



The Hulmeian

THE MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM HULME'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL





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"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.'



NOTES & NEWS

This year we said goodbye to Mrs Hesp, Mrs Williams, Mr Austen, Miss Derby and Miss Minto from the Main School and Mrs Romanisyan and Mr Taylor from the Prep Department. Full tributes to all departing colleagues appear below.

In September 1999 we welcome to the teaching staff Mr M. T. R Jones (Preparatory Department), Dr D. M. Martin (Physics), Miss J. A. Milligan (English), Sta S. Reyero - Cascallana (Modern Languages), Mr A Roberts (Geography) as well as Mlle. S Guillemin (French Assistant) and Fraulein A-M Czako (German Assistant).

There have been several internal staff promotions and appointments: Mr Gracey becomes Teacher-in-charge of Classics and Mr Greenall Acting Head of Chemistry.

Mr Hardy has become the warden of Harris House with Miss Matthews his assistant. Ms Tandon has been appointed co-ordinator of PSHE. Mr Mackenzie is made Deputy of Dalton House, Dr. Lambert Deputy of Gaskell and Mr Wise is appointed Deputy of Fraser.

Mr Wise has also become Editor of The Hulmeian. He takes over from Miss Derby who replaced Mr Turner at the beginning of the year. For the last ten years, Mr Turner put a considerable amount of energy and enthusiasm into editing The Hulmeian and continues to be a valued contributor to the magazine, documenting a variety of events in School life.

The Preparatory Department has moved successfully to its new site and is now housed in the main building. We also welcome staff and pupils from Oaklands Preparatory School.

Speech Day was held in the Bridgewater Hall on Thursday 17th September; the Principal Speaker was Professor Alexandra V. Burslem, Vice-Chancellor of the Manchester Metropolitan University. The Founder's Day Service was held on 2nd March in Manchester Cathedral; the Preacher was the Right Reverend Geoffrey M. Turner, The Bishop of Stockport.

For the School Year 1998/99, Joanna Shaw and Richard Nixon were Joint Heads of School. The School Prefects were as follows;

SL Ash, JAR Balderstone, KJ Chesworth, LM Clemetson, AE Dearden, PM Edisbury, RD Fisher, H Gokal, BM Green, AC Hawcroft, AR Jackson, CN Lindley, VS Luthra, NA Mcleod, M Mirza, SH Nathan, N Sadeghi, G Sathi, LA Standring, RG Watson and FR Youssef.

Charities week raised £4373.43 for the Children's Adventure Farm Trust.

OBITUARIES

Mr J G Bird

It is with sadness that we record the death on 31st May 1999 of Mr J G Bird, Head Master of William Hulme's Grammar School from 1947 - 74.

Mr Bird came to the School after a distinguished academic and military career and after experience as a House Master at Denstone College. He guided the School through a major period of its expansion. The School grew in size and academic standards rose; new buildings were planned and developed to accommodate the growing population. During this period young people were becoming more independent and were given responsibility by Mr Bird, particularly in the development and running of the Sixth Form Centre.

He gained the confidence of all, Governors, Parents, Staff and Pupils and he served them well.

He enjoyed a long and active retirement becoming involved in many aspects of the community life in North Wales. His funeral service at St Michael's Church, Valley was a celebration of a long, happy and fulfilled life. To his wife and family we offer our sincere condolences.

M.Loveland.

Mr. W.L. Bonnick

It is with sadness that we record the death of Mr. W.L. Bonnick on 9th May 1999.

He joined the School in 1946 and during a teaching career at William Hulme's Grammar School which spanned 34 years he used his energies and enthusiasms for the good of many hundreds of boys.

He taught French and Spanish in the Modern Languages Department, ran the School stage, was House Master of Dalton House and from 1958 to his retirement was Head of the Junior School. He demanded the highest standards of the boys in his care and gave in return a genuine concern for the well being of each individual boy.

After his retirement Mr Bonnick enjoyed his garden, his Regimental Associations and the contact he maintained with William Hulme's Grammar School. He will be missed as a school teacher, a guide and a friend.

VALETE

Commander M.H. Peters



Michael Peters retired from the Royal Navy, joined William Hulme's Grammar School as Bursar in 1990 and very quickly became involved in the day to day running and long range planning of the School.

The Bursar's role is wide ranging as he is in charge of a team of about 30 people whose job is to support the teaching staff. This team includes the secretarial staff, cleaners, laboratory technicians, craftsmen, grounds staff and caterers, all of whom provide a service to the teaching staff and pupils. I have been re-reading the entries made in The Hulmeian over recent years and am reminded of the most important role of the Bursar in co-ordinating this support team.

During the past nine years considerable changes have taken place. Curriculum changes have dictated movement, expansion and refurbishment of many teaching departments. The Music, Geography, Design & Technology and Science Departments have all benefited from these changes. All departments are now working in areas which have high class facilities and ultimately the responsibility for effecting these changes resided with the Bursar.

The Bursar works closely with the Head Master and the School Governors in planning and controlling the finances of the School. William Hulme's Grammar School, as a modern business, has been carefully administered by Michael Peters. His involvement in the financial implications of the removal by the Government of the Assisted Places Scheme has taken a lot of his time and effort.

A consequence of this change of funding and the planned slight reduction in numbers of pupils in the main School led to the expansion of the age range of pupils at William Hulme's Grammar School and the introduction of a Preparatory Department.

During the last two years Michael Peters has shouldered the burden of organising the construction of the Preparatory Department on the Spring Bridge Road site. When he retired in April of 1999 he had the satisfaction of seeing 100 pupils and Staff move during that month into the Old Hall area of the School and into the new Preparatory Department.

He became involved in other areas of the life of the School and thoroughly enjoyed singing with the choir.

We are grateful for all Michael Peters has done for the School during a period of considerable change. He has been an efficient administrator and can look back with pride on the changes for which he has been responsible.

I would like to record my own thanks to Michael; his support has been invaluable. The School wishes him and his wife Wendy a long and happy retirement in Shropshire.

M.Loveland.

Mr H N Beggs



At the end of the Michaelmas Term H N Beggs retired from William Hulme's Grammar School having been a Member of Staff for 22 years.

Mr Beggs' first contact with the School was however, much earlier in 1953, when he sat the Entrance Examination. His father and uncles were Old Hulmeians but Mr Beggs was not destined to follow them as a pupil at William Hulme's Grammar School. In the event he was educated at Sale Grammar School for Boys; following his schooling he graduated from the University of Wales at Aberystwyth, gaining a degree in Geography.

Before joining William Hulme's Grammar School in 1976, as Head of the Geography Department, he taught at Annan Academy, Dumfriesshire as Principal Teacher of Geography. He brought to William Hulme's a wealth of teaching experience and for sixteen years led his Department with skill and with a caring concern for his subject, his teaching colleagues and his pupils. During this period he also taught some Geology and Economics.

Geography and Geology are subjects which rely on practical experience and Mr Beggs organised many field visits to support the teaching of his department. His students owe him a debt of gratitude for making Geography a lively and relevant subject. He saw Geography as a discipline, which provided a middle ground within A level combinations and he encouraged many to include the study of Geography with Science or Arts subjects.

Mr Beggs became involved with pupils in many other aspects of School life taking scores to Harris House in Hardraw. He assisted other colleagues for many years with the Archery Club both in School and during the Summer School; he introduced others to the art of gliding in helping the CCF.

In 1992 he relinquished his position as Head of Department and reduced his teaching to half a timetable in order to take over the post of Director of Curriculum. His influence on the School now came from different directions firstly in the organisation of significant curriculum changes and secondly in advising pupils on their subject choices as they moved through the School.

Curriculum change is complex and requires an ability to both see the whole pattern and process clearly and also to deal with teaching colleagues, all of whom have contributions to make, but who often see any change as one which primarily affects their own Departments. Tact and diplomacy were shown in great measure by Mr Beggs in producing a revised curriculum in the early 1990's.

Many pupils have reason to be grateful for Mr Beggs' sound advice in making correct subject choices, particularly for 'A' Level study. University places and careers are so often determined by careful discussion when moving from the Fifth Year to the Lower Sixth Form. Mr Beggs devoted much time and effort to pupils at this important stage of their careers.

In 1994 increasing problems with his hearing forced Mr Beggs to relinquish his teaching. He continued as Director of Curriculum and added the role of Examinations Officer. The complicated arrangements for GCSE and GCE examinations have been made harder with the advent of 'modules', making the organisation of public examinations a whole year task. Mr Beggs tackled this in his usual meticulous way. I know pupils are unaware of the work needed to enable them to be entered for and to take public examinations in an atmosphere which is as stress free as possible. Mr Beggs made this possible for them.

For many years than he cares to recall, Mr Beggs was responsible for the organisation of school prizes; this task begins with book tokens in May and ends with a table of books for presentation in September at Speech Day. I estimate over 3000 books have been collected, prepared and presented by Mr Beggs over the years!

During the past three years Mr Beggs was very closely involved with the planning of a possible reduction in the size of the school when the expected abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme came about. Plans were made and working models of the structure and organisation of the school were investigated in great detail. In the event the Assisted Places Scheme was removed.

School owes much to Mr Beggs for his painstaking work and for his wisdom.

I am particularly indebted to him for his support and carefully considered advice. As Chairman of the Common Room for five years his concern for his teaching colleagues was very much appreciated by them.

Mr Beggs is a family man and was rightly proud of the achievements of his two sons Stephen and Matthew, both of whom enjoyed in their different ways successful careers as Hulmeians.

We wish him and Bridget a long and happy retirement. William Hulme's Grammar school is grateful for all he has done.

M. Loveland.

Catherine Williams

Mrs Williams joined William Hulme's in 1987 to teach physics and mathematics part time and in so doing became the first lady member of the physics department! In her time with us she taught up to GCSE and gained a deserved reputation as the person most likely to produce the most A* grades in the physics examinations. Her conscientious professionalism will be missed by both departments, as will her contribution to the school choir. We wish her and her husband, Robin, a very happy retirement.

Helen Hesp

Mrs Hesp joined the physics department in January 1991 and has taught physics at all levels. While at William Hulme's, Mrs Hesp took a keen interest in girls games, particularly U12

Netball and one of her teams achieved the unique distinction of winning a large inter school tournament. She also assumed responsibility for developing the school's value added analysis, performed valuable service in helping to administer the external examinations and became deputy house mistress of Gaskell House. Mrs Hesp leaves us to take up the post of Head of Physics at Heathfield School, Ascot and we wish her well in her new life.

Andrew Austen

We are sorry that we are losing one of our most dynamic and enthusiastic members of staff.

Andrew Austen joined the Geography Department in 1993 and has since demonstrated a full commitment and loyalty to the department and to the School.

He very quickly settled in to develop varying teaching styles to suit every year of the School including using his specialism in Physical Geography for the A-level course. Sixth Form geographers have, for the last six years, appreciated his command of his materials and his organisation of the fieldcourse to Aberystwyth which was particularly relevant to the skills needed for A-level. He produced relevant and detailed resources for GCSE courses and incorporated Information Technology into the Lower School courses.

Andrew has been a Second Year Form Tutor for five years dealing sympathetically with problems and firmly with discipline.

As Warden of Hardraw, Andrew has developed the visits of First and Second Formers and overseen many improvements in fabric, organisation and appearance to maintain an excellent environment for the pupils to use.

Andrew has also been keen to help organise expeditions and field visits to the Jotunheimen Mountains of Western Norway and various alpine areas in Southern Europe.

Many rugby teams at Under 14 level have benefited from Andrew's thorough preparations. His regular contributions to practices and matches with his generous giving of his own time is further evidence of his devotion to the School.

Taking into account his three years as Stage Manager, contribution to Fraser House and ever present representation on Common Room football, cricket and rugby teams, it is not surprising that Abbey Gate College, Chester were keen to appoint Andrew as Head of Geography.

We are pleased that he is moving a short distance and he can keep in close touch with his many friends in the Common Room. We must say a huge "thank you" to Andy and wish him and his wife, Maggie all the very best with new responsibilities. We are sorry to lose such a talented, organised and committed member of staff.

Mr JH Hardy, Head of Geography

Lucy Derby

Looking back at job references, classroom observation notes, reports to Headmasters, the key word that keeps cropping up about Lucy is creative. This quality is so important for any teacher, but particularly for an English teacher. It's all too easy to select the same set texts and to repeat the same tasks, but Lucy doesn't and is always looking for fresh ideas and usually finds them. Her creativity is most obviously seen in her wall displays which have livened up Donner Block classrooms over the past four years and which have also inspired the rest of us.

In the penultimate week of the summer term she took the trouble to put up yet another imaginative display by her Year 7 class based on 'Portersmythe Hall', one of the National Trust's better kept secrets. However, only the pupils she taught know the full story.

When I first met Lucy at interview she was not afraid to be herself—there was no sense of an artfully created persona which some candidates mistakenly try to create. Starting teaching, others might have got accustomed to the view from the fence to begin with, but not Lucy and having such a vital force has been refreshing and stimulating for us all and I don't just mean in the department. This preparedness to tackle matters head-on she has also displayed in her dealings with pupils. She has never been afraid to challenge her pupils where she has thought it necessary as well as defending them when unfairly criticised. During her three years as Form Tutor to 3G/4G/5G, she has developed a mature and productive relationship with them, giving them space and creating the security to let them grow as individuals—a very difficult, but necessary, balancing act.

Lucy has tremendous energy and wide-ranging interests from Upton Park to Dunham Massey Park, taking in the Cornerhouse and American Indie bands on the way. Her eclectic vibrancy has not remained at home fortunately, but has been brought to William Hulme's and shown both inside and outside the classroom. She continued the excellent work begun by Simon Parkin with the Junior Drama Club, as well as co-producing two exciting main school plays, 'Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Our Day Out'. On the games field she will also be missed whether teaching her Under-13s hockey team the Julian Dicks defensive tackle, or the Ian Wright Guide to Peacekeeping. She also assisted with Public Speaking and this year edited the school magazine, as well as helping pupils set up their own magazine, 'Willpower'.

As there is more and more specialisation, further changes to syllabuses, fewer teachers will be able to do so much in the future. But I suspect that Lucy will because she's that kind of teacher. That kind of person.

Tim Heavisides

Rachel Minto

Rachel spent just four years at William Hulme's Grammar School, her first teaching appointment. Her credentials were outstanding: not only a degree in Modern Languages from Cambridge University but a period spent living in Spain as a teacher of English. She was appointed to the modern languages department to teach French and, her major subject, Spanish.

It quickly became apparent that she intended to make the most of her opportunities at William Hulme's. Rachel was thoughtful and imaginative in her teaching, working conscientiously to ensure her preparation suited what she wished. Her enthusiasm for teaching was quickly apparent to her colleagues and pupils, and this stimulated enthusiasm among her charges. At the same time she entered quickly into pastoral and extra-curricular activities and, even in her first year, devoted considerable energy and time into matters that a new teacher could be forgiven for leaving for other, more experienced colleagues. Her rapport with pupils in all these activities was outstanding from the start of her career, enabling her to get the best out of them at all times. She immediately became, in other words, the true article—the sort of teacher that William Hulme's prides itself on having within its Common Room. Not least among her qualities was her courage. This was evident not only in the way she launched herself immediately into all sorts

of school activities from the start, but also in her readiness to confront the difficult problems that pupils occasionally present and tackle them without prevarication.

Rachel accompanied a Spanish Exchange to Salamanca in her first year and saw how time-consuming such activities are, how much detailed planning in advance is required and — once there — how little time is left for oneself. Inspired, rather than deterred, she organized for the following year a study visit to southern Spain which proved a great success. Two years later wishing to encourage as large a number of Spanish pupils as possible to benefit from a visit to Spain, she took a group of forty pupils by coach to northern Spain, who also enjoyed a very successful experience.

P. M. Bull, Head of Spanish

Mrs Ballantyne adds:

Although primarily a Hispanist, Rachel has shown an equal interest in France, its language and culture. She has been very thorough in her French teaching, whilst at the same time instilling an enthusiasm for the subject into her pupils, which I am sure will remain with them. She has been a full member of the French Department in every way, accompanying a party to Normandy, adding to our resources and producing some magnificent wall displays.

Andrew Taylor.

Andrew Taylor joined William Hulme's Preparatory Department in 1997 and took charge of the Year 4 class. During his time at William Hulme's he made significant contributions to all areas of school life, in particular in the classroom he took charge of the teaching of Mathematics through out the department and became the Mathematics co-ordinator. On the extra-curricular side, his main involvement was on the sports field, teaching games and PE. Indeed, his sporting prowess was most recently seen when he played for the staff cricket team. He now leaves us to work in Stalybridge. We thank him for all his efforts and wish him well.

Danuta Romaniszyn.

After ten years at Amberleigh and William Hulme's Preparatory Department, Danuta Romaniszyn leaves us to spend more time with her family. During her time with us, she was responsible for the teaching of the top infants class. We wish her well as she embarks on the next stage of her life and thank her for her contributions to the school environment.

Carol Wilson.

French Assistant

The time has come for me to draw a conclusion from my stay as an assistant in Manchester. Right from the beginning I felt quite at ease and all the teachers from the Modern Languages Department were very nice to me and made me feel at home.

My teaching experience at William Hulme's was great and very fulfilling. I loved every minute I spent teaching and I will miss the pupils who were always very interested and motivated.

As for Manchester, it is a nice and lively city especially at night-time. There are loads of pubs and clubs and the atmosphere is very good but unfortunately they close very early! In France it is different because people start going out at 10.00pm and pubs stay open till 2.00am & 3.00am. I went to the theatre quite a lot to see some musicals such as Miss Saigon, Les Miserables, Martin Guerre...

I enjoyed watching British movies and I even went to Old Trafford to support Manchester United, my favourite British Football Team. I went for a curry on Wilmslow Road quite often, especially after a night out.

I travelled around as well, I went to Edinburgh, Cambridge, London and the Lake District. I had a very good time here and will certainly come back in the near future.

I still don't know what I am going to do next year. I have applied to enter an international business school and to a university in England as well to do teacher training.

I take this opportunity to thank all the teachers from the Language Department for their help and support throughout the year.

Ms Anne-Catherine Furst.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held for the third successive year at the Bridgewater Hall. It is an occasion where the school gathers to celebrate the achievements of its pupils and recall events that have occurred over the year.

This year's Guest Speaker was Professor Alexandra V. Burslem, Vice - Chancellor of Manchester Metropolitan University.

In his report the Head Master emphasised the importance of updating ideas about the aims of a school like ours and what it has to offer pupils who live and work in the 21st century. In addition to an academic work ethic the need to encourage participation in sporting and cultural activities is crucial. He acknowledged our unique opportunity to be a model for schools of the future. Our school has the most cosmopolitan pupil population of any independent school in the country.

Mr Purvis referred to the work of colleagues who left in 1998, particularly Mrs Wright who had taught at the school for twenty years.

Heads of School, Joanna Shaw and Richard Nixon spoke articulately and clearly, describing our sporting activities.

Following the Headmaster's theme of full participation in school life, Professor Burslem's address urged our students to look towards making the most of their school days. She spoke of the importance of extra-curricular activities in creating a well-rounded candidate for further education. She cited the opportunities that further education can offer an individual. Such hands on advice was presented in an unaffected and stimulating way.

As in 1997, the School Concert band presented an utterly professional programme of music.

L. C. Derby



DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1997-8

Name	University, etc.	Course
UHH	Ademosu, Omowummi	UMIST Biochemistry
UGJT	Agarwal, Nishant	Trainee Manager; M&S
UPRH	Ahmad, Ayyaz R	Coventry U Marketing Management
UHH	Ahmad, Faizan	Medicine 1999
UGJT	Aldersley, Rachel L	U of Wales, Glamorgan Sports Psychology
UEAW	Alderson, Gillian M	Manchester Met U Hotel Man. Tourism (HND)
UPRH	Anwar, Hanza	Leeds Met U Business Inf. Man (HND)
URSM	Ashraf, Khalid R	Medicine 1999
UMIB	Baker, Craig A	U. of Birmingham Physics
USMW	Balachandra, Suresh W	U. of Manchester Biochem. / Biotech.
UPJC	Barracough, Timothy	RU. of Bristol History
UGJT	Beswick, James W	Sheffield Hallam U. Int. Business / Spanish
UJHH	Bowie, Richard J	Staffordshire U. Business Enterprise
UHH	Brahmbhatt, Ashish N	Moving to USA (1999)
URSM	Burki, Affan K	Brunel U. Medicinal Biology
UAEW	Byrom, James A	Resits
UPRH	Collins, Helen L	Birmingham Coll. Of Food & Tech Hotel Cat. & Man.
UCM	Cook, Adam E	U. of Salford English and History
UPRH	Crilly, Aimee S	Manchester Metropolitan U. Business Studies
USMW	Daniels, John	U. of Wales, Bangor Marine Biology
UMRB	Durrance, Daniel Y	U. of Edinburgh Medicine
UAEW	Edwards, Carys J	U. of Leeds English

UAEW	Egeli, Cemile E	Leeds Met U. Media / Popular Culture
UHH	Flood, Stephen T R	U. of Sheffield Mech. Eng./Mod.Lang.(1999)
UMRB	Gale, Michael R	Magdalene Coll., Cambridge Medicine
UJHH	Gilmore, Nicholas	U. of Salford Podiatry
UCM	Goldsmith, Adam L	Abbey Tutorial College Resits
UHH	Graham, Michael J	U. of Birmingham Accounting & Finance
UCM	Green, Jennie L	Manchester Met U. Primary Education
UHH	Haboubi, Jacob	Medicine (1999)
UJHH	Hancock, David T	Manchester Met U. Business Studies (HND)
UPJC	Hanley, Robert K	Staffordshire U. Management (HND) Planning
UAEW	Higgins, James T	U. of Glasgow History
UPRH	Hussain, Azir M	Manchester Met U. Business Management
Jerath, R Niki		Somerville Coll., Oxford Economics & Management
UCM	Johnston, Richard J E	U. of Birmingham Ancient History. & Archaeology
UCM	Johnstone, Christopher I	U. of Nottingham Archaeology
USMW	Junejo, Jahanzeb M	U. of Wolverhampton Law
UPJC	Kay, Matthew J	U. of Nottingham Urban Planning & Management
UHH	Keable, Clare L	Kingston U. Music & Technology
USMW	Kent, Benjamin C	U. of Aston Pharmacy
URSM	Khan, Waseem A	Medicine (1999)
USMW	Khan, Yasmin R	U. of Bradford Pharmacy
URSM	Laird, William E	Medicine (1999)
UGJT	Lancaster, James A	Joining RAF

UHH	Lannon, Kurtis G	U. of Newcastle Mach. & Auto. Eng
UMRB	Lazz-Onyenobi, Ifeanyichukwu	U. of Nottingham Mech. Eng
UMIB	Lee, Alan	Medicine (1999)
UJHH	Lee, Rachael E	U. of Salford Sociology
URSM	Lelonek, Claire E	Medicine (1999)
UMIB	Longworth, Richard A	U. of Leeds Environmental Studies
UJHH	McArthur, Alexander J S	U. of Wales, Aberystwyth Environmental Earth Studies
PRH	Mahmood, Qasim	Resits
UCM	Mal'ouf, Alex G	Resits
USMW	Meakin, Alison	Medicine (1999)
UJHH	Melmouth, David A C	U. of Wales, Aberystwyth Geography
UPRH	Moore, Sarah L	Birmingham Coll. Of Food & Tech Hospitality Business Man.
UPJC	Murphy, Paul R	U. of Durham History
UPJC	Naylor, Matthew R	Leeds Met. U Technology & Man.
UMIB	Opara, Eric C	UMIST Comp. Software Eng.
UAEW	Ordman, Rachel J	Leeds Met. U International Marketing
UPRH	Power, Andrew J	U. Of Lancaster Management
UMIB	Prasad, Manish	Medicine (1999)
UGJT	Preston, Alexandra C	U. of Newcastle Combined Studies
UJHH	Roberts, Glynn D	U. of Wales, Cardiff Preliminary Science
UJHH	Roe, Matthew J	U. of Nottingham Urban Planning & Man.
UMRB	Rowlands, Garth A	U. of Nottingham Mathematics
UJHH	Royle, Jacob T	U. of Southampton Oceanography with Physics
UMRB	Safdar, Tabassum G	U. of Leeds Medicine
UPRH	Shah, Priti	U. of Birmingham Psychology
UGJT	Smith, Brett	U. of Manchester Hispanic Studies
UCM	Smith, N Laura R	U. College, London Archaeology
UHH	Srinidhi, Srinivas V	U. of Salford Comp. Software Eng.
UMIB	Stafford, Benjamin J	U. of Wales, Aberystwyth Geography / Physics
UMIB	Stockberger, Jaime B	U. of Leeds Civil Eng.
UPJC	Stoddart, William R H	U. of Durham Economics, Acc. & Bus. Finance
URSM	Suhail, Huma	USA (Houston) Biochemistry
USMW	Tabatabaei, S Amir H	Sheffield Hallam U. Pharmaceutical Chemistry
USMW	Tahir, M Kamran	U. of Hull Law
UHH	Talukdar, Abul K	UMIST Computer Science
UMRB	Trivedi, Dipti	Medicine (1999)
UMIB	Tsoi, Geoffrey W Y	U. of Manchester Accounting & Finance
UGJT	Uflaz, Duygu	U. of Leeds Law
USMW	Vadgama, Rooshin	Royal Holloway, London Biological Sciences
UMRB	Veitch, Benjamin H	U. of Manchester Mathematics
UCM	Vites, Karen J	Leeds Met. U Public Relations
UGJT	Whiterod, Nicola J	U. of Leeds European Union Studies
UGJT	Whyatt, Matthew J	Blackburn College Foundation Course (Media)
UMIB	Williams, Richard D	U. of Exeter Mining Eng.

PRIZE LIST 1999

Special Prizes

Anderson English Essay Prize: R. J. Booker
Aspinall Religious Knowledge Prize: Fay Todd
Caswell Prize:
C.H. Jones Prize: J. M. Shaw
Colin Midwood Prize: R. D. Fisher
Colin Mudwood Prize: P. B. Trivedi
D.L.L. Griffiths Prize for Medical Subjects: A.G. Roy
D.M. Williams Memorial Prize for Music: M. C-K. Tong
E.B. Jackson: K.J. Chesworth
Eric Barnes Memorial Prize and Trophy: P.M. Edisbury
Geoffrey Cocker Memorial Prize: L.P. Davidson
Gozzard Prize for Craft: R. J. Thompson
Graham Johnson Memorial Prize: A.O. Pearce
Halpin History Essay Prize: B.M. Green
Hillyard Cup and Prize: A.E. Dearden
J.A. Barber Prize: P.M. Edisbury
J.N Hopwood Reading Prize (Senior): J.P. Atherton
J.N Hopwood Reading Prize (Junior): E.M. Dodd
Junior History Prize: M. Yates
Prize for Original Verse, Middle School: D.S. Endlar
R. A. Haynes Prize for Photography: M.C. Fearnley
Sir Joseph Gilbert Prize (Best RAF Cadet): J.S. Porter
Sir Joseph Gilbert Prize (Best RAF Cadet): A.R. Pickford
The Watkins Prize (Heads of School): J.M. Shaw
The Watkins Prize (Head of School): R. Nixon
The Woollam Scholarship:
The Yates Prize: J. R. Arnold
The Wolstenholme Memorial Prize for Art and Design: D.T. Wood
The Library Award: K. J. Chesworth
The Library Award: S. Jackson
The Library Award: B.M. Green
The Library Award: A.J. Mcleod
The Library Award: R.D. Fisher
The William Taylor Prize: I. R. Holister

Upper Sixth

Allman Further Maths: F.R. Youssef
Classical Studies: A.K. Sagar
DEHN History: L.J. Simon
Design: N.L.P. Mathews
Eastwood Geology: R.D. Fisher
Hewlett Geography: K.J. Chesworth
Knoop English Lang: E. Nwator
Knoop English Lit: J.M. Shaw
Knoop E.C.S: R.M. Roy
Lymer Maths: S. Seedat
Margret Cruttwenden Art: A.C. Silver
Music: D.J. Coghill
O.H.A. Biology: R. Hussain
Palmer Chemistry: S. Seedat
Palmer Physics: F. Samee

Pankhurst Spanish: L.J. Simon
Reid Politics: M. Mirza
Rodgers Business St.: S. Saeed
Religious St.: E. Nwator
Simon Smith Economics: M. Mirza
Vlies French: V. Luthra
Vlies German: E. Nwator

Lower Sixth

Art: C.K. White
Business Studies: J.S. Porter
Design: R.J. Greenhalgh
Economics: B.S. Ali
Forrest English Lang: J.E. Kerr
Forrest English Lit: C.N. Duckworth
Forrest E.C.S: J.F.R. Cohen
Further Maths: N.R. Whitehead
Geography: G.J. Laycock
German: V.M. Lane
Hawley French: M.J. Mkumbwa
Physics: N.R. Whitehead
Pontiero Spanish: M.J. Mkumbwa
S.K. Appleton Biology: N.Y. Hanif
Sydney Goodman History: L.A. Goodwin
Religious Studies: M.L. Freeman

Fifth Year

Art: H. Fisher
Biology: F.C. Ridley
Caiger French: F.C. Ridley
Chemistry: F.C. Ridley
Design: J.A.R. Meers
German: A. Green & A.U. Opara
Geology: J.G. Watson
Greek: M. Ahamed
Hewlett Geography: R.J. Booker
History: N. Juma & F.C. Ridley
Latin: F.C. Ridley
Maths: D.S. Endlar
Music: M.A. Whibley
Parent's English: A.U. Opara
Physics: D.S. Endlar
Religion: L.P. Davidson
Spanish: N. Endlar

Fourth Year

Art: D. Goodkin
Biology: J.M. McConville
Chemistry: J.M. McConville/S. Pang
Design: S. Ghani
English: D. Goodkin
French: R.M. Goodwin
Geography: A. Farooq
Geology: H.A. Kent
German: A.O. Race
History: A. Farooq
Latin: J. McConville

Maths: C.T.O. Leung
Music: R.M. Goodwin
Physics: C.T.O. Leung
Religion: D. Goodkin
Spanish: G. Singh

Third Form

Art: P.W. Royle
Biology: C.E. Booker
Chemistry: C.E. Booker
Design: C. Hegg
English: C.E. Booker
French: C.E. Booker
Geography: C.E. Booker
German: C.E. Booker
Greek: N. Ahmed
History: C.E. Booker
Latin: C.E. Booker
Maths: C.E. Booker
Music: C.E. Booker
Physics: C.E. Booker/I. Hussain
Religion: C.E. Booker
Spanish: D.L. Ashley

Second Year

Art: U. Chaudhry
Biology: M. Mufti
Chemistry: J.S. McConville/Z.I. McKenzie
Design: R. Jolley
English: U. Chaudhry
French: G. Seedat
Geography: P. J. Birch
German: S. Ghafari-Kanno
Greek: L.C. Handford
History: H.M. Nurbhai
Latin: J. Mak
Maths: K. Ahmad
Music: T.E. Jones
Physics: U. Chaudhry
Religion: M. Yates
Spanish: G. Seedat

First Year

Art: J.T.M. Leung
Biology: A.O. Olaitan
Chemistry: J.T.M. Leung
Design: R.A.C. Green
English: F.J. Khan
French: J.T.M. Leung
Geography: J.T.M. Leung/H. Chauhan
History: R.A.C. Green
Latin: J.T.M. Leung
Maths: A.O. Olaitan
Music: R.A.C. Green
Religion: J.T.M. Leung
W. Taylor Mem: I. Hollister



HATTRELL AND PARTNERS

CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

ARTHUR HOUSE CHORLTON STREET MANCHESTER M1 3EJ
TELEPHONE 0161 238 361 FACSIMILE 0161228 7801

FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER



(left to right) John Lee, Kabir Ahmed, Lord Mayor, HM Vivian Anthony, Mrs Purvis, Edward Thorp, Professor Boucher

This year's theme of the Founder's Day dinner was partnership. The table guests included Lord Mayor Cllr Gordon Conquest. At the dinner he told guests that he was impressed with the 'self-assured and intellectually gifted' sixth formers who he had met on an earlier visit to the school.

L.C Derby

BURSAR'S CORNER

This is my first piece for the Hulmeian since Mike Peters retired in April. The Governors decided that the Navy had had a good run in the Bursary and allowed myself, as an ex-Royal Air Force officer to take over the reins. Mike Peters was the 4th Royal Navy officer over a 36 year period! Mike has retired to Shropshire and is by all accounts enjoying every moment of his life of leisure.

Over the last year we have seen major changes around the site. The main one being the opening of the new Preparatory Department at Easter. Our own Site Manager, Vic Buckley, acted as project manager co-ordinating a large number of contractors whilst liaising with the Planning Department and the Building Inspector etc. To his great credit he delivered a fine Preparatory Department on time and to budget - well-done Vic! All who have seen this new element of the school agree it provides splendid accommodation with excellent facilities. The first term saw 106 pupils in this new accommodation, but from September 1999 this will rise to over 180 when two more classrooms will be in use. Along with the Prep the staff have a new Staff Common Room, though some consider it to be located on the periphery of the school and some thought is being given to finding a new more central site.

The summer break sees a number of changes and improvements being introduced in time for September 1999. The Dining Room is being refurbished with new furniture, floor, decor and lights, all of which should give the Dining Room a brighter, more comfortable, and welcoming feel. New computers are being introduced across the school, including a completely refurbished computer suite in the Zochonis Centre. This comprises a modern network allowing 30 students simultaneous fast Internet connection and giving teachers access to the best technology tools available. The library is being enlarged with additional computer facilities for pupils and the library staff. On 1 September we inherit Oaklands Preparatory School in Chorlton. We plan to work on this building this autumn to turn it into our Nursery Unit.

There has not been a big turn over in support staff this year, but March did see John Taylor retire after 16 years as Head Groundsman, he has been replaced by John Conroy, who has previously worked at William Hulme's as a groundsman. March also saw Shaf Mehmood depart from the Accounts Office on maternity leave, as we go to press Shaf has made it clear that she wishes to retire permanently following the birth of her second daughter. John Grant returned to the fold and has taken up employment in the kitchens.

One of the highlights of the year was the first ever Leaver's Ball, which really tested the Catering Department. However, not surprisingly they delivered a magnificent meal for nearly 200, of particular note was our very own French Chef Chloe making truly memorable crepe suzettes. Well done Will Axon!

All the Support Staff including catering, secretarial, accounts cleaning, maintenance, porters, grounds, library and the lab assistants do a magnificent job with the very minimum of fuss. Their skills and their commitment to William Hulme's have impressed me. I must also say that I have personally appreciated the welcome and help everyone has given me in my first 4 months.

P D G Milloy Bursar

Harris House - Hardraw 1998-99

Harris House has continued to thrive over the last year, providing a comfortable base for not only our own pupils but also for an increasingly diverse range of external organisations. This year sees the addition of a second dog training group as well as a university martial arts society!

External hirings now generate a considerable percentage of the Trust's income, and I think it is fair to say that without them the centre could not continue to develop as it has done over the last few years.

Recent improvements to the centre have included the repair and repainting of the external woodwork, along with the complete refurbishment of the boy's toilets. Work is continuing this summer to maintain and further improve the centre in a number of areas.

The regular First Year 'ice-breaking' trips were again run this year, and were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Highlights of these trips include a visit to Holme Farm near Sedburgh, and exploring the White Scar Cave system near Ingleton.

The Second Year form trips were also successful again this year, challenging the pupils with potholing through icy water, climbing and abseiling. It is uncertain whether or not these trips will be repeated next year, but having seen the immense amount of enjoyment and experience gained by the pupils I feel it would be a great shame if they are allowed to fall by the wayside.

None of these, or any other School trips to Harris House, are possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff involved, and my thanks must go to all those colleagues who have supported the Lower School visits or who have used the centre for their own trips.

Finally, Harris House is a unique and valuable resource, which could be used far more widely by the School. As I move on to a new post I would like to thank all those people who have supported and helped me over the last three years in trying to encourage and expand the use of the centre.

I have greatly enjoyed the experience of being involved with Harris House, and have learnt a great deal from it. I wish the centre and my successor, Mr Hardy all success in the future.

A.R. Austen (Warden)

Donner Library

The Library has been very busy as usual, this year's First Form are very good library users and the Lower Sixth actually read fiction which must be a first.

We have upgraded the computer system with new machines and a more up to date software package which runs on Windows '98. The old system was cumbersome, not networked properly, and basically struggling to keep up with the demands made on it.

Jacqueline Wilson, the award winning children's author visited the Donner Library giving lively talks about her books to the first and second forms.

This year's plans for the renovation of the library are going ahead. In September the library will effectively be twice the size with computers, printers and more shelving for books we have bought and not had room for in the main Library.

I would like to thank last years' prefects Ben Green, Stephanie Jackson, Katie Chesworth, Neil McLeod and Richard Fisher. They were good workers and I wish them well for the future. This year the library prefects are Peju Pearce, Richard Lee, Faye Todd, Jonathan Murphy and Nafisa Hanif.

The library is open from 8.00am till 3.45pm.

Mrs. M. Evans, Librarian.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW PREP DEPARTMENT

This year the Prep Department moved from Wilbraham Road to the main school site in Springbridge Road after extensive refurbishment of the old building.

Work on gutting, re-modelling, decorating and equipping the Grade II listed building began last summer and after the Easter holiday the children moved in for lessons.

The Old Hall has been brought to life by vibrant wall displays and activities such as music and dance. It is certainly a welcoming environment with a positive atmosphere.

This is a clear juxtaposition of new horizons along side history and tradition.

Some of the pupils' views of their new school are presented elsewhere in this publication.

The number of children at the Preparatory Department will increase to around two hundred in September 1999 when the merger with nearby Oaklands Preparatory Department takes effect.

The Head Master has gone on record saying that the project 'reinforces the value of family, allowing families to be educated on one site'. It will also foster a wider sense of community and identity within all the pupils at William Hulme's Grammar School.

L.C Derby



FOOTBALL FEVER

On Thursday 7th January 1999 William Hulme's Grammar School was privileged to welcome back two Old Hulmeians who've really made their mark in the football world. To celebrate the great game of 'footy' reintroduced into the Games Curriculum, we were honoured to welcome Ashley Ward and Andy Hinchcliffe back to School.

During our interview I was astounded by the sheer 'down to earth' personalities of the sports stars. Both have vivid memories of William Hulme's and enjoyed being reminded of their time in School. They were genuinely interested into how football will create opportunities for the School and the players. They were pleased with the decision and wished us the best of luck in the move. However, they also clearly stated that education is just as important – especially Andy, who showed an interest in going back to college.

The part of the interview that I most enjoyed was hearing Andy describe his fantastic experience playing for England. I suppose that this is a fantasy for most young boys and I can see why, it's a great achievement to be able to represent your country at top level and this is what Andy was passionate about.

