

Introduction

Access to Excellence

Over the course of the past year or so the announcement of the school's ambitious development plans has aroused a great deal of interest.

As an Old Persean the well-being of the Perse is very dear to me and as a current Governor I have obviously had close involvement in developing the School's plans. I have been particularly encouraged by the way in which we are aiming to open up access to excellence – to bring the outstanding Perse education from which all Old Perseans have been fortunate enough to benefit, within the reach of many more boys and girls in the Cambridge area.

Part of that goal is of course to be achieved by going co-educational throughout the Upper and the Prep, so that we can offer an outstanding education equally to boys and girls. Part will be achieved by expanding the Perse so that we can accommodate more pupils. And part will be achieved by significantly increasing the number of bursaries we are able to offer to bright students from families of more limited means.

I very much support the idea that the Perse should be providing greater opportunities for a greater number. So, when earlier this year

I was asked to become Chairman of the Perse Access to Excellence Campaign, I was delighted to accept. Since then we have been putting the building blocks in place for a major fundraising drive which will kick off next year.

The main focus of the campaign will be to fund new bursaries. Our aim is to double the number of pupils in receipt of bursaries at the Upper over the next decade. This is certainly an ambitious target, but I feel that it is very much in line with our charitable objectives and something of which our founding father would have approved.

The Access to Excellence campaign is not, however, solely about bursaries. We need new and better buildings for the extra pupils who will be benefiting from our education, and so part of the funding raised will go towards improving our fabric – a second gym at the Upper, a technology centre at the Prep, and a new Hall at the Pelican.

Access to Excellence seems to me to sum up everything that the Perse has always stood for and I am very excited about how we can help

the school achieve its goals with the support we can give through fundraising. Next year will see us moving up a gear, and I will keep you posted on progress. I know that in due course many people will want to support the campaign, so if you would like more information at this early stage, please do not hesitate to contact me or Roly Owers in the Development Office (01223 403808 or development@perse.co.uk).

Dr Ron Haylock is an Old Persean and current School Governor, whose career has been entirely in the travel and tourism sector. He is currently Chairman of Fauna and Flora International and until recently was Chairman of Council of the University of Nottingham.



World Cup Hockey

Congratulations to Glenn Kirkham, PE assistant and hockey coach at the Perse, who co-captained England's hockey team at the World Cup this September out in Germany.

Despite being only ranked 11th in the world before the competition, the team came fifth; their highest World Cup finish for 16 years. In the Group Stages England recorded memorable wins over India, South Africa, New Zealand, who are all currently ranked above England in the World Rankings, and only lost to the eventual winners, Germany, by a single goal. They partly made up for the disappointment of missing out on a semi-final spot by beating Pakistan 1-0 in the fifth/sixth place play-off.

Glenn, who plays Centre Half and scored in the win against New Zealand, was delighted with their performance. "It would have been incredible to get to the semi-finals, and we nearly did it. That is our goal at our next major championships – the Europeans next summer."



England vs Korea

First impressions

Gareth Jones, who became Head of the Prep in September, has wide experience of education. He was Director of Music at the Dragon School, Oxford, a Housemaster at Cranleigh Senior School, and most recently Deputy Head at West Hill Park Prep School in Hampshire. He gives us here some of his first observations on the Prep.

They are bright, they are able, they are challenging: they are Perse Prep Boys.

"It is our wide range of emotions that separates us from the other animals"

"If you limited the number of minus points staff could give in any one week, they wouldn't give them so often"

"Dating everything from the birth of Christ must make things difficult in a multi-racial society"



These were statements I heard in classes I took during my first weeks at the school. Tomorrow's philosophers, economists, and politicians are amongst our boys. Their use of language, their enquiring scientific minds, and the excitement on our young mathematicians' faces when they cracked a Caesar cipher I set at the beginning of term, all point to one thing: a passion for knowledge and understanding.

The Perse Prep is a happy and purposeful place of learning, with a cutting edge – and that's how it should be. Selective education brings a pace to lessons that is invigorating.

But it's not all academic work: cross the playground during break at your peril; experience the enthusiasm at school matches; see the humour in drama, and the sheer pleasure taken in music; catch a glimpse of the artwork.

The past twenty-two years has been a period of growth and consolidation and Paul Izzett has left us a school with a clear vision of academic purpose and a sensitivity that allows boys to give of their best. The staff, with their strong sense of collegiality, work tirelessly to inspire.

And what of the future? Coeducation will offer us exciting opportunities to allow our children to learn from each other. A magnificent building project, which would surely gladden the heart of Dr Perse, will be a fitting tribute to the school's long tradition of excellence in education. But the story isn't about facilities, or whether we teach boys or girls: it is about our passion and desire to do all we can for the young people in our care.

