

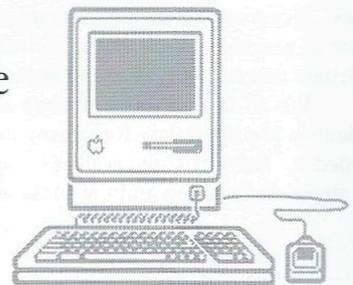
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CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND SCHOOL EVENTS

CHESS

The School usually has Senior and Junior teams participating in the Stockport League. This year, however, the League was not in operation and there were unfortunately no matches against other schools.

Interest in chess we nevertheless maintained, especially in the Junior School, and many games were played during Monday lunchtimes. The Junior School Chess Competition also took place as normal at the end of the Summer Term. The individual winner of this tournament was Hadi Al-Bayati (2J). The Turabi trophies were won by 2R, represented by Abrar Khalid, and 1K, represented by Mohammed Al-Himdani, who was the runner-up in the individual competition.

The Chess club's members would like to express their gratitude to Dr M Weymont for his organisation of extra matches and his help with the running of the club over the past two years. We wish him all the best in his new work.

M H Gracey

DEBATING INSIDE SCHOOL

House Debating Competition

This year's competition was most pleasing with both speakers and audience showing interest and ability.

Whitworth and Byrom debated whether or not to abolish the monarchy. This was followed by a lively discussion between Fraser and Heywood over foreign aid. The competition ended with Dalton and Gaskell debating whether or not to ban the National Lottery.

Michael Bartlett, Michael Birtwistle, Laura Owen and Geraldine Brook were all commended by the Judges, Mr Heavisides and Mrs Worthington. Whitworth was the winning house for the third consecutive year.

Junior Debating

Junior debating has gone from strength to strength this year with a dedicated group of participants. We have met most weeks and have covered an enormous range of topics from whether school uniform is a good idea to whether the police should be armed. There have been some admirable performances, all of which have shown enthusiasm and interest. My thanks go to the VIth Form helpers whose contribution has been invaluable.

Senior Debating

Debating Club got off to an excellent start this year with guest speakers Messrs Callaghan, Greenhall and Hewston and Mrs Treharne arguing most eloquently about the benefits of the National Lottery. In subsequent meetings a variety of topics has been discussed but there has been a general lack of willing participants which has made things rather difficult. Hopefully next year we will see the Debating Society return to its normal strength under the stewardship of Christopher Hewison and Jonathan O'Keefe.

S. R. Tandon

THE OBSERVER MACE DEBATING COMPETITION

When Mr Watson took 1B to the Senior House debating, he introduced me to an intellectual contest for which you needed to be eloquent, confident and a good arguer. Any of my friends or family will tell you I fit into most of these categories. With these characteristics and a successful debate last year, I nearly snapped Ms Tandon's hand off when offered

this opportunity. Choosing a partner was easy, Michael Bartlett was the obvious choice and we were delighted when he joined the team.

In the first round, we had a home draw which was, I feel, very important. We were drawn against Cheadle Hulme and were given the motion, "This house believes the press have no right to invade the privacy of public figures". We were to oppose this motion and it seemed to me we had the easier side to the argument. After consulting the Debater's best friends, the EU and UN Human Rights Treaties and the Oxford English Book of Quotations, we felt quietly confident of progressing.

On the night, all 20 of us packed into the Lecture Theatre. Our debate was first and Michael spoke on the philosophical and political reasons of "Freedom of Speech". He spoke with his usual skill and confidence. I spoke last on the social implications of a restricted press. During the questions from the audience, I was asked how I would like it "if your face was plastered on the front page of The Sun after you had slept with your dog". The summing up went very well, with all the points we had prepared being used. I also felt I had to reply to the "Dog" question, and said that it would upset me as I only slept with sheep. Fortunately, this bit of humour got me out of a tough spot.

The second debate was about whether or not it is worth going to University. After this, the Judges retired to their room and left us quietly confident. The Chairman of the Judges, Mr Warren Jackson, our recently retired former Head of Classics, delivered the verdict. As expected by everyone, except Michael and me, we qualified in first with Cheadle Hulme in second.

When the date was set for the next round, panic ensued. I was due at Nottingham University for an open day. A couple of phonecalls later, all was calm and the Debate went ahead.

The motion this time was, "This house believes there is no place for capital punishment in a civilised society". We were to propose this motion. We set about our research and after leaving the Debater's friends, we went to the Mr Joneses. Both were very helpful and gave us some vital information.

This time, we had an away draw and faced a trip to Stonyhurst Boarding School. After a long journey, we were shown around the School and led to the most important room - the Buffet.

When the time came for the debate, things went from bad to worse and then to even worse. We were debating in the coldest room in the world, which was also a library. The two girls we debated against had an attitude problem. They treated us like little children. At one stage, I wished I could execute a little Capital Punishment. In the debate, Michael's slip of the tongue was critical; they were quick to exploit it! I included some material which the judges felt was irrelevant and my summing up was the worst I have ever done. It was stuttery and confused.

After all three debates, the judges retired and arrived at a verdict. Their chairman was very critical and dwelled on errors rather than praise. We were placed joint fourth with two girls against whom we had debated earlier. Cheadle Hulme, the school we beat in the earlier round, were deserving winners.

We left Stonyhurst in search of a warm car, Manchester and then a Kebab. For some reason, the journey home was a lot longer.

It only leaves me to thank Ms Tandon, for the hours of work she put in, Mr Watson, for his help and support, The Mr Joneses (Mr M P Jones for his paper cuttings and Mr G H Jones for his Amnesty file), and finally Michael, who managed to take time off from running the School (!!!! - Ed.) to compete and without whom there would have been no team. Thank you all.

Michael Birtwistle (UJHH)

DIDSbury AND DISTRICT PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Two excellent articles were submitted, so both are included.-Ed.

1. In February of this year, a selection of our pupils attended an annual public speaking competition, organised by the Rotary Club of Didsbury and District. This is a large event arranged to encourage public speaking in the area, and was the 22nd of its kind. We attended St Bede's for the evening in nervous states, ready to perform solo talks in front of an audience, quite a daunting experience. The juniors spoke excellently on topics such as the death of JFK and the 'X-Files', all making a great impression, and I think they managed to enjoy it too! The three seniors talked about nuclear testing, the 'Dangerous Dogs Act' and 'Capital Punishment'. We managed to overcome our nervousness and spoke with clarity and precision. Michael Birtwistle did extremely well, achieving a place in the final, at the Alma Lodge Hotel, for a dinner. He spoke in front of the guests with 7 others, and was praised for his performance by the judges, but did not manage to win. Yet the William Hulme's representatives did a fine job, making us proud. Well done!

Thanks to: Louise Simon, Joanna Shaw, Sajjad Riaz, Laura Leveson, Sarah Cochrane, Michael Birtwistle and Mrs Swindlehurst.

Laura Leveson (LEGT)

2. On a cold and wet January lunchtime, I bumped into Sarah Cochrane. "Where were you at the meeting?" she said. On no, I had forgotten to go. I hurried to the English Department, thinking of a good excuse. When I got there, I was shocked when Mrs. Swindlehurst told me I had already been included in the team. Wow, someone had a lot of faith in me. How would I ever repay it?

My partners for this competition were Laura Leveson and Sarah Cochrane. Laura chose to speak on "The Nuclear Problem" and Sarah on "Animal Rights". When I came to choose my topic, I found it very difficult. As a debater, I am used to getting a set topic but now with everything to choose from, it was very hard. I finally decided to adapt an old debate speech and my title was "Capital Punishment in Britain".

The semi-final was to take place at St. Bede's College and the snow was so thick, we were lucky that the event even took place. The three of us, Mrs. Swindlehurst and our supporters all settled down in a very warm room, high with anticipation. We had all drawn numbers near the middle of the competitions. Laura was first and delivered her speech very well. I must admit, I was shocked by how good she was. Sarah, who was very nervous, was also brilliant. As soon as I got up to speak, I went into autopilot. I think the feeling is colloquially known as "being in the zone". Everything went well and I was confident for all three of us.

The competition was hotly contested, with four finals places up for grabs. I felt that there were seven people in with a chance. Now comes the twist, the judges delivered a strange verdict. Of the seven schools taking part (St. Bede's College, Manchester Grammar School, Withington Girls' School, Xavarian College, Loreto, Parris Wood High School and ourselves) every school got one person through to the final except the hosts who got two through. Furthermore, in a decision to rival Carlton Palmer's selection to the England Football team, the finalists were four boys and four girls. Something smelt very fishy. Sadly, Laura and Sarah did not qualify but both were very unlucky. So, I had reached the final and felt I had begun to pay back the support given to me.

At the same time as ours, a Junior Competition took place. Our three representatives did themselves proud and one only just missed out on the final.

The final was to be held at a very classy Stockport hotel. It was to be preceded by a meal and was a smart but casual lounge suits dinner. I remember very little about the meal; I think it was lamb, but I was too busy thinking about the competition. People asked me if I was nervous but I tend to talle my nerves and store it up as adrenaline. My warm up technique was hampered by having to go last out of all eight competitors.

My chosen topic is one which is close to my heart (not my vest!) and is also covered on my Geography syllabus. I spoke on "Is Reg Houldsworth out of a job? The Decline of the Corner Shop". I structured my speech to have an amusing start and finish but to put over a serious message in between. I included a memory of Arkwright in "Open All Hours", a string of distressing figures (some real, some not so real but believable) and I also included a quotation from my local butcher who didn't know he had said it.

Of the Juniors, there were two moving speeches, one of which should have won. There was also a speaker who got up and told lots of jokes; he was very funny but he was more suited to a comedy club than a speaking contest.

Of the Seniors, the first speaker lasted 9 minutes, well over the 5 minute limit. At this time I got worried. I decided to drop three paragraphs in order to keep mine to under or near 5 minutes. The second speaker was below par and nerves had obviously got to him. The third spoke perfectly, very good posture, very eloquent but did not seem to develop her chosen topic. I felt I was in with a chance.

I started my speech at great pace. In fact, a bit too fast. Whilst trying to keep eye contact with the audience, I stuttered and lost my place. After what seemed an age, I began again and finished with style. This was going to be very close. If House Plays, Debating and Public Speaking have taught me one thing, it is that however qualified and respected the judge is, he or she will always come back with strange decisions. The winner of the Junior class was from Manchester Grammar School and was the comedian. After this decision Mrs. Swindlehurst said "I bet a girl wins the Seniors" and sure enough one did. The winner's topic was "The Coming of Age" and she spoke third. I was criticised for trying to be too serious. I was told the middle should have been funnier but it's hard to laugh when thousands of corner shops have had to shut. I felt I could live with this defeat until the judge saw me after and told me I came second by half a mark. If only I hadn't stuttered. If only I hadn't cut that paragraph. If only a girl had won the Junior Contest. If only I were a girl. "If" is a very big word even though it contains only two letters.

Finally, may I thank Mrs Swindlehurst for her help, Mr Watson for listening to me and helping me, Michael Bartlett for accompanying me to the meal at short notice and I leave you with the words of Eric Idle "Always look on the bright side of life".

Michael Birtwistle (UJHH)

WHGS JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

In April this year everybody in Junior School had to write a speech on something or other. The speech could have been on anything at all (most people did theirs on hobbies or issues). The speech had to be all your work and had to last 4-5 minutes. The next "challenge" was to read it aloud to the whole of your form. Once everybody in the form had done his or her speech, one person whose speech was the best would be chosen to represent the whole form and compete against the other 3 semi-finalists.

When I was told I was going to represent our form I was extremely pleased but also nervous as I had to read out my speech to the whole of the Junior School. As I had already done it once already, but had not won, I was afraid of letting my form down again.

The four semi-finalists for the First Form were Laura-Jane Bulwich of 1J, Ferreshteh Jebelli of 1K, Michael Platt of 1R and Shahid Afzal of 1S.

Ferreshteh was the winner of the First Form and her speech was on the music industry. All the others were highly commended and did extremely well. Laura-Jane's speech was on Racism, Michael's was on Hong Kong and Shahid's was on Islam.

The four Second Form semi-finalists were Helia Asadi 2J, whose speech was on the Iranian New Year, Leanne Davidson 2K, who did her speech on the Brit-Awards, Iram Choudary 2R, whose speech was on Eating Disorders, and Anisa Rashid 2S, who did her speech on Dance. The two joint winners were Iram Choudary 2R and Anisa Rashid 2S. The other two were highly commended.

I thought Helia and Leanne's speeches were excellent. When they had done the speeches I was so nervous I chewed away the corners of my notes; this was because I thought their speeches were brilliant and I didn't stand a chance of winning.

The three judges were Joint Heads of School Michael Bartlett and Debra Mosley, and Mr Langford.

Iram Choudary (2R)

THE COMPUTER CLUB

In order to meet demand the Club is now open every lunch break. Even so, it is still not possible to accommodate everyone who wants to use a computer. The current system whereby certain year groups have priority on particular days still seems to be the best way to ensure that most users have access to a computer at least on one day a week. Not everyone is happy with this system but no one has yet come up with a better solution to the problem. From past experience we know that a booking system is not really any fairer.

During the year a modem has been installed on one of the computers. This gives one machine access to the Internet. In the future, a facility will be added which will enable all the networked machines to make use of the modem. Because surfing the Net makes use of a phone line, users have to pay to use the modem. (This only applies to the Computer Club. Users who go on the Net for valid, academic reasons during lessons do not pay.) Unfortunately, lunch-time is not the best time to try to access the Net since traffic tends to be rather heavy and so the speed at which you can surf slows down to a crawl. (Is that a mixed metaphor?) Some surfers have had to have their money refunded because the Net was so slow that it was unusable. However, on other occasions pupils have found it quite acceptable.

The multimedia PC, which at one time was the most popular machine, is now showing its age. It has long since been superseded in terms of speed and facilities by some of the newer machines in other departments. It is hoped that in the new year our dinosaur from the age of single speed CD drives will be replaced by a much zippier one which uses Windows 95. Not only will this give users access to the latest CD software, it will also enable them to gain experience of Win95.

