

ASSEMBLY READINGS

MICHAELMAS TERM 1991

SEPTEMBER	3	WHO AM I? Bishop Anthony Bloom - "Which is my real self?"
	4	Dietrich Bonhoeffer - "Letters and Papers from Prison"
	6	Hugh Lavery - "Being honest with ourselves"
		A WORTHWHILE LIFE TAKES EFFORT
	9	J. Thompson - "Achievement"
	11	M. Meegan - "All shall be well"
	13	E. Jackson - "Understanding Prayer"
		DO "THINGS" MAKE US HAPPY?
	16	M. Israel - "Summons to Life"
	18	Hugh Lavery - "Reflections"
	20	R. MacKenna - "God for Nothing"
		RELIGION AND SCIENCE
	23	Albert Einstein - "What I Believe"
	25	J. Polkinghorne - "Signs of the Kingdom"
	27	David Watson - "Fear no Evil"
		GOD IS OTHER PEOPLE
	30	M. Mayne - "Mother Theresa of Calcutta"
OCTOBER	2	S. Brown - "My World"
	4	Mother Theresa and Brother Roger - "Meditations"
		FRIENDSHIP
	7	D. Neary - "Masses with Young People"
	9	D. Edwards - "What Anglicans believe"
	11	H. Lowkes - "Teenage Religion"
		LOVING OUR ENEMIES
	14	Wilfred Owen - "Strange Encounter"
	16	Martin Luther King - "Strength of Love"
	18	Matthew 5, 38-48
		DOOMSDAY - NUCLEAR WAR
	28	J. Vanier - "The Broken Body"
	30	Friedrich Dürrenmatt - "The Physicists"
NOVEMBER	1	The Cuba Crisis, 1962
		THE INDUSTRIAL CITY
	4	Kathleen Dayus - "Her People"
	6	"Faith in the City" - Anglican Report 1986
	8	Robert Roberts - "A Ragged Schooling"
		THE SCHOOL THAT I'D LIKE
	11	"School Forty Years from now" - Colin, 13

	13	"My dream Latin Lesson" - Gillian, 15
	15	Dr. Rae of Westminster School
		ABUSE OF RELIGION
	18	Voltaire - "Candide"
	20	Brecht - "Galileo Galilei"
	22	Jeanette Winterson - "Oranges are not the only fruit"
		FREEDOM
	25	Schiller - "Ode to Joy"
	27	Boris Pasternak - "Dr. Zhivago"
	29	9th November, 1989
		CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER	2	Laurie Lee - "Cider with Rosie"
	4	Kingsley Amis - "Ending Up"
	6	Nicholas Breton - "A Christmas Song"
	9	George Eliot - "The Mill on the Floss"
	11	Norman Longmate - "How we lived then"
	13	John Wain - "Winter in the Hills"
	16	Joseph Addison - "Sir Roger de Coverley's Christmas"
	18	Luke 2, 1-7
	19	Isaiah 40, 1-5, 9-11 and 9, 6-7.
		LENT TERM 1992
JANUARY		WHY?
	6	David Watson - "Fear no Evil"
	8	E. Askew - "No Strange Land"
	10	E.M. Forster - "A Room with a View"
		RUNNING AWAY
	13	Saint-Exupéry - "The Little Prince"
	15	H.G. Wells - "The History of Mr. Polly"
	17	Jonah 1.
		SEEING OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US
	20	Goldsmith - "Citizen of the World"
	22	Swift - "Gulliver's Travels"
		MONEY
	27	Galbraith - "The Affluent Society"
	29	Orson Wells - "Citizen Kane"
	31	Molière - "The Miser"
FEBRUARY		SIX FAMOUS MANCUNIANs
	3	Byrom
	5	Dalton
	7	Fraser
	10	Gaskell
	12	Heywood
	14	Whitworth
		WINTER
	24	Shakespeare - "Love's Labours Lost"
	26	Hardy - "Tess of the d'Urbervilles"
	28	Victor Hugo - "Les Expiations"

LETTERS TO THE "HULMEIAN"

LETTER FROM RUSSIA

(This is a postscript to the 1990 Russian Exchange)

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your kind letter and information you have given us about your English party coming to Moscow.

We all, teachers, students and parents, had a very nice time with the English friends. We have done our best to show them Moscow and many other places of interest. I think that Mr. Michael Gracey and Mrs. Penny Treweek will tell you much about that time. And we all hope that all the English party enjoyed Moscow very much.

Sir, your students and teachers were kind to us and we thank them all very much. We thank them for patience and their hard work. They were very tired in Moscow.

On the other hand, your students behaved themselves correctly and nicely. They helped much our students in studying English. It's a pity that Mr. Peter Callaghan hadn't been able to come himself. We hope to see him soon.

Sir, we would like to continue our exchanges in future. It will help us to understand each other much more better. We are very sorry for drawbacks we have in our country, but people are good.

Wishing you all the best, peace, health and prosperity. Our job is rather difficult. Best wishes to you from Antonina and all the students.

Hoping to see you in next students' exchange in Moscow.

Sincerely yours,

Miroslav Paslavsky,
The Teacher of English.

LETTER FROM FRANCE

In July 1991, Olivia Dunbar left us from 2B to live in France. After a year there she has written to us to tell us about her new life. At the end she encloses an article about us which a fellow pupil has written after interviewing Olivia. (Remember that in France, if you are "en cinquième", that is our Second Year!) This article appeared in Olivia's School Magazine, "Zéro pointé", produced entirely by the pupils themselves.

Dear Mr. Turner,

I should like to explain to you a bit about the place where I live now.

My house is situated in the Creuse area of France which is in the countryside, just outside Limoges. Near us there are three beaches and one huge one a few miles off. (As I don't live on the coast all these beaches are constructed off lakes and rivers.)

School is very, very different. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday I have full days from 8.30 - 5.00 (with a ten minute break at 10.30 and one and a half hours for lunch!). On Wednesdays and Fridays I finish at 12.30 p.m. Each morning and evening I catch the coach. The lessons we have are Sciences Naturelles (Biology), Sciences Physiques (Physics), Maths, Français (in which grammar takes a big part), Anglais (here my teacher gives me other things to do like literature and comprehension), Technologie - We learn how mechanical things work, how much they cost etc., Arts et Plastiques (Design), Musique (Similar to the English system), E.P.S. (Games) and C.D.I. (Library Studies).

Religion is never in a French school's timetable, as they think it is not a subject to be discussed and find that what religion they choose to lead is very personal.

As I live just outside two big towns there are things to do on Saturdays and I don't get completely bored stiff! When I arrived here, I knew nobody, but now I know a lot more people and it's not so bleak. I speak the language fairly well now. (It's been nearly a year since I came here.)

I thought you would be interested if I perhaps enclosed you a version of 'our' School's Magazine. It is produced and made by the pupils with no help from the 'professeurs'!!

Once again, thank you for keeping me in mind. Best wishes to all my old friends,

From
Olivia Dunbar

OLIVIA'S STORY

Olivia, nouvelle dans notre Collège, est une jeune anglaise et nous avons pris plaisir à lui poser quelques questions sur l'école dans son pays. Voici ce qu'elle nous a appris.

Aux alentours du premier septembre, après six semaines de vacances, nous retournons à l'école. La journée de travail:

Le matin, avant d'aller dans les salles, nous nous retrouvons pour l'assemblée": tous les sujets peuvent être abordés: - activités de l'école, - nouvelles importantes de l'actualité....

L'assemblée" peut durer de dix à quinze minutes. Ensuite nous nous rendons dans notre propre salle ou nous avons des casiers pour les livres et les vêtements.

Nous avons habituellement des cours de 40 minutes. Les "sports" et les "jeux" prennent moins de place qu'auparavant; trois heures par semaine dans la plupart des écoles. La nourriture à l'école:

La plupart des écoles ont des restaurants "self-service" avec un grand choix de nourriture ainsi que des plats à base de légumes car nous sommes de plus en plus nombreux à être végétariens. La journée d'école est terminée...

Les cours finissent à 15 h 40, mais quand nous rentrons chez nous, nous avons encore des devoirs "prep" à faire. Donc nous ne pouvons pas nous reposer directement devant la télévision.

Merci Olivia de nous avoir donné ces renseignements et sois la bienvenue dans notre Collège.

Bourdeix Magalie 5e A

LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE

My first term in Cambridge was one of mixed feelings. I had always dreamt of a place there, however my entrance was sudden and unexpected. The strength of my 'A' level results, a testimony to the excellent teaching I had received, meant I undertook a hasty post 'A' level application. This forced a year out on me, a year in which, working for the first time, I learnt many things but which at the time seemed harsh and unpleasant. The happiness of my school days faded during the drudgery of 9 to 5 in that year, but Cambridge was to change this.

The first term did not start well because there was too much to learn about my new environment, but soon enough I began to realise that the core to life at university is enterprise. It is a curious change from school where freedom is somewhat restricted but life is comfortably structured. At university there is almost no structure (certainly in arts subjects) and thus total freedom. Once I had realised that in order to enjoy my time at Cambridge I had to make things happen myself, the plethora of opportunities available to me became apparent.

There are undeniable pro's and con's to studying in Cambridge but for me the former considerably outweigh the latter. Cambridge, for one, is a beautiful city. My own college, St. Catharine's, not renowned for its beauty, is still an impressive sight, but it only takes a few minutes to witness the more famous architecture as seen along the backs which must be among the most beautiful strolls in England. The fact that Cambridge is such a close self-contained city means that nowhere is more than 15 minutes walk and this is a definite advantage.

Cambridge, it is claimed, is the seat of learning and this is something my tutor has not let me forget. Though when I first met my peers in Cambridge I was not struck by their genius, undergraduates are, as a general rule, very bright. This leads to the major 'con' about Cambridge, the inescapable importance of work. Work is central to everything, it is academic achievement which brings everyone together in Cambridge and there is a great deal of pressure to maintain both the academic standards of each individual and that of the college and university. There is an argument that says this isn't a bad thing and pushes each student to do well. As I have just finished my second year exams, with the weather so beautiful and the festivities of 'May week' just a few days away I can appreciate this argument more; 2 weeks ago anyone who had suggested the slog I was enduring was good for me would not have received a warm reception.

Work aside, the opportunities of 3 or more years in Cambridge are unsurpassed. Sport is prominent but not unavoidable. Rowing seems to be the most popular first year past-time; I did it (very badly, I might add) and got to know a lot of people that way. It is, however, actually difficult not to make friends. I was lucky at W.H.G.S. to forge a handful of lasting friendships, again here I have made some of the greatest friends I am ever likely to, and I am not unusual.

It is these friends with whom I have shared the best things that Cambridge offers. The social aspect to university life is strong with a range of societies to join; sports to play and places to eat, drink, dance etc. At the end of each term (short at only 8 weeks long) when I look back at what has gone by, I am always amazed by how much I have done.

There are many myths about Cambridge life. When I first came here I thought I might not fit in, assuming that it might all be too much like a scene from 'Brideshead Revisited' for me. I was wrong. There is an unavoidable degree of pretentiousness here and a minority of people who live there lives in the past, but in truth there is a place for everyone. Furthermore there is a range of ability; having been in bottom streams throughout my time at W.H.G.S. I would, pre Sixth Form, never have thought I could make it here, but (results pending) I think I will go on to complete my degree.

There is far too much to say about life at Cambridge in this brief article, indeed many of the best things about life here concern its general atmosphere which is hard to put in words. I can only say in conclusion that I am happier than ever before here, I lament the fact that I have only one year remaining and cannot recommend too highly to the aspiring Hulmeian the virtues of this ancient university.

Peter L. Wilson

LETTER FROM OXFORD

It is received wisdom in Oxford that the second year is the best, being the only one without exams casting gloomy shadows over it. At the end of the first year there are "Honours Moderations" or "Prelims" to get through - six three-hour papers in my own subject, English. And at the end of the third year there are, of course, the much-feared Finals - or "Schools" in Oxford-speak. Be slightly wary of teachers who claim that 'A' levels are the hardest exams you'll ever have to take. The six day, twelve paper marathon which is Schools - career prospects and further study opportunities on the line, not to say health and sanity - is just as bad and probably worse. Second years do still have to sit "Collections": one of two papers taken at the start of each term, swiftly followed by "Penal Collections" for those who fail. But at most colleges these could hardly be said to present major difficulties and the minimum amount of work usually gets at least adequate marks, often better.

Stress in the second year, therefore, is chiefly provided by the pressure to Enjoy: in other words to get involved in some "extra-curricular" activities. If you want to be the Union President or to edit "Cherwell", the university newspaper, or just to spend more time in the college bar with three months of holiday in the summer to catch up on work, then the second year is the year to do it. Whilst work sags, the rest of your life burgeons with activity and interest. Everyone prays for a long, hot summer, which, if it materialises, sees punts and college gardens filled with reclining students. Many people without a romantic attachment seem to acquire one. The extra-curricular life of the university is fuelled by the collective energy of a thousand second years, putting on plays, concerts and garden-shows; bringing out magazines and newspapers; running the political clubs; filling the Blues teams; organising college life.

That, at least, is the theory. To a large extent, moreover, it's true. It has become almost proverbial that it is the second years without exams who make Oxford an exciting place to be a student rather than just an academic hot-house.

The pressure to enjoy, however, creates its own tensions. What if it rains throughout the summer term washing out every punting expedition, garden party and ball in sight? What if your tutors don't share this view of a more relaxed year? It's easy to feel that you should be doing more with your spare time: every finalist will hark back nostalgically to his or her old freedom of twelve months earlier or sigh wistfully: "If only I'd joined the Union....ISIS....the cricket team...done more in the summer...." Everyone tells you to Make the Most of It and towards the end of the summer term it feels a bit like trying to beat the clock: by October, exams and extended essays will be more than specks on the horizon.

It is even possible to wish that there were some exams. Everyone else's year builds to some sort of climax after which it is really possible to relax. In the second year things fizzle out with a whimper rather than exploding into the bang of post-finals celebrations. Whilst ex-finalists sip champagne and play croquet through long June afternoons, it's easy for second years, realising that they've just become the new finalists, to feel left out.

I'm not, of course, painting an entirely fair picture - nobody gets that miserable! Oxford is a terrific place to be with or without exam pressure; the problem is more that the array of opportunities is so varied and dazzling that it can be confusing to know what to get involved in. But I've got very little to complain about, being at the end of a year which has been one of the best of my life. In part this has been due to living "out" of college in a shared house with five other students. Thankfully we've managed on the whole to get by without falling out with each other; and living with students from different colleges has meant that I've got to know a lot of new people. In the summer term the sun did shine, for the first five weeks at least, meaning lots of parties and ideal conditions for the Commemoration Balls which are the highlight of the social year.

More importantly, however, the emphasis on the extra-curricular has meant that I've had time to create and edit for two terms a literary magazine called "Phoenix". The idea for it was very simple. On the one hand, Oxford has an unrivalled literary tradition, from John Donne to Julian Barnes, via such important writers as Shelley, Auden, Larkin, Waugh, Greene, Murdoch and both Amis's. On the other hand, when I arrived it was almost impossible for undergraduates to get any creative work into print. Writing groups did exist but they tended, and still tend, to be college based and exclusive. Some are highly prestigious, such as Magdalen's Florio Society run by the poet-dons John Fuller and Bernard O'Donoghue. Others are small and obscure. None of the student newspapers or magazines, even "ISIS" with its arts bias, seemed interested in publishing poetry and fiction. And there is undoubtedly talent around: one of the people published in "Phoenix" has already had a collection of short stories published for real in Australia; another recently got a nationwide collection of student prose. Many have serious literary pretensions and a number of those certainly have the gifts to realise them. Anyway, we began by running our own writers' group to draw people in and to survey the work around. Very quickly we had gathered enough good material to fill a large issue. The most difficult part of the whole enterprise was raising enough money to make it worthwhile. However, a combination of sponsorship by college JCRs and money from hard-won advertising meant that, if we did our own computer-based typesetting, we could print 700 A4 sized copies with 40 pages each. This we did, a couple of my friends then helped with art-work and design, and just before the end of the second term the first issue appeared.

