

There followed varied excursions. In Detmold we had to wear slippers in a castle, then we were allowed to visit the town. It was here that three boys who shall remain nameless acquired three luminous green shirts and from then on were named the "Green Team". The trip to the border with the DDR showed us how stupid this world can be, and how bad food from an army canteen is. Mr Turner was very nervous when the East German guards began to seem interested in him.

Thursday was a straight school/home day. It was a whole new experience for us to stay in a German household. At mealtimes we were always obliged to have two or three portions. "That is generosity", you may say, but not when one has *four* or *five* meals a day!

Friday's visit to Düsseldorf began with a coach tour past the Aquazoo we were about to visit, and three loop-the-loops round the airport car park—all because we were early! The Aquazoo was universally popular, but some of us felt we had perhaps too much free time in the town afterwards, despite Mr Turner's having already extolled the delights of the *Altstadt* and the famous shopping street, "*die Kö*", short for "*Königsallee*."



Mrs Wright sets a good example after the Sixth Form Party!

(Photo: G. J. Turner)

During the weekend, spent in host families, people went on trips to the *Möhnesee* (Dam Busters Lake) or to Hamm, and on Saturday evening a few parties were organised especially for us. Simon Hayes, continuing his trend from last year, improved even further, not only Anglo-German, but also Anglo-the-rest-of-the-world relations.

On Tuesday, for the majority, was the trip to the brewery (the Fifth Formers were of course too young). This was the highlight of the Exchange. After an hour touring the brewery, we were allowed to sample the product. On the return journey to the Mariengymnasium some strange songs were sung.

Eventually came the "Goodbyes" on the railway station late one cold afternoon. The girls were crying, the boys manfully hiding their sadness. In two weeks everyone had become good friends. And this time the train was on time (German efficiency). We set off with cries of "Till October!" (in German of course), and now we are all looking forward to that time.

People will have many different impressions of Werl, but some will be shared by all: Germany is a very clean land, the people are thorough, prepared for anything and very friendly. Some Jewish members of the party were pleasantly surprised to find that there used to be a synagogue in Werl, tragically destroyed on the *Kristallnacht*, and that there is a Jewish cemetery today, a few miles outside the town.

We should like to thank Mrs Wright and Mr Turner for organising the best Germany Exchange yet.

Iain Drayton and Ben Lee (L6L)



The two towers guarding the inner harbour, familiar from the First Year textbook.

(Photo: G. J. Turner)

“We set off from School at 2 o’clock and boarded the ferry at Newhaven at about 9.30 p.m.

“On the ferry at first I was really scared: I thought, ‘What if I’m seasick?’ because I have never been on a ferry; luckily I wasn’t, and I loved being up on deck.

“The ferry was as full as it could be: we arrived at Dieppe at 3.30 a.m. and started the long coach journey to La Rochelle.

“I managed to get only about two hours sleep all the way, and I was very tired.

“For breakfast we stopped at a roadside hotel with a red and blue Les Routiers sign: I had a croissant, a bit of baguette and some ‘thé au lait’.

“We had another short stop for a tour of Tours and twenty-four hours after leaving School we arrived at the Centre International du Séjour.

“We had some sandwiches in the hostel caf  teria (everyone was very hungry) and, after unpacking our bags in our dorms, we set off for the ‘plage’, where we stayed until 6.30.



Les Demoiselles de La Rochelle

(Photo: G. J. Turner)

"I had fish kebabs and rice for dinner and ice-cream for dessert, then it was back to the beach, where nearly everybody played rounders.

"It was so hot that we slept with no sheets . . . and woke up the next morning really cold!

"After bread, butter and jam, coffee and an apple for breakfast we got our projects and set off for the market.

"We saw all kinds of new shops, eels being cut open, shark and swordfish heads, skinned rabbits, live crabs . . .

"Some of us spent half an hour looking for the toilets: this was because we couldn't understand very well what people were saying.

"We spent the afternoon back on the beach. I did some swimming, then helped to bury Philip and Chris . . .

"After tea we went back into the town, by boat this time, to see the night life; there were people busking, lots of open-air restaurants, and (sadly) performing animals.

"Thursday 9.30 a.m. I bought my first 'pain au chocolat' . . .

"We boarded our coach for a visit to Cognac and the famous brandy distillery. We stopped for lunch at Saintes by a wide beautiful river near a Roman triumphal arch.

"We then moved on to Cognac. It was brilliant, because we didn't know how to get there, so a policeman gave us an escort.

"The guide told us all about the different types of soil and how the vines are grown, then took us through the bottling and packing plant.

"At the end we got a lot of free goodies, including three alcoholic key-rings, a lighter and some miniatures for our parents. (These last items were subsequently confiscated by H.M. Customs!—Ed.)

"Next morning I had to dive out of bed to get to breakfast.

"We had baguettes yet again, but this time with really nice yoghurt and a mug of hot chocolate.

"We then got our 'plan de la ville' and met outside to go and continue our projects in the town, and also do a town quiz. The Bureau de Tourisme was very hard to find: "Tricolore" is out of date!

"We played rugby on the beach in the afternoon with Mr Jones.

"Later we went swimming and scrambled over some rocks by the beach.

"After 'dîner' most of the girls got dressed up, because we were going for an evening out at the . . . Aquarium!

"It was fantastic: there were loads of different and exotic fishes, and also a nursing shark.

"Saturday we were allowed to go and look round the town without doing a quiz! I got all my money off Mr Jones so I could buy presents.

"We then went to the Île de Ré, which has a really big bridge stretching from the mainland onto the island. To use the bridge we had to pay £75!

"We visited a little town, then found a beach with lots of hermit-crabs, starfish, seaweed . . . we sweltered in the really hot sun, but I *still* didn't get a tan!

"We came back via a supermarket and bought things for the journey home, then we had spaghetti for tea, which was quite nice, and settled down to finish our projects and diaries.



Collecting the picnic lunch for a day out.

(Photo: G. J. Turner)

"In the night there was a brilliant thunderstorm and I stayed awake for ages."

The diaries were completed before the long journey home: if you need to know the distance from La Rochelle to Dieppe, I can tell you it is three feature films, three episodes of *Faulty Towers*, two rest stops and a lot of choruses of the Grand Old Duke of York. We arrived home safe and hot in the early afternoon.

The journey was organised by Mr G. J. Turner and accompanied also by Mr and Mrs Langford, Mr and Mrs Derham and Mr G. H. Jones, to whom we all owe our sincere thanks.

(From the diaries of Andrew Fry (2B),
David Kemp (2B), Andrew Lole (1A), and Sally Ward (1A).)

A HOLIDAY JOB ABROAD

During the last few years it has become increasingly obvious to Modern Languages teachers that many Sixth Form students would like to find work abroad during the summer holidays at the end of their Lower Sixth year. Until very recently these students have been studying at least one 'A' Level language. However with the approach of 1992 more science and business orientated Sixth Formers have also expressed their interest in such work. The Headmaster announced at Speech Day that he proposes to offer the possibility of continuing the study of a foreign language to all Sixth Formers. This is an exciting new development and a variety of courses—some with a business 'flavour'—are now under review by the Modern Language Department.

Are our Sixth Formers ready for such work? Some twenty years ago, most Sixth Form entrants would not have been abroad. Ten years ago, several would have undertaken a Fourth Year Exchange. During the last five years many arrive in the Sixth Form having taken part in one, two or even three exchanges. In addition, many have experience of travel abroad with parents, and are reasonably linguistically confident. Nowadays it is more common for young people over the age of sixteen to have had a 'Saturday job' or to have worked during the School holidays. Indeed it has almost become a ritual to find employment the day after the end of the GCSE examinations! Consequently Sixth Formers are more aware of work experience, of managing their own money and filling in forms. Many language teachers also recognise the need for paid holiday work for the children of single parent families, children who have brothers or sisters who also wish to go abroad, and children who are studying two foreign languages. Travel abroad is not cheap, and financial considerations should not be allowed to prevent the enthusiastic and capable student from gaining valuable experience in Europe.

The benefits gained by work abroad are numerous. Obviously the students return with much greater oral fluency in the language. They are usually far more mature and self-reliant, having had to travel alone, organise their finances, complete necessary employment documents, maintain a neat appearance and deal with any emergencies. They have a great awareness of the disciplines required in the work situation; punctuality, effort, self-discipline and courtesy. They often gain more confidence socially; they make new friends and have to work with older colleagues. And in the short term this experience provides a most useful addition to university application forms and is an excellent talking-point at university interviews.

During the last nine months I have contacted the various West European Embassies in London, and their Trade Delegations here in Manchester and Liverpool. I received great help from Mr Clive Jeanes, a Governor of this School and from other kind people and several agencies. I initially contacted forty-five companies, sending letters to both the English company and the European subsidiary. I have received twenty-nine acknowledgments, of which only twelve suggested that they might be able to help us in 1990. We were indeed most fortunate that Gallaher Ltd., the tobacco Company, acted so promptly and enthusiastically, that we were able to send two boys to Gallaher Espana this last summer. We are most grateful to Mr K. Pimblott, the father of a Third Year boy, for arranging this excellent experience for Yogesh Jathani and Adam Lodge.

May I ask for your help? I need to know the names and addresses of local companies which operate in Europe with a subsidiary or licencee and which might be able to offer a three week/one month summer placement to a Lower Sixth Former. At the moment we are concentrating on French, German and Spanish speaking countries. I feel that a personal contact from a parent or governor of William Hulme's Grammar School would be most valuable. The students, the School and eventually local business and industry will benefit from the efforts we all make now!

M. O. Derham

WORK EXPERIENCE IN SPAIN

In June, we were invited to a Gallaher factory which makes "Silk Cut" cigarettes, and which is situated in Denton. Mr K. Pimblott, the Personnel Manager, was organising for us to work for Gallaher in Spain during the summer and gave us a guided tour of the factory which produces *100 million* cigarettes *every day*. We finalised the arrangements for our trip to Spain before we left the factory.

Two weeks later we departed from Manchester Airport to fly to Madrid. We arrived safely, but minus one suitcase belonging to Yogesh. He was shocked and resolving the problem proved quite a challenge. Mr Bull's role-plays had adequately prepared us for this situation! However, we spent so long trying to explain to the Spanish

Customs Officers that Yogesh had lost his suitcase, that the company representative sent to meet us had gone home! We made our own way to the company office, in the centre of Madrid, by taxi, where on arrival we were handed our itinerary for the next three weeks, along with some airline tickets, by Mr C. Gubbins, the Manager of Gallaher Espana. We were addressed as representatives of the company and then promptly taken to our hotel to relax. The next day we were taken to the advertising and promotion agency for Gallaher, Cato Johnson, and we were issued with a folder presenting the summer promotion. That afternoon, Adam flew First Class to Malaga. The following day when Yogesh's suitcase arrived he flew to Majorca. We were disappointed to be separated at first, but it proved to be more beneficial to our Spanish which was the main purpose of the trip.

Our job over the next three weeks was to accompany the sales promoters to various establishments (bars, cafes, "estancos"—tobacco shops) helping to make sales, and promoting "Silk Cut" by distributing free gifts e.g. lighters, T-shirts, sports bags etc. all bearing the "Silk Cut" logo. We generally helped the sales promoters.

