

Dear Parents

The Spring Term in any school is usually short and sharp. For exam students it is a blur of mock exams and finishing courses. For teachers there is the Entrance Testing, GCSE choices and, for us, a likely ISI inspection to look forward to. Although on the surface our Entrance Testing day and a school inspection might appear totally unrelated, they are linked by a focus on understanding exactly who we are and what makes us different.

In my talk to parents on Entrance Testing day I spoke of the event as being akin to that tricky second date... if you go any further it really does mean that you see a future in the relationship! It is important, therefore, that prospective parents and students really understand us (and, indeed, us them). Equally a school inspection may focus largely on paperwork, but it is a time when we are forced to examine all that we do and what we stand for.

So what are these values? The assembly programme might be a good starting point. This term we have had a wonderful 'world faiths' presentation on Sikhism by two students, a Year 8 Form discussing the internet in a thoughtful and insightful way (but also with a great sense of fun), Ms Kedie presenting on Holocaust Memorial Day with an emphasis on learning the lessons of the past (see later in the newsletter for more on this), and my own assembly on my uncle, Tom Leimdorfer: I spoke about his escape as a refugee from Hungary in 1956 and what it means for us in a world of 'Brexit' and 'America First'.
If you're interested, read more about him [here](#).

To answer the question, I believe that these assemblies show us to be a community where we value diversity and tolerance, have a sense of joy, and a love of learning. Our entrance tests are designed for us to really get to know the prospective students to see if they share our values and, as and when it happens, I hope that any inspectors will also get this sense from us. These are not values that can be measured in a league table, or taken as an exam, but they mean a great deal to us and I hope that you, our parents, share our sense that they are worth pursuing.

David Walker
Head of Senior School

Y10 Holocaust Day

Year 10 students were off timetable on Monday 23rd January to learn about the Holocaust. They attended various sessions in the Hall to learn more about this seminal moment in history. They looked at the Holocaust from historical, geographical and ethical points of view. The highlight of the day, however, was the talk by Eva Clarke, a Holocaust survivor.

'During the Year 10 Holocaust Day on Monday, we were interviewed by the local TV station, That's Cambridge, and Cambridge News; unfortunately we had to sacrifice our morning snack as a result but it was certainly worth it! We answered some important questions about how we felt about the Holocaust and whether we thought it was good to be taught about it in schools. During the day, we were privileged to listen to a talk by Eva Clarke, a Holocaust survivor, whose mother survived three concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau. She told the remarkable story of how her mother had gone into labour on a coal train whilst being transported to her final concentration camp, Mauthausen, having not eaten for 17 days. Eva weighed only 3lbs when born.

Perhaps the thing that we found most impressive was that despite all the ordeals her mother had been through (all the suffering, having seen friends die before her, having been starved and separated from her husband), she was always optimistic, something I feel we should all learn from.

Another memorable part of her story was when she described the moment on the coal truck when a farmer offered Eva's mother a glass of milk. A soldier raised his arm to whip her - but for some reason he didn't: Eva's mother believed that this drink of milk was the reason she survived. Listening to a personal story such as Eva's gives you another perspective on the past; you suddenly realise how many innocent people suffered, how families were torn apart and it enables you to understand the impact of the Holocaust on the lives of so many people. Listening to stories makes it seem more real than just reading about numbers in a textbook.

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STORY OF SURVIVAL: Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke with students at the Stephen Perse Foundation. *Picture: Marco Giamberini*

Remembering the Holocaust
CONCENTRATION camp survivor Eva Clarke met students at a Cambridge school in the run-up to Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday. The 72-year-old who born in the Mauthausen camp in Austria in 1924, Eva and her mother were the only members of the family to survive the war, with 10 relatives killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau. She spoke to Year 10 students at the Stephen Perse Foundation about her and her mother's experiences. At Mauthausen, Cambridge graduate Greta Burdell spoke about her time with the Cambridge Children's Refugee Committee.

