

Introduction

Turning vision into reality

At the end of April, after many months of careful work and planning by the School, we received the good news for which we had been hoping – the City Council gave us planning permission to go ahead with our major developments at the Prep and the Upper. At the same time, we were also given approval to build a new Hall at the Pelican.

Let me remind you of the main elements of our building plans – there will be new classrooms, new Library and new facilities for Art and Design Technology at the Prep; and a new classroom building, new Library, new ICT suite, a bigger Sports Centre and more science laboratories at the Upper.

Work will start at the Prep in early 2007 and at the Upper in 2009. This means that at both schools the main work will have been completed before we start expanding our numbers. We also have planning permission to build, at a later date, a new Art and Technology block at the Upper, and, at the Prep, a new Hall, a sports centre and new music facilities. So while the precise timings of these subsequent stages of our development are not yet set, the overall shape and direction of what we shall be doing is clear.

Obviously in recent months we have had to spend a lot of time

thinking about buildings and development, but we never forget that a school is about much more than its buildings; the real purpose is about the education and development of our pupils. So, the significance of the green light from the council is that it means that we can now move ahead with our vision of opening up the Perse to more boys and girls in the Cambridge area and of creating one of the best co-educational schools in the country.

There are three main elements to our plans to realise that vision. First, to offer more places in both the Prep and the Upper, second, to take girls throughout and third, to offer more bursaries to bright children from less well-off families.

We believe that this makes sense educationally, socially and financially. Educationally, because we will be able to offer our pupils more choice at GCSE and A level, more specialist subjects, even better pastoral care and further improvements in extra-curricular activities. Socially, because we will be able to have a broader mix of pupils, both through co-education and by offering more bursaries. And financially, because a bigger school

with more income will mean that we can achieve economies of scale and so keep downward pressure on fees.

Having secured planning permission, we will now press ahead with more detailed work on the first stage of the Prep development. In parallel with that, we are working up plans for a fundraising campaign which will include a particular emphasis on broadening access through bursaries. We will provide more information on this in due course.

It is a very exciting time at the Perse and the Governors are looking forward to this latest stage in our long history with great enthusiasm.

Dr Ken Edwards
Chairman of Governors



News in **brief**

NEW HEADS OF SCHOOL

Congratulations to Lower Sixth Formers Anna Catchpole and Chris Bricogne who have just been appointed new Heads of School.

OLEM CONCERT

Our third annual concert in the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs consisted of a lively programme of orchestral, choral and concert band music. Repertoire included a Concerto Grosso by Corelli (for string ensemble), three Choral Anthems by Purcell and Folksong Suite for Concert Band by Vaughan Williams. We also featured two concerto pieces, meaning that this year a record-breaking number of ten students have performed as concerto soloists at West Road or OLEM. Andrew Bennett performed the 1st movement of Haydn's Oboe Concerto with the Senior Orchestra, and Jonah Lipton, Alan Douglass and John Hale performed a movement each of the Saxophone Concerto by Ronald Binge in a special wind band arrangement by Jon Halton.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Two teams from the Perse reached the County Final of this year's Young Enterprise competition, held at Robinson College. Six teams from three regions took part, and the Perse swept the board in this region, being selected for this final. On the night, Shade Trading won four awards and Saki Trading won one award. The teams were delighted by their success.

SHARES4SCHOOLS

Currently the Perse School Lower Sixth Business Studies team are in 10th place nationally out of 40 participating schools. The initial investment of £1500 has grown to £1745. This represents a 16.33% increase since last October. This scheme is unique in the country as the pupils trade real money. The school was a founding member of this competition. On behalf of the team and the school, Mr Wareing would like to thank the Share Centre for sponsoring the competition.

PERSE TEACHER ASKED TO WRITE NEW SYLLABUS

Mr Russell Wareing, Head of Business Studies at the Perse, has been appointed to write a new syllabus for the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE). The new qualification is designed to offer an alternative to those offered by other examination boards. Mr Wareing is heading a team of 5 including Business Studies teachers, a representative from the EBFA and the subject officer from CIE. The scheme is due to be piloted next academic year and aims to launch in September 2007.