C. MacLachlan
teacher i/c

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a scheme that allows people from a wide range of backgrounds to work towards and achieve an award that really stretches them. There are three awards, bronze, silver and gold. For all awards a number of sections have to be completed in order to obtain the award, comprising activities in: service in the community, expeditions, skills, physical recreation and a residential project. The difference between the awards is the level of skill needed to complete each section, with bronze the easiest and gold being the hardest.

The award scheme is open to people between the ages of 14 and 25. The main aim of the scheme is team work. This is seen best in the expeditions section. To complete the gold expedition section, a training weekend and four expeditions involving navigation, outdoor cooking and camping have to be completed. The training weekend we went on was at Hardraw. Around 30 people attended the weekend; we were then split into groups of between 5 and 8. On the training weekend we were instructed in the safety procedures necessary to survive in the outdoors. These included First Aid, Navigation and Country Code. On the Saturday a navigation exercise was undertaken that lasted from 10am to 6pm. This was a long hike of approximately 10 miles through the Pennines and surrounding country.

The navigation requires team work and the ability to follow a leader. My group chose to do this by appointing a new leader every time we reached a set position. This allowed everyone to have a go and an opportunity to navigate and lead. The equipment was spread between us fairly so that the strongest could carry the most. Needless to say Richard Williams made a sterling job of carrying the heaviest equipment.

All in all it was a very enjoyable but challenging weekend and I look forward to completing the expeditions.

Aaron Greenall (LMDW)

LE CLUB FRANÇAIS

The year began with the opening of a new French Club, initiated by Mrs. Ballantyne. Posters were put up all over the Zochonis Centre and, being curious, a group of us went to investigate.

We arrived one lunchtime to be greeted by Mrs. Ballantyne and Mrs. Hampson who gave us scissors and brochures. We began to make a poster in the shape of France which illustrated all the different activities you can do there.

After the poster was made, Mrs. Ballantyne suggested we watch the video 'My Father the Hero', in French of course (with English subtitles!). This provided us with a lot of enjoyment. It took us five lunchtimes to watch it, but it was very enjoyable. Then Mr. Turner took us under his wing and we managed to write a play in French! This was really fun and we also recorded it so we could take it home. It was a great experience to hear our voices speaking French in our own homes!

We have enjoyed French Club tremendously and on behalf of its members I would like to thank Mrs. Ballantyne, Mrs. Hampson and Mr. Turner for providing us with many unusual opportunities and make William Hulme's French Club a unique experience. We hope it continues next year.

Victoria Bramwell (2K)

CHARITIES WEEK REVIEW

Every year, the School Prefects organise fundraising events for a worthwhile charity which this year was Charnwood Nursery School, chosen following a unanimous vote by the Prefects. Charnwood is a registered charity which integrates able bodied and disabled children so that they can grow up in an unprejudiced environment. This school costs £60,000 a year to run, of which £45,000 has to be raised through charity. Just before our Charities' Week, however, they were in particular need of extra finance completely to re-carpet the nursery, as the existing carpets were proving a hazard. Furthermore, following three previous burglaries, a new alarm system was required to improve security. These two jobs together were expected to cost in the region of £7,500 to complete, so we were asking for a particularly big effort from all concerned as over the past few years the total raised had ranged from £4,000 to £6,000. Thus, in order to reach this higher than usual target we not only needed to continue with the most popular events of previous years, but also to combine them with some more innovative ones.

In the first category fell items such as Soak the Prefect, which several participants chose to do in drag, and the Sponsored Walk for which we are grateful to Finglands Coachways and Mr Veevers for their help. We also included, once again, the successful Quiz and Race Nights which, without the help of Mr Hewston and Mr Seddon respectively, would not have been possible. Following its great popularity last year, a second fashion show was co-ordinated with the tireless help of Ellen Nicholson and Vinnie Pohoomull, as well as the countless models and technical crew who, together, made it one of the highlights of the week.

Perhaps the most successful of the new events was the first ever Prefects' Grand Raffle, which provided almost a quarter of our eventual total. The Prefects' version of the TV show 'Gladiators', in which pupils fought against members of Staff including the invincible 'Mammoth', alias Mr Mallinder, and the not so invincible 'Gerbil', alias Mr Hewston, turned out to be extremely good fun.

Other fundraising activities adopted for the first time included abseiling organised by the army, a penalty shoot out competition with a Manchester City goalkeeper, a concert by the rock band 'Aloe-Vera' and 'Gunge the Teacher' with Mr Simkin and Mrs Hesp being the lucky recipients of the bucket of gunge! The Charity Tuck Shop, again, contributed a substantial amount to the fund, as did the extremely popular Rag Mag, which sold out its run of 250 copies on the first day of sales.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Wilson, the Head Mistress of Chorlton's Amberleigh Preparatory School and all her pupils, for taking part in our sponsored swim and raising over £200 for Charnwood.

The fact that we reached our highly ambitious total of £7,500 is testament to the tremendous efforts of the entire School, the organisational skills of the Prefects and in particular Ankish Patel who took on the thankless task of Charities' Week Organiser. The tremendous participation evident throughout the whole school community provided a very memorable week and together we would like to pass on our great thanks to everyone on behalf of all at Charnwood.

Michael Bartlett (UGJT) &
Debbi Mosley (UJS2)
(Joint Heads of School)

EXCERPT FROM

CHARITIES WEEK PRESS RELEASE

PUPILS RAISED £7,600 FOR CHARNWOOD TRUST

Mrs Brenda Kyle, Principal of the Charnwood Nursery School in Heaton Moor, Stockport, was presented with a cheque for £7,600 during a special Assembly at William Hulme's Grammar School. The money was raised by the pupils in William Hulme's Charities Week - an annual event organised by the Prefects. Head Master, Mr P D Briggs MA said, "This is one of our best efforts for charity in recent years and the commitment of all the pupils has been magnificent. The Prefects have done us proud".

Mrs Kyle, thanking William Hulme's for the donation, explained that the money was to be used for new carpeting to remove a potential hazard and towards the installation of a new security system following three recent burglaries. She said, "A former pupil of ours, who has cerebral palsy, came back to visit us last week. He is 13 years old, is very bright and is working hard to achieve his ambition of being an astro-physicist. Because of efforts like yours in raising such a gigantic sum of money, we can continue giving such children a good start in more comfortable and safer surroundings". The Chairman of the Trust, Mr Tony Roberts added, "Compassion is a costly thing. You have made a significant contribution to providing the funds necessary to keep the school operating".



Positions in photograph:

SHIVAJI DÉ	DAVID JOHNSON	ANDREW HOLDEN	JOHN FLATMAN	RICHARD STRUDWICK	JOSH ROBINSON	
SUJOY JAISWAL	DANIEL GENT	DAVID HUFTON	DANIEL TAYLOR	RICHARD ENGLAND	NICHOLAS GHAZI	
MR. P. D. BRIGGS	DEBORAH MOSLEY	SOPHIE STEPHENSON	MRS. BRENDA KYLE	VICTORIA ASH	MICHAEL BARTLETT	MR. TONY ROBINSON
CHRISTINA BARNES			CAROLINE IP			



Revenge as the Heads of School are victims of "soak a prefect" in aid of Charities Week.



The spectacular finale to the Fashion Show.



integrating children with handicaps

Pre-School nursery group · Opportunity group · Toy library

St. Paul's Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport SK4 4RY Tel: 061 442 7767

15th May 1996

Mr Briggs
Headteacher
William Hulme's Grammar School
Spring Bridge Road
Manchester

Dear Mr Briggs,

Please accept our sincere thanks on behalf of the Trustees, staff and children for selecting Charnwood as this years charity for your school. Thank you also for allowing me the opportunity to speak to the assemblies, I was most impressed by their attentiveness. The care and concern of the prefects for the work of Charnwood was most touching, the whole school is a credit to you and your staff and it must be very encouraging to you to have such a good group of prefects, led by an outstanding head boy and girl.

Please convey our thanks to the whole school for their efforts during the fundraising week, we were delighted with the total. I have written to the prefects separately.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Kyle

Brenda Kyle
PRINCIPAL

LIFESHARE

Just before Christmas, Mr Fisher's Form, 4J, collected and gathered several cartons of food, cosmetics and cleaning materials, together with cheques amounting to £150, to Lifeshare, the well-known charity for the homeless in Central Manchester. 4J are to be praised for this splendid initiative, as are the other Middle School forms which responded to it.

As the reply from the organisers of Lifeshare at Christmas put it, "Your gift will help make Christmas more comfortable for Manchester's homeless people".

-Ed.

NEWSPAPER DAY

On Wednesday, 7th February 1996, the School participated for the first time in the annual British Telecom Newspaper Day. It has been running for a few years already, but this year we decided to take the national competition by storm, and produce four entries of our own. A lot of preparation had to be done beforehand, and for a few weeks previous to the actual event, various members of the Lower Sixth were knee-deep in horoscope reviews, problem pages, sports interviews and topical articles.

When the day arrived, we were knee-deep in reviews and articles. To describe the Computer Room as being in a state of organised chaos throughout the day is not far from the truth. The main news, which was quickly turned into our own articles, was received by computer, manned by Mr. Hofton. His excited explanations about how he had somehow managed to get in contact with another school doing the same competition in Outer Mongolia or Buenos Aires as a result of his computing skills, were a regular occurrence. Although the day was both tiring and demanding, we did finish up with Spanish, French, German and English newspaper entries, much to the relief of everyone involved. On behalf of all the pupils who took part, I would like to thank the members of staff from the respective departments for their help and support, and for making it such an enjoyable event.

All three foreign language newspapers - French, German and Spanish - were awarded Credit Grade certificates, and the English Language one, reviewed below by Vicky Williams, achieved the even higher grade of Distinction.

Eleanor Heynes (LJGH)



Rob looks admiringly at Michael's screen. Or is he trying (in vain, of course) to spot a mistake?!

(photo: J.G. Hofton)

NEWSPAPER DAY - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

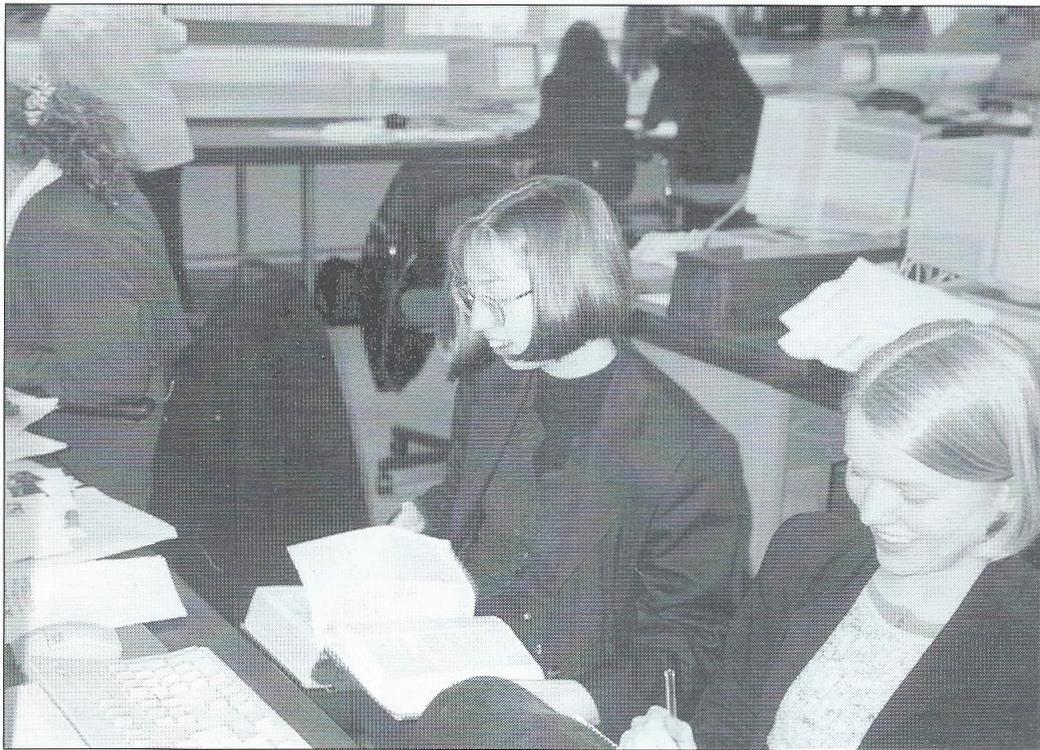
Film and sport reviews, dining out, horoscopes, business page, fashions, world reports.... the list of possibilities for articles in our newspaper seemed endless, and it all had to be completed before the actual "British Telecom Newspaper Day". Eventually, we were assigned our 'tasks' to which we set about eagerly in our lessons and in our endless visits to the School's Computer Room. However, there was a certain amount of work that had to be done outside school such as going to the cinema for the "Movie Review", visiting several restaurants and cafes for the "Dining-out" section and finally consulting our crystal ball and the movements of the planets for the "Horoscopes" (Oh... and also reading them first in magazines).

When the day finally arrived, we were sent to the Computer Room, articles in hand, ready to begin the real task of the competition, to write the newspaper articles and headlines as they arrived. We were to be sent a basic outline of the event by e-mail (one of our many uses of the latest technology which also included a computer picture scanner and a CD-ROM) and finally the first report came through for one of our journalists to expand upon. Other reports also began to arrive, creating headlines, such as ..."Teenage Bride Pregnant"....."Dudley Moore in Car Crash"..."Fergie sued over Budgie!".....and our front page headline, "Snow Creates Havoc Across Britain".

Actually to type and assemble all the articles is a lot harder than it looks, especially when there are deadlines to meet, but luckily for us, our English teacher Miss De Vince happens to be a computer whizz and made the process a whole lot easier. When the deadline came, three thirty pm, our group hadn't quite finished so it was decided that myself and Frances Edwards would remain after school with Miss DeVince to finish in time for the last post. So, at a quarter to five, we printed out the newspaper and sent it to the judges, 'hot off the press'.

