The Perse School

Outdoor Education Department



2026-27





Welcome

3 Head's Welcome

4 Department Director's Welcome

5 Outdoor Education Handbook

6 Outdoor Activities and Risk

7 Educational Ethos

8 Pupil Standards

9 Introducing the Department

The Team

10 Meet the Team

21 Department Contacts

22 Social Media

Pathways

24 Progression Structure

25 Perse Exploration Society Core Pathway

26 PES Pathfinders

27 PES Trailblazers

28 PES Basecamp

29 PES Ascent Group

30 PES Peak DofE - Bronze

31 PES Summit 11

32 PES Peak DofE - Silver

33 PES Summit 12

34 PES Peak DofE - Gold

35 PES Volunteering

Clubs

37 Archery Club

38 Bushcraft Club

39 Climbing Club

40 Paddlesports Club

41 Rifle Club

42 Woodworking Club

43 'OPEN' Trips

44 Perse Climbing Academy

Supporting Documents

46 Managing Risk

47 Venture Planning

48 Medical Provision & Consent

49 Cutting Tools

50 Behaviour

51 Digital Devices

Additional Information

53 Outdoor Education Equipment & Uniform

54 Frequently Asked Questions

55 Volunteering



ED ELLIOTT
HEAD

Head's Welcome

"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time"

The words of TS Eliot which are carved in stone on the table that commemorates 100 years of scouting and Outdoor Education at The Perse.

For an activity to stand the test of time and the feedback of thousands of pupils and parents it has to be good.

The Perse has a well justified reputation for excellence in Outdoor Education, and offers a range, scale and quality of outdoor activity that few other schools attain.

Learning and personal development are not confined to the classroom. Outdoor Education at The Perse presents excellent opportunities for students to challenge themselves, gain new skills and knowledge, develop resilience, teamwork, leadership, organisation and problem-solving abilities and have fun.

From an early stage, students are given responsibilities in the Outdoor Education programme and in meeting these, they develop.

Generations of Perseans have benefited from outdoor learning and developed a lifelong love of the outdoors. I encourage you to find out more by talking to Mr Parker and his staff.



BEN PARKER
DIRECTOR OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Department Director's Welcome

Welcome to the Perse Outdoor Education Department. Our aim is to provide Perse students with world class standards of extra-curricular opportunity with a specific focus on developing resilience, leadership, responsibility and team work.

Every year the Outdoor Education Department runs more than 20 trips and regular weekly meetings. We have a membership of 1000+ students, 30+ staff and 30+ volunteers. In 2026-27, pupils will have access to a progressive curriculum programme spanning Year 1 to Year 7, climbing as a sports option in Year 9 to Year 13, the Perse Exploration Society programme and a variety of extra-curricular clubs. This includes the full range of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and NICAS climbing courses.

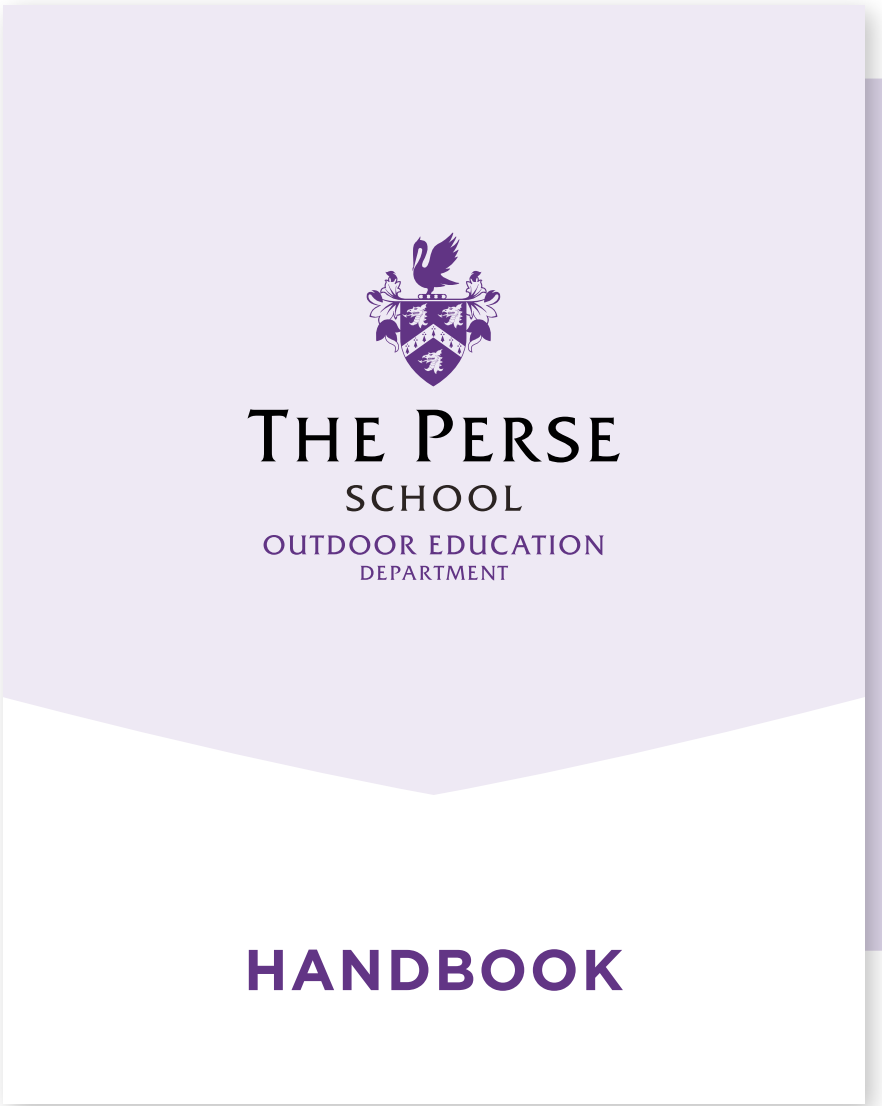
As Director of Outdoor Education, I am passionate about giving all students, no matter their background, the opportunity to get outdoors and have an adventure, learning about themselves and their peers along the way.

Parents are an essential part of what we do. You can assist in the delivery of training sessions, weekend trips and even multiday international expeditions. All training is provided and participation is free of charge as a volunteer.

If you are interested please contact me directly on bcparker@perse.co.uk

I wish your child an enjoyable year ahead in Outdoor Education.

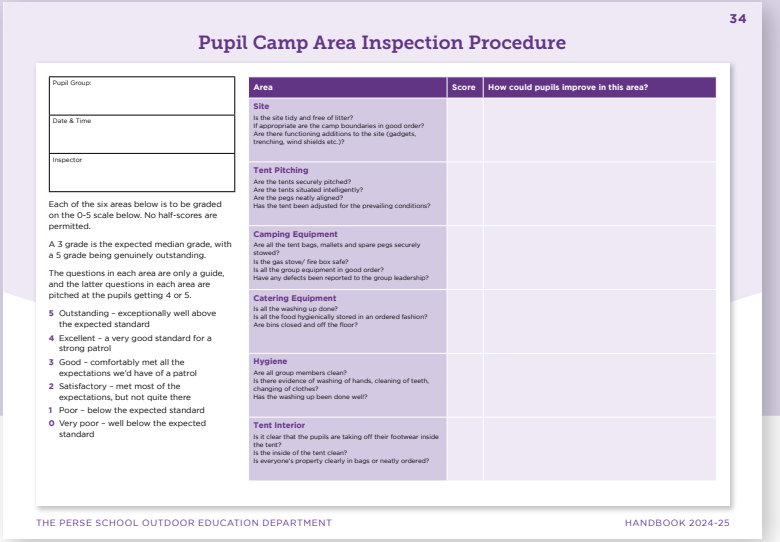
Handbook



Helpful Resource

Outdoor Education Handbook

- Reference document for all OED groups
- Useful information for both parents and pupils
- Group structures and leadership roles
- Top Tips and Helpful Hints
- Key Contacts



34

Pupil Camp Area Inspection Procedure

Pupil Group:

Date & Time

Inspector

Each of the six areas below is to be graded on the 0-5 scale below. No half-scores are permitted.

A 3 grade is the expected median grade, with a 5 grade being genuinely outstanding.

The questions in each area are only a guide, and the latter questions in each area are pitched at the pupils getting 4 or 5.

5 Outstanding – exceptionally well above the expected standard
4 Excellent – a very good standard for a strong patrol
3 Good – comfortably met all the expectations we'd have of a patrol
2 Satisfactory – met most of the expectations, but not quite there
1 Poor – below the expected standard
0 Very poor – well below the expected standard

Area	Score	How could pupils improve in this area?
Site Is the site tidy and free of litter? If appropriate are the camp boundaries in good order? Are there functioning additions to the site (gadgets, trenching, wind shields etc.)?		
Tent Pitching Are the tents securely pitched? Are the tents situated intelligently? Are the pegs neatly aligned? Has the tent been adjusted for the prevailing conditions?		
Camping Equipment Are all the tent bags, mallets and spare pegs securely stowed? Is the gas stove/ fire box safe? Is all the group equipment in good order? Have any defects been reported to the group leadership?		
Catering Equipment Is all the washing up done? Is all the food hygienically stored in an ordered fashion? Are bins closed and off the floor?		
Hygiene Are all group members clean? Is there evidence of washing of hands, cleaning of teeth, changing of clothes? Has the washing up been done well?		
Tent Interior Is it clear that the pupils are taking off their footwear inside the tent? Is the inside of the tent clean? Is everyone's property clearly in bags or neatly ordered?		

THE PERSE SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK 2024-25



Outdoor Activities and Risk

Parents should be aware that outdoor activities are inherently risky. Ventures that include adventurous activities involve exposure to accepted elements of risk, challenge and adventure greater than those normally encountered in everyday life. Whilst such activities provided by The Perse Outdoor Education Department are subject to exacting safety management processes, it cannot be guaranteed that all possibility of resultant injury to participants, or others, is eliminated.

Applying for a place

Our Outdoor Education programmes are extremely popular. Places are however strictly limited. Safety and quality are of paramount importance. Waiting lists are sometimes required. All of our programmes require pupils to work in close knit teams (patrols, fires etc.). It is important that all members of the team are committed to training and trips. This commitment enhances pupil experience and allows us to operate more complex and challenging activities.

Before applying for a place in a particular group please note the following guidance:

- Places are provided on a first come first served basis, a waiting list will be operated in the case of over subscription.
- Applications may only be made via SOCs.
- Attendance at all sessions and trips associated with each group are mandatory
- Non-attendance on a trip and/or two training sessions without good reason will lead to a pupil's removal from a group
- For our development groups and international trips, where activities feature an elevated risk, we reserve the right to exclude a pupil from training and/or trips where they have not met the training requirements
- All pupils are expected to abide by the Outdoor Education behaviour policy at all times. Contravention of the behaviour policy may lead to a pupil's removal from a group



Educational Ethos

In Outdoor Education we embrace problem-based learning. This is an immersive educational ethos that puts students in the driving seat. Students are provided with foundational skills and then incrementally exposed to novel problems and encouraged to seek solutions. The aim is to develop well-rounded, determined and adaptable students, better prepared for the modern world.

Our Approach:

- Challenge students to demonstrate autonomy through deeper engagement and genuine responsibility.
- Promote a culture that embraces learning without fear of failure, whilst maintaining safe boundaries.
- Develop connections between skill acquisition and experience, by application in varied settings and novel scenarios.
- Encourage students to use teamwork and delegation to solve complex issues.

Benefits:

- **Student leadership:** problem based learning encourages students to take a leading role and demonstrate initiative and responsibility. Students are faced with new challenges and provided the space to act creatively, developing skills that will benefit them into adulthood.
- **Motivated and Confident Students:** The reward of problem based learning is much greater than externally derived feedback or grading. Students earn the self-respect and satisfaction of knowing they've solved a problem, created an innovative solution, or overcome an obstacle. This creates self-confident and motivated learners.
- **Transferable skills:** The abilities students develop have wider benefits. They can be applied in all settings. Taking a leading role, exercising judgement and demonstrating time management are just a few examples. These skills have an impact on all elements of a student's learning.
- **Teamwork:** problem based learning encourages student collaboration. Peers are required to work together to come up with solutions. This approach challenges students to demonstrate collaboration, communication, compromise, and listening.
- **Deeper engagement:** through problem based learning students are discouraged from the passive consumption of information and encouraged to produce tangible outcomes. This puts students at the centre of learning. Students have to think critically and laterally to solve the challenges before them.