My first weeks have been the most enjoyable whirlwind imaginable. I feel privileged to be part of the Perse.

Prep raises **£5000** for Addenbrookes

Pupils at the Prep raised over £5000 for The Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Addenbrookes. The unit relies heavily on charity funding and, thanks to the boys' amazing fundraising efforts, has been able to buy a portable machine for measuring and treating blood levels. One of the fundraising activities involved the boys being sponsored to fit as many things in an empty film canister as possible, with the winning pots containing over 100 items. Robert French (5 Alpha) recently visited the unit to put a plaque on the machine.

Trudy Harper
Unit fundraising co-ordinator



Robert French with consultant Roddy O'Donnell



New Hall at **The Pelican**

All at The Pelican are looking forward positively to the next phase in the school's development, with plans for a new Hall. When complete the planned building works are going to make a very real difference in a variety of ways:

The new Hall will enhance PE, Drama and Music teaching by providing more space for the children to express themselves. The school also plans to host a wider range of parent functions.

The number of Pelican pupils who have individual and group instrumental lessons has grown over the years. Peripatetic teachers will be accommodated in the two, splendid new music teaching rooms.

Extra space will be a real asset in the Nursery which is always full to capacity with exciting opportunities for the children.

Two additional upstairs classrooms are smaller than the others and these

rooms will be brought into line with those of their parallel classmates.

The library will move downstairs, making it more accessible to the younger children.

As an additional bonus everyone is looking forward to the many learning opportunities which the building work will offer!

Mrs Penny Oates, Pelican Headmistress

The Pelican celebrates its **10th Anniversary**

This year has seen our 10th cohort of pupils join us and we felt that this was well worth celebrating. Space limitations being what they are, we decided to hold three parties, one after the other, on a Saturday in September, to which all past pupils and their families were invited.

We were delighted to see so many of our 'Old Pelicans' again, even though some were barely recognisable! We invited them to sign a book of memories and they clearly enjoyed reminiscing about their time at the school:

Pelicans Rock!

I had a lot of fun and made many friends

Just amazing!

Favourite memory was the Christmas Play – thank you – it was awesome!

Best school ever!

Two shocks – the teachers have changed and the school has shrunk!

At the final party of the day we let off balloons, just as we had done at our first birthday party. Imagine our surprise to receive notice that one had been found well north of Cambridge, by someone who knew a past Pelican! It's a small world!

We are very much looking forward to the next ten years!



Exam success in depth

Many congratulations must go to Perse pupils and their teachers, for their success in public examinations last summer. At A level, 91% of grades awarded were at either A or B grade and this ensured that virtually all gained entry to their first or second choice university. Results in Mathematics and Physics were very strong once again with 31 of the 34 Physics candidates gaining A grades, in contrast to the widespread concern nationally about declining standards in these subjects.

At AS level, 62% of grades awarded were at A grade and this will be of great help to members of the current Upper Sixth as they go through the process of applying to university this autumn.

80% of GCSE grades were awarded at A* or A grade. Particularly impressive were the results of the boys who took International GCSE (IGCSE) maths a year early for which all but one of the 45 candidates gained an A*. Similarly all but two of the 26 boys who took French at the end of the fourth form gained an A* and these pupils will now begin either AS French or take a one year course in Arabic. For the first time, pupils studying Greek in the Middle School took an AS in the subject,

rather than GCSE and we were pleased that from the class of three, two gained an A grade and one a B. Outside the timetable, three pupils took GCSE Japanese and all gained an A* grade. Of the seven 3rd and 4th formers who took Music GCSE outside of the timetable all gained A or A* grades.

Increasingly where possible, we are looking to make our curriculum more flexible so that we can tailor it to the particular needs of Perse pupils. We are fortunate that, as an independent school, we are free to adopt courses such as IGCSE in both Maths and the Sciences, which we feel interests and challenges our pupils better than the usual GCCE. We are also able to enter pupils early for exams, when it makes educational sense to do so.

Our aim is to continue to review the courses that we offer to ensure that they are relevant and exciting for pupils today, whilst preparing them for the future; for university and the world beyond.

Michael Punt
Deputy Head (Curriculum)



6th Form leavers lunch

Edinburgh Fringe



In August 2006 The Perse Players made history by taking the first ever show from the school to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Directed by Dr Connelly, Seamus Heaney's 'The Burial at Thebes: Sophocles' 'Antigone' was performed in Cambridge during March. Over the summer, the cast and crew, comprising of members of the 3rd, 5th, Lower and Upper Sixth forms, travelled up to Edinburgh where they performed for 6 nights to excellent audiences at Venue 45, just off the Royal Mile. They were accommodated at St Colm's International House in Edinburgh, and alongside the experience of performing the pupils also had the opportunity to enjoy the variety of entertainment on offer at the festival.