This doesn't mean the boys didn't know how to have a laugh. When I mentioned the Paulo di Canio incident (I'm sure nobody will ever forget that one!!), Andy and Ashley nearly went into hysterics. "The referee's reaction was hilarious!!"

William Hulme's Grammar School was proud to have two of the Old Boys back and in return we're proud of them and their magnificent achievements too. They're great guys and I look forward to meeting them again in the future.

Since the day when the media descended on to William Hulme's, football has been received with widespread approval and enthusiasm from staff and pupils alike. The techniques of this game have been taught with accordance to the Football Association's National Curriculum. Games have been played at our Inter House and Inter Form Level. The staff have been very pleased with the boys' attitudes and good natured spirits on the field. We hope to see the game being played competitively against other schools next term.

Another event celebrating the School's ascension to the football field was the visit of Old Hulmeian, Paul Grundy during the Staff vs Prefects Football Match. Mr Grundy, aged 80, scored the last ever goal at William Hulme's before it was stopped.

This was an exceptionally emotional and moving day for Mr Grundy, whose memories came flooding back as he walked around the School grounds. The arrival of football at William Hulme's has motivated the School. We have welcomed its arrival and so have Mr Grundy, Andy Hinchcliffe and Ashley Ward.

Jemma Cohen (LAEW) & Asmar Chaudhry (LPJC)

THE SYGMA TEAM



YOUNG ENTERPRISE 1999

This year 28 Lower Sixth students participated in Young Enterprise. The primary objective of this national charity scheme is to give young adults the experience of running a business; which to some could be beneficial later on in life.

Sygma (our YE business) was created in September 1998 and ran on until April 1999. Our company consisted of a MD and deputy, finance, marketing, sales and operations teams, and company secretaries. To show how organised and committed we all were to YE, we had our very own business adviser, Andrew Ryder (from SIEMENS) and Miss Collier to assist and help Sygma reach its profit maximisation point.

Sygma aimed their products at students. Their mission was to provide a range of goods and services that young people would want. Our products spanned from seasonal cards and gifts to rugs; with our most prosperous products being Mothers' Day flowers and the Valentines Magazine.

We, like any other company, had our highs and lows. The achievements being the successful selling skills that we obtained and the experience we gained. The bad part of running a business was how much time we had to put into the company, and the arguments and disagreements that many of us had with fellow members.

Along the way 1 or 2 members dropped out, but for the others that stayed to see the company through saw the end result, £700 profit; which will partly be going towards a specific charity, a new stereo for the Common Room and a 100% dividend will be given to Sygma's shareholders.

Vicky Raynes (LPRH)

JACKIE KAY'S VISIT TO WHGS

The poet and author Jackie Kay visited the School fresh from winning a Guardian Award for her first novel, 'Trumpet'.

The day began for us with a workshop, which led to our first surprise of the day as I certainly expected her to be a lot older and a lot more eccentric. But we were pleasantly surprised when she turned out to be perfectly normal, even though she was prepared to admit that you have to be a bit of an extrovert to be a poet. She was very open, and as we found out when we were allowed to question her was not afraid to talk about her personal life and problems she has faced with adoption, racism and where she grew up.

The workshop was designed to allow us and the teachers to show how creative we can be writing various poems including 'The Other Me', about other people's personal experiences and

even about dreams of animals. The workshop really did provide lots of useful ideas on how to pick topics to write about.

After the workshop we moved onto a reading in which Jackie Kay read us some of her poems and an enthralling extract from her superb novel 'Trumpet' leaving us all desperate to read it.

James Kerr (LJHH)



The poet and author Jackie Kay meets the Lower Sixth Language group. Pictured with her are Elli Metcalfe and Lex Seymour

The session started in the morning with a poetry workshop in which Jackie Kay read three of her own poems and then we had to write our own. The first exercise was to write a poem called 'The Other Me'. In this poem, we had to write about the opposite of ourselves. The second poem was about an animal who dreamt of having a certain job. We each had to write an animal down on a piece of paper and an occupation on another. Then we mixed them all up and had to take an animal and a job. We then had to write a poem about it. For the third poem, we were split into pairs and we each had to tell the other person about a lie that we had told or something we had done which we felt guilty about. Then we had to write about our partner's story in the form of a poem.

Miriam Mkumbwa (LGJT)

DEEP SEA TIGER

Deep, deep amongst the twangled vines and blooming trees
of the African jungle,
sleeps a fearsome tiger,
And as he dreams he picks up the wafting scent of salty sea air,
He watches the garish coloured little fish,
Flecks of colour as they flip their tails,
And here he is amongst all this complete with oxygen pack
and funky wet suit,
Deep, deep amongst the floating weeds and bellowing corals of the sea bed,
swims a fearsome tiger,
And as he kicks along the salty seawater stings his eyes,
he can touch the multi-coloured little fish,
and scare away the sharks,
he is the deep sea tiger, although he's never seen a beach,
he's really scared of water,
and the sand tickles his feet.

James Kerr (LJHH)

THE LIE

I was a chatty little child
My mouth opened more than closed,
Well, I thought I had a lot to say,
Until that day, when the clock stopped.
Grandpa told me to sit on his knee,
He sighed and shook his head,
At that time, the clock was working,
Marking each second with a tock.
Grandpa said, "You know I love to sit and talk,
but something must be said;
Did you know, my dear, that if you
talk so much, you'll run out of things to say?"
This scared me, for I loved to talk,
But I didn't want my speech to run out,
So I'd sit and listen to sounds instead,
And watch the clock which had stopped that day.
I didn't speak for six whole months,
I had my parents worried,
So grandpa had to tell the truth,
Then I saw and began to chat.
And the clock, which had held the truth for so long,
Began to work again,
I hated that clock, as for six months,
It held back its voice of "Tick-tock".

Miriam Mkwumbwa (LGJT)

THE OTHER ME

The other me has no-one,
She knows nothing of the world.
She's never travelled,
Never seen the sea, country or mountains.
She sits alone, in silence,
She has no friends, no-one to talk or play with
She has nowhere to go
She knows nothing of the world.
She's tall and frail as if not been fed,
She's got long, ratty hair, which has never been combed.
She's never written a story, never done an addition,
She's never been taught!
She knows nothing of the world.
When she grows up she wants to be a gardener,
A gardener, but she's never seen a garden,
Never planted a seed and watched it grow,
She doesn't know beauty.
The other me knows nothing of the world,
She has no-one,
She wishes she knew me!

Vanessa Cohen (LAEW)

PUBLIC RELATIONS 1998-99

The role of the Director of Public Relations is a rather unusual unique and a somewhat unforgiving one, since it involves all aspects of School life. Throughout the year, three mutually – reinforcing, themes merged together – pupil recruitment, raising the public profile of the School and developing more of a corporate image for William Hulme's. Thanks mainly to the Head Master, all my colleagues and the fantastic achievements of the pupils; we had a remarkably successful year.

For 1998-99, a more strategic approach was adopted which looked at the year as a whole and sought to identify the best ways of attracting pupils to apply. We organised successful open evenings for entry into our Sixth Form and Preparatory Department, ran seven prospective parent evenings and introduced a new Scholarship Exam. The highlight of the recruiting events was the newly-designed Open Day in October which attracted over 200 families – a record number of whom went on to apply for entry at 11+. This event involved every member of staff, some 300 pupils and was an excellent insight into what the School has to offer for prospective and present pupils. It was a superb team effort by the School. Well done everyone!

In terms of raising the School's public profile, a new mid-term newsletter "Billboard" was introduced and this proved an immediate success. Every pupil was automatically given a copy of Billboard and copies were also distributed to all the Primaries and Preparatory Schools in Greater Manchester. We received many compliments about the professionalism of our eight page "glossy" newsletter; so much so, other Schools are now copying us! I am particularly indebted to all members of staff and pupils who volunteered their time, ideas and "news" to help launch this initiative. Throughout the year sixty photo opportunities of various events (eg the launch of football. School concerts, the Leavers Ball); of various academic/extra curricular achievements of our pupils (eg A/GCSE results, Sports Award, Prefects' Charities Cheque) and of numerous visitors to our School (eg Jackie Kay, Jacqueline Wilson, the Chinese Delegation), were organised. The photographs and an appropriate Press release were distributed to all the newspapers and some forty two separate stories about our School appeared in local tabloids. We were also thrilled to appear on local/national television regarding the introduction of football and local radio stations with aspect to countless other events going on in the School. What amazed me through the year, was the range of activities that occur in any week in our School and it was great to cover as many of these stories as possible.

The corporate image and presentation of the School was significantly enhanced throughout the year. The School campus had effectively its own makeover with the relocation of the Preparatory Department to the Main School building; new fencing and newly sighted signs were erected. The refurbishment of Departments internal/external decorating of buildings and the general high standard of the School grounds, are a testament to the Bursar and his staff. It was good to see the main foyer of the School get a facelift to see numerous displays spring-up all over the place and the School Office being "reoriented"! The School was rewarded for all its efforts in "marketing" itself by winning a national competition for the best handling of an application (re-telephone enquiries, efficiency of mailing and the clarity of the School Prospectus/Application forms). However I was particularly impressed with the pupils own sense of corporate pride as they have been responsible for introducing a School newspaper – WILLPOWER; organising the first LEAVER'S BALL and YEARBOOK and by promoting the

first whole School Student Planner. There are more ideas in the pipeline.

Overall a very busy year, but it is great to see a waiting list for our over subscribed Preparatory Department; our target figures for recruitment into Year 7 and the Sixth Form have been met and it is very rewarding for complete strangers to acknowledge they had seen an article about the School in a newspaper. "Things can only get better" in the Millennium and the 21st Century will prove to be an exciting time for the School. None of the above achievements though could have happened without all the staff, pupil and parents helping out. My thanks to you all.

MP Jones PR Director

THE MANCHESTER LITERARY & PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 1998-99

William Hulme's has continued to develop links with the Literary & Philosophical Society of Manchester. Founded in 1781, it is one of the oldest learned societies in Britain - John Dalton, the "Father of Chemistry" is listed as one of its earliest members, along with Joseph Whitworth and Sir Ernest Rutherford. It maintains and encourages links with many local and national institutions including schools.

On June 16th this year, I gave a topical lecture to the Young People's Section on "The Eclipse of the Millennium" in the school hall. The lecture was attended by over 180 people including some of the more senior "young people" in the society.

This was the first time that the Society had held a meeting in a school and they were most impressed by the facilities, as they were by the professionalism of the technical crew consisting of Rupert Wakefield, Patrick Clerc and Daniel Endlar - all fifth formers actually in the middle of their GCSE examinations!

It is hoped that future events will be held at William Hulme's. A number of distinguished speakers have already been suggested for next year's programme. Anyone who would like more details of the Society's events should contact me at the school.

John Thomson

"Will Power"

This year saw the reintroduction of a student's newspaper appropriately entitled "Will Power". A visit by Old Hulmeian and journalist, Ian Whittell, inspired a few of the Lower Sixth to resurrect "Doing Time". With a less pessimistic title and a strong team of contributors "Will Power" took shape. Although mainly a Lower Sixth effort the interest generated by the paper makes us optimistic for its future and development.

The aim of the "Will Power" was for students to be able to voice their opinions of the School, and maybe change one or two things (within reason). Coverage of school events and issues, combined with entertainment, fashion and many other features seemed to appeal to everybody.

The two issues published so far have produced positive reaction, which we are grateful for. This success is largely due to the consistent efforts of Andrew Pickford, Nick Barratt and Asmar Chaudry as well as everybody involved. With help from certain members of staff to whom we extend a big thanks this entrepreneurial exercise proved to be a great success.

For budding journalists we recommend involvement not only for practical experience but because it really is fun. So as well as thanks this is an invitation for anyone from any year to take part; trust me, it's worth it.

Laurie Edwards

AUTHENTIK PRIZE



Authentik is a newspaper resource well known to teachers and students of A-level Modern Languages. When I saw an invitation in the French edition for pupils to enter a writing competition, I immediately suggested to my Lower Sixth group that they enter.

Their brief was to devise a test with multiple-choice answers to the question "Dans votre couple, qui porte la culotte?" which could be translated as "Who wears the trousers in your house?" There had to be at least 10 questions, each with 3 possible answers, using formal, not colloquial language and to make it more difficult, the test had to be written from a man's point of view. As the group is mainly female, consisting of one solitary male, this presented us with an interesting psychological problem. After all, to try and imagine the small foibles women have which irritate men is no easy task! Fortunately, Christopher Kay, the lone male voice, was able to help us out a little! The group eventually completed the test and Danielle Baker and Georgina Laird took responsibility for re-writing and posting the entry.

We returned to School after the Easter break to learn that the group had actually won the prize, which was a copy of the film "Le mari de la coiffeuse" starring the respected French actor Jean Rochefort, which we watched in class. The editor of Authentik praised the pupils for their creativity and originality and said it was clear they had enjoyed doing this activity.

I am delighted that they won this competition, as it is a nice reward for their efforts and national fame should boost their confidence!

Congratulations to them all and my thanks to our French Assistante, Anne-Catherine Furst who gave much welcome assistance.

Group Winners: Julia Atherton, Danielle Baker, Aliya Chandia, Farrah Chandia, Laurie-May Edwards, Christopher Kay, Georgina Laird, Peju Pearce.

Mrs LA Ballantyne

TRIPS ABROAD

School Trip To France – October 1998

Undismayed by a seasonal downpour, our party of 40 pupils and 4 staff set off from School at approximately 7.45 am in the capable hands of David, our driver. Our journey down to Dover was smooth, punctuated only by a brief stop for refreshments and their inevitable consequences. So far, so good. Very soon afterwards, we were safely installed in Le Shuttle, ready for departure... Four hours later, we were still ready for departure. Following an alarm in one of the sections of the tunnel, a complete safety check had been undertaken but, due to circumstances beyond our control and apparently beyond Eurotunnel's powers of explanation, this check had taken longer than expected. Whilst it is gratifying to know that safety is taken seriously, our thoughts at the time were not quite so generous as in retrospect. Still, all good character-building stuff, what! We finally departed and, the swift 30 minute journey took us to Calais, where after a short drive, we duly arrived at our hotel. Fortunately, we had rung the hotel manager to warn of our late arrival and he and his staff had stayed on to serve us our evening meal, which would have been more appropriately termed 'midnight feast'.

Things always look better after a good night's sleep and those who managed to get one certainly thought so. After a leisurely breakfast, we set off to Montreuil, a charming little market town not far from where we were staying. The pupils were split into groups, armed with packed lunches and sent on a 'Town Trail' to test their powers of observation. On their return, we departed for the nearby resort of Le Touquet, with its fashionable but welcoming shops (particularly welcoming to large school parties, desperate to spend their pocket money).

Our free-standing open-access programme of events meant that we had nothing definite planned for the next day, and so, when David, our driver suggested a trip to Belgium, we all said 'Ooooh!' (or something like that) and eagerly jumped on the coach – but the driver insisted on us sitting inside in the conventional manner. Mr Hofton was particularly disappointed that we were not cycling to Belgium but was soon comforted by the thought of visiting the lovely town of Bruges, and possibly purchasing some Belgian chocolates. We arrived on the outskirts of Bruges, from where we took a short boat trip to the centre, and whilst the staff enjoyed a coffee in the beautiful main square, the pupils were given the opportunity to look around the historic buildings and picturesque little streets or, as they put it, 'go shopping'.

Back to base in time for our evening meal, after which, as every evening, Mr Hofton provided some materials to allow the pupils to produce a record of their trip (booklets, posters etc), ably supported by Mrs Ballantyne and Miss Day.

Our last full day was divided between a visit to a local bakery where, in addition to an explanation of how bread is made, the pupils got a chance to make a croissant for themselves and also received a fresh croissant and pain au chocolate. The second stage of our journée gourmande involved a visit to a chocolate factory, where we were taken through the various stages of chocolate production, which involved a chocolate tasting at the end, to which we reluctantly agreed. A mathematician could probably work out an interesting equation involving amount of money spent, amount of chocolate consumed and change in body weight.....well, quite interesting, anyway.

To end the day, a group of pupils went to AQUALUD, an

indoor water complex, whilst other hardened shopaholics headed for the town, desperate to 'fritter away the francs'.

Little did they know that the next day we would be visiting Calais' answer to the Trafford Centre (well, almost!) – CITY EUROPE.

Our final day saw us up bright and early (dark and early, actually) and, after our usual excellent breakfast, we left Stella Plage for the last time and headed for Calais, a slight re-routing taking us on a tour of the local shoe shops, in search of somebody with two right feet. Once again a seasonal downpour reminded us that it was autumn, after all. After some last-minute shopping at CITE EUROPE, including a surprise visit to the missing persons bureau, we set off for Le Shuttle, which this time was suitably uneventful.

After a brief stop on the motorway for our evening meal, we arrived back at School within ten minutes of our stated time. My thanks to Mrs Ballantyne, Mr Hofton and Miss Day for their help and support, and to the pupils, who have enabled us to go back to the same hotel next year, and who all returned without a single European currency.

A C Crane

Second & Third Year Visit to Isla, Cantabria, Spain

The journey to sun, sea and sand had begun. We were all energetic and full of spirit, "Spain here we come!" Folkestone came and we were ready to enter France. The Euro tunnel was really exciting and a new experience for some. Half an hour passed and we were in France. It was now evening and we were getting rather sleepy. The people at the front of the coach (second years and teachers) wanted to sleep and kept on telling us to shut up. In the early hours of the morning we fell asleep and before we knew it we were in sunny, hot España!

When we were 15 minutes away from the hotel we saw many dull and gloomy buildings which we thought, may be our hotel. When we saw the hotel our hearts became satisfied and when we saw the beach we all jumped for joy. It was only a two-second walk from the hotel which was brilliant! We arrived five hours early, which gave us lots of spare time.

The next day we went to Santander. There were long streets of shops, cafes and bars all very exclusive. We shopped about in our own groups and then walked down to Santander's golden beach (which took ages!) It was a white sandy beach with a tinted blue sea. The weather was definitely on our side.

Wednesday arrived and we went on an excursion to Santilliano, which is a small and old shopping town. Here we met Spanish schools who were on a day trip. They were all keen dancers and kept on asking about the Spice Girls. Here we were able to buy gifts and souvenirs.

The morning came and brought the rain with it. The teachers told us that we were going to the mountains. Again, we had a two-hour journey. We got to the cable cars and it was raining. Only 20-25 of us could go up at once. It was great, we went higher and higher and when we reached the top it was snowing heavily. It was beautiful. We went from sun to snow, it was amazing.

We were told that on Friday we could do what we wanted, so we went to the beach and chilled out all day. As it was probably our last chance to swim in the sea, everyone jumped in and we all had a water fight, whilst some preferred to stay indoors, on the balconies and soaked up the sun.

Evening came and the music could be heard. Some got dressed up and we hit the dance floor. Tonight was the last night so the teachers arranged a disco. There was a lively atmosphere and went on into the early hours of the morning. After this everyone was hyped and it took hours for us to finally calm down and fall asleep.

Morning came and it was time to go. We got onto the coach and waved goodbye, although most of the third year guys wanted to stay and say a "proper" farewell to Angela (the receptionist). On the way home, we thought of the highlights and came up with the following:

- 1) Mike and Danny – the coach drivers
- 2) The everlasting beaches
- 3) All the Spanish people we had met
- 4) The day trips
- 5) The disco

Overall this was a memorable and unforgettable trip.

Seena Mehta (3F) & Maria Khan (3B)

German Exchange

The journey from Düsseldorf airport to the small town of Werl is always nerve-wracking. Apart from running around with heavy suitcases trying to catch (ever-punctual) trains, everyone suddenly realises there's no going back – the next nine days are going to be spent with a German family and in a German School.

This seems daunting, but luckily the first weekend we spent in Werl was a local holiday, the start of the 'Karneval', three days of eating, drinking and parades in the area. This gives everybody the chance to settle in and relax with their exchange family before school starts again on Tuesday.

Trips to Cologne and a computer museum had been arranged for the exchange, but first of all we had to be officially greeted by the mayor of Werl, a local lord who gave us bottles of Coke and a free keyring at the Town Hall whilst telling us more about Werl and asking us to enjoy our stay.

We didn't want to let him down so the visit to Cologne, with a chocolate museum and plenty of shops was duly enjoyed, as was the computer museum.

Following a second weekend with our German families, we met at the train station on Sunday said our goodbyes and headed back to Manchester, having improved our German and had a brilliant time. Thanks to Mr Turner, Dr Lambert and the English Department of the Manengymnasium, Werl, for organising the exchange.

Vicky Lane

Amsterdam 1999

As the coach was pulling up in front of school at 10pm on Monday 29th March, putting an end to our school trip, Minesh Parekh of the Lower Sixth, stood up and shouted "Everybody, listen up!". We all turned around to look at him, bearing the dumbfounded expression of a monkey who can't understand why the cage won't open.

"I think we should all thank Mr Callaghan, Miss Tandon, Mr Gorman, Mr Hewstonerrrr.....Miss Boothroyd and Mr Swales for being brilliant to us in this trip."

This speech was then met with a round of applause.

Somebody then followed up and said, "And let's thank the bus driver as well."

Another round of applause followed.

The irrepressible Phil Robinson of the Lower Sixth then said, "And let's thank the guys who sang 'Who Let The Dogs Out'", and then the roof came down. The significance of this tune to this trip will be mentioned later on.

Mr Hewston then thanked us all for our good behaviour and told us how all the members of staff enjoyed our company. Of course!

No, this wasn't a scene at the end of "Saved By The Bell", it did actually happen. You could, however, forgive Minesh for getting caught up in the moment – we had just come back from Amsterdam, baby!



The impressive Ajax Stadium

Midnight at school. What kind of time do you call that? Preposterous! However, despite this major detail, we all arrived (on time I hasten to add), bleary eyed but excited, anticipating sleep as soon as possible.

Considering many of us had not slept the previous day, the latter factor may have seemed appealing; however, insomnia soon sprang to mind when we realised we were not dead to the world as we should be, but eating, drinking and talking the midnight hours away. Stupidity, I think you call it the next day.

Sixteen hours, five toilet stops, one ferry and one broken nose later, (sorry Zahoorul Haq of the Upper Sixth – but you must be made an example of, even if you do claim that you could not see the door because it was made of glass, Bless.), our humble abode for the next three days was upon us in Amsterdam, the city of ...tulips, windmills, canals, bicycles and more bicycles.

Straightaway, we all hit the showers and then either got some much needed rest or watched TV. However, hunger soon struck and finding a place to eat was of top priority, but what seemed like a nice evening was all of a sudden met with torrential rain, much to our surprise. And I thought we were on holiday.....

The choice was either Italian or Chinese. I feel that the amount of money we paid to these places whilst we were there, was equal or more to their average annual turnover, as it soon became apparent that dealing with parties larger than two was a whole new experience.

We returned to our hotel quite lively, considering some had not slept for thirty-six hours, until "Breakfast is at 8.00am" soon rid us of this temporary state of emotion. We awoke, as instructed, and stumbled on the twenty steps, only 10cm wide, to where breakfast was, realising that those stairs were indeed a death trap.

The next day we headed for the local Vondel Park for some fresh air and from there the party split up into two groups. Half of us went to the Stedelijk Museum (museum of modern art) and saw some modern works of art (hence the name). Some of the work was really impressive, while other pieces were

interesting, leaving us open to conversation as to what their meaning actually was. If one, black, straight line can earn you a massive amount of money, I think I now know where my vocation lies!!

The other half of the party went to the Rijks museum, one of the finest works of architecture. Here, there were collections of the works of Rembrandt, Frans Hals and Vermeer.

After this, we then went for an originally exotic lunch at McDonalds, followed by a short stroll around the city centre. Some of the shops weren't that different to back home, apart from the odd exception, which cannot be mentioned. There were also more bicycles in Amsterdam than Manchester United fans in London.

We then went on a canal cruise around Amsterdam, this gave us the opportunity to see a little more of the city, although it didn't show us everything. The evening was spent at leisure in the city of Amsterdam, a cheerful and amicable place.

Sunday began with 'Breakfast at 8.00am', ahead of an eventful day. A tour of North Holland was first on the list, where we would visit a cheese making and clog making factory. Mr Callaghan pointed out, 'they make cheese from milk and clogs from wood'. Brilliant. It might have been if we were not so conscious of the smell. It was almost like a competition seeing who could go the longest without holding their noses in their jumpers.

The group then split up into two. One half went to the house of Anne Frank, the young lady famous for her memoirs of the Second World War. Those who saw Anne Frank's house found it an emotional experience, and were glad of the opportunity of visiting such an infamous place of history. We often read of the traumas of World War Two in textbooks but to visit such a place first hand is truly moving.

The other half went to see the magnificent Amsterdam Arena, currently the home of AFC Ajax Amsterdam. We were all simply flabbergasted by the magnificent design of the stadium. We all agreed that the idea of a retractable roof was a gem, however, the stadium could only hold 51,000 spectators, much to our surprise and approval. This meant that Old Trafford was bigger, and therefore better!

Also by sheer chance, we ran in to the Dutch National Football team, who were training outside the ground. Denis Bergkamp proved to be a very fast runner when trying to avoid the reporters, supporters and meaningless tourists like our humble selves. However, Neel Shah of the Lower Sixth scored eleven autographs! Word of mouth had it that we appeared on Dutch TV, a rather emphatic bonus to what we merely thought was a stadium tour.

Suddenly inspired at seeing 'Denis the Menace' in the flesh and in action, we went back to the Vondel Park for a game of football, trying to emulate his guile and flair. Afterwards, when we asked Mr Callaghan whether we had or not, he said that we definitely didn't and he described that standard as, 'disastrously low'. Thanks sir, but aren't you the one who is an avid supporter of MCFC?!

We then spent our final evening in Amsterdam at the Chinese Restaurant not far from the hotel. To follow up, we went back to the hotel three hours after we had originally planned. Considering, we were aware of what time we would be up in the morning and what our journey home would be like, we still chatted into the small hours of the morning, wishing there were a few more days to go, however reality bites as on rolled

that 'Monday Morning Feeling' on March 29th.

Everyone clambered on to the coach for our trip home but, like the first journey, there was always something going on. This time, Phil Robinson decided to play a tape of his, which was entitled, 'Who Let The Dogs Out' once we had reached Dover. Whenever the chorus came we all exaggerated the famous 'raise the roof' arm movement. We noticed that a coach next to us on the motorway was watching us with disdain, so we decided to provoke them by aiming our antics in their direction. They reacted by doing the same to us. It was amazing how, with all of the technology and means of communication in today's modern world, both sets of people were emulating something worthy of 'Planet Of The Apes'. We did this up to Watford. What joy!

We finally arrived back at school and that was when Minesh triggered off that truly unique, heavenly, golden, beautiful moment whilst also setting a terrific example by saying 'Thank You'.

We would also at this point like to say, "Thank You", to all members of staff who came with us, but obviously we couldn't do it as well as Minesh did. So on that note, we'll simply say that everyone had a brilliant, unforgettable time!

Leanne Davidson (5H) & Asmar Chaudry (LPJC)

School Ski Trip to Chateau D'Oex, Switzerland

This is the school's first time in Switzerland, which has a reputation for cuckoo clocks and being very expensive. However the travel companies are putting together good deals which make it more affordable for school trips. 'Chateau O'dex' is a beautiful little town with all that you expect from Switzerland in terms of picture postcard scenes. It is also a Hot Air Ballooning centre and as we arrived we passed the capsule on the take off site for the Round the World attempt. The hotel is a nice old style building which is run by a family. Getting a room with your friends is always a major concern as often numbers in groups don't divide up in the same way as the rooms of the hotel. In the end everybody is accommodated.



A group of not so novice skiers at the top of a difficult RED RUN on the final day. A great achievement.

Next day everybody comes down to breakfast in their ski wear ready to go out for the day. The hotel is some way from the ski area so we go down on a bus. The first problem is carrying all this equipment, hat, gloves, goggles, bag with packed lunch, the most important ski lift pass. This is the easy stuff now you have to get your skies and poles and carry them to the bus wearing massive ski boots which are not designed for walking in. I am already hot and out of breath and we are only on the bus outside the hotel. Down at the nursery slope the group is divided up. First, all those who have skied before go off and do a little test

run and the ski instructors put them into two groups of equal ability. They disappear into the distance with two instructors and two of the teachers and we don't see them again until the evening back at the hotel. I am told they are going up the mountain by cable car to where the real skiing is done. This leaves us, the beginners with the other two instructors and teachers.

Having never been on skis before every little thing proves to be a challenge, the only thing I can do with no effort is fall over. Moving is also quite easy, as soon as you put your ski on it starts to slide away, this makes putting the second ski on difficult as I am now five feet away from it and can't get back to it. Simple answer, fall over and reach out for it, this brings a new problem, standing up when you have skis on - impossible. The instructor has the answer and we do some skiing with only one ski on, slide hop style. After about half an hour I am feeling more confident with two skis on and I can shuffle around. We then move to the next stage. Going downhill, not like you see on Ski Sunday, the slope is very shallow, my garden at home in Glossop slopes more. However once I start to move comes the next problem - I can't stop, I can't stop, I CAN'T STOP, the slope flattens and goes up hill so I do stop with some help from gravity and the laws of physics. The instructor shows us how to stop when we want to by pushing out the backs of the skis, looks easy. Wrong, I can't move mine, they must be broken, something wrong with them. Apparently not, it is my weight, it is in the wrong place, I should lean forward and bend my knees, after only ten attempts I get it and then I can stop.

Next we move on to the big slope, this looks like a mountain, in fact it is about 100 metres long and must drop 2 metres over this distance. However it has a rope lift which pulls you to the top and down each side are small Christmas trees and cartoon figures stuck in the snow.

Going up the lift looks OK, it is slow and you just stand there. However, when you want to set off it nearly pulls your arms off and how do you get off, it does not stop? Oh no! somebody has fallen off in front of me, I can't stop, move, move, MOVE. I hit them and we are both on the ground. You idiot, why didn't you move! Once at the top we point down and slide to the bottom, "control your speed with your snow plough position" we are told. Yes I can do this, but it's steeper, I go faster and faster and FASTER. I don't stop at the bottom but keep going, my momentum carrying me some 400 metres across the snow field onto the flat part we were on earlier until gravity and physics come to my aid again. I have to take my skis off and walk back to the rest of the group. As I walk back the rest are practicing turning. Someone makes a turn, very good, surely he should turn again, he's going off to the side, turn, turn, TURN, he doesn't and is stopped by running into one of the Christmas trees at the edge. By the end of the first day I am wiped out but I can stop and turn, well I can turn right anyway, going left is still a problem.

The next day many of the things that seemed so hard the day before came more easily and I could very soon turn left as well as I turned right. Mr. Dunn said that this is how you progress each day and that by the afternoon of the third day we would all be going up the mountain in the cable car. "No chance, I am staying here!" says I, but he makes everybody go and we all cope OK, some better than others. It is much steeper and longer but the snow is softer when you fall. The main problem was getting off the chair lift, two people didn't lift the foot rest and it ploughed into the ground and got stuck. The liftmen stopped the machine and I took the chair off to the side for repairs. The rest of the group watched and just fell apart laughing. The very top part was hard, steep, narrow and lots of other skiers, and a hut at the bottom which you had to go round. We all managed going slowly

and one at a time, except for one person who skied over the roof of the hut and fell off the side but was OK and everybody laughed. Lots of other things happened all equally as funny when you look back on them, and from thinking I was never going to be able to do this skiing thing I finished up doing OK. The good skiers were all talking about jumps and deep snow and they clearly had a good time, not that we saw much of them except at lunch time in the cafe.

On the last night the ski instructors gave out bronze, silver and gold awards for progress in the week.

On the way home we stopped at a different town and went to a swimming pool where we played water volleyball and had a pizza after. From here we went to the airport and home. A really good trip and I would recommend skiing to anybody.

Thanks to Mr. Dunn, Miss Barlow, Mr. Jones and Mr. Myers for organising it.

Sixth Form Ski Trip



Just after the New Year a small but very high quality group of Sixth Form students, together with five Old Hulmeians namely John Daniels, Paul Murphy and David Hancock who had left the year before, Guy Brocklehurst and Michael Dodd (both skiing legends), returning after two years having been away at University, headed off for France and the ski resort of La Plange a well known and highly regarded area. However, having met at Manchester Airport at the appointed time, our plane was subject to a delay. This delay extended eventually to 5 hours which meant we were departing when we should have been arriving at the hotel in the resort. As is often the case, spirits were kept up by making light of the situation, however, it did make for a very long and tiring outward journey.

In true ski enthusiast fashion we were up next day having had very little sleep ready to hit the slopes. There was a huge range, with miles and miles of prepared runs to choose from and with a group of good experienced skiers, such as were assembled, the difficulties of the journey were soon blown away as we skied off into a snow-filled wonderland.

All week the weather and snow conditions were excellent which provided everybody with the perfect chance to improve their skills in the daily lessons. It was also great fun skiing as a group, each challenging and helping one another. Doing tricks and jumps off bumps, which are known to skiers as moguls, was the main attraction for many. The deep snow gave a soft landing for the many spills. We often drew a crowd of amused spectators. Mr. Jones's airborne antics were always received favourably. He approached each jump with much trepidation and lots of noise but little speed and therefore often failed to leave the ground. He once even got himself stuck on the top of the bump with one leg wrapped round each side!

Also during the week many tried out some new forms of sliding about on the snow. Guy Brocklehurst was determined to master the art of snowboarding which he did and was keeping up with everybody on skis by the end of the week. Others also tried snowboarding for a day but were less enthusiastic about it, as progress was not as fast as they hoped. What was a great success was snow-blading. These are very short skis that are shaped the same at both ends, allowing travel backwards as well as forwards, turning is also very fast. With these you don't use poles and the action is very similar to ice skating and roller blades.

On the one day that was cloudy we had made our way over to the highest area where there was a glacier. It took quite some time to get there and the weather closed in as soon as we arrived at the top. So we decided to head straight off. Skiing is never easy when it's cloudy as everything looks the same, known as 'whiteout', put this together with very deep snow and a very steep slope and as Mr. Jones described it "This is Hell, you have brought us to Hell It is not a place of fire, it is here". Mr. Jones is well known never to exaggerate or over dramatise, but on this occasion it was tough going.

On our last day we all skied in fancy pants - this means wearing some suitably bright or patterned boxer shorts over your normal ski gear. Needless to say many of the other skiers admired our style and I am sure we have set a trend here with this fashion.

In the evenings we took part in the local entertainment and visited the shops up at Plange Centre. All agreed that La Plange had everything you needed for a top quality ski trip which is what we had enjoyed. As an extra to this Miss Barlow, Mr. Jones and myself also felt that a vital ingredient is good company which is exactly what the Sixth Form students and Old Hulmeians were, great fun, and excellent company. I hope they go on and enjoy many more skiing experiences throughout their lives. I, for one, will always remember this trip.

N.P. Dunn Ski Club Leader.

Outer Hebrides Cycle Camp 1999



*Just because the bikes are rusty doesn't mean we are yet!
Alice Belemore, Susan Barber, Liz Hardy, Ellie Dodd*

Sunday, 18th July, Mr and Mrs Hardy with Mr Hofton, Miss Tandon (Misty) and late entrant, Mr Dunn, assembled in the dry, warm, calm (relatively speaking) confines of WHGS in order to combine our resources with the many and varied talents of (in no particular order of age, ability or common sense) Susan Barber, Jonathan Case, Alice Delemare (Cheadle Hulme School), Ellie Dodd, Alison Hardy, Elizabeth Hardy (Cheadle Hulme School), Tom Jones, Zac McKenzie, Kassam Mukadam, Martin Sharpe, Chris Weems, Adam Welsby.

Tents were rolled, food was discussed, stoves, spatulas and water containers shared out and packed into panniers already bulging with sleeping bag, sleeping mat, spare set of clothes, plate, mug, knife and spoon.. A short practice ride wobbling across the school field to prove that we were able to travel on two wheels at least on level ground confirmed that we were really on our way and tomorrow at 22.00 would be riding in earnest for our first campsite in the dunes on the West side of South Uist.

The journey up to Scotland was long and boring, broken only by refreshment stops at Tebay and fish and chips in Lockerbie. As we approached Wanlockhead Youth Hostel two members of the party were heard commenting on the lamentable plight of 2 campers huddled in their tent from the gales, rain and low cloud that seemed to have obscured all of Scotland.



*Smile, it isn't really raining that hard!
Mr Dunn, Miss Tandon and Mrs Hardy*

Monday, 19th July, an early start from the Youth Hostel enabled us to reach Tesco in Stirling for breakfast where extra pullovers were rapidly purchased. The 6½ hour crossing on the Caledonian Macbrayne ferry "The Clansman" enabled us to get to know each other better and also two Hebridean girls, Mairead and Jennifer, returning from a visit to relatives in Glasgow. We decided the small plot in front of The Royal Bank of Scotland was not good enough for us even for one night and cycled into the murk and mist to pitch our tents near the sea but sheltered by dunes from the full blast of the Hebridean wind and rain.

Tuesday, 20th July, Susan was up with the oystercatcher to fetch water from the tap in amongst the sheep sorting pens, so that the Trangia stoves could be put through their paces and tea or hot chocolate could be brewed for breakfast. As the sun came up (behind a thick blanket of cloud) we could see we were camping on the doorstep of a Bronze Age settlement currently being excavated by members of Sheffield University and Bournemouth University over the past four years. We were given a guided tour of this small but significant archaeological site where we were told about the bones of a dog found under the gateposts, some kind of ritual probably to ward off wind and rain. We enjoyed a ride across the machair grasslands near the sea where we could see seals basking on the rocks and heard the haunting sound of their cry. Lunch of crackers, cheese spread, nuts and mars bar was eaten in the shelter of a large disused shed because it happened to be raining, Liz left her knife there for future generations of archaeologists to learn about the mysteries of cycle camping. Casey's fast whizzing group cycled along the rough tracks through the machair whilst Misty's slow but sure group went along the roads and stopped at the Pollacher Inn for a paddle and sunbathe and the plumbing was Hofton checked. Both parties met at the Hebridean equivalent of The Trafford Centre - the Co-op - in order to buy the first of

many bottles of pop, crisps and sweets in order to fend off the hunger pangs until the next meal cooked and shared in our tents. That food first had to be collected by Casey, Weems, Zac and three members of staff, from the Tourist Information Centre, Lochboisdale where it had been left the previous night. The remainder of the party cycled back just in time to test the quality of their waterproofs whilst Tom and Kassam tested the strength of their tent poles, Misty and Liz rang Manchester to check for emergency messages and discovered that it was positively warm back home.

