William Hulme's Grammar School



The Hulmeian 2001

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The Magazine of William Hulme's Grammar School

"O yonge, fresshe folkes, he or she!"

Chaucer, Troilus and Criseyde.

"I think of those prizes that were ours for the taking
and wonder when the choices got made."

Liz Lochhead, The Choosing.

Vol. IV 2001 No. II

Headmaster's Forward

One of the objects of a school magazine is to enable present members of the school to keep before them "standards of success in work and games set up by their predecessors, which it should be their aim to raise, but below which they must never fall." Thus writes the editor of Hulmeian a hundred years ago, marking a year when William Hulme pupils attended the memorial service for Queen Victoria, the proclamation of King Edward VII and the first eleven footballers lost to St Bede's.

A hundred years later we celebrate another year of success in work and games, not to mention a somewhat more successful first eleven. Teaching can be a humbling experience as you witness the exceptional achievements of the young. Reading this magazine is a salient reminder of the sheer intensity of the programme of sports, activities, music and drama, school trips and school events. As some names appear several times over, reports also reflect the extraordinary commitment of some pupils – and indeed some staff. Other pupils' names are less evident, and there are those who contrive to pass through William Hulme's appearing in nothing more distinctive than the class register, and not always appearing consistently in that! This seems to me to be a shame and a wasted opportunity. I hope that as our pupils browse the pages of The Hulmeian this year those who are not very involved in school life will find something to fire their interest and encourage their involvement.

SRP



William Hulme's Grammar School

This year we said goodbye to Mr. M. Loveland, Mr. G. Grant, Mr. R. Ballantyne, Mrs. L. Ballantyne, Dr. J. Keable, Miss. H. Kelly, Miss. E. Matthews, Miss C. Day, Dr. D. Martin, Mr. G. Muckalt and Mrs. K. Marsh from the senior school and Mrs. P. Ferguson from the prep school. Wing Cmdr. P. Milloy also leaves us to become Domestic Bursar at Robinson College Cambridge. We wish them well.

In September 2001 we welcome to the teaching staff Mrs. J.E. Casby (Reception, prep school), Mr. B. Holt (Mathematics), Mrs. L.K.J. Snook (Biology), Mr. S.J. Vose (P.E. and Games), Mr. M.G. Winstanley (Physics) as well as Herr. A. Beckman (German Assistant). Miss. E. Fritchley takes up the post of Bursar.

September also sees several internal appointments and changes:

Mrs. G. Brown takes up the post of Deputy Head Mistress, Mr. M. P. Jones becomes Deputy Head Master, Mr. A. Simkin, Senior Master and Director of Studies and Mrs. T. Pollard is Senior Tutor. Mr. A.C. Crane becomes Head of Lower School, Ms. S.R. Tandon Head of Year 9 and Mr. G.H. Jones takes responsibility for Key Stage 4.

With the alteration of the House system and the renaming of the houses, the following is noted: Mr. M. Wood becomes Housemaster of Bonnick House, Mr. D. Fisher Housemaster of Hulme House, Mr. D. Myers Housemaster of Jones House and Mr. L. Sharp Housemaster of Roberts House.

Speech Day took place on Thursday 14th September and the speaker was Michael Lord MP Deputy Speaker, House of Commons and Old Hulmeian. Founders' Day took place on 6th March and the address was given by The Reverend John Staley.

Congratulations go to Miss C Day on her marriage to Mr. S. Garner, to Miss J Adey on her marriage to Mr. S. Jones and to Ms. S.R. Tandon and Mr. B. Wray on the birth of their first child.

For the school year 200/2001 school prefects were:

M. Ahmed, R. Ahmed, S. Boodhoo, R. Booker, V. Bramwell, I. Choudhry, D. Daly, L. Davidson, M. Dewsnap, D. Endlar, H. Fisher, J. Fletcher, D. Gall, J. Jairath, N. Juma, J. Meers, P. Niroomand, A. Opara, N. Sheldon, D. Wood.

Heads of School: H. Asadi and R. Thompson

OBITUARIES:

Charles Herbert Jones.

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Charles Herbert Jones. After attending William Hulme's as a pupil between 1923 and 1927, he entered the world of banking. He rekindled his links with William Hulme's by becoming a governor, rising to the post of Vice Chairman of the governing body in 1976, a post he held until 1987. He then became Governor Emeriti. He died on 19th October 2000.

J.R. Wise

Lisa Brown

Lisa had been with us for five years and in her capacity as lunchtime organiser and before and after school care supervisor had endeared herself to the whole of the preparatory department with her happy disposition and caring attitude. The sudden death of such a young woman shocked and saddened us all. We shall miss her sunny smile and remember her with great affection.

C.G. Wilson

Alexandra Veeder. OH



It is with great sadness that we record the death of Alex Veeder, who was tragically killed earlier this year. Coming from Whitefield, Alex joined William Hulme's along with her sister Laura in 1990. She was a member of Heywood House and left in 1995 to go to Bury Metropolitan College to undertake her A Levels. She went on to study at the University of Nottingham.

VALETE

Morris Loveland



Morris Loveland retired at the end of the summer term having devoted 28 years of his life to WHGS. In that time he has served the school as Head of Mathematics, Second Master and for two separate periods as Acting Headmaster.

Morris left Liverpool University in 1965 with a 1st class honours degree in Mathematics and a postgraduate teaching qualification. He then worked for a few years at both Warwick School and Yeovil School (where he held his first head of department post) before moving to WHGS.

Whilst Morris was Head of Mathematics, he was instrumental in the school becoming one of the pioneers in the use of computers. In 1974 the school purchased a single computer terminal which was linked via a modem to the mainframe computer at Salford University, enabling pupils to enjoy 10 to 15 hours of on-line time each week. Early work included a project to investigate the behaviour of projectiles, which was displayed with success at the Salford University science fair. In 1979 the school acquired its own mainframe computer, a SYSTIME 3000, with seven terminals. Unlike the personal computers of today this was very much a shared experience with one machine being surrounded by people in a cramped space.

Following the retirement of Chris Lowe in 1983, Morris became Second Master and started to use his analytical mind to solve the administrative problems of the school. Public events such as Speech Day, Founders Day or a Royal visit would be planned to the last detail; everyday events such as staff cover or pupils' detentions would receive the same careful consideration and everyone could feel secure that all would work out well. Those of us that know him well realise that he has the unique ability to combine a sense of occasion with a sense of humour.

Another feature of his job was to be in charge of day to day discipline – his aim was always to be firm yet fair with a clear view of the difference between a totally unacceptable act and one which was merely silly. The reactions and thoughtful initiatives generated by the students when they heard of his impending retirement show how highly they regard and respect 'Mozzer'.

No matter how busy Morris was he would always find time for a colleague or a child who needed help. He would show great concern for others, knew people as individuals and remembered details of their lives and families. He expected very high standards of himself, being amongst the first to arrive and the last to leave and was virtually never absent even when he had fairly major personal problems. Yet he would readily arrange cover for a colleague when he or she needed it, often doing the work himself.

Although his job mainly involved administration, he considered it essential to remain in touch with the pupils. He supported virtually every play or concert, was a regular visitor to CCF camps, ran a lacrosse team for many years and continued to teach a small amount of mathematics. 'A' level students would often visit his office for extra help. Indeed as he gave so much time to school, it is difficult to see where he found the time for other interests but he is an active member of his church, a keen gardener and of course a devoted grandfather.

On two separate occasions, once for a term and once for a year, Morris was expected to take on the role of Headmaster. He did this graciously and effectively carrying much of the workload of deputy along with that of Head. Morris's solid leadership did much to keep the school stable through these difficult periods.

Morris is an intelligent, caring, highly organised man. He has great integrity and is utterly fair. We wish him and Dorothy many happy years of retirement to enjoy their family and travel the world. William Hulme's Grammar School will not be the same without him!

Glynis Brown

Geoff Grant



Geoff joined as the Head of the Woodwork Department of WHGS in 1970 having had two previous teaching posts in Gorton and Marple. Each lasted three years and Geoff felt that he would more than likely move on again after a similar period. In the event, and to Hulme's great benefit, he stayed ten times longer.

The subject was very different at that time, as too was the school. Practical subjects have always had to fight hard for their place on the curriculum and were often viewed as less important. Having established himself within the school, Geoff set about raising the profile of the subject. Around this time there was a shift in the emphasis within the subject towards Design Technology. The underlying principles were that pupils should not just copy plans in order to make artefacts but could draw up the designs for themselves. Clearly a far more demanding task. This appealed to the inventive side in Geoff and fitted better the ethos of the school. Geoff took this on board and introduced new ideas together with new exams at A level. Advice he received at the time was to prove very true, that you should get the top right and the bottom will follow. Well, the top at Hulme's has been a real success story. Pupils that have gone on to A level enthused by Geoff and his love for the subject have been rewarded. NO pupil has failed the exam and many are now working in the higher echelons of industry. William Hulme's was way ahead of the other independent schools in its thinking and work in Design Technology and remains so today as a result of Geoff's initiative and vision.

He has continued this work by encouraging pupils to try for sixth form sponsorship offered by the Arkwright Trust. This is a highly prestigious and competitive field with a very limited number of scholarships being awarded each year nationally. In the three years we have entered pupils three scholarships have been won. This is in no small part due to the preparation given by Geoff.

Despite his obvious gift for and commitment to his subject, Geoff has always been able to see the wider picture of life in and out of school. He was involved in constructing sets for all the school drama productions between 1970 & 1986. Together with a stage crew of pupils, Geoff worked long hours to create the feel and atmosphere for each production. He and his wife Lynn, a former English teacher herself, still support and take a keen interest in theatre.

Another activity that Hulme's became famous for was the Hovercraft Racing Club that Geoff ran for ten years. He and a dedicated team of pupils designed, built, raced and then repaired two hovercrafts. This took many hours of work in the school workshop at lunchtimes. They would then spend days travelling to competitions throughout the country. Hovercraft rides were always popular at open days too. Two old Hulmieans have gone on to work in the field of engine development and are trying to break into the F1 teams - all started by the Hover club.

Geoff and his family became TV stars and pioneers of the Green Revolution in 1975 when they built the House of the Future, which Granada made into a series. The videos proved to be a useful teaching aid and a source of endless amusement for the sixth form. Other areas that have

benefited from Geoff's hand are the school publicity, where he laid the foundations for what is being done now, bringing to it a professional quality it lacked previously. In the last few years he has returned to playing the trumpet and as a result the school band has gained a super addition to the brass section. I know he has enjoyed playing and learning more about his instrument and performing in the band. Phil Goodwin and the rest of the band hope that he will continue to play in concerts for some time.

In addition to his interest in music, Geoff has several other pastimes. He has a classic MG sports car from the 1950's, enjoys Go-kart racing and has a Pizza franchise business to run. This, together with a list of jobs to do on the house, will no doubt keep him busy for a long time.

Geoff is a wonderful teacher. I have learnt a tremendous amount from him, as have many thousands of pupils. He is a great Hulmeian and a first class colleague. We will miss him, but wish him and Lynn every happiness.

N.P. Dunn.

Roy Ballantyne



Roy Ballantyne joined William Hulme's in 1978 as a member of the History Department. He soon proved himself to be a talented classroom teacher at all levels, switching easily from the techniques required to build a Norman Castle with the First Year to explaining the significance of art in the Third Reich to the Upper Sixth; and he soon broadened his experience to include teaching Economics and Politics to the Sixth Form. However, it was outside the classroom that Roy made perhaps the most significant contribution to life at WHGS. His contributions to School and staff activities ranged from playing soccer in Staff v Prefects matches and taking part in Staff revues, to participating in a wide range of trips abroad with either the History or the Modern Languages Departments.

During the 1980s, Roy was promoted to the post of Head of Careers. At a time when information on universities and courses was not as readily available as it is today, Roy was able to give invaluable assistance to Sixth formers considering their further education choices. He developed a substantial Careers library, which included prospectuses, information on subject areas and videos. He built links with other careers organisations and pioneered the idea of work experience, which is so popular today. More recently, his work on staff development, INSET courses and appraisal has all been warmly appreciated by members of staff.

With his wide range of experience gained at WHGS it was inevitable that Roy should seek a senior post elsewhere. We congratulate him on his appointment to be Deputy Head of Skegness Grammar School from January 1st this year, and wish him every success in the future.

P.J. Callaghan

Mrs Lynn A. Ballantyne



Lynn Ballantyne joined William Hulme's Grammar School in 1979 and was an inspiring and dedicated teacher of French and German. In 1995 she was appointed Head of French.

She was educated at Manchester University from where she graduated in 1978, having studied French and German. Lynn also studied for some time at the Sorbonne and the University of Clermont-Ferrand. She spent her year as an English Assistante in a French lycée in Moulins. She gained her PostGraduate Certificate in Education in 1979 and began her teaching career at William Hulme's Grammar School.

Lynn did much to promote the teaching of French and German within the school, adopting a non-compromise approach towards the maintenance of high standards. The excellent results, which her pupils consistently attained, are evidence of everything that she held dear during her long teaching career at William Hulme's Grammar School. In her later years, as Head of French, she steadfastly upheld the high profile of the language, which was very close to her heart. Lynn Ballantyne was interested in and involved in many aspects of the cultural life of the school. She was deputy of Fraser House, co-ordinator of House Drama and Wardrobe Mistress.

The pupils she taught were fortunate, indeed, to have the benefits of such a talented and creative teacher and one who has such a passionate love of France and all things French. Over the years, Lynn inspired countless pupils of all ages to express themselves in French and German in creative ways and on a variety of mature themes- ecology, contemporary culture (especially music, fashion and cinema). One of the high points of her career was the French Day which she masterminded and ran in 1996. Lynn also inspired her Sixth Form pupils to produce an award-winning French Newspaper which was 'out on the street' on the day it was written. For three years running, the newspaper produced by her French editorial team was highly commended by the judges in the European Newspaper Day competition.

Lynn was a much-valued colleague on French trips and on the Werl exchange. Away from the rigours of the classroom Lynn would soon unwind and was excellent company. She loved being in France, especially, and the pupils enjoyed the attention she gave them, which helped put them at ease away from home.

Lynn's caring attitude was also evident in her work as a mentor and as teacher in charge of the French language assistant. She has mothered many an assistant through their first angst-ridden weeks on their arrival in the UK, both in school but also in her own home. She worked very closely with each assistant and successfully pioneered the use of the assistant with pupils throughout the whole school, rather than just with the Sixth Form. Lynn was one of the first mentors to be trained under the new ITT partnership with Manchester University School of Education. This enabled her to renew her link with her own former tutor, Jean Ann Naylor, who was more than happy to send student teachers of French and German to Lynn knowing that they were in very capable hands.

Lynn was a thoroughly professional colleague on whom I could always depend for the smooth running of her department and for her sound advice and judgement.

She was a well-respected colleague within the Modern Languages Department- and was also a sympathetic and sensitive friend. We wish Lynn and her family every happiness in their new future together.

J. G. Hofton

Dr Jane Keable



Jane joined the Chemistry department at William Hulme's in 1986 and has been a valued member of the department until half term in the Michaelmas term this year, when ill health brought her premature retirement. The gap left by Jane's departure was difficult to fill and only served to reinforce the fact that we take people for granted far too readily. I have not come across anyone in teaching who can claim to be as conscientious as Jane is with respect to preparation, planning and marking.

Consequently, her Chemistry sets have always been well prepared and gained very good examination results. Indeed, if her pupils had worked as hard for themselves as Jane did on their behalf, they would all have gained top grades. Jane was always ready to give up her own free time to help anyone who needed it and the pupils responded well to this generous approach.

Jane's contribution to the School was not limited to the chemistry laboratory. She was commissioned as an officer in the Army section of the CCF and when Mr Briggs decided that we should have an RAF section, Jane took on the onerous task of starting this section up from scratch. It is a tribute to Jane's organisational skills and enthusiasm that the RAF section was quickly up and running and competing (in a friendly way) with the long established Army section. As Assistant House Tutor for Whitworth House, Jane always took an active interest in House activities, helping where it was needed without having to be asked. Jane has also been a regular in the School band for many years. We are delighted that, through the band and the CCF, Jane's association with the School is likely to continue for many years to come. We wish Jane and her family every happiness in the future.

A Simkin

Helen Kelly



Helen Kelly has been a highly valued member of the Mathematics department since 1992. Her enthusiasm and patience, together with firm but fair discipline, have brought the best out of her pupils at al levels. She is a qualified subject mentor, taking responsibility for student teachers of mathematics, who have all appreciated her dedication and interest.

Outside the classroom Helen has been a Deputy Housemistress, has run the lower school swimming club and been involved with after-school badminton. Helen's sense of humour and friendliness have made her a popular member of the Common Room and we are sorry to be losing her to Cheadle Hulme School, where she goes with our best wishes.

M R Booker

Eleanor L. Matthews



With the appointment of Eleanor to Trent College we lose a popular, gregarious and able colleague.

Eleanor arrived seven years ago with her degree in Animal Biology and several years of post-graduate research to find a school maturing in the development of its co-educational endeavours. This was her first post, primarily to teach biology throughout the school but it was not long before a willingness to coach and referee rugby matches made us realise what a catch we had made. Her own talents in this game have matured over the years; she has played for Sale Ladies and is a respected coach and referee of standing (in May 2001 she was involved in prestigious games in Holland). She has shown competence in most sports and outdoor pursuits and is an accomplished horse rider. In summer 2000, she managed to combine most of her talents in an arduous trek across Ecuador which involved trekking, white water rafting and organising care and entertainment at an orphanage.

Eleanor certainly has the proven ability to lead and influence people. As Captain in the Army Section of the school corps, she has had plenty of practice. In Canada for seven weeks she ran a platoon of English cadets and attended and gained qualification in a number of courses including: mountain first aid and leadership, canoeing, assault course instructor and rock climbing. She is also shooting range qualified. She has attended the CCF Advanced Cadet course as Frimley Park.

A teacher's report of Eleanor in the classroom could only be complimentary. Prompt, prepared, organised are not some of the plaudits which could be directed her way but a keen sympathy with the young, vulnerable, learning brain of lowly students she certainly possessed. With the sixth form – those millennium models of maturity – she managed to develop silken purses from the raw – exceptionally raw! – materials she was provided with. In the Pet's Club, Eleanor openly encouraged care and attention of small mammals to all but the small percentage that fell foul of hair and dust allergies.

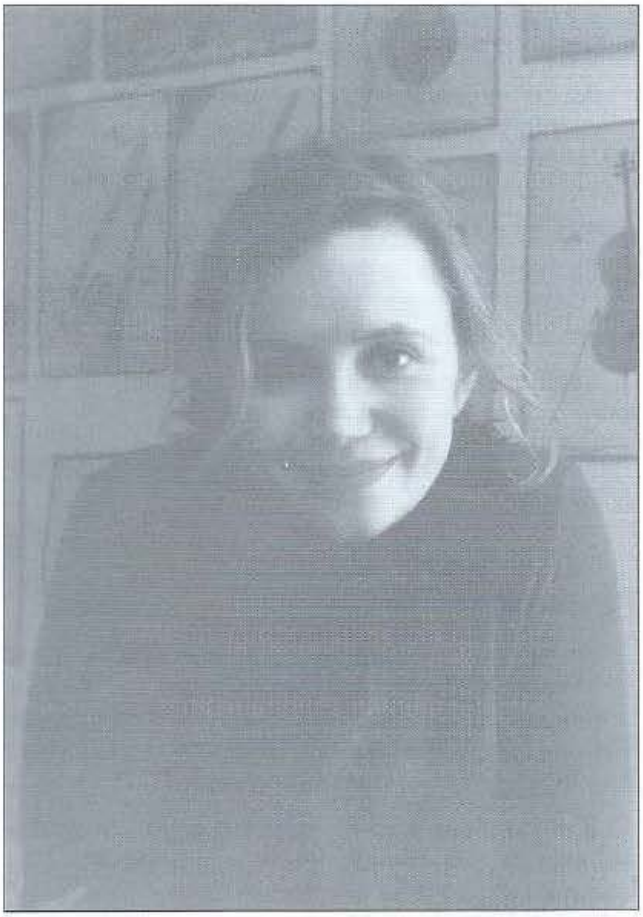
Field courses with the sixth-formers were easy work for Eleanor. Her love for all things that creep, crawl and come out at night made her the perfect watchman over the dormitories whilst the beautiful people (Myers and Moore) could snore undisturbed.

Eleanor's hard work for moderation in GCSE must not go unmentioned. Hours of discussion with the elders of the Biology Department always left us in awe of her ability to remember the chief moderators exact wording and demands even when they were in direct contradiction to those of the previous meeting she had attended.

So there we have it, at least in thumbnail summary, Eleanor Matthews: sports icon, traveller, friend for the furry, moderator's pet – a fully rounded individual. I hope Eleanor enjoys and progresses within the next stage of her career as much as she has with us; along with many others I will greatly miss her humour, good heart and particularly her sheer vitality.

R. S. Moore

Catherine Day



Cath joined the school in September 1997 initially as a part-time member of staff. She made an immediate impact on the department and many other areas of the school and became full-time the following year.

She had many skills, not least her improvisational ability – she literally could play anything, anywhere, anytime and usually did!

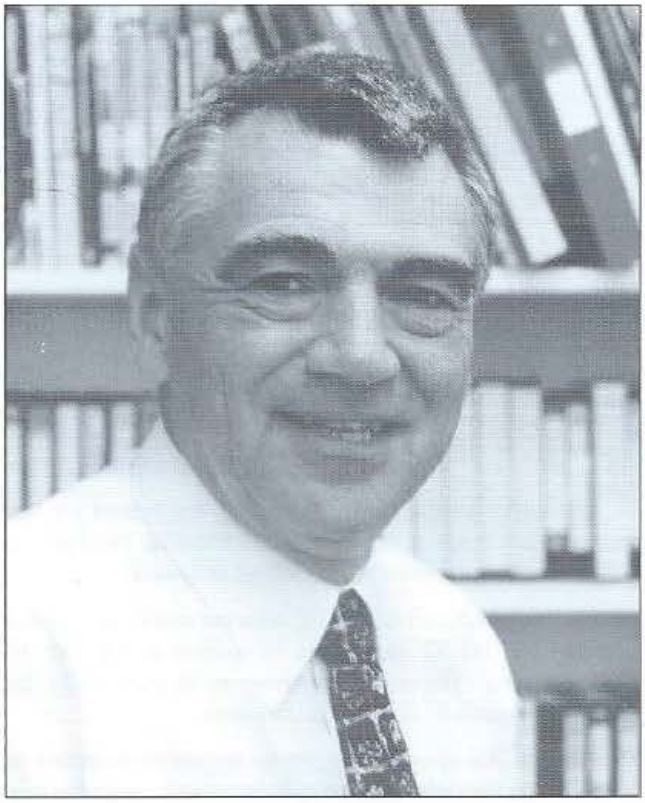
As she matured as a teacher, she began to take a more active role outside of the department, joining the RAF section of the CCF and becoming a very effective and well-liked year 8 form tutor. Within the department, she was actively involved with the concert band and ran the choir, where her individual and enthusiastic approach persuaded many reluctant performers to take part in concerts and other performances that normally they would have avoided.

The real love of her life (artistically speaking), however, was drama. She was involved in several productions in school the most notable being 'Cabaret'. That the show received such warm acclaim from all quarters was in no small part due to Cath's committed enthusiasm and determination that this difficult production would succeed.

Well-liked by both staff and pupils alike, Cath will be missed but I am sure that everyone would like to wish her every happiness.

P.W. Goodwin

Dr Dennis Martin



Dennis Martin joined the school two years ago as a full time teacher of physics and very quickly established himself as a popular and effective member of staff. His cheerfulness and professionalism were an example to us all and this department will always remember Dennis for his kindness and moral support throughout an especially traumatic and distressing period.

He will be greatly missed by his pupils and by his friends and colleagues. The department is loosing a tower of strength and without doubt one of the best physics teachers in the business.

Dennis is leaving to take up a post at Manchester High School for Girls and we wish him and his wife Janet all the very best for the future.

M I Barker

Graham Muckalt



Although Graham has only been at the School for one year, he has made a valuable contribution to the Physical Education Department and the school in general.

He has introduced GCSE PE onto the curriculum, he has coached the 1st XV rugby, 1st XI football and Under 15 cricket teams. Basketball continues to flourish under his guidance, especially in the Lower School.

Graham leaves us to take up an appointment nearer to his home and we wish him every success and are sad to lose such a popular member of staff.

C H Seddon

Kathleen J Marsh



Even though Ms Kathleen J Marsh was only with us at William Hulme's Grammar School for two terms, the positive impact she made on pupils and staff was such that it seemed as though she had been here much longer.

She was educated at University College of North Wales, Bangor where she studied Linguistics and French. She came to us from St Christopher's School, Bahrain where she had been Head of Modern Languages.

All the pupils she taught enjoyed her classes and instinctively respected her. They have benefited greatly from her professional, business-like approach, her clarity of delivery and her warm and encouraging manner at every stage of the learning process.

I am very grateful for the way Kath was able to come into the Modern Languages Department part-way through the year to take over Mrs Lynn Ballantyne's work.

The fact that everything went very smoothly is testimony to her excellent ability and calm efficiency.

We wish her well in her new post at Stockport Grammar School.

J. G. Hofton

Pat Ferguson

Pat has been with us for the last eight years. She started at Amberleigh where she was instrumental in curriculum development of Key Stage One. Since the merger with William Hulme's Grammar School she has worked at our Early Year Centre in charge of Reception.

She has been a loyal, hardworking and supportive colleague, popular with staff, parents and pupils alike. Her experience and expertise have been invaluable at past OSJC and Ofsted inspections. We will all miss her enthusiasm and good humour and wish her well for the future.

C.G. Wilson

Peter Milloy

Wing Commander Peter Milloy arrived at William Hulme's Grammar School in the spring of 1999 to take up the post of Bursar on the retirement of Cmdr. Mike Peters. Within a very short time, he became a valued member of the senior management team. Coming from a service's background, he brought with him a sense of purpose, organisation and focus that has enabled him to oversee the general day to day running of the school successfully and in addition allowed him to add to the development of the school in a number of different areas. Under his guidance, the school has reached the 21st century in terms of ICT:- most departments now have good ICT provision, including e-mail and essential Internet access, both staff and students have benefited enormously from this facility. The school campus has also become a safer environment with the replacement of the boundary fence, the installation of electronic gates and a CCTV system. He took responsibility for the refurbishment of the various teaching areas, in particular the ground floor of the Donner Block and was responsible for the move of the Bursary to its new location in the old school flat. However, perhaps he will be most remembered for the introduction of the very successful day nursery. Having appointed Jackie Samuels, he worked with her through all the developmental stages to the opening of the flourishing department we have

today. Not every bursar can claim to be an authority on nappy disposal!

Peter and his wife Irena have sought to be involved in all areas of school life and have been regular supporters of extra curricular events. We have become used to seeing Irena about the campus arranging flowers, helping in the office, singing in the choral society or helping a foreign student with his/her English.

After a relatively short time with us, Peter leaves to take up the post of Domestic Bursar at Robinson College Cambridge. We thank both him and Irena for their contribution to the life of the school and wish them well in the next phase of their lives.

G.M. Brown

Prize List 2001

Year 7

Art:	R. Bhatt
Classical Studies:	S. Halulu
	A. Karimzadeh
	A. Pathak
Design:	K. Stewart
English:	I Mahmood
French:	S. Halulu
Geography:	I. Al-Bayati
History:	I. Mahmood
Mathematics:	M. Khan
Music:	I. Al-Bayati
Religion:	R. Bhatt
Science:	C. Johncox-Som

Year 8

Art:	J. Benson
Classical Studies:	E. Kane
Design:	R. Adams
English:	R. Trinick
French:	E. Kane
Geography:	E. Kane
History:	E. Kane
Mathematics:	A. Cheung
Music:	E. Kane
Religion:	E. Kane
Science:	A. Cheung
Spanish:	R. Trinick

Year 9

Art:	J. Leung
Biology:	J. Leung
Chemistry:	C.Tang
Design:	I. Hollister
Drama:	J. Oxberry
English:	A. Ullah
French:	T. Khan
Geography:	A. Olatain
German:	S. Hafeez
History:	J. Leung
Latin:	A. Olatain
Mathematics:	C. Tang
Music:	A. Wood
Religion:	
Spanish:	J. Leung

Year 10

Art:	S. Chohan
Biology (Dual):	Z. McKenzie
Biology (Triple):	K. Ahmad
Chemistry (Dual):	Z. McKenzie
Chemistry (Triple):	K. Ahmad
Design:	A. Vittoz
English:	S. Ghafori-Kanno
French:	S. Ghafori-Kanno
Geography:	P. Birch
Geology:	K. Ahmad
German:	L. Hanford
History:	E. Okpe
Latin:	E. Okpe
Mathematics:	K. Ahmad
Music:	E. Dodd
Physical Education:	E. Fisher
Physics (Dual):	H. Naziri
Physics (Triple):	K. Ahmad
Religion:	P. Birch
Spanish:	G. Seedat

Year 11

Art:	P. Royle
Biology (Dual):	C. Booker
	M. Jameel
Biology (Triple):	N. Ahmed
Caiger French:	I. Rahim
Chemistry (Dual):	A. Clark
Chemistry (Triple):	M. Jameel
Design:	N. Travis
German:	M. Jameel
Geology:	P. Whitehead
Hewlett Geography:	C. Booker
	O. Solati
History:	P. Keenlyside
Latin:	C. Booker
Mathematics:	M. Jameel
Music:	A. Clark
Parents' English:	P. Keenlyside
Physics (Dual):	P. Keenlyside
Physics (Triple):	H. Maan
Religion:	P. Keenlyside
Spanish:	I. Rahim

Lower Sixth

Art:	J. French
Business Studies:	S. Suthar
Chemistry:	
Classical Studies:	R. Colebrook
Design:	A. Race
Economics:	S. Khoshnevisadeh
Forrest Eng. Lang.:	
Forrest Eng. Lit.:	S. Suthar
Forrest E.C.S.:	D. Goodkin
Further Mathematics:	
Geography:	S. Barber
German:	A. Race
Hawley French:	G. Singh
ICT:	M. Kotecha
K. Arran Mathematics:	
Music:	M. Brighouse
Physics:	
Politics:	S. Barber
Pontiero Spanish:	G. Singh
S.K. Appleton Biology:	C. Leung
	J. McConville
Sydney Goodman History:	P. Sunderland
Religious Studies:	S. Barber
Theatre Studies:	A. Oxberry

Upper Sixth

Allman Further Mathematics:	A. Green
Classical Studies:	D. Pitman
DEN History:	D. Wood
Design:	R. Thompson
Eastwood Geology:	J. Watson
Hewlett Geography:	R. Booker
	A. Hyde
Knoop English Lang:	
Knoop English Lit.:	S. John
Knoop E.C.S:	S. Hughes
Lymer Mathematics:	M. Ahmed
Margaret Cruttenden Art:	H. Fisher
Music:	D. Laing
O.H.A. Biology:	M. Ahmed
Palmer Chemistry:	F. Ridley
Palmer Physics:	A. Green
Pankhurst Spanish:	J. Smith
Reid Politics:	S. Hughes
Rodgers Business Studies:	M. Royle
Religious Studies:	D. Wood
Simon Smith Economics:	S. John
Viles French:	A. Opara
Viles German:	

Special Prizes

Anderson English Essay:	P. Keenlyside
Aspinall Religious Knowledge:	H. Ahmed
Colin Midwood:	J. Meers
	C. Kasler
D. LL. Griffiths Prize for Medical Subjects:	F. Ridley
D. M. Williams Memorial Prize for Music:	R. Goodwin
E.B. Jackson:	L. Davidson
Eric Barnes Mem Prize and Trophy:	R. Booker
Geoffrey Cocker Mem Prize:	C. Booker
Gozzard Prize for Craft:	O. Solati
Graham Johnson Mem Prize:	D. Goodkin
Halpin History Essay Prize:	S. John
Hillyard Cup and Prize:	B. Coffey
J. A. Barber Prize:	R. Booker
James Hickman Prize for Sporting Achievement:	R. Adams
J. N. Hopwood Reading Prize (Sen):	R. Goodwin
J. N. Hopwood Reading Prize (L and M):	A. Steele
History Prize (L and M):	Z. Iqbal
Powell prize for Reading in Assembly:	S. Boodhoo
Sir Joseph Gilbert Prize:	R. Thompson
	W. Ahmad
The Watkins Prizes (Heads of School):	H. Asadi
The Watkins Prizes (Heads of School):	R. Thompson
The Yates Prize:	S. Hughes
The Wolstenholme Mem. Prize for Art & Design:	D. Wood
The Library Awards:	N. Sheldon
	J Meers
William Taylor Memorial Prize:	C. Henthorne

Destinations of Upper Sixth Leavers 2000

Name	Destination	Course
Bushra Ali	U College, London	Politics/E European Stud
Kessr Ali	U of Salford	Accountancy/Finance
Julia Atherton-Dandy	U of Durham	Anthropology/Philosophy
Danielle Baker	Reapplying 2001	
Edward Barker	U of Durham	Natural Sciences
Nicholas Barratt	Kings', London	Eng Lang & Lit
Caroline Bell	Nottingham Trent U	Bus, Leis and Sports Ed
Laura Berrisford	U of Loughborough	Computer Science
Mark Brown	Sheffield Hallam U	Eng Des & Innov
Jonathan Byrom	U of Keele	Law & Politics
Aliya Chandia	U of Durham	European Studies
Farrah Chandia	U of Greenwich	Int Bus/Spanish
Asad Chaudhry	U of Salford	Computer science
Asmar Chaudhry	U of Leeds	History
Daniel Choudhury	Airline Flying Int, Canada	Flying course
Akhlaaq Choudry	U of Manchester	Geology
Thomas Chung	U of Liverpool	Law
Luke Coffey	U of Leeds	Pharmacology
Jemma Cohen	U of Salford	Social Policy
Vanessa Cohen	U of Salford	Foundation Course (Art/Des)
Karina Cordner	U of Salford	Television & Radio
Emma Cruickshank	U of Hull	Law
Chloe Duckworth	U of Nottingham	Classical Civ/Archaeology
Anthony Edwards	U of Leeds	Civ Eng/Architecture
Laurie Edwards		
Fifesola Fajumi	U of Birmingham	Accounting & Finance
Katherine Foster	U of Durham	European Stud/French
Marsha Freeman	U of Birmingham	Ancient & Medieval History
Iain Gage	U of Aberystwyth	Environ Earth Sci (2001)
Louise Goodwin	U of Durham	History
Kati Greenall	U of Manchester	Clinical Psychology
Robert Greenalgh	U of Durham	Engineering
Nafisa Hanif	U of Manchester	Dentistry
Christopher Harwood	Leeds, Trinity & All Saints	Sports, Health & Leis - Media
Joseph Holland		
Victoria Horn	Year out	
Hassan Imtiaz		
Yousr Issa	U of Bradford	Optometry
Christopher Kay		
William Kent		2001 entry

James Kerr	Year out	
Geoffrey Kinsella	U of Glasgow	Biomedical Science
Georgina Laird	Oxford Brookes U	Geography
Victoria Lane	Declined all offers	
Rebekah Lawson		
Graeme Laycock	U of Bristol	Aeronautical Eng
Nkiruka Lazz-Onyenobi	U of West of England	Economics/Spanish
Richard Lee	U of Loughborough	Comm Mgt & Quant Surv
Andrew Machin	Year out	Resits?
Gary Meakin	Liverpool, John Moores U	Applied Computer Technology
Sonali Mehta	Sheffield Hallam U	Int Bus/Language
Elli Metcalfe	Canterbury Christ Ch U Coll	Rad, Film & Tel Stud/Med & Culture Stud
Miriam Mkumbwa	U of Nottingham	French & Hispanic Studies
Jonathan Murphy	U of Durham	Natural Sciences
Ehsan Naseem	Resitting	
Daniel Naylor	Sheffield Hallam U	Business Property Management
Natalie Ofoche	Sheffield Hallam U	English Studies
Minesh Parekh	Liverpool, John Moores U	Business Management
Imran Patel	Liverpool, John Moores U	Pharmacy
Adepeju Pearce	U of Birmingham	German
Andrew Pickford	U of Aberystwyth	Geography
Jennifer Porter	Resits	2001 entry
David Purvis	RYSJ	Leisure & Tourism Mgt
Adam Race	U of Warwick	Mathematics
Balal Rana	U of Birmingham	Dentistry
Victoria Raynes	U of Liverpool	Sociology
Philip Robinson	U of Sheffield	Bus St & Info Mgt
Michael Robson	Year out	
Oliver Roe	U of Sheffield	Economics/Mathematics
Lex Seymour	Liverpool, John Moores U	Business/Law
Neel Shah	U of Bradford	Marketing
Nicholas Sharwin	U of Loughborough	Civil Engineering
Faye Todd	U of Nottingham	Portuguese & Spanish
Pareen Trivedi	Sheffield Hallam U	Biomedical Science
Talia Turnberg	U of Manchester	Social Policy
Kasim Ullah	U of Sheffield	Bus St & Mgt
James Veitch	Oxford Brookes U	Geog/Physical Geog
Christopher White	Nottingham Trent U	Bus St/Finance
Neil Whitehead	Trinity College, Oxford	Chemistry
Daniel Wild	Seeking employment	
Jeffrey Wuu	UMIST	Computer Systems Eng

The New School Crest

Football teams, big businesses and even political parties periodically change with the times and so must William Hulme's.

The beginning of a new century is a useful time for contemplating what the future will be for William Hulme's. Any organisation which wishes confidently to go forward needs to be prepared to review its position, especially in the context in which it now finds itself operating. Over the last five years, the political, financial and educational climate has all changed dramatically and William Hulme's has needed to change accordingly. The most recent catalyst for change was the pressing need for a new prospectus and a design team, Redwing from Bristol, won the contract to devise a more corporate identification package for the School.

Unlike every other school, William Hulme's does not use its coat of arms as a logo, but the lion's crest. The crest and motto, though, were proving to be a real headache. Although the current crest was last modified only eight years ago, it was still unclear as too what the crest actually represented. Many people thought the crest was a lion's head, a griffin, a dragon or even a horse's head. Indeed, I was able to collect over 20 separate items of clothing, publications and insignia which depicted the crest in numerous guises! A more obvious crest was needed. The Latin motto underneath the existing crest "FIDE SED CUI VIDE" was increasingly unable to be translated or have any practical meaning to successive Hulmeians and their parents. In any case, the motto was not unique to the school as it was shared with other schools in the Hulme Trust, such as Hulme Grammar School in Oldham. It was time for a more accessible brand name. Lastly, the red crest on a blue background was unsatisfactory on the naked eye, as two primary colours were forever competing for dominance. It was time to clear up any confusion.

The new Golden Lion crest with just the school's name underneath is an excellent combination of the traditional and the modern. It is obviously a lion, not unclear as previously, and it is clearly associated with the school. The gold-on-blue makes it an even smarter logo. In essence the new crest aims to typify the new William Hulme's for the twenty-first century: more assertive, clearer and confident.

It will of course take a while for the new crest to be phased in. However for September 2001 we have already made an excellent start with various publications, Speech Day preparations and numerous in-house insignia, such as the campus signs. Over the next few years the school blazer, minibuses and sports strips will increasingly carry the new crest.

I know that for some people any change is difficult, as it is always nice to draw comfort from familiarity. However having spent nearly twenty years at William Hulme's, I am wholly convinced for the need to change and confidently to take the school into a new century with a more modern, smarter and instantly recognisable image.

M P Jones

Deputy Headmaster



William Hulme's Grammar School



William Hulme's Grammar School

Donner Library

During the last year, computers and a printer were added to the library. They all have Internet access and are in constant use during the day. Pupils not only use the Internet but also use Microsoft Word for word processing course work.

Thanks to Mr.Stanyer, the library catalogue is networked so pupils and staff can discover if a book is in stock or stocked elsewhere in the school. Books can be reserved in this way and book reviews can also be added.

Internet access has transformed the use of the library, there is so much useful and relevant information available but also lots of dross, which can waste time. Fortunately, we are able to monitor what pupils are accessing and so limit time wasting.

It would not be the same without my annual gripe about books being taken unofficially. There is nothing more frustrating than telling a pupil that a book is in stock and then discovering it has been stolen.

A huge thank you to Natalie Sheldon and James Meers for their help as library prefects, without their help I could not have coped. I wish them both well in their future careers.

This year's library prefects are: Christie Okpie, Susan Barber, Sharon Suthar, Feruzddin Shah, and Mohammed Al Himdani.

M. Evans

Bursar's Corner

It's that time of year for writing a review of the Support Staff activity over the year in under 500 words!

Our Support Staff continue loyally to support the School, despite the ever-increasing pressures. The new Headmaster inevitably brought changes and I hope we have risen to the challenge. We continue to make every effort to improve the look and feel of the site and despite what people might think we have made substantial improvements. Computers are to be found everywhere and most are connected to the electronic world of email and the Internet. A major reorganisation of the Bursary and the main office complex has resulted in a brand-new Bursary over the gardener's garage and also meant that the Headmaster can move back to the original Head's study. The Head's old office will become a new reception area. We have invested a good deal of money on major improvements in security around the school, with smart new fencing and electric gates, plus the inevitable CCTV.

We have experienced quite a turnover of staff over the last 12 months. The porters are now 4 in number with Roy Walton and Ken Hughes joining in the Michaelmas Term. Sadly our temporary porter, Ron Aston died shortly after leaving WHGS in January. Peter Stanyer joined the School in August 2000 to take over responsibility for the ever growing complement of computers to become the IT Technician. In Accounts the assistant left suddenly when her mother became seriously ill and Margaret Jeavons took over in November. In April Chloe Chene, our very own French chef, left to emigrate to Canada with her new husband – they had been married shortly before and the School had hosted their receptions. Our long serving plumber – John Schofield retired in May, leaving the Porters to be in charge of the pool. Finally, as I write this piece, we are just about to say goodbye to Andy Donegani the assistant groundsman. Andy has been with us for over 26 years, coming to us shortly after leaving school. Sadly Andy's health is not good and is not able to carry on working here; he has been a loyal and valued member of the team and he will be missed around the site.

Finally, I have to report that this is my last contribution to 'The Hulmeian' as I am leaving at the end of August 2001. I am moving to Cambridge University to be a bursar there. The governors have appointed Elizabeth Fritchley to take over the role, I wish her well and trust she will enjoy the same support from the staff that I have.

P D G Milloy

Harris House, Hardraw

The year started with a very busy period when year 7 forms visited Harris House for the first time. Using the excellent catering from the nearby Carthouse Café, pupils soon settled in and enjoyed the contrast between busy Manchester and the green pleasant Yorkshire Dales. The visit to Home Farm at Sedbergh is always popular and this year was not exception with a thorough introduction to the various varieties of cows and sheep and with a chance to feed the young animals. Most forms walked from the rushing and spectacular Aysgarth Falls through the fields to Castle Bolton and climbed to the top of the battlements to see a superb view of middle Wensleydale. A visit to the White Scar Caves on the return journey brings everyone home happy and tired.

Many other groups from WHGS (and other organisations) have enjoyed using the outdoor centre from October to February with the open fire in the staff common room always a cosy magnet. The lower sixth Geography fieldcourse, pet club visit, Hulmeian Cross Country and staff Christmas meal are some of the varied activities which took place in Autumn and Winter.

Unfortunately the onset of Foot and Mouth disease in February lead to the closure all local footpaths and many local outdoor activities. This has effectively closed the centre during spring and early summer. As the footpaths open, many groups are booked in for the autumn and the centre will again provide an excellent base for outdoor and educational group activities.

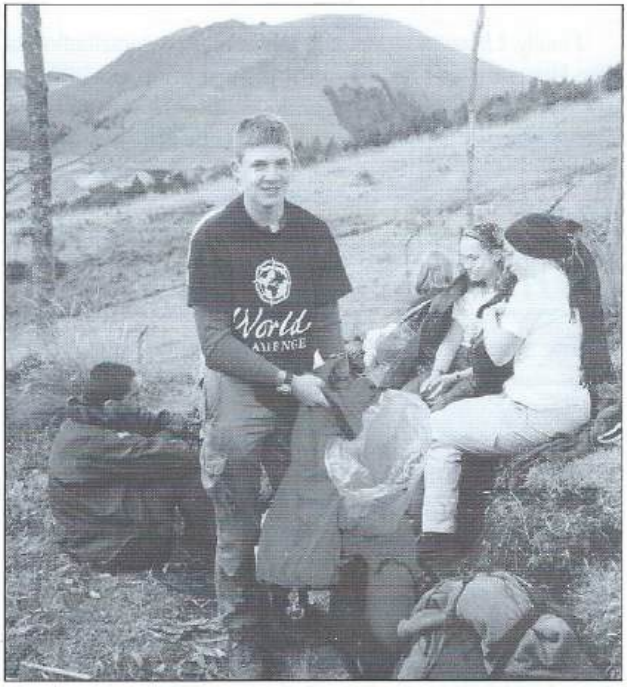
During the period of inactivity the outside of Harris House has been painted, the "teachers" house garden renovated, the roof on the kitchen replaced with the interior re-painted and new blinds. There is now a purpose built drying room and there will soon be a new gravel surface in the rear playground with barbecue and picnic table facilities.

Harris House is available for use by outside organisations and private groups particularly during school holidays but it is always advisable to book early. Contact the Warden at the school office.

JH Hardy

Witch Doctors, Whales and Volcanoes or Ecuador 2000

Imagine landing in a foreign country with only 1 night's accommodation booked. Ahead of you lies 4 weeks of trekking, volcano-climbing, project work and sightseeing. You have to organise it yourself and stay within a tight budget.



Jon Case sorting out his kit on the way up Imbabura - before the cloud descended.

That was the challenge faced by 12 pupils from 3 schools landing in Quito last Summer. World Challenge aims to develop skills such as teamwork, leadership and handling a budget. As the only WHGS pupil, Jonathon Case faced the additional challenge of first getting to know the other participants. Each team member had already overcome the huge challenge of raising £2,800 in order to go.

Acclimatisation and Imbabura (a volcano 4,585m high)

Quito is the second highest capital in the world at 2,800m. We spent 1 day getting organised - booking guides, accommodation, the orphanage and buying food - before heading out to Cotocachi to begin our 4 days of acclimatisation. The aim was to start at 2,900m and then to slowly (very slowly!!) climb up to around 4,000m which was to be the highest campsite. To give you an idea, Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in the UK and is a mere 1,344m!!