Three months later we received our certificate showing that we were awarded a distinction. We all received a copy of the newspaper too, to remind us of pressures of producing a newspaper to a deadline and experiencing what a working environment could be like. For the success and enjoyment of the day, we have to thank all the teachers involved, Mr. Hofton, Miss De Vince, Mrs. Ballantyne, Mrs. Hampson, Mrs. Wright, Mr. Turner, Miss Minto, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Bull, and Mademoiselle Mermillod. The pupils from the English group were Frances Edwards, Laura Leveson, Laura-Marie Ramsumair, Caroline Alderson, Soraya Khan, Asif Majid, Caroline Plowright, Jane Lawson and myself.

Vicky Williams (LEGT)



Louise and Jane hard at work on the French newspaper. Who needs a computerised spell-check?!

(photo: J.G. Hofton)

BT NEWSPAPER DAY

A page from the German entry

ANTWORTEN

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2)
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11)
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12)
a) 0) b) 10 c) 5

(0-40)

Du bist eine gute Freundin:
Du bist sehr nett und
freundlich. Du bist sehr
ehrlich mit deiner
Freundin, und du hilfst ihr
mit den Konflikten in der
Familie und bei Streit.
Du bist sehr taktvoll,
hilfreich und grosszügig.
Du gibst immer gute
Ratschläge und machst
alles mit deiner Freundin.
Eine ideale Freundin!
Deine Freunde haben
Glück!

(45-80)

Du bist manchmal eine
gute Freundin: Du bist

manchmal grosszügig und
freundlich, aber du kannst
schlecht gelaunt sein. Du
bist immer nicht
taktvoll oder hilfreich. Du
bist meistens nett, aber du
bist nicht sehr oft aggressiv.

(85-120)

Du bist keine gute
Freundin: Deine Freunde
sind sehr unglücklich. Du
hörst nie deinen Freunden
zu, und du bist sehr taktlos
und falsch. Du bist nie
ehrlich und sehr frech. Du
gibst keine guten
Ratschläge, weil du nicht
taktvoll bist.



DEINE PROBLEME

Liebe Frau Karin,
Ich habe viele Probleme
mit meinen Eltern über die
Arbeit. Ich bekomme gute
Noten in meinen
Schulprüfungen und ich
nehme an vielen
Schulaktivitäten teil. Aber
ich habe keine Freunde.
Meine Eltern haben Schuld
daran, weil sie mich nicht
ausgehen lassen. Ich muß
die ganze Zeit arbeiten,
und sie geben mir keine
Freizeit. Ich streite mich
oft mit meinen Eltern. Ich
verstehe nicht, warum sie
wollen, daß ich so viel
arbeite, weil ich eine gute
Schülerin bin. Ich werde
deprimiert und einsam.
Wenn ich mit jungen
Leuten bin, fühle ich mich
schüchtern und ich kann
keine Freunde
kennenlernen. Es ist so
ungerecht. Helfen Sie mir
bitte. Was soll ich machen?

Erika.

Liebe Erika,
Du mußt eine richtige
Aussprache mit Deinen
Eltern haben. Du solltest
ihnen sagen, was Du fühlst
und ihnen erklären wie
unglücklich Du bist. Du
könntest sie fragen, warum
sie wollen, daß Du soviel
arbeiten mußt, obwohl Du
eine Musterschülerin bist.
Du mußt ruhig bleiben und
Du darfst nicht aggressiv
werden. Ich weiß, daß Du
Deine Eltern für ungerecht
hältst, aber sie wollen nur
das beste für Dich. Ob
du's glaubst oder nicht:
aber ich verspreche Dir, es
ist die Wahrheit. Du
könntest auch einen Lehrer
um Hilfe bitten.
Mach Dir keine Sorgen. Es
wird am Ende okay sein.

Deine,
Frau Karin.

Liebe Frau Karin,
Meine Eltern sind
geschieden und ich wohne
mit meiner Mutter. Ich
habe eine ältere Schwester
aber sie wohnt mit meinem
Vater. Vor einem Jahr hat
mein Vater ein Verhältnis
mit einer jungen Frau
gehabt. Meine Mutter
hasst ihm und sie erlaubt
mir nicht, ihn zu sehen.
Aber ich komme sehr gut
mit meinem Vater aus und
ich habe ihm vergeben.
Ich habe viele
Auseinandersetzungen mit
meiner Mutter über meinen
Vater. Ich sehe meine
Schwester oft und sie

erzählt mir, wie ich ihm
fehle. Ich will meinen
Vater sehen, aber ich will
meine Mutter nicht
belügen und meinen Vater
hinter ihrem Rücken sehen.
Was soll ich machen?

Sandra.

Liebe Sandra,
Du solltest mit Deiner
Mutter sprechen und ihr
die Lage völlig erklären.
Ich verstehe, dass es eine
sehr Schwere Situation ist,
aber es ist sehr wichtig es
Deinen Eltern mitzuteilen.
Viel Glück!

Deine,
Frau Karin.

Liebe Frau Karin,
Ich habe ein Problem:
mein Bruder ist sehr
aggressiv. Meine Eltern
glauben, dass er wunderbar
ist. Also kann ich ihnen
nichts sagen. Manchmal
hat er mich geschlagen bis
habe ich geweint.
Können Sie mir bitte
helfen?

Helga.

Liebe Helga,
Wenn Du nicht mit Deinen
Eltern sprechen kannst,
solltest Du 08001111
anrufen, um Hilfe zu
bitten. Viel Glück.

Deine,
Frau Karin.

JUNGGESSELLE DER WOCHE



Meine Traumfrau:-

ist gestorben: sie war
grauäugig, sehr attraktiv,
sehr sportlich, reiselustig,
erotisch und sozial
engagiert
Ich möchte wieder so eine
Frau!

Ich habe alles: bin
Buchhalter mit grosser
Praxis, 42 Jahre alt, sehr
sportlich, musikliebend,
habe zwei Kinder, die sehr
wunderbar sind
Bitte ein Foto mitschicken!

THE GERMAN NEWSPAPER WAS PRODUCED BY:

Eleanor Heynes, Asha de Silva,
Joanna Zucker

BT NEWSPAPER DAY
A page from the French entry



LE TEMPS

Le nord-est et Yorkshire

Les nuages abondants et des averses se produiront sur le Yorkshire, jusqu'à la mi-journée. Il fera froid dans l'est avec parfois 2 degrés au lever du jour, mais le soleil se montrera.

Le nord-ouest

La journée débutera sous un ciel très nuageux. Des éclaircies apparaîtront l'après-midi à Manchester. Les températures seront proches de 1 degré l'après-midi.

Le sud-ouest

La journée sera maussade avec un ciel gris et quelques gouttes éparses le matin. La température maximale avoisinera 4 degrés.

Les îles Anglo-Normandes

Le temps sera couvert le matin avec brouillard. L'après-midi, quelques éclaircies apparaîtront sur l'ouest des régions, mais ailleurs le soleil restera timide.

L'Ecosse

Les nuages dominent. Quelque flocons de neige tomberont en fin d'après-midi. Le thermomètre dépassera à peine 1 degré.

Londres et le sud-est

Le matin, le temps sera brumeux avec quelques brouillards par endroits, mais l'après-midi les éclaircies reviendront temporairement. En fin de journée le ciel se couvrira à nouveau par l'est. Les températures seront proches de 5 degrés.

Le sud

Le temps restera gris et brumeux toute la journée avec quelques averses possibles le matin. Il fera plus doux avec 4 degrés.

Le Pays de Galles

Le matin, le ciel sera gris et brumeux mais l'après-midi il y aura quelques éclaircies. Il ne fera pas plus de 8 à 10 degrés l'après-midi.

East Anglia

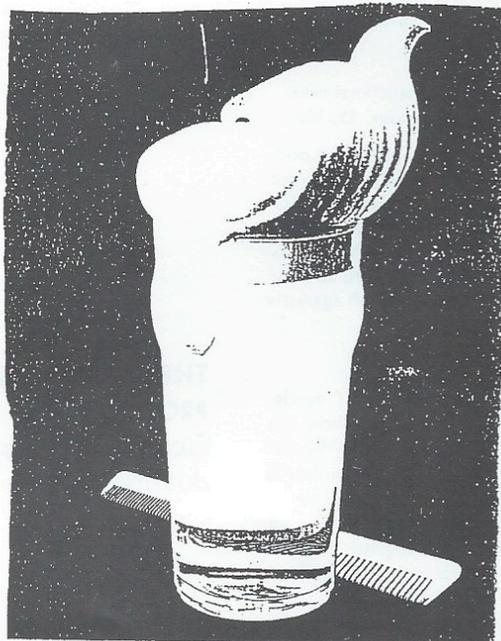
Pendant la matinée, il fera du soleil avec les températures de plus de 9 degrés. Mais l'après-midi le temps restera gris et brumeux pour toute la journée.



THE FRENCH NEWSPAPER WAS PRODUCED BY:

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POURREZ-VOUS Y RÉSISTER?



BT NEWSPAPER DAY

A page from the Spanish entry

¡VIVIR LAS TAPAS!

Fuimos a Manchester a obtener las opiniones de unas personas españolas sobre sus restaurantes, y también hablamos con una persona sobre la comunidad española en nuestra ciudad.

Primero fuimos a LA TASCA y allí hicimos unas preguntas al jefe y aquí hay un resumen de lo que dijo. La Tasca fue el primer restaurante español en el centro de Manchester. El propietario dijo que La Tasca empezó hace dos años, y ahora es el más próspero. La Tasca es bastante grande pero el ambiente es muy especial y muy amistoso. La música española ayuda a los clientes a vivir de nuevo sus vacaciones en España.

La comida en el restaurante es muy diferente de los restaurantes normales, por ejemplo en vez de pescado y patatas fritas se puede comer tortilla española y paella. Ochenta por ciento de los camareros son españoles, el motivo es que el propietario cree que los clientes quieren oír acentos españoles. También

ayuda a crear más ambiente español

La Tasca acoge gente de todo tipo y nacionalidad. La gente que más frecuenta el restaurante es de Europa. Sobre todo los franceses, italianos y claro los españoles. Los días más ocupados son los martes, jueves, viernes y sábados. Cuando hablamos

propietario de La Tasca quien es inglés. El Rincón es más bien un bar en cambio La Tasca es más bien un restaurante.

Después de terminar nuestro segundo expreso fuimos a un restaurante inglés, que se llama HARPERS y allí hablamos con Felix, el propietario. Felix es un español y queríamos hablar con él sobre la comunidad española, y la razón por la cual han abierto tantos restaurantes españoles en el centro de Manchester. Dijo que la razón principal es que Manchester es más cosmopolita que antes y también

ochenta por ciento de los turistas van a España por de vacaciones. También le preguntamos si cambiaría su restaurante por uno español. Contestó que hay demasiado restaurantes españoles en Manchester, pero en realidad él quiere tener un restaurante español.

Al fin y al cabo nosotros pensamos que hay una gran comunidad española en Manchester y los restaurantes españoles atienden a las exigencias de esta comunidad.

El Rincón
de Rafa



244 Deansgate,
(Entrance Longworth Street, off St. John Street)
Manchester M3 3BQ
Tel/Fax: 0161-839 8819



terminado nuestros expresos fuimos a tomar otro en EL RINCON. El Rincón es también un restaurante español (el nombre no es original porque el restaurante está en el rincón.) pero hay algunas diferencias. Las principales diferencias son que todas las camareras son españolas y los clientes son hombres de negocio y la mayoría de los clientes es inglesa. El propietario de El Rincón es español, no como el

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BT NEWSPAPER DAY

A page from the English entry

STREET STYLE

By Jane Lawson and
Caroline Plowright

Creators rather than followers of fashion, Mancunians have the vital combination of having a finger on the pulse, yet having the initiative to create a different unique style of their own. Manchester's large student and cosmopolitan population gives the city a vibrant fashion sense, where people are eager to assert their identity using the clothes they wear. There is no doubt that fashion plays an important part in any Mancunian's life. .. So we hit the streets to find out more about it.

Youth culture, especially the club scene influences the way many young Mancunians select and wear their clothes, Jeremy 22, D. J " I think my dress sense is influenced by the Manchester club scene. I

like to be identified as a clubber and an up and coming D. J. "

Fashion is also dictated by the many different types of music whether it be hiphop, reggae, rock or indie. Nick, 19, waiter, " by looking at someone's clothes you can see straight away what sort of music they're into."

Another more worrying factor is that money seems to be no object where fashion is concerned. Imogen, 17, model, " I spend virtually all my money on clothes and buy at least three outfits a month. " This attitude towards fashion and money is likely to lead young people into debt as they lose their appreciation for the value of money. Eve, 15, student, " If I want an outfit really badly I'll buy it no matter how much it costs. "

The opinions of members of your peer group also plays an important part in what young people choose to wear. James, 18, student, " It's really important to have the right clothes or your mates laugh at you. "

However the most important thing to remember is " It's not what you wear it's the way that you wear it "

FOOD REVIEWS



MANCHESTER GOES INTERNATIONAL

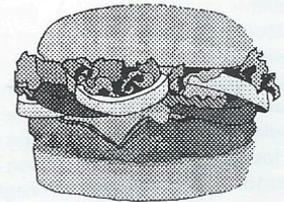
American? French? Spanish? Whatever tickles your tastebuds or quenches your thirst, Manchester is bound to offer an intercontinental selection that will satisfy even the choosiest of food connoisseurs. The latest addition to this flourishing trend is the new Australian cafe, aptly named 'Down Under'. Situated opposite the Midland Hotel, the unusual food (crocodile and kangaroo steak) and friendly atmosphere makes 'Down Under' ideal for the more adventurous food lovers.