Wednesday, 21st July, surprisingly we awoke to cold, wind and rain, but decided to make our way to the Askernish Highland Games which were taking place in the dunes further North. The cycling was a little rough across the machair and through the barley crop but the sound of the bagpipes on the wind lured us on. The burger stall (pupils) and the smoked salmon stand (staff) proved popular with all as did the pop and sweets and the side-shows where we could win a goldfish (have I got room in my pannier for a goldfish complete with water and plastic bag?) or plastic blow up alien which proved the more popular choice. We watched the 440yard flat race and some of the pipe playing but couldn't watch any Highland Dancing because they had retreated inside. Casey was keen to treat us all at the Macdonald's, unfortunately it turned out to be a rather neglected monument to Flora MacDonald, helpmate to the hero of the Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie. However the museum and cafe provided ample bowls of broth, beans on toast and vast slabs of home made cakes as well as interesting exhibits in the museum. The cycle ride back to the Highland Games field was wind assisted and we were there in minutes compared to the fight against the headwind uphill in order to reach our goal.

A stop at the sheep tank to fill our water containers ensured we just caught the next rain shower so Smash and beans followed by pancakes were cooked and eaten well inside the cooking shelters. Cooking pancakes on a meths stove is a real skill which not many seemed to have. Most of the pancakes stuck to the pan and those who tossed their pancakes failed to catch them. Still some sand in the diet is good for you.



If we smile perhaps nobody will notice we haven't tidied our tent yet.
Tom Jones and Kassam M.

Thursday, 22nd July, the sun was shining, the sky was clear, a bonus for packing up, ready to move on to Barra. The road to the small ferry terminal of Ludag, proved a little elusive for many but Tom Jones professes he enjoyed admiring the view in solitude.

The boat we had chartered turned up and Mairead and Jennifer waved us off but the remainder of our food rucksack left in the capable hands of TIC, Lochboisdale was not waiting for us. A few phone calls and a chat with the ferryman ensured that our food was eventually left safely by the third fence post on the right through the good offices of various obliging Hebridean

personalities including two bus drivers, one tourist office lady and two ferrymen. We were joined on our charter by a party of sailors whose yacht had dragged its anchor the previous night in the gales and they had been helicoptered off leaving all their possessions in the yacht that was floundering on the rocks.

The sun reflected off the surface of the sea and sand and started to melt the tar on the single track roads of Barra so that in contrast to the previous days of the trip we sported various degrees of tanning, Ellie won the prize for most unusual sunburn marks, at least she was wearing her helmet. Barra was the home of the novelist, Compton McKenzie, who wrote the book *Whisky Galore*, also made into a film, with shots of Castlebay, the main settlement on Barra, frequently featured, so we visited his grave in the small cemetery at Eoligarry where the ferry took us.

Friday, 23rd July, our first full day on Barra had to include a visit to the shop, (there are in fact three food shops on Barra, all in Castlebay) to stock up on more supplies of bread, bacon, fruit (adults) and crisps, sweets and pop (pupils). Zac, Tom and Kassam also spent a few minutes finding some mugs to replace those that had somehow found their way into their rubbish bag. The afternoon activity involved cycling up a gravelly track to see a former thatched croft house, last inhabited in 1972.

In order to maintain body temperature Mr Hofton retired to his sleeping bag while much energy was spent by others (Ellie and Liz) constructing a complex natural sculpture incorporating the names of all participants on the 1999 Cycle Camp and devising and setting up events for the Island Games, some people even went into training: Alison and Susan perfected their technique on tossing the caber (large piece of driftwood), Kassam spent many minutes digging holes for his limbo poles which proved to be a winner with Adam, Mr Dunn devised a popular game throwing a bucket rim over target stones whilst Mr Hardy's game of rolling the spare tyre provided a play off between Zac, Casey and Mrs Hardy. Alice and Liz's game of welly wanging proved to be a real hit with Misty who nearly decapitated another member of staff and with Weems who tried so hard the welly flew in completely the wrong direction. The shot putt (chuck a rock) was nearly disastrous for the rabbit population but the highlight of the Island Games was the tug-of-war with a piece of rope washed up on the beach: it was five-a-side, boys v. girls, the starter was ready, the players were in position, bracing themselves for the starter's orders, anchor men heels dug in, "Take the strain..... pull" snap down both teams went like a set of dominoes!

Saturday, 24th July, the sun was shining, the sky was clear, now was our chance to cycle to the island of Vatersay, linked to Barra by a causeway, for a swim. The steep hill climbing on our bikes was made additionally difficult for Martin because his pedals were unattached.

Vatersay boasted two glorious beaches, one with crashing breakers and the other with sea of a Mediterranean hue which was inviting for most of us but only for a minute or two, dune jumping warmed us up and a game of French cricket. We headed back to camp again in the late afternoon only to discover that Weems had lost his wallet. Much searching ensued in Castlebay and the thatched cottage was revisited but no wallet. Back at the campsite a pancake party was arranged and much initial packing and sorting was done in order to make tomorrow's early start easier particularly if it was going to be cold and wet once again.

Sunday, 25th July, it wasn't raining, Weems found his wallet under the flysheet of Alice's tent and we had plenty of time to drop our rubbish in the bins provided nearby, to wave to the tandem and trailer cyclists we kept meeting and to arrive at the

ferry port in time to sample the first of many showers. The ferry was packed full of visitors to the Barra Live Music Festival of the night before but we managed to squeeze in a visit to the ship's shop to buy a few more sweets, crisps and pop as we felt a little deprived and to enjoy a meal in the restaurant sitting at a table and on chairs, novelty! A little more resorting of contents took place at Oban where Mr Dunn left to join Mrs Dunn in a comfortable, warm, dry Bed and Breakfast with hot meals and chilled beer and we handed in our borrowed equipment. The journey south was long and tiring although few people stopped chatting and eating sweets and crisps for long enough to fall asleep but the conclusion of the twelve pupils and five staff members of this 1999 Hebridean Cycle Camp was that it was **BRILLIANT!!**

J.H. Hardy

A-LEVEL ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP TO PRESTON MONTFORD CENTRE

On Friday 25th June, the Lower Sixth Biology group, along with Mr Moore and Mrs Picken, went to visit the famous Preston Montford Centre, for 5 days, in Shrewsbury to study "Ecology", our new topic for the next Biology module.

After moving into our rooms we went straight to work. We first did some classwork and then we went into a large pond, with our waders on, studying the different types of organisms living there and "mark and recapturing" huge curly snails which seemed gruesome. After dinner break, we returned back to our class room studies until 9pm and then it was time for a game of football outside on the fields until 11pm.

The following days were basically similar to what we did on Friday, with the exception of investigating organisms in different areas.

On Saturday, we went to investigate Ashes Hollow Stream Invertebrates in flats and riffles. The organisms found, which were seen under an eye lens, were very interesting and some had weird shiny body structures.

On Sunday, we went to investigate the organisms living in a polluted river, "The River Perry", which was very unpleasant, especially when we go to the source of the pollution which contained human waste and other things you wouldn't want to know about.

On Monday, we went to investigate the management of an ecosystem (at the Heather Moorlands). This experiment, in my opinion, was much easier and quicker to do compared to the previous experiments.

And finally, On Tuesday, we went to investigate the North Shropshire meres which required a lot of walking (and running after we had been chased by a huge, curious cow). At 4pm, we departed from the isolated centre and headed back home, in relief and exhaustion. Fortunately, the trip only lasted for two hours, instead of three, which meant we had more resting and sleeping time before going back to school the next day.

The trip, overall, was very exciting, interesting and educational, although there was a lot of work to do.

Thank you very much to Mr Moore and Mrs Picken for taking us and for being such safe drivers.

Thomas Chung (LJHH)

THEATRE VISITS

The year began with a visit to the New Victoria Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme to see *Othello*. The modern-day setting worked very effectively, particularly the meeting of the senators in Act I and the arrival of *Othello* in Cyprus where the Venetian soldiers abseiled on to the harbour accompanied by a jeep being driven on stage. Unfortunately, the production was spoiled by a very weak *Iago*, played by "Lofty" from 'Eastenders'. Of menace there was none and he also had difficulty speaking the lines. *Othello* was very sound with his 'fit' in Act IV powerfully achieved and *Desdemona* innocent, yet believable-her death was especially well acted and very convincing. There were plenty of ideas to engage with, but what a woeful piece of miscasting.

Later in the year we went to Stratford to see Michael Attenborough's direction of the same play. He favoured what is now almost the traditional setting of *Othello*-early twentieth century with echoes of the Raj (and Merchant-Ivory). It was a very clear and readable version of the play with intelligent verse-speaking from the cast and very effective lighting and use of music, especially in the opening and closing scenes. However, *Othello* was played in an almost bland fashion as the noble, youthful hero who obviously works out regularly down the gym. He certainly had not 'declined into the vale of years'. By contrast, *Desdemona* was vivacious and confident-perhaps too self-confident for her own good? But there again, she had disobeyed her father. *Cassio* and *Roderigo* were excellent, but *Iago* too much the joker, the 'fool' of the play. There was no mystery and no evil. The highlight of the production was the drinking scene in Act II which was done superbly with imaginative use made of the champagne bottles-the Bollinger Club lives on.

In January a visit was made to the Barbican Theatre in London to see *The Tempest*, again by the RSC. This was visually very impressive with a beautifully staged opening scene where images were projected during the storm of the other ships in the flotilla which were apparently sinking. Likewise, the Masque scene was done very well with a huge gauze net spread across the stage behind which the mythical figures loomed. The comedy was extremely well handled with Stephano and Trinculo genuinely funny. *Caliban* and *Ariel* were effective, but unfortunately *Prospero* lacked presence, a serious drawback in a production of *The Tempest*. His cloak, however, was very cleverly linked to the set as if he was a part of nature. Overall, a good production to see, especially for the 'magic'.

Unable to find a production of *Ghosts*, we did the next best thing and saw a gripping production of *A Doll's House* at the Library Theatre. It was a traditional late-nineteenth setting for the play, but that did nothing to lessen its contemporary relevance and its power. The acting was of a uniformly high standard with *Nora* and *Torvald Helmer* being outstanding.

On a sourer note, these trips to the theatre are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain because of students saying that they will go and then not turning up and not paying. They are an important part of the wider education of a sixth former as well as the opportunity to enjoy high-quality drama and to treat them in such a cavalier fashion is a gross discourtesy to members of staff as well as a serious case of narrow-minded prejudice.

Mr TP Heavisides Head of English

THE SIXTH FORM

At an early stage, I usually talk to the Lower Sixth Form about how I see the roles of Miss Smith and myself. Our two main aims are to help the students to achieve their academic potential to enable them to go on to the next stage and to maintain or improve the facilities in the Sixth Form Common Room so that it remains a place where sixth formers want to be. Our job should be easy because both of these aims should coincide with the aims of the students. However, the first aim is not always realised because some sixth formers, taking A-levels for the first time, insist that they know how to achieve good results better than staff who have many years experience of preparing students for A-level!

Apart from the occasional piece of "accidental vandalism", the second aim is normally achieved. This is due, in no small part, to the work done by the Sixth Form Committee. It is the members of this committee who make the Sixth Form Centre what it is. The current Sixth Form Committee is as follows:

Drinks Machine Manager	<i>Aliya Chandia</i>
Furniture Minder	<i>James Veitch</i>
Games Machine Managers	<i>Akhlaaq Choudry</i>
	<i>Jonathan Murphy</i>
Interior Design Consultant	<i>Louise Goodwin</i>
Plant Curator	<i>Peju Pearce</i>
Pool Table Managers	<i>Bilal Iqbal</i>
	<i>Chris White</i>
Secretary	<i>Vicky Raynes</i>
Assistant Secretary	<i>Emma Cruickshank</i>
Shop Manageress	<i>Danielle Baker</i>
Shop Assistants	<i>Caroline Bell</i>
	<i>Georgina Laird</i>
	<i>Rebekah Lawson</i>
	<i>Jennie Porter</i>
Social Secretaries	<i>Laurie Edwards</i>
	<i>Elli Metcalfe</i>
Stereo Manager	<i>Minesh Patel</i>
Treasurers	<i>Marsba Freeman</i>
	<i>Kati Greenall</i>

Some roles on the committee are obviously more important than others and some members of the committee take their responsibilities more seriously than others. The treasurers have the greatest responsibility with an annual turnover in excess of £10,000. It may be of interest to know what the committee does with the income from various sources. Some money goes into maintaining/improving the Common Room facilities: the pool tables need replacing/refurbishing from time to time, new plants and pictures are purchased occasionally. A considerable amount of money goes to charitable causes: a donation is always made to the Prefects' Charity and we are sponsoring a Ugandan boy through his education. This year, the committee agreed to subsidise Upper Sixth tickets to the Leavers' Ball which was a huge success. For the last few years, the committee has made a donation to the Bursar to help with the upkeep of the Common Room.

The Ugandan "boy", Isooba Paul Johnson, that the committee is sponsoring, is now 19. The sponsorship of Isooba started six years ago when he was at a day school costing £35 per Term. He is now at a boarding school and, with exchange rate fluctuations, his sponsorship this year has cost £1074. Isooba has had a number of personal disasters over the years. His mother died (his father having died before we started the sponsorship), he was turned out of his house by the Holy Cross Mission who

owned the land, the house that they built for him in exchange was so poorly built that it blew down in a storm within one year of being built. Add to that the odd bout of malaria that Isooba has had and you will realise that it is a much different world out there than the one we know.

In the Sixth Form, students are expected to take on more responsibility and it is important that they do so in order to improve their CV and their marketability. Whether the student is applying to University or for a job, the person reading the application form will be wanting to see some evidence of maturity in the form of taking responsibility. There are numerous opportunities (School Prefects, House Prefects, Sixth Form Committee, CCF, Young Enterprise and all the other opportunities afforded by activities either at School level or at House level). If there is any other activity that sixth formers are interested in that we do not cater for, then there is no reason why sixth formers cannot start it for themselves, just as a group of sixth formers have done recently with the new School newspaper, "Will Power".

A. Simkin

THE LEAVERS' BALL



"Hands up if you're having a good time!"



Staff meet the band



CHARITY'S WEEK

This year's chosen and thoroughly deserving charity is The Children's Adventure Farm Trust, situated in Lymm. It is a small, local charity devoted to providing joy to the lives of many disabled, disadvantaged or terminally ill children. The trust runs a series of holiday breaks throughout the summer for several groups of children, who are able to forget the problems of everyday life and enjoy a well needed break on the farm. Visitors may take advantage of the facilities such as a music room, sports hall and arts and crafts room. However this work may only continue with the support of fundraisers such as ourselves and we feel great satisfaction in contributing to such a worthy cause.

The prefects immensely enjoyed organising this year's Charity's Week and willingly put in extra time and effort to help to raise money. The week began with the traditional Soak a Prefect, filling every prefect with dread at the prospect of icy cold water on a freezing March day. We feel, judging by the soaked clothes and blue faces, that the pupils gave very generously. Allowing us to experience life on the other side of the counter, we also helped the kitchen staff to run the tuck shop at break and lunch times in the dining hall. Any profit made from our sales entered straight into the charity account and we are especially grateful for this kind gesture. Another annual event which took place was the Charity Walk around Sale Water Park. This is always a great money raiser as the whole school takes part and it allows both the pupils and teachers to take a break from the average school day.

Satisfying our need to entertain and perform we put on a series of evening events to help to raise money for The Children's Adventure Farm. The Karaoke and Quiz Night proved a tremendous success, showing the extent of our general knowledge and talent (or lack of it) at singing. The usually cosy atmosphere of the Sixth Form Common Room was fittingly transformed into a cabaret artist's paradise of glitter and lights for the occasion and revealed some unlikely singing stars. The Prefect's Fashion Show took place in the summer term and featured clothes by Kookai, Steranko and Vicky Martin. Turning model for the evening was an incredibly nerve racking experience especially as we were pleased to attract a sell out audience. The Prefect's Revue proved just as popular as it offered a variety of music, dance and sketches, including a brief documentary about a not too unfamiliar staff room. Special thanks goes to Rupert Wakefield and Patrick Clerc who put in as much time as we did to provide flawless light and sound production.

Our grand total of money raised this year exceeded £4,700, which is an impressive figure to reach, reflecting the hard work and commitment put into Charity's Week as a whole. Everybody managed to contribute in one way or another and it is all greatly appreciated. The year as head of school has been a unique experience that has been challenging but rewarding, a year that I will always remember.

Joanna Shaw

Appleford Lodge Nursing Home



**Who
CARES?**

WE Do



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Facing Fletcher Moss Gardens

JUNIOR DRAMA

This year's Junior Drama club has been attended by a core of committed individuals.

Although this year there was no production, those who have attended each Monday lunch time and after school on Thursday have produced some impressive performances.

Unfortunately it is often the case that when students move into the Middle School their enthusiasm for drama seems to vanish. Mr Wise and myself have found it increasingly difficult to persuade students (particularly boys) to get involved in productions. It would be a shame if the talent displayed in this year's Junior Drama was to go to waste. I hope they will get take part in future School and House productions, I know that these performances would definitely be the richer for their presence.

A special mention must therefore go to Mariam Al Bayati and Nina Kojidi of 2K who took part in this year's School production, *Our Day Out*. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and should look to develop their talent next year.

I have enjoyed participating in Junior Drama and thank the members for their commitment.

L.C. Derby

"OUR DAY OUT"

"We had a really great day out". So sings the chorus of happy youthful Liverpudlians in the final number of this year's major school production produced by Mr Wise, Miss Derby and Miss Day, a sentiment sincerely echoed by the capacity audience on all three evenings in February. Willy Russell's TV "Play for Today" set in 1974 and first broadcast two years later, displays all the chaos and hilarity that result when Mrs Kay's "Progress Class" is unleashed for a day's coach trip to Conway Castle in Wales – via the café, the zoo, the beach and the fun fair. In 1984 songs were added by Bob Eaton, Chris Mellor and Willy Russell, to produce the musical updated again in 1992. Thus the original "penny chews" at 2p now cost 10p, AND, EVEN MORE DEPRESSINGLY, Mrs Kay's gloomy assessment of the doomed educational ideology of her day, "The factories of England must have their fodder", is adjusted to reflect the intervening growth of unemployment – "Most of them were born for factory fodder, but the factories have closed down". Things are even worse now than they were then.



Emma Cruickshank and Daniel Scorch debate Education as Mrs Kay & Mr Briggs

Emma Cruickshank was the idealistic, compassionate and patient Mrs Kay, calmly and firmly fighting her war on two fronts with the "rough diamonds with her hearts of gold" in her charge and with the over strict and insensitive Mr Briggs (no relation!). Her deliberately slow, studied delivery was exactly

right, whether trying to reason with the unreasonable, cheer up the down-hearted, or "lie like hell" to the coach driver.

The two young teachers, Susan and Colin were, played by Laurie and Owen Edwards. Laurie brought an intuitive understanding to the part, coming into her own in the scene where she calls the bluff of the loud mouthed Reilly who has claimed to have stolen her heart – "don't tell me you weren't being serious, Brian" – and helping him to find a more suitable girlfriend. Her song to Reilly, "I know you like her", sparked. Owen showed well the difficulties of the young male teacher trying to cope with saucy schoolgirls who have a "crush" on him – he was convincingly ill at ease.



The School pupils show their respect for Mr. Briggs and his discipline

The quartet of teachers in charge of the group was completed by Daniel Scorch as Mr Briggs, the traditional ranting disciplinarian who fears that any signs of humanity will signal a complete collapse of standards. After his chat with Mrs Kay at the zoo he begins to soften, offering to talk to the class with slides and sticking up for the group to the irate zoo-keeper, but swings to screaming hatred of the children again when they produce their stolen animals. It takes Carol's threatened suicide to bring him to a balanced humanity, he even takes Carol's side against the distressed Mrs Kay when he rejoins the party – but once back in town he cannot maintain his new-found style, "good for a laugh and that", and lets the light into his spool of slides. Daniel managed well these kaleidoscopic changes of mood, from quivering rage to hearty participation to an almost tender concern for Carol on the cliff. A memorable performance all round.

Among the other "adults", Kati Greenall as the Coach Driver had the most dynamic role to interpret, from snobbish hostility towards the group as a whole – "We usually do the better schools" – to a new found compassion for the children after Mrs Kay exaggerates the extent of their deprivation to him/her. Significantly, she later joins in the football match on the beach. Kati's performance was incautiously swaggering and "larger than life", while still avoiding caricature. Her song "My bus" was a particular highlight.

Peju Pearce as the long-suffering shopkeeper where the ravenous horde descends for chocolates and sweets was characteristically the "iron fist in the velvet glove", her cool even voice triumphing firmly over her frustration and annoyance at their cheeky behaviour. Sunita Boodhoo as the Head Teacher exuded a suitable mixture of authority and conciliation with the ultra-conservative Mr Briggs and Matthew Whibley as the affable lollipop man Les, sympathetic to the children and putting, Briggs firmly in his place from the word go.

But of course it is the young people themselves to whose exuberant energy the adults provide a foil, and who both carry the action and steal the show. As the saying goes, "never work

with children or animals!"

The central character, Carol, was Anna Rogers, her voice and face registering by turns bewilderment, distress, flashes of happiness and naivety (she even thinks the sea is a lake, so deprived has her background been). But she thinks deeply enough to know why her home district is so depressed – "If we had somethin' like this we'd only wreck it" and her very despair makes her bold to stand resolutely on the cliff and to tell Briggs exactly what she thinks of him. She has nothing to lose. Anna's plaintive song "Why can't it always be this way?", delivered in the same pure, beautiful singing voice that has also distinguished her choir solos, reduced to tears many a hard heart in the audience.

Significantly, the same tune is used by the entire cast at the end of the performance in a positive affirmation that "no-one can take this time away". Laura-Jane Bulwich (Linda) and Alexis Oxberry (Jackie) were perfect as the two precocious teenagers, sulkily impervious to Briggs' bullying tactics and fawning over their dishy young History teacher Colin. The extended Cast Song, with its pulsating undercurrent of suppressed budding emotion, was particularly memorable, and Laura-Jane's wistful, dewy-eyed song expressing her (naturally enough!) unrequited crush on Colin showed that such calf-love, though lightly dismissed by adults, is real enough to those still going through it. The social dimension plays a part too – if Linda married a professional man, she would indeed be "all right", just as Carol would be if Briggs were her father.



The Cast

Two other pairs of friends stood out, Ben Kaufman and Josh Duckworth as the yobbish gate-crashing older boys Reilly and Digga, bullying the younger ones and trying on classic "playing-up" tactics with Briggs; and the two anonymous "bored" girls who find everything "boring" until at the very end they concede with glee "It were a cracker". These two were played by two of our very accomplished and seasoned actresses, Julia Atherton and Elli Metcalfe. Their readiness to be "troopers" in a team was characteristic of the cast as a whole – the "esprit de corps" was striking, with no-one wanting to out do the rest of the players. Similarly, young Lucy Jensen, our resident Liverpoolian and "accent coach" for the whole cast was content in the delightful role of the touchingly naïve and vulnerable Ronson, a second Carol in the making. Lucy is a very promising actress with real character.

The principals were completed by Ian Breen as Andrews, who perceptively sees that the animals at the zoo, like the children themselves, become aggressive because they are caged

or trapped in an unnatural and uncongenial environment, Vicky Bramwell as the "shop steward" type Milton who challenges the shop keeper for selling "penny chews" at 10p, Rebecca Goodwin as Kevina and Andrew Smith as Maurice; all were really "in the part".

As well as these twenty-one individualised sneaking parts of the thirteen strong chorus swelled the ranks of the Progress Class, adding vigour and exuberance particularly to the songs and some well trained choreography – they set the tone from the first moments of the production, rushing up the Hall from the back like bullets from a gun. They were well integrated into the set pieces in their "back-up" numbers too – in Laura's "I'm in love with Sir!", for example, they sat along the front of the stage, swaying rhythmically and literally in a positive sense "upstaging" the principals behind them on the bus, who in their turn pointed as they sang to "her over there with the hair" They also exemplified the point already made in this review that older and younger pupils, novices to the boards and "old pros", were happy to join in side by side – the chorus ranged from four Sixth Formers to two second formers – or Year 8 as I must call it now. Their names all appear at the end of this article, together with all the indispensable and indefatigable "backroom persons".

Much mention has already been made of the splendid music, to which the "band of six" did full justice. Miss Day as Musical Director did a predictably good job. Both she and the two producers on the dramatic side, Mr Wise and Miss Derby, will always have a "picture in their mind" of a thoroughly professional, seamless, but above all joyful three memorable evenings of utter enchantment. To paraphrase two lines from the final chorus:

"Thanks, folks, we had a lovely day,
Thanks Mr Wise, Miss Derby and Miss Day"

G.J. Turner

Chorus

Shelley Turnberg
Kristie Tierney
Amy Diaczuk
Miriam Mkumbwa
Shola Fajumi
Nkiruka Lazz-Onyenobi
Alexis Dickson
Jenny Porter
Carolyn Hegg
Cornelia Bremer
Mariam Al-Bayati
Nina Kojidi
Catherine Opara

Backstage

Make Up: Dr. Keable
Ms. Tandon
Christie Okpe
Sara Sadeghi
Bhavini Vara
Marshsa Beagul

Lights: Rupert Wakefield
Sound: Patrick Clerc
Backstage: Mr. Greenall
Prompt: Nicola Endlar

Tickets & Refreshments

SYGMA

BAND Drums – Dave Alexander, Guitar – Chas Coghill, Bass Guitar – Dan Coghill, Keyboard – Ed Barnwell, Saxophone – Andy Wilson, Piano/MD – Cath Day

Photographer Mr Thomson

Programme Design Miss Day

Additional Art Work Louise Goodwin, Mr Bennett & Miss Boothroyd

HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION 1999

This year I would like to begin by recording my admiration for, and appreciation of, the tremendous commitment and sheer hard work which make the House Play Festival an annual pleasure. The Heads of House and their assistants, the staff who provide technical and backstage support, the sound and lighting technicians, Mr Turner who orchestrates the event – all give up hours of their time. So too do the actors and directors who then give enjoyable performances and share the uniquely rewarding experience that is being part of a play.

In 1999 the standard was high; the adjudication process was lengthy, and ultimately agonised. Truly, all were winners and each play brought pleasure to the audiences. For the first time since I began as adjudicator I arrived at William Hulme's Grammar School on the Monday morning still unsure of my decision, such was the closeness of the competition.

All who took part deserve congratulation, and none more than Rupert Wakefield and Patrick Clerc, who provided lighting and sound effects expertly for all six houses. By the narrowest of margins I placed

DALTON	1ST
HEYWOOD	2ND
GASKELL	3RD

Equally close were the runners-up for the best individual performance awards. Many fine contributions are acknowledged in the specific house reports. The winners were:

Best Actress	:	Natasha Juma
Best Actor	:	Graeme Laycock

BYROM HOUSE

The entertaining comedy of the first night was completed by Byrom's production of "Gosforth's Fête." A typical Alan Ayckbourn farce, this play made all the stringent demands on cast and crew inevitably entailed by the genre. There were some very funny moments in this performance but the comic momentum was not quite consistently achieved.



Julia Atherton and Caroline Bell showed flair in their casting. Robert Watson looked and sounded terrific as the eponymous hero. He had an enormous amount to do, as well as much to say, and coped admirably with all the requirements of the role. The supporting cast had many strengths. Nazanin Sadeghi brought a strong stage presence to the part of guest of honour, Mrs Pearce.

The lengthy speech with which she opened the ill-fated fête was a masterpiece of comic business, brilliantly realised. Equally memorable was Chloe Duckworth's rendition of the hapless Milly Carter. She captured the archetypal image of the well-meaning parishioner brilliantly, her hand-wringing and air of fluster were just right.

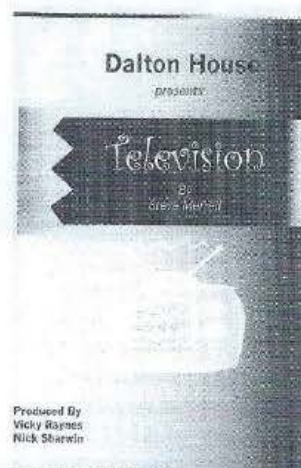
A tremendous talent for the future emerged in Josh Duckworth. He was hilarious in the role of the vicar; merely had to appear to evoke a warm audience response. Hopefully Josh will be even more confident in his next house play, and allow the audience time to respond before delivering his next lines. His intonation, stance and demeanour were all brilliantly judged. Finally James Kerr as Stewart was no less memorable. His broad Scots accent, his convincing inebriation and terrifying truculence, brought out the full comic potential of the part.

Although the lines were insecure at times, the audience were well entertained by the convolutions and confusions of the plot. Characterisation and special effects were excellent and the innovations made to the script were clever. In particular, the new epilogue was a great success. The audience had again enjoyed a treat.

DALTON HOUSE

Conscious that Dalton House have won more than their fair share of House Play Competitions in recent years, I was relieved when I read the script the producers had chosen of 1999.

"Television" on paper, struck me as an intriguing script, but I judged it almost certain to be over-ambitious for this occasion. The challenges it presented seemed insurmountable. The cast was huge; the technical demands, considerable; the characterisation, subtle; the set multi-purpose and complex. In my preconception that all this would be beyond the scope of the Dalton team, I could not have been more wrong. The quality of their achievement deserves the highest praise.



The producers, Vicky Raynes and Nick Sharwin, brought flair, ingenuity and inspiration to their task. The problems of staging were overcome with what looked like effortless ease. The play is utterly reliant on two strong female roles: Christina, the heroine, and her alter-ego, Chrissie. Natasha Juma and Georgina Laird achieved a professionalism which was remarkable in these two parts. Every detail of their dress, manner, movement and delivery had been carefully considered and was superbly executed. Natasha showed tremendous commitment and never faltered in her performance: she brought sensitivity and maturity to her interpretation of the lead role. There were so many fine

performances in "Television" that it seems invidious to comment on some at the expense of others. However I would like to risk a few richly deserved plaudits. Natalie Ofoche was outstandingly funny as Dawson, as was Farrah Chandia as the Head. The assembly rap was rehearsed to perfection. Karina Cordner, Alick Hyde and Laura Berrisford were excellent as Christine's family; Laura handled the play's breathtaking change of mood superbly. Anthony Edwards and James Veitch gained the biggest laughter award as Sprocket and Pubs. As Shortman, Matthew Ahern was brilliant.

Skilful use was made of mimes, of tableaux, of freezes, of mimicry. The changes of pace and tone were fully realised. This play moved the audience to both laughter and tears.

Each of the twenty plus Dalton students who took part seemed well cast, well directed and performed with confidence. Too numerous to mention individually, the Dalton players should take great pride in their involvement in a truly memorable and unusual production.

FRASER HOUSE



Jennie Porter and Richard Lee showed flair and imagination in their skilful direction of Fraser's well chosen play "The Colour of the Wind".

From the highly effective opening tableau to the stylish conclusion this was cleverly staged and movement was well executed. Expert use was made of the multiple set ensuring no delays and maintaining as brisk comic pace throughout.

The script demanded a strong performance from the central character, George, and Vicky Bramwell rose admirably to the challenge. Convincingly male in voice, gesture and body language she gave an impressive and well-sustained performance, using ad lib dialogue to good effect at times.

Paul Stonehouse and Jaya Jairaith captured the parental stereotypes brilliantly and Jaya made splendid use of gesture both as mother and later as the archetypal office-worker. Kessr Ali revealed an instinct for comic timing in his rendition of the narrow-minded careers master and the incorrigibly ignorant Mr Mawson. Gurpreet Singh was truly memorable as the sarcastic salesman, Mr Wilkins. His performance was both powerful and animated. Alexis Dickson made an immediate impact, not least through her inspired choice of shoes, but also through her confident, clear delivery. She stole the show as the housewife in the finale.

Moyo Adunola delightfully captured the cameo role of Mrs Spagwort and Youssr Issa was suitably articulate as the announcer.

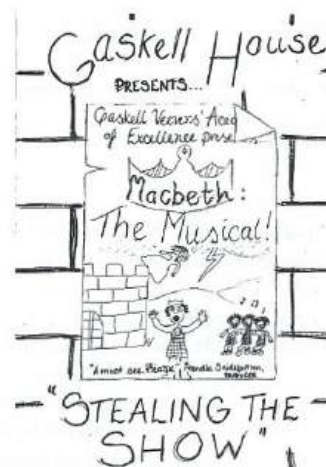
Doubling of all the roles except for the protagonist was effective here and stretched the initiative of cast and producers.

The climax of the play, when George's vision of a world with poetry involved in every part of national life, offers a wonderful theatrical opportunity - one which Fraser's cast could have exploited even more than they did. Nonetheless the warmth of the audience's applause and the laughter provoked by this production made it memorable and delightful.

GASKELL HOUSE

The 1999 Gaskell Play offered much to applaud. It involved a large cast, of both genders and all ages. Its subject matter was instantly appealing. Above all, the producer specially wrote it for the occasion, with help from her friends. Laurie-May Edwards deserves heartfelt congratulations on the fine quality of her script, on the expert nature of her direction, and on her superb acting.

Vicky Lane, Laurie's co-producer, began proceedings with a witty, characterful introduction. Immediately our attention was gripped by Steve, played by Daniel Goodkin, revealing his skill as a juggler. Laurie-May and Rebekah Lawson then took to the stage as Miss Prunella and Miss Veronica. These two belonged to the well-established line of comedy duos. As a pair, they spoke; as a pair, they drank simultaneous cups of tea; and, as a pair, they complemented each other superbly. Rebekah occasionally lacked volume and clarity, but in all other respects, this double-act was superb. Full marks for courage to Andrew McLeod and Darren Loofe (aka Andrea and Daris); their outrageous camp comedy was greatly enjoyed.



The various school room scenes were marked by the full involvement and confidence of everyone on stage. All performed at all times, not just when speaking, and a host of lively caricatured pupils enlivened the background. Gaskell seem to specialise in revealing character through the wearing of school uniform. Sunita Boodhoo did well as Mrs Dandy as did Victoria Lane as Mr Badcrumble. Victoria's apoplectic rage was a definite high point.

Among the contenders for best actress was Anna Robertson who was outstanding as Miss Lewinski. Faye Todd gave a superb cameo performance as Ursula, using her feather boa to stunning effect.

Philip Robinson was not completely at ease as Laurence, but grew into the part. Elli Metcalfe was great as Barbie and convincingly, hilariously miscast as Lady Macbeth, Owen Edwards provoked a strong audience response as Robert, "second understudy to Macbeth" and his fellow understudy,

Nicola Endlar as Julia, was equally well captured. They were clearly a Shakespearian R & J, made for each other.

As the panic of the producers (Miss Prunella and Miss Veronica) grew, the audience could sympathise through their laughter. Every one of the cast contributed to the undoubted success of this performance. I particularly enjoyed Shelly Turnberg's excellent Sheila. Tremendous talent was in abundant evidence in this home-grown show. In a less good year, Gaskell would have won outright!

HEYWOOD HOUSE

"Talk of the Devil" by John Waterhouse proved an inspired choice on the part of Heywood's directors, Emma Cruickshank and Danielle Baker. This was a production with a small, talented cast, a witty script, and strong characters. The length and staging made the piece manageable – all proved an ideal recipe for this competition.



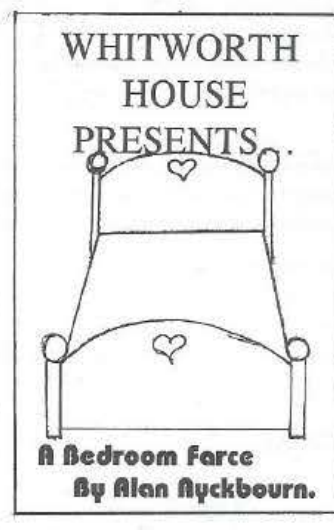
From the fluent, audible introduction onwards, Heywood were impressive. The opening tableau established the characters firmly and effectively. The curmudgeonly Harold was performed with relish by Graeme Laycock who sustained this demanding role admirably throughout. He was complemented by an excellent performance from Leanne Davidson as his wife, Edith. The principal focus of Harold's discontent, and butt of his barbed humour, was his mother-in-law, played by Vanessa Bacchas. Playing an old person is always demanding, perhaps voice and body language needed to emphasise age more here, but the lines were delivered on cue and raised many laughs.

From the moment he appeared in his appropriately flamboyant costume, Asmar Chaudhry was tremendous as the devil. The contrast between Harold's expressive, choleric style and the devil's laconic wit was richly entertaining and well conveyed by both actors. The final member of the cast was Alexis Oxberry who played Sister Mary O'Farrell. She had some fabulous lines, all delivered with clarity and impeccable timing. All that was lacking was the Irish accent, surely demanded by the name and the script, "so it was, to be sure" to make this a perfect performance.

The backstage team, clearly contributed to the stylish staging of this production. Props and special effects were skilfully used throughout. The directors showed a sophisticated awareness in their choreography of the cast. Everyone was in the right place at the right time and the set-pieces, such as the devil's dance, were well realised. Above all, "Talk of the Devil" was fun and

delighted its audience, surely the main aim of any stage performance.

WHITWORTH HOUSE



The tried and tested House Play favourite "Bedroom Farce", again by Alan Ayckbourn, was Whitworth's choice for 1999. The script is clever; the plot is well-crafted and the characters strongly delineated: but this play takes its toll even on professional performers. Much of the humour derives from repetition; many of the lines recur with small but vital changes: these are minefields for the actors.

Many of the hazards were skilfully negotiated by the Whitworth cast. As Ernest and Delia, Iain Gage and Miriam Mkumbwa set the production off to a good start. They were convincingly middle-aged and Ernest, especially, had cultivated a wonderful stance and walk. The casting was excellent on the part of Peju Pearce and Miriam Mkumbwa who combined large parts with the direction of this complex piece.

The best entrance on stage in the entire competition was made by Peju Pearce, who made a stunning Jan. The incapacitated Nick is arguably the most difficult of parts in this play; Jeff Wu was consistently sure of lines and cues, if a little understated in delivery.

Costumes were imaginative and appropriate for every character; and music was used effectively throughout. The two remaining couples were played by Will Kent and Jemma Cohen, Matthew Booth and Kristie Tierney. All showed their talents and coped well with the unexpected hazards of live performance. Kristie's assault on Matthew with the lamp, which stubbornly remained attached to its socket, was hilarious.

The directors had edited the lengthy script intelligently but many more lines were lost through uncertainty on the night, making the plot rather confused at times. Jemma made a pert and funny Kate, and helped bring the play to a successful climax.

The cast had clearly worked hard and their efforts were rewarded with a warm audience response.

Miss M. Green, Withington Girls' School.



Manchester Cathedral Concert Miss C.S. Day in full flow with a section of the choir

Photo courtesy of the Manchester Evening News

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

An Overview

It has been yet another busy year for the Music Department with many successful events taking place. Most of those events are reviewed separately but I would like to mention a couple which for me stood out as being special.