The reaction was, on the whole, good. In retrospect there were parts that could have been improved and individual pieces which could have been left out. But it had appeared, there was some first-rate work in it, and it attracted much more interest in our activities. More people came to the writers' group, more material was received for the second issue, and the overall standard was higher. At the end of this term I have managed to secure a stall for "Phoenix" at next year's Freshers' Fair and found two very good people to take over the editorship next term.

The main cost has been in time. My work hasn't lagged too much; but the sight of this year's finalists in their obligatory "sub-fusc" (Oxford-speak for examination dress - dark suit, white shirt, white bow-tie, gown and mortar board) has been chastening. There's a lot to do between now and next summer.

But I wouldn't have changed anything about this year. Doing the magazine, getting to know people on a wider Oxford and literary scene rather than the restricted, college-based one of the first year, spending a hot summer in lovely surroundings where even after two years I am still constantly struck by the beauty of the buildings, the gardens and the river, has been wonderful. In the summer vacation I will be spending time in London and then, hopefully, travelling to Vietnam in September to teach English for a month for a charity. The combination of hard work and an abundance of variety and opportunity which has characterised this year is in fact the essence of Oxford. If you have the chance of coming here, I would strongly urge you to take it. Together with Cambridge, and if you are prepared to cope with a difficult entrance procedure and a fairly heavy work load when you are here, Oxford offers unique opportunities.

Robert Ketteridge.

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

WINNING POETRY COMPETITION ENTRY

VERSICLE

The sun shines on the Sunday-righteous,
On the one who commands
The King of Instruments,
Who rejoices in
Cassock-and-surpliced splendour.
Johann, not Yahweh, is his God ...
"I believe in Bach,
The Father, the Almighty,
Maker of Preludes and Fugues....."
The congregational chorus,
Ancient-and-Modern-ing,
Swells to the rafters,
Rocks the nave's ship
With a tempest of sound.

Michael Clark U6C

NIGHT SUN

Cool and bright
Luminous ball of unblemished rock,
Perfect you repose among the awesome blue heavens,
Glowing tenderly,
So consummate and supreme,
You resemble a snow-world;
White fire glistens and glitters silently amongst black fields
All around you.

Richard Berd L6A4

THE SUNSET

White and gold and shining high
Pounding down upon the world,
Over hills where forests lie,
Where red mountains swiftly swirl,
Never tiring, still quite hot,
You shrink and shrink until a dot,
And lose your strength,
And look sad,
And fade.
Coolness.

Richard Berd L6A4

THE RHINO

A rhino grazing on the prairie,
Doesn't think it should be scary,
Doesn't stop and say 'Hang on,
Where has the rest of my herd gone?'
But the poacher doesn't give a second thought
Except about the money they ought
To get on selling the Rhino's horn,
And from this trade there has been born
A seed of almost total doom,
Which already is coming into bloom,
And spells extinction for their race.

David Hufton 3Y

THE OWL

What is an owl?
Its head a periscope;
Its eyes of marble;
Its ears ever alert;
Its beak like a spear,
Its body is groomed velvet,
Its wings are the topmost branches
Of the Old Oak Tree,
Its claws more powerful than a mechanical crane,
In the darkness of night he is a glimmer against
the sky,
Silence is all around him.

Deborah Johnston 2B

THE ELEPHANT

The dominant trunk
swings
From side to side
While the elephant
trudges on.

It raises its trunk
Sends forth a bellow
That rings all around
In the air and the ground,
While the elephant
trudges on.

Its distinguishing ears
Seem to rush with the wind
While its skin folds and
Ripples like the sea.
The tusks glisten white
In the light of the sun
While the elephant
marches on.

Matthew Kay 1D

WINNING LOWER SCHOOL POETRY COMPETITION ENTRY

THE TRAVELLER

The night was black, the fog was dense,
The clouds were sailing by.
A sickly silence wrapped its teeth
Around the north wind's cry.
His movements were inaudible,
His eyes were grey and harsh.
Insensitive to cold and pain,
He walled through the marsh.
No-one knows his destination,
No-one knows his home.
He's a stranger in society,
He's dangerous and alone.
Many a time has he seen blood
That has not been his own.
He is murderous and savage,
He gnaws raw, red flesh to the bone.
He storms the forest every night,
With his bloody axe he craves for gore.
And those that he encounters
Will feel cold steel and nothing more.

Samuel Sallon 1A

FIRST DAY

"Tara, are you ready?" yelled my mother.

"Not yet" I replied.

I looked at my pale reflection in the mirror. My face held so many questions. But it was the answers I wanted.

I thought of all the things people had said about my new School. 'How I'd enjoy it, all the friends I'd make, all the clubs I'd join.....' The list was endless.

But who's to say it will be like that, what if everyone hates me, what if I'm stupid, what if I'm bad at sports?

I looked at my uniform - grey and yellow skirt, white shirt and jumper. This was the uniform I'd wear this year, this was the uniform I'd have to walk down the street in and be called names by the comprehensive girls and boys, the ones who used to be my friends at junior school, but who broke friends with me when they found out I was going to a private school.

"Tara, hurry up, you'll be late!"

I grabbed my bag and ran downstairs. There was a tense silence in the car, my mother and father exchanged knowing glances, but what did they know?

The car suddenly stopped and I turned round. We were here. The building looked ten times bigger than when I'd come for my interview and there were millions of people standing at the gates, greeting each other with welcoming faces. Everybody seemed to know everybody.

"Tara, come on"

I shut the door meekly and my mother escorted me to the gate. It was then in the rush and commotion that a huge girl with a black coat and hat grabbed me and turned to my mother. "She'll be okay now", the girl said.

My mother looked at me pitifully and hugged me, she started to walk away and I felt a sudden urge to run after her but I didn't have chance as the girl started walking me up the yard. "What form are you in?" she said.

"IG"

"IG eh," she said "I was in IG, you've got Peters and he's a good laugh."

I nodded.

"Lighten up, it's school, not a funeral. In four hours, you will be the happiest person alive and you won't be able to wait for tomorrow and in six years' time, you'll be me."

She stopped and smiled. "Here's your room."

I looked round and stood outside the door were about 20 boys and girls, all with the same expression as me on their faces.

I knew then that it would be all right.

Rebecca Baron 4C

MY SISTER

My sister is an ordinary female of 16, or so I think. I think that I am always competing against her, it's like an everlasting marathon. Since I was a baby she has always taken the superior position.

She's always tried to bump me off, since I was a few months old; on two occasions she's tried to strangle me and once she threw her wooden steamroller onto my head. I ought to charge her with grievous bodily harm, ha! She'd go away for life, with all the other things she's done to me.

But I did get my revenge once in a while; for instance, there was the time when I used all the cutlery and furniture from her Barbie house as targets for my dart gun.

Anyway, enough of warfare, now onto the cost of my sister.

I have calculated that without my sister I could join the 'Millionaires' Club'. She must be so full of moisturisers and fruity lip balms and shampoos, that all she smells of is the inside of a 'Body Shop'.

When my mum gets in at night, immediately, if it's not "Mum, did you get my kiwi cocktail with banana essence moisturiser?" it's "Where's my new lunar tomato shampoo?" She's always got some sort of new, weird, smelly shampoo!

Only just the other day I walked into the bathroom and it smelt as though there was a pineapple plantation in the shower!

But my sister can be all right sometimes (I stress the word 'sometimes'!). In fact, the only thing I can think of is borrowing her tapes, oh, and her hifi to play them on! Now we enter THE RULES.....

1. I must not enter her bedroom at any time, although it's alright for her to stroll into my bedroom at any time she likes.
2. I may not use the bathroom from the following times: 6.30 a.m. - 7.45 a.m. (leaving me no time to get washed before we catch the bus).
3. I must move promptly when Her Royal Highness asks ME to do a task. But she won't budge an inch when I ask her to do something.
4. Finally, as we only have one television at the moment, any programme she wants to watch has to be watched, whereas myself, I am not allowed to watch any programme I wish to watch.

As I said before, my sister has a 'Superior Position'. Anyway, this is how I portray my ordinary 16 year old sister, or so I think.

Richard Strudwick 3Y

LOSING

I am a keen sportsman and enjoy taking sport seriously. I represent the School at rugby, lacrosse and cricket.

I take sport to the limits. I play hard, train hard and rarely give less than 100%. Taking this into consideration, I hate losing. I don't enjoy the pain of being second best; the anger of not winning. At times I lose my temper but as I grow up I'm trying to control it.

I have never been a loser; my previous football club lost once in three seasons. At the end of one of the seasons we were voted the most sportsman-like team.

During one of the seasons I was asked to play for the country. In the next few lines I will explain the preparation through which I go.

On the Friday night I eat a large meal of spaghetti or shepherd's pie. I go into my room and try to relax and not think about the next day's game. I often read computer magazines or listen to music. I go to bed at an early time, say nine o'clock and turn off all the music and solely think about the game. I consider my role in the game, often as captain. If, say, the game kicks off at ten o'clock, I get up at eight o'clock and have a shower, eat what breakfast I can, often none, and watch television and try to forget the game totally. At nine o'clock I get changed and go to the match. I kick a ball around for a few minutes then get changed, constantly considering my role in the forthcoming game. I continue with my mental warm-up until nine forty-five. At that time the team would leave the dressing room and warm up physically. At this time you need nerves of steel, which I certainly don't have.

Once the game kicks off, adrenaline and your own skill and preparation take over. The result is what matters.

If we win, I'm happy, talkative and I give people credit for the way in which they played. On the other hand, if we lose, I am angry and annoyed but still thank the other players.

On the Friday night I am crabby and very awkward, so after the game, I apologise to all concerned.

Although some say this is going over the top, I don't agree. If I don't set a good example in physique and preparation, I can't expect others to give 100% as well. I enjoy sport and take it seriously.

I enjoy the satisfaction and pride which I get from sport. As a famous coach said, "You'll only get out of sport the amount which you put in". He meant the more effort you put in, the more satisfaction you'll get out.

J. Flatman 3Y

DOGGONE YEARS

One day I returned from my cousins' and confronted my mother with "Why can't I have a pet? Dan and Thomas have got a rabbit". My mother replied, "You've got a pet, a goldfish".

"But I can't cuddle and stroke a goldfish," said I. After many such arguments and mitherings my mother at last said she would think about getting a puppy. I promised to help all I could and would take it for a walk every day, before and after school even when it was raining.

"Oh yes!" laughed my mother "I'll remind you of all these promises in the future. Don't forget the dog will still be here when you are a teenager."

One morning I woke up as normal then suddenly remembered this morning the puppy would come. All through school that day I was looking at my clock, even though I couldn't tell the time. At last the bell rang and I rushed out of the gates. I was the first out of the school for once, and not the last. It seemed to take forever to get home. At last I burst into the kitchen and there in the corner in a cardboard box, on its side, was a small black and white bundle fast asleep.

"Can I pick her up?" I asked.

"Yes, be careful."

Gingerly I lifted the warm heavy body; a small pink tongue licked my hands feverishly. From the first moment I saw her I felt a warm glow of love for this dog. My very own friend for life.

This small sleepy puppy soon changed into a mischievous chewing bundle of energy. At last I had someone who was always willing to be my playmate.

That summer games took on a new meaning now that Kerry was involved. Football had to be played carefully to avoid Kerry being kicked in the head when she dived at the ball. Her toys became discarded in favour of an old belt off a bath robe, which we used for tug-of-war games. A cat's toy mouse became the victim of Kerry's hunting. Afterwards she would hide under the stairs with a toy doggy bone for hours on end.

All too soon the puppy became a dog and I grew older. It's hard now to remember what it was like without this dog who shares my home, my food and my life.

Oh yes, I never did remember my promises, too much homework these days.

Paul Murphy 3Y

THE SECRETARY

The box files fell to the floor with a thunderous crash, scattering papers halfway down the corridor. Jane cursed aloud. She was already fifteen minutes late, and it was only her second day working at Cassons & Company. She simply could not afford to be late. After all, legal secretaries were easily obtainable.

Jane collected the papers together hurriedly and raced along the corridor to her office. As the various rooms went fleeting past her, something suddenly made her stop. She stood by an open door, staring into a room. "Nigel Hawkins" - the plaque read. The name wasn't familiar but the face certainly was. She looked at this face - those shifty, devious eyes - and the slick hairstyle with the small red streak at the front that stood for the horrific evil in him.

A chill ran down her spine. She shivered momentarily. It all came flooding back. 'Neil Hutchins - that was his real name - that bastard,' she thought to herself. For a brief instant he looked up from his desk, right at her. Jane froze. She caught the full impact of his icy, malicious glance. Those eyes made her wince. How he used to intimidate her and Susan, Jane's closest friend. Back in law school she and Susan went everywhere together. That is until Susan met Neil Hutchins

.....

One hot and humid Midsummer's night, after Jane had been to a party with a long-time boyfriend, she returned to her dormitory to find Susan lying on the floor, semi-conscious. Her dress was badly torn and her body was covered in cuts and abrasions. She shook violently and uncontrollably. All Jane could remember from that night was Susan's expression of sheer terror and utter fear. What had she done to deserve such brutal and inhuman treatment?

The Police later apprehended Neil Hutchins and, after a series of forensic tests, he was convicted. Jane remembered how she had tirelessly campaigned for a just trial and how, in the end, it was all in vain. Eighteen months with four months suspended - how unjust.... how sickening. Ten months after his sentence began Hutchins was released from prison for 'good behaviour'. When Susan found out, she had a nervous breakdown. Now she is a virtual recluse, only venturing out of her flat to collect the morning newspaper.

Suddenly the tea-lady came clattering along the corridor, interrupting Jane's train of thought. She felt as if she had been standing in the doorway for hours, but her watch confirmed that it had only been a matter of minutes. She remembered the box-files she was carrying and cursed under her breath.

As Jane returned to her office she started thinking about Hutchins again. Suddenly something struck her. Had he recognised her or not? She quickly dismissed this notion - her preoccupation with Susan's ordeal had filled her with fury. She slammed the box-files down on the filing clerk's desk, saying aloud, "Someone should lock him up and throw away the key!"

"Sorry, what was that you said?" inquired the filing clerk with a bewildered look on his face.

"Oh, nothing nothing," Jane replied distantly.

For the rest of the day, Jane remained in a pensive mood. She was fully aware that Neil Hutchins was a liar, a cheat and an utter bastard. She also knew that she could blow the whistle on his false identity and his criminal record at any time. But who would believe her? After all she was a new employee.

Later, Jane was pouring herself a cup of coffee from the expresso machine. The machine was situated in a small side-room off the main corridor. She hated using it as it took several minutes for the coffee to filter through - time that she could not afford to waste in her profession. She reached up to a single small cupboard to get a teaspoon. She paused for a moment. She could sense someone in the room with her.

"We meet again," said a soft but sinister voice from the doorway. Jane recognised the voice instantly and chose to ignore it. She could hear him moving slowly towards her, and all the time she felt those piercing eyes trained on her figure. Suddenly she felt a hand on her shoulder. She jumped, causing her to spill the cup of coffee.

"Aren't you going to pour one for me?" he asked.

She felt compelled to reply.

"I can't...I...I've not got the time." She was growing more uneasy by the minute.

"Oh go on," he said, reaffirming his grip on her shoulder, "I'm sure you can spare five minutes or so."

Jane's heart began to pound. Her shoulder was beginning to hurt. She wanted to scream but she couldn't. She panicked, elbowing her assailant in the stomach. She seized her opportunity and fled.

Once more the room went fleeting past her, this time with a greater urgency. Her heart pounded faster. Her mind raced with thoughts. Where could she hide? What could she do? She must tell someone about Hutchins' true motives. After all, poor Susan was a secretary too.

As Jane ran further all she could see was Susan's face - the terror and the fear. She arrived at an open elevator and flung herself inside. Pressing all the buttons frantically she began to breath erratically, panting and gasping. The elevator doors closed. She covered her face and began to breathe more deeply, in an attempt to calm herself. Suddenly she felt a hand on her shoulder.