Pupil Standards

Some of our activities involve elevated exposure to risk. We have high pupil standards which support pupil welfare and safety.

Values:

All Outdoor Education members should demonstrate:

- Honesty and trustworthiness
- Integrity and resilience in the face of adversity
- Autonomy of action by making good use of their time
- Due consideration for personal safety and the safety of others
- Care for equipment and the environment
- Compassion and consideration for others

Sanctions:

- Contravention of these expectations may lead to exclusion from activities where safety is compromised
- Community sanctions in lunchtime detention will be implemented where these expectations are not met

Expectations

- Pupils must uphold the Outdoor Education values
- Pupils must follow all staff instructions
- Pupils must attend sessions punctually
- Pupils must follow the digital devices policy
- Pupils must bring specified equipment to sessions e.g. waterproofs and headtorch and must wear designated uniform (PES groups only)
- Pupil leaders must attend sessions with a watch, small notebook and pen/pencil




SCOUT CAMP, WEST RUNTON, 1960s


BEAVER PATROL INSPECTION 1960s

Introducing the Department

The Outdoor Education Department at the Perse is a dedicated full-time department that delivers a range of outdoor activities for pupils attending The Perse Upper and Prep Schools. Outdoor education has a long history at The Perse, starting with the 5th Cambridge Scout Group, which first met in 1909.

Over the years, the Scout Group was transformed into a separate organisation known as the Perse Exploration Society with a wider scope for challenging activities and expeditions. The aim of the Perse Exploration Society is to provide students with leadership and learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Most of all, the Perse Exploration Society gives Perse students the chance to experience travel and adventure in some of the remotest places on earth and come away with lifelong memories.

Today, the Perse Exploration Society is split into a number of groups which provide students with a progressive outdoor education. This starts with Pathfinders in Year 1 and 2, followed by Trailblazers in Year 3 to Year 6, which takes places in sports curriculum time. Pupils take part in climbing and campcraft activities at the Upper School site.

Pupils progress to Basecamp in Year 7, which takes place in timetable and provides all pupils with the basic skills for living outdoors. Pupils can then choose to progress on to Ascent Group in Years 8 to 10. This focuses on personal development and pupil leadership through multi-activity training sessions and camps. In Year 10, pupils are selected to lead in Ascent Group or to take on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme.

In Year 11 and Lower Sixth, pupils participate in more challenging international expeditions through the Summit groups and/ or continue with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to Silver and Gold level. Pupils in Summit 11 conduct an annual canoeing expedition to Sweden where they camp out in hammocks and cook over open fires. Finally in Summit 12, pupils plan and conduct their own mountaineering expedition abroad.

On progressing through the Perse Exploration Society structure, many pupils choose to give time back to those in younger years by volunteering. We have a flourishing volunteer leadership scheme with over 20 volunteer students in Sixth Form. The Perse Exploration Society is still the backbone of the department today. However, with an expanded body of students and staff the department now also provides a wide range of extra-curricular clubs such as Climbing Club, Paddlesport Club, Woodworking Club, Archery Club and Perse Climbing Academy.



The Team



Director of Outdoor Education

Mr Ben Parker

Ben began his expedition career with The Perse School in 2007, joining an expedition to the Carpathian Mountains in Romania. A qualified outdoor instructor, he brings extensive experience across the UK outdoor activity sector and has led, managed or supported international expeditions to destinations including Sweden, Morocco, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Vietnam, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, India, Kyrgyzstan and Canada.

His work has taken him through some of the world's most inspiring mountain environments, from the High Atlas and Andes to the Rockies, Himalayas and Alpine ranges, as well as along many of the rivers in between.Having worked at The Perse for more than 15 years and been involved in over 500 trips, Ben is passionate about developing student leadership and championing the value of learning beyond the classroom. He believes that outdoor education provides young people with opportunities to grow in confidence, take responsibility, build resilience and discover what they are capable of in unfamiliar and challenging environments.

Reflecting on his own experiences, Ben says: "Learning outside the classroom as a child taught me to be resilient and to view problems from a new perspective, developing greater self-confidence and self-awareness." This belief continues to shape his approach to outdoor education at The Perse, where he is committed to helping pupils develop the skills, character and mindset to thrive both on expedition and beyond.

Alongside his work at school, Ben contributes to wider industry best practice through a range of roles with the British Association of International Mountain Leaders, the Royal Geographical Society and the Young Explorers Trust. Through these commitments, he supports high standards in outdoor learning and international expedition delivery, while remaining focused on the transformative impact that well-planned adventurous experiences can have on young people.

Qualifications

- Geography BA (Girton College Cambridge University)
- UIMLA International Mountain Leader
- UK Summer & Winter Mountain Leader
- Advanced Open and White Water Canoe Leader & Coach
- British Canoeing Endorsed Guide
- Rock Climbing Instructor, Coach and Route setter
- DofE Assessor
- WEISS Bushcraft Instructor
- WEMSI Medical Technician & Mental Health First Aider
- Archery Instructor/ NRASTC Lifeguard
- IRCA Quality Management Systems, Lead Auditor

Industry Roles

- Director, British Association of International Mountain Leaders Board
- Lead Auditor, Young Explorers Trust
- Offsite Safety Management Trainer, Royal Geographical Society

Management - Expeditions & Projects



Expeditions & Projects Manager

Miss Selina Rees

Qualifications

- Air Rifle Instructor
- Archery Instructor
- BA (Hons) History (University of Leeds)
- Climbing Wall Development Instructor
- DofE Assessor
- Summer Mountain Leader
- NRASTC Lifeguard
- Paddlesport Instructor
- RSA Rope Access Setter

Selina started working in the outdoor industry as an instructor at an Outdoor Activity Centre in 2022. She has a particular interest in mountaineering and climbing, enjoying trips including sea cliff climbing on Lundy Island. Selina grew up walking in the Peak District and has continued exploring in North Wales, the Bavarian Alps, and the Cairngorms. Since joining The Perse in 2024, she has gained experience supporting international expeditions to Sweden and India, and is passionate about inspiring young people through outdoor education.



Expeditions & Projects Assistant Manager

Mr Tom Ngui Parrick

Qualifications

- BA (Hons) Adventure Tourism Management (University of Birmingham)
- British Canoeing Level 3 Coach (Sea)
- Open Canoe Leader
- DofE Manager
- IOL Accredited Practitioner
- Level 3 Forest School Leader
- Foundation Coach (Climbing)
- Rock Climbing Instructor
- Summer Mountain Leader

Tom has over 20 years of experience in outdoor and experiential education, beginning his career in 2003. He worked extensively with the Outward Bound Trust in Wales, the Lake District, and Hong Kong, focusing on personal development through outdoor learning. He has led multi-day expeditions involving hillwalking, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, and sailing. His personal adventures include sea kayaking in the Falklands, UK, and Hong Kong, cycling in Cambodia and Taiwan, and mountaineering in China. He remains dedicated to helping others grow through challenge, adventure, and connection to nature.

Management - Operations & Skills



Operations & Skills Manager

Mr Kieron Taylor

Qualifications

- BA Adventure Recreation (University of Bedfordshire)
- UK Summer Mountain Leader
- Climbing Wall Instructor
- Advanced Water Open Canoe Leader & Coach
- Moderate Water Kayak Leader and Coach
- British Canoeing UKCC Level 2 Coach
- NRASTC Lifeguard
- Archery Instructor
- RYA Powerboat Level 2
- DofE Manager/ Assessor/ Supervisor
- WEMSI Medical Technician
- Mental Health First Aider

Kieron started within the outdoor industry as a multi-activity instructor back in 2011. Since then, he has worked in varied roles across the UK, France and New Zealand, with a broad range of clients, and loves to be able to share his passion with others. Within the Perse, over the last 7 years, Kieron has enjoyed leading multiple outdoor programmes and trips and now heads up daily operations within the department.



Operations & Skills Assistant Manager

Miss Maya Hide

Qualifications

- Archery Instructor
- CSIA Level 2 Ski Instructor
- Climbing Wall Development Instructor
- DofE Assessor
- NRASTC Lifeguard
- Paddlesports Instructor and Leader
- Rock Climbing Instructor
- RSA Rope Access Setter

Maya has working in Outdoor Education since leaving school. Before coming to The Perse, she worked in outdoor centres instructing paddle sports, high ropes and target sports. Maya spent time as a freelance instructor working on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, bushcraft camps and Bikeability across the country. Maya has also spent a winter season in Whistler. She is passionate about instilling a lifelong love for the outdoors in young people and encouraging them to challenge themselves.

General Instruction



DofE Coordinator

Mr Tom Robinson

Qualifications

- Archery Instructor
- Climbing Wall Instructor
- DofE Manager & Assessor
- Geography with Mountain Leadership BSC
- Mountain Bike Instructor Award Level 2
- PADI Advanced Diver
- Summer Mountain Leader

Tom has been working in the outdoors for 10 years, leading Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and teaching a vast range of activities over 3 different continents. After working at outdoor centres and then instructing at a climbing wall, Tom's horizons expanded internationally. Spending Summer in the USA, directing adventure activities for a Special Educational Needs camp, and Winters in the UAE running remote and bespoke trips for schools and charities. The love of travel and exploration marries very well with work in the outdoors, and enabling others to have similar eye-opening experiences is what drives Tom in his day-to-day work.



Paddlesports Coordinator

Mr Kelan Ford

Qualifications

- Archery Instructor
- British Canoeing Awarding Body Personal Performance Awards Provider
- Canoe Open Water Leader (pending June 2026)
- Dinghy Instructor
- DofE Assessor
- Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Paddlesport
- National Rescue Award for Swimming Teachers and Coaches (NRASTC) Certified
- Range Conducting Officer (pending June 2026)
- Remote Emergency First Aid Responder
- White Water Kayak Leader and Coach

Kelan began working as an instructor across a variety of activity centres in London and the home counties in 2016. Predominantly engaged in watersports, he has experience of paddling a variety of craft in the UK and Europe. Alongside this, he has delivered a variety of water and land-based sessions to a broad client base. Personally, he has enjoyed experiences climbing, biking, caving, and hiking, including the support of a published research expedition to the Romanian Carpathians.



Stores Coordinator

Mr Matt Woolf

Qualifications

- Bsc Outdoor Adventure Leadership and Management (University of Worcester)
- Climbing Wall Development Instructor
- DofE Assessor
- NRASTC Lifeguard
- Open Water Canoe Leader
- Paddlesports Instructor
- Rock Climbing Instructor
- RSA Rope Access Setter
- UK Summer Mountain Leader

Matt started work in the Outdoor Industry as a Trainee Leader for British Exploring, the culmination of which was a six-week expedition in the Amazon jungle. Since then, he has engaged in freelance Outdoor Education work in a variety of roles whilst at university. His personal passions are mountaineering, scrambling, and climbing. Matt was also a student at The Perse School and has been involved in Outdoor Education since 2007. Personal expeditions include the GR20 in Corsica, Bavarian Alps as well as frequent journeys to North Wales, Brecon Beacons, and the Lake District.

General Instruction



Target Sports Coordinator

Mr Thomas Starr

Qualifications

- NSRA Club Instructor - Prone Rifle
- NSRA Range Conducting Officer
- NRA Range Safety Officer

Thomas started shooting in 2018 at the Perse Upper. Since graduating in 2023, he has become established among universities as a coach and shooter at the University of Warwick, finishing third in the postal stage of the BUCS Smallbore Short Range Men's competition and joining multiple British Young Shooters' Association subcommittees. He has also captained and coached the Japanese national fullbore team at the 2025 Imperial Meeting. New to teaching at the Perse, he is eager to spread his passion for Target Sports to pupils and support their development of soft skills to succeed in later life.