On the third day, 1 pupil was struggling with the altitude and had to return to Cotocachi. I drew the short straw and was sent down with her, subsequently missing out on the hardest night's camping. Many of the team described the night they camped at 4,000m as one of the hardest challenges they faced in the 4 weeks.

2 days later we were kicked out of bed at 5.30am to climb the volcano Imbabura (4,585m). We negotiated a bus to drop us off at the foot of the climb and, more importantly, to collect us again later! It was a very long hard day but well worth the effort. It's hard work climbing at altitude and we were having to stop almost every few metres to catch our breath. It would have been great to see a volcano crater, but sadly all we saw was cloud!!



The team are about to climb Imbabura (4,585m).



Success! Miss Mathews and Jon Case enjoying the view from the summit of Imbabura.

Rainforests and Witch Doctors

Tena, deep in the rainforest, was how I imagined Ecuador to be. The streets were very dusty and uneven and crammed with tiny shops and street food (the 'kebabs' were interesting!!). We set off for the rainforest in trucks and soon discovered that our guide, Julio, was insane!! We spent the next 4 days trekking around the rainforest and travelling down the rivers on huge tyres. We learnt about the different plants and their uses from a Shamen (witch doctor) who claimed he could cure anything - sprained ankle, upset stomach?? - no problem!! We also climbed cascades and took power showers in huge waterfalls. We finished up by visiting a Quechua village and trying their local brew made from yucca (a potato-like plant) and saliva!!

We then spent a day white water rafting on the Rios Ecuador which was brilliant fun!

Quito - Project work



Quito - Project work in the orphanage. Jon proved to popular with the orphans!

The next 5 days were spent in an orphanage in Quito. We were asked to paint window bars and whitewash a few walls. However, the team decided to brighten the place up by painting a huge mural and to improve the sports facilities by reclaiming the basketball court from its thick carpet of weeds, grass and scorpions!!! In between the hard work we also entertained the orphans - ranging in age from a few months old up to teenagers - with games, music and a big party to finish.

Rest and Relaxation

The last few days were split between the coast and the Cotopaxi National Park (home to volcanoes that were far higher than Imbabura). The highlight of Puerto Lopez was definitely the whale watching. The team spent the evening socialising on the beach sitting under a grass umbrella listening to the waves of the Pacific Ocean lapping the shore.

And so to El Porvenir - high up near Cotopaxi- from sea level back up to altitude. The views of the sunset that night were wonderful. We spent the next day exploring the area on horseback kitted out in ponchos - great fun!!

Then it was back home to England after 4 weeks of fun. The participants had all mixed well together and taken their turns in the many roles (leader, budget manager, transport organiser etc.). They had seen many different faces of Ecuador from the low-lying coastal areas and rainforest to the higher regions around Imbabura and Cotopaxi. They will all have their personal memories and highlights (and lowlights!) of the trip and I have tried to describe a few of mine above. It was definitely an experience of a lifetime!

E L Matthews

Hebrides 2001
Or "Auntie Mary and the Seven Dwarves"

Seven Dwarves:	Nick Clowes
	Vikram Hackett
	Tom Hague
	Matthew Kelly
	David Melville
	Richard Noble
	Tim Thomas
Chorus:	Susan Barber
	Alison Hardy
	Alice Delemare (CHS)
	Elizabeth Hardy (CHS)

Front of house/Stage manager:	Mr J Hardy
Technical expert/Designer:	Mr P Dunn
First aid/Plumbing:	Miss E Matthews
Sound/Camp entertainer:	Mr N Veevers
Tickets/Costumes:	Mr K Leach
Accompanist/Catering assistant:	Mrs L Hardy
Musical director/Props:	Mr M Booker

Overture:

The cast and crew travel up to Oban by minibus, stay at Killin Youth Hostel, and are joined by Mr Booker on foot in Oban.

Act 1:

Tiree



Vikram Hackett and Susan Barber landing on Tiree.

Interval:

1 hour. This means there is just time for the cast and crew to have a shower and a full fried breakfast on the ferry between Tiree and Coll.

Act 2:

Coll



The girls and their cooking tent on Coll.

Finale:



The ruins at Sorisdale on Coll.

Harris House, Hardraw. The props are cleaned, dried and returned before the final chorus and curtain.

Synopsis:

Act 1:



Hebrides cycle camp - Pupils ready to cycle around Tiree (the first island we visited). L to R: Tim Thomas, Matthew Kelly, Tom Hague, Richard Noble, Nick Clowes, Vikram Hacket, Susan Barber, Alison Hardy.

The pantomime opens with the full cast pitching their tents in a once picturesque clearing, 'twixt dune and beach, affectionately known by the locals as "The Dump." The backcloth is of the sun setting behind an ancient trailer filled with old bedsteads. There is much noise and laughter as the camp settles down for the night and Mr Dunn pours the first wee dram.

In this act the weather is sunny, 14.6 hours on one day compared to Manchester's 0.1 hours. The wind slows progress and is often blowing straight towards the cyclists, which means that the cast tires and has to get lifts, not in the magic coach, but on the airport bus. However there are times when there is the joyous shout of "The wind's behind us!" and nothing stops them.

The cast and crew cycle from beach to beach where many activities take place including softball, football and swimming on two of the beaches by daring members of the cast, particularly Matthew who still smiles despite his numb feet. The cast and crew are joined in the softball game by a friendly local dog that succeeds in confusing the game entirely.

It is in this act we are introduced to Auntie Mary by Mr Veevers who, as the camp entertainer, feels it is his job to produce a variety of songs for their repertoire. So a chorus of "Auntie Mary had a canary," is heard frequently across the tranquil island of Tiree.

The cast and crew also attempt to climb the second highest hill on the island but are stopped by the evil character in the pantomime 'Foot and Mouth.' However they will not be downhearted, so they visit the cottage museum on the island, although alas there is no time to visit the huge magic golf ball (nuclear warning system) on the hill.

However all these activities are not enough for the seven dwarves who eagerly await their arrival at the shop to stock up on extra rations where Alison buys parmesan cheese to liven up the savoury pasta. However the wicked witch sends a wild westerly wind to slow the progress of the dwarves and she is deaf to all entreaties by Tom to reopen the shop. There is much entertainment gained from the expression on his face as reality dawns.

Mrs Hardy visits the good fairy in the cottage down the road who has a wonderful garden with a superb array of greenery so the spirits of the crew are kept up.

Interval

Act 2:



Tom Hague, Tim Thomas, Richard Noble and Vikram Hackett cook pancakes on Coll.

This act opens with the whole cast and crew looking for a campsite with Nick getting there first, again, but it's not quite up to specifications being near a road. There is much midnight activity by midnight quad bikers who seem determined to keep everyone up except Vikram who has an amazing ability to sleep at any time and any place.

This act includes a fishing trip where two trout are caught. Two fairy castles are seen in the distance on the way to the beach.

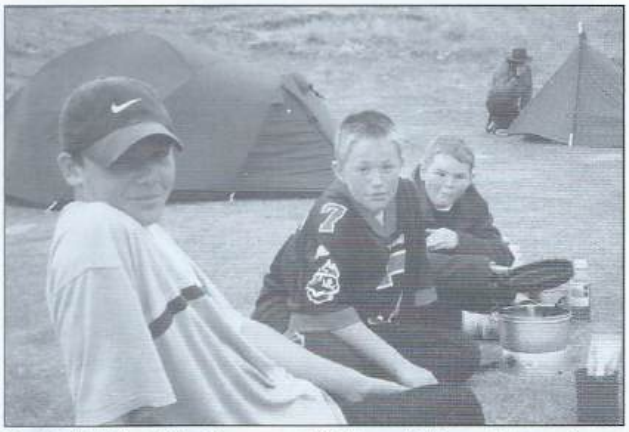
The weather is not so good on this island with the wicked witch sending not only wind but rain, however the good

fairy's powers seem to have returned and she produces a warm and inviting bistro with hot chocolate for all. Richard especially enjoys their cakes hoping to purchase them with magic beans. Mr Leach decides that an inspection of the ditches on the way was necessary and takes his job very seriously.

This is also the act where the annual Island Games take place. Susan excels herself at throwing the sand-filled-detergent-bottle-on-a-string and much fun is had by all trying to dig a hole in one minute but Mr Hardy eventually comes through as the ultimate winner despite the flooding in his pit. The star tern is the one found sitting feebly on the rocks, it is later found dead and given a moving burial at sea.

Other sports seen in this act include leg wrestling; a champion is found until Miss Matthews joins in and proves why she has beaten the captain of the England Women's Rugby Team at this sport, leaving Elizabeth with differently shaped legs from when she started.

On the final night a pancake party is held where Tim once again proves who the next Jamie Oliver is! The whole cast and crew get their panscrubs out to clean their cauldrons, which are thinly disguised as Trangia stoves. David scrubs so hard at his that it turns into a mirror. Alice, the make up and wardrobe assistant of the trip, checks the mirror works although it will not answer the question, "Mirror, mirror on the wall who is the fairest of them all?" It just shouts, " You need a shower because you all smell!" which the cast think is most unfair, if true.



David Melville, Nick Clowes and Matthew Kelly ready to cook pancakes.

After this, a huge singsong is held where we learn not just about Auntie Mary but also how to ruin a good song such as 'In the jungle'. Mr Booker raises the standard by playing his squeezebox and the singing continues well into the night.

It is an early start the next day, will the cast manage to leave the field whilst the pantomime bull stands sentinel on the other side of the gate? The lady from the island craft shop comes to their rescue when she arrives in her magic coach to whisk all heavyweight baggage down to the ferry terminal. The cast has a final round of chocolate cake and flapjack in the bistro before leaving these peaceful shores for their triumphant return to Manchester.

'Oh, no it isn't.'

'Oh, yes it is.'

A special thanks to Mr Hardy, Mr Dunn, Miss Matthews, Mr Veevers, Mr Leach and Mrs Hardy for organising everything and to Mr Booker for being there!

Elizabeth Hardy
with assistance from Alice Delemare (CHS)

SCHOOL TRIP TO FRANCE – OCTOBER 2000

Following a prompt departure from school at 07.30, our party of 36 pupils and 4 staff soon found itself on the M6 south and, several hours later.....we were still on the M6 south. However, after the traditional tour of central Birmingham, we continued down the M1 to London, and thereafter to Folkestone and Eurotunnel. We arrived in due course and caught Le Shuttle at around 14.20. A smooth crossing, followed by a short journey down the motorway saw us reach our hotel at Stella Plage at about 17.30 (local time).



"le Moulin de Maintenay"

After an excellent meal including poulet pané et pommes allumettes (alright, 'fried chicken and chips' !), we relaxed into the various evening activities of electronic entertainment, 'Pictionary', 'charades', T.V. and draughts (or 'leaving the doors open', as the staff call it.), before retiring (the staff) or going to bed, but not to sleep (the pupils).

Shaken, mainly by Mr. Myers, but not stirred (in some cases), we started the next day with a breakfast of cereals and French bread (obviously), and heard, for the first time, the henceforth daily mantra of 'Thé, café, chocolat ?' from our friendly waitress.

Our first destination was the open market at Le Touquet and, after a pleasant stroll round the stalls, where some excellent seafood was on display, and in some cases trying to get off display, we ate our packed lunch and set off for our second visit of the day – Azincourt (Agincourt). We arrived at the site of the famous battle of 1415 at about 14.15 and in addition to a tour of the battlefield, the pupils were able to

handle weapons and try on armour of the period, thanks to an excellent local travel representative. Some lucky pupils were given the chance to fire a longbow, whilst some even luckier ones were given the chance to stand behind them. Azincourt itself is a tiny village, with a friendly tourist office and small museum, but there were plans for a purpose-built visitor centre to be installed in the spring of 2001 – I hope it will not spoil the village.



James Murphy prepares to fire.

Our already full day was to end with ten-pin bowling at Berck–sur-Mer, about 20 minutes drive south from our resort at Stella Plage. The bowling alley is located in the Agora leisure centre, which contains a swimming pool, cafeteria, pool tables and arcade games, where the electronically-disadvantaged among the party were able to stave off withdrawal symptoms temporarily. We returned to le dîner and our usual evening activities, although some decided to go and chat quietly in the rooms (eventually).



Richard Trinick and William Appleton find some lunch.

Sunday dawned and a fine, sunny day was a bonus for our trip to the old flour mill at Maintenay, where we were to learn traditional methods of bread-making and later have the opportunity to make our own rolls. The tour of the old mill was both fascinating and informative, whereas the bread making resembled a scene from the Generation Game. Surprisingly, the enthusiasm that went into the making the rolls was not evident in the eating of them twenty minutes afterwards, although rumours that they were later sold as ashtrays at the local craft shop are wholly untrue.

After lunch, we proceeded to Montreuil, a picturesque and historic walled town, very popular with the English and containing some delightful buildings. This was the place for our Town Trail, and in small groups, accompanied by staff or Sixth Form, the younger members set off in search of answers to the questions on the sheets. We returned to an excellent meal of home-made hamburgers and chips, the perfect end to a pleasant day out in the sunshine.



William Hulmes Students lose the plot!

Our last full day began with a visit to one of the potteries at Desvres, where a factory visit, which allowed us to see articles being hand-painted, was followed by a chance to buy a souvenir to take home from the shop. Pupils queued up for minutes to purchase drinks from the carefully hidden (but not carefully enough) vending machine – they were obviously missing school.

After a packed lunch en route (where else ?), we moved on to Les chocolats de Beussent, a small but charming chocolate factory, producing hand-made chocolates for national and international consumption. We were able to help in the latter category, but not before we had been given an interesting and amusing explanation of how chocolate is made. Apparently, chocolate is good for you, according to the owner. We were offered a sample of the chocolates, although several members of the party thought it best to buy their own samples, just to make sure they liked them.

On the way back, we stopped off briefly at the Commonwealth war memorial at Etaples, before having a quick look round the Musée de la Mer, Etaples being an important local fishing town.

The following day, after our usual breakfast, we set off for the coast and home, with time enough on the way for an hour's shopping at Cité Europe in Calais. A smooth journey home, punctuated by the prize-giving and informal 'cabaret' meant that we arrived within ten minutes of the stated time.

My thanks to Mrs. Ballantyne, Dr. Lambert and Mr. Myers for their help and support and to all the pupils for their good humour.

A.C.C.

FRENCH TRIP 2000

20th October

During the early hours of the morning, the coach left the school gates.

Although the trip of about 5 hours, to the Eurotunnel, was rather boring, the teachers saved the day by playing music – French music, I mean.

At the Eurotunnel terminal, the coach drove straight on to the train, after passing through immigration. The train journey was amazingly quick – I looked out of the window to discover the first sight of France – the utterly amazing concrete motorway bridges.

While travelling to the Sables d'Or hotel, a minute didn't pass without Mr. Crane telling us yet another mind-blowing fact about France.

Upon arrival at the Sables d'Or, we settled into our rooms and ate a very tasty dinner. To end the day, everyone had a peaceful, quiet night – at least it would have been, that is, in an ideal world.

21st October

The morning came fresh and early with Mr. Myers waking us up.

After a healthy breakfast of cereal and toast, we returned to our rooms, tidied them and prepared everything needed for the day.

Our driver, John, drove us to our first destination – Le Touquet market. In groups of twos and threes, we were let loose to spend money for a whole hour and a half.

Our next destination was Azincourt (Agincourt). There we toured an interesting museum and walked around the battlefield. Shortly after, we were allowed to try on some period armour. This was all gift-wrapped with an English guide.

Since the whole party had been so brilliantly behaved, the teachers decided to take the whole group bowling. After the fun, we returned to the hotel to relax and eat our meal, consisting of fish and chips, and strawberry mousse for dessert.

That night, we didn't get to sleep until about 1.30 am. I think that may have been because of a pillow fight ?!?!?!

22nd October

In the morning, the coach headed to a mill where bread was made. First of all, we had a tour of the old mill and later had the chance to bake our own bread. That afternoon, we went to Montreuil, a walled town, where we did a town trail.

23rd October

As usual, we were up early, ready to leave the hotel by 9.30 am.

After a fairly long drive, the coach arrived at the pottery. A tour guide took us around the factory, showing us what type of clay and how long to fire the pottery etc.

In the afternoon, we visited the small chocolate factory at Beussent, where we were shown how chocolate is made, using traditional methods. At the end of the tour, we had the chance to purchase chocolate – as much as you could afford !!!

24th October

We woke up as usual to find that the adventure had nearly ended.

That morning, the coach drove to Calais. There the whole group had the chance to shop to their hearts' content for about two hours. It was really amazing – some people came back to the coach with trolleyfuls of goodies!

We later drove to the Eurotunnel and boarded a train.

The journey back to Manchester: what fun. Prizes were handed out after a sort of talent contest took place.

That night, the coach returned to school at about 9.10 pm. The epic journey had ended. We would like to give a big 'thank you' to our driver, John and to all the staff involved.

Jonathan Benson and James Lovell (8ACC)



L to R: Jonathan Benson, James Lovell, Martin Keilich, Benjamin Deghan, James Murphy.

Spanish Department Visit to Barcelona 1-7 April 2001

(Mr Bull writes: I am indebted to three people who volunteered to write a piece on this ground-breaking trip — Mr Crane, Alison Hardy and Gurpreet Singh. They offer contrasting views of the trip from the different perspectives)

Mr Crane

Sunday afternoon, 2.45, and the buzz of excited and slightly apprehensive voices filled the air of an unexpectedly fine and mild Spring day. So this was it- we were really going to Barcelona! Barcelona – a city oozing with culture and history – Gaudí, Miró, Picasso – or maybe Rivaldo, Mercury and Manuel. A 27 hour coach journey stood between us and our destination, but plenty to see on the way.

We left School on time, courtesy of our driver, Brian (No, not **that** one) and, after a slight detour northwards (!), soon found ourselves crossing the Thames via Dartford Bridge en route for the Channel Tunnel. As Brian was our feeder driver, we stopped briefly near Folkestone to pick up our drivers for the rest of the trip, before we boarded the Shuttle. Our two new drivers, Brian (the Terrible) and Peter cheerfully greeted us with the news that due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak, we would not be able to take sandwiches containing meat or dairy products through the Tunnel. You have never seen sandwiches consumed so quickly! Having safely arrived on the other side, we watched a video before ' lights out ' was finally declared.

Monday dawned on us (as did the realisation that we had no sandwiches) and we stopped off for le petit déjeuner just south of Lyon. Refreshed and ready for the final third of the journey, we slowly began to focus on the week ahead. The weather changed noticeably, as it so often does south of Lyon, and the Mediterranean sun, bathing the extensive landscape of Languedoc-Roussillon, was a real tonic at the end of a long journey. Suddenly out of nowhere, the snow-capped Pyrenees loomed up on our right, announcing our imminent arrival in Spain and Catalunya.

We sailed through customs with barely a second glance and, as the signs changed from French to Spanish/Catalan, questions beginning with 'I wonder...' and ending with ...like?' figured prominently in the conversations. We travelled down along the Costa Brava, past names familiar from travel brochures, and soon we were in the suburbs of Barcelona. We successfully found our way to the agreed meeting point, where the host co-ordinator was waiting for us. As the other families were adhering to 'hora española', a short wait ensued while everyone else arrived. However, the warm, friendly reception more than made up for the brief wait and, having made our introductions, we retired to our various apartments for the rest of the evening.

The following day, we re-convened at 8.30, after a breakfast of French toasts and industrial-strength coffee. All seemed happy with their accommodation and ready for the day's events. First, we went to the temple of the Sagrada Familia, a landmark synonymous with modern Barcelona. Gaudí's great-unfinished masterpiece rises up to puncture the uniformity of Barcelona's apartment-lined grid system. Unsurprisingly, we were not the only visitors that day and, having negotiated the many school parties and coach tours, we went inside. The more adventurous (and energetic) found their way to the top of the accessible towers, the entrance to which the staff were strangely unable to locate. Amidst the noise of craftsmen and builders, we were able to marvel at the sheer scale and intricacy of this most sacred and controversial of building sites. Who knows when it will be finished; who knows how long the benefactors will be there.

From the Sagrada Familia, we moved on to another kind of religion – football - and shortly after 12.00 we arrived at the Camp Nou, home of Barcelona F.C. Our entrance ticket provided us with access to the ground, museum and shop. The fact that Liverpool were playing later in the week gave it added interest, as did a brief glimpse of some of the players leaving from the underground car park. We emerged to warm sunshine and enjoyed a leisurely packed lunch in the shadow of the great stadium.

Next on our schedule was a stroll down La Rambla, but before that, time to wander up the Passeig de Gràcia and marvel at the modernistic architecture, and in particular La Pedrera. Within an hour, we were walking down arguably Barcelona's best–known street (La Rambla), where the famous 'human statues' kept us both amused and amazed, as did the purchase of several Barcelona shirts of dubious authenticity. At the end of La Rambla, we arrived at the monument to Columbus, from where we set off to the quayside-shopping complex of Maremágnum. At 6.15, we boarded the coach once again to take us to the Parc Güell, from where we were to have an excellent view over the city. Another Gaudí creation, the park is named after his great benefactor Eusebi Güell and is a fascinating place. A huge mosaic dragon stands just inside the entrance, guarded by two ' gingerbread ' houses with ornate roofs. Leafy palms and dense planting give it a very Mediterranean feel.

What you might call a full day! And, just as we thought that it was over, the drivers, clearly wishing to prolong the day even further, kindly treated us to an unscheduled tour of the city. Fortunately our hosts, being Spanish, were still there when we eventually arrived back.

Wednesday was theme park day and 8.30 found us all once again settled in the coach, with several things crossed in the hope of an early exit from the city. We were reassured to find ourselves on the road to Port Aventura within half an hour of leaving and even more reassured to see the sun. After a 90-minute journey, we arrived at the theme park and, after a slight hiccough regarding taking food into the park, we streamed in (all right, some of us strolled) to take advantage of unlimited access to all the attractions. Whilst the pupils scurried off in search of the craft shops (not), the staff cast caution aside and made straight for a 'white – knuckle' ride on the miniature railway! Shaken but not stirred, we emerged to find that it had suddenly got to lunch–time. Faced with a disappointingly large choice of international cuisine, we reluctantly agreed to sit out in the warm sunshine and enjoy some comida mejicana, washed down with a glass of water.

Then it was photo time and we set off in search of some suspecting or unsuspecting victims. These proved plentiful at the 'Tutuki Splash', where, much to the delight of the spectators, raftloads of people got thoroughly soaked, descending water chutes or simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. In addition, and for a small fee, you could purchase a photograph of the event, gritted teeth and all! The sunny weather helped, of course, but Port Aventura was well organised and safe (with or without the thrills and spills of the roller coaster), and the five different themed areas of the world were all colourful and interesting. At 6 o' clock, we headed back for Barcelona and our host families, and in our case, some real Spanish tortilla.

We awoke next day to the sound of the bells of the Sagrada Familia, and, after our usual desayuno, we boarded the coach for a short ride to the coastal resort of Tossa de Mar. In spite of a rather cloudy day, we enjoyed a brisk walk up to the Vila Vela, offering us splendid views over the sea, and after a 'team photo' at the top, we came down (most people by the conventional route) to the sea–front for lunch, a game of beach football or just a stroll around the town. Shortly after two, we departed Tossa, arriving in Barcelona just after three o' clock. The next three hours were to be spent shopping at the large complex at Plaça de les Glòries Catalans (or something like that), and we set off in search of gourmet delights, electronic entertainment or simply something for Mum. Clearly adept at the Higher Tier role-play situations, Paul Keenlysides purchased a guitar for somewhat less than half the average price in England. All in all, everyone seemed happy with their purchases and we returned to calle Huelva and our host families in good spirits.

As it was our last full day, our own host had made some tapas, which was a very nice gesture, and more than compensated for the goalless and cheerless draw between Liverpool and Barcelona, made interesting only by staff efforts to understand the commentary in Catalan.

It was difficult to believe that we had only been in Barcelona for three full days – we had been made so welcome, it was already starting to feel like home – and as Friday dawned and we looked forward to another brief excursion into the centre to do some last–minute shopping or simply to look around this magnificent city, the desire to return, whether voiced or not, could be felt among the whole group. After some lengthy and emotional farewells to our host families, we caught the Metro to Plaça de Catalunya and the impressive Corte Inglés store, a must for any first-time visitor to Spain. Two hours and one final group photo later, we were on our way back for the last time to Sant Martí, to be met by our coach for the homeward journey.

The journey back to Manchester was suitably uneventful and, following the usual prize-giving ceremony on the coach, we arrived back at School at around 2 p.m. on Saturday 7 April. All our thanks must go to Mr. Bull (ably supported by Señorita Reyero) for his excellent organisation of this initial 'homestay' type of visit, which is definitely worth repeating. ¡Muchas gracias!

Mr A. C. Crane



Alison Hardy

The 25 members of the trip ranged from Year 8 to 6th form.

We stayed in houses of Spanish families in San Martí, a suburb near the centre of Barcelona, so we had to speak Spanish. ¡Viva España!

Sunday 1 April

We left school at 2:45pm and the journey was long and noisy. We eventually arrived at Folkestone at 10:30pm where our Manchester driver left us and our new drivers, Brian and Peter, joined us. Going through the Channel Tunnel was to some quite exciting because they'd never been through it before. We arrived in Calais late at night and then continued travelling through the French night. Mr Bull tried to keep us awake with his videos but.....zzzzzzz

Monday 2 April

After another long day travelling, we finally arrived in Barcelona at 6:30pm, As the families we were staying with had been told to meet us at 7:30pm we had an hour to spare so we went to the local park to stretch our legs after spending too long on the cramped coach. We were all within walking distance of each other in San Martí and some of us were staying with families in the same block of flats.

Tuesday 3 April

We were woken at 8:00am ready for an early start. First stop the Sagrada Familia, the Barcelona Cathedral, which is still under construction, scheduled to be finished about 2050. We then whizzed across to Camp Nou which to non-football fanatics is the enormous Barcelona football stadium; Club Barcelona also has a museo del fútbol where we ate our packed lunches (provided each day by our host families) in the sunshine. Then we headed back for the centre of Barcelona and took a walk down Las Ramblas to the marina where there is a massive shopping centre called Maremágnum.

Las Ramblas is Barcelona's famous boulevard, very popular with tourists, which rates as one of the most entertaining landscapes in the world because it is filled with living statues, street entertainers, bird sellers and market traders.

Wednesday 4 April

This day was a particular favourite because we went to Port Aventura theme park. We experienced the water ride to start off with and got soaked but soon dried in the warm sunshine and went on as many rides as possible, all of which were either hair-raising, estupendo or over-too-soon but we didn't go on the biggest rollercoaster because the queue was too long. After an exhausting day we headed back for San Martí in the early evening.

Thursday 5 April

On our final full day in Spain we headed for the Costa Brava, "stormy coast", to Tossa del Mar. Mr. Bull had planned to spend the day on the beach, in his shorts and shades, but it was a particularly dull and breezy day, very like the ones we get in Manchester, so only one person ventured into the sea. Instead of sitting on the beach we climbed a hillock to a part-ruined castle and went to explore the delights of Tossa de Mar, and jumped back on the coach to Barcelona to go shopping at an enormous shopping centre, then it was back to San Martí, for the last evening with our families.

Friday 6 April

We loaded our bags and luggage on the coach and headed for the centre of Barcelona, on the Metro system, to the Corte Inglés Catalunya to do some last minute shopping. Was this just so that Mr. Bull could get the coffee machine that he'd been pricing up twice over in every shopping centre in Barcelona, or so it seemed? We hit the road at 2:30pm. After a long sleepless night, we finally arrived at Calais at 10pm several minutes early, which meant we could get the earlier Eurostar train than originally planned. Going back across the channel most people stayed on the coach as we were all too tired and we had got ourselves comfy in our seats

Saturday 7 April

At 10:00am, we stopped for breakfast just south of London then it was back on the coach. We had made such good time, we had to phone at 12:00pm to say we would be back at school at 2:00pm instead of the original time stated of 4:00pm. We arrived back tired but happy, I would like to thank on behalf of us all Mr Bull, Señorita Reyero Cascallana, Mr Crane and Mrs Worthington for making this brilliant trip happen. THANK YOU!

Alison Hardy (9D)

Gurpreet Singh

I had never been to Spain before nor had I been on a school trip and so when the opportunity to visit Barcelona arose I seized upon it without hesitation.

The journey by coach was long and tiring. Despite having one of those inflatable neck pillows, I had unfortunately chosen a seat which did not recline and so sleep was difficult. However after enduring twenty sweaty hours we finally reached our destination.

We stayed with families situated in San Marti, a suburb of Barcelona. the family that two friends and I stayed with was very nice. We played cards throughout the night. At one point I had to dance the flamenco as some kind of forfeit. Unfortunately this was done badly, but we all had a good laugh (mainly at my expense).

The sightseeing trip began on a beautiful morning. We saw many wonderful and marvellous buildings designed by the great architect Antonio Gaudi. We stopped to explore one of his most famous projects, left unfinished (he was killed by a motorcyclist and mistaken for a tramp) La Sagrada Familia, a temple complex with towers ascending high above the ground. It took me a long time to climb one of the towers but the view from up there was magnificent.

We spent the next whole day at Port Aventura, a a theme park owned by Universal Studios although it was almost similar in style to another world-renowned theme park minus the mouse. I went on most of the rides and they were nothing that I hadn't experienced before although I did underestimate the power of the water slide! Overall everyone had a great time except the unfortunate one who lost his wallet while inverted on a roller coaster.

On the morning of the third day, we went to a beach resort called Tossa de Mar (please spare the jokes!). It was quite a nice place. We climbed the ramp up towards this beautiful castle and afterwards explored the little shops from which we brought our souvenirs and trinkets.

The last day was reserved for last minute shopping in the city centre, however I had bought all that I needed and so I decided to go along with a few others to the Picasso Museum. We only saw a few of the wonderful works by the artist as time was short but nonetheless it was a worthwhile visit.

Overall the trip was a success. Despite the little time we had it was an experience which reaped many benefits both in terms of recreation and education and as the Spaniards would say ¡Lo pasé bomba!

Gurpreet Singh LCSL

Trip to the Mosel Valley, Germany

Thursday 28th June – Monday 2nd July

Nineteen pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 set off very early on the Thursday morning for Germany's Mosel Valley, accompanied by three members of staff – Mr Fisher, Mr Gracey and Dr Lambert. The journey, which included a ferry trip from Dover to Calais, took a gruelling seventeen hours but was well worth it. We arrived in time for dinner at the youth hostel in Cochem, a lovely town with wonderful views which had many of us taking lots of pictures.

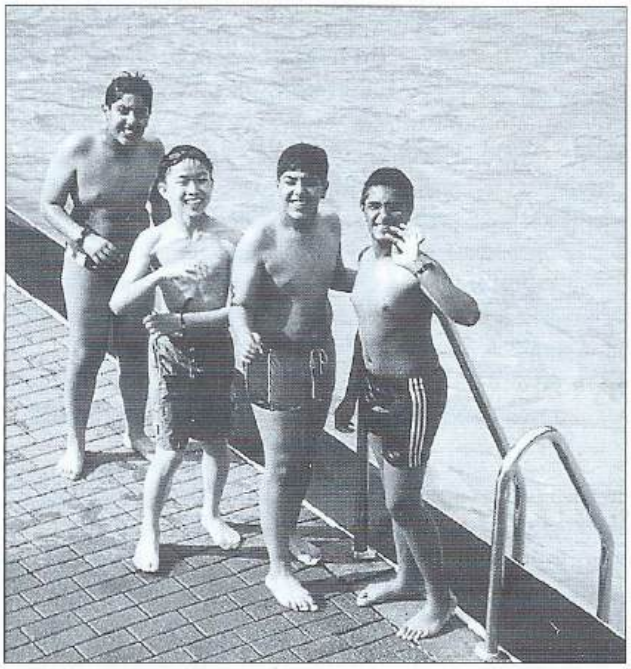


L to R: Lindsay Rushforth, Wakas Ali, Suzanne Ray, Lizzy Boyle, Philip Murray, Syed Rahman.

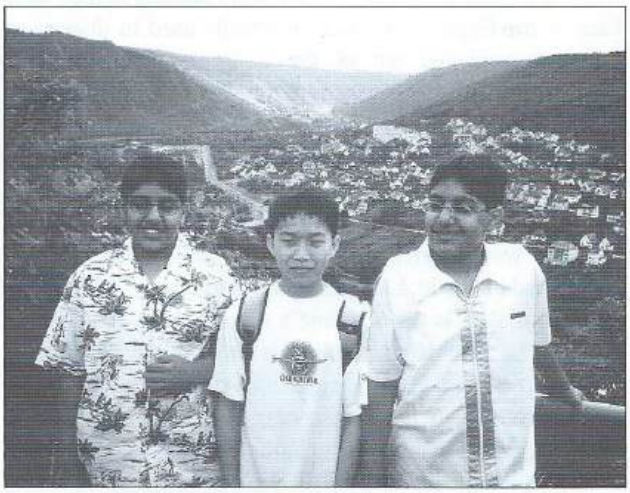


Mr. Gracey and Mr. Fisher descending from the Pinnerkreuz.

During our five day stay we did many things, including visiting the historic Roman town of Trier, as well as the town of Koblenz, where the rivers Rhine and Mosel meet; taking a chairlift ride up from the valley to the Pinnerkreuz (a big, illuminated cross in the hills where you can get the best views of Cochem); going on a tour of a medieval castle, Burg Eltz, swimming at leisure complex with wave pool and huge slides; taking a ferry ride on the Mosel (the only time it poured with rain in an otherwise sunny few days!); and, of course going to Phantasialand was great. I had an excellent time. My friends and I went on several rides and I particularly liked the Castle Ride. I also really enjoyed going to Koblenz, to see where the two rivers meet and for the shopping.



Ali and Hassan Khalid, Yee Quan Ho and Zohaib Iqbal at the leisure complex in Cochen.



Ali and Hassan Khalid, Yee Quan Ho pictured in front of town of Cochem on the Mosel.

There was so much to do and see, most of which is indescribable. You have to go to Cochem, Trier and Koblenz yourself to see what I mean. It was a great experience and I wish I could relive the time we spent there. When I'm older, I'd love to live in Germany.

I wish to thank all the members of staff who accompanied us, and special thanks to Dr Lambert, who organised a great trip for us. Germany is one beautiful place!

Ehi Okpe (10H)

Alps Field Course - Interlaken March 2001

The annual geology and geography field course to the Alps was this year based in Switzerland. Forty 14 – 18 year olds left school on 27th April to catch the evening ferry to France. After a long journey through the night we arrived in Interlaken for breakfast. Though the bedrooms were basic the food was good and the hotel was close to Interlaken with a view of the Eiger. Unfortunately the low cloud reduced visibility for most of the week. The first day was spent looking at the landscape of the Louterbrunnen valley. It was not difficult to believe that the steep slopes where formed by glaciers – it snowed all day. The waterfalls are spectacular; following several hundred metres and also forming deep, spiralling caverns inside the mountains. Unfortunately some of the walks had to be cancelled due to the heavy snowfalls. However, the contrasting settlements of Berne and Thum were studied and the spectacular glaciers of Grindeweld viewed from a distance – along with a series of avalanches.

The highlight of the visit was a journey by train to the highest railway station in Europe – on top of the Jungfraujoch mountain. The train was boarded at Grindelweld – we even had our own 'William Hulme's carriage'. The steep slope in front of the Eiger North Face led to the Kleider Sceidigg station. After a change of train, the journey enters a tunnel inside the Eiger. The north face of the Eiger is a famous rock climb and many climbers have been rescued from the Eiger Window. This is a railway station inside the mountain from which it is possible to visit the windows actually in the North Face of the Eiger. They were originally used to dispose of the rock tunnelled out of the Eiger, now they offer a frightening view of the near vertical North Face. On top of the mountain the pupils enjoyed sliding around inside a glacier and going outside in freezing temperatures at the weather station. Unfortunately the only view was on the postcards as heavy snow fell all day. So much snow fell that the train was diverted due to the risk of avalanche. Forty pupils ended up in Lauterbrunnen with the coach still in Grindelweld! It is the one time a mobile phone did come in useful. The final night involved a visit to the spectacular artificial bobsleigh run. Some people decided not to bother as it involved a very quick descent in a plastic bobsleigh. The most amazing descent was by Varun Srinidhi who got off at the bottom looking slightly pale and politely enquired which handle was the brake!

The final day included a cruise down Lake Brienz though the pupils caught up on sleep rather than admiring the scenery.

The party arrived back at school by lunch on the Tuesday giving the pupils a chance to return home and catch up on some lost sleep. Many thanks to Mr Myers, Miss Matthews and Miss Edwards for giving up their holiday to accompany the trip and being able to keep awake until the early hours when the chatter finally died down.

H N Veevers

Geography Field Visits 2000-01

As well as the spectacular earlier visit to the French Alps, there have been many day and residential visits during the year.

Year 8 pupils are always entertained by their visit to see dairy production at Stockley Farm, while the rural/urban fringe area of Handforth Dean is the study area for the GCSE coursework and has led to many high grades at GCSE.

Lower and upper sixth have been to Haweswater in the Lake District to see the spectacular glacial erosional features near the High Street and also the depositional landforms close to Harris House in Wensleydale. The outdoor centre is always a popular destination with excellent catering from the Cart House nearby.

Other visits by the sixth form have been to the soils of the Delamere Forest, Salford Quays and Hulme areas of Manchester to see the dramatic progress made in inner city redevelopment.

These places are all such good examples for AS and A2 level courses so close to Manchester.

The usual visit to the Goyt Valley was replaced by a more local visit for stream studies to the Chorlton Brook but it still shows the required techniques required for the enquiry approach for many geography courses.

For the real enthusiasts, the year ended with a week long cycle camp to the islands of Loll and Tiree in the Hebrides where staff and eleven pupils ride in amongst the most traditional and therefore topical area of agriculture in the country which has happily unaffected by foot and mouth disease. The mixture of long silver sand beaches with spectacular sunsets within the quiet agricultural communities is a stark contrast to the harder Manchester environment..... And this year the weather was sunny and bright for most of the time.

JH Hardy

POLITICS TRIP TO WESTMINSTER

In April 2001 at the start of the General Election campaign, 15 Politics students and two teachers were guests of Mr Graham Brady, the Conservative MP for Altrincham & Sale. Mr Brady had already been to School, as one of our guest speakers at the Founders' Day Dinner in March.

Mr Brady was currently serving on the Shadow Front bench as a spokesman on Education and gave us a fascinating tour of the House of Commons and the Lords. He was able to get everyone a ticket for one of the very last Prime Minister Questions time between Tony Blair & William Hague. We were also able to meet Nick Brown, the beleaguered minister in charge of the Foot and Mouth crisis, ex-chancellor Norman Lamont and a recent Old Hulmeian, Ivan Lewis, who took 3 of our party who were his constituents to lunch on the terrace! A brilliant day and fantastic insight into the real world of politics.

M P Jones



The Politics group meets Mr. Nick Brown.
(Photo Mr. M.P. Jones)



Mr. Graham Brady and Mr. M. P. Jones exchange pleasantries.
(Photo Mr. P. R. Hewston)

Politics Lectures

Teachers and students of Politics, attended the following lectures at either Manchester or Salford Universities, organised by the local Politics Association:

The Conservative Party – Philip Cowley
The 2001 General Election – Prof David Denver
Northern Ireland – Jon Tonge
Reform of Parliament – Prof Philip Norton

As usual, all the lectures proved an excellent source of academic research and a fascinating insight into Politics.



The candidates square up.

MOCK ELECTION 2001

The school took part in its third mock election organised by the BBC Newsround and the Hansard Society, on Thursday 24th May. All the candidates had to be nominated, hold hustings and put up campaign posters. The weeklong campaign was keenly contested and voting took place in the gymnasium. The results were as follows:-

Susan Barber – Conservative	**121** (49.6%)
Vanessa Bacchas – Labour	**59** (24.2%)
Richard Wall – Liberal Democrats	**33** (13.5%)
Simon Khoshneviszadeh – Independent	**21** (8.6%)
TOTAL VOTES	**234**
TURNOUT	**60%**

Susan Barber was duly declared the winner. I was very impressed with the overall conduct of the campaign, the behaviour of all the candidates and the fact that so many pupils turned out to vote. The overall turnout for each year was as follows:-

Year 7	-	68%
Year 8	-	71%
Year 9	-	55%
Year 10	-	52%
Year 12	-	57%

Overall an excellent whole school effort and one which provided an informative insight in a national event. I am very grateful to all the members of my lower sixth Politics group for all their hard work, time and great sense of humour.

M P Jones



Susan Barber casts her vote, as the polling clerk James Murphy (year 8) looks on. (photo Mr. M. P. Jones)



Hustings in the Lecture Theatre.
(Photo Mr. M.P. Jones)

OLD HULMEIANS AS MP'S

The year 2000-01 saw all our Old Hulmeians involved in politics rise to national prominence. We were delighted in September when Michael Lord (1949-1958), the Conservative MP for Ipswich North since 1983, presented the prizes at Speech Day. Mr Lord was at the time Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and was being widely tipped as a would-be successor to Betty Boothroyd in the newspapers. Mr Lord retained his seat in 2001 and was dually awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Ivan Lewis (1980-1984) the Labour MP for Bury South since 1997, not only retained his seat in 2001 but was immediately appointed to be a Junior Minister at the Department for Education and Skills, with specific responsibility for Young People and Learning.

Meanwhile, Andrew Bennett (1950-1957), the Labour MP for Denton and Reddish since 1973 rose to national prominence as a one of the more influential chairman of a select committee (Environment) the new Labour government was trying to "retire" due to his hard hitting criticism of the DOETR. Finally the ex-Conservative M P (1983 – 1992) and Junior Minister, John Lee (1953 – 1960) briefly rose to fame during the election campaign, as being another ex-Tory, who had now declared himself a Liberal Democrat!

M P Jones

THEATRE TRIPS 2000-01

Or

"THE PLAY'S THE THING"

Theatre trips are definitely booming at William Hulme's mainly because of the introduction of Drama and Theatre Studies in the Sixth Form which is proving to be a popular choice at AS/A2 level and this year we were very fortunate to see some high quality shows.

The first trip was to The Royal Exchange to see Ibsen's **Ghosts.** We were very fortunate to see an intelligent and very clear production, which intelligently tackled the problems of doing a realist play in a 'round' setting. The cast was uniformly good with Frances Tomelty playing a very highly-strung Mrs Alving, David Horovitch as 'Family Values', Pastor Manders and Robert Blythe, suitably coarse as Jacob Engstrand. There was good pace and a down-toning of the melodramatic elements, for example, Pastor Manders' cry at the end of Act II about the lack of insurance. The ending was moving and I think the play validated the Exchange's choice of play, which some people might have feared was outdated both in style and thematic content for the new millennium.

There were then two trips to the Lowry which of course is a work of art in itself: a very worthy and clear **Twelfth Night** done by the Oxford Playhouse Company and Preistley's, **An Inspector Calls.** The Royal National Theatre took their now ageing Stephen Daldry production of the latter to the Lowry which was well received by the students who attended. The play, a staple of amateur dramatic societies, was rejuvenated by Daldry in the early 1990s and turned into an expressionist nightmare where the hypocritical selfishness of the upper classes is shown to be based on the exploitation of the deserving poor as the Birlings' mansion on stage is shown to be precariously wedged above a cobbled street. Periodically, a group representing the masses dressed in very drab 1930s depression garb, would come on stage to stare at us, the modern-day equivalent of the Birling family. And the production still worked; it had not dated and still had the power to shock and to question. The set was undoubtedly the star of the show, but this had the beneficial effect, I think, of taking the audience's critical gaze away from the inherent melodrama and Priestley's staginess, focussing their attention instead on the social issues tackled within the play.

In January we were lucky to be able to get tickets to see the RSC's touring production of **The Tempest** at the Macclesfield Leisure Centre. This was a very intelligent production of a notoriously difficult play to stage as it can be seen as an experimental piece of theatre with Shakespeare taking elements from the masque (the equivalent of the new rock'n'roll in Jacobean theatre) as well as from his tried and trusted comic, revenge and tragic repertoires. The set was very plain: just a white backdrop rippled at the front which suggested the sea and the island, but it also showed people being in new territory; being off-balance; unsure of themselves and others. There was also some stunning back projection, most effective during the Juno's masque in Act IV which combined stunningly well with the use of voices and simple percussion to create not only an isle full of noises, but also of haunting beauty. No wonder Prospero was reluctant to leave. I've never seen such a degraded and ill-used Caliban (played by Zubin Varla) before and the image of his brutalised body is one difficult to forget.

Death of a Salesman at the Library Theatre was gripping evening due not only to the inherent power Miller's writing, but also to the ensemble playing of the cast which was of a high standard. The set design was Miller to the letter: 1940s lower middle class and the costumes suitably in period, with Charley and Bernard's standing out in their plus fours and argyll socks. A production stands or falls by the actor playing the protagonist and here David Fielder did not let anyone down: he was Willy Loman, from the drab suit to air of puzzlement to the enthusiasm with which he abetted Happy and Biff in the creation of their life-lies. Michael Begley and Richard Wills-Cotton as Biff and Happy were very effective as the loved sons who could do no wrong and yet do no right either, trapped both in the American Dream and in their father's.

Chekhov's **Three Sisters** is also about family relationships, but Chekhov does not bang the message drum so loudly and allows the audience to respond in their own way to the failure of the sisters' lives. Unlike Miller, he does not tell you what you should think or how you should feel. The production at the Contact Theatre was an exceptional one for a student company. The set mixed realism with the abstract (Gordon Craig still exerts his influence) and the props and costumes were of excellent quality unlike the bare

minimalism I've sometimes seen in student productions. The acting was also of a matching standard and the theatre studies students were fortunate to see such a sensitively acted production of one of their set texts.

The final trip was in May to see Joe Orton's **Loot** at The Royal Exchange. This controversial play was returning to Manchester the home of its original success after initial failure in London. With Derek Griffiths in the role of Inspector Truscott and Gabrielle Drake as Faye, theatre studies students were treated to a fast moving irreverent farce that demonstrated the need for timing for the humour to be effectively brought out. It also demonstrated the sheer physicality of some acting.

Clearly, William Hulme's has feasted on theatre this year. Let's hope that the benefits both inside and outside of the classroom are soon evident.

T.P. Heavisides.

