

# Introduction

## Co-education at the Prep

This time last year we were just beginning to explore the possibility of bringing forward our co-educational initiative at The Prep by admitting girls a year earlier than planned. Less than twelve months later, twenty girls joined an intake of 39 boys at 7+. Co-education had begun. So well have they settled in, that we are now asking ourselves if there was ever a time when they were not with us.

In the best Perse tradition they are academically able (entrance criteria were precisely the same as for the boys), alert, questioning and articulate. They work hard and play hard and possess a real spirit of enterprise and adventure. In this, their first year, the girls are taught as a single sex group for forty per cent of their timetable, allowing them to get to know each other really well and bond as a group. Fiona McDonnell, whom many will remember fondly from the Pelican, has joined us as their form teacher and she has brought tremendous energy and experience to our new venture.

But new pupils came from far and wide, not just the Pelican, and this has had a most positive effect on integration.

### How do the boys feel?

I believe they have responded extremely well. Of course, the Year 3 boys have come to us straight from co-educational pre-preps and primary schools, so for them it's nothing new. The boys in the year above, who spend a good deal of their time in the same play areas as our new intake, have realised that the girls are quite nifty with a soccer ball. The boys in Year 5 and 6 (so often the guardians of the status quo and who are enjoying some of the traditions we felt important to preserve for them) had to admit that it really didn't feel very different.

However, I will never forget the wonderful moment last year, when an eight year old boy asked me, 'How long will the girls be staying for, will it be a week or a term?'



'For always', I replied. 'Okay', was his response as he continued with what he was doing!

The first year having started so promisingly, we are now busy recruiting for next year's intake. For my part I am thrilled that the educational habits and attitudes, so central to the success of the Prep over many years, are now something that we offer to boys and girls – Access to Excellence in action.

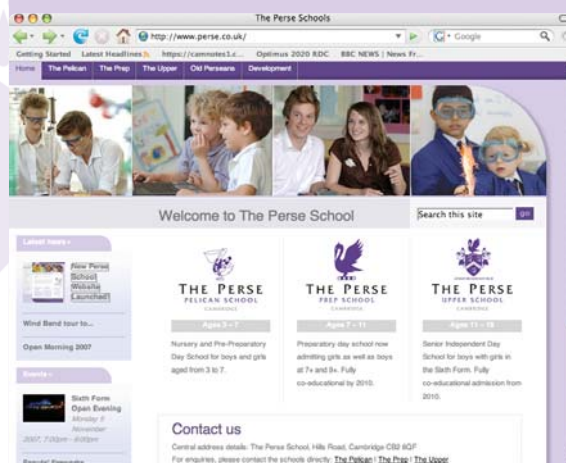
**Gareth Jones, Prep Head**

## The Barry Room



The New Meeting Room was officially renamed The Barry Room on 30th August. The room has been named in memory of Beryl Barry who died on October 6th 2006 and her husband Keith. Both Beryl and Keith devoted their lives to the Perse; as teachers, House Master and Mistress, and Keith later as a governor. The opening lunch was attended by Keith and his son Chris, alongside many other friends. A wooden plaque is displayed inside the room, next to a photograph of Keith and Beryl and citations describing their dedicated service to the School.

## The New Perse Website



The School has recently launched its new website. Please take a moment to browse through –

**[www.perse.co.uk](http://www.perse.co.uk)**

# Percy arrives at the Pelican!



Staff, pupils and parents are delighted with the pelican statue that sculptor, and Old Persean, Matthew Sanderson has created to stand on the front lawn of the school. Percy is the APP's 10th anniversary gift to the school.

Year 2 children were invited to sketch their own designs which Matthew then used as inspiration.

The bird is sculpted from recycled steel. Using recycled materials is not only a key signature of Matthew's work but also plays a part in the school's teaching curriculum, so hopefully the children will enjoy trying to identify the various components used to create this beautiful work of art.

