



Dear Parents,

We rounded off another term full of special memories with an entertaining *Great Perse Prep House Off* today, and a 4Alpha Form Concert and Founders' Day earlier in the week. All of these marvellous opportunities only take place because of the immense high standards, enthusiasm and excitement provided by the Prep staff. I am hugely grateful to them all for going over and above in their commitment to you and your children.

I would also like to congratulate all those who were part of an action-packed Year 5 French Trip visiting Normandy last weekend. Many thanks to Claire Soares Winter and her team (Laura Robertson, Dan Nicholes, Pippa Barbour, Will Bidwell, Eve Bonner, Eleanor Lowe and Helen Paul) for organising and running this successful overseas trip and providing such a memorable experience for all the children.

We start next term on Monday 15 April. Before then, there is a special period of holy days and holidays, especially for those celebrating Passover, Vaisakhi, observing Ramadan or marking Easter. I hope that your children are able to enjoy some family time and recharge batteries.



The Great Perse Prep House Off

Prep's Got Talent is an all-encompassing House Day, run by Mr Reston, aiming at involving all the children for as much of the day as possible. Sorted by House, and grouped in their House Families, the children have belted out songs in the House Shout with Mr Harris, engaged their brains in an amazing iPad interactive House Quiz, run through heats of the House Talent competition, and collaborated energetically in the House Active Competition with a variety of relay races! We finished an entertaining day with renditions of all of the House songs and also the finals of the House Talent Show, for which the following acts qualified: **Yiwei Lu & Yuru Li, Elizabeth Higgins, Eilidh Sinclair & Clara de Lucena Rigat & Marianne Gouliouris & Charlotte Goodfellow & Angelica Gupta, Torrin Somner & Ronak Sinha, Ben D'Arcy & Sam D'Arcy, India Short, Conrad Lally, Carmen Li.** Thank you to the Year 6 children who provided the following [routine](#) in the interval!



The overall winner was **Conrad Lally** for his brilliant deadpan stand up routine with a series of very funny jokes beautifully delivered; watch out for him in years to come!



Routledge House Cup – second half of term

1st Nomads (2074); 2nd Barbarians (2057); 3rd Corinthians (1987); 4th Foresters (1985). Hanqi Lu collected the trophy on behalf of her House as Nomads' highest housepoint scorer this half of term.

Sport Stats

The following Houses were victorious in our year group House Matches this week:

Netball: Y3: Foresters Y4: Corinthians Y5: Nomads Y6: Barbarians Overall: Corinthians

Hockey: Y3: Nomads Y4: Foresters Y5: Nomads Y6: Nomads Overall: Nomads



As for school fixtures in Years 4, 5 and 6, parents may be interested to know that sport at the Prep continues to shine brightly with 173 school fixtures this term. We only record Year 5 & 6 results and we have a staggering ratio of 74% wins, 9% draws and 17% losses. The breakdowns for the girls and boys are Netball: 86% wins, 4% draws, 10% losses; Hockey: 60% wins, 9% draws, 16% losses. Well done to the children and their coaches for all of their hard work.



Staffing Changes

Congratulations to Ed McGregor who moves to St Faith's as Director of Sport in September. We wish Ed the very best with this move and look forward to keeping in touch on the touchlines with plenty of fixtures in the coming years. Team McGregor will wield a significant influence down the road, with Ed's wife currently the Head of Drama there!

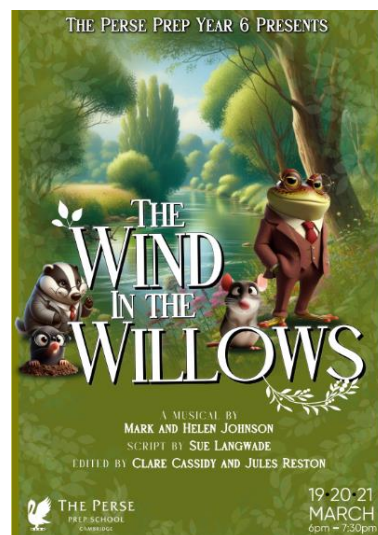
After a competitive interview process, I am delighted to announce that Dan Nicholes has been appointed as our new Director of Sport. Dan started at the Prep in 2012 and has built significant experience across all areas of the Perse Prep over the past decade, and most recently as Assistant Director of Sport. We are fortunate to have plenty of time to allow a smooth handover and transition ahead of next academic year.

