panel

of 'Dragons', chaired by BBC2's very own Dragon, Doug Richard. The five teams were all of an extremely high standard, but it was Culford who took first prize with their 'iDyne': an environmentally friendly iPod charger that attaches to a bicycle and uses pedal power to charge. They received book tokens in addition to the exciting opportunity to be mentored by local business entrepreneurs. The day was organised by The Perse School and aimed to stimulate creativity, innovation and enterprise, and to encourage the next generation of entrepreneurs.

DRAMA

Perse Players, who enjoyed 'sell out' status last time around, return to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Pirandello's *Henry IV* will be performed at Venue 45 (Old St. Paul's Church Hall) at 6.30pm from Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd August.

Further information is available on the festival's website:

www.edfringe.com
www.perse.co.uk/upper/events/





EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Community Art

In March and April the Community Art group worked with St Alban's Primary School Year 5 pupils. The pupils visited the Upper School Art Department and made decorative clay tiles which they then glazed. Perse pupils then visited St Alban's Primary School on Field Day, delivering the tiles and using the opportunity to work in small groups designing a mural for their class room.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

CCF climb aboard the whistling chicken leg

A group of eager CCF cadets was greeted by a helicopter in the middle of the school grounds in May. The Gazelle helicopter (affectionately known as 'the whistling chicken leg') was flown by the British Army Air Corps and touched down on a makeshift landing zone in the Perse grounds, much to the bemusement of the Lower School cricketers! After a short introduction to the Army Air Corps and a safety briefing, groups of three took turns to accompany the pilot's swooping flight over Addenbrooke's Hospital and the Cambridgeshire countryside. Many thanks to RSM Warren, whose myriad of contacts within the Armed Forces made this opportunity possible, and to Captain Liz Dunn AAC for her piloting skills, which she so kindly donated.



HISTORY

Tour to Normandy

The History Department's first tour to Normandy took place during the Easter/Lent Term holidays, with 41 Third and Fourth Formers and five staff participating. The tour concentrated on the events of 6th June 1944 and included visits to all five invasion beaches, the sites of airborne landings and several museums. In addition, the party visited the Bayeux Tapestry and had free time to explore Honfleur, Arromanches and Bayeux. On the return journey the group visited the V3 installation at Mimoyecques near Boulogne.

ENGLISH & DRAMA

The Third Form's Shakespeareance

As part of the school's programme for Summer Term Field Day, all members of the Third Form visited Stratford-upon-Avon, as organised by the English and Drama Department. The visit enabled pupils to contextualise their study of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in the scheme of work for the Year Group. Pupils visited Mary Arden's house (the Shakespeare Countryside Museum), the Shakespeare Birthplace Museum, and attended a performance at Shakespeareance, as well as having time to explore other historic sights in the town (including its famous theatres).

LANGUAGE

Perse goes global

From September, all First Form pupils will study a new subject, Global Studies, which will introduce them to Japanese, Russian and Portuguese languages and cultures. This new initiative is designed to help pupils prepare for a world increasingly dominated by BRIC economies (Brazil, Russia, India and China). Having studied BRIC languages in the First Form, students will be able to continue them in subsequent years through after school clubs. Alongside Global Studies, Mandarin Chinese is being introduced as an after school language option with initial lessons at beginner level. We are also delighted to announce an extension to our Arabic language provision, with pupils now receiving tuition in the Sixth Form so that they can apply for Arabic courses at University.



The Annual Fund

Alongside the major capital campaign (Access to Excellence) the school operates an Annual Fund. Each year the Annual Fund raises around £75,000 to support smaller scale projects to enhance education at the Pelican, Prep and Upper.

The Annual Fund Committee (made up of current and past parents, Old Perseans, staff, Governors and pupils) invites 'bids' from staff who are seeking funding for specific projects. These bids are considered at committee meetings in November and April, and as the committee represents all Perse constituencies, the selection process is both democratic and rigorous. At the April meeting over £20,000 of Annual

Fund grants were awarded to projects that included:

- Football coaching at The Pelican with Cambridge United
- The construction of a new wildlife garden at The Prep
- Equipping The Upper School scouts, CCF and Geography departments with global positioning equipment
- Introducing jewellery manufacture as a new Art and Design option at The Upper

If any current or past parent, or Old Persean is interested in joining the Annual Fund Committee, please contact Liz Jacobs at developmentofficer@perse.co.uk

Access to Excellence Telethon 2008

In the last week of August and the first week of September, recent Perse pupils will be phoning Old Perseans to update them on developments at the school and provide more details about the Access to Excellence fundraising campaign. Access to Excellence is our major capital campaign (the last such campaign was in 1997-1998) and aims to raise £3 million to finance access/hardship bursaries and three major building projects.

During the last Perse telethon in 2006, over a third of Old Perseans who were contacted made donations and £100,000 was raised. Given the importance of the Access to Excellence campaign in helping to maintain the Perse's 'Direct Grant' traditions, we hope to exceed the 2006 figure.

More details about the telethon, including the opportunity to opt out, will be posted out to Old Perseans in early August.

Legacies

After you have made a provision for your family and friends in your Will, please consider leaving a gift to The Perse. For information on how to make a gift, please see the website or contact Liz Jacobs in our Development Office (Tel: 01223 403 836).

The new Prep classroom

Nearing completion and scheduled to open in time for the start of the 2008-2009 academic year.