Yogesh was based in Palma but travelled to the north and south of Mallorca. He visited the famous "BMC" disco with a sales promoter, who was organising a large promotional party involving "Silk Cut" Formula One racing cars, to be held in this disco. At the weekend he went to Pollensa (North-east coast of Mallorca) and stayed with the family of one of the sales promoters. They were very hospitable, and Yogesh was so relaxed with the set-up in Mallorca that he was reluctant to leave.

In Barcelona there was a smaller workforce. He was lodged in a hostel on the coast near Barcelona. He spent all but two days working on the coast. He did the same work that he encountered in Mallorca.

Meanwhile Adam was leading a fine life in Torremolinos. He was helping a Cuban salesman called Carlos. During the three weeks he was there he travelled between Puerto Banus in Marbella and as far north as Nerja. He was mainly situated in the tourist resorts of Torremolinos and Fuengirola. In Nerja he visited a massive underground complex of caves which he greatly enjoyed; it was fun being a tourist for one day. Everyone was very friendly, he ate out with them frequently in the evenings and even went out to a party or two. He was supposed to leave after two weeks to go to Benidorm. However he managed to change the arrangements and stayed in Torremolinos for a further week—because the "Silk Cut Jaguar" racing car was to be in the area for the same week. The car would be in shops by day, and more importantly at the parties at night, which were the highlight of Adam's three weeks stay, when although he learnt a lot about the business he became an expert on tequila! After three weeks of work at the coast both Adam and Yogesh flew back from their respective resorts to Madrid for the final week of the trip.

The week we spent in Madrid was not such hard work as the previous three weeks although we attended some very interesting meetings, which included spending a morning at the Spanish Office of The Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Agency, who handle Silk Cut's advertising both in Britain and Spain. We visited a large Law firm which deals with Gallaher España, and also had lunch with an American company lawyer. During our freetime we visited some famous sights in Madrid like the museum "El Prado" and of course we went to some of the best discos in Madrid.

The time we spent in Spain was obviously very beneficial to our Spanish and it also gave us a fascinating insight into the world of tobacco sales and marketing. We are very grateful to the teachers at School who organised the trip and also to Mr Pimblott and Mr Gubbins of Gallaher for letting us work with their company. It was an experience that we would recommend to any student of Modern Languages.

Yogesh Jethani, Adam Lodge

BARCELONA EXCHANGE

It was with not a little apprehension that myself and Noel Burton stepped off the plane at Barcelona's international airport last Easter. We were to be joined the following day by two other pupils, Phil Wynne and Anton Dean. We had had no previous correspondence with our exchange partners, and so we had no idea what to expect. We met our partners, and were whisked off to have some lunch, so that we could go to school in the afternoon. The school was boring for us, because the lessons were mostly conducted in Catalan, which is the regional language of Catalonia. That evening, we were taken to see the Sagrada Familia, which is the as yet still uncompleted cathedral of Barcelona. The next day we were joined by our two compatriots, who joined us in the school. The school was probably one of the things which was most different from England. It started between eight and eleven in the morning, and each lesson was an hour long. It finished at one for lunch and started again at three, finishing for the day at six o'clock. The most interesting thing about the school was the way in which the teachers treated the pupils, and vice-versa. The pupils called the teachers by their first names, and most of the teachers wore jeans and casual clothes. The pupils could smoke in front of the school, and were allowed out to bars and cafes during the lunch hour. The whole atmosphere was much less hostile, and the Spaniards were amazed at how old-fashioned and out of date our school is. The attitude of the teachers there was that if you messed around, then you failed your exams and you had to repeat the year. The idea of doing lines or serving a detention seemed authoritarian and oppressive.

The city of Barcelona is very beautiful, and the best place to see it is from one of the hills that surround it. However, it is at night that the city really comes alive. One of the main streets, the Ramblas, is full of life virtually all night. There are hundreds of bars and discotheques all over Barcelona, and one which became our favourite is "The Black Ship", which is a huge drinking hall, serving refreshing Spanish beer. Of course none of the English boys touched a drop, honestly, despite the legal drinking age of sixteen.

As you may know, Barcelona is hosting the 1992 Olympic Games, and preparations are well under way. As part of our stay we were treated to a trip to the stadium complex. We were also lucky enough to watch F.C. Barcelona against Real Madrid. This made the recent Manchester derby look like a Sunday league match, for here was a crowd of 120,000. We were very nearly scorched to death by fireworks at the start, and after the match we were shown around the various grounds. The 30,000 all-seater reserve team ground was better equipped than the average 1st division English ground.

On behalf of Anton Dean, Phillip Wynne and Noel Burton, I would like to thank I.P.S.I. School for putting up with us for two weeks, the families of our partners, Mr Bull and Carlos Labay, and in particular the small chemist on the Calle de Provença, for providing us with a supply of Alka-Seltzer.

Paul Tweed, 5B

CHARITIES WEEK: 23 February - 3 March

One of the most important tasks for each year's School Prefects is to organise the annual Charities Week to raise money for a worthwhile cause. This year, we decided to direct our efforts towards supporting cancer research at Christie Hospital.

Christies, as most people will know, is one of the country's foremost centres for cancer treatment and research, and it was chosen because of the importance of the work done there, its local situation, and also because most people will know someone who has, directly or indirectly, benefited from it. David Greenwood, Kim Segal and I visited Dr Kumar at the hospital in January, when it was suggested that we might like to buy them a Laser Doppler Flowmeter which provides data concerning blood flow through cancerous tissue which is essential for research into ways of minimising the long-term side effects of the radiotherapy treatment.

The machine costs £7,400 which naturally became our target, although most people felt that it would be more realistic to aim to emulate the previous two prefect bodies, both of which raised about £6,500. At the beginning of the week, however, and even at the end, until the money started to come in, none of us was sure exactly where such a large sum of money would materialise from!

Just before the week started Dr Garland from Christies spoke to Junior and Senior assemblies, giving on both occasions an interesting and visual insight into cancer research, with the aid of a balloon used to represent the process of cell division.

The biggest job in terms of organisation was to produce a magazine. With Rupert Naylor and Kim Segal in charge, however, this was well in hand long before the week began and although reviews ranged from "scurrilous" to "spot on" it sold well and did its main job of publicising the week's events.

The tuck shop in the cages and the hotdog stall in the covered way were as popular as ever, despite competition from a rival hotdog stall which undercut our prices by a considerable amount! The chance to throw a bucket of ice-cold water at a thick-skinned prefect proved to be an irresistible opportunity for both pupils and certain members of staff alike and only one of the victims forgot that thin white sports clothes tend to lose their opacity when wet!

In the Staff vs Prefects 'friendlies' most of the prefects were overwhelmed by the ruthless tactics employed by the opposition, and as a result were soundly beaten in volleyball, badminton and hockey; however an unprecedented 5-3 victory in the football more than redressed the balance for most of them. Together with a sixth form Girls vs Boys netball match, which saw the vastly more experienced girls suffer an unexpected defeat, these events were well attended and crowd collections raised reasonable amounts of money.



C. J. Maudsley and R. M. Harrison get the Junior School moving in this year's sponsored walk.

(Photo: J. H. Thomson)

The Junior School performed their usual transformation of the Old Hall into an indoor market, selling everything from cakes to the chance to win a small fortune in 'Higher or Lower' card games, and yet again managed to raise more money than any other section of the School. A shield was presented to 1B which raised more money than any other form, but our thanks go to all of them for such a huge effort.

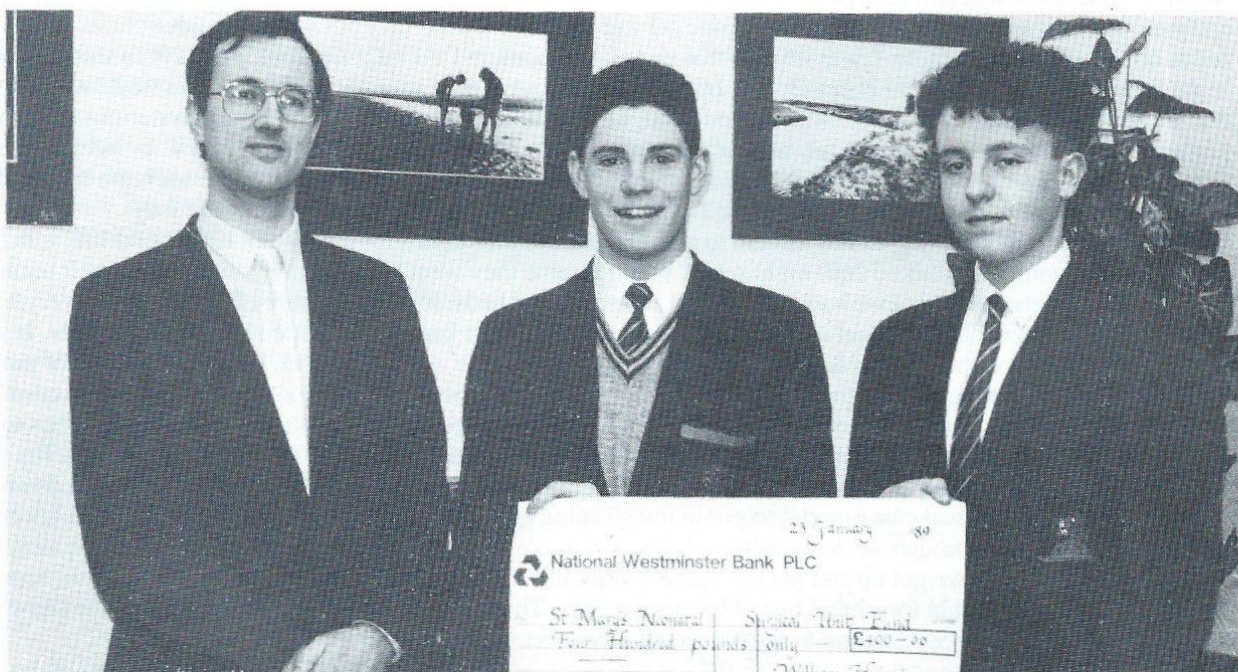
The major event of the week, however, both in terms of numbers of participants and the amount of money raised was the Sponsored Walk round Chorlton Water Park and back on 1st March. In a week of bad weather we were fortunate to avoid rain; virtually the whole School took part including the three first year girls who did it four-legged, and the event was covered by several local newspapers.

The official events ended two weeks later with the noisy but highly enjoyable sixth form charity disco at De Villes nightclub in Manchester, which marked the end of term as well as the end of Charities Week. There were also quite a large number of individual efforts, including that of William Faulkner of 1B who raised £225 in one day by sitting for ten hours in a shopping trolley outside a supermarket, and our thanks go to all those who took part in these.

And then the money came in: £1,000, £2,000, £3,000. At first we thought that we wouldn't even attain our target, and when the total finally reached £6,000 most people thought that that was the end. However, money continued to come in: by Easter we were up to £7,000, and five weeks later a cheque of £10,000 was presented to Dr Kumar of Christies in Senior Assembly.

There are inevitably a large number of people to thank: Matthew McNeany and Judith Doney for looking after what became very large sums of money; all the other prefects for their support, advice and often strenuous efforts, not only during Charities Week but also throughout the year; the staff who helped both with events—especially Mr Veevers and Mr Loveland for their assistance with publicity and with ensuring that all of the sponsor money was collected; the sixth form committee for their generous donation enabling us to round the total up to £10,000; but most importantly the pupils and their friends and families who actually went out and raised the money.