The inscription on the base is a quote from one of the pupils: "To celebrate 10 happy years"

**Sarah Sherrington-Scales,**  
Reception teacher

*"This beautiful sculpture is a wonderful representation of what the Pelican does for our children – it gives a very firm foundation to their school career and the wings to fly confidently through the next stages of their lives."*

**Juliet Evans, APP Chair**



## Pelican Harvest for SOS Children's Villages

The Pelican raised almost £550 for SOS Children's Villages at their Harvest Festival on October 15th. Instead of the usual harvest gifts, the pupils were invited to bring money equalling the cost of their favourite meal.

George Salisbury (year 1) said: "My favourite food is fish and chips so I brought in £2", meanwhile Finn Baldwin (year 1) brought in the cost of pasta and sauce. The money collected will be used by the SOS Children's village in Tlokweng, Botswana to buy paint to decorate their school rooms.

## Pelican pupils hunt for 'street furniture'

It is very useful having the Upper school so close to the Pelican and the Pelican pupils do enjoy visiting the other schools that make up the Perse as a whole.

Year one spent a pleasant morning in September walking up to the Upper as part of their Autumn Term's Geography work. They were looking out for 'street furniture' on route and spotted a variety of traffic signs. On arrival, they were delighted to find the pelican on the weather vane and then posed for a group photo on the steps of the main entrance.

**Chriss Baynes, Year 1 Teacher**



## New Prep Play Area



The new hard play surface at the Prep provides the pupils with much more space to play. Not only can they play football and table tennis, but the pupils also enjoy having somewhere different to sit and spend time with their friends. Its position means that staff can easily supervise those playing in the area and the other children playing on the grass nearby.

Meanwhile work on the adventure playground equipment started in mid October, with the intention of being completed in a couple of weeks.

## Spending a Gap year at the Prep



Ivan Rodriguez has come over from Ecuador to spend his gap year working at the Prep. He assists the teachers in the classroom and helps teach the pupils football. Ivan has also had the chance to contribute to extra-curricular activities such as swimming and the safer cycling scheme. Schools in Ecuador are very different from those in England; pupils of all ages attend one school, from Year 3 up until Year 11, and Ivan is finding it an interesting experience working in an English Prep school.

"I came to England to help decide what I would like to study at university. Whilst here I spend my weekends travelling around the country.

Working and living in England is also helping me to practise English, and I think my being here gives the children an opportunity to meet someone from another culture. We often talk about where I'm from and they ask me lots of questions."

**Ivan Rodriguez, Prep Gap Year Student**

*Photo shows Ivan with Year 3 pupils: Natasha Dell, Abigail Callaghan, Tabitha Renfrew-Knight, John Matthew Barker and Tom Clayton*

## Prep Summer Art Competition

Congratulations to the winners of this competition:



Alexander Scott (5A)



Thomas O'Connor (6 Alpha)



Thomas Read (4 Alpha)

# Science **Abroad**

## Physics Workshops in Kuala Lumpur

One of the benefits of moving to International GCSE in the sciences has been the establishment of a good relationship between the Perse School Science Department and University of Cambridge International Examinations. In November, Head of Physics Dr David Tricker will be running four workshops for Physics teachers at CIE's annual International Teachers' conference in Kuala Lumpur. Open to teachers from around the world, this is CIE's major flagship professional development conference. The focus of this year's conference is the effective use of assessment for learning as a tool for improving student achievement.

## Physics Presentation in Mauritius

Earlier this term, I was invited to give a presentation on the use of ICT to inspire science teaching at an international science teaching conference in Mauritius.

This conference, organised by CIE, was attended by government ministers, education officials and teachers from all around the world, including representatives from Antigua, Uganda, Brunei, Malaysia, South Africa. The aim was to discuss the latest teaching methods and theories, with special reference to the teaching of science in developing countries. In the physics department, we use ICT in some way or another in nearly every lesson and we have a lot of experience of using it in novel ways, so we were able to put together a talk showing the many different applications, especially those that can still be done without the latest equipment.