So, what else does Manchester have to offer in

the taste department? Above 'Down Under' there is the French delight of 'Bonjour Cafe', (often heaving with businessmen , shoppers and tourists !) and the new 'Pierre Victoire ' opposite the Midland Hotel, both of them offering a huge choice of lunches, beverages and traditional French meals. Again, both these cafes offer excellent French cuisine in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

After visiting the drive thru' in your hot red 1950's Chevrolet, where do the grooviest guys and dolls grab a burger and a milkshake? We don't know about America but here in Manchester it's got to be 'Eddie Rockers Diner', Deansgate. 50's memorabilia is certainly the theme here and the portions of food are equally American sized - eight inch hot dogs jampacked with a variety of relishes.

Whatever your fancy - Manchester is certainly the place to be.



By Vicky Williams and
Frances Edwards

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

THE NORTH'S IN UPROAR!

The latest Manchester band to hit the charts are Northern Uproar, four cheeky and most definitely Up-for-it lads from Heald Green.

Unlike, Blur and Oasis these lads are young and fresh, born well after The Beatles Craze and practically at the end of the flares and Labour Government days.

Leon, Jeff, Paul and Keith notch up an average age of just seventeen. Their debut

single, "Rollercoaster" produced by James Dean Bradfield of "The Manic Street Preachers" peaked in the Top 40 within the first week of release.

Besides being Indie-Popstars, they have had a couple of jobs too, including working in supermarkets and modelling. In fact the lead singer and bassist recently modelled a pair of Levi's and was recently featured in Vogue .

Laura Ramsumair

Today's Film Review Sev7en

What do the following words mean to you: gluttony, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy and wrath? Well these are the seven deadly sins, which hold the key to seven brutal and calculating murders, as well as providing the film's title.

Detective Mills alias Brad Pitt, plays the young handsome and somewhat over enthusiastic cop, who is determined to find the killer. He is aided by the older and considerably wiser, veteran Lt. William Somerset. (Morgan Freeman.)

Gwyneth Paltrow is typically cast as Pitt's pretty wife, whose significance is somewhat questionable throughout. It is not until the end of the film, that the audience realise the importance of her character.

Seven is the most disturbing thriller since, "Silence of The Lambs." It entices and excites its audience, unlike many other gory films . As well as making you cringe, it is thought provoking and does possess an unpredictable ending.

So beware this is not a film to be watched by the faint hearted!

EXPERIENCE
THE LUXURY
AND SECURITY OF



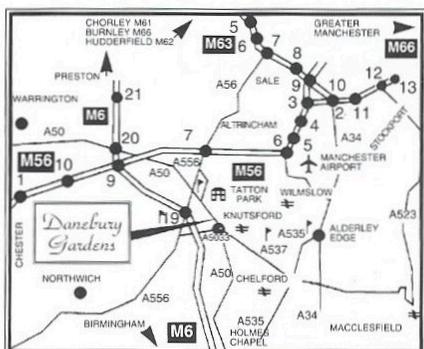
Danebury Gardens

KNUTSFORD

*Set in the Town's renowned Conservation Area -
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- Convenience and privacy in peaceful surroundings for those with business commitments in the North West. A few minutes from J19 of the M6 and approximately fifteen minutes from Manchester's International Airport.
- Stylish Holiday accommodation in the heart of Cheshire for the discerning visitor.

The apartments are set in a charming and sympathetically converted Victorian home, they are decorated in keeping with the period and comprehensively equipped. Everything you will need, in fact, for a comfortable stay.



*For more information and an appointment to
view, contact Pauline or Stephen West at*
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and we are sure you
will be very surprised
at what you see

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DUNBLANE

Surely none of us can fail to have been deeply shocked and disturbed by the terrible event which took place in Dunblane on 13th March this year. The word 'incredible' is used all too readily these days but it would be true to say that, in this case, the slaughter of those sixteen small children and their teacher was indeed incredible. The sheer horror felt by parents everywhere and particularly those with small children was evident for several days after the incident, and I cannot recall an occasion (in my lifetime) where Parliament has suspended session for 3 days as a mark of respect. The scale of the tragedy seemed to numb people into a state of disbelief and I feel sure that many remained silent for fear of triggering deep emotion within themselves and others. We are sadly so anaesthetized to acts of violence in the modern world that their effect on us is ever-diminishing. However, on the days following the Dunblane tragedy, the School seemed strangely quiet and I perceived a sense of simmering emotion which was borne out by informal conversations with the classes I taught. We can only imagine the effect, had something similar happened in our own School.

As the parent of a young child and as a member of a school community, I felt doubly affected and, knowing that a fund had been set up for the victims of the Dunblane tragedy, I thought it appropriate to offer pupils (and staff) the opportunity to express their deep sympathy and collective sense of loss in a tangible form. Consequently, a collection was organised, and over the course of 3 lunchtimes, with the kind support of the Prefects (thank you!), the sum of £350 was raised. In addition, pupils were invited to write messages of sympathy, if they so wished, or simply record their name, after which a collective card was sent to Dunblane Primary School.

This was, let us hope, a unique collection and one where the giving was much more important than the gift. The wound of Dunblane may eventually heal but the scar it leaves on all our lives cannot be removed. May the victims and their families remain in our thoughts and prayers.

A.C. Crane
Form Tutor 4L

WORK EXPERIENCE

After having completed my GCSE's last Summer, I decided to do something constructive with all the time I had on my hands. I couldn't sunbathe and laze about for the whole of the holidays, so I decided to gain some work experience.

I have previously helped out at my mother's primary school in Salford, so I didn't really want to do any more work experience at another school. However, as I enjoy working with children, I took the opportunity of working with physically and mentally handicapped children at Petty Pool in Cheshire. These children visit Petty Pool for a holiday or a weekend and have a wonderful time. They stay in beautifully furnished chalets, have their meals supplied, enjoy endless fun on the adventure playground and embark on various excursions. They are looked after by the caring and wonderful staff who must be very dedicated to do this type of work, as it is a very demanding job.

I carried out various jobs from slaving over a hot stove in the kitchen, to being a waitress, to helping out on excursions that the children went on. They went on walks in the woods, went orienteering, tried abseiling, travelled on a boat and enjoyed tracking down foxes and doing a bit of bird watching.

After the first day, I got to know the children very well and made plenty of friends. Initially, it was hard for me to relate to the children who were 20 years old, but had a mental age of 7 or 8. However, I soon became great friends with them due to their friendliness and caring nature.

The final day of my work experience ended on a poignant note as it also happened to be the day when the group of children was leaving. I had grown attached to many of the children and there were a lot of hugs and tears from some of them.

It was a week of my life that I will never forget. It is a very satisfying job which demands a lot of dedication as well as a lot of care and love. Not only did I make friends with the children but also with the staff who do an excellent job. I learnt a lot during my week at Petty Pool and found it very rewarding.

Asha de Silva (LJGH)

WORK EXPERIENCE

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to gain a week of work experience in the Accident and Emergency Department of the Royal Oldham Hospital.

The first thing I noticed was how tremendously organised the department was. I had always imagined it to be rather haphazard.

The patients were categorised into three main groups. The most serious were those brought by the ambulance/paramedics in an emergency situation. These obviously required urgent medical attention. The next group were those brought by the ambulances as they were too ill to make their own way to the hospital. The least serious group were those who had made their own way with problems which ranged from an ingrowing toenail to a broken arm (or two). These had been nicknamed the walking wounded. The department also has a theatre where I was permitted to watch some surgery

being performed. This was an unbelievable experience. The remainder of my time was spent with the doctors as they assessed the 'walking wounded'. The doctors showed me how they used various complicated machines and they allowed me to look through some of the instruments too.

This week was valuable and unique for me. Work experience is beneficial as it is the only way to gain an accurate insight into certain careers. As I have learned, a real accident and emergency department is very different from how it looks on the show "Casualty".

Sara Khoshneviszadeh (LDAM)

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1. LECTURES

During 1995-96, the Politics 'A' level groups attended the following lectures at Manchester University:-

- Local Government in a State of Flux - John McHugh (Manchester)
- Party Leaders and their Ideas - Prof. David Coates (Manchester)
- Re-Shaping the Civil Service - Peter Barberis (Manchester)
- Policy Net-Working in British Government - Prof. Rod Rhodes (Newcastle)
- The Nature of British Politics - Prof. Mick Moran (Manchester)
- Politics as Interest, Stimulation and Entertainment - David Denver (Lancaster)
- Trade Unions in British Politics - John Monks (Gen. Sec. T.U.C.)
- The Welfare State in British Politics - Ian Holliday (Manchester)
- Tony Blair's Electoral Appeal - David Denver (Lancaster)
- Cabinet Government from Heath to Major - Dr Martin Burch (Manchester)
- The Efficacy of the House of Commons - Dr Tony Wright (Labour M.P.)

The lectures were delivered by leading academics, journalists and politicians. They proved an excellent complement to the ULEAC syllabus.

M P Jones

2. TRIP TO THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

During the February Half-Term of 1996, the Upper Sixth Politics group were guests of Mr Bob Dunn M.P. (Conservative, Dartford) at the Palace of Westminster. As an ex-minister and current member of the 1922 Executive Committee, Mr Dunn is widely recognised as a senior backbencher and a well-placed source for political "goings-on". Mr Dunn gave us an excellent insider's perspective on the Scott Report, Mr Major's electoral fortunes and the current crisis of paid advocacy of M.P.'s. As always, Mr Dunn was a very amenable host and besides showing us the usual parts of Westminster, he was able to gain access to various committee rooms and private offices. We had a fascinating insight into the real "corridors of power". Having spent nearly two years studying politics, members of the groups were keen to quiz an actual M.P., who made the textbook version of events sound very tame. We spent a privileged two hours touring and talking with Mr Dunn and we are very grateful for all his support over the last ten years.

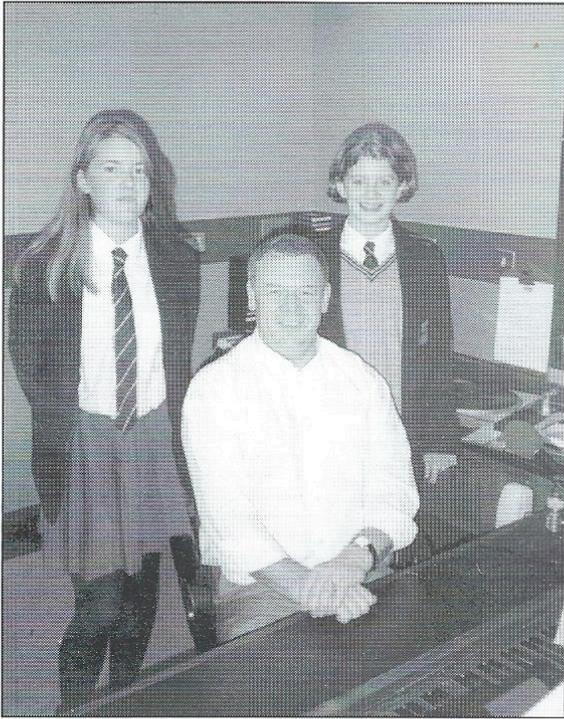
M P Jones

3. GREATER MANCHESTER RADIO ACTIVITIES

Throughout 1995-96, members of staff, the Sixth Form and pupils appeared on the Allan Beswick Show or various current affairs programmes. In October 1995, Kati Greenall (3J) and Elli Metcalfe (3J) gave their forthright opinions on our national politicians and how they saw the issues of the day. It was significant that their disillusionment was spread equally across the whole political spectrum.

In March 1996, Tom Gent (3S) was invited to a première showing of "Toy Story" at the Odeon in Manchester. He then gave a very succinct and eloquent synopsis of the film for Greater Manchester Radio. Despite all the other rave reviews at the time, Tom gave a very good "Barry Norman" analysis: critically balanced but very entertaining!

In May 1996, the joint Heads of School, Debbi Mosley and Michael Bartlett, were invited to the national première showing of the controversial film "Kids" at the Corner House in Manchester. Debbi and Michael were then invited back into the Greater Manchester Radio studio and gave their views on the film. Although clearly the film was designed to be shocking, both Debbi and Michael felt that the film grossly exaggerated teenage life. Thank goodness!



Kati Greenall, Allan Beswick and Elli Metcalfe
at the G.M.R. Studios.
(photo: M.P. Jones)

In February 1996, our very own Mr Charles Cotton from the Physics Department and Darren Massel (Lower Sixth Former) were invited into the Greater Manchester Radio studios to give their views on the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Calculator. Mr Cotton was asked whether or not the calculator has eroded childrens' ability to think mathematically and perform mental arithmetic. Darren gave a pupil's perspective, especially with studying for all the 'A' level Sciences, on whether or not calculators helped him! Both agreed that, although the calculator was an excellent labour-saving machine, there was an increasing danger of a dependency culture developing in schools!

Throughout the year, members of the Upper Sixth politics group participated in "Vox Pop" sessions in Room 19 at School on a variety of issues such as Road Safety Campaigns and the B.S.E. crisis. Mr M P Jones, in his capacity as Chairman of the North-West Politics Association, appeared on Greater Manchester Radio as a political pundit. Mr Jones seemed, at times, to regularly comment on Tony Blair's ill fortunes such as the Philip Gould "Unfinished Revolution", memorandum (September 1995), the Stakeholding Initiative (January 1996), and the Road to the Manifesto (July 1996). This was quickly redressed by slots on the Scott Report (February 1996) the Local Elections (May 1996) and the "Yes it Hurt, But it Worked" campaign for the Conservatives. All good fun!

M P Jones



Trip to the Palace of Westminster.
(photo: M.P. Jones)

G.M.R. Presenter Andrea Nielson with the
Upper Sixth Politics Group in Room 19.
(photo: M.P. Jones)



FRENCH DAY

Earlier this year I approached my colleagues with a rather odd request. I asked them to consider teaching their normal time-table in French for a day. Looking back I suppose I should have expected an immediate refusal from everyone and to be told that this was an impossible if not crazy idea, but most people were enthusiastic or at least willing to have a go when I first spoke to them. Even among those who had initial doubts, most later changed their mind so eventually Friday, 28th June was chosen as the first William Hulme's French Day.