"Going up?" said a voice from behind.....

Jonathan Lazarus L6A4

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Straight away I fell in love with him. There was no other name for him but Humphrey. It just had to be Humphrey!

Humphrey, the South American Red-Toed Tarantula, had eight spindly legs and six small "gimletty" eyes that stared out at me through Mr. Doodical's pet shop window. He had black velvety skin and brown fur that, had he been left to fend for himself in the wild, would have camouflaged him while he was seeking his prey. His two gruesome fangs glinted as if transparent in the sunlight, streaking through the glass of the shop window and reflecting back again into my eyes, making every pet appear as if it were covered in red and yellow dancing spots. The words of Chubby Morjimer, my best friend, chocoholic and self-confessed expert on exotic pets, rang in my ears. "Tarantulas live on a diet of South American wombats

- nothing else will do". I decided not to heed his words of advice and, trance-like, made my way into Mr. Doodical's pet shop and waited with bated breath for the answer to my request which was, "How much is it?"

I wasn't really prepared for the answer: Forty-three pounds and ninety-nine pence was a lot of money. In my terms it meant twelve weeks' pocket money. It was a high price to pay but I was still determined to get him. The two pounds and twenty-three pence I had in my pocket was accepted as a deposit, which meant no more chocolate for Chubby - not for the next twelve weeks anyway!

I raced off home, emptied my money box and rushed off to the post office clutching my National Savings account book. Despite the deposit I was still short of three pounds. How could I raise another three pounds when all my resources were used up?

I sauntered home, the problem heavy on my mind, to be met at the door by Grandma. Grandma - of course! I had forgotten she was here today. Grandma! - the answer to all my problems. "Grandma" - the soft touch - "there's something I really, really want down at the shops, but I'm short by three pounds." Sure enough, Grandma coughed up. I gave her a big sloppy kiss and raced back down to the shop.

There he was, still smiling up at me through the window as if he knew I was the one fated to look after him. I paid my money to an astonished Mr. Doodical and brought Humphrey home with a triumphant grin - to the envy of Chubby and to the horror of my Grandma!

James Merron 1A

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BYROM HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made:

Joint Heads of House:
House Prefects:

I. Cope and M. Wilson
I. Ellis, J. Flannigan, S. McCloy, J. Mason, S. Ogier, C. Ranawickrema,
S. Dearden, P. Patel, A. Sunderland and M. Weeden.

We congratulate Jonathan Greenhowe on his appointment as Head of School.

The House League team was one of the best handling sides that I can remember. Although Chanaka Ranawickrema was soon taken from us for the School Second XV, the talented Sean McCloy was missed and he proved an outstanding captain of a talented side. A good handler and tackler, Sean also had tremendous pace. A noticeable feature of this team was its ability to run the ball from near our own line, move the ball to the wings and score. Dominic West at scrum-half linked well with Hadley Alexander and outside them we often had real pace and ability with Gary Scolah, Julian Hope and Phil Cain. The ever adventurous and talented full-back Dave Connor frequently joined the line. This team drew with Whitworth, who "chickened out" of a "play off", to be joint winners of the league. So special mention must go to Dave Connor, who, against Dalton, with the score 4-4, collected a loose ball from a misdirected pass, and from near the halfway line, with every other player on the field in front of him, kicked an utterly astonishing drop-goal. This kick would have graced an international match and is certainly the best drop-goal I have seen. But the basis of all this was our young and light weight pack led by Pretash Patel, well supported by the forceful Ben Eckersley, Andy Sunderland and a very spirited group of fifth formers.

A.M. Blight

Although we had the 1st XV captain, "Tosh" Greenhowe, and four other first team players, we nevertheless lacked strength from our fifth year and faced an uphill task in the Knock-outs. We had a bye in the 1st round and then faced the much fancied Heywood side. Against their bigger pack "Tosh" hooked well with his "feet" and motivated the rest of the pack with his "mouth" - the "complete" player! A spate of penalties cost us dear and we were trailing 6-0 at the interval. At half-time, Dom West was moved to hooker and Sean McCloy to scrum-half. This transformed the whole balance of the team. We won possession, Mike Wilson got on the move and scored a fine try. Needless to say, Dave Connor chipped in with a drop goal. With the scores level, the backs cut loose and made some fine running with Wilson, McCloy, Weeden and Ranawickrema being outstanding. One fine move was rounded off by the burly forward Si Dearden, who burst through several attempts tackles to score. We won 12-6 and were in the final against Whitworth.

Despite fine work by Ian Cope, Mike Wilson, Chanaka Ranawickrema and Si Dearden we found ourselves dominated territorially by the strong Whitworth side and were comfortably beaten by the better team. For a number of us, we have to look back on a number of very close Junior finals which we lost. We have never won! But this time there were no "might have beens".

Ian Cope

Our Junior Knock-out side was weak and we suffered heavy defeat 56-0 at the hands of Fraser. Only Ian Graham, Nick Byrom, Andrew Nunney and Dipak Bhakta put in performances of merit.

I. Graham

This year's House rugby sevens were played in a mixture of hail, rain, sleet and snow. The first Senior game against Heywood was played in a hail storm. Despite dominating the match and having two tries disallowed, we were beaten by a try. But our discipline was lacking and this cost us dear in penalties. The loss of this match probably cost us the tournament. In the second group, the team adapted better to the conditions and made good use of the pace of Weeden and Ranawickrema and won their games. Our Junior sides, who were annihilated in the Knock-outs, played some good rugby. It was encouraging to see that there is pace and handling skill there in many players and when they develop a stronger physique, they may yet do well.

Ian Cope

This year the girls' competitions were much more meaningful, as we now had two years in the House. The standard of play in the netball was very high indeed. Whilst Alison Soper lobbed the ball into the net with radar-like precision, she was ably supported by the taller and quick moving Ellen Nicholson. But the basis of any successful team is possession, and this was largely determined by the terrier like tenacity and determination to get the ball, of Jenny Ellis and Sophie Stephenson, both skilful handlers and quick movers.

The team were nervous to begin with against Whitworth, but we won convincingly 16-11. Heywood were a good side, but we beat them 15-10. We then defeated the strong Fraser side, which meant we had to play Heywood again in the semi-final. Once again we were able to dispose of Heywood and the "pseudo Leeds United manager"! - in a closely fought game. In the final against Gaskell we had established a winning lead, only for us to fall behind to the extraordinary shooting skill of Karen Law, who scored all eleven of Gaskell's goals. We lost 11-9. It had been an excellent competition and all the team played their part in our coming so close to winning. The team also included Michelle Cowan, Martyne Jones, Georgia Laddin and Sarah Cope.

Alison Soper

In the inter-house road relay Byrom came third. Unfortunately, Ian Eliis, who organised our team, ran the School route, which was different from the course for the House relay, and he was disqualified. Andrew Nunney ran an excellent race for the third years, as did Nick Byrom for the fourths. Chris Dixon was the best of our good fifth years. Mike Wilson ran one of the best Senior times. Our girls did well with Sophie Stephenson producing an excellent time. Others who ran were, R. Taylor, M. Royds, A. Mawson, M. Kelly, C. Bell, N. Hann, C. Ranawickrema, H. Ralston, E. Nicholson, J. Ellis, A. Soper and M. Cowan.

Nobody produced a poor time and it was a pity that there was a strong feeling, not just in Byrom, that such commitment was demanded and given by pupils, yet too much was left to Mr. Wood and to chance! A map of the route would have helped.

Ian Ellis

In October, a Byrom party led by Mr. Blight and Miss Priddle went up to the Lake District and stayed two nights at the Ambleside Youth Hostel. On the Saturday, in beautiful weather, we climbed England's second highest mountain, Helvellyn. We ascended from Glenridding up to the famous Striding Edge, with its precipitous "drops" on either side. On the way up, we looked back and below at the "Wordsworthian" splendour of Ullswater. On Striding Edge we preferred to look anywhere but down. By then Chris Dixon had fallen off a stile into some mud and looked like some kind of leopard with measles. At least he said it was mud he'd fallen into, but fortunately the breeze blew the smell of the "mud" away. On Striding Edge problems developed. Helen Gilmore, new to the House, looked down and had an attack of vertigo. This was cured by standing her on her head. Ellen Nicholson developed an attack of "acrophobia avariciosa". She had only come because Mr. Blight had offered a bribe to any girl who got to the summit before him. We got her over Striding Edge by dangling a £5 note under her nose all the way.

From the summit we descended the "horseshoe" rapidly via Swirrel Edge leaving Mr. Blight telling one of his jokes to a sheep. (It was the one about Frank Sinatra singing "There'll never be another ewe".) The sheep looked interested, but that was because he was eating a sandwich.

So back to the hostel. A National Park Ranger said it was the most incredible sight she had ever seen - Mr. Blight and Matthew Butterworth cooking on Mr. Blight's gas barbecue and handing the chickens in through the kitchen window in the best equipped Youth Hostel in the Lake District. Had she tested the chicken she'd have had an even more incredible experience.

On the Sunday we went boating on Lake Windermere. The boat race was won by half a length thanks to Mr. Blight coaching Julian Hope to pull in unison with him whilst David Hufton navigated. Si Copsey and his crew pathetically claimed they were rowing to a different finishing point. Miss Priddle made the error of rowing with the athletic Sophie Stephenson and Helen Gilmore, but leaving Ellen Nicholson to operate the rudder. Hence the girls' boat went round rapidly in ever decreasing circles. From Ambleside we drove to Keswick and thence on the Derwentwater. We then proceeded to Grange in Borrowdale and walked up through the woods by the river, then returned to a cafe and finally minibused back to School.

W. Ordsworth

LENT TERM

The following appointments were made:

House Prefects:

Helen Gilmore and Rachel Sykes

The New Year began with another trip to the Lake District. This was a large party of 23 led by Mr. Blight, Mr. Myers and Dr. Barnes.

The weather was doubtful and we made our way up to the Langdale Valley and ascended from Dungeon Ghyll to Stickle Tarn on the Langdale Pikes. However, visibility was poor with low cloud, so we descended and travelled on to Keswick. As rain set in, we made for the cafes. Our progress was then delayed, as to mix metaphors, or rather parables, the Elder brother had returned and the Younger Prodigal had become the "Lost Sheep". Eventually Richard Lamb turned up having mistaken the time for re-assembly. The party was too large for self-cooking in the hostel's limited facilities and unlike the October trip, not everyone "mucked in" with the chores. But Derwentwater was a beautiful Hostel and once some of the party had got reconciled to the fact that there was no "telly" and Keswick was miles away, they settled down to play silly games or engage in the novelty of the Jenga Tower block game. A good time was had by all.

Unlike Ambleside, Derwentwater had large dormitories. The combination of Mr. Blight's snoring and Alex Rodgers cough from adjoining bunks produced all the sonics of a saw-mill. The girls had to suffer an odd family, where the boy aspired to emulate Robin Hood or William Tell and the girls feared they might end up emulating Harold at Hastings. The mother was a sort of vegetarian anarchist and came to regard Helen Gilmore as some kind of capitalist carnivore. The next day it poured with rain solidly, and our American guest, Sarah Darby, came to learn that you can visit the Lake District and not actually see it. We discovered on this trip that one thing "Tosh", our Head Boy, prefers to food - is sleep. We trekked round the Lake and the "hardier" members of the party climbed over Cat Bells with Messrs. Barnes and Myers. We returned to the hostel. Mr. Blight cooked a meal of Chille Con Carne for ten but everyone else had sausage ^page and beans. The large party learned to amuse themselves. This time the fifth formers took possession of the Jenga Tower Block. The storm abated. But the following morning Mike Wilson found he had parked under a National Westminster tree and one of its branches had fallen through his windscreen. This was our one fine day and Dr. Barnes took us on a pleasant scenic walk up Castle Crag and round to the Bowder Stone. After this we bused back to Manchester. A good trip, with too large a party and handicapped by poor weather. After this trip, Rachel Sykes did not reappear until almost Easter. Rumour has put this down to food poisoning as she ate Mr. Blight's Chille Con Carne. The truth is she had glandular fever! We are glad to see her back and fully recovered.

The Lacrosse season was limited this year by the weather. Our League team was a good handling side and we shared the league with Dalton through the folly of losing the points of the last match by playing squad players. The Senior Knock-out found us missing key players, West and Eckersley, and Mike Wilson himself was not really fit. Our handling was inconsistent and Whitworth, at first, penetrated our defence with consummate ease. We then got more of a grip on the game, but it was too late and we could never cut the goal deficit of three or four which Whitworth had established. Mike Wilson, Dave Connor, Mark Shelmerdine, Matthew Musgrove, Bert Weeden and Dave Connor all played well.

The Juniors played well in their first round of the Lacrosse Knock-out. But much excellent inter-passing and approach play came to nothing, because of poor finishing. Carl Hope starred in attack and scored two goals, as did Iain Cooke. Morgan Parry, Nick Byrom, Matthew Royds and Robert Moodie all played well. Eventually we lost 8-7 to Whitworth.

This year Byrom won the House Swimming Competition. Whilst obviously we had the advantage of having James Hickman, a House is still utterly dependent on the spirit of its smaller fish. James Hickman holds the British and English Junior records for the 100m Backstroke and 200m [^]page Backstroke. He was selected for the England squad in competitions in Germany and Sweden. In Sweden in the eight nations championship, he came fifth in the 100m Butterfly and 4th in the 200m Butterfly. He was National Age Group champion in the 100m and 200m Backstroke and Butterfly.

A.M. Blight

This year's swimming contest was an interesting one. Everyone thought it a foregone conclusion that Byrom would win. Both Byrom and Fraser had exceptionally good swimmers, but these, in the end, cancelled each other out. Hence, it was the strength of the rest of the team which was the deciding factor: Byrom had a lot of swimmers who just scraped into finals, but it was these who collected their invaluable one or two points which made us overall winners.

Those who took part were: M. Wilson, S. McCloy, A. Sunderland, A. Smith, C. Dixon, N. Hann, J. Hickman (Best in his year), M. Kelly, R. Moodie (Best in his year), E. Nicholson, D. Power, S. Stephenson and D. Taylor.

James Hickman

All the girls in Byrom played in the Hockey team. In difficult conditions we played well, often drawing, but then losing on penalty corners. In the end we came fifth. Well done to all the players especially Ellen Nicholson at the centre and Sophie Stephenson and Jenny Ellis on the wings.

Sophie Stephenson was selected to play for South Manchester Schools.

Alison Soper

Byrom's entry was the winning performance in this year's House Music Competition. Our success was helped by our having a full programme of well rehearsed pieces from a variety of instruments. Rachel Sykes started the entry on the bassoon with an excellent rendition of "Sicilienne et Allegro Giocoso" by Gabriel Grovlez. She played with a wide range of dynamics without sacrificing any quality of sound, which is difficult to manage in [^]page large halls. There were three piano pieces played well by Robert Clyne, Sarah Cope and Mark Kelly. Jonathan Greenhowe returned from retirement in the music scene to play a piece by Mozart on the clarinet. Other contributions were from Ellen Nicholson (clarinet), Carrie Litherland and Helen Ralston (flute), Jonathan Lamb and Jes Smith (guitars) and Simon Ogier (cello).

Simon Ogier

Simon gives only fleeting mention to his own crucial role in this year's triumph. I am very grateful for his cool, quiet organisation of this outstanding performance. Both Mark and he have made a quite unique contribution to School and House Music.