VISIT TO OXFORD 2001

On June 28th Dr Martin, eleven sixth-formers and myself managed to get ourselves aboard the dawn train to Oxford (one of us only just - not mentioning any names, Ateeq).

On arrival even Selene found she could manage the 20-minute walk to our colleges. My group of 7 were booked into Hertford, and Dr Martin's into Corpus.

The afternoon was spent in individual research of colleges and departments. The scientists availed themselves of the excellent opportunities of the Science Open Day, whilst others visited several colleges, with much discussion later as to the impossibility of choosing between such gems.

Dinner in college was an informal affair, and the evening was then free for joining in the evening promenade around Oxford, along with hundreds of students from schools nationwide. In an act of supreme self-sacrifice Dr Martin and I forced ourselves to sit outside a local hostelry, so as to catch sight of the circulating wave every half-hour or so.



L to R: Mark Brighouse, Selene Pang, Nasir Moosa, Ateeq Farooq, Gurpreet Singh, Amna Siddiqui enjoy the delights of Oxford.

The following day was devoted to the formal open day of our respective colleges. This included subject meetings as well as general admissions information. There was a little more time for exploration before catching the (packed) evening train back to Manchester. All are to be congratulated on taking full advantage of the opportunity to get the feel of Oxford, to investigate colleges and departments and to speak to undergraduates and tutors. I should particularly like to thank Dr Martin for all his help - not least in evicting people from the seats he had booked!

J A Worthington

Year 10 & 12 Classics Trip To Chester

When we arrived in Chester we walked along the Roman walls to the amphitheatre, where a dig was taking place - unfortunately not Roman but 17th century, much too modern for us. A more interesting side-track was Mr Stanyer taking us to see carvings in the church for which his grandfather was the master carpenter. Whilst on the walls we got our bearings for later, grateful that we were not being escorted round the city by the Roman centurion who was marching small schoolchildren around in very military fashion.

We had time for a quick drink before embarking on the Deva Experience. There we were crammed into a Roman galley for transportation to Britannia. The representations of Roman life in Britain - bathhouse, shops, inn etc. - were very authentic, including, unfortunately, the smells.

Next we descended into the bowels of the earth to see an archaeological display of all the levels of Chester's life, going back to Medieval, Saxon and Roman times. The different levels were lit by colour-coded lamps to give an impressive insight into archaeology.

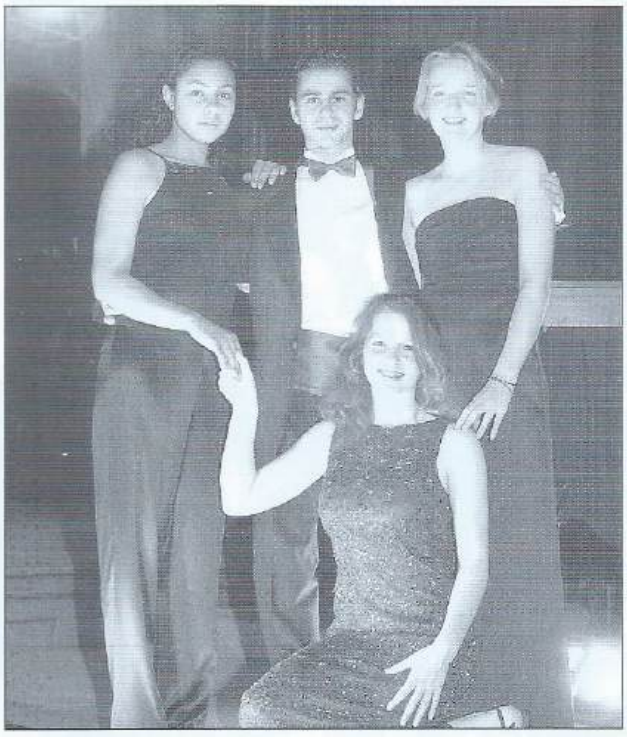
We then moved on to the artefacts room, but the best bit was the hands-on room, obviously aimed at our age range but strangely popular with small kids. We were able to dress up in a Roman soldier's armour, make mosaics, build an arch, and shoot at Celts with a catapult.

After a visit to the Grovesnor Museum we were free to wander and find lunch. The main fun of the drive home was provided by Laura and Ehi's helium balloons and their effect on our voices. We would very much like to thank Mr Gracey for organising the trip and Mr Stanyer for pretending to be Mrs Worthington - the perm nearly had us fooled.

Richard Colebrook, Will Tamkin, Phil Johnston, Seema Ahmed.

Charities Week

Every year, the School Prefects organise fund-raising events for a worthwhile cause which this year was Francis House. Situated in Didsbury, Francis House is a children's hospice which also cares for the relatives of the patient. The hospice possesses a very "homely" and caring atmosphere and all equipment used is specially designed to fit sick children without appearing too clinical. Keeping sick children comfortable is not only difficult but very expensive and after hearing about a spate of burglaries at the hospice, myself and Helia decided to make the hospice this year's charity.



Sixth formers scrub up well in the fashion show.

After reviewing the events of past charities weeks, the prefects decided upon a massive list of fund-raising events.

The most extravagant event was the 6th formers fashion show. With DJ's from local radio station "Galaxy 102" and a colossal amount of lighting and stage effects, this year's show was probably the best the school has seen yet. Natalie Sheldon's choreography was fantastic and the show was most memorable for James Meers's abseil from the ceiling and Daniel Scorah's Ali G act. Special thanks must go to all the stores which kindly provided us with clothing for the event for no charge and their great staff who helped us to attain the correct sizes of clothes.

The reoccurring event of "Soak A Prefect" was again a great success. This year, not only did prefects receive buckets of cold water, but they also got a dowsing from a fire engine courtesy of Daniel Gall's uncle and a little help from the Greater Manchester Fire Brigade.

Involvement of the Junior School was another great source of cash. I have been told that their sponsored swim was a great success. Thank you to all staff involved!

Initially, we thought the idea of a first and second year disco may be a non-starter. How wrong we were. After a spell of unorthodox advertising involving sandwich boards and the loud car stereo of Waqar Ahmed, attention was soon drawn to the event and ticket sales boosted. The disco itself was a great evening with the DJ-ing talents of Rupert Wakefield and the business skills of Daniel Endlar.

Throughout the charity period, Prefects manned a tuck shop situated in the canteen. Food and drink is always a good money spinner as Iram Choudary, Maria Ahmed and Jaya Jairath found out as they sold Indian style food to raise money for the event.



Students and Staff raise money through suffering!



Mr. Veevers leads the walkers in a sponsored walk.



Rob Thompson and Helia Asadi present the cheque.

I would like to thank everyone involved in this years' charities week appeal that I have not mentioned as it was a real team effort which involved a lot of hard work on all parts. The final total was £2,195.95. A modest sum which we were pleased with since we had no "whole school" events or major benefactors as in year's gone by.

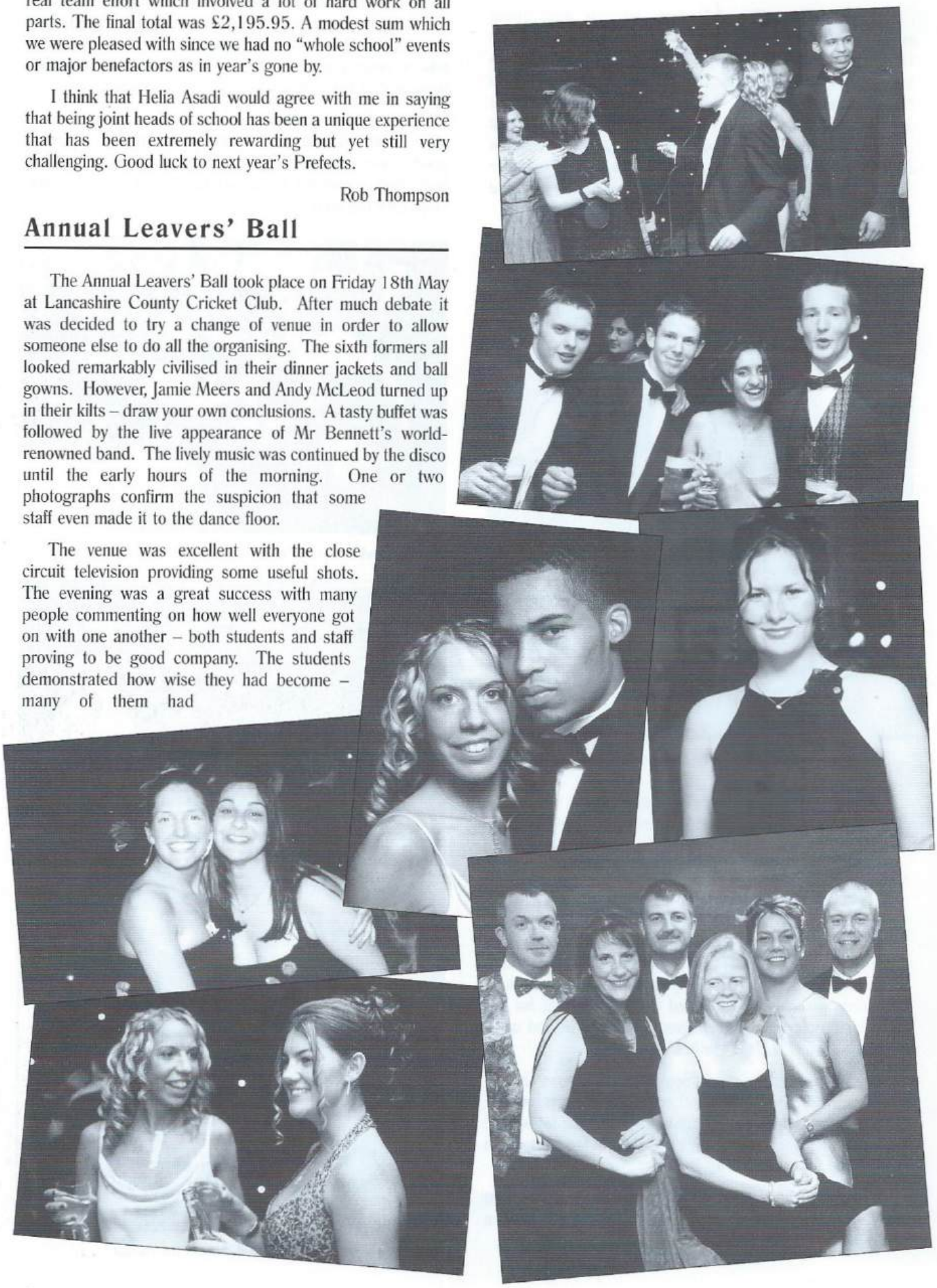
I think that Helia Asadi would agree with me in saying that being joint heads of school has been a unique experience that has been extremely rewarding but yet still very challenging. Good luck to next year's Prefects.

Rob Thompson

Annual Leavers' Ball

The Annual Leavers' Ball took place on Friday 18th May at Lancashire County Cricket Club. After much debate it was decided to try a change of venue in order to allow someone else to do all the organising. The sixth formers all looked remarkably civilised in their dinner jackets and ball gowns. However, Jamie Meers and Andy McLeod turned up in their kilts – draw your own conclusions. A tasty buffet was followed by the live appearance of Mr Bennett's world-renowned band. The lively music was continued by the disco until the early hours of the morning. One or two photographs confirm the suspicion that some staff even made it to the dance floor.

The venue was excellent with the close circuit television providing some useful shots. The evening was a great success with many people commenting on how well everyone got on with one another – both students and staff proving to be good company. The students demonstrated how wise they had become – many of them had booked into the hotel at the cricket club – it was the staff who was left waiting for taxi's to turn up!.



DRAMA

House Play Festival 2000

It has been both an honour and a great joy to attend this year's House Drama Festival as your adjudicator. There was, as always, a lot of hard work put in preparing and rehearsing all six plays, and the overall standard was very pleasing. The three "fourth equal" position placings were certainly not a ploy to avoid declaring fifth and sixth places, but a firm positive statement that these were all good productions of equal worth. There was no weak link in the Festival, and everyone concerned can feel justly pleased.

This festival had one thing only in common with the American Presidential election – it was a very closely fought contest for first place. Byrom's and Gaskell's plays were both so well acted and produced that I had the proverbially unenviable task of differentiating between them. In the end I had to take into account the few but real flaws in the "Devil's Utopia" and award the Trophy to what might be aptly paraphrased as "Fawtless Towers"!

I should like to congratulate Miss Milligan on all her splendid work in co-ordinating the entire Festival and on looking after me so well. The House Masters / Mistresses / Tutors, Tom Jones and Seena Elhami in the Lighting Gantry, Ms Tandon and her make-up team, the backstage crews for all six houses, and no doubt countless others whom I have omitted to mention out of sheer ignorance, have all worked enormously hard to create two evenings of sheer delight. But above all, a big "thank you and congratulations" to all the actors and actresses themselves.

BYROM HOUSE



"Fawlty Towers" by John Clease and Connie Booth

Directed by Sara Sadeghi and Joshua Duckworth, produced by Sharan Suthar.

This production was as close to artistic perfection as anything I have seen in the last twenty-six House Drama festivals. Everyone associated with it deserves the warmest prizes.

"Fawlty Towers" scarcely needs introducing to the general reader. Daniel Gall as Basil, though slightly more dazed than John Cleese (not that this mattered at all – see my opening note to the Heywood review), brought opt brilliantly every nuance demanded by the role-brittle impatience, pile-on sarcasm, crude inadequate attempts to warn Sybil, mock obsequiousness, exasperation, bullying defiance, comical yet vicious physical brutality, and sheer infantile tantrums: all were there, underpinned by a strong sense of split-second timing so essential to comedy. This last indispensable quality was shared by the other characters too, and gave us some wonderful quick-fire exchanges. Highlights were his argument with Hutchinson about the diagram and the abbreviation for "Post Office", his reactions to the possibility that first Hutchinson and then Walt might be hotel inspectors (the latter "sinking-in" slower and even funnier than the former), his struggling to open the wine and nauseated reaction to its taste, his striking Manuel and asphyxiating Hutchinson, and his childish regression to hysteria at the end. All his physical clowning was utterly slick and professional.

Joshua Duckworth as Sybil came across well as the sweet voice of reason who alone can go some way to sorting out some of the problems created by Basil, though she is no angel of course, as the programme note made clear (infuriatingly calm, too lazy to perform menial tasks, filing nothing but her nails and showing Basil up in front of their guests). Joshua wisely avoided exaggerated "drag artistry" in his portrayal of Sybil – we felt we were watching the real Sybil who had perhaps overdosed a little on hormone tablets. He tended to speak rather fast but could still be heard perfectly clearly. Particularly memorable was "her"/his patient explanation to Basil that Hutchinson was not an inspector, like a patient teacher with a pupil finding something slow to understand! Likewise her classic one-liner after Basil has been literally floored by Hutchinson – "Well, you've handled that then have you?"

The chambermaid/ waitress Polly was Amy Diaczuk. Whether deflecting Hutchinson's flirtations criticisms of her serving with a charming "put down" or strategically taking the rap for Basil's insulting "Shut up!" to Hutchinson, she exuded ease of manner and self-confidence as the girl who can look after herself with silly men without provoking a crisis.

Waqar Ahmad as the long-suffering, well meaning but not very bright Manuel dominated the stage and audibly won over the audience from the moment he walked onto the set. His long dialogue with the "straight man" Walt over room and table numbers was sparkling, his natural gift for comedy acting as a foil to Walt's deliberately wooden style.

The two main guests in this episode, Darren Daly and Hutchinson and Marcus Webber as Walt, complemented each other perfectly. Marcus remained the unemotional though sometimes outspoken serious foil to the eccentric members of staff at the hotel, as even-tempered at the end as at the beginning. How Marcus kept a straight face all evening we shall never know! His lovely exchange with Waqar has already been mentioned – his deadpan reaction to

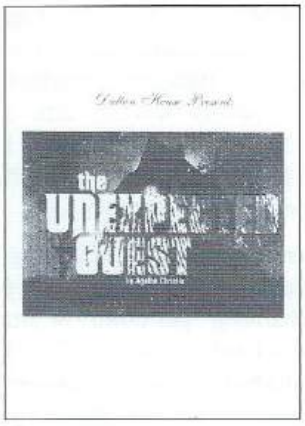
Basil's "You obviously drink a lot" was equally remarkable. Darren on the other hand (Hutchinson), though fussy and pompous from the outset, began as genial and friendly, becoming more and more angry and lacking in self-control as the evening wore on, until, provoked beyond endurance, having been finally almost asphyxiated by Fawlty he loses his rag completely and physically attacks Basil not once but several times. This gradual disintegration was well managed – highlights were the angry high-pitched voice just before Fawlty throttles him, and the highly professional slapstick clowning as he struggles for air.

The supporting roles were well acted too. Mark Brighouse was the major, his military bearing and "gammy leg" appropriate for the part. Mariam Al-Bayati and Samantha John were delightfully coy and well mannered as the two resident elderly ladies Miss Tibbs and Miss Carsby. Aaron Hackett, Mathew Whitehead and Stanley Tso were real troopers, waiting till the end for their indispensable entrance as the real inspectors.

The set was outstandingly presented, with good use of the apron and plenty of flowers, wine, menus, etc to create good authenticity, though the ginger beer and water glasses looked remarkably empty!

In short, a scintillating production which well deserved first place in this competition.

DALTON



"The Unexpected Guest" by Agatha Christie

Directed by Daniel Endlar, produced by Daniel Endlar and Namit Agarwal.

This traditional whodunit with the usual surprise twist at the end (the eponymous guest did it, having assumed the false identity of an earlier murder victim) was presented with appropriate 1940's furnishings, music and costumes, reinforced by Daniel Endlar's witty rhyming prologue which drew further attention to the period setting. This was important for the plot, since the contentious issue of how much Richard Warwick had been drinking when he accidentally killed the little boy in his car could only have remained ambiguous in the days before the police breathalyser.

The two crucial roles were the lady of the house, Laura Warwick, newly widowed by the murder of her husband just before the play begins, and the "unexpected guest", Michael Starkwedder. Natalie Sheldon as Laura was coolly composed and in control, casually telling Michael that she has killed Richard and pretending to be flattered by his attentions when it suited her. She showed good variety of tone, with thoughtful pauses and well-portrayed scorn, particularly when talking about Richard's nurse, but just once lacked clarity of diction; this happened when she was announcing who was living in the house – this long list of suspects must be loud and slow, but wasn't. Matthew Ahern as Michael was appropriately calculating and manipulative, but was too wooden and too fast in his delivery to be always easily followed. His crucial speech towards the end was a case in point – if the audience misses this, it misses the main point of the story, and this climatic utterance beginning "or McGregor" went for nothing; it was simply too off-hand. Matthew moved well on the whole, but again was sometimes too swift in his actions, for example when piecing the bits of paper together to make the anonymous message to plant on Richard's body.

The four other members of the household (and therefore suspects), like Laura had to show their indifference or even hatred towards Richard, and thus their under-reaction to the bloody murder was appropriate. Laura Hanford as Miss Bennett, the housekeeper-cum-secretary, was this able to say without emotion, "No, Laura, he's dead", and in her interview with the inspector she moved well from scorn (towards Richard's mother) to obvious affection for Jan. Ellie Dodd as the unfeeling Mrs Warwick senior was deliberately throwaway and "hoity-toity", and Henry Angell, played by Chris Hanford, slouched with studied casual arrogance, hands in pockets, speaking a little fast but very clearly. Jan, the young pre-adolescent half-brother of the deceased, was delightfully played by Ashley Wood, whose cheeky grin enthusiasm for the sensational aspects of the murder and sheer effervescence, at once sparked off a warm-hearted audience reaction. Ashley's performance was guileless – Jan freely admits to hating Richard and liking Laura because of her collection of guns! Laura's new lover, Rick Wall, had a cameo role in which he showed good blasé laid-back bewilderment. His scene, observed by Michael, is structurally crucial because Michael can then expose to Laura her lie about having committed the murder.

Some delightful comic relief is afforded by the arrival of the two policemen, Sergeant Cadwallader (Alex Rushforth) and Inspector Thomas (Daniel Endlar), a kind of early Welsh prefiguring of Lewis and Morse (the "last Morse episode" was on TV concurrently with this production!). Alex as Cadwallader was amusingly ponderous and slow, showing brilliant use of silence and of timing in his delivery. Daniel as Thomas was the no-nonsense business-like officer dominating the scene where he cross-questions the suspects, speaking loud and clear, and with real intelligence, and putting Cadwallader in his place (cf. Morse and Lewis again) when he pours scorn on his poetry!

All in all, an ambitious and largely successful attempt to recreate a bygone era of the detective story.

FRASER HOUSE



"The Virtuous Burglar" by Dario Fo

Produced and Directed by Gurpreet Singh & Camille Kasler

This hilarious farce dealt with assumed and mistaken identities in the context of sometimes real but sometimes wrongly supposed marital infidelity. A second strand in the plot, even more improbable but again so wittily written and presented that we willingly suspended our disbelief, was the henpecked burglar who's wife kept ringing him up while he was "on the job". There was plenty of scope for sparkling humour here, and it was mostly well exploited.

Alexis Dickson in the role of the Burglar's Wife was outstanding, dominating the stage whenever she was on set. Over the top without ever "over hamming", revelling in her volatile switches of mood, always highly strung but never embarrassingly caricaturesque, Alexis was a sheer delight. Memorable touches were her looking askance at the receiver after the phone was put down with a bang, her additional phrase "just like a spider" (not in the script) to describe herself waiting for her husband's return, her lovely self-conscious handling of the revolver and her witty ad lib to "cover up" the failure of the grandfather clock to chime at the appropriate moment. She relished every second of her performance and so did we.

Sifiso Banda as the Burglar was appropriately bewildered and thrown off his guard, both by his wife's phone calls and by the sight of the revolver. As the script requires, he made us wonder how he had been such a successful burglar hitherto! He sometimes rushed his lines, particularly when threatening with the revolver, and just before he gets the spoons. But overall a good workmanlike performance of a paradoxical role.

Tom Jones was the owner of the flat ("The Man") who returns with his mistress to discover the burglar and is later joined unexpectedly by his own wife! Tom relished the humour of his role and gave an excellent performance, aggressive and sulky with Camille by turns, frustrated at her carping, ruefully self-conscious in his attempts to get his "bit on the side" into the bedroom, strong-willed and dominating with the burglar when they are alone together without the ladies and falling very gracefully off the settee! Tom has developed a great deal in acting skills over the past year and was a joy to watch.

"The Woman" was Camille Kasler. She came over well as the "other woman" half regretting her own embroilment and baring her anxious soul to her soulless lover. She delivered her crucial "quiz show" speech with interest and clarity and was splendid when she gives Tom the revolver, exploiting the situation to the full.

Johanna Leung overcame her natural softness of voice reasonably well as Anna, "The Man's" real wife. Even her first line, delivered from the wings, was clear, though she did occasionally lose volume later. She managed competently her suspicion and anger towards her husband, and fluttered flusteringly in her scene with her own lover Antonio. She reacted strongly to her rival's cattiness and her sweet smile at the end was unforgettable!

One of the great strengths of this production was the comic interaction between the characters. A highlight here was the ensemble scene towards the end with Tom, Alexis, Sifiso and Johanna with all the explanations about marriage, divorce and bigamy.

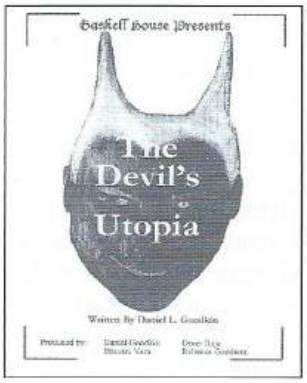
Antonia, Anna's lover, was played for full comic effect with a thick, mock-italian capo mafia accent by Adam Vittoz, one of the most memorable cameo roles of the festival. Gurpreet Singh as the Show Host punctuated the action briefly, not only with an entertainingly delivered introduction and concluding line à la Tom and Jerry – "That's all, folk's" – but also with a mock "cliff-hanger" type commentary at the climatic moment when Tom threatens Sifiso with the revolver. This was an imaginative and successful production touch.

The set was carefully prepared with the usual correct period furnishings which we have come to associate with Fraser over the decades, and the enterprisingly structured grandfather clock, with ample room to hide in at the front, deserves special commendation. Wisely, no attempt was made to include a real pendulum!.

This production was coherent and polished a credit to all concerned. It was "pipped at the post" for the first two places only by a couple of Houses even more flawless overall; in some years it would certainly have gained first or second place.



GASKELL HOUSE PLAY



"The Devil's Utopia" by Daniel L Goodkin

Produced by Daniel Goodkin, Omer Raja, Bhavini Vara and Rebecca Goodwin

This was an outstanding production which came very near to winning the Trophy and in many years would certainly have done so. Its cosmic theme was the Devil's attempt to persuade a modern young woman to be his partner in producing an heir to overthrow "religion, government and order" in the world and usher in a new age of Satan-controlled anarchy. Young Christina however, after a struggle, has the strength to resist thus saving herself, the world, and even Satan himself. Its Christian setting was not exclusive or triumphalistic, but a useful peg on which to hang universal themes to which adherents of other faiths could easily subscribe; indeed the Church condemns as heretical the idea that the Devil himself may be saved at the end of time (Origen's "apocatastosis" theory). Though the quality and authorship of the script do not form part of the adjudication, high praise must be given to Daniel Goodkin for writing his own play as well as producing it and playing the leading role, and also for the high dramatic and thematic quality of the script itself. A magnificent achievement.

Daniel Goodkin as the Devil had good commanding presence, clarity and powerful volume without shouting, variety of tone and sharp intelligence. He knew instinctively when to emphasise his words with slow, ponderous delivery ("He knows that") and when to be more colloquial, though he never spoke too fast. Like Goethe's Mephisto, he portrayed well the occasional humour, genial irony and mock innocence demanded by the role, but in the scenes where he verbally locks horns with the Archangel Gabriel he equally generated the feeling that he was a force to be reckoned with - a Devil to be taken very very seriously. His scene where he tries to persuade Christina to yield brought out his cleverness; instead of caricaturesque wheedling or patronising temptation, he deployed plausible but of course totally specious and blasphemous arguments in a mock reasonable tone which precisely suited the scene. But of course the dirty trick of showing her the murder of her parents showed him in his true colours. Daniel's biggest challenge as an actor came in his "repentance" scene – he seemed almost more baffled than sincere, a slight blemish on an otherwise brilliant performance. But the Epilogue redressed this.

The Angel Gabriel was commandingly played by Owen Edwards. Like Daniel, he had excellent resonant diction, a strong authoritative style and clear, slow and weighty delivery which never became monotonous. The scene towards the end where he turns the tables on the Devil was a highlight. But why did he have to walk up and down in his first scene? – it seemed almost like a sign of insecurity.

Nicola Endlar as the marked down victim Christina came across superbly as the troubled, bewildered and (because of her step-mother's treachery) totally unloved girl struggling to be good. Her hysterical nightmare when she first appears was compelling, but she was equally convincing in her scene of teenage dejection that no-one was coming to their New Year party, and in her determined rejection of the Devil's spurious arguments, though she did not show quite enough real inward struggle here. Importantly, her agreeing to become the Devil's bride before her later rejection of him was clearly an emotional reaction to his offer of her seeing her murdered parents again –Nicola conveyed this well. There was never any wholehearted consent to evil.

Shelley Turnberg as the wicked step-mother in league with the Devil but pretending to sympathise with Christina had the difficult task of slowly showing herself in her true colours. She achieved this well; her early give-away response "He did?" to Christina's information that the man in her dreams is coming for her alerted the audience but not Christina, a real tour de force and slowly revealing her true loyalties in the New Year's Eve scene was well managed. Unfortunately however her murder of Sister McKinley was rushed and went for nothing.

The part of Sister McKinley herself was played by Nneka Opara. Nneka carried a good sense of urgency in her voice, but was slightly indistinct. But of course the script demands that she lacks the power and authority of Gabriel, so her interpretation was sound and appropriate.

A crucial scene is the tableau of her parents' murder by the burglar which the Devil shows to Christina. Alexis Race (the Mother), Chris Booker (the father) and Omer Raja (the Burglar) were all clear and distinct in their delivery, but unfortunately the actions, particularly the dropping of the sherry glass and the burglar's panic reaction to commit the double murder, were rushed and not clear to the audience. Regrettably, the choice of very subdued lighting for this scene, potentially imaginative and in theory appropriate, made it difficult to see or make out precisely what was going on. The failure of the revolver to go off obviously didn't help either. The set, properties and effects for this production were otherwise all first-rate.

The opening procession with crosses and dark lamps, the pyrotechnics mercifully kept well within the bounds required by Health and Safety regulations, the mystical liturgical sound, and the eerie red light at the end were all vivid and well-executed production touches. In this area the contribution of the Monks, Devils and Followers was crucial, both in the Litany at the end of Scene 1 where the Devil is relegated to Hell and in the Nicola Wedding Scene. These stalwart troopers were Hannah Hassan, Arfeen Aslam, Nkosi Inniss, Prya Boodhoo, Khalid Mir, Tawseef Khan and Minesh Vara.

This was an epic depiction of an equally epic theme, hugely successful and with only minor blemishes, which however had to be the deciding factor in the award of the trophy to a rival House in so closely contested a competition for first place.

A brief footnote on the Epilogue. This is of course an only slightly altered version of Prospero's Epilogue in Shakespeare's "The Tempest", as the programme acknowledges. Prospero has used magic arts to lure his archenemy to his island in order to wreak cruel vengeance on him – Prospero's blood lust thus makes him in a sense the Devil's accomplice. At the end however he repents of this desire for vengeance, forgives his enemy and moves onto the side of the angels; he then breaks his magic wand, drowns his book of spells, and renounces his power, just as the Devil does at the end of Daniel Goodkin's play.

Following the Shakespearian convention, the Epilogue also serves as an invitation to the audience to "show its appreciation in the usual manner" by applauding, thus neatly rounding off the play.

Heywood



"The Royle Family"
by Caroline Aherne & Craig Cash

Directed by Vanessa Bacchas & Jennifer Street

It must be made clear at the outset that the adjudication of this play, and of "Fawlty Towers", cannot depend on how faithful it is to the popular interpretation of this series on TV. For example, the angling of the settee and chairs to the Royle's TV was a mirror image of that on our own sets on Mondays – so what! Even when it comes to the characterisation, Alexis Oxberry as Denise was more strident and less "smiley" than Caroline Aherne and John Bracchi as Jim lacked the larger-than-life twinkle in the eye that we associate with Ricky Tomlinson. But these differences are not criticisms, any more that none would criticise John Gielgud's Hamlet for being different from Olivier's. What matters is the interpretation of the script, where alternative expression may or may not be valid.

The main point is that the plot of "The Royle Family" is virtually non-existent and the interest lies in the inter-action of the characters as they sit round their telly talking about their own daily lives and any thoughts triggered off by the programmes. Thus characterisation and expressive delivery are crucial. The triumph of the Heywood production was that the personalities did emerge well and the deadpan comedy was well sustained; its flaw, which priced it out of the market for a high placing, was its persistent low volume. The characters simply spoke too softly for too much of the time and the placing of the whole set so far upstage didn't help.

John Bracchi as the pivotal Jim had a good "towny" accent and his disaffection about life in general was clearly shown!! His appearance was excellent, from the realistic scruffy beard to the vest, which he appropriately tugged at intervals like Onslow in "Keeping up Appearances". But unfortunately he was often inaudible because he put his left forearm between him and the audience with his hand masking his mouth, and talked across the set, instead of talking into the audience. Also his expression was too undifferentiated, so that his grumblings became a monotonous "moan". He was just too placed for too long.

Andrea Reah was Barbara, Jim's wife. She portrayed Barbara's gormlessness well, but her accent was far too standard English for the part, and she was so softly spoken as to be almost inaudible even form halfway down the Hall. This was really the wrong part for Andrea.

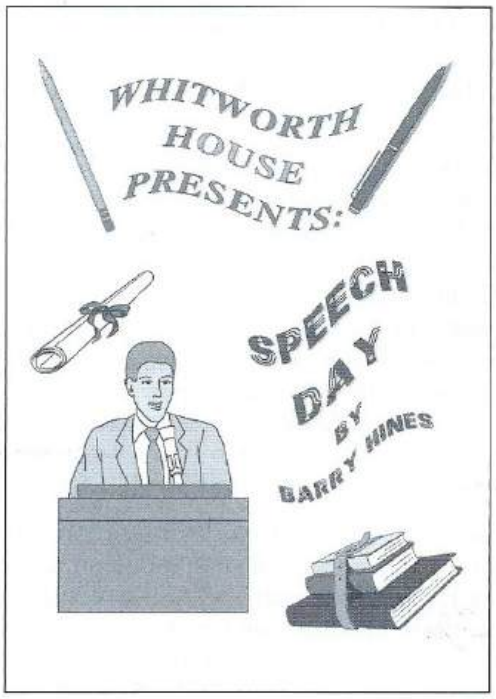
Alexis Oxberry was excellent in the part of Denise. She was always audible and "in the part", running the whole range of emotions required by the role – half-soaked dreaminess, anger with Dave, soppy sentimentality about Anthony and his girlfriend, and mindlessly repetitious in her three rising pleadings to her husband – "Da-a-ave!" – and her frequent assertions that she needs the loo without acting on them! A delight.

Stephen Pearce as Dave was suitably wooden and blasé for most of the time but became convincingly worked up when nagged about removing his jacket. But again it was difficult always to hear him.

Anthony, the long suffering teenage son just returned form an evening out with his up-market girl friend from Altrincham, was played by Peter Sunderland. He looked the part, complete with baseball cap, but because we couldn't hear everything he said, a lot of his talk about his "Exit" band, including his joke about choosing the name ""Exit" so that they will have their name in lights everywhere they go, went for nothing. But he stood up well to the teasing!

The "family" interacted best when they were all joining in something simultaneously, such as the arrival of Anthony from when Denise and Dave see him through the curtains, and the whole "chocolate biscuit" sequence from the taking of preferences through to the singing of the TV advertisements, which captured the lovely mellow family atmosphere when they are all in harmony. The use of pauses was excellent, deliberate and successful! The mindless gawping at the screen by members of the family not involved in conversation was good, except that some soft background noise from the set itself would have added a touch of realism.

An ambitious and mostly successful attempt to make something out of nothing, which is what "The Royle Family" is about.



"Speech Day" by Barry Hines

Produced and directed by Kathryn Tang, Matthew Booth and Roy Chohan

This witty portrayal of a pretentious school Speech Day at an obviously modestly successful academic institution (one Cambridge place in the history of the school!), seen through the eyes of a group of understandably disaffected pupils, gave plenty of scope for humour and social commentary, which were well exploited. The set depicted in turn a greenhouse, design studio, hall and classroom, well exploited. The set depicted in turn a greenhouse, design studio, hall and classroom, well-managed by efficient scene shifting and good deployment of furnishings (the CDT laboratory was particularly impressive), though some background music during the scene changes might have enhanced the continuity (the music for the procession of dignitaries was very effective). The fleshy plant on the prize giving table was probably better than the cactus required by the script – it was more clearly visible from the audience and just as effective for Roxanne's witty one-liner to make its full impact!

The three teenagers at the centre of the action – Ronnie, Anita and Natalie – were well differentiated, but their tendency to gabble and sometimes to speak too softly made it difficult always to hear them. Ronnie (John Fletcher) delivered with appropriate cheek his unabashed thoughts on the natural obsessions of a "growing boy", especially in the Miss Sanderson scene, and his more serious anti-establishment lines, particularly about his father's job, were a well-pointed contrast despite John's persistent fidgeting and shuffling feet. Anita (Kristie Tierney) was delightfully bubbly and pert, especially in her clash with Miss Sanderson about the jacket, and showed her green fingers with the plant in scene 1! Natalie (Kate Maddock) was deliberately more naïve and hesitant than her two friends, and brought out well the "tear behind the laugh" in her struggle to read aloud the "school leavers' plight" article, but she was sometimes not loud enough. Abdul (Roy Chohan) was similarly unaffected in manner, and the two mock-bashful "creeps" who had won so many prizes – David Stacey (Lloyd Wall) and Margaret Shimane (Maria Muftil) – certainly made us see why they received the slow hand-clap, a good production touch not in the script. All these pupils, as well as the extras (Daniel Wright, Sagar Modha, Mischal Trivedi, Robi Dé, and Sukaynah Ghafori-Khanno) acted well the "busyness" in the CDT studio scene and the subversive disruption during the Speech Day itself, though they were far too quiet in the scenes where they were assembling; Mr Douglas' line "Keep the noise down" in scene 5 was unnecessary because they were all silent already!

We also saw a spectrum of personality among the teachers. Mr Rees (Nasir Moosa) was the "strict but fair" teacher with a very clear delivery. Miss Benson (Holly Kent) had good presence and an appropriately clear, loud voice (there was certainly not need for the prescribed tannoy in her speech from off stage!)

Miss Sanderson (Kate Howie) was a more conciliatory, caring teacher who was respected for her very softness; of course the pupils were not afraid of her – Anita argued with her when asked to remove her leather jacket, but took it off without a word for Mr Douglas! The latter (Matthew Booth) was the typical "ranting" teacher, picking on little things like Briggsy in "Our Day Out". Mohammed Al-Himdani as the headmaster deliberately droned on, making us appreciate the fussy behaviour of the pupils on set, though he could have made more of his "pardon me" when the mask of pomposity slipped.

The two visiting dignitaries were (deliberately!) suitably boring. The Mayor (Edward Fisher) who had made good in contrast to the school gardener Georgina, was rather gabbly and weak, as he was probably meant to be but also sometimes inaudible, and Professor Jessop (Chris Miller) gave out the prizes in the time-honoured way.

The school gardener Georgina (Roxanne Scott) showed good cynical resignation to the inequality of wealth and position, and clearly related more easily to the down-trodden pupils who gravitated towards her than to the big-wigs. Hers was a pivotal role, establishing a restless counterpoint to the pompous values of the platform party. She came over well, but gabbled a bit in scene 1.

A sound production with an impressively big cast.

2000 House Drama

RESULTS

1. BYROM (Fawlty Towers)
2. GASKELL (The Devil's Utopia)
3. FRASER (The Virtuous Burglar)
4. DALTON } (The Unexpected Guest)
   HEYWOOD } (The Royle Family)
   WHITWORTH } (Speech Day)

BEST ACTRESS: Alexis Dickson
Runners-Up: } Nicola Endlar
} Alexis Oxberry

BEST ACTOR: Daniel Gall
Runners-Up: } Daniel Goodkin
Darren Daly

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Waqar Ahmad
Amy Diaczuk
Joshua Duckworth
Owen Edwards
Daniel Endlar
Tom Jones
Natalie Sheldon
Shelley Turnberg

Mr.G.J. Turner.

TOAD OF TOAD HALL

"Never a name to go down to fame Compared with that of 'Toad'!"

Those who saw Mr Wise's and Miss Milligan's sparkling production of A.A. Milne's classic adaption of Kenneth Grahame's "Wind in the Willows" last March might well have been tempted to make this superlative claim, not for the central character's heroic qualities (far from it!), but for the sheer exuberance, commitment and sincerity of this year's School production.

Joshua Duckworth as Toad was appropriately swaggering and larger than life, bringing out particularly well the contrast between his self-absorption in his successive "crazes" and his extrovert desire to involve his friends in them.

He intelligently showed the vulnerability behind the mask of self-confidence and the ultimate harmlessness of his boastful behaviour; Toad is a loveable rogue by the side of the dastardly Wild Wooders, revelling in his defiance of authority like a naughty schoolboy. (Older members of the audience must have been reminded of Gerald Campion's performances as Billy Bunter forty-five years ago!)

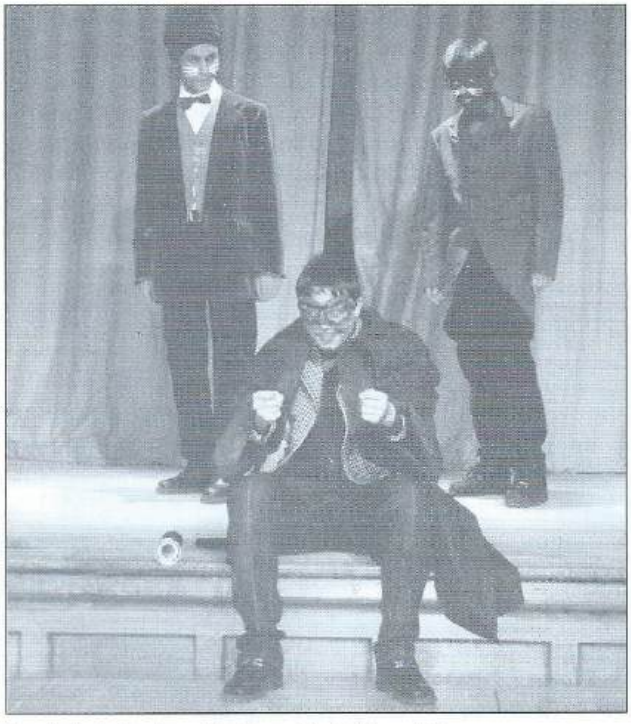
Joshua positively screeched with glee at his own daring and bare-faced insolence; he dominated the action, as the script demands, whenever he was on set. He also brought out well the shrewd, scheming side of his nature when imprisoned, first in Badger's house, then in the dungeon. A fine performance

Gurpreet Singh as rat had a difficult task, since his is in many ways the least rewarding of the four main roles – the "straight man" between Old Badger, who of course completely eclipses him in common sense and wisdom, the sentimental, timid Mole and of course the untameable Toad. He brought out well Ratty's deepest quality, genuine concern for his friends, which of course turns out to be his Achilles heel in the scene where he is supposed to b guarding Toad. He relished the humour of his extensive catalogue of items in the "trifle of lunch" on the riverbank, and showed the right blend of compassion and matter-of-fact briskness when assuming the role of Mole's mentor.

Joel Oxberry's Mole steered a sensitive middle course between cloying over-sentimentality, shy and tender-hearted as Mole is in the script, and excessive heartiness and buoyancy. We sensed throughout the play the tension between his home-sickness for Mole End and his desire to remain in the company of Ratty – and even of Toad!



Mole (Joel Oxberry), Badger (Daniel Goodkin) and Water Rat (Gurpreet Singh) discuss life by the river.



Toad (Josh Duckworth) shows his driving skills.

Daniel Goodkin was the perfect choice for the role of the wise, mature Badger. His delivery was always appropriately weighty without ever becoming ponderous, and he was clearly the "elder statesman" with great stage presence. But of course he is not above joining in the younger men's assault on Toad Hall at the end of the play. A memorable performance from one of the School's most outstanding and experienced Thespians.



The Weasles. (Photo J. R. Wise)

There were some delightful cameo roles. Mark Brighouse as the Judge in the Court Scene managed well the mixture of mock pomposity and offhand incomprehension. Richard Trinick was the perfect caricature of the gormless English "bobby" and Sifiso Banda "ushed" with all the straight-faced dignity of such roles from Gilbert and Sullivan's "Trial by Jury" onwards.

In the prison scene Mariam Al-Bayati showed a mature calmness and geniality as the country lass Phoebe who engineers Toad's escape. Mariam has developed into a quietly self-assured actress with real authority on stage. Her aunt, the down to earth, middle aged washerwoman who changes clothes with Toad in exchange for cash payment, was Elli Dodd, who brought to the part a "hoity-toity" throw-away cynicism which invested her character with rich humour. Nabil Choudry was a real trouper as the Horse-man during the scene on the Canal Bank when Toad escapes from Prison. Talking of horses, Camille Kasler and Sara Sadeghi played the two halves of Alfred with patience and dedication, carefully avoiding turning him into a pantomime character!



Marian Al-Bayati and Eli Dodd prepare to go on.
(Photo J. R. Wise)

The two "crowds" in this play are of course the Jury in the Court Scene, and the Wild Wooders. Eleven lively and effervescent youngsters sparkled their way through these scenes, which call for split-second timing and some very memorable one-liners! Everyone was acting with energy and involvement all the time, but without ever stage-hogging at others' expense. The feeling of "fussiness" among the jury and of cruel Schadenfreude by the ferrets, weasels and stoats in the Banqueting room scene at the end, were well generated and sustained. All credit to Ilham Al-Bayati, Angel Cheung, Emma Kane, Pooja Patel, Kierran Kayani, Ishaq Mahmood, Asif Mughal, Ramandeep Kaur, Usman Khalid, Andrew Platts and Anna Sutton.

The Chief Weasel, who master-minds the celebratory banquet when the Wild Wooders take over Toad Hall, and delivers the memorable speech gloating at their (as they suppose!) successful take-over of Toad's manorial residence "with carriage sweep" was brilliantly portrayed by Ehi Okpe, one of the School's up and coming young stars fresh from her triumph as the Pied Piper in last year's "Ratz". Ehi exuded malice, whipping up her foul cohorts into paroxysms of malicious glee in the banqueting hall and flamboyantly planting one foot onto the table at the swaggering climax of their evil chanting against Toad.

H. Fraser Simson's fame as a composer rests entirely on his settings of poems from works by A.A. Milne ("Pooh") and Kenneth Grahame ("Wind in the Willows" lifted again by A.A. Milne in the adaption). This production did not claim to be a musical, and the sensible compromise of the characters reciting the poems in a kind of Schönbergian Sprechgesang to the Fraser Simson music, delicately played by Miss Nuttall at the ivories, added an extra dimension to the play as a whole. Mr Veevers' Stage Management, Mr Cailey's set design, Ed Fisher's sound and Seena Elhami's lighting were all superlative. The cardboard bulrushes stuck to the front of the apron lent to the river bank scene great authenticity, but their continued presence during the trial scene gave a whole new meaning to the phrase "Heard in open court"! Sara Sadeghi had more scope for imagination in her organisation of the properties than in her role as the back legs of Alfred, and of course make-up and costume are of particular importance in so zoological a play. The make-up team made up (no pun intended) of Miss Tandon, Miss Raw, Señorita Reyero-Cascallana, Miss Edwards and Alison Hardy had clearly done their natural history homework very thoroughly and Mrs Swindlehurst's costume team starring Mrs Al-Bayati who made many of the costumes herself and Rebecca Goodwin and Vanessa Bacchas produced some very realistic outfits.

In short, direction, acting, music, costumes, make-up, stage management, set design, lighting, sound, properties, etc, etc combined to produce three evenings full of warmth of heart and above all a magical atmosphere. C.S. Lewis once called this work "the kind of story which can express things without explaining them". Precisely. Mr Wise's and Miss Milligan's show spoke eloquently for itself.