R. J. Ketteridge



Dr Charlton, a Consultant Anaesthetist from St. Mary's Children's Hospital, receives a £400 cheque towards the Neo-natal Surgical Fund from Iain Brassell and David Greer—the proceeds of the Fourth and Fifth Years' Christmas Disco.

WINTER 25th November

The day was sunny and I thought that was strange at this time of year, but I ate my words when I went out for it was quite chilly. The floor seemed shiny but not very slippery. I called for my two friends and they came out. Because we got bored we went into our Base. Our Base is a small shed attached to the greenhouse, the bottom half of which is made of bricks and the top of wood. It is covered in waterproof felt. The shed is quite new and smells of wood. It is unpainted and has a stone floor. All that is in there is some fold out furniture and some old damp books. We decided to decorate it, but when we got outside it was snowing so we went indoors to sort some gear out. We got some posters, maps, old cloth and a big rug.

By the time this had been done the snow was deep and it made a crunching noise as we walked to the shed and walking into the greenhouse was like entering a room with all walls painted white. We set the rugs out to make a carpet, and put posters up and small shelves. We then went to the paper shop and filled the larder and filled the magazine shelf. We put more books out, set out three camping beds, went in and got sleeping bags, torches, extra clothes, the portable TV, a radio and cassettes. It then looked like a room in a house rather than a shed, and tonight we would sleep in here. We passed the time away by scouting the garden for anything different out of the ordinary. A robin was singing in the tree. Its red breast stood out boldly against the whiteness of the snow. The blue-tits hopped about quickly on the branches, and a wren's thin call could be heard although the bird could not be seen. A bunch of starlings squawked and fought over the recently put out bird cake, not allowing any other bird to come near. The blue-tits and wrens were content with the nut feeder, while robins and blackbirds made a racket on the berry bush. We watched these for a minute or so and then went to the front.

We saw some other children messing with the snow and so we threw a snowball at them and they naturally threw one back. We then went to the park on our sledges but we did not know that they were following us. However, we soon found out when we were racing down the sloping golf course and a cascade of snowballs flew at us. One thudded into my face immediately blinding me and it flew up the side of a bunker, falling from my sledge onto the cold, hard, white ground with a thud. The ice tingled on my face making me feel numb. When I wiped away the snow I got up and ran in the direction of my friend and this was towards a bunker. We started loading our sledges with hard snowballs. We spotted our enemies and proceeded to retaliate. Most thudded uselessly into the ground but some found their targets and some enemy snowballs found theirs. This carried on for several hours, as we ran from the bunker, got hit, and hit others in return.

After a while it began to snow again, and heavily. If you tried to talk it would go in your mouth and if you ran it would go in your eyes. We made for the east side of the golf course slowly and steadily, up the slippery death hill across the pitch and putt and to Base Twenty near the Woodland suite. The privets did not give shelter now in winter but the plastic sheet was still in the corner so we put it over the top of the privets. We had not been here since June and there were signs of others. The traps had gone off and the place was scruffy but the old wooden chairs which we found on the tip were still there. It was dry and that was all that mattered. At least we would not have to wander home in the blinding blizzard like our enemies. The blizzard lasted longer than we expected and after a while we thought that we had better make a run for it. Grabbing our sledges we left the base, ran to the top of the mysterious death hill, jumped on our sledges and down we went, taking a big risk. We went very fast because of its steepness and slipperiness. As I went down I heard the odd crunch which was probably the crunching of the skeleton of a bird or rabbit which is where Death Hill gets its name from. Once at the bottom we ran the rest of the way.

When we got home my friends went in to get changed and then called for me. We all had a hot drink, watched videos, played games and talked until night set in. When it came they went home to say good night to their parents, got their last minute things and we went in the shed and set up our beds, folded our spare clothes and put everything in order. We then went back in, had some tea and got Sadie out of her kennel and settled down for the night. It was cold at first but then warmed up as Sadie slept in my sleeping bag. She was like a hundred water bottles. We put on the TV and watched it, told stories and talked about Christmas until we finally fell asleep. We were awakened the next day by the crying of a cat and the barking of Sadie. I got up and opened the door and it was Tao telling us to let him in. Sadie was getting ready to run out but changed her mind when she saw the snow. I picked up Tao. His feet were wet but he was purring and glad to see me. When I went into the shed part Sadie had contentedly lain down on Anthony who was just awakening, and Tao got in my sleeping bag. We put the early Morning TV on and got back in our sleeping bags. Although we were breathing mist it was cosy in our sleeping bags. Steven carried on sleeping and did not awake until we got up and put our spare clothes on, for he was the youngest of us all. When we spotted life in our house we went in for a breakfast of bacon and eggs. There was the same crunching noise on the snow but louder. For the snow was deeper and today we would have even more fun.

Terence Sales 1C

The Ballad of Noah's Ark

There was a man called Noah
Who was rather old but wise;
Strolling in the woods one day
He received a big surprise.

"Noah!" God cried in a booming voice,
"I'll give you some advice:
I'm going to flood this awful land
And I won't repeat this twice."

"The people are becoming violent
And I think that it is time
To teach them all one final lesson
And destroy this earth of mine."

"I have chosen you to be the one
To build a wondrous ark;
You'll have to save the animals
And don't forget the aardvark."

"But, but! cried Noah in despair,
"I'm old and frail and weak;
You've given me such short notice
Some help I'll have to seek ."

"No buts will be allowed," said God
In his usual thunderous tone.
"You'll have to build this ark of mine
And it must be done alone."

"O.K., keep your hair on!" cried Noah,
"I will do what you say.
And to show you that I'm willing
I'll start this very day ."

Noah started his awesome task
He laboured night and day,
Chopping, sawing, planing, hammering
And gathering bales of hay.

Inside the hold he built the pens,
For creatures great and small,
He built them little, he built them large,
For creatures short and tall.

He summoned all the animals
From continents far and wide,
He left the birds to fly in the sky
And the fish to swim with the tide.

Galloping, crawling, racing, trampling,
The mighty herds drew near ;
As paws and hooves drummed on the ground
Black rainclouds did appear.

Noah stood on the glistening deck
And surveyed the beasts below
He chose the best, male and female
And told the rest to go.

The animals hurried in two by two
As the rain began to pour;
They settled in their new-found homes
As Noah shut tight the door.

Torrential rain became a flood
That washed the trees away;
It lifted up the mighty ark
To sail for forty days.

Water, water, everywhere
As far as the eye could see;
Water, water, everywhere,
No land, nor leaf, nor tree.

The rain did stop, the clouds did part
The sun was not denied;
The ocean currents fast did flow
As the waters began to subside.

Noah sent a dove, to look for land,
Far and near did it seek;
Safe and sound, it came back to the ark
With an olive twig in its beak.

At last a mountain top they saw—
Noah cried "hip-hip hooray!"
A rainbow curved across the sky
And shone as bright as day.

God said, "This is a sign to you
That if men will be good,
I'll never punish them again
And never send another flood ."

Tarik Djeddour 2D

THE WAY WE WERE

(Extracts from *The Hulmeian* of 75, 50 and 25 years ago)

School Notes and News

The death of Mr H. J. Roby, in January last, should not pass unrecorded in this place, for it was largely through his labours that the Hulme Grammar School came into existence. When the new scheme for the administration of the Hulme Charity came into effect, Mr Roby was appointed by the University of Cambridge as one of the Hulme Trustees, a position for which his great educational and public experience and his connection with Manchester business specially fitted him. Ours was the first school to be founded by the Hulme Trust, and Mr Roby took an important part in modelling the scheme of 1881, under which it was opened in 1887.

Miss D. Mitford Smith, formerly kindergarten mistress at Leamington High School, has been appointed assistant mistress in the Preparatory Department. Miss Mitford Smith was trained at the Froebel College, Bedford, and holds the National Froebel Higher Certificate and the Ablett Drawing Certificates with Honours.

DEATHS

JONES. —March 20th, at Epsom, Ian Montgomery Jones, 20th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers, only son of Mr and Mrs T. A. Jones, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, aged 17 years.

STOREY.—January 24th, at Shanghai, Harold, third son of J. D. and S. E. Storey, Heaton Mersey, aged 22 years.

The Athletic Sports

The Sports will be held this year on Ascension Day, May 13th, at 2-30 p.m., and it is hoped that Lady Mather will distribute the trophies and prizes.

By the unanimous wish of the boys of the School, there will be *no prizes* this year, except for the Preparatory Department and events under eleven. *The bulk of the money subscribed will be handed over to some War Relief Fund (particulars to be announced later).*

There will be the usual mark competitions for the School challenge trophies, viz.:—
Worrall Athletic Shield, for champion House.

Gaskell Challenge Cup, for the open championship.

Cardwell Challenge Cup, for "under 16" champion.

Donner Challenge Cup, for "under 15" champion.

China Challenge Cup, for "under 14" champion.

Entrance Fees (one shilling) and Entry Forms to be given to the Prefects.

In Memoriam

HAROLD STOREY, O.H.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Harold Storey, O.H., at the early age of 22. He entered the School with a Foundation Scholarship in September, 1902, and was promoted into Modern Fifth, then the highest Form on the modern side of the School, in September, 1905. There he spent the next three years, and displayed a marked aptitude for the study of modern languages, which afterwards stood him in good stead. After leaving school, in July, 1908, he obtained a clerkship in the Civil Service, but he did not care for the work, and the enforced loneliness of living in London, away from his family (of which he was a devoted son) grated upon him. After about a year he returned to Manchester, and obtained a position with Messrs. J. & J. Makin, paper manufacturers, of this city. He soon showed great business capacity, and won the confidence of his employers, with the result that at the early age of 20 he was sent to represent the firm on a long tour in the East. On his return, about a year ago, he paid a visit to Modern Sixth and told them something of his travels, in which he had made good use of his opportunities of gaining a first-hand knowledge of men and things. He told them, too, that he largely attributed his success to the knowledge of French and German he had gained at school. It is sad to think that we can look forward to no more such visits from him. *Frater, ave atque vale.*

J. W. M.

The Hulme Lads' Club Collection

This year's collection on behalf of the Procter Gymnasium and Hulme Lads' Club amounted to £53. This is £7 less than last year; but considering the circumstances in which the collection was made we have good reason to be satisfied with the result, and the Club owes a deep debt of gratitude to the School for help, which is to be especially valuable this year. The interest in the collection was again well maintained throughout the School. The highest contribution was made by Modern Fourth, who collected £6. 0s. 3d., though in proportion to their numbers the best collections were perhaps made by Modern Sixth and Classical Fourth, who contributed £4. 4s. 6d. and £3. 19s. 4d., respectively.