A.M. Blight

This year's House Play produced the largest number of volunteers to take part that we have ever had. Mistakenly I asked Jamie Flannigan to find a play with as large a cast as possible. He chose "The Creature Moves". After seven weeks nothing had moved and I was fed up and despondent that we had virtually found it impossible to ever get all the people required for any rehearsal. One afternoon Alison Soper came into room 17 and said, "Sir, this play is a waste of time - we ought to scrap it." She was stating the obvious. Then Michelle Cowan and Alison asserted that they would find another play, with a smaller cast and commit themselves to doing it. Half-term passed and I feared there would be the usual gap between intent and performance. Happily I was wrong. Michelle delivered a play written by her grandfather Dr. Charles Vites "A Message for Madame". The creature (Andrew Nunney) had by this time not only moved but disappeared! So Morgan Parry, whose acting experience was limited to that of playing a lion, was auditioned over the telephone. A "critique" of the performance is printed elsewhere. All I can record is that no cast in my 21 years as Housemaster committed themselves to so much hard work to bring a triumph out of disaster. Alex Rodgers, Alison Soper, Michelle Cowan, Morgan Parry and Jamie Flannigan turned up for three hours almost each weekend and did some three rehearsals per week after School. No cast in my experience was better prepared for a House Play. The quality of their acting was excellent. The result was a disappointment in some respects but some felt that their performance perhaps exposed a weakness in the play itself. Somehow the closing act of reconciliation lacked credibility. This was a very democratic production - there were at least three producers! But this was a very fitting end to Jamie Flannigan's outstanding contribution to drama. We are grateful to Sophie Stephenson who gave up much time to help in the production. She was prompter - but was not needed in that role. The evening of the play was well attended and it was encouraging to see so many of the Seniors and Middle School pupils coming from Byrom and other Houses to create an excellent audience and they were well entertained by the productions of Heywood and Gaskell as well as our own. At the end of term the cast enjoyed a celebration dinner and viewed a video of the play.

A.M. Blight

At half-term yet another expedition went up to the Lake District led by Mr. Blight, Mr. Myers and Dr. Barnes. We stayed at Ambleside Y.H.A. and took advantage of their winter half price offer and abandoned self catering. Despite a bad weather forecast we had a glorious weekend. We climbed Crinkle Crag (2,800 ft) from the Langdale Valley. On the summit ridge we met gale force winds and low temperatures. The third year girls, Carrie Litherland, Alice Caine, Martyne Jones and Christina Barnes coped well. Richard Lamb, Andrew Nunney, Jonathan Lamb, James Vickers and Matthew Butterworth are seasoned campaigners now. They continued up Bow Fell with Dr. Barnes and Mr. Myers whilst Mr. Blight descended with the rest.

We had an enjoyable evening playing pool and the Jenga Tower Block game. As it poured with rain, Mr. Blight conjectured that this would be snow above 2,000 feet and he was right. Unfortunately, the Head of Physics had been arguing with the Head of Religion, insisting that in life, "It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive." On the Sunday we set off up Dow Crag which was glorious in a covering of snow and in bright sunlight. Dr. Barnes took a diversion on the way up, but the path petered out. Debating whether to continue to travel hopefully, Dr. Barnes allowed Mr. Blight to go ahead to test the route. To say it was hazardous might be an understatement. However, we all reached the summit, somewhat out of breath, some panting from exhaustion - others with relief at getting up there. Mr. Blight now proudly insisted that he had proved empirically that "It is better to arrive than travel hopefully". We then traversed the ridge with magnificent views over to the Sca Fell range now clad in snow. We descended to Conistone, tea and cakes and thence home. It had been a great weekend defying the weather forecast.

A.M. Blight

MIDSUMMER TERM

The Senior Cricket Knock-out was postponed and then a difficult situation was created as most of our players in the fifth year had important exams the day before and the day after. All acted responsibly and loyally and we managed to turn out a reasonable team. However, Whitworth's score of 147 for 3 wickets, proved too difficult once Bell was out. Si Dearden held the innings together, but when he had to switch from defence to the offensive, he was soon out. Slack's accurate bowling pinned us down and we were nowhere near the target when our last wicket fell. The Juniors won their first round against Dalton, scoring 180 for 9 wickets. Carl Hope scored a fine fifty and Ian Graham hit 37. Whilst Carl Gresty took 4 wickets with some odd deliveries, it was Carl Hope's accurate bowling which contained Dalton. He bowled 6 overs for only 15 runs. Dalton were all out for 140. Against Fraser we mustered only 80, Carl Hope scoring 26. But our fielding now let us down badly and we lost by three wickets.

At long last our girls triumphed and got their deserts in sport. Having beaten Heywood eight and a half to five and a half rounders, we lost to the strong Fraser side. This left us runners up to play Gaskell. All seemed lost, as only one player was left in. But Ellen Nicholson struck three successive rounders to win the game and we were in the final to play Fraser again. The girls worked out their tactics well to contain the talented Karen Hawcroft and we won the final 3-2. Crucial to our success was the excellent fielding, particularly from Sophie Stephenson at back stop to Helen Burns at first base. They combined splendidly. Equally good in the field and in striking rounders were Ellen Nicholson and Jenny Ellis, whilst Alison Soper bowled very steadily. Others who made their contributions were Michelle Cowan, Martyne Jones, Gita Rampal, Carrie Litherland, Nicola Ravenscroft, Sarah Cope and Georgia Laddin.

Byrom (235 points) came second to Fraser (252 points) in the Athletics Sports. Our entries were well organised by Andy Sunderland and it was a good House effort.

Seniors: Gary Scora came third in the 100m and second in the 200m.

Mark Kershaw came second in the 1500m.

Suzanne Jameson came second in the Javelin.

Andy Sunderland won the High Jump.

Bert Weeden came second in the Long Jump and second in the Triple Jump.

James Hickman won the Triple Jump.

4th Yr: Nick Byrom came second in the 400m.

Jenny Ellis won the 400m.

Ian Graham won the Shot and the Discus.

Anthony Mawson came third in the Javelin.

Nick Byrom won the Triple Jump setting a new School record.

3rd Yr: David Johnson came second in the 100m and third in the 200m. He also came third in the Long Jump.

Sophie Stephenson came second in the 400m and second in the Rounders Ball.

Gita Rampal came third in the 200m.

Andrew Nunney came third in the 800m and second in the 1500m.

Daniel Taylor won the High Jump.

Finally I wish all those Byrom boys who are leaving the best of luck. Byrom has been fortunate in having two excellent boys as joint Heads of House, the contribution that Ian Cope and Mike Wilson have made to the School and to Byrom has been outstanding. "Tosh" will be long remembered and his influence has been terrific. But they will acknowledge that they have been well supported in their efforts by a very good year. All these have got a lot from the House and have given even more back to it.

A.M. Blight

DALTON HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made:

Deputy Head of School:	Sanjay Hira
Head of House:	Damien Stansfield
Deputy Heads of House:	Danny Wilks, Chris Hyland

We welcomed into the House eighteen members of the Third Year, and four girls, new to the School, in the Sixth Form. We were pleased to have Mr. Hofton and Miss De Vince continuing to assist in House affairs.

Senior League Rugby:

Joint captains: Chris Hyland, Andy Rose

At first, we appeared to have strong backs but lightweight forwards. In our first match we took an early lead against Whitworth, but were unable to press forward the advantage, and a draw ensued. Our next two games produced comfortable wins, with Richard Bone and Chris Hyland at half back working together well, and the strong running Steve Jones proving a problem to the opposition. We then encountered Byrom, and again took an early lead. We dominated most of the match but then, one mistake from us, and one spark from the opposition, and we lost the game. Further comfortable wins ensued, helped by excellent tackling from Andrew Seymour and leadership in the forwards from Andy Rose and Anthony Baron. When we next encountered Whitworth, a very close match again produced a draw. Our final match was against Byrom, and shortage of players disrupted our teamwork. We lost only our second match of the term. Throughout the season, a very good team spirit showed in a frequently changing side. Our less experienced players all worked hard but we greatly relied upon a few skilful players. We were beaten only by Byrom, and were the only team to take points off Whitworth. These two houses finished equal first, although we were disappointed to finish only third.

Senior Knockout:

Captain: Oliver Garside

An inexperienced side, containing only two School 1st XV players, were drawn against Heywood in the first round. We had a very lightweight scrum and against a very strong one, we failed to win much of the ball. However, our tackling was excellent, and we stifled the opposition backs to give our backs a chance. The stronger forwards eventually won the game, with Heywood gaining a 10-4 victory.

Junior Knockout:

Captain: Chris Gleave

In our first game, we were drawn against a Fraser side who had scored over fifty points in their previous match. They had strong School team players. We had few. We did, however, have players willing to work hard and play together as a team. In the first half, we were the better team, and deserved our lead. It was not until late in the game that Fraser gained any advantage. Their strength eventually told in an excellent match, and we were disappointed to lose 12-16.

Road Relay:

Our one talented runner, Roger Mody, was one of several absent on the day of the competition. The rest were just not strong enough, and only our Fourth Year girls ran well, finishing first in their year group. The House finished in last place.

Seven-A-Side Rugby:

Senior Competition: Although we were not going to be strong in the first team, we did have some good backs, and hoped that we stood a chance. However, too much loose play in very difficult conditions prevented the first team even scoring a point and the second team did not win a match. The more experienced players needed to show the same endeavour as the third team, who won each match, including the final. We finished 4th in the competition.

Middle School Competition: Weak third years lost one game narrowly, one heavily and then drew their final match. The fourth years, although lacking School players, had been hopeful of success. They narrowly lost their first game to Gaskell, before beating Whitworth easily, and also winning their final game to finish 3rd in their year group.

We failed to win anything during the term, with complacency in evidence too often. The talented need to lead, and the less talented need to work hard. Then, the "near successes" will turn into successes.

At the end of term, we said goodbye to Sarah Darby, who left us after one term, to return to her home in the U.S.A. She participated in School music and drama in the short time she was with us.

M.D. Wood

LENT TERM

The following appointments were made:

Lacrosse: Senior K.O. Captain:	D. Stansfield
Junior K.O. Captain:	C. Gleave
Senior League Captains:	C. Hyland, A. Rose
Music Organiser:	M. Clark

Lacrosse:

The Seniors had league fixtures for two teams each week and our players showed sufficient enthusiasm to have enough to participate each week. Bad weather reduced the 1st X fixtures to four rounds, although the 2nd X played all five other houses. Both teams lost one match and won the rest, finishing joint 1st in the 1st X league, and 1st in the 2nd X league.

The first round of the Senior K.O. was a disappointment. Too many players were very lethargic against Fraser, and we went down 3-8. In the first match for the Juniors, Dalton v. Gaskell was tied at 5-5 full-time, but we scored the winning goal in extra time to win 6-5. The final against Heywood produced a comfortable 10-5 victory and a trophy win. Dalton finished 3rd in the Hewlett Cup 6-a-side tournament.

Swimming:

Our strength was in the Seniors, although we had little back-up from the other age groups. We had the usual difficulty of finding sufficient swimmers for the butterfly stroke. In the relay competition, both fourth years and senior teams qualified for the finals and produced two 1st positions and two 2nd positions. We finished joint 1st with Fraser. Only ten individuals qualified for the finals, and, of these, only R. Gandy won his race. Dalton finished 4th in the competition.

Girls Games:

Inter-house Netball and Hockey competitions gave all our girls the opportunity to compete for the House. In the netball we lost our first two games, but won the last, to finish 5th. In the hockey, we were runner-up in our first league, but finished 3rd in the competition.

Music:

Hard work by Michael Clark helped us put together a worthwhile entry in the Music Competition. All eight entries gained a mark of over 80% and had the one absentee been available, our excellent 2nd place could have been a first.

Drama:

A lot of hard work by producers Oliver Garside and Anthony Baron together with a cast of ten, helped produce an act from "The Winslow Boy" by Terence Rattigan. It was commended by the judges as a praiseworthy attempt at a difficult play, which, although having its moments of success, failed to maintain a consistent level, and finished equal 4th.

MIDSUMMER TERM

Senior K.O. Cricket:

Captain - N. Wood (also School Captain)

Our first match was against a useful Gaskell side. We had a very mixed team, containing few School players, some Fifth and Upper Sixth returning for the day, and supplemented by enthusiasm. Gaskell batted first and, initially, our bowling was tight and fielding was good. Although runs started to come, we gained wickets and Gaskell were five down with less than 50 runs on the board. It was then that our fielding let us down, and the score was doubled before the next wicket fell. A total of 117 should have been possible for us to attain. With captain Nathan Wood opening with Richard Bone, we started well, scoring 40 for the first wicket. It was then that our batting collapsed, with Ben Wood, a useful 27, the only other batsman to make double figures. A match we should have won was lost by 13 runs.

Gaskell (117) beat Dalton (104) by 13 runs.

Junior K.O. Cricket:

Joint Captains: B. Woolrych, A. Aslam

Our Senior cricketers supervised several practice sessions for the juniors, and we soon realised that enthusiasm was to be our main asset, to supplement the few skilful players we had. We played Byrom in the first match, when we were not at full strength because of absence and injury. Our opening overs were steady, but lacked penetration, and our first change bowlers were more expensive. The return of Ashin Matin-Razm brought our first success, but Byrom had already reached 60. Too many mistakes in the field let the score accumulate, and it was only when the score was 136 for 4 that our successes came, but a total of 182 was a difficult target. Our batting proceeded steadily, but no-one seemed able to attack the bowling. Four batsmen reached double figures, but we relied upon "extras" to bring our total to 151.

Byrom (182) beat Dalton (151) by 31 runs.

Girls Rounders:

Our mixed team of 3rd and 4th years was depleted by absences on the day of the first round. Despite this, all played with enthusiasm and, pleasingly, worked together well. Having lost to Gaskell, we were pleased to beat Whitworth, and entered the play-offs for the top places. After a pleasing first day, the second day did not work out as well, and we finished in 4th place.

Athletics Sports:

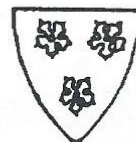
This year's programme included boys' and girls' events at 3rd and 4th year, but our girls' teams were decimated by injury on Heats Day. It was pleasing that several of our seniors returned for the heats, and that most of the Lower Sixth were willing to participate, in order to cover any absences. In our juniors, just less than half our entries gained places in the finals, and the girls did as well as they could. The seniors did well, but we realised that several were unable to return for Sports Day. Our 1st places were few, and we would not expect better than 5th place on Finals Day. 1st places were gained by Emma-Lou Onyemem (3rd Year 200m), Tarik Djedjour (4th Year 1500m), Tom Veitch (Senior Discus) and 4th Year 400m relay and Girls 100m relay.

At the end of the term, Miss De Vince was replaced by Miss Tandon as a deputy in Dalton House. Miss De Vince is thanked for the help given, especially with the House Drama.

M.D. Wood



FRASER HOUSE



MICHAELMAS TERM

Head of House:	Richard C. Mattison
Deputy Heads of House:	Andrew R. Ladd and Jayne C. Bond
House Prefects:	John R. Beckett Jonathan D. Butson Melanie P. Clare Daniel Guthrie Nicholas J. Jackson Iftikar A. Khan Rizwan-Ahmed Malik Heather M. Stephenson

Nineteen third formers entered the House in September. They were Paul Bagnall, Sam B. Burney, Ian J. Butterworth, Alice Caine, Richard England, David S. Gilbert, Howard S. Goldman, Karen E. Hawcroft, Louise Illingworth, Caroline W-Y Ip, Simon R. Johnson, Kamron N. Khan, M. Adnan Malik, Emmanuel P. Martineau, William E. Napier, Vinnie Pohoomull, Joshua M.E. Robinson, Adam C. Samuels and Louise K. Shroot. Other newcomers this year were Sarah D. Porter, who came straight into the Fourth Form, Manoj Verma from Hulme Hall, and Frederick Richards from the Prince of Wales School, Freetown, Sierra Leone, both of whom joined us in the Lower Sixth.

House Assemblies continued in the usual way, and one of our first jobs here was to select the runners for the Road Relay Race. It proved to be a very strong team. Simon Johnson won the Third Form boys stage, a position maintained in the Fourth Form group by Geoff Barraclough. Excellent runs from Caroline Ip and Karen Hawcroft gave first place to the Third Form girls, and Sally Ward ran the fastest time amongst the Fourth Form girls, a considerable achievement for her. Meanwhile, Avi Rao made up three places in his group, and Martin England six, recording the fastest Fourth Form boy's time in the process. Michael Brook and Matthew Tweed ran solidly, overtaking five and two runners respectively, but Simon Bates could not match their pace and dropped well down the field. The final trio of Allan Bulwich, Omar Asgher and Andrew Ladd struggled gamely to make up our deficit, and thanks largely to Allan, they succeeded in bringing the team up from fourth to second place overall. This is our second year as runners-up: I am sure we will be more determined than ever to win this gruelling contest in 1992.