Trainee Instructor

Mr Will Barnes

Qualifications

- BSc Adventure Sports Science (Bangor University)
- White Water Leader
- Paddlesports Leader
- Outdoor First Aider

Will recently completed a BSc in Adventure Sport Science at Bangor University. During his time at university, he served as Captain of the Canoe Club, where he organised trips across the UK, led club activities, and helped develop participation within the club. Will's main passion is white water kayaking, and he has paddled extensively throughout the UK and the Alps. Alongside kayaking, he enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities, including climbing, hiking, and canoeing, giving him broad experience across the outdoor sector. Will began working in the outdoors while still at school, freelancing on outdoor activity camps and supporting Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. More recently, he helped support a kayaking expedition to the Austrian Alps, where he assisted participants in developing their skills and confidence on the water.

Climbing Team - Management



Climbing Wall Manager

Mr Rory Howard

Qualifications

- Archery Instructor
- BA Leadership in Public Services (University of East Anglia)
- British Canoeing Level 2 Coach
- British Canoeing Paddlesport Instructor Tutor
- British Fencing Coach
- Climbing Wall Development Instructor
- IRATA Level 1 Rope Access Technician
- Mental Health First Aider
- Rock Climbing Instructor
- RSA Rope Access Setter

Rory has experience managing an outdoor education centre in East Anglia and runs his company, which specialises in providing outdoor activities for vulnerable people and delivering charity abseil events. Passionate about helping young people develop confidence and resilience, Rory has experience delivering climbing, high ropes and zip line activities. A keen climber and paddler, he has undertaken mountain and canoe expeditions across Canada, the USA, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Borneo. Rory is excited to help develop opportunities through the Perse Climbing Wall and inspire climbers of all ages and abilities.



Climbing Wall Assistant Manager

Miss Sarah Pollard

Qualifications

- British Sign Language, Linguistics and Deaf Studies BA (hons)
- British Sign Language level 3
- Climbing Wall Development Instructor
- Foundation Coach
- RSA Rope Access Setter

Sarah has been passionate about climbing from a young age, drawn to its challenge and adventure. She enjoys outdoor climbing in locations such as Italy, Wales and Scotland, valuing the sense of exploration it offers, as well as the physical and technical demands of indoor climbing. She is particularly passionate about introducing new people to the sport and coaching climbers of all abilities. Through outdoor education and climbing, Sarah hopes to inspire young people to embrace challenges and develop resilience and confidence.

Climbing Team - Instructors



Senior Climbing Wall Instructor

Mr Elliot Paveley

Qualifications

- Archery Instructor
- Climbing Wall Development Instructor
- CSIA Ski Instructor Level 1
- Foundation Climbing Coach
- Paddle Sport Leader
- Rock Climbing Instructor
- SRSA Rope Access Setter

Having started venturing into the outdoors at a young age and climbing as a teenager, Elliot has experienced the benefits it has on developing people's physical abilities as well as helping grow confidence and resilience in themselves. Elliot has always had a passion for climbing and being outdoors which led him to start work at a centre five years ago as an instructor so he could share this passion with others.



Climbing Wall Instructor

Mr Adam Joester

Qualifications

- Climbing Wall instructor
- National Pool Lifeguard Qualification
- ERCA High Ropes Course Instructor
- SRSA Scottish Ropes Setting Award
- Foundation Climbing Coach

Adam started working full time in outdoor education in 2023 at an outdoor activity centre delivering climbing, high ropes and bushcraft. He has travelled across the UK and Europe climbing and hiking. His personal highlights include deep water soloing in Swanage, England and highballing in Paklenica National Park, Croatia. Throughout Adam's time at school, he developed a passion for the outdoors. He has enjoyed his time at the Perse and looks forward to working more within the school's community.



Climbing Wall Instructor

Miss Esme Bruzelius Guron

Qualifications

- History of Art, MA Hons (University of Edinburgh)
- Level 4 Art Foundation Diploma (UAL)
- Climbing Wall Instructor

Esmé has loved climbing since childhood, growing up spending her Summers on Sweden's rocky West coast. At Edinburgh University she was an enthusiastic member of the Mountaineering Society and on her year abroad at UC Santa Barbara, she joined the UCSB climbing team helping organise climbing trips to Joshua Tree and Yosemite. Esmé is a strong advocate for climbing's role in fostering respect for nature and looks forward to helping young people build confidence, independence, and joy through the sport.

Ascent Group Staff



Section Leader (HQ Troop)

Dr Richard Chen

Academic role:
Physics Teacher

Richard loves being outdoors and since he joined the Perse in 2019, he has enjoyed the opportunity to take part in various PES camps and expeditions. As an experienced Scout leader, he has organised and led many camps and expeditions across the UK in the past 13 years. He looks forward to working with students in HQ Troop to develop their passion for camping, as well as important teamwork and leadership skills. Richard is also a keen chef, badminton player and musician.



Section Leader (Earth)

Miss Nikki Payne

Academic role:
Geography Teacher

As a keen footballer, Nikki has always had a love of sports and the outdoors. She is passionate about giving young people opportunities to challenge themselves, share new experiences, and create lasting memories with friends. During her time at university, she participated in various charity expeditions that involved summiting Mount Kilimanjaro and dog sledding across the Arctic Circle. She has also conducted research in Ghana and has spent time working in New Zealand and Switzerland teaching and coaching a variety of sports. She looks forward to working with students in Earth section to further develop their passion and appreciation for the outdoors.



Section Leader (Air)

Mr Sam Featherstone

Academic role:
Economics & Politics

Sam has taught at the Perse since 2022. An advocate for human-powered adventure, he has completed a range of cycling and hiking expeditions across Britain and Europe. He is an active member of a sailing club on the Essex coast and has also worked in Canada as a sailing instructor. Sam is passionate about outdoor education and helping students develop resilience, confidence and teamwork through shared challenges and experiences. He has greatly enjoyed his involvement with Ascent Group and Summit 11 expeditions and is delighted to be leading Air Section.



Section Leader (Fire)

Mr Myles Thompson

Academic role:
Physics Teacher

Myles started teaching at The Perse in 2021 having left the school as a pupil in 2016. An Expedition Medic and Mental Health First Aider, Myles has greatly enjoyed guiding students through the challenges of living outdoors on PES Ascent Group as well as helping on Summit 11 and Basecamp trips. He enjoys traveling and has spent time abroad hiking and sailing. Myles looks forward to continuing to work with Fire Section, helping students' confidence grow, developing their leadership skills, and building their teamwork.



Section Leader (Water)

Miss Catherine Henderson

Academic role:
PE Teacher

Catherine's first experience at The Perse was on an Ascent Group summer camp in 2021, and she has loved being part of the PES community ever since. She has supported Summit 11 expeditions, Basecamp trips, and Paddlesports Club. As a PE Teacher, she enjoys inspiring pupils to be active, develop confidence and challenge themselves. She is particularly excited to continue working with Water Section and strongly values the positive experiences and personal growth that pupils gain through PES.

Volunteers



Parent Volunteer

Christine Emerson

Christine has been a volunteer for the last 11 years. She enjoys helping facilitate young people having a great time in the outdoors and seeing their progression in skills, knowledge and personal development over their journey from the lower years to 6th Form. Christine has taken part in various PES activities and camps over the years and has been the 'Camp Doctor' providing First Aid and support to students and staff. She particularly enjoys the Summit 11 trips to Sweden and is working toward a Canoe Leadership Award.



Parent Volunteer

Juliet Clark

Juliet has been volunteering with PES for three years, supporting an exciting curriculum of outdoor activities across all age groups in the Perse schools. She is an assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and helps out with all aspects of training. She also supports the Paddlesport Club, as well as Summit 11 (the much loved Sweden trip) and open trips. She is trained as a Mountain Leader and currently training as a Forest Bathing Guide and psychotherapeutic counsellor. Having fun with the young people, while sharing her love of the outdoors and its positive impact on wellbeing are at the heart of her involvement.



Graduate Volunteer

Rob Almqvist

Rob left the school as a pupil in 2020 returning as a volunteer last year after graduating in Biology from Durham. Keen to share his experiences with current pupils, Rob has been volunteering with Ascent group and is keen to continue to expand his involvement with the school next year. A keen backpacker and hillwalker, Rob completed his Gold DofE at the Perse and is keen to get himself out of Cambridge to somewhere less flat whenever possible. Rob can usually be found by the river coaching rowing crews or doing fieldwork in Cambridgeshire woodland.



Graduate Volunteer

Josh Clarke

Josh began volunteering with PES while studying at university, keen to share his love of the outdoors and help young people grow their confidence through new experiences and adventure. He has supported a range of programs across the Outdoor Education Department, including Ascent Group, Duke of Edinburgh, and Summit 11. Having spent time conducting field research in remote locations during his Environmental Science studies, Josh has developed a real appreciation for the opportunities that the outdoors can provide. He enjoys helping students challenge themselves, build resilience, and grow their confidence through real-life problem solving. Alongside volunteering, Josh works as a researcher and supervisor at the university, where he shares his enthusiasm for science and the environment.

Technical Advisors



Land Based Technical Advisor

Chris Pretty

Qualifications

- BA (Hons) History UEA
- MA Landscape History UEA
- DTLLS Teaching Qualification
- International Mountain Leader
- MCI Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor AMI & MTUK
- MTUK Technical Advisor
- DofE Assessor
- NICAS/NIBAS Course Director

Chris began instructing in 1985 at Ullswater Outward Bound Mountain School. He made a name for himself as a new route pioneer in the South West. He continued working as a climbing instructor at various centres and became General Manager of an outdoor centre in the Lake District. Over 20 seasons, Chris worked as an IML in the Alps with KE Adventure and became an Associate Instructor at Glenmore Lodge. He still climbs regularly and puts up new routes across the UK. He works with the veterans' charity Climb to Recovery, teaching in the UK and the Alps to help veterans gain climbing qualifications and progress toward employment.



Medical Technical Advisor

Dr Chet Pager

Qualifications

- B.A Hons (Psychology, Stanford University)
- Higher Diploma in Education (University of Cape Town)
- B.Med Hons (University of Newcastle)
- Ph.D in Medicine (University of Sydney)
- Juris Doctor (Yale University)
- WEMSI Wilderness Physician
- Advanced Life Support

Chet has 20 years of experience as a medical practitioner, has travelled to over 140 countries, and has served as expedition doctor for over 50 expeditions, covering all seven continents including Antarctica. He is an experienced secondary school teacher and youth counsellor amongst his many careers, and enjoys working in remote environments and supporting young people by developing their independence and confidence. Chet has been involved with The Perse School since 2017, including expeditions to Morocco, India, Bolivia and Sweden, and provides medical technical support for all PES international expeditions.



Water Based Technical Advisor

Jenna Sanders

Qualifications

- BSc Hons Biological Sciences (University of Warwick)
- MSc Coach Development (Leeds Beckett University)
- Level 4 Performance Coach - Open Water SUP
- Level 4 Performance Coach - Advanced Open Water Canoe
- Level 3 Coach - Advanced White Water Canoe
- BCU Level 3 Coach - Inland Kayak
- Coastal SUP Leader

Jenna has been working in paddlesports for 25 years, gaining experience as a freelance coach, before becoming centre manager for a paddlesport centre. She now runs her own business, providing training and assessments for coaches, instructors and leaders in various paddlesport disciplines, but she's especially happy when out in her canoe or on a SUP. Jenna is a part of the national trainer team for Paddle UK, helping to train and assess course providers.



Risk Management Technical Advisor

Dr Myles Harris

Qualifications

- PhD Risk and Disaster Reduction
- MA Practice Education
- Aspirant International Mountain Leader
- Winter Mountain Leader
- Summer Mountain Leader
- Paddlesport Leader (Canoe)
- Off-site Safety Management certificate
- Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society

Myles works as an Associate Professor (Teaching) in Risk, Disasters, and Humanitarianism. Myles specialises in education and developing training programmes as a risk reduction and management intervention. Myles also works as an outdoor instructor and Duke of Edinburgh Award assessor/supervisor, focusing on mountain and water-based sports. In his spare time, Myles volunteers for a large youth development charity as the strategic lead for adventure training. Myles is an advisor on risk reduction and management for a variety of organisations that operate in the UK and overseas.