The amounts collected in the various Forms were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Science Sixth	3	3	1
Classical Sixth	2	17	4
Modern Sixth	4	4	6
Science Fifth	2	15	9
Classical Fifth	0	11	6
Modern Fifth	1	16	5
Classical Fourth	3	19	4
Modern Fourth	6	0	3
Latin Third	3	9	7
Modern Third	2	18	8
Lower Third	3	1	1
ii. A.....	2	7	7
ii. B.....	2	11	1
ii. C.....	3	3	5
First Form.....	3	1	6
	£46	1	1

The Rev. F. E. Brown

July, 1939

The Rev. Francis E. Brown, D.D., whose death on June 1st at the age of 70 we much regret to announce, was head mathematical master in the School for thirteen years, from 1892 to 1905, and will be remembered with affection and esteem by all Old Boys who passed through the School during those years. They will recall his quiet manner, his striking and almost ascetic appearance, and the personal interest he took in every boy. He came to this School straight from Hertford College, Oxford, where he had taken mathematical honours, and soon brought the work in his department to a high state of efficiency. With his best pupils he seemed to arouse a keenness which enabled him to call on them for any special effort when needed, and to his teaching may be assigned a considerable share in the School's record of successes from 1893 onwards in the University Scholarships awarded by the local education authorities. In cricket he was a good batsman and a tricky slow bowler, and became Secretary for this game in 1894. He took Orders some years after coming to Manchester, and held Sunday curacies at West Didsbury and Burnage. He left the School in 1905 to take a similar post at King Edward VII. School, Sheffield, where, later, he became second master.

The most important work of his life, however, began in 1911, when he was appointed headmaster of the Church of England Grammar School, Geelong, Victoria, a large boarding school popularly known as the "Eton of Australia," whose old pupils include many of Australia's foremost public men. Here he remained for seventeen years, and did a great work, of which it is for others to speak. He visited England in 1920 to attend the Pan-Anglican Congress as chaplain to the Bishop of Ballarat, and received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

On returning to England for good he held the country living of Preston Bagot, Warwickshire, until his retirement through ill-health in 1936. His last visit to this School was in 1930, when he distributed the prizes on Speech Day and recalled the happy and useful years he had spent in Manchester.

He leaves a widow, two sons and three daughters, all of whom (except Mr Martyn Brown, who is in Australia), were present at the funeral. Four clergy took part in the service, the vicar, two Old Boys of Geelong, and one Old Hulmeian, the Rev. Martyn Gilliat, and the organ was played by another Geelong Old Boy. Altogether about fifteen of Dr Brown's Old Boys from Geelong came over, and there were also present Mrs J. W. Morley, G. N. E. Gilliat (O.H.) and Mrs Gilliat.

E. G. W. H.

7891

Those of us who were privileged to be at the School at the end of the last century and the beginning of the present one, may remember the above cryptic number as the first of a series of calculations known as "3 cubes," the standard imposition for delinquencies such as dropping a ruler, or shuffling feet, in the class of a remarkable schoolmaster.

I refer to the late Doctor F. E. Brown.

Looking back, I should imagine that his genius for imparting knowledge was due, primarily, to his method of discarding text books and appealing to the common sense of his pupils. Also, he invariably took the least advanced boy in the class and, without making it apparent, or causing the said boy any discomfiture, he would proceed step by step with the problem in hand until he felt assured that the seeds of knowledge were well and truly planted. This being the case it was reasonable to assume that all the others in the class had grasped the point at issue.

He was also very just and had no favourites, that is to say, the punishment for the top boy was the same as for the boy at the bottom of the class, although, actually, breaches of discipline were not often committed in the monastic atmosphere in which he presided. It simply wasn't done.

When he left the School in July, 1905, everybody, from Dr Hall downwards, subscribed towards a suitably engraved gold watch which was presented to him on the morning of Speech Day, amidst great enthusiasm. Mr Brown's emotion was so great that for over a minute he was unable to reply to the Headmaster's speech. Later in the afternoon after the sports the whole School gathered at the front gates to give him a parting cheer and bid him adieu. I can see him now, normally tall and appearing taller still in the silk hat worn by masters on Speech Day. From that date until 1935, I did not see him until I called at his home near Stratford-on-Avon when he shewed me the watch mentioned above, which he had evidently prized greatly.

He had a visitors' book, and it was surprising to see the names of those who had sought him out in his retirement.

Later, through the hospitality of George Gilliat, a number of Dr Brown's old pupils had the felicity of meeting him again; the Doctor was obviously very pleased to see us, and we are told by Mrs Brown that afterwards he often spoke with pleasure of this particular evening.

On this occasion we realised that beneath the somewhat austere exterior of the man we had all respected for years, there was a warm heart, although still somewhat shy. One thing is certain; he will never be excelled as a teacher or as an example to his contemporaries and to those of us who were fortunate enough to be guided across the *pons asinorum* and along other thorny paths by the intellectual torch he so brilliantly carried.

S. R. B.

June, 1964

School Notes and News

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Miss E. Viney during the Easter holidays. A tribute to her work in the Preparatory Department appears after these notes.

We congratulate the Old Hulmeians Lacrosse team on their remarkable achievement in winning the league competition, the North of England Flags, the Referees' Trophy and finally the Iroquois Cup, the English championship trophy. The last time this feat was performed was in 1932.

The Old Boys' Rugger club also ended their season on a high note by winning the Toc H 'Sevens' tournament.

At the end of the Easter term Dr L. A. Jecny left us to take up an appointment as Associate Professor of German at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

Dr Jecny has been on the staff for 22 years, during which time he has made a whole-hearted contribution to the life of the school. Many present boys and Old Boys will remember with very great pleasure the parties abroad under his careful planning and supervision; he must have been responsible for introducing hundreds of Hulmeians to the delights of ski-ing, a sport at which he is himself very skilful. With the Headmaster he founded the Leonardo da Vinci Society and shared the entertainment of its members in his house in Demesne Road: he produced form-plays, ran film-shows, and for many years acted as School Librarian, a task to which he devoted himself with typical thoroughness, spending many hours on the catalogue and care of books.

He has made a full contribution to the successes of the Modern Language Department, and was teaching Russian in the School long before it became fashionable as an extra foreign language. He is a man of wide interests who has enriched the School by his enthusiasm, his kindness and his genuine interest in the boys he taught and met throughout the School. We are glad to pay this tribute to one who has served the School so loyally, and we wish him and Mrs Jecny, who has taught in the Preparatory Department for many years, every happiness in the future.

We congratulate Mr Blight and Mr Proudlove, both of whom were married during the Easter holiday. We also congratulate Mr and Mrs Greenslade on the birth of a son.

The number of games activities available on Wednesday afternoons has been increased by the introduction of golf on the Chorlton course.

The following appointments have been made: *Captain of Cricket*, G. Casale; *Captain of Tennis*, M. Brown; *Captain of Athletics*, M. V. Tidmas.

Mr Haynes, Mr Manning, Mr Furniss and Mr Simpson took 40 boys to Swaledale and Wensleydale for the last five days of the Easter holidays. A pleasing group had fair weather in excellent country. Other School parties went to Paris, the Broads, Devon and the Lake District.

Miss E. Viney

It was with dismay and grief that we learned of the death of Miss Viney. After an illness of nine weeks, she entered hospital on Maundy Thursday, where it was hoped she would respond to further treatment, but unfortunately this was not to be, and she died peacefully a week later on 2nd April.

Miss Viney joined the Staff of the Preparatory School in September, 1948, and in her quiet, unassuming manner served the School loyally and well. As a form-mistress she was thorough and painstaking, and many boys must be grateful for the good basic training which they received at her hands. Her musical ability as a pianist and singer enriched the School, and will be sadly missed.

Colleagues, parents and boys will long remember her with affection and gratitude.

The Prep

As many of our readers will know, the Preparatory Department at "Peveril Mount" will close at the end of this term. The last two forms of the Prep. will come over to the Main School, where they will be housed in Rooms 1 and 2. The Prep., therefore, returns to the main building where it began life over 50 years ago.

In 1908 the old Whalley Range High School was taken over by Manchester Education Committee and its kindergarten closed. Its mistress, Miss M. E. Smith, was invited to come to Hulme to open a Preparatory Department for boys between five and eight years of age. In the next ten years the Department increased rapidly in size as the residential areas of South Manchester were developed; by 1916 there were three mistresses and, with accommodation for the main School already strained to bursting point, the Governors decided in 1918 to buy "Peveril Mount" on the corner of Wilbraham Road and Elxandra Road.

There the Prep. has remained, sending into the Main School a steady stream of boys well prepared in the traditions of Hulme by a succession of mistresses who have served the School with loyalty and enthusiasm. For many years the final touches were given in Room 7 by Mr Williams as form-master of Lower I.

The School has been most fortunate in its Prep. mistresses; older generations will remember not only Miss M. E. Smith, but also Miss Mitford Smith, who succeeded her sister as Headmistress, Miss Caiger, Miss Evans, Miss Speed, Miss Davies and Miss Hall who retired only recently. In more recent years Miss Adams maintained a connection with the School which began when her father joined the Staff in 1910: Miss Jones not only made a valuable contribution to the Prep. but also assisted the Staff cricket XI on several occasions: Mrs Jecny's enthusiasm has been an asset to both the Prep. and School life generally, while we mourn Miss Viney's untimely death and are grateful for her service to the School.

Miss Berry has been Headmistress of the Prep. for thirty years, and generations of boys and parents have been grateful for her unflagging interest in the School and for her tireless enthusiasm. One has been given to understand that education under Miss Berry can never be dull, and we are delighted that she has agreed to postpone her retirement for a year to bridge the transitional period before the Prep. ceases to exist.

HOUSE NOTES

BYROM HOUSE LETTER

Christmas Term

As R. J. Ketteridge became Head of School, W. E. Hockenhull was appointed Head of House, with D. Taylor, C. Chow and S. Arundel as Deputy Heads of House. The following House Prefects were appointed: D. Aaron, N. Fraser, R. Malone, M. R. Tallis, A. S. Hogben, R. Scholes, J. Symms and J. Griffiths.

This year a weekly House Assembly was introduced. It has proved an excellent innovation for administration, liaison between House Prefects and boys, recognition of Senior boys by Juniors and vice-versa. Byrom alone has kept a brief act of devotion as part of its assembly. The first prayer, "Lord, let us not live to be useless" was acceptable to all faiths, provoked some mirth, but in fact was written by the founder of Methodism, John Wesley! It was interesting to find that at Christmas nobody in the House could identify the author of the famous carol, "Christians Awake". It was John Byrom—from whom the House takes its name!

The Senior Knock-out team went out in the first round to the strong Fraser XV in a well-fought game, despite the efforts of C. Chow in coaching the side. Fraser soon scored a push-over try and Byrom could not effectively counter their superior pack. Chris Chow switched to hooker, but the heel was never quick enough after he had won the ball repeatedly, and so our faster backs got no adequate feed. Fraser sensibly played to their strength and kept the ball with their forwards. This pressure inevitably came off and a Byrom team, rated the stronger on paper, was tactically outplayed and Fraser won comfortably.

In the League, our first team played well on occasions, but was erratic. D. Taylor and D. Aaron were our outstanding players. The second team games were limited in scope and numbers. In the 7-a-side competition our first team drew with Fraser. The next game see-sawed until Gaskell won with a break-away try 12-10. Our second team won all its games, but the third team lost all theirs.

The "enigmatic" Chris Chow succeeded in imparting his commitment and enthusiasm to the Juniors, as he got them out each week to train. Mike Jones also gave valuable assistance. Few Byrom boys have made such a valuable contribution to the House as Chris Chow—whether it has been coaching rugby teams or supervising the dinner queue, yet he has refused to be considered as a School Prefect. This has saddened me, but in the last analysis it is what he has done that counts for more than a title. Wayne Hockenhull and the other Seniors are only too well aware how he has pulled his weight.