When the entire Fourth Year ran a competitive Cross-country race in December it came as no surprise that Fraser won the event by a considerable margin, with seven of our runners coming in amongst the first twenty-one.

Sonny Arora and Allan Bulwich pulled off quite a coup by winning the Debating Competition before a packed Upper Hall. Their success meant that in the three years of this competition we had been runners-up once and won it outright twice - not an impossible record to maintain in the future, I hope. A fuller report of the Debates appears elsewhere.

Senior rugby produced few highlights this year, and even fewer successes. It became apparent that Houses were no longer able to raise regularly more than one fifteen, and Mr. Simkin generously occupied "the rest" at Hough End week in, week out. Fraser's 1st XV relied on too few strengths, and one could not ignore a rather dispiriting reluctance to participate. Things came together really well on one or two occasions, though, notably in our second confrontation with Gaskell. Our forwards won a great deal of ball, Omar Asgher at scrum-half moved it well amongst his backs who ran at and through the opposing defence. We scored six tries, one an excellent blind-side dash from the elusive Bhavesh Patel, another a sprint three-quarters the length of the field by Edward Buckley, a third a great opportunist forward's try from Craig Simkin who had been threatening to score all match. Daniel Guthrie and John Butson showed great spirit in their last season of House Rugby. Nicholas Goodwin continued to make an important contribution in spite of his dislike of the game, and the Head of House worked - and raged - tirelessly to bring the pack together and make it an effective unit. In our last match of the year, a 34-16 defeat of Heywood, Simon Bates earned his promised hat-trick of tries, and Bhavesh Patel used his talents to make a try again out of nothing. Omar Asgher tackled ferociously, and Manish Das proved almost too fast to catch. Next year we are all hoping he will work on his passing, rather a hit and miss affair at present! It bodes well for next year that even Daniel Gilbert and James Ewen were volunteering for 1st XV places by Christmas!

Beaten by Whitworth in the Knockout, our senior players were hoping for better in the Ray Cox Sevens. The 1st VII was at half-strength and could score only eight points in total, the 2nd VII failed to score at all, and it was left to the humble 3rd VII to record our only victory of the day.

Happily it was a very different story with the juniors. The Knockout XV won their three rounds 56-0, 14-10 and 20-10 against Byrom, Dalton and then Heywood in the Final. James White's organisation and leadership were significant factors in this successful run of matches, but all the players deserve recognition, so here they are:



Fraser Junior Knockout XV 1991.
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

Most of these third and fourth form boys were again involved in our bid for the Middle School Sevens. The third form team swept all before them to win comfortably with the impressive figures of seventy-two points scored and only four conceded. The fourth formers did less well but contributed enough to enable Fraser to win the competition jointly with Gaskell.

Five-a-side football continued unabated this year. Michael Shroot was the latest in a distinguished line of Fraser referees, turning up unfailingly each week and good-humouredly jogging his House Master's memory that he should be in the Sports Hall that afternoon.

Most of our Upper Sixth formers were now sporting the newly designed Fraser House Prefects' tie, having been presented with them on appointment at the beginning of term. This innovation seemed to create quite a lot of interest at School.

Several Fraser boys and girls were awarded School Colours for their contribution to Drama, and especially to Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" in December. They were Jayne Bond, Melanie Clare, Daniel Guthrie and Richard Mattison (Full) and Rebecca Baron and Manish Das (Junior). Sally Ward and Matthew Maunder were members of the Stage Staff. Additionally Geoffrey Barraclough, Elisabeth Keable and Sarah Porter won Junior Colours for Music, Elisabeth perhaps most deservedly so, since she has begun to share the daunting responsibility of playing the organ in morning Assembly. These musicians and others from the House took part in the delightful Christmas Celebration at the end of term, for which our deputy House Master and several helpers provided the splendid seasonal refreshments.

We were sorry to lose the irrepressible Darryl Garside from our Lower Sixth group, and all wish him lots of luck as he goes off to real work!

LENT TERM

One of the first House events of the term was the Netball Competition, this year involving girls from both the third and fourth forms. We got off to a good start, beating a well-organised Dalton team 4-2, then being beaten by the Gaskell girls after mounting a strong challenge. In the semi-final, although Sally Ward (capt.), Karen Hawcroft, Caroline Ip and Alice Caine all played very well, we could not control the accurate shooting of Byrom and went down 8-10. Consolation was to come, however, when we beat Heywood 11-7 in an exciting play-off for third and fourth place. This had been a most enjoyable competition, engendering a nicely competitive team spirit in the six Houses.

Neither lacrosse Knockout team seemed able to make the best use of the considerable talent available in the House this season. The Senior X Captain, Andrew Ladd, was well supported by Richard Mattison, Edward Buckley, Omar Asgher, Allan Bulwich, Matthew Maunder, Craig Simkin and Simon Bates, all of whom did well, but it was not until the Hewlett Cup that their game really began to flow. Both Senior VI's won all their matches, as did the sixth team of John Foggon, Ian Ratcliffe, Saadi Hasan, Robin Stephenson, William Casson and Rizwan Ahmed. Full points from these three teams, plus a win and a draw from the talented third formers, gave Fraser enough to tie with Gaskell for first place.

The Hewlett Cup afternoon was greatly enhanced this year by the final stages of the new Girls Inter-House Hockey running concurrently. Lacrosse spectators and players alike found the hockey compulsive viewing, as Sally Ward's team, having brushed aside Dalton and Whitworth in the initial stages, went on to trounce Byrom 6-0. Our opponents in the final, Gaskell, put up such a solid defence that it seemed as if we were heading for a disappointing goalless draw. Then Caroline Ip took the ball at the top of the circle and struck it so quickly and firmly that the Gaskell goalkeeper was caught unawares and conceded the only goal of the match. A major feature of Fraser's victory was the super positional play of Karen Hawcroft. She runs extremely well both on and off the ball and her stickwork and shooting are outstanding. Sally Ward

should also be congratulated for keeping a clean sheet in all four matches as her team scored their twelve goals. As well as the three girls already mentioned, House Colours were awarded to Rebecca Baron, Alice Caine, Louise Illingworth, Leila Jalali, Elisabeth Keable, Aarti Nayar, Vinnie Pohoomull, Sarah Porter and Louise Shroot for their part in securing this new trophy for the House. Much time has been dedicated to setting up and running these excellent girls competitions, and our thanks go especially to Mrs. Pollard for this.

The climax of the Lent Term is for many the House Music and Drama. This year the Swimming Gala was brought back into the term, however, and dominated the first half to some extent. Last year's swimming was little short of a disaster for us, and so things were unlikely to be worse in 1992! In fact we won three of the six relays, both third years and the fourth year Squadron, and came joint first with Dalton. In the individual events our finalists did extremely well, finishing in overall second position. Their results were as follows:

Year 3: Kamron Khan	Breastroke (3rd)
	Backstroke (1st)
Emmanuel Martineau	Breastroke (2nd)
Karen Hawcroft	Butterfly (1st)
	Individual Medley (1st)
Caroline Ip	Freestyle (2nd)
Year 4: James White	Butterfly (1st)
	Individual Medley (2nd)
Avi Rao	Breastroke (2nd)
	Freestyle (4th)
Senior: Andrew Howarth	Butterfly (4th)

Just a couple more Senior swimmers might have tipped the scales in our favour.

Kelvin Blakey worked hard to assemble our House musicians, and their half-hour programme was well balanced, colourful and enjoyable. Geoffrey Barraclough opened the proceedings with a nice bright recorder solo, followed by a more nervous Sam Burney playing a clarinet piece by Fauré. Elisabeth Keable contributed two items, the first Bach's Prelude in F (for the organ), the second Beethoven's well-loved Für Élise, on the piano, of course. Both were played with competence and fluency, and scored well. Next came Sarah Porter, whose rendering of a Mozart Andante was well sustained and played with great feeling. Colin Harris's lively Allegro by Vivaldi played on the bass tuba impressed the Adjudicator with its "element of virtuosity", and the programme's climax came with a wind quartet consisting of Colin Harris, Elisabeth Keable, Sarah Porter and Sam Burney. The piece they chose was an arrangement by Harris of extracts from the largo in Dvorak's New World. It was a well-rehearsed performance of a lovely arrangement, and favourably received by audience and Adjudicator alike. The House finished joint fourth, yet only two marks behind the winners, Byrom!

"The Ugly Duckling", a slight but appropriate little play by A.A. Milne, was selected by producer, Sébastien Martineau, as our entry in the Drama Competition this year. The Adjudicators' full report appears elsewhere. The production team undoubtedly had to confront more than the usual crop of vicissitudes, yet it remains the case that the House Play demands a greater degree of involvement and a fuller commitment than any other House activity. If this is accepted by the cast, things will run smoothly; if not, then the experience will be a painful one for all concerned. However, my appreciation goes to the producer and cast, as well as to all other members of the House who made a contribution, especially Peter Ireland for his original programme design.

At the very end of term along with the usual crop of School Colours, Jasel Mehta deservedly won his Junior Colours for badminton.

MIDSUMMER TERM

The House Tuck Shop had been keeping an extremely low profile for some time, and was taken over this year by an enthusiastic Michael Shroot and Kelvin Blakey. With considerable limitations imposed on opening times, they stood little chance of making much money, and as soon as they did it was eaten up by the purchase of lacrosse equipment, House Prefects' ties, running vests and the like. This is the last year of the Tuck Shops. In future a small income will be provided for each House from vending machines which are soon to appear in the School. I should like to thank a whole host of Fraser boys, stretching back over the years through Mark Brandreth as far as Geoff Wadsworth, who have spent such a lot of time on this useful venture.

The following Lower Sixth formers took over prefectorial duties from the House Prefects at the beginning of term: Sonny Arora, Omar Asgher, Kelvin Blakey, Edward Buckley, Allan Bulwich, Tomos Cooper, Peter Ireland, Sébastien Martineau, Matthew Maunder, Bhavesh Patel, Frederick Richards and Michael Shroot.

The girls' new House shirts arrived just in time for the Rounders Finals, and certainly helped the team look the part. Having already beaten Byrom once we were confident of doing it again and winning outright. Things did not go our way, however, and Byrom were able to contain Karen Hawcroft and Sally Ward, our chief hopes who had done so much in previous matches, so that Fraser had to settle for second place. What a transformation in our girls' performances since last year, though!

An extremely dynamic bunch of second formers met their new House Master during the term. They seem to have a great many talents which I look forward to seeing put to good use in the years to come.



Fraser's hope for the future!
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

Cricket: It has been some years since that word has meant anything other than disappointment to Fraser. In our Senior match against Whitworth this year we again let ourselves be dislodged from an apparently winning position, having bowled out our opposition with some ease. In fact, by the time their House Master walked out onto the field to watch our batsmen cruise comfortably home to victory, Bhavesh Patel, the last of our tail-enders, was on the point of surrendering his wicket - and the match - to the incredulous and grateful opposition. How history repeats itself!

Fortunately, the Junior XI were rather stronger and certainly more enthusiastic. Confidently captained by Mark Knowles, and with an impressive hostile attack, they approached the Final against Gaskell as favourites, at least in the eyes of their House Master, if not those of Gaskell's Nicholas Gresty! Their batting total of 150 was not unreachable, especially on the back square, but solid bowling soon cut through Gaskell's more experienced batsmen. It did seem, at one stage, as if some resourceful work from Tyrone Berkeley and Stephen Greenberg might bright Gaskell back into the game, but with Berkeley gone it was only a matter of time, and we eventually won with some forty runs to spare.



Closing in on Gaskell's last pair: The Junior Knockout Final 1992.
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

After one or two disappointing heats for the Athletics Sports, it looked unlikely that Fraser would be able to improve very much on last year's performance where we had dropped to fifth place after running first or second for most of the day. Now we had a completely new group of third formers, though, and six of them managed to win an incredible nine of the sixteen individual events. The full results appear elsewhere, but some performances deserve to be recorded and commended here: Richard England and Karen Hawcroft won two events, Karen setting a new School Record for the Girls Long Jump; Adnan Malik took first, second and third in his events, breaking the School 100m record; and Simon Johnson won the 400m, 1500m and the javelin to capture the coveted China Cup as Third Form Victor Ludorum. To cap their outstanding achievement the 4 x 100m relay team then romped home in a new record time of 54.2 seconds.



Winner of the Third Form 4 x 100m Relay.
(l-r: Paul Bagnall, Josh Robinson, Adnan Malik and Simon Johnson)
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

The fourth formers did less well, but good performances came from James White, Sally Ward, Mark Knowles, Martin England, David Slack, Elisabeth Keable and John Foggon. Rizwan Ahmed stepped in at the very last minute to help our 4 x 400m Relay team, and ran a surprisingly good leg, and the 4 x 100m team just lost to Gaskell in a photo finish.



Sally Ward, Elisabeth Keable, Sarah Porter and Caroline Ip).
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)

Amongst the seniors, second or third places were won by Edward Buckley (400m), Allan Bulwich (1500m - barefoot!), Sonny Arora (Discus) and most pleasingly Michael Shroote winning his first athletics points for his House by coming second in the Discus. The net result of all this was that we managed to keep ahead and remain ahead of the other Houses throughout the day, ultimately beating Byrom by a slim margin of 17.5 points. The shield was duly presented in Assembly by the Head Master, and it was with an evident sense of satisfaction, and even of privilege, that Frederick Richards received it. Much credit for this success must go to Frederick and to the other boys and girls who prepared our entry for the heats so effectively this year.

Our fourth and fifth form musicians were again in the limelight during the late Summer Concert at which a wide range of music ancient and modern was played followed by a moving performance of Vivaldi's Gloria by the newly-formed Choral Society.

To everyone's great regret, Avi Rao leaves School this term to accompany his family to Chicago. Avi has had two excellent years in Fraser, giving a tremendous lead to the Juniors, and has been an example to all, both in his mature sportsmanship and in his positive and honest attitude to life in general.

My thanks are due to Mrs. Ballantyne for her continued support, and to Mr. Jones, who is leaving us as Deputy House Master. I hope he has enjoyed his short association with Fraser.

This has been a very happy year for the House, during which the majority of its members have made their contribution towards one or other of our achievements. Richard Mattison, Jayne Bond, Andrew Ladd and the rest of the House Prefects deserve our gratitude for keeping things running, and as they go on to greater things they take with them our warmest wishes for happiness and success. Unusually next year's Head and Deputy Head of House were announced before the end of term. They are Edward Buckley and Sonny Arora. Good luck, both to you!

D.M. Fisher

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GASKELL HOUSE

Head of House:

Noel Burton

In September we welcomed 19 Third Formers into Gaskell House. I am sure they will all make a valuable contribution to House affairs.

The rugby season got off to a bad start with an early defeat, and matters continued to get worse when we were defeated in the first round of the senior knockout by Whitworth. The game was played in a howling gale and Whitworth made good use of the wind in the first half to set up a 7-0 half-time lead. Whitworth made good use of their strong forwards to keep possession away from Gaskell's talented backs and as desperation set in two more tries were conceded. Whitworth were the better side, our only excuse being a lack of Upper Sixth formers though Noel Burton certainly led by example. The result was a major disappointment though the play of Chris Armstrong, Mark Sellers and the other fifth formers suggests we can regain the cup in the near future.

After the disappointing defeat in the first round of the Rugby Knockout, a good performance was needed in the 7-a-side competition. With Darren Lambert recovered from injury problems, the first team was strong and fast. Revenge against Whitworth came in the first match with a 20-0 victory. Lambert delivered three tries, and Chris Bury who devoured Whitworth's defence continuously, scored the fourth. The next victory was over Fraser. This was a much harder match and they scored first taking a 4-0 lead. However, Gaskell's pack, despite a 'large' weight and height disadvantage, took control and won the ball continuously for the backs who, with strong running and good passing from Fred Baama, ensured a 20-4 victory. The first team final was against Heywood. There was now a gale blowing, it was raining 'heavily' and Mr. Veevers was shaking. But Gaskell overcame both the weather and a heavy but slow Heywood side to win 16-0, thanks to scrum half Chris Reichl, who, as in the other matches, provided the backs with faultless passing.