Department Contacts

Director of Outdoor Education

Ben Parker
E: bcparker@perse.co.uk **M:** 07534 471711

Management Team

Expeditions & Projects

Manager
Miss Selina Rees
E: sorees@perse.co.uk
M: 07539495701

Assistant Manager
Mr Tom Ngui-Parrick
E: tnparrick@perse.co.uk

Operations & Skill

Manager
Mr Kieron Taylor
E: kotaylor@perse.co.uk
M: 07702333546

Assistant Manager
Miss Maya Hide
E: mhide@perse.co.uk

Climbing & Commercial

Manager
Mr Rory Howard
E: rdhoward@perse.co.uk
M: 01223 403977

Assistant Manager
Miss Sarah Pollard
E: slpollard@perse.co.uk

General Instruction Team

DofE Coordinator
Mr Tom Robinson
E: tdrobinson@perse.co.uk

Equipment Coordinator
Mr Matt Woolf
E: mjwoolf@perse.co.uk

Paddlesport Coordinator
Mr Kelan Ford
E: ktford@perse.co.uk

Target Sports Coordinator
Mr Thomas Starr
E: tstarr@perse.co.uk

Trainee Instructor
Mr Will Barns
E: whbarnes@perse.co.uk

Climbing Instruction Team

Senior Climbing Instructor
Mr Elliot Paveley
E: ejpaveley@perse.co.uk

Climbing Instructor
Mr Adam Joester
E: ajoester@perse.co.uk

Climbing Instructor
Miss Esme Guron
E: eguron@perse.co.uk

Social Media

Keep up with what the department and Sports Centre are doing by following us on social media and on the school's website perse.co.uk

Communication on Trips

All information from our trips will be communicated using the Outdoor Education Instagram feed **@perseoutdooreducation**. Parents may be contacted on an individual basis in the case of an emergency.

You can follow us at www.instagram.com/perseoutdooreducation or scan the QR code to keep up to date with all our trips and expeditions.

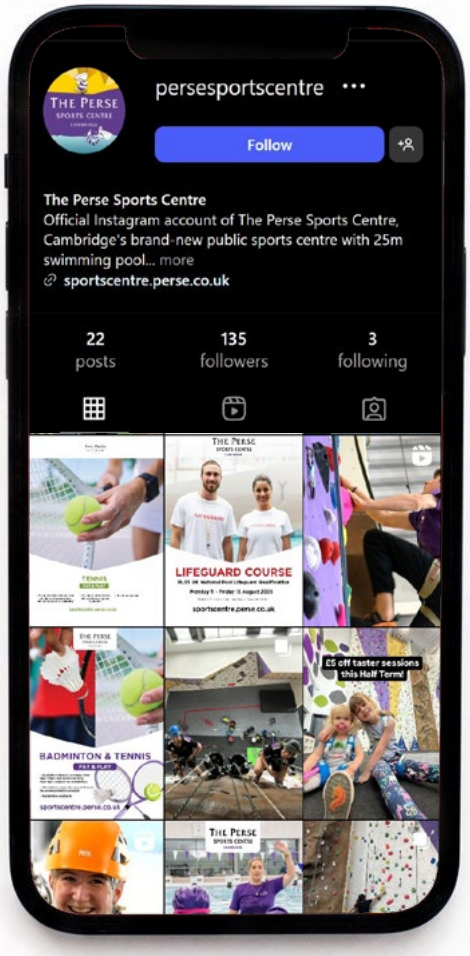
Parents or carers wishing to make contact with trip staff may contact the home contact line on 01223 851250.



perseoutdooreducation



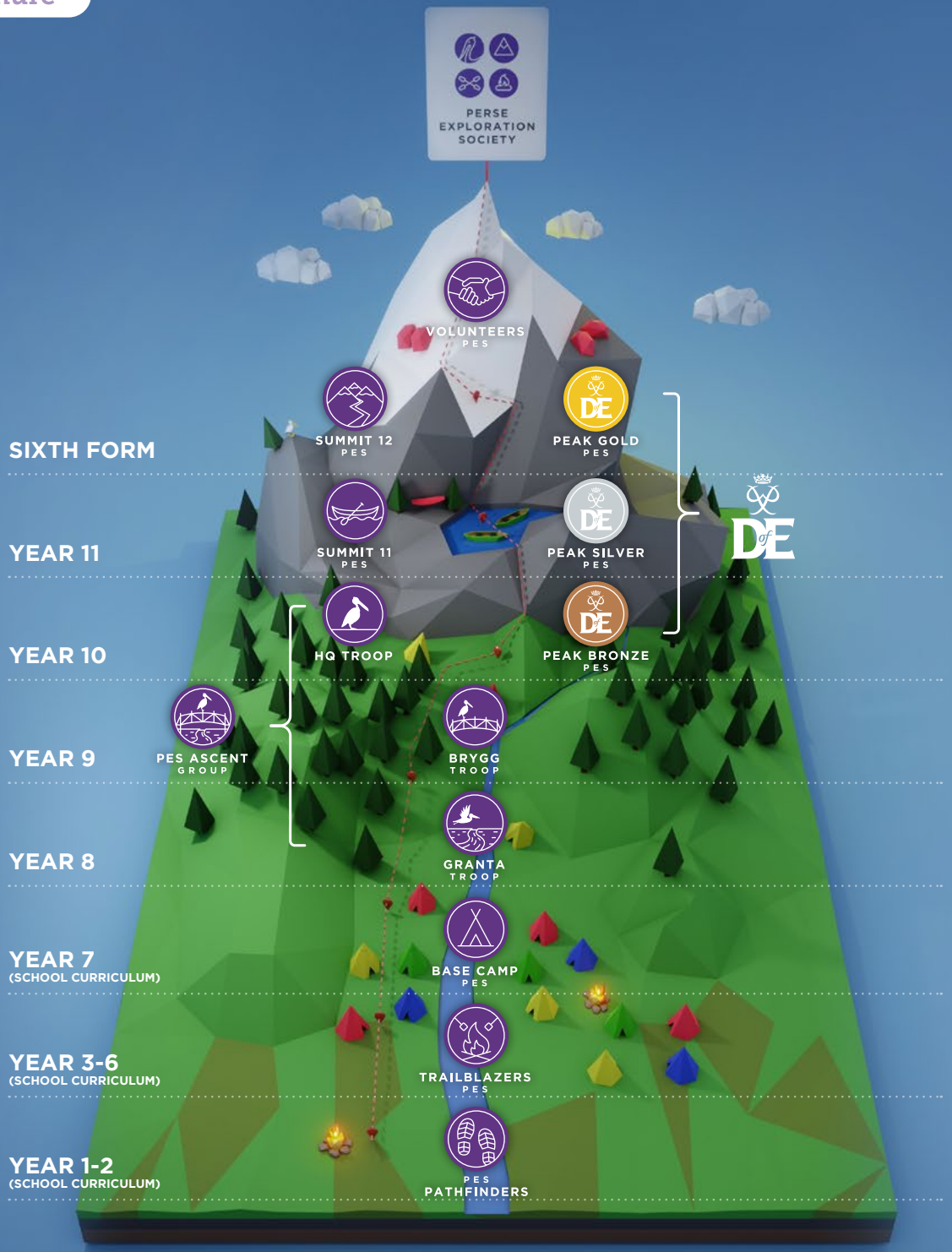
persesportscentre





Outdoor Education Pathways

THE PERSE SCHOOL
OUTDOOR EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT



CLUBS

- PADDLESPORTS CLUB
- ARCHERY CLUB
- CLIMBING CLUB
- PERSE RIFLE CLUB
- WOODWORKING CLUB
- PERSE CLIMBING ACADEMY

Outdoor Education Perse Exploration Society Core Pathway

Group	Year	When	Trip Days	Venue	Activity Focus	Accreditation
	1,2	Curriculum	N/A	School	Climbing and Personal Skills	Internal
	3,4, 5,6	Physical Education Curriculum	N/A	School	Climbing and Life Skills	Internal
	7	Curriculum	2	Local	Campcraft and Life Skills	Internal
	8	Extra-curricular	4	Regional	Outdoor Multisport and Campcraft	Internal
	9	Extra-curricular	8	National	Peer Leadership, Outdoor Multisport and Bushcraft	Internal
	10	Extra-curricular	12	Regional/ National	Leadership and Management	Internal
	10	Extra-curricular	3	Regional	Hiking	DofE Award
	11	Enrichment curriculum	12	National/ International	Canoeing and Remote Bushcraft	Internal
	11	Extra-curricular	5	Regional	Canoeing	DofE Award
	12	Games Curriculum	12	National/ International	Winter Mountaineering and Cultural Immersion	Internal
	12	Extra-curricular	6	National	Trekking	DofE Award
	12,13	Extra-curricular	Various	Regional/ National	Mentoring	Internal

CLUBS YEARS 7-13

Group	When	Options	Trip Days	Venue	Activities	Accreditation
	Extra-curricular	N/A	N/A	School	Field Archery, Archery Tag	Archery GB
	Extra-curricular	Foundation, Development	3 Open/ White Water Canoe & Kayak	National	Canoeing, Paddleboarding, Kayaking	British Canoeing Awards
	Extra-curricular	N/A	N/A	School	Carving, Woodturning	Internal
	Extra-curricular	Informal (lunchtime), Foundation, Development	3 Mountaineering 4 Single Pitch Rock Climbing	National	Indoor and Outdoor Climbing, Mountaineering, Abseil	Mountain Training
	Extra-curricular	Informal, Foundation, Intermediate & Development	Competitions (invitational)	School	Smallbore Rifle, Pistol, Air Rifle & Shotgun	Home Office
	Extra-curricular	Informal (lunchtime)	N/A	School	Firelighting, backwoods cooking	Internal

PERSE CLIMBING ACADEMY YEARS 3-13

Group	When	Options	Trip Days	Venue	Activities	Accreditation
NICAS	After school and Weekends	NICAS Climbing and Bouldering 1-4, NICAS Wildclimbers	N/A	Perse Climbing Wall	Indoor Climbing	NICAS
Holiday Climbing	Easter and Summer and half term Holidays	Junior, Intermediate and Senior	N/A	Perse Climbing Wall	Indoor Climbing	Internal

PES Pathfinders

Group Size:	24	Meetings:	NA
Age Range:	Years 1 - 2	Annual Subscription:	NA
Entry Years:	Years 1 - 2	I/C	Miss Selina Rees

Overview:

PES Pathfinders is the new Outdoor Education programme for Year 1 and 2 pupils. The programme supports pupils taking their education outdoors.

Inspired by the Pelican learning friends, the programme explores perseverance, collaboration, creativity and curiosity through outdoor learning. Sessions take place in the Summer term.

Sign Up:

No sign up is required. Pupils are automatically enrolled via the timetable. There is no cost associated with this programme, all aspects are covered by school fees.

Activities:

Activities include storytelling, pioneering, fire lighting, shelter building and climbing. The level of challenge will progress through the programme and across year groups, with pupils encouraged to develop self-confidence and teamwork.

Venue:

PES Pathfinders sessions will take place at the Upper School site. Pupils will be visiting the purpose-built Outdoor Education Centre, wild garden and our climbing wall at the Perse Sports Centre. Pupils will make their way to most sessions on foot. For sessions at the Perse Sports Centre, school minibuses will be used.



PES Trailblazers

Group Size:	25	Meetings:	NA
Age Range:	Years 3 - 6	Annual Subscription:	NA
Entry Years:	Years 3 - 6	I/C	Miss Selina Rees

Overview:

PES Trailblazers is the curriculum based Outdoor Education programme for Years 3 to 6. Based in Experiential Learning, the programme emphasises the importance of discovery, whilst promoting a culture of learning without fear of failure. PES Trailblazers not only fosters physical skills but also encourages teamwork, self confidence and decision making. The purpose is to give students lifelong skills to take forward into the rest of their school career.

Sign Up:

No sign up is required. Pupils are automatically enrolled via the timetable. There is no cost associated with this programme, all aspects are covered by school fees.