The Juniors swamped a weak Whitworth side 46-8 and they won convincingly against Fraser 26-8. The powerful K. Blackshaw, playing in the backs, was too strong for our opponents, but in the Fraser game special mention must be made of S. McCloy who was "stand-in" scrum-half for the injured West. His was a crucial position and without his reliable service, we could have come unstuck.

The Junior Knock-Out Final

In the Final against Gaskell we had a 12-0 lead in no time at all as M. Wilson and K. Blackshaw combined well in the backs and then Gaskell foolishly fly-hacked a loose ball to the Byron "flyer" J. J. Cooney, who ran three-quarters of the length of the pitch, outpacing the opposition, to score a "solo" try. However, the strong Gaskell pack began to dominate and eventually brought them back into the match. In the closing minutes they drew level at 15-15. This was a game Byrom had "in the bag" and threw away by careless errors. We hung on in extra time, but Gaskell by then looked the likely winners.

All omens for the replay were bad. It was typical of the spirit of this team that the captain I. Cope insisted he could still "hook" even though he had fractured fingers and he had to be ordered not to play. Byrom thought out the replay well. It was clear we could not hold the Gaskell pack unless Blackshaw went to number eight. This meant J. Greenhowe had to be moved into the backs to strengthen them. A further blow was the full-back Weeden's absence on the day. Gaskell seemed to carry on from where they left off in the previous match, as their forwards took an early lead. However, a tremendous fight-back was led by Kyle Blackshaw, who led the team by encouragement and example, and he scored against the run of play. For a long time we took the game to Gaskell, but soon their strong pack wore us down. The team was visibly wilting. An offered "bribe" of £5—if he scored—brought a flickering smile across the strained face of Blackshaw in the line-out. More importantly, it fired the "mercenary" streak in him and set every sinew in operation as he forced his way right through the opposition to score a splendid "solo" try. Afterwards he said he thought the bribe was a joke! Despite it all the Gaskell pack led by the formidable Wystepek clinched their victory and Byrom Juniors lost their third successive final. But the final and replay savoured of all that is best in school rugby, skill, determination but above all an outstanding spirit of sportsmanship on both sides. For Byrom K. Blackshaw, M. Wilson, S. Greenhowe and D. West were outstanding, but it is almost invidious to pick out individuals.

The excellent work in the tuck-shop done over the last few years by Wayne Hockenhull and his group was now taken over by middle-school boys, notably D. West, A. Sharples, M. Wilson and S. Greenhowe. This work has provided valuable funds for the purchase of equipment of the use of members of the House.

Lent Term

The Senior League Lacrosse team was a good side, but, lacking a competent goal-keeper the efforts of the rest of the team and their skill were largely wasted. Against the very strong Gaskell side, the Senior Knockout team put up a good performance and only succumbed to the pressure of the superior side in the second half. N. F. Taylor was outstanding in goal. N. D. Williams has developed into a player of potential.

The Junior Knockout side flattered to deceive. Much skilful attacking play was wasted by wild shooting as was demonstrated in our defeat of Whitworth. Only D. West shot with accuracy and in the second half it was really the goal-keeping of D. B. Connor which kept us in the lead. The final was played, once more against Gaskell, on a water-logged pitch. Initially Gaskell were overwhelmed and we quickly had a four goal lead thanks to the accurate finishing of D. West. However, once West was effectively marked out, all our pressure brought only two more goals, and well as M. Wilson, J. Greenhowe, I. Cope and K. Blackshaw played, no defence can win a game, if the attack fail to score goals and defence men coming up only saw the ball wasted and as Gaskell gained possession our defence was left exposed. Gaskell got back in and deservedly took and retained the lead at the end. The result was 6-5.

In the Inter-House Road Relay our third year were very weak and despite valiant efforts by M. Wilson, K. Blackshaw and of course S. Green, the deficit distances were too great to make up and we finished third. S. Green won the individual trophy with a time of 15 min. 49 secs.

In the House Swimming, we came fifth in the relays, winning the third year Squadron Relay. We came second equal in the overall individual results. L. McCloy won the Senior Individual Medley and the Senior Breast-stroke. M. Wilson won the fourth year Butterfly. A. M. Sunderland and L. McCloy each came fourth in their Junior and Senior Freestyle respectively and M. Wilson and J. Greenhowe took places one and two respectively in the fourth year Individual Medley. A. G. Smith came third in the third year Backstroke.

This year, a change of policy helped bring about a much needed improvement in the general standard of House Drama. Mr. Turner's ambitious choice of one act of "Journey's End" by R. C. Sherriff involved many young boys in one of the most difficult House plays ever attempted. A write-up appears elsewhere in the magazine, but our talented older actors, M. Grey and D. Stogsdill will look back on a "slating" from Dr Barker which they didn't enjoy at the time and a complex series of rehearsals between "chicken and chips" and Q.E.D. until midnight at Mr Blight's home and realise that without these this outstanding performance which they carried might have been a flop. It is still astonishing to consider how such a harrowing, static drama of the trenches of the First World War was maintained successfully by such young boys. Well as the boys did, we acknowledge that without Mr Turner's involvement, whilst he did not produce the play, such a high calibre performance at House level could never have been achieved. It was nice also to find that under Sergeant-major Sowerby's authoritative direction, it was impossible to tell the cast had encamped in my house for the night. Of course we were delighted to win the trophy, whilst acknowledging that different judges might have thought otherwise. What matters is that we won in a year when the overall standard of the Houses was so good.

The accompanying programme intrigued many. One sees with shock that from the School Prefects of 1913-14—only one was still alive in 1915. The telegram of August 1918 is a copy of that in Mr Blight's possession giving news of the death of his mother's brother.

No. 242647/4 (If replies, please quote above No.) **K.O.B. BORDERERS**

ARMY FORM B. 104-82.

Record Office,

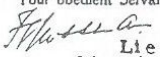
 191

Sir,

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of:-
 (No.) 242647 (Rank) Pte.
 (Name) F. Moran
 (Regiment) 2nd K.O.B. BORDERERS
 which occurred with the EX.FCE, FRANCE
 on the 26th August 1918.
 The report is to the effect that he was Killed in Action

By His Majesty's command I am to forward the enclosed message of sympathy from Their Gracious Majesties the King and Queen. I am at the same time to express the regret of the Army Council at the soldier's death in his Country's service.

I am to add that any information that may be received as to the soldier's burial will be communicated to you in due course. A separate leaflet dealing more fully with this subject is enclosed.

I am,
Mr. Moran,
343 Great Chatham St.,
High Broughton,
Manchester
 Your obedient Servant,

 Lieut R.O.S.
 Officer in charge of Records.
 K.O.B. District P.T.O.

18007. Wt. 15145/H 1906. 1750. E/17. D. & L., Ltd.

JOURNEY'S END
 by
 R. C. SHERRIFF

WHGS PREFECTS 1913-1914

NEILL G.W.	
HUMPHRIES C.A.	ROBERTS H.
BRIGGS R.W.	ROYCE E.H.
PALMER W.H.	GOODWIN I.D.

KILLED IN ACTION 1914-1915

PALMER W.H.	HUMPHRIES C.A.
ROBERTS H.	ELLIOTT C.M.W.
ROYCE E.H.	HOLMES J.W.
GOODWIN I.D.	IMMIS I.
NEILL G.W.	

It is good to see how many, such as L. McCloy, I. Cope, A. Sharples, J. Flannigan, D. West, and J. Stogsdill had made their first appearance on stage in this play.

The term came to an end on a high note for us as we won the House Music Competition by a comfortable margin. Whilst all was well-organised by A. Hogben and excellently presented by N. Taylor and J. Symms, disaster struck on the day as Hogben bruised his fingers badly in an accident. Nevertheless, with two fingers in tape, he still managed to play the piano. There was some excellent singing by N. F. Taylor—"Linden Lea"—and N. Haggerty—"The Snowman", and very good contributions from J. Greenhowe and R. J. Ketteridge (clarinet), M. Ogier (organ and piano) whilst S. Ogier played his own composition on the cello and M. Hulston made his contribution on the trombone. It was pleasing to note the extent to which Taylor and Hogben had taken note of the advice of last year's judges and stage-managed the whole performance well.

Midsummer Term

E. A. Bembridge, N. J. Hall, M. P. Grey, D. P. Stogsdill, N. F. Taylor, M. Sowerby, M. T. R. Jones and Y. Jethani were appointed House Prefects.

Our weak Senior Knockout team went out in the first round with only N. Hussein making a distinctive contribution. Whilst the Juniors easily disposed of a very weak Heywood side in the first round, Hill scoring 50, we were no match for Dalton. At one stage M. Rhodes and S. Dearden looked set to give us a fair score, but Rhodes needlessly got out when he was going well. Dearden looked full of promise and batted well. However, our bowlers fed the left-handed Wood generously down his leg side and Dalton easily knocked off the runs.

The big triumph came on Athletics Sports Day, despite the absence of our best runner, who, as expected, did not turn up. Our strength lay in the middle school in the fourth year in particular where M. Wilson won the individual trophy and J. Cooney revealed that he is the fastest boy in the school over 100m. Our success was thanks to the organisation of the Juniors by M. Wilson and the Seniors by M. T. R. Jones. Our thanks go to those Seniors who made their invaluable contributions in making up the relay teams. We were a bit weak in the third year. Only A. Sharples who won the 400m, the Discus (establishing new records for both) and came second in the Triple Jump and A. Sunderland who won the High Jump (establishing a new record) did well. In the fourth year sprints over 100m and 200m Byrom took the first three places with J. Cooney, K. Blackshaw and N. Pagan in each race. J. Cooney established a new School record in the 100m. These three runners also established a new record in the 100m relay. M. Wilson won the 800m and J. Greenhowe came third. In the 1500m I. Ellis came second. K. Blackshaw established a new record in winning the shot and M. Wilson won the Long Jump and gained first place in the Triple Jump with D. Hayles coming third. In the end Byrom won the competition by 11 points.

A major contribution to the House has been the highly successful and active tuck shop. The work of W. E. Huckenfull and his group has been taken over and developed with a vengeance by the middle school boys. Excellent work has been done by M. Wilson, D. West, J. Greenhowe, A. Sharples, P. Patel and others. Sadly it has also brought problems of the individual or few, who undermine the good work of the rest. Nevertheless, the thanks of all the House go to this group for their activities.

Towards the end of the Summer term a group of Byrom boys went on a trip to London with Mr Blight, a new sort of venture. Traffic was bad and Mr Blight missed the turn-off for Dagenham and only brilliant orienteering (or ability to read a road map) by John Greenhowe enabled us to reach the Beacon Youth Centre. After demanding of the Warden "Syd" why London hadn't yet got decent road signs, Mr Blight further "wound him up" by implying we had forgotten his cherished "Black puddens". Syd implied we could go right back home—at least that was the "gist of what he said."