Despite victory for the first team, Gaskell were not to win the cup. The second team beat Dalton and earned two valuable points, but lost to Byrom and failed to reach the final. With three squad players injured against Manchester Grammar, the stronger players from the third team were required on the second team, which left a weak third team, who lost both their matches. We finished third overall.

The Junior 7-a-side teams all played well though a strong Fourth Year lost in the semi-final to Heywood. However, the third year team produced an excellent performance to win their group and make the Junior rugby players the joint winners with Fraser.

We have a strong group of Senior Lacrosse players who are able to control any games they play. The knockout trophy was won by playing possession lacrosse and denying the opposition the chance to score many goals. Sadly, we were only joint winners of the Hewlett Cup as only the Third team won their final. Many players were used and the Third team used their substitutes well to produce victories over Byrom (7-0), Dalton (6-1) and Whitworth (5-1). N. Burton, M. Jones and P. Harrison were the main goal scorers. A special mention to N. Goddard who, when called upon, made some tremendous saves in goal.

The Fourth Form team lost their final and the third and joint teams turned up!

Our girls teams continue to dominate the Sports Competitions. Despite some coaching from Mr. Veevers we won the netball competition by beating Byrom 11-9 in the final. No special mentions because all the girls work hard together and it is this team determination that drives them on. They were very disappointed to lose the hockey final to a rather fortunate goal from Fraser. Gaskell were favourites to win the Rounders Competition, especially after secret coaching sessions with top rounders coach, Mr. Greenall. Dalton hit the ball hard but with deep fielders such as S. Crilly, Y. Schofield, N. Mason and S. Atkins the problem was solved. A good relationship between C. Reichl (first base) and B. McCurrie meant that many opposition players were stumped out immediately. K. Law bowled well throughout but the semi-final was lost because E. Nicholson of Byrom, batting on her own, scored 3 rounders to win the game. Again all the girls took part and thanks to Mr. Greenall for passing on some of his rounders experience.

Our 1st round cricket match was against Heywood on the 5th May. F. Baama and N. Burton opened the batting as they had done the previous year. However, disaster struck when Baama was caught off only the second delivery in the match. Burton and Lambert steadied the innings and the side built on the 2nd wicket partnership of 32 to reach a good total of 208 for 6 declared. We could perhaps have added an extra 30 runs in the last four overs; this would have killed the match so Gaskell declared to leave Heywood a fighting chance to reach the target. Ketan Misra top scored with a superb and unbeaten innings of 68: M. Jones (35), N. Burton (28).

Baama and Misra opened the bowling. They both made it hard for the Heywood batsmen to score but did not gain any wickets. Heywood batted well and J. Daniel, J. Sayyid and A. Watkins all proved hard to remove. However, the target was too hard to reach and Heywood were bowled out for a respectable 155 after 35.4 overs. N. Goddard was our most successful bowler with 4 for 37. The other four bowlers all bowled conservatively and prevented Heywood from scoring freely. M. Sellers took 2 for 8, N. Burton 2 for 23, F. Baama and K. Misra both finished with 0 for 27 off their respective eight overs. B. Howells must also be mentioned for taking an extremely difficult catch on the boundary to remove Heywood's J. Sayyid.

The final against a strong Whitworth team was well contested though it was disappointing to end the match with seven fielders because people preferred to go home rather than contest a sports final. Noel Burton, Fred Baama and Mark Sellers made a great effort to win the game but several fifth formers were badly missed.

Scorers: Gaskell 147 all out. Baama 69
Whitworth 148 for 9.

The juniors also lost their cricket final allowing a ninth wicket partnership to add far too many runs.

The inter-house road relay proved a major disappointment when an injury and a dubious disqualification resulted in only fifth position. Everyone took part, all the girls ran though they did not have to and Bernadette McCurrie was the fastest Third Form girl by over a minute.

Gaskell gained 3rd place in the House Swimming Competition, thanks to a superb effort from the Fourth Formers. Gaskell won the Fourth Form medley relay, Nick Gresty greatly improved his qualifying time to win the breaststroke and Karen Law won the individual Fourth Form award, winning the backstroke and freestyle. Sadly the best Third Form swimmer had gone off to practise in Florida and the seniors have to rush home at 3.40 p.m. before it turns dark - a sad lack of interest in a worthwhile competition.

We have a fine reputation to uphold in athletics having been first and second in the last two years. Sadly we slipped to third this year missing C. Bury who was away on holiday. Nevertheless there were many outstanding performances and virtually everybody in the House took part. There was great spirit in the team epitomised by N. Mason who ran despite a nasty knee problem. B. McCurrie set a new record in the girls 400m; C. Reichl set new records in the girls 100m and 200m as did M. Wan in the boys 100m. M. Wan also won the 200m and S. Atkins won the High Jump. F. Baama won the senior 400m, C. Armstrong won the senior shot event. We also did very well in the relays winning Boys 4 x 100m, coming second in the 3rd form 4 x 400m and the girls 4 x 100m and achieving third place in both senior relays.

The greatest achievement was in the numbers that took part and the effort put in by everybody.

Gaskell's performance in the Music Competition was commendable, regardless of its final position. The first item was a lively piece by the String Quartet in which Natalie Mason, Stephen Neary, Peter Kidd and Ian del Conde took part. It was an achievement, in Mr. Edmundson's opinion, to have produced a well-balanced and good string quartet.

The performance then continued with items by various soloists: John Cunningham on the euphonium, Victor Theophilopoulos piano, Peter Kidd viola, and Stephen Neary violin. After this classical section, Ben Smith played a 'Montage' on his electric guitar to give balance and variety to Gaskell's performance. The final item was an excellent and original piano piece, composed and played by Juliet Gordon-Nesbitt and accompanied by two very good singers, Claire Reichl and Philippa Whittle.

Our overall performance was polished and the standard of our musicians revealed considerable dedication. On the day everything went smoothly except for a problem with John's euphonium! A valve broke in the middle of his piece! Thank goodness he knew how to handle the problem discreetly and efficiently. At the end of the day everything went well and we finished in joint 4th place.

Although we didn't win the competition, we are proud of achieving, by hard team work, some high standards of playing and performance. We would like to thank Mr. Dewhurst for his coaching and lending us the music scores, and Mrs. Derham for her help and advice.

Next came the House Play Competition. "Lady Audley's Secret" was our choice. Such a Victorian melodrama needed much hard work and after weeks of rehearsals, costume-designing, well building and nail biting the big night finally arrived. Everyone had worked really hard to perfect their roles and especially due to Miss Priddle's enthusiasm, such commitment paid off.

Philippa Whittle's stylish acting as Lady Audley had the audience (those who were awake... and alive!) on the edge of their seats. Such a gripping performance was complimented by James Harding's "stiff upper lip" image, which suited his part as Sir Michael - the epitome of the fine old English gentleman.

The stuttering Alicia's foot stamping and flouncing was excellently portrayed by Claire Reichl who added a hint of comedy to this dramatic play. Philip Tilston's vivacious character Robert also managed to put smiles on the faces of the audience, although whether this was due to Tilly's good acting, or his stupid cap, we shall never know. Bernadette suited her gentle and somewhat worried character well and her performance as Phoebe excelled when she discovered one of Lady Audley's secrets in an undoubtedly eye-widening scene. James Brocklehurst who played Phoebe's husband, Luke, also has to be credited. His acting was certainly a great improvement on his costume (which was ripped in several places, some unmentionable) and whose final scene of his death would have made tough competition for Jeremy Irons (can I have that #5.00 now, Jim?).

Perhaps the most admired, if not by the audience then certainly by the cast was Ibrahim Anwar, who played the romantic and depressed George. He worked really hard to get his quiet voice louder and clearer - his final effort was a praiseworthy performance.

Then, of course, we must not forget Paula Grant, Stephen Neary, Yvonne Schofield, Sara Atkins and all the stage staff, who, although they only played small parts, were just as important to the overall play (even though Paula never got to say her lines first time round!).

Perhaps most important was that Gaskell's production was organised, produced, directed and corrected by the students who did not leave much work for the staff except to accept the flowers of gratitude at the end!!

Overall, it went really well considering how nervous we all were, everyone gave of their best and we certainly deserved our second place in the competition for such a unified effort. Philippa Whittle must be congratulated on winning the best actress award.

The year has once again passed very quickly. The Upper Sixth have helped keep the activities ticking over and must now make the most of Further Education. I am pleased that discipline and academic effort have largely been more of a high standard. I hope the pupils continue to make the most of their opportunities in the year to come.

My thanks to S. Atkins, N. Burton, I. del Conde-Pozzi and J. Gordon-Nesbitt for their contributions to this report and to Mrs. Derham, Miss Priddle and Mr. Greenall for their assistance through the year.

H.N. Veevers.

HEYWOOD HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments

Heads of House:	Sophie Larkin and Matthew Booth
Deputy Heads of House:	Shaun McConnell and Erica McInnis
School Prefects:	Sophie Larkin, Matthew Booth, Shaun McConnell, Erica McInnis, Jonathan Kay and Louise Martin.
House Prefects:	Andrew Babicki, Martin Barnes, Matthew Booth, Martyn Bratt, Christopher Conroy, Giles Fisher, Jonathan Kay, Sophie Larkin, Shaun McConnell, Erica McInnis, Louise Martin, Richard Moore and Mark Yadid.
Senior K.O. Captain:	Martin Barnes
Junior K.O. Captain:	David Grove
Senior 1st XV Captains:	Martyn Bratt and Simon Copsey
Road Relay Captain:	Martyn Bratt
House Debating Organiser:	Jonathan Kay

The term began with the excellent news that Sophie Larkin was to be joint Deputy Head of School, with Sanjay Hira, a post she richly deserved after such a major contribution to Heywood and School in her Lower Sixth. As I had already asked Sophie to be joint Head of House, with Matt Booth, it meant she would have to combine two jobs. Normally I feel it is unfair to expect anyone to try to do this but she had the support of Matt and, with Shaun McConnell and Erica McInnis as Deputies, I felt she would be able to cope. These four students, along with Jonathan Kay and Louise Martin, were confirmed as School Prefects and joined Martin Barnes, Andrew Babicki, Martyn Bratt, Chris Conroy, Giles Fisher, Richard Moore and Mark Yadid as House Prefects.

The first House meeting of the year is invariably a nightmare of administration and this year was to be no exception. Volunteers and nominations for the various team captains and event organisers were quickly sorted and the senior rugby teams were reasonably straightforward. This left the minor games options for seniors and the distribution of locker keys. As all third, fourth and fifth years were to have a new kit locker as well as a book locker, the intention was to collect a £2 deposit for the key. However, as is usually the case, the vast majority forgot and so House Assembly for the early weeks of the term had reminders about debts and being less forgetful! The list of options for senior games again proved awkward - everyone seemed to want to play badminton and it is not surprising Heywood struggle in the House swimming as the swimming option was even less popular than running. Nevertheless, eventually everyone seemed reasonably happy with their allocation and by the first games period of term, apart from a final rugby trial, everything was running smoothly.

It became apparent very early in the term that Second X rugby was not working for several reasons and it was decided to abolish the second team league, as such, and to combine playing with coaching. I had always felt that the second team had a useful part to play as more lads were playing rugby and it was a proving ground for the first team. However, as players were often removed at short notice to make up numbers in the first team, it also led to some teams suffering many humiliating and demoralising defeats so that teams stopped trying. For some 'players' the walk to Hough End proved a better exercise than standing around on the field and so the coaching and combined playing option seemed much more sensible.

It was also necessary to change the fourth year rugby due to numbers and now when the squad is removed the remaining lads are divided into teams to play in mixed House matches instead of a House league. In future years similar minor changes will be necessary to senior games due to smaller numbers of lads but the House system has benefited greatly from the extra competitions for the girls and a wider choice of options.

In the senior league at rugby, having shared the trophy last year, we knew we could not repeat this and after two heavy defeats avoiding the wooden spoon was more appropriate. We comfortably won our third match against Gaskell, although they did have only 12 players, and our major success of the term, on our fourth match, was a 32-8 win over Fraser, who at least had a full team! Once again the team always tried very hard and seemed to gain a great deal of enjoyment. The highlight of the team was undoubtedly the last match against Byrom where Jonathan Kay scored three tries, one after running the length of the field with Byrom players bouncing off him as if trying to stop a mad bull. This was typical of the spirit of several of the Upper Sixth and Martyn Bratt, Chris Conroy, Andrew Babicki, Darren Elliott and Richard Moore, like Jonathan, all deserve special mention for their dedication to House rugby over the years. They will be difficult to replace.

The Senior Knockout gave us some hope but with few squad members we knew we had to be very good on the day to succeed. In the first round we comfortably beat Dalton 10-4 with tries by Martin Barnes and Shaun McConnell and a conversion from Philip Reynolds but for all the superiority of our pack we never looked like winning by a bigger margin. In the second round against a Byrom side with a much heavier and more capable pack, we fortunately took a 6-0 lead, through two penalty kicks by Joe Sayyid, only to be outplayed by some excellent three quarter play in the second half to lose 12-6. The game was played to a very high standard and we had no complaints in defeat as Byrom made it difficult for us all match and were definitely the better side on the day.

The Junior Knockout proved to be equally frustrating. After a bye in the first round we were drawn to play a very strong Gaskell side. On the day of the match there was a gale blowing the length of the pitch and tactics were going to be vital. We decided to play against the wind in the first half, if possible, and fortunately won the toss, but then had to defend resolutely against massive clearance kicks from James Brocklehurst. David Grove managed to run the length of the field from his own 22 to score a break away try and we finished the half level at 4-4. The second half proved to be very one-sided and two tries by Neville Clemetson, with a conversion off the bar by Jose Witter, and a second try for David Grove, converted by Ben Myddelton, gave us a 20-4 victory and a place in the final against Fraser. After several practices the team

The Sevens Competitions in recent years have been good for Heywood and as holders of the Junior Competition we hoped for repeated success. In the Senior Competition the first team won both pool matches but lost their final, the seconds won one and lost one and the thirds lost both matches. Overall we finished with 6 points, did quite well to be placed fourth equal and played good rugby despite the appalling conditions.

The Road Relay Race, now firmly established in the Michaelmas Term, is actually the first trophy awarded in the year and, unless the House is blessed with gifted runners in both the boys' and girls' races, is very difficult to win. It is also made more difficult by the Housemasters not knowing who their best third year runners are and the pupils, bar the odd exception, having an almost universal hatred of cross-country! As usual, due to illness, late additions to the team were necessary and so on a dry and reasonably warm day 12 lads and 6 girls were ready to compete. The lads finished second overall and the girls' team, although they actually finished 6th, due to various disqualifications were placed 5th. When the two results were combined Heywood were placed 4th overall and were only two points behind Fraser in second place. Notable successes on the day were David Grove in Year 4 who ran the fastest time in that group and Wayne Mason, Martyn Bratt and Tom Howard who ran the second, third and sixth fastest times in the senior race respectively. House colours were awarded to all participants and I am particularly grateful to Andrew Holden and Vicky Ash in the third year for standing in at the last minute.

Overall the term had proved disappointing in that Heywood had not won any of the competition but had always given its best, had proved stern opposition on many occasions and had never finished last in anything. The new third year intake had settled in quickly, seemed most willing to compete and appreciated the necessity for good team work and basically this is what the House system is all about.

Appointments

The term, as usual, was to prove very hectic with many House competitions falling in a short period of time and the usual postponements due to poor weather adding to the problem.

