



THE PERSE

UPPER SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER No. 288

4 July 2014

Dear Parents,

Perse terms may be shorter than those of the maintained sector, but the longer school day coupled with evening and weekend events and fixtures mean that Perse pupils and their teachers are always ready for the holiday. It is important that children get a good break over the summer to relax and recharge, and I'm hopeful that the northward migration of the Azores High should lead to some good weather for us all to enjoy.

The summer is a time for independent learning and an opportunity for children to try new sports and hobbies. There is also much scope for learning through travel – whether by practising a foreign language, visiting historic sites or appreciating a geographic landscape. Those staying closer to home should not overlook the wealth of educational opportunities in Cambridge ranging from museums to bat safaris, or the joy that comes from reading books of their own choice (rather than those prescribed by teachers or exam boards). Learning is life long and not just limited to school classrooms in term time.

Thank you to everybody who braved the torrential downpours to attend Speech Day. As ever our pupil performers gave a wonderful account of themselves and in doing so exemplified The Perse's values of endeavour, intellectual curiosity and scholarship, breadth and balance, and the importance of supporting one another.

In our final assembly this morning we said thank you and farewell to those pupils and staff who are leaving The Perse. We will miss them and they leave with our best wishes for the future. We also awarded Colours to students across a range of activities. Special mention must go to our boys' First VI tennis team who won all of their fixtures (the First VI have only lost one match in the last two years). We also congratulate both the U15 boys and the U15 girls for winning the Cambridgeshire Championships.

As the students depart today so builders will arrive to complete the final projects in our expansion programme. The old history rooms are being converted to science labs and linked to the existing science faculty by a bridge. The old geography rooms are being refurbished for RS and philosophy, whose current classrooms will be transformed into an art studio and Mac suite. These improvements will mark the end of our building for expansion programme as pupil numbers are now stabilising prior to our steady state being achieved in our 400th year 2015-16. We are keen that existing parents should have the opportunity to see our enhanced campus in September, and as such we will be holding an 'open school' event on the evening of Thursday 11 September. Details are included in this mailing.

This is a particularly busy summer for holiday camps and activities. Indeed there is not a single day of the summer holiday when Perse pupils and staff will not be taking part in a school trip or activity. I wish the 300 pupils who will be participating in the various PES, CCF and sports trips well and thank their teachers for giving up some of their summer to make these excellent opportunities happen.

Sixth form public exam results will be issued electronically on Thursday 14 August, and staff will be in school to provide advice and support. CIE IGCSE results (English, English literature, biology and physics) and FSMQ additional maths results will also be issued electronically on Thursday 14 August. The same pattern will be repeated on Thursday 21 August when the remaining I/GCSE results will be released.

Full term begins again on Wednesday 3 September with Week A. On Tuesday 2 September there will be induction sessions for all Year 7, Year 9 and Lower Sixth pupils.

I end by thanking all Perse parents for their support in 2013-14. Your encouragement whether on the touch line, in the concert hall, or around the kitchen table as pupils complete homework or revise for exams is much appreciated. Special thanks must go to the Perse Parents Association for all the school events they have arranged and supported, the informal coffee mornings they run and the popular second hand uniform shop staffed by PPA volunteers.

Wherever you are this summer I wish you well.

With best wishes,



Edward Elliott

Contacting the Head's office

The contact details for the Head's office are office@perse.co.uk

Emails and correspondence will be checked on a regular but not daily basis during the holiday.

Open house event – evening of Thursday 11 September

We are aware that it may be some time since you last came into the School, or went beyond the main hall and speech day marquee at least, and that you might like to view the new and updated facilities your child will enjoy. **You are therefore invited to pop in at any time between 6pm and 7.30pm on Thursday 11 September.** At 6.45pm in the South Building loft the Head will give an overview of the new facilities and outline our proposals for a Performing Arts Centre on site and sports fields on our newly purchased land at Great Abington. We are sending a Perse Post message about this and would be grateful if you could respond to advise us whether you are likely to attend.

While anyone is welcome, parents of pupils going into Years 7, 9 and Lower Sixth should note that you will have an opportunity to see the facilities at your new parent drinks (see below).

Reminder - Parents' drinks in September

Parents of pupils in Years 7, 9 and the Lower Sixth have received invitations to drinks in September. Drinks for Year 7 parents take place on Wednesday 10 September from 7-8.30pm; Year 9 parents on Thursday 4 September from 7-8.30pm and Lower Sixth parents on Friday 5 September from 7-8.30pm.

If you haven't already replied, would you be kind enough to confirm your attendance with Sharon Bannerman at sbannerman@perse.co.uk.

