

Introduction

The future is taking shape

I am delighted to report that excellent progress is being made with our expansion and co-education plans, and we have met or exceeded all of our current development milestones.

As part of the transition to full co-education, the first 20 girls arrived at the Prep in September 2007 and quickly settled in. They took the total pupil numbers in the Pelican, Prep and Upper over the thousand mark for the first time in our 400 year history.

The Prep has received record applications for 2008 entry and to accommodate the increasing number of pupils we are building a new classroom block which will incorporate specialist art and technology rooms. The new teaching block is fast taking shape with all the structural steel work in place. It will be ready in time for our 2008 pupil entry who will also benefit from some refurbishment of Leighton House. All told, by next September we will have invested over £4 million in improving and upgrading facilities at the Prep. At the same time we will have managed to maintain the attractive, open nature of the Trumpington

Road site, keeping the green spaces that generations of Prep pupils have enjoyed.

We are investing heavily in the Pelican to ensure that our youngest pupils also benefit from our ambitious development programme. Construction of the new Pelican Hall began last summer. The building works are now ahead of schedule, and we hope the Hall will be ready for use in the Summer Term. The new Hall will extend opportunities for music, drama and physical education whilst allowing some existing classrooms to be refurbished.

The Upper continues to experience high demand for places and we have a record number of girls set to join the Lower Sixth in the autumn. Upper school building works have started in preparation for our phased transition to full co-education from 2010 onwards. We have just completed the construction of a netball court and this summer we are due to build a new Astro turf pitch, widen the school gates and upgrade reception.



Alongside our building works, we have been focusing on our Access to Excellence Campaign which is a major fundraising drive to help finance the Perse's development programme. We set ourselves a target of raising £3 million by December 2008, and are delighted that due to the generosity of Old Perseans, parents and friends of the school, we have already received pledges in excess of £2.1 million. This is a very exciting stage in the development of the Perse, and with new buildings under construction, the future is literally taking shape.

Edward Elliott, Head Elect

Breaking Records

Oxbridge Offers

Sixth form students at The Perse have achieved more offers from Oxford and Cambridge this year than have ever been received in a single year at the school. 26 offers have been made to current students – 14 from Oxford and 12 from Cambridge.

'I am very pleased for all the successful applicants and their families. Securing a place at Oxford or Cambridge is a real accolade and a personal triumph for all involved. A successful application is the product of years of dedicated study and hard work and I am thrilled that so many of our students have had their talents recognised by the award of a place.'

Edward Elliott, Head Elect

The Prep

The Prep is also breaking records as it has had more applicants for places at 7+ and 9+ plus entry than ever before, including significant numbers of girls. Such has been the demand for places at 9+ that an additional class for boys and girls has been created.

'I am delighted that so many pupils and parents want to apply. They will join the school at an exciting stage in its development with the completion of our new classrooms and the transition to full coeducation.'

Gareth Jones, Head





1CB move into their new classroom at the Pelican

With great excitement and anticipation, 1CB began the start of the Spring Term in their new extended classroom. Both children and staff appreciated the space, the natural lighting and the aesthetically pleasing design. The meeting of the old and new classroom is seamless!

Asked to describe their new learning environment, the children's comments included: 'fantastic', 'brilliant', 'it's lovely to have space to play and learn in'. I think their views sum up ours!

Chriss Baynes, Year 1 Teacher

French Drama comes to the Prep

A visit from Dan Roro and his friend Pierre transported us to France and into the magical world of his Bistro and then his spooky chateau. The whole school watched the performance of *Le chateau de Dan Roro* with much laughter, excitement and at times fear of the unknown. We are enormously grateful to all involved with the Annual Fund for giving us the chance to have this cultural experience in school.