Past Parents' Reception

It is not only pupils who want to keep in touch after they have left school. Keen not to lose the regular contact established during their childrens' years at The Perse, in 2007/08 a group of parents whose youngsters had left school, set about organising a series of events to bring 'old' parents back together for social gatherings. With the support of the school, we started with a party at school in October 2007 and were delighted that more than a hundred parents returned to re-establish friendships with other ex-Perse parents and staff members. The evening focussed on discovering what the boys and girls were up to. Display boards and booklets of information supplied by parents (containing often very youthful school photographs) made for interesting reading.

A very busy coffee morning followed in February at the home of Carolyn Aston and in May we held a drinks reception at the Freemasons' Hall in Cambridge. Over 60 people came along including parents with sons (of course boys only at that stage) who had left as far back as 1992.

Having had such an enthusiastic response to our first efforts, we are planning further events in 2008/09, the aim simply being to resurrect and maintain friendships and to keep in touch. The next event will be an evening drinks reception at The Perse on Friday 21st November 2008. If you would like to find out more please contact Amanda Augstein (Alumni Officer) on: alumni@perse.co.uk.



UPPER

Charity Cabaret

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Charity Cabaret on Friday 9th May. We raised over £1,500, which will be split between Emmaus and the Teenage Cancer Trust, who are opening a specific teenage ward for cancer patients at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

UPPER

Art Show 2008

Our A level and GCSE exhibition in May showcased the work of some of our most talented young artists. Various themes were explored through the works: 'Identity', 'Musical Connections', 'Built Environments' and 'The Machine' among others. The A Level exhibition will be displayed in The Upper School's Pelican Gallery until October and a collection of images can be viewed on the Art Department's page of the school's website.



Photo: Cath Fryers

Sports update

Hockey

The 1st XI completed a record-breaking season as Cambridgeshire and East U18 Champions. The U16a XI were also crowned Cambridgeshire County Champions in the U16 National Schools Championships.

Adam Miller and Michael Franklin won their first England U16 caps in matches against Spain, Holland and Germany at Easter.

Dudley Spiers, Patrick Carson, Duncan Graves, Harry Whittle and Louie Freeman Bassett represented Cambridgeshire U17s, who won the East U17 County Championships, and subsequently played in the National County Championships at Beeston.

Rugby

The U14a XV and U14b XV played a competitive fixture list, and both won three games. The U12a XV had a 100% record this season, scoring a massive 173 points in four games. They also came runners up in the East of England U12 Rugby 7's competition.

Events



18th – 23rd August Perse Players' present Pirandello's *Henry IV*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival
24th August Alumni Telethon begins

Open Days – all welcome!

Sat 27th September Upper School, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Fri 3rd October Prep School, 9.30am – 12.00pm
Sat 4th October Prep School, 9.30am – 12.00pm
Sat 11th October Pelican School, 9.00am – 12.00pm
Mon 3rd November Upper School Sixth Form Open Evening, 7.00pm – 9.00pm

UPPER

Success in Engineering Technology

We are delighted to announce that four Perse pupils have been awarded prestigious Arkwright Technology Scholarships in 2008 – a record for the School. Of the 733 applicants from 246 schools, 220 Scholarships were awarded. Awards have been made to Perse pupils Adam Nightingale, Edward Taylor, Marcus Peabody and William Reynolds. Congratulations to them all. The Arkwright Scholarships Trust aims to encourage and stimulate high ability 15-16-year-old students to take up engineering or technical careers by awarding Scholarships during A Level.

PREP

Boys shine in National Maths Challenge

Five of our older Prep pupils won medals in the Finals of the National Maths Challenge. 108,000 children took part, medallists had to finish in the top 300, and Alex Harris finished in the top 50. This is an outstanding achievement. The medal winners: Christopher Stone (Bronze), Owen Good (Silver), Dilip Goyal (Silver), Oliver Aldridge (Silver) and Alexander Harris (Gold).

Jamie Golding and Oliver Goldberg, who narrowly missed out on medals, also deserve praise.



Netball

Three netball teams participated in matches this term, indicating the popularity of the sport within the Sixth Form. The teams' victories included the first VII's of the Wyomndham College Cup and their record victory over Bedford Modern 43-3.

Basketball

The U19 team qualified for the play-offs in the Cambridge League, losing in the semi-final by just one basket.

Table Tennis

The U19 team (Mark Dawkins, Moumen Kuwaider, Sam Pickup and Greg Prior) became East School Teams Champions and qualified for the National Finals, coming 4th overall. Priyan Davda and Matthew Evans reached the quarter finals of the U13s County Champs, Greg Prior reached the semi finals of U16 and Sam Pickup reached the quarter finals of U19.

Badminton

Tom Zhang and Shudong Li won the county

doubles competition, with both also reaching the semi finals in the U15 singles competition. Tom Zhang also won County Doubles Champion in U16.

Shooting

Will Thwaites has started his 2012 Olympic training programme after receiving sponsorship for competition guns and receiving expertise in fitness training from the BOA.

Martial Arts

Anthony Demetriades and Edward Taylor won gold to become National Champions at the Independent School National Judo Competition. Anthony (Fourth Form) took Gold in the U14 age group 'Over 60kg' category and Edward (Fifth Form) retained his title from last year in the Under 16 age group 'Under 66kg' category.

Orienteering

Thomas Louth was selected for the National Team and represented England in U15 Orienteering. He won Gold in the M14 age class at the British Championships, a Silver in the M14 and Gold in the Friendship Relay.