There was a serious intent behind my desire for such a day. Languages are not simply for the language classroom, and I wanted to show that French could be used in situations where we would normally use English and hoped that the pupils would see that something they had been studying for between one and six years could be used for their normal daily life, in their case for their lessons at School. I was confident that the staff would be able to produce an interesting day for the pupils. French is the one language most people learn at school and many staff here have a high level of fluency. As I went round each department I discovered that nearly all departments had at least one member of staff who was proficient in French, so it was mainly with these people that I discussed what could be done in their lesson. A History or a Chemistry lesson obviously requires a greater level of linguistic sophistication than is needed for GCSE, so the lesson would have to be carefully planned so that the pupils would understand. I was able to offer suggestions for certain simple activities based on games for language learning, but as I spoke to the different departments it became apparent that such assistance was not necessary as colleagues had much more creative ideas of their own, which was to be expected, as they know their subject better than I do.

The pupils were informed of the French Day by the Head Master the week before and I must admit that I felt rather sorry for those pupils who would be dreading not one, but eight periods of French in one day. However, I wanted this to be first and foremost a fun day and knowing what a few teachers had prepared I thought that if everyone entered into the spirit of it, this could be quite an enjoyable experience.

On the actual day the Head Master set the tone by speaking French during his assembly talk and Mr Turner had arranged for the reading to be an extract from *Le Petit Prince* by Saint-Exupéry to be read first in English then in French by Mlle Mermillod, our French Assistante. After that the pupils were instructed to speak only French wherever possible. In the Zochonis Centre French was the only language to be heard by the staff of course, but even pupils who came to the Common Room did their best to speak French. The whole School had a French feel as Mr Hofton had made labels in French for every door and office in the School and pupils from 4K decorated the building interiors with tricolores and pennants in blue, white and red.

The secretaries in the School Office had agreed to join in and had a list of stationery and other items for sale in French so that pupils who needed an exercise book or who needed change for the telephone had to make their request in French.

The School canteen was decorated and a tape of French music was playing during lunch. Mr Axon had provided me with a menu some days previously and so I had been able to ask Mlle Mermillod to translate it and write it up on the board, and Mr Hofton used his word-processing skills to produce some very attractive menus.

I have already made reference to the creative talents and inventiveness of colleagues in trying to make a lesson which would be informative, enjoyable and yet accessible. As most of us teach across all age groups it was necessary to prepare several lessons, as something which is suitable for a First Form is not necessarily so for an older group. There is no space to relate what happened in every lesson but I would like to give some examples of the sort of activities which took place. Some teachers spoke entirely in French. Mrs Beardwood conducted a Mathematics lesson in French and Mr Callaghan gave his normal History lesson in French. Mr Thomson of the Physics Department greatly impressed us all with a quiz he had produced in superb French about European scientists. Some teachers prepared a lesson about a French person who had played a major role in their subject area or gave a lesson which had a French theme. This was a particularly good idea with Sixth Formers who had perhaps forgotten much of their French. Mr Simkin of the Chemistry Department chose to give a talk about the chemist Lavoisier and Miss Tandon of the History Department had the idea of looking at part of the *Chanson de Roland* with her pupils. Mr M.P. Jones invited the French Assistante into his Sixth Form Politics lesson while he explained the French political system so that she could give the technical vocabulary in French, making this a truly bi-lingual lesson. Mr Hewston of the Economics Department prepared a lesson about the basis of the French Economy. The Geography and Geology Departments produced worksheets in French and the Art Department used this day to do some work on French artists. Even the German and Spanish Departments managed to participate. Mr Turner showed the influence of both German and French on the English Language and Mrs Wright did some simultaneous translating from French into German and vice-versa, while Miss Minto showed the links between France and Spain in terms of their common history and culture, as well as the similarities between the two languages. The English Department did a variety of activities, from examining the French words which are commonly used in English, to reading and commenting on some poems by the French poet Jacques Prevert, which they studied in the original version. Registration was not forgotten, as some teachers took their register in French.

The whole School must be congratulated on its performance that day. The pupils were co-operative and joined in the fun, many of them even speaking French during their break times. The staff produced some very enjoyable lessons and I was very pleased to overhear Mr Thomson and Mr Bennett speaking to each other in very fluent French during their break! This was a rather unusual venture and it would not be possible in every establishment. It is a credit to the School that there are people with the ability and willingness to go along with such a difficult undertaking and I would like to thank everyone in all parts of the School for their co-operation, without which the day would not have been such a success.

L A Ballantyne

FRENCH GEOGRAPHY LECTURES

Teaching Modern Languages at 'A' level involves many things. Not only are pupils required to have a good working knowledge of the language, they are also expected to have a wide cultural knowledge of the countries where the particular language is spoken and to be able to deal with topics which are considered to be of interest either to the people of that nation or indeed to young people in general of their own age. Consequently we teachers find ourselves discussing subjects as diverse as Unemployment, the Third World, Cinema, to name just a few.

One of the topics we regularly cover is that of the Environment. The problem for the language teacher, however, is that as non-specialists in this field, there are occasions when questions are asked in class to which we do not have an answer and it is rather difficult asking pupils to speak or write about an issue of which they may know nothing and about which we are not too confident.

To help us overcome this difficulty, Mr Hardy, Head of Geography, agreed to prepare a talk to 'A' level French pupils in which he would inform them of the different forms of pollution and the extent of their impact on the environment. Although this topic is covered in the Geography syllabus, this was no small task as students of Geography obviously study at a greater depth than students of French and the talk had to be pitched at the correct level so that pupils with perhaps no knowledge at all could follow with ease.

The Lower and Upper Sixth French sets and their teachers attended the lecture and Mr Hardy explained the delicate balance of the forces of nature and how this had been affected by our activities. We learned of the evolution of the planet, the carbon cycle and the effect of the different pollutants from nuclear power to exhaust fumes. We had all heard of CFCs, but we were told of other chemical changes which occur and what the actual implications were for the environment, and possible solutions were examined.

It could not have been easy to simplify a subject for non-specialists and to tailor it to the needs of a particular syllabus, especially during the busiest term of the School year. I know that Mr Hardy spent a great deal of time preparing this lecture and even went to the trouble of finding French examples of environmental problems and concerns. It was, however, extremely worthwhile as the pupils all found the information very useful. I took notes during the lecture then translated the scientific vocabulary into French with the help of our French Assistante, Mlle Mermillod. The pupils then used this vocabulary and their own notes to write up the notes in French or to write an essay based on the lecture. The quality of the work produced was very high and in some cases outstanding as they were able to back up their argument with scientific fact, leading to a much more sophisticated piece of writing. I am sure that all pupils and staff would like to join me once again in thanking Mr Hardy for his excellent and enjoyable talk from which everyone benefited.

L A Ballantyne

MY YEAR AT WILLIAM HULME'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

I worked at William Hulme's Grammar School for nine months with all the French teachers, in order to help the pupils to improve or to be more confident of their speaking and listening skills. I especially worked with the Lower and Upper Sixth Forms to prepare them for their oral examination, but I also had the chance to work with the younger ones. It was a really good experience because we could discuss about the differences between England and France in a very friendly way, in French with the Sixth Forms, and either in French or in English with the other forms. My main purpose was to make the pupils want to speak in French, to make them forget the fear of making a mistake, to make them use their knowledge in "real" (as real as possible) conversations, and to show them the regularity and logic of French grammar and the French language. I hope it has been useful and very helpful for every pupil.

I would really like to thank everybody, all the teachers and the pupils alike, for all the work we did together and I would especially like to thank Mrs Ballantyne for the guidance she gave me during the year. I would also like to say that I admired the teachers' work because they teach French in a very practical and natural way and they always try to find some new ideas to make their teaching more attractive and more various. The organisation of the French Day, on the 30th June, shows how hard the teachers want French to be used in a very realistic and natural way, as a modern language and not only as a school subject. I have also been impressed by all the means that the School places to the pupils' disposal, but I think pupils should take more advantage of them and be more aware of their chances.

Finally, I would like to add that I had a wonderful year in Manchester, that I will never forget it and I would like to thank everyone for the place you took in my life!

Ghislaine Mermillod
(French Assistante)

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ARMY SECTION

KING'S CUP 1996



King's Cup Team, 1996
(photo: Capt Jones)

This year's programme was extremely full and the cadets were kept busy from crack of dawn on Saturday until the finale and presentations on Sunday afternoon. Despite the usual inconsistencies, uncertainties and anomalies in allocation of activities, weighting of marks and so on our team managed to do very well against the twelve others participating. The events we were selected for on Saturday were the Sports Competition, Obstacle Crossing, Stretcher Carry and Vehicle Recovery. For this latter command task the team had to push a Land Rover, complete with burly TA driver, round a rough quarter-mile long track which culminated in a pernicious little rise where momentum played no part!



Vehicle Recovery Command Task
(photo: Maj Fisher)

The strength of character and teamwork demanded of such an unremitting effort can be imagined, but our team performed superbly, encouraging each other and giving the task all they had. At the end of the day we lay second. Sunday's events were Admin, NBC, a further command task and the Assault Course, with a play-off on the Course in front of a large crowd to decide the placings, in all of which the team performed superbly, ending the two days as runners-up, with a score of 69 to HQ KINGS' 71. We could hardly have come any closer. The Team consisted of:

Andrew Nunney (Captain)	Sarah Cochrane
Andrew Holden	Guy Brocklehurst
Edward Choularton	Chris Johnstone
Alex Xidacis	Oliver Farrell
Tariq Rashid	

Congratulations to Andrew and his team for maintaining WHGS CCF's excellent record in the King's Cup.

Maj Fisher

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING CAMP



Edward Choularton, Sara Koshneviszadeh RAF, Sarah Cochrane, Ben Kent and Stephen Flood march confidently on a bearing
(photo: Maj Fisher)

Thirty-four cadets came to North Wales this year, some to sample the activities and environment for the first time, many to enjoy the experience for the second, third or even fourth time. Camp began with a day spent in small groups close to Capel Curig getting to know the local map and reminding ourselves exactly what a compass is for and how to use it. This is always an enjoyable and relaxing start to a long, hard nine days, but it does provide valuable acclimatisation as well as the opportunity for cadets to become used to new kit and for officers to identify deficiencies in advance of the expedition.



The Officers meet a group on Cnicht summit
(photo: Maj Fisher)

Every other year our expedition route is changed, for obvious reasons, but the aim is always to climb one of Snowdonia's highest peaks on the third and final day. This year Snowdon itself was again the target, but to reach it we started from the south in the Moelwyn hills, setting out from Beddgelert along the easy but picturesque Aberglaslyn Pass and up into the wild country above Cwm Bychan, taking in the little summit of Moel y Dyniewyd. The cadets, walking in small sections of six, each including a SNCO and two or three junior cadets, navigated their way to the bivvy site by the river at Bethania. The weather on this first day was perfect, so much so that one or two boys felt the need for a bath and thought the river looked inviting. It did indeed, but it was also icy cold and the bathers had to put a brave face on it once they were in.



No showers? No problem. C/Sgt David Hufton tests the water.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

The second day saw the cadets clambering up the summit of Cnicht (the "Welsh Matterhorn"; 2260ft), descending its delightful NE ridge and following a route down into Bethania via Llyn yr Adar. That evening was largely occupied by a spontaneous softball match in our camping field and preparation for the final day of the expedition. Predictably, the day dawned damp and gloomy with the prospect of rain and wind higher up. As the route took us up the long, safe Watkin Path it was decided that an attempt be made to reach our goal, with the option of returning to camp if the weather hadn't lifted by the time the track began to climb in earnest towards Bwlchysaethau. The sections led off separately to rendezvous at the head of Cwm Llan, and by the time all had arrived several cadets were ready to go back, so two generous officers volunteered to take them. Eighteen cadets and four adults opted for the summit, so with poor visibility and steady drizzle this hardy group struggled good-humouredly up the steep East Face shale, trying to avoid the patches of ice that confronted us on the South Ridge.



Ben Green, Richard Fisher, Stephanie Jackson, Kim Hayden and Andrew Nunney framed by the distinctive architecture of the Snowdon Summit Café (shut).
(photo: Maj Fisher)

The summit was absolutely deserted for a change, and after a brief, chilly NAAFI break and a careful recce of the route back down the zig-zags we set off down the railway track, now completely snow-covered. The steepest part of the descent gave those in charge some heart-stopping moments, but the cadets were strong and well-equipped, their morale was high, and they were brought down with great circumspection. Once the Pyg Track was reached (and identified!) weather and underfoot conditions improved considerably and the cadets sped down to Pen-y-Pass, lured by the thought of hot chocolate and chips at the café. These cadets were superb. Some had never experienced mountain conditions before, all were given the opportunity to call it a day after already quite a good walk, but they all chose to go on, wet as they were. I heard not a word of complaint (not true of the entire week, though), and their sense of what they had achieved was very real. Captain Jones had meanwhile masterminded the breaking of camp down in the valley so we were deprived of the pleasure of wrestling with sopping wet tents and were able to return to the comparative luxury of Capel Curig Training Camp and its shower...

The morning following the expedition was spent in much-needed R&R, then the cadets followed a circuit of activities chosen from climbing and abseiling on Capel Pinnacles and Clogwyn Cyrau (above Betws-y-Coed), canoeing, mountain-biking, orienteering and hill-walking, and, for the first time, dry-slope skiing at Plas y Brenin. When the weather deteriorated too much to permit climbing on the crags, Sgt Conrad Ainsley from 26 Cadet Training Team booked us into Plas-y-Brenin to sample their climbing room, (more like a magic grotto in appearance), and this was so popular that we were persuaded to return for another session one evening. Miss Matthews took a small group pony-trekking, another innovation this year, and the usual final day walk saw eleven cadets romping up Pen yr Ole Wen in the Carneddau Mountains.