In December we were invited by the Manchester Evening News to provide the music for their annual Christmas Carols at Manchester Cathedral. This was a fairly daunting task as this concert is always sold out and of course we would be performing to people who had little or no connection with the School. Although there were a couple of logistical problems to overcome on the night the Band and Choir performed magnificently under a lot of pressure and gave a concert that was enjoyed by all, so much so that we will be returning to the Cathedral this Christmas.

Another highlight for me was the visit of the Adelphi Saxophone Quartet. This is a really talented group that continues to improve and impress with not only their technical prowess but their imaginative programming. One of its members is Andrew Wilson, well known in the School for his teaching and direction of the Jazz Band, and the concert featured several of his arrangements and an original composition proving yet again what an accomplished musician he is. One criticism though: where were all the clarinet and saxophone pupils? I found it quite embarrassing that the other members of the group, who all teach in local schools, had their pupils present and that we as hosts had none, especially after offering free admission to our own pupils!

Another project that met with a lot of success involved our Fourth Year music group and in particular Rebecca Goodwin and Anna Rogers. Earlier this year a national scheme was launched for school children to compose a 'Song for the Millennium'. Rebecca and Anna wrote a song called 'Let's make a Difference' which we duly recorded and entered, and much to everyone's delight out of 7,000 entries won through to the next stage. Their prize for this achievement was to spend two days working with a professional song-writer who gave them advice on how to improve their song in terms of lyrics, shape etc, culminating in a re-recording of the new song. This was a valuable experience if for no other reason it showed everyone just how hard it is to achieve a good quality recording that really does justice to the material. The new version is now being adjudicated and if successful will be available on a commercial CD, with the eventual winners being asked to perform at a special concert at the Millennium Dome – fingers crossed!

We have many plans for next year, not least a spectacular Band Tour – hopefully to Canada – numbers and finance permitting, which should be a memorable event for all concerned. I would like to think that this would also be an incentive to many people to take up a musical instrument to help sustain the success of ensembles within the School.

Finally I would like to offer my thanks to all Members of Staff for their support, expertise and time and making these events happen and in particular to Cath Day whose musical skills and good humour (nearly always!) have proved invaluable to me this year.

P.W. Goodwin

Christmas 1998

In addition to our two church Carol Services (St Werburgh's and St Ann's) and the more secular Christmas Celebration in School, there was an extra fixture this year. The Concert Band, Choir and Choral Society were the performers in this year's Manchester Evening News "Concert of Carols and Festive Music" on Friday 4th December in Manchester Cathedral and played to a capacity congregation. In the "Christmas Celebration" at School ten days later, Mr Goodwin's Concert Band gave three items, including the perennial "Ski Sunday" which is top of everyone's WHGS Band "charts!" Mr Wilson's Saxophone Group played both here and at St Ann's (here the secular "Jazzy Jingle Bells" then Mr Goodwin's arrangement of "Away in a Manger"), and his Jazz Band delighted us at School with a varied programme. The Trumpet group's rendition of Grieg's arrangement of Mozart's "Ave verum corpus" at St Ann's was a joy to everyone except the ghost of Mozart, who hated the trumpet and must have been spinning like a top! Soloists at the School "Celebration" were Rebecca Goodwin (cornet), Johanna Leung (piano duet with Mr Martin) and Kati Greenall (tenor sax). In short, instrumental music still lived up to its justified reputation for excellence this Christmas, a joy to hear and a credit to all involved.

The choir too at all three venues showed real sparkle and sensitivity in Miss Day's No 1 favourite "Quelle est cette odeur agreable?" with Mr Hofton's lovely solo in the last verse as well as in the "Nativity Carol" by the ubiquitous John Rutter and the now regular "Stille Nacht" in German. As always, readings in a variety of registers punctuated the proceedings.

In the School "Celebration", audience, choir, band and recorder group combined in a medley of seven lively topical numbers, a reminder (if one were needed) that music is for all!

G.J. Turner.

Spring Term Concert

On Monday 15th March this year's Spring Term Concert marked a departure from previous years. There was so much for instrumental groups and soloists, as well as Miss Day's Choir, to display, that there were no longer any massed First Year (Year 7), but instead fourteen items (20 if you break down the multiple sequences) ranging from J S Bach to Elton John.

The choir did an encore of its Founder's day Anthem, Sibelius' Finlandia Chorale, "Be still my soul" as well as the delightful song "Flying Free", used in the TV film of Paul Gallico's "The Snow Goose" about the Dunkirk evacuation of 1940, and featuring throughout a beautiful flute solo obligato, played with accomplished charm and fluency by Sally Suliman.



Sally Suliman rehearses her solo flute obligato to accompany the Choir in "Flying Free" photo G.J. Turner

But the Choir's most enterprising item was a "home-produced" item, "Let's make a difference", composed by our own Rebecca Goodwin and Anna Rogers, as their entry for the "Song for the Millennium" competition. (Out of 7,000 entries they later won through to the next round. Part of their prize was to have two sessions with a professional song-writer and the "new version" of the song has been re-submitted as part of a regional final).

Mr Goodwin's Concert Band, the jewel in the crown of WHGS music, performed five items – "The 'A' Team", a Holst Chaconne, an arrangement by Moss of guitar music by John Williams, and two of Mr Goodwin's own arrangements – Rodrigo's ever popular guitar concerto, and Elton John's "Don't let the sun go down on me". Soloists were Sara Sadeghi (Clarinet), Johanna Leung (piano duet with Mr Martin), Julia Atherton and Anna Rogers (flute duet), Dan Coghill (French Horn), Kati Greenall (saxophone) and Mika Tong (organ). Mr Wilson's Jazz Band gave us five "trendy" (i.e. post 1960) numbers, the Clarinet Group soothed us with Handel's Largo and Mrs Quayle's Brass Group transported us to Latin America.

A versatile and enriching evening all round.

G.J. Turner.

Adelphi Saxophone Quartet

The second of our celebrity recitals featured this highly talented group who rehearse regularly in school. Since their formation in 1990 while all of the members were studying at the Royal Northern College of Music they have established themselves as one of Britain's finest young chamber ensembles. They have achieved some notable successes including a major award from the John Tunnell Trust, performers in the Park Lane Group Young Artists Series and finalists in the Royal Overseas League Competition.

They have broadcast live on Radio 3, Classic FM and Granada Television and have given performances at many prestigious venues such as The Barbican Centre, St Martin in the fields and London's Purcell Room. Their debut CD was released earlier this year to much critical acclaim.

With this background the large audience was expecting an evening of quality music-making – they were not disappointed. The ensemble is committed to providing varied and exciting performances and the programme they had chosen certainly reflected this aim, with just the right blend of original composition, effective arrangements and well-known tunes.

Right from the first note of Andrew Wilson's arrangement of Vivaldi's Concerto Grosso we knew this was an ensemble of much ability, fine balance and technical assurance displayed by all players. Each item was introduced by a different member of the quartet which again gave good variation and also an insight to each composition. Whilst the first half of the concert was supposedly the more 'serious' there was much to enjoy especially the evocative 'Histoire du Tango' by Astor Piazzolla taking us from a Bordello in 1900 to a Café in 1930 onto a Nightclub in 1960 and finally Concert D'aujourd'hui.

The second half featured some other original compositions including 'Toccata, Serenade and Episodes' by Andrew Wilson, 'Nuages' by Eugene Bozza and a 'Robert Burns Suite' by Paul Harvey. The final items were possibly the most popular if only for the fact that the tunes were familiar to all – 'Autumn Leaves' and Gershwin's 'I Got Rhythm' (with the Fascinating Rhythm cleverly interwoven) providing a thrilling finale.

A most enjoyable evening of first-class music making which

displayed the versatility of this combination of instruments and left many people demanding a return visit by this extremely accomplished ensemble.

P W Goodwin

Summer Concert

This annual concert took place on Tuesday 6th July and following a now tried and tested format featured a performance by the William Hulme's Grammar Schools Choral Society (incorporating the School Choir) in the first half and a 'Last Night of the Proms' programme to conclude the evening.

The music chosen for the Choral Society was a selection from Leonard Bernstein's 'West Side Story'. I have to say that this is my personal favourite musical featuring some of the best songs ever written, the fact that they were written almost fifty years ago and are still popular today testimony enough to their quality.

Although popular the music is also extremely difficult to perform with its complex rhythms, wide ranging intervals and some very exposed lines (ask the tenors and basses about Maria!) but the choir coped tremendously well to give a really committed performance. Much credit too for Cath Day who managed somehow to play the orchestral reduction on piano, Dave Alexander for his incisive yet sympathetic percussion and to Will Smith for his excellent narration.

I thoroughly enjoy working with the Choral Society and there is an open invitation to anyone who fancies coming along for a social sing.

The second half of the concert started with the Jazz Band directed by Andrew Wilson who gave us four bright and breezy items 'Killer Joe', 'Breezin'', 'Spinning Wheel' and 'At the Hop'. We also had a very polished performance by Dan Coghill of Nealing's 'bagatelle for French Horn'. This was Dan's last school concert and he will be sorely missed, although I hope he will return like many other former pupils did on the night to help out at future concerts. Talking of the future a little bit of history was made in that Gavin Wiseman from the Prep Department became the first pupil to play with the Senior Band – let us hope that he is the first of many.

The remainder of the concert was given over to popular items that the audience could join in with – which they did – and my thanks to the two 'waiters' who provided me with table, chair, wine etc during the clarinet cadenza (sic: a display of rococo or instrumental virtuosity – no comment!) performed by Andrew Wilson.

A most enjoyable night and it was nice to see the New Hall full.

P W Goodwin.

House Music Festival

The annual House Music Festival took place on Monday, 19th October and was adjudicated by Mr Tobi Edwards, until recently the School's singing teacher.

Overall the standard was very good with some fine individual performances gaining certificates of commendation from Mr Edwards. Some of the Houses opted for a 'theme' programme ranging from Fraser's 'Top of the Pops', Heywood's Beatles, Les Miserables from Dalton and a journey around the world from Gaskell. Generally this worked well although certain items appeared to have been included to fit the programme rather than their musical value, leading to an uneven level of performance. It was also unfortunate that due to illness some programmes had to be cut short and it might be worth Houses trying to have a 'back-up' item to cover such problems.

There were fewer 'technical' hitches this year which showed that performers had taken the advice given in previous festivals and this created a much more polished event that was enjoyed

by the very well behaved and attentive audience.

The results were as follows:

1st	Gaskell	93
2nd	Whitworth	92
3rd	Heywood	89
joint 4th	Byrom, Fraser, Dalton	87
Best programme design	Whitworth	

P W Goodwin

ART EXHIBITION AT THE PORTICO GALLERY

On the 22nd October 1998, a small group of GCSE and A-Level artists enjoyed the chance to display a selection of their work in a school exhibition. The Portico Gallery, on Mosley Street in the city centre provided our school with an ideal opportunity to exhibit art work not only in a private viewing but to show off to the general public.



William Hulme's was one school among five others from within the region chosen to display an exhibition from the 1st to the 29th October. Our school produced a display of different media ranging from watercolour and acrylic paintings to oxidized and glazed ceramic pieces, still life textile compositions to more abstract print designs.

In a subject comprising mostly coursework seen only by teachers within the department, this exhibition gave pupils the opportunity to see real achievements from their efforts. With work professionally framed, mounted and priced, the Portico Gallery allowed us, artists, to see results of hard work. Selling our £400 of art work to the people we had never met before, we not only benefited from profits, we were able to see ourselves as accomplished artists rather than A-Level and GCSE students.

Our thanks go to Miss Boothroyd and Mr Bennett for involving William Hulme's in such an occasion, together with Mr Dunn for preparing and arranging an event which without them would not have been possible.

Involved: GCSE – Louise Goodwin, Vanessa Cohen, Laura Berrisford, Lex Seymour, Natalie Ofoche, Philip Robinson, Lina Mannon, Tom Hickman and Chris White. A-Level – Abigail Silver, Matthew Wyatt, Debbie Langer

Louise Goodwin (LAEW)

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COMBINED CADET FORCE

BIENNIAL REVIEW



Group Captain Utley, Reviewing Officer, accompanied by Flight Lieutenant Keable and the Head Master, meeting cadets on the Review circuit

This major MOD Inspection covers all aspects of administration, management and training in the Corps, and culminates in a Review Day held at School. Virtually every type of cadet training is represented on this very public occasion: abseiling and canoeing; drill (including an Honour Guard), campcraft, flight simulation, live firing (.22), PT and sport, lessons in First Aid, weapons and signals, several different styles of leadership and initiative exercise, an obstacle course, a demonstration by Army Section recruits of the Duties of a Sentry, and glider flying and flight analysis. Many of the events and demonstrations were planned and run by senior cadets, with guidance from the officers and from 26 Cadet Training Team from Manchester. The Reviewing Officer and other guests, including Governors and Old Hulmeians, were escorted round this complex circuit and were able to talk to the majority of cadets involved.



First Aid Demonstration

The Review reached its climax with a text-book demonstration of a Platoon Attack, witnessed by all our guests. The Reviewing Officer, Group Captain Roger Utley OBE BA RAF, was then invited to deliver an address to the Contingent, after which Cpl Jeffrey Wu RAF presented him with a WHGS CCF plaque. In his subsequent report, Group Captain Utley wrote of "the in feigned enthusiasm of the cadets and the ingenuity which the senior cadets brought to bear in making routine drills more fun. Cadets at all levels were confident and articulate and displayed an excellent understanding of what they were trying to achieve. WHGS CCF," he said, "is providing accessible, high quality and enjoyable training which will give its cadets a head start in meeting the challenges of adult life."



Duties of a Sentry Demo Section



ARMY SECTION

Senior Platoon Training

The Senior (Fifth Form) Platoon spent the Michaelmas Term attending the NCO's Methods of Instruction Cadre, designed to equip them with the skills needed in training younger cadets. They found the course difficult this year, especially when they were required to prepare and deliver a lecturette to the rest of the Platoon. The majority rose to the occasion and passed, however, and the following promotions were made by the Head Master at their Passing Out Parade in March:

TO LANCE CORPORAL	TO CORPORAL
Sunita Boodhoo	Laura Alexander-Williams*
Gemma Carolan	Helen Fisher*
Beth Coffey	Sam Higgins
Alexis Dickson	Alex Hogarth
Laura Hopkinson	Sam Hughes
Hannah Naylor	Alick Hyde
Shamikh Irshad	Alex Kizir
Alex Johnstone	Andrew Mcleod
APC tests not completed	James Meers*
(absence)	Will Shaw
Gemma Bookbinder	Paul Stonehouse
Ryan Horsley-Frost	Danny Wood

* =Distinction



Field Day in the Yorkshire Dales: several groups of senior cadets inadvertently meet up at a check-point (photo: Lt Col Fisher)

Full attendance on our overnight Field Day at Harris House enabled every cadet to pass the First Aid test and a few stragglers their overdue Map and Compass and Fieldcraft tests. The following morning cadets set off in small groups from Burtersett to complete the 10-mile route planned the night before. All succeeded without too much drama, and the SNCOs at their checkpoint high above Hawes had time to construct an impressive snow-cadet.

Many of these senior cadets are leaving the Corps after two years during which they have begun to develop several new skills, and we hope, had an enjoyable time as well. Had fewer of them shown an unusual reluctance to attend Camps they would certainly have derived even greater benefit from their short career as cadets. Those who have opted to stay on have much to look forward to!

Lt E L Matthews

Recruit/Junior Platoon Training



The Recruit Platoon with 2 Lt Collier, Capt C Tuckwell OC 26 CTT, and C/Sgt Pareen Trivedi, at Weeton Camp, March 1999 (photo: Capt M P Jones)

From the point of view of attendance, participation, commitment and enthusiasm this year's recruits were the mainstay of the Army Section. Their strength of thirty remained constant throughout, then increased as four more fourth-formers joined during the year.

The Michaelmas Field Day was split between a morning's Review preparation on the playing fields and an afternoon as guests of 26 Cadet Training Team in Manchester on a circuit of First Aid, .22 firing, drill and climbing on the indoor wall.

The platoon's main contribution to the Review itself was their accomplished demonstration of the Duties of a Sentry, a series of simple yet effective scenarios illustrating what to do and what not to do when on sentry duty. Recruits also took part in a signals "treasure hunt" to practise the use of radios, and completed a variety of command tasks.

In October the APC training of the platoon, now renamed the Junior Platoon, was interrupted for a fascinating lecture on Arctic Warfare in Scandinavia given by Capt Anders Rehnman of the Swedish Army, for whom the Corps was a focus of research into the cadet movement in the UK.

Weeton Camp, near Preston, was the venue for the second Field Day of the year, and the highlight of the day's training was the Small Arms Trainer (SAT), a state-of-the-art battlefield simulator which resembles a life-size video game with authentic battle scenarios. For this the cadets have to be proficient in the use of the cadet rifle, understand fire control orders, and apply the principles of marksmanship to shoot successfully. Since by this stage most had passed their Shooting and Safety Test they were able to make the most of the opportunity and enjoy the occasion.

Three months later the platoon was back at Weeton, in the company of the new intake of third form recruits, this time spending the night out after erecting bashes and concocting an evening meal from their ration-packs. Animals seemed to play a large part in this Field Day: Sgt Laurie-May Edwards discovered a pheasant nesting just where the girls were about to set up their camp - next to the fence separating a flourishing ostrich farm from the training area, which itself was alive with hares. After much detailed planning and preparation the platoon and their NCOs carried out an ambush on the willing new recruits. The regular officers stationed at the Camp were extremely impressed by the concentration of firepower the cadets achieved and revealed that questions had been asked that night to ascertain whether it was in fact our cadets who were exercising out on the area. This we took to be a compliment. After a hectic round of activities the following day and a lengthy wait for a replacement coach the Contingent returned to Manchester.

Involvement in Adventurous Training Camp, the CSAAM and North West Challenge, as well as a record number of Junior

cadets (20) on Central Camp in Cornwall, kept the platoon busy to the very end of this extremely successful year. The next training year begins with a Millennium charity event, the King's Challenge, followed by the King's Cup, then the platoon's Passing Out Parade.

Capt M P Jones

KING'S CUP

For the first time a fully integrated group of four girls and four boys entered the King's Cup Competition at Leek Training camp in October. After a tough weekend of military and physical activities our team came fifth, a placing that did not fully reflect the cadets' excellent performance, but more the secrecy surrounding the several different (and unfathomable) methods used for scoring each event. It was hard in the end not to be at the very least sceptical, but the scoring system will be standardised and published in advance next year so that everyone knows where they are as the competition progresses.

The extraordinary camaraderie within the team was reflected from the beginning by their decision to share the captaincy between Sgts Kim Hayden and Richard Fisher. Normally the competition is pervaded by a sense of grim satisfaction, but this year it was positively enjoyable. The WHGS CCF King's Cup Team, including subs, consisted of:



WHGS CCF King's Cup Team 1999 photo: Capt M P Jones

Sgts	Richard Fisher	L/Cpls	Paul Stonehouse
	Kim Hayden		James Meers
	Gurpartab Sathi		Will Shaw
Cpls	Laurie-May Edwards		Daniel Wood
	Kati Greenall		
	Sarah Baker		

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING CAMP, SNOWDONIA 26th March - 3rd April 1999

Two parallel expeditions this year tested organisation and logistics to the full, but a full recce of the routes earlier in March ensured that more than adequate adult cover would be available. The majority of cadets were subjected to the usual 3-day trek, starting at Capel Curig village and taking in a circuit of the Carnedd and Glyder Ranges. Meanwhile Lt Matthews and a group of six more experienced cadets spent two days in the Carneddau, where conditions were awful. They then met up with the rest briefly on their third day, and then took in all the major summits in the Glyders, returning by the long ridge walk to Capel Curig in the company of the OC. Both routes tested the cadets, as intended, but only one or two found things really hard going, and all completed their expeditions without mishap.

Weather always plays a part in this annual camp, and in 1999 we did lose a day's training when it was really wet and the cadets would have derived no benefit whatsoever from setting out. This provided us with the opportunity to do something different from adventurous training, so half a day was spent touring the Hydro-Electric installation in Llanberis, then an hour or two exploring Caenarvon.



On the Cantilever, [Glyder Fach] (photos: Lt Col Fisher)

With the expeditions over cadets then moved on to a round of other activities, starting with orienteering, then either a package of canoeing, dry skiing and the climbing wall at Plas y Brenin, the National Mountain Centre in Capel Curig, or a combination of mountain-biking and "real" rock-climbing.

All cadets orienteered more or less competitively this year, although some use the afternoon as a period of R & R to recover from the expedition. Flg Off Gracey ran the event and the results were as follows:

1st	Richard Fisher & Gurpartab Sathi	1016 points
2nd	Chris Lindley, David Purvis & Will Laird	995 points
3rd	James Wood & Will Tamkin (first recruits team)	957 points
4th	Paul Stonehouse & Chris Ogden-Smith	942 points
5th	Kati Greenall & Laura Alexander-Williams	915 points

Only the first three teams located all nineteen controls.

Rock climbing instruction was provided by Sgt White from 28 CTT, S/Sgt Pat Smith from our own 26 CTT, and our SSI, CSM Gary Wood. We were really pleased that Kim and Steph had made the effort to come and climb on their last Welsh Camp on their return from Holland.

On the final day five cadets and two officers walked the Snowdon Horseshoe, not always possible at Easter, but an outstanding and memorable day on this occasion.



Cpls David Purvis & Paul Stonehouse, and Cadets Jonathan Case & Chris Ogden-Smith, with the OC and Lt Matthews on Crib Goch (Snowdon Horseshoe)

(photo: Will Laird OH)

Visitors this year included Mr Veevers, Lauren, Tessa and Natalie, Stephen Flood and Will Laird, (Old Hulmeians, who played a full part in running the Expedition), Mrs Fisher, Mrs Brown and Helen, and the Head Master, who came towards the end of Camp to watch the activities at Plas y Brenin.

At the end of Camp C/Sgt Richard Fisher was promoted to CSM, and best recruits were adjudged to be Lucy Berger and Chris Ogden-Smith, with Camille Kasler, Jon Case and Robi D, strong runners-up!

It is a gratifying to be able to record the fact that relations within this very mixed group of thirty cadets, half of them fourth form recruits, were so harmonious that it was more than usually a pleasure to spend nine days of one's holiday in their company.

North West Cadet Skill At Arms Meeting



*C/Sgt Ed Barker and the CSAAM Teams,
Altcar Ranges, May 1999 (photo: Lt Col Fisher)*

Forty-two teams representing the nineteen NW School CCF contingents together with Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside ACFs assembled for a long weekend's shooting at the training camp at Altcar (near Formby). Our two teams, drawn from both Army and RAF Sections, produced good results, maintaining the School's position in the top half of NW Cadet units, and illustrating the steady improvement in shooting standards in recent years. More importantly, perhaps, at such a high-profile meeting, our cadets' weapon handling and safety skills were of a very high order, and gave the officers and Range Staff not a moment's concern.

Although Sedburgh, Stoneyhurst, Sandbach, Lancaster RGS, and Cumbria and Cheshire ACFs took all the main honours, our results are well worth recording:

(out of 42 teams)	Team A	Team B
Montgomery of Alamein:	21st	7th
Ensign Rifle:	24th	16th
Earl Roberts:	29th	18th
Marling:	26th	no time
Individual Placings Overall (out of 168 firers):		
Cpl James Meers	29th	
Sgt Chris Lindley	34th	
Cdt James Wood	54th	
C/Sgt Edward Barker	59th	
C/Sgt Pareen Trivedi	72nd	
Overall Team Positions:	A 24th	B 14th (out of 42)

Pareen Trivedi was 12th best female shot. Unfortunately our team selection, based largely on practices in our own 25m Range at School, proved wobbly, as is apparent from the scores for A and B. Had we combined our best four shots to make up the A Team, their results would have placed them 7th overall, a remarkable achievement for a non-shooting CCF.

The Head Master presented all team members (that is, all the above, plus Cpl Daniel Choudhury RAF, J/Cpl Alex Muir RAF, and Cds Mark Brighouse and Richard Wall) with an engraved shield to mark their participation, and James Meers received the Military Training Corps Trophy as best WHGS shot at the CSAAM.

Thanks to Cds Joe Gavagan, Laura-Jane Bulwich and Alexis Race who volunteered to work all weekend in the butts, and to Team Managers CSM Wood and particularly Lt Matthews for the many hours she put into training, preparing and inspiring the firers.

NORTH WEST CHALLENGE 1999

Moor House Farm, Warcop, Cumbria



The WHGS CCF NWC Team (l-r James Wood, Richard Fisher (capt), Gurpartab Sathi, Mark Brighouse and James Meers with Team Manager 2 Lt Collier) (photo: Lt Col Fisher)

This two and a half-day mountain navigation course, held over a forty-mile route in the Cumbrian fells, is designed to test cadets' prowess with map and compass of course, but just as importantly their expertise and judgement in the hills, their self-reliance and their teamwork. It is non-competitive in theory, but in practice teams are obviously keen to perform to their best, and this means being well organised when setting and breaking camp, getting off to an early start on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and reaching their destinations on both days as quickly as possible.

Our newly-promoted team arrived at the first night's campsite early in the afternoon, over two hours before the next senior team. The second day went well too, but the weather closed in during the morning and by early afternoon it was decided to curtail the final leg at the penultimate checkpoint; the four remaining senior teams were sent straight down off the fell, where the WHGS and Lancashire ACF teams were met by the WHGS minibus for the short run to Moor House Farm. After a short debrief the cadets were presented with certificates, medals, and a badge to be worn on their uniform by Brigadier Shapter, who told the team how impressed he was with WHGS CCF's consistently good performances in NWC. This was especially gratifying to hear this year, as the team had spent the previous week at Central Camp in Cornwall and had made the long, hot minibus journey to Warcop on the eve of the Challenge, so were understandably tired.



Cadets soaked, exhausted, but relieved at the end of the indescribable Jungle Lane (photo: Capt Simkin)

It was pleasing to see CSM Richard Fisher and C/Sgt Jeremy Arnold make the effort to come on their last Central Camp, especially when so many of their excellent platoon were unable to. Their presence was much appreciated. Most of all we were indebted to C/Sgt Sathi, the only U6th SNCO to come to Penhale for the entire week. This did, however, give the younger NCOs, Sgt Kati Greenall, and Cpls James Meers, Helen Fisher and Laura Alexander-Williams a chance to develop their leadership skills with our junior cadets and recruits.

The week's programme in brief:

DATE	ACTIVITY	EVENING
Sat 10 July	Depart WHGS 0930	Arrive Penhale 1745 Briefing
Sun 11 July	Military Skills: Jungle Lane, Ambush Drills, Observation exs, Survival	
Mon 12 July	Range Day: LSW Firing, Command Tasks, 24 hr Ex prep	Stalking exercise Orienteering Comp
Mon eve/Tues am	24 hr Exercise (bivouacs, patrolling, ambush)	
Tues 13 July	End 24 hr Ex	Bike ride/coastal walk
Weds 14 July	Adventurous Training: Canoeing; Sailing, Falmouth	March/Shoot Comp
Thurs 15 July	Physical Training Day: Orienteering, Command Tasks, and Assault Course Tg	Assault Cse Comp
Fri 16 July	Signals Training	Sports (hockey, soccer, basketball)
Sat 17 July	Depart Penhale 0930	Arrive WHGS 1715

The programme was imaginative and well-run and the cadets and officers alike learned a great deal from the week. In particular the Jungle Lane and the three competitive activities presented quite a challenge to the recruits especially. On Range Day we joined forces with Exeter School and our joint shooting was described as the best of all schools over the previous three weeks of Camp. C/Sgt Sathi, Cpl Meers, and Cadets Kotecha and McIntyre registered highest possible scores (58 pts) on the LSW shoot, and Cpl Alexander-Williams, Cadets Wall, Pankhania and Moosa, and Rcts Parkhouse and Weems RAF all scored above 50 points. A rather condensed 24 hour exercise gave all the cadets the experience of a night under the stars and reminded them of the disorientation semi-darkness causes. A free afternoon followed, and cadets chose either to walk or to cycle to Perranporth. Sailing was new to many, and was a big hit with everyone. The winning crew in the race was Rcts Omar Hylton and Tom Hamlyn.

Our relatively young, inexperienced party did not win any awards in the three evening competitions but performed superbly nonetheless. The March and Shoot Team maintained a sensible steady pace for the three mile "march", one of the few teams to keep together as a unit from start to finish. One cadet could not find the target in the shooting phase, though, and the ensuing penalty points pulled us back. Likewise the two Assault Course Teams, (Over and Under 16), were well-prepared and really "up for it", and their teamwork was excellent, like the support from the rest of the Contingent. Penalty points for minor infringements put them out of contention too, like so many other teams. The only team we beat in the Orienteering was Malvern, but the majority of the WHGS cadets were out on the training area on the 24 hr Exercise at the time and so we had to enter something of a scratch team.



The March and Shoot Team momentarily losing their shape during a water "stop" (photo: Lt Col Fisher)

Many thanks to our adult helpers Flg Off Gracey RAF, Capt Grange and Mr Loveland who all rolled their sleeves up and made a great contribution to the cadets' training.

The following promotions were made at the Camp Debrief:

to RSM	Richard Fisher
to CSM	Gurpartab Sathi
to C/Sgt	Kati Greenall
to Sgt	Laura Alexander-Williams, Helen Fisher and James Meers
to Cpl	David Purvis
to L/Cpl	Matthew Booth, Mark Brighthouse, Jonathan Case, Camille Kasler, Andrew McIntyre, Chris Ogden-Smith, Richard Wall and James Wood.

Further promotions will be made during the Michaelmas Term.

Best Recruit on Camp was a difficult decision, since the recruits as a platoon found it hard to adapt to the regime of the CCF in terms of uniform, drill or timekeeping (and in some instances, behaviour), and this made life unnecessarily difficult for their NCOs, something we have not found to be a particular problem in the past. Ceegay Verley impressed, however, but amongst the boys it was difficult to single out one who made a consistent effort at all these aspects. Happily they all adopted a positive, energetic approach to training, however, but that is not everything when you are living in close proximity to others (and other Schools, of course) and according to a very specific set of standards. Cadets have to accept the singular (and very effective) way that the military has of doing things, otherwise everyone's life becomes unnecessarily fraught. We remain hopeful and optimistic for this energetic group of new recruits.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed our first SSI for over twenty years, CSM Gary Wood, who brings to the Corps a great deal of experience as a former serving soldier (1 RRF) and as a County Training Instructor with GMACF; Sgt Graeme Laycock RAF has won a coveted RAF Flying Scholarship, and Cpl Daniel Choudhury RAF has passed his Basic Glider Course;

Over half the Third Form have joined the Corps this year and many have been on Field Day and Summer Camp already; Sgt James Meers has been selected for the Army's Leadership Development (Outward Bound) Course at JSMTTC Wales in July;

Cpls Andrew Pickford and James Kerr RAF attended the Royal Navy First Aid Course at HMS Excellent, Portsmouth, in July;

Lt Matthews successfully completed the Advanced CCF Officers Course in October and the Basic Kayak Inland Course at the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre in May; she has been selected as one of two officers to accompany a party of British cadets who are spending the summer training in the Yukon, Canada, and we look forward to reading her report of this unique experience in next year's Hulmeian. In September, she takes command of the Army Section of the Corps;

Miss Collier attended her initial qualifying course at Frimley Park in August; The Army Section Stores were efficiently run this year by Sgts Kati Greenall, Laurie-May Edwards and Chris White.

The Corps has been invited by the King's Regiment to enter a team of cadets in a sponsored charity event which will form part of the Regiment's Millennium charity project, the King's Challenge. It will involve travelling from Castlefield in central Manchester to Weeton Camp in Lancashire, the Regiment's present home, by canoe and mountain bike.

Lt Col D M Fisher Contingent Commander



CCF RAF SECTION

The variety of the Section's activities has this year been as great as ever, ranging from orienteering on Beacon Fell during the September Field Day to, for a lucky few, instruction in gliding. Several cadets gained their first experience of gliding this year. They included Cadet Heather Seddon, who described her experiences as follows:

"On Saturday 24th April four cadets visited RAF Sealand in Wales to take a Gliding Induction Course. We were taught how to launch the Viking glider and how all the equipment worked before we went up. Eventually though we got the chance to go up ourselves. We each got five launches, which lasted about three to five minutes. We were pulled along the ground just six inches above the grass and at a speed which increased terrifyingly quickly before we soared steeply into the sky. As we sat in the silent cockpit we could see for miles around. At the end of the course we each received a certificate saying we had passed the course.

Finally we had to tidy everything up and leave everything spotless, even the aircraft. But this did not spoil an unforgettable day. The weather had been wonderful and the gliding had been a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Greater opportunities are available to more senior cadets. Sergeant Daniel Choudhury, after a week's course, flew solo and gained his basic glider training qualification.

The March Field Day was spent at Hardraw. Corporal James Kerr found his map-reading abilities, as well as his leg-muscles, stretched by the walk he did on the Saturday.

"After one too many long hours either cramped on the minibus or hanging around the School or at the world's smallest and most under-supplied service station, the minibus finally turned off the narrow, winding Yorkshire roads into the forecourt of Harris House. Our group of exhausted cadets could now at last unload the bus and unpack, ready for a long night of either playing pool on the fashionably slanted and bent undersized pool table, playing cards with the quick-handed Dr Keable or Mr Gracey or simply relaxing with the hard-working farmers in the local watering-hole.

After a long evening we were woken (too) early and prepared ourselves to stomach one of Mr Addison's superbly greasy English breakfasts, before being evenly divided into two groups. Once we got going on the walk, which was the pretext for the weekend, the groups quickly changed when members of one group began to tire. This left Rob Thomson, Graham Laycock and Rick Lee walking into the distance while myself, Rob Greenhalgh, Dan Choudhury, Alex Muir and Waqar Ahmed trailing in the slower-paced group. It was at this point that our group decided that it was time to take a short cut. This decision sadly led to our group quickly finding itself really lost, and left us little choice but to start the risky and occasionally painful process of jumping walls and climbing barbed-wire fences.

Things could only get worse for our elite group of cadets as we stumbled through yet another field unable to locate the footpath which we had earlier been successfully following. On reaching the bottom of this field, we were met by possibly the scariest farmer's wife ever, who informed us in no uncertain terms that she would "get us" if we had damaged her fences. Even though we knew we had not damaged her fences, we still decided that, after being threatened by so formidable a farmer's wife with a mighty big spade, it would be good idea to walk away quickly, very quickly indeed, a policy which served us well when we reached the footpath we were attempting to follow.

However, it seemed that nothing would go our way, for, when we reached the river, we found the few stepping-stones submerged

under a veritable torrent of water after the excessive rain of the past month. Deciding not to risk the water, we took another route, which once again led us into awkward territory, with so much barbed wire that we were lucky that there were no severe injuries.

By the time we arrived back at Harris House, we had learnt an important lesson: short cuts pay. We had beaten the other group back by over an hour. Once again we settled in, this time to tend the cuts and bruises of the day's walk. A few of us did venture out later that evening for a game of football but found quick movements difficult, and just to show the lack of fitness of the youth of today took forty five minutes to walk the mile back from the football pitch to Harris House.

We set off early the next day, which gave us plenty of time to reflect on the laughs on the previous day's walk as we travelled home."

It has been difficult to fit in the chance to go flying this year. We hope that things will improve next year, but the cadets who visited Sandiway Scout Camp for the Summer Term Field Day certainly enjoyed themselves, according to the account of Corporal Andrew Pickford.

"The termly Field Days are looked forward to and greatly enjoyed by everyone involved. The visit to Sandiway Forest Scout Camp proved to be no exception, even though it generally meant everybody getting very cold, very wet and very muddy. Although the day of our visit was warm and dry, all these criteria were fulfilled. Those who have been here before know what is in store. Those cadets for whom this is a new experience are told that a full change of clothes really does mean what it says, a FULL change of clothes and that today a towel is going to be your best friend.

After a fairly trouble-free journey we finally arrived at Sandiway, where the driver attempted to fit an 8-foot-wide coach down a 7-foot-wide road. We unloaded and assembled in the main carpark, where we were split into four groups of mixed ability. Every group throughout the day would take part in raft-building and various leadership exercises, each cunningly designed to test body and mind. The day's activities started and we were thrown in at the deep end – quite literally, as we started with raft-building. The aim is to construct something that, you hope, will float across the lake, from three barrels, 4 long logs, short logs and various lengths of rope. Most groups consisted of a majority of inexperienced cadets with the odd elite corporal or sergeant, who were advanced in many areas of Maths, Physics and Design. After half-an-hour of careful planning and discussion of construction techniques we began to realise that a vessel resembling the Titanic would, in the light of the time and resources available, be inappropriate. We were now running short of time and set about tying bits of wood together as best we could. Time was up and we began to launch the raft into the water. Realising that half of the components of the raft had remained on the side of the lake and that the rest had floated off into the middle, we decided to take the much quicker and safer option and swim across. Upon reaching the other side, we found that the other group had joined us and were swimming the other way, dragging their tangled mess of rope and wood behind them.

The excitement died down, all the equipment was collected and we were left with 20 very cold and wet, yet cheerful people. It was here that the towel and change of clothes came in. Remembering to bring these and the building of the rafts are valuable learning experiences. The raft-construction is a process of trial and error, in which practice makes perfect, but, as long as we have been coming here, I have never yet seen perfection.

The afternoon was spent confronting a series of leadership exercises, where a group is placed in a certain situation with a problem, which they have to solve, against the clock, using the

available resources. The aim is to improve teamwork and practical skills when people are put under pressure. We completed three in total, including making a shelter from a parachute and taking cargo over an assault course in complete silence. Once the mental decisions are made they must be implemented with swift co-operation and participation by all members of the team. A combination of balance and co-ordination are often required. Once tasks have been completed, the group is assessed and the good and bad points discussed. Leadership exercises are designed to encourage teamwork, which was the main purpose of the whole day's activities. The members of the teams learnt to co-operate and communicate, which are essential in all areas of life, while still having a great time. As we took the coach back to School and attempted to wash our very muddy and wet clothing, we looked back on a very worthwhile and enjoyable day."

The regular summer and easter camps remain popular. Indeed the financial cutbacks suffered by the Armed Forces have reduced the places available. Still a group of cadets enjoyed a visit to Leuchars in Scotland at Easter; and Cadet Richard Colebrook experienced his first camp at St Athan in South Wales.

"RAF St Athan is the first camp I have been to since joining CCF. On Saturday 10th July we left Piccadilly Station at the unearthly hour of 8.30 am and arrived in Cardiff about 12.30. Although Wales is renowned for its unpronounceable station names, bad weather and sheep, it turned out to be blindingly sunny for the first four days. This resulted in some nasty sunburn through lack of sunscreen. When we got to the base, we were assigned to one of four flights and a dormitory. After a fire-and-safety briefing we had the rest of the day to do as we pleased until lights-out at 10.30 pm.