Owing to organisational problems the House Swimming had to be cancelled in the Michaelmas Term and so this was to cause the term to be even more congested. However, it gave Heywood the chance to organise several practices and find its best swimmers, and I would like to thank Mr. McIntyre and Miss Smith for their help running these sessions. It was obvious that we had no chance of winning the swimming but were able to field a full team. Several people again volunteered freely to tackle the less popular events, like the individual medley and the butterfly, and deserve praise for this. Richard Pimblott in the senior individual medley; Kevin Nolan in the fourth year backstroke; Thomas James backstroke; Daniel Harris breaststroke; Andrew Holden butterfly and Nick Ghazi freestyle, all third years, were the only qualifiers for the finals but Nick Ghazi did win the freestyle to help us to fifth place overall in the individual competition. The relays proved much more rewarding and after qualifying in five of the six races we came third overall. I would particularly like to thank Louise Martin, Matt Booth and Richard Moore for making up senior teams, especially as it was in the middle of their mock exams, and Claire Babington and Daniel Harris who made up third year teams on the night, when Thomas James had to withdraw through injury. In recognition of all the hard work put in by the swimmers I awarded colours to the entire team and was delighted to present them to Philip Madeley who has very willingly swum butterfly, with little success, for the last three years.

The lacrosse leagues and competitions proved to be rather mixed. The first X played few matches, due to waterlogged pitches, yet performed very badly when they did. They were often the better side but drifted out of the games at crucial times and suffered several defeats which should have been victories. The knockout side fared little better. In the first round against Whitworth, Heywood were winning 1-0 at the start of the second quarter and by half-time were 6-1 down. With the game now lost the eventual result of 7-2 did not do justice to the way Heywood had played in three of the quarters.

The second X at senior level had mixed fortunes but had no chance of winning the league. Nevertheless, they always tried hard and invariably had a full team, which had to be an advantage.

The junior knockout proved much more satisfying. After a bye in the first round Heywood played a depleted Whitworth side and won comfortably 12-0, with Jose Witter in stunning form in attack. We knew our task in the final would be very difficult, as the best two teams were contesting the other semi-final, and after extra time and sudden death our opponents proved to be Dalton. The final itself was not as one-sided as we originally felt and Heywood pushed Dalton all the way, eventually losing 13-7. The most pleasing aspect was the total commitment shown by the whole team and it would be quite wrong to single out any individual as everyone tried so hard and gave so much in a fiercely competitive yet very sporting match. Colours were awarded to all players. The remaining lacrosse competition, the Hewlett Cup, proved a disaster. With only two wins out of twelve matches Heywood turned in their worst performance in years and finished last with only 4 points. We most certainly have to do better in future.

The afternoon of the Hewlett Cup is also the day of the girls' hockey finals and as events turned out it proved doubly disappointing as Heywood finished sixth. In the pool matches the week before, in atrocious weather, Heywood had played very solidly against a very strong Gaskell side and lost 1-0. In the second game we snatched an early lead against Byrom and, after they spent almost the entire game in our half, had at least fifteen penalty corners, and eventually equalised. This put Heywood into the fifth/sixth play off and, try as they might, they conceded a silly goal and lost 1-0. After so much dedication, team work and determination it was disappointing to finish last but I felt the whole team deserved colours for their efforts, particularly Louise Borg for her excellent commitment and captaincy.

The netball competition, played before the hockey, had been very encouraging for Heywood. In the first pool match Byrom were undoubtedly the better side and won 15-10. In the second game a comfortable 10-6 win over Whitworth put us into a semi-final against Gaskell, the competition favourites. Gaskell always seemed to have a lead of one or two goals and despite Heywood rallying to 8-8 the score finished 10-8 in favour of Gaskell. In the third/fourth play-off against Fraser Heywood looked tired and, from 6-6 at half-time, had to be satisfied with fourth place with an 11-7 defeat. Colours were awarded to the entire team and Claire Babington, as shooter, deserves special mention for her reliability in scoring many crucial goals which kept us in matches.

In the week before half-term the Upper Sixth were on mock 'A' levels and so two Heywood Lower Sixth Formers, Wayne Mason and Simon Copsey were elected to serve on the temporary duty rota and were also asked to act as Head and Deputy Head of House respectively. Julian Daniel, Prashant Tiwari, Richard Holden, Ben Stephenson, Ben Rimron, Simon Moran, Philip Reynolds, Sandy Bhogal, Ajay Jairath and Tom Howard were elected as temporary House Prefects to look after the Upper Sixth's duties.

It was also during this week that the House finally commenced rehearsing its choice of House play. Sandy Bhogal offered to direct the play after Matt Booth and the other Upper Sixth felt they might like to act but could not spare the time to do all the extra work in setting everything up. Sandy decided to co-direct with Simon Moran and they chose the first act of Alan Ayckbourn's play 'Absent Friends'. This, in itself, was a very ambitious project and with only five weeks to go the usual last minute chaos, so typical of the House Plays, was likely to be present again! Casting was made easier by Andrew Babicki taking the lead role and as the remainder of the cast, Nicola Miller, Louise Borg, Leanne Basso, Richard Pimblott and Gareth Roberts, had all gained experience in School productions, technique should not have been a problem. Nevertheless, after three practices over half-term, many lunchtimes, several Sundays and every possible evening in the week prior to the performance, it looked as if the play would never come together. Things were not helped by actors missing rehearsals and arguing on set. However, on the last Sunday before the Wednesday performance, with full costumes and props, everything finally fell into place and looked very promising. On the night itself Heywood followed a very simple but well acted Byrom play and as our play was an hour long we hoped everything went well and the audience did not become restless. The performance itself went particularly well, received many favourable comments and the adjudicators, Mr. & Mrs. Lowe, placed it first, with a special commendation for Leanne Basso and best actor award for Andrew Babicki for the third year running. The full report on the play can be read elsewhere in the "Hulmeian" and gives a much better appraisal of the cast than I could do justice to here. I would like to thank Mrs. Statham for her contribution and excellent support of the cast and myself. Neither Mrs. Statham nor myself would claim to have any experience in drama but gain immense satisfaction when the end product is so good, and we find it a pleasure to work with dedicated and loyal students. Colours were awarded to everyone associated with the production.



The winning "House players" in the 1992 House Drama Festival. The Heywood thespians from left to right are Gareth Roberts, Leanne Basso, Andrew Babicki, Nicola Miller, Richard Pimblott and Louise Borg.
(Photo: L. Sharp)

The final event of the term was the House Music, and putting together a satisfactory programme proved to be very difficult. The backbone of Heywood's entry was Andrew Babicki (accordion and flute) and James Phillips (piano) who both played very well. I was delighted by the contributions of Jonathan Bratt (trombone), Louise Borg (singing) and particularly Claire Babington (flute) who had never performed solo before and did commendably well. Although we were placed sixth overall this was undoubtedly due to poor organisation. Our scaled marks were as good as three other houses yet overall impression and programme design were our downfall. We can learn a great deal from this and must act accordingly in future. Colours were awarded to the five participants and I would like to thank Ben Stephenson for all his hard work on both the play and music programmes - the latter being very rushed due to changes in entry.

The term finished with Heywood performing their play in front of the School, on the final Tuesday, and, although this time the quality of acting was not as good as on the night itself, it still seemed to go down well.

MIDSUMMER TERM

Appointments

Senior Knockout Captain:	Prashant Tiwari
Junior Knockout Captain:	Ben Myddelton
Junior Rounders Captain:	Melissa Seger
Athletics Captains Senior:	Wayne Mason
Fourth: (Girls)	Dalia Daud
Fourth: (Boys)	Neville Clemetson
Third: (Girls)	Vivienne Priestner
Third: (Boys)	Andrew Holden

The first events of the term were the first rounds of the cricket knockouts and Heywood were soon out of both! In the senior game against Gaskell we fielded first and at one stage, with excellent bowling from Damian Taylor, Julian Daniel and Prashant Tiwari, had them at 39-5. However, Ketan Misra scored a very quick 67 and at 206-8, in 36 overs, Gaskell declared. As two of our players were unable to stay after 4.00 p.m. it meant we went in to bat with nine men. Good knocks from Joe Sayyid (32) and Julian Daniel (22) gave us a reasonable start and, although we were running out of overs, we were in with a chance as long as Andy Watkins was at the wicket. When Andy was finally out for a very quick 51, including three massive sixes, our chances were over and we eventually finished at 159-8.

The juniors organised several practices with Mr. Hargreaves and, although we had no fourth year and only three third year squad players, we assembled a reasonable side. We were drawn against Whitworth and on the day they batted first. After some very inconsistent bowling, which required several changes, Whitworth were 66-0 in 10 overs and looked capable of a very large total. However, a silly run out, good spin bowling from Nick Ghazi, which slowed them down, and accurate pace bowling from Andrew Haslam which helped take wickets, restricted Whitworth to 119 all out. The Heywood innings started terribly badly and the first five wickets fell before we had reached double figures. Nick Ghazi, batting third, was the only batsmen to put up any resistance and remained not out when Heywood were all out for 44.

At the beginning of the term the Upper Sixth House Prefects were officially excused their duties and the temporary Lower Sixth Prefects with Wayne Mason and Simon Copsey again acting as Head and Deputy Heads of House respectively assumed these roles. These two, along with Simon Moran, were also selected to be temporary School Prefects until the end of term. As there were no girls in Heywood's Lower Sixth I asked Nicola Miller and Louise Borg, along with Wayne Mason and Simon Copsey, to talk to the new intake about life in the House system. All spoke very well and Wayne pointed out that at times it seemed like being part of a 'régime' but emphasised the need for team work and co-operation. Once again, because I very rarely teach first or second forms, all but two of the second years were unknown to me but hopefully I will know them all by Christmas and for the right reasons!

Over the Whit holiday, as a thank you for all their efforts on behalf of the House and to wish them good luck in their exams, I held a barbecue for the Upper Sixth Heywood House at my home. All the cooked food disappeared very quickly although with Martin Barnes, Shaun McConnell and Jonathan Kay present this should not have been too surprising. At one point the staff present were left socialising by themselves and upon investigation the 'guests' had found the television in the lounge and were watching the latest vital episode of Coronation Street! It did cross my mind that this might be the source of inspiration for Heywood's great success in the House Plays. However, once finished, they soon returned to reminisce about old times and to demolish the desserts on offer. All in all it was a very enjoyable evening and gave them some time to relax before the stresses of their exams returned.

After the School exams the girls, on successive mornings, played in the inter-House Rounders. In a very strong group we lost 8-5 - 5-5 to Byrom and 8-5 - 5 to Fraser but as these two eventually contested the final it was a good performance from Heywood. In the fifth/sixth play off we changed our team round and with Shinal Patel playing brilliantly at first base, ably supported by Dalia Daud as backstop, we comfortably beat Whitworth 6-5 - 0. Again the girls had represented Heywood very well indeed and because of the smaller numbers of girls in the Houses they invariably do as much if not more than the lads.

This last comment was particularly true in the athletics where all but five third and fourth year lads and all the girls took part in the heats. Heywood fielded a reasonably strong side but were disappointed to lose Martin Barnes and Wayne Mason on interviews and most fifth years due to holidays or work commitments. Although Heywood managed fewer qualifiers than last year we had great potential in certain events and it was very pleasing to see Viv Priestner qualify in the third year girls' 100m in a new record time. In the finals notable successes were Viv Priestner winning the 100m (Third Year) and David Grove first in 400m and second in both 200m and triple jump; Neville Clemetson first in 800m and third in 1500m; Jose Witter first in long jump; Kevin Nolan first in javelin and third in discus and Dalid Daud first in the girls' shot (Fourth Year).

Seniors - Martyn Bratt was winner of both the 800m and 1500m and Julian Daniel winner of the 100m, 200m and long jump, giving him the overall individual winner's trophy and the 100m sprint cup. As our relay teams were very depleted at senior level and stood little chance, one second place and two third places from the third and fourth years meant we were unlikely to win overall. However, third place was a very creditable performance and, with the exception of Martyn Bratt, who has represented Heywood magnificently over the years, these competitors should all be available next year.

As the term drew to a close the final House assembly gave Heywood the chance to thank Mrs. Statham for all her hard work over the last two years as one of my deputies, and to wish her good luck in the future as she was leaving School. She had proved in a very short time to be invaluable and will be sorely missed. Not only did she liaise very well with the girls but she proved to be an excellent role model, had many good ideas, was always very willing to get involved and gave of her time most freely, particularly with the last two winning plays. It was very pleasing to be able to arrange for Matt Booth and Sophie Larkin, as Heads of House, to attend the final assembly, and their presentation of a card, gift and bunch of flowers, on behalf of the House, was a fitting tribute. It also gave me the opportunity to thank Mr. Gracey for all his support, although he was a little difficult to find as he was in the middle of trying to sort out his second form's locker keys.

I should also like to thank Mrs. Brown because on many occasions she willingly swapped Upper Sixth Maths lessons with me or taught occasional lessons for me to enable me to support Heywood teams in competitions, although with me on the touchline it did not seem to inspire the team to victory! From September, Miss Smith has kindly agreed to join Heywood as a second deputy and will prove very useful in coaching the girls' sports and swimming. She already seems to have a good rapport with the girls in the House after helping this term with the rounders and will prove a valuable addition to the team.

The year itself had its ups and downs but I was delighted by the response and co-operation of the vast majority of the House. It is always good to win things but taking defeat graciously, playing fair, respecting referees decisions and making sacrifices for the sake of the team are equally important and, hopefully, are high on the list of priorities of most of the House. The strength of the House is the pupils in it and I have few, if any, complaints on this count.

L. Sharp

WHITWORTH HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Appointments

Head of House:	Nick Williams
Deputy Heads of House:	Nick Cherry, Anish Mehta
Prefects:	Vicky Clarke, Mark Elliott, Ben Forshaw, Nick Holder, Catherine Lewis, Danny Moss, Martin Shields, Zoe Wallis, Chris Williamson.

Anish Mehta was made captain of the house league rugby team. After some keen preparation we faced Dalton as our first opponents. A closely-fought game ended at 4-4, which was felt to be a just result against strong opposition. The following week a confident victory against Gaskell was set up by tries from newcomers Thai Vu and Paul Salmon. Against Byrom we were not helped by the fact that four of our players were not equipped with appropriate studs and were not allowed to play until they found adequate footwear. Despite this, we found it possible to achieve a 22-12 victory. Gaskell were our opponents in the week just before the half-term holiday, a game which resulted in a 64-3 win. Heywood were soundly beaten 26-12, but the return match against Dalton was again a draw - this time 12-12. Fraser fought hard for half the match but eventually succumbed 22-4. By this time only Byrom could prevent us from winning the league and we were due to play them in the penultimate match, but a severe frost caused the match to be cancelled. The remaining fixture against Gaskell proved a mere formality; but with Byrom winning their game too against a tired and unenthusiastic Dalton, we had to be content with sharing the league for the second successive year. Time and time again I had the pleasure this term of receiving on behalf of our team the congratulations of opposing captains and housemasters on our play, but most of all the plaudits went to our captain, Anish Mehta. Anish gave a superb example of strong leadership and enthusiastic play to his team and fully deserved all the praise that came his way.

The Junior Knock-out team came up against Gaskell in the first round and were heavily beaten, although they had played sufficiently well in the first half to be level-pegging.

The Seniors met the same house the following Tuesday and, fortunately, the result was a devastating win for us. Gaskell were the predicted winners of the tournament (which they were last year, beating us in the final) and, perhaps through over-confidence, found not only our forwards but also our backs far more than they could cope with. An early penalty kick by Tim Allen started our scoring and further fine play by Nick Williams and Chris Williamson led to a result of 18-3. In the second round we met Fraser. This game was tougher and more demanding. It was more oriented to the backs, especially with the presence of Ladd in the Fraser team, and it gave a chance for our backs to show themselves. Nick Williams proved a dependable scrum-half, providing a good, clean ball the majority of the time. Ian Sherwin's darting runs were very noticeable as was Anish Mehta's involvement. In the forwards Henry Slack, Perry Warren, Danny Riste and Matt Butterworth proved that Whitworth were both aggressive and determined. Stuart Murray was an able hooker, something for which he has had a reputation for a while now. The result was a convincing 28-9 win. Byrom were our opponents in a final which turned out to be highly competitive. Morale was high and so was our determination; the match was played in a very aggressive manner and the standard of rugby on both sides was excellent. Our continuous pressure was eventually rewarded with a try ten minutes after kick-off and gradually the Byrom team began to yield. Our team showed a strong temperament, bearing with fortitude all that Byrom attempted in an effort to wrest the advantage. Despite the length and hardness of play, our stamina kept us going: Tim Allen intercepted a pass and with great speed confirmed our superiority. In the dying minutes new-boy Paul Salmon achieved another try to secure the trophy for Whitworth: 18-4.

