



# THE PERSE

## PREP SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE

1 December 2023

Dear Parents,



I was struck by the breadth of music on show last night at the Concert in the Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre. It was wonderful to see 110 children involved in 21 ensembles, including our 71 strong School Orchestra. My thanks to everyone who stepped in over the last two weeks to cover for Paul Harris, whilst he has been away, to ensure this Concert could go ahead – whether music peris, Ben Wingfield the Director of Music at the Upper, or members of Prep staff. I was impressed with the adaptability, skill and confidence of the children. A special thank you to Deputy Head, Tom Knowles, for his expertise in ensuring that the show could still go on!

Year 3 and 4 are also strutting their stuff on stage, putting the finishing touches to their respective productions next week. Members of Denis Wilson Court will be joining for the morning dress rehearsals as part of our outreach into the local community. I am delighted that this partnership work continues – with Jules Reston taking the Green Teams at the Prep and Fawcett Primary on an Eco Trip to the Waterbeach Recycling Centre this week, and Eve Bonner visiting Fawcett Primary to learn about their Forest School. Further afield, we are delighted that 611 shoeboxes have been dispatched to families in Eastern Europe; my thanks to everyone who contributed to this challenge.

Many thanks to 4Alpha and Dan Nicholes for their bright and bold Form Assembly on *Curiosity* last week, and to Tobias Bown and Helen Paul for their striking assemblies on *Places that are special to us* and *Being out of one's comfort zone*. Helen cleverly articulated the stage fright feeling that we can all feel when something is new, and how we can begin to overcome this.

A well done to all parents for managing a testing start to the week as you grappled with local roadworks and the cold snap – hitting road users, cyclists and pedestrians respectively. I hope that the advent of the twinkling Christmas lights at the Prep might have added some well-needed sparkle for everyone; my thanks to Norman and Veronica for their Christmas Fairy work last weekend!



- Year 4 Production (Wed 6 Dec) – 6pm to 7.15pm in the Hall. Parents welcome
- Year 3 Christmas Celebration (Thur 7 Dec) – 6pm to 6.45pm in the Hall. Parents welcome
- Year 6 Italy Ski Trip (Tue 12 – Sun 17 Dec)
- Christmas Fair & Festive Day (Wed 13 Dec). Final day of term

### Year 4 (Wednesday 6 December) and Year 3 (Thursday 7 December) Productions

Children should come into school in normal games kit and should change into costumes once in school. Some minor face painting will be used for these performances; please do inform Clare Cassidy [ccassidy@perse.co.uk](mailto:ccassidy@perse.co.uk) if your child is unable to use this.

Evening performances start at 6.00pm, with refreshments available from 5.30pm. Please can parents park on the top playground beforehand, or at the playing fields once the main site becomes full. Your children will have been supervised after school and fed with a hot meal. After school activities continue as normal. The Year 3 performance will last for approx. 45 minutes, and the Year 4 performance approx. 75 minutes. Do let us know ([prep@perse.co.uk](mailto:prep@perse.co.uk)) if you are unable to attend the evening production and would like to watch the dress rehearsals in the morning instead.

### Perse Carol Service – Tuesday 12 December

The Perse's Carol Service will take place at St John's College Chapel at 7.00pm on 12 December and is open to all Perse families. The choir and readers are pupils and staff from The Perse Upper and this is always a wonderful way to begin the festive season. Seats in the Chapel have been offered for priority booking to

the families of those who are participants, but remaining spaces will be allocated on a first come, first seated basis, with further seating in the ante-chapel. For further details, do refer to the PersePost that will be sent in the next few days. Chapel doors will open at 6.30pm.

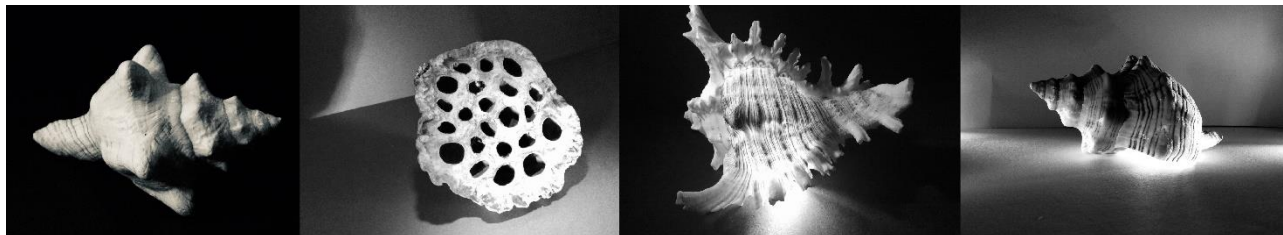
### PPP Christmas Fair – Wednesday 13 December