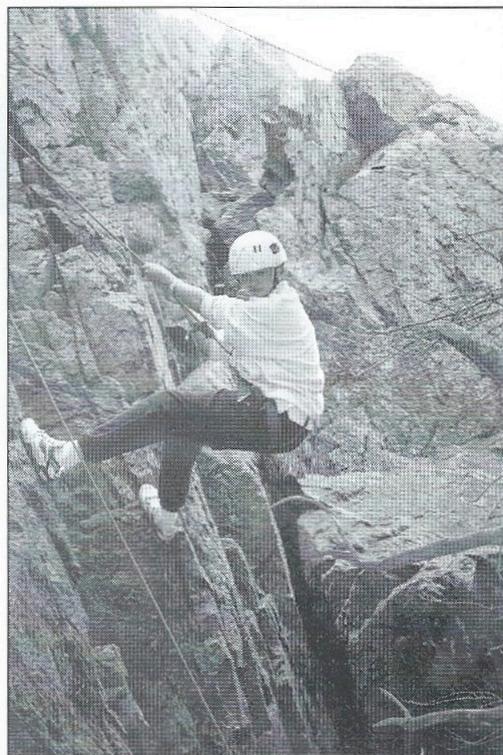
Alison Featherstone, Chloë Pepall, Preyesh Vara, and Andrew Nunney.



Miss McNaught, Mr Gorman and cadets on the summit plateau, Pen yr Ole Wen (3,211 feet). Snowdon summit on far left.



Miss Matthews, Sgt Ainsley and cadets take a break in the café at Plas-y-Brenin.



Kim Hayden on Clogwyn Cyrau.

(all photos: Maj Fisher)

We were all very grateful for the participation and company of Mr Gorman, Miss McNaught, Mr Dunn, Giles Fisher and Mrs Fisher. Not only would Camp not be the same without their company, but quite simply I, Captains Simkin and Jones, Fg Off Gracey and 2/Lt Matthews would not be able to cope with the numbers who want to come adventurous training without their help and expertise. Our thanks to Sgt. Ainsley, who, as well as being an excellent instructor, was an instant hit with the cadets. One disappointment this year was that Capel Curig has finally gone over to central catering, so the services of master chef Mel Sherwin will no longer be required. This marks the end of a memorable era when Mel's copious and delicious food has given us all nearly as much pleasure as his company. He knows he will always be welcome in the future and he has an open invitation to visit us in Wales whenever he wishes. In fact we understand that just before our arrival at Capel Curig he rode in to check that the new catering arrangements were going to be up to par. They passed his inspection, fortunately.

The following promotions were made at the end of Camp:

<i>to CSM C/Sgts</i>	Abby Hyams Andrew Nunney
<i>to C/Sgt Sgts</i>	Guy Brocklehurst Edward Choularton Sarah Cochrane Frances Edwards

Maj Fisher

CSAAM



2/Lt Matthews with the CSAAM Team, May 1996.
(photo: Capt Jones)

Our performances in the North West Cadet Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Altcar Ranges, near Formby, having reached an all-time low a few years ago, have been improving steadily for the past three years and this year both individual and team scores and placings reflected this welcome trend.

<i>Montgomery of Alamein Competition:</i>	17th	} (out of 37 teams)
<i>Ensign Rifle Competition:</i>	8th	
<i>Earl Roberts Competition:</i>	24th	
<i>Marling Competition:</i>	17th	

Falling Plate (knockout) Shoot:

Beat Gtr M/c ACF; lost in round 2

Individual Scores Overall:

Sgt Michael Dodd	34th	} (out of 148 firers)
Cpl Paul Edmondson RAF	57th	
C/Sgt Alex Warhurst	66th	
C/Sgt Andrew Holden	92nd	

Overall Team Position:

14th (20th in 1995)

Congratulations to our firers and also to those several recruits who volunteered to attend the meeting to work in the butts. The experience gained will be invaluable to them when and if they are selected to take part in the competition in years to come.

RECRUIT/JUNIOR PLATOON

This large Platoon worked hard all year. Excellent attendance, punctuality and enthusiasm was evident in all their training, Monday parades, Field Days and Camps. Their first full Field Day was spent at Holcombe Moor where the Training Team took groups through Weapons Training and Section Battle Drills while Capt Jones and 2/Lt Matthews gave Fieldcraft and Military Knowledge instruction. It was quite an intensive and tiring day for them all.

Their March Field Day took them to University Barracks where they followed a circuit of Weapons Training, Signals, climbing on the indoor wall and firing (25m Range), again with the assistance of 26 CTT and our own officers.

The final Field Day of the year was again held at Holcombe Moor, and since by then all the recruits had passed the military aspects of their APC they were able to take part in a night exercise where recce patrols were sent out to locate enemy patrols and OP's. Following a night out in bashas they spent the next day on the ranges firing the cadet weapon, then practising three rigorous Section Battle Drills scenarios and finally going over the Krypton Factor confidence course. This was the climax to the year's training and the cadets were a real credit to themselves and the Corps.

All cadets follow a syllabus during the year, tested at frequent intervals, which leads ultimately to the award of the Army Proficiency Certificate, but at the end of the first year they are allowed to wear the King's Regiment's red patch behind the cap-badge. All achieved this standard, and the following gradings are based on their tests:

Distinction:	Suzanne Ash Richard Fisher Ben Green Chris Lindley	Joanna Shaw Mika Tong
Merit:	Anya Dearden Lecia Endlar Alison Hawcroft Kimberley Hayden	Suzanne Nathan Lauren Standring Pareen Trivedi
Pass:	Jeremy Arnold Edward Barker Elise Cohen Michael Dennett Alison Featherstone Michelle Fearnley Alexander Fletcher Andrew Greatorex Charles Grimshaw Andrew Wall	Stephanie Jackson Kim Karam Suzanne Kershaw Matthew Ludlum Neil McLeod Jonathan Mills Chloe Pepall Robert Richardson Gurpartab Sathi Fady Youssef

Congratulations!

I would like to express my thanks to the Cadet Training Team, to Miss Matthews, who has successfully completed all her initial training courses, to all the cadet NCO's for their support throughout the year, and to the platoon for their infectious enthusiasm.

Capt MP Jones
Platoon Officer

CENTRAL CAMP, CWRT-Y-GOLLEN, JULY 1996

It is always worth trying a new venue for camp once in a while, and Cwrt-y-Gollen came highly recommended. The journey down to South Wales was a little daunting, and perhaps the programme looked a little limited, but we were optimistic that things would go well and that every cadet would return to Manchester safe and satisfied. Certainly the accommodation was as good as any our cadets have seen (other than on RAF Camp, of course!) and the NAAFI apparently met their expectations. From the adults point of view the administration was efficient and flexible, and the Officers' Mess excellent, so what about the training?

The Range day turned out to be extremely good after misgivings about the long trip down to the dunes in the shadow of the beautiful new Severn Road Bridge. The Range Officer, a Sergeant Major from the Cheshires, was determined to get our cadets to do as much firing as possible, and this he did, in spite of the time spent zeroing weapons first. Best shots were cadets Brocklehurst, Xidacis, Dodd, Fisher, Hayden, Hufton and J. Shaw. Combining with a small contingent from Sutton Valence School did not pose particular problems and the cadets even managed to get themselves a decent tan during the course of the day. Our four Spanish exchange partners found this first day a bit bewildering and rather static, but they were able to be a little more involved as the week wore on.

The following morning was devoted to Signals training, with lectures and a practical exercise in the extensive grounds of the camp. This was revision for some, but none the less valuable for that. While Captain Grange was overseeing the Signals Major Fisher and Captain Simkin went up to the Training Area to plan the 24 hour Exercise which was to be largely self-run. In the afternoon Captain Jane Watts, an old friend of the Contingent's, ran an excellent First Aid package complete with realistic incidents enhanced by the most gory cas.sim - spurting wounds, severed limbs and the like.



First Aid: a very sick SNCO is evacuated by three rather unsympathetic cadets.
(photo: Maj Fisher)

Only two teams were permitted to enter the March and Shoot Competition (which also included a run through the long and arduous assault course) so the remaining cadets either supported or took cover - from the Welsh rain. The March phase consisted of a two and a half kilometre run (being chased by the OC) and both teams did well here. The assault course times were fast as well, but rain had made the monkey-bars so slippery that the majority of cadets could not grip them and we suffered too many penalty points to remain in contention. Then we fired badly in the simple falling plate shoot at a hundred metres. However it was a foul morning for these activities and when the results appeared later in the week we had by no means disgraced ourselves, both teams having come in the top half overall. The afternoon was spent orienteering in a forest up on the Training Area.

The 24 hr Exercise occupied the following day and night, with preparation, safety briefings and instructional periods out on the Area lasting until about 4 o'clock when the cadets went tactical, deployed onto our particular area and took over the two positions that the friendly (male) and enemy (female) forces were to occupy until the following day. The girls did not seem to appreciate how lucky they were to be spending the night in a picturesque old farmhouse while the boys had to put up their bashes in a pitch-black pine forest while trying to read the instructions on the freeze-dried arctic lamb stew. Following two phases of recce patrol a platoon attack was planned and at about 10 o'clock the enemy forces were wiped out in a clinically executed assault through their position. (That's what it says here, anyway). After a good night's sleep for everyone (including those on stags) the recruits went off to ambush the enemy, now happily restored to full health, as they moved out from their position on resupply. This final stage in the exercise went quite well, but more time was needed to get into position unseen. However we all enjoyed crawling on our stomach through the wet bracken and then remaining motionless for what seemed like a lifetime, and it gave the recruits their only real opportunity of firing the weapon. The success of the exercise as a whole owed much to the expert assistance and advice of Sgt Hopkins and Cpl Griffiths.



Morale in the enemy camp is high as they discuss the best way of making their Arctic compo edible.



Enemy recruit Laurie Edwards watches carefully for any sign of attack.



C/Sgt Hufton very much at home with his mess-tins.

(all photos: Maj Fisher)

The last meal on compo was eaten on the greenfield site back at Cwrt-y-Gollen, and the afternoon was occupied by a Sports Competition planned and run by Captain Simkin and 2/Lt Matthews.

This left the final day's training which was canoeing and climbing/abseiling. Both activities went well, with the usual excellent standard of instruction from the Army Adventure Trainers. The compliments about our cadets' attitude and behaviour that we subsequently received from both groups of instructors independently were quite exceptional.



Our Recruits after canoeing on Llangorse Lake, with Cpl Rachael Lee (sixth from left)
(photo: Maj Fisher)

The Camp had provided excellent training and superb accommodation. We were visited for three days by Mr Loveland who was pressed into service in all sorts of ways, Captain Grange came with us again and played a full part, amongst other things sharing with 2/Lt Matthews the regular sick parades and hospital runs! Our thanks to them and to our cadet SNCO's for keeping a tight rein on things while at camp.

At the end-of-Camp debrief, the following promotions were made:

with effect from 13 July 1996:

to U/Offr	CSM Andrew Nunney
to CSM	C/Sgts Andrew Holden, David Hufton and Alex Warhurst
to C/Sgt	Sgts Michael Dodd and Alex Xidacis
to Sgt	Cpls Stephen Flood and Ben Kent
to L/Cpl	Cdts Jeremy Arnold, Suzanne Ash, Edward Barker, Anya Dearden, Michelle Fearnley, Alison Featherstone, Richard Fisher, Ben Green, Alison Hawcroft, Kim Hayden, Stephanie Jackson, Chris Lindley, Robert Richardson, Gurpartab Sathi, Joanna Shaw, Lauren Standing, Mika Tong, Pareen Trivedi, Andrew Wall and Fady Youssef.

with effect from 03 Sep 1996:

to Sgt	Cpls Rachael Lee, Eliot Mason and Jacob Royle.
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Best Recruits on Camp were: Sarah Baker and Chris White

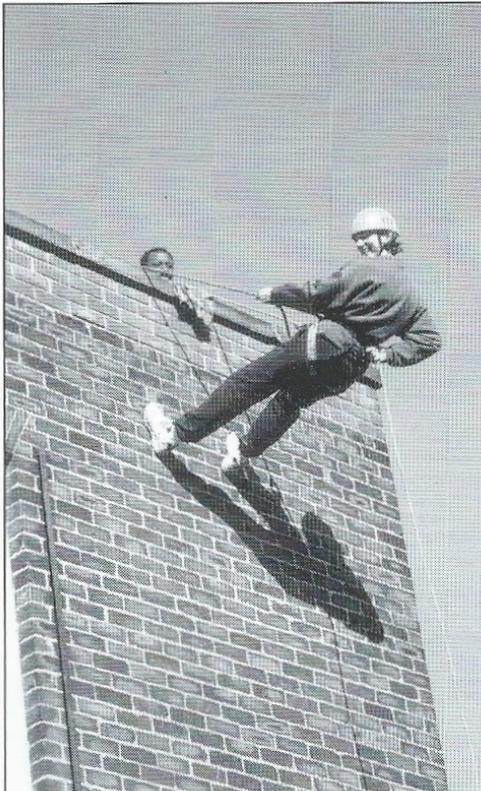
Maj Fisher

Postscript: We were all extremely sorry to learn of the death of Major John Chudleigh which took place while the contingent was on camp in July. Major Chudleigh commanded the Corps for seventeen years until his retirement in 1990.

And in brief...