A severe weather warning boded ill for the participants of the Raymond Cox Rugby Sevens Tournament and indeed it was a very stormy afternoon with outrageous gusts. Something about conditions like these seems to assist Whitworth; after all, not many years ago we won the Hewlett Cup in appalling weather. Our fancied first team was unable to defeat Gaskell, but in their second match it equalled the efforts of our other two teams who won all their matches. We had teams in two finals but lost them both. Byrom, spearheaded by a once hypothetical member of Whitworth (Dearden), played excellent sevens rugby and equalled our total of ten points. Fortunately for us, though, we had scored more points than Byrom in the actual games and consequently we became the 1991 winners. The following were awarded colours for their performances: Williamson, Slack, Smith, Warren, Allen, Sherwin, Butterworth, Mehta, Williams, Marsh, Salmon, Bookbinder, Riste, Haroutunian, Holder N, Elliott M, Vu T, Cherry, Owen N, Murray, Lawton, Forshaw M.

Steven Bookbinder was appointed captain of cross-country running, with the aim of avoiding a repetition of last year's poor performance in the annual road-relay event. Training sessions began in the second week of term, with further practices every week. Over thirty members of the house trained, with those likely to be selected for the team often turning up every week. These thorough preparations helped to produce the result we were looking for. The third and fourth year girls tried their hardest and obtained a respectable second place, while the third year boys took Whitworth into an overall lead with exceptional runs from Andrew Kelly, Peter Day and Ross Mattison. The fourth year boys kept this lead to give the Whitworth seniors the inspiration that they needed. With Butterworth unexpectedly pulling out the fifth years came under pressure, but Ian Sherwin proved to be an admirable replacement. The sixth formers were last to leave the gates, giving Richard Smith a suitable first place departure; he ran extremely well to keep his position. Tony Foster, too, gave of his best while team captain Steven Bookbinder added to his pleasure by obtaining the individual award for the best senior time (20:16). All the runners were awarded house colours for their efforts: 3rd Year Girls Mosley, Owen, Holder; 3rd Year Boys Kelly, Day, Mattison; 4th Year Girls Jobling, Abramson, Miller; 4th Year Boys Craig, Brown D, Crawshaw; 5th Form Allen, Sherwin, Riste; 6th Form Bookbinder, Smith, Foster.

Mrs. Wright organised a committee to scour various reference books in search of a suitable play. Much effort was put in by senior members of the House such as Nick Cherry, Danny Marsh, Thai Vu, Daniel Riste, Anna Ross. Finally, the choice was made, but preparations did not really get under way until the Lent Term.

Anthony Haber and Jonathan Caplan decided to take on the burden of running a house shop and shortly before half-term it opened. They saw, as many had before them, how a small investment of money, but a much larger investment of time, can lead to the creation of enough money for the trimmings of life: Christmas treats of several kinds were enjoyed at the end of term, thanks to their hard work.

Towards the end of the term a middle school rugby sevens tournament was arranged. Little was achieved by our fourth years but the third years won their pool match against Byrom 20-0 and drew against Heywood 8-8. Our overall position was fourth.

Just before the end of term the School put on three performances of "The Crucible" and showed how a group of dedicated amateurs can entertain to a near professional standard. Among the cast and backstage crew were several members of Whitworth: Sarah Bancroft, Anna Ross, Daniel Riste, Nicholas Owen, Laura Owen, Robert Gee, Vicky Clarke, Kit Brown and Cathy Lewis. It was a source of pleasure to me that so many members of the House had made contributions to this renaissance in the School's cultural life.

P.M. Bull

LENT TERM

Steven Bookbinder, Jonathan Caplan and Anthony Haber were appointed House Prefects on the first day of term. Soon after half-term the senior prefects of the House decided to create four new House Prefects from the Lower Sixth: Richard Smith, Paul Edwards, Henry Slack and Neil Armitage.

Congratulations are due to two house members, Robert Gee and Ben Forshaw, who obtained offers from Oxford and Cambridge University over the Christmas period.

The senior House lacrosse teams fared badly during the first half of Lent Term, with all three matches being lost by the first team and the second team beating only Gaskell. That we were lacking adequate Upper Sixth form players to give strength and experience to the squad was obvious, but it was regrettable that a core of determined younger players did not emerge naturally. This was particularly evident when the team captain, Nick Cherry, missed a match due to trial 'A' level examinations and we were easily beaten by Fraser even though there was little in ability to distinguish between the two teams. The last match of the season, against Heywood, resulted in a four-all draw.

We had more success in the two knock-out competitions. The Junior team won their first match against Byrom (12-7). Morale was high as we were led by Crawshaw in defence, midfield by Day and our main goal-scoring talents were Sidebottom and Damian Brown. With goals scored by Kelly and Day in the fourth quarter we advanced into what we thought would be an easier game against Heywood. An immediate problem was caused by the absence of Day, which caused our midfield to fall into complete disarray. Our attack was equally bad and we thoroughly deserved to lose emphatically 15-0.

The Seniors managed to beat the fancied Heywood team and a second round win against Byrom (7-3) took us to a final against Gaskell. This was a repeat of last year's final; unfortunately, Gaskell were again able to put out a team consisting entirely of School team standard and the outcome was never in doubt.

The Hewlett Cup was again an opportunity for half the House to present themselves all together on our playing fields and, as such, is always a memorable event. Some confusion regarding who was entitled to play in the newly-defined composite team led to two of our teams being disqualified and our final position was joint fourth.

The girls' netball team was organised by Caron Abramson and, as well as herself, consisted of the following players: Shakila Chaudhry, Tammy Elliott, Maria Jobling, Gabrielle Miller, Debbie Mosley, Philippa Walters and Mandy Wheeler. We played well as a team in the first match against Byrom and were holding them 7-7 at half-time, but once we lost the lead we found it impossible to make up ground. Mandy Wheeler played particularly well as a shooter in this game. We played with determination against the stronger Dalton and kept them working hard right to the end of the game, but could not prevent them winning. Our final game was against Heywood: low confidence from the start helped them obtain a quick lead, which we never overcame, finishing last in the inter-house competition. A small improvement occurred in the hockey tournament (a win against Heywood being the highlight), but our lack of a good shooter was the main reason why we finished only fifth.

Paul Edwards worked hard to organise our swimmers, but the illness of Tony Foster on the date of the heats hindered our progress to the finals. When the date of the finals had to be altered it was discovered that some key members of the team were not going to be available to take part in the finals that they had reached. When this situation was compounded by several boys simply failing to stay at School to participate, one can understand the frustration felt generally by all those involved. The result of all this was that Whitworth finished last. Although not one Whitworth swimmer managed this year to win a race, congratulations are nevertheless due to the following who achieved good finishing positions in the finals and earned House Colours: James Taylor, Mandy Wheeler, Ian Sherwin and Paul Edwards.

The music competition went well this year. Steven Bookbinder managed to persuade, coerce and cajole seven individuals to perform and their efforts led to second place in the competition. The following earned colours: Chris Heys, Richard Smith, Debbie Mosley, Mark Craig, Cathy Lewis, Thai Vu and Steven Bookbinder.

This year's House Play, "Queer Street", was initially produced by Danny Marsh but such were the serious problems that developed towards the date of performance that he resigned the post and the actual performance was deemed to be a co-operative venture. We were very fortunate in that the cast included actors of the quality of Danny Riste, Nick Owen and Richard Smith - their performances on the night were inspired. It was a short play and perhaps a little undemanding,

but most of those present on the night found our play genuinely enjoyable. All those involved felt that it was a huge success and were not a little surprised that our position in the competition was rather low. With promising performances from Laura Owen and Sarah Bancroft, surely the day will come soon when Whitworth will win this competition. All those already mentioned won their House Colours, as did Perry Warren, Kit Brown, Thai Vu and Simon Whittingham (the last three for their work backstage).

MIDSUMMER TERM

Henry Slack's first term as Head of House turned out to be his last one, when he was appointed Head of School by the Head Master on the last day of term. We all in Whitworth House wish him well in this, the most important of School posts. Disappointingly, no other members of the House were made School Prefects. A consequence of Henry's success was that a new Head of House needed to be made, but there was no difficulty in finding someone equal to the task: Steven Bookbinder. Steven had already shown energy and flair in organising House cross-country running, music and athletics during the previous two terms as well as participating in full in many other House activities. Paul Edwards was appointed Deputy Head of House.

In rounders we played Gaskell and Dalton, but achieved minimal success.

The athletics competition was, as usual, keenly anticipated. We found little time to make adequate preparations, due to the many commitments held by all those concerned. Nevertheless, we felt that we had some hope of a better performance than on recent occasions. As usual most members of the House (excluding Fifth and Upper Sixth Formers) took part, with Ian Sherwin and Tim Allen's presence being most welcome. Our strongest year by far was the third form: Peter Day winning both the 200m and the 800m, while Andrew Kelly won the long jump. Debra Mosley (second in the 200m and long jump) and Andrew Farrell (second in the 400m) also impressed. The third years managed first place in the 4 x 400m relay race. None of our fourth years managed a first position, but Gabrielle Miller did well in coming second in the high jump. The seniors managed, like the third years, first place in the 4 x 400m relay race, but only Steven Bookbinder (javelin) was capable of a first place in individual events. Despite the overall result (a disappointing sixth place), I am sure that all who participated felt that it was a highly enjoyable occasion.

The junior knock-out cricket was not as successful as expected. We won our first round match without Philip Sidebottom, who was playing representative cricket for Lancashire on the day. Our team was ably led in his absence by Yaseen Aslam; in the second round we failed dismally to play to the best of our ability and had to miss out on a second junior knock-out final in one year.

The seniors, however, made no mistakes. They marched confidently through all three matches to win the first cricket knock-out for Whitworth in many years. What made it particularly impressive was that never did we depend on either the batting or the bowling of our captain Perry Warren - it was a genuine team effort all the way through. In particular, it was pleasing to see the winning runs in the final being scored by Paul Blackmore after a vital stand with Gareth Mitchell; neither of these players were School cricketers, nor had they previously made any important contribution to a Whitworth team success.

It was pleasing to have watched Whitworth win so many trophies this year. In short, we won the rugby and cricket senior knock-outs, the cross-country and the rugby 7's; we were runners-up in the music competition and the lacrosse senior knock-out; and in addition, we won the senior rugby league competition.

As the School year ends it is again necessary to convey one's best wishes to all those who served the House well whilst members of the School. In particular I should like to thank the triumvirate who led Whitworth in this highly successful year: Nicholas Cherry, Anish Mehta and Nicholas Williams. In their different ways they all showed the very best qualities anyone can expect from young men on the verge of adult life and I wish them well in their future careers. They were supported by thirteen others who represented the full range of personalities from the lofty intellectuality of Robert Gee to the roguish Mark Elliott, from the cautiously diffident to those confidently assured of their place in the world.

The following members of Whitworth House contributed to the writing of these notes and I should like to thank them for their efforts:

Caron Abramson (netball), Steven Bookbinder (road relay), Danny Moss (rugby knock-out), Jeremy Myers (lacrosse junior knock-out) and Mandy Wheeler (hockey).

P.M. Bull



Edvard Munch (1861-1944) *The Scream* (1893). Extract. The National Gallery, Oslo.

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GAMES



RUGBY

1ST XV RUGBY

Played 14, Won 2, Lost 11, Drawn 1, Points for 102,
Against 304

v Widnes VI Form College	Lost 4-40
v Sandbach School	Lost 6-9
v Poynton High School	Drew 13-13
v Lymm High School	Lost 6-17
v Cheadle Hulme School	Lost 4-16
v St. Bede's College	Lost 3-24
v Bury Grammar School	Lost 4-15
v King Edward VII School, Lytham	Lost 4-46
v Manchester Grammar School	Lost 4-20
v Bolton School	Lost 3-9
v St. Mary's College, Crosby	Lost 10-40
v Stockport Grammar School	Lost 7-37
v Sale Grammar School	Won 15-3
v Bramhall High School	Won 19-15

The 1st XV have had a disappointing season this year. As the squad was very inexperienced with only a handful of players having previously played in the 1st XV, it was hoped that a combination of last year's fairly successful 2nd XV and Under 15 team could combine to form a strong 1st XV. It soon became apparent in pre-season training that although there was an abundance of enthusiasm, especially from some of the younger players, the skill level of the majority of players was poor.

This was highlighted in the first game against a very strong Widnes side who had won the Cheshire Cup at the end of last season. They dominated all phases of the game, the forwards winning all the first phase ball at the scrums and lineouts, whilst their backs turned this possession into points with basic passing and support play. The reasons their backs were given such an easy time was not because we missed tackles, but because we were not in the correct position to make these tacklers. All season, this problem reoccurred as wingers and outside centres drifted inside to make someone else's tackle, rather than have confidence in the inside men to do their own job. Against good teams like Widnes, we were severely punished.

We were desperately unfortunate not to win the next two games. A dropped goal and penalty goal by Baama were not quite enough to beat Sandbach School and two breakaway tries by Poynton's outside centre earned them a draw in a game in which our forwards had been in command throughout.

The games against Lymm High School and Cheadle Hulme School followed a similar pattern in that we played well in the early stages but threw the games away through lapses in concentration. At Cheadle Hulme, we were tied four points all with ten minutes remaining, only to lose the game sixteen points to four.

In the final two games before half-term, we lost to both St. Bede's and Bury Grammar School, the only consolation being

we scored the best try in what was probably the worst display of the season at Bury.

The willingness to 'gift' simple tries at our end, after so much good work had been done at their end of the field, continued in the games after half-term. Against King Edward VII, Lytham, the forwards competed admirably against their big pack but the backs ended up chasing shadows all game. Against Manchester, Stockport and Bolton Grammar School, we again played well in phases but lacked consistency and killer instinct to take our chances and beat teams.

Just as it looked as though we would go through the season without a win, we managed to surprise even ourselves with a good all-round performance against Sale Grammar School. The forwards once again played well and with Wilson having an excellent game in the unaccustomed position of openside flanker, we were able to close down their space, prevent them from scoring any tries whilst scoring two ourselves.

After the first win, the confidence and self-belief in the team grew enormously. In the final game of the season against Bramhall High School, we managed to take a 19-15 lead with a quarter of an hour to go. In what was a real test of character, the players defended magnificently to hold onto their lead and win the game.

This season the team has been captained by Jonathan Greenhowe. He has tremendous leadership qualities and has been a shining example to 1st XV and School Rugby players in general. Even when the side were losing and this was more often than not, Greenhowe refused to let the team give in and always battled until the final whistle. This determined approach was highlighted in the game against King Edward VII, Lytham where in atrocious weather conditions, the School were losing by forty points with five minutes remaining. The referee consulted Greenhowe about blowing for full-time. The request was politely refused, the side forced their way back down the Lytham half and a try was scored. Thanks to the positive attitude of the captain, the players, although well beaten by a better team, were able to walk off the field with their heads held high.

Greenhowe, Mason, Barnes, Sum and Baama have played in all fourteen games. Mason, Greenhowe and Moss have been the regular front row, although Slack and Garside have both put in useful solid performances. Barnes and Williamson have been dependable in the second row, giving maximum commitment every game, as well as making positive contributions in both tight and loose play. In the back row, Bury, Armstrong, Cope, Wilson and Burton have made up the various combinations.

At half-back Bulwich and Baama have been the regular pairing. Bulwich is an aggressive player whose tackling has been of the highest quality. Baama is one of the most skilful players in the side. When he puts his mind to it, he can kick, run, pass and tackle as well as anyone. If Fred wants to, I believe he has the ability to play rugby at a very high level.

In the centres, Ladd, who missed the first six games of the season through injury, never really got back to full fitness and