

Introduction

Building for the future

Parents at the Upper will have noticed the extension to the Science Block taking shape. The roof is now on and the project is moving ahead smoothly. We are on time and on budget, and the building should be ready for the start of next term, as planned. This is particularly encouraging as in terms of location it is the most challenging part of the overall construction programme at the Upper. To have it under our belts should give us great confidence for the rest of the work that is to follow in the years ahead.

Our plans at the Pelican and the Prep are also progressing well. We are currently out to tender for the new Pelican Hall and for the new block at the Prep, which will give us six new classrooms, a new Library and much better provision for Art and Technology. These projects at the Pelican and Prep are both on track to start during the summer holidays and to be completed before the beginning of the Autumn term in 2008.

While we press ahead with these big flagship projects, we are not neglecting the more bread-and-butter

improvements which are part of everyday life at the Perse.

Therefore, over the summer, amongst other projects we shall be installing adventure playground equipment at the Prep, adding cloister roofing at the Upper outside the main Hall (which will keep pupils dry while they are queuing for lunch) and improving the Technology facilities at the Upper. Some of the planned projects are being made possible by grants from the Annual Fund and also with money raised by the respective Parents' Associations, for which we are very grateful.

So, throughout the sites there will continue to be signs of change and improvement and of progress on both a large and a smaller scale. And in particular from this summer onwards, parents at the Pelican and the Prep will start to see growing physical evidence of the way in which the Perse is turning its plans for the future into reality.

Gerald Ellison, Bursar

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Headmaster's role as Chairman of HMC



Nigel Richardson is currently Chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC), the first serving Perse Head to hold this role. The HMC, established in 1869, represents the head-teachers of some 250 leading independent day and boarding schools, in the UK and the Irish Republic and also has strong international links in over 25 other countries.

Being elected as Chairman of HMC is a reflection on the standing of Nigel Richardson amongst his fellow colleagues and a major boost to the profile of the Perse. During his period of office he has achieved significant media coverage, including in the Times, Daily Telegraph, Independent and Daily Mail on subjects such as academic selection in schools, League Tables, the public benefit test and bursaries.

His period of office runs until September 2007, after which he serves as Vice Chairman for the academic year 2007/08.

Alex Cook 1932–2007



Alex Cook died on the 28 April 2007 after a long illness borne bravely and with dignity.

A Cambridge man throughout his life, Alex was widely involved in the business and community life of the town, giving generously of his time and expertise.

Alex was educated at the Perse and his lifetime association with the School included 25 years as a governor and 20 as Chairman.

During this time the school's buildings expanded markedly – culminating in the new sports and sixth form building in 2000, to be named *The Alex Cook Centre*. His professional expertise as a chartered surveyor and estate agent was invaluable in these developments.

His time, commitment and expertise devoted to the role of Chairman were carried out around a host of professional and other commitments in Cambridge. Alex was a Magistrate from 1969 until compulsory retirement at 70 and his voluntary work included Cambridge YMCA, Cambridge Youth Action and the Cambridge Rotary Club.

He is survived by his wife Bridget; his three sons Nicholas, Steven and Richard and four grandchildren.

As a writer from an earlier age once stated: "A good cook is the peculiar gift of the Gods". He may not have had Alex in mind when he wrote it but his words are apposite. Alex was a gift to his family and to Cambridge, and will be much missed.

Visitors at the Pelican



Recently we have been fortunate enough to welcome two special visitors into school.

Prize winning children's author, Tony Mitton, enthralled the children when he came to perform some of his work. The children joined in excitedly with the fantastically evocative sounds and words of 'Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaur Rumpus' and the jolly rhymes of 'Down by the Cool

of the Pool'. Most amazing of all was Tony's ability to conjure a dinosaur out of a child's shoe!

Dr Michael Hinton of the School's Liaison Team at The Babraham Institute, paid a visit, accompanied by Dr Emma Jaikaren and George, the skeleton. Dr Hinton, challenged the children to think...What is science? What is a scientist? How old do you have to be to be a scientist? By the end he had convinced the very youngest Pelican (who proudly announced that he was three and a half), that we can all be scientists, no matter how old we are! Michael is returning this term to work in the classrooms with some very 'hands on science' for our children in The Foundation Stage. We can't wait!