After getting up at 6.30 am we had breakfast and drill practice (which was all too frequent for the rest of the week!). After this we went off to do a navigation exercise, which involved going to a point on a map and finding the answers to some questions relating to this point. After tea we had a friendly game of football ("friendly" in that you did not receive points for winning it, as was usual for camp events). On the Monday we visited different work sections around the base, such as Tornados, Harriers, Police and Fire Sections. In the evening we had a choice of bowling or going to the cinema and all but three chose bowling as "Jack Frost" was playing at the cinema. The next day we did Work Experience with one of the different work sections. I ended up working on Harriers. In total we did work experience on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and on the whole it really was enjoyable. On Tuesday night we had the choice of playing rounders or volleyball, as an interflight competition. On the Thursday we went to Quasar and a theme park and then back to base for go-karting.

On the final "working" day, we were set to go flying and drove down to Bath. Half of us went round the town in the morning and half of us would go flying and we would swap round after lunch. I went into Bath in the morning and went to Quasar again but when we came to swap round, it turned out that no-one had flown or was going to fly as a result of the weather. Back at base we had a quiz and the final drill competition. As we were marching one cadet's shoes fell off and everyone burst out laughing – surprisingly enough we did not come last. Once all the marks for the week were added up, the prizes were given out. Suffice it to say that the flight I was in did not win. However two members of our school did win individual prizes. Cdt. Ryan Williams won the prize for the most improved cadet after being in the RAF for only four weeks; and Sgt Richard Lee won the prize for best Flight leader, although I'm sure that if you ask anyone in his flight they will tell you that he was the most evil drill sergeant on the base at the time."

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RAF cadets also attended the Adventure Training in Wales at Easter, which is open to all sections and provides the opportunity for mountain-climbing and camping as well as canoeing, mountain-biking and rock-climbing, and joined the Army Section at Penhale, just down the coast from Newquay in Cornwall, where as well as experiencing a night-ambush they went sailing in dinghies at Falmouth.

Thanks are due to Flt. Lt. Keable, whose grappling with the RAF bureaucracy has, at a time of financial cutbacks, always obtained the best deal for our cadets and to Fl. Off. Addison, whose fertility in the invention of command tasks is remarkable. With a bumper crop of new recruits the Section looks forward with confidence to the millennium.

Fl. Off. M.H. Gracey

R.A.F. LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE, R.A.F. STAFFORD

On arrival by train at Stafford Station it didn't take a genius to work out that the owners of the mountains of camping equipment and suitcases were also going on the notorious RAF leadership course. A short trip by RAF transport and we were ready to start. And they were ready for us. No hint of easing your way into the course and getting settled in. You were not told any information, you had to write notes from posters before having a short interview on the information. If you got a question wrong or didn't know the answer, you were sent out and had to find out before joining the back of the queue to go back in again. After the initial shock of the interview, you were handed two white tabs to replace your badges of rank, so that all cadets on the course would be of the same rank. These white tabs started off cream so they had to be washed in time for tea, which didn't leave much time to unpack and get changed. After tea there was brief period of drill, the standard of which was surprisingly high for the first session of a course. After this there was a short class on map and compass work before the first room and personal inspection at 10 pm.

We had to rise at 6 am the next morning, ready for physical training (PT) at 6.30. This consisted of the basis fitness test of 1 mile in 11 minutes for males, 12 minutes for females. While this was by no means Olympic standard, it required a lot of effort and determination at a time in a morning when most people are still asleep. Thankfully it was then breakfast after which there were leadership exercises and theory classes. Drill followed and all this before 10 am. We then had 15 minutes to prepare for exercise Singleton, a flight navigation exercise over a 20 mile course in a time of 5 hours. Now 20 miles in a day isn't too strenuous but after already being up four hours too long and having just 5 hours to complete the course, everyone was glad of a chance to sit down afterwards for half an hour for tea. Before bed, there was more leadership theory through which everyone struggled to stay awake before another room and personal inspection at 10pm.

The next couple of days were made up of waking at 5.30, PT at 6.00 followed by a day of leadership theory and group command tasks with inspection at 10.00 and lights out at 11.00.

By Tuesday morning, everyone was substantially more tired than was natural and it was very near time to move to the camp site where the leadership tasks were much more difficult, the activities more physical and failure often meant a swim in so-called water.

It was only a mile or so walk to the site and it took a couple of hours to set up our own tents, (which we shared with our room-mates) and the Officers tents. Of course the tents had to be in neat lines and so many tents were put up more than once.

That evening, we were all in combats and ready to start the Night Ex., thirty hours of running around in the dark. The task was

to build a wheelbarrow from parts dotted around the base. While the task was a completion exercise and not a race Flight A, the flight I was in, and Flight D found that we had both completed our barrows and we met about a mile from the camp site and so it turned into a race to push the barrow containing heavy boxes and carrying a water can. Pushing the barrow had to be taken in turns due to the weight and the fact that we were running while any attempt by the other teams to run slowly in front of the barrow was swiftly dealt with. The race was eventually a draw but that evening's events set up the next 3 days as a battle of words and hype between the cadets and the officers from the 2 flights each containing 12 cadets, a quarter of the course.

Thursday morning and a lie in after the late activities of the night before which lasted until about 12.30 am. So we all struggled out of our beds at the amazingly late time of 7.00 am ready to cook our breakfast out of our daily ration packs. There is a menu for each day so that you know what the sludge is that you are eating, but there is little point as they all taste the same no matter what it is called. In the morning, the final round of leadership exercise before the hardest part of the course, Ex-Top-Dog. It started with an easy 1 hour of orienteering through bracken, nettles and woods over an area of about 10 square miles, collecting points for each marker reached. Flight A won this section by 60 points with a top score of 215 points. Considering that some markers only gave 5 points, this was an excellent total. 5 minutes after this, we were on to a 1 mile log run over a decidedly hilly course. While the log wasn't particularly heavy, 4 people were needed at any one time to carry it, injuries from the first day and since had taken their toll on members of each flight and often it wasn't the log which was holding back the team. Most teams came in at about 13 minutes, an excellent effort by all. A Flight finished 2nd to C flight in this event (they had finished 4th in the orienteering). With a further 2 minutes rest, it was now onto a 15 mile walk / run. The time limit was 2 hours but if you wanted to win you had to be faster than that. On the first section, A Flight made a small navigational error meaning that they were 20 minutes down at the first checkpoint but by the second, that was down to 10 minutes and by the third point we had passed another group but by the finish we had only come in third but in a time of 2 hours 4 minutes while C flight had completed the course in 2 hours and D flight in 2 hours and 1 minute. Adding up the positions, A and C flights had 6 points but C flight were named the victors as they had won two events.

All this left the prize for best flight in the balance with A, C and D flights each as confident as each other.

After waking up at 6.30 at camp and eating breakfast, it was time to break camp and get back to the barrack block and change back into RAF uniforms ready for drill before the first ready cooked meal in two and a half days. There was then a general review of the course in the afternoon and then a BBQ and social event in the evening which many people left early to pack and get some much needed sleep. Saturday morning and everyone was cruelly awoken fifteen minutes early at 6.15 by the NCOs in order to make sure that the billets were clean ready for the next course.

The graduation parade was at 9 am, we were all given our badges and it was announced that A flight was the best flight and a member of A flight was the best cadet.

All in all, the course was very informative and has given me many good ideas which I can pass on to the school RAF section. The course is fairly physically demanding but it is only made difficult by the lack of sleep. I would like to thank Flt Lt. Keable and the rest of the CCF for use of kit and help in organisation. I would encourage all other RAF cadets to consider applying for the course next year.

Sgt G Laycock

BYROM HOUSE

Heads of House:	Robert Watson * Anya Dearden *
Deputy Heads:	Omar Ajaz * Nazanin Sadeghi *
House Prefects:	Hema Gokal * Zahoorul Haq Stephanie Jackson * Deborah Langer Richard Nixon * Amita Sagar *

*denotes School Prefect

Michaelmas Term

I would like to start by congratulating Richard Nixon who was made Head of School in the final assembly of 1997/98. He teamed up with Joanna Shaw of Whitworth to lead the School Prefects. Richard was also appointed captain of Rugby for the year. My congratulations also go to all from Byrom who were appointed School Prefects. It is recognition of their good work and personal qualities and they should be proud. So too should everybody who makes a contribution towards a whole School activity. I am thinking here of the many Byrom House members who play in School teams, the Concert Band or have acted in the School play, your achievement and participation do you great credit. I am sure you gain from being involved, as I am also sure that the House benefits as a result of your greater levels of skills in these areas. As a Housemaster watching any School event, I always look for the Byrom people first and it gives me much pleasure to see so many.

Welcome to all new members of the House particularly Christopher Kay who joins us in the Sixth Form and also to 3B who are listed below:-

Adeyinda Ademosu	Nicholas Johnson
Asim Ahmed	Maria Khan
Umayra Ahmed	Darshan Mohammed
Jennifer Bowlas	Eser Nihat
Usman Butt	Matthew Parkhouse
Jonathan Chung	Elaine Tang
Amy Diaczuk	Nick Travis
Omar Hylton	

Luckily for me and them I was 3B Form Tutor which meant I got to know everybody very quickly and vice versa. The activities start early, so the House teams for Rugby and Hockey need to be organised quickly, as does the entry for the Music. The Junior Rugby team was put together by the boys of 4B with Kofi Djang and Shane Coley being the main men. The competition was an excellent one with no one House clearly stronger, however, we did look to have a good chance. Fraser pushed us very close in the first round and we only won because of a last minute try by Tunde Moses. Tunde featured again in the final against Gaskell as he scored early in the game, Shane Coley also scored early. Gaskell were stronger in the forwards than us but we always looked dangerous when we got the ball. In the second half we used the ball well and as Gaskell became frustrated we grew stronger winning 27-12 at the end in good style.

In the Seniors, we had problems raising fifteen healthy bodies, most of the squad members were carrying injuries or had some illness, we therefore looked very overpowered by a good Fraser XV. However using mainly determination and guts we

prevented them from scoring for a long period, but never looked likely to score ourselves. There were strong performances from the 5th Year notably Daniel Scorch and Stanley Tso and of course Thomas Chung never took a backwards step, this was not enough though and we went out of the competition. We performed well in the two Sevens competitions and were only let down by some ill-discipline and unsportsmanly behaviour in the 3rd Year team and in the Senior event by two players not having shorts, which meant the 3rd team played with only five men. Had it not been for this we would surely have been outright winners instead of joint winners with Gaskell.

The Hockey was a real pleasure to watch, the junior team, which was well organised by Sara Sadeghi, gave a good account of themselves but found scoring goals difficult, finishing overall fourth. In the Senior competition Heywood considered themselves to be above the rest, however, in the 1st round we beat them 1-0 and then went on to beat Gaskell 2-0, one of the goals by Julia Atherton being particularly spectacular. Also in this game Gemma Litherland made a number of good saves in goal. In the finals we played Dalton first and won 2-0 which matched us against Heywood in the final. This was a truly exciting match with all the team giving everything. Caroline Bell was clearly the best player on the field, as she had been in every match, but she had terrific support from Anya Dearden, Laura Hopkinson and the rest of the team. For Heywood to suggest that we were a one woman team was churlish and uncalled for and sounded like sour grapes coming after our magnificent 2-1 win.



Byrom Senior Hockey Squad winners of the 1999 competition

The Music competition is always dependent on the skills and talents of individuals and we had a number of fine solo performances. Chloe Duckworth is a smooth and stylish saxophone player and Julia Atherton on Flute and Sara Sadeghi on Clarinet are equally accomplished performers, all gave super renditions. Darren Daly on Guitar is growing in confidence and technical ability but rushed his piece a little. Debbie Langer has a super strong singing voice but is rather shy and hid behind the music stand!

Group efforts are more difficult to put together so the Flute Duet with Julia Atherton and Samantha John did well and played a nice piece, however it was speeding up as it went along. Julia and Debbie were joined by Nazanin Sadeghi to make a vocal trio. Nazanin had also been the announcer linking each item together well. The three girls sang 'Stand by Me'. They made a slight mistake quite early but kept going then relaxed. After this the performance got better and better as they started to enjoy themselves and lose the nervousness. Altogether a good musical presentation, well done to everybody.

There are a number of events which I think are most demanding mainly because they call for an individual to stand alone or perform to an audience. Music, Drama, Debating and the Road Run fall into this type of event. Anybody who takes part in these deserves special respect. The Road Run is tough, it is something which we do not do much of in school and most would happily not do it at all. However, it is rather like medicine that tastes bad, even though you may not like it you know it is good for you. The House finished overall 3rd in the final placings which is creditable. However, a close look at the results shows that we were let down by having no girl runners in the 5th Year and only 3 boys in the Sixth Year. This undermined the excellent performances of the 3rd Years who were first in their competition and the 4th Years who were second in theirs, worthy of particular mention is Shane Coley of 4B who ran the fastest time of the day.

Byroms runners and their placings out of 36 were:

3rd Year	Adeyinka Ademosu	3rd
	Esher Nihat	4th
	Asim Ahmed	8th
	Darshan Mohammed	9th
	Amy Diaczuk	25th
	Elaine Tang	26th
4th Year	Shane Coley	1st
	Marcus Webber	4th
	Robert Serrant	9th
	Mark Brighthouse	10th
	Naima Ahmed	30th
	Sara Sadeghi	31st
5th Year	Rupinder Sagar	10th
	Daniel Gall	15th
	Alex Rennie	17th
	Ryan Lustgarten	26th
6th Form	Daniel Wild	4th
	Chris Kay	7th
	Zahoorul Haq	15th
	Caroline Bell	21st
	Stephanie Jackson	27th

Finally in this term we had the debating where Chloe Duckworth and James Kerr were due to oppose Fraser who were proposing that "The Arts should be subsidised by the state". Late in the day Chloe was taken sick and Rob Watson stepped in to replace her. He and James put forward a splendid case and won the vote over Fraser, however the competition was won overall by Gaskell's team.

House colours: A note on the policy for awarding House Colours. These are given as an outward sign and recognition of good work towards the House Activities. They are to be worked for and are not given away lightly. A member of the House can win colours by showing commitment to one particular activity over a long period, or by being involved and committed in a large number of areas for a shorter period. It should, therefore, be possible for everybody to win House Colours by being involved in something.

Colours Awarded this term to the following:

- 4B Naima Ahmed, Mark Brighthouse, Shane Coley, Kofi Djang, Sara Sadeghi, Marcus Webber.
- 5B Laura Hopkinson, Gemma Litherland, Rupinder Sagar, Stanley Tso.
- 6th Yr Julia Atherton, Caroline Bell, Daniel Wild, Anya Dearden, Zahoorul Haq.

Lent Term

This term was most notable because of the reintroduction of Football to the games programme. The Seniors had a set of league matches and the Juniors had a Knockout competition. In the league we finished 4th having played 6 (won 2, lost 2, drew 2, totalling six points). Weather conditions and the heavy pitches made playing good quality football almost impossible and our 'lighter top of the ground type of player' was ineffective, however Chris Kay and Rob Watson did a good job in organising the team and it was a pleasure to see some people in sports kit who previously had long term illnesses which prevented them playing Rugby and Lacrosse. The Junior team had a number of good players and were clearly in with a chance of overall victory. The final was against Whitworth and was memorable for two reasons. The first was two fine goals by Sohabe Saeed which gave us the victory and the second was all that is bad about football with players calling out about the referee and also being petulant and argumentative with each other. However, it is good to see that Byrom's name will be the first on the new cup. Well done boys!



Byrom Junior Football Squad Knock-out Winners 1999

We struggled in the netball both in the Juniors and Seniors. The timing of the events meant some of our best players were not available and despite the good jobs done in organising by Sharan Suthar and Anya Dearden, we finished 6th and 5th respectively in the two competitions.

House Drama takes a great deal of time and energy in this term, and once again a number of people gave good performances both on stage and behind the scenes. A full account can be read in the Drama section but I would like to add my congratulations to the team that put on an entertaining production of 'Gosforth's Fête'. Well done Julia Atherton, Caroline Bell, Rob Watson, Chloe and Josh Duckworth, James Kerr and Nazanin Sadeghi.



The cast and crew of Gosforth's Fête

Finally in this term we had the Swimming, something which we are not noted for our success in, and again we did not make a serious challenge to the Houses with good school and club swimmers. However I was pleased with those who did make an effort and tried their best against the odds.

House colours were awarded to the following people this term:

Josh Duckworth, Ravi Gokal, Sohabe Saeed, Robert Serrant, Sharan Suthar, Homera Ahmed, Chloë Duckworth, Christopher Kay and James Kerr.

Midsummer Term

The Summer term always seems to be short. The 5th and U6th pupils go on study leave before the final day of term. Also the weather plays its part as one cannot call summer summer when it is raining. This always also means the cricket and rounders keeps being put back and back looking for a dry day.

In the Rounders we had mixed fortunes, the Junior girls were overpowered by some big hitters and finished at the bottom of the pile. While in the Seniors it was the complete opposite with our big hitters crushing all before them to win the competition. Well done to both sets of girls for their efforts.

There was disappointment in both Junior and Senior Cricket. Some of the Juniors let the side down by not staying until the end of the match, thus a good winning position was given away as we did not have enough bowlers and fielders to prevent the opposition, Heywood, getting the runs needed. In the Senior event there was a strange set of circumstances. In the first game we looked almost certain losers with only a few runs to get and 5 batsmen left. Heywood had us down and out, however a spectacular collapse by them saw us win the match. There were particularly good displays by Hadi Al-Bayati, Alex Rennie, Thomas Chung, Azim Chauhan and Zahoorul Haq. In the final however the position was reversed and from a comfortable position of 90 for 2 we collapsed and finished 132 all out, which Gaskell found easy to reach.

The two School Athletics Days are always good events. There is something for everybody to do and each performance has an impact on the overall result. The Senior event takes place first and while we were 5th at the end of the day there were some good performances - non better than Anya Dearden's new school record of 16.10 in the Girls Discus. Joe Holland was our only other individual winner with 32 metres in the Javelin. Joe

was also second in the High Jump and 5th in the 200m, making him our best individual. Other second placings came from Rupinder Sagar in the 1500m in a close race with Whitworth's Paul Edisbury. Rupinder was also third in the 800m. Tom Chung was second in the boys shot putt as was Daniel Scora in the Triple Jump. Samantha John was third in the girls 200m and the boys 4 x 400 relay team was also third. Also making the finals of events were Chris Kay 1500m, Julia Atherton 800m, Stanley Tso 400m, Laura Hopkinson 100m and Long Jump, Ryan Lustgarten Javelin and Gemma Litherland Discus.

In the middle school events for 3rd and 4th years there were also many good races and close competitions. Shane Coley again showed what an excellent athlete he is by winning the 200 metres in a new record time, he also won the High Jump and was second in the 100 metres which made him the individual best performer. Sadly we did not have any other winners in any other events. However Robert Serrant was second in both the 400m and the Triple Jump, other seconds came from Elaine Tang 1500m, Mark Brighthouse 1500m who was also 3rd in the shot, Susan Barber Javelin who was also 3rd in the shot, and Marcus Webber High Jump. Our other 3rd place winners were Matthew Parkhouse 400m, Kofi Djang 200m and Triple Jump, Amy Diaczuk 800m, Eser Nihat 1500m, Usman Butt 100m, Adeyinka Ademosu High Jump and the boys 4 x 400 and girls 4 x 100 in the 3rd year.

House colours in the final term are awarded to:

Usman Ali, Susan Barber, Mohsin Hussain, Hadi Al-Bayati, Alex Rennie, Oliver Roe and Azim Chauhan.

This rounds off the report of events and it just remains for me to make a few personal remarks. On looking back over the year I am reminded of the successes and there have been many, I count a major success the feeling that individuals seem to becoming more organised and self-reliant and the positive mature responses I get from many when they are called upon to do things. I want everybody in the House to feel they have a part to play in it and what they do is valued. So as the Upper Sixth Form leave I say to them good luck and thanks for all they have done over the last five years. Particular special thanks go to the Heads of House, Rob Watson and Anya Dearden, who have been super to work with and also to their deputies, Omar Ajaz and Nazanin Sadeghi and the House Prefects. I hope they can all look back on School with a smile. Finally to Mr Addison, Mr Swales and Miss Kelly, many sincere thanks for the help and support which they give to the pupils and myself.

N.P. Dunn

DALTON HOUSE

House Officials 1998/9 :

House Deputies	Ms S.R. Tandon, Miss R.J. Minto
Head of House	Chris Lindley
Deputy Head of House	Ben Green
School Prefects	Chris Lindley, Ben Green, Vikram Luthra

Michaelmas Term

The following appointments were made :

Rugby Captains :	Senior Knockout Chris Lindley
Senior League	Aneet Kapoor, Kopul Rahman
Junior Knockout	Justin Ofoche
Hockey Captains :	Senior Alison Featherstone
	Junior Katrina Francis
Swimming Captain :	Senior Anthony Edwards
Music Organisers :	Vikram Luthra, Mika Tong, Vicky Raynes
Debating Team :	Vikram Luthra, Natalie Ofoche

At the beginning of the Term, we welcomed 16 pupils into the 3rd Year of the House and Sola Fajumi into the Sixth Form, hoping that all would play their part in the House activities.

The Michaelmas Term included rugby competitions, including a House league. We knew that we were not strong, and had to rely upon captains Aneet Kapoor and Kopul Rahman. Bad weather prevented a full programme of matches, but hard work was put in, especially by the experienced Fifth Years of Warren Dawkins and Julian Chapman, together with the running of Anthony Edwards and the tackling of Waqas Anees.

We had enough strength to progress in the Senior Knockout, with many possessing School team experience, and we took an early lead in our first match. However, lack of determined leadership on the pitch prevented us gaining the victory we had hoped for. The Juniors met a strong Gaskell side in the first round and were ably led by Justin Ofoche. He used his expertise to encourage the others and, together with Simon Khoshneviszadeh and William Tamkin, he helped us gain an early lead. Hard tackling kept us in the match, and, with five minutes left, we were leading. A penalty conceded by us helped Gaskell draw level, and a replay was necessary. The match was replayed at lunchtime, and absences unfortunately prevented Dalton putting up any real threat.

The rugby 7 a side tournaments were keenly contested, and we considered that we were as strong as any in the Senior Ray Cox 7s. Three teams were selected, and the first team looked strong. A convincing performance from the backs helped us beat Fraser convincingly, with Jonathan Murphy playing well. A narrow defeat to Gaskell still put us through to the Final, but this was lost. The second team worked well together, with Rameez Haider putting in a good performance in a big win. The third team was very short because of absences, and, despite the hard work of Minesh Parekh, they failed to win a match. Dalton finished four points behind the winning House.

In the Junior 7s, team spirit was much in evidence, with Stefan Knight leading the third years. Hard tackling and good defence helped us win both our first two matches without conceding a point. Stefan encouraged the others, and all played their part. The team also won their final. The Fourth years lost their opening match to a strong Gaskell side, before beating Heywood. Justin Ofoche and Simon Khoshneviszadeh worked hard, but could not prevent a loss in the final match. Results were such that we finished joint winners of the trophy.

Dalton's swimming entry this year was not as strong as it has been in the past. Our Seniors relied on the strength of Anthony Edwards, James Veitch and Alick Hyde, with others supporting, while the Fourth years tried hard for little success. Special mention must be given to the third years, who, although there were insufficient to make several races, showed excellent spirit and endeavour.

In the Road Run, each House had a team of six in each year group, and Dalton produced several good performances. In the Third years, Peter Adewunmi finished 7th and Mareshah Sheriffe finished as the top girl. In the Fourth years, Justin Ofoche finished 3rd, and in the 5th Years, Alick Hyde was narrowly beaten into 2nd place. Overall, Dalton finished 4th.

Many lunchtime sessions were put in to organise and practice a House Music entry. Several Seniors worked together to produce a programme, and there were many good solo performances. This would be the last time Mika Tong could show his many talents. Much satisfaction was gained by all those who organised or participated in an enjoyable production.

The girls' hockey competition took place over two days, and much enthusiasm was shown by both players in both the Junior and Senior teams. In the Juniors, Katrina Francis was well supported by Ceegay Verley and Lucy Berger, and we looked very impressive going forward. However, scoring goals seemed to be a problem, and our attack play was seldom rewarded as it might have been. Despite the good approach play, even short corners were not put to good use, and our command in midfield was not capitalised upon. Our defence was seldom called upon, although Suzanne Onyemem and Cornelia Bremer looked good. Unfortunately, breakaway goals were conceded, but we still looked good as a team. In the Seniors, we had good team players in both the Fifth and Lower Sixth years, and all played together well. In the first match, Gemma Carolan looked sharp in attack, and Helia Asadi pushed play forward well. We took our chances and had a good win. The other games finished very much like the Juniors, when we dominated the midfield play but conceded goals from breakaways. This group of girls, if they work together, have the potential to win any of their competitions.

Lent Term

The following appointments were made :

Football Captains :	Senior League Aneet Kapoor, Kopul Rahman
	Junior Knockout Stephen Peck
Netball Captains :	Senior Laura Berrisford
	Junior Rachel Ablott
Play Producers :	Vicky Raynes, Nick Sharwin

A major change was made this year, with the finishing of lacrosse at the School and the introduction of football. At the Senior level, it was to be played competitively as a league, with all able to participate weekly, and we had plenty of enthusiasm. Our difficulty was in finding an adequate goalkeeper. Poor conditions on the pitches meant that the ball-playing skills of Kopul Rahman, Rameez Haider and Anthony Edwards were put to use less than the tackling of Aneet Kapoor. Our early use of Waqas Anees in goals seemed worthwhile, but defensively, we otherwise seemed insecure. In attack, we made chances, but failed to put them away. Despite close matches, we frequently let in late goals and lost our early games despite playing well. Our final match was against high placed Byrom, when we played Andrew Pickford in goals. We seemed much more solid in defence and were the better team, being ahead for most of the match. Despite conceding a late goal, we kept going forward

and were unfortunate to only gain a draw. We showed excellent team spirit throughout the match, as we did for most of the season, and can look forward to success in the future.

The Juniors played a knockout competition, and, in the first round match, showed the talent that they possessed. Stephen Peck, Eoin Murphy and Stefan Knight were particularly impressive in their distribution and goalscoring, and we were comfortable winners, scoring 10 goals, including three players each scoring three goals. In our semi-final match, we did not look as impressive, although Stephen, Eoin and Stefan made many good individual runs. The teamwork was seldom in evidence, and slack marking at the back let in unnecessary goals. We lost 1 - 3, in a competition we could have won.

The girls competition to take place this term was the netball, when, again, we had a group of girls with potential. In the Seniors competition, Natalie Sheldon had an excellent game, converting most of her chances to score 11 goals in a 12-3 victory over Fraser. In the second game, shots hit the hoop and bounced out and we lost 3 - 5 to Heywood. We looked convincing again in our semi final, but failed to convert our chances, and lost 1 - 2 to Gaskell. Our final match against Whitworth proved a relatively easy match and a victory by 8 - 2 ensued, giving us 3rd place. The Junior netball team was led well by Rachael Ablott, and, in the first match, the ball was passed at speed from defence, through midfield, to the attack and we gained a comfortable victory. In the next two matches, Katrina Francis and Rachael were both commanding, and two victories took us to the final. We were now against a taller team, but our confidence was high and we were never troubled. Victory brought Dalton their first girls' trophy.

Vicky Raynes and Nick Sharwin started early in the preparation for the House Play, found a difficult play - "Television", by Steve Merrell about a girl Christine (Natasha Juma) trying to live the life of her fantasy double Chrissie (Georgina Laird). There was a large cast of 20, many of whom had never acted before, and several also played more than one part. All worked hard, and much thought was given to the many scene changes. The many amusing scenes included one with the detectives, James Veitch and Anthony Edwards and one in a School assembly with Farrah Chandia and Natalie Ofoche. There were moving scenes, including Georgina and Natasha outside the hospital and Natasha with sister Laura Berrisford in the hospital. The whole play was expertly presented, with everyone playing their parts to perfection. Dalton won the competition, for the fourth successive year, and the fifth time in seven years. Natasha Juma gained the trophy as best female actor. The cast enjoyed two social nights out together at the end of Term.

Midsummer Term

The following appointments were made :

Cricket Captains : Senior Aneet Kapoor
Junior Simon Khoshneviszadeh

Rounders Captains : Senior Laura Berrisford
Junior Rachel Ablott

Athletics Organisers : James Veitch, Anthony Edwards,
Georgina Laird

Our cricket teams were not in contention for winning any trophies, as early season rain prevented any practices and several postponements of fixtures. There were few School players in the House, and we struggled to bring together any competitive teams. All who represented the House did so with enthusiasm, but both first round matches were lost.

In the Senior rounders competition, our girls did not perform as well as they could. We were let down by poor fielding, both close and in the out field. Too many rounders were 'given' to Byrom in our first match, and our clean hits were never enough to run a rounder. We then faced a strong Fraser side and, batting first, only managed five rounders. However, our fielding improved, with girls changing positions, and we won 5 - 4. Our semi final was against Gaskell, and, in a high scoring match, just failed to score enough. Another loss against Heywood, by 41/2 - 3, ensured that we only finished 4th. The Juniors had a very good team spirit in all of their games, and played well together. In the early matches, absence of key players brought the best out of the rest, with Cornelia Bremer in particular leading the way with powerful hitting. We comprehensively beat Byrom 9 - 3, before mistakes in the field allowed Gaskell to narrowly beat us. In the semi final, we panicked at crucial times in the field, and Fraser's 9 rounders were just too many for us to score. In our final match, we showed our true potential, and Lucy Berger, Ceegay Verley and Cornelia scoring regularly in our 11 rounders. We consequently finished 3rd in the competition.

After the Senior Sports competitions, Dalton were in 4th position. Our best results were :

1st places Alick Hyde (800m), Anthony Edwards (Triple Jump)

2nd places 4 x 100m relay (Boys), Julian Chapman (Long Jump)

3rd Places Vicky Raynes (100m), Anthony Edwards (100m, Long Jump), Gemma Carolan (High Jump), Chris Lindley (Shot), Nick Sharwin (Discus)

The Juniors put in some excellent performances, and, on their own day, finished 1st, with the House in 3rd place in the overall competition. The teams were well organised, especially by Stefan Knight and Justin Ofoche, and supervised by James Veitch. The best results were :

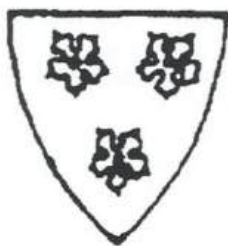
1st Places Andrew Clark, Justin Ofoche (400m), Lucy Berger (1500m), Sohaib Tanvir (800m), Stefan Knight (Shot and 100m), Justin Ofoche (Long Jump-School Record), Cornelia Bremer (High Jump, Long Jump), 4 x 100m relay (Boys and Girls)

2nd Places - Katrina Francis (Shot), Haider Kiani (Discus), 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m (4th Year Boys)

3rd Places - Usman Akhtar (200m), Stefan Knight (Javelin), Siama Irshad, Owais Khan (Shot), Rachael Ablott (Javelin), Lucy Berger, William Tamkin (High Jump)

At the end of the Term, we said goodbye to the Upper Sixth and hoped them success in their future careers. We also said goodbye to two excellent 3rd Year girls in Cornelia Bremer and Mareshah Sheriffe, both of whom were moving abroad. They had each contributed much to Dalton in this year, and Cornelia was awarded a trophy in recognition of her efforts. Similar trophies went to Anthony Edwards and Vicky Raynes. We also, sadly, lost Miss Minto, who was moving to another job, and were very grateful to her for the time and effort she has put in to help Dalton. We wish her well, along with the other leavers.

M. D. Wood



FRASER HOUSE

Heads of House:	Katie Chesworth* Gurpartab Sathi*
House Prefects:	Arfan Ahmed, Shazad Arshad, Alison Hawcroft*, Kimberley Hayden, Ross Jenkins, Mussadak Mirza*, Chloe Pepall, Zeeshan Rana, Gemma Rosenthal and Salma Seedat <i>*denotes School Prefect</i>
Fifth Form Representatives:	Jaya Jairath, James Meers and Brett Ramsumair
Captain of School Cricket:	Zeeshan Rana

If we choose to measure success in purely competitive terms then this has been as successful a year as we have had for some time now, presided over by our joint Heads of House Katie and Gurpartab with a real sense of involvement and enthusiasm which has been recognised and appreciated by the rest of the House. We tend to prefer to take a broader perspective, of course, and look for a less quantifiable interpretation of success, since a sense of achievement is by no means always linked *de facto* to winning a debate or beating an opponent in a games match. On the other hand it does pupils no great harm to take a collective pride and pleasure in seeing the House to which they belong do particularly well during the year.

MICHAELMAS TERM

Imran Patel (L6) and Sean Cordwell (3F) joined the House in September from Hulme Hall and King's Macclesfield respectively, and the following joined 3 Fraser from the Second Form:

Farakh Ahmad	Stephen Lancashire
Danielle Ashley	Edwin Leung
Tim Bannister	Hassan Maan
Shabna Hannan	Seena Mehta
Imran Hussain	Chloe Schofield
Ayaz Iqbal	Syedda Siddiqui
Umair Khalil	Andrew Smith
Rajesh Kumar	

At the thrice-yearly **Middle School Council** meetings Fraser was represented by Elisha Bailey and Alexis Dickson (5th), Laura-Jane Bulwich and Chris Ogden-Smith (4th), and Seena Mehta and Andrew Smith (3rd).

Louise Goodwin and Jennie Porter put together this year's **House Music** programme, spending the usual hours trying to persuade, organise and rehearse the House musicians in equal measure. The resulting forty minutes was extremely enjoyable and a worthwhile experience for both participants and audience. Elisha Bailey started the proceedings with a difficult violin solo, *Tell-Tale Tango* by Robin Grant, which she managed to get through gamely, to be followed by Andrew Smith playing a

lengthy piano solo, Hammond and Bettis's well-known *One Moment in Time*. Andrew started off well and very sensibly took things steadily thereafter. A change was called for and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* by Elton John (from *The Lion King*) provided it: super interaction and contrast between the four voices of Vicky Bramwell, Elisha Bailey, Alexis Dickson and Jaya Jairath, and Andrew Smith's very tricky piano accompaniment made this one of the most appealing pieces of the day.

Sean Cordwell displayed another of his seemingly endless list of talents next as he sang the Oasis number *Masterplan*, accompanying himself expertly on the guitar, but looking all the while as if he wasn't having a great deal of fun - yet his performance was one of the most popular with the young audience. Louise and Jennie lost each other once or twice during their version of *Walk On By* (Hal David) for piano and flute, but that didn't substantially affect this lovely rendition, full of rhythm and melody.

The highlight of the Fraser set was to have been an appearance by the Spice Girls, all five of them. Sadly, as on so many previous occasions, their audience was disappointed! However Jennie's saxophone solo, *Somewhere Out There*, seemed strangely appropriate, and with Seena Mehta's well-rehearsed flute piece, *Andante Semplice*, managed to dispel any residual gloom. When Laura-Jane Bulwich came on to sing *Fame*, accompanied only by Miss Day's piano, she proved by a superbly powerful performance that her voice needs no artificial enhancement or support. The group finale, Lloyd-Webber's *Memory*, included most of those who had already performed, with Camille Kasler joining Louise and Seena on flute. The overall effect was charming, but a piece involving such a range of instruments and players as well as voice does need frequent rehearsing, and this was clearly lacking. Can we not convince our performers of the need to prepare more carefully for the House Music? It does seem a pity to go to the considerable lengths necessary to put together the thing in the first place and then fail to go the extra mile to produce a rehearsed and polished programme, which the players would all enjoy more too, no doubt. Our set this year was "compered" with verve by Vicky Bramwell, effectively emulating one of the over-enthusiastic guest presenters on Top of The Pops, and the programme was designed by Louise and Vicky.

Fraser's speakers in the **Debating Competition** had an uphill struggle again this year, trying to defend State subsidy of the Arts. While not managing to sway the adjudicators entirely in their favour Jennie Porter and Jon Byrom's speeches were singled out nevertheless for special commendation.

Our record in the **Senior Hockey** has been a good one in the last ten years, and a hardworking squad brimming with talent and determination led us to believe we could regain the trophy this year. A strong win against Whitworth and a draw with Dalton (who did well to contain our rampaging forwards) got us comfortably and confidently through the first phase, but a further draw on penalty corners, then defeat by Heywood left us trailing in fourth place. Katie and Kim's experience and cool-headedness was backed up by super performances from Louise Goodwin, Jennie Porter, Elisha Bailey and Alexis Dickson in goal.

Both Byrom and Gaskell beat the **Junior Hockey XI**, much to our surprise and disappointment, but the girls did not really play as a team (what's passing?) and Camille Kasler had relatively little support in her powerful runs at the opposition. The play-off match with Heywood was a damp squib, and we retained our dignity and avoided the wooden spoon only by virtue of two short corners in a goal-free encounter.



Fraser Senior Knockout XV moments after winning the Final, December 1998
(photo: D. M. Fisher)

The opening match in the **Senior Rugby** season saw good efforts from all quarters, and notable performances from Zeeshan Rana, Awais Arshad, Kessr Ali and Alex Johnstone at scrum-half. Danny Wood played well too, using his power and speed to score our only try, and Imran Patel made a promising and courageous debut in this his first experience of the game. The second match brought a second defeat, 14-28 at the hands of Byrom. Captain Richard Lee began to play with greater confidence and effectiveness in the forwards, and the standard of tackling from Arfan Ahmed, Tahzid Ahsan and Imran was high. However eight named players were absent from the field, six with legitimate reasons, and we struggled to turn out fifteen players at all.

After only two weeks of league rugby Fraser played in the first round of the **Senior Knockout** competition. Despite the absence of Dan Naylor and unusually, Gurpartab Sathi, from the School squad, the boys fused together quite well, considering the usual disparate combination of School and House players, supported each other, played excellent rugby at times, and beat Gaskell 35-26 after a better-than-average House match in which it was hard to single out exceptional individuals.

Byrom gave us a bit of a fright in the semi-final in October but magnificent and imaginative displays from Chris White and Dan Naylor helped us through 15-0. League players were able to take their share of the honours, including Balal Rana, Kessr Ali, Mussadak Mirza, Arfan Ahmed, and even Awais Arshad and Saqib Zahid. Our redoubtable fifth-formers, James Meers, Brett Ramsumair, Paul Stonehouse, Alex Johnstone, Danny Wood, Anthony Green and Sam Higgins were great as usual. Most memorable, perhaps, was Jon Byrom's extraordinary impersonation of a brick wall as he stopped Tom Chung at full tilt dead in his tracks. Nine full weeks passed before weather and other commitments allowed us to play the Final against Whitworth, by which time some of the momentum had inevitably been lost. An adequate performance of 15-0 against a Whitworth side determined to prove the pundits (Dan Naylor?) wrong left us retaining the Football Shield for another year. Congratulations and House Colours went to all participants for their role in our successes.