Mr G J Turner

Music Department Overview

This has been another busy and somewhat difficult year in the life of the music department.

We have produced over a dozen concerts from lunchtime and evening recitals which featured either examination candidates or pupils giving their very first performance, to our annual Spring, Summer and Christmas events as well as providing music for Founder's and Speech Day celebrations. Some of these events are reviewed separately, but everyone that took part in any or all of these performances deserves much credit for the high level that they achieved.

At the end of the summer term I received some rather sad news. My assistant, Cath Day, decided that she was going to leave the school. Having become engaged earlier in the year she now wanted to prepare for their forthcoming marriage and the move to a new area. Whilst I was obviously very pleased for Cath on a personal level it put us in an awkward situation - her replacement would have to start in January, not an easy time to recruit.

Fortunately for the school we obtained the services of Miss Elena Nuttall. Elena is a Cambridge graduate and a very fine singer and flautist, skills, which will be in much demand in the department!

One of Elena's tasks since January has been to provide music teaching in the Preparatory Department. This is a vital role and one that I am keen to develop. For the first time children from years 5 and 6 can now receive instrumental tuition from the school's visiting staff and eventually I would like to form a choir and other instrumental groups using all pupils.

This is absolutely vital if we are to maintain the quality and quantity of music making to which we have become accustomed.

Two of our long serving visiting staff have also left us this summer. Miss Towers-Johnson (flute) and Miss Vicky Parkins (oboe) have both moved to London to pursue their playing careers, I wish them well and thank them for all their efforts over the past few years.

Finally as ever a huge thank you to everyone that helps make the department what it is. To all the visiting staff for their time, expertise and unfailing good humour. To all the parents, friends and staff who come along to the Choral Society and work so hard to perform in the summer and Christmas concerts. To the academic staff at WHGS for their support and tolerance when I am disrupting their lessons!

However the biggest thank you must be to those pupils (and staff) that give up so much of their time to practise and perform in all of our events throughout the year.

Their efforts are greatly appreciated not only by myself but by everyone that hears them perform.

Mr P Goodwin

Director of Music

House Music 2001

What was probably the last House Music Competition in its present format took place in the New Hall on Monday 5th February. As usual there was much to comment on with most houses making a real effort to produce a balanced, quality programme. There was some fine individual performances and an encouraging number of group items.The adjudicator was Mr Tim Chatterton. The results was as follows:

House Music Results 2001

1st	Gaskell	78 + 18	=	96
2nd	Dalton	77 + 18	=	95
3rd	Byrom	77 +17	=	94
4th	Heywood	75 + 15	=	90
Joint 5th	Fraser	74 + 15	=	89
	Whitworth	73 + 16	=	89

Individual certificates for performances of special merit were presented in assembly.

All performers deserve praise for the effort they displayed.

Many thanks to those colleagues who covered lessons for us and enabled the day to run smoothly.

MUSIC AT CHRISTMAS

There were three major events in School Music in December. For the third successive year the Concert Band, the School Choir and the W.H.G.S. Choral Society were the guest performers at the Manchester Evening News Concert of Carols and Festive Music (Friday 8th December), we had our annual fixture at St. Ann's Church in the city centre (Friday 15th December), and on Monday December there was the Christmas Celebrations in the New Hall.

This was Miss Day's Hulmeian swan song with the Choir, and its performances did her proud. The congregation at the M.E.N. Cathedral Concert must have wondered why we all smiled so broadly at the beginning of one of the more robust carols, as Miss Day surreptitiously held up a large bold notice: "Don't be nervous or shy! One Merit Card for the loudest Charlotte Church Sound-alike ooooooooooh!" As well as a brace of Rutter settings and Tambling's trendy "Ragtime Carol", there was the Darke "Bleak mid-winter" and John Carol Case's "Lullaby at the Manger", starring Jonathan Benson and James Lovell in their lovely sustained melody soaring above the choir's counterpoint. At school, as well as the carols, the Choir gave us "The Rhythm of Life", in keeping with the more secular tone of the evening!

Mr Goodwin's Concert Band was in festive spirits for all six of its seasonal numbers, both at the Cathedral and at the School Christmas Celebration, including two engaging settings by Mr Goodwin himself, "Lo he Comes" and Irving Berlin's "White Christmas". "Ski Sunday" remains one of the all-time popular favourites of the Concert Band's repertoire, generating the seasonal magic which lasted throughout the evening. Mr Wilson's Jazz Band began the second half of the School Concert with a lively medley of five members including "Frosty the Snowman", which is generally assumed to be well-known but isn't, and Hodgy Carmichael's "Georgia on my mind", so popular in the 1930's and with Rebecca Goodwin's beautifully "smoochy" dream-like solo helping to ensure its continuing popularity into the twenty-first century.

At school we were treated, not to T. S. Eliot's Four Quartets, but to three splendid instrumental Quartets – Jazz, Clarinet and Saxophone respectively. The intriguingly named "Good-WooDé – House Jazz Quartet (Catherine Day, Daniel Goodkin, Sara Sadeghi and Andrew Wilson) sparkled their way through Mr Wilson's own arrangement of "Jingle Jazzy Bells"; and the Saxophone Quartet's lilting "Away in a Manger", in Mr Goodwin's own arrangement, was featured both at school and at St. Ann's by Carolyn Hegg, Ashley Wood, James Barrington and Iain Hollister.

The School Christmas Celebration also fielded two instrumental soloists. Ashley Wood (piano) complemented the Jazz Quartet's "Summertime" with another Gershwin number, "The Man I Love", and Duncan Lang (guitar) brought us into the swinging sixties with Led Zepplin's "Since I been Lovin' You". Two accomplished and delightful interpretations.

At St. Ann's Church there was the usual sequence of Christmas Bible readings punctuating the music, and at school three secular poems read respectively by Ellie Dodd, Daniel Goodkin and Richard Trinick. Richard's account of "The Lion and Albert" was so hilarious that luckily, no one noticed that it had nothing whatsoever to do with the Yuletide season!

Music has always been associated with Christmas ever since the "multitude of the heavenly host" singing to the shepherds formed part of the original Biblical story.

Whatever our religious convictions, we can all enjoy such musical expression as we were treated to last December. Long may this Hulmeian tradition continue!

G. J. Turner

Spring Concert

It was encouraging to see such a large audience for this annual concert, which took place in the New Hall on Monday 2nd April.

The programme opened with the Concert Band playing an up tempo arrangement of the slow movement from Mozart's Clarinet Concerts. The ever popular 'When the Saints' was performed by all the Year 7 clarinet and saxophone pupils, helped by Mr Wilson, most of whom were performing in public for the first time. The choir gave us Britten's evocative 'Sally Gardens' whilst 'Jazz Combo' impressed with John Coltrane's 'Impressions'.

The next section of the concert was entitled 'Soloists Showcase' and featured James Lovell - organ, Sara Sadeghi – clarinet, Gavin Wiseman and Rebecca Goodwin – on recorders. James played a wide selection of works from Joplin to Mozart but scored a hit with the Headmaster when played the March from Judas Maccubers by Handel. Gavin gave a very assured performance of 'An Chloe' by Mozart and Sara a very mature reading of the demanding Souata in Eb by Brahms. Rebecca proved the recorder is capable of a wide range of dynamics and styles not to mention skilful finger and tonguing work as she played two movements from the Sonata in B by Handel. The concert band brought the first half to a close with the classic rock anthem 'We are the Champions'.

The second half was entitled music from the '40's to the 90's and featured items by the Jazz Band, Choir and Concert Band. The Jazz Band directed as ever by Andrew Wilson sent us down memory lane with 'At the Hop', 'Malagnena', 'Birdland' and 'Tuxedo Junction'. The choir gave us 'A Whole New World' from Aladdin and the classic Simon Garfunkel hit 'Bridge over Troubled Water' all prepared and accompanied by Miss Nuttall. The Concert Band spanned the 50's to the 90's with an arrangement of 'Unchained Melody', selections of music from 'Grease' and 'Hits of the Beatles' and coming right up to date with 'No Matter What' from 'Whistle down the Wind' by Lloyd Webber.

Again a very enjoyable evening and my thanks to all the staff and pupils who worked so hard to produce a concert of the highest standard.

P. W. Goodwin

SUMMER CONCERT

The time-honoured "Last Night of the Proms" on July 3rd was as rumbusterous and effervescent as ever, forming as usual the finale to our annual Summer Concert. The Concert Band refused to be distracted from its stirring sequence of favourite English classics (Dambusters/ Jerusalem / Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 etc), either by the deliberate eccentricities of Mr Andrew Wilson or by the appearance with a tray of drinks of Mr Graham Brown! Caroline Grant's "Britannia" solo was particularly memorable, and the audience "sang along" with the same enthusiasm as the Albert Hall promenaders.

The other extended "set piece" in this concert was the W.H.G.S. Choral Society's medley of numbers from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera". This gave ample scope for harmonious exchange between broken and unbroken voices, great variety of mood from tender lyricism to vigorous and almost bloodcurdling vituperation, and a constant stream of famous and very popular melody. The unforgettable concluding number, "The Music of the Night", recalled the same tune played with equal magic by the school's guest band in June 1997, Black Dyke Mills (of which Mr Goodwin is of course a member). A lovely rendition of a lovely item.

The first half of the evening featured, in two separate instalments, three items from Mr Goodwin's Concert Band, five pieces from Mr Andrew Wilson's Jazz Band, plus "The Pink Panther" from the "Jazz Combo", two well-known Scottish numbers from the Year 7 Wind Ensemble, and several solos. Rebecca Goodwin deserves special commendation for her enchanting interpretation on the little–heard "Flügelhorn" of her own aptly-entitled piece "Sentimentality", Ashley Wood's Saxophone solo of Earl Hagan's "Harlem Nocturne" excluded a bewitching calm, and the lyrical Flute Solo by Gavin Wiseman of Year 7, Furé's "Morceau de Concours", was an already very accomplished performance from a young player of great promise. Alison Hardy and Victoria Hufton of Year 9 gave two vocal solos to relieve the entirely instrumental first half of the evening.

In short, a splendid end to the School's musical year.

G. J. Turner

Careers Fair 2001

March 1st saw the school transformed into a meeting place for pupils, parents and a mix of local employers, university admission tutors, lecturers and gap year representatives. The event proved a popular occasion with a vast number of pupils finding out about various jobs and courses at universities. Over 80 guests gave up a long evening to act as career advisers and help our pupils access information about their specialist areas. Many had travelled long distances and it was pleasing to hear how impressed the visitors were with our pupil's questions and general level of interest. Certainly the evening was made successful by the willingness of people to help. Not only did staff help by providing contacts with advisers but also some worked hard throughout the evening, ensuring the smooth running of the event.

Absolute delight was expressed by many at the buffet provided by Will Axon and his colleagues. It certainly made sure the advisers were ready to face all our pupils. I would personally like to thank Will and his staff who worked incredibly hard all night.

Sixth formers were very much evident in their roles of meeting guests and helping them to set up their stands. Alick Hyde and Leanne Davidson acted as co-ordinators for everyone and ensured the smooth running of the set up process. A number of lower sixth helpers entertained guests at the buffet and helped through out the evening; many very positive comments were received about their help. I really appreciated their help and the way they undertook their roles, I hope they had enough time to get the information they needed too.

Many pupils gained a lot from the evening and I hope now have a more informed view of possible career directions and university courses.

The event will take place again in 2003 and I look forward to the return of some of our advisers.

Alison Raw



Sifiso Banda learns about the law.

Advisers came from;

Manchester Metropolitan University
- Accountancy and Finance
- Applied Community Studies
- Geography
- Human Communication
- Law
- Psychology
- Speech Pathology
- Education

Manchester University
- Biological Sciences
- Engineering
- History, Classics
- Modern Languages
- Law
- Physics

Salford University
- Art and Design
- Business management

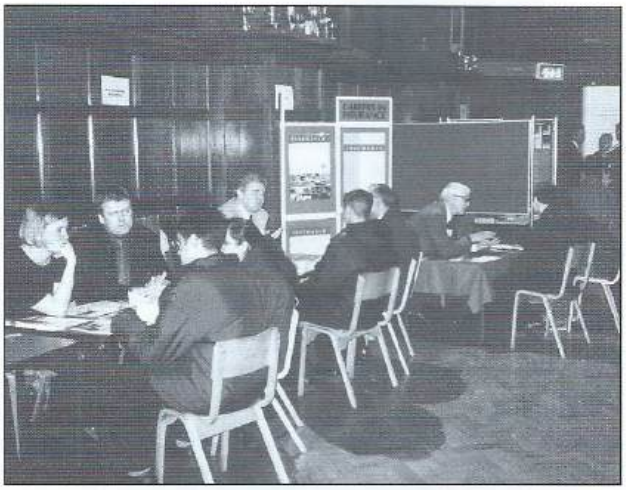
Walker Simpson Architects
Royal Bank of Scotland
Waterstones
FPD Savills
Indalo Computer Systems
Peter Brett Associates
Norwich Union
Manchester Evening News
Alexander Harris Solicitors
British Medical Association
Robert McBride Ltd
NHS
Clinical Development and Support
Greater Manchester Police
Wright and Morton
Veterinary Surgeons
Army, Navy RAF
The Year In Industry
Teaching and Projects Abroad
Chiropody Society
Careers Partnership
Dentistry



Waqar Ahmed asks about learning to fly.



The staff from the Royal Bank of Scotland account for their profession



A busy New hall.

A View of The Careers Fair

A group of 6th formers were asked by Miss Raw to volunteer their time in helping out at the careers fair, many of us did so, however, not quite knowing what we were letting ourselves in for! The job wasn't actually that bad as I found out myself, it was rather enjoyable if anything. Miss Raw asked us to specify which career group we would most like to help with, so we at least had something to say to the people. We were each split into groups of 2 and, had a specific career group to help. We had to "meet and greet" the people help them set up their stand and take them to dinner. We ate with our groups and talked about possible career moves within their field.

After we had helped our groups we were then able to look around the fair as normal. We were prompted by Miss Raw to go and look at career stands we wouldn't necessarily choose. This was excellent advice because it helped many of the 6th form look at degree courses unknown to us.

The careers fair on the whole was excellent, as there was lots of careers to look at, the choice was huge, I think everyone who went would have learnt something new about many different careers. I'd just like to say a huge well done to Miss Raw for organising such a brilliant and informative evening. I know she worked very hard to make the event such a huge success, and it clearly showed. Well done! again!!!

By Vanessa Bacchas (LPJC)

Industry Challenge Day

Damn, I was late again. But this was not one ordinary school day, no. Inexplicably, my legs were already shaking with nerves....Today was the Industry Challenge. Six talented Year 9'ers were given the chance to compete against other schools in the area on a few set challenges. Johanna Leung, Adimola Olaitan, Simon Patterson, Lavinia McDonald, Nabil Choudhry and I were the "lucky" and "talented" ones chosen.

After a mini-meeting with Miss Raw we set off with only one thing in our mind.....Victory! Moments later, we had reached the place where the event was being held. After wisely choosing our seating positions, we began sipping our orange squash, while eying up the competition and talking tactics. We were confident, this was our day!

Miss Raw went to compete with fellow teachers and after being introduced to our industry leader, from HSBC bank, we began the first task. As a real ice breaker, we had to dress a member of our team in balloons to look like a member of The Simpsons. Naturally, not wanting to look like idiots, we opted for our Team Leader to look like Marge. Half an hour later, there was a little carnival-type parade and a photo opportunity for our blushing Marge. We were doing great.

Next was a set of anagrams to solve, followed by a hard maths quiz, left trustingly to Johanna to complete. Though we managed those hurdles, the next challenge was imminently unforgettable. Given little shapes of yellow and black card we had to put them together to discover a letter. We were advised to try and see which letter it was. We were first to realise that it was actually an "M". We were asked to reveal the letter to the not so fortunate ones and proudly I refused. It was useless though as they found out soon enough.

After agonising over the matter through lunch, we still failed to complete the task, causing a lot of stress, between group members. The last task was just as hard. We were given six rubber jigsaw puzzles which we had to put into small cubes. Each hard a different level of difficulty. Eventually we managed a breakthrough, with 5 cubes completed, we then realised that we had to make 6 multicoloured cubes from those. We cringed in disbelief.

The task ended, as the results were about to be announced in reverse order. Before that we were given a little trophy for the school with a member of our team getting his picture taken. The results were announced, my nerves tensed up again. We had lost!

Finally we were each given our own certificate marking our excellent achievement. Miss Raw, proudly took our photo, cheesily holding up our certificates. I was very proud of myself and what we had achieved. All in all we had had a great time and it was truly a great experience to be part of. We must thank Miss Raw for all her devotion in looking after us, wasting her time upon us and helping us to be part of this. By the way, I personally believe we came a close fourth. Then again, maybe the results were fixed!

Tawseef Khan



William Hulme's participants

COMBINED CADET FORCE

ARMY SECTION

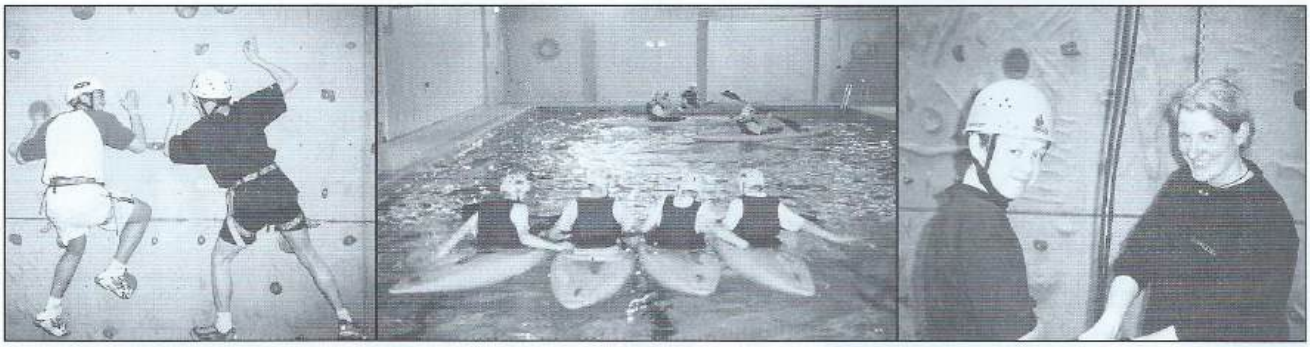
Senior Cadet RSM James Meers



William Hulme's GS CCF Cadets at the Museum of the Regimental HQ, Queen's Lancashire Regiment (photo: Capt M P Jones)

The effects of Foot and Mouth Disease were bound to be felt by an organisation which depends so much on outdoor training, but with a little ingenuity and a great determination to offer our cadets some degree of training wherever possible, relatively little was lost. The chief victims were Adventurous Training Camp at Easter and North West Challenge in July, both of which had to be abandoned. Cadets who were keen to climb and canoe were given the opportunity to do so locally over Easter and so did not lose out altogether.

EASTER MINI-CAMP, MANCHESTER



(photos: 2 Lt J A Milligan)

A two-day circuit of activities was organised to accommodate cadets who would have been spending nine days in Northern Snowdonia under normal circumstances. The twenty-five cadets were split into two sections. One day was spent climbing and abseiling at University Barracks in Manchester, where our Cadet Training Team share an excellent climbing wall with Manchester and Salford UOTC. Climbing instruction was provided by our SSI, Sgt Maj Gary Wood, assisted by CSM James Meers, and overseen by Capt Matthews or 2 Lt Milligan.

Meanwhile the second section remained at School where they were given a really enjoyable morning's canoeing instruction followed by an afternoon developing their shooting skills in the Miniature (25m) Range. This seemed to be a rather hollow alternative for nine days in Wales, but the boys and girls who experienced it were very appreciative, and it kept their interest and their skills ticking over.

BIENNIAL REVIEW, October 2000



RAF cadets pass an apprehensive Nidhi Sreenivas through the Spider's Web watched by Lieutenant Colonel Bell, Reviewing Officer.

Every two years the Ministry of Defence requires School CCF Contingents to hold a major review of all its activities. This review is extremely thorough, covering training, administration, stores, camps and so on, and culminates in a sort of "Open Day" where the cadets are on show and a senior serving officer spends a morning inspecting them and their activities. This year WHGS CCF was reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Simon Bell TD who is the Commanding Officer of the King's and Cheshire Regiment, to which our Army Section is affiliated.

On his arrival, Lt Col Bell was able to talk to Cadet Sgt Robert Thompson RAF who commanded the Honour Guard and is also Head of School, Sgts Camille Kasler and Mark Brighouse (Head of School for 2001-2), J/Cpl Colin Leung, L/Cpl Ceegay Verley, and Cadets Ehi Okpe, Laura Hanford and Khairie Gedal, all of whose origins interested him greatly. The Reviewing Officer, accompanied by Head Master Mr Stephen Patriarca, Contingent Commander Lt Col D M Fisher, Governor Mrs Jessie Taylor, Royal Air Force Section Commander Flt Lt Jane Keable, senior representatives from the School, from HQ Air Cadets and HQ 42 (NW) Brigade, guests, Old Hulmeians and friends of the Corps from inside and outside the School then followed a circuit of some fifteen activities, largely cadet-run.







These included the RAF Section's latest Flight Simulator, instructional periods in Canoeing, Weapons Safety and First Aid, a Signals exercise, firing on the Indoor Range, Command Tasks, a demonstration by the Recruit Platoon of the Duties of a Sentry, and as a finale a very effective and watchable Platoon Exercise run by Captain Eleanor Matthews with support from 26 Cadet Training team.

Lt Col Bell spent much of the morning quizzing cadets on what they had done and were doing in the Corps, and showed particular interest in their career aspirations. After addressing (and congratulating) the Contingent the Reviewing Officer was presented by CSM James Meers with a WHGS CCF plaque to commemorate his visit. One of Mr Axon's excellent lunches for the adults and several ravenous cadet SNCOs brought the Review to a close.

In his subsequent Report the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Alex Birtwistle, (who was later appointed by the



CSM James Meers makes a presentation to Lt Col Bell at the culmination of the Review.

Prime Minister to mastermind the campaign to control Foot and Mouth Disease in Cumbria) wrote that "William Hulme's Grammar School CCF is a robust and efficient organisation, the sort of Corps in which we would wish our own children to serve. I cannot give higher praise."

KINGS AND CHESHIRE REGIMENT CADET CUP COMPETITION, 22-24 September



William Hulme's Grammar School CCF KCR Cup team.

Another dramatic change in format in this important regimental event resulted in a week's training being shoehorned into two days and some fairly bewildered and exhausted cadets by the Sunday afternoon. The most bewildering aspect of the generally successful weekend was the fact that WHGS CCF won the inter-King's units competition yet saw the King's Cup itself awarded to an ACF Detachment who we had beaten. The Regiment's subsequent explanation that this was to reflect the "perceived imbalance between ACF and CCF teams in terms of age and physical ability" does not wash when the recent results of the King's Cup Competition are analysed. However, as far as this unit is concerned, we won the King's Cup Competition 2000, as the figures show. I am hopeful that a review of the results and prize allocation will enable us to continue to support this worthwhile exercise in 2001.

After an unnecessary 2-hour wait for Registration out on the training area at Warcop, word came through that the arrangements had been changed and we were now to register in Camp. Furthermore there was no meal on offer to cadets so that from leaving Holcombe Moor TC in the middle of the afternoon of Field Day through to breakfast the following morning nothing was provided. This inauspicious start made us rather doubtful about the arrangements for the remaining two days of the competition, but we need not have worried. Apart from inevitable periods of waiting, and one or two changes to timings things ran reasonably smoothly and the programme of live firing (falling plate), section attacks, skills house, speed march and assault course went well with our team performing up to their usual high standards and impressing everyone with their commitment.

The Team consisted of:

C/Sgt James Meers (Capt), Sgt Daniel Wood (2ic), Sgt/Cpls Mark Brighouse, Jon Case, Robi De, Daniel Goodkin, Chris Ogden-Smith and James Wood.

FIELD DAYS

Michaelmas Field Day was held at Holcombe Moor Training Centre in preparation for the imminent Biennial Review, rehearsing the senior cadets in the platoon exercise that was to provide the finale to the day while Command Tasks and briefings occupied the rest. All passed off smoothly.



Cadets Ghazala Seedat, Maria Mufti, Mishal Trivedi and Nicole Plummer concentrating on the Small Arms Trainer, Fulwood Barracks. (photo: Capt M P Jones)

By the time March arrived there were no training areas available anywhere in the country, so our long-standing plans for an overnight at Swynnerton had to be shelved. However with the help of 26CTT and G3 Cdts at 42Bde we took 60 cdts to Brigade HQ at Fulwood Barracks, Preston instead. There they were coached on the 30m Range and Small Arms Trainer, and enjoyed a guided visit to the fascinating Museum of the QLR.

Again in June it looked as if we were to lose a valuable training opportunity when no training area could be found for the recruits' first Field Day. Once again our friends came to the rescue and nearly seventy cadets travelled to Altcar Ranges near Formby to try out their training facilities for the first time. Altcar is the venue for the annual cadet shooting competition, the CSAAM, but we had not trained there before, largely because of its distance from Manchester. In all other respects it proved ideal, providing a variety of accessible terrain for constructing bashas, patrolling and our night exercises, and with a great deal for the cadets to do the following day. The Range Staff were extremely helpful and flexible and made the extended Field Day a real success.

After initial admin., feeding, bashas and preparation, the Recruit Platoon went on to practise basic fieldcraft with Capt Matthews while the Junior Platoon moved into the training area and carried out an ambush on a group of rather ill-disciplined and complacent rebels, who, along with their vehicles, were completely destroyed.

The following day's training was a round robin of Small Arms Trainer, full-bore firing, and .22 firing with the cadet weapon (converted for the Indoor Range), and culminated in Assault Course Training run by 26 CTT. This is always an important introductory period for our new recruits who benefit tremendously from the steep learning curve entailed. Some of this year's group clearly had much to learn about co-operation and teamwork, but that to a great extent is the object of the exercise.

JUNIOR PLATOON: WEAPONS TEST RESULTS, Feb 2001

SERIAL	NAME	RESULT
	Cdts	
1	Umara CHAUDHRY	PASS
2	Dwain DUDLEY	PASS
3	Quaymberley DUDLEY	PASS
4	Seena ELHAMI	PASS
5	Edwin ETADAFE	PASS
6	Edward FISHER	PASS
7	Mhawash FAROOQ	PASS
8	Khairie GEDAL	PASS
9	Shamil HUDDA	PASS
10	Nkosi INNISS	PASS
11	Russell JOLLEY	PASS
12	Tom JONES	PASS
13	Duwayne KNIGHT	PASS
14	Nina KOJIDI	PASS
15	Zac McKENZIE	PASS
16	Maria MUFTI	PASS
17	Nicole PLUMMER	PASS
18	Iqra RIAZ	PASS
19	Gajanan SAMANT	PASS
20	Jagjit SANDHER	PASS
21	Ghazala SEEDAT	PASS
22	Mobeen SHABAZ FAILED TO ATTEND	
23	Wendy TANG	PASS
24	Mishal TRIVEDI	PASS
25	Anthony TUBOKU-METZGER FAILED TO ATTEND	
26	Minesh VARA FAILED TO ATTEND	
27	Adam VITTOZ	PASS
28	Lloyd WALL FAIL (SAFETY)	passed retest
29	Daniel WRIGHT FAIL (SAFETY)	passed retest
30	Badou YARBO	PASS
31	Laura DODSON FAILED TO ATTEND	

These really were excellent results, reflecting the cadets' commitment and hard work during an extended period of weapons training. Weapons Safety is a fundamental consideration in their training and this performance showed that they understand that and appreciate its importance.

SENIOR PLATOON APC RESULTS



The Head Master presents L/Cpl Danielle Ashley with her APC. (photo: Capt M P Jones)

At a Passing Out Parade in April the Head Master presented Army Proficiency Certificates to members of the Senior Platoon. Those receiving their APCs were:

Danielle Ashley	James Barrington
Rebecca Choudhry	Carolyn Hegg
Khalid Mir	Pairo Nowroozi
Nneka Opara	Nick Patchen
Imran Rahim	Syeeda Siddiqui
Ozy Solati	Elaine Tang
Nick Travis	Ceegay Verley.

Missing on the day were Mark Glover and Matt Ahern, and a handful of cadets yet to complete their tests.



The Senior Platoon with Platoon Officer Capt E L Matthews (centre front). (photo: Lt Col D M Fisher)

NORTH WEST CADET SKILL AT ARMS MEETING, Altcar Ranges June 2001

2 Lt Milligan acted as Shooting Team Manager this year and took to Altcar an experienced and committed group of firers who had practised as much as A and AS Level preparation allowed. This included a day on the ranges at Altcar and several sessions on the Corps's Indoor Range. Results were certainly as good as usual, but perhaps a little less good than might have been expected in view of the cadets' collective experience and expertise.

The team was:

CSM James Meers (Captain)

C/Sgts Mark Brighouse
Jon Case
Daniel Goodkin
James Wood

Butts Party:

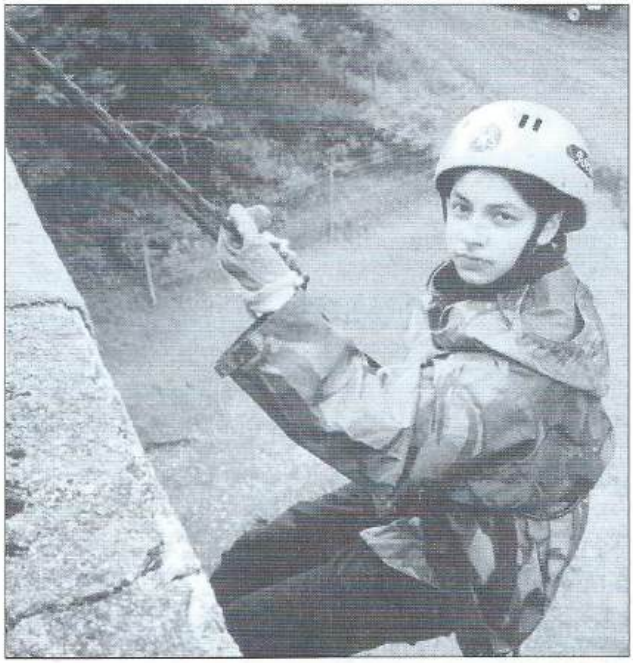
Cdts Dwain Dudley
Khairie Gedal

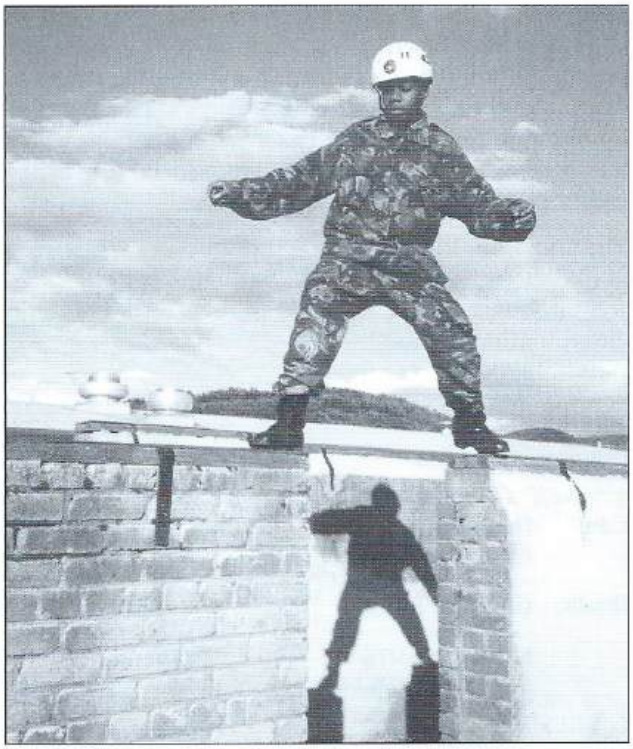
Results: (out of 31 Teams)

EARL ROBERTS	7th
MONTGOMERY of ALAMEIN	11th
ENSIGN RIFLE	19th
MARLING	22nd
OVERALL TEAM PLACING	13th
BEST INDIVIDUAL SHOT	C/Sgt James Wood

Our final placing can be put into perspective by recording that we beat the teams from Rossall School, Merchant Taylors' School Crosby, Royal Grammar School Lancaster, Liverpool College, St Mary's College Crosby, Calday Grange School from the Wirral, and Audenshaw High School, Manchester. Only Bury GS, Sandbach School and of course Sedbergh shot better. (The remaining teams came from ACF units from Cumbria, Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and Greater Manchester.)

CENTRAL CAMP, CULTYBRAGGAN





Two different approaches to confidence training: Recruits Sabah Hafeez (abseiling) and Martin Wray (Assault Course). (photos: Capt E L Matthews)

Central Camps in England were decimated this year but we were fortunate in having bid once again for Cultybraggan in Perthshire which was less affected by F and M. Our numbers were capped to 30, however, in an effort to offer a Camp to as many cadets from other schools as possible, so Cultybraggan was at its most crowded. Most of the training was centralised on the Camp itself, but Survival, Canoeing and Watermanship went ahead as normal. The latter two activities took place on Loch Earn with its wooded shores and the Ben Vorlich as a backdrop. Fears were quickly overcome as teamwork took over and two very seaworthy rafts participated in the closest race for some years. Sgt Maj Wood and Capt Matthews each joined a team but neither could produce a convincing lead in the choppy conditions. Most cadets had an extended tour in the safety boat before moving on to the afternoon's phase. Canoeing instruction was again of the highest standard and all cadets achieved something, even though the wind made every stroke a bit of an ordeal. Meanwhile half the Contingent went to the viaduct at the foot of Glen Ogle to try their hand at a long free abseil. For their first time this is as much a test of confidence as anything cadets have to do, but after the first descent it becomes simply a question of improving technique.



Cadet Quaymberley Dudley proudly displays the evening meal she has prepared. (photo: Capt E L Matthews)

Survival skills were very thoroughly demonstrated by Sgt Smith (Royal Marines) and his instructors from Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps. Food preparation was the highlight of the many techniques covered and our cadets seemed strangely keen to test their gutting skills on the fish that were provided. An evening putting up ad hoc shelters in the woods and eating trout baked in a communal fire was followed by a very short sleep before reveille at 4.30. The cadets amazed us with their ability to stand up, break camp, pack their huge bergens and move out while still apparently asleep, and we were the first of the four schools to form up on the track ready to return to Camp.

Climbing at Benny Beg earlier in the week had to be cancelled as the crag was still dripping from the previous night's rain. A walk back into Camp followed, and then the cadets spent the afternoon climbing and bouldering at Hadrian's wall, a superb indoor climbing complex at Falkirk. The rapid increase in both confidence and skill levels was a delight to behold as experienced cadets pushed themselves on to higher and more complex routes and novices such as Sabah Hafeez overcame her initial fears and tackled the unfamiliar sense of exposure with courage.

The Fieldcraft package was a winner with cadets this year: no rain-soaked undergrowth, no exhausting treks through the training area from one stand to the next, no undulating terrain to negotiate! The entire programme took place within the perimeter of the Camp, and was sufficiently imaginatively conceived that realism was not lost and interest and momentum were sustained. This day was combined with the Ranges programme, which again was quite an improvement. The three-hour return trip to the range complex beyond Dundee was abandoned in favour of using the Camp's own 30m Range. For inexperienced cadets there is no better environment in which to shoot: everyone hits the target, (not always the case over even 100m), cadets see their results straight away and are able to improve them very rapidly, there is no requirement for a long, tedious spell in the butts, and the entire process is a great deal less exhausting and more rewarding for all concerned.

An added bonus this year was that, after dry training, cadets were all able to fire both the LSW and the 9mm pistol, a rare event these days but a further way of reinforcing the sense of respect and discipline essential in weapon handling. Our shooting was good and improved during the day, the revelation being Recruit Alison Hardy who had never fired before and yet achieved the HPS of 75 points on the LSW apparently effortlessly! Other performances worthy of note those of were James Wood, Dwain Dudley, Edwin Etadafe, Jon Case, Seena Elhami, Adam Vittoz and Martin Sharpe, while Zac McKenzie, Tom Jones, Camille Kasler and Mark Brighouse all shot very well.



Yet another Scottish bridge successfully constructed by WHGS CCF cadets. (photo: M Loveland)

Working with radios never seems to be the most exciting of prospects for cadets, but it is important that they all understand the role of the Royal Signals and that they can operate the Clansman system at a basic level. The Signals session this year served to de-mystify the radios and gave cadets the opportunity and the confidence to operate them on their own. Bridge-building with the Royal Engineers on the other hand appears to have less of an immediate relevance, but apart from the limited interest in constructing a demountable aluminium bridge beneath a steady drizzle this is an excellent exercise in listening to and following instructions and especially in working together in small teams, where your performance directly affects the safety of others. It is also extremely satisfying to walk across the structure you have just helped to build, so the cadets tell me.

Every evening was filled with a further activity, many of which were designed to prepare cadets for the final day's competition and help in the selection of teams. Assault Course instruction, a Patrol Race, Command Tasks, full-bore Firing, Drill and Minor Team Games all featured, as did an evening of illustrated talks in the bunker about AT in the Services and the ascent of a Himalayan mountain by a small team of climbing enthusiasts drawn from the Army.

Full muster parades morning and evening ensured that all contingents were out on time and ready for training, a worthwhile innovation on a Camp where so many units were involved in such a complex programme. At least twice a day everybody knew where he or she should be!



The tug-of-war team taking the strain.
(photo: Capt E L Matthews)

The final day's programme was billed as the Champions Cup Competition and another innovation proved quite a success. Our best performance came in the football competition where we were losing finalists, our success due largely to the combined talents of Robi De and Minesh Vara, with energetic support from Ed Fisher, Dwain Dudley, Zac McKenzie, sub. Mishal Trivedi and Recruit Jonathan Butterworth. One out of three in the tug-of-war and sound performances in the potted sports, shooting and relay were not enough to keep us in the running for a top place, though, technique and occasionally teamwork letting us down. The highlight of the day was James Wood gaining the highest score on the pistol shoot, a real achievement from a cadet with great potential as a marksman.

We were pleased and privileged once again to have help from outside the Corps: as last year Officer Cadet Alex Xidacis from Birmingham University Officer Training Corps came with us to help with our training and to keep a check on our (though not his) social activities; Captain Harry Grange and Mr Loveland, without whom Cultybraggan would not be the same, braved the shared accommodation and the dubious ablutions to support the cadets; and Mr Peter Stanyer, our ICT expert from School, came to experience the special atmosphere of Corps Camp as he is taking a commission in the Army Section later this year.

Promotions, July 2001

The following promotions were announced:

to CQMS	C/Sgt	Jonathan Case
to C/Sgt		Sgt Robi De
to Sgt	Cpls	Carolyn Hegg
		Nick Travis (both with effect from 01 Sept 2001)

Best Recruits on Camp were Alison Hardy and Matthew Whitehead

COURSES 2000-2001

Rather more cadets than last year applied for places on residential Service courses and all but one application was accepted. These courses are without exception first class. They are designed and run by experts exclusively for cadets and are held at specialist training wings ("schools") rather than at isolated all-purpose training camps. High standards are therefore required of candidates in terms of appearance and enthusiasm, but usually no pre-course knowledge is assumed. Cadets are well looked after and there are recreational and informative aspects to the programmes in addition to the main course content. Often a Certificate or badge is awarded on completing the course as well as a course report and grading. The expertise gained can be exploited when the cadet returns to the Contingent in September – those taking First Aid, Signals or PT courses can assist with our training, for example – and the increased confidence after a few days away from home in a very different environment is very visible.

SERIAL	COURSE TITLE (all residential)	NOMINEE	DATES
1	Cadet Leadership Cse 93 (Frimley Park)	C/Sgt James M Wood	22-28 Jul
2	Royal Navy First Aid Cse FA 2	Sgt Kate C Howie	1-6 Jul
3	Royal Navy First Aid Cse FA 3	Cpl Richard Colebrook RAF	29 Jul-3 Aug
	(HMS Excellent, Portsmouth)	Cdt Laura Hanford RAF	29 Jul-3 Aug
5	MoD Army Electronics Cse (Army School of Electronic & Aero. Engineering, Arborfield, Hants)	C/Sgt Mark G Brighouse	16-20 Jul
		C/Sgt Daniel Goodkin	16-20 Jul
6	JSMTC Leadership Development (Adv Trg) Cse (Indefatigable, Anglesey)	C/Sgt Jonathan C Case	22-28 Jul
7	JSMTC (Ripon) Mountain First Aid 4	Capt Matthews & 2 Lt Milligan	7-9 Aug

- At an Assembly to explain and describe the CCF Biennial Review the OC was supported by Daniel Goodkin, Camille Kasler, Ceegay Verley, Laura and Chris Hanford and Matthew Booth;
- CSM Gary Wood has been assisted in running the Army Section Stores this year by C/Sgts Jonathan Case and Camille Kasler;
- Assisting with duties in the Stores for 2001-2 will be Sgts Carolyn Hegg, Nick Travis, and Cpl Ceegay Verley
- Publication of the revised CCF Training Syllabus is imminent. It is hoped that much of the training will be streamlined and thus correspond more realistically to the amount of training time available to day schools such as ours;
- Again just over half of the pupils in Year 9 have joined the Corps this year;
- The Colin Midwood Prize for the Best CCF (Army Section) Cadet has been awarded jointly to Regimental Sergeant Major James A R Meers and Colour Sergeant Camille Kasler.
- We are delighted to welcome Mr Peter Stanyer to our ranks as an officer in the Army Section. He attended Camp in Scotland in July and should be commissioned in the very near future;
- Captain M P Jones and Flight Lieutenant J Keable were awarded the Cadet Forces Medal during the course of the year "for long and meritorious service", and Lieutenant Colonel D M Fisher received a bar for his Cadet Forces Medal;
- Flight Lieutenant Jane Keable and Captain Eleanor Matthews, who command our Royal Air Force and Army Sections respectively, both leave School this year. Permanent reminders of their days amongst the cadets of William Hulme's were presented to both officers at ceremonies during the year, and tributes to their work for the Corps appear later in these notes. Flg Off Cath Day also left School during the year;
- Flt Lt G Addison has taken over command of the RAF Section and Captain M P Jones will resume command of the Army Section from September 2001.

* * * *

Flight Lieutenant Jane Keable RAFVR



Flt Lt Keable receives a presentation from the OC on behalf of the Officers and Cadets. (photo: Capt M P Jones)

Dr Keable was the first female Officer to be commissioned into the Army Section of WHGS CCF, starting out as Second Lieutenant in February 1988 and attending Central Camp at Proteus that summer. In the autumn the Contingent was reviewed by a serving Old Hulmeian, Air Chief Marshal Sir Joseph Gilbert, who expressed surprise that the School's Corps was still without a RAF Section. Accordingly 2 Lt Keable was asked if she would be willing to start up and run such a Section. Characteristically, although against advice from some quarters, she accepted the challenge undaunted, and the new RAF Section was quickly formed. Within a very short time numbers in the Contingent were swelling as boys and soon afterwards girls, many of whom would never have dreamed of joining the Army-only organisation, tested the water, found that the training and no doubt the regime offered something more congenial and appropriate to them, and spread the word.

Recruitment has fluctuated annually as in all voluntary Sections, but for nearly twelve years a steady stream of cadets have enjoyed and profited from their time under the tutelage of Dr Keable and her Officers. She has planned and

run two Camps every year, and often has sent officers and cadets on two Camps simultaneously in her quest for extra places for her cadets; she has arranged and run two or three Field Days annually, innumerable weekends on Glider Courses and Competitions, and visits to Germany and Cyprus for cadets; and memorably in 1995 she was able to send our senior female cadet, Flt Sgt Sarah Porter, to the USA on the International Air Cadet Exchange. She has enabled cadets to attend a variety of service courses and to obtain Flying Scholarships, (the latest of which was awarded this year to Cpl Heather Seddon.) Flt Lt Keable has devoted countless hours and expended boundless energy, often making use of the "hotline" to HQ Air Cadets, to ensure that her cadets had full access to the many opportunities available to them.

Her administration of the Section was exemplary and helped raise the profile of the Corps in a very positive way within the School – a task that has not always been made easy for her – and indeed that of the School itself nationally. She has always been sensitive not only to the needs and wishes of RAF adults and cadets but also to those of her academic colleagues at School. The support she has received from her fellow Officers within and outside the Section, as well as the tremendous backing that "the Other Dr Keable" has always provided, has been amply repaid by Flt Lt Keable's support of her Contingent Commander and of the Corps as a whole, and we are all grateful for that.

The existence of the RAF Section and its continuing healthy state are largely the result of Jane Keable's selfless and unstinting efforts over the years, born as they were out of great integrity and an old-fashioned sense of loyalty and duty. I am quite sure that barely a single day has gone by since 1989 that Flt Lt Keable has not been working or planning for the well-being of the cadets in her Section, and now, as she leaves the School, we are all extremely conscious of what we and those generations of cadets owe to her. How she will be missed.

Captain E L Matthews



Captain Matthews (second from right) at Brigade HQ with (l-r) Lt Col Fisher, 2 Lt Milligan and Capt Jones.

Captain Matthews took her commission in January 1996 after attending a variety of Camps and other CCF events during the previous year. She immediately threw herself enthusiastically into all aspects of Corps life, managing all our competition teams and attending every Service Course open to her, thus quickly becoming one of the best qualified CCF officers in the country. A visit to 229 (Berlin) Signal Squadron, Royal Signals, in Krefeld in 1998 was followed in 1999 by seven weeks in Canada as Escort Officer to the International Cadet Exchange to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. In the meantime she had passed the Advance Course at Frimley Park Cadet Training Centre which qualified her to take command of the Army Section and play a greater part in organising our training. I greatly valued her advice and hard work, especially in the planning and execution of annual AT Camp, and especially the "senior" expeditions in which she herself took part. Nobody knew her cadets better than Captain Matthews and her clear judgement of their qualities invariably determined the course of their promotion through the Corps. Yet her apparently tough exterior barely concealed an understanding and compassionate nature, particularly where apparently less favoured cadets were concerned.