EVENTS

2006 Dates for the diary.....

July 1st	Speech Day	Upper School
July 5th	Sixth Form Soloists' Concert	Upper School Music Department – 7.00pm
July 5th and 6th	Fourth Form Play: The Iceman Cometh	Upper School Theatre – 7.30pm
July 6th	OP Cricket Match vs. Perse 1st XI	Upper School
August 21st–26th	The Perse Players' Production of "The Burial at Thebes"	Venue 45, Old St Paul's Church, Jeffrey St, Edinburgh – 6.30pm
September 29th	OP Dinner	Gonville & Caius College
December 12th	Rugby Varsity Match	Twickenham
December 14th	Perse Carol Service	St John's College Chapel, Cambridge

If you would like further details about any of the above events then please contact the Development Office.

Sports in **brief**

The past couple of months have seen the continuation of a variety of deeply impressive Perse performances in both team and individual sports.

The Perse U14 hockey team reached the last four of the U14 National Schools Championships, but were denied a place in the final by the eventual winners, Whitgift School. In rugby, the Perse are the East of England 7's champions, and also reached the last 32 of the National Tournament at Rosslyn Park. The Perse U12 rugby teams also enjoyed an unbeaten season.

Meanwhile, Fifth Former Owen Giles (featured in last term's Perceptions as having been selected for the English School Rugby Squad) has been selected for the GB World Start Programme for potential international

rowers. Upper Sixth Former Edward Aston has received his GB Athletics vest for the U20 800m, and Lower Sixth Former Matthew Maddison became National Judo Champion in the U74kg category. In hockey, Michael Franklin and Adam Miller (both in the Third Form) represented the East U14 in the Under 14 Regional Tournament. And in cricket, Third Former Ben Creese is currently involved in trials with Terry Jenner, leg spin coach to none other than Shane Warne.

Looking towards next academic year, the U16 and U18 Rugby teams and the Girls' Hockey squad plan a tour to Argentina and Chile in 2007 – we look forward to updating you on their plans in future issues of Perceptions.



Edward Aston runs for Great Britain



Science Week 2006

The main event in the Perse's activities for Science Week this year was a joint venture organised by Mrs Linda Swain at the Prep. Girls from the Perse Girls' Junior School and boys from the Perse Prep got together to take part in a physics and technology challenge: to design and make a security system for the Crown Jewels. Sixth Form pupils from the Perse and the Perse Girls ably assisted them in this task, and much fun was had by all. There were some ingenious solutions to the problem and it was wonderful to see pupils from all four schools working so well together.

Legacies

After you have made provision for your family and friends in your Will, please consider leaving a gift to the Perse. If you would like further information, please contact Roly Owers in the Development Office or look on the website (www.persedevdevelopment.org).

Development Projects Update

Providing a 2nd IT Room in the Margaret Stubbs at the Upper.

The first floor of the Margaret Stubbs building is being transformed over the summer into a multipurpose whole class ICT room which can also still be used for public exams. This will be 2nd such ICT room at the Upper, with around 25 workstations. It is a much needed facility as the benefits of ICT as a teaching, learning and research tool become ever more apparent. The new ICT room is also being fitted with language lab software to assist in the teaching of Modern and Foreign Languages. The advent of air conditioning will greatly improve the building as a venue for public exams in the summer. This work is being funded by the Annual Fund.

Providing a Medical Centre in the Pavilion at the Upper. Part of the pavilion is being transformed into a new medical centre which will be staffed by a full time school nurse, a newly established post starting in September. The medical centre will provide first aid for sports injuries, care for pupils who fall ill during the course of the school day, and act as a drop in centre for pupils who wish to discuss health and related concerns.

Modifications to the Old Gym at the Upper. Work on the Old Gym will be carried out over the summer of 2006, which will centre on bringing the floor level down to the level of the Hall, making the entire space much more adaptable for school and social functions.

Extending the climbing wall at the Upper. Planned improvements to the climbing wall at the Upper are progressing, with the aim of having them in place by next term.

Upgrading the Upper kitchens. This summer the shell of the kitchen extension built in 2005 is being fitted out. This work forms part of a rolling programme of improvements, which was started in 2004, and is due to continue over the next 3 years.

Other Projects at the Upper.

- Additional portacabin to provide for more classrooms and office space.
- Upgrading the electricity supply onto the site, in part to make the site ready for the planned future developments.
- On-going improvements to the provision of lavatories.
- Modifications to some of the administrative offices.

Organ at the Upper. Following generous benefactions, the School has commissioned a three-manual and pedal custom digital organ from The Organ Workshop in Cheshire. The organ boasts an adjustable bench and a mobile platform to allow the console to be easily moved. The organ will be installed in the Upper School Hall over the summer holidays.