Sarah Sherrington-Scales,
Reception teacher

A Real French Experience



The Year 5s had a wonderful 4 day trip to the town of Rue, an hour south of Calais. We chose the 'French language' module to optimize the amount of French spoken during the trip. It was the first time for many of the boys to speak French for a real purpose, with 'real' French people. With the government pushing for languages in all Primary schools by 2009, the Perse Prep boys are certainly leading the way; living witnesses to the advantage of starting learning young. They are almost totally uninhibited at this age and just willing to have a go. The wide grins on their faces as they conversed with locals, asking for directions, were clear for all to

see. They listened carefully to a farmer's wife talking about her goats and the process of cheese-making and to a French chef explaining how to make mayonnaise, neither of whom spoke any English. It is true that more and more foreigners are speaking English but there is no alternative for the true artisanale experience, and understanding a culture really only comes through the process of learning the language. I hope that we can inspire this younger generation to continue with languages throughout their education.

Tessa Humphrey, French Co-ordinator

Author inspired by Prep Drama

Author Kaye Umansky visited the Prep in 2005 to see her play, The Snow Queen, performed by Year 6. She was so impressed by the extra parts that had been created by Mrs Roberts, to enable all the boys to be fully involved, that she was inspired to write a new book 'I am a Tree'. Her 'word from the author' at the end of the book gives full credit to our wonderful drama department. Kaye joined us again in March 2007, as part of our celebrations for World Book Day. It was a fantastic occasion when the whole school devoted their day to writing Kaye-inspired stories and playscripts.

Eileen Castle, Librarian & Liz Brimer, English Co-ordinator



Music at The Pelican

is very much alive! Each class gets the chance to perform in class assemblies, and this term we have enjoyed listening to the Nursery and Reception classes. Each year group presents a musical production every year, and during the summer term our oldest children perform their musical extravaganza farewell.

The whole school sings together in assembly every day and once a week we learn songs appropriate to the term's assembly theme. We also learn a little about the music we hear as we walk in and out of assembly. This month we welcomed a visitor who demonstrated instruments from all over the world and gave workshops on making instruments from junk materials.

Well over half the children in Years One and Two learn either the piano or violin at school and get a chance to perform in special concert assemblies.

All Year Two children have a taste of playing the recorder and enjoy playing along to jazzy CD accompaniments. Most of the children continue to play their chosen instrument at their next school and often take up a second instrument as well. We are sometimes privileged enough to have visits from ex-Pelican pupils who come to show us how far they have progressed since leaving the school.

Angela Watts, Deputy Head



Pelican Play Area

The children at the Prep are having a lovely time using the new Blue play area, jointly funded by the Annual Fund and the APP. It has provided them with a place for busy activity at playtimes and a dry, bright play surface that is suitable for all weather conditions.

Gill Moné, Reception Teacher

The Perse Reputation

The Perse is proud of its strong academic pedigree. About a quarter of the year group gained places at Oxbridge for 2007 and, on average, around 40 per cent of our leavers go on to study a science subject at University.

So successful are we that it seems that the outside world knows us more for our academic reputation than it does for our all-round excellence. Research carried out among Perse parents earlier in the year (see *Perseptions issue 20*) suggested that some of those who do not know the school well seem to think of us as just as an 'academic hothouse'.

In fact, success in the classroom is only one of the reasons why current parents are choosing the Perse for their sons and daughters.

Perse pupils perform as well outside the classroom as they do in the exam room. In rugby, cricket and hockey (the latter for both boys and girls) records regularly tumble and national accolades are achieved. In other sports, from athletics, judo and fencing to orienteering and rowing, Perse pupils were selected to represent national or county teams.

Drama and music are equally strong. Last year saw our first production at the Edinburgh Festival and our pupils were awarded no fewer than nine Distinctions at Grade 8 Music. The Monday afternoon Enrichment programme is now fully integrated into the timetable. Here, in addition to the CCF and Community Service pupils can explore pursuits

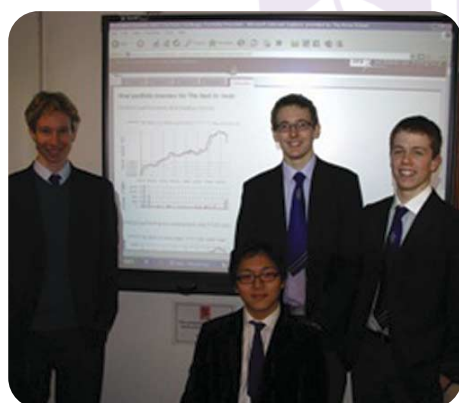
such as archaeology, law, film studies and horticulture. Meanwhile there are 41 clubs and societies holding meetings this term, ranging from Creative Writing and Lego Robotics to the Climbing Club and Young Enterprise.