Michaelmas term calendar

Dan Cross

The printed calendars for the Michaelmas term will be distributed at the start of term through your son/daughter's form tutor. Each pupil will be given two calendars, one for their blazer and one to take home to give to parents.

You can view the calendar at any time through the website <http://www.perse.co.uk/calendar/>. Sports fixtures and results are also available on the website <http://www.perse.co.uk/sports-fixtures-and-results/> so you can start planning which Saturdays to come and watch.

Going into the final day of the House competition it was neck a neck, with little dividing the top four houses. With sports day, charity and participation points still up for grabs it could really have gone to any of these 4. In the charity competition, the Houses have done superbly well, raising a total of £4061.61 for Christel House. Last year's total was £1036.13 – so a really superb effort from all the Houses this year. The Dragons raised a phenomenal £1128.15 over the course of the year – and many of us enjoyed their excellent end-of-exam-week barbecue – but they were pipped at the post by the Falcons and their charity bike ride. Falcons raised an impressive £1292.71 over the year. The participation contest was equally close at the top end, and the Dragons did superbly well to mobilise 83 of their 89 House members at some point during the year. Very well done to them.

The final standings:

8th Gonville Griffins
 7th Mecklenburgh Unicorns
 6th Bateman Bulls
 5th Northwold Yales
 4th Pendeen Dragons
 3rd Langdale Lions
 2nd Glebe Falcons
 1st Lithburn Eagles

Thursday 3rd July proved a really successful House sports and charity day, helped by superb weather, plentiful ice-cream and a great deal of hard work from heads of House and House captains, sports staff, teaching staff and the lower sixth. In the Lower School competition Lions were the winners, and in the Middle School it was the Eagles, with Lions coming out as overall winners.

The Victor Ludorum trophies for best individual performances were awarded to: Elizabeth Minshall, Rebecca Burrows and Elijah Price (Lower School) and Elizabeth Townsend and Shimmy Osindero (Middle School).

The **Extreme Reading Challenge** will take place again this summer!

So, if you are you going away on holiday, going to an event or having a family day out - challenge yourself to be photographed reading a book in an unusual place - the highest, or the lowest or somewhere really out of the ordinary.

Email your images to Mrs Weatherall - librarian@perse.co.uk – saying **where** the photo was taken and information about **what** you were reading.

Get your entries in by 8 September; we will make a display in the school library foyer with the photos.

Eleven Perse mathematicians recently visited the Cambridge Centre for Mathematical Sciences for an inspiring day of enrichment activities and thought-provoking lectures.

The day began with Professor Imre Leader speaking on Ramsey theory – order in disorder – where they explored the size of a group of people needed to guarantee that any three of them will either all be friends or strangers, and how this was applied by AT&T to cable networking across the USA. Two interactive workshops on “butterflies and proof with paper” and “a journey on a square grid” followed, and the day finished with Professor David Tong speaking on Einstein, relativity and gravity waves; never will the group underestimate the importance of dust again...

The PPA committee would like to thank all the parents, staff and pupils, who have contributed to some great events this academic year. Funds were used to provide House cups and a defibrillator.

The hall was packed for the 2013 **Christmas Fair**; everyone enjoyed a suitably festive afternoon! Together with the Middle School pupils, over £2100 was raised for Christel House.

The **Spring Quiz**, organised with a few Lower Sixth pupils (as part of their £10 challenge), was great fun and raised over £1000. Next time, someone has to raise a team which can beat the staff!

Two **stimulating talks** for parents were held this year. Internet security was covered in the Michaelmas term. In the Summer term, Dr Aric Sigman gave us the benefit of his insight in a talk on the issues around poor body image amongst young people.

The dedicated **second hand uniform** team, ably led by Nirmala Suman-Chauhan, worked hard to mount the ever popular and regular sales.

The year group **Coffee Mornings** continued unabated; much appreciated by many parents. Thanks to the mums who take responsibility for organising them.

We are also so grateful for the unstinting involvement of Ed Wiseman, whose patient counsel and support is vital!

All parents are automatically members of the PPA. There are many parents who kindly give their time and expertise, without being part of the committee. If you would like to help out, in any way, please do make contact on a.wesleywilkinson@tesco.net.

Details of our activities next term will be published in the newsletter, including a new venture to be launched in September; please lend your support to make these events as successful as possible!

Mock trial competition

Claire Knowles



A team of Lower Sixth Perse pupils won the mock trial competition held on Wednesday 2 July at Cambridge Crown Court. The pupils' advocacy skills were impressive and they secured the acquittal of their client. The Perse team consisted of Ethan Abraham, Jack Brears, Iva Divkovic, Hugo Dugdale, Tom Harwood, Ollie Heeks, Elizabeth Hitti, Alex Jackson, George Lewin Smith, Tom Neuberger, Tom Pierce and Ella Thomson.