Captain Matthews brought a great deal to the Corps here, but I'm quite sure she too gained tremendously in exploiting all the opportunities WHGS CCF made available to her. Even as this is being written she is with a School party cycling in the Hebrides just after her return from Central Camp in Scotland, and in August she and 2 Lt Milligan go to JSMTC Ripon to take a Mountain First Aid Course. Hundreds of cadets have benefited from the confidence and expertise which she has developed during her five years in the Corps. We have been pleased and privileged to work with Captain Matthews and are all going to have to work that much harder now that she's gone! We wish her well in her new school, Trent College, where of course she was quickly recruited into the CCF. The possibility of some joint training has already been mooted!

Lieutenant Colonel D M Fisher

Contingent Commander

CCF RAF Section

This year was sadly marked by the retirement of Flt Lt Keable from teaching and from her leadership of the RAF Section. She has given loyally and unstintingly of her time and efforts over her years in charge of the Section and will be sorely missed. She has however generously agreed to continue to help out by attending Easter and summer camps, at which her energy and concern for the cadets' welfare are always of the utmost value. Her successor in the hot seat is Fl. Off. Addison.

The year in the Section has followed its usual pattern of Field Days and Camps. Two of the 20 new recruits from Year 9 had their first experience of flying in the RAF's latest training aircraft, the single-engined Tutor. The first of these was Cadet Ashley Wood. He writes :

On Wednesday 20th June members of the Section visited RAF Woodvale. They had the chance to see what it was really like to fly an aircraft.

When we got there, we marched over to a room where an officer was waiting for us. There we watched a video all about flying, how the kit worked and what to do if you had to jump out of the aircraft and use your parachute.

After that, the fun really started. Two people were sent off to put on their flying gear. It was finally my turn. My flight lasted about twenty minutes and during it I got to experience how to handle the plane and to fly it myself – " you have control," the pilot said. I also got the chance to try aerobatics, which were breathtaking.

It's an experience that is well worth having. You must try it.

Another recruit, Cadet Ademola Olaitan, also enjoyed the Field Day and his first flight. He writes:

A couple of days before my first RAF Field Day I had to pass a test on the Airfield. We had to know about different types of airfields, the colours of runway and taxiway markings and so on. I passed the test without too much difficulty and received a Record of Service book, which had to be signed by my parents to show that they had given consent for me to fly.

At 9 am we set off for RAF Woodvale, near Blackpool. We arrived in about an hour, got off the coach and were taken to a little room with a video and TV. We were greeted and briefed about what to do in case of a fire and then watched a video about how to fit the parachute and life-jacket, what to do while in the plane and how to get out of it if the pilot shouted " Jump, jump."

The rest of the day was mainly taken up with drill and waiting and soon my hopes of flying were fading fast. However at about 3 pm I was called into the fitting room. The helmet, flying jacket and parachute weighed a ton but I soon forgot about it. When I was finally called to the runway, I couldn't believe it – I was actually going to control a plane. I boarded the tiny two-seater and was strapped in by the ground crew. The pilot taxied the plane to the runway and made his final checks before the plane took off.

The pilot was friendly and this helped to calm me down. Take-off was amazing: it was so smooth that I was at least 150 feet in the air before I actually realised that I was airborne. The plane climbed to about 4,000 feet until we could see Blackpool tower and the Pontins holiday camp in Southport. Everything looked extremely small. The pilot showed me the basic controls of the plane for about 10 minutes and it felt like only a couple of minutes. The pilot asked if I wanted to do some aerobatics such as the barrel roll and the loop-the-loop but as it was my first flight I decided not to. The pilot retook control of the plane and landed just as smoothly as when we had taken off.

Despite preliminary misgivings Ademola also enjoyed his first camp, at RAF Coningsby, a working base of the RAF's fighter-bombers and interceptors, the Tornadoes. He writes:

I arrived at the base with the terrible feeling that I should never have come. At first I was a bit disappointed as things got off to a slow start on the first day. We were split into two groups, Red and Green Flights. Almost all the activities on camp were done in our Flights, the scores were added up and the flight with the highest score was the overall winner.

The food was far better than I had expected and there were also many fun activities, such as bowling, a cinema visit, shooting and flying. There was hardly any drill and we got the chance to sit in a Tornado F3 fighter. We also took part in a Night Exercise, which tested our leadership skills and camouflage tactics but was also a lot of fun. There were also loads of command and leadership tasks throughout the week, such as crossing an imaginary river with only planks and ropes.

On the whole I enjoyed the camp very much. It was a great experience which everyone should have the opportunity of going on.

Cadets Laura Hanford and Ehi Okpe both attended Easter camp at the Search and Rescue base of St Mawgan in remote Cornwall.

Laura Writes: we set off from School at 9.30 on the Wednesday morning of the last day of term and eventually arrived at 5.30 pm.

Next day with 203 Squadron we practised grenade throwing. We had to leopard-crawl up to a position and throw the grenades, which were surprisingly heavy and difficult to throw from such a low position.

We then had a communications exercise. Ehi and I were fitted with radios. I was blindfolded and had to make my way along a small track in between tapes lying at my feet, with Ehi directing me. It only took us 2 minutes 46 seconds, which was the quickest time from our flight.

After that we had to stand behind the truck and, using binoculars, identify 10 objects placed up to 30 metres away. We got about 8. Afterwards, when the instructor was going through what we had missed, he said: "Did anyone see the man?" We were all very confused and were astonished when

a man in camouflage gear stood up. We couldn't believe it. He then took half of us to get cammed up while the others waited. Our group went round and stood against the wall. The instructor said that all the people from our flight were only 15 metres in front of us! We had about 5 minutes to direct him to where we thought the people were. They were so well camouflaged that we could not find any of them. It was a shock when they stood up! Then we swapped around. We already had our combats on, so we put on cammo cream and helmets plastered with grass and found a position on the grass. None of us was found either, although they came terribly close.



Cdt. Laura Hanford in Breathing apparatus, St. Mawgan 2001.

Later our flight had to empty a trailer containing 16 boxes and remember exactly which position they had been in. Then we had to push the trailer around a course. It was difficult trying to keep the weight balanced at the front and the back.

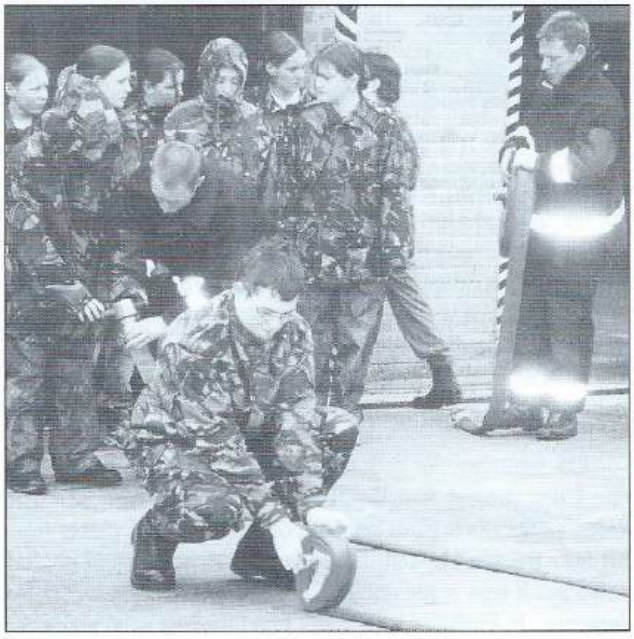
One of the best things we did on camp was to go for a flight in a Sea King helicopter. It was amazing! Once we were up, a few of us were allowed to sit right in front of the open door – of course we were attached by a cable to the helicopter! I was lucky enough to have a go and it was one of the most fantastic experiences I have ever had. I was even sitting in front of the open door when we landed, which was great.

Most people had a turn of being duty cadet for the day. This involved making sure that everyone was up and ready when they were supposed to be, and collecting packed lunches if they were needed. When I was duty cadet, I wanted to make sure that everyone would definitely be ready on time, so I woke them up ten minutes early!

One evening our flights had to do some leadership tasks. One of them was rather strange. Our leader was briefed and then had to brief us. We were each given different animals and were told that, when we heard our noise, it was our turn. Then she gave us a series of directions, for example forwards was a click, to the left was a clap etc.. It was difficult to remember these. Next we were blindfolded and taken into a room. We hadn't a clue what was going on, but she was trying to move each of us into the centre where there was a bunker made of chairs. Only two people made it!

One day we visited the police dogs, which was quite fun. One of them kept running around barking and chasing his tail, which we all found amusing. Straight after that we went go carting. That really was fun! We each had five races and my best position was second, which I was really proud of. For some reason I got disqualified twice – apparently the first time I had my accelerator and brake pedal on at the same time (I don't think so!). The second time it wasn't even my fault – somebody crashed into me and I went flying into the tyres. It was lots of fun anyway. The six people who had the best positions went into the final and had their own race. The best three stood on the podium and the winner got a glass of cider, which, in true racing-style, he sprayed over everyone.

On the last night we all went to the bowling alley on the base. First of all the officers gave our prizes and then we bowled. I came second out of our group. It was fun because when we weren't bowling there were tables for Ping-Pong and for arm-wrestling!



Cdt. M. Sharpe rolling up a fire hose, St. Mawgan 2001.

There were lots of tears on the last day. Despite not being able to go flying, shooting or on a night-exercise, we had had an amazing time and were sorry to leave everyone behind.

Cadet Ehi Okpe attended the same camp. She writes:

We arrived after a journey of about eight hours. Laura and I shared a room, which was small but had the basics: a wardrobe, a chest of drawers and a sink.

We started the first day at 203 Squadron, where we were divided into four teams and given a number of tasks to do. One of these was a map-and-compass exercise. We had to discover letters at different co-ordinates which spelled out the name of an aircraft. It was hard and we got stuck on the

tenth letter. But with a little help from Fl Lt Keable, Laura guessed the aircraft correctly. Another task was camouflage, which was fun. First we had to discover ten hidden objects. We only managed eight and then the person in charge asked us whether we had seen the man 10 metres in front of us. We couldn't believe it. Then he shouted, " Get up" and a man came out of the grass in his camouflage gear. The instructor went on: " That's for all the unbelievers who think camouflage doesn't work." Then we had a go. Nobody was found in either group



Cdt. Ehi Okpe learning how to use radios.

Next morning we were up at 6.30 am and visited places on the base. Later we went to look at a Shackleton, a four-engined descendant of the Lancaster bomber, which had been used for many years for submarine-detection over the Atlantic. Lunch was at 12 15 pm, by which time most of the cadets were really hungry after a 7 15 breakfast. The food on the camp was excellent, with something different to eat every day and with limejuice to drink.

On Saturday the cadets and staff went on a day-trip to the Eden project and the fishing village of Padstow. The Eden project is a giant bubble containing exotic plants from all over the world. I'm not a plant-lover because of my hay fever but it was really good. They had every plant you could imagine. In Padstow Laura and I had fun: we went shopping for some rock and a camera and then joined some other cadets in the fish-and-chip shop, where we stayed for an hour just talking. In the evening we went to the cinema to see " Meet the Parents," which was extremely funny.

On Sunday we visited the Cornwall air ambulance. Did you know it was the first one in Britain? After it we had the hardest room inspection ever. It was like being on army camp. Laura and I worked really hard at cleaning our room but, when we were inspected, it turned out that we hadn't really cleaned very well at all. The inspecting officer ran his fingers against the hooks on the wall and found dust; he ran his fingers along the top of the door and again found dust. He gave us a two-minute lecture on dust and how it was composed of skin and with the amount of dust he had found he could make a human body. When he left Laura and I could hardly control ourselves. We burst into hysterics.

On Monday evening we went go carting. It was great. I'd never done it before but I did quite well for a beginner. I crashed three times and then was told to stop for my own safety, but I still enjoyed myself. The overall winner was George, but he went go-carting every week and had his own go-kart.

On Tuesday we went to have a look at the Sea King helicopter and we had a chance to go on the Sea King simulator, which cost £5 million and for which even the data-cards cost £25,000. Later on the same day we had the drill competition. My flight had worked well in their practices and we were confident that we could win. In the end our work paid off and we did in fact win but it was very close indeed.

In the evening we had the prize-giving ceremony and then bowling. I came last in the bowling – I can't bowl at all. Before I went to bed I talked to everybody. I had made really good friends on this camp and I knew that it was going to be hard to say goodbye the next day. In the end I can't remember what time I got to bed but it was late. Very late indeed.

Next day, after 7:15 breakfast, I got my picture and certificates signed by everybody and said my goodbyes. I was heading for the bus when Aidan, a friend I had made, asked whether I wanted a piggyback, as he had given me one before. I couldn't refuse. He carried me up to the bus and I thanked him. We left the base at 9 30 am.

It was the best camp I'd ever been on. The RAF is great fun and the camps are not to be missed.

The loss of Flt Lt Keable has been a blow but Fl Off Addison has cheerfully taken on the burden of grappling with the RAF bureaucracy and with his vigour and enthusiasm, and the 20 recruits from Year 9, we look forward to a bright future.

Flt Lt M.H. Gracey



Trailer race, St. Mawgan, Easter 2001.



Cpl. Colin Leung, Go-karting at St. Mawgan, Easter 2001.

HOUSE REPORTS

BYROM HOUSE

Heads of House	Daniel Gall*
	Samantha John*
Deputy Heads	Darren Daly*
	Homera Ahmed*
House Prefects	Waqar Ahmad*
	Hadi Al-Bayati
	Alex Rennie
	Rupinder Sagar
	Stanly Tso*
	John Watson*

* denotes school prefect

The end of an era can be difficult to come to terms with, however, things move on, needs change and we must adapt. This therefore is the final Byrom House report. I have had a fantastic time as Housemaster. I hope everybody in Byrom has something they can look back on and say they enjoyed. There are of course things which did not go as well as one would have liked, but over all I feel we can be pleased with what we achieved and the way we achieved it. I do believe winning is not all important and it matters very much how one conducts ones self. Grace in victory, dignity in defeat.

NEW ARRIVALS

The final set of year 9 pupils to have the good fortune to become Byromites are listed below. Once in Byrom always in Byrom.

Keka Atanga
Christopher Farrell
Arun Hackett
Ismail Mahmood
Lavinia McDonald-Jones
Tayo Moses
Christina Sullivan
Nazia Walyat
Matthew Whitehead
Martin Wray
Asim Yousafi

HOUSE PLAY

"**Faulty Towers**" by John Cleese & Connie Booth
Directed by Sara Sadeghi & Joshua Duckworth
Produced by Sharan Suthar

Having come second last year, we were very hopeful of a good result in this year's competition and we were delighted when we went one better to win. The choice of play is always an important factor in success because if the cast enjoy the play it comes across in the performance. This proved to be true once again. The whole team clearly had a great time with lots of laughs being had - and this was just the rehearsals. This production was really a very strong team effort, with everybody working hard and more importantly together. This for me is the beauty of the plays. It brings together different ages in the House and also different skills, everybody's part, whether acting or backstage, is vital to the over all performance. On the night everything went excellently and the audience were treated to a fine old farce which had them rolling in the aisles. Many congratulations and well done go to all that were involved, particularly Daniel Gall who won best actor and Darren Daly who was runner up but also to Josh Duckworth who was an excellent Sybil, Amy Diazuk as Polly, Waqar Ahmad as Manuel, Marcus Webber as Walt and Mark Brighouse as the Major. As well as these there were great supporting roles from Mariam Al-Bayati and Samantha John, as the two old ladies, Arun Hackett, Matt Whitehead and Stanley Tso as the inspectors. Usman Butt did a great job backstage. The whole team richly deserve their success, particularly Sara, Josh and Sharon. Well done all!!!

RUGBY

The rugby highlights were provided once again by the Senior League team. They played some solid matches, organised admirably by Alex Rennie as captain. Overall we won four, drew one and lost none to finish top of the table for the second year in a row. In the knockouts it was a different story. We went out at the first hurdle in both senior and junior competitions. Sadly the Ray Cox 7s was not held.

HOCKEY

Hockey has been a strong area for us in the recent past, and this continued to be the case. The competitions always produce hard fought matches. In the Juniors we won one and drew one to go into the semi against Fraser. This was very close and we lost out by a short corner. In the play off we over came Dalton quite easily by 3 -1, so finished third. In the Senior competition a very similar pattern emerged .We won one, drew one and drew in the play off to take third here too.

MUSIC

This is the only House activity that Byrom has not won while I have been Housemaster. Pity, as I love music. None the less we did put on a super programme and were third in a close result, only three points covered the first three places. Many congratulations and much praise go to Mark Brighouse on piano, Sara Sadeghi on clarinet, Vicky Hufton, Mariam Al-Bayati, and Christina Sullivan who all sang individual pieces, Amy Diaczuk on flute, Darren Daly on guitar and Susan Barber on piano. The ability to sing or play music is something well worth having. I know you are often pushed into doing it and it can be uncool, but stick with it and you will be pleased in the long run.

RUNNING

The run was held on school grounds this year as Alexandra Park is becoming too risky a place and so runners did a number of laps of the field. The Seniors did extremely well and finished first. Strong runs came from Marcus Webber, Mark Brighouse, Darren Daly, Gajanan Samant, Dan Gall, Alex Rennie, Rupindar Sagar and Matt Parkhouse. They were well supported by Eser Nihat, Usman Butt, Stan Tso, Nick Johnson, Elaine Tang, Amy Diazuk, and Susan Barber.

In the Year 10 event, where everybody runs, we again had some high finishers. Paul Birch in 11th place was our

best, closely followed by Nicole Plummer in 12th - she also being the first girl. The year 9 was similarly strong and Ismail Mahmood (9th) and Tayo Moses (18th) are worthy of special mention. When all the scores and results were added up we came out on top less than two points ahead of Whitworth. A fantastic result gained out of real hard effort.

SWIMMING

I just do not understand it. Nobody seems to like or want to swim. A few brave souls gave it their best shot but we did not figure in the results and I shall move on quickly.

FOOTBALL

Another good sport for us. The league team finished second, having only lost one game, and in the knockout we lost in the semi 4 - 3, a sad goalkeeping error costing us the game. The Junior team was less successful, losing in the first round, but fun was had by most. Well done.

NETBALL

The juniors were just far too strong for any of the other Houses. Our girls put together several high scoring victories and ran out comfortable winners, beating Heywood 7 - 0 in the final. Well done to Simone Walters, Nicole Plummer, Vicky Hufton, Laura Dodson, Anisah Ashraf, Nazia Walayat, Christina Sullivan, Lavinia McDonald-Jones and Mariam Al-Bayati. Almost the complete reverse was the situation for the Seniors. They were swept aside and finished at the bottom. This was however mainly due to a lack of numbers, we just do not have enough girls in the house to put out a full team and so are bound to struggle. The few girls we do have put up a truly valiant effort. The reorganisation of the houses will hopefully correct this situation next year.

CRICKET

Cricket is a super game but it does require a large time commitment. For past few years games have been spoilt because when 3.40 p.m. comes many players simply have to leave and go home, as the school bus is their only method of transport. This has left us with as few as 4 players on occasions. Clearly matches that go on after school has finished cause real problems and a new format needs to be adopted in my opinion. This year's competitions faired a little better and we got to the final of the Seniors, losing to Gaskell. Unfortunately in the Juniors we went out early.

ROUNDERS

The Senior rounders suffered a similar fate to the Netball but things were made worse because the upper sixth and year 11s had exams to contend with. The combined effects of the two factors meant Byrom could not field a team. In fact only two Houses were able to put out teams. By contrast the Junior event was an excellent contest. Byrom's girls again proved to be very strong, winning every game to take the cup. I have no doubt that this group would have gone on to collect many trophies had the House situation remained as it was this year.

ATHLETICS

Sports days are always great fun if the sunshines and this year we were lucky and had two good ones. I particularly like athletics, as I feel that there are lots of events so everybody is catered for. Even though we finished 5th in the over all standings there was much to be admired from individuals. In the Seniors Marcus Webber was our best performer, with a first and second in high jump and shot. The races of the day were between Andy McIntyre and Mike Platt in the 100m & 200m -close and very fast, two superb athletes.

In the Junior events we had more successes. Edwin Etadafe and Zion Chakraborty both won the shot putt in their age group. Nicole Plummer won the 200m but the most impressive athlete was Tayo Moses who won the 100m and 200m, was second in the high jump and brought home the 4 x 100m relay team in winning style. Keka Atanga was a close second behind Tayo in the 200m. There were many more great efforts that helped the team and brought credit to each one; such as Ismail Mahmood, Gajanan Samant, Paul Birch, Lavinia McDonald-Jones, Vicky Hufton, Chris Farrell and Matt Whitehead. Well done everybody !!

COLOURS

Most, if not all, of Byrom think I am tight when it comes to giving out House colours. This is probably true. Call me old fashioned if you will, but I believe that if you have to earn something you value it more than if you merely acquire it for little. Having said this, it being the end of Byrom House, some will not get the chance to win their colours but are well on the way to doing so. Many have of course already received the Red Stripe and display it proudly. I have no doubt that all would go on to get the coveted ribbon and so I duly award everybody in the House their colours. I hope you all show the same, if not more, enthusiasm for your new House next year and that you go on to gain honours in its name. Do so and enjoy!

It only remains for me to say many heart-felt thanks to Helen Kelly, Graeme Addison and Brad Swales for all that they have done and for putting up with my haphazard organisation. Also to say farewell ,good luck and thanks to Bendy, Sam, Darren and Homrea. It has been a real pleasure to have worked with you. To all who are leaving the very best of luck and every happiness in the future.

N P DUNN HOUSEMASTER

HOUSE REPORTS

DALTON

House Officials 2000/2001 :

House Deputies	Ms S R Tandon, Dr D M Martin
Head of School	Helia Asadi
Heads of House	Daniel Endlar, Natalie Sheldon
Deputy Heads of House	Natasha Juma, Iram Choudary, Rameez Haider
School Prefects	Helia Asadi, Daniel Endlar, Natalie Sheldon, Natasha Juma, Iram Choudary

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made :

Rugby Captains	Senior Knockout	Alick Hyde
	Senior League	Rameez Haider, Daniel Endlar
	Junior Knockout	Zac McKenzie
Hockey Captains	Senior	Helia Asadi
	Junior	Ashley Gilbody
Play Producers	Daniel Endlar	
Assistants	Natalie Sheldon, Namit Agarwal	
Debating Team	Amandip Singh, Khairie Gedal	

At the beginning of the term, Dr Martin joined Dalton as a House Deputy. We were pleased to welcome him into the House and as Form Tutor to 10D. We also welcomed 13 pupils into Year 9 and Dwain Dudley joined Year 10. We were looking forward to all playing their part in House competitions. Our Junior Knockout rugby team was built around the captaincy and hard tackling of Zac McKenzie, the speed of Khairie Gedal and Martin Lindo and the strength of Dwain Dudley. Our first round match was against Whitworth, in what was expected to be a close contest. The forwards supported each other and won most of the ball in the set scrums and in the loose rucks. Our first try was scored by Khairie using his speed down the wing, but, missed tackles cost us the lead, and Whitworth gained a 7-5 advantage. Zac was always on hand to assist scrum half Gurjeet Sandher, and it was a pass out to Dwain that led to our second try. Dwain was starting to put his size and strength to good effect, but individual runs were not supported. It was not until the second half that we gained a comfortable lead, with teamwork setting up Jagjit Sandher, before Zac, Khairie and Martin ran hard for individual efforts. A win by 32 points to 7 was well deserved. Our second round match was against Byrom, when absences meant that we had to use all players who were present. This was expected to be a tough game, with our small Year 9 players having to face large opposition. However, the strength of Zac and Dwain set an example for the rest and victory ensued by 41 points to 10. The Final was to be against Byrom, and we received a shock shortly before the match when we were told that Dwain would not be eligible to play as he was too old. The task was already daunting, with the opposition having several big players from the school Under 15 team, and our smaller players became concerned. Despite the hard work of Zac, Martin and Jagjit, we were not strong enough and lost 5-22 in the final.

Our first Senior Knockout match was against Whitworth, with a team consisting of just four regular school players. Absences reduced the numbers available, and the players failed to gel together as we had hoped. The opposition scored five tries, without our scoring any. A heavy defeat followed. The Senior League team was to be led by Rameez Haider, ably supported by Daniel Endlar. We had regular impressive performances from Will Tamkin, Simon Khoshneviszadeh, Richard Wall, Asad Riaz and Amandip Singh. Our tackling and the team spirit was always much in evidence. However, we had a very light scrum and nobody who could run convincingly with the ball. In one match, we suffered a heavy defeat, but all the other matches were close. I was pleased with the effort, even though we failed to win a match.

The Junior hockey competition commenced early in the term, although bad weather prevented the finals being played until February. We were to rely on Ashley Gilbody and Kristina Stus, although all the girls put in much effort. We managed to defeat Whitworth, but lost to Fraser. That took us to a semi final match against Heywood. We were unable to defeat them, and we finished 4th in the competition, after losing the play-off to Byrom. In the Senior competition, we had the expertise of Helia to lead us, but a shortage of players prevented us fielding as strong a team as we would have liked. In the first round, we also had one win (against Gaskell) and one loss (against Whitworth), producing a semi final against Heywood. This we lost, and again finished a disappointing 4th.

A Road Run competition took place during the Term, with each House selecting a team including both boys and girls at each age group. In the Seniors, Alick Hyde finished an excellent 3rd, while Imran Rahim and Andrew Clark also finished in the top 30. In the Year 9 race, our best placed runner was Ashley Wood in 7th. In Year 10's, Martin Lindo came 4th and Dwain Dudley came 8th. Congratulations to all the above.

The House Debating competition took place in December, and Dalton were in opposition to Byrom, who were to support the proposition "This House believes that environmental issues should be the prime concern of humanity". Amandip Singh and Khairie Gedal prepared their speeches well, working on the theme that humanity should look after the human population themselves before tackling environmental issues, which should be secondary. A confident performance was put up by two inexperienced debaters, and Khairie received special praise from the judges, especially as he was speaking in front of an audience two years older than himself.

October and November were to be busy months for the actors in the House, as the House Drama competition was to take place early. Daniel Endlar offered to produce the play, adapting Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest". It was a murder mystery that took place in a sitting room in a house in South Wales. An intruder finds Mr Warwick dead in his wheelchair, murdered only a few minutes before. The victim's wife confesses to the murder, but did she do it, or was she concealing something? The inexperienced cast worked

together tirelessly and put on an excellent performance. Daniel was highly recommended as Inspector Thomas, as was Natalie Sheldon as Laura Warwick, the wife. Other good performances came from Matthew Ahern and Ashley Wood. The cast all went out for a meal over the holiday.

Lent Term

The following appointments were made :

Football Captains	Senior Knockout	Daniel Endlar
	Senior League	Rameez Haider
	Junior Knockout	Jagjit Sandher
Netball Captains	Senior	Ceegay Verley
	Junior	Kristina Stus
Swimming Captains	Senior	Natasha Juma
	Junior	Ellie Dodd
Music Producers	Suffian Burki	
Assistant	Natalie Sheldon	

The House League in Football was decimated this Term because of other commitments and the bad weather. We had an enthusiastic group of boys, although we had lost our regular goalkeeper of last year, Will Tamkin, to the School squad. Our first match was against a weak Heywood side, and we scored regularly, with all playing a part in a big win, Rameez scoring 4 goals. Our second match was much closer, and it was only two late goals from Usman Akhtar that won us the match. We continued with our 100% record by defeating Fraser 6-2. We fielded a full side in each game, and overcame very wet conditions. In the Senior Knockout, we lacked three experienced players, and lost heavily to Fraser. In the Junior Knockout, we had the commitment but not the expertise. We had little support from the Year 9 boys to assist those a year older, and it was only late in the game that Martin Lindo scored a consolation goal against Fraser.

The girls had their netball competition during this Term, with the Seniors facing Whitworth and Byrom on a very windy day. In the first match, we missed our chances, and the opposition were quicker in midfield. Against Byrom, however, Ceegay Verley and Natalie Sheldon scored five goals each in a 10-1 victory. In the semi-final, we lost 2-3 to Fraser, again giving the ball away in midfield, and finished 4th in a competition we should have won. Iram Choudary and Ceegay played very well in both matches. The Juniors were not strong, but put up excellent performances in both their first round matches, especially Ashley Gilbody, Kristina Stus and Ellie Dodd. In both matches, we were ahead until the last few minutes, and lost 2-3 to Fraser and 2-4 to Gaskell. The same three, together with Laura Hanford and Alison Hardy, led us well in our final match, when we won 7-0, to finish 5th.

This term also included the House Music competition. We had few musicians in the House, but they were well organised by Suffian Burki and Ashley Wood. Ashley contributed to most pieces, playing solos on the saxophone and the piano, accompanying Ellie and playing duets with Andrew Clark and Laura Hanford. His expertise and experience was much in evidence. Alison and Jasmin also contributed on vocals. The programme entry was well put together, and finished with a small group. Although we had not expected to win, we were very pleased with the way it turned out, and were happy to finish 2nd, only one point behind the first placed House.

The House entry for swimming was difficult to fill as there were several weak swimmers. Absences also decimated our teams, and the Senior entry was not full. Our only individual finalist was Chris Hanford in the butterfly, although we had one relay team in the Final. In the Juniors, Ellie (butterfly) and Dwain (freestyle) made the Final, as did both our relay teams. It was a pity that the effort put in by a few was not matched by all pupils.

Midsummer Term

The following appointments were made :

Acting Heads of House	Simon Khoshneviszadeh, Will Tamkin	
Deputies	Amandip Singh, Susanne Onyemem	
Cricket Captains	Senior	Namit Agarwal
	Junior	Jagjit Sandher
Rounders Captains	Senio	Natalie Sheldon
	Junior	Ashley Gilbody
Athletics Captains	Junior	Khairie Gedal, Laura Hanford

We welcomed into Year 9 Sanaa Khan and hope she would integrate well into the House. In the House Rounders competition, the Seniors was postponed until after exams, but Dalton could not then raise a team. In the Junior competition, the girls played really well, especially the fielding of the trio Ashley, Kristina and Laura, who ran out three opposition girls in three deliveries. Tight fielding and the big hitting of Ashley were very noticeable. The first round results included wins over Gaskell (4½ - 2) and Heywood (2 - 0). In the semi-finals, we knew we would have to rely on Ashley for the batting, but she was out early against Whitworth. The match went to the final delivery, but we lost both this match and the play off each by a point.

Our cricket teams did not fare well, both losing in the first round. The Seniors were well organised by Namit Agarwal and included Dwain Dudley as a Senior as he was ineligible as a Junior. The score of 50 all out was not enough, but six wickets were taken. The Juniors had few School players, but tried hard.

On Senior Sports Day, we had very mixed results, although we finished in 5th place. On a very hot day, the Juniors had their part of the competition, and much effort was put in. The best of the results are as follows:

Seniors :	Alick Hyde	800m (1st)
	Stefan Knight	100m (3rd)
	Boys' Relay	4x100m (1st)
	Julian Chapman	High Jump (3rd)
	Gemma Carolan	High Jump (1st)
	Susanne Onyemem	High Jump (3rd)
	Ceegay Verley	Triple Jump (1st)
Juniors :	Khairie Gedal	200m (2nd)
		100m (2nd)
		Long Jump (1st)
	Dwain Dudley	200m (3rd)
	Martin Lindo	800m (3rd)
		1500m (3rd)
	Year 9 Relay	4x400m (3rd)
	Year 10 Relay	4x100m (1st)
	Ellie Dodd	Shot (2nd)
	Zac McKenzie	Shot (2nd)

Congratulations to all the above.

The end of Term brought the end of the House system as at present. Six Houses are to be replaced by four, and the Dalton name, in existence since the start of Houses at William Hulme's, is to be no more. Houses are to be mostly sports based, leaving little for those who are not sports orientated. We shall see what the future holds.

M.D.Wood

FRASER HOUSE

Heads of House: Victoria H Bramwell *
James A R Meers*

House Prefects: Alexis J Dickson, Anthony P Green, Samuel J Higgins, Jaya Jairath*, Mohammed N Jilani, Alexander J Johnstone, Ali R A Maan, James A L Smith, Paul M Stonehouse, Daniel T Wood* and Saqib Zahid.

*denotes School Prefect

Captain of School Rugby: Anthony P Green



The Cast of The Virtuous Burglar: l-r Camille Kasler, Gurpreet Singh, Tom Jones, Adam Vittoz and Alexis Dickson, (missing – Sifiso Banda and Johanna Leung). (photo: D M Fisher).

The House welcomed the following into 9F from the Lower School: Jessica Baron (sister of Rebecca), Jonathan Butterworth, Nabil Choudhury, Atem Eyong, Kyle Hall, Aaron Kelembeck, Mobasir Khan, Lauretta Lauder, Johanna Leung, David Porter, Malik Tabib and Adam Welsby. Sifiso Banda and Srishti Mehra came to us in the Lower Sixth and Chris Tang joined 9F from St Francis Xavier's School, Hong Kong.

We were all very sorry to say farewell to Brett Ramsumair from the Lower Sixth. Brett had been an integral part of Fraser's activities for four years and was widely liked and respected.

One hears a great deal of talk every year about which House is the best, the worst and so on. This sort of rivalry is natural and normal, as long as it remains within the bounds of common sense. But Fraser House were reminded once again at the beginning of this, their final year together, that a House (and indeed a School), can only be as good as the random group of pupils who are its temporary members. The previous year had been a successful one for the House purely in terms of competitive results, but even more so in terms of pupils' attitudes towards activities where we didn't compete so effectively and yet still managed to confront the challenge in a confident and positive way, in a spirit of teamwork and fun, producing the best performance possible. Making everything one does as a pupil a matter of personal and collective pride will ensure you produce results which do you justice and credit. Whether it be academic work, sports, House and cultural activities, or your social life at School, a positive, willing and enthusiastic approach will also win you friends amongst those who depend on your participation and support. A reluctant, grudging attitude serves no purpose and simply drags everybody's spirits down. The vast majority of Fraser House members this year have managed to avoid this, and have accepted the responsibilities membership of a School and a House have placed upon them, and consequently can look back with satisfaction on a year of achievement and progress. I hope they will all carry this level of maturity on with them into their new Houses in September 2001.

MICHAELMAS TERM

Captain of Rugby:	Anthony Green
Vice Captain	James Meers
Captain of Rugby (League)	Daniel Wood
Captain of Rugby (Junior)	Alex Adams
Captain of Hockey	Collective

The first of many **Inter-House Rugby** matches saw us off to a good sound start with tries from Alex Johnstone, Rajiv Kay and Daniel Wood. None were converted though and so Whitworth's two converted tries late in the game left us narrow winners by 15-14. This was Sifiso Banda's first game of rugby and he made a very good job of it indeed, defending well and picking himself up uncomplainingly when launched into touch by a flying Whitworth tackle. Daniel Wood played a captain's game, working hard all the time and involved in every move. We let the second match go in rather the same way against Byrom, our backs invariably static when receiving the ball and running laterally instead of forward. Leading until the last moments, we drew this one 17-17 in the end. By the time the third game came along the period of grace had elapsed and players incorrectly kitted out were excluded from competing. Consequently eight Fraser players took to the field against Gaskell's fourteen while the remainder watched dejected (I hope) from the touch-line. A wonderful show of teamplay and resilience brought a score of 15-14 at half-time, but the eight were exhausted by this time and had little to offer when Gaskell again launched themselves at our composite attack and defence five minutes from the whistle. But the team had really played beyond itself in strength and skill, falling on the ball after penetrating kicks into our defence, releasing at just the right moment, handling deftly especially between the forwards, tackling ruthlessly again and again, supporting each other tirelessly and refusing to give an inch at any stage. This game will stand out as exemplifying the ethos of House rugby and typifying the attitude of those taking part: Daniel Wood, James Smith,

Sam Higgins, James Wood, Phil Pereira, Andy Smith, Imran Hussain and Sean Cordwell. Not surprisingly our full side took on Heywood and Byrom over the following two weeks and enjoyed comfortable wins of 27-12 and 36-0. Other players who represented the House were James Mcconville, Alex Johnstone, Rajiv Kay, Richard Colebrook, Sifiso Banda, Rajesh Kumar, Colin and Edwin Leung, Gurpreet Singh, and on at least one occasion the elusive Yasir Eldin, we think.

Meanwhile the **Senior Knockout XV** had had their first match but had drawn 7-7 with Whitworth and were forces into a replay. Time and weather being what it is in this or any other term it was decreed that this important match take place over twenty minutes in a lunch-hour. The pitch was wet and slippery and we couldn'td get our backs away, so that despite strong play from Anthony Green, James Meers, Paul Stonehouse, Chris Ogden-Smith and Umair Khalil we managed only a penalty against Whitworth's ten points; a disappointing end to a campaign which could so easily have led to a fourth consecutive tenure of the Football Shield, and would have made our very experienced senior players very happy indeed.

Sadly the Junior Knockout XV went the same way in their second round match against Gaskell. Having let Eugene cruise through almost unchallenged for two early tries the team managed to regain some pride, scoring twice (Atem Eyong and Bejan Analoui) and converting once, leaving Gaskell winners 48-12. A healthy degree of enthusiastic planning went into their campaign, however, although a rather unhealthy degree of dismissiveness was expressed by the older players whenever those from 9F were discussed. In the end of course both groups needed each other and fused quite effectively once on the pitch. There is much collective talent and enthusiasm in Fraser at this level (there were twenty names on the original Junior XV teamsheet) and I sincerely hope it will be exploited fully under next year's arrangements. Sadly both the **Ray Cox** and the **Junior House Sevens** fell permanent victim to the appalling weather which so blighted our sports programme this term.

Hockey runs concurrently with rugby of course, although fewer matches are played over just two days of competition. The **Junior XI** won their pool in the first round, beating Whitworth 4-0 and drawing with Dalton. Tamara Brown and Kizzy Smith were our main force in these games, and Mrs Pollard's match report was very complimentary. The second and final round of matches could not be played during the term and had to be held over until Lent. When they did take place, however, the lustre had gone from the competition, so a technical win over Byrom followed by a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Heywood left us runners-up. Salma Ahmed looked a little uneasy in her goal-keepers kit, but saved at least one shot, and Ghazala Seedat and especially Hana Afzal supported her well as full-backs. Our three Year 9 girls deserve a special mention, too. They were never allowed to feel fully a part of the side and yet Jessica Baron, Johanna Leung and Lauretta Lauder proved dependable and did their best to support the older players, clearly to some effect.

The **Senior Hockey XI** were weaker, though more willing to go out and enjoy themselves together. Having lost their two preliminary games 1-0 to Byrom and Heywood (despite a really good team effort against a side with some of the School's best players) they had little to look forward to in the semi-final stage except avoiding the wooden spoon. They turned out nearly a full team but couldn't quite manage it, losing to Gaskell by a single unfortunate goal; unfortunate because goal-keeper extraordinaire Alexis Dickson had been bundled over into the net by a Gaskell charge and was still sitting there, helmet awry and looking disconsolate when the ball crossed the line. The team consisted of Chloe Schofield, Seena Mehta, Danielle Ashley, Jenna French, Camille Kasler, Jaya Jairath, Vicky Bramwell and Alexis.

The **House Play Competition** was again a great success, with six entertaining and polished plays being shown to select audiences over two nights, all of them the work of pupils rather than staff, and a considerable credit to them all as well. Fraser's entry, "The Virtuous Burglar", was a difficult play, very dependent on timing and subtlety to convey the complex inter-relationships between the protagonists. The Adjudicator's review (elsewhere in The Hulmeian) states that "one of the great strengths .. was the comic interaction between the characters", and this is a tribute not only to those actors themselves but also to the co-producers, Gurpreet and Camille. The audience's enjoyment of this play owed much to their "coherent and polished" production, but also to the generally high quality of the performances, and none more so than that of Alexis Dickson who deservedly took the accolade of Best Actress, an award she has been working towards for a year or two. Tom Jones featured in the "Highly Commended" list too, and the play came third overall. The Adjudicator's Report makes essential reading!

This year's **Road Run** took place entirely on the playing fields with each year group running on separate days. The handful of usual suspects let their House down by not running with any courage or conviction, or just by not running, whereas the vast majority made the effort, felt the pain, and experienced the sense of pride and satisfaction of overcoming their disinclination to get sore, muddy and wet. Tom Jones, in fact, couldn't get enough of it and just kept on going, adding lap after lap until the last "runners" had come in! Fraser's Year 9 team did exactly as expected, that is to say outstandingly, winning the Year 9 section of the competition comfortably. Second in Year 10 and third in the seniors brought our final placing down to third, sadly, but those who performed to the best of their ability, like Tom (1st), Adam Kedzior (10th), Alex Adams (13th), seniors Paul Stonehouse (6th), Chris Ogden-Smith (8th), James and Dan Wood (10th and 17th), Edwin Leung (23rd) and Camille Kasler (42nd), and all of 9F, earned themselves tremendous respect.

Imran Hussain and Gurpreet Singh represented the House in the **Inter-House Debating Competition** in December and continued the Fraser tradition of making a winning debate out of an unpromising motion; this year we proposed that "This House would lower tax on fuel" topical but uninspiring. Imran, one of the few younger speakers in the Competition, was commended by the Adjudicators, and the boys were helped in their preparation by reserve Camille

Kasler. Thanks are due to Miss Tandon and this year's Adjudicators.

- Camille Kasler, Colin Leung and Gurpreet Singh were selected to act as surrogate School Prefects during the period of Trial GCE Exams in the New Year;
- James Meers was the School's first recipient of the Ravi Gokal Trophy for Fair Play in Rugby, a singular honour in itself, recognising James's exceptional qualities as a sportsman, and permanent confirmation of James's outstanding and exemplary contribution to School life;
- Representatives at this year's Middle School Council, the termly open forum for years Nine to Eleven, were Lauretta Lauder and Nabil Choudhury(Yr 9), Josh McConville and Salma Ahmed (Yr 10), and Syeeda Siddiqui and Imran Hussain (Yr 11);

LENT TERM



Fraser Senior Girls, Runners Up Inter-House Rounders 2001. (photo: D M Fisher)

The last **House Music Competition** in its present form took place a month after the start of term so levels of organisation and co-operation needed to be high. Unfortunately this year things did not go so well, poor preparation and last minute decisions affecting organisation and confidence. There was also far too little variety, with under-rehearsed (and difficult) vocal items making up too great a proportion of the programme. Sean Cordwell (guitar) and Andy Smith (piano) are both talented musicians but clearly do not relish performing in public! The Adjudicator commented on their reluctance to appear more involved and to interact with the audience; Edwin Leung's cello piece was expressive and fairly polished but some lines were lost - again lack of confidence may have been a factor here; Johanna played Mozart's Fantasia meticulously and stylishly and here there was real evidence of preparation and forethought; Jaya, Vicky, Alexis, Marsha, Sifiso, Tamara and Lauretta all contributed to the various songs, some of which were catchy and fun, and the set could and should have been tremendously enjoyable - but ultimately the entire programme was pervaded with a sense of uncertainty and self-consciousness, sadly, and we were perhaps fortunate to end up with as many points as we did. Only Johanna's and Andrew's pieces gained high marks. Many lessons will have been learned for future performances, I trust, especially in terms of planning and communication. Our thanks to Mr Goodwin, Mr Martin and Miss Nuttall for their help and co-operation.

The **Junior Netball** team without Tamara Brown lacked any level of penetration at the front so lost both their initial matches heavily. The final was no better and as in the hockey matches it gave ample evidence of how important it is for girls to function as a team, not two separate groups of individuals. It is also essential for all players to perform at their best so as not to disadvantage and discourage the rest of the team. Responsibility for this lies chiefly with the older and more experienced members of the House, of course.

Fraser's **Senior Netball** team started well, winning their pool in the first round by beating Gaskell and then participating in an exciting six-all draw with Heywood. After narrowly beating Dalton in the semi-Final, with all three goals coming from Alexis Dickson, they then had to meet a particularly skilful well-organised team from Whitworth in the Final. The Whitworth girls played a more dynamic and effective style of game, whereas Fraser's marking, passing, catching, defending, shooting and general movement seemed to desert us in the general mood of excitement (disbelief?) at reaching the Final. But 11-0 seemed a bit harsh! However second place was more than adequate consolation for the disappointing showing in hockey the previous term. Our crack shot Shabna was unavailable, as was Syeeda, so the team, including supporters, was Vicky, Jaya, Alexis, Jenna, Camille, Marsha, Moyo, Danielle, Chloe and Seena - a gratifying representation from each of the three senior years.

The most pleasing aspect of the change from Lacrosse to **Football** two years ago is the wholehearted attitude of virtually every player to the "new" game. Skill levels tend to be higher anyway, football being a sport which relies essentially on a few extremely simple techniques, and coupled with the average young man's enthusiasm for the sport House matches are seldom tedious or one-sided affairs and everybody seems to feel they have a real chance to compete. The weekly league matches generally went in our favour although we received one sound drubbing at the hands of Dalton and by no means won all our matches. Yet with a solid league side behind them the school players in Fraser went out to compete in the **Senior Knockout** competition with considerable confidence. After overwhelming Dalton in the first match we played Byrom next and came up against a genuine attempt to stop the remorseless Fraser machine. Phil Pereira chipped the goalkeeper for Fraser's opening goal followed by a great effort from Stephen Lancashire chasing a long through ball. A third from Fraser was followed rapidly and worryingly by two from Byrom plus a third from a late penalty. Alex Johnstone's last-moment shot gave us victory, thankfully, but this had been a complacent performance. Gaskell also reached the final and certainly had a nucleus of excellent players, including Robert Booker, Captain of School Football, and Andrew McLeod, both of whom were to prove our downfall in the following term's cricket. Fraser got off to an extremely good start then played better and better to record a final winning score of 5-0.

Perhaps the most impressive player in all three matches was Andrew Smith, two years younger than most and yet playing with such composure, maturity and vision that one might have mistaken him for the captain.



Fraser's 18-strong Senior Football XI, Champions 2001. (photo: D M Fisher)

Where the **Junior XI's** results are concerned I'm afraid my records fail me. This usually means that we have not done ourselves much credit and so I'd rather not remember the details! However Shamil Hudda assures me that, although we played to our full potential in the first match against Gaskell we did not manage to progress to the semi-finals; that is despite the considerable talents of Alex Adams, Naveed Chaudhry, Tom Jones, Martin Sharpe, Duwayne Knight, Josh McConville, Jonathan Butterworth, Atem Eyong, Kyle Hall, David Porter, Nabil Choudhury and Malik Tabib, oh, and Shamil himself, of course.

