

*Introduction - Director of 6th Form*

Dear Parents,

The end of term may be drawing near, but the College has continued to be exceptionally busy. We have been pleased to prepare so many students for university interview in the past few weeks and I would particularly like to thank all the parents and friends of the College who have given up their time to help our students prepare effectively for these challenges. Growing global competition for access to some of the leading university courses has certainly raised the bar in terms of admissions, but our students are well-equipped to meet the challenges ahead. Depth of subject knowledge will certainly be tested, but interviews provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate real flexibility of thinking rather than simply producing the "right" answer. These are the skills and approaches to learning that we particularly cherish. We wish all students with university interviews well over this period and beyond.

We have also been delighted to welcome back a number of alumni to the College in recent weeks. Lizzie Reid spoke to students about her experience in the world of graphic design and Maddy Drew about her work in Engineering. Similarly, we look forward to Nye Williams-Renouf talking about his time studying Law, both in Cambridge and Madrid. All of these students are very much Stephen Perse "graduates" who have passed through the College. This summer will mark the fifth anniversary of our first cohort of students, both A Level and IB to have "graduated" with us at the current site. We very much value and wish to build on these close ties with our alumni and will be celebrating this anniversary next summer.

Whilst the holidays provide a welcome and well-deserved break, the books, be they physical or electronic, should not be entirely set aside. Once again, I would remind AS students that they are now more than halfway through their courses and will have significant subject tests in February. The Upper Sixth IB students look ahead to their mocks immediately after the holiday, whilst their A Level counterparts will have a series of significant subject tests later in March. Yet this time is not simply about laying the foundations for future examinations, but a time to step back, widen one's reading and take time to reflect.

May I take this opportunity to wish all students and their families, in addition to the academic labours outlined above, a period of rest and relaxation with those dearest to them in the holiday period ahead.

With kind regards,

Stuart Jack  
Director of 6th Form



## *Pipped at the post!*

Four of the Upper Sixth competed in the prestigious Target 2.0 Competition run by the Bank of England in Newmarket on Monday 17 November.

They had spent several months preparing what turned out to be a terrific presentation advising the Bank on its interest rate decision for the coming month, drawing on extensive research from a wide range of economic and business sources.

It was clear from the start that their hard work and impressive communication skills were putting them in a strong position.

After a fifteen minute presentation on the grounds for their recommendations in their role as Monetary Policy Committee, they faced a gruelling series of questions from the Bank's advisers. Holding their own and sounding incredibly confident in their arguments, they had every reason to hope they might win.

In true Newmarket style, however, these really very strong runners were pipped at the post in what must have been a photo finish.

Well done and congratulations, though, to Jil (captain), Janhavi, Natasha and Dominic (Ayuna was researcher/reserve) on giving the winners a good run for their money!



*Cambridge Science Festival*

On Wednesday 19 November three L6 students attended a special discussion session between Stephen McGann and Cambridge scientists on the content of his talk at the 2014 Cambridge Science Festival. This included two talks - one on Tuberculosis and another on Polio vaccination in 1950's America.

After the event one student wrote: *'Thank you very much for telling me about this event! I have really enjoyed the discussions (many of which were on topics we have just studied in AS biology!) and met some interesting and inspirational scientists.'*

*Inspire Me: So you want to be an astronaut?*

Alumna Maddy Drew (left SPF 2012) is currently studying Aeronautics & Astronautics with Spacecraft Engineering at the University of Southampton, and on Friday morning she paid a visit to the 6th Form College to talk to students in assembly. Students heard about engineering, applying for courses, and what you need to do to get into space!

Maddy was asked many questions and offered a valuable insight into life after sixth form. She used her gap year to take part in The Year in Industry project (<http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry>), which opened so many doors for her - Maddy was flown to Westminster, took part in apprentice schemes and has already been offered lots of jobs but doesn't want to limit her options by accepting anything yet!

Doing a degree in Engineering means Maddy is keeping her options open while her ultimate dream is to go into space. There are only 15 places on the graduate scheme at the European Space Agency though, which leaves Maddy with what she says is a 1 in 10,000 chance of becoming an astronaut, but Maddy is doing her best to make her dream a reality by training as a pilot, without the military obligation, whilst also completing her degree. One of Maddy's other goals is to utilise engineering for artificial prosthetic developments, and it is also her mission to get more women interested in engineering - she is currently one of only 7 females out of 120 students on her course.

Maddy is a great ambassador for women in engineering, and the year in industry scheme, and we would like to thank Maddy for joining us at the college and look forward to welcoming her back to speak to other pupils in the school.

Maddy loved her time here and her mum was also a pupil with us at Perse Girls; Maddy said she felt it important to come back and share her experiences with our current students as her time at the Stephen Perse Foundation has had such a lasting impression on her.



*Maddy, right, with one of our current 6th form students*



stephen perse

6th form college

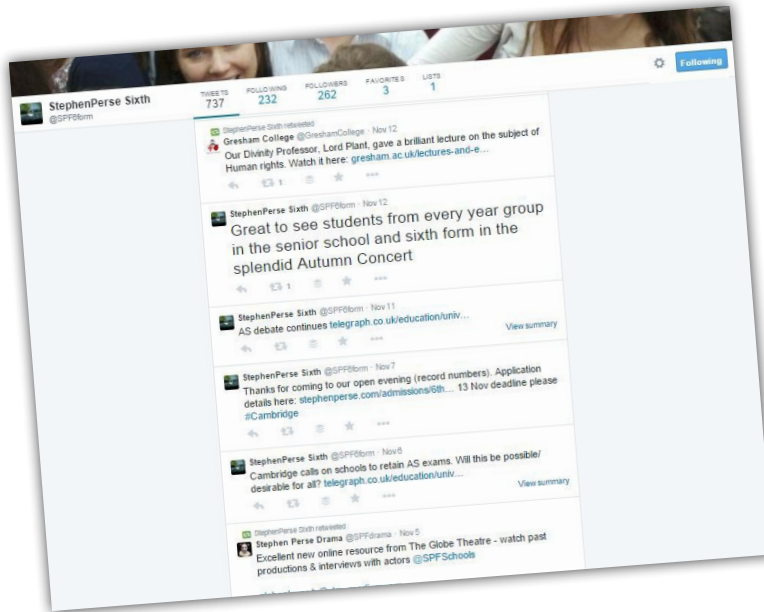
# newsletter

Issue No 6 | 2014-15 | Friday 28 November 2014

Follow us on Twitter: @SPFSchools

## 6th form on Twitter

To keep up with all the latest news and find what's going on at the College, don't forget to follow the 6th form on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SPF6form>



## Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 29th January 2015, at 8pm (contact Jean Woods, 01223 313770). We will discuss 'A Riffian's Tune' by Joseph M. Labaki and 'Two Brothers' by Ben Elton.

We always have a lively discussion and are keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Martha Crouch for details (07768311015, [martha.crouch@btinternet.com](mailto:martha.crouch@btinternet.com))

## The Parents & Friends Association stamp collection

The PFA is collecting used stamps to help raise funds. You can help us by tearing off your used stamps from their envelopes leaving approximately a 1cm border and placing them in one of the collection boxes.

There will be a collection box at each of the school site receptions. The more we collect the more funds we raise.

Thank you.



stephen perse  
pre-prep school



stephen perse  
foundation  
junior school

stephen perse  
foundation  
senior school

stephen perse  
6th form college

stephen perse  
foundation