An excellent win in the first round got the **Junior Knockout XV** off to the best possible start. Practising throughout the lunch-hour proved good preparation for a match that looked as if it would be very tough. Heywood were very strong running forward and Andrew McIntyre was always a threat, but after scoring a couple of tries he was contained, though usually after making too much ground. Error after error by Fraser players gave the ball or the advantage to Heywood in the early stages,

leaving us hard work to do to defend and spoil, and shortcomings in tackling and fitness were shown up. However once our players started to gel and to do constructive things with our possession the floodgates opened and, even without tries those tries which should have been (from Rajiv, Stephen and others) Chris Ogden-Smith, Tim Bannister and Umair Khalil all scored well. With the exception of the one right under the posts conversions were well taken by Andrew Smith, yet all but one fell a yard short. All those mentioned made influential contributions to the 32-12 result, as well as James Wood and Chris, whose captaincy was of a very high order. This, unfortunately, was as far as the Juniors progressed in the Knockout, losing in the semi-finals.

The **Ray Cox Seven-a-Side Tournament** was the closest competition since its inception, just four points finally separating the top five Houses. Fraser's 1st VII should have been the one to beat but again misfortune led to disappointment. Our two School 1st XV representatives Dan Naylor and Chris White were unavailable and their experience and expertise were sorely missed by our six fifth-formers and their Head of House. After a trouncing by Dalton we did manage a proud 10-all draw with Gaskell, twice losing the initiative by virtue of allowing Scott Griffiths to get his hands on the ball. Team 2 lost two players to the firsts yet still had plenty of power and pace. They lost both their games chiefly through poor tactical play. The 3rds, however were unstoppable and comfortably won their final against Gaskell 15-0. Awais, Imran, Shazad, Ross, Mussadak, Tahzid and Bilal (yes, that's Bilal "I promise I'll play next week, sir" Iqbal) certainly didn't depend on experience to see them through their matches, but no-one was complaining as almost every player scored at some stage of the afternoon!

The **Junior Sevens** were disappointing purely in terms of the outcome - Fraser joint 5th - but all the boys did as much as was expected of them. The Fourth Form VII were drawn in the stronger group and could not record a single point, but effort and team-play were there in abundance. Umair's Third Form team won two of their three games and displayed a great deal of promise and maturity.

As in 1997 our "distance" runners performed creditably, and in many individual cases, excellently in the **Road Race** (renamed since it is no longer run as a relay). It takes a lot of character and courage to sustain your optimum pace in such a race where so many "competitors" are crawling along, clearly giving little and refusing to respond to the occasion. The temptation to join them must be strong. The placings speak for themselves of course, and ours were thus:

Third Form:

Tim Bannister	2nd	Danielle Ashley (5th girl)	24th
Stephen Lancashire	5th	Syedda Siddiqui	29th
Andrew Smith	12th		
Sean Cordwell	13th		

Fourth Form:

Rajiv Kay	11th	Camille Kasler (4th girl)	25th
Aamir Ashraff	15th	Moyo Adunola	ret'd
Thomas Sutton	17th		
Amaan Akram	22nd		

Fifth Form:

Paul Stonehouse	1st	Hannah Naylor (3rd girl)	25th
Alex Johnstone	7th	Alexis Dickson	disq
Daniel Wood	8th		
Brett Ramsumair	13th		

Sixth Form:

Zeeshan Rana	5th	Jennie Porter	30th
Gurpartab Sathi	9th	Youssr Issa	33rd
Chris White	12th		
Daniel Naylor	16th		

Our exceptional group of third-formers seems certain to keep up the tradition of top performances in the Race, and only one or two disappointments held us to a second year as runners-up.

School Colours were awarded at Christmas for Rugby to Gurpartab Sathi (Full) and for Music to Jennie Porter (Club)

LENT TERM

A larger cast than usual was required for this year's chosen **House Play**, a quirky domestic comedy, "*The Colour of the Wind*" by Peter English, whose main protagonist, George, is striving to become a recognised poet and to spread poetry's message throughout every part of the nation's life. Vicky Bramwell met the considerable challenge of playing this difficult (and male) role very successfully. With the support of Gurpreet Singh, Alexis Dickson, Kessr Ali, Paul Stonehouse, Jaya Jairath, (all playing dual roles), Moyo Adunola and Youssr Issa as the Announcer she kept the audience intrigued and entertained to the end. The staging and production were skilfully managed by Jennie Porter and Richard Lee whose hard work and determination to make things work led largely to the play's success. Miss Green's full adjudication appears elsewhere in the *Hulmeian* together with another of Louise Goodwin's programme designs.

Two good matches against Byrom and Gaskell got the **Junior Netball** team into the semi-finals, where an extraordinary revival from 0-5 down saw us beat Whitworth 6-5 in a sudden-death period of extra play. Marsha Beagul, Camille Kasler and Jenna French just appeared to come alive and respond to their dire predicament in the last moments of the match, and Shabna Hannan's shooting under considerable pressure was astonishingly cool. She certainly seemed to develop magic hands, scoring unerringly each time she received the ball. The team's spirits were lifted, understandably, and morale was high for the Final, but Dalton were just too good for our girls, beating them 5-2. Finishing as runners-up was rather satisfying nevertheless, and such an improvement on last year.

The **Senior Netball** team was, if anything, more confident, but unbelievably poor teamwork in both preliminary games left us struggling to avoid being the best team with the worst results! This we managed to become, unfortunately, as an always capable Byrom team beat us 6-3 in a fiercely-fought wooden spoon contest.

At last Fraser won the **Swimming Sports** again, after a gap of some years. We also retained the Relay Trophy for the third time, with a team in every relay final, and James Wood and Alison Hawcroft won the Individual awards at Middle and Senior level respectively. This list of ten swimmers, almost a team in itself, reflects the extent of talent in the House this year: Jonathan Byrom, Chris White (6th Form), Alex Johnstone (5th), Jenna French, Rajiv Kay, Tom Sutton, Chris Ogden-Smith, Laura-Jane Bulwich (4ths), and Seena Mehta and Chloe Schofield (3rds) - but not because they took part. They were all

unavailable for the Finals, largely through injury or illness, and yet the relay teams were still complete, with Danny Naylor, Ritesh Sachdev, Richard Colebrook and Colin and Edwin Leung standing in for the absentees and doing themselves a great deal of credit in doing so.

Results were:

RELAYS:	Squadron (freestyle)	Medley
1st	-	Senior
2nd	Senior; 4th yr	4th yr
3rd	3rd yr	3rd yr

INDIVIDUAL:

- 1st: Alison Hawcroft (*Snr butterfly and backstroke*);
Danny Wood (*Snr freestyle*); James Wood
(*4th yr 1M and breaststroke*)
- 2nd: Daniel Wood (*Snr 1M*); Tim Bannister
(*3rd yr breaststroke*); Andrew Smith (*3rd yr 1M*);
Stephen Lancashire (*3rd yr backstroke*)
- 3rd: Camille Kasler (*4th yr breaststroke*)
- 4th: Stephen Lancashire (*3rd yr freestyle*)

Individual age-group winners: Alison Hawcroft (Snr)
James Wood (Middle)

Other relay finalists not already mentioned were Richard Lee, Jennie Porter, Sean Cordwell and Imran Hussain.

FOOTBALL!

A huge publicity drive launched the revival of the game at WHGS, after which it was left to the Houses to organise and play it competitively, for no School matches were envisaged for the first year. A senior League programme seamlessly replaced the lacrosse which had been the focus of boys' games for innumerable previous Lent Terms and fortunately our boys adapted immediately. Pitches which would have been unplayable for week after week were slithered over and splashed through and although the mud was a great leveller it did not diminish everyone's pleasure at being able to play on consecutive weeks and to complete an entire set of inter-House matches (something of a novelty in recent years).

Our **Senior XI** was efficiently captained by Gurpartab Sathi with much help on the field from Zeeshan Rana and others! Some superb football was played by Gurpartab and Zeeshan, by Shazad Arshad, Arfan Ahmed (U6), Imran Patel, Dan Naylor (L6), and Alex Johnstone, Brett Ramsumair and Paul Stonehouse (5th). Paul and Dan were outstanding in goal, although too often we played them out and a hapless James Meers reluctantly had to deputise, looking and feeling very much out of his depth. Our performances were predictably erratic, but results were in our favour from the start and we averaged three goals per match. A draw with Byrom was followed by a straight run of four wins, then an appalling lapse allowed Whitworth (who were actually very good) to avenge their earlier defeat and draw with us for the first League title for sixty years! A large plastic trophy surmounted by a gilt footballer was awarded to be shared by both Houses, but surely funds will be found for a new cup or shield worthy of our major "new" sport?

The **Junior XI** was so confident and apparently well organised in advance of their first round knockout match in January that even their cynical House Master began to believe the hype. We were certainly able to turn out an impressive array of sportsmen, but their experience was obviously limited to rugby, lacrosse and cricket because the result of this first

encounter with Dalton was a resounding and slightly humiliating 10-0 thrashing. Since I was unable to witness the event - sadly - I cannot comment with any authority on either team or individual performances (although I seem to remember overhearing before the game that it was Umair Khalil who would be scoring most of the Fraser goals ...), so there it must rest until January 2000.

School Colours were awarded at the end of term to the following:

- Full: Katie Chesworth and Alison Hawcroft (Hockey); Alison Hawcroft (Netball)
- Club: Alison Hawcroft (Swimming); Louise Goodwin (Hockey and Netball)
- Junior: Daniel Wood (Swimming); Hannah Naylor (Hockey); Anthony Green, Chris Ogden-Smith, Brett Ramsumair and Paul Stonehouse (Rugby)

Several members of the House were involved in the School production of "Our Day Out": on stage Jennie Porter, Alexis Dickson, Vicky Bramwell, Laura-Jane Bulwich and Andrew Smith, and behind the scenes Louise Goodwin and Marsha Beagul.

MIDSUMMER TERM

Zeeshan Rana was appointed Captain of School Cricket for a second year.

Kamron Khan, who went up to Cambridge in 1996 to read Medicine at Fitzwilliam College, has taken a First in the Natural Sciences Tripos. He now goes to Addenbrookes Hospital next year to continue his medical studies. Kamron was always a major participant in Fraser's activities while at School, and has carried on in the same vein while at Cambridge, gaining a half-Blue in Lacrosse this year.



*Refreshments for Fraser's Junior Rounders Team
(Capt: Marsha Beagul, back row, resting) (photo: D. M. Fisher)*

Good fielding, bowling and back-stopping brought comfortable wins in the **Junior Rounders** competition and took Marsha's team into the semi-final against Dalton, who were soon disposed of. A Final against Whitworth, whom we'd already beaten, looked like a ticket to the trophy, but alas they proved much better than we had anticipated and the Junior girls again found themselves runners-up. Marsha, Camille and Jenna were especially dynamic and effective.

The **Senior Rounders** fared less well. Narrowly beaten by both Dalton and Byrom, the girls went into the finals with no other expectation than to avoid losing all their matches and coming last. A generous Whitworth team enabled them to do so, but by the narrowest of margins. It was a shame to see such a talented group of girls apparently lose a little of that competitive edge which had made them such a successful force up until this year. Katie, Alison, Gemma, Kim and even Chloe have contributed much to Fraser's buoyant recent past.

A bye in the **Junior Cricket Knockout** and a good win in the semis took Fraser into unfamiliar territory, a Cricket Final! On the Back Square Rajiv Kay got an excellent half-century as we made a rapid and convincing 140 in the twenty overs. Excellent bowling and fielding brought about the demise of Omer Raja who was always a danger, then Chris Booker came in and, although not always looking entirely comfortable, seemed as if he might settle in and threaten our total. Before he could, though, his and then two other wickets fell in succession and it was soon all over for Gaskell. Rajiv's bowling and batting were significant factors in this rare Knockout victory, as were the performances of Umair, Chris, Farakh, Rajesh, Tim, Andrew and James McConville (whose fielding was exemplary) - but in fact everyone played his part in a splendid spectacle.

Our **Senior XI** batted first in their preliminary match, made 106 (Naylor 52, White 32) and hoped to contain Gaskell with the bowling of Zeeshan and Brett. Gaskell were quickly off the mark, however, and only settled down to a steady score-rate after

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Neil McLeod was dismissed. Our fielding was always of a high order, however, and the Fraser XI certainly made their opponents work hard for their win.

Senior Sports Day in 1998 had seen a triumph for the House, our athletes gaining the highest total and giving the Junior section a head start when they competed later in the term. This year was almost exactly the reverse: the seniors could muster only sixty or seventy points, fewer than the other five Houses, and this handicap meant that a mediocre placing was inevitable. Of course there were compensations: Alison Hawcroft tied for 2nd place in the Discus, Paul Stonehouse was 3rd in the 1500m, and our Relay Squads were 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Chris White's performances, High Jump 1st, Discus 2nd, and 400m 3rd, gave much pleasure and won him the individual trophy, the Cardwell Cup.

On **Junior Sports Day** things went a great deal better. Our sole intention was to pull the House up off the bottom rung, and anything more than that would be a bonus, but in fact the third and fourth form boys and girls did much better. First places were achieved by Jenna French who also broke the Girls' Javelin record, Rajiv Kay, Sean Cordwell, Stephen Lancashire and Tim Bannister, and second places by Rajiv, Stephen, Tim (x2) and Sean (x2), plus Camille Kasler, Marsha Beagul (x2), Umair Khalil, Seena Mehta and Andrew Smith.

Others who contributed to the House effort were Rachael Moore, Chris Ogden-Smith, Tom Sutton, James Wood, James McConville, Amaan Akram, Gurpreet Singh, Colin Leung, Chloe Schofield, Hassan Maan, Farakh Ahmed, Imran Hussain, Syeeda Siddiqui, Edwin Leung, Rajesh Kumar, Ayaz Iqbal, some only guesting in a relay, but participating anyway. And the relay teams did well too, with a first, two seconds and two fourths. The only relay which had no Fraser entry was the Third Form Girls 4 x 100m, since we only had three girls at School on the day and could not enter. Seena, Syeeda and Chloe really surpassed themselves, though, sharing out as many events as they could, and recording seven placings overall. The Junior group amassed 196 points and came third, only seven points behind the joint winners. When Senior and Junior points were totalled, they had lifted the House from sixth to fourth, a real achievement which seemed almost as satisfying as winning - or was it perhaps just a feeling of relief?

- Congratulations to Sean Cordwell who was selected to represent the Greater Manchester Schools' Team in the English Schools' Athletics Association Combined Events Championship in Carlisle in June;
- Of the several Lower Sixth-Formers recommended as temporary School Prefects, Kessr Ali, Jonathan Byrom, Louise Goodwin, Richard Lee, Daniel Naylor, Jennifer Porter and Christopher White were appointed for September;
- Thanks to Miss Raw, our new Deputy, who has already shown great interest in our activities and has helped some of the sports teams prepare for their events;
- We say farewell to Mr Austen after some years with Fraser, and wish him well for his new appointment in Chester. The House was delighted to learn that Mr Wise would be joining Miss Raw as Deputy of the House from September, and we welcome him;
- Full School Colours were awarded to Zeeshan Rana (*Cricket*), Club Colours to Louise Goodwin (*Tennis*) and Daniel Naylor (*Cricket*), and Junior Colours to Rajiv Kay and Christopher Ogden-Smith (*Cricket*) and Camille Kasler (*Tennis*). Congratulations to them all;

- The eighteen girls and boys destined for the House in September 1999 met their House Master at the end of May to learn a little about the Fraser, the House system, and the expectations placed upon them as members of a House.

Finally, my thanks and good wishes to all those leaving the House (and of course the School) this year. All of you will have made a greater or lesser impact on Fraser, and all will probably have derived a greater or lesser degree of benefit accordingly, and the good wishes of your House follow you wherever you are going, together with the genuine request that you try to keep in touch just occasionally. To Heads of House Gurpartab and Katie I owe a special debt of gratitude for doing so much for others in your House and for being such a consistent pleasure to work with this year.

D.M. Fisher



Sean Cordwell bursting out of the blocks in the 200m Final.

(photo: D. M. Fisher)

GASKELL HOUSE

The last year of the Millennium and the House system still survives. Hopefully pupils all have an opportunity to take part in some activities they would not otherwise come across. The aim is for everyone to have at least attempted some activity, though skill is not needed, enthusiasm is!

Teachers become involved in the House system by being a form tutor and as an assistant Head of House. Miss Derby has looked after 3G for three years until they have all – at least temporarily – left School and become model citizens. She has spent a huge amount of time worrying about, helping, cursing and encouraging these fortunate pupils. Unfortunately Withington have recognised her skills and have appointed her to their English Department. We are genuinely sorry to see her go but thank her for all her enthusiasm and wish her well in the future. I am sure Abis will greatly miss her constant guidance.

Mrs Hesp has been assistant Head of House for four years. She has always provided great support and organised things when I have been on some vital field course. It has been my good fortune to have an assistant that is well organised and gets on with the job without any fuss. Mrs Hesp leaves to become Head of Science at a School in Epsom. We wish her all the best for the future. Mrs Worthington and Mr Gorman have failed to escape and will continue to give a lot of their extra time to the pupils of 4G and 5G respectively.

The Michaelmas term provide further evidence that Gaskell is now the sophisticated, intellectual House of William Hulme's. Victory in the debating competition was achieved thanks to the oratory skills of Laurie Edwards and Kati Greenall.

Kati writes:

'Our competitors this year were Whitworth, who were represented by Jemma Cohen and Peju Pearce. Our topic was "Is Scientific Advancement always for the better?" We had to argue the case that it was. Laurie and myself knew this was going to be a challenge, as Jemma and Peju are known to be strong and confident debaters. Whitworth opened the debate where Jemma made clear that science was the cause of bombs and so put forward a strong argument based on this premise. We then responded with the notion that scientific advancement was just an extension of evolution and was a means for survival. After a heated debate and some thought provoking questions from the audience our debate ended. Everyone seemed to enjoy the debate as it was interesting and gave people the chance to put forward their own views and argue them until Miss Tandon would call order to the hall. It was then to our amazement to find out that we had won especially as we had such good competition. We would like to thank everyone who came to support us, Miss Tandon and of course especially the judges for their patience.

For the past two years we have won the house music competition and so it was even more important to us this year so that we could claim the hat trick. We have had themed productions in previous years and this year was original in that it was world music. This proved difficult to find the music for people to play, showing variation between different countries. Our countries ranged from England to Japan to Spain to America and several more. Unfortunately, the Gaskettes didn't perform this year, which we apologise for, as we know that this disappointed many people. We did however, have a jazz band ensemble as our finale which was successful, and even managed to get some people dancing, which is always a bonus. Laurie's

presenting this year was sure to be remembered for years to come, as for each country, she took on the corresponding accent. Some accents weren't totally politically correct but they raised a smile. We would like to thank Mr Veevers, Mrs Hesp, Mr Gorman and Miss Derby for their support, the Music Department and everyone who supported us. It certainly paid off as we achieved our hat trick.'

The Junior hockey players produced a tremendous effort to win the semi final thanks to a goad from Rebecca Goodwin. A closely fought final resulted in a 1-0 loss to Whitworth. The senior girls did not do nearly so well though they had a good team 'on paper'. Sadly on grass their only success was a 1-0 victory over Whitworth for fifth place! We can do a lot better!

The senior rugby team were knocked out in the first round. Despite two good tries from Scott Griffiths and determined, brave tackling by Booker and Robinson the Fraser forwards were too powerful. The House league team were enthusiastic and managed to win more games than they lost.

The Junior rugby team were more successful winning to the final but then losing 22-17.

The Ray Cox sevens competition involves most of the boys and is always a closely fought competition. The first seven lost one game and drew one game; the second seven and 3rd seven managed to win both their games but then lost both finals. The result was that Gaskell were joint first as a result of a ridiculous scoring system.

The road run took place in December – there seems to be an increasing number of pupils who are unable to run at all. There were some excellent performances from third formers Chris Weems, Chris Booker and Ryan Williams. For the Fourth form Arfan Aslam was second Michael Platt fifth and Anna Rogers the first girl home as was Laua Alexander-Williams for the seniors. Robert Booker, Robert Thompson, Darren Loofe, Phil Robinson, Stephen Johnstone all ran well for the seniors. Despite this good performance, with full teams in every year group several people (six) were disqualified for not wearing the correct kit!

Thankfully kit was not an issue in the swimming competition where strong team spirit was much in evidence. Sheer guts and immense efforts – Ryan Williams, Robert Thompson, Abraham Petrillo, Chris Weems and Laura Alexander-Williams all deserve a special mention for their efforts in individual events, won valuable points. Christopher Weems recorded fine individual wins in the butterfly, Jonathan Case in the backstroke and Ryan Garner in the butterfly.

It was very encouraging to have a relay team in every final with the Fourth form winning both their competitions – the medley relay by one and a half-lengths! The seniors gained a second and third place and the third form third and fourth place – the overall result being second in the relay and third in the individual events.

The House football season under captain Rajeev Kumar started with a resounding 7-3 victory over Dalton; the Fifth formers Darren Loofe, Andy McLeod and Robert Booker being particularly impressive. All the pupils enjoyed the football and there was some close games. Despite beating Heywood 7-2 in the last game of the season two draws meant the league was lost by just one point. The European Cup will have to wait for another year.

The girl's netball teams showed a great deal of commitment and produced some excellent performances. The seniors

performed well to gain a place in the final. They had their chances to take the lead against a very strong Heywood team but eventually lost 5-0. The juniors won their first round matches but then lost the semi final to end up in fourth place overall.



Gaskell Senior Netball Squad

The House play competition was once again organised by Mr Turner who somehow ensures six plays have equal time on stage for rehearsal. Laurie Edwards decided not only to produce the play but to write it as well. Not surprisingly the play centred on a School production of a play and how the staff dealt with the production. Once again the aim was to involve as many people as possible and as the adjudicator states tremendous talent was in abundant evidence in this home grown show. In a less good year Gaskell would have won outright. The House play is always demanding and allows glimpses into pupil's personalities that are rarely visible every day. There should be a great sense of achievement from all those that took part. The major problem was the lack of rehearsal time. A large cast and such committed pupils meant that it was impossible to get them all together at any one time. A School hockey match at the same time as the dress rehearsal resulted in no rehearsal! Nonetheless a great effort by all and congratulations to Laurie on surviving it all.

Midsummer Term – rounders, cricket, sports days and rain. The 3rd and 4th form rounders team came a creditable 3rd though with improved catching and fielding this could have been better. The Senior rounders team were all well organised and enthusiastic and put together a string of excellent performances. Good fielding and 12 rounders put them in the final against Byrom. Unfortunately the rounders had dried up by then and they were defeated 3-2 though it was a good team effort by all.

The Junior cricket team qualified for the final in early May but had to wait until the last week of term for the final. Omer Raja was a demanding captain who led from the front. Emphatic victories were ensured in the early rounds thanks to a great team effort. The final against Fraser ended up in disappointment. Fraser scored 140 in 20 overs. Unfortunately Omer was out early and though Chris Booker and Arfan Aslam led a revival it was not enough and Fraser ended up as worthy winners despite the efforts of Bhavini as the female debutante.

The first round of the senior knockout was against Fraser. Winning the toss Gaskell bowled well with Andrew and Neil McLeod and Kasim Ullah the main men. With 107 needed to win, hopes were high but an early loss left Neil McLeod, Rajeev Kumar, Robert Booker, Kasim and Philip Robinson to score the runs for victory. Robert Thompson deserves a special mention for hanging on for a long time on his 'international' cricket debut.

The second round occurred after the Fifth and Upper Sixth formers had left. At 15 for 2 a message was left for Rajeev Kumar to get to School quickly – I did not know he was in the middle of his driving test at the time. However his driving was a great deal better than his bowling. New Head of House Phil Robinson saved the innings. He managed to farm the bowling and score 96 not out while his brave partner, Geoff Kinsella scored 3! Dan Choudhury managed to kick a leg by to gain a score of 134-4. Once the main Whitworth batsmen had been removed the others were unable to cope with Kasim..... on to the final. Last Wednesday of term, the final started at 11.00 pm. We won the toss and put in the opposition. In no time they are 76-0. Forty five minutes later Byrom were all out for 106 – Robinson 5-19; Chris Edwards 3-19 and good fielding from all the Lower Sixth including Kati Greenall setting an enthusiastic example for all. After an early lunch Neil McLeod and Kasim batted carefully until Neil was out for 33. Kasim with 24 not out and Rajeev with 29 not out led us to victory – an excellent team effort.

Senior sports day takes place early in May before all the pupils escape to study for their exams. The main aim is to get everybody participating – this was nearly achieved to produce a great team effort. Laura Alexander-Williams was third in the 800 metres and second in the high jump. Darren Looft was impressive in winning the 400 metres and Steve Johnstone again contributed points in the 800 metres and long jump. Adanna Opara was fourth in the 100 metres and won the shot putt, similarly Scott Griffiths won the 100 metres and was a very close second in the 200 metres. Phil Robinson was second and third in the 100 metres and high jump and Becky Lawson fourth in the long jump. In the field events Kiki was fourth in the shot putt. Neil McLeod and Mark Brown second and third in the Javelin, Vicki Lane second in the discus and Chris Edwards an excellent winner in the discus. As always the relays decide the result as they are worth double points. The boys managed fifth and third to be over shadowed by the girls 4 x 100 metre squad who stormed to victory in record time. It is a pleasure to be associated with teenagers who are prepared to 'have a go' rather than refuse to be seen to do anything. The final points score was Gaskell 103.5; Whitworth 112.5 – all set for an interesting afternoon on junior sports day.



Gaskell 4th Form relay team

Once again 90% of the Gaskell pupils took part and once they had been persuaded to participate they clearly enjoyed themselves. Perhaps the heroes were the pupils who ran the 1500 metres and all picked up valuable points – Hannah Hassan, Kavita Shah, Greg Baines all gained points and Arfan Aslam stormed home to win the fourth form race. Thanks to a great team effort Gaskell won the Junior sports by a big enough

margin to take the overall Athletics trophy. Matthew NJie won the 200 metres, was equal second in the 100 metres and fourth in javelin. Nneka Opara won the 100 and 200 metres and was third in the long jump. Chris Booker and Chris Weems were first and second in the long jump as well as picking up points in other competitions. Bhavini Vara was second and third in the 100 metres and 200 metres, Anna Rogers won the 800 metres and Rebecca Choudhry was 4th in the 800 metres and 3rd in the high jump. Michael Platt and Arfan Aslam were first and second in the 1500 metres with Michael also third in the long jump and 100 metres. Omar Raja and Daniel Goodkin produced excellent performances in the field events, backed up by further points from Shelley Turnberg, Ali Anwar, Amna Siddique, Zahra Habib, Philip Johnston, Rebecca Goodwin and Alexis Race. Once again it was down to the relays and team spirit, with Whitworth the major rivals. The excellent fourth year team won the 4 x 400 metres with the third year team fourth. The boys 4 x 100 and fourth form girls all claimed creditable third places. The surprise package were the third form girls who had all had to take part in several events. Rebecca Choudhry, Zahra Habib, Shelley Turnberg and Nneka Opara stormed home to win the 4 x 100 metre race and help Gaskell to an overall win in the Athletics Competition.



The victorious third year 4 x 400 metre relay team minus Rebecca Choudhry

Keeping an eye on academic matters it is pleasing to note that many pupils have improved over the year. Though there is more to education than cold results in examinations the best overall performance in the third and fourth form was achieved by pupils in 3G and 4G. Thanks to the form tutors (Mrs Worthington and Mr Gorman) who monitor the pupil's progress.

1999-2000 welcomes Dr Lambert as Deputy Head of House, Laurie Edwards and Philip Robinson as the Senior House Prefects though the truth is that all Sixth formers contribute in a wide range of activities. I trust the Sixth formers that have left will have happy memories and the second formers that will join in September are equally enthusiastic.

HN Veevers Head of Gaskell

HEYWOOD HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

Appointments

Heads of House: Lauren Standring & André Jackson

Deputy Heads of House: Suzanne Ash & Levinia Clemetson

The year began with Lauren Standring, André Jackson, Suzanne Ash and Levinia Clemetson being appointed as School Prefects. These four Upper Sixth Formers were made House Prefects along with Akeel Jamil, Zurqab Razaq, Elise Cohen, Tayyab Akhlaq, Elisa Chui, Dan Coghill and Carla Narnor

The first House assembly saw the awarding of House Colours, from the summer term, to Huseyin Uflaz, Joe Gavagan, Aysa Rangrez and Irfan Rauf, for athletics, along with the appointments of captains/organisers for the various activities. These were: Senior:- Rugby - Luke Coffey; Hockey - Lauren Standring (and School Hockey Captain); League Rugby - Tayyab Akhlaq; Juniors:- Hockey - Selene Pang; Rugby - Andrew McIntyre. House Music - Dan Coghill, Debating - Graeme Laycock and Edward Barker, Swimming - André Jackson and Road Race - Elisa Chui.

The rugby knockouts were both over very quickly. The juniors played Fraser in a very good match. Two tries from Andrew McIntyre gave us a narrow lead but as we tired, and Leon Jackson had to leave the field with a hip injury, we gave away several careless tries to lose 32-12. The seniors had little chance against a very strong Whitworth and were soundly beaten 75-0, although they kept playing throughout and caused no problems for the referee despite it being very one-sided. The most pleasing aspect of both these matches was the team spirit shown and tremendous commitment.

The sevens tournaments were rather unsuccessful. The juniors, unfortunately, lost both pool matches, at 3rd and 4th year, but won both losers' finals, giving joint fifth place. Both teams deserved credit for their efforts. The senior sevens became somewhat of a farce for Heywood when due to illnesses and absences we only had three third team players and therefore had to forfeit these games. When the 1st and 2nd teams lost both pool matches the resulting 0 points and sixth place was the worst performance ever recorded by the House in this competition.

Over the term the House league in rugby saw Heywood struggle to raise a full team on several occasions due to the small number of lads available for selection. Fortunately bad weather meant the league was never completed, so humiliation in a third rugby competition was avoided, although the team always tried its best when they did play.

In the House music Heywood were represented by Dan Coghill, Carla Narnor, Graeme Laycock, Selene Pang, and third years Carolyn Hegg, Ozadeh Solati and Tom Hamlyn and played a selection of Beatles hits. To be placed third behind two extremely talented Houses was a major achievement and something we can build on in future. Dan and Graeme were awarded merit certificates after excellent performances and Elisa Chui deserves special mention for her hard work in designing and producing the programme. Colours were awarded to all participants and to Carolyn, Ozadeh and Tom for the first time.

In the hockey knockouts the juniors lost 3-0 to a very strong Whitworth side and 1-0 to Dalton, although the girls played extremely well. In the fifth/sixth play-off Heywood lost their

best player and captain, Selene Pang, and had to settle for sixth place after a 2-0 defeat by Fraser. The seniors are a very strong and talented team and having won the trophy last year knew they should reach the final. In the pool matches, having beaten a spirited Gaskell 1-0 they were then outplayed by Byrom and lost 1-0. In the semi-final we beat Fraser 3-0 to reach the final with Byrom. Having already lost to them in the pool match we knew exactly what we had to do – mark Caroline Bell tightly and not get caught out by having too many players in attack. Nevertheless we were repeatedly stretched at the back and only Levinia Clemetson in goal kept the score down. Our captain, Lauren Standring, scored a brilliant solo goal as a consolation yet we were beaten 2-1. Our tactics must be adhered to much more closely in future.

The debating saw Edward Barker and Asmar Chaudhry opposing the motion 'This house believes that the private life of politicians should remain private'. On the day both spoke very well and Edward was highly commended by the adjudicators.

The last event of the term was the road race and Heywood finished fifth overall. Successes were; James Barrington eleventh and Ozy Solati second fastest girl in the third year; Seb Bowe ninth in the fifth year; Neel Shah, Asmar Chaudhry and André Jackson tenth, eleventh and fourteenth respectively in the seniors; and Beth Coffey eleventh in the fifth year race and fastest girl competitor on the day. Colours were awarded to all runners and James Barrington, Paul Keenlyside, Greg Booth and Omar Nour were new awards.

Over the period of the mock exams Danny Baker and Graeme Laycock were asked to be acting Heads of House and Asmar Chaudhry, Neel Shah and Emma Cruickshank were elected to the Lower Sixth duty rota.

In the half term holiday the Upper Sixth House Prefects went to Blackpool, for an evening on the Pleasure Beach, as reward for their commitment to the House over the years. Once again, like last year, the students decided to stay with the staff on the funfair with Miss Smith leading the way. However, a good time was had by all despite the rather inclement weather.

Lent Term

The term began with the appointments of Danny Baker, Edward Barker, Asmar Chaudhry, Vanessa Cohen, Emma Cruickshank, Nafisa Hanif, Graeme Laycock, Andrew Machin, Neel Shah and Neil Whitehead as House Prefects. In the first House assembly the captains/organisers were selected. These were: seniors- netball- Levinia Clemetson (and school first team captain); league soccer- Asmar Chaudhry; juniors- netball- Vanessa Bacchas; soccer knockout- Huseyin Uflaz; House Play Producer- Emma Cruickshank.

Having won the individual swimming competition last year it was hoped that we would again perform well. Unfortunately Jenny Street, our best senior swimmer, went down with flu and was unable to take part in the heats. This year we qualified in four relays and twelve out of fifteen individual events. In the relays the third years won both the squadron and medley but our only other points came from third place in the senior squadron, giving us fourth overall. Matters were not helped when Hayley Street also became unable to swim due to ill health and her replacement forgot to turn up, meaning we failed to swim in the fourth year medley relay. In the individuals Neel Shah was third in breaststroke and fourth in fly, Seb Bowe fourth in breaststroke and Elisa Chui second in the individual medley, all at senior level. Andrew McIntyre won the freestyle and Raymond Chui

was second in the breaststroke in the fourth year. Carolyn Hegg came third in the third year backstroke. However, the stars of the team were James Barrington and Paul Keenlyside who shared the best third year swimmer award after James won the breaststroke and freestyle, whilst Paul won the butterfly and individual medley. A final position of second by two points from Fraser was disappointing, particularly as Jenny and Hayley each won best swimmer awards last year and were sure to score points. Colours were awarded to all finalists and included Paul Whitehead and Leon Jackson as new awards.

The junior soccer knockout saw Heywood drawn against Gaskell. In an extremely one-sided match Heywood lost 11-1 and used several different goalkeepers during the game with little success. The seniors certainly enjoyed their matches in the senior league and managed one win and one draw out of the five games played. Next year they should have a very strong team capable of doing much better.

The junior netball unfortunately saw Heywood drawn in the same pool as the two strongest sides and we lost both matches, 7-1 to Dalton and 5-1 to Whitworth. A result of 9-0 against Byrom gave us fifth place and made up somewhat for the disappointment of the pool matches. The senior netball proved to be more rewarding. The girls reached the semi-finals beating Dalton 5-3 and Fraser 11-3. Two more superb performances saw us first thrash Whitworth 15-2 in the semi-final and then overpower Gaskell 5-0 to win the trophy. In the final Carla Narnor defended brilliantly and Levinia Clemetson and Lauren Standring proved very effective as shooters, however the whole team played very impressively.



Heywood's winning senior netball team

For the House play we originally chose to do a murder mystery but were having such difficulty staging it that, with a month to go, we opted to change to a comedy, called "Talk Of the Devil" by John Waterhouse. Costumes proved difficult, particularly with a plaster cast, a nun's habit and a red outfit for a trendy devil. With the help of the Club Theatre, Altrincham, visits to several Oxfam shops and the cast raiding their own and members of their family's wardrobes they soon looked right. To give the devil a dramatic entrance I hired a smoke effect. When one was set off in the dress rehearsal within a few minutes the actors were engulfed in smoke, could not see the front row of chairs in the hall and found it impossible to continue acting. The spares were promptly returned to the supplier and a less dramatic entrance planned. The play itself was greatly received by the audience on the night and the cast did tremendously well. Graeme Laycock was awarded best actor and we were unfortunate to be placed second. (a full report from Miss Green the adjudicator can be found elsewhere in the magazine). Asmar

Chaudhry did particularly well, in his first acting role, as the devil and Alex Oxberry made a very convincing nun despite her wimple falling off part way through. Leanne Davidson, Vanessa Bacchas and Lauren Standing completed the cast with lesser but equally important roles. Once again the success of the play relied on teamwork and Elisa Chui, Huseyin Uflaz and David Njegovan- backstage, Vanessa Cohen-programme, Danny Baker-prompting and directing and Emma Cruickshank-choosing the plays and generally taking charge of all aspects of the production deserve special mention. Special thanks also go to Miss Green for adjudicating, Rupert Wakefield and Patrick Clerc for their technical help, Dr Keable and Miss Tandon for make-up and of course Mr Turner for organising, supervising and ensuring yet another successful House Play competition. Colours were awarded to all those involved and to David Njegovan for the first time.

Summer Term

At the first House assembly Emma Cruickshank and Asmar Chaudhry were appointed acting Heads of House and the team captains were decided. The following appointments were made: Seniors:- athletics- Neel Shah and Elisa Chui; rounders- Vanessa Cohen; cricket- Edward Barker; Juniors:- athletics- Christie Okpe and John Bracchi; rounders- Aysha Rangrez; cricket- Andrew McIntyre.

After a bye in the first round of the senior cricket knockout, we faced Byrom. They scored 71 all out, with Jason Lloyd bowling very tightly, ably supported by Andrew Machin and Sam McClements taking wickets. In reply Heywood reached 68-3, with Imran Khan scoring freely before he was caught trying to score the winning runs with a lofted drive through mid-wicket. The remainder of the innings quickly became a farce and we were all out for 69! Credit must go to the Byrom bowlers who never gave up and produced some excellent deliveries when they were almost out of the game. Another very pleasing aspect was the way both teams played very competitively but still took time to enjoy some of the lighter moments of the match. The junior knockout saw us again play Byrom. In reply to their 117-5 Heywood scored 118-5 with Azim Butt making 91 not out. In the second round Heywood collapsed to 53 all out, with Leon Jackson our highest scorer with 17. Fraser easily reached 54-3 in reply. Colours were awarded to the whole team for their efforts in both matches and Naser Khan, Saleem Khokar and Azim received them for the first time. Azim continued to score freely for the school, making two centuries which earned him the traditional presentation of a gift voucher from the Head Master, towards the cost of a bat, and the Harry Charlesworth trophy for excellence in school cricket.