- Kate Williams, Rachel Goodwin and Jackie de Freitas attended the RN First Aid Course in August;
- The Corps prizes this year have been awarded to U/Offr Andrew Nunney and CSM Abby Hyams (Army), and W/O Richard Strudwick and Cpl Rahala Noor (RAF);
- Oliver Farrell is taking the Cadet PT Leader's Course during the holidays;
- Preyesh Vara was nominated to go on the Cadet Exchange to Canada but failed to make the final list;
- The Army Section Stores and the Armoury will be run from September by Sgts Stephen Flood, Ben Kent and Rachael Lee. Many thanks to this year's team of Guy Brocklehurst, Edward Choularton, Frances Edwards and Caroline Shaw. They, supported by other Lower Sixth cadets, have dedicated a great deal of time to the Corps in many different ways;
- For the first time pupils from the Marien-Gymnasium, our German exchange school in Werl, were given a presentation on the Corps by the OC;
- The Corps stands on Open Days/Evenings have been very well supported by volunteer cadets from both Sections whose turnout and manner have been exemplary;
- At the instigation of C/Sgt Andrew Holden, Captain Andrew Nealon OC 26 CTT and Sergeant Conrad Ainsley ran an abseil from the roof of the Biology Department for three days during Charities Week to help raise money for the Prefects' charity;
- Twenty recruits from the Third Form had their first taste of cadet life on an overnight Field Day at Holcombe Moor Training Centre. After a sort of camouflage-on-the-catwalk demonstration conceived and conducted by C/Sgts Frances Edwards and Caroline Shaw, the recruits took part in a night exercise and received instruction in Fieldcraft and the Krypton Factor Confidence Course the following day;
- The Corps designed, set up and ran an Obstacle Course in support of the Parents' Association Fête. Thanks to Ben Kent for all the time he spent helping to run it, and congratulations to Recruits Jon Murphy and Iain Gage for recording the joint fastest time;
- At least one team of cadets will take part in the North West Challenge (similar to the Ten Tors) early next term;
- Our parent Regiment, 1KINGS, have started their tour in Cyprus and the Contingent has put up a request for a visit. We await the outcome;
- Jennie Colclough has been awarded a university bursary from the RAF. Congratulations to her;
- The Biennial Review will take place on Thursday 03 October. The Reviewing Officer is Lt Col David Tasker, Commanding Officer, 5/8 King's.

Maj DM Fisher



Abseiling - Charities Week.
(photo: Maj Fisher)



P. A. Fête: Rct Jonathan Murphy takes on the Obstacle Course - and wins!
(photo: Maj Fisher)

RAF SECTION

Despite drastic government cutbacks, which have seriously affected the Armed Forces, the Section has been able to offer as varied a programme of activities as in previous years and even some new departures, like the Area Competition for C.C.F. R.A.F Sections at RAF Cosford this March.

FIELD DAYS

Field days occur once a term. They usually take the form of visits to RAF Stations, where cadets have the chance to go flying. Two cadets have recorded their first experiences of flight in a small aircraft.

Georgina Laird (3R) writes:

I have recently joined the RAF Section of the CCF at school. It was not an easy decision as all my friends had deserted me and joined the Army Section. I have always enjoyed flying, however, and I knew that flying in a single-engined Chipmunk or Bulldog would be a very different experience from flying on holiday in a commercial airliner.

On Tuesday 25th June I went on my first Field Day to RAF Cosford. It was a very early start - in fact we had to leave home at 6 am. However, the excitement made up for the fact that we were half-asleep when the coach left school at 6.30 am. Our E(stimated) T(ime) of A(rrival) at Cosford was to be about 9 am.

As soon as we arrived we assembled in a room to watch a video on the Chipmunk aircraft. We were in fact going to be flying in a Bulldog, which is similar in size to the Chipmunk. The main difference is that in the Bulldog you and the pilot sit side-by-side and in the Chipmunk you sit behind the pilot. The video was very comprehensive and showed us all the main features of the aircraft, including all the emergency procedures. At this stage I was becoming a little apprehensive about taking to the air, and I was rather hoping that the emergency drill would not have to be put into practice.

During the morning the weather was pretty bad. It was both foggy and windy which meant that, unless there was a dramatic change, we would not be able to fly. At this point we did not sit around being disappointed, but filled in the time doing exercises - lots of marching and saluting!

During the afternoon a miracle happened: the weather finally brightened up and my first flight was imminent. I am not quite sure how I felt. However I think I now know what it means to have butterflies in the stomach. I was about to change my mind about flying when I was kitted out in coveralls and a helmet and led out to the waiting Bulldog. I was introduced to the pilot. We were strapped into the cockpit, started the engine and taxied on to the runway. The take-off was magical and once we were airborne the scenery and the views were simply breathtaking. The high-point of this experience was when I was given control of the plane. It was all too amazing.

All my apprehension had been unfounded. I felt quite at home on the flight and cannot wait for my next experience of flying. It's a pity that we are going by car to Portugal this year or I might be tempted to see what it is like to fly a passenger plane!



Georgina ready to fly.

Cadet Daniel Choudhury (3L) had his first flight on the same day:

We arrived at RAF Cosford at about 0900 hours. It was overcast and cold but I didn't really notice this as I was quite excited. It was my first time on an RAF base and I had been looking forward to it. We had to march through the base with our berets on. When we reached the block in which we were going to stay while on the station, we had to take our berets off as it was a FOD (Foreign Object Damage) area. There we watched an interesting film on the plane I would fly in. We were also told a little about the base by the pilot.

After the video I did a test on Badges of Rank and learned how to strip down and reassemble a rifle. While we were waiting for the weather to clear up, we practised lots of drill.



New cadets Andrew Pickford and Graeme Laycock, learning about the L98 rifle.

At 1400 hours the sky had cleared sufficiently to allow eight cadets to go up in Bulldogs. The Bulldog is a training aircraft, which is propeller-driven. As I put on my flying suit and parachute, I felt a bit nervous but as soon as I went into the plane I forgot all about it. The plane taxied down to the runway and waited for clearance to take off. We accelerated away and gently lifted off. We ascended quite quickly and soon we were as high as the clouds. It took a few minutes to get used to the motion of the aircraft and relax. The pilot then let me take control and fly the plane for about ten minutes. This was a brilliant experience. We did a practice forced landing, which was quite rough. When we landed properly, I took off my flying suit and parachute and practised more drill.

It was a really enjoyable day which I will not forget. Thanks to Flt Lt Keable, Fg Off Gracey and Plt Off Addison.

Hardraw weekend, March 1996

Field day in the Lent term for the last two years has taken the form of a weekend in Hardraw. This year, the weather affected the programmed activities but Junior Corporal Ben Stafford (5L) still enjoyed himself despite the cold.:

It all seemed like such a good idea at the time. I had heard the stories of how good the 1995 walk was and decided I should go this year. How wrong could I be ... We left school on Friday afternoon and when we arrived at Hardraw it was, as it always is when you arrive, dark. We spent the night planning routes and sorting out the groups. I was fortunate (?????) enough to end up in Mr Addison's group for the Saturday walk.

The plan was to leave early and get back early. As Mr Gracey pointed out - "No problem as long as it doesn't snow (chuckle, chuckle)". It was March. Friday had been a nice Spring day. How could it possible snow? Saturday, I awoke to find Will Laird moaning (what's new?) but today he had a reason for moaning. Not the best weather for a long walk (according to everyone except Dr Keable who wasn't actually doing the walk..... - she was driving a safety vehicle to meet us at various checkpoints to pick up stragglers -what a suggestion!)

There were two groups but we were told "This is not a race". Yeah, right, whatever. Our group set off first but thanks to my own poor map reading were overtaken by Mr Gracey's group before we even hit the hills. The walk itself was actually quite good fun - snowballs being thrown and jokes being told.

Halfway up Yorburgh (the huge mountain we were expected to climb) we met the slightly confused other group and of course had a snowball fight. Most people got hit but the worst casualties appeared to be the teachers (strange isn't it?). The other group veered off to the left, whereas we listened to a sixth form girl who (she probably doesn't want to be named but for the sake of argument I'll call her Rachel) decided we could walk straight for thirty metres. She didn't tell us it would be thirty metres straight up. We stood at this snow-covered rock face and all looked up together. Comments were: "No

chance”, “I’ll go round” and “Oh, we can get up that easy” from Robert (kill you if I don’t get a mention) Poll. After a long slog, we all reached the top and stopped for a nice cup of tea. Gasp, shock, horror! To our surprise Mr Addison had forgotten his emergency pint. However, he seemed quite happy drinking a strange smelling coffee.

The walk continued on higher ground but as the weather got worse and worse we decided it was unsafe to continue, forgot about the other group, checked the map and headed for the nearest pub. Mr Gracey got there before us and was just rounding up his troops to head for home (in a way that only Mr Gracey can - “Right, so, are we ready yet then? Oh do hurry up”). We stayed inside to warm up and I was just downing my fourth pint (just kidding) when in strolled Dr Keable wondering where everybody had got to. Apparently mobile phones do not work on the tops of hills (now that is strange). The walk back was short, down country lanes where even I couldn’t get lost.

We eventually arrived back at Hardraw, wet, cold and tired only to find the other group showered, changed and all holding hot drinks, not to mention boasting about how easy it all was.

Mr and Mrs Fisher turned up that night. They were supposed to join us for Saturday’s walk but had had problems (more like they were put off by the snow - typical army section!!).

Sunday morning (for Saturday night was too dull to mention) I woke up to hear.....Will Laird moaning!! This time he was complaining about the fact that some of the snow had cleared and so we could walk to Castle Bolton and not, as had been hoped, stay at Hardraw and do nothing. The walk there wasn’t bad with many snowballs flying around and even more jokes told. Lunch was, in a word, expensive inside Castle Bolton but no-one really minded getting a warm drink after all the snow.

All in all I enjoyed my weekend and it was well worth going. Thanks to Mr Gracey who master-minded the weekend.

CAMPS

Camps take place at RAF bases and, as well as being great fun, give cadets an insight into life in the Forces. Each station has an Air Cadet Liaison Officer (ACLO) who is primarily responsible for the camp programme as it affects the station. Thanks to the efforts of Flt Lt Keable, we were able to send cadets not only to a single camp at Easter and in the summer but to two extra summer camps at RAF Leuchars in Scotland.

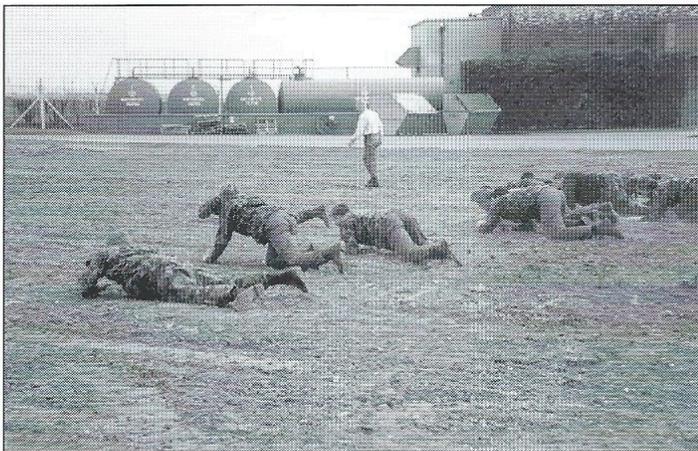
Easter Camp at RAF Honington

The camp here is described by Junior Corporal Beales:

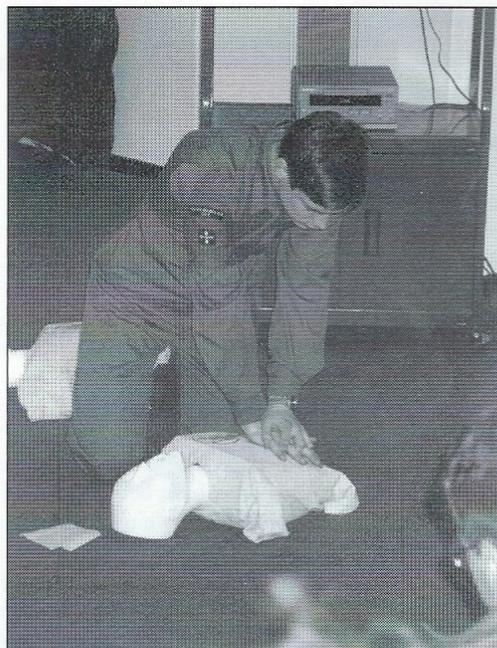
Two officers and 13 cadets went down on the train to RAF Honington in Suffolk to join the camp of about 50 cadets and 8 officers.

On the week’s camp we did a lot of the usual activities, like inter-flight competitions, flying in Bulldogs, shooting the L98 rifle, sport, swimming, a drill competition, a night exercise and orienteering. We also did other activities which we do not get the opportunity to do on every camp, such as visiting Duxford Air Museum, spending half a day looking around the city of Cambridge, leadership tasks, which require initiative and teamwork, First Aid and Battle PT.

Battle PT was taken by a couple of RAF Physical Training Instructors and is the kind of training which the RAF Regiment do on a regular basis. (RAF Honington is the home of the RAF Regiment). It involved a lot of running around, diving on the ground and crawling over gravel. It was tough and tiring but very enjoyable.



Battle PT.



Junior Corporal Tim Edwards practising CPR.

On the day of the night exercise we went out at midday to the area where it was to be held. We learned about camouflage and concealment before doing an exercise which involved groups going off and concealing themselves at given grid references, and other groups going out to try and find them.

After that we had tea in the forest, cooking ration packs over hex-burners. Since we had only one mess tin between two, we had to cook everything together. Rick Porter and I had a delicious gourmet meal of mushroom soup, vegetable soup, bacon burgers, minced meat and baked beans. Surprisingly it tasted quite good!



J/Cpls Richard Porter and Paul Beales dining in the wood.

The night exercise was done after tea. It involved one team defending an area and the attacking team having to get through and destroy it. The dark made this an exercise in stealth and tactics. Both sides did a good job, making it a successful and enjoyable exercise.

The orienteering was done on an army orienteering course in a nearby wood. The points were fairly difficult to find and no group found them all. One group, led by Corporal Kate Williams, got completely lost and kept going round in circles. They came back over one hour late. This contributed to her winning the Mrs Spoon award.

It is traditional on RAF Camps for our section to award Mr and Mrs Spoon awards to the male and female cadets who have done the most stupid things. Mrs Spoon went to Kate for being the dumb, dizzy blond she always - allegedly - is. Mr Spoon was awarded to her "hen-pecked husband", a corporal from another school, who had allowed himself to be ordered around by her all week.