Soon the group recovered from fatigue and played pool, snooker and table-tennis—then football—till 2.00 a.m., after which we retired to bed, some to sleep—perchance to dream—the rub being the discovery that Ian Cope talks in his sleep and this has brought revolutionary evidence for Psychiatry. What he said about his teachers cannot be printed, but it has been recorded on tape and cassettes will be on sale in November (£25 each). A comparison with his timetable on Friday reveals that he dreams in sequence at fast speed throughout the school day, further discrediting Freud's ideas in the "Interpretation of Dreams". His reaction to having cold water poured on him to wake him up was to start moving his arms in a swimming motion. Whether this is open to Pavlov's interpretation depends upon whether, at this stage of his sub-conscious, he had reached his swimming lessons with Mr Seddon or if it was that of Freud—he was courting a mermaid!

Mike Wilson soon proved himself the most competent of cooks and skilful of egg breakers. But his talents were wasted on Neil Haggerty, who, it transpires, is now living entirely on Rice Krispies in an attempt to preserve his beautiful singing voice. Who knows, he might yet be the originator of "Snack" and "Crackle" music in addition to Pop. We journeyed to Barking, which John Greenhowe insisted was the main town on the Isle of Dogs and once we'd persuaded Martin Buttkeireit that the Underground was not a subversive left-wing organisation, we travelled to Madame Tussaud's. Here we avoided queueing by assimilating a group of Turks to our party. Nobody was able to resolve the question as to whether Matthew Rhodes talks to himself or mistook wax-work figures for reality. He certainly seemed upset at his failure to chat up Marilyn Monroe. After a brief stimulating visit to the British Museum, certain members of the group finally gave up their attempts to persuade Mr Blight to take them on a tour of Soho. Mark Kershaw led a futile hunt to find a skate-board shop. As we returned to join the others, we were passed by a group of cockney kids skate-boarding down the middle of Oxford Street. John Greenhowe now decided to take over navigation of the group. Subterranean conditions disorientated his orienteering and he charged confidently down the stairs on to a tube train which was presumably on the Circle Line as that would be the most appropriate description of our movements for the next half hour.

As with IB's History trip, the most popular place was Syd's Youth Club. After roast chicken and chips the third year boys took on the fourth year at soccer. Once Mr Blight joined the younger side, and, in spite of Mike Wilson's deliberately kicking the ball full blast into his face, a deficit was rapidly reversed and the third years ran out winners in extra time 47 goals to 26.

Near crisis developed later as it looked as if Mike Wilson might actually beat Syd at Snooker. Syd's usual trick of saying "I'll put *your* ten on," and then moving his own score, failed, as experience of their House Master leads all Byrom boys not to trust anybody. If Wilson won would we ever be allowed back at the Beacon again? To my relief Syd won. By ten points.

On the Sunday after breakfast everybody "mucked in" splendidly. Syd wanted to know when we were coming again and commented "You know you haven't had to even raise your voice to one of 'em the whole week-end". We thank Syd for his generosity as he had given us free use of the club for this week-end. Many of the party had "earned" this trip by their excellent work in the Tuck Shop. Thence to Covent Garden where the amusing knife-throwing act was just starting. After this we dispersed to watch other acts and enjoy the multifarious shops, crafts and activities on display. Finally the long drive home from London and the end of an exhilarating, if exhausting, week-end. (Author's note—any resemblance of this account to the truth is coincidental).

From this term Mr N. Veevers has been officially appointed Deputy-House Master of Byrom and we are grateful to him for the help he has given running lunch-hour soccer and coaching the juniors at Lacrosse.

Finally a particular word of thanks goes to W. E. Hockenfull, the Head of House and C. Chow an outstanding deputy and other Senior boys. It has been an excellent year and once again there has been invaluable leadership and enthusiasm from the Senior boys.

A. M. B.

DALTON HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

At the beginning of the Term, three boys were confirmed as School Prefects—B. J. Bennett, who was also appointed Head of House, C. A. Willott, who was also Senior Knockout rugby captain, and R. J. B. Naylor. Other Upper Sixth House Prefects were S. N. J. Roffey (School rugby, athletics and CCF), P. J. Rogers (School badminton,

athletics and House lacrosse), N. S. Herbert (School rugby, House lacrosse and athletics), M. S. Davies (School and House drama, House rugby). Later in the Term, also appointed were J. E. Mackereth (School rugby and CCF) and N. J. Ridings (School rugby, cricket, swimming and House lacrosse). Lower Sixth House Prefects were A. Pilling (School rugby, Stage Staff and House lacrosse), P. D. Higginbottom (School rugby, lacrosse, athletics), G. Mullins (School lacrosse, cricket and House rugby) and, later D. M. Berman (School and House rugby).

We welcomed into the House seventeen boys from the Junior School into the Third Form, and N. Retter and O. J. Garside from other Schools. Also, thirteen boys returned to the Sixth Form, together with three new boys, J. M. Wilkin, P. M. Siodmok and S. I. Dar.

We had anticipated that our Senior League rugby side would be weak, especially in the forwards. The main strengths were going to be in J. E. Mackereth as captain and wing forward and N. J. Ridings as vice captain and fly half. Both had experience of School rugby in the past. Up to half term, we had won two matches and lost three, although the only heavy defeat was to Byrom. Besides the two players mentioned above, we had excellent performances from A. Pilling, a confident and hard-tackling full back, who later, deservedly, joined the School squad, and R. L. Jones, who distributed the ball well from scrum half and harassed and tackled well in open play. The second XIII, captained by M. W. Dean, played well when they had a full team, and won two matches, although they also suffered two heavy defeats. After half term, loss of players to the School squad, and shortages through injury, illness and university interviews meant that we had little opportunity to shine at first team level, and were not always able to raise a second team. Despite lack of success, I was pleased with the overall effort and determination, although poor tackling was a major failing. Many fifth years played regularly in the first team and worked hard, and the few sixth years who had any experience encouraged the rest of the team.

The Senior Knockout side, under the leadership of C. A. Willott and S. N. J. Roffey, was grossly underpractised. School team commitments were given as excuses, but the senior boys should have been able to organise themselves, and others, better. In our first round match against Gaskell, some players failed to totally commit themselves in the first half, and we seldom worked as a team. In the second half, Roffey's forward prompting helped us start better, but the loss of Pilling at full back, through injury, was a major blow. A mistake from the replacement full back, when we could have come back into the game, cost us dearly, and we lost to the eventual winners.

A. C. Cunningham was appointed Junior Knockout captain and, although we had few School players, twenty boys came out two or three lunchtimes a week for coaching with the House Master and House Prefects. Enthusiasm was shown, but it was realised that, with only two tall strong players, we again lacked the strength to do well. In our first match, against Gaskell, our forwards seldom won the ball, and hence our backs did not receive the service they needed. The opposition, in contrast, were tall and strong, and, although we never gave up, we suffered a heavy defeat.

In the Raymond Cox rugby VII's, our three Senior sides had four players absent on the day. Carelessness spoilt the first team results, and Dalton only managed one win.

Our Junior rugby captains were A. D. Rose (fourth years) and A. C. Baron (third years). Our fourth year team had a few strong, if not particularly skilful, players, but they did not always have the belief in their own ability. Strangely, they often did better when the captain was lost to the squad. They won most of their games, often played well together and finished second in the league. I feel, however, that they had enough ability to win the league. The third years were often short of players through absence, but put in many fine performances. I was pleased that all contributed to teamwork, without there being any stars. With determination, they could do well next year.

Although we did not win any trophies, teamwork was much in evidence during the term. All boys must ensure that they put their mind to the task in hand on every occasion, not just one some occasions, and the more Senior boys must set the example to the rest of the team. Thanks to a willing group of helpers (including a Heywood "import"), we re-started a tuck shop and raised money for future projects. The commencement of weekly House assemblies also helped to bring unity to the House.

M. D. Wood

Lent Term

The following appointments were made:—

Lacrosse Captains: (Senior Knockout) R. L. Jones (Senior League), C. A. Willott, N. J. Ridings (Junior Knockout), A. C. Cunningham

Swimming Captains: R. Y. Segal, C. J. Hyland, O. J. Garside

House Play Producer: M. Hargreaves

A large number of events in a short term ensured much participation from most boys in the House. Organising competitors into the appropriate teams was difficult, and practices did not always work out as they should have done. As an innovation this term, U.S. lacrosse coaches were sponsored by Dalton and trained different groups during lunch-time sessions.

In the Senior lacrosse league, our midfield contained three from P. D. Higginbottom, C. A. Willott, N. J. Ridings and R. G. Boswell. Our strength lay in this department, for each worked hard for the team, both feeding the attack well and helping the defence. Goals came regularly in the early games, either through the individualism of Ridings or through good passing to a mobile attack player. All matches were won convincingly until the final match

against Gaskell. Carelessness lost us this game, and the opportunity to win the League outright. As it was, we had to be content with sharing it. The second team always produced a full side, and, led by B. J. Bennett, showed a great deal of spirit in maintaining a 100% record, and winning their trophy.

In the Senior Knockout, Dalton were drawn against a strong Heywood side. Team practice was essential, but this was not forthcoming. The talent in our side was supplemented with enthusiasm, and, with two England Under 19 goalkeepers, and other School players, we should have been strong enough to beat Heywood. However, the team did not play well together, and goals did not look like coming frequently enough. After many years in our possession, the Senior Flags were conceded too easily. The Junior Knockout team, without much experience, played Gaskell, and started well, holding the lead at half time. The strength of captain Cunningham helped produce individual goals, but, again, the teamwork was not forthcoming. Near the end, Gaskell scored four without reply, and we lost by two goals.

The Hewlett Cup 6-a-side tournament was played in heavy rain and thick mud. The Senior teams appeared to be strong, with three good goalkeepers, although goalscoring talent was short. The first team was too complacent in their second match, and did not reach the final, as they should. Only the third team won each match, including the Final, and played well together. One other team reached a Final, while a Third year team scored seven goals in their first match, only to lose the second! We finished third in the tournament.

The pool was in use too often to allow practice for the Inter-House Swimming Competition, but the respective year captains prepared their teams, spreading the participants amongst the individual and the relay teams. We gained a good selection of finalists from the Heats, including seven of our ten third years, and four of the six relay teams. In the Finals, we gained one first place and three other second places in the Relay Competition, and finished joint first with Heywood. The individuals went one better, with wins for C. J. Hyland, T. B. Veitch, O. J. Garside and S. M. Jones. We won the trophy for the Individual Competition comfortably.

Practices had taken place for the Road Relay Competition, but the three teams of four were to contain many runners who were only of average ability. Two very good runs came from N. T. Wood, who was second in his year group, and R. A. Mody, who pulled up five places. Our final position, however, was only fifth.

The end of Term saw the culmination of a lot of hard work in the production of the House Play. Producer M. Hargreaves had chosen a Harold Pinter play "Mountain Language", and had rehearsed for a long time to gain the right atmosphere on the stage and the right expressions from the actors. Everything was perfect on the night, except for one hitch in a tape recording. That did not spoil an otherwise excellent performance. We received a very good write-up and were highly commended by several staff. Hence we were very disappointed only to receive runners-up position.