Road accident reports for £90

RAYMOND BROWN at Cambridge

Driving while using a mobile phone is considered one of the 'fatal four' driving offences, along with speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and drink or drug driving. Sergeant Ian Manley said: "Using a mobile phone while driving significantly increases your chances of being involved in a serious, even fatal collision."

The force says: "The recording policy states that a collision report need not be completed unless there has been an injury which was reported at the time, or one of the parties has failed to stop at the scene and exchange details. This applies even when a police officer attends."

A report requires should be made 24 days after the incident.

To request a search of police records for any information costs £2.00. The cost of a copy of a police report is £1.00 and third party details £2.00.

A Cambridge police spokesman said: "This service, provided primarily for solicitors and insurance companies, has been available for some time and is in line with services provided by other forces."

ECONOMY
Council to target £100m of savings

CAMBRIDGESHIRE County Council needs to discuss its budget for 2017 to 2018 today.

The general purposes committee will congregate in Shire Hall, Cambridge to discuss the county's finances, with implications for everything from healthcare to roads, and education to diversity services.

The council is hoping to £100 million over the next five years.

The council has previously acknowledged that cuts will be necessary in some areas, but has repeatedly denied it is a political budget.

Some councillors are likely to challenge some of the proposals and the Lib Dems said they will set out some alternative ideas of their own at the meeting.

"Public services in Cambridgeshire are under unparalleled pressure across all sectors of service," said Lib Dem leader at Cambridgeshire County Council, Cllr Lucy Nettleship.

"Social care services for children and adults are facing large increases in demand, and our transport network is hugely overstretched."

"The Liberal Democrats are pushing the county council to use their powers to support our public services, rather than making deeper and harsher cuts."

Cllr Nettleship said an increase in council tax was required to pay for some of the services that were needed.

She added: "An additional two per cent council tax would cost an average household £4 a week, for that tiny increase to cost per household, the county council would be able to spend an extra £5 million a year as outlined above."

■ To get the latest updates from today's meeting, follow our live blog at www.cambridge-news.co.uk.

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Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke tells students her story

Students at the Stephen Perse Foundation this week heard the moving story of Eva Clarke ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Eva was born in Mauthausen concentration camp on April 29, 1945, and survived against all odds.

She has spoken at the Stephen Perse Foundation every year for the past 10 years.

Her talk was one in a number of various workshops for Year 10 students, exploring the historical and ethical background to the Holocaust.

Eva said: "Everyone always wants to know what happened at the end - I am very fortunate to have a happy ending."

Eva's parents, Bernd Nathan and Anka Kauderová, were sent to Theresienstadt concentration camp in December 1941, where they remained for three years.

During that time, Anka became pregnant with a son, Dan, who died of pneumonia at only two months. Shortly after this, she followed her husband to Auschwitz.

Eva's mother spent 10 days at Auschwitz, which she described as "hell on earth".

Eva, but never saw her husband again. In spring 1945, Anka was taken to Mauthausen concentration camp.

Eva said: "There were two reasons why I survived - on April 28, the Nazis ran out of gas for the gas chamber and just four or five days later, the American Army liberated the camp."

She added: "My story is just one family's story. I tell it so we can learn lessons from the Holocaust and to counteract racism and prejudice."

Y10 Holocaust Day *(continued)*

It is hard to visualise 6 million people, but we were told in an earlier workshop on the background to the Holocaust that the number of Jews who died is equivalent to the populations of both Scotland and Wales added up together.

So we told the newspapers that we thought it was vital that we should learn about the Holocaust, even though 70 years have passed since the camps were liberated: learning about this terrible moment in history forces us, as humans, to ensure we never allow such a horrific genocide to ever happen again. We would like to thank Eva Clarke for sharing her amazing personal story; it has really left us wiser about the Holocaust.'

Almudena Visser Velez and Francesca Töpel

Outstanding achievements at Bedfordia Cross Country Championships

We took our biggest cross country squad to date to the annual 'Bedfordia Trophy' Cross Country Championships on what was a cold but gloriously sunny afternoon. Idyllic cross country conditions but with 28 schools competing a tough challenge.

Our runners had been training hard in preparation for the event, many by attending the schools running clubs and their hard work paid off with determined performances by all.