There were talks and discussions about the future of science education. Issues covered included whether it is more important to provide public scientific literacy, or to train up our future scientists; how to implement a National Curriculum; what is the best way to assess science; and how to introduce science at primary level. What was overwhelmingly clear was the drive and enthusiasm in so many teachers,



even in the face of unbelievably thin financial resources by UK standards. It was a great opportunity to exchange ideas with teachers from different places – the same issues crop up all over the world – and it was quite satisfying to be able to share our department's knowledge of the physics websites now available online, a free resource that is invaluable in schools with limited money.

**Chris Ingram, Physics**

## Travels to **Africa**

As the inaugural recipient of the Harper-Glaxo Smith Kline Travel Scholarship, George Dean (OP 2006) spent the summer visiting Kenya. He worked in the mornings at Compass School, a charity school for orphaned and vulnerable children, who cannot afford to attend government primary schools. Working at the school was often both difficult and hugely rewarding. In the afternoons George coached rugby at Alliance High School, a high achieving state boarding school, where he lived with the family of one of the teachers. Again the work ethic of the staff and students was astonishing, the final year pupils began school work at 5am and ended at 11pm.

Whilst in Kenya George did lots of travelling, including to a safari in the Masai Mara, the peaks of Mount Kenya, the Great Rift Valley and the coral reefs of the Indian Ocean. "I had an amazing time in Kenya, the African hospitality was humbling and the spirit at the primary school was incredible, and I know one day I'll be returning, for which I must thank both the Harper family and Glaxo Smith Kline. I also hope a link can be established to allow more (Old) Perseans to travel to the schools I worked at in the future."

The Harper-Glaxo Smith Kline Gap Year Travel Scholarship is an annual award of up to £750 available for applicants who demonstrate that their travel plans include significant charitable activity, personal learning or unpaid work experience.



## Exam Results **2007**

Well done to all our pupils who distilled two years of study into a few tense hours at the exam desks in the old gym and the Margaret Stubbs building in June.

For the third year in a row, 80% of all GCSE entries received A\* or A grades. There were outstanding performances in a wide range of subjects – over 80% of pupils gained A\* grades (and none less than a B) in Music and in Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics. Especial congratulations to four students who gained top grades in all their GCSE subjects and in Additional Maths – Alex Brown, Joseph La Hausse, Alex Mann and Harry Whittle – and to another 12 pupils within one grade of that total.

It was also an excellent year at A-level. Half of all our Upper Sixth leavers gained at least three A grades. Some particular areas of note were Economics, Further Maths and Philosophy, where all gained A grades. Students of 'hard subjects' excelled with over 80% of those studying Maths and Physics gained A grades. An impressive total of 10 pupils gained Distinctions in the English Literature Advanced Extension Award. Congratulations go to Charles Parker who gained an outstanding five A grades, in all three Sciences and Double Maths; Matthew Barfield who gained one of the top five marks in the country at Spanish A-level, and to Richard Whittle, who gained the same distinction in Technology.

**Chris Pyle, Deputy Head (Curriculum)**



## Hockey and Rugby Tour to South America – Summer 2007

The first stop was in Vina Del Mar, Chile where we played St Margaret's School, The Mackay School and St Peter's School. In Santiago and Concepcion, the Grange School (named after Grange Road in Cambridge) and St Johns School gave us a very warm welcome.

The schools are very keen to set up a GapYear exchange and it would be a fabulous experience working at the school and visiting the glaciers of Patagonia, the desert of the Atacama and the ski resorts of the Andes. The standard of sport was very high and the majority of lessons are taught in English. It was a real pleasure visiting the English schools in Chile and we were looked after extremely well. I hope we can

entertain them if they come to England in the future.

In Argentina we visited the Estancia, the home of an impressive polo ranch and beef estate and enjoyed some rest and relaxation, horse riding, cycling, trekking.

We played Balmoral School and St Matthews College in Buenos Aires and



we hope to see St Matthews College in Cambridge next year when they visit on a cultural and sports tour. One of the highlights of the tour was a visit to the Iguacu National Park where we experienced an amazing speed boat trip through the gorge and they took great delight in taking the boats into the spray from the falls to ensure that we were all thoroughly wet by the end. Everyone experienced the best geography lesson on waterfalls ever!