The pool matches for the junior rounders saw us placed with two very strong teams and Heywood lost 6-1 to Fraser and 3-1 to Whitworth. In the fifth/sixth play-off, on a very slippery pitch after yet another shower, Heywood unfortunately lost to Byrom. The seniors made too many mistakes in their first pool match and luckily managed to draw 4-4 with Gaskell. In the second match they really dominated and beat Whitworth 6-1. In the semi-final against Byrom they had several big hitters and they won 4-2. The girls comfortably took third place with a 4-2 victory over Dalton.

The final sporting event of the year was the junior athletics. The senior competition had taken place before half term and Heywood was third with a total of 92 points with Whitworth in the lead with 112. Successes on the day were largely down to

the girls and consisted, amongst others: Beth Coffey first in 200m and second in 800m, Danny Baker second in 100m and 200m, Jenny Street first in 800m and third in shot, Levinia Clemetson second in shot and Carla Narnor retained the best senior girl athlete trophy, for the third year running, with firsts in the high jump and 100m and third in long jump.



Carla Narnor – Winner of the best Senior Girl athlete

In the junior competition we were fairly successful. At fourth year level Christie Okpe won both the 100m and high jump and was fourth in 200m, Andrew McIntyre was first in a most thrilling 100m and third in long jump, Selene Pang second in 1500m and Hayley Street third in long jump. For the third years, Ozy Solati won the 800m and was second in the 100m, Leon Jackson first in high jump, third in 100m and fifth in javelin, Carolyn Hegg first in shot and fourth in javelin and Amnah Ahmed third in both the 200m and 1500m. However, poor performances in the majority of the relays meant Heywood finished sixth overall – a huge disappointment seeing we won the competition last year. Colours were awarded to all finalists and I was delighted to award them to Amnah Ahmed and Zainab Hussain because it meant all the third formers had earned colours at least once during their first year in Heywood.

Just prior to half term I met the new intake and they were spoken to by three of the Lower Sixth who told them what life in Heywood is like and what to expect. These pupils were not only assigned to me as HouseMaster, they were also to be in my form.

In the Whit holiday the House Prefects went to Pizza-Hut for lunch, followed by ten-pin bowling, as a sort of leaving do. Mr Gracey, once again managed to do the House proud with the 'eat as much as you like' menu and, despite some of the upper sixth being unable to make it, we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

At the end of the term the Head Master appointed Asmar Chaudhry as Head Boy and I made Emma Cruickshank and Neel Shah Heads of House with Graeme Laycock and Danny Baker as deputies.

The last task of the year was collecting and reissuing the locker keys so that the forms could change form rooms. From September 11H would be in room N with Mr Wise for registration, 10H in room 34 with Mr Gracey and 9H in room 38 with myself.

Lastly, I would like to thank my Deputies Miss Smith and Mr Gracey for their continued support in running the House.

Mr L Sharp

WHITWORTH HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

Heads of House: Paul Edisbury* and Pareen Trivedi*

Deputy Heads of House: Richard Fisher* and Louise Simon*

House Prefects: Jeremy Arnold, Saqib Ahmad,
Jonathan Mills, Neil Matthews,
Joanna Shaw* (Head of School)

**denotes School Prefect*

At the beginning of term we welcomed into the House, Miss Barlow as Form Tutor of 3W, Mr Seddon for 4W, Mr Ballantyne for 5W and Miss Matthews as House Deputy.

This year Whitworth was very well represented in the Senior School Rugby squads and as a result of this every available senior boy was drafted into the Senior League Rugby. Once again the squad was a good mix of all the year groups and was well led by Richard Fisher. Fraser were convincingly beaten 43 pts – 5 in the first match in which Levi Adams scored a superb hat-trick of tries. We then played poorly against Heywood, giving them a start of 14 pts before any tackling or commitment began. A strong rally in the second half nearly snatched victory but the game was lost by 31 pts – 34. This was followed by a draw against Byrom and a comfortable win over Dalton. The remaining games were lost to the weather and consequently there was no overall winner.

In the Senior Knockout, Heywood were comfortably beaten 77 pts – 0, but Dalton proved stronger opposition until they ran out of steam and eventually lost 50 pts – 12.

This meant that hopes were high for the final against Fraser. Unfortunately, the final had to be postponed twice and when it was eventually played the team was severely weakened due to injuries and illness. Neil Matthews, Iain Gage, Chris Howarth and Jeffrey Wu, all 1st XV players, were missing and the team was consequently very unbalanced and lacked organisation. The match itself was a dour affair and the players worked hard throughout but eventually lost 0 – 15 pts. Paul Edisbury as captain set a tremendous example and he was well supported by William Kent, Richard Fisher, John Fletcher and Puya Niroomand.

This was followed by some excellent performances in the Senior Sevens competition. The First Seven were outstanding and were deserved winners of their section. They beat Heywood and Byrom in the pool matches and then had a comfortable victory over Dalton in the final. William Kent was in dominating form and not far behind were Paul Edisbury, Neil Matthews and John Fletcher. The Second Seven beat Fraser in their first game and then lost very narrowly to Byrom. Similarly the Third team beat Dalton and then lost to Fraser. The overall result was a three-way tie for first between Whitworth, Gaskell and Byrom.

In the first round of the Junior Hockey the girls were in excellent form and were dominant in all aspects of play. Holly Kent was tremendous in attack and scored some superb long range goals. Kathryn Tang marshalled the defence and as a result both Dalton and Heywood were beaten quite comfortably. In the semi-final they beat Byrom and then completely dominated the final against Gaskell. The score was only 1 – 0, but could easily have been many more. The girls were very determined and Holly Kent was an excellent Captain.

This was a very important victory for Whitworth girls. Over the years, the girls have played with one hundred per cent commitment and great spirit but have never been strong enough

to win overall. They have reached the odd final but did not manage to win a competition. Hence, to finally win a competition is hugely satisfying and rewards not only those girls who actually won, but all the others before who have worked so hard. House Colours were awarded to all members of the squad.

The Senior girls played very well against Dalton in a scoreless draw before losing to a strong Fraser team. They then lost narrowly against Gaskell to finish sixth overall. Pareen Trivedi was a hard working Captain and she was well supported by Joanna Shaw, Gemma Bookbinder and Miriam Mkumbwa.

In the Junior Rugby Knockout the team had great potential but played poorly against a determined Gaskell in the second round. The players were unable to adapt their style of play in the face of some strong tackling and Gaskell were worthy winners. Nasir Moosa was a strong-running Captain, well backed up by Roy Chohan and Alpesh Pankhania.

The Fourth Years did make amends in the Junior Sevens. Conditions were wet and muddy but they played some excellent rugby, beating Byrom and Fraser to again play Gaskell in the final. The final was a closely matched affair and intensive pressure in the last minute resulted in Nasir Moosa grabbing the winning try. The Third Years were unlucky in that they had to play the two strongest teams, Fraser and Dalton, in their pool. They played well and in particular pushed Fraser all the way before losing both games. Ben Kaufman was Captain and he received good support from Akintunde Adams and Peter Royle. Overall, the Juniors finished a creditable third.

The effort and commitment in the Road Run was once again superb and resulted in a third successive victory for the House. This competition depends on all individuals striving to achieve the highest possible placing and everyone did so. Akintunde Adams was a convincing winner of the Third Year race and Paul Edisbury was first in the Senior race with Robert Greenhalgh a close second. Chris Howarth was third in the Fifth year race; and Rashed Ahmed fourth. Joanne Shaw was first girl home in the seniors.

For the record, Whitworth placings were as follows:-

Third Form:

Akintunde Adams	1st	Kunal Patel	16th
Peter Royle	6th	Leela Dé	22nd
Ben Kaufman	15th	Kate Maddock	23rd

Fourth Form:

Ishraq Ishfaq	6th	Mohammed Al-Himdani	12th
Shoyab Patel	7th	Holly Kent	24th
Robi Dé	8th	Rachel Ng	27th

Fifth Form:

Chris Howarth	3rd	Levi Adams	21st
Rashed Ahmed	4th	Helen Fisher	28th
John Fletcher	16th	Gemma Bookbinder	32nd

Sixth Form:

Paul Edisbury	1st	William Kent	17th
Robert Greenhalgh	2nd	Joanne Shaw	20th
Richard Fisher	6th	Miriam Mkumbwa	22nd

The House Music Competition was once again very successful but also very frustrating. For the second year in a row, Whitworth had the same musical marks as the winners, but were given one mark less for general impression. A great deal of time and effort was put in by Jeffrey Wu and his fellow musicians and it makes one wonder what has to be done to win.

Thanks go to Jeffrey Wu, the organiser, and to all the musicians who took part. Once again, Gemma Bookbinder treated us with her marvellous singing voice, and Kristie Tierney demonstrated her Irish Dancing skills.

Peju Pearce and Jemma Cohen represented the House in the Debating, proposing the motion "This house believes that scientific advancement is not necessarily for the good....". It was not the easiest of motions to support and both did very well and were commended.

Lent Term

This term was marked by the introduction of Football and there was an enthusiastic response from all members of the House. The Senior League team proved to be very successful and played some intelligent football. Only one game was lost by the margin of 2-1 to Fraser, but later in this was redeemed by an excellent 5-0 victory in a second game. This meant that Whitworth and Fraser were the joint winners of the first Senior League Competition. Paul Edisbury was an excellent leader and Captain of the team. Chris Howarth was a dynamic mid-fielder capable of scoring long range goals, whilst Rashed Ahmed was a very accomplished defender.

In the Junior Knockout, the team came from 1-0 down at half-time to beat Gaskell by 3-1. They then played a strong Byrom squad in the final. Predictably they battled hard, but Byrom were a well organised side and eventually won 3-0. Robi Dé was a talented Captain, ably supported by Roy Chohan, Shoyab Patel and Peter Royle.

In the Swimming Finals we no longer have the depth of talent to challenge for top honours, but there were still some fine performances. Daniel Mather won both the Senior Individual Medley and Breaststroke and received the award for best Senior Swimmer. Overall we finished 4th and 3rd in the relays.

In the Junior Netball the girls were in fine form and comprehensively defeated both Dalton and Heywood in the first round. They then played Fraser in the semi-final and at one stage were ahead 5-0. Unbelievably they then lost 5-6 to Fraser in extra-time. Quite how the turn around occurred no one seems to know. They then beat Gaskell to finish in third place overall. Kathryn Tang was the Captain and was a ceaseless organiser and motivator.

The Seniors lost narrowly to Gaskell but then played extremely well to beat Byrom 10-3. They then were outplayed by a strong Heywood team in the semi-final. Overall they finished fourth. Joanna Shaw was the key player and acted as Captain.

This year the House Play was co-produced by Peju Pearce and Miriam Mkumbwa. They chose to do 'A Bedroom Farce' by Alan Ayckbourn. This was a difficult play to attempt but proved to be successful and a full review is given elsewhere. Miriam had to step in at the last moment when Pareen Trivedi fell ill but produced a polished performance in her role. Peju was highly commended for her acting as Jan, one of the main characters. Both of them put in a great deal of time and effort and I can assure them their efforts are fully appreciated. Many thanks also to the rest of the cast and the stage staff.

Midsummer Term

In recent years Whitworth has not done well in the Senior Sports day and so it was very gratifying this year to finish in first position on the day. This was an excellent effort from both girls and boys.

First places were achieved by Paul Edisbury - 1500 metres, William Kent - 200 metres, Neil Matthews - Shot, Cathrine Opara - Long Jump, Boys 4 x 100 relay, and Boys 4 x 400 relay. In addition there were several second and third places.

In the Junior Rounders the girls produced a mixed performance in the first round, losing to Fraser and beating Heywood. However, everything came together in the finals and after beating Gaskell in the semi-final they played magnificently to beat Fraser. Rachel Ng was Captain, but the spirit of all the girls in her support was tremendous. Add this success to that in the Hockey, plus third place in the netball and it makes them the most successful ever girls team for Whitworth.



Junior Girls' Squad

The Seniors played well but lacked the big hitters and eventually finished sixth.

The Junior Cricket team promised much but were outplayed in the second round by Gaskell. Once Robi Dé was out the batting never really got going and we were unable to sit Gaskell a high total of runs. Ishraq Ishfaq did a good job as organiser and Captain but it did not happen on the day.

It was a similar picture in the Seniors. A weakened team lacking Paul Edisbury and Chris Howarth also played Gaskell in the second round. Gaskell batted first and Phil Robinson went on to hit 96, but was dropped three times!! Chasing a target of 130 runs, the batsman were out cheaply and only Iain Gage and Gary Meakin with a stand of over 40 stopped the collapse. Well done to Gaskell, but with a full team available I think the result would have been different. Thanks go to Mike Robson the Captain for his leadership and organisation.

After the excellent performance of the Seniors in their Sportsday, a similar effort was required from the Juniors if we were to challenge for top spot overall. On the actual day, the effort and commitment from both the Third and Fourth years was superb. There was a close tussle between Whitworth and Gaskell throughout the day and it eventually came down to the relays. Gaskell just had the edge in the relays and finished ahead by a mere ten points.

First places were achieved in the Third Years by Kristie Tierney - 1500m Girls, Kate Maddock - Javelin and Akintunde Adams - 1500m Boys. In the Fourth Years Robi Dé placed first in the Boys Triple Jump, Roy Chohan first in the Boys Shot and Kathryn Tang first in the Girls Shot.

Holly Kent was in superb form and was awarded the Trophy for the Best Girl Athlete by winning the 200 metres and Long Jump, and finishing second in the 100 metres.



Nasir Moosa in the Long Jump on Sportsday



Holly Kent winning the 200 metres on Sportsday

Jeffrey Wu and Chris Howarth then combined to win the Boys Doubles in the Tennis competition.

At the end of term, Preen Trivedi, Peju Pearce, Miriam Mkumbwa, William Kent and Jeffrey Wu were appointed School Prefects. William Kent was also appointed Head of House with Jeffrey Wu as his Deputy. Peju Pearce and Miriam Mkumbwa were also appointed Joint Heads of House. All of them contribute greatly both to School and House activities and the honours are well deserved.

I would like to express my thanks to Paul Edisbury, Preen Trivedi, Joanna Shaw and all the other House Prefects for all they have done over the years. Thanks also to the House Tutors whose efforts have been greatly appreciated. Finally, many thanks to the House Deputies, Miss Matthews and Dr Keable for their unfailing support both to the House and the Housemaster. Without them, it would all be a lot more difficult.

DA Myers

FROM INFANT I TO JUNIOR IV

I started at Amberleigh Prep School in September 1992. My teacher in Infant I was Mrs Hayden the wife of the Headmaster Mr Hayden. I can still remember my first day at school, when my mum dropped me off I dashed into school and was very excited, I really enjoyed my first day.

The start of my second day was a bit different when mum dropped me off I was a bit upset because I think it was then that I realised that this wasn't my Aunt Rita anymore this was School. I had been in Infant I about a month and found the work very hard. I realised however that in order to improve, I had to work hard. I really enjoyed my Infant I year and I achieved the Progress Prize at the end of the year.

Sadly Mrs Hayden became ill and had to leave and she has since died, perhaps its because she was my first teacher but I was really upset when she died.

Infant II – My Teacher in Infant II was Miss Milligan, she was Irish, once again this was a very good year I enjoyed being taught by Miss Milligan and I think I learnt a lot while I was in her class, sadly she also left and went to a school in Ireland.

Infant III – My Teacher was Mrs Brown (she has since retired). Mrs Brown was a very strict teacher, but was also a caring and loving person, we did hard work then harder work but at the end of the day we learnt a lot and even though Mrs Brown would shout and at times you thought Please Shut Up! she would always praise you when you did good work and give you a pat on the back and you felt good about yourself. When I had to leave I was extremely upset because now I was going into the JUNIORS.

II – Mrs Wright's class.

JII – Mrs Rom. I thoroughly enjoyed JII. Mrs Rom was absolutely brilliant she had a lot of patience and would go over things with us again and again just to make sure we fully understood what we were doing. It didn't matter how many times you asked her to explain a problem she was always willing to go over it again. I am sure when JI moved up to JII Mrs Rom wondered how she was ever going to doing anything with us but she was determined to pull us all into shape and slowly but surely her determination won through and we all knuckled down to doing our very best for her and of course ourselves. And at the end of JII I came first in class – Yippee.

During my JII year William Hulme's took over Amberleigh so I am now attending William Hulme's Grammar School Preparatory Department.

JIII – Mrs McKay – I hope she won't mind me saying this but when I joined JIII I was actually taller than Mrs McKay (come to think of it I have always been the tallest child in school) but don't be fooled, Mrs McKay might not be very tall but she will not tolerate any nonsense, she is a very fair teacher and I found if I had any problems I could go to her, discuss it and she would always manage to sort things out for me. Once again I thought I learnt a lot in JIII and came third in class.

JIV – Mrs Wilson – I knew this would be a tough year because we had so many exams to take including the dreaded 11+ and Entrance Exam.

Mrs Wilson worked us hard, and harder still, if you did a piece of work and thought "that's not bad" chances are you would get a remark in her famous green pen "Jason you can do better work than this!". She pushed us and pushed us because

she wanted us to work to the best of our ability and in reality she also had to knock us into shape for going to senior school wherever that may be.

As the 11+ approached we started to do practice papers, we did the mocks and I think she must have wondered what she had been doing with her time. Mrs Wilson tried to boost our confidence by telling us that she knew we could do it but it was up to us. I am really glad to say that I also had confidence in myself my Auntie sent me some practice papers and my mum brought some more practice papers (I was seeing practice papers everywhere). I would do the papers at home after I had done my homework then bring them in to Mrs Wilson who would then mark them and explain to me where I had gone wrong.

I am glad to say that I listened to her and I passed my 11+. She also prepared us for the various Entrance Exams we wished to take.

I have seen a lot of changes since I started at Amberleigh Prep in 1992 - I have seen Mr & Mrs Hayden leave, Miss Milligan, Mrs Taylor (Miss Milligan's replacement), Mr Petch (the then sports teacher) and Mrs Brown - The name has changed and we have moved to a new building but on the whole they have been happy years and I hope the teachers that are still at the school enjoyed teaching me as much as I enjoyed being in their class.

I have been given the best start possible and I fully intend to work harder still to achieve my full potential.

Thank you to all the staff.

Jason McDonald (J4)

THINGS WE DO AND DON'T LIKE ABOUT SCHOOL BY JUNIOR ONE

Faisal Ali: I like swimming, P.E., technology because you get to draw and R.E.

I don't like games because you have to run, the stairs because they are too long and the playground because it is too little.

Sharjeel Arshad: I like maths so I can do times tables and adding sums, Art and Craft and the canteen because I can have my chips.

I don't like it when I need to wait in the canteen or when it's raining because we can't go outside to play.

Parisce Francis: I like the hall because it's big, the library because it's not as squashed as before, the computers because we can draw and the staircase because it twirls.

I don't like the playground because it is a bit small.

A SELECTION OF LIKES...

I like...

Rubica Hamid: helping because it is nice to help.

Felicia Williams: history because we get to learn about the Romans and the Vikings.

Kersia Morgan: elocution because we get to learn plays and poems.

Huria Ali: going on trips because they are fun.

Kieran Levy-Williams: games because we used to do football.

Calum To: geography because I like doing about forests.

AND DISLIKES...

I don't like...

Faizan Nayyar: swimming lessons because we bring our kit and it is not swimming.

Emily Featherstone: the drill man because he is too loud.

Sarah Morrison: wet plays because we all have to stay inside.

Martin McDonald: the staircase because it is purple.

Junior 1

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1ST XI HOCKEY

Played 10 Won 6 Drew 1 Lost 3

v Stockport G.S. (H)	Lost 0-1
v Withington (H)	Won 4-0
v Cheadle Hulme (A)	Won 4-0
v Newcastle-Under-Lyme (H)	Drew 1-1
v Cheadle Hulme (H)	Won 2-1
v Santiago College, Chile (H)	Lost 1-6
v St Bedes (A)	Won 1-0
v St Bedes (H)	Won 2-0
v Stockport G.S.	Won 0-5
v Withington (H)	Won 2-0

The 1st XI have had a tremendous season. I have had the pleasure of working with a group of very keen, talented and enthusiastic girls which has made my job a lot easier and very enjoyable. The commitment the girls have shown and their mature and positive attitude towards the game has been commendable.

There have been some outstanding individual performances and I think I can safely say all girls have improved throughout the season.

Levinia Clemetson has played in goal throughout the season and gives an enormous amount of confidence and encouragement to the team playing in front of her.

In defence we have had Georgina Laird and Katie Chesworth. Georgina has grown in strength this season, which has made her a more confident player allowing her to make her tackles earlier preventing the opposition from entering the defending circle. She has worked very well with Katie whose timing of the tackle has become better and better (which has helped along now she manages to stay on her feet for most of the game!)

In midfield we have had Laurie Edwards on the left. She is the most calm and 'chilled' player I have come across, yet the ball very rarely gets past her. Her timing is amazing and on the odd occasion the ball does go past, her speed is so impressive she soon catches it up.

Lauren Standring has played in the middle, putting 110% into every game. Lauren has led the team by example both on and off the pitch and has been a very effective captain who has gained respect from the rest of the team.

Anya Dearden covered the right side of the midfield. Anya won player of the season this year, which she fully deserved. Her commitment has been tremendous and her work rate on the pitch has been excellent. Although she isn't the quickest player she had worked on her fitness throughout the year and always manages to be in the right place at the right time. She has covered an enormous amount of ground and reads the game very well.

The forward line has been very strong this year with many 'goal hungry' players, Jo Shaw has played on the left wing now for seven years and has improved in strength as the years have gone on. Her most notable improvement is her hitting (she now has the confidence to take long corners!) She has also slotted many a goal in from the far post.

Rebekah Lawson has become a more confident player and is now a regular member of the team. I'm sure she will continue to improve next year.

Hannah Naylor who was playing her first season in the 1st team has had a great year. Although she was hindered with injury she always made every effort to be fit for hockey. She is extremely dangerous in front of goal as she is not afraid to strike at any loose ball. This has led to her scoring many of the teams goals.

On the right wing Alison Hawcroft has played for seven years. She has provided many a great cross for the 'lefties' to get on the end of and has been committed 110% to the success of the team.

Beth Coffey, another player in her first season on the 1st team, has gained in confidence as the matches went on. She is a true team player and works very well with the girls playing either side of her, feeding many of the balls into the circle.

Elli Metcalfe has proved to be very versatile player, it always helps when you have player who can play many positions on your squad. Although Elli prefers playing on the right she is equally comfortable on the left or even dropping back into midfield. Her game and work rate greatly improved towards the end of the season.

Finally, we have Caroline Bell who plays centre forward. Caroline never stops working for the whole duration of the game. Her skill level has shot up now that she is playing regularly on astro turf and she is becoming stronger and stronger. She not only has the ability to take players on and score many a goal but she also has the ability (and fitness) to work back and help the defenders if need be. She is the kind of player that any team is glad to have on their side rather than having to face her as part of the opposition.

Although the above named players have been the backbone of the 1st XI team thanks also need to go to Natalie Ofoche, Helia Asadi, Louise Goodwin and Gemma Bookbinder who have also played matches for the team and who will be looking for regular places next season.

Regular astro-turf practices definitely paid off this year as the team have not only become more confident on the surface but it has also helped to improve their skill level. The benefit of these practices has been reflected in the team's good results.

I feel a special mention is also needed to the parents. Over the last seven years there has been a set of loyal supporters who have very rarely, if ever, missed a game. Not only do the girls welcome the encouragement from the sideline it is a great support to myself also, so I would like to offer my thanks to you, your presence has been greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish our Upper Sixth all the best with their exam results, and good luck for their new starts next year. They will be greatly missed both on and off the pitch.

We now look forward to next season which hopefully will be as successful and enjoyable as this year has been.

J. Barlow 1st XI Coach

2ND XI/UI6 HOCKEY

Played 5 Won 2 Drew 2 Lost 1

v Stockport G.S. (H)	Lost	0-3
v Sale G.S. (A)	Won	2-0
v Newcastle-under-Lyme (H)	Drew	0-0
v Cheadle Hulme (H)	Drew	0-0
v Sale G.S. (H)	Won	3-0

This year the competition for places was tough. We had a large senior squad with many talented players fighting for 1st team places. This meant that attendance at practices was essential in order to prove yourself. Instead of a lunchtime practice we had an evening session at the astro-turf with Miss Barlow coaching all of the senior squad with help from some of the older girls.

The 2nd XI always struggles to find opposition, as many schools will only field one senior team. Due to this the team's lack of match practice often showed through. Unfortunately our clash with Stockport at the start of the season did nothing for our confidence. However, we were not discouraged and went on to do much better as the season went on. We had great success against Sale Grammar with Leanne Davidson and Beth Coffey scoring 5 goals between them.

Special mention should also go to our defence, Kati Greenall, Sunita Boodhoo, Samantha John and Helia Asadi, as after our first defeat they didn't let another ball go past them.

Natalie Ofoche also needs congratulating as she won the Player of the season award. Natalie is a great player to have on the team as she can play virtually any position (although we have not tried her in goal yet! Watch out Kati!!)

The team would finally like to thank Miss Barlow for all her time and effort – it can't be easy coaching both the 1st and 2nd XI at the same time, and also to Geraldine Brook for returning each Saturday morning to umpire for us.

The following girls represented the team: - Kati Greenall, Sunita Boodhoo, Helia Asadi, Samantha John, Natalie Ofoche, Gemma Bookbinder, Louise Goodwin, Helen Fisher, Adanna Opara, Leanne Davidson, Peju Pearce, Beth Coffey, Hannah Naylor, Rebekah Lawson and Vanessa Cohen.

Helia Asadi

UI5 HOCKEY

(Captain: Holly Kent)

We will be forgiven, I'm sure, for not recording this year's results too prominently. A very disrupted season, with game after game being cancelled because of bad weather and pitches unplayable after Christmas, made it impossible for this promising squad to establish themselves and develop any pattern or consistency in their game. This inevitably led to patchy performances, and matches which should have been won or drawn were lost. A change of coach at Christmas cannot have helped the girls' confidence either. Nevertheless the players and subs maintained a superbly positive attitude throughout, turning out in all weathers to train and always putting a brave face on it. Our most effective training session was held on the artificial surface at the Armitage Centre where real progress was made, the ball for once doing exactly what the girls intended it to do! On uneven, waterlogged grass pitches at home, however, there was little chance of systematic practice or skills work, so that often it was only teamwork and sheer determination that carried us through a match.

Effective captaincy was more than usually difficult consequently but Holly Kent led from the front, and others showed real commitment on and off the pitch too, notably Anna Rogers, Bhavini Vara, Lucy Berger, Katrina Francis and our Player of the Season, Camille Kasler. Their never-say-die approach was most evident in the excellent performance against Withington (which we lost 0-1 in the last few seconds) and in the end-of-term charity match organised by the fourth-form boys and girls themselves which was played by all in the very best of friendly competitive spirits (the girls won, understandably). Other players who represented the team were Kathryn Tang (who couldn't find last season's scoring form), Rebecca Goodwin, Laura-Jane Bulwich, Alexis Race, Rachel Ng, Kate Howie, Selene Pang in goal, Christie Okpe, Marsha Beagul, Sara Sadeghi, Hayley Street and Sharan Suthar.

The squad would like to thank Caroline Bell (L6) who used her considerable experience as a senior player to help out at one or two training sessions later in the season. The younger girls could hardly have had a better role-model. Since becoming an English Hockey coach in April Caroline's coaching ability will have made great strides and I have no doubt that the School will be making full use of her talents in the coming season.

Oh yes, the results ...

v Withington Girls' School (H)	L 1-5
v Newcastle-under-Lyme School (H)	L 0-6
v Kingsway School (H)	L 1-2
v St Bede's College (H)	L 0-4
v Withington Girls' School (A)	L 0-1

D. M. Fisher

UI4 HOCKEY

The Under 14's hockey team was a team with high spirit and determination. No matter how many games we lost we still tried and carried on with all our effort. Although we lost our first match we didn't lose hope and we did play very well. We would have loved to have won and tried in every match. We do have faith in ourselves and our coach/manager Miss Raw. She gave us confidence and encouragement, so from all the team a great big thank you. We did go on to win some matches and this made Miss Raw and us very happy. We learnt how to work together and not to disagree with players. We achieved so much more once our team spirit had developed. Kate Maddock won the U14 Player of the Year shield as she was a brilliant defender and saved most of our matches.

Well done and thank you to the following team members: Danielle Ashley, Rebecca Choudhry, Leela Dé, Amy Diaczuk, Hannah Hassan, Caroline Hegg, Kate Maddock, Nneka Opara, Syeeda Siddique, Mareshah Sheriffe, Ozadeh Solati, Elaine Tang, Christie Tierney and Ceegay Verley.

Mareshah Sheriffe (3D)

I would like to thank Mareshah for being a fantastic captain. She managed the team very well with encouragement and good advice. I wish her every success when she leaves this year. Thank you to Kristie for captaining in the final few matches and congratulation to Kate for gaining the Player of the Year award, it was very well deserved.

I look forward to training this team next season.

Miss AJ Raw

U13 HOCKEY



L-R: Prya Boodhoo, Nardene Scott, Tamara Brown, Nicole Plummer took part in the Manchester Youth Festival this year

This season has been one of consolidation for the U13 team. The team have continued to play hockey with flair and spirit and have shown commitment and discipline. Although the season began with a heavy defeat against Stockport, their development as a team has been impressive and they remained unbeaten for the rest of the season.

The team's confidence and self belief has grown and as a coach I feel the turning point to their season came against Newcastle-U-Lyme. Last season we lost this fixture heavily, this year however we battled hard and never gave up. With three minutes remaining the score was 1-1, then a stunning goal by Nicole Plummer deservedly won us the match.

From then on the girls feared no team, they always looked in control of matches. Performances were accomplished and well organised and our supporters were treated to fine displays of hockey.

I feel that this year our forward line has really come into its own. Moving Prya Boodhoo to the left wing has given the team more depth and balance. Both Prya and Katherine Veitch have played well as left and right wings respectively. Prya's performance against Withington, when she scored three times and played with real enthusiasm underlined her ability in this position. Katherine's penetrating runs and superb crossing ability have provided Nicole Plummer, Martellique Yates and Nardene Scott with many shooting chances which have been taken with relish. Martellique's shooting from long range has developed and excellent goals against Sale Grammar and Withington stick in the memory. In her new role as centre forward, Nicole has again been our top goal scorer and has shown flair. Nardene has begun to develop her knack of scoring vital goals and has also been impressive.

The heart of our team has been the midfield trio - Ehi Okpe, Ashley Gilbody and Thembi Watt. Ashley frequently shows intelligence and imagination at centre half. Ehi's surging runs forward and Thembi's calm assurance complement each other and have effectively turned defence into attack, giving the opposition no time to settle.

Once again captain Korrina Steele has been outstanding. She dominates the circle and never looks in danger - a natural hockey player who has great potential. Simone Walters has also impressed. Simone can always be relied upon to do her best. This year's Player of the Year award went to someone who has consistently produced worthy performances at both Left Back and Left Half. Tamara Brown's attitude is first class and she is an accomplished and creative player who has turned around many matches through her dedication.

Unfortunately next year the team will lose one of their finest players. Tanya Lee Ritchie is leaving the school and her presence and technique will be sadly missed. Tanya has performed amazingly in goal. Her reactions are first class and her saves have been crucial to the team's success. I wish her all the best in the future.

Korrina, Nicole, Katherine and Tamara trained with the county team this year and Nicole, Tamara, Prya and Nardene won silver medals in the Manchester Youth festival.

Finally I would like to thank Old Hulmeian Geraldine Brook for refereeing our matches. Like myself, Geraldine also enjoyed the spirit, the humour and the commitment of the team! They really are a force to be reckoned with and I will miss them next year.

L C Derby

U12 HOCKEY

Played 7 Won 3 Drew 1 Lost 3

v Sale Grammar School	(A)	Drew 0 - 0
v Newcastle-Under-Lyme	(H)	Won 1 - 0
v Cheadle Hulme	(H)	Lost 0 - 3
v Urmston Grammar School	(H)	Won 1 - 0
v Kingsway School	(H)	Won 2 - 0
v Sale Grammar School	(H)	Lost 0 - 1
v St Bedes	(H)	Lost 0 - 2

Hockey was a new game to many of us when we joined William Hulme's in September. However with many coaching sessions from Miss Barlow at lunchtimes and on Saturday mornings we were steadily improving and desperately awaiting our first match.

Not only were Sale Grammar our first opposition we also had to master a new surface - astro-turf. The game was very close with Lavinia having a goal disallowed as it was hit from outside the circle. There was a lot of slipping and sliding as it was wet and sandy but the result ended in a very fair 0 - 0.

Our first match on grass was against Newcastle - who we had heard from the older girls were a very good hockey school. The team were delighted when Courtney scored a goal in the last few minutes giving us our first victory.

Next came Cheadle Hulme. They were a more experienced team than ourselves having played together for a few years. They were very strong in their attacking circle and although we tried our best and put up a good fight - the best team won in the end - unfortunately not us!

After February half term we had a couple of matches after School. Our first being against Urmston Grammar School which we won 1 - 0. This was a good game, we had several chances to score but their defence was quite strong. We finally got a goal after Jessica hit the ball into the back of the net.

Our second was against Kingsway - another victory - 2 - 0. This was an exciting game, we played some good hockey which resulted in this being our best game of the season. We scored two really good goals, one by Courtney and the other by Holly. Kingsway were a good side but in the end we were the better team.

We had two tough games to finish the season with. We lost to Sale Grammar 0 - 1. We tried our best and we played well but they just managed to slip the ball in towards the end of the game.

Finally we played local rivals St Bedes. We had a poor first half when we just couldn't get the ball out of our defending circle which

resulted in them scoring two goals. However, with a good half time team talk we changed tactics in the second half and played much better. Although we didn't score, we stopped St Bedes from scoring again.

We have really enjoyed our first year of hockey and now look forward to next year where we aim to equal if not better our successes of first year.

The following girls represented the team:- Vicky Knight, Christina Sullivan, Rheanna Periera, Laurretta Lauder, Rachel Green, Rachel N'Jie, Jessica Baron, Shola Olaye, Holly Goodrick, Jessica Brown, Courtney Thomas, Rebecca White, and Lavinia McDonald-Jones.

Rachel Green Holly Goodrick

1ST VII NETBALL

Played 12 Won 2 Drew 0 Lost 10

The last season was an enjoyable one, with a couple of wins and some losses. Although we knew we weren't capable of winning all the matches, the team went on court with the determination to succeed. This obviously made us perform to the best of our ability.

Having played reasonably well in the final two matches and losing the girls were eager to get a win. The team was fired up and Manchester got a shock, as this was our first victory. (15-5) followed by St Bedes. Unfortunately our winning streak didn't last long. It wasn't surprising for our next match was against, well can you guess?

It's where we play four quarters, get oranges, and get thrashed. Yes! Newcastle.

I must say this was one of the games where the scoreline does not convey the effort the whole team put in (9-19). As the season went on, all the players seemed to have developed skills and have a mature approach to the game. This may be a reason as to why the team battled on even when trailing (or perhaps we were just used to it)

I think it was the first season where there were so many girls on the squad, which was great as there was a lot of enthusiasm and we were able to have a 2nd VII. On the otherhand it meant girls had to learn to be flexible with positions. It was encouraging to have six Upper Sixth girls on the team. Thanks to Anya Deardon, Alison Hawcroft, Carla Narnor, Jo Shaw and Lauren Standing.

I'd like to thank the squad for sticking with the game, Well done to Georgina Laird, Player of the Year for her fantastic efforts in defence.

A thank you to the parents that supported us in all types of weather over the years.

A really big thank you to Mrs Pollard and Miss Smith for having faith in us and pushing us. We'll all miss you both.
Levinia Clemetson UPMB

UI 5S NETBALL REPORT

Once again, the Under 15s didn't have a very successful season with just one win out of all our matches. This win came against Marple Hall and it was an extremely close match. The scoring was very low because both teams defended well. Early in the second half, we went into the lead which meant that our defence had to prevent Marple from scoring for over 10 minutes. However, we didn't succumb to the pressure and we eventually won 3-2.

Even though we lost our other matches, it was evident that we had improved. We weren't losing 20-0 every match anymore and we were winning a lot more of the ball and keeping possession.

Anyway, thank you to all the girls who played on the squad during the season, who turned up week in, week out, a lot of the time in horrific, wintery conditions.

Also, I have to say a big thank you to Miss Minto for taking our practice every week and for encouraging us and getting us motivated when we were all still half-asleep on a Saturday morning! I'm sure she'll do a great job as a cricket coach in her new school!

Who knows, maybe we'll win a few more games next year!

Rebecca Goodwin (4G)

UI 4 NETBALL

The netball team of 1999 under 14's were a very well spirited team and tried to keep their heads up where possible.

At the end of our first term due to some unfortunate circumstances we were left two players short of a team. After this incident we were asked if we would like to call it a day. The remaining players said no.

After involving Amy Diaczuk and Leela Dé and Nneka Opara, we had a truly spirited team who played netball to the best of their ability. Even when we lost, heads were held high and where possible smiles were seen.

I don't think there was one person who didn't play out of position at one point or another.

Well done to: Ceegay Verley, Kristie Tierney, Kate Maddock, Leela Dé, Nneka Opara, Amy Diaczuk and Maria Khan.

Most of all thanks to Mrs Pollard our faithful coach.

Ceegay Verley

UI 3 NETBALL TEAM

After a not so successful netball season in the first year, the new Second year team were definitely ready to make the most of the next.

Unfortunately, this year we lost a lot of vital players who used to play in the first year. We could have had a much stronger team, but the existing team wasn't going to let this disappointment weaken the team any more! With all the teams enthusiasm and high spirits, our season didn't start as planned. We lost both of our first two matches.

We still hadn't given up hope and went on to win our next three matches, but we went down hill again losing the rest, apart from a draw against Manchester High and a win over Bury Grammar School.

The season has brought mixed results and memorable entertaining performances and happenings including a lot of 'dodgy footwork' (Tanya), some one nearly fainting (Ashley) and another girl sustaining a very bruised eye. There have been many laughs and a lot of tears.

There was something Miss Smith used to say to us after matches, which I had to think about. She said "When our opposition isn't as good as us, we play poorly. When they are better we play at a higher standard."

Our Second year team is proving to be very strong and there are no weak players. We need to maintain our positive attitude and next year maybe we will win more games than we lose. You have been warned!

I would now like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Smith our coach, whose time and effort enabled us to form the team

and improve on our skills. I would also like to thank all the parents who had to wake up early on Saturday mornings to drop us at school and pick us up again.