For a third consecutive year the School **Swimming Sports** were won by Fraser, a real measure of the commitment as well as the ability of our large group of swimmers in all five year groups. The promising juniors performed quite superbly in the heats, providing a solid platform on which the seniors could build their victory. Anchored by Daniel and James Wood, and with superb performances by many others, the senior swimming team took the House safely and strongly through to success in the Finals. The Relay Competition was drawn with Whitworth. Results in the Individual events were:

First places:	Senior	Daniel Wood (Freestyle and Butterfly)
		James Wood (Individual Medley and Breaststroke)
	Junior	Martin Sharpe (Breaststroke)
Second:	Junior	Jonathan Butterworth (Breaststroke)
		Adam Vittoz (Butterfly)
Third:	Senior	Alex Johnstone (Freestyle)
	Junior	Tom Jones (Backstroke)
		Jonathan Butterworth (Freestyle)
Fourth:	Junior	Kyle Hall (Freestyle)

James and Daniel Wood shared the Senior Individual Trophy again. These two exceptional swimming brothers have done more than most to keep interest in the sport alive at William Hulme's in recent years and their influential participation for Fraser in the Swimming Sports has meant that the House has always been in the running, so to speak.

Relays:

First:	Junior Squadron; Junior Medley
Second:	Senior Squadron; Senior Medley

All the finalists earned their House Colours, as did James Meers, Camille Kasler, Tom Sutton and David Porter who contributed to our successes in the Relays.

- The House was well represented in Toad of Toad Hall Gurpreet Singh, Camille Kasler, Tom Jones, Sifiso Banda and Nabil Choudhury all taking acting roles;
- School Football Colours were awarded to; Alex Johnstone (Full), Chris Ogden-Smith (Club), and Umair Khalil and Andrew Smith (Junior);
- House Football Colours were awarded to Alex Johnstone, Paul Stonehouse, Sifiso Banda, James McConville, Chris Ogden-Smith, Tom Sutton, Tim Bannister, Umair Khalil, Stephen Lancashire, Philip Pereira and Andrew Smith (Senior Knockout victors); and James Meers, Sam Higgins, Richard Colebrook, Colin Leung, Gurpreet Singh, James Wood, Imran Hussain, Rajesh Kumar and Edwin Leung (league football);

MIDSUMMER TERM

Both the Juniors' first-round **Rounders** matches were lost in the paddy-fields that were the playing fields at the start of term. The results give some idea of how bad things were: Fraser V Byrom: 0-1½; Fraser v Whitworth: 0-1½. Again the Fraser girls found themselves competing for fifth and sixth place after an unsatisfactory and frustrating day. But with the Wooden Spoon looming for the second time this year Kizzy, Ghazala, Salma, Tamara, Hana, Lauretta, Johanna and Jessica approached their 'final" with a bit more determination, played more effectively, and came away proud victors against Gaskell by just half a rounder.

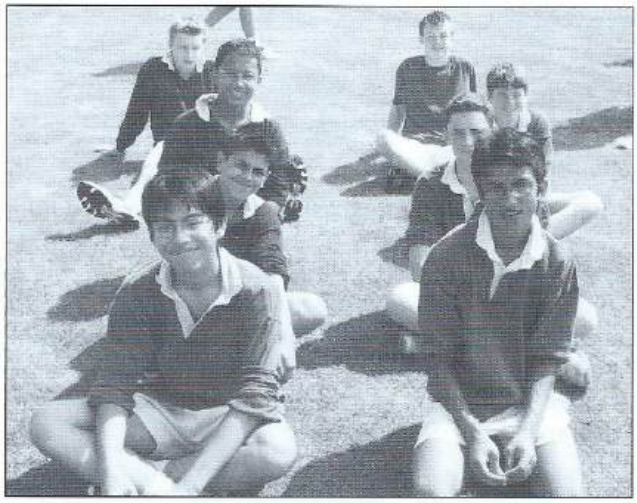
The **Seniors'** games were postponed and re-scheduled for a day when it proved difficult to raise teams from girls already sitting public exams. Fraser enjoyed a very close encounter with Whitworth, the latter coming out on top by 8 rounders to 7½. Since the third House in the pool had too few players to compete Fraser went through to the semi-final in second place, therefore. Vicky, Jaya, Alexis (all Upper Sixth), Jenna, Moyo, Camille, Marsha (Lower Sixth) and Danielle (Year 11) more than did justice to the event, exploiting weaknesses in the opposition by some intelligent running and accurate fielding; and Alexis turned an already pleasant afternoon into one of her famous Fraser ice-cream picnics which more than made up for the narrow defeat. Sadly, though, confusion reigned on the day appointed for the semis and the Final, and those Fraser girls who had again broken into their study leave-cum-holiday to play Gaskell were sent home because of lack of opposition. Neither these girls nor the Lower Sixth Formers were available for the newly appointed date, ironically, and therefore could not take part in the final stages. This was an unsatisfactory way for

the competition to fizzle out after the effort and enthusiasm of the first round games, and I for one felt sympathy for our girls' position. One's over-riding memories of Fraser rounders matches, however, will be of the terrific sense of bonhomie and the excellent refreshments!

The **Senior Cricket** fared in a not dissimilar way. Sixteen Fraser players turned out to play Heywood in the first round and again after protracted confusion and misunderstanding the match did not take place, but on this occasion at least the XI which was ready and willing to play did go through to the succeeding round. Nine Lower Sixth players were reinforced by James Meers, Anthony Green and Alex Johnstone from the A Level group, and by Umair Khalil and Andy Smith who were on GCSE study leave. In the semi-final the Fraser batsmen scored 144 in their twenty overs, albeit exploiting a very fast outfield (the fields had just about dried out by June!), but then they failed to pin down Gaskell's batsmen (especially Robert Booker and Andy McLeod) who slowly began to take control and eventually took the match out of our grasp. We actually fielded very well and had we not dropped catches (and been guilty of one dreadful run-out) we would have held onto the advantage. It was a pleasure to see non-cricketers such as James Meers, Anthony Green, James Wood, Colin Leung, Gurpreet Singh, Richard Colebrook, James Mcconville and Amaan Akram (I hope they'll forgive me) turning out to play and giving such effective support to the genuine cricketers. That's what it's all about, as we all keep saying.

The **Junior XI**, a similarly disparate group of players, had their first match abandoned (at 3.45, fortuitously) by torrential rain, but they already had the upper hand so that when they reassembled one subsequent lunch hour to conclude the match they won comfortably. Unfortunately the Final was played while three first-choice Fraser players were in the Mosel valley on the German trip, along with their House Master. A phone-call to Manchester from Naveed Chaudhry established that they had played well, scored a sound hundred or so, but been pipped at the post, possibly lacking that edge that Naveed's bowling and the support of Adam Kedzior, Nabil Choudhury and Malik Tabib would have given them. Disappointing, but there is simply no longer enough time in the Midsummer Term for every activity to be scheduled on an exclusive date and clashes will occur. It is then that a House's ability to dig deep into its resources becomes critical.

In the **Inter-House Athletic Sports** Sean Cordwell was again our outstanding senior athlete, and shared the Cardwell Cup (Victor Ludorum, senior) with Nneka Opara, winning the Long Jump and Triple Jump and coming third in the 200m. Daniel Wood and Camille Kasler were first in the 400m and girls' 800m respectively, Vicky Bramwell was second in the Shot, and Alex Johnstone and James Wood also took third places in the Triple Jump and boys' 800m. Other points contributed to a healthy score: Jenna French, Paul Stonehouse, Andrew Smith, Seena Mehta, Tom Sutton and Tim Bannister all gained a fourth, fifth or sixth place. The Relay runners secured Fraser's second place on the day with a win in the 4 x 400m and third place in the 4 x 100m (both boys) and a fifth for the Girls' 4 x 100m. This was a reasonably successful performance from very nearly our strongest Senior team, and left the Juniors in a position which allowed for cautious optimism.



Fraser's Year 9 and 10 Boys 4 x 400m Relay Teams.
(photo: D A Myers)

On an exceptionally hot day at the end of term the combined Lower School and Junior inter-House Sports Day took place. The successful Fraser athletes from Years 9 and 10 deserve to have their achievements recorded here:

First place:	Jonathan Butterworth	(400m; 800m)
	Tamara Brown	(100m; Shot)
	RELAYS	(Yr 9 Boys 4 x 400m)
		(Yr 9/10 Girls 4 x 100m)
Second place:	Nabil Choudhury	(800m)
	Chris Tang	(1500m)
	Jon Butterworth	(Shot)
	David Porter	(Triple jump)
	RELAY	(Yr 9Boys 4 x100m)
Third place:	Malik Tabib	(400m)
	Kizzy Smith	(200m)
	Lauretta Lauder	(100m)
	RELAY	(Yr10 Boys 4 x 400m)
Fourth place:	Naveed Chaudhry	(200m)
	Kizzy Smith	(800m)
	Nabil Choudhury	(1500m)
	Tom Jones	(1500m)
	David Porter	(Shot)
	Kyle Hall	(Triple jump)
	Lauretta Lauder	(Long Jump)
	Jessica Baron	(High jump)
	RELAY	(Yr 10 Boys 4 x 100m)
Fifth and sixth places:		
	David Porter	(100m)
	Tom Jones	(800m)
	Atem Eyong	(Long jump)
	Shamil Hudda	(Shot)
	Johanna Leung	(Long jump)
	Naveed Chaudhry	(400m)
	Chris Tang	(200m)
	Hana Afzal	(Shot)
	Aaron Kelembeck	(Long jump)
	Martin Sharpe	(Shot)

These results were exceptional. All our participants, athletes or not, played their part and contributed points to the House total, to the extent that at the final reckoning we had made up for the seniors' deficit and overtaken Gaskell to win Sports Day overall. The fact that these results were then

amended the following day, albeit only verbally, after Fraser's boys and girls had been informed of and congratulated for their wonderful effort made little difference in the end, save to take some of the gloss off the moment and to make their delighted House Master feel (and look?) a little foolish.

- School Prefects for 2001-2002 include Camille Kasler, Colin Leung, Gurpreet Singh, Tom Sutton and James Wood from Fraser. In addition Gurpreet is to be deputy Head of School, much to his credit;
- In the tradition of appointing Heads of House in their final term in the Lower Sixth, Camille Kasler and James Wood were appointed Heads of Fraser until the end of the year, when of course they will be allocated to the new Houses. They will carry with them the distinction of being Fraser's last Heads of House as just deserts for all they have brought to the House and the School over six years;
- The House thanks Miss Raw and Mr Wise for their support and advice throughout the year.

My personal thanks are due to all those boys and girls in Fraser who have accepted the responsibilities that membership of their House has placed upon them and who as a result have encouraged everybody else to believe that what they were doing was worthwhile. I will also express particular gratitude to Fraser's last House Prefects (including the hard-working Lower Sixth Formers amongst whom there is considerable talent and potential). For the majority nothing has been too much trouble and this, together with their good judgement, their loyalty and their unfailing sense of humour have ensured that working with them has always brought much pleasure and satisfaction. It is inevitable that most of the jobs in an organisation fall on the shoulders of a few, and this year our Heads of House Vicky Bramwell and James Meers have more than justified their appointment. I pay tribute to them. It has occasionally been possible to detect a hint of weary resignation when yet again it is they who have had to stand in, to root out some reluctant participant, or in some other way to make sure that things that have to take place do so, but this has been rare. They have both worked exhaustively at this immensely difficult job, with its barely discernible rewards, at the same time as preparing modules and leading a full school life outside the classroom as well. They and their like know full well, however, that the talents and confidence they have developed and deployed in their senior years here will be of tremendous benefit to them in years to come.

Twenty-two years after being appointed House Master of Fraser House on the resignation of the legendary H. V. Grange, and as this and the five other William Hulme's Houses are consigned to history, there is a great deal that I might write - but I would risk descending into maudlin sentimentality, and this has no place in The Hulmeian! Some four hundred boys and girls of every sort have entered and left Fraser in that time and for each one of them the House provided something, invariably something positive. House Mastering is an out of the ordinary way of associating with pupils and one which I personally have enjoyed and appreciated tremendously. I thank all those members of Fraser who have brought so much to the School, and to all those who move into a new House next term go my best wishes. If you can apply yourselves to these Houses with as much loyalty and commitment as you have to Fraser, the new system will be a success and you will all be the better for it.

D. M. Fisher

GASKELL HOUSE

After 8 years as deputy to Mr Sharp in Heywood House, I was really looking forward to my first (and as it turned out last) year as Gaskell "Housemaster" (I refused to be a "mistress"!) Mr Veevers, now Head of Sixth of Form, had already appointed Heads of House so I began the first term by appointing more House Prefects.

Heads of House:	Robert Booker
	Sunita Boodhoo
	Nicola Endlar
House Prefects:	Owen Edwards
	Scott Griffiths
	Sam Hughes
	Darren Loofe
	Andrew McLeod
	Adanna Opara
	Ajay Sethi
and	Robert Thompson –
	who was also Head of School

We also welcomed into the House, James Ferguson in the Lower Sixth and the members of 9G who were to be my form.

9G:	Martin Butterworth
	Hinesh Chauhan
	Yee Quan Ho
	Waqas Hussain
	Tawseef Khan
	Patrick Knowles
	Rachel N'Jie
	Charlotte Platt
	Asad Ullah
	Michael Walker

and also Nadia Ali and David Yao who both left in the first term.

MICHAELMAS TERM

This year's activities began with rugby for seniors. A large group of boys, Rob Booker, Scott Griffiths, Rob Thompson, Michael Platt, Omer Raja, Chris Booker and Umer Ibrahim began training with the school squad so the House League team was left in the capable hands of the captain, Andy McLeod. In our first match we beat Heywood 24 – 17, with tries coming from Sam Hughes, Andy McLeod and Philip Johnston and goals for Andy and Ryan Williams. In the second game against Dalton the tries came thick and fast with hat tricks for both Matthew N'Jie and Michael Choudhury and a comfortable 55 – 10 win. Fraser only

fielded nine players against us in our third match which we won 28 – 15. Andy McLeod was our leading scorer with a try and four goals and James Ferguson scored his first ever rugby try with other scores from Matthew N'Jie and Chris Weems. Then came our biggest challenge – Byrom – the only other unbeaten side apart from ourselves. Michael Choudhury scored our only try as we lost 5 – 10 but with a full team plus five reserves, all twenty lads played their part and deserve a pat on the back for their efforts. In the final league game, we beat Whitworth 33 – 22 but the League Title went to Byom with us a worthy runners up!

For the knockout competition, we had our school players available and the sick was captained by Robert Booker. In the first round, Heywood couldn't get a team together and so conceded the game. And so to the second round where we had to play Byrom, league and we felt like we owned them one! It was a nail-biting game (for me at least!) and we were losing 5 – 6 for the majority of the match. Then up popped Booker no. 1 (Rob) with a try, followed by two Michael Platt "specials" (long distance – on is own) and topped off with a goal from Booker no.2 (Chris) to seal victory at 17 – 6.

The Knockout Final could have been billed as the "Platty Show"! His first try came when he intercepted in our own half, his second came straight from the ensuing kick-off and his third sealed Whitworth's fate in the dying minutes. A tremendous effort from Michael – well done – but you don't win games simply by scoring good times – you have to prevent the opposition from scoring more than you! And that's just what we did – with the whole team playing well in defence we secured our first trophy of the school year – the House Football Shield, beating Whitworth 19 – 7. An excellent season and congratulations to all those who took part.

Whilst I was able to watch all the Senior rugby matches, I was always teaching mathematics when the year 9 and 10 lads played in the Junior Knockout competiton. But ever-faithful Yee Quan Ho came running up to my classroom after every game to report the final score! The team was well led from the start by the captain, Eugene Murtagh and in the first round we beat Heywood 26 – 3. Eugene kicked three goals and scored a try along with Cesaire Stephens and Michael Walker who scored two! And so to the second round where we managed to beat Fraser even though we only had 13 players! At the beginning of lunchtime on the day of the final we only had 10 players in school and it looked like the only game I would get to see would feature a depleted team. But by kick-off at 2.30pm we had a full compliment of 15 which included Yee Quan at full-back and Tawseef Khan and Varun Srinidhi playing all over the place! An excellent team performance and a deserved victory over Dalton 22 – 5 brought Gaskell House it's second major trophy of the year. Two tries from Michael Walker, one each from Cesaire and Eugene, and a well-executed goal from Nkosi Inniss, together with some good defence from Timur Egeli and Asad Ullah is what it took but well done and congratulations to all those who played.

On a cold and miserable Thursday afternoon at the end of November, twelve boys and four girls bravely (or should that be foolishly!) took part in the senior "Road" Run. The word "road" is used in it's loosest possible terms as this event now consisted of 4 laps of the field. It was an excellent effort from all 16 runners but special mention must go to Rob Booker who won the race in style and to Chris Weems and Arfan Aslam who came 4th and 5th respectively. The other runners were Gregg Baines (19th) Chris Booker (22nd), Michael Choudury, Mehul Kotecha, Ryan Williams, Philip Johnston, Sam Hughes, Scott Griffiths and Abraham Petrillo. The girls ran along with the boys with Bhavini Vara finishing first for us in 65th place, followed by Rebecca Goodwin and Nneka Opara and of course Sunita Boodhoo running through the pain barrier, with tears in her eyes and a scowl on her face but as always she managed a smile at the end! This is one of those "rather you than me" events and so I am grateful to an very proud of all those who took part and well done on achieving 4th place overall.

Next it was the turn of my lovely form (and I do mean that) 9G. With Waqas Hussain excused and both Rachel N'Jie and Charlotte Platt absent it was left to the remaining seven boys to do their best. And that's just what they did. An excellent run from Michael Walker who came 2nd and also from Martin Butterworth who came 12th set us off on the right foot (get it!). They were followed by Yee Quan (20th), Tawseef (21st) and then Hinesh Chauhan, Patrick Knowles and lastly Asad Ullah. Very well done to this little septet who came 2nd in the Year 9 competition.

Unfortunately the Year 10 competition was blighted by scandal, with the suspicion of cheating by so considerable a number of competitors that it was decided to run the race again after the Christmas break.

So both the senior and junior lads had achieved some glory and it was now the girls turn to step up to the plate with the onset of the hockey competitions. Sunita was to captain the senior team but standing water on the pitches from mid-October onwards meant the postponement of the competition until the next term. Her sister, Prya Boodhoo was to captain the junior girls and the first round matches went ahead at the end of September. On the day, our team was severely depleted to only seven players and whilst those seven did give 100% effort, we unfortunately lost both matches, 0 – 2 to Byrom and 1 – 6 to Heywood with Rachel N'Jie scoring our only goal. So we were to play Whitworth for 5th and 6th place but again the weather said "Not 'til after Christmas".

Still, bad weather outside means everyone wants to be inside and someone was very well prepared for our next major House Event. During the previous summer break, Daniel Goodkin had written (yes, written!) a play to be performed by Gaskell House in the coming House play competition. "The Devil's Utopia" was a provocative play, dramatising human nature and it's struggle to overcome evil and it was to star the Devil himself! Daniel had not only written the play bur he was also going to produce it with Omer Raja, Bhavini Vara and Rebecca Goodwin and also take on the leading and demanding role of the Devil.

An eerie start to the proceedings was followed by three murders – Sister McKinley (Nneka Opara) killed by the

back-stabbing stepmother (Shelley Turnberg) and then two murders in quick succession, Christina's mother and father (Alexis Race and Chris Booker) by the bungling burglar (Omer Raja) and this was topped off by the attempted seduction of Christina (Nicola Endlar) by Daniel as the Devil. Such evil! Nicola and Daniel were very worthy runners-up in the Best Actress and Best Actor competitions and both Owen Edwards as the commanding Angel Gabriel and Shelley were highly commended. Mehul Kotecha and Ateeq Farooq were menacing guards and then there was a very creepy, scary, dark group with their faces hidden by hoods but eerily lit by the torches they carried (I'm shivering as I write this) – the monks – Hannah Hassan, Arfeen Aslam, Khalid Mir, Prya Boodhoo, Nkosi Innissm Minesh Vara and Tawseef Khan. The fabulous pyrotechnics on the night added to a wonderful performance (it brought a tear to my eye, I was so proud) that was backed up and supported by our stage crew of Rob Booker, Sam Hughes, Kavita Shah and Ali Anwar and also Rebecca (props) and Bhavini (who made many of the costumes).

Although we came second in the competition to Byrom, Mr Turner admitted that in many years this play would most certainly have won it – you're all winners to me!!

And so to the final event of this long first term – the Debating competition. We were to be the proposers of the motion – "This House supports closer links with Europe" – against Heywood. Sunita Boodhoo and Daniel Goodkin represented Gaskell House – they were well organised and practiced and I was pleased that they answered the questions and responded to their opponents points without the need to return the insults they were receiving! Daniel was one of the commanded speakers and I was delighted when he and Sunita were declared the winners of the competition. An excellent way to round off a very successful but more importantly, a very enjoyable term.

LENT TERM

The first competitive event this term was to be the previously postponed Senior Hockey 1st round matches. Unfortunately our team was rather depleted due to illness and we could only field nine players. Even our captain, Sunita, was poorly so Adanna Opara took over the role but it was a big task to try to overcome the opposition's full strength squads. We drew the first game 1 – 1 with Whitworth and lost the second match right near the end to Dalton 1 – 2. Nneka Opara scored both our goals and a special mention should also go to Shelley Turnberg who after much persuasion and eventual bribery with chocolate agreed to get padded up and play in goal! She put in a great performance as the last line of defence and well done to the other eight who tried their best too. In the day of the final we were playing Fraser for the 5th and 6th places. We had a stronger team out for this game and our defence was really good. We eventually won 1 – 0 with Nneka scoring the goal that secured us fifth place in the competition.

The junior girls had already played their first round matches early on last term and again we were playing off for we were playing off for 5th and 6th place. We couldn't break the deadlock against Whitworth and the match ended a 0 – 0 draw. The rules of the competition deemed Whitworth as the winners by virtue of one short corner so it was just bad luck for the girls who had tried so hard but ended up in 6th place.

For the boys, the Lent Term is dominated by football. Despite the school squad consisting of Rob Booker, Andy McLeod, Michael Platt, Daniel Goodkin, James Ferguson and Chris Booker, Mehul Kotecha as league team captain found we still had a good number of useful players left. Typically, the first set of matches fell foul of the weather and so we began the league programme by playing Fraser. We beat them 3 – 2 with Mehul, Philip Johnston and Usman Azim as the scorers. The following week our full team beat a slightly depleted Heywood team 9 – 1 but unfortunately I lost track of the scorers in this game! Whitworth were our next opponents. They had some good players but the conditions on the pitch (which resembled a lake!) hampered both teams. We came at the victors 4 – 2 with goals scored by Greg Baines and a hat-trick from Arfeen Aslam. But then we came up against our sporting nemesis, Byrom. Despite goals from Arfeen, Greg, Arfan Aslam and Michael Choudhury. We lost this keenly fought game 4 – 5. Would we ever beat them? That's where the league programme ended. The last game, just like the first was cancelled due to severely waterlogged pitches and we never did get to play against Dalton.

Considering the appalling weather, it's amazing that we even got to the senior knockout final without someone drowning on the pitches! The week after we'd played Heywood in the league we met them again in the first round of the knockout. We beat them 10 – 2 this time but again I missed large parts if this game as the girl's netball competition was taking place at the same time. The pattern repeated itself when we played Whitworth in the second round of the knockout the week after narrowly beating them in the league. This time it was more convincing – a 6 – 1 win with four goals form Chris Booker and one each for Andy McLeod and Michael Platt. The final went ahead in the only sunny day of the entire term although the pitch was still very wet in patches from previous downpours. We played Fraser in a good-spirited, often hilarious game! We had an enormous number of shots on goal (some of which I think even I could have scored from!) but it was to no avail as they mostly went over the crossbar or way too far to the left or right of the goal. The ones that were on target were easily saved by the Fraser goalkeeper and we eventually lost 0 – 5.

The footballing pride of the House now rested with the Junior boys and their captain Minesh Vara. They had proved they were as good as the seniors at winning rugby trophies but could they go one step further in the football knockout? In the first round we beat Fraser 5 – 2 with two goals each from Minesh and Michael Walker and one for Shabaz Khalid. I was able to watch parts of this game from my classroom window in the science block but was decided that we would field our best team at all times (what a novel idea!) and only make substitutions for injuries. We went on to beat Dalton 5 – 1 with goals again from Minesh and Michael along with

one from Cesaire and two from Eugene. And so to the final against Heywood. In a closely contested game, two goals from Minesh and one from Eugene were just enough to defeat them 3 – 2. So an excellent campaign and the lads were now unbeaten in both sports – it doesn't get better than this – well done one and all.

Just when you thought we'd all forgotten about it, the Road Run raised it's ugly head again. The Year 10, who were still reeling form the shame of the unscrupulous cheating in the first race, were given the chance to redeem themselves in a re-run just before half-term. With two girls absent and another two girls and a boy excused (not sure why!) we had twelve competitors left. By far the best performances came from Minesh Vara who came 3rd and Cesaire Stephens who was 9th and then a small cluster of Nkosi Inniss, Eugene Murtagh, Chris Brown and Timur Egeli, Fatamah Shah and Setal Vara ran together and finished 50th and 51st with Thembi Watt not far behind. Varun Srinidhi came in 55th position and Jon-Abbas Hamidi and Shabaz Khalid brought up the rear! Good efforts form most of those who competed, the year 10's came 5th in their competition and so when all the results were put together, Gaskell finished 4th – not too far behind Fraser in 3rd place and well ahead of Heywood in 5th.

The girls still had another entire sporting competition to fit into this term – both the Junior and Senior netball competitions. As Prya Boodhoo had missed most of the hockey matches for the House, I asked her to captain the Junior netball team. We lost the first game 2 – 6 to Byrom but then went on to beat Fraser quite handsomely 7 – 1. So for the first time this year the girls were in a semi-final against Heywood. However when the day arrived we only had 5 players! Those five girls played their hearts out but lost 3 – 8 to Heywood in the semi-final and then 5 – 10 to Whitworth to finish in 4th place.

Adanna Opara was the obvious choice to captain the senior team but she was unable to play in the first round matches due to illness – and boy did we miss her. We narrowly lost the first game to Fraser 3 – 4 and then beat Heywood quite convincingly 4 – 1. We hoped Adanna would recover in time for the semi-final against the hot favourites Whitworth. She did, and we played better, as a team, with some direction, in a game that would have been a better final than the 11 – 0 thrashing of Fraser. But unfortunately Whitworth beat us 3 – 5 and as a consolation we beat Dalton 4 – 2 to finish 3rd overall. Great efforts and team spirit were displayed by all the Houses in this competition and it was both enjoyable and exciting to watch. Well done to all the players on all the teams.

In the midst of this sporting frenzy was a lovely little event – namely the House Music competition. And with Rebecca Goodwin in charge of the Gaskell entry we had a very good chance of winning. There were some good performances from the Year 10 representatives – Nina Kojidi and Thembi Watt both played pieces on the flute whilst Nkosi Inniss played "Passin' Through" on the Alto-Saxophone – a nice sound from the Alto-sax by Andy McLeod and some good harmonies in an arrangement of "Stand by Me" by a rather timid looking ensemble! And then it was time for the experts.

Daniel Goodkin played his saxophone beautifully and the multi-talented Rebecca played both the recorder and the cornet (although not at the same time). The whole competition was very close but we were very worthy winners with 96 points, just ahead of Dalton on 95. Very well done to all those who took part in an enjoyable afternoon.

And so to the final event of the term – the House Swimming competition. Firstly, came the Junior Heats and Relays but when three people dropped out on the day the remaining five swimmers had to cover all the events. All credit to those five lads who did their best on the day, Timur Egeli, Cesaire Stephens, Chris Brown, Patrick Knowles and Michael Walker and all were awarded House Colours for their efforts. Timur won his heat in the backstroke and although Cesaire came second in his freestyle race unfortunately he didn't qualify for the finals. The medley relay team was disqualified for an illegal touch at the change over but the squadron relay team of Cesaire, Michael, Chris and Patrick made it to finals.

In the senior heats both Rob Thompson and Michael Platt qualified in the backstroke to join Jonathon Case (breaststroke) and Scott Griffiths (freestyle) in the finals. Despite good swims, neither Chris Weems nor Ryan Williams made the cut but Jonathon then reached his second final in the individual medley. Unlike the Juniors, our senior medley relay team did get through but the squadron relay team were disqualified this time.

The finals were to take place the following week but mass absenteeism and the appearance of a tattoo severely depleted our team! The faithful few Rob Thompson, Jonathan, Mehul, Cesaire and Timur were badly let down by those of their peers who failed to show. It meant we couldn't field either relay team which was very disappointing. When Timur (who had been in school) didn't appear for his backstroke final I was beginning to get very angry. If we get up there and try then no-one can find fault with us but if we don't make the effort at all then we just look shady. Extra praise and credit goes then to our only two swimmers on the night, Rob Thompson who came second in the backstroke and Jonathan Case who finished third in both the breaststroke and the individual medley. Very well done you two!

MIDSUMMER TERM

With the Year 11 and Upper Sixth only with us for 4 weeks we got straight on with the activities this term beginning with the senior sports day. Rob Thompson was appointed as Boys' Captain and Adanna Opara as Girls' Captain. I thought we had a pretty good team at the start of the day – by 4 o'clock I realised we had an outstanding group of individuals who can come together to make a rather formidable team and their guts and determination were second to none.

In the boys races Michael Platt came 2nd in both the 100m and 200m. In the 800m Rob Booker came 2nd and

Greg Baines was 5th whilst Philip Johnston came 5th in the 400m. The 1500m saw a tremendous performance from both Rob Thompson and Chris Weems who came 2nd and 3rd respectively – not a bad start! Over to the girls then. Nneka Opara teamed up with elder sister Adanna to finish 1st and 3rd in 100m and then again with Bhavini Vara for 1st and 3rd in the 200m. Bhavini also came 5th in the 800m girls race.

In the field events Rob Booker and Michael Choudhury finished 2nd and 3rd in the long jump, Chris Booker and Andy McLeod were placed 4th and 5th in the triple jump whilst Omer Raja won the boys shot competition with Daniel Goodkin in the 5th place. Ladies – your turn! Alexis Race came 4th in the high jump, Nneka won the long jump whilst sister Adanna was winning the girls shot.

Over three relay teams scored more points than any other House despite not winning a single race! Both boys teams finished 2nd whilst the girls finished third.

Undoubtedly the Best Female Athlete of the day was Nneka Opara – many congratulations also go to the entire senior Athletics squad for winning this part of the competition by a 28 point margin. Now do you see what I mean about these kids!

Winning senior sports day was probably the biggest "high" I had experienced as a Housemaster but it was straight back down to earth again in the Junior rounders competition. Mhawash Farooq bravely took on the role of captain but we lost both games in the first round. To give them credit, we only lost to Heywood by half a rounder but in the "wooden spoon" play-off we lost by half a rounder yet again to Fraser to finish in 6th place.

In complete contrast was the senior competition, albeit depleted and somewhat abbreviated. Rebecca Goodwin captained a full team of nine girls in both matches. In the first round we beat Heywood 8 – 5 and when Dalton failed to produce a team we passed straight to the semi-final. Despite having the girls there ready to play, at least one Housemaster didn't want to play the finals on the same day and yet when it came to the semis neither Heywood nor Fraser could provide a team. So it was us versus Whitworth in the final on a glorious sunny afternoon – a great game played with spirit and a whole lot of fun – this is what team sport is all about. Oh yes and we won of course 8 - 6 - the first (and last) competition won by the girls – fantastic!

As the upper sixth had now left, I decided to appoint four acting Heads of House for the remainder of the school year. In recognition for all they had done in this and previous years for Gaskell and perhaps in attempt to compensate in advance fo the possibility that they could be overlooked for honours next year in a new House with a new Housemaster, I appointed Daniel Goodkin, Omer Raja, Rebecca Goodwin and Bhavini Vara new Heads of Gaskell House.

With the GCSE, A levels and internal exams all in full swing, the cricket competitions seemed to pass us all by! Before we know it the Juniors were in the second round, having to finish off their match with Fraser at lunchtime. There was only a few overs left play out when suddenly Fraser needed one run off the lost ball of the match to win. They got two! And the Junior lads tasted defeat for the first time all year – and boy did they not like it.

The Seniors had the luxury of a bye in the first round and then faced a strong Fraser team in the second. Good as they were, they were no match for our team captained jointly by Rob Booker and Omer Raja, especially as our dedicated Year 11s came straight out of a GCSE exam onto the cricket pitch! And so to the final against Byrom – or rather five Byrom players. All five of them batted and they were all out for 11. As we went in to bat, another Byrom player turned up and then their side was boosted by a stray Whitworth player! Still it seemed more fair and after all we only needed 12 runs to win. But then the wickets started falling!

Michael Platt was caught out and I still don't know what Usman Azim was doing when he was out! Just as it started to trickle in and within 10 minutes it was all over and another trophy was won by the Senior lads.

And so to the finale of the entire year – the Junior section of Sports Day. I think the two halves of Sports Day are my favourite events of the year and when I look around at the faces of the members of Gaskell House on both these days, I didn't feel alone in this thought. Participating in a team sport is quite different to athletics, where, whilst you are still part of a team overall, it is your individual performance that counts and you can make quite a difference to the eventual outcome all on your own. It is also a day when the true spirit of the Houses comes through as the children all support and shout for each other like never before. This year's competition was even more poignant as it was the last event to be contested by the six old Houses.

Anyway, down to details. The Juniors had a lot to live up to as the Seniors had already triumphed in their half. Once again, absenteeism from the girls and unfortunate injuries to Michael Walker (sprained his ankle a few days before Sports Day) and to the brave Eugene Murtagh who pulled a muscle during his first race looked like the onset of a disaster. But that "never say die" Gaskell attitude raised it's head again and whilst we didn't physically have enough bodies to fill two relay teams in each year group, we fielded two competitors in every other event. Amazing!

In the boys races, despite his sore ankle, Michael Walker insisted on running the Year 9 100m and he finished 2nd! Cesaire won the Year 10 race with Minesh Vara 3rd. Cesaire also won the 200m with Eugene 6th and Yee Quan Ho came 5th in the Year 9 race. Minesh then won the 400m and Chis Brown came 2nd in the 800m. An excellent performance in the 1500m saw both Martin Butterworth and Chris Brown win their races in style. In the girls races, Thembi Watt and Prya Boodhoo finished 3rd and 5th respectively in the 800m.

In the field events Cesaire won the Year 10 high jump with Nkosi Inniss in 3rd place and Asad Ullah and Martin Butterworth came 3rd and 4th in the Year 9 event. Minesh came 2nd in the long jump and Chris Brown 4th and Thembi was 2nd in the girls competition. In the girl's triple jump, Prya came 2nd and Fatamah Shah was 5th whilst in he boy

competitions Yee Quan was 5th in Year 9 and Eugene was 6th in Year 10. In the Year 9 shot Michael was 3rd and Hinesh Chauhan 6th and Timur came 4th in the Year 10 section.

And so to the relays – in the 4 x 400m the Year 9's came 4th and the Year 10's won their race. As the lads can only do one relay each, we couldn't field teams in either of the boys 4 x 100m races but the girls came 4th in their event. Finally, Cesaire won the title of Best Year 10 male.

And then the wait for the results. Disaster had struck and we had lost the overall competition by a point! We were all devastated but the lads in 9G and 10G were particularly cut up – after all that hard work. But hang on – the Year 10 high jump scores seemed to be wrong and we should have scored 10 points and not the 3 we had received. Mr Seddon looked into it and to the delight if everyone in Gaskell we had won by a clear 10 points! There's nothing better than a hard earned victory to end an era.

At the end of term, Rebecca Goodwin and Bhavini Vara were confirmed as Deputy Heads of School. Jonathan Case, Ateeq Farooq, Daniel Goodkin, Rebecca Goodwin, Omer Raja, Kavita Shah and Bhavini Vara were all appointed as School Prefects and together with Ateeq, Ferozuddin Shah was appointed as a Library Prefect.

And so there you have it – the final triumphs and near misses of the last year of Gaskell House. It only remains for me to thank four special people: Mr Veevers for his advice and encouragement as I took over what was his House in September – I hope I did it justice; Mr Gorman – House Deputy and Form Tutor to 10G, for all his help but in particular with the Junior boys sports; Dr Lambert – House Deputy for her help and support when needed and to Mrs Worthington – expert Form Tutor to 11G and unofficial Deputy; your words of advice and support were greatly appreciated.

Oh yes – and to the 73 pupils who made Gaskell House – In my darker moments when I wonder why on earth I do this job, I shall remember the year I spent as Gaskell Housemaster and I'll smile again. Spending time and working with young people of your calibre is why we all do this job. Thank you for the experience – I enjoyed every single moment.

J. F. Smith

HEYWOOD HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments
Heads of House: Leanne Davidson & Matt Dewsnap
Deputy Heads of House: Seb Bowe & Beth Coffey

During the Summer Term Leanne and Matt were confirmed as School Prefects. These two Upper Sixth formers were confirmed as House Prefects along with Seb, Beth, Andrea Reah, Wendy Choy, Duncan Laing, Benji Mannheim, Ryan Horsley-Frost, Sam McClements, Aamar Gill and Omar Sheikh.

At the first House assembly we welcomed two newcomers Abir AL-Liabi into the L6 and Charlie Hughes into year 10, as well as Srta Reyero-Cascallana as my new Deputy, and saw the appointments of captains/organisers for the various activities. These were: Seniors: - rugby-Matt Dewsnap; hockey-Beth Coffey; league rugby- Benji Mannheim: Juniors:- hockey-Korinna Steele; rugby-Kassam Mukadam and Charlie Hughes: debating-Omar Sheikh and Seb Bowe, House Play Producer – Vanessa Bacchas and Jenny Street and road race Beth Coffey and Shahid Nazir. The Lower Sixth continued to take responsibility for supervising Day 5 lunches, under the leadership of Alex Oxberry and Selene Pang.

The rugby knockouts were both over very quickly. The juniors played an incredibly strong Gaskell side but surprised them by taking an early lead when Simon Patterson kicked a penalty. Heywood coped well with the speed and power of the Gaskell backs and Charlie Hughes, Kassam Mukadam, Asim Rafiq, Ada Okpe and Simon all deserve special mention for playing so well. Charlie, inparticular, deserves praise for several bone shuddering challenges, on their centres, which helped keep the score down to 26-3.

The seniors were drawn against a Gaskell side possessing 8 of the first team squad. On the day of the match with our captain unavailable, 4 of our best House league players injured and only 12 fully fit players, I conceded the match. The result would have been a foregone conclusion but the size and ability of Heywood's forwards was my biggest concern.

It was at this point of the term that the heavens opened and, in 12 previous years as a House Master, I have never seen the school fields so wet and unfit. As a result the Senior sevens competition was never played. The senior league petered out without all the fixtures completed, although Heywood managed 1 win and 4 defeats in the games they did play. The biggest problem was finding 15 players each session. Some of the defeats suffered were more down to not having a full side, due to the small number of lads available for selection, illness and injuries, rather than lack of skill. Pete Sunderland, Stephen Pearce, Azim Butt and Leon Jackson did their utmost each week and scored some very good tries between them in our total of 82 points.

The hockey competition saw the Juniors qualify for the semi-finals, at the end of September, by beating Gaskell 6-1

and by drawing 0-0 with Byrom, despite achieving 7 penalty corners. However, due to the amount of water lying on the hockey pitches, the Junior semi-finals and the entire Senior competition were postponed until after Christmas.

The dates for the different years' road runs kept being deferred, although this was one event less affected by the weather. The road race took the same format as last year with each year group running in their games lesson and in years 9 and10 all pupils had to run. Also the race took place entirely within the school grounds and the runners collected a different coloured card after every lap. This worked very well with the year 9's and Jon Bowe 3rd, Simon Patterson 6th, Zunair Ali11th, Ada Okpe 13th and Mudassar Ali 25th, were the successes for Heywood. The year 10 race ended in confusion when quite clearly some runners had collected two different coloured cards on the same lap, had therefore run one lap fewer and finished much higher than they should have done. This resulted in the race having to be repeated after Christmas. The senior race was a disappointment before we started, as we were two runners short. To make matters worse Andrew McIntyre dropped one of his cards whilst running and instead of finishing 8th had to complete another lap to finish 45th. Paul Keenlyside was our highest finisher in 12th with Beth Coffey fastest girl again in 32nd,Raymond Chui 33rd, Shahid Nazir 35th and Leon Jackson 37th. Colours were awarded to all runners in years 9 and the Seniors who finished in the top 40 and Jon, Simon, Zunair, Ada and Mudassar were new awards.

For the House play we looked at many different comedies and hoped to have a large cast. After several false starts it was universally agreed we should do an episode from 'The Royle Family', by Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash. At this point we cajoled John Bracchi into playing Jim and Pete Sunderland into playing Anthony. This was a major achievement as neither had ever acted before and John pointed out at our first rehearsal in the New Hall that it was the first time he had ever stood on the stage! With the addition of Stephen Pearce as Dave, Alex Oxberry as Denise and Andrea Reah as Barbara rumour had it that certain actors were simply playing themselves! The set for the play was extremely simple and, with little movement by the characters, timing and teamwork were essential. After much hard work, and tearing of hair by the directors Vanessa Bacchas and Jenny Street, the cast finally learned their lines. On the night they were word perfect and were very well received by the audience, despite some rather choice language. However, a problem we had encountered throughout rehearsals was to count against us- the cast were simply not loud enough at times and some of the more memorable lines were lost. The play was placed fourth and Alex Oxberry was a runner-up in the best actress award. Once again Aysha Rangrez did excellent work with the programme at short notice and David Njegovan, Selene Pang, Ehi Okpe and Srta Reyero-Cascallana all provided invaluable help. I am also indebted to Dr Alexander for his help in transporting the essential three-piece suite. It was also very pleasing to see Mr Turner back as adjudicator as a late replacement for Miss Green.

The debating saw Seb Bowe and Leanne Davidson opposing Gaskell's motion, 'This House Believes We Should Have Closer Links With Europe'. Both spoke very well, they worked extremely well as a pair and Leanne was commended by the adjudicators.

The period of the mock exams was immediately after the Christmas break so Alex Oxberry and Selene Pang were asked to be acting Heads of House and Alex, Selene and Stephen Pearce were elected to the Lower Sixth duty rota in the last week of term.

LENT TERM

The term began with the appointments of all the Lower Sixth as temporary House Prefects. These were Alex, Selene, Stephen, Huseyin Uflaz, Peter Sunderland, Jenny Street, Hayley Street, Aysha Rangrez, Christie Okpe, Andrew McIntyre, Ashraf Jalil, Raymond Chui, John Bracchi Vanessa Bacchas and Abir Al-Liabi. In the first House assembly the captains/organisers were selected. These were: Seniors: - netball-Andrea Reah; knockout soccer-Seb Bowe; league soccer-Andrew McIntyre and Huseyin Uflaz; Juniors: netball- Ehi Okpe; soccer knockout-Ghulam Haydar. Swimming: Senior- Jenny Street, Juniors- Kassam Mukadam. House music- Duncan Laing and Selene Pang.

In the House music Heywood were represented by Duncan Laing, Selene Pang, James Barrington, Carolyn Hegg, Ozadeh Solati, Paul Keenlyside and Ehi Okpe. The House was placed fourth and Duncan and Paul recorded the highest marks with their guitar playing but all the musicians deserved credit for their hard work in preparation and for their actual performance. All were reawarded colours for their efforts.

Over the Christmas holiday the pitches dried out remarkably enabling the Senior hockey to finally take place. In the pool matches Heywood beat Fraser 1-0, in a one-sided match with a goal from Beth Coffey, the school first XI captain, and drew 0-0 with Byrom, but also earned 2 penalty corners. As winners of the group we played Dalton in the semi-final. On the day Dalton could only field 5 players and Heywood comfortably won 5-0. In the final Heywood came up against a very strong Whitworth side and, in a fiercely contested match, were a penalty corner down with a minute left. In what amounted to a cavalry charge by practically the whole team, Beth ran down the right side of the pitch and beat several of the opposition before hammering the ball into the circle towards goal. As the ball sped across the face of goal Ozy Solati somehow managed to make full contact with the ball, diverting it past the goalkeeper, to win us the match with 20 seconds left. Neither team deserved to lose but Heywood stole it at the death in what had been an excellent advert for inter-House sport. The team were all reawarded colours for their efforts.

In the Junior hockey Heywood played Dalton in the semi-final and won comfortably 3-0 with 2 goals from Courtney Thomas and 1 from Korinna Steele. The final against Fraser proved to be a very tight match but 2 goals from Ehi Okpe won it for us 2-1. Courtney, Vicky Knight and Sabah Hafeez earned their House colours for the first time as part of the winning team, as all the year 10 girls were reawards.

After the first attempt at holding the year 10 road run had proved rather unsatisfactory the games department decided the re-run would take place without warning. This worked well for Heywood because some of the better runners in other Houses simply did not try to do their best and we won the year 10 competition with Ghulam Haydar 2nd, Kassam Mukadam 6th, Marie Pang 14th, Sheraz Ahmed 16th, Umara Chaudhry 21st, Martellique Yates, 22nd, Ehi Okpe 25th and Charlie Hughes 34th. All the runners in the top 40 were awarded colours and Charlie was awarded his for the first time. Heywood were placed 5th in the overall competition and this was not helped by 2year 9's, 1 year 10 and 2 seniors not taking part because of no kit and being placed last in their respective races. These places were given 57, 71 and 90 points respectively, a total of 365 points. As Byrom were first 155 points ahead of us, it is obvious how badly Heywood's result was affected by the forgetfulness of just a few and, more importantly, how the hard work of so many can be ruined without teamwork.

For the third year running the Senior team met the Gaskell side responsible for beating us in previous years at junior level. This year proved to be no different. With Matt Dewsnap absent and Benji Mannheim injured, two of the school first team were missing from our side and the resulting score of 10-2 was partly expected although Seb Bowe as captain did his best to motivate those around him.