Peterhouse field at the Prep. A new lease has been recently been agreed with Peterhouse College for the Prep's use of the playing field off Porson Road until July 2025. The securing of these superb playing fields for the next twenty years will ensure that the high standard of sport at the Prep can be maintained. It will also ensure that there will be ample space for the School's games and sports programme as it expands and becomes co-educational from 2008.

Charities Bill Update

As reported previously, the Charities Bill has now passed through the House of Lords and it has now reached the House of Commons, with its First Reading on 9th November 2005.

The next stages for the Bill are: Second Reading – Committee Stage – Report Stage – Third Reading. However, at this stage there is no indication when the Bill will make further progress through the Commons.

Keep in touch

So that we can keep you up to date with the latest Perse developments, please do let us know of any change in your contact details, especially email addresses.

The end of an era at the Prep



The Prep bids farewell to its Headmaster, Paul Izzett, after 22 years of distinguished service.

Paul was welcomed to the Prep as Headmaster in September 1984. Always someone to welcome and initiate change, he quickly established several new traditions during his first year. A party from the Prep went on a ski trip for the first time, beginning a twenty-two year annual tradition much enjoyed by pupils and an ever increasing number of parents – all places being filled as soon as they were available.

In line with Paul's belief in the importance of the wider curriculum other trips become a regular part of school life with the first school camp taking place in Dulwich. This has been followed by trips to Yorkshire, Norfolk and in the last two years Year 5 travelled a little further to spend a few days in France. These trips have enabled boys to experience life away from home and have provided many happy and entertaining memories.

Sport has always had a prominent place in the school and Paul made good use of his connections with his previous school, King's Chester, to provide the setting for the first Prep football tour. These tours are now one of the most popular trips and places are eagerly fought for by the 1st XI. Games played close to home are also a huge part of the boys' life and Paul will no doubt miss the weekly football reports of going down to Peterhouse, "hoping for a win"!

Since Paul's arrival, the performing arts in the school have gone from strength to strength. The support and encouragement he has given in music and drama has played a great part in helping to establish the extremely high standard seen in school productions and concerts today. His appointment of Cecilia Tyler as Director of Music had a huge impact on the development of music in the school, and, later on, of course, his own life.

Many more now well-established traditions originated during Paul's time as Headmaster – the Art Exhibition, the Perse

Prep paper, the help of a gap year student, Late Stay, and the School Council, to name but a few.

Paul has always been aware of the changing needs of pupils, and September 1995 saw one of the biggest changes to affect the boys as they were no longer called by their surnames alone. A few years later a revolution took place in the wearing of uniform as for the first time long trousers could be worn throughout the school and were no longer a privilege reserved for Year 6.

Paul has worked hard to keep the Prep up-to-date in terms of pupils' curriculum and pastoral needs, and boys at the Prep have been able to experience a full range of subjects without being constrained by a rigid curriculum. French has become a well established part of school life and the introduction of PSE has given boys a chance to think more deeply about themselves and others. Teachers have always been encouraged to experiment with new ideas and, more recently, technology. Computers have radically changed the way lessons are prepared and taught. The introduction of interactive whiteboards into most classrooms is another way in which Paul has helped to bring the Prep into the 21st century.

Since Paul's arrival, many changes have taken place to produce the school buildings that we enjoy today – the buildings that Paul took over in 1984 were very different. Now the Prep benefits from its proper dining room, an airy well-equipped sciences room, friendly book-filled library, new classrooms for Year 3 and a large French room, with more exciting changes planned for the near future.

Also, Paul has appointed a whole range of new staff during his period as Headmaster – too numerous to mention here. It must be to his credit that nearly all of these are still teaching at the Prep and the staffroom must be one of the most sociable in the country!

It is impossible in this small space to include all the changes that Paul has introduced during his time at the Prep that has led it to being the successful school it is today. One thing, however, as not changed – the school's friendly family atmosphere that Paul has fostered over the years, supported by a dedicated, hard-working staff. A recently formed tradition, introduced by boys themselves, is that old boys come back to the Prep at the end of their Upper Sixth year, to visit the school and have their photograph taken with staff – their fond memories say it all.

Paul is leaving a great legacy behind and his work will be remembered for many years to come. Have a great retirement!