Activities:

Pupils will participate in a variety of activities over the four years from fire lighting and learning about the environment around them, to being introduced to climbing and bouldering in our brand-new sports facility. With key themes running through the programme such as health and hygiene, environmental awareness, and bushcraft, pupils will see progression of their skills as they move through the year groups.

Venue:

PES Trailblazer sessions will take place at the Upper School site. We will make use of our wonderful Outdoor Education facilities including the state-of-the-art climbing wall, purpose built Outdoor Education Centre and wild garden. Sessions take place in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms.

Trips:

There is one annual trip for Year 4 in the Summer Term. Pupils will be participating in a variety of outdoor activities during a one night residential.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Y4 Overnight	£125	21st - 22nd May 2027



PES Basecamp

Group Size:	25	Meetings:	NA
Age Range:	Year 7	Annual Subscription:	NA
Entry Years:	Year 7	I/C	Miss Selina Rees

Overview:

Base Camp is a curriculum based Outdoor Education programme provided to all students in Year 7. Training will take place in timetable at our purpose built Outdoor Education Centre located at the Upper School. From outdoor cooking to archery, this will be the first taste of the various outdoor activities available at The Perse. We believe that learning outside the classroom develops self-confidence, resilience and teamwork. Lessons will be hands on and very practical with the majority based outside.

Sign Up:

No sign up is required. Pupils are automatically enrolled via the timetable. There is no cost associated with this programme; all aspects are covered by school fees.

Activities:

In Base Camp lessons, students can expect to receive training on cooking, food hygiene, camping, pioneering and fire lighting. Topics covered in lessons are intended to prepare students not just for the annual camp but for the future clubs and societies at The Perse. Students will find activities challenging but enjoyable with wide ranging opportunities to develop teamwork and leadership skills.

Venue:

PES Basecamp sessions will take place at the Outdoor Education Centre at the Upper School site. We will also make use of our climbing wall and wild garden. The overnight camp will take place at Abington playing fields.

Trips:

There is one annual trip in the Summer Term. This trip is optional, however it is highly recommended for those pupils considering membership of PES Ascent Group in Year 8. Pupils will be based in tents and cook all their own meals on camp.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Y7 Overnight	£40	11th - 12th May 2027 (Forms MNRT), 12th - 13th May 2027 (Forms GHL)



PES Ascent Group

Group Size:	**227**	Meetings:	**Friday (fortnightly) 5-7pm**
Age Range:	**Years 8 - 10**	Annual Subscription:	**£285 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**Years 8 - 9**	I/C	**Miss Maya Hide**

Overview:

PES Ascent Group is the largest group in the whole structure of the Perse Exploration Society. The group is split into two troops; Granta and Brygg. Granta Troop, focuses on campcraft and personal development. Year 8 students are formed into patrols, led by two Year 10 students, and learn the key skills for living outdoors under canvas. Brygg Troop, focuses on bushcraft and leadership development. Year 9 students form independent patrols with designated leadership role. These are supported by Year 10 pupils.

Within each troop there into patrols of eight students. Four patrols form a section (of which there are four in each troop; Earth, Air, Fire and Water). The sections are run by a Year 10 patrol known as 'Bears' and the troop is overseen by eight Year 10 students known as the 'Stags'. Positions of responsibility are gained through growing experience and selection of future leaders is carried out by current student leaders and staff. It is great privilege for students to be appointed a Patrol Leader, Stag or Bear, and quite rightly so, as they run the troops, planning activities and preparing for camps.

Entry into PES Ascent Group may only take place in Year 8 and 9. Year 10 leadership positions are by appointment only. Year 10 pupils not appointed in Year 10 may take part in the wide range of Outdoor Education clubs and societies on offer.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via the online form published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair. Students wishing to sign up must commit to fortnightly Friday training sessions and one compulsory trips each year.

After-School Arrangements:

PES Ascent Group meetings commence at 5pm on Fridays in term time at the Outdoor Education Centre. This start time enables other extra-curricular activities to occur at school and for our volunteer staff to make their way to meetings from their places of work.

Students may leave the school site to purchase food for dinner from the leisure park on Hills Road. Should parents wish students to remain on site between the end of the school day and the start of the session, a supervised dinner is provided in the school café. Dinner can be booked on an annual basis for an additional fee of £75.

Trips:

Detail	Cost	Dates
Granta Camp	£275	26th - 29th March 2027
Brygg Camp	£425	4th - 11th July 2027



PES Peak DofE- Bronze

Group Size:	100	Meetings:	Wednesday after school
Age Range:	Years 10 - 13	Annual Subscription:	£285 + VAT
Entry Years:	Years 10 - 13	I/C	Mr Tom Robinson

Overview:

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) scheme gives pupils objectives in extra-curricular activities, while valuing independence, resilience and forward-thinking. The Outdoor Education Department is a DofE Directly Licensed Centre, and the in-house DofE Manager assists with signing up for the award online, provides the necessary training for the Expedition section, and supports students in completing all sections of the award.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via the online form published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair. A note on the Expedition section: participants may complete their expeditions within one academic year or across two years, depending on their preferred pace.

Activities:

There are weekly training sessions throughout the year. These sessions are designed to help students gain experience and training in expedition planning, as well as receive assistance and advice on their eDofE activity logs and framework. The DofE Manager is also available during these sessions to discuss ongoing plans.

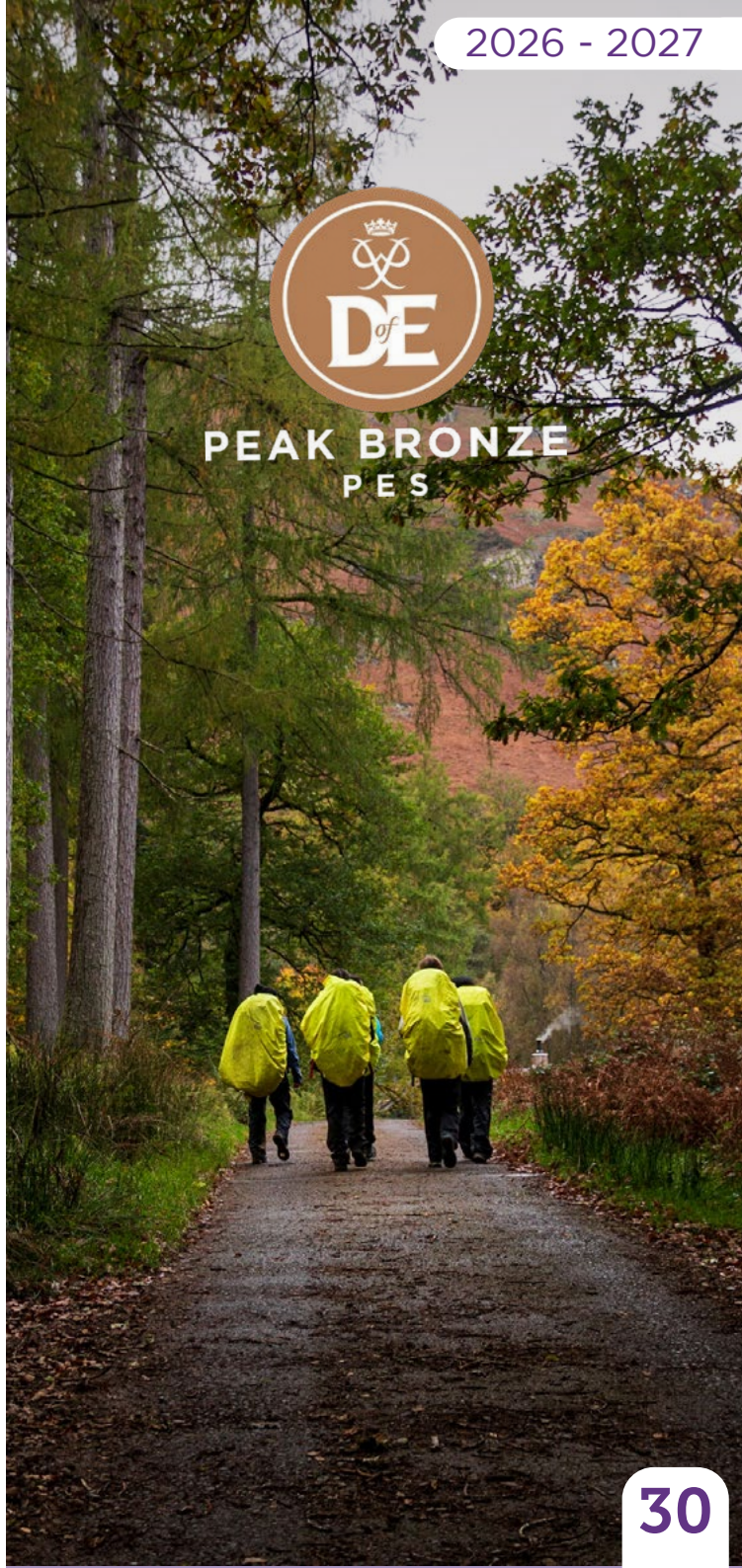
Venue:

The training and qualifying expeditions take place in Thetford Forest and along the Norfolk coast. These expeditions are based at campsites with amenities, but teams are expected to be self-sufficient when it comes to food and equipment. A strong emphasis is placed on teamwork and navigation, as these are the fundamental skills required to work effectively together on an expedition.

Trips:

The practice expedition is a one-day trip where pupils demonstrate their navigation skills and teamwork while carrying heavy packs, while the qualifying expedition includes camping and provides an opportunity to demonstrate reliability and resilience.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Practice Expedition	£15	2nd November 2026
Qualifying Expedition	£75	1st - 2nd May 2027



PES Summit 11

Group Size:	**Max. 100 students**	Meetings:	**Wednesday Week B 2-4 pm**
Age Range:	**Year 11 Only**	Annual Subscription:	**£350 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**Year 11 Only**	I/C	**Mr Ngui Parrick**

Overview:

Summit 11 is open to all Year 11 students, regardless of previous outdoor experience. The programme helps students develop confidence, teamwork, and resilience through bushcraft and canoeing. Throughout the course, students work towards a multi-day canoe expedition on the lakes of Sweden, where they carry their own food, sleep under tarps and cook meals over open fires.

Sign Up:

Summit 11 is part of the school's enrichment programme and as such runs during the school day (excluding trips). Pupils wishing to take part will be provided with an enrichment booklet in the Summer term prior to commencing Year 11 and will be asked to choose their preferred option.

Activities:

Pupils take part in a wide variety of bushcraft and canoeing activities designed to build practical outdoor skills. They learn techniques such as carving, lighting fires using friction methods, cooking on open fires, and outdoor first aid.

Canoeing forms a major part of the programme. During the final expedition, students also have opportunities to go fishing and swimming.

Venue:

The programme takes place in a range of outdoor environments, including remote woodland locations and wooded islands. A key part of the experience is learning to live outdoors, with students camping under tarps and sleeping in hammocks while developing practical expedition skills before travelling to Sweden.

Trips:

There are two annual trips. On signing up, students must commit to both trips. Training takes place in the Michaelmas half term and the main expedition takes place in late June/early July before GCSE exam results day.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Training Trip	£200	29th - 30th October 2026 (Group 1), 31st October - 1st November 2026 (Group 2)
Expedition	£1450	19th - 26th June 2027 (Group 1), 21st - 28th June 2027 (Group 2)



PES Peak DofE - Silver

Group Size:	**50**	Meetings:	**Wednesday after school**
Age Range:	**Years 10 - 13**	Annual Subscription:	**£285 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**Years 10 - 13**	I/C	**Mr Tom Robinson**

Overview:

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) scheme gives pupils objectives in extra-curricular activities, while valuing independence, resilience and forward-thinking. The Outdoor Education Department is a DofE Directly Licensed Centre, and the in-house DofE Manager assists with signing up for the award online, provides the necessary training for the Expedition section, and supports students in completing all sections of the award.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via the online form published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair. A note on the Expedition section: participants may complete their expeditions within one academic year or across two years, depending on their preferred pace.