So, rather than being an 'academic hothouse', the Perse really is a school of all-round excellence. Academic performance is at the centre of what we stand for. However we believe we are also in the premier league across a broad range of disciplines; an excellent choice for sport, music, drama and community service; for developing the whole pupil and for encouraging energy, enthusiasm and a positive attitude to life.

Enterprising Pupils

Proshare Competition

Pupils from the Perse took part in the Proshare Competition – a stock market simulation game, run on a national basis, where teams can invest a virtual £100,000 in a share portfolio of their choice. This year the team: 'Best in Vests', consisting of Alex Barr, Andrew Chapman, Sae Hoon Ra and Robert McFadyen, came 3rd in the Region and 13th nationally out of 4564 teams. During the four months of the competition they made £20,712.92.



Young Enterprise Success

The two school Enterprise businesses: 'Minted', led by Nicole Shui, and '5 Quarters', led by Ben Parker and Tom Meakin, have been hard at work since the Michaelmas Term. They have produced their own products, such as a superb cook book that sold out, and provided services including car washing at parent's evenings. More recently they organised a very successful talent competition. Both teams won awards at the Grafton Trade Fair.

Following a training evening at Wyboston Lakes on report writing, they prepared business reports on their endeavours and a presentation for the area finals of the Young Enterprise Competition on 24th April at ARM UK plc. The competition was very strong and both teams presented extremely polished and professional presentations to a panel of judges from local industry. '5 Quarters' won Best Innovation award and Tom Meakin Best Businessman of the Year. 'Minted' narrowly missed out on winning the overall presentation award, which could have seen them going through to the County Final.

'5 Quarters' produced some impressive trading figures and donated £400 to their



chosen charity: Teenage Cancer Trust.

Meanwhile 'Minted' produced a net profit of £632.65 with a dividend of 250%: an excellent effort by the whole team.

Shares4Schools Competition

This year we had 11 pupils in our Shares4Schools team, experiencing stock market investing for real with a fund of £1,500. In the process they developed and enhanced a wide range of skills such as team working, decision making and research and analysis of the markets, aided by the share centre investment software. At the time of writing we are placed 20th across the whole of the UK and 2nd in the region.

Andrew Peploe, Head of Business Studies

PEEAP update

The Perse Environmental Education and Action Project continues to make good progress. At the start of the Summer Term all form rooms were issued with waste paper recycling bins and each form now has a recycling monitor. We are already recycling substantial amounts of paper, and are in discussions with the Council to recycle other materials and create a recycling centre on site.

We are also excited about the launch of our organic Horticulture Project which will involve a group of senior pupils restoring a derelict fruit and vegetable garden in one of the School's properties on Hills Road. We hope the pupils involved will gain a life long hobby, whilst the garden will be used to promote the benefits of organic, locally produced food. We even hope to serve some of it in school lunches.

Edward Elliot, Deputy Head

Partnership Summer Schools

At the start of term, a well attended evening was held at Coleridge School to launch the third cohort of Cambridge Partnership Summer Schools. This is the venture in which the Perse School, Parkside, Coleridge and Perse Girls' School come together to provide summer schools in Sport Development, Film and Media and Mandarin Chinese. Following the summer schools, pupils may attend continuation sessions which build on the material that they covered during the one week course in the summer holidays. Funding for the partnership comes from the DfES Building Bridges Programme which aims to encourage partnerships between maintained and independent schools by supporting activities for the gifted and talented.

Feedback from previous partnership summer schools has been extremely positive and the recent Coleridge evening was equally encouraging. Participants in the programme not only have the opportunity to develop interests and talents and to take advantage of the expertise that exists within partner schools, but they also develop friendships with pupils from across the City. Similarly, Mr Simon Ball (Director of Sport) and I have enjoyed working with colleagues from the other three schools and have hopefully formed useful and lasting links.

We wish all those pupils who will be working together in mid-July a happy and successful time.

Michael Punt, Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Introducing the Perse Young Explorers Club (PYEC)

Perse scouting has gone from strength to strength with over 75 boys enjoying a vibrant programme of scout camps and activities. This success has created problems for the Explorer Unit who meet on the same evening.

In order to maintain the tradition of adventurous expeditions from which so many pupils have gained so much, the decision has been made to combine the Explorer unit with the existing Outdoor Pursuits group, forming the Perse Young Explorers Club. By meeting on a Monday afternoon as part of the Enrichment Programme the members of PYEC have sufficient time, resources, and staff support to meet regularly. It will also open up PYEC to all our pupils including those who may have found it difficult to travel in and out of Cambridge on a Friday evening.

