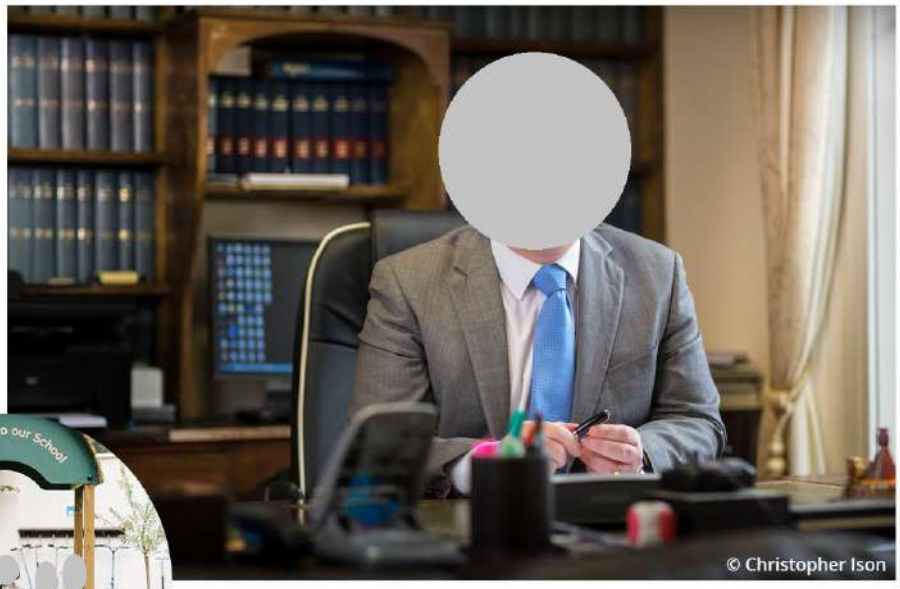
[INTERVIEW]

HEAD'S UP

The *Journal* sits down with Tim Cannell, the acting head of Parsons Green Prep, to discuss his vision for the school

WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE ROLE OF ACTING HEAD AT PARSONS GREEN PREP?

I bring a wealth of experience in education: as a teacher, headmaster and an independent schools inspector. This experience will allow me to understand the school in context and offer dynamic and measured leadership, bringing changes that will enhance overall learning and wellbeing.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WHAT VISION DO YOU HAVE FOR THE SCHOOL?

My vision is for a school that opens childrens' eyes to the future, instills a hunger for learning and allows them to live their lives to the full while enjoying all that childhood has to offer.



HOW WILL YOUR PREVIOUS ROLE AS HEAD OF THE PREBENDAL SCHOOL HELP YOU?

The schools are quite different in some aspects, but there are a number of similarities between the two, such as being co-educational and the size. I have experience of ensuring that the curriculum encourages the development of soft skills, such as determination, resilience and self-confidence and this is something else I hope to bring to PGP.

WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE SCHOOL THROUGH YOUR ROLE AS AN ISI INSPECTOR?

Being an inspector will help me to readily understand the strengths and relative weaknesses of PGP, identifying areas for development and strengthening. My skills as an inspector will put any future development on a sure footing and mean I won't be making changes just for the sake of change.

PGP RECENTLY WON AN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING STEM PROVISION - ARE YOU AN ADVOCATE OF STEM?

STEM is increasingly becoming a key component of outstanding schools. A robust STEM programme should encourage children to see how different skills and competences are interlinked and it is a delight to be joining a school at the forefront of preparing children for an ever-changing and technologically advanced future that is beyond our comprehension.

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IN YOUR EYES, EXAM RESULTS OR CREATING WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS?

Academic excellence is of course at the heart of school life. However, education is not just about this. It does not matter how academically successful a child is if they do not have self-understanding and the confidence to share their views with others. By making the creative arts a very important part of what we offer at PGP, we will give our children opportunities to enjoy sport, music, art and theatre at their own level.

WILL YOU BE TAKING PART IN ANY TEACHING?

As a head for the past 12 years it has been important to me to maintain a small teaching commitment. I will not be responsible for a class but I intend to be in the classroom and to work with the children alongside the teachers. By understanding what is happening in the classroom, I can make the biggest difference to the quality of education. ♦

Tim Cannell is currently covering Helen Stavert's period of maternity leave. Parsons Green Prep School, 1 Fulham Park Road, SW6 4LJ, 020 7371 9009, parsonsgreenprep.co.uk