Kate Jessop
On behalf of all Prep staff

The Pelican side drive improvements

In the last edition of Perceptions we reported on efforts being made to improve the Pelican side access in terms of its 'kerb appeal'. The clay tiles which the children made themselves were fired at the Upper School and now adorn the side wall of Northwold House. Parents and children now have a cheery greeting on their way into school each morning.



World Cup hopefuls!

Year 2 children at The Pelican have been enjoying some football coaching this term. Staff from Cambridge United's 'Football in the Community' have been coming to school and working with the children on skills such as one-on-one tackling, passing and shooting. The children have played mini matches which have resulted in nail-biting finishes. Their newly-acquired skills are put into practice each day at play time – World Cup 2018 here we come!



Write away!

Ollie McLellan (6 Alpha) is one of the winners of this year's TES autobiography competition, Write Away. Last year an amazing 10,000 entries were received from writers aged between 7 and 14, and this year Ollie's heartfelt account of jumping into the sea from Bembridge pier has plunged him clear of the competition to join only 19 other finalists. At the prizegiving ceremony in Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, he'll find out if his "Taking the Plunge" will be one of the six pieces selected by the judges for publication in the TES magazine in September.

Ollie is rightly ecstatic about his success and writes:

"I don't know what to say! I'm still thinking it's all a lovely dream! When we were asked to write a piece of writing about a special place or event, I thought

I might try to combine the two, so I wrote about one of my favourite places in the world, Bembridge, in the Isle of Wight, our annual summer holiday destination. In the summer of 2005 we decided that my cousin and I would be allowed to take 'the leap of faith' and jump into the sea from the lifeboat pier. We had always watched people springing off the side into the depths of the sea below them. I wanted to write about this memory because it stands out in my mind as a very happy memory, with lots of different emotions to explain. I could remember every minute of it and I knew that I could write a lot about it."

Ollie regularly enters our school writing competitions and he is a prolific contributor to the Perse Prep's elite Scribblers' writing club. His talents also extend to the stage and this is where Ollie's real ambition lies; he left us 'transformed' after performing as Puck in the Prep's recent Centre Stage club production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Can Ollie cast a spell upon the celebrity judges? We wish him the best of luck in the final round of the competition. Whatever the outcome, his teachers are very proud of him – congratulations Ollie!



The Burial at **Thebes**



Performing Greek tragedy convincingly was always going to be a challenge for a school play. Our director, Dr Connelly, knew full well that Sophocles's *Antigone*, translated into English verse by Seamus Heaney, could not be further removed from the plays of Tom Stoppard or Alan Bennett. However, due to his superbly imaginative direction, and to an enthusiastic and dedicated cast and production team, the 2006 Perse Players Production of 'The Burial at Thebes' was a resounding success.

The play contains universal themes, highly relevant today, such as martyrdom and abuse of power. Far from being full of togas and olive groves, our Thebes is a modern city where the need for public respect and positive opinion overshadows the moral responsibilities of power.

Antigone is a wonderful project to be involved in. One of the brilliant things about the cast is that it is composed of pupils of all ages across the school. Every

member has learnt a huge amount about acting and stagecraft, and no one has been afraid to make suggestions or try different approaches to their character. Having been very well received by the audiences during the Cambridge performances in March, the whole cast is eagerly looking forward to travelling up to Edinburgh for the world famous Fringe Festival this August.

Chris Bricogne ('Creon')

The Perse Players perform 'The Burial at Thebes' at Venue 45, Old St Paul's Church, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh EH1, from 21-26 August at 1830 hrs. For tickets, please telephone the Fringe Box Office: 0131 226 0013, or visit www.edfringe.com



Biology "Olympic" Champion – **Gold Medal for Charles Parker**

Lower Sixth pupil Charles Parker has been selected for the UK team for the 17th International Biology Olympiad in Rio Cuarto in Argentina in July. Charles was up against 1500 other Sixth Formers from 350 other schools around the country in a competition designed for the Upper Sixth. Having come in the top 12 nationally, he proceeded to further selection tests and was placed in the top four in the whole country, qualifying for the national team.

Charles also finished 18th in the country in the Chemistry Olympiad, in itself a remarkable achievement for a Lower Sixth pupil.