M. D. Wood

Midsummer Term:

The following appointments were made:—

Cricket Captains: Senior Knockout—N. J. Ridings

Junior Knockout—N. T. Wood

Temporary School Prefects: P. D. Higginbottom, A. Pilling

The two major events of a short Term were the Athletics Sports and the Cricket Knockouts. Daily practices were arranged in order to finalise entries for the athletics competition, and much enthusiasm was shown, especially from the Third Year group, where there appeared to be useful talent. At the Senior age group, we were to rely heavily on the Upper Sixth boys, and it was pleasing to see that all who were required returned to School for Sports Heats. In these two groups, we gained a large number of finalists for Sports Day, but only two entries qualified from the Fourth Years. Our finalists in the Senior age group were disrupted because of a clash with the Cricket Final. Again, all the Seniors required did return, and our entry looked useful. However, only two 1st places arose, both from S. N. J. Roffey, who won both the Senior High Jump and Triple Jump. Our relay teams did better, with the 3rd year 4 x 100m team finishing 1st and the 4 x 400m team finishing 2nd. Our Senior 4 x 100m team were disappointed to only come 2nd, having been beaten by a strong Heywood team. Eventually, Dalton finished 3rd in the competition, and said goodbye to several who had contributed much to our athletics—Roffey, C. A. Willott, N. S. Herbert, and P. J. Rogers.

Vice Captain of the School 1st XI, N. J. Ridings, was our Senior Knockout cricket captain, and we had four other School players. In our 1st Round match against Fraser, half centuries from our captain and from R. W. Goodall enabled us to declare at 193-1 after 24 overs. Excellent bowling from Ridings and M. Kapoor helped to dismiss the opposition for 38. Our next match saw Byrom bat first, and our batting and fielding was a little more ragged. We needed to score just over 100 to win, and our openers knocked off the runs, for a 10 wicket win. The Final, after being postponed because of bad weather, clashed with Sports Day, and players had to frequently leave and return to the field. This disrupted our teamwork against a strong Gaskell side, who batted first. The bowling of the experienced Ridings and I. A. Brassell was not as good as in the past, but a score of 182 was beatable. For the first time, our leading batsmen failed, and we struggled all the way, finishing with a score of 140. The major difference in the teams was that Gaskell's inexperienced players contributed more than did ours.

Our Junior Knockout captain, N. T. Wood, opened the batting for the School 1st XI, and was top run scorer—and that from a third year! In our first match, against Byrom, good bowling from the captain and from C. J. Hyland helped to dismiss them for 103, and Wood's 49 not out helped us to a nine wicket victory. This Final was also against Gaskell. Batting first, we lost our captain in the first over, never to recover fully, and only two players reached double figures in a total of 71 all out. Gaskell's openers scored well, until both were dismissed in quick succession and wickets fell quickly. Further consolidation helped them edge towards the target, until O. J. Garside took three good catches, and eight wickets were down. We gained no more, however, and lost by two wickets.

Despite a talented Upper Sixth group, Dalton managed to win little this year, finishing second best too often. Trophies will only be won if next year's House members show determination and work together. Best wishes for the future to all leavers.

M. D. Wood

GASKELL HOUSE

Head of House:	J. A. Humm
School Prefects:	J. A. Humm, M. C. McNeany, J. E. Roden, P. J. Wilson, I. R. Jordan
House Prefects:	C. A. Lombard, M. R. Clive, S. P. H. Larkin, C. M. Brown, A. P. Daley, P. J. Fleming, M. E. Burrows, M. L. Ellis, S. Oliver, B. C. Savage
Boys nominated to be i/c House activities:	
Rugby:	J. A. Humm
Swimming:	J. R. Jordan
Lacrosse:	A. Rash
Cricket:	I. R. Jordan
Athletics & Cross	
Country:	P. J. Wilson & J. A. Humm
Tennis:	J. E. Roden
Play:	E. S. Mehlman
Music:	C. A. Lombard

After such a disastrous year in 1987/88 it is refreshing to see such a change in the approach to all activities by the members of Gaskell House.

In the Autumn Term, to win the Senior and Junior K.O. finals and the House league at Senior level was a fantastic achievement, and has put everyone in the correct frame of mind to go on and win the other events throughout the year.

Firstly, however, we must deal with the Senior final of the Rugby K.O. Competition. This, without any shadow of doubt, was the best inter-house match that I have ever seen at School. The speed and skills shown were of the highest standard and improved as the match progressed. We were 10 nil down at half time which really did not give a true reflection of the game. We certainly did not deserve to be that far behind. Unfortunately we gave their backs just a little too much room and Chudleigh exploited this to run over a try half way through the first half to give Heywood a substantial lead.

McNeany then decided to get a captain's grip of the game and gave the team some sound advice on how the game was going to be won. Obviously we were to put the brakes on the Heywood backs. Our forwards were winning their battle, but we were making silly mistakes and giving Heywood possession. A tighter grip on Partington and Chudleigh would make all the difference. This we did. Our tackles became harder and Heywood were glad to get rid of the ball. We had heeded some sound advice and were now going at Heywood with all guns firing, and gained a penalty which was superbly taken by Ian Jordan. Our heads were off the floor now and the game was ours for the taking. Larkin made a fantastic interception in our own half and ran the length of the pitch to score an incredible try which was converted by Jordan. We were now just one point behind, with just under ten minutes to play. Heywood battled like demons to try and hang on to their slim lead, and I thought they were going to do it. We were in injury time and were pushing hard for the Heywood line when the ball was whipped back to Ian Jordan who was just behind the ruck. In a flash he found space and decided to try and drop a goal. Needless to say, it sailed sweetly between the posts and that was the final kick of the game. Gaskell had won a thriller 12 points to 10. Well done Gaskell!

The Lent Term has been a continuation of the Autumn Term as far as Gaskell House is concerned. In the league Lacrosse programme our Senior team is still unbeaten and our 3rd Year team look to be the champions of the future. Our 4th Year boys are not so bad either, and they are pushing hard for the league championships which at the time of writing still has three weeks to run. Our future in the sporting world really does look rosy, which in itself is a very pleasant situation to be in, after such a dismal time last year.

We have now completed the double in the House K.O. Lacrosse competition. Our games in the Junior K.O. were against Heywood 2nd then Dalton, with the final against Byrom.

This game was played on a mud pitch, and in fact I was a little surprised that the game was played at all, but with such a short term, and so much to be crammed into it, a postponement was out of the question.

We had a disastrous start to the game, and in no time at all we were four goals down. This was a sorry state of affairs as we had only had three shots at goal in the first two quarters. Some strong words were required at half time. A transformation was required and that was exactly what happened. We attacked the Byrom goal continuously and made up for lost time in the shooting stakes. In bringing the match to 4-4 in the third quarter we actually hit the woodwork five times. The game had come to life as far as Gaskell was concerned, and we were taking advantage of the situation. From the start of the last quarter Byrom ran away and scored making it 5-4 Byrom. However, we kept hammering away at the Byrom end and I felt that it was only a matter of time before we scored and that the game would go to extra time.

This did not happen. We scored the equaliser with about five minutes to go, and straight from the face scored again to give us a 6-5 lead. We needed only to keep possession from them, but with our tails up we continued to attack the Byrom goal until the end. This was an excellent team performance by all concerned, and it means that Lacrosse is well alive in Gaskell for a few years to come.

Senior Lacrosse K.O. competition—Bye Rnd 1. Rnd 2 was against Byrom, and the final against Heywood.

The way to the final via Dalton and Whitworth was not easy, two very good games which should have left us with a showpiece final. However, because of injuries on both sides this game did not live up to expectations. To be quite honest Gaskell were much too strong for Heywood and the result was a forgone conclusion by half time. The final result was 12-4 Gaskell.

Well played Gaskell. Our next objective is the Hewlett Cup. Let us go out and win it!

House League—Lacrosse

The House league has now been completed. The positions in all year groups are as follows:—

1st Team	1. Gaskell 2. Dalton 3. Byrom 4. Fraser 5. Heywood 6. Whitworth	4th Year	1. Gaskell 2. Heywood 3. Byrom 4. Whitworth 5. Fraser 6. Dalton
2nd Team	1. Dalton 2. Whitworth 3. Byrom 4. Fraser 5. Heywood 6. Gaskell	3rd Year	1. Whitworth 2. Gaskell 3. Byrom 4. Heywood 5. Fraser 6. Dalton

Having won the 1st Team competition quite convincingly it was disappointing to see how our 2nd team failed. I feel this was a lack of commitment and I expect more effort in the future. Our 4th Year boys did well to win their division, and it was pleasing to see our 3rd Year boys showing so much promise. Keep it up Gaskell!

Summer Term

The Summer Term was going to be the decider as far as Gaskell were concerned. We have already won the Rugby K.O. at both Senior and Junior level, likewise the Lacrosse. All games having been very keenly contested. Now it was the cricket season and a great deal of effort was required to win this. Some of the other Houses were quite confident that we would be toppled at the final hurdle.

The Junior final was the one which actually gave us most concern when we came up against Dalton, who had Nathan Wood opening their batting and who had been in terrific form all season. Lambert, however, decided that he was not having any of this, and in his first over bowled an almost unplayable ball and bowled Wood off his pads. Gaskell players were so elated about this dismissal that it put them right on top, and they played like champions for the rest of the game, beating Dalton comfortably.

The Senior final was also a Dalton-Gaskell affair, and yet again a keenly contested match. We were always fairly confident that we could win this one, and we did. This brought our year to a most satisfactory conclusion, having won all K.O. at Senior and Junior level. Well done, Gaskell, an excellent year. Now that we have won the trophies let us set about keeping them in the coming year, and in fact adding a few more such as the House plays and music competition trophies.

J. F. Chudleigh

HEYWOOD HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

Appointments:

Head of House: C. J. H. Chudleigh

Deputy Head of House: Judith C. Doney

School Prefects: C. J. H. Chudleigh, Judith C. Doney, Tamsin C. Wakefield, N. J. Whitworth

House Prefects: J. W. Babicki, Maria H. Drumer, N. A. M. Ginger, A. J. Hall, M. C. Johnson, Adrienne C.

Mallinson, G. L. Owen, D. A. Peglion, A. S. Postill, D. J. Rathbone, Tamsin C. Wakefield, N. J. Whitworth

Senior Knockout Captain: C. J. H. Chudleigh

Junior Knockout Captain: P. A. Sutcliffe

1st XV Captain: N. A. M. Ginger

2nd XIII Captain: J. Y. Sheikh

4th Form League Captains: N. M. Samuels/D. P. Simons

3rd Form League Captain: S. A. Sufi

The term commenced with the usual House Meeting to select games options. The four girls in the House were pleased to see the introduction of hockey as a major sport and immediately opted for this. With eight rugby squad members and five permanently excused rugby, the remaining 32 senior lads in Heywood all played rugby at some point during the term.

No sooner had the first XV begun to take shape when we lost a further three backs with long-term injuries—which did nothing to help the understanding within the team. However, despite winning only two games all term, we went very close in several matches, played with true determination and seemed to enjoy the games. Nick Ginger made an excellent captain and second-row, Gavin Owen worked tirelessly in the pack, Justin Abrahams produced some splendid kicks and even wittier match reports and Peter Gallagher showed dogged determination and is undoubtedly a player for the future.

The second XIII fared even worse. Hardly a week went by without players from the seconds being transferred to the firsts to cover illness and absence. I am indebted to Javed Sheikh for his excellent captaincy and dedication. Leading a team of only seven or eight players on occasions cannot be easy. Our only success was a walkover early in the term but despite lack of numbers, we always produced a side and showed good spirit in the face of many heavy defeats.