Recent expeditions to Ecuador, Iceland and India have not only developed pupils' outdoor skills, but have also provided valuable opportunities for Perseans to carry out important charity work and gain an appreciation of different cultures. Pupils will join or rejoin on an annual basis and this should ensure that as many boys and girls as possible have access to the unique opportunities of PYEC. Plans are already afoot for an expedition to the Amazon in 2008.

Edward Elliot, Deputy Head



Arabic at the Upper School

In 2005-6, a group of nine Fifth Year pupils, having already seen success in GCSE French, opted to become pioneers in the study of Arabic at the Perse. The introductory course would explore both the Colloquial and Standard forms of the Arabic language whilst also serving to encourage pupils to research culturally based projects of their own choosing. In typically diverse Persean fashion and with, at times a rather tongue-in-cheek, intellectual determination the boys offered titles ranging from 'Kaikyok sekai to nihon' (Japan, Islam and the Arab World) to 'Mesopotamian Mythology' to 'Football in

Saudi Arabia', gaining top grades across the board.

The pupils' enthusiasm and commitment to the subject saw no demise as the year progressed and they very much paved the way for the continuation of the course for the future. In total, the pupils gained a tremendous 27 Distinctions from the University of Durham on completion of the course.

This year fifteen Fifth Year boys have risen to the challenge and have already set their sights upon high grades and an exciting range of research topics. Time will tell!

Louise Playfair, Deputy Head (Pupils)

Summer expeditions:

Rugby and Hockey trip to Argentina and Chile

Edinburgh Festival – Perse Players trip to perform at the festival

Explorer Scouts trip to Romania – 25 scouts will live and work in a village community in the Faragas region

Geography Trip to Iceland – 46 pupils from 3rd & 4th years will be visiting Iceland. Planned highlights include the mid-Atlantic rift and a flight to the volcanic Westmann Islands

CCF camps – Army: battle camp, Barry Buddon Camp, Scotland

RAF: RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire

Scout camp – Barnswood, Macclesfield



Lessons from Auschwitz

Two pupils from the Perse visited the Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau on Wednesday 7th March as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's first *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project. On their return, the pupils were required to give a presentation to their peers, based on their experience of visiting Auschwitz.

"Although the Holocaust is covered in some depth in the History syllabus, no amount of factual testing and pictures could have prepared me for the experience. On our visit to Birkenau (Auschwitz II) the full force

of the events that had taken place in this remote corner of Poland, really hit home. The sense of complete desolation and hopelessness that still filled the air, so long after the event made for a truly sobering atmosphere. Throughout the day, the group gained an insight into camp life, and the cruelty inflicted upon prisoners at Nazi hands. Individuality was reduced to a mere five-digit number, a vibrant culture lost amid the mud and disease."

Tom Meakin, Lower Sixth

Annual Fund Projects

The Annual Fund Committee met at the end of April to review the second round of applications to the Fund. Six projects were approved, at a total cost of just under £25,000. These included adventure playground equipment for the Prep (funded in conjunction with the Prep Parents' Association), textile equipment for the Pelican and new sports and technology equipment at the Upper.

The Parents' Association at the Upper also kindly agreed to fund a number of projects including the Organic Horticulture Project, a new tennis ball machine and a Magnification Camera to be used when teaching Chemistry.

A full report on the projects supported during the current academic year will be produced in September. Meanwhile the new format for the Annual Fund has already proved a great success with the teaching staff, who have become very engaged in what donors to the Fund are making possible.



The Organic Horticulture Project



New Technology for the Prep Art and Design Department

Thanks to the Annual Fund, the Prep art department have recently purchased a projector and screen for use in the classroom. Art and Design Technology co-ordinator Jane McPherson describes them as "invaluable tools" promoting "excellent group discussion and individual comments". Amongst other things, the pupils have learnt about African masks and the work of David Hockney. The photograph shows a Year 3 class studying cave painting.

Campaign Update

The Access to Excellence Campaign continues to gather momentum. Its objectives have been confirmed; to establish an expendable bursary endowment and to fund a capital project at each of the three Schools (second gym at the Upper, technology centre at the Prep and new Hall at the Pelican).

The Campaign Board, the conduit through which the campaign is coordinated, now has 25 members and is made up of parents, alumni and other friends of the school. Our aim is to increase this to a team of around 35 by the end of the year. The campaign timetable has recently been confirmed, with the public launch taking place at the start of 2008 and the campaign running through the rest of the year.

The main aim of the campaign is to enable the Perse to double the number of bursary pupils at the Upper over the next decade. This is a significant challenge, but one that we are confident we can achieve. It will require the support of many people associated with the Perse. Please do consider this as we move towards the public launch; and please contact me if you would like further details about any aspect of the campaign especially on joining the Board (ron.haylock@perse.co.uk).