The tour was a fabulous success with the 1st XV finishing the tour unbeaten and the U16's and girls hockey playing some superb matches and learning a great deal in preparation for the start a new season.

**Dan Cross, Deputy Head (6th Form)**

## CCF Army Camp

The Annual Summer Camp was held at Barry Buddon, Scotland. The Army section competed in a range of activities to a high standard throughout the week's training. We won the command task stand set by the Royal Engineers a stand that included some interesting practical experience of mine clearance. Cadets were able to use Signals kit and a Royal Artillery 105 Light Gun.

All completed a lengthy hill walk in the Cairngorms, with one group covering three Munros, each with a summit of over 1000m in height, in one go...an excellent achievement. Cadet Helen McCarthy was awarded Most Improved Cadet during camp.

**A J Peploe, Major  
Contingent Commander**

## RAF Camp



The RAF Section of Perse CCF spent a week camping at RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. This Station, home of the Hercules, provided plenty of opportunity to learn about this aircraft. Cadets participated in a special programme of activities organised for them, including shooting, Air Experience Flying and a visit to the Fleet Air Museum at Yeovilton in Somerset.

**S J Kern, Squadron Leader, Officer  
Commanding RAF Section**

## Field Weekends

This October the Army Section spent the Michaelmas Field weekend in Bassingbourn. The Cadre and NCOs undertook live fire range work and the recruits were introduced to living in the field. Platoon Commander and Army Scholar Nicholas Massey and Platoon Sergeant Nathan Post proved themselves to be accomplished marksmen on the Light Support Weapon.

The RAF section travelled to RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire where they carried out a night mapping exercise. A visit to RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire followed where they were given a guided tour of the cockpit of the new Typhoon (Eurofighter) aircraft.

## Perse Players return to the Edinburgh Festival



The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is best described as a 'full on' experience regardless of

whether you are there as actor, spectator or both. The city heaves with people, all anxious to see shows, street theatre, spectacles and stars. Against this kaleidoscopic backdrop the Perse Players' reprised the popular 2006 Sixth Form Play *Black Comedy*, by Peter Shaffer.

After much hard work from students and staff, the show proved to be a great success. The cast played to full houses and received favourable reviews from the 'Edinburgh Guide'.

Outside the confines of Venue 45, the students refined their leafletting and publicity techniques and experienced a wide range of theatre, including stand up comics of variable talent, a superb a capella concert and an adaptation of *Macbeth* featuring witches on stilts.

**Liz Bellamy, English and Drama**

## Duet Sailing Trip 2007



At the beginning of October, six Perse pupils spent the weekend crewing the Edwardian racing yacht *Duet* in the Small Ships Race.

The race began at 9am and although the wind was strong, we knew that *Duet* still had a good chance of winning. We also carried an important guest on board – the president of ASTO, the association that organised the race.

Everybody in the crew was really enthusiastic and put the utmost

effort into their work. *Duet* came home 2nd in a time of around 5 hours and 20 minutes, only 4 minutes and 10 seconds behind our worthy rivals, Dauntsey's School, on the *Jolie Brise*.

There was an evening party hosted by the Council of the Isle of Wight. On Sunday we made a much more light-hearted journey back to Gosport, during which our Skipper and mate resolved not to touch the helm; a plan that was thwarted when a bucket fell overboard, and a practised hand was required to steer the boat round in circles until it was retrieved.

Once back we had the opportunity to haul some of our crew members up the mast, to take in the views of Portsmouth.

**Christina Pettit, Upper Sixth**

## Extension to Science Labs opened by Professor of Physics

Professor John Clarke, an OP (1961), visited the Perse School on 11th September to open the new extension to its science laboratory. As Professor of Physics at the University of California at Berkeley, he later gave the annual Sir Arthur Marshall Arkwright lecture.