Other successes in the preliminary rounds included silver medals for Malcolm Begg (Physics), Yan Li (Chemistry) and Alex Gaunt (Biology). Alex, a Lower Sixth pupil, also got bronze medals for Physics and Chemistry. Jo Green and Harriet Gray Stephens won Bronze medals for Biology; Bronze medals were also won by Yi Wang (Chemistry) and Henry Hughes, Geraint Luff, John Hale, Alan Douglass, James Sills, Hugo Gillibrand, and Michael White (all Physics).

Seb Rao in the Fifth Form had considerable success in the Physics Challenge, winning a silver medal.

Girls at the Perse

It was just over ten years ago that the first girls joined the Perse in the Sixth Form. There were only 14 'brave pioneers' in that first year, but from the beginning they made their presence felt. As it has turned out, their arrival was a major turning-point for the school – ten years later their success helped give us the confidence to go co-educational throughout, with nearly 50 girls joining in the Lower Sixth this September.

Today, our girls come from a variety of schools, both independent and maintained. Some just want a change for their Sixth Form education, but in most cases their reasons for choosing us are very similar, as reflected in the comments of Anna Catchpole, currently in the Lower Sixth: "My reasons for coming to the Perse were centred on the fact that I wanted to enhance my CV through extra-curricular activities without compromising my academic education. As an eager hockey player, the facilities at the Perse, where I also have the chance to join in the CCF, drama and Young Enterprise, were obviously very attractive to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here this year and am really looking forward to next year."

In the classroom the girls do perform extremely well. However it is their contribution in other ways that is perhaps just as notable. They are always very keen to become prefects and enjoy spending time with their forms, particularly in the Lower School. Several have become Senior Prefects and this year Thea Warren and Edward Pearson have been the first joint Heads of School.

Many of them get involved in Drama, CCF, Community Service and the Enrichment programme as well as participating in music, the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and Young Enterprise. As the numbers have grown, so have the opportunities in sport. We now have a 1st XI hockey squad (and no longer need to have one of the boys in goal!), two netball teams, and a tennis team. In 2007, we hope to take the hockey squad on a joint tour with the rugby teams to South America. The girls are



Anna Catchpole, Mrs Gail Hague and Catherine O'Connell.

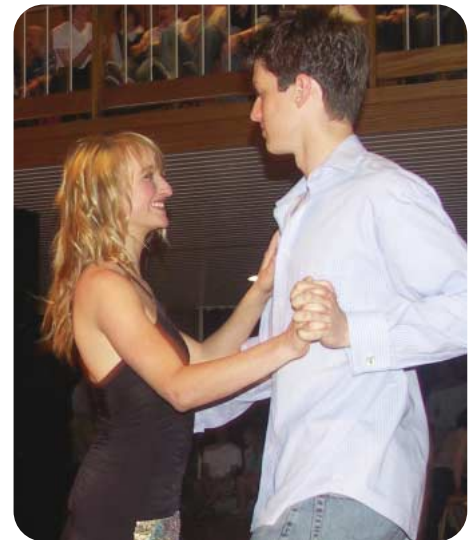
also able to choose from a wide range of other sporting activities and we try to be flexible to allow them to pursue sporting interests outside school, such as equestrianism and dance.

Catherine O'Connell joined us from Netherhall School and comments: "After almost completing my first year at the Perse, it is easy for me to say that this Sixth Form can offer a range of opportunities for many. The Perse offers a wide variety of facilities that I have been able to take full advantage of. In addition to this, the comfortable size of the sixth form offers a welcoming atmosphere to anyone new, which I found to be one of the school's most valuable assets. In particular, I have valued the size of my classes because the teaching style is more relaxed and focused, offering good support and a fun atmosphere."

Watching the Charity Cabaret earlier this month, it once again struck me what a rich diversity of talent the girls have brought to the Perse. Boys and girls relish the opportunity to study in a lively, happy and supportive environment, both working and relaxing together in the important transitional years before university. This in turn breeds confidence, which enables all Sixth Form pupils to flourish and make the most of every minute of their time here.

This September we will have 80 girls in a Sixth Form of 235. We have also already had applications from girls who want to come here in Year 7 in 2010! Those first pioneers didn't know the impact they would have, but their success both inside and outside the classroom – and the success of all the girls since – has helped bring us to where we are today and look to the future with great confidence.

Gail Hague
Head of Sixth Form Girls



The 2006 Charity Cabaret took place on 5th May. £1742.02 was raised for East Anglia's Children's Hospices and for Music Therapy at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