Now you're talking

Vrai ou faux: The study of languages at the Perse is growing and will continue to expand? C'est vrai. Pupils can now study Italian, Arabic, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Portuguese and, as a department whose numbers are set to rise massively with the introduction of full co-education, the Modern Languages Department proudly announces the arrival of its Language Lab.

As of September, the Language Lab, a brand new ICT suite with impressive language software, has been up and running, with enormous impact on the teaching and learning of modern foreign languages. All those who study a language at the Perse have a timetabled session in the Lab every cycle. Students sit at their own work-station using their headset and microphone to undertake a variety of exercises drawn from a wide range of resources. The opportunities for pupil-led



A lesson in the language lab with MFL teacher James Featherstone

activities and independent learning are many: students learn at their own pace and can be paired up to practise their oral skills. Groups can work on different skills in carousel-style lessons, and pupils are able to record themselves speaking; useful preparation for oral exams. The class teacher can liaise on a one-to-one basis or work with the whole class. In short, the software now available makes individually-tailored access to languages more immediate, more direct, more manageable, and more assessable.

Vrai ou faux: the Language Lab is already proving instrumental in the continued positive development of modern languages at the Perse? Ça, c'est vrai.

James Featherstone
Modern Languages Teacher



Charities Bill Update

The long awaited Charities Bill seems to be nearing the end of its legislative passage. The Bill completed the remaining stages in The House of Commons on October 25th. The Bill is now sent back to The House of Lords for its final stage, The Consideration of Commons Amendments debate. It is expected that the Bill will receive Royal Assent later this year. If passed, it is anticipated that implementation will take 18 to 24 months, with various parts being phased in.

Development Projects Update

New Organ Arrival

A new 3-manual and pedal digital organ, made by Hugh Banton's organ workshop, was installed in the Upper Hall during the summer holiday. Combining a high-specification of manuals and stops with the latest digital sampling technology, the organ's adaptability means it can be used for a wide range of occasions – congregational hymn singing in the Hall, solo music, as part of a chamber orchestra and accompaniment to the choir.

To celebrate, a reception was held at the Upper on October 10th and guests were treated to a variety of performances, demonstrating the versatility of the instrument. It has long been our aim to acquire an organ of this type, and we are deeply grateful to those who have helped us make it possible.



Main Hall – Upper

Following on from the improvements to the Hall at the Upper last year, work on the Old Gym was carried out this summer. The floor level was brought down to the level of the Hall. As a result this makes the entire space much more adaptable for school and social functions.



Electricity Upgrade at the Upper

The capacity of the site electricity supply has been substantially increased due to the installation of a new transformer, in preparation for the intended expansion of the next few years. This is the first upgrade since the supply was first installed in 1959.



Pelican Artwork

The artistic improvements at the Pelican are continuing. Alongside the clay tile display that now adorns the side wall of the Pelican, a piece of colourful artwork has also been created on the fence along the drive, in the form of a painted rainbow snake and decorative boards featuring, amongst other things, a rainbow pelican.

Climbing Wall Extension

The extension of the climbing wall at the Upper has been completed and the new section is designed to encourage climbers to develop new skills. Climbing is a popular activity at the school and the extension will enhance the technique, stamina and enjoyment of pupils of all abilities.

Upper Kitchen Improvements

Improvements to the Upper kitchens continued over the summer. This centred around fitting out the extension that was built during 2005, providing space to house the dishwasher and creating additional storage space.

Annual Fund 2006–7

The Annual Fund has been re-launched with a successful telephone campaign in September with over 750 alumni contacted. Over the next three years we are focusing support from the Annual Fund on four core areas of school life:

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and equipment
- Music, Art and Drama
- Sports and Outdoor Pursuits
- Bursaries

Projects are proposed by teachers and the management from the Pelican, Prep and Upper. Applications are scrutinised by a committee made up of all school 'stakeholders' (e.g. parents, pupils, teaching staff, alumni) and chosen according to assessed need. The first round of funding is being awarded in late November and an update on the projects supported will be in the next edition of Perseptions.

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.persedevlopment.org).

News in **brief**

GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIPS

Thirty-six pupils from Year Two at the Pelican joined Upper School students in June to take part in a geography treasure hunt. Fourth Form geography students acted as helpers and each group used clues and compass directions to explore the school buildings and fields. Sixth formers also acted as helpers, during the summer term, on a joint fieldtrip with Year Five at the Prep. Pupils set out in groups to investigate land use, transport and shopping habits at sites in and around Trumpington.



BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD WINS SILVER

Perse Upper pupil Charles Parker has returned from Argentina with a silver medal. This success means that Charles and the three other team members were placed as the top European team and 8th in the world. Charles hopes to enter again next year, for the opportunity to compete in Canada.

BOOK GROUP

Members of The Reading Group have been very active over the summer, enjoying a variety of texts including 'Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell', 'Suite Francais' and a couple of 'whodunnits'. There was even a talk by the translator of 'Suite Francais' Sandy Smith. The group meets informally once a month to discuss books over a glass of wine. For more details contact: gin-warren@ntlworld.com

AUSTRALIAN EXCHANGE

Upper pupils Owen Giles, James Lester, Joseph Randall and Jim Reynolds spent six weeks of their summer holiday attending the Knox Grammar School, Sydney. Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, climbing Sydney Harbour Bridge and competing in the City to Surf running race were all part of this exciting exchange programme.

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

Pelican: Amy Parker – temp part time teacher; Emma Cook – nursery nurse
Prep: Gareth Jones – Headmaster; Jane McPherson – Head of art and design
Upper: Andrew Peploe – Head of business studies; Mark Shields – economics; Steve McClean – science; Jane Clarkson – geography; Catherine Egglestone – geography; David Clarke – psychology; Sibylle Wilson – modern languages; Peter Anderson – history

EVENTS

2006 Dates for the diary.....

November 22nd	Lower School Arts Festival	Upper School – 7.30pm
November 24th	Sir Arthur Marshall Arkwright Lecture Paul Collins, Aerospace Consultant	Upper School – 1.30pm
November 25th	PPA Christmas Fair	Upper Hall 11am – 2pm
December 1st & 2nd	Lower Sixth Play: The Crucible	Upper Theatre 7.30pm
December 7th, 8th & 9th	Les Miserables (Joint production with Perse Girls)	Mumford Theatre Anglia Ruskin University 7.30pm
December 9th	1st XV Rugby Match vs The Leys	Upper School Kick off 2.15pm
December 12th	Rugby Varsity Match	Twickenham Kick off 2.00pm
December 14th	Perse Carol Service	St John's College Chapel, Cambridge 7.30pm

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

Perse Sports **Update**

HOCKEY

The number of girls that are now in the Perse Sixth Form has opened up great opportunities for Girls sport. In hockey we now have a 1st & 2nd XI squad plus an Indoor team. The main aim is to enable all pupils to have a rewarding and fulfilling experience in their sporting life at the School, and to feel suitably enriched by the balance that this offers with the academic. Although we strive for excellence, we aim for mass-participation.

This year's season started with great success as a newly developed squad won their Pre-Season Tournament down in Berkshire where they competed against Pangbourne College, Stowe School, Brighton College and Wellington College. More recently both the 1st and 2nd XI beat Ipswich and the 1st XI beat the Perse Girls. Later in the season the girls will also compete in both the Indoor & Outdoor County Rounds.

Turning to boys hockey, Dudley Spiers (5th form) and Michael Franklin (4th form) have been selected to play for the East of England U15 Hockey team, and will play in the U15 Regional Tournament at Belle Vue Hockey Stadium later this term.



RUGBY

The Perse has formed a partnership with Cambridge Rugby Football Club, which now plays in the National League 2 Division (two leagues away from the Premiership). Cambridge provide coaching support to Phil Gostling, Perse 1st XV Coach, with the longer term aim of providing a pathway for players into the club system.

This year the 1st XV has entered the National Daily Mail tournament and has progressed to the third round, following good wins over The Kings School, Ely and Norwich. Greshams now await in the next round. Overall the 1st XV have had a good start to the season. At the St Joseph's National 15-a-side Festival over 14/15 October their ability and stamina were tested to the limits. Highlights of the weekend included being the only team to beat Millfield – the eventual winners – and a narrow defeat to Campion School. The traditional highlight to the season is the derby game against the Leys on December 9th.

ATHLETICS

Nine Perse athletes qualified and represented Cambridgeshire last season. Three school records were broken: Angus Osborn in the 1st Year High Jump, Philip Ackroyd in the 4th year 400m and Jake Jones in the 4th year Javelin.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

Perse Cricket continued its excellent start to last season. Overall the School played 97 games, winning 66. The 1st XI set a new record with 14 straight wins and the Perse are county champions in all 3 age groups (U12, U14 and U19).

The fencing club has continued its success in its fixtures against Bedford School and the Leys. Donald Hyndman has been representing the GB Team and came 3rd in the Independent Schools Competition. In Judo the Perse won the National small teams shield for the first time.