Dan spoke French most of the time with plenty of mime and gestures to make it clear what he was saying. He performed tricks on a unicycle, kept *les assiettes* spinning on sticks as well as singing a song about *la statue with son copain René* through ventriloquism. He juggled eggs in preparation for the *omelettes* and much to the shock of one Year 6 boy and to the

hilarity of everyone else, the *œuf dur* turned out not to be so *dur* as it cracked on his head. The children were kept on their toes and at many times asked for the meaning of French words which I am pleased to say they were able to do every time. There were pantomime moments with screams of *derrière* and *devant* as Dan looked for his friend around the stage. It was a cultural enrichment for the children and a wonderful experience for all who watched. It gave French a real purpose and gave the children the confidence that they could both understand the language and use it with a native speaker. Once again I would like to thank everyone involved in giving us this opportunity at school.

Tessa Humphrey, French Co-ordinator



Sport at the Prep

Traditionally the major sports at the Prep School have been football and cricket and it is a proud boast that every boy represents the school at least once both in year 4 and year 5. When girls entered in September 2007 some restructuring of the Games Department was necessary and netballs were bought for the first time! The girls had half a term of netball coaching and half a term of football, and at the beginning of the second term they were given a choice. Interestingly the split between the two sports was 50/50, so it is not just netball fixtures that will be required as the girls move through the school.

In November a new adventure playground was installed, funded partly by the Annual Fund and partly by the Perse Prep Parents, and as can be seen by the photographs, it has proved to be very popular. We believe it is important that young children still get the opportunity to test themselves on this kind of equipment.

Richard Dickinson, Director of Physical Education

Community Service at the Upper

Every other Monday, Dr Stevenson drives me and a couple of other boys down to Home Close, Fulbourn's home for the elderly. We make the journey during the "Enrichment Programme" section of our timetable, since we have elected to spend the time serving the community. It is certainly not the most glamorous of work and there is little to show for our efforts, but it has been immensely worth while. Among other pleasures that make our time worth while, the highlight for me has to be the sense of happiness and self worth that the residents feel on seeing me return to visit them for the second year running.

Our standard activity is that of reading poetry. However, at the Home my activities have also ranged from attending a 100th birthday party to playing my oboe at Christmas time. At times, I've even found myself juggling in front of the residents! It's been an experience I'm glad not to have missed!

Edward Foster, Lower Sixth

Since coming to sixth form at The Perse, I have been involved with volunteering at Addenbrooke's Hospital, as part of the enrichment programme. Every Monday afternoon, I help out on the cardiology ward. I have run errands for the staff, helped to organise paperwork and patient notes and I also sit and talk to the patients, doing anything I can to make them feel more at home.

During the two years, as the staff on the ward have got to know me, I have been given an increased responsibility. I am now allowed to go to the pharmacy and also ring doctors directly. This may sound quite trivial in terms of enrichment, but it is exactly why

I got involved. I'm currently pursuing a career in medicine, and have found that being on the ward, and getting to know the general proceedings has really helped me in gaining an understanding of what a career as a doctor entails.

I am interested in cardiology, and have been fascinated when I have been allowed to go on ward rounds with the doctors, listening to the diagnoses that they make, and finding out more about different conditions. This has given me a good insight into the practice of medicine.

Being a volunteer has been really rewarding; by doing some of the smaller tasks, it makes it easier for the staff as they can get on with other things. I enjoy helping out, and have been glad to get involved with the Young Persons' Volunteer Programme at the hospital, and I hope that the experience will help me with my university application. I recommend it to anyone, whether applying for medicine or not, as an option to do something different for enrichment, which has provided me with invaluable experience.

Meha Patel, Upper Sixth

offer much more. The qualification is aimed at students who have the ability to undertake independent and self-directed learning, and the ability to think laterally, critically and creatively. Additionally it will attract more UCAS points than a traditional A level.

In particular it will enhance three areas:

Stretch: with challenging concepts built into syllabus content and assessment involving open-ended questions.

Innovation: encouraging new approaches to subjects, new methods of delivery and new forms of assessment.

Linearity: assessment at the end of the two-year course makes for greater coherence in teaching and learning, by giving teachers the freedom to structure their courses in the most appropriate way for their students.