Perse Exploration Society trip to Sweden

Straight after the end of Year 11's GCSE exams, the Perse Exploration Society Summit 11 group headed to Sweden for a week of canoeing. Perse student, Caroline Howard shares her experiences on the trip.

"On Sunday evening 48 Summit 11 students returned from the annual trip to Sweden where we successfully completed an eight day canoe hike across the vast Swedish lake of Stora Le. On our journey we stayed on remote and rocky islands with spectacular views and sunsets. Many of the islands were covered in pine forests which meant many of us could spend the night suspended between the trees in hammocks. The wildlife was just as amazing with sightings of osprey, peregrine falcons, a swimming moose and the sound of an evening conversation between a pack of wolves (thankfully on the mainland...).

The weather whilst we were there was much better than in previous years with strong winds at the start of the trip, which allowed for excellent sailing. The wind was followed by a superb week of sunshine such that we could swim in the afternoons. The trip ended with some magnificent thunderstorms.

There were many challenges during the trip. However, thanks to the skills we had learnt in cooking, fishing, foraging, shelter building and fire lighting we were able to overcome them. The most striking achievement was that every group managed to succeed at fire by friction. Several competitions were held including a bake off and a carving competition for which there were some very impressive entries such as a hand crafted squirrel and even a fully-fledged paddle!

The trip gave us the perfect opportunity to relax with all of our friends after our GCSEs as the pace of the expedition was gentle and some of the group had no means of telling the time throughout the trip. Sweden also allowed us to meet and get to know well the members of staff on the expedition, in a way which generally does not occur on a school trip, which therefore made it more interesting and rewarding than others. There could not have been a better way to begin the holidays than to be able to lose ourselves in the beauty of the Swedish Lake District.



Biology Challenge results 2014

Perse students in Year 9 and 10 achieved impressive results in the 2014 Biology Challenge competition. This is a national competition run by the Society of Biology and 32,500 students from across the UK took part this year.

300 Perse students achieved awards with 60 achieving gold awards, 70 silver awards and 83 bronze awards.

In addition one of our students from Year 10, Claudia Tomkys, was one of the top scorers in the competition and attended the awards ceremony at the Royal Society in London to collect her award which was presented by Professor Alice Roberts.

Perse Maths Roadshow 25-26 June

Lilian Blaxill and Dan Whelan



The Perse School Primary Maths Enrichment team spent two days visiting four different primary schools to run a Maths Roadshow. A total of 30 Lower Sixth and Year 10 students helped run a maths relay (running *and* maths in one event – what more could you want?) and a maths circus which had a range of fun and challenging puzzles. The primary school children (about 160 in all) were hugely enthusiastic and great fun to work with and a good time was had by all! We are very grateful to the PPA for their donation of £250 towards the cost of materials used for the roadshow.



Primary Schools' Partnership

Sarah Richardson

The Perse Primary School Partnership has had a busy end to a year packed with some great work with primary schools in Cambridge and Cambourne. With groups helping primary pupils with maths, French, Latin, computer science and citizenship throughout the year, the end of term has brought with it more opportunities to work with primary pupils in the local community.

As well as the Maths Roadshow, eight Lower Sixth formers went with Dr Macintosh and Dr Nickson to Fulbourn Primary School to help with their one day science festival. Four pupils went to St Alban's Primary with Mr Wingfield to run singing workshops with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. In addition, we had visitors at the Upper from Great Abington Primary and Shirley Primary. Great Abington enjoyed some computer programming with Mr Baker and ten pupils, followed by some tennis with Mr Ball and his helpers. Shirley School enjoyed athletics and basketball with the help of Mr Wedderburn, Mr St John, Mr Dann and Mr Mahendra and a team of Lower Sixth sports men and women. Overall, 60 Perse pupils were involved in primary outreach over these two days and their efforts gave the primary pupils a number of fantastic opportunities.

Many thanks to all who have made a contribution in both recent weeks and more regularly during the past year.

Science research placements

Jeremy Burrows

Three Lower Sixth students have recently been offered Nuffield Research Placements – these are very prestigious awards that will involve them in about four weeks of scientific research during the summer holidays.

Mohammed Zia will be working with Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group, Hamza Wahid with DNA Digest and Matthew Baines will be working at Genzyme.

Two other students have almost identical research placements that will qualify them for Gold CREST awards:

Flo Zolman at the Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge and Lawrence Rosen who took the initiative to organise his own placement at the Lister Hospital.

Nick Cox is also representing the School (and the City of Cambridge) at the Heidelberg International Summer Science School over the holidays.