"It is good to see that the hard sciences, which so often seem to be in retreat, are flourishing at the Perse. As a physicist, I am particularly pleased to see that physics is very strong with outstanding A-level results for both boys and girls. And I am delighted that the school is reinforcing success by investing in these splendid new facilities."

90% of Perse pupils got an A or B grade in their A2 physics this summer and 90% got an A\* or an A at GCSE physics.



## Annual Fund Garden Party 2007

There was a celebration on Tuesday 3rd July 2007 for all supporters of the Annual Fund 2006-7 – more of a Hall party than garden party, thanks to the weather! It was a great opportunity for donors to observe some of the projects that the Fund has supported first hand including the first IV rowing boat, music equipment and photographs taken using the Prep's new digital camera. They were also given a demonstration of the new science equipment and had the chance to talk with staff and pupils. Over 103 guests came on the evening.

## The Perse becomes incorporated

On 1st September 2007 the School became a charitable company limited by guarantee, following a path taken by many independent schools in recent years. There were three main reasons why Governors took this step. First, it provided an opportunity to update the constitution and bring it into line with modern standards. Second, it will afford trustees, who are of course unremunerated, the proper protection of limited liability, so that the School will continue to be able to recruit trustees with the skills needed to run the School to best effect. And third, it will make it easier to deal with third parties, who are often unfamiliar with the status of an unincorporated charity.

The process towards incorporation was undertaken in concert with the Perse School for Girls which itself has become a separate charitable company. The new status of each school, and the clearer reporting requirements each will now have, will allow them both better to reflect their current day governance and will help to improve the clarity of information available to the public.

Gerald Ellison, Bursar

## Change in the team

In January 2008 Roly Owers will be leaving the Perse, having been the Development Director for the past 4½ years, to take up the post of Chief Executive at the ILPH (International League for the Protection of Horses). Being an international equine welfare charity, the work of the ILPH very much fits with his veterinary background; as such he felt it was a dream job and an opportunity that he could not turn down. The process has already begun to recruit his successor whom we hope to have in post early next year. We are not losing Roly altogether as he will remain as a Pelican parent.

## School Developments

At the Pelican, the steel framework for the new Hall has been completed; the brickwork is progressing well and the roof construction is due to start.

Work on the extra classroom block at the Prep is also going well and the foundations are complete. The concreting of the ground floor structure has now begun.

Meanwhile at the Upper, the finished cloisters are providing excellent protection for pupils when queuing for lunch and assembly. Planning permission has recently been granted for a new tennis and netball court and this will be completed during November.



## 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 Roly Owers in the Development Office.



## Perse Access to Excellence Campaign

The countdown to the public launch of the Perse Access to Excellence Campaign is nearly complete. Its aims have been defined, with the principal one being to enable the Perse to double the number of bursary pupils at the Upper over the next decade.

The campaign target has been confirmed as £3million, which is to be raised in pledges by December 2008. Nearly sixty percent of this funding will be put towards an expendable

bursary fund to help realise the Perse vision of broadening access to the outstanding educational opportunity that it gives pupils. The remainder will fund a capital project at each of the three Schools.

There will be a series of campaign receptions from January 2008 for each constituency of the Perse, to which you will be invited, where you will be able to find out more about the campaign. In the meantime please do contact me for further information. (ron.haylock@perse.co.uk).

**Ron Haylock, Chairman,  
Perse Access to Excellence Campaign**

# News in **brief**

## A WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW TEACHING STAFF THIS TERM...

### PELICAN

Sue Curry – TA  
Rachel Mannall – Yr 2 teacher  
Kirsty Tramm – TA

### PREP

Fiona McDonnell – Yr 3 Teacher, Girls  
Jane Richardson – Director of Music

### UPPER

Nicole Allcott, Biology – Chemistry  
Christopher Anderson – Biology  
Michael Goodson – Physics  
Peter Howard – Chemistry  
Juliet Lanagan – Art  
Gareth Roots – PE  
Kirsty van Ryneveld – Maths

## WIND BAND TOUR TO ICELAND



The Senior Wind Band recently visited South Iceland. They played two concerts; one in a brand-new School in Selfoss and the second in the Nesskirkja Church, in Reykjavik, in front of 250 pupils from the local school. Both concerts were extremely well received and our rendition of A Sprengisandi, a famous Icelandic tune went down particularly well. The performers also enjoyed an action-packed schedule including visiting an erupting geyser, a volcano, two waterfalls and a swim in the Blue Lagoon!