Activities:

There are weekly training sessions in Michaelmas and Lent term. The sessions are designed such that students can get assistance and advice on their eDofE logs, expedition planning and training framework needs. The DofE Manager will be available to discuss ongoing plans at these sessions.

Venue:

The training and qualifying expeditions will both take place in the Peak District. These expeditions are based at campsites with amenities, but teams will be self-sufficient in terms of food and equipment. During the practice expedition, a strong emphasis is placed on navigation and route planning, enabling pupils to develop the skills needed for navigating more challenging terrain.

Trips:

For the 2026-27 academic year, the training and qualifying expeditions will take place separately to allow the students to develop their skills between expeditions. The qualifying expedition takes place after all GCSE exams.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Practice Expedition	£150	19th - 21st March 2027
Qualifying Expedition	£200	27th - 30th July 2027



PES Summit 12

Group Size:	**Max. 30 students**	Meetings:	**Monday afternoon**
Age Range:	**Year 12 Only**	Annual Subscription:	**£350 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**Year 12 Only**	I/C	**Mr Ben Parker**

Overview:

PES Summit 12 is the Sixth Form expedition arm of the Perse Exploration Society. It is open to all students in Year 12, irrelevant of previous outdoor experience. The aim of the group is to develop outdoor skills, cultural understanding and teamwork skills throughout a 14-16 day expedition to an international mountainous location. This is an opportunity for students to learn a great deal about the world, other cultures and the natural environment.

Activities:

There are fortnightly training sessions held within curriculum to prepare students for the main expedition. These involve equipment preparation, expedition hygeine and learning about the local culture, to name a few. On the training trip, students will learn the fundamental skills of mountaineering alongside safety and rescue to prepare themselves for the main expedition. The main expedition will involve trekking, mountaineering and experiencing the local culture and environment.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via the online form published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair. Students wishing to sign up must commit to Monday training sessions and both trips.

Venue:

The 2027 Summit 12 expedition will take place in Northern Kyrgyzstan. This will involve sight seeing in Bishkek as well as a multi-day trekking and camping itnierary from Lake Issyk Kuhl to the Arabel Plateau in the high mountains. The group will be summiting Suuk Peak at 4500m.

Trips:

There are two annual trips. On signing up, students must commit to all trips. Training takes place in the first half of the Lent half term and the main expedition is in August.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Training Trip	£450	13th - 17th February 2027
Main Expedition	£2500	19th - 29th August 2027



PES Peak DofE - Gold

Group Size:	**Max. 60 students**	Meetings:	**Tuesday after school**
Age Range:	**Year 12 Only**	Annual Subscription:	**£285 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**Year 12 Only**	I/C	**Miss Selina Rees**

Overview:

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) scheme gives pupils objectives in extra-curricular activities, while valuing independence, resilience and forward-thinking. The Outdoor Education Department is a DofE Directly Licensed Centre, and the in-house DofE Manager assists with signing up for the award online, provides the necessary training for the Expedition section, and supports students in completing all sections of the award.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via the online form published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair. We operate a separated practice and qualifying expedition at Gold award level. This largely reflects the competency of Perse pupils and the relative challenge between the two awards.

Training Sessions:

There are weekly training sessions in Michaelmas and Lent term. The sessions are designed such that students can get assistance and advice on their eDofE logs, expedition planning and training framework needs. The DofE Manager will be available to discuss ongoing plans at these sessions.

Venue:

The training expedition takes place in the Lake District with a focus on route planning, path reading and elevation gain. The DofE Gold qualifying expedition is international and takes place in the Valle D'Aosta, Italy. The qualifying expedition has a focus on self-sufficiency, wild-camping and resilience.

Trips:

The practice expedition will be a combined expedition in October half term to allow students to gain the fundamental skills required for mountain walking. The qualifying expedition will be run with two separate expeditions if the group size is greater than 30 students.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Practice Expedition	£200	23rd - 26th October 2026
Qualifying Expedition	£1100	18th - 23rd July 2027 (Group Size <30 students)



PES Volunteering & Instructor Development

Group Size:	65	Meetings:	Various
Age Range:	Year 12 - 13	Annual Subscription:	NA
Entry Years:	Year 12 - 13	I/C	Miss Maya Hide

Overview:

Volunteering has a long history within the Perse Exploration Society. It is very rewarding for both the volunteers and the younger students they work alongside. Volunteers support the staff leadership team and will assist in the delivery of training sessions and help instruct on trips. All placements meet the criteria for the volunteering section of the DofE awards scheme. Volunteers are required to attend sessions every week in term time and on the relevant trips. Places are allocated to volunteers at the discretion of Outdoor Education Staff.

Urban Uprising:

The Perse Climbing Wall has partnered with the national charity 'Urban Uprising' to give disadvantaged children the opportunity to try climbing. We will be working with local schools and refugee groups to support families through active sessions, developing their confidence and communication skills whilst having a lot of fun. There is a charge to this volunteering placement, 100% of which goes towards funding the sessions provided.

Sign Up:

Application for most groups can be made via an online form at the beginning of Michaelmas term, with the exception of Ascent Group where applications can be made via the online form during summer term.

Groups	Time	Trip	Places
PES Pathfinders & Trailblazers	In timetable	Year 4 Trip	8
PES Base Camp	In timetable	Base Camp Trip	14
PES Ascent Group	Friday (5-7pm)	Granta & Brygg Camp	25
PES Peak (DofE)	Wednesday (4-6pm)	Bronze & Silver Trip	6
Climbing Clubs	Tuesday (4-5.30pm) Thursday (4-5:30pm or 5:30-7pm)	Club Trips	6
Paddlesports Clubs	Thursday (4:30-7:30pm)	Club Trips	2
Urban Uprising	Wednesday (4:30-6pm)	N/A	4



Outdoor Education Clubs



Archery Club

Group Size:	**18 students**	Meetings:	**Monday Lunchtime**
Age Range:	**Year 7 - 13**	Annual Subscription:	**£225 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**All**	I/C	**Mr Kelan Ford**

Overview:

The Perse School Archery Club is open to students of all ages. It doesn't matter if you are a complete novice or have done some archery before, the club is open to all abilities. Archery Club operates a high student to instructor ratio allowing for consistent shooting progression. Students will predominantly shoot recurve bows over a distance of 10 metres. There will be opportunities to try compound archery and shoot at longer distances with the school looking to develop competition shooting in the future. If students are looking for a sport to develop their focus and have a competitive streak, archery may be the sport to try!

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via SOCs with sign up published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair.

Activities:

Archery club is a fun and social way for students to learn the basics of archery. Novice members of the club use low draw weight bows and focus on their shooting stance, draw technique and consistency. We use static and moving targets and there are multiple challenges and games to develop skills and maintain interest. As students advance, they will use higher draw weight bows and begin to focus on accuracy of shots and groupings amongst other more advanced techniques.

Venue:

Archery Club takes place at the Upper School's dedicated Shooting Range with the possibility of outdoor venues at certain points of the year.



Bushcraft Club

Group Size:	24	Meetings:	Tuesday Lunchtime
Age Range:	Year 7 - 13	Annual Subscription:	£225 + VAT
Entry Years:	Year 7 - 13	I/C	Mr Matt Woolf

Overview:

Bushcraft is all about developing the skills, knowledge and confidence to live and thrive in the outdoors. If you enjoy making things, learning practical skills and spending time in nature, then bushcraft could be for you. Throughout the year, members will take part in a variety of seasonal activities, working alongside experienced instructors to learn traditional countryside and woodland skills. Activities may include shelter building, fire lighting, campcraft, safe tool use, outdoor cooking and natural navigation. The club provides a fun and hands-on environment where students can develop practical skills, problem-solving abilities and an appreciation for the natural world, while building confidence and enjoying time outdoors with others.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via SOCs with sign up published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair.

Activities:

At Bushcraft Club, pupils will learn practical techniques such as fire lighting, from ancient friction methods to modern approaches, alongside skills including wood carving, shelter building, water filtration and campcraft.

Backwoods cooking is a key part of the programme, with pupils learning how to prepare and cook food safely over open fires while mastering a variety of delicious outdoor recipes.

Venue:

Bushcraft club sessions take place at the Outdoor Education Centre, largely based outdoors.



Climbing Club

Group Size:	Foundation, Intermediate & Development - max. 30 students each
Age Range:	Year 7 - 13
Climbing Club:	Informal sessions Monday, Tuesday and Friday 1.15pm-1.55pm Foundation Climbing Club 1 Tuesday 4pm-5.30pm Foundation Climbing Club 2 Thursday 4pm-5.30pm Intermediate Climbing Club Tuesday 5.30pm-7pm Development Climbing Club Thursday 5.30pm-7pm
Annual Subscription Charge	£350 + VAT for clubs, £225 + VAT for informal sessions
I/C	Mr Rory Howard

Overview:

The Perse School Climbing Club is open to pupils of all ages and takes place at the Upper School's climbing and bouldering wall. The club is divided into a Foundation, Intermediate and Development group, with additional opportunities available for casual climbing through informal sessions. Those taking part in the Foundation, Intermediate and Development groups pay an annual subscription charge and have access to offsite trips, longer training sessions and a focused training programme. Those taking part in drop-in sessions pay a reduced annual subscription charge, have shorter optional sessions, and do not have access to offsite trips. Climbing Club is a great way to develop core strength, balance and flexibility in a fun and social environment.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via SOCs with sign up published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair.

Trips:

Detail	Cost	Dates
Open	£50	27th September 2026
Inter / Dev	£350	6th - 7th March 2027
Foundation	£300	15th - 16th May 2027



Paddlesports Club

Group Size:	**40 students**	Meetings:	**Thursdays 4.30-7.30pm**
Age Range:	**Year 7 - 13**	Annual Subscription:	**£350 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**All**	I/C	**Mr Kelan Ford**

Overview:

Paddlesports Club is open to all year groups and offers the chance to experience and develop skills in a variety of different paddlesport crafts. These crafts include kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards. Pupils attend weekly sessions across different venues throughout the year which allows them to apply skills learnt to new and exciting challenges. If you are looking for a great way to learn a new skill and immerse yourself in the world of Paddlesport, this club is for you!.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via SOCs with sign up published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair.

Activities:

The club is divided by ability groups with venues and activities developing as skills improve. Our foundation club mainly take part in flatwater activity across all crafts, with the development club focusing their skills more to a whitewater kayak environment. Alongside practical skills, the club aims to educate all pupils on the theory and safety practices behind paddlesport activities using British Canoeing award schemes.

Venue:

Pupils in Foundation Club undertake most of their training at our Milton Country Park watersports site with the potential to visit other venues throughout the year. Pupils in the Development Club regularly visit the Lee Valley Whitewater centre which allows them to hone skills specific to the whitewater environment. During the winter months both clubs also operate within the schools swimming pool. This allows pupils to gain skills, such as rescue skills and kayak rolling, in a warmer and friendlier environment.

Trips:

There are two trips associated with Paddlesport Club, these are a white-water kayaking trip for development members and an open canoe trip available to all members. Trip attendance is not compulsory; however, attendance is highly encouraged as the perfect opportunity to develop skills learned locally.

Detail	Cost	Dates
Development Whitewater Kayak Trip	£350	20th – 22nd November 2026
Whole Club Open Canoe Trip	£200	24th - 25th April 2027



Rifle Club

Group Size:	Foundation, Intermediate, Development, Competition, Informal
Age Range:	Year 7 - 13
Rifle Club:	Informal Target Sports - Friday 1.15pm-1.55pm Rifle Club (All levels) - Tuesday 4.30pm-6pm Competition Shooters - Friday 4.30pm-6pm
Annual Subscription Charge	£325 + VAT (Informal & Rifle Clubs) £350 + VAT (Competition Shooters)
I/C	Mr Thomas Starr

Overview:

All shooting activities are non-military in nature, Home Office approved, and focused on developing concentration, discipline, responsibility and technical skill. For pupils new to the sport, Informal Target Sports provides an excellent introduction to the different shooting disciplines. Participants can try a variety of rifles and pistols while learning the fundamental principles of range safety, marksmanship and equipment handling under the guidance of qualified instructors. As pupils gain experience, they may progress into one of our three development pathways: Foundation, Intermediate and Development Rifle Clubs. These groups are designed to support shooters at different stages of their development, providing age-appropriate coaching, structured training and opportunities to refine their technique. Pupils who demonstrate exceptional commitment and ability may be invited to join the school's competition team, representing the school at regional, national and, in some cases, international competitions. Competitors receive access to specialist coaching and personalised equipment, including rifles, jackets and slings, to support their continued progression. As participants will be handling firearms, parental consent is required. Safety is paramount at all times, and all sessions are supervised by qualified Range Conducting Officers and coaches who ensure the highest standards of safety and compliance are maintained. Whether you are an experienced shooter or simply looking to try something new, Target Sports offers an engaging and rewarding opportunity to develop skill, focus and confidence in a uniquely challenging sport.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via SOCs with sign up published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair

Venue:

Our Target Sports programme takes place in our purpose-built 25-metre indoor range and offers pupils the opportunity to experience air rifle, air pistol and small-bore rifle shooting in a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment.