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



Annual Fund Donors' Garden Party

All donors to the Annual Fund are invited to a garden party on Tuesday 3rd July 2007 from 6–9pm. This is a chance for the School to show its appreciation of those who have donated to the Annual Fund, and an opportunity for donors to see the various projects made possible through support for the fund. You should have already received an invitation. If you have not, please let us know.

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.

News in **brief**

NEW HEADS OF SCHOOL 2007–2008

Congratulations to Antonia Game and Tom Meakin.

PREP SUCCESS

Congratulations to Daniel Adamson who came 5th out of 1600 in the Junior SATIPS General Knowledge Challenge.

Congratulations also to Bartu Atamert who is County Swimming Champion in 50m breaststroke.

PELICAN RED NOSE DAY

Staff and pupils at the Pelican raised a grand total of £244.57 which has been sent off to support the work which the charity does.

UKMT TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE

Mrs Bigg accompanied our Perse team to the regional round of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge. Our team were the overall winners and now go forward to the national final in July.

BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD CHAMPION

Perse Upper Sixth pupil Charles Parker has been selected to represent the British team for the second year running at the 18th International Biology Olympiad in Canada in July.

RACE FOR LIFE

The Perse Team who will run in Cancer Research's Race for Life in July.



EVENTS

2007 Dates for the diary.....

23 Jun	Pelican Summer Ball	Prep, from 7pm
26–27 Jun	Lower 6th Play An Ideal Husband – Oscar Wilde	School grounds – 7.30pm (open air performance)
3 Jul	Annual Fund Donors' Garden Party	Upper, from 6pm
5 Jul	Old Perseans v Perse 1st XI Cricket	Upper, from 11am
20–25 Aug	Perse Players	Edinburgh Fringe Festival
11 Sep	Sir Arthur Marshall Arkwright Lecture	Upper, 1.20pm
28 Sep	Old Persean Annual Dinner	Gonville & Caius Hall, 7pm
29 Sep	Open Morning Dr Perse Society Lunch	Upper, from 9.30am Queens College, 12.30pm
18 Oct	Perse USA Reunion 2	Yale Club, New York, 6pm

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



Javelin Master Class for **Perse** pupils

The Perse School welcomed Great Britain's top female javelin thrower Goldie Sayers to the Sports Department to give a coaching master class to 6 of the top throwers. With the school athletics competitions just around the corner this was a fantastic opportunity

for the boys to refine their techniques and to learn from one of the best.

Matt Maddision (Upper Sixth) said 'I learnt so much; it was a fantastic opportunity to correct my throwing technique and improve my personal best throw'.

Sports **Update**

CRICKET

The 1st XI have had a good start to the season, beginning with a tie against Eton – and a (winning) draw against Greshams (Alex Fullarton 166 – Jake Jones 5–31). They went on to beat The Leys, Chigwell and Culford. The U15a XI had an impressive win against Dr Challanors School to progress to the next round of the Lord's Taverners Trophy. They will also play Cromwell Community College in the Daily Telegraph 20/20 Cup competition.

TENNIS

The Boys 1st VI drew with Hills Road SFC, won against Brentwood 5–4, but lost to The Leys. The U15's also made a good start to

the tennis season beating The Leys 6–0, and Brentwood 9–0.

The Girls 1st IV started the season with a very encouraging draw against The Leys and a win against Bedford Modern.

ROWING

This term's rowing fixtures include the National Schools' Regatta on 26th May, held in Nottingham and the Peterborough Regatta on 2nd June.

OTHER SPORT

• **Judo** – Edward Taylor became national Champion at the Independents School Competition in the Intermediate category (he was competing in this category a year young) – Matthew Madison (-73kg category) and Anthony Demetriades (-60kg category) each won bronze. Matthew was also

awarded the 'Spirit of Judo' trophy – which has never been won by a Cambridgeshire pupil before.

- **Cross Country** – Matthew Leach represented Cambridgeshire in the English Schools Championship. Edward Louth and John Gardner Andrews also represented the county and competed in the Anglian Race.
- **Fencing** – 7 fencers attended the Nationals at Crystal Palace: Donald Hyndman came 13th out of over 150, Eleanor Earp came 21st and Ged Corob-Cook 32nd. In the Juniors, Jayson Bradley and Oliver Zolman reached the knock out stages.
- **Badminton** – Keon Woo Yi and Sam Pickup reached the county semi finals in the U18 Doubles.
- **Table Tennis** – Sam Pickup also represented Cambridgeshire in the National Schools Table tennis competition.