The catering department has been very busy over the last three weeks starting with the Prep School Summer Ball, four large barbeques and a Greek themed girls' sports supporters evening. Leavers' drinks for Upper Sixth parents and cake for training the new prefects were just a few of the extras we have provided. The largest event was Speech Day last Saturday with over 2500 homemade canapés served in the marquee. The weather proved a bit of a challenge so the barbeque for 500 became an indoor event with the hall swiftly turned round to accommodate pupils with hot food barbeque style!



Athletics

Congratulations to the school athletics team who won the recent Jubilee Cup. This is the competition for all schools across Cambridge for boys and girls between Years 7 and 10. This was a fantastic achievement for the team in their first year in the A division following their B division success last year.



Claudia Baldelli
(Year 9 hurdles)



Year 7 boys' team



Elijah Price (Year 8 200m)



Ekaterina Rahr-Bohr, Robbie Hayes and Hannah Siringhaus with the cup

A special mention to Jamie Sales who finished second in the 1500m at the National Prep Schools Finals and smashed the school record by 22 seconds in the process. Robert Anderson finished third in the 800m at the same championships. Congratulations to both pupils.

Tennis

The boys' 1st VI completed a fantastic season with a comprehensive win over Bedford School 11-1. This meant the team won every fixture this term and have only lost one match in the last two years - an excellent achievement! A special mention to Nick Leach who won the 'Oon Trophy' for the outstanding racket sports player in the School.

Congratulations also go to both the boys' and girls' U15 teams on winning the Cambridgeshire Championships. This completed a remarkable season for the boys' team by remaining unbeaten throughout.

Boys' cricket

The 1st XI had a busy end to their regular season with a successful 'Cricket Week' at the School. The boys fought out draws with the MCC XI, Parl Boys High School (South Africa) and Xavier College (Australia) whilst also beating our Old Perseans XI for the first time in seven years. This week saw the team travel to Merchant Taylors' School in Liverpool for their cricket festival with matches against Bromsgrove, Durham and the home side. After a tight loss to Bromsgrove, they then recorded a 100 run win against Merchant Taylors' before losing the final match to Durham. These matches saw Alex Jackson pass 500 runs for the season.

Congratulations to the U15A team who won the Cambridgeshire T20 competition beating Thomas Deacon Academy, Peterborough in the final. Well done to Sacha Abbasi on his captaincy of the victorious team.

Individual achievements this season:

1st XI team:

Batting: Highest score - Chris Pepper with 106 not out against The Leys.

50's for Alex Jackson (3) Chris Pepper (2), Tom Picton-Turbervill, Michael Pepper.

Wicket takers: Dilip Goyal – 6 for 17 (v Old Perseans), Mihir Chandraker - 5 for 37 (v King's Ely).

Remaining teams:

Batting: 50's for Ben Cross (U13A), Nicky Phelps (U13A), Sam Doel (U14A), Zaman Akther (U15A), Alex Lockie (U15A).

Alex Mitchell (x2 - 2nd XI)

Bowling: Peter Shaw 4 for 4 (U14A), Jack Chivers' hat-trick (U15B).

Sacha Abbasi (161) and Zaman Akhter (145) both scored centuries for Cambridgeshire.

Girls' cricket

The U12, U13 and U14 teams all qualified for the Cambridgeshire Inter Cricket Finals. Congratulations to the U14 team who became Cambridgeshire Champions winning all of their fixtures on finals day.



U14 Cambridgeshire Champions

Rugby

Congratulations to Jasper Dix and Tom Whitehead (both in Year 10) on their selection for an England U16 Assessment Camp. The assessment was held in Guildford, one of four held across the country taking in the best 120 players in the U16 age group. We wish both the very best of luck as they look to progress through the assessment phase.

Music update

Ben Wingfield

Two items that did not make it into the Music Department's last newsletter of the year last week:

- Well done to Tom Mullock, Daniel and Tessa Jackson and Alex Scott who performed as part of the Britten Sinfonia Academy, a youth ensemble run by the Britten Sinfonia, in a lunchtime concert at West Road Concert Hall on Tuesday. They performed a varied mixture of pieces, from Beethoven to Bartok, Schubert to Stravinsky, and will reproduce this programme in Norwich on Friday and the Fitzwilliam Museum on Sunday. More information on the latter concert can be found [here](#).
- Owain Fletcher Williams, Toby and Henry Proudfoot will be participating in the World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia as members of the Cantate choirs – directed by our piano/organ teacher, Mr Nicholas Shaw. We wish them the very best of luck for their participation in the largest choir competition in the world - we look forward to hearing how it went!

Once again, many thanks to our musicians for all their hard work and dedication this year – and to parents, guardians and staff for their support.