Do pre-pay [here](#) for your child's ticket for the PPP Christmas Fair on the last day of term. Each child requires one entry ticket (£10) which includes all of the tokens to spend at the Fair, enough for a turn on all of the stalls. Raffle tickets (£5 for a strip of 5) are not mandatory, but please purchase as many as you like! The website is live and will close today, **Friday 1 December**. For any ticket or payment questions, please email Stacy Sinclair ([sinclair.cahill@gmail.com](mailto:sinclair.cahill@gmail.com)).

Donations of raffle or stall prizes (electronic gadgets, unused toys/books) are still welcome; please leave at Reception. A big thank you from the PPP.

### Artwork

This week's art banners showcase Year 5's photography of natural forms, inspired by Karl Blossfeldt.



### The Perse – East Anglia Independent School of the Year

The Perse is delighted to feature in this weekend's Sunday Times where we have been named as the East Anglia Independent School of the Year for Academic Performance 2024. The Perse, year in year out, delivers the best public exam results and university offers of any independent school in the region, so it is good to have this recognised by The Sunday Times.

### Perse Giving Day 2024

Philanthropy is an important part of Perse life, going back to our Founder, Dr Perse. Each year we spend over a million pounds on our charitable work which includes means tested bursaries to ensure pupils of all backgrounds can attend The Perse, and partnership programmes with local state schools to provide opportunities for pupils outside The Perse. Next term, we shall celebrate Founder's Day by holding a Giving Day in support of Perse bursaries and our partnerships work on Friday 22 March. Our 2022 Giving Day raised over £115,000, as well as providing 3 days of emergency food packages for 47 families through our food bank collection. We are looking forward to similar success in 2024. If you would like to find out more about Giving Day, and how you can take part, please contact Erin Charles, Head of Development, at [echarles@perse.co.uk](mailto:echarles@perse.co.uk).

### Sport – the week ahead

#### Tuesday 5 December

3pm: U10 A/B/C/D Girls' Football v St Faith's (H)

#### Wednesday 6 December

2.30pm: U11 A/B/C/D Boys' Rugby v Old Buckenham Hall & Heath Mount (H)

11.30am - 12.25pm: Year 4 House Matches (during games session)

#### Thursday 7 December

3pm: U9 A/B/C/D Girls' Football v St Faith's (H)

#### Friday 8 December

2.30 - 3.35pm: Year 5 House Matches (during games session)

Congratulations to the U11 hockey side who took part in the IN2 Hockey Eastern Regional Finals at Gresham's – where they beat Stamford (2-0), Brentwood (2-0), Gresham's (2-0), Culford (5-1), Beechwood (2-0) and Heath Mount (1-0) in the semi-final. Unfortunately, we lost to Gresham's (0-1) in the final to end up as Regional runners up – an outstanding achievement and finale to the hockey season. Well done to: **Marianne Gouliouris, Eryn Jonas, Lillian Ke, Hanqi Lu, Annabel Ramsden, Julia Saklatvala, Arabella Sedgemore, Sherry Shao, Arabella Wallace** and **Siobhan Wan** and coaches Mr McGregor and Mrs Clark.

Well done to the U11 rugby side who took part in the IAPS Regional Festival at Framlingham – where they beat King's (10-5), Framlingham (5-0), Woodbridge (35-5), lost against Littlegarth (10-35) and drew against Norwich (10-10) in the semi-final to finish joint third. Mr Nicholes and Mr Butler were hugely impressed with the endeavour, bravery and skill shown throughout the whole tournament. Well done to the squad of **Adam Agarizaev, Sam Brennan, John Cowley, Henry Crossley, George de Albuquerque, Tom Kelliher, Tom Lance, Adam Lee, Hugo Magliano, James Parry, George Pullan** and **George Robson**.

## Absence from Games

We expect that if a child is well enough to be in School, they will be well enough to participate in a Games session – the School sports kit has been chosen to ensure children are comfortable and warm whilst participating in Games activities. Children should not leave School if they cannot participate in Games but will be kept occupied and supervised until the end of the school day.