The Junior knockout proved much more rewarding. In the first round we comfortably beat Byrom 6-1 with goals from Sheraz Ahmed (3), Umar Saleem, Jon Bowe and Charlie Hughes. The semi-final against Whitworth was a hard fought match but the excellent skills of Jon Bowe in midfield, coupled to Kassam Mukadam, Ghulam Haydar and Asim Rafiq in defence, gave us the upper hand. Goals from Jon and Simon Patterson led to a 2-1 victory. After suffering a heavy defeat to Gaskell at Senior level their Juniors insisted they would do the same to us in the final. Having played for 30 minutes it looked like that might happen because at 3-0 down we had given away 2 goals by dropping back when Minesh Vara had the ball. On both occasions he ran us to the edge of our own penalty area and scored one himself and laid one on with a simple pass. This seemed to spur us into action and Sheraz should have scored when clean through just on half-time. At the break we detailed Charlie to follow Minesh whenever he entered our half and to just keep persevering. Two quick goals from Jon and Sheraz put us right back in the match and, more importantly, rattled Gaskell. Try as we might we were unable to score a third, although Simon, Jon, Sheraz and Ada Okpe all went close. A final score of 3-2 was disappointing, because we showed in the second half that we were more than a match for Gaskell, but giving silly goals away had been our downfall. All the players who played were awarded colours and Asim, Joel Oxberry, Ranjit Ghanta and Umar Iqbal were new awards.

The Senior league suffered from a lack of players because Seb Bowe, Benji Mannheim, Andy McIntyre and Matt Dewsnap were all in the squad and apart from a resounding 6-1 win over Dalton suffered several heavy defeats. Paul Keenlyside emerged as a talented goalkeeper and Leon Jackson and Azim Butt in midfield and John Bracchi in defence all played very well. However, most weeks saw me trying to find last minute replacements due to injuries and abscences.

The Senior netball proved very frustrating. Against Gaskell our shooting was very poor and despite having more possession and shots we lost 4-1. In the second pool match we were winning easily when Christie Okpe turned an ankle and could not continue. At this point we found our reserves had decided to go and get changed. With only 5 players on court Fraser pulled the match back to 6-6 and left us playing for 5/6th. Byrom likewise only had 5 players for this match and Heywood, now playing as a team and shooting well, won 10-0.Realistically I did not think we would have won the competition but we were definitely capable of contesting a semi-final.

The Junior netball saw us record win of 8-5 over Dalton and 9-7 over Whitworth. A comfortable win over Gaskell in the semi-final put us up against a very strong Byrom side who won 8-0. However the girls had played well in reaching the final and were awarded colours for their efforts.

With the years 9 and 10 swimming now combined Heywood had mixed fortunes in the swimming competition. At Senior level Jenny Street in back and free, Paul Keenlyside in fly and Raymond Chui in the individual medley were our only qualifiers, along with both relays. At Junior level Kassam Mukadam was our only success in the individuals, in qualifying for both the back and fly, along with the medley relay team. However, despite being reminded in House assembly two days before 2 year 9's and several Seniors forgot their kit leaving us no relay teams and without Paul and Raymond. Nevertheless Jenny was 1st and 2nd in her events and Kassam, despite carrying a thigh strain, was 1st and 3rd. This gave us a total of 15 points and 3rd place in the individuals

During the term discussions took place as to the future of the Houses and how the current 6 Houses would be replaced with 4 entirely new ones. As the current Lower Sixth would miss out on the various appointments I decided to confirm Alex Oxberry and Selene Pang as Heads of House, because they had earned it with their contribution over the previous four years, and to confirm all the Lower Sixth as House Prefects.

Towards Easter the Head Master asked for nominations for School Prefects and Alex, Selene, Stephen Pearce and Christie Okpe were selected. It gave me great pleasure when Alex was later appointed Head Girl. At the final House assembly Alex, Selene, Stephen and Christie were congratulated on their achievements.

SUMMER TERM

At the first House assembly the team captains were also decided and the following appointments were made: Seniors:- athletics- Christie Okpe and Andrew McIntyre; rounders-Hayley Street; cricket- Sam McClements and Aamar Gill; Juniors:- athletics- year 10: Martellique Yates and Faisal Majid; year 9: Ada Okpe and Sabah Hafeez: rounders-Umara Chaudhry; cricket-Umar Saleem.

In the first round of the senior cricket knockout, we faced Fraser. On the day two our best players were unable to play but neither did anything about telling either our captain or myself before the game. I found one in the Sixth Form Common Room, where he claimed he was injured, and the other, who was on study leave, was still at home when I phoned. As a result we took the field with only 7 players and Mr Muckalt immediately awarded the match to Fraser. Both these players let their team-mates down terribly, particularly as either was capable of winning the match on their own.

The Junior knockout team showed much more enthusiasm and commitment, with 3 or 4 reserves willing and able to play for all the matches. A bye in the first round saw us up against Whitworth. At a very early stage of the match they were 6 for 3, after accurate pace bowling from Asim Rafiq and Umar Saleem and were eventually all out for 53. In reply Umar and Kassam Mukadam quickly knocked off the runs and Kassam lost his wicket hitting out. However, it was a sensible sacrifice as the moment the winning run was hit the heavens opened to such an extent that the quad became flooded. The pleasing thing about this win was the excellent teamwork and spirit. Asim and Umar both finished with 3 wickets and Simon Patterson 2.

Against Fraser in the final we won the toss and put them into bat. At one stage Alex Adams was striking fours all around the pitch and, having already dropped four catches earlier, our fielding was letting us down. However, in what I believe was the turning point in the match Sheraz Ahmed took a catch above his head, whilst running sidewards at deep mid-off, to dismiss Alex. With Asim, Simon Patterson and Umar bowling tightly in the remaining overs, Fraser were restricted to 101-6 in their 20 overs, where they had at one point reached 90 in 14 overs. Sheraz 2, Asim 1 and Ghulam Haydar 2 were our wicket takers. In reply Kassam hit 37 and Sheraz hit 25 very quick runs to put us in the 90's for the loss of only 2 wickets. When 3 more wickets fell cheaply it was left to Asim to hit the winning runs when he smashed the ball for 4 of his first delivery. The pleasing aspect of the match was the spirit in which it was played. Both teams did well fielding and batting and there was plenty of good-natured banter between the players coupled with absolute dedication to their House. Both umpires, Mr Hewston and Mr Muckalt, seemed to enjoy it and were full of praise for both teams after the match. Colours were awarded to the whole team for their excellent efforts.

The pool matches for the junior rounders saw us lose 2-0 to Dalton and narrowly beat Gaskell 3½ - 3. The same Byrom girls responsible for our heavy defeat in netball comfortably won in the semi-final 6-1. In the 3rd/4th play-off we earned revenge on a strong Dalton side by winning 4½ - 4.

The Senior rounders fell over the period of the exams and unfortunately Dalton were unable to field a team in our pool. Despite losing 8-5 to Gaskell we qualified for a semi-final against Whitworth. At the first time of trying to play the semis all four Houses were short of players and so they were moved again. Having seen all 4 year 11 girls I was expecting at least 8 players. However, all 4 year 11 girls had other arrangements made by the time the day came round and Heywood could not field a team from the remaining Lower Sixth because some of them were on a trip. As a result we shared 3rd place with Gaskell who suffered the same fate.

The final sporting event of the year was the junior athletics, although this year due to the reduced number of girls in year 9 it was decided to combine the year9 and 10 girls' events. The senior competition had taken place before half term and Heywood was fourth with a total of 79 points with Gaskell in the lead with 119. Successes on the day consisted, amongst others: Andrew McIntyre first in 100m and 200m; Jenny Street third in 800m and shot; Christie Okpe first in high-jump and third in triple-jump; Carolyn Hegg fourth in shot; Leon Jackson second in high-jump, third in long-jump and fourth in 200m; Ozy Solati second in 200m; Selene Pang fifth in triple-jump; Stephen Pearce sixth in shot and first in the girls' 4x100m relay. In the junior competition we were more successful. In year 10: Ehi Okpe won the long-jump and triple-jump; Charlie Hughes won the 800m, was third in the high-jump and fourth in 100m; Martellique Yates second in 100m, 200m and high jump; Ghulam Haydar second in 400m and fifth in 200m; Umar Saleem second in triple-jump; Imran Gill third in long-jump and fifth in 100m; Farrah Majid fifth in shot and sixth in triple-jump; Kassam Mukadam fifth in triple-jump and Marie Pang sixth in 800m.

In year 9 Simon Patterson was second and fourth in high-jump; Ada Okpe was third in long-jump, fourth in 400m and sixth in high-jump; Courtney Thomas was third in long-jump and high-jump; Joel Oxberry was third in triple-jump; Zunair Ali was fourth in 200m and sixth in 100m and Mudassar Ali was fifth in 800m. Heywood finished fourth in the junior competition but third overall. All competitors who scored points or ran in relays were awarded colours and I was delighted by the fact that all the awards were reawards, including the year 9's. It is a mark of the contribution made to House activities when all the year 9 pupils manage to achieve colours by the end of their first year in the House and something they can be very proud of.

The last task of the year was collecting in all the Heywood locker keys. The usual culprits had managed to lose theirs and had spent the majority of the year sharing with someone else. However, by the end of term all but four keys were still awaited and I looked forward to the future when locker keys would no longer be my responsibility!

At the end of term it was announced that the new Houses were to be Bonnick, Hulme, Jones and Roberts and I was asked to continue as a House Master of one of them. At the time of writing allocation of pupils to these Houses and the House Master was not decided.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and pupils who have helped Heywood to success over the years and inparticular I would like to thank all the pupils who have made my job as Heywood's House Master, for the last thirteen years, an enjoyable one. It is hoped Srta Reyero-Cascallana along with Mr Gracey will continue as deputies in the future, their help and support has been greatly appreciated this year.

L Sharp.

WHITWORTH HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Heads of House:	John Fletcher* Helen Fisher*
Deputy Heads of House:	Puya Niroomand* Maria Ahmed*
House Prefects:	Rashed Ahmed* Muhanad Ahmed Alexander Hogarth Daniel Mather Alex Muir Matthew Royle William Shaw

*denotes school prefect

We welcomed into the House Seema Ahmed and Christopher Miller who joined the sixth form and also all the members of 9W who are listed below:

Obinna Anyalewechi	Zohaib Iqbal
Stephen Bhullar	Azizul Islam
Sarah Diamond	Martin Knight
Shahbaz Faiz	Ademola Olaitan
Holly Goodrick	Rheanna Pereira
Iain Hollister	Craig Wood

Whitworth was again well represented in the Senior Rugby squads, which meant that we often struggled to raise a full team for the House League.

Daniel Mather was an excellent Captain who led by example particularly with his strong running and hard tackling. Chris Miller, Mohammed Al-Himdani, Matthew Royle, and Alex Hogarth ably supported him. The team had good wins over Heywood and Dalton and narrowly lost the other games. I would especially like to mention the Year 11 boys who all regularly turned up and although lacking in stature made positive contributions on the field.

In the first round of the Senior Knockout we were drawn against old rivals Fraser. In a very evenly matched contest the final result was a 5-all draw with Muhanad Ahmed scoring the equalising try in the last minute from a Robi Dé grubber kick. In the replay, the team were in magnificent form and the pack monopolised possession. They won by 10 pts to 3 with Robi Dé scoring all the points with a converted try and a penalty goal. Nasir Moosa dominated in the forwards and was well supported by Roy Chohan, Puya Niroomand and Chris Miller.

Dalton were then defeated comfortably by 31 pts – 0 and in the final we came up against a strong Gaskell team. Unfortunately, the team were not at their best and poor marking let Michael Platt in for tow converted tries. Thereafter we were always chasing the games and eventually lost 17 – 5. However, overall the team did extremely well and are to be congratulated on their efforts.

In the Junior Knockout we faced a strong Dalton outfit in the first round but played very well and were only 12–5 down at half time. In the second half the players tired and Dalton won confortably.

Mishal Trivedi was a hard working Captain and he was well supported by Sagar Modha, Lloyd Wall and Daniel Wright.

In the Junior Hockey the girls competed well, just losing out to Dalton 1–0, and then drawing 0–0 with Fraser. They then played Gaskell and won on short corners to finish in fifth place. As Captain, Nardene Scott worked tirelessly and all the girls gave her good support.

The Seniors had a strong squad available and in the pool matches drew 1–1 with Gaskell after a slow start, before beating Dalton 2–0. In the semi final they overcame Byrom 2 – 0; Kristie Tierney was in superb attacking form and scored all the goals.

The final against Heywood was a magnificent contest between two evenly matched teams. A crucial factor was the loss halfway through of Kate Maddock with a severely bruised hand. However, in midfield, Leela Dé, Holly Kent and Kathryn Tang worked tirelessly and nullified their opponents attack. With only thirty seconds remaining the team were ahead because of a short corner, when Heywood finally managed to break away and score the winning goal. This was a heart-breaking result but both teams deserve full credit for an absorbing contest. Holly Kent was an excellent Captain and organiser at all times.

The House Play was co-produced by Kathryn Tang and Matthew Booth with assistance from Roy Chohan. They chose to do a comedy called "Speech Day" by Barry Hines. This was an ambitious choice and required a large cast. The main problem was a stage one as it involved several scene changes, but on the night these were handled admirably.

John Fletcher, Kate Howie, Holly Kent, Kristie Tierney and Kate Maddock all produced strong performances on the night. Mohammed Al-Himdani, Nasir Moosa and Edward Fisher ably supported them.

The play was placed joint fourth, but the real achievement was the work put in by the three producers and the whole of the large cast. The producers stood up well to all the various pressures and will have learnt a great deal from the experience.

Mohammed Al-Himdani and Kathryn Tang represented us in the debating and supported a motion on global warming opposed by Fraser. They were both very nervous but gave a good account of themselves.

At the end of term Nasir Moosa was selected for Cheshire Schools at U18 level, and Azizul Islam received the Player of the Year award for the Year 9 rugby.

LENT TERM

The Road Run retained the format introduced last year in which all members of Years 9 & 10 took part. In the Year 9 race, Iain Hollister was 5th and Holly Goodrick was the first girl to finish in a superb 16th place. The seniors also did well with Akintunde Adams a close second and Peter Royle

7th. However, all this effort was let down by a poor performance from the Year 10s. Their race had to be re-run after problems occurred recording the number of laps completed by each runner. In the second race the attitude from some pupils was very poor and several badly under-performed. Notable exceptions were Edward Fisher,5th, and Seena Elhami 7th. As a consequence of this, Whitworth lost first place overall by only one point. This was an extremely disappointing result and I hope that it was a one-off situation.

The House Music was organised by Roxanne Scott with assistance from Miss Matthews. The programmed was varied but balanced and all the musicians pulled together to give an entertaining performance. Rheanna Pereira was praised for her solo singing and Wendy Tang on the piano produced a fine rendition of the Titanic theme song. Once again the marking was very close and we were disappointed to be placed joint fifth.

The Senior Netball squad was in dominant form in the pool games, comfortably beating Dalton and Byrom with some fine teamwork. They then overcame Gaskell in the semi-final to play Fraser in the final. Their play in the final was outstanding and they simply overwhelmed their opponents to win 11-0. Leela Dé was an accurate goal-shooter, well supported by Seema Ahmed. However, the hub of the team was in midfield where the trio of Kristie Tierney, Kate Maddock, and Kathryn Tang were everywhere. Congratulations must go to the Captain, Kate Howie and to all the squad members.



The Senior Girls after winning the Netball.

Not to be outdone, the Juniors also played well and finished third overall. In the pool games they beat Dalton 4-3, before losing 7-9 to Heywood in a close game. In the semi-final they lost to the eventual winners, Byrom. Gaskell was then beaten 10-5 in the play-off for third and fourth places. Sonia Chohan was an enthusiastic Captain and all the girls played their part.

In football, the Senior League team competed well in all matches but had a tendency to miss chances. All the games were entertaining and enjoyed by the players. Rashed Ahmed was a very capable Captain and Akintunde Adams was always dangerous in attack.

The Seniors played Gaskell in the second round of the knockout. At half-time they were only 2- 1 down, but then lost composure in the second half, gave away some sill goals and lost 6 – 1! Robi Dé was the Captain and midfield general, whilst Muhanad Ahmed and the Royle brothers gave good support.

The Juniors were involved in a hard-fought game against Heywood, just losing out by 2 goals to one. Again it was very much a question of missed chances. Thanks must go to Khaliq Ahmad as Captain.

Once again we were well represented in the Swimming Finals at all age groups. The individual event was a close affair between Fraser and Whitworth, and in the end victory went to Fraser.

Edward Fisher was first in the Junior Butterfly and second in the freestyle. As a result of his efforts he was awarded the trophy for best swimmer in the Juniors. Daniel Mather was second in both the Senior Breaststroke and Individual Medley. Martin Knight was second in the Senior Butterfly. Matthew Royle, Robi Dé and Daniel Wright were our other finalists.

The relays were shared by Whitworth and Fraser, both gaining two first and two second places. First places went to the Senior Medley and Squadron teams with second places in the Junior Medley and Squadron. This was an excellent effort and several swimmers turned out just for the relays, which was greatly appreciated.

MIDSUMMER TERM

In the first round of the Junior Cricket the team gained a well-deserved victory over Dalton. Good bowling restricted Dalton to a total of 49 and the batsmen, led by Sagar Modha saw the team home.

They then played Heywood and were well beaten. The batting collapsed and a total of 53 were never going to be good enough. Mishal Trivedi and Sagar Modha were joint captains.

The Seniors played Byrom and AS examinations robbed them of several players including Chris Miller. The rest of the Lower Sixth rallied round and made Byrom work for their victory in an enjoyable game.

The Junior Rounders team played very well to reach the final against Byrom. The final was enjoyed by both teams and Byrom just had the edge. Sonia Chohan was captain for the pool games, but unfortunately was unable to play in the finals. Nardene Scott took over and her powerful hitting helped the team considerably.

The Seniors also reached the final against Gaskell. However, the team was let down by three Lower Sixth girls who did not turn out. This meant that we had five players against the eight of Gaskell. The girls played with tremendous spirit and only narrowly failed to beat their opponents. For the record, the five were Kathryn Tang, Seema Ahmed, Kate Maddock, Holly Kent and Mariam Shahid.

In the Senior Sports Day we competed well and placed third. Holly Kent won the Triple Jump and finished equal second with Kristie Tierney in the Long Jump. Holly was also second in the 100 metres as was Robi Dé in the Triple Jump. Akintunde Adams was an impressive winner of the Boys 1500 metres.

The Juniors also put in some fine performances on their sports day, which gave us a very respectable fourth place overall just behind Heywood.

Quaymberley Dudley had never tried the High Jump before but on the day she surprised herself by gaining first place! First places were also achieved by the following:

Year 9	Holly Goodrick	Girls 800 metres
	Azizul Islam	Boys High Jump And Long Jump
	Iain Hollister	Triple Jump
Year 10	Mobeen Shahbaz	Triple Jump

As a result of his efforts overall, Iain Hollister was one of the joint winners of the Best Individual Athlete award.

At the end of term, Ademola Olaitan of 9W won the shield as Junior Chess Champion,

Holly Kent, Kate Howie, Kathryn Tang, Mohammed Al-Himdani, Matthew Booth, and Roy Chohan were appointed as School Prefects. Roy Chohan received further recognition when he was also appointed as one of the Deputy Heads of School.

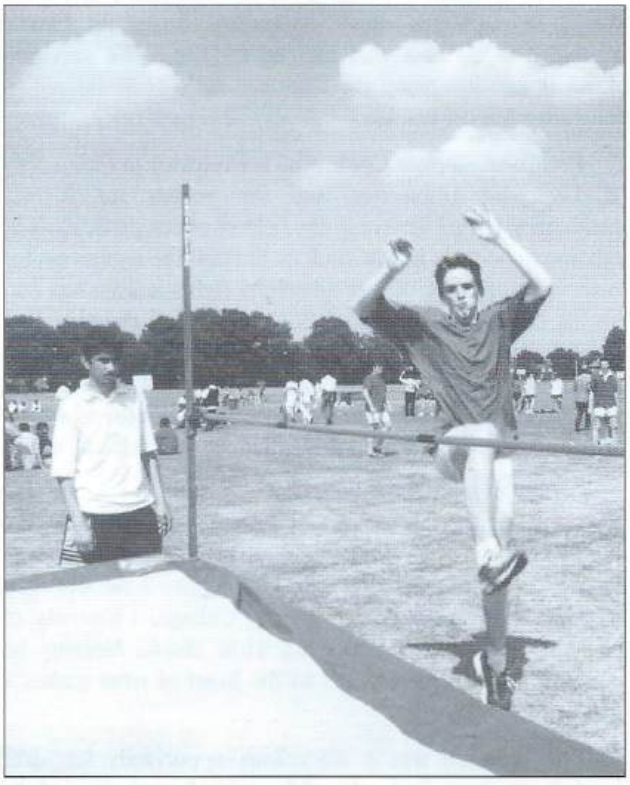
Holly Kent and Kathryn Tang were appointed Joint Heads of House until the end of term. Along with Roy Chohan. All of the above contribute greatly to both school and House activities and the honours are well deserved.

Earlier this year saw the loss of Dr Keable due to retirement, and now Miss Matthews to a new school, Both have given a great deal of time and effort to Whitworth and both will be missed. Many thanks.

This is the last ever Whitworth House report due to the re-organisation of the Houses. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members of the House who have given so much over the years and helped to make everything so enjoyable and satisfying. The House spirit has been second to none and I for one will never forget it. Thank you very much to everyone.

D A Myers





18 senior boys 4 x 400 metres relay & Edward Fisher in high jump.

SIXTH FORM PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

On Saturday, 10th March 2001 sixth formers from all over Greater Manchester came to William Hulme's to participate in a Philosophy Day. The objective of the day was to introduce sixth formers to Philosophy by taking three areas of philosophical debate and opening them to discussion. Since philosophy began, over two thousand five hundred years ago, men and women have debated the arguments for life after death. One of the major British philosophers of religion is Professor Anthony Flew who has contributed widely, not only in this debate but in many debates on religious and metaphysical topics. Professor Flew led the sixth formers through his well-rehearsed arguments which were followed by a lively question and answer session. Professor Flew was a student of Gilbert Ryle and it is easy to see the influence of Ryle's attack on Cartesian Dualism ('the ghost in the machine') in Flew's work. Perhaps the most memorable image in Flew's argument is his case that arguing for the soul's surviving death is like imagining the Cheshire cat's smile remaining long after the cat has left.

Professor Stephen Clark, who is Professor of Philosophy at Liverpool University, and the reviser for A-level philosophy, is well known in the field of ethics particularly in relation to animals and he took us through the arguments for respecting animals. Many an animal rights activist has had his or her case demolished on the basis of claiming that animals have rights - a position which is difficult to sustain because animals cannot have duties and cannot be conscious of their rights. However, by side-stepping the issue of animal rights, Professor Clark ensured that the key ethical issues were addressed.

Following these sessions was an opportunity for students to meet in discussion groups to work through the arguments themselves and in the afternoon Dr Stephen Law, who is a lecturer in philosophy at Heythrop College, University of London, led a lively session on 'How should Morality be Taught?' which aimed to get to the heart of what makes a liberal society.

The occasion was a marvellous opportunity for sixth formers to hear first-rate philosophical analysis and to participate themselves in the discussion of arguments in a relaxed setting. We are most grateful to the distinguished visiting speakers for supporting the occasion, which was organised by the school in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Philosophy and we are grateful to the Royal Institute for their financial assistance with this occasion.

SR Patriarca



Sixth former learn about the meaning of life.

Founder's Dinner 2001

In celebration of the school's founder a dinner was held on Monday, 5th March 2001. The new hall was packed with friends of William Hulme's and members of the local educational community, to enjoy a superb dinner organised in great style and with competence by our catering manager, Will Axon and his staff. The dinner was held in the presence of The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City of Manchester and we were also glad to have with us the General Secretary of HMC, Mr Geoff Lucas, and the Secretary of the Independent Schools Council, Dr Alistair Cooke. After dinner the gathering was addressed by two distinguished speakers, both speaking on the theme of what education is. Mr Graham Brady MP spoke of his concern to see the survival of schools like William Hulme's which subscribe to the grammar school tradition, whilst Professor Anthony O'Hear, director of the Royal Institute of Philsophy, and Professor of Humanities at the University of Bradford, delivered a swingeing attack on the government's education policy which he described as barbaric.

"Barbarism", said Professor O'Hear, "is when teachers abrogate their role as transmitters of the best that has been thought and known, and become 'learning managers'. What is called 'lifelong learning' and other initiatives currently stemming from central government amount to a strange and hitherto unknown form of barbarism."

Following the success of the Founder's Dinner, next year will see the first of what I hope will be annual Founder's Day lectures, again exploring educational issues. The 2002 lecture will be delivered by Dr Anthony Seldon, headmaster at Brighton College and a distinguished political author who will also seek to explore the nature of education itself. Tickets for the lecture which will include light refreshments are available from the school office.

SR Patriarca



The Headmaster and Professor Anthony O'Hear.

Lower School Public Speaking Competition 2001

Roller Hockey, London, Honey Bees, Amnesty International, The Human Body, Islam, Gymnastics, Martial Arts...

You might wonder what event could possibly bring together such a diverse and interesting range of subjects unless you happened upon this year's Lower School Public Speaking Competition.

The atmosphere was electric. Quite literally; I'd never seen so many cables, projectors, keyboards, laptops, VDUs and remotes outside the IT room. I held my breath whilst Donner Block's power supply was put to the ultimate test. And the equipment wasn't just for show. Pupils proved they could use technology to enhance their speech. For example, Microsoft Powerpoint was put to effective use in James Lovell's speech on London. James (8ACC) managed to take the audience on a guided tour of the capital city, whilst photographs zoomed onto the screen from every possible angle. Special thanks to Mr Stanyer for ensuring all ran smoothly.

Technology was not the only area in which finalists proved they were prepared to take risks. All speakers captured the attention of the audience in a variety of ways. As well as talking about their subject, finalists were keen to demonstrate their skills. James O'Donnell (8ACC) gave a confident and composed Martial Arts demonstration using a very brave and willing Ayo Ahmed (8ACC) as accomplice. James showed real skill as a public speaker because he was able to demonstrate his skills without losing his composure. What impressed the judges most was the way in which he emphasised his training and experience and remembered to highlight the obvious dangers of what he was doing. The audience were entertained and suitably informed.

Ravi Bhatt (7JAM) was a burst of energy on stage. He showed flair and enthusiasm for speaking in public. Ravi chose the rather unassuming subject of the Honey Bee. But rather than deliver a simply biological presentation, Ravi used humour, poetry and description. It was his expression, liveliness and tone that delighted the judges and audience. You half expected him to grow wings, change colour and fly off stage.

This year's finalists proved that public speaking is not simply about opening your mouth and talking it's about entertaining, demonstrating, informing, eye-contact, humour, composure, taking questions, and having the confidence to take risks. Getting up in front of your peer group is not the easiest thing to do (teachers will tell you that) but it is one of the most rewarding.

Congratulations to all of the finalists and this year's winners, Ravi Bhatt (7JAM) and James O'Donnell (8ACC). The judges would also like to commend Ishaq Mahmood (7ELM) for his excellent talk on the Human Body.

J A Milligan

SPORT

1st XI Hockey

Played 7 Won 4 Drew 0 Lost 3

This has been a most enjoyable season for both myself and the girls, even though the weather has made it rather frustrating at times.

We were straight into the season with the first match coming upon us very quickly, the annual fixture against the Old Hulmeians. We knew this would be a tough game as the previous two senior squads had been strong and many were returning for the occasion. We had had a couple of pre-season training sessions but we still appeared to be half-asleep and found ourselves 0-2 down at half time. Things did improve in the second half. The "oldies" began to look tired and we started to play together a little bit more. The game finished at 1-3, although not a victory for us, we certainly learnt from it and realised which areas needed working on before our next fixture.

Our first inter-school fixture was against Stockport Grammar – away – on astro-turf! Not an easy start to the season and with many of our squad players falling ill in the run up week things didn't look too good. However, we had a great start to the game, we were 1-0 up within 10 minutes, and 2-0 up by half time. With no subs and tiredness beginning to creep in we went into the second half expecting a rough ride – we weren't wrong! Five minutes to go, 3-2 up it was a case of pack the defence, try and clear the ball and hold on for dear life! It was a great victory for us and set the team up for the season. Players had begun to gel, spirits were high and it looked very encouraging for the rest of the season.

Unfortunately we then had a long gap to our next match. Although the squad continued to train hard on the astro-turf at the Armitage Centre, fixtures were cancelled due to grass pitches being waterlogged. This meant we had to wait until after Christmas until our next game, we then had three games in one week. My biggest concern was that the girls lacked match practice, and with two of our three opponents being astro-turf teams, this was surely going to make a difference. Thankfully I was proved wrong. Three games in five days and three victories. The team had a tremendous week of hockey; they worked well as a team, encouraged one another and never gave up.

Again we then had to wait a few weeks for our last two games. Two key tough matches which proved too much for us this time. Knutsford were a well-drilled astro-turf team fielding several County players and Stockport had their revenge on the return fixture.

The squad definitely suffered with only having access to an astro-turf once a week and with so many fixtures being cancelled. However, I congratulate them on keeping their spirits up and never losing enthusiasm.

The team: we had two different goal keepers this year, we started with Sunita Boodhoo who played well up until Christmas, then Carolyn Hegg took over. Carolyn's confidence grew as the season went on and hopefully she will carry on improving over the next two years.

In defence we had Samantha John (who won player of the year award – well done!) and Adanna Opara. A formidably paring who regularly took on the rest of the team in training – and won!!

In midfield we had Helia Asadi, Helen Fisher, Leela Dé, Kate Maddock and Bhavini Vara who all played throughout the season. It's encouraging that two of these players along with some of the forwards still have another two years left in the team.

Finally up front we had Nneka Opara, Camille Kasler, Ozadeh Solati, Ceegay Verley, Kristie Tierney and Beth Coffey (who had an excellent year as 1st XI Captain).

I would like to thank Beth's parents for all their support over the years, I don't think they've missed a game in seven years, they have travelled to every away game and have been very encouraging to the whole team with their positive comments from the side line.

Finally I would like to thank all the players for their hard work and commitment, it makes my job so much easier when I can rely on them to be in the right place at the right time with the right kit, no matter how short notice. I wish the U6th good luck for their chosen paths next year and look forward to working with the L6th and year 11 again next season.

J Barlow

1st XI Coach

U15 Hockey

Played 6 Won 4 Drew 0 Lost 2

After such a good season last year this team had a lot to live up to. They started well, enthusiasm and commitment was there and they were all fired up for their first match, Stockport Grammar away. This is always a closely fought match but the girls managed to come out on top with a 3-2 victory.

The next match was the National U15 cup game against Merchant Taylors School, an unknown opposition. This game proved to be very tough. They were a confident and well-practised astro-turf team and appeared to be running circles around us. Although the team never gave up, they couldn't play their normal attacking game and found themselves heavily beaten in the end. Defeat was something this team wasn't used to, and didn't really know how to cope with, and I think this affected their next match against Withington, a game normally won, they found themselves losing 0-1.

Unfortunately due to the bad weather the girls didn't have another game until after Christmas. The holidays appeared to bring back the positive attitude this group of girls normally have, I'm sure the thought of some grass matches helped as well.

The girls went on to gain three good victories against Manchester High, St Monica's and Sale Grammar School, scoring 14 goals and conceeding 0.

Again we were hit with bad weather and spirits began to fall, the girls found it hard to keep motivated and turn up to training when matches had to be cancelled because the pitches weren't fit.

Hopefully we will not be beaten by the weather next year and it could be nice to see this group of girls fighting for 1st XI places.

The following girls represented the school: Simone Walters, Tamara Brown, Korinna Steele, Thembi Watt, Ashley Gilbody, Ehi Okpe, Kristina Stus, Prya Boodhoo, Nardene Scott, Nicole Plummer (who won player of the year, well done!) Martellique Yates and Kizzy Smith.

J Barlow

U15 Coach

U14 Hockey 2001

Lavinia McDonald-Jones - Captain
Lauretta Lauder
Alison Hardy
Vicky Knight
Christina Sullivan
Holly Goodrick
Courtney Thomas
Charlotte Platt
Rachel N'Jie
Rheanna Periera

The season was marred by appalling weather this year. Despite this the team started the season well, very enthusiastically and training well in the week.

Lavinia was an admirable captain. She keeps a cool head at all times, she certainly leads by example. She is a very good player, good at anticipating others play and ensuring a solid defence. She thoroughly deserved the player of the year award.

Vicky thankfully remained in goal this year, many superb saves were made against Schools which field a team from a vast selection. The achievements of our girls should not be underestimated, practically every girl in the year is a member of the team and they continue to play very effectively against very strong teams.

As a team there is enormous potential. There is a good selection of very able players but they need to learn to work more as a team and channel their energy into playing.

Hopefully the next season will be relatively rain free (!) and they can develop their strategies more effectively and really show what they are capable of.

Alison Raw

Hannah Edwards

Under 13 Hockey

(Captain: Alice Murphy)

In a very difficult season the U13 girls have never given up, have always encouraged and supported each other as a team, and have been cheerful, dependable and determined, despite failing to win a single game. Their confidence has certainly taken some knocks yet they have come back week after week to train and try to make headway. Unfortunately their opportunities to do this have been few and far between since, as the results table shows, so many matches had to be cancelled.

Training continued throughout a long period when our pitches were under water (or mud – or both). The team did not set foot on the outside pitches between Christmas and March 1st, in fact. During this time we shared the Sports Hall with the Under 12 squad, usually twice a week, so that to an extent fitness and skills were maintained. A session or two on the Armitage Centre's astroturf showed the girls how quickly their game could come on if they played regularly on the surface.

The results against Manchester High and Sale (away on their own artificial pitches), and Alderley Edge were commendable, and even against Withington the girls were only 0-1 down at half-time, but they undoubtedly played their best hockey during the National 7-a-side Tournament at Bowdon when they drew all their matches in conditions so cold and wet that some players simply could not hold their stick any longer in the final match. They played teams who were consistently scoring goals and beating the others in their pool, yet our girls did not give up at any stage, and in the last match Georgia scored our only goal! They came away with pride intact and roundly deserved the stop-off at the drive-in on the way home! Our thanks to Mrs Brown and Mrs Pollard both of whom braved the particularly unpleasant Sunday morning weather to come and support. A party was held at School just before Christmas as a thankyou to the squad for their indomitable spirit and loyalty.

Player of the Season was Hannah Dodson who has been a loyal and committed player, never missed a practice, and as full-back with Sarah Gall worked tirelessly match after match to keep rampaging oppositions at bay! Anna Sutton's game in goal improved steadily and when she is aggressive and protective of her goalmouth she is hard to beat – but she is still apt to be too nice sometimes!

A special award was also made at the end of the season to the U13 Captain Alice Murphy. She has been an example of good leadership on the pitch and an excellent ambassador for the School in every way.

The following notes made before what would have been their penultimate match of the season gives a clear indication of the areas the players must continue to work on:

- You must play in your position and stick to it. A few of you drifting into someone else's position created real problems against Withington. When you aren't where you should be it leaves a gap which makes life difficult for your team but easier for the opposition. In the last match you even took the ball from another WHGS player once or twice!

- We must concentrate on moving the ball upfield so that our forwards have a chance of scoring. The only ways of doing this are:

1 hitting the ball cleanly and firmly: we aren't doing this;

2 tackling strongly and with confidence: we aren't doing this;

3 moving the ball out to the wings whenever possible: we aren't doing this; and

4 carrying the ball individually (i.e. dribbling) when there is space rather than pushing it straight ahead and watching the opposition gratefully take possession. When we held the ball against Alderley and Withington and ran with it we made a lot of ground and looked very threatening. More of the same against Newcastle, please!

Results:

v Stockport (A)	CANCELLED
v Cheadle Hulme School	CANCELLED
v Withington Girls School	CANCELLED
v St Monica's School	CANCELLED
v Sale Grammar School (A)	LOST 0-3
v Newcastle-under-Lyme School	CANCELLED
v Alderley Edge School	CANCELLED
v St Bede's School	CANCELLED
v Hulme Grammar School, Oldham	CANCELLED
v Manchester High School (A)	LOST 0-1
v St Monica's	CANCELLED
v Sale Grammar School (H)	LOST 0-1

National Mini Tournament:

v Sale GS	Drew
v Manchester HS	Drew
v Macclesfield Hockey Club "A"	Drew
v Queens School Chester	Drew
v Alderley Edge School (A)	Lost 0-1
v Hulme Grammar School, Oldham	Cancelled
v Withington Girls School (A)	Lost 0-5
v Newcastle-under-Lyme School	Cancelled
v Stockport (A)	Lost 0-10

Those representing the U13 XI were Alice Murphy (C), Anna Sutton (GK), Emma Kane, Sarah Gall, Lisa Mbaya, Kamielle Jordan, Lindsay Rushforth, Susanne Ray, Angel Cheung, Ramandeep Kaur, Sumaiyah Ghani, Lizzy Boyle, Hannah Dodson and Georgia Selby with occasional help from Roya, Kerry and Ilham from the U12s.

The great majority of these girls have a superb attitude, are willing to listen and learn, and have the potential to form part of a successful hockey team in years to come. I wish them the success they deserve.

D M Fisher

U12 Hockey Report

Season 2000/2001

Played 3 Won 1 Drew 0 Lost 2

Many former Hulmeians travelling past the School grounds this season may have been surprised and intrigued to witness our usual sports being played with a difference. The common element to these activities was simply WATER! Had we been practising our swimming strokes or rowing technique then the season may have been more successful in terms of achievement. When you consider that the under 12's managed to play 3 out of the 14 matches organised you may begin to understand some of their and indeed my own frustration as yet another fixture had to be cancelled due to the severity of water on the pitches.

Our squad which practised twice a week with the U13 squad (thanks to the use of the sports hall) worked tremendously hard to improve their stick skills and were incredibly committed to their practices. The problem with this arrangement for those who have never played field hockey is that the ball travels much faster on a smooth surface (sports hall) and on grass needs a lot more effort to hit the ball. When we did get onto an outdoor surface we lacked pace, the ability to hit the ball cleanly and at distance.

One of the major finds of the season was Kerry Tang of form 7ELM, she very bravely offered to play goalkeeper. Instead of the usual pandemonium about how to get the pads, helmet and gloves on she just got on with things, demonstrating the right mix of excellent timing, good hand-eye co-ordination, clinical stick skills and the most important element, a streak of total madness.

Due to the small size of the squad, the decision was made to play 7 a-side, which is quite a different game to the usual 11 a-side.

Our first match was way back in November against Sale Grammar School. The match was played on astro-turf; a surface some of our young players had never even heard of, never mind played on before and consequently a defeat of 0-6 was probably inevitable. Miss Raw who actually took the team on that morning reported back that she had been absolutely delighted with the conduct and enthusiasm shown by the girls (something in evidence throughout the term). Sale Grammar's skills on their own playing surface were far superior to ours and lack of match practice and outdoor work let us down.

Our next overdue match was not until January. Knowing now where to stand and which job each player was meant to do actually made for quite a thrilling match against St. Monica's High School, especially as we scored, not once, but twice.

The game was played in an excellent spirit, competitive, but friendly and proved to be a most rewarding morning both in terms of coaching and the result, our first victory in a very evenly fought contest, 2-1. Chloe Watson of 7ELM is undoubtedly an excellent player and shone throughout the match, scoring one of the goals for us and Roya Jooyandeh 7JAM worked immensely hard and was rewarded by scoring

the other goal. A very tired, but happy bunch of girls (and member of staff) was seen leaving the field that morning.

Saturday 31st March, the last match of the season was a morning, which was definitely going to be played whatever the weather. As it turned out the fixture against Stockport Grammar was a glorious morning in terms of sunshine, but not result. In the first half we allowed, through slack defence and poor attacking concepts to allow them to score 5 fantastic goals. I must add at this moment that if Kerry Tang hadn't have been in goal then the score line could have been 20 upwards. They had us pinned in our own circle for the whole half and made us work extremely hard. I did wonder whether heads would go down and we might give up, but was absolutely delighted and proud to see our players dig into reserves and continue the fight.

After a reassuring chat at half time and a few positional changes we determined that they (Stockport) were not going to score another 5 and they didn't. We made it very difficult for them and even had 2 or 3 chances ourselves with Chloe Watson zooming down the wings unfortunately being met with a very persistent goalkeeper. The atmosphere was terrific, very friendly and well supported by parents anxious to see the team do well. The final result 0-6. Scores mean little if you don't see the whole picture and on that morning the under 12's were excellent ambassadors for W.H.G.S.

I would like to thank Mr David Fisher for giving up his own time so willingly in our joint U12 and U13 coaching sessions and to the whole squad for making our practice sessions so worthwhile and fun. I'm sure that they will do better next season, let's hope at least for some better weather.

The U12 Hockey Squad for season 2000/2001

7ELM	7JAM	7JHH
Sultana Miah	Ilham Al-Bayati	Kimberley Booth
Anne Morley	Roya Jooyandeh	Kierran Kayani
Kerry Tang	Ozlen Nihat	Masooma Naqvi
Chloe Watson	Hayley Parr	Pooja Patel
Kimberley Stewart	Mi Lan Yau	

Mrs Tracy Pollard

RUGBY REPORT 2000 SEASON

1st XV
RESULTS

Played 10 Won 6 Lost 4

Saturday 9th Sep. v Ormskirk Grammar	**Won 27-19**
Saturday 16th Sep. v Cheadle Hulme	**Won 47-7**
Saturday 23rd Sep. v St. Bede's	**Won 28-0**
Saturday 30th Sep. v Bury	**Won 28-11**
Wednesday 4th Oct v Sale	**Won 47-0**
Saturday 7th Oct v Widnes	**Lost 8-13**
Saturday 14th Oct v King Edwards, Lytham	**Lost 7-27**
Friday 20th Oct v QEGS Blackburn	**Won 38-9**
Wednesday 1st Nov v Ormskirk G.S (Daily Mail Cup)	**Lost 21-14**
Saturday 11th Nov v Sandbach	**Lost 13-3**

The season got off to a very good start. Attendance at pre-season training was very good and there seemed to be a positive attitude amongst the new crop of senior players.

The relaxed attitude to the sessions and a good deal of humour and friendship building helped to motivate the players in the early sessions and helped them to all work hard to raise their fitness levels. There was a good blend of experience and youth to the squad sessions and some players liked to play rather than train at times, but the old heads usually roared and brought them back into line.

The players left the pre-season sessions with a diet and weight training pack and a game plan in its early stages, for them to carry on their preparation before term time started. Judging by the wobbly bellies and tongues frequently on display in the early part of the season, they hadn't taken any notice of the training programmes whatsoever!

In terms of a game plan, I felt that we had the pace and power out wide to cause problems to most teams. I tried to centre the game on drawing defences in around the fringes of ruck and mauls, with drives from the pack and then look to exploit the pace and power of Platt, Knight and Dawkins out wide. For the most part in the early games they did this well.

The season started off with a trip to our friends at Ormskirk. Both 1st and 2nd XV travelled and confidence was high. The first team eventually came out winners displaying some fine handling and running skills, 27-19. The seconds unfortunately suffered a heavy defeat. The winning streak continued for the first five games of the season, at it seemed as though the first team were the only team winning. However, as half term approached, training attendance dropped off and the first team lost two of their last three matches.

The Second Team began to struggle for players and victories seemed a long way off. Sadly the second half of the Michealmas Term, saw the cancellation of all 2nd XV games

due to poor attendance. The 1st XV sadly began to suffer from LAZYITUS!! As a result, the second half of their season went from bad to worse!

The 1st XV were knocked out of the Daily Mail Cup by a team they had beaten convincingly in the first game of the season (Ormskirk Grammar School). Sadly our boys were suffering from having no preparation over the half term and were faced with playing a tight rather than an expansive game in the terrible conditions in Merseyside. A game that did not suit an exciting and flamboyant team.

The season went from bad to worse due to the extremely wet winter and they only had the opportunity to play one more game against a Sandbach team who again benefited from the weather conditions. They won the game 13-3 with the crucial breakthrough coming whilst captain and leading stalwart Anthony Green was sin-binned for persistent offside at the ruck and maul situations.

The season promised so much and it was disappointing to end on a negative. However, I am sure the boys will agree, that with a little more focus, some thoughtful play on the field and a bigger commitment and concentration span in training, they could of improved more significantly. I hope those who players who gained valuable experience in the 1St XV this year, heed the warnings and prepare themselves better for the whole of the 2001 season.

Special thanks to all the boys who welcomed me into the school and contributed all year. Commitment of the highest standard from Booker (junior and senior), Thompson, Niroomand, Green, Bayati, Hyde, Gall, Moosa, Platt, Chung, Nowroozi, Travis, Knight and Meers was evident all year and was thoroughly appreciated. To all the other players a thank you also.

Congratulations to following players:

- **Micheal Platt playing for Salford Academy Rugby League**
- **Nasir Moosa, selected for Lancashire Clubs (U18's)**
- **Andrew McIntyre also selected for Lancashire Clubs (U18's)**
- **Stefan Knight selected for Lancashire Schools (U16's).**

Mr. G. J. Muckalt

2nd XV Rugby

Played 5 Won 2 Lost 2 Points for 70 Against 152

v Ormskirk Grammar School	(A)	L	5 – 27
v Cheadle Hulme School	(H)	W	29 – 19
v St Bede's College	(A)	W	29 – 7
v Audenshaw High School	(H)	L	0 – 45
v King Edward's, Lytham	(H)	L	7 – 54

Because of the appalling weather not a single game was played after half term, something that has not happened for at least the last thirty years.

The team was ably led at lock by Daniel Gall, who did a good job in encouraging and motivating his fellow players. The first match was away at Ormskirk where the grass was about a foot high. Although we lost, we played well and there was a good team spirit. Two very pleasing wins followed against local rivals Cheadle Hulme and St Bede's. Our final two games resulted in heavy defeats against superior opposition.

The following players represented the school: N Travis, U Ibrahim, M L Webber, R Ahmed, C Ogden-Smith, C E Booker, R J Booker, T N Bannister, J A Bracchi, D Wood, P Nowroozi, O Raja, J S H Chung, H Al-Bayati, C Miller, M G Brighouse, A J Smith, J N Ofoche, D Mather, A Pankhania, A G McLeod, R M A Chohan, B Hussain, R De, S P Lancashire, M Parkhouse, M Ahmed, A G Petrillo, A J Hyde, W Dawkins, P M Stonehouse.