Woodworking Club

Group Size:	**25 students**	Meetings:	**Friday lunchtime**
Age Range:	**Year 7 - 13**	Annual Subscription:	**£225 + VAT**
Entry Years:	**All**	I/C	**Mr Ngui Parrick**

Overview:

Woodworking Club provides pupils with the opportunity to learn traditional green woodworking skills while creating a range of practical and decorative projects. Using freshly cut timber and hand tools, members will develop techniques such as carving, shaping and finishing wood to produce items including spoons, butter knives, small models and other handcrafted objects.

The club places a strong emphasis on personal project development, allowing pupils to work on pieces over a number of weeks and see their skills progress over time. As confidence and ability grow, students will be encouraged to take greater ownership of their designs and craftsmanship.

In the final term, the focus shifts to larger individual projects, giving pupils the chance to plan and build a substantial piece such as a stool, small bench or similar item. Through these longer-term projects, members will develop patience, precision, creativity and problem-solving skills, while enjoying the satisfaction of creating something both beautiful and functional by hand.

Activities:

Throughout the year, pupils will learn traditional green woodworking skills through a variety of practical projects, including carving spoons, butter knives and small models from freshly cut timber. They will develop confidence in the safe use of cutting tools, improve hand–eye coordination and fine motor skills, and enjoy the satisfaction of creating functional items by hand in a calm, focused environment.

Sign Up:

Applications can be made via SOCs with sign up published in the first week of Michaelmas term, or in person at the Societies Fair.

Venue:

Bushcraft club sessions take place at the Outdoor Education Centre, largely based outdoors.





‘OPEN’ Trips

The principle behind the Outdoor Education OPEN trips is to allow greater integration across all Outdoor Education groups, year groups and ultimately promote teamwork amongst our student body no matter what their background or experience. We aim to foster teamwork by providing opportunities for students from different year groups to work together. It is also an opportunity for those students not able to commit to a club or society to get out and enjoy what the outdoors has to offer. The OPEN trip does exactly what it says on the tin and is open to any student Year 9 and above attending The Perse Upper School.

Ski Trip

(To Be Confirmed: December 2027)

The Open Ski trip is open to students with any level of skiing experience. Pupils will take part in ski lessons with local instructors based on their ability. During the evenings there are a variety of Après ski activities in the local area. It is a great opportunity to get out and see the beauty of the Alps and try new things on and off the mountain.

This trip is open to any pupil in Year 9-11

Cost: Approximately £2000



Perse Climbing Academy

The principle behind the Outdoor Education OPEN trips is to allow greater integration across all Outdoor Education groups, year groups and ultimately promote teamwork amongst our student body no matter what their background or experience. We aim to foster teamwork by providing opportunities for students from different year groups to work together. It is also an opportunity for those students not able to commit to a club or society to get out and enjoy what the outdoors has to offer. The OPEN trip does exactly what it says on the tin and is open to any student Year 9 and above attending The Perse Upper School.

Overview:

The Perse Climbing Academy, based at our state of the art climbing wall within the Perse Sports centre, operates alongside the Outdoor Education Department, providing high-quality climbing and bouldering coaching for Perse pupils and the wider community.

Pay & Climb

Experienced climbers aged 14+ can enjoy independent access to our climbing facilities following completion of a wall induction.

Learn to Climb, Learn to Lead and 1-2-1 Coaching

Expert coaching tailored to individual experience and goals offered through our 'Learn to' courses and coaching. Our instructors provide bespoke tuition to help climbers advance confidently.

Birthday Parties

Our climbing parties combine exciting bouldering challenges, auto-belay climbing and access to our impressive 10.5-metre roped walls. Sessions are led by qualified instructors who tailor activities to the age and ability of the group, creating a fun and memorable birthday celebration.

NICAS Programmes

We deliver the National Indoor Climbing Award Schemes (NICAS), providing a structured and enjoyable pathway for young climbers to develop skills and confidence.

- NICAS Wild Climbers (ages 4 – 7)
- NICAS Climbing & Bouldering Levels 1 – 4 (ages 7 – 17)

Competition Squad

For dedicated young climbers looking to progress their performance, our Competition Squad provides focused coaching, skill development and support for those interested in climbing competitions.

Taster Sessions

Our taster sessions are the perfect introduction to climbing. Open to all ages and abilities, these sessions are great to bring family and friends together to try something new.

For lesson times, pricing and further information visit: sportscentre.perse.co.uk

Supporting Documents

Why go into detail?

In light of the range of activities undertaken in the Outdoor Education department clear communication is paramount to ensure all parties, to include parents, staff, volunteers and pupils, understand what participation entails.

There are specific Outdoor Education department procedures relating to cutting tools, digital devices, behaviour and medical cover. In all other areas the Outdoor Education department adheres to the standard school policies. For further details, please contact reception.

Managing Risk

All activities and training carried out by the Outdoor Education department are overseen by National Governing Body qualified instructors, adhering to and in many cases exceeding the safety standards stipulated. We are an independent organisation that does not buy in 'off the shelf' products. We can do things better by designing activities tailored to meet the needs of our pupils at a reasonable cost and with a commitment to the highest standards of safety.

Inherent Risk:

Training and ventures that include adventurous activities involve exposure to accepted elements of risk, challenge and adventure greater than those normally encountered in everyday life. Whilst such activities provided by The Perse Outdoor Education department are subject to exacting safety management processes, it cannot be guaranteed that all possibility of resultant injury to participants, or others, is eliminated.

Cutting Tools:

There has been a significant amount of press coverage on the risks surrounding the use of knives and the impact of knife crime in the UK. In Outdoor Education, we firmly believe that there is a practical and educational role for knives and other cutting tools in outdoor activities. Students will be allowed to use a variety of appropriate cutting tools in training and on expeditions/ventures. These include knives, axes, saws and gardening equipment. Appropriate training will be provided. There is a comprehensive cutting tools policy which can be found within this document.

Vetting & Barring:

All staff and volunteers used by The Perse School have undergone vetting and barring procedures (formerly Criminal Records Bureau Check) and are cleared to work with children. All UK third party providers are checked to ensure their staff have been subject to vetting and barring procedures. This is not possible for overseas providers, but the school carries out appropriate checks and requires references for all international providers.

Venture Planning

The Outdoor Education department plans and delivers a wide range of ventures. We have a transparent risk assessment and health and safety process which involves pupil education from the beginning of the planning process. For all major ventures parents will automatically be provided with a copy of the risk assessment and comprehensive trip information. Should you wish to see further information or come in for a face-to-face meeting with our team to discuss your concerns, we are more than happy to meet you. All international ventures adhere to the British Standards Institute BS8848:2014 regulations for the provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions and adventurous activities outside the United Kingdom.

Pupil Selection Criteria:

Wherever possible we strive to ensure all students wishing to partake in a venture with The Outdoor Education Department is able to do so. The priority throughout is to ensure that all students on expedition are afforded a safe experience and that all known risks are mitigated against where it is practical to do so. Where a student presents with a concern that cannot be adequately managed by the expedition team or where the environment is not conducive to the needs of the student, removal from the venture is considered. A pupil's participation in any Outdoor Education venture is at the discretion of the provider (The Perse School). All decisions on a pupil's participation in a venture are taken by the Director of Outdoor Education (Mr Parker). Decisions on participation are final and non-negotiable.

Venture Objectives:

The venture leader and leadership team will make every effort to ensure the venture objectives are met. Venture participants must be aware that some objectives may not be met as a result of exterior factors outside of the venture providers control or as a direct result of decisions made in response to safety concerns. Payment for all ventures is not a guarantee of the completion of venture objectives.

Sex Ratio:

The Perse School recognises that female and male participants have differing needs. Ventures with both male and female participants, including an overnight stay will be supervised by both male and female staff. Staff sex ratios cannot always be representative of participant sex ratios. Parents/ guardians consenting to Perse School ventures accept the minimum provision of male and female staff. Where this is not possible, parents will be contacted directly for additional consent.

Perse School Venture Management:

All Perse School ventures are planned in accordance with the Perse School Venture Policy and British Standard BS8848:2014 regulations. Ultimate responsibility for all ventures lays with the venture provider; The Perse School. At the discretion of the venture provider some or all components of a venture may be contractually delegated to a reputable 3rd party provider.

Medical Provision & Consent

International Medical Cover

- All students and staff are covered by the schools comprehensive insurance policy
- All international expeditions are overseen by the Outdoor Education department
- Medical Technical Advisor (MTA) Dr Chet Pager.
- All staff on international expeditions are trained in remote first aid.
- Personal and group medical kits are provided by the school for all international ventures.
- Expedition doctors, nurses and/or paramedics are provided where possible for expeditions which present an elevated medical risk.
- Comprehensive medical questionnaires are compulsory for all students and staff taking part in international ventures. These will be vetted by a medical professional and further consultation may be required.

UK Medical Cover

- All training sessions and trips/ventures run by Outdoor Education in the UK are supervised by qualified first aiders.
- Comprehensive group first aid kits are on hand for all activities, training sessions and trips.
- Medical consent and disclosure is required for all students partaking in training and/or ventures in Outdoor Education.
- Medical consent will be sought on an annual basis for groups requiring annual membership.
- Individual ventures will require separate medical consent.

Parental Responsibility

It is a parent's/guardian's responsibility to update the school on any changes to a student's medical or dietary requirements prior to a venture. The school and its staff cannot be held responsible for injury or death resulting from the non-disclosure of medical, dietary or other pertinent student information.

Cutting Tools Policy

The Perse Outdoor Education Cutting Tools Policy is designed as a common sense policy to prevent injury and maintain accountability for the use of cutting tools in all activities run within the department. Responsibility for enacting the regulations outlined in this policy lies with suitably qualified person as defined below. The Policy is fully outlined within the Outdoor Education Handbook.

Legal & Safety Requirements

It is illegal to:

- Sell any knife (including cutlery and kitchen knives) to anyone under 18
- Carry a knife in public without good reason
- Exception: folding knives under 3 inches (7.62 cm), e.g. Swiss Army knives
- Carry, buy, or sell banned knives (see www.gov.uk for full list)
- Use any knife in a threatening or unsafe way

Lock knives (including many multi-tools) are not classed as folding knives and are illegal to carry in public without good reason. Cutting tools include knives, saws, axes, carving tools, shears, and loppers (not scissors).

Safety & Sanctions

All cutting tool use must be supervised by a Qualified Person:

- Use the correct tool for the task
- Wear appropriate PPE
- Keep a first aid kit available
- Do not use tools when tired
- Never behave in a threatening or unsafe way

Sanctions:

- Verbal warning
- Tool removal / CTCS suspension
- Demotion of CTCS level
- School disciplinary action (up to expulsion)
- Immediate removal of tools is permitted if safety is at risk

Supervision & Use

All cutting tool use must be supervised by a Qualified Person:

- **Direct Supervision:** Supervisor is within visual and verbal range. Ratios depend on task, tool, and participant experience.
- **Remote Supervision:** Supervisor is within a safe response distance/time with agreed communication methods in place.