Pre-U in Psychology at the Perse

There are currently 44 pupils studying Psychology at the Perse. As Psychology is a Science it is a useful subject for higher education, particularly for those wishing to study Medicine. We have chosen to follow the Pre-U Psychology specification because we feel it is most appropriate for Perse students. It is designed to 'stretch and challenge' and a special feature of it is an 'explore more' section for those who have a specific interest in a key study or specific topic area. A Perse education is designed to be challenging and to encourage independent thinking. We welcome the opportunity to offer pupils even more of a chance to follow their specific interests.

David Clarke, Psychology

News from Psychology: Pre-U starts September 2008

What is Pre-U?

Pre-U (Pre-University) is a new qualification for 16+ developed by Cambridge International Examinations. It is designed to run alongside traditional A levels but will

Studying A Level Philosophy at the Perse

The unexamined life is not worth living. Socrates

When asked about the A Level course in Philosophy, students respond that it is 'demanding', 'stimulating', 'challenging' and 'rewarding' (and occasionally 'really annoying!'); it asks a great deal of 16 and 17 year-olds, but at the same time gives them the opportunity to discuss ideas and questions central to our experience as human beings. It has been offered at the Perse in the Sixth Form since 2000, and numbers have grown steadily since then.

'Studying Philosophy at A Level has enabled me to engage with difficult and taxing arguments in a way that is unlike any other subject', writes a current Upper Sixth

student. The two-year A level requires students to analyse several philosophical texts in detail, currently Descartes' *Meditations*, Hume's *First Enquiry*, and Sartre's *Existentialism and Humanism*. 'I particularly enjoyed reading Sartre, because of his views on freedom', comments a student who hopes to combine Philosophy and Modern Languages at University. They are also required to read sections of the writings of Plato, Aristotle, and other philosophers.

With 100% of candidates at A2 achieving an A grade last year, the Philosophy Department encourages students to be ambitious in their plans for study beyond A level, including PPE at Oxford, Philosophy at Cambridge, or in combination with Maths,

Physics or Modern Languages. It is also a natural subject for anyone considering Law, or Medicine, and the current Lower Sixth class of 14 includes students combining Philosophy with a very broad range of other subjects.

Judith Gardom, Philosophy



The important role of Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise scheme is something that I really must recommend. Doing neither business studies nor economics, this is something which is refreshingly different from the other things on my timetable, and something everyone enjoys.

An example of one of our projects is making calendars, like those seen in the picture. We made these entirely ourselves, ordering all the materials; finding images to fill three different varieties; then printing and binding them ourselves. Whilst there was a fair amount of very last-minute work and there were times when it looked like we wouldn't be ready for the Christmas Fair, we managed to get everything together for the big day and enjoyed some very successful sales!

The scheme gives a good insight into things such as salesmanship and managing time pressures, both of which we have

improved on immensely since we started, and both of which are skills that could well be useful later on in life.

Finally, it has to be said what fun YE is. All the team members get on really well and manage to produce some very high-quality goods, and it's very satisfying to receive praise for something you and your friends have made yourselves.

Chris Knowles, Financial Director, Attent10n, Lower Sixth.

Attent10n launched their latest exciting product, an FM transmitter for iPods and MP3 players, at the Grafton Trade Fair, at the Grafton Centre on 2nd February. So far, the success of their products has enabled the team to pledge 15% of their overall profits to The Darwin Nurseries, a charity which helps adults with learning disabilities.



Arkwright Scholarship Awarded to Karl Bates (L6)

Karl Bates (Lower Sixth) was awarded the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship for his outstanding work in Engineering Technology at a ceremony held at the Institution of Engineering and Technology, London, on 26th October 2007.

Karl's scholarship is sponsored by Cambridge Consultants Limited and was presented by Sir Alan Rudge CBE FREng FRS, Chairman, ERA Foundation. In all, 202 Scholarships were awarded following applications from 743 candidates.

Karl, who is studying Technology, Double Maths, Chemistry and Physics for his A levels, was selected to receive his award after demonstrating a commitment to design, technology and engineering and participating in a team activity. A selection of scholars' work was exhibited during the Award Ceremony, which was sponsored by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.