The Year 7 Girls were ready for their challenge as many had competed before and the team of Lauren, Ciara, Frankie, Iona, Saskia, Arabella and Emily were hungry for victory. As a team they came 3rd place overall achieving a podium place.



Individual congratulations go to Lauren - 10th place, Ciara - 16th place.

The Year 8 Girls team had been hit by illness so a minimum squad took to the start line. The team of Millie, Mariam, Bethany, Lily, Scarlett and Katy showed their quality coming home in 6th place overall.

Individual congratulations go to Millie - 11th place, Mariam - 12th place.

All the athletes who competed showed determination, team spirit and courage and they did themselves and the school proud, well done.

PSHE Event - Focus on the Future II

The Year 9 PSHE event "Focus on the Future II" was one where the pupils were introduced to the GCSE curriculum. This had the aim of equipping the pupils with the knowledge necessary to make appropriate choices about this major 'next step' in their education. They explored the decision making process and how well they believed they made their own decisions, together with investigating the different career options available.

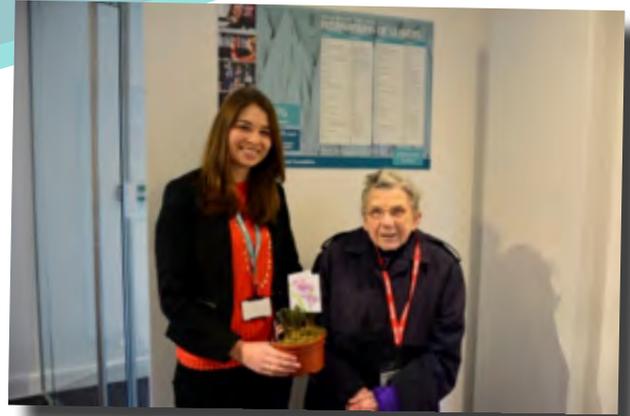
To date, the feedback from the pupils has been positive, and they appreciated the opportunity to research some different careers and understand how important it is to be able to make positive decisions.

They will continue to research different jobs as part of their Monday PSHE timetabled slot, giving them an insight into the diverse world of work and the exciting opportunities that are available to them.



The Stephen Perse Foundation celebrated its 136th birthday

On the 17th January the Stephen Perse Foundation celebrated its 136th birthday. Rosemary Tice (Geography and Biology teacher, 1965-1990), marked the 136th birthday of the Foundation by bringing in a hyacinth, and this was presented to Miss Jones at Senior School. This tradition has taken place every year since 1967, and has been passed from Miss Scott (Headmistress until 1967) who started the tradition on her retirement, then to Miss Graham-Campbell and then to Miss Tice, who hopes the tradition will be continued through Jane Way (née Whitehead).



National Schools Equestrian Association Qualifiers success

The Stephen Perse Foundation equestrian team of Daisy B, Lydia L, Eliza S and Ella Z have repeated last year's success by qualifying for the NSEA County Dressage Championships with a clear win in the Preliminary class.

Eliza was 2nd in this and the Novice class, just missing out on individual qualification. Ella and Daisy were also placed 6th and 7th individually in the Preliminary. Congratulations to all and good luck for the county championships.



Upcoming event

Dr Perse's sermon

Professor Eamon Duffy, Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity and Fellow of Magdalene College, at Gonville and Caius College, will give this year's Perse Sermon. Governors, parents and students are all welcome to come along to the event on Sunday 5th February at 6pm in Caius College Chapel.

Year 7 Managing Change II PSHE Event

Year 7 will spend the morning of the 9th February off timetable for a PSHE event under the umbrella heading 'Managing Change II'. During this afternoon, half of their time will be spent taking part in a drama workshop exploring the issue of cyber-bullying, whilst a second session will introduce them to the concept of 'resilience' as a tool to aid them through the highs and lows of life. We will also be running a new session about Communication and Collaboration and how we can all get better at these skills.

If you have any queries about this event, please contact Mr Carberry, PSHE & Citizenship Coordinator (pgc@stephenperse.com).