M R Booker

U15s Rugby

2000 - 2001 Season

Fixtures:		Results	
v Cheadle Hulme.	(a)	Lost	17 - 35
v Sale Grammar.	(h)	Lost	5 - 31
v St. Bede's.	(h)	Won	14 - 7
v Audenshaw High - Daily Mail Cup	(h)	Won	21 - 19
v Audenshaw High.	(a)	Drew	5 - 5
v Cheadle Hulme - Daily Mail Cup	(a)	Lost	10 - 47
v King Edward VII.	(a)	Lost	8 - 54
v Bolton School.	(h)	Cancelled	
v Sandbach School.	(a)	Cancelled	
v Stockport Grammar	(h)	Cancelled	
v Altrincham Grammar.	(a)	Cancelled	
v Bramhall High.	(h)	Cancelled	
v Lymm High.	(h)	Cancelled	

Games Won - 7 **Games Lost - 9**

Captain: Paul Birch

Top Scorer: Charlie Hughes

Player of the Season: Paul Birch.

This was an extremely mixed season in many ways which was cut short disappointingly by adverse weather which ensured that only the first half term's fixtures survived.

In the opening game Cheadle started well and scored an early try but it was pleasing to see our response as we put Cheadle straight back under pressure by replying immediately. However our frailties in defence were exposed as Cheadle scored three tries in quick succession after which we were always fighting an uphill battle. Despite good second half pressure Cheadle won a hard fought match.

The following game again showed the two sides to this team as the first half was extremely close with William Hulme's enjoying the lions share of the possession and going in 5 - 7 down. However in the second half we were totally overpowered by a strong Sale side who cut through our defence with ease.

The game against St. Bede's was a very even game which became very scrappy as both teams cancelled each other out. Tries by Charlie and Cesaire replied to an early score by St. Bede's putting us in the driving seat. With the game at 14 - 7 following we enjoyed the kind of luck all "successful" teams need as a dog ran onto the pitch tackling St. Bedes' no8 who was clear through. Fortunately we hung on to make the most of this slice of fortune.

The first round of the Daily Mail Cup saw us entertain Audenshaw. They raced into a 10 - 0 lead following some poor tackling under pressure. However we replied with some of our best rugby of the season and looked fluid with the ball in hand producing some good moves and linking together well between the forwards and the backs. This was rewarded by eventually scoring the winning try in the final minute.

The following game saw us pitted against the same opposition however the game was a lottery due to the poor weather conditions and handling was impossible. Both teams struggled to play their game and the close game which ensued was littered with errors.

The second round of the Daily Mail Cup allowed us to return to Cheadle Hulme. However it was obvious from the outset that they had developed more than us in the course of the season and they ran out easy winners.

The game against Lytham was both disappointing and embarrassing as only nine players turned up for the game. Those who did can be extremely proud of the way they competed, especially in the second half as they held Lytham to only 14 - 5.

Overall the season has seen development of a good team spirit and a number of players have shown that they have the talent and commitment to play senior rugby and I wish them well as they move up to the next level. However if only the rest of the squad could follow the commitment of these few much progress could have been made. The team have shown ability but lacked cohesion as we rarely had a full team out to training. This will need to improve as they move up to senior level or this group will soon get left behind by other more committed teams.

The following boys played for the U15 team:

A.Adams, P.J.Birch, D.Dudley, T.J. Egeli, S.Elhami, E.O.Etadafe, K.Gedal, S.Hudda, C.Hughes, N.C.A.Inniss, D.D.Knight, M.Lindo, Z.I.McKenzie, S.Modha, K.E.Mukadam, E.J.Murtagh, Q.Pervez, J.S.Sandher, M.R.Sharpe, C.J.Stephens, M.Trivedi, A.R.M.Vittoz, R.Wilson, D.M.Wright, B.Yarbo.

M T R Jones

U14 Rugby 2001

Played 7 Won 1 Lost 6

The vast majority of the Year 9 Rugby squad should be congratulated on their attitude, effort and progress. The squad was comprised of about 20 boys, most of whom were keen, enthusiastic, trustworthy and willing to listen to advice. As a result of this, the team's performances improved as the season progressed.

The season started rather disappointingly with a resounding defeat against an excellent Cheadle Hulme side. Both Mr Hewston and I, however, were genuinely encouraged by the boys' 'never say die' approach to the game. Three further defeats against Sale, St Bede's and Ashton – on – Mersey followed.

Against Sale the squad showed real resistance and courage, scoring their first points of the season. This resilience was in further evidence against an extremely strong St Bede's side. In these games Kyle Hall, Tayo Moses, Atem Eyong and Keka Atanga all excelled showing real bravery and fighting spirit.

Michael Walker and Simon Patterson came into their own against Ashton, the former scoring two wonderful tries and the latter brilliantly converting both efforts. Unfortunately, the team fell victim to the failing light and lost by a single point. Galvanised by this effort the squad recorded their first victory of the season, beating Bury Grammar School 26 – 24 in an outstanding and very competitive game. Walker once again demonstrated his athleticism with three tries, but the 'hero' of the day was Jonathan Butterworth who displayed strength, pace, power and tenacity to score the winning try.

Defeats against Audenshaw and away at King Edward's, Lytham ensued, but once again the boys revealed an excellent attitude, emerging from a very difficult final match with their self-respect and dignity firmly intact.

This was not always an easy season, but the individuals involved can be justifiably proud of their efforts. The backbone of this team is made up of unassuming, unsung players such as Knowles, Farrell, Morgan, Okpe, Hall, Knight, Hollister and Ullah, all of whom were committed to the idea of competing fairly and training regularly.

A special mention should go to Azizul Islam who was quite rightly named player of the year. His overall contribution to the squad was immense. He is a very talented, highly combative and fearless centre who's tackling was at times quite awesome.

Both Mr Hewston and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the season, especially the parents whose good humoured, lively support is always recognised and very much appreciated.

M C Gorman

P R Hewston

U13 Rugby

Played 8 Won 2 Lost 6

I have been pleased with the improvement the squad has shown this season. On occasions last year they struggled to raise a full team, but several reluctant players agreed to play for the team this year. There was a nucleus of committed players who attended all the practices and matches. The skill level of the squad increased and, in particular, their teamwork.

The season started badly with a 51-5 defeat at Cheadle Hulme followed by a 38-7 defeat at home to Sale. The team improved, only losing to St. Bede's 17-7 and then winning their next 2 matches. Away at Ashton-on-Mersey they won a close hard-fought game 5-0 and followed that up with a 55-0 victory over Bury grammar in front of their home crowd!

Several individuals deserve a mention. Ainsley Anderson had a great season. He is a strong runner and opponents found him very difficult to stop. Other good runners include Will Appleton and Peter Zabolotny. Jack Haslam is a good forward who always worked hard for the team. In the backs, Richard Trinnick proved to be a good scrum half and improved during the year. Ashley McDonald is a great tackler in the centres and Matthew Smith improved throughout the season.

To summarise, they have improved this season and are capable of better next year if they continue to work hard.

E.L. Matthews

U12 Rugby

Played 8 Won 1 Lost 6 Drawn 1

Points for 56 Points against 160

v Bury G.S.		W	17 - 15
v Audenshaw H.S.		D	0 - 0
v King Edward V11 School, Lytham		L	0 - 24
v Cheadle Hulme School.		L	0 - 22
v Audenshaw H.S.	A XV	L	5 - 20
	B XV	L	24 - 30
v Sandbach School		L	0 - 15
v Bramhall H.S.		L	10 - 34

Judged simply by results, this would appear to have been an unsuccessful season. Judged in terms of enthusiasm, willingness to listen and learn and in the number of boys who represented the School in either the A or B XV, the season was a great success.

Rugby is not an easy game to learn. The rules are quite complex; it is a physical contact sport and the idea of passing a ball backwards in order to progress forward takes a lot of understanding. As a School we generally do not have the luxury of accepting large numbers of boys who have played rugby before either at their previous School, or at a rugby club and can just be slotted in to their established position. A long time was spent working at the basics of the game and it is to the boys' credit that they responded well and made good progress. However from the outset I always felt that the team would be lacking the one or two incisive, strong runners who can score tries and change the course of a game, and so it proved. In many of the matches there was not a great deal to choose between the teams in terms of general play. However when we had possession we always found it difficult to break through the opposition defence and this is reflected in the small number of points that we scored in the season.

There are, however valuable lessons to be learnt when playing any game, especially when the team is not successful in the art of winning, and this is particularly true of rugby. Having spent the game trying to knock over your opponents it is important to realise that at the final whistle the game is over and that is the time to thank your opposite number and clap them off the field. Any grievances relating to the game or to decisions made by the referee are forgotten. I cannot remember any dissent by the under 12 players, they took defeat on the chin and still remained cheerful on the training pitch.

I will not single out individual players for mention other than Jacob Ashworth who was awarded the Player of the Season trophy. Jacob was always in the thick of the action and his aggressive tackling and work rate were quite impressive.

Throughout the season thirty-five boys represented the School at rugby either in the A XV or B XV. They were: Matthew Broadbent, Gavin Harris, Antony Edem, Matthew Neary, Jacob Hartley, Stephen Royle, Matthew Birch, Asif Mughal, Robert Hampton, Imam Asfil, Hassan Shahid, Charles Johncox-Som, Jonathan Williams, Jacob Ashworth, Amir Karimzade, Michael Smith, Oliver Jones, Matthew Lee, David Melville, Yousaf Malik, Hamim Kabir, Erol Egeli, Zahir Ahmed, Richard Noble, Kasif Khan, Nick Clowes, Jonathan Hunt, Fayad Hirani, Matthew Kelly, Faraaz Jaffer, Ajadur Sabur, Ravi Bhatt, Callum Cameron, Jarvis Cooper, Suleman Kamini.

I would like to thank all the boys for their efforts during the season, Mr. Myers for coming out of retirement to assist with the coaching, and those parents who supported the team in a variety of weathers.

C. H. Seddon



FOOTBALL REPORT 2000

1st XV

Results Played 7 Won 3 Lost 4

The biggest achievement this year was made in the Manchester Schools U18's Cup Competition. The team got to the final in their first year entering, a terrific achievement!

The teams that William Hulmes beat along the way are regarded as very strong foot-balling schools by tradition. Manchester Grammar School were dispatched first, by 3 goals to 2. Then came Pars Wood, a school with a very good football reputation. They were beaten 3-1. This set up a final against another new entrant to the competition; Wright Robinson Sports College. They are renowned in the area for attracting and developing good footballers. Many pupils are already on the books of professional clubs.

Naturally I knew that the game was going to be hard.

G J Muckalt



1st XI Football Team.

2nd XI Football

The wettest winter for some time severely restricted the amount of football played this season. No matches were possible before half-term and only two were played after half-term. The two matches that were played were against two of the strongest footballing schools in the north-west and therefore it was not surprising that both games ended in defeat.

The first of these games was played at Bury G.S. on a very wet Saturday morning. The School started well, taking an early lead but, by half time, Bury had scored twice to reverse things. The second half saw no further goals for some time despite sustained Bury pressure. Against the run of play, the School gained an equaliser, which only seemed to spur the opposition into action. They replied almost immediately to regain the lead. At 3-2 down with ten minutes to go, the scoreline was respectable but tiredness and defensive lapses allowed Bury to score four more in the final stages leaving a disappointed team 7-2 losers.

The second (final!) match of the season was another away fixture at QEGS, Blackburn. This match was played on a good surface but with a strong wind blowing the length of the pitch. QEGS opted to play with the wind behind them in the first half and the School found it difficult to clear their lines. Two early goals suggested that the School might be overrun but the team finally got to grips with the difficult conditions and created some chances before QEGS added two more just before half time. The second half saw QEGS experience similar difficulties against the wind and constant pressure was finally rewarded by two goals midway through the second half. Despite having a player sent off, the School continued to attack and QEGS were relieved to hear the final whistle.

Two matches - two defeats but, against very strong opposition, there was no disgrace in either game. In just the two matches, no fewer than 19 different players were used. I would like to thank all the players for their commitment and will mention just two by name. Hadi Al-Bayati captained the side and showed that he put the team before himself by playing in goals during the second half of the second match. (WHGS goalkeepers seem to be jinxed by injuries!) He lead the team well by example. The player of the season (if you can call two games a season) was Marcus Webber. He showed that he had the pace and skill to trouble experienced defenders and will surely be a regular first team player next season.

A. Simkin

U15 Football

This was a disappointing year the U15 football squad. The previous season had suggested that we had a strong, talented squad and several impressive results had indicated a great deal of potential. However, the loss of key players and weather which made training and playing a novelty hampered progress.

Several individuals did develop significantly however. Chris Brown was an impressive presence all season, with his pace and strength making him a handful for defences. Duwayne Knight was probably the most improved player, and forced himself into the starting team. A particularly impressive performance against QEGS Blackburn demonstrated how much Duwayne's game has developed. Minesh Vara played with skill and determination and could be relied upon to perform well in any position. Eugene Murtagh continued to impress with his dominance in goal, whilst Paul Birch approached the game with dedication and total commitment.

It is to be hoped that all of the squad have learned from the experience of playing against strong opposition, and will develop into significant members of the senior squad. There is certainly great potential which was, unfortunately, not fully realised in this 'stop-start' season.

The following represented the school this year: K. Mukadam (capt), P. Birch, E. Murtagh, Z. MacKenzie, A. Adams, J. Sandher, S. Ahmed, M. Lindo, C. Brown, M. Vara, L. Wall, C. Stephens, D. Knight, P. Singh and T. Egeli.

U15 Football Results

v North Cestrian School	-	Drawn 2 – 2
v Manchester Grammar School	-	Lost 4 –1
v St. Peter's School	-	Lost 6 – 1
v QEGS Blackburn	-	Lost 4 –2

P R Hewston

U14's Football

2000 - 2001 Season

This was an extremely mixed season in many ways which as with the rugby was cut short due to adverse weather. In terms of results the season could be seen to have been an extreme disappointment as we were soundly beaten by all our opponents.

During the season it was obvious that the other schools had been playing together much longer than us and were better organised and well drilled in their skills. We struggled to break down these teams and were outplayed in most areas as the ground we had to make up was all too evident.

However much progress was made in many areas this season. The team developed an excellent spirit as all members gave their all for the team and for each other. They also showed a willingness to play until the end even when chasing lost causes. In fact in most games once we had come to terms with our opponents and their style of play we finished the stronger team.

Our play itself also showed much improvement and the squad have shown themselves capable and willing to train hard, listen and work to improve their all round game. This squad were a pleasure to coach this year and if they continue with their present attitude I believe they can continue the progress begun this year.

The following players represented the school at U14 football this season:

O.Anyalewechi, J.Bowe, N.Choudry, C.Farrell, I.Hollister, W.Hussain, A.Islam, P.Knowles, L.Morgan, A.Okpe, A.Olaitan, S.Patterson, D.Porter, G.Sander, M.Tabib, C.Tang, A.Ullah.

M.T. R. Jones.

U13 Football

Played 6 Won 1 Lost 5 Goals for 13 Against 31

v North Cestrian G.S.	W	6 - 0
v Bury G.S.	L	1 - 6
v Sale G.S.	L	3 - 4
v St. Peter's H.S.	L	1 - 4
v Q.E.G.S. Blackburn	L	1 - 6
v Manchester G.S.	L	1 - 11

This was the first full season of inter school matches and despite the score lines it was a very enjoyable season indeed. All the boys tried hard in training although such is the nature of football, some players thought that they were much better than they actually were and took some persuading to play in a particular position especially in the early fixtures when tactics and positional ideas were being tried out.

In many of the games we were caught out by the lack of fitness of some of our players and by a lack of experience in playing the eleven a side game. Sometimes players were just not in the correct position to deal with the opposition attack, either because of a lack of fitness or a lack of perception as to where the ball might be passed and then being able to anticipate the path of the ball. Both these aspects can be improved upon on the training pitch and in a player's own time. It is surprising to me how few of our pupils are members of sports clubs (not just football)outside School, although it is no surprise to see those that are performing the best in a variety of games.

The final game of the season showed how the game can be played. All the M.G.S. players were comfortable with the ball, all could make time for themselves , pass with accuracy and maintain the shape of the team both in attack and defence. It was no disgrace to lose by thirteen goals. Throughout our season we were unable to follow this pattern for the whole match, so although we would play well in patches we could never maintain enough momentum to score more goals or concede less. We did however improve noticeably as the season went on and William Appleton (G.K.), Ayo Ahmed (C.F.), Jack Haslam (C.B.) Ainsley Anderson (C.M.) and Richard Trinick (C.B. and player of the season) deserve special mention.

Our small squad consisted of: William Appleton, Richard Trinick, Ainsley Anderson, Robert Saunders, Jack Haslam, Matthew Kaye, Scott Thomas, Peter Zabolotny, Ashley McDonald, Ayo Ahmed, Tom Hague, Jackie Chen, Philip Murray, Ibrar Arshad, James O'Donnell, Andrew Steele, Farhan Malik, Zain Habib and Saad Khan.

I would like to thank all the boys for their efforts and those parents who regularly supported the School during the term.

U12 Football Report 2001

Played 5 Lost 5

Despite the blood, sweat and tears involved, both Mr Amuzu and I agreed that it had been a pleasure working with this Year 7 football squad. Over 30 boys were involved and all were committed, enthusiastic and desperate to represent the school. All of the boys who contributed, either as a team or squad member, can take real satisfaction and pride from the season.

Although results were obviously disappointing – I personally lay the blame at the feet of the coaching staff – the performances were largely encouraging. The team lost their opening game 6 – 1, but this result flattered Bury Grammar School who were made to work hard for their victory. The next game was a very close encounter against Sale which the opposition won 4-3. This was, however, an excellent match to watch and, in all fairness, could have gone either way. The next game against St Peter's was decided by the odd goal in 5, the winner agonisingly conceded in the last minute. Defeats against Altrincham and Thornleigh Salesian College brought the season to an unsatisfactory and frustrating climax.

Hard work, dedication and more ruthless cutting – edge will all be needed if the team is to make more progress next year.

There is certainly genuine talent within this squad. Jonathon Williams was a very courageous and athletic goalkeeper who made many fine stops throughout the season. Michael Smith looked on extremely classy, intelligent

centre half forming an effective partnership with either Jake Ashworth or Matthew Birch. Paul Murray's left foot reminded me of my better days and Matthew Lee showed strength, composure and maturity in the captaincy role.

Callum Cameron, Gavin Harris and Anthony Edem are all very exciting prospects for the future. They are boys who possess excellent technique and skill. All three must learn to work and graft for the team – David Beckham is a perfect example of a player who combines real flair and skill with an appetite for hard work. In the forward line Faraaz Jaffer's genuine pace always created problems and David Melville emerged as a strong, determined centre forward.

This, however, has not been a squad of 'flashy' individuals. The boys' humility, ebullience and willingness to listen and learn meant that they were a delight to coach. I am confident that results will improve next year!

Both Mr Amuzu and I would like to thank everyone associated with Year 7 football including all the parents who gave us their support throughout the season.

M C Gorman
P Amuzu

Tennis

Tennis this year has proved to be very successful. Thanks to the fine weather the courts have been buzzing three lunchtimes each week. A tennis ladder was set up at the start of term with seven or eight couples, by half term we had twenty-seven couples fully involved. The pupils enjoyed challenging other couples both within their own year group and across all years.

The only problem we had to encounter was a shortage of courts on a few occasions or pupils were queuing up to get a game. Hopefully we will continue with this ladder throughout the winter as it has proved to be so popular.

The boys had a couple of matches against North Cestrian Grammar School. The U15's had a very close match but were unfortunately beaten in the last set. The U14's found their opposition a little more experienced than themselves. Although they were beaten, they improved throughout the match as they got used to the pace of the ball and enjoyed the experience.

The end of term tournament was a great success. We had twenty five pupils entering and managed to get through fifty five matches within one evening.

The lower school winner was Paul Murray, with Michael Murray and Jack Haslam finishing as runners up and the middle school winner was Mark Brown with Dwain Dudley as runners up.

Matthew Smith was awarded the most improved player shield.

We had a very enjoyable term of tennis and all those involved gained a lot out of the experience of playing both singles and doubles. We can now look forward to some winter tennis.

J Barlow

CRICKET REPORT 2000

First XI Cricket

It was with some apprehension that I agreed to run the First XI this season. Not only was I taking over from Paul Hewston and, therefore, I could not hope to approach his level of cricketing expertise, but also, I was taking the team for the first time in the new era of AS levels. This now means that all three year groups that normally make up the First XI have important external examinations and player availability was a concern.

Preparation for the season was not without its problems. Indoor nets were not available in the first half of the Lent Term and, when the nets were available in the second half of the Lent Term, attendance was poor. Add to this the bad weather at the start of the Midsummer Term and it was patently obvious that we went into the first game of the season against QEGS, Wakefield very under-prepared. Batting first, the School could only just gather enough runs to pass the fifty mark with Chris Miller, making his debut for the School, the only player to reach double figures. Although our bowlers managed to take some wickets, the total was not big enough to defend. It was a full month before the First XI played their next match and, if we hope to maintain or improve our standard, then we must get a full fixture list next season.

Fortunately, some players did get some more cricket in between these first two games in the form of the Under 17s knockout competition. In the first round of this competition, the School managed to beat St. Bede's College by three wickets. Year 11 pupils played major roles in this win with Rehman Mohammed and Asim Ahmed both taking three wickets and Azim Butt steering the School to their target with 38 not out. In the second round, the School played against Turton High School and lost by four runs. This was a game that should have been won – they had two good batsmen who put on 78 for the first wicket and, when we batted, we were not able to score quickly enough despite good contributions from Umair Khalil and Chris Miller.

The second First XI match was against Birkenhead on the first Saturday after half term. Both teams were under strength due to examinations but we have less strength in depth than Birkenhead. The fragility of our batting was again exposed and we were bowled out for 81 with Chris Booker top scoring with 20. Once again our bowlers performed better than our batsmen had done and made it difficult for Birkenhead to reach this modest target. A little more application with the batting and we could have given our bowlers a more realistic chance of winning the match. It was a similar story at King Edward's School, Lytham – a dramatic collapse from 104 – 4 to 108 all out, left our bowlers with a difficult task. Two early wickets gave us some hope but a third wicket partnership of 70 took Lytham close to victory. Three quick wickets then gave Lytham a scare but they edged home without further mishap.

The next game, at St. Edward's College, Liverpool produced a different approach. With our main strike bowlers

back after examinations, the opposition were inserted on a worn track and we bowled them out for 88 (Mather 3 – 15, Dé 3 – 10). Could our fragile batting reach this modest target? St. Edward's had one good bowler who took three early wickets before Rajiv Kay and Chris Booker steadied things. A late flurry of wickets almost cost the School the match but Chris Booker, with a sensible innings of 23 not out, helped us to victory.

The first win of the season put the team in good spirits for the difficult two matches in two days against MCC and Manchester Grammar School. The MCC match followed the usual protocol – they always bat first and endeavour to declare, having used less than half of the batting time to set a target that is a reasonable one. The MCC side included Nathan Wood, recently released by Lancashire CCC. He opened the batting and there was a little déja vu about the way he plundered runs to reach a quick fifty on the square where he had made many runs as a pupil. Two wickets just before lunch and regular wickets after lunch meant that MCC did not run away with the game. The declaration came, as promised, leaving the School 169 runs to win. A good start before tea was not sustained after tea and the innings petered out with the School 56 runs short. The MCC did pay us a back handed compliment – in order to ensure that we did not get too close to the target, they kept on their two tightest bowlers for long spells until they felt able to relax a bit.

The match against MCC had been played in sunshine but, on the following day against Manchester Grammar School, the start was delayed by drizzle. Consequently, when Rob Booker lost the toss, the School was asked to bat on a damp wicket that was likely to be lively. Fortunately, the School had saved its best batting performance of the season for this game. Good contributions from Rajiv Kay, Chris Miller and Azim Butt (48) took the School to 100 for the loss of three wickets. Other players chipped in with lesser scores but, on the stroke of tea, the School was all out for 179. After bowling well all season and struggling with the bat, it was frustrating that, on the day when the batting came good, our bowling was indifferent. Chasing 180 to win at about five runs per over, Manchester Grammar School got off to a flier after tea with seventy runs coming off the first ten overs. The openers put on 111 for the first wicket before Dan Mather made the breakthrough. From then on, the regular fall of wickets slowed down the run rate and took the game into the final over before the winning runs came.

The other fixture against non-school opposition was against the XL Club. Again, unwritten rules decree that they bat first. They may have been regretting this as two wickets in an over from Dan Mather and another wicket from Chris Miller reduced them to 24 – 3. However, the fourth wicket pair added 90 and one batsman went on to make 100 before the declaration came at 195 – 5. This was not a very generous declaration. However, the School started well until Chris Miller was run out. The innings then deteriorated with a succession of poor shots. In fact, it needed Daniel Mather to score his first runs of the season to ensure that the School reached three figures.

It was nice to end the season on a winning note, albeit a 20 overs thrash against Wilmslow High School. The School was bowled out for 93 runs on a very fast wicket with Sam McClements top scoring with 26. This was not a big score on a pitch with a fast out field but the School responded well by bowling the opposition out for just 52 with Chris Miller bowling very rapidly to take 4 – 6 in his 4 over spell. Mention must also be made of one catch.

One of their dangerous batsmen was given two lives in one over bowled by Andrew McLeod; first Andrew Smith failed to get his gloves to a regulation catch behind the stumps and then the bowler could not hold a difficult return catch. It needed the safe hands of Simon Khoshneviszadeh to hold the third chance in the same over.I would like to thank various people for making the season an enjoyable one. In what must have been the hardest of seasons to produce good wickets with all the rain in the winter months, John Conroy, the groundsman deserves every credit for producing wickets that often played better than they looked! Will Axon and his staff in the kitchens again produced some execellent lunches and teas – if our cricket had been up to the same standard we would have won every game! Finally, I would like to thank all the players, but with particular thanks to Rob Booker, the captain. He is a natural leader, setting a fine example to others and the limited successes that we enjoyed were, in no small part, due to Rob's leadership.

The following players represented the School First XI:

Rob Booker (captain), Asim Ahmed, Hadi Al-Bayati, Chris Booker, Matthew Booth, Azim Butt, Robi Dé, Aamar Gill, Muzafar Husain, Rajiv Kay, Umair Khalil, Simon Khoshneviszadeh, Daniel Mather, Sam McClements, Andrew McLeod, Chris Miller, Rehman-Ali Mohammed, Chris Ogden-Smith, Omer Raja and Andrew Smith.

A. Simkin

First XI Results

v QEGS, Wakefield (home)		Lost by 7 wickets	
WHGS	53 all out	QEGS	57 – 3
v Birkenhead (home)		Lost by 5 wickets	
WHGS	81 all out	Birkenhead	83 – 5
v King Edwards, Lytham (away)		Lost by 5 wickets	
WHGS	108 all out	Lytham	112 – 5
v St. Edwards, Liverpool (away)		Won by 2 wickets	
St. Edwards	88 all out	WHGS	89 – 8
v MCC (home)		Lost by 56 runs	
MCC	168 – 6	WHGS	112
v Manchester GS (home)		Lost by 4 wickets	
WHGS	179	MGS	180 - 6
v XL Club (home)		Lost by 94 runs	
XL Club	195 – 5 dec.	WHGS	101
v Wilmslow HS (away)		Won by 41 runs	
WHGS	93	Wilmslow	52

Second XI Results

v QEGS, Wakefield (away)		Lost by 8 wickets	
WHGS	53 all out	QEGS	55 - 2
v Manchester GS (away)		Lost by 199 runs	
MGS	276 – 4 dec.	WHGS	77

Under 17s Results

v St Bede's College (home)		Won by 3 wickets	
St Bede's	03	WHGS	104 – 7
v Turton HS (home)		Lost by 4 runs	
Turton	113	WHGS	109 - 8

2nd XI Cricket

Only four matches were played in a very short summer term. The side was ably led by Hadi Al-Bayati who scored 49 not out in the first game against QUEGS Wakefield, which was drawn. Heavy defeats against King Edward's Lytham and Manchester Grammar School followed. The final match against Merchant Taylors Crosby was an exciting game in which we finally succumbed by 7 runs. My thanks go to Hadi for his organisation and to all who represented the school.

MRB

Under 14 Cricket

Results: played 8, won 3, lost 5

v QEGS Wakefield	Lost by 171 runs
QEGS 199 for 5 decl	School 28
v St Bede's College	25 overs match Lost by 80 runs
St Bede's 175	School 95 for 8
v Birkenhead School	Lost by 88 runs
Birkenhead 139 for 3 declared	School 51
v St Edward's College	Won by 6 wickets
St Edward's 99	
(Patterson 3 for 7, Z. Ali 3 for 12, Rafiq 3 for 37)	
	School 100 for 4
	(Rafiq 61)
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost by 101 runs
MGS 173 for 6 declared	School 72
v St Peter's RC High School	
Mosseley Trophy 20 overs match	Won by 9 wickets
St Peter's 34 (Ullah 3 for 5, Rafiq 3 for 3)	
	School 38 for 1
	(Sandher 21 not out)
v Altrincham Grammar School	20 overs match Won by 30 runs
School 127 (Rafiq 50; Ali 31 not out)	Altrincham 97 for 7
v Parrswood High School	Mosseley Trophy 20 overs match Lost by 9 wickets
School 72 (Hollister 25 not out)	Parrswood 73 for 1

Report

Enthusiasm is not enough if the natural talent is not there in abundance. The first match against QEGS showed how high the standard of cricket is in some of the larger schools we play against and our players revealed a lack of confidence and match practice. Insufficient practice in nets, too. St Bede's amassed a huge total in twenty-five overs and, although we lost heavily, at least a few players built an innings and we almost reached a three-figure score. Birkenhead School declared generously at tea but had little difficulty in dismissing us for another poor score well before the final twenty overs were completed. By this time, however, some players were beginning to mature: Simon Patterson's batting showed technique and he timed the ball well and Asim Rafiq bowled five lively overs for very few runs. Meanwhile Waqas Hussain continued playing his neat leg-glances and also showed signs of developing his ability to call and run between wickets.

Our first win of the season, by six wickets, was recorded v St Edward's College. It was largely due to the all-round performance of Asim Rafiq —3 wickets and 61 (four sixes and eight fours)—, but it could not have happened without the excellent fielding and catching from all members of the side. The bowling was much tighter than usual, too, with best figures from Simon Patterson (3 for 7). Not least, the supporting batting was sensible. Well done everyone!

The MGS match brought us back to previous form. The support bowling did not match up to that of the previous match, although Rafiq and Ullah bowled splendidly. One or two errors in the field did not help but we wilted in the field as 28 for 4 became 83 for 5 and then 138 for 6 at tea. Our batsmen then lost their way as a needless run out was followed by silly shots and missed straight balls. Rafiq was going well until he failed to get to grips with a leg-spinner and the late-order batsmen continued largely in the same vein as their predecessors. A lusty straight drive from Iain Hollister brought the promise of better things for the future and, general, the match provided good experience for all our players.

St Peter's proved to be very weak indeed and we had no trouble in dismissing them for a derisory 34 and then overcoming this total with largely a reversed batting order.

More demanding opposition came from Altrincham, but they, like St Edward's, had to cope with Asim Rafiq in imposing form. Nothing should take away the contributions of Simon Patterson and David Porter who opened the batting. They scored slowly but saw off Altrincham's best bowlers, who finished their four overs apiece in one spell. This allowed Asim and Zunair Ali to take advantage of lesser bowlers in amassing a match-winning partnership of about seventy. Gurjeet Sandher, too, continued some impressive form with the bat and made a useful dozen. All of which gave one a feeling that the team was maturing earlier than expected into a good side. Rafiq's bowling proved too accurate for Altrincham and good support came from Ullah, Patterson and Ali.

High expectations against Parrswood in the semi-final of the Mosseley Trophy were dashed by the dreadful batting of the upper order. Two run outs and a thoughtless stroke in only the second over led to the worst of starts, which was



made even worse by similar batting during the following few overs. Four runs for four wickets improved to 29 for eight, but still an appalling débâcle. The situation was rescued by sensible batting from Gurjeet Sandher and Iain Hollister. The latter struck several clean blows and ended up with an impressive 25 not out, once again demonstrating his potential. The total proved to be completely inadequate as Parrswood reached it in some comfort.

It was, in summary, a summer of promise. However, young cricketers need practice and should take advantage of all opportunities to play no matter how complicated it may be for them to make arrangements for this. This is especially true when enthusiasm is matched with inexperience. This inexperience showed up not only in some poor performances, particularly at the beginning of the season, but also in ignorance of some of the laws and the spirit of cricket: appealing for lbw from anywhere but in line with the wickets is unacceptable and so is objecting to an umpire's absolutely correct decision to give a batsman out off a wide. In matters like this it is the responsibility of the captain to set the standard.

Asad Ullah showed some talent in leadership during the season and may well improve if he continues in this role next year. However, player of the season had to Asim Rafiq for his batting and bowling performances. He is still very raw and has much to learn as a batsman, especially in running between wickets and increasing his range of shots. Asad bowled very well much of the time but Simon Patterson's bowling made great strides forward as the season progressed. Zunair Ali showed improvement as both batsman and bowler, while Waqas Hussain, Gurjeet Sandher, Shahbaz Faiz and Iain Hollister showed more and more maturity as batsmen. Others who joined in the overall improvement as bowlers, batsmen or fielders were Ismail Mahmood, David Porter and Mobasir Khan while there was no shortage of players who came close to being more permanent members of the team. Umar Bhatti, Faakhir Khan and Azizul Islam all contributed but were not able to gain regular places.

My thanks go to Mr P. Amuzu, who took over for me in the match against St Bede's College, and Mr J. Conroy for preparing the wickets in home matches.

P. M. Bull

U13 Cricket Team Report

Season performance:

Played 8 Won 5 Lost 3

This was a very successful year for the U13's. They opened the season with a determined win against a strong Sandbach team. The performance set precedence for the rest of the season, in which they showed great team spirit and determination.

They played the season with good collective team performances, however there were also some exceptional individual contributions. Notably, from William Appleton (capt), who went on, to gain representative honours with Manchester Schools U13 team. William has shown great promise and will clearly be a major asset to WHGS cricket teams in the future. Strong performances also came from Richard Trinick, Zaheer Aktar, Thomas Hague and Humair Ali.

The team gained their just rewards when in the last game of the season they won the Manchester Cup against Wright Robinson Sports College. This was a well-deserved and fitting end to the season.

It was a pleasure to take charge of this team, and I hope they are able to continue in the same vein in future years.

PRA

Squad:

Appleton, Trinick, Hague, Ali, Akhtar, Khan, Smith, Chen, Akhtew, Yue, Tyler, Amin, Arshaid, Saunders, Qureshi

U12 CRICKET – 2001

Played 6, Won 2, Lost 4

During yet another rain-affected season, it was disappointing to have only played 6 games, particularly in view of the reduced pre-season training. This is a squad with much potential, which match practice will help develop. Nonetheless, all the players gained confidence and understanding of the game during the season and I have no doubt they will develop into a fine team.

Of the fixtures, a comfortable defeat at the hands of M.G.S. was balanced out by a comfortable victory at Sandbach. Defeat in the last over at Wilmslow was again balanced out by victory off the last ball against Burnage. Of the other two games, at Wakefield and in our first game of the season, we scored well over a hundred runs and were not bowled out by a traditionally strong side. The main difference here lay in the quality of the calling and running between the wickets, which enabled Wakefield to pass our score with time and wickets to spare. In our last game of the season at Altrincham, on a poor wicket, we allowed our concentration to slip halfway through, letting the opposition amass a total they didn't deserve, and thus putting pressure on ourselves from the start of our innings.

There were some notable contributions during the season: -

*Tom Clarke's unbeaten half-century at Wakefield, as well as a cracking catch behind the stumps at Altrincham.

*Nick Clowes' 4 – 18 at Altrincham and run-out at Wilmslow.

*Kashif Khan's big-hitting at Sandbach and Wilmslow.

*Zahir Ahmed's 3 – 1 at Sandbach.

Yousaf Malik bowled a good line and length without much luck, whilst Hassan Shahid experienced the ups and downs of leg – spin bowling and opening the batting. Matthew Birch and Charles Johncox-Som both have the

makings of good batsmen – they just need a bit of confidence. Manav Kochhar and Shabbir Azhar also had their moments and, with a little more control, could develop into fine players in years to come.

In addition to the above, the following also represented the school and gave of their best when called upon :

Shabbir Azhar,Asif Mughal, Faraaz Jaffer, Kasim Malik, Gulraiz Ahmad and Amir Karimzadeh.

Matthew Birch, Hassan Shahid, Shabbir Azhar and Tom Clarke all had turns at captaining the team, with Tom emerging as the probable choice for next season. Tom and Matthew also acquitted themselves well behind the stumps.

It is always enjoyable taking a year 7 cricket team, even when results don't always go your way, and this year was no exception. This is a fine bunch of lads and, I believe, a fine team in the making. Their behaviour, both on and off the pitch, was exemplary and a credit to the school.

A special thanks to Tom, as captain elect and chief motivator of the team, by common consent, and to our small but hugely enthusiastic and supportive band of parents.

A.C.C.

Lower School Sports Results 2001

Year 7

100m Boys	13.77	F Jaffer	JHH	G Harris	JAM	J Ashworth	JHH
100m Girls	15.26	R Jooyandah	Gp1	A Sappleton	Gp2	I Al-Bayati	Gp1
200m Boys	29.98	J Ashworth	JHH	A Platts	ELM	O Jones	ELM
200m Girls	36.07	K Yang	Gp1	H Parr	Gp1	P Patel	Gp2
400m Boys	79.98	K. Malik	ELM	P Murray	JAM	A Pathak	JHH
800m Boys	3.01	A Edem	JHH	D Melville	JHH	P Murray	JAM
800m Girls	3.12	C Watson	Gp2	H Parr	Gp1	A Morley	Gp1
1500m Boys	6.20	P Murray	JAM	J Hunt	JHH	C Cameron	JAM
High Jump Boys	1.30	A Platts	ELM	A Karimzadeh	JAM	S Royle	ELM
High Jump Girls	1.35*	C Watson	Gp2	A Sappleton	Gp2	R Jooyandeh	Gp1
Long Jump Boys	3.51	D Melville	JHH	U Khalid	ELM	S Halulu	JAM
	R Haynes	JAM					
Long Jump Girls	3.08	M Naqui	Gp1	A Sappleton	Gp2	H Parr	Gp1
Triple Jump Boys	7.41	P Murray	JAM	Y.Malik	JHH	J Hunt	JHH
Shot Boys	6.48	M Smith	JHH	J Williams	JAM	E Egeli	JHH
Cricket Ball Boys	36.80	K Khan	ELM	S Azhar	JAM	H Kabir	JHH
Rounders Ball Girls	25.80	K Tang	Gp1	I Al-Bayati	Gp1	K Stewert	Gp2
		O.Nihat	Gp2				
4x400m Boys	5.29	ELM	JHH	JAM			
4x100m Girls	70.22	Gp2	Gp1				
4x100m Boys	65.45	JHH	ELM	JAM			

* indicates new School record

Individual winners	**P Murray**	**JAM**	**K Tang**	**ELM**	**Gp1**
RESULTS:	**Boys.**	**1st JHH 158 pts**	**Girls.**	**1st Group 1 100.5 pts**	
		2nd ELM 142 pts		**2nd Group 2 93.5 pts**	
		3rd JAM 128 pts			

Lower School Sports Results 2001

Year 8

100m Boys	13.11	A Anderson	CSD	A Ahmed	ACC	T Hague	SRT
100m Girls	17.26	A Sutton	Gp3	L Mbaya	Gp3	E Kane	Gp1
200m Boys	27.80	A Ahmed	ACC	A.Anderson	CSD	T Hague	SRT
200m Girls	35.61	S Ghani	Gp2	V Pang	Gp3	R Kaur	Gp1
400m Boys	69.36	J Haslam	ACC	W Appleton	SRT	J Chen	SRT
800m Boys	2.59	J Haslam	ACC	W Appleton	SRT	S Thomas	SRT
800m Girls	3.25	V Pang	Gp3	E Kane	Gp1	L Rushforth	Gp2
1500m Boys	5.55	PZabalotny	SRT	S Thomas	SRT	M Smith	CSD
High Jump Boys	1.38	J Chen	SRT	A Ahmed	ACC	J Haslam	ACC
High Jump Girls	1.15	A Sutton	Gp3	S Ray	Gp2	R Kaur	Gp1
Long Jump Boys	4.65	A Anderson	CSD	P Zabalotny	SRT	T Yue	ACC
Long Jump Girls	2.96	R Kaur	Gp1	H Dodson	Gp3	S Gall	Gp1
Triple Jump Boys	9.36	J Chen	SRT	A Ahmed	ACC	J O'Donnell	ACC
Shot Boys	6.87	A Miles	SRT	Z Habib	GLB	H Akhtar	CSD
Cricket Ball Boys	67.60*	W Appleton	SRT	T Hague	SRT	M Shah	ACC
Rounders Ball Girls	34.00	G Selby	Gp1	A Cheung	Gp2	H Dodson	Gp3
4x400m Boys	5.05		SRT		ACC		CSD
4x100m Girls	68.47		Gp1		Gp3		Gp2
4x100m Boys	64.36		ACC		SRT		CSD

* indicates new School record

Individual winners **Boys** **A Anderson CSD** **Girls** **A Sutton Gp3 (CSD)**

RESULTS:

Boys	**1st SRT**	**164 pts**	**Girls**	**Gp1**
	2nd ACC	**127 pts**		**Gp3**
	3rd CSD	**105 pts**		**Gp2**
	4th GLB	**79 pts**		

Middle School Sports Results 2001

Year 9 Boys

100m Boys	12.36	T Moses	B	M Walker	G	K Atanga	B
200m Boys	27.01	T Moses	B	K Atanga	B	I Hollister	W
400m Boys	70.92	J Butterworth	F	A Islam	W	M Tabib	F
800m Boys	2.48.89	J Butterworth	F	N Chaudhry	F	I Mahmood	B
1500m Boys	5.42.71	M Butterworth	G	C Tang	F	I Mahmood	B
High Jump Boys	1.35	A Islam	W	T Moses	B	A Ullah	G
Long Jump Boys	4.21	A Islam	W	S Patterson	H	A Okpe	H
Triple Jump Boys	9.74	I Hollister	W	D Porter	F	J Oxberry	H
Shot Boys	9.72	A Chakraborty	B	J Butterworth	F	M Walker	G
4x400m Boys	4.29.20		F		W		D
4x100m Boys	57.51		B		F		H

* indicates new School record

Individual winners	**T Moses**	**B**	**& I Hollister**	**W**	

Middle School Sports Results 2001

Year 10 Boys and Years 9/10 Girls

100m Boys	1222	C Stephens	G	K Gedal	D	M Vara	G
100m Girls	14.70	T Brown	F	M Yates	H	L Lauder	F = N Plummer B
200m Boys	25.70	C Stephens	G	K Gedal	D	D Dudley	D
200m Girls	31.20	N Plummer	B	M.Yates	H	K Smith	F
400m Boys	65.11	M Vara	G	G Hayder	H	U Ashraf	W
800m Boys	2.37.89	C Hughes	H	C Brown	G	M Lindo	D
800m Girls	3.21.17	H Goodrick	W	Q Dudley	W	T Watt	G
1500m Boys	545.86	C Brown	G	M Shabaz	W	M Lindo	D
High Jump Boys	1.50	C Stephens	G	E Fisher	W	N Innis	G = C Hughes H
HighJump Girls	1.28	Q Dudley	W	M Yates	H	N Plummer	B
Long Jump Boys	4.87	K Gedal	D	M Vara	G	I Gill	H
Long Jump Girls	3.15	E Okpe	H	T Watt	G	C Thomas	H
Triple Jump Boys	9.52	M Shabhaz	W	U Saleem	H	G Samant	B
Triple Jump Girls	6.80	E Okpe	H	P Boodhoo	G	K Beranegard	W
Shot Boys	10.74	E Etadafe	B	Z MacKenzie	D	P Birch	B
Shot Girls	6.29	T Brown	F	E Dodd	D	W Tang	W
4x400m Boys	4.29.20		G		W		F
4x100m Girls	65.82		F		H		B
4x100m Boys	53.25		D		H		W

* indicates new School record

Individual winners **C Stephens G** **E Okpe H**

Total Points for Years 9 and 10.

B = 131.5	
D = 84	
F = 151	
G = 132.5	
H = 132	
W = 123	

Carried Over from Seniors.

B = 34	
D = 72	
F = 91	
G = 119.5	
H = 79.5	
W = 83	

Total Points and Position:

Gaskell	252	1st
Fraser	242	2nd
Heywood	211.5	3rd
Whitworth	206	4th
Byrom	165.5	5th
Dalton	156	6th



Senior School Sports Results 2001

100m Boys	11.56	A McIntyre	H	M Platt	G	S Knight	D
100m Girls	15.02	N Opara	G	H Kent	W	A Opara	G
200m Boys	25.97	A McIntyre	H	M Platt	G	S Cordwell	F
200m Girls	34.66	N Opara	G	O Solati	H	B Vara	G
400m Boys	64.41	D Wood	F	A Jalil	H	N Moosa	W
800m Boys	2.32.00	A Hyde	D	R Booker	G	J Wood	F
800m Girls	3.11.71	K Kasler	F	K Tierney	W	J Street	H
1500m Boys	5.08.04	A Adams	W	R Thompson	G	C Weems	G
High Jump Boys	1.55	M Webber	B	L Jackson	H	J Chapman	D
HighJump Girls	1.15	G Carolan	D	C Okpe	H	S Onyemem	D
Long Jump Boys	4.93	S Cordwell	F	R Booker	G	L Jackson	H
Long Jump Girls	3.75	N Opara	G	Holly Kent	W	K Tierney	W
Triple Jump Boys	10.90	S Cordwell	F	R Dé	W	A Johnstone	F
Triple Jump Girls	7.43	H Kent	W	C Verley	D	C Okpe	H
Shot Boys	9.31	O Raja	G	M Webber	B	R Chohan	W
Shot Girls	6.30	A Opara	G	V Bramwell	F	J Street	H
4x400m Boys	4.32.61		F		G		W
4x100m Boys	52.35		D		G		F
4x100m Girls	68.31		H		W		G

* indicates new School record

Individual winners: **S Cordwell F**
N Opara G

Results:	**1st**	**Gaskell**	**119½ pts**
	2nd	**Frazer**	**91 pts**
	3rd	**Whitworth**	**83 pts**
	4th	**Heywood**	**79½ pts**
	5th	**Dalton**	**72 pts**
	6th	**Byrom**	**34 pts**



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The Hulmeian Committee
2001

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Thanks to the secretaries for their patience and hard work.