RAF Cadets Gain Flying Experience

During the Michaelmas Term 8 cadets travelled to RAF Wyton near St Ives, for air experience flying. This takes place in fully aerobatic Grob Tutor aircraft and the pilots always enjoy giving the cadets the opportunity to experience the thrill of aerobatics. In addition 5 cadets attended a Gliding Induction Course at RAF Henlow, Bedfordshire.



Winter Adventures for the Scouts

The 4th form Scouts and the 3rd form Patrol Leaders (20 boys in all) went to the Lakes for three days in January. We stayed in a very basic but nice lodge owned by Leeds University near a farm and some good walking areas, where the boys were responsible for all the cooking, food preparation and cleaning. The idea was to teach the boys a bit more about winter-walking, navigation, and to generally continue to improve their (already pretty strong) outdoor skills; such as being well-equipped and planning sensible routes including escape options. We also did some micro-navigation, getting the boys to use the maps to locate and reach actual individual crags, ponds, walls, and buildings, and some orienteering.

Chris Ingram, Outdoor Pursuits



Will Parker, Calum Frost, James Hopkin, Ant Rubinstein-Bayliss, Matthew Morgan, Jacob Arcangeli and Josh Fentimann reach the very windy top of Pike of Blisco.



Elliot Reeman, Hal Large, Ant Rubinstein-Bayliss and Ben Hopkin standing outside our lodge at 8:30am on the first morning.

Access to Excellence Campaign – the final stage

£2.1 million of our £3 million target, has so far been pledged. The money is being raised to finance £1.6 million worth of access and hardship bursaries, with the remaining £1.4 million being spent on three building projects: The Pelican Hall, the Technology Room at the Prep, and a second gymnasium at the Upper. As a former Direct Grant institution with a grammar school ethos, the Perse has long been committed to widening social access so that pupils with the ability but not the financial means can attend the school. Talented bursary pupils benefit from a Perse education, but also enrich the whole school community. By raising £1.6 million we hope to double the number of bursary holders in the school from 65 to 130, with the average bursary being worth 50% of a full fee. Hardship bursaries will be reserved for those families of existing Perse pupils who face significant financial hardship due to parental bereavement, long term illness or unemployment. Hardship bursaries should help us ensure that children can remain in the school and benefit from educational stability at times of great family stress.

A series of Access to Excellence Campaign receptions for parents, friends and Old Perseans are being held throughout the spring. (Dates are shown in the Events section.) If you would like to attend, or make a donation to help us raise the remaining £900,000 please contact the Development Office on 01223 403836.

We are very grateful for any gift whatever its size, and are deeply appreciative of the support that Old Perseans, parents and friends of the school have shown.

Edward Elliott, Head Elect

Annual Fund

Projects 2007–08

The Annual Fund Committee met in November 2007 to review the first of this year's round of applications. Six projects were approved, at a total cost of just under £19,000. At the Upper, I.T equipment is to be provided for the Art Department, as is initial funding for jewellery making and metalwork classes. Improvements will be made to the Fitness Suite, providing more aerobic and resistance equipment. At the Prep, funding was approved for a performance by a French Drama company and additional playground equipment. Meanwhile the Pelican is to acquire more Design Technology resources, including construction kits.

A second round of funding will be distributed in April 2008.

Legacies

After you have made 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 the Development Office.

Current Building Projects – Update

The Pelican Hall now has its roof and plastering is being undertaken inside. As you will see from Page 2, classroom 1CB has been completed early and was occupied by the pupils immediately after the New Year. During the Christmas holiday advantage was taken of the pupils' absence to carry out certain alterations not possible in term time.

At the Prep, concreting works have been completed. The first floor and roof steelwork is in place and the internal blockwork commenced in the New Year.



Limited Edition School Print

We have a limited edition Perse School print available to order. Painted in watercolour, by Alison Roberts, the image shows a summer cricket match on the school fields. The print is approximately 12" by 15" and is available unframed, or framed in mahogany or pine. Please contact the development office for further information and prices.