The Senior Knockout and Raymond Cox Sevens were to prove much more rewarding for Heywood. In the Knockout, after a bye in round one, we met Fraser. We anticipated Fraser's pack might be too strong for us, but good close forward play and resolute tackling helped to set up Heywood's backs to run in several excellent tries and a winning margin 24-9. The final, against Gaskell, was to be a different matter. Heywood played the first half with a strong wind in their favour. After good three-quarters play, Giles Davison scored a splendid try, which was converted, and the Heywood backs looked as though they would take control of the game. However an injury to Simon Hayes, playing at centre, meant Nik Stoker moving from flanker to wing, and a good deal of mobility was lost from the pack. Chris Chudleigh scored a good solo try and Heywood led 10-0 at half-time. The second half proved very testing for Heywood. Gaskell scored from a penalty early in the half and then their fullback, Larkin, scored a magnificent try, running the length of the field from his own 22. With only one point difference in score the crowd were beginning to get carried away—rumour has it that Gaskell's House Master, Mr Chudleigh, was heard at one stage to yell, 'Come on, Heywood!' On several occasions Gaskell came within inches of scoring a try but desperate defending kept them out. As time seemed up Gaskell won possession from a five-yard scrum and Ian Jordan dropped a tremendous goal to give them the cup. The Heywood players were obviously very dejected but can look back on having played in one of the best finals in years. Colours were awarded to the entire team for their sterling efforts.

Our one major success of the term, in senior rugby, was the Raymond Cox Sevens. Because of an interview Chris Chudleigh, who had just been appointed School rugby captain, was unavailable. However, this absence was not to prove costly as Heywood still had a strong first seven and a good second seven. However, the highlight of the day was the performance of the third team which astonished everyone by winning their three matches without conceding a point against. Inspirational captaincy by Nick Ginger enabled the four backs, all fifth years, to run in several excellent tries. Victories against Gaskell and Dalton in the pool and Whitworth in the final contributed to one half of our success. The second team played badly in their first match, losing to Byrom, and then lost 16-14 to Gaskell after leading 14-0. This last result meant the first team, who had beaten Dalton and Whitworth in the pool, had to beat Gaskell in the final to win the trophy. In a close match Heywood eventually came out ahead 30-16. Colours were awarded to players from the first and third teams.

The fourth form league provided some very interesting matches and rather mixed results. For the first two weeks I managed to watch the second halves and on both occasions we lost. In the following weeks, without my guidance, Heywood made vast improvements and won all but one of their remaining matches to finish second in the league.

The Junior Knockout proved less rewarding. Heywood were drawn against a very strong Gaskell side and, despite good approach play early in the game, the longer the match went on the more inevitable the result was going to be. Gaskell won 21-4 and it did not surprise too many people to see them eventually win the trophy.

The third year league started late in the term with some very mixed performances by Heywood. We did win one match but also suffered several heavy defeats.

The tuck shop continued its work in feeding the starving masses and raising funds for the House. John Sherratt kindly offered to act as manager and deserves credit, along with many dedicated helpers, for running a very efficient 'business'. Proceeds provided many ten-pin bowling trips, a meal out for the House Prefects, a trip to Blackpool for the tuck shop workers, further lacrosse equipment and six rugby shirts for House use—although the girls liked them so much that they promptly borrowed them to play hockey in!

Overall it was a pleasing start to the year and my first term as House Master. I must thank Alan Simkin, not only for leaving the House so well provided for and in such excellent spirit, but for all the background help and advice given during the term.

Les Sharp

Lent Term

Appointments:

Senior Knockout Captain: C. J. H. Chudleigh

Junior Knockout Captain: M. A. Bratt

1st X Captain: G. L. Owen

2nd X Captain: J. Y. Sheikh

4th Form League Captains: N. M. Samuels, A. A. Babicki

3rd Form League Captain: S. H. Copsey

With Mock A levels in the second week of term, the term began with the temporary appointments of Lower Sixth House Prefects, under the control of Andrew Edwards as acting Head of House and Andrew Partington as Deputy, to allow the Upper Sixth to concentrate on their exams. On the first Tuesday games session Mr Simkin took Heywood's Fifth and Lower Sixth lacrosse players, selected two teams, and predicted we would have two very capable and competitive sides in the senior leagues. Alarming, the First X, probably due to ill-discipline on the field and lack of support for the attackers, managed to finish last. The Second X were more successful and finished a creditable third. Heywood girls continued to play hockey and, judging by the enthusiasm shown on the pitch, it is definitely a very popular option for both the girls and boys.

In the fourth form league, maybe because the House has a good supply of helmets and gloves, Heywood fought several close games and finished fourth. The third years were not particularly strong but tried hard and it was very pleasing to see Simon Copsey insisting that the team should practice after their games period. My thanks also go to Rik Hardman, Giles Davidson, Nick Ginger and several other seniors for coaching the juniors.

The first round draw for the Junior Knockout paired us with Gaskell. We were never more than one goal behind until the final quarter when we conceded two very silly goals and lost 8-5.

In the Senior Knockout Heywood reached the final; after straightforward victories over Dalton and Fraser, we lost 11-3 to Gaskell. However, colours were awarded to the team for their commitment and dedication.

The House Swimming proved to be rather infuriating. None of the third years qualified for the finals and there was limited success for the fourths and seniors, mainly due to absences. However, despite coming last in the individuals, we shared the relay competition with Dalton. The fourth years won both the squadron and the medley and the seniors won the squadron after Chris Chudleigh, who was injured, turned up to spectate and decided to swim when he saw we were a man short. This gesture was absolutely typical of Chris's commitment to the House and fortunately he suffered no reaction from the injury. House Colours were awarded to the winning relay teams.

The Hewlett Cup, as usual, was keenly contested and Heywood finished fourth overall, although we had hoped to do better despite the appalling conditions.

The real disaster of the term had to be the Road Relay Race. After very good running from Tom Howard in the third year and Chris Mills and Martin Bratt in the fourth year, the Seniors managed to drop to sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth places with times that were abysmal. We have to do better than this in future.

Tamsin Wakefield, early in the year, set to work on choosing a play to produce. She chose 'Shall We Join The Ladies?' by J. M. Barrie and worked tirelessly to overcome many problems before the week of the performance. With sixteen parts to find actors for, many of the cast involved with other School activities and two very short half-terms the determination to succeed was very pleasing. The play was placed joint fourth and Yad Singh, Matt Booth, Simon Moran and Tamsin for acting, and Dave Rathbone and Martin Johnson for props, were awarded Colours.

For the last few years the House has been fairly strong in music. Adrienne Mallinson and Joe Babicki volunteered to coordinate the Heywood entry. Unfortunately Joe was unable to take part, due to interview, and despite good efforts we finished fourth. I was very pleased to see many of the younger members of the House taking part particularly as performing in front of a large audience of friends can be very daunting. The judges provided many useful comments and were particularly pleased to see Andrew Babicki playing an accordian. Adrienne, Andrew and Jason Samuels were awarded Colours.

Once again I am indebted to Mr Simkin, not only for all the sound advice given but, for deputising for me in my absence.

Les Sharp

Summer Term

Appointments:

Senior Knockout Captain: A. S. Partington

Junior Knockout Captain: P. A. Sutcliffe

Athletics Captain: A. J. Edwards

With A-levels only a few weeks away, the Upper Sixth were excused duties and the entire Lower Sixth were made up to be temporary House Prefects. Andrew Edwards was given the role of acting Head of House with Andrew Partington as deputy, and these two were selected to be temporary School Prefects. We were also very pleased to welcome Mr Michael Gracey, as my deputy. He will be a great asset to Heywood in future. He ran the House very successfully during my absence.

House games for the term took on a less formal look. With the Fifth and Upper Sixth Formers left to concentrate on exams, some of the better sportsmen were given the option of minority sports that they do not often have the chance to play in School.

The Senior Knockout saw us beat Whitworth comfortably in the first round only to find a very strong Gaskell side as our next opponents. Heywood batted first and struggled to reach 101 all out. Chris Chudleigh scored very well but eventually ran out of partners when he was in the forties. However, Gaskell also found it very hard going. In a very tense finish Heywood just failed to break the partnership of the last pair and Gaskell reached 102-9 with one delivery to spare.

The Junior Knockout saw little resistance from Heywood and we were easily beaten by a stronger Byrom side.

For a change, the Manchester weather seemed ideal for cricket and both the Third and Fourth years managed to play a considerable amount. Matches were played over two weeks, with an innings for each team in alternate games sessions. The final positions, in leagues, are impractical to work out as not every House played each other. What was very pleasing to hear was the enjoyment and commitment these games generated.

The rain even managed to stay away from Sports Heats and Sports Day. Heywood fielded competitors in all the Heats and I was particularly pleased by the willing response of many House members to enter events even though they had little chance of winning. The only way to win the Athletics is to have as many qualifiers as possible for the finals. One of our finest athletes, Chris Chudleigh, was on interview on Sports Day so we used him to make up numbers in the Heats. Not surprisingly, this 'makeweight' qualified for three finals!, but his absence, along with two other Upper Sixth formers, left us with only Lower Sixth and Fifth Formers on Sports Day. However, seven Fifth Formers qualified for finals and I was delighted by the dedication, to compete for the House, shown by these lads. Notable successes on Sports Day were: the 4 x 100m Senior relay team of Dom. Smith, Andy Edwards, Justin Abrahams and Giles Davidson, who knocked 1.5 seconds off the previous record; Lin Leadbetter won the Senior shot and discus; Nik Stoker second in Senior triple jump; Martin Bratt first in 150m and second in 800m, year 4; Shoaib Sufi first in javelin and second in shot, year 3; but, without doubt, the best performances of the day came from Julian Daniel, who broke records in the 100m, 200m, and long jump, to win the China Cup for the individual winner in the Third year. Despite coming second to Byrom, House colours were awarded to the above competitors, along with Rik Hardman, Senior; Phil Sutcliffe, year 4; and Simon Copsey, year 3. I am also extremely grateful to Mr Simkin for organising several lunchtime practices to establish our strongest team, to the organisers for each year—Andy Edwards, Martin Bratt and Simon Copsey, and to the Lower Sixth who helped with these practices.

The remaining events of note were social activities. Mr Gracey kindly agreed to lead the annual pilgrimage to Alton Towers and an enjoyable day was had by all. By contrast, the Upper Sixth House Prefects after their exams were invited to a barbecue at my house. On a beautiful warm evening, after eating a phenomenal amount of burgers and gateaux, the girls decided to organise team games on our lawn, causing our two cats to wonder what was happening. Neither the lawn nor the cats have looked the same since! This was promptly followed by our ever industrious deputy Head of House, Judith Doney, filling the small hole she found in the lawn with soil and grass. What she failed to realise was it was meant to be there for supporting the rotary washing pole! However, we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and it gave me the chance to thank them all for their endeavours this year. I hope in coming years they achieve the success they desire. They certainly served Heywood very well. They have been a marvellous example to the others in the House and it has been a great privilege for Mr Simkin and myself to work with them.

Les Sharp

WHITWORTH HOUSE

Michaelmas Term

The following appointments were confirmed at the beginning of the term:

Head of House: N. J. Vowles

Deputy Head of House: R. J. Clark and M. S. Shearer

Prefects: G. L. Armshaw, M. E. Beggs, A