This was a very good camp and everyone had a good time. All who went on the camp would like to thank Plt Off Addison and Flt Lt Keable for taking us and everyone else who was involved in the organisation of the camp.

Summer Camp at RAF Leuchars (1)

RAF Leuchars lies in attractive countryside about halfway between the famous golf-course at St Andrews and Dundee, which lies on the north coast of the Tay estuary. Junior Corporal David Melmoth, who had just finished his GCSEs, was able to attend camp there in the week before the end of the term. He clearly had an amusing time:

Having finally arrived at the base exhausted from the five-hour train journey, we were arranged into two flights and sent on a FAMEX (familiarisation exercise) around the entire base.

In the evening we had a formal introduction to the other two schools, St Peter's School, York and Mount St Mary's, Sheffield. Out of the 42 cadets on camp only four were from our school! We were accompanied by Mr (Rick) Pimblott.

The Senior NCO's from the other two schools had a certain amount of difficulty in the pronunciation of our names. In fact by the end of the first week, we all had new names: Will Laird became known as Will Lard, Matthew Whyatt changed to Matthew What, Tim Edwards was Tim Tedwards and a "u" mysteriously appeared in my name all camp. Mr Pimbolt wasn't too impressed either!

On Sunday I experienced my first Bulldog flight. It was much more enjoyable than the usual Chipmunk flying and I was able to try out new and exciting aerobatics.

Throughout the week we had various section visits and saw what the RAF was really like. Our visit to 111 Squadron (Tornados) was the highlight and we all found it very interesting.

On Tuesday we had the chance to shoot on the range and I and Tim Edwards were awarded our RAF Marksman badges for getting ten rounds in a 3 cm diameter circle from 25m!!

The NITEX wasn't very successful. We started at about 9.30 pm and had just finished by the time it started to get dark! Numerous members of my flight became ill with asthma as a result of the running about but it was all worth it as we won the exercise.

On Wednesday and Thursday we all had the opportunity to do Work Experience. I was posted to the Survival Equipment Section, where I was dressed up like a Tornado pilot and used as a demonstration when A Flight came to visit. We all learnt a lot from our Work Experience and found it very enjoyable.

A visit to the Hi-Tech bowling complex was arranged and, although kicking the ball down the alley wasn't 100% successful, it was good fun!

Thursday was the day of the drill competition, and by lunch-time Tim Tedwards and myself (in Flight B) could see that there were problems. Sergeant Gilbert, in charge of our flight, announced that he wasn't "quite sure" how to turn on the march!! Tim and I proceeded to give the rest of the flight a crash course on marching just three hours before the competition!

It was surprisingly successful, and the competition went better than expected. Because a number of cadets were leaving a day early, prizes and awards were announced after the drill competition. Will Lard was given the award for "best cadet overall" on camp. Will and myself were promoted to Junior Corporal (finally) and Flight B (my flight) were given certificates as we won the inter-flight competition.

The disco followed the awards, and everybody stepped back to watch Mr Fry (Squadron Leader and Camp Commandant) dancing his heart out - the evening before his birthday! Nobody really saw much of Mr (Rick) Pimbolt but this was accounted for when we later discovered that drink is cheap on the base!

The last day was spent on a visit to the Olympia Swimming Complex and the ship Discovery in Dundee. Although the shops in the centre of Dundee were nothing special, the pubs were quite good - so I heard.

Soon it was Saturday morning and time to go home - after a KLEENEX. We said goodbye to everybody we had met, and then realised that we would be getting the same train! As we said goodbye a second time and watched the train chugging out of Haymarket station, we realised that Will Lard, best cadet on camp, had forgotten the packed lunches! The last of our money was spent on outrageously overpriced sandwiches on the train back to Manchester.

Summer camp at RAF Leuchars (2)

Rachel Smith (3J) also camped at Leuchars, the week after David Melmoth. It was the first RAF camp which she had attended and her diary is given below:

Saturday, 6th July: We arrive at Leuchars train station to be faced with an unwelcome walk to the base. There we were told which rooms we were in and the rules we must abide by in the barracks. We unpacked and met the others in our rooms who were from different schools. We changed into uniform and formed up outside to march to dinner after which we finished unpacking and then did a FAMEX. This involved going round the base finding out the names of various numbered buildings so that we would get to know our way round the station. This was followed by a brief on the Bulldog plane which we would be flying in the next day.

We then changed into civvies and had free time in which we investigated the base's night life - which wasn't up to much!

Sunday: We were woken up at 6 am to be washed, dressed and formed up outside at 7 am to march to breakfast. After breakfast I went on a visit to the Fire Section where we were shown around a fire engine. After that we went to church. Dinner was next and then we went flying. We waited patiently until we were called for. When it was my turn, I went through being kitted up with a flying suit, helmet, gloves and parachute. I had to decide what to do with my 20 minutes of air time. I chose to do some aerobatics which, done for the first time, are quite scary. After this we did some weapon training to prepare us for going on the range on Monday.

Monday: Today we fired on the range. It was fun except there is a lot of waiting about to get on the range as it takes only four people at a time. We then visited various sections on the station. As usual some were interesting and some were a bit boring. That night we did a NITEX where we had to run around a forest looking for boxes which contained money. If we found the box, we could either keep the money or buy property. This was a bit like Monopoly. It was good fun although there was a casualty from another school. Despite that most people enjoyed themselves but were very tired.

Tuesday: Today we had the camp photo. We also did some section visits to 111 Squadron and the Tornado Propulsion Flight which were both very interesting. That night we had an inter-flight bowling competition which was good fun and left us with a little free time too.

Wednesday: Visits to Survival Equipment (parachutes and ejector seats) Section and also to see tanks and guns at the Armament Engineering Section. After lunch we did a lot of drill practice in preparation for Friday's drill competition. Then we did a NAVEX which meant walking 7 miles around the local area finding answers to various questions.

Thursday: Today I did some work experience with Flt Sgt Rachel Westbrook (who unfortunately broke her wrist whilst playing football on Sunday but has not let the plaster cast stop her enjoying camp). We spent the morning at the Mountain Rescue Unit where we looked around Land Rovers and equipment. We also folded some maps - this is not as trivial as it sounds - and generally helped out around the section. The evening ended with a disco where we got Mr Gracey to dance and laughed at a certain other person from another school on the dance floor!

Friday: Our last day. We went swimming in Dundee and then had free time in Dundee until dinner time. We arrived back at 4 pm to give us a chance to iron our shirts and polish our shoes ready for the drill competition which B Flight (my flight) won! Then we packed, swapped addresses with our new friends and had free time until lights out.

Saturday: After breakfast we caught the train home after saying all our goodbyes. We all enjoyed the camp and would like to thank Fg Off Gracey for taking us.

Summer camp at RAF Valley

Although Sergeant Jonathan Gordon has attended many camps, his enthusiasm for them remains undimmed. He here reports on the camp at RAF Valley and Sergeant Sara Khoshneviszadeh adds her account of 'My Most Amazing Flight' in a Wessex from RAF Valley, Search and Rescue Unit.

Here we are again. It's the end of yet another brilliant RAF Summer Camp. At the moment I am still knackered (as usual) after arriving home early today.

This year the major camp was at RAF Valley in Anglesey, where the main aircraft is the Hawk. The camp was shared with Edinburgh Academy and everyone got on really well, with no problems at all. (However the digs about Euro 96 were administered in both directions).

We arrived in high spirits at about 2 pm, after a good coach journey, to find that, contrary to rumour, this was not a tented camp (last summer's tented camp here was literally washed out and the cadets had temporary accommodation in the Station Gym) and in fact most of us had single rooms (a luxury). The first day was spent settling in and waiting for our Scottish friends to arrive. (The camp was split 50-50, with 25 cadets from each school attending).

The first major event on this camp happened on the first night. The night exercise was a great success (although completely unfair because the regular guys had night sights). We were sent behind enemy lines and we had to identify our informants (identified by answering the question "What's for dinner, Baldrick?" with the reply "Rat-au-vin, Captain Blackadder") without getting caught.

After this start to the camp everyone was tired for the rest of the week, but there were no real complaints. (Note from Officers: this was great as everyone went to bed very readily and made the Duty Officer's job very easy!).

The rest of the week seemed to pass incredibly quickly. We were able to spend an evening Go-Karting by courtesy of the ACLO's team and also bowling. There were chances for the majority of cadets to fly in Bulldogs, to shoot and for some to be flown and winched into a Wessex helicopter as described below by Sergeant Khoshneviszadeh.

On the final night a disco was organised for all the cadets. Although at first it wasn't thought that it would be any good, it picked up and soon got into full swing. When we finally convinced Reg to dance - to the Sex Pistols, which was probably the funniest thing to happen all week - the party was nearing its end. However everyone was still full of energy and high jinks continued well into the night.

The inter-flight competition was won by D Flight, of which I was second-in-command, and best cadet was WO Richard "Strudders" Strudwick.



WO Richard Strudwick servicing a Hawk aircraft.



Search and Rescue Helicopter. Sara Kosh, Caroline Ashley.
(photo: Mrs. L. Hampson)



Search and Rescue Helicopter: left to right Richard Williams, John Gordon and two from Edinburgh Academy.
(photo: Mrs. L. Hampson)

We would all like to thank Flt Lt Keable, Plt Off Addison (Reg), Mrs Hampson, Flt Lt Clearie, Fg Off Tiplady, Plt Off Lamb and especially Flt Sgt Ward for a truly great camp (one of the best yet).

My Most Amazing Flight

RAF Valley is renowned for being a “cadet friendly” camp. The servicemen and women go out of their way to ensure that we cadets have as many opportunities as possible to experience RAF life. One squadron, in particular, gives a lot of time and effort towards achieving this, namely the Search and Rescue Squadron. This uses Wessex helicopters to rescue persons stranded in the nearby area, especially Snowdonia.

When we first arrived at RAF Valley we were met with the news that a few cadets would possibly get a flight in a Wessex helicopter. When the cadets were chosen we all rushed off eagerly to see if our names were among the chosen few and I was fortunate enough to be amongst the lucky ones and had an unconfirmed flight in the Wessex on the coming Friday.

Friday eventually arrived and we went to Search and Rescue Squadron with our fingers crossed and hoping our unconfirmed flight would become confirmed. We were greeted by the cheerful airmen who confirmed our flight and we were briefed on procedures which were to be carried out if the helicopter were involved in an emergency or accident. The safety brief made me a little nervous, but I became more excited about the flight when we were informed we were to have the opportunity of being winched up into the aircraft. This news was an unbelievable bonus and we knew it was going to be a memorable flight.

We were each given a very fetching helmet to wear which really made us look the part (part Laurel and Hardy, part Flowerpotmen). We were escorted to the waiting helicopter, rotors whirling, engines booming, where we eagerly clambered aboard and found a seat. As the swaying Wessex left the ground we waved goodbye to our officers and groundcrew.

The Wessex flew low and we were able to wave out of the door to the interested passers-by beneath us. We flew at what seemed to be a low level until the ground disappeared beneath us and was replaced by the awesome, spectacular sight of a grey sea which was an absolutely breathtaking experience. The Wessex descended slowly and landed on the edge of a high cliff and we carefully moved out of and away from the aircraft. The helicopter then ascended to about 20 metres off the ground. There was a point at which we thought it might be leaving us stranded until the winches were lowered which reassured us that this was not the case. One crew member was on the ground and helped fasten us into slings two by two. The slings were fixed under our arms and when we were secure the slack of the winch was taken up and we were gently lifted above the ground. The lift was so smooth I didn't even notice my feet had left the ground until we started to sway slightly and then before I knew it we were pulled to safety by the aircrew and back to our seats and back to Valley.

In the helicopter we were all ecstatic and our grins did not disappear until hours afterwards as this had been one of the most unique and exciting experiences of our lives. We owe a great deal to the officers who put in a lot of hard work creating these unforgettable opportunities for us.

RAF Overseas Camp in Cyprus

Senior cadets have the chance to visit more exotic places. Corporals Christopher Hewison and Andrew Matson flew to Cyprus for two weeks at Easter.

Corporal Matson writes: Monday, April 1st 1996, 2100 hours. I am standing in the freezing cold at RAF Stafford, waiting for a bus to arrive. The start of a wonderful experience?

The bus finally arrives, and twenty cadets, loaded down with suitcases and bags, clamber aboard and set out for Gatwick, where we are to board the plane for our outward flight to Cyprus.

We arrived at Gatwick bleary-eyed at 0400 hours, and checked in for the flight which departed at 8 o'clock, and after a pleasant four hour flight we touched down on the runway of the huge base of RAF Akrotiri.

After collecting our baggage, we were transported to the barrack blocks which would be our homes for the next fortnight. Here we were divided into six flights. Each flight had its own dormitory and Christopher and myself, the only cadets from WHGS, found ourselves in different flights.

The first few days of the camp were fairly relaxed, giving us a chance to explore the base. There was an incredible number of facilities, including clubs, ten-pin bowling, a gym complex and even a go-kart racing circuit. Also because the base was sited on the coast, there was a wide variety of water sports, ranging from canoeing to water skiing, from banana boats to scuba diving.

Reveille was at 0600 hours and breakfast at 0700 hours. The food was good on the whole, probably better than on UK camps.

Later in the first week there were plenty of sightseeing expeditions to Limassol and Paphos, two pleasant resorts with plenty of good bars on the sea-front. We were also taken to the small town of Curriam, where there are many remains of Roman buildings built over 2,000 years ago. We also visited an archaeological site on the base, which has many Roman villas, still divided up into individual rooms.

There was also a chance to fire the L98 rifle on a 300m ETR (Electronic Target Range). This was a good experience, but very accurate shooting is required to hit a target 300m away.

Easter weekend was quiet, as the base was on leave, but a disco held on the Saturday night was great fun for all cadets.

The second week was superb. For a start we were issued with KD's (Khaki Dress), the summer wear of overseas RAF stations, which we wore for the rest of the week.