## PERSE SCOUTS IN ROMANIA



25 scouts and leaders from the 5th Cambridge Explorer Unit spent their summer expedition in Romania. Half of the group began repainting a large village school in Ucea de Sus, living and eating with local families whilst the others embarked on a seven day trek in the Fagaras mountain range, many receiving their exam results via Satellite telephone at various points on the ridge. The two groups met at the half way point to swap tasks and continue where the others left off.

## PERSE FAMILIES TRIP TO KENYA

Richard Crabtree has used his knowledge of Iceland to organise several school trips there. He has also run several trips to Kenya and is offering a two-week tour exclusively for Perse families starting on 17 July 2008 which will include safari and the wildebeest migration. For details please contact Richard on enquiries@essentialafrica.co.uk

# EVENTS

## 2007–8 Dates for the diary.....

23rd Nov	Lower School Arts Festival	Hall 7.00pm
1st Dec	PPA Christmas Fair	Upper Hall 10am – 1pm
6th Dec	Rugby Varsity Match	Twickenham – Kick off 4pm
7th – 8th Dec	Lower 6th Play Hay Fever – Noel Coward	Theatre 7.30pm
13th Dec	Perse Carol Service	St John's College Chapel, Cambridge 7.30pm
17th March	West Road Concert	West Road Concert Hall 7.30pm

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

# Sports **Update**

## RUGBY

The Perse School welcomed former England rugby captain Martin Johnson to the school to conduct a Question and Answer session with pupils and a training session for the school squads about to embark on a tour of South America.

In July the Perse won the Belgium Rugby Sevens tournament, established in 1997, held in Wenduine, Flanders. The team, consisting of Perse sixth form pupils, competed against many senior teams including Brussels Barbarians, Antwerp RC and a team from the British Army.

Fresh from an undefeated tour of South America the 1st XV have had an excellent start to the season, with 8 wins in 8 games including Magdalen College School, Wyomndham College and Felsted. A significant boost to the season was a 22–10 win against Bancrofts School, the first victory against them in 5 years. No. 8 Owen Giles has been selected to play for Northampton Saints 2nd XV (The Wanderers)



## HOCKEY

5th years Michael Franklin (captain) and Adam Miller have both been selected in the East squad for the U15 Boys Regional Tournament to be held in Manchester in October. Michael has also become one of only two 15 year olds registered as National League players and is playing for Ipswich HC 1st XI in Division 2 South.

County representatives include Dudley Spiers, Patrick Carson and Duncan Graves (U17), Adam Miller (U16), Henry Campbell and George Hall (U15)

## OTHER SPORT

### • Equestrian

Izzy Edmundson (U6 GFH) took part in the National Junior Eventing Championships in September as part of the Eastern squad. The event spanned 4 days and The Eastern Squad came 7th in the team competition, beating Scotland. Izzy came 29th out of 80.



### • Tennis

Alex Davidson had several successes over the summer including winning the U14 and U16 boys singles and U14 doubles at the LTA Bury & W. Suffolk tournament. Alex also won the U14 Cambridgeshire County doubles.

### • Athletics

John MacGillivray competed in the National Schools Competition in Gateshead in the Hammer. Angus Osborn (High Jump) and Klaus Brumann (Triple Jump) qualified to represent the East Area Prep Schools at the National Finals. For the first time the Lower school Track & Field team reached the Regional finals along with the Middle School team. The 1st–4th year teams won the Cambridge Schools Olympic Cup and will be promoted to compete in the Jubilee Cup next season.