Congratulations to Rebecca Rundle on the arrival of baby James; the whole family are doing very well. A reminder that Charlotte Fairclough joins us as maternity cover TA for the Summer Term.

Year 6 Musical – *The Wind in the Willows*

Last week saw six outstanding performances of our Year 6 musical *The Wind in the Willows*, in which we were transported to the pastoral idyll of the riverbank, the scary wild wood and the extravagant Toad Hall. Ratty, Mole, Toad, Badger and the rest of the cast entertained us with their story of eternal friendship come whatever disasters. The children triumphed in every way, clearly revelling in the spotlight, and enjoying the buzz of a large-scale live performance. Well done to everyone involved.

The play was triple-cast, with a different group of twenty-five children taking the lead roles each night and performing in the supporting ensemble on the other evenings. My thanks to all of the children who took part and to the staff involved, notably Miss Matthews for the set and props, Mr Addison-Atkinson on the drums, Miss Turner for her assistance in direction, Mr Harris leading the musical input, and Mr Reston and Mrs Cassidy for their directorial roles.



Moana and Adiemus

Do click the following links to hear our combined choirs from last week's assembly: [Moana](#) and [Adiemus](#).

PODcast

POD, our School Council, have produced their second PODcast of the year. Thanks to Mr Reston and Mr Bown for overseeing the process but special thanks to all the children, as POD is one of the formal ways of listening to the pupil voice. Two of our Year 6 reps, **Jacqueline Danesh** and **Samuel Hong**, give an update [here](#) of Pupil Organised Democracy activity this term. N.B. for the observant listener, please don't be alarmed that the swimming pool will just contain 500 litres of water – it is actually 500k litres!



Introducing *The Purple Press*

Extra, extra, read all about it! As the Lent Term draws to a close, why not have a browse through the latest edition of the [Purple Press](#) and relive all the highlights of a busy term? Do watch out for some fantastic new features introduced by this term's Journalism Club, including original cartoons, inspiring book reviews and brain-bending puzzles to keep boredom at bay over the Easter holidays. My thanks to Mrs Soares Winter for helping the current clutch of the Prep's fledging journalists to fly high.

Cross-Country

248 children opted to take part in the four age group races of our House Cross-Country, with a slightly longer distance for Year 5 and 6. Having added up all the times, the Foresters came first in Years 3 & 5, Barbarians in Year 4 and Nomads in Year 6. Nomads were the overall winners. Individual winners were as follows:

Year 6: Eryn Jonas and George Pullan

Year 5: Nicky Williams and Ellie Zhu

Year 4: Charlize Church and Max Nowozin

Year 3: Chloe Andrews and Jacobi Davies

Well done to our school teams who came 2nd in the recent East Anglian Prep Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Old Buckenham Hall. Eryn Jonas was our highest individual finisher, coming 6th in the U11 Girls' race. Well done to the squad of **Marianne Gouliouris, Eryn Jonas, Tom Kelliher, George Pullan, Sam D'Arcy, Ted Jenkin, Arabella Wallace and Lucia Whelan**.

Giving Day

Thank you to everyone who supported Giving Day. The Perse exceeded our total of 1615 items for the food bank which meant, not only meals for those in need, but a donation of £2,500 to our bursary fund. In total Giving Day raised £104,346 for entrance bursaries, hardship bursaries, and our schools' partnership programme. It is wonderful that 408 years after Dr Perse's benefaction, we are still giving to allow children to benefit from an excellent education either through bursary places at The Perse or via our partnership work with local state schools.

Artwork

This week's art banner showcases year 4 oil pastel jungle landscapes, inspired by artist Henri Rousseau



Easter Holiday Challenges

The only expected work for the holidays is for children in Year 4 to read *Iron Man* and those in Year 5 to read *Myths and Legends*. Copies of these books should have come home already. Year 6 do not have a set text to read but are encouraged to explore Shakespeare through watching any *Animated Tales*, which can be found on YouTube (children should, of course, ask parents' permission before going online).

More general optional activities in English (writing a book review) and in Maths (solving puzzles) are available for anyone who is keen. These have been explained in class and can be found on Teams.

Prep Office over the Easter Holiday

The Prep School Office will be open on Thursday 28 March and also Monday 8 – Thursday 11 April between 10.30am and 3.00pm. If you need to get hold of us urgently over the holidays, do contact prep@perse.co.uk or telephone the Upper School on 01223 403800.