## Music Individual Tuition

The Perse would like to reiterate to parents that individual peripatetic music teachers (peris) are engaged by the School on a self-employed basis. Parents enter into a contract for individual music lessons at the School directly with the peri, not with the School. This is an important distinction for HMRC tax reasons. For this reason, any paperwork sent out to parents from the peris will not include the Perse address or crest. Progress updates are provided by the peri directly to the parent; these can happen via the music practice book, email, phone calls or in a face to face meeting organised with each individual peri.

Any concerns regarding tuition should be addressed to the individual peri with whom the parents have signed the contract. If there are concerns regarding timetabling, please contact Jackie Wright, the Prep Administrator ([prepadmin@perse.co.uk](mailto:prepadmin@perse.co.uk)). If there are any continued concerns regarding tuition, then these should be addressed to the Director of Music ([pharris@perse.co.uk](mailto:pharris@perse.co.uk)).

## Academic Department Snapshot

Throughout the year we are highlighting each of the departments in the school to provide a little more information about some of the current work that is going on in lessons. This week we include a page on RE at the end of this newsletter.



## Y6 Class Reps

The PPP would like to reach out to parents in 6A and 6Alpha to act as Class Reps for the remainder of the year. An immediate task will be to organise collections for the teacher gifts at Christmas but also at the end of the year. If possible, it would be great if the Class Rep were able to help with organising termly meet ups for the year group. If you are interested or would like more details, please contact the PPP at the following email address: [perseprepparents@gmail.com](mailto:perseprepparents@gmail.com) - we would love to hear from you! Liz and Melissa (Co-Chairs).

## Cars

Drop off by car in the morning is at the Roundabout. Many thanks to families who are able to make this as efficient as possible by helping your child to have their equipment with or beside them already, as well as driving round much of the roundabout to enable three cars to drop off simultaneously! We have noticed that a number of parents are using the parking spaces in front of Leighton House as a drop off option. To reduce the movement of cars in this busy space, and ensure availability of parking for staff, can I ask parents not to use these spaces unless there is a particular reason, such as popping into Reception, or dropping off a bike.

In terms of safety, please do mind your speed when driving along Porson Court and be mindful of children (pedestrians and cyclists) who use the entrance to the residential houses beside our school entrance.

## Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

All children have recently taken part in the Bebras Challenge as part of their Computing lessons. This involves answering a series of logic puzzles which tests their ability to solve problems and apply computing skills to real-life situations. All the children involved have received a certificate of participation this week. Special congratulations go to the following who scored in the top 10% nationally for Year 6 and will be invited to take part in the next stage of the competition (Oxford University Computational Challenge) later in the academic year: **Adam Agarizaev, Linus Chin, Ben Finch, Charlotte Goodfellow, Benjamin Keen, Carmen Li, Sophie Oldfield, Annabel Ramsden, Isla Riddoch, Dhruv Sajog, Julia Saklatvala, Rosalind Selby, India Short, Torrin Somner, Siobhan Wan, Hanzhe Wang, Steven Wang, Selina Wong, Yueer Yuan and Austin Zhang.** A special well done to **Rosalind Selby**, whose score put her 4<sup>th</sup> overall, including Years 7&8 at the Upper!

## ABRSM results

Congratulations to the following students on their ABRSM exam: **Sophie Oldfield** Grade 1 Piano; **Elissa Skeete** Grade 2 Piano; **Léonie Ricciardi-Baquié** Grade 2 Piano; **Luke Welchman** Grade 2 Piano; **Dhruv Sajog** Grade 2 Piano; **Marianne Gouliouris** Grade 1 Piano; **India Short** Grade 2 Saxophone; **Barnaby Woodman** Grade 2



Singing; **Anna Kennedy** Grade 1 Singing; **Elizabeth Davies** Grade 2 Singing; **Qiao Shi** Grade 1 Singing; **Poppy Potter** Grade 1 Singing; **Yiwei Lu** Grade 1 Singing; **Veronica Wilson** Grade 1 Singing; **Sarah Cacciottolo** Grade 1 Singing; **Arun Jadon** Grade 1 Piano; **Clara de Lucena Rigat** Grade 2 Flute; **Maria Seega** Grade 1 Flute; **Saskia Addis** Grade 1 Cello; **Charles Balfour** Grade 1 Piano; **Angus Edgar** Grade 1 Piano; **Andrew Villaverde** Grade 5 Violin; **Beatrice Toutoungi** Grade 1 Violin; **Juliette Prewett van Beesten** Grade 2 Violin; **Olivia Wang** Grade 5 Violin; **Everett Black** Grade 2 Saxophone. Certificates will be handed out in Assembly when they arrive.

## Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Dhruv Ghildyal** on winning the Grade 3 Tennis Tournament in Gosling and entering directly to the National Level Grade 2 Tournament and winning the silver medal in the U12 Grade 4 Midlands Tennis Tournament at Carisbrooke; **Saskia Addis** for the Cambridge City Hockey Club U10 Girls' Most Improved Player Award; **Mythri Kulkarni** on her Crest International Spelling Bee Certificate with Merit and her Bharatnayam Grade 1 Dance Award with Distinction; **Jacob Painter** on passing a grading assessment with British Judo, progressing from a red belt to a yellow belt; **Katherine Elvidge** on her Stage 5 Swim Award; **Annabel Griggs** and **Mia Wei** on their Y5 Reading Challenge Award; **Benjamin Keen** for attending the British Schools Orienteering Championships where the Perse School reached the 2<sup>nd</sup> place; **Ben Finch** on his impressive Remembrance Poem (see below); **Charlize Church** on winning the gold medals in 200m front crawl, 100m backstroke and 100m individual medley in the U9 City of Cambridge Swimming Championships; **Jacob Painter** on his individual and team silver medals in the Melbourn Judo Championships; **Daniel Teng** on winning the bronze medal in the Newham Junior Chess Grand Prix; and **Oscar Qin** on winning the North London Chess Grand Prix 2 tournament, qualifying to play in the London Junior U8 Chess Championship. This week's Scores on the Doors are:



Yours sincerely,

*James Piper*

**James Piper**  
Head

4 <sup>TH</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	1 <sup>ST</sup>
1432	1455	1487	1505

## Remembrance Day Poem written by Ben Finch, Year 6

I fluttered and stuttered in an unforgiving wind.  
The thunder stopped and I raised my head.

The youth of the world lay spread before me.  
Every heap was hopeless under the mocking stars.  
There was no fire nor guns nor shells.  
Just silence.  
Yet many would stay silent forever.

The living were worse: standing in the doors of heaven ... or hell.

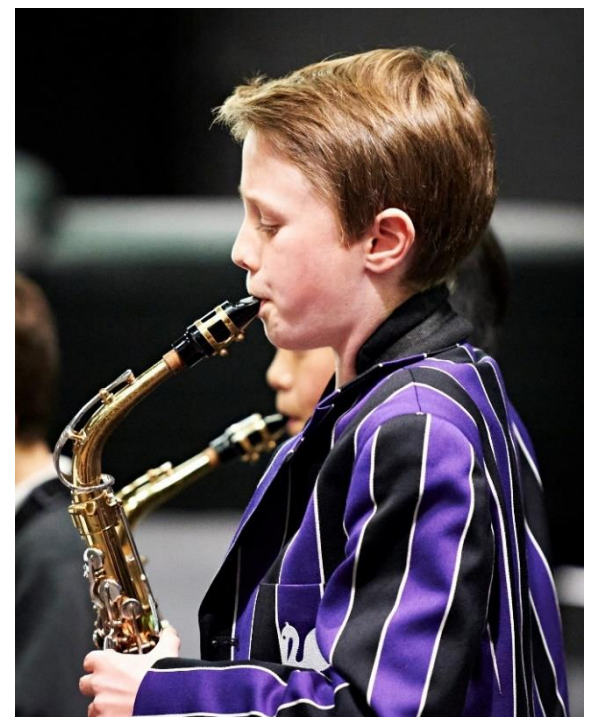
Two lone souls swayed on the dead carpet.  
Both stared shocked. Both stared in despair.

"Hello," spoke the Tired.  
"Begone," spat the Angry.  
"Where's the sweetness and glory in getting stabbed for my country?" wheezed the British.  
"What's the point in fighting if it's just for the devil to laugh at our dying bodies?" croaked the German.

The stars glowed like candles in the dark and the light caught my red petals.  
The men stood, divided by uniform but joined by humanity.















**We value endeavour, intellectual curiosity and scholarship, breadth and balance, one another and our environment.**