News in **brief**

WIND BANDS RAISE £1,140 FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

On 6th December, both the senior and junior wind bands performed the 10th David Mein Memorial Concert on the Addenbrooke's Hospital Concourse, raising £780. David was a pupil at the School and member of the Wind Band, and died suddenly in 1997; since this time the Bands have performed annually in order to raise funds for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. This was then followed on 8th December by a performance at Scotsdales Garden Centre, where the Senior Wind Band raised £369 money for the East Anglian Children's Hospice.

PERSE CHRISTMAS FAIRS

This year's Upper School Christmas Fair was another resounding success. Grateful thanks go to Estelle Post, Sarah Thwaites, Jan Wojtecki and their large band of very willing and able helpers. We are delighted to announce that, we have raised over £2,000 for E.A.C.H.

Meanwhile the Prep raised over £2,700 at their Christmas Fair, for CLAPA (Cleft Lip and Palate Association).



PELICAN SUPPORTS UNICEF

Each year the Pelican supports the Day for Change organised by UNICEF and this year their fund raising focus is to provide better sanitation in The Gambia. The Day for Change took place on 1st February and the children were invited to wear home clothes in the colours of The Gambian flag, in exchange for a donation to the charity.

PROMISING YOUNG COMPOSER

Congratulations to Nick White, 2nd Form, who won the 13–15 Category of the Cambridge Young Composers' Competition, with his piece The Eye based on the artwork of M.C. Escher.

EVENTS

5 th March	Old Persean Campaign Reception	House of Commons, 7pm
6 th March	Middle School Campaign Reception	Hall, 7pm
12 th March	Pelican Campaign Reception	Pelican, 2.45pm
13 th –15 th March	Perse Players' Production <i>Henry IV</i> – Pirandello	Theatre, 7.30pm
17 th March	West Road Concert	West Road Concert Hall 7.30pm
16 th April	Past Parents Campaign Reception	Hall, 7pm
7 th May	Old Persean Open Day	Upper, from 11am
1 st July	Annual Fund Donors' Garden Party	Upper, from 6pm

For further information please contact: development@perse.co.uk

Sports **Update**

Perse Hockey Players Selected for England Trials

5th formers Adam Miller and Michael Franklin have been invited to attend England U16 hockey trials. Their selection follows impressive performances for the East of England U15s at the recent Regional Championships, where Michael also captained the team and as part of the U16 Indoor team that won the National Championships last year.



• Hockey

The U16 Indoor Hockey Team have managed to retain their National Title. The squad remained unbeaten in the group stages, before beating Ipswich School 5–4 in the Semi-Final. The final showdown against Whitgift School took place at the Birmingham National Arena, where we won 5–3. The U18 Indoor team were Cambridgeshire Champions and qualified for the East Finals.

Meanwhile, outdoors, the U16 XI won the County Championship, and will now represent Cambridgeshire in the National Championships. The 1st XI have begun

their season with victories at Oundle (5–1) and against a strong Uppingham side (3–2).

• Rugby

The 1st XV had their most successful season in 17 years, winning 13 out of 16, with 1 draw and 2 losses. They also won the inaugural Eastern Counties Cup competition, beating Norwich 53–10 convincingly. Outstanding matches included wins against Stamford and Wellingborough. The U14A Team had their first victory over Uppingham 22–10.

• Netball

The school is now able to put out 3 netball teams, with keen competition for places. The completion of the purpose built netball court has given the school another valuable facility for the girls. The team recently won against Bedford Modern with a record score of 43–4.

• Table Tennis

Mark Dawkins, Moumen Kuwaidar, Sam Pickup and Greg Prior will represent The Perse in the National Schools Regional Table Tennis Finals, after playing a qualification round in Grantham against schools representing Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire and Norfolk.

• Girls Hockey

The 1st team enjoyed victories against The Leys, Wyomndham College and St Johns Leatherhead. There is a full fixture card for the 2nd XI, who also beat The Leys. This year also saw the girls beginning indoor hockey, and competing in the National Indoor competition.

• Other

Tom Louth has been selected to represent England U15 in orienteering, and Will Thwaites has been identified as a potential 2012 Olympic competitor in clay pigeon shooting and is currently undergoing training with the ex-world champion.