Rules:

- Year 6 and below: direct supervision only
- Years 7–Upper Sixth: use permitted based on CTCS competency level
- Personal cutting tools are not permitted in training sessions
- Approved personal tools may only be used under supervision and correct storage procedures
- No cutting tools may be stored in residential spaces

Key Definitions

- **Cutting Tool:** Any tool designed to cut, split, or pierce materials (excluding scissors)
- **Personal Cutting Tool:** A privately owned cutting tool brought in by a student
- **Stock Equipment:** School-owned cutting tools stored and issued safely
- **Qualified Person:** Staff member aged 21+ who has passed CTCS White/Black assessment
- **Training Sessions:** School-day activities or enrichment sessions (not expeditions)
- **Expeditions/Ventures:** Off-site school trips

Behaviour Policy

All members of Outdoor Education are expected to follow the Perse School Code of Conduct and School Rules. Above all students should act with honesty, trustworthiness and respect for others. Common sense should be used at all times and an atmosphere of co-operation is required to make activities and camps run smoothly. Below are listed behaviours deemed unacceptable.

Serious Breaches of Conduct

- Persistent and deliberate refusal to follow staff instructions or accept the authority of staff and the school
- Abusive behaviour to teaching and non-teaching staff
- Persistent lying
- Continued undermining of authority or individuals
- Serious acts of abuse or bullying on grounds of race, sex, disability, gender, religion, sexuality or age
- Inappropriate levels of intimacy between pupils
- Dangerous behaviour likely to endanger yourself or others
- Misuse of equipment both personal and group (to include appropriate use of sharp implements)
- Misuse of alcohol and narcotics
- Disrespect to landowners and the countryside

Camp Rules

Below are listed the appropriate and expected behaviours of pupils around camp. This list is not exhaustive and pupils should demonstrate common sense and sound reasoning at all times.

- Leave no trace
- Girls and Boys may not be in the same tent
- No mobile phones and loud speakers.
- Be respectful of others, public/ common space and keep noise levels down.
- You are responsible for your kit administration (personal and group)
- Remember you are representing the School. Your behaviour will inform people's views of The Perse.

Overnight Accommodation Guidance for Pupils

- Sleep is important to be able to enjoy the full range of activities on offer – you will be given some time to settle down after which we expect you to respect others' need for sleep.
- Girls and Boys are accommodated separately and must not enter each other's residential spaces or other single-sex spaces.
- Pupils should demonstrate respect for one another and maintain personal space. Pupils must not engage in any behaviour which could be interpreted as sexual
- Pupils should not engage in non-consensual activity or cause others to witness activities likely to cause distress or discomfort.
- Pupils remain under remote supervision and should be respectful of the need for staff to be well rested. Disruptions overnight may lead to changes to activity delivery, on the grounds of safety e.g. driving, higher risk activity.

Sanctions

- Staff will seek to address breaches of the behaviour policy in a timely fashion, within the practical constraints of ventures/training activities
- An educative approach will be taken wherever possible, in the form of dialogue and discussion, affording pupils the opportunity to learn and develop
- Where safety is at risk, immediate action will be taken by staff
- Minor infractions will usually result in a community sanction (outdoor education lunchtime detention), a which pupils give back to the group they have impacted by assisting in support functions such as equipment maintenance or cleaning.
- Significant infractions can lead to more severe sanctions outlined below.

Contravention of any of these rules may lead to the senior leader excluding the pupil(s) concerned from any or all of the adventurous activities. In extreme cases pupils will be sent home and this will be done at the parent's/ carer's expense.

Digital Devices Policy

Trips – Years 7 - 11

Pupils may bring their mobile phone on UK trips. These will be collected in by staff on trip departure and stored securely in a dust and waterproof 'Peli Systems' hardcase. Smart watches and music players are not permitted. Pupils may not bring their mobile phones on international trips.

Weekly Sessions - Years 7 - 11

If a session finishes before 5.45pm – pupils should not be in possession of their phone. Phones should be left in lockers and picked up after the session. If a session finishes later than 5.45pm – pupils may bring phones to the session, however these must be handed in to staff upon arrival. The above points apply to both onsite and offsite sessions. Phones will be stored in a dust and waterproof 'Peli Systems' hardcase. When offsite, these will be stored in a secure location. Where sessions are offsite and there is no secure location for mobile phones to be stored – a common-sense policy of 'switched off, not seen, not used' will be implemented. Within Ascent Group sessions – Year 10 leaders may adhere to the same policy as Sixth Form pupils. Smart watches and music players are not permitted.

Trips – Sixth Form

Pupils may bring their mobile phone on UK trips. These will be collected in by staff on departure and stored securely in a dust and waterproof 'Peli Systems' hardcase. Smart watches and music players are not permitted. Pupils may bring their mobile phones on international trips. These will be collected in by staff on arrival to the trip venue and stored securely. Phone use will be at the discretion of the Venture Leader.

Weekly Sessions - Sixth Form

Sixth form pupils may bring mobile phones to weekly sessions in line with a 'switched off, not seen, not used' policy. Smart watches and music players are not permitted.

Exceptions

Pupils who require a phone on their person as part of a school medical care plan may keep access to their phone. This phone may only be used for those medical purposes. Pupils with specific communication needs during a session or trip may request to keep their phone/ gain access to their phone for those needs. This must be discussed and agreed with staff prior to the session/ trip and only be used for the discussed purpose. Staff may direct pupils to use mobile phones in specific scenarios, such as for emergency communication (e.g hiking), or administrative purposes (e.g. immigration forms). Fitness watches with no 'smart' functionality/ sim card are permitted. Sessions finishing later than 5.45pm in the school climbing wall may be subject to the 'switched off, not seen, not used' policy (i.e phone in bag). This is at staff discretion.

Sanctions

Any contravention of the above rules will be dealt with via school sanctions. This may be an Outdoor Education community sanction, a Friday detention, or a Heads detention depending on circumstance. This may be escalated to further school sanctions if more severe, for example, repeated incidences, or lying about phone possession on a session or trip. On these occasions the pupil's phone will also be confiscated until the end of the session/ trip.

Additional Information



Outdoor Education Equipment & Uniform

Outdoor Education Uniform

Many Outdoor Education clubs and societies have a designated T-shirt. This allows easy identification of group members on trips and in some cases form part of the safety management process. Uniform requirements are outlined in the introduction paperwork for each club or society. All uniform can be purchased through the school supplier at www.perseschoolkit.co.uk

Equipment Discounts

The Outdoor Education Department has negotiated the following discounts for the 2026-27 academic year:

Ellis Brigham: A 15% discount in store and online using the discount code **PSC15**. To benefit from the discount online you must be signed in to an account. Discounts are not available on already discounted items

Tamarak Outdoors: A 5% discount at www.tamarackoutdoors.co.uk using the discount code **PERSE5**

The Green Barn: A 10% discount in person at Barton Store, by stating membership

Ski Exchange: A 10% discount in store using the discount code **PERSE10**. The code does not apply for rental clothing

Kit Lists

Outdoor Education staff endeavour to ensure that parents are fully aware of the equipment requirements for each group and each trip. Kit lists are sent out at the beginning of each year and at the launch of each trip. Kit lists usually feature detailed advice on each item of equipment required and suggested brands.

Equipment Seminars

Training programmes with specific equipment needs feature an equipment talk in the Michaelmas term. This covers the type of equipment required and how to pack/carry it. In these sessions, students are also given the opportunity to see, and in certain circumstances try, relevant equipment. In most cases these sessions allow students to make a more informed choice when purchasing equipment.



Frequently Asked Questions

How does my son/daughter sign up for a club or society?

Pupils register their interest via SOCS following Society's Fair in September. Your child will be automatically registered and details regarding a taster session will be sent by PersePost to you at the beginning of the second week of Michaelmas term. Registration is only an expression of interest and does not commit a student to participate throughout the whole year. Spaces may become available throughout the year in any Outdoor Education club or society. Should your son/daughter wish to sign up for any one of these at a later stage they will need to contact Mr K Taylor on kotaylor@perse.co.uk.

What if my son/daughter wishes to drop out of a club or society?

All pupils who sign up for a club or society are given a trial period lasting approximately four training sessions before billing takes place. In this time a pupils can decide to drop out.

What is the siblings policy in PES Ascent Group?

The siblings policy entitles any prospective student who has a sibling currently within Ascent Group to automatically be given a place. The school is very much aware of the strains placed on families in respect to transport and holidays and feel this is the most equitable means by which siblings may be accommodated within Ascent Group.

Where is the Outdoor Education Centre?

The Outdoor Education Centre is situated at the northern end of The Perse Upper School site and can be accessed from the main school site or the Luard Road gate.

I need advice on equipment, who do I talk to?

For advice on equipment talk to the relevant venture leader.

Where do I find information on delayed trip returns?

Information regarding delayed trip returns will be published on the Perse Outdoor Education Instagram feed. If there is a long-term delay, you will usually be contacted via PersePost.

Where do I find information about weekly training sessions?

Information on weekly training sessions in Outdoor Education will be communicated to you via PersePost. You will receive a detailed programme at the beginning of each term followed by weekly updates with information on training, timings and the equipment required. Pupils will also receive this information via PersePost and hard copies are also provided on the notice boards in the cloisters.

Why are mobile phones strictly limited?

This policy is in place for a few reasons. Firstly, the aim of trips is to expose students to wild environments, and modern phones packed with social media applications can serve as a significant distraction. Secondly, trips enable our pupils to build self-reliance and personal resilience and phone contact with home can reduce this experience. Lastly, recent changes in school policy have also impacted on specific limitations within sessions and trips. Updates on trips are published on the Outdoor Education Instagram feed and the school's reception can be rung for trip updates.

Can I pay for training sessions/trips using childcare vouchers?

Employer provided childcare vouchers may be used to pay for "qualifying childcare" for any child up until the 1st September following their 15th birthday (16th birthday in the case of a disabled child). For most children this will be up until the end of Year 10. The school can accept payment in the form of childcare vouchers for after-school activities, which are managed, controlled and invoiced by the school and which take place on school premises. This includes payments for the PES subscription. It does not include payment for school trips or PES camps/off-site activities as these take place away from the school premises and therefore do not qualify.

Subscription Charges

All Perse Outdoor Education Provision delivered in extra-curricular time is subject to an annual subscription charge. These charges support the ongoing investment in state-of-the art facilities, highly trained staff and cover day-to-day operational costs. Subscription charges are payable annually and are added to lent term bills.

Trials and Refunds

Pupils are offered the opportunity to trial activities during the first half of the Michaelmas Term. After this point, full subscription charges are applicable. No refunds are offered for cancellation of group membership after this time.

Parent / Graduate Volunteering

How do I get involved?

Email Kieron Taylor at kotaylor@perse.co.uk and a meeting will be arranged to show you everything that is on offer. Do not forget that you can choose to do as little or as much as you wish!

What if I don't have an outdoors background?

That's not a problem. The Outdoor Education department is looking for keen and enthusiastic people who are willing to give lots of activities a go and supervise pupils. You will gain lots of experience and all activities will be supervised by qualified/experienced staff. If you wish, you can undertake accredited training through the department.

I don't want to get in the way of my son's/daughter's experience of Outdoor Education by being on camp.

You won't! Just let us know if you have a son/daughter in the group and we will ensure you are allocated to different activities/groups/camps. We have lots of parents with students in the groups that are run and to date there have been no problems. You will be enhancing their childhood experiences by making them possible!

How much does it cost?

There are no costs related to volunteering or attending camps. All food, accommodation, activity costs and transport are provided free of charge.

What kit will I require; do I have to buy it?

You will need your own outdoor equipment. This should include walking boots, full waterproofs, head torch and day sack. The school does have a small quantity of kit to loan if you require it on major camps.

What will I be doing?

Volunteers and staff generally do what the pupils do, so a wide variety of fun and challenging outdoor activities. As you gain experience you may wish to run activities or even run whole programmes. Some of our more experienced volunteers run whole cookery programmes. When you start, you will be given a mentor and then it's down to you.



THE PERSE SCHOOL

OUTDOOR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Perse School, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 8QF

The Perse School is a charitable company limited by guarantee (company number 5977683, registered charity number 1120654) registered in England and Wales whose registered office is situated at The Perse School, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8QF