Summer Term Calendar

If parents would like to access the dates for next term's events, then do refer to the School Calendar [here](#).

Diversity Activity Day – 24 May

Many thanks to everyone for their contributions to the IE&D parent meeting last week as we share ideas and gain further insights from the parent and pupil experience. Next term we will be celebrating a Diversity Day. Ms Abbott would like to invite parents to participate in running an interactive session that introduces our students to something different or new e.g. learning about a particular celebration or different cultural music or art. Please email Stef (sabbott@perse.co.uk) to discuss your ideas if you are interested in being involved.

Inspiration Week – Monday 24 to Friday 28 June

The Prep Activities Week is being rebranded as 'Inspiration Week' and will now take place during the penultimate week of the Summer Term. Rather than just calling on scientists in the Prep community, we would love to involve any parents who would be happy to showcase aspects of their jobs and careers and so inspire the next generation. If you would like to take part, please consider what activity you would like to run or what talk you might wish to give, the year group you would prefer to have as an audience, as well as the amount of time you are able to help for, and then apply via this [link](#). We would like to accommodate as many requests as possible but can't guarantee all of these! The deadline for applications is Monday 20 May.

Summer Term Games Kit



Games kit for all children changes to a white cricket shirt (available from Mr Cricket [here](#)), with black shorts or skorts, and white PE socks. Tracksuit trousers and midlayers can be worn if it is cold. This is also the games kit for school matches, although children may want to wear cricket whites as trousers. Winter games shirts and socks should be left at home.

As the weather brightens, children also need a suitable hat / cap. We ask that children wear a Perse hat / cap rather than non-uniform headgear brought in from home. Most children like the black cap available from Mr Cricket [here](#) but a broad brimmed cream hat is also available [here](#).



PPP Summer Term Events

The PPP would like to invite parents to three events coming up in the summer term:

Cheese & Wine Evening with Pastoral Talk, 18 April

Tickets are now available for a Cheese & Wine Evening with Mental Health Pastoral Talk from ex-Prep School Head Mike Crossley. Join us to hear Mike share a passionate talk advocating proactive mental health support for young minds, emphasising empowerment over rescue. This event is being organised by Laura Robertson, Assistant Head Pastoral, in collaboration with the PPP. It is open to all parents at a cost of £5 which includes the talk plus a selection of cheese and wine.

Spring Walk, 21 April

This year's spring walk will take place at Gog Magog Down at 2pm. All family members are welcome including the four-legged ones! No booking is necessary – just turn up on the day to meet old friends and new and hopefully enjoy some nice weather!

Dinner and Drinks at the Prep, 11 May

Please save the date for the PPP's Dinner and Drinks night. This is open to all parents, costs £20 per person, and involves food from [The Wandering Yak](#). Tickets on sale soon!

PPP Year 6 Parents – Leavers' Event

The Year 6 PPP reps are delighted to announce that this year's Leavers event for parents will take place on Saturday 22 June at The Graduate, Granta Place, Mill Lane, CB2 1RT. Please do save the date. Further information and the booking website will be available soon.

This particular event is for parents only. The School event for children and parents takes place on Wednesday 3 July (5pm – 9.30pm) at the Prep.

Lent Term 'Values' Awards

These termly awards are based on the four Perse Values. Children can't win this award twice during the same academic year; final decisions are made by the Form Teachers. Year 6 recipients receive trophies as well as certificates:



Valuing One Another & Our Environment:

**3A Amelie Lindsay, 3Alpha Charlotte Wang, 3Aleph Aylen Nand-Chercoles
4A Veronica Wilson, 4Alpha Anna Kennedy, 4Aleph Sam Moorjani
5A Xixi Lin, 5Alpha Sam D'Arcy, 5Aleph Joyce He**

The Richards Cup for Valuing One Another & Our Environment:

6A Emma Meng, 6Alpha Conrad Lally, 6Aleph Sam O'Reilly

Breadth & Balance:

3A Annabelle Daly, 3Alpha Hayley Zhong, 3Aleph Katherine Hancock

4A Rayne Ho, 4Alpha Qiao Shi, 4Aleph Edward Sage

5A Alexander Freeborough, 5Alpha Angus Edgar, 5Aleph Ellie Zhu

The Clarke Bowl for Breadth & Balance:

6A Annabel Ramsden, 6Alpha Selina Wong, 6Aleph Elizabeth Higgins



Endeavour:

3A Ronav Bilku, 3Alpha Toby Sage, 3Aleph Henry Wallace

4A Nicholas Warburton, 4Alpha Sophie Itani, 4Aleph Daisy Marshall

5A Ivy Green, 5Alpha Anushka Jadon, 5Aleph Elizabeth Kennedy

The Carey Quaich for Endeavour:

6A George Li, 6Alpha Sophia Hardcastle, 6Aleph Lillian Ke

Intellectual Curiosity & Scholarship

3A Lara Juniper, 3Alpha Eleanor Reynolds, 3Aleph Mireya Sinha

4A Everett Black, 4Alpha Barnaby Woodman, 4Aleph Juliette Prewett van Beesten

5A Elliot Woolley, 5Alpha Annousheh Sayed, 5Aleph Freddie Heftman

The Gahlaut Trophy for Intellectual Curiosity & Scholarship:

6A Clara de Lucena Rigat, 6Alpha Linus Chin, 6Aleph Eryn Jonas



Giving Notice for the end of the Summer Term

Parents are required to give one term's notice of any pupil withdrawal. If you intend to withdraw your child from The Perse at the end of this academic year, then you must write to the Head to give formal notice by the first day of the Summer Term (Monday 15 April). If you haven't informed the School already, a term's notice in writing is also required for pupils who are leaving The Perse to go elsewhere at the end of Year 6. This applies also for those pupils who have already accepted a transfer place at the Upper School but will not be taking up this place. Parents giving notice after the deadline will be liable for the Michaelmas term's fees in lieu of notice, as the School will have committed to Michaelmas Term expenditure on the assumption that pupils were staying.

Certificates and Awards

Congratulations to **Daniel Teng** on his Year 5 Reading Challenge Award; **Yiwei Lu** and **Simiao Han** on winning Silver Medals for Cambridge Junior Hockey Club at the Bedford U10 Hockey Festival; **Effie Martínez-McCune** on her contributions to Huntingdon Tennis Club; **Kumara Sathiaselan** on his 5th KYU Shotakan Karate certificate; **Juliette Prewett van Beesten** on her British Theatre Dance Association Grade 2 Acrobatic Dance with Merit; **Marissa Ojha** on her ESA Stage 4 swimming certificate and for her Cello recital at Hughes Hall College; **Nina Nguyen** on her ABRSM Piano Grade 4; **Julian Zhu** who won the U8 Piano class in the Cambridge Competitive Music Festival; **Peter Rimell** on leading his team to victory in the Cambridge Distinct Cubs Quiz Finals against 10 different cub-packs across the region; **Ruohan Zhu** on her Core Skills 3 gymnastics certificate and silver medal for rhythmic gymnastics.

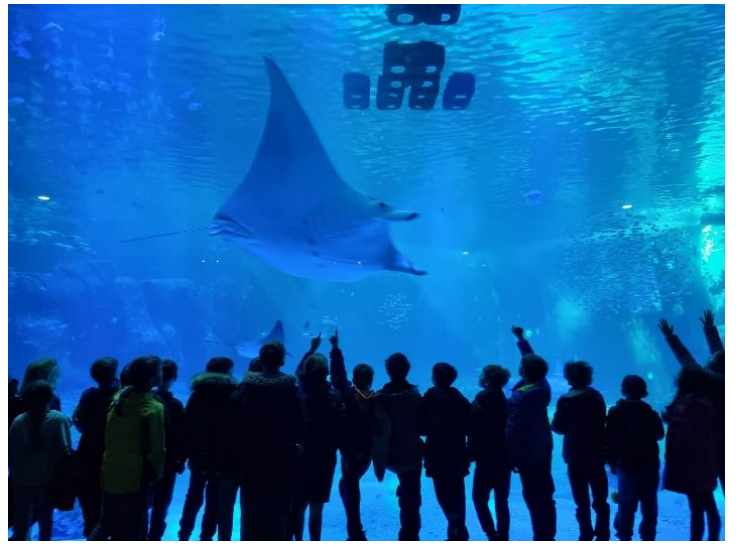


Yours sincerely

James Piper

James Piper
Head





Year 5 French Trip







Year 6
The Wind in
the Willows





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