Finally on behalf of myself and the whole team, we would like to say a big farewell to Tanya Ritchie "player of the year", who will be sadly leaving our school and therefore the netball team. Tanya's a key player and it will be extremely hard to find a replacement!

The following girls represented their school in netball: Martellique Yates, Ashley Gilbody, Tanya Ritchie, Laura Dodson, Prya Boodhoo, Cynthia Ettore, Katherine Veitch, Kizzy Smith, Simone Walters, Sonia Chohan, Nazia Illyas and Anisah Ashraf.

Martellique Yates (2K)

U12 NETBALL (A & B)

The players for the A and B team were:

A	B
Lauretta Lauder	Rebecca White
Courtney Thomas	Kerry Baxter
Jessica Brown	Emma Endlar
Holly Goodrick	Alison Hardy
Rachel N'jie	Madihah Rafiq
Lavinia McDonald-Jones	Jessica Baron
Christina Sullivan	Farah Khan
Victoria Knight	Shola Olaleye
Rheanna Pereira	

Our very first match against Kingsway on 2nd October was cancelled due to bad weather and so our first match was on 11th December. This match was away against Withington. Both A and B played well but unfortunately both teams lost. The A team lost 0-6 and the B team lost 3-5. All of the B team goals were scored by Jessica Baron.

Our next game was on the next day against Stockport Grammar at home. Unfortunately we lost 1-16.

Our third match was against Bury Grammar on 30th January at home. It was an exciting match and we came out with our very first win. The score was a massive 8-2 to us.

The next match was again against Stockport Grammar. We played them outside and on their courts. This match was on the coldest day that we had to play on. In fact it was so cold that one of our players tried to play in a hat, coat and gloves. Everyone's hands were frozen and so unfortunately we lost 2-19.

On the same day (16th February) we played Kings School, Macclesfield. We played well in the first half but because it was so cold we lost it in the second half. In the end we lost 1-8.

On the 4th March we played Manchester High, quite a close game but we lost 9-12.

Our last two matches were a success. We beat Beech House 12-9 and we beat Newcastle 10-9.

We had a very enjoyable season.

Rheanna Pereira (1L)

1ST XV RUGBY REPORT

The 1998/99 season was the first time the school had competed over two terms for many decades. From my point of view this has been a very positive change. We have been able to enter sevens tournaments for the first time, compete in local and national competitions and increase our fixture list to play Rugby Union against new opposition.

In September I was aware that we had a very young squad. Therefore it was possible to plan two years of developing new skills in training. The attitude towards training is poor, it is important that all players view training as an opportunity to improve their skill levels and improve the team as a whole. If we can train effectively, I have no doubt that teams like Manchester Grammar and Stockport Grammar can be beaten by us.

We performed rather inconsistently on the pitch. Early in the season against Lymm High school we let a possible victory slip through poor tactical decisions. A pleasing 26-3 win over Cheadle Hulme saw a try each for William Kent and Daniel Naylor and two for Scott Griffiths. We also witnessed the return of two key players to our forwards; Neil Matthews adding a new dimension to our line-out and the outstanding Tom Chung competing with absolute determination as he did in every training session and game throughout the season.

In training we worked hard to produce a dominant line-out. This was evident during impressive victories over St Bede's College and Widnes 6th Form College with tries from line-outs in both games for the ever dependable Chris Lindley.

Manchester Grammar School arrived on Saturday 24th October and we played them off the pitch for the first half. We showed control, aggression and complete commitment in appalling conditions. Their superior size and change of tactics turned the match late on with their 19 points answered by a lone Chris Lindley try.

There were four performances this year where I felt we let ourselves down. King Edward's Lytham, Stockport Grammar, Bury Grammar and St Joseph's, Stoke on Trent. These performances ruined a fine season, it is important that we are fully prepared for each match and raise our game to play to the best of our ability.

We entered two cup competitions this year. The road to Twickenham was unfortunately blocked during a heavy defeat to last year's finalist, Queen Elizabeth Grammar, Wakefield. However we managed to reach the semi-finals of the Cheshire / Manchester cup before losing narrowly to another Queen Elizabeth School, this time from Blackburn. To reach that stage, we defeated Cheadle Hulme, Widnes 6th Form College and Bolton School. The players all showed tremendous spirit in every fixture, next year we must reach the final.

On Sunday 14th March eight boys represented the school in The North of England Sevens. We improved during our four games, every player enjoyed the experience and therefore next year we will enter more tournaments. The eight players were William Kent, Chris Harwood, Chris White, Iain Gage, Philip Robinson, Luke Coffey, Daniel Naylor and Joe Holland.

The season has not yet finished, only this week we begin our preparations for the forthcoming tour of Canada where we will play four matches against club opposition from the province of Ontario. This promises to be an exciting occasion with many other activities including white water rafting, visits to Niagra Falls and an evening at a Baseball game to keep the tourists entertained.

Two players represented Cheshire County; Daniel Naylor played Centre for the Under 18s and Scott Griffiths Centre for the Under 16s. Luke Coffey received the Tim Edwards Memorial Trophy presented to the 1st XV player of the year. His positive attitude at training and consistently impressive performances ensured that Tom Chung and William Kent only managed runners up places. Well done to the three!

The 1st XV was captained by three players this season, Richard Nixon, Daniel Naylor and William Kent. I would like to thank them and all the members of the senior squad for an enjoyable season. I wish our leaving Upper Sixth players Neil Matthews, Ben Green, Paul Edisbury, Chris Lindley and Richard Nixon, success in their future rugby careers. Finally, thank you to all those who supported school rugby this year, particularly the staff, parents and pupils who line the pitch every week and Dr Barnes and Mr O'Reilly for their help.

A J Mackenzie

U15 RUGBY

Played 17 Won 12 Lost 5 Points for 436, Against 279.

V Lymm High School	Won 17-14
V Cheadle Hulme	Won 73-5
V Sale Grammar School	Won 75-17
V St Bede's	Lost 17-19
V Ashton on Mersey H.S.	Lost 0-10
V Bury Grammar School	Won 27-0
V Audenshaw High School	Won 31-0
V King Edward VII School	Lost 0-52
V Bolton School	Won 29-0
V Stockport Grammar School	Won 33-24
V Altrincham Grammar School	Won 12-0
V Bramhall High School	Won 26-19
V Wilmslow High School	Won 45-5
V Caldý Grammar School	Lost 0-51
V St Josephs College, Stoke	Won 15-10
V Bramhall High School	Lost 25-31
V St Edwards, Liverpool	Won 15-10

As the results suggest, this has been a very successful season for the Under 15 squad. There are many talented individual players and the team as a whole produced moments of quality rugby. However they are not an easy group to work with as many of them fail to realise the importance of practices and punctuality. It is impossible to progress very far in the more technical aspects of, what can be, a quite simple game when key individuals "forget their boots", or cannot remember which day of the week it is. As players progress to the senior squad those with the correct attitude and the desire to improve will benefit from 1st XV rugby, the others will ponder as to why they are not being selected.

The games when most things went right showed how good the team was. Against Stockport, it was obvious that all the players wanted to win and were focused on the game. In a tough, free scoring match we were deserved winners and the players obviously enjoyed the feeling. Two hard fixtures against

Bramhall ended with honours even, and a total of 101 points being scored! There were occasions in these hard fought encounters when some individuals lost concentration because of some minor grievance – a refereeing decision that went against them, or confusing hard, aggressive play for dirty play. When this happened their play suffered for a time as they brooded over the injustice. When players move up to the Senior teams they will have to learn to concentrate fully – the games get faster and more intense and it is vital that all players contribute to the whole team effort.

The two heaviest defeats of the season, King Edward's, Lytham, and Caldý were two contrasting games played in totally different conditions, with, it appeared, two different School teams taking the field. At Lytham, the conditions were dreadful. It was very cold, very windy with driving rain throughout the game. Lytham ignored these conditions to play good rugby, supporting each other and scoring at will. We, on the other hand, ignored Lytham, moaned about the weather and looked happiest under the post, huddled together for warmth, waiting for the conversion. Caldý, on paper and, as it turned out, also on the field, were the best team we played against. Individually, and as a unit they were superb, reaching the semi-final of the Daily Mail School's Cup. Although we were always outplayed the spirit never dropped and the players were congratulated on their efforts by a Caldý spectator.

The team was well balanced with a pack of forwards that would usually win a fair share of good possession and a back line with enough pace and vision to make good use of the ball provided. Omer Raja and Nasir Moosa (voted player of the year) performed consistently well and were well supported by all the other forwards notably Robert Serrant, Roy Chohan and Kofi Djang. The most improved forward was Alpesh Pankhania who began the season as second choice hooker but who, by the end of the season, had made the position his own.

Andrew McIntyre (Centre) was our strongest threequarter gaining Cheshire County Under 15 honours. But all had pace which, next year must be linked to vision. Shane Coley improved as the season progressed but never really fulfilled his potential as our fastest player. Ravi Gokal and Robi Dé must shoulder more responsibility to look for, and exploit, gaps in the opposing defence, and all will need to work hard at defence, both individually and as a unit. Chris Ogden-Smith captained the team and improved as the season progressed and, although there are still occasions when he allows unfavourable decisions to affect his concentration, his half-time talks were always tactically aware and to the point.

Thank you to all the players for their commitment during the two terms and to all parents and friends for the support received.

C H Seddon

UNDER 14 RUGBY

Played 18 Won 10 Lost 7 Drew 1 For 414 Against 289

v Lymm High	Won 27-12
v Cheadle Hulme	Won 22-0
v Sale Grammar	Won 19-17
v St Bede's	Won 51-5
v Ashton on Mersey	Won 34-12
v Bury Grammar	Won 51-0
v Audenshaw High	Lost 10-19
v King Edward VII	Won 39-27
v Manchester Grammar	Lost 60-0
v Bolton	Drew 12-12
v Stockport Grammar	Lost 21-7
v Altrincham Grammar	Won 44-7
v Bramhall High	Lost 13-7
v Wilmslow High	Won 46-22
v Caldys Grange	Lost 19-30
v St Joseph's College	Won 24-19
v Bramhall	Lost 36-0
v St Edward's	Lost 41-14

As the above results clearly show, this year's U14 rugby squad is not without talent. The first match of any season often sets the tone for the months to come, and I was extremely encouraged by the excellent result against Lymm. A solid performance by both forwards and backs suggested a sound level of ability throughout the squad, enhanced by several key individuals who played an important role all season.

The squad training sessions strove to improve both skill levels and teamwork, a crucial aspect of the game at this level, and an excellent run of victories over the next five weeks was the result. This reflected the level of commitment that the players were putting into their training and their game at the time, and was justly deserved.

Unfortunately, however, the old adage that all good things must come to an end was proved to be all too true when the run of victories was stopped by Audenshaw High School. I can honestly say that this was one of the worst games of rugby I have ever witnessed, and has further confirmed my belief that all referees, at whatever level, should be assessed in some way. After two players were sent off, the remaining squad battled superbly to come away with a narrow defeat but a moral victory!

The potential strength of team spirit in the squad was again demonstrated in atrocious conditions at King Edward's in Lytham, where conversely I watched one of the best games of rugby ever. A magnificent team effort saw off a determined opposition in a closely fought contest, William Hulme's eventually coming away the well deserved victors.

Things took a turn for the worse in many ways from the following Saturday, when a much weakened side was thoroughly defeated by MGS. From half term onwards it became a constant battle to persuade the majority of players that training is an essential element of any sport, and especially in a team game such as rugby. While a minority of players remained committed

to their training, the remainder spent most of their time concocting any excuse possible to avoid it!

This decline in attitude is clearly reflected in the results from half term onwards, when the team only won three out of nine matches. What could have been an excellent season was thrown away, and what could have been a superb squad allowed itself to become mediocre. There were, however, several high points during this period, such as the skills and team work demonstrated against Altrincham Grammar and Caldys Grange. However, these were always tempered by negative aspects, such as the sending off at Caldys Grange!

While any team relies on all its members, there are certain players who deserve special mention. In the forwards Umair Khalil has been a tower of strength all season, and Abraham Petrillo has improved beyond all measure. Chris Booker has captained the side solidly, always improving his game, and Stephen Lancashire has shown his ability to run straight and tackle hard.

Stefan Knight has the ability to be one of the best players the school has seen for a long time - he has immense power and a very high skill level. If he could now nurture a positive attitude and degree of commitment similar to that of Nick Travis, he would be almost unstoppable! Congratulations to Nick for a well earned Player of the Year Award.

The full squad consisted of: A.Petrillo, U.Akhtar, A.Anwar, O.Hylton, N.Travis, E.Nihat, S.Tanvir, M.Parkhouse, T.Moses, J.Chung, S.Knight, U.Khalil, T.Bannister, C.Booker, S.Lancashire, P.Keenlyside, H.Kiani, A.Adams, A.Ademosu, A.Smith, S.Cordwell.

As it turns out, this has proved to be my last year of coaching at William Hulme's, and I am sorry to leave on less of a high than might otherwise have been possible. It is vital for all squad members within the school to realise the importance of commitment to their sport, and all that involves. I have, however, greatly enjoyed the last six years of coaching - with all its trials and tribulations, and I must thank not only those parents who have regularly turned up to support the team, but also Mr Mackenzie, Mr Seddon, Mr Myers and all those other colleagues who have offered their support at one time or another.

A.R.Austen

SECOND YEAR RUGBY REPORT

Coach: Miss E.L. Matthews

Played 17 Won 4 Drawn 1 Lost 12

v Bramhall High School	L 10 - 40
v King Edward VII School. Lytham	L 12 - 22
v Audenshaw High School	W 29 - 20
v Lymm High School	L 0 - 40
v Ashton on Mersey High School	L 7 - 12
v Bury Grammar School	W 19 - 5
v Stockport Grammar School	L 5 - 35
v St Bede's College	W 24 - 21
v Bramhall High School	W 34 - 30

Even though the results may imply that the team had no commitment, willingness to listen, enthusiasm and actual development, this doesn't show the correct picture because the vast majority of the squad had the determination and willingness to

improve on their skills which, is a factor of building a team. An example of this is Zac McKenzie who didn't miss a single game or training session throughout the season. Other examples are Paul Adewunmi who joined later in the season, when he was asked out of the blue to play on a Saturday and stayed on and played and trained for the rest of the season.

This is a satisfactory achievement when one takes into account that the majority of our opposition had more experience and they had more time for training. Schools, like Sale Grammar and Manchester Grammar have boys who play for clubs and have experience. Despite this there were some good games, like Bury and Bramhall where the forwards were rucking well, backs going on good runs and the team working together and good tackling.

Towards the end of the season, the team showed a great improvement with our leading try-scorer, Eugene Murtagh still putting away the points and others like Zac, Dzikoh, Cesaire, Badou and Khairie showing a good improvement in keeping spirit and playing as a team.

Paul Birch (2J), Eugene Murtagh (2J)

TENNIS

v Cheadle Hulme (H)	1st team won 32-3 (games) 2nd team won 16-12 (games)
v Ellesmere College (H)	1st team (mixed) won 5-1 (sets) 2nd team (mixed) won 6-0 (sets)
v St Bedes (H)	1st team won 27-10 (games) U15 lost 9-27 (games)
v Withington (A)	1st team lost 7-23 (games) U15 lost 9-25 (games) U13 lost 9-23 (games)
v Mount Carmel (H)	U15 lost 14-22 (games) U13 lost 10-21 (games)
v Manchester High (A)	U15 lost 22-74 (games) U13 lost 21-78 (games)
v Sale Grammar School (H)	U13 won 17-16 (games) U13/U12 lost 9-22 (games)

The season started extremely well; nice weather, good tennis and great results. The senior girls played their first game against Cheadle Hulme, although a little rusty after a long winter break by the end of the match they were beginning to look like tennis players again.

Our annual mixed match against Ellesmere College was played on a lovely Saturday afternoon. Although the result indicates a convincing victory for us, there were some great rallies and the match was played in a good spirit.

After a great start to the season things began to go down hill. The weather got worse, which led to many matches being cancelled, and our opposition got tougher which led to several defeats. The commitment and spirit of the girls was never lacking though which was encouraging to see.

During the summer term several coaching sessions took place. First second and fourth year girls turned up on Saturday mornings for extra coaching. Hopefully the enthusiasm which has come from this will encourage on or two more to attend the winter coaching sessions which take place on Monday evenings.

The end of term tournaments were a great success again. Seventy boys and girls took part in these tournaments which indicates that the pupils are interested in playing tennis which will hopefully lead to a few boys teams having matches next year also.

Jeffrey Wu and Chris Howarth won the senior boy's tournament with the junior boys being won by Sagar Modha and Jagjit Sandher. The senior girls was won by Louise Goodwin and Laura Berrisford and the juniors by Katherine Veitch and Thembi Watt.

I congratulate all players who took part. The standard of play was high and the matches were played in a good spirit.

Let's hope next year will bring some better weather and not so many cancelled matches.

J Barlow

SECOND XI CRICKET

v Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby	Merchant Taylors' 175 WHGS 82 (I.Khan 69 not out) Lost By 93 runs
v Bradford Grammar School	Bradford 205 for 3 WHGS 53 Lost by 152 runs
v Manchester Grammar School	MGS 198 for 5 WHGS 36 Lost by 162 runs

Because of poor weather early in the season and our subsequent inability to raise a team during much of the examination period, only three matches were played. Our standard of cricket was not high, as seen in the results, but those pupils who made the effort to turn out enjoyed the experience and hopefully will want to play again next year.

The following pupils represented the School: R G Watson, T Akhlaq, I Khan, A Khalid, O F Hussain, I Ali, A Choudhry, H Imtiaz, E Naseem, U Ali, H Al-Bayati, B Rana, I Gage, R Haider, M E C Robson, I Patel and A J Smith.

M R Booker

UNDER 15 CRICKET

Played 8 Won 4 Drawn/Abandoned 3 Lost 1

v King's School, Macclesfield (A)	Won by 42 runs. WHGS 128 (Raja 39) Macclesfield 86 (Dé 4-10, M Hussain 3-13)
v QEGS, Wakefield (H)	Match drawn QEGS 158-9 (Dé 4.33) WHGS 117-8 (Kay 37)
v King Edward VII School, Lytham (A)	Match drawn WHGS 122 (McIntyre 33 n.o.) Lytham 120-8
v St Bede's College (H)	Won by 4 wickets St Bede's 110-8 (Dé 3-24) WHGS 111-6 (Raja 40)
v Birkenhead School (H)	Match abandoned Birkenhead 32-0

v Merchant Taylors', Crosby (A)	Won by 8 wickets Crosby 116-6 WHGS 117-2 (Ishfaq 39, Kay 36 n.o.)
v Bradford GS (H)	Won by 131 runs WHGS 230-5 (Gokal 62 n.o.) Bradford 99 (M Hussain 4-24, Kay 3-34) M Hussain 47, Ishfaq 45)
v Manchester GS (A)	Lost by 5 wickets WHGS 71 MGS 72-5

As the playing record shows, the Under 15s enjoyed a highly successful season, remaining unbeaten until the final game. There is considerable ability in the squad. The batting, in particular, shows strength in depth: we were not dependent on the same batsmen succeeding in each game and only in the final game did all the batsmen fail together. Technically, Gokal and Kay are the best batsmen but Raja is always dangerous when he gets his shot selection right, M Hussain has learned to be more patient, Ishfaq often got the innings off to a flying start and McIntyre and Dé made useful runs from limited opportunities. One other batsman worthy of note is Ogden-Smith. Despite a total of only four runs in his first three innings, he promoted himself to open with Ishfaq and they developed into a good partnership. The left hand/right hand combination helped to disrupt the opposition bowlers and Ogden-Smith was content to play a supporting role while Ishfaq played with more freedom.

The bowling figures show that Dé (15), M Hussain (13) and Kay (13) took the majority of wickets. Kay normally opened the bowling and put pressure on the batsmen, while M Hussain and Dé often came on first change. They benefited from the fact that batsmen often relaxed once Kay was out of the attack. Other bowlers had more limited opportunities. Raja bowled very tidily while our two left arm bowlers, McIntyre and Patel, were a little inconsistent. Azim joined the squad late on and showed promise.

Gokal was the obvious choice as Captain but his elevation to the First XI meant that he was not always available and Ogden-Smith stepped in on these occasions. Both did an excellent job, getting the best out of the team in their own individual ways. One area that was disappointing was our fielding. Although there were some good catches and individual pieces of fielding, the general standard was not high with several players lacking the concentration that is needed every ball. Ogden-Smith, as wicketkeeper, was guilty of this. He has the ability to become a good wicketkeeper but lapses of concentration resulted in too many byes.

I would like to thank all the players for making it an enjoyable season, particularly those who had limited chances to shine. You need eleven players in a team and at least fifteen in a squad. The nature of the game is that it is domination by a few players but that does not lessen the importance of the others. Ali, Booth, B Hussain and Khoshneviszadeh showed just the right attitude in their willingness to be team players.

The following boys represented the School: R Gokal (Captain), C Ogden-Smith (Captain), U Ali, U Azim, MR Booth, R Dé, B Hussain, M Hussain, I Ishfaq, RR Kay, S Khoshneviszadeh, AD McIntyre, N Moosa, A Pankhania, SY Patel and O Raja.

A Simkin

UNDER 14 CRICKET

Played 10 won 3 drawn 3 lost 4

v Ormskirk Grammar School	Match drawn School 220 for 3 declared (A. Butt 118*, Khalil 53, Kiani 28) Ormskirk 90 for 6 (A. Butt 3 for 15)
v Walkden High School	Match drawn School 118 all out (A. Butt 30, Booker 39) St Bede's 45 for 8
v QEGS Wakefield	Match drawn QEGS 167 for 6 declared School 58 for 9 (A. Butt 28)
v St Bede's	Match drawn School 118 for 9 (A. Butt 37) Abraham Moss 71 (Khalil 3 for 18; A. Butt 3 for 17)
v Abraham Moss HS	Match drawn School 118 for 9 (A. Butt 37) Abraham Moss 71 (Khalil 3 for 18; A. Butt 3 for 17)
v Birkenhead School	35 overs match Lost by 6 wickets School 108 (Khalil 53) Birkenhead 110 for 4
v Manchester Grammar School	35 overs match Lost by 6 wickets School 108 (Khalil 53) Birkenhead 110 for 4
v Manchester Grammar School	35 overs match Lost by 6 wickets School 108 (Khalil 53) Birkenhead 110 for 4
v Merchant Taylors, Crosby	Won by 148 runs School 254 for 3 declared (A. Butt 131 not out, Khalil 50; Booker 35) Crosby 106 (Mohammed 3 for 9; Kumar 4 for 4)
v Bradford Grammar School	Lost by 9 runs Bradford 130 (A. Ahmed 3 for 15; A. Butt 3 for 22) School 121 (A. Butt 32; Khalil 29)
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost by 4 wickets School 148 (Booker 25; A. Butt 46) MGS 149 for 6 (Mohammed 6 for 32)

It became clear early on in pre-season training that the Under 14 squad was likely to produce some good cricket in the coming season. There were four or five players who were very good at batting and bowling and, among the other seven or eight there was an encouraging enthusiasm and — very important — a willingness to learn. The results were sometimes disappointing, however.

In the first fixture, against Ormskirk, there was much to confirm the early optimism. Mature batting from Azim Butt,

with good shot selection, his eyes kept on the ball at all times, full of concentration. Umair Khalil played and missed a little but he timed the ball well and kept the pressure on the mainly weak bowling. Ormskirk dropped several catches (we dropped only three, two of which were quite hard). Wicket-keeping looked as if it would be a problem: 15 byes let through by Azim and Umair (who shared the job). The bowlers failed to keep a steady accurate line, which is why we did not manage to bowl them out and win the match. There was good spin bowling from Chris Booker and much promise shown by Rajesh Kumar. The following match against Walkden High School revealed a very good all-round performance by Chris Booker, who took 3 catches as well as three wickets and then steadied the team to take them to their first win of the season by scoring 18 not out. A superb slip catch by Umair was a highlight, as was another impressive spell by Rajesh (2 for 2 off four overs). However, disappointment came when we played against QEGS Wakefield. QEGS batted too long (51 overs) but, even so, almost managed to bowl us out in just 27 overs. Our bowling was steadier than previously and the fielding was adequate; at tea QEGS were only 100 for 5 after 36 overs but they continued for another 40 minutes during which time our bowling and fielding gave way a little under pressure. Somewhat bewildered, our batsmen made a good start but keen bowling and fielding by QEGS led to a mid-order collapse of four wickets for five runs. Darshan and Rajesh steadied the innings long enough for Arfeen and Sohaib to survive the last four overs once Rajesh was bowled.

After that close shave there was another disappointment when we played St Bede's. We batted first on a wet wicket but gave them a demanding target of 119. Despite having enough time to bowl them out we dropped three crucial catches. The following match against Abraham Moss HS gave us a chance to achieve a much-needed win, which we duly obtained and thereby progressed to the third round of the Harold Bailey Trophy.

There then followed a long break from 19 May to 12 June, just when we were on the verge of establishing a winning momentum. Poor shots by Azim Butt and Chris Booker led to dismissals which proved costly. We made a good recovery led by Umair Khalil (well supported by Asim Ahmed, Rajesh Kumar, Faiyaz Haque and Sohaib Tanvir) which led to a total which was defendable. The wicket was wet and slow, so full advantage had to be taken of a short boundary on one side. Umair did this to great effect, spectacularly with one high six. He was out finally to a fine catch to a shot which would have been a six on most grounds. Our first few bowlers kept things tight for about 13 overs but then Darshan Mohammed lost his length, Haider Kiani failed to find his and Birkenhead's version of Umair Khalil was able to benefit. He fell to a good catch by Darshan, but the difference between the two sides was that Birkenhead had two batsmen who scored highly. The opener 'hung on' and gave the innings the stability that ours lacked, scoring mainly ones and twos but accumulating a healthy forty runs. The good news for us was that our batsmen experienced a crisis which they tackled well: the four wickets that went down for not many on the board became a respectable 108. Almost everyone had the opportunity to build an innings and most did so. The fielding was very good, catches were taken well and the spirit - aided by Owais Khan - was excellent.

It was possible to see us winning against Manchester Grammar School in the Harold Bailey Trophy match, until one MGS batsman (Williams) made a century after we had them at 20 for 3. Umair Khalil nearly dismissed him twice with fine in swinging deliveries but had to be taken off after five overs; Williams then hit sixes just over the heads of fielders on the

boundary (it was a small ground) and skied a few others that fell too far away from fielders. When we batted Azim Butt and Chris Booker reached the twenties but lost their wickets, Asim Ahmed and Owais Khan reached double figures — this was not enough. Before meeting MGS again in a timed match we played against Bradford Grammar School. Accurate bowling and top fielding kept Bradford to 130 in their maximum 40 overs. We were coasting to victory at 91 for 1 (boosted by Khalil's 22 off one over) but the return of Bradford opening bowler Shahzad led to a dreadful collapse. He took 7 for 14 in this spell of 5.3 overs, bowling with extreme pace and frequent straight yorkers. It was more his bowling than our poor batting that won the game for Bradford — our batsmen were technically unequipped for this pace and, although some moved to leg instead of covering the stumps, some (notably Faiyaz Haque) showed courage in standing up to him. The final match against MGS had an exciting last-over result but it was also another disappointment, despite yet another good innings from Azim and a superb bowling performance from Darshan Mohammed.

Azim Butt's captaincy improved by the match in terms of field placing and handling of his players. Despite this, much more team discipline is needed to ensure more wins in future: unnecessarily loud comments of encouragement after almost every ball do not help the captain to concentrate on making the correct decisions, quite apart from the problems caused by the eventually inevitable negative comments. There were times, too, when the habit of talking aloud led to players other than the captain making field-placing changes. Azim's improvement was made obvious when a friendly match was played against the U15's at the end of the season, but without Azim in charge (he was playing for the school's first eleven). In this match a winning position was carelessly thrown away because of a loss of team discipline.

The strengths of the side were, most of all, the batting and bowling of Azim. He led the batting averages with 464 runs (avg 58) and also bowled most and took most wickets (twenty, at eleven runs each). He was justly rewarded for his two centuries at the end of term by the presentation of a cricket bat by the Headmaster. He will surely be wanted in one of the senior teams next season, so many opportunities are now available to those who, in 1999, played often but sometimes did not either bat or bowl. The two next highest scorers were Umair Khalil and Chris Booker but, even between them, they did not match the number of runs scored by Azim. Nevertheless, they improved during the season as did Darshan Mohammed and Haider Kiani. Rajesh Kumar topped the bowling averages with thirteen wickets at nine runs each, but there were also excellent performances from Darshan Mohammed, Umair Khalil and Chris Booker. The bowling attack was well balanced, with fast and slow bowlers, but greater consistency in bowling straight will help to achieve more wins and avoid defeats. Asim Ahmed played an important role in keeping wicket for most of the season, which he did with increasing skill but he always found concentration hard in a long innings.

My thanks go to Mr McKenzie who assisted with one fixture and the grounds staff who produced very good wickets throughout the season, even when weather conditions often made it almost impossible to do the necessary preparation.

The full squad was: Asim Ahmed, Arfeen Aslam, Chris Booker, Azim Butt, Usman Butt, Faiyaz Haque, Umair H Khalil, Khalid Mir, Owais Khan, Haider Kiani, Rajesh Kumar, Darshan Mohammed, Andrew Smith, Sohaib Tanvir

P. M. Bull

UNDER 13 CRICKET

Played 8 Won 2 Lost 6

v Q.E.G.S. Wakefield.	Lost by 7 wickets A Adams 33
v King Edward's, Lytham.	Lost by 110 runs F Siddique 14, M Vara 3 for 48
v Oakwood School	Won by 7 wickets A Adams 29 n.o.
v St Bede's	Won by 9 runs U Saleem 4 for 9
v Merchant Taylor's	Lost by 5 wickets A Adams 23
v Barlow High School	Lost by 1 wicket C Brown 53
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost by 3 wickets A Adams 90

In many ways this was a very enjoyable season. All the boys were enthusiastic and keen to do well, although some expected better results than their skill level allowed. Many of the games were close and exciting and we did improve many aspects of the team performance during the season. However the School cricket season is very short and I would encourage all those players aspiring to play at Under 14 level next year to join clubs and to continue to play and practice throughout the summer holidays.

Having lost Akmal Ghafoor from school we had lost our best batsman from the 1st year team and this did have an effect on our ability to score enough runs to win some of the games. At this level cricket is a relatively simple game. Either score enough runs so that your bowlers have a chance of bowling out all the opposing batsmen; have bowlers in the team that are capable of restricting the opposition run rate so that their total score is quite modest or they fail to reach the required target, or field aggressively so that the run rate or total is kept down. It is in these areas that players can work at their individual skills to contribute to the overall team effort and it is in just these areas that too few of the players learnt from previous mistakes. For example a batsman would be bowled out, middle wicket, playing across the line two weeks in succession or a bowler would give away far too many runs, as wides down the leg side, week after week.

On the positive side, the fielding was generally good, with Minesh Vara always alert. Alex Adams batted very well and led the side by example. The team really needs two or three other boys that can stay at the crease and score between 10 and 20 runs in support. Chris Brown was beginning to fill this role, and his 53 runs against Bradford Grammar School shows his potential. All players should aim to be consistent, whatever their role, throughout the season and should try, in the games, the elements covered in training such as running between the wicket and calling (which at times was particularly poor).

The team will develop in the future, especially as more of the boys become more involved in club cricket and develop the concentration needed in the game. My thanks to all the players and the small number of parents who supported the team throughout the season.

The following played for the Under 13 side: A Adams (Capt.), C Brown (V.Capt.), M Trivedi, M Shahbaz, K

Mukaddam, N Chaudhry, S Ahmed, U Ashraff, S Khalid, J Hamidi, F Siddique, Z Ashraf, S Modah, G Hayder, M Malik, J Sandher, U Saleem, M Vara, M Ali.

C H Seddon

U12 CRICKET 1999

Played 8 Won 0 Lost 8 Drawn 0

Not quite as bad as it looks, but clearly a very disappointing season. The learning curve at U12 level is indeed a steep one, but hopefully, some rather painful lessons learnt this year will serve to improve performance in years to come. Basically, we failed to occupy the crease long enough to produce adequate scores and, although we had a few decent starts, our batting lacked depth and application, so that far too often the fall of the first wicket signalled a minor collapse. On the positive side, calling and backing-up did improve considerably over the course of the season, but we still failed to take the singles on offer, and too many batsmen were out, going for the big hit, rather than looking for ones and twos. Our only successful big hitter was Asim Rafiq, who has the makings of a fine all-rounder if he can learn to be more selective in his strokes, whilst Waqas Hussain battled away bravely in a difficult game at Wakefield and almost earned us a draw.

Our bowling had enough variety, and all the bowlers bowled well on occasions, but alas we lacked penetration, not least because of some indifferent fielding, and failed to put sufficient pressure on the opposing batsmen. The two exceptions to this were the fixture against St Bede's, where we lost by 2 wickets, and against King's School, Macclesfield, where, in a low-scoring game, we had Macclesfield at 24-6 but could not finish off the tail. The highlight of the bowling was undoubtedly Asad Ullah's 7-10 at Ormskirk in the first game of the season, closely followed by a 5-wicket haul against St Bede's. In addition, Zunair Ali bowled a good line and length for much of the season and, when he gains a little bit more power and maturity, should develop into a useful seam bowler.

Lastly, we come to the fielding which, to be honest, was very mixed. Periods of tight, enthusiastic fielding were punctuated by poor catching and lapses in concentration, particularly when wickets were not forthcoming. Concentration, anticipation and alertness are all areas for further development next year.

Simon Patterson improved as captain over the season, but needs to work on his catching skills behind the stumps.

As ever, the boys were enthusiastic and keen to improve, and my thanks go to them for their efforts, support and good behaviour during the season. Special thanks to Simon for sticking to his task, despite all the difficulties, and to those parents who were able to support us.

Here's to a better season next year!

The following boys represented the School:

A Ullah, S Patterson, I Hollister, H Chauhan, K Akram, A Wood, A Okpe, P Knowles, C Farrell, I Fan, D Porter, G Sandher, A-W Khan, S Faiz, Z Ali, W Hussain, I Mahmood, A Rafiq, M Ali, M Khan, H Khalid.

A.C. Crane

SWIMMING

Swimming was reintroduced to the school fixture list this year after many years of absence. There are a number of swimming clubs in the area including Stockport Metro and Trafford where a number of our pupils swim.

We entered the 'Bazuka' National Swimming Relays which took place at Broughton baths in November.

A team of four entered at three different age groups; Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 for both boys and girls.

Many pupils were rather nervous but appeared to thoroughly enjoy the experience. The competition was very intense including many national squad swimmers from other teams.

Our Under 14 girls; Ozadeh Solati, Simone Walters, Ashley Gilbody and Cornelia Bremer swam well in the freestyle relay, finishing 6th in the North West. Jenny Street, Leanne Davidson, Laura Alexander-Williams and Hayley Street swam in both freestyle and Medley relays for the Under 16's. They finished seventh in the North West. Our Senior Girls side including Alison Hawcroft, Anna Robertson, Georgina Laird and Rebecca Lawson competed well, also finishing seventh in both relays.

Our Boys Senior Squad was blessed with talented swimmers, Philip Robinson had reliably informed me that he once competed for Manchester Schools, whereas Jon Byrom had peaked to perfect physical condition for this event! Unfortunately a loss of form affected both swimmers on the day and the team also including William Kent and Chris White finished out of the medal places!

Our Under 16 boys team including James and Daniel Wood, Daniel Mather and Ryan Garner competed extremely well. After a motivating team talk from the Manchester Schools Legend Philip Robinson, they were destined for success and ended both relays as the second fastest team in the North West Region narrowly missing out on a place in the National Finals at Sheffield.

Manchester Grammar School tradition was broken this year when Jenny Street became the first female to compete in the Sutton Trophy, their swimming competition that we last competed in (and won) in 1989. Two teams represented the school, both teams swimming a heat and a final in a medley and freestyle relay. William Hulme's finished 5th out of the twelve entering schools, a fine performance!

The competitors included James Barrington, Paul Keenlyside, James Wood, Ryan Garner, Daniel Wood, Daniel Mather, Jenny Street and Philip Robinson.

I thank all the swimmers for their commitment to this sport and look forward to future events. Finally, thank you to Miss Raw for supporting the school swimming team.

AJ Mackenzie

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT SPORTS DAY

As the numbers in the Prep Department grow, the athletic prowess of the department grows also. Next year of course will be the largest Prep Sports Day ever when the Oaklands Children come on site. A large group of parents supported this years event which took place in the Sports Hall with field events taking place on subsequent dates.

Our school Sports Day is not just about excellence but more about everyone taking part in an athletic celebration. Every child put their whole heart into their performance and the children should be praised collectively for that. Good performances in a variety of events came from Daniel Nelson, Zaheer Akhtar, Luke Nelson, Alex Dawber and Siobhan Morais (in Year 6), Jonathan Pearson, Andre Proverbs, Lewis Campbell, Frankie Cheung, Adrian Frost, Masooma Naqvi, Gul Ali and Mwape Walker (in Year 5), Matthew Gardner, Jordache Taylor, Hassan Naqvi and Zoliswa Geraghty (in Year 4), Kieran Levy Williams, Calum To, Keresia Morgan, Felicia Williams and Sarah Morrison (in Year 3).

Star performers in the Infants included Thomas Bradley, Alexander Longshaw, Umer Hamid, Pratik Yadav and Daanesh Ahmed (from Reception), Rio Farquharson, Abass Anwar, Dujon Lattie, Rennae Wilson, Evie Richardson, Latica Matthews, Ismail Patel and Ersan Nihat (in Year 1), Inshirah Zaidi, Rakaya Mattis, Sital Kimji, Jordan Pinnock, Cassim Ali, Mohin Iqbal and Marcus Nelson (from Year 2).

We also entered a group of children in the ISA North West Athletics Championships held at Wigan. From Year 6, Daniel Nelson, a member of last year's all conquering relay team continued in a similar fashion. This year he won the 100m with considerable breathing space in an unofficial time of 13.29 seconds. Siobhan Morais also had a successful day in Wigan winning the 200m with a fantastic performance in a very competitive final where she showed real strength to hold on in the last 50m.

As well as Daniel and Siobhan there were a host of other fine performances in Wigan. Kieran and Keresia (Year 3), Jonathan (Year 5) and Alex (Year 6) all reached their respective finals. Our under 12 Relay Team of Daniel, Alex, Jonathan and Ahad Ramzan also made the final where they were just edged into fourth place in a very fast race. We also entered a Tug-of-War team for the first time who swept into the Semi-Final with ease but they came up against a very strong side.

Altogether, these events have been very successful and we wish Daniel and Siobhan every success in the forthcoming ISA National Championships.

The Hulmeian Committee 1999

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& to the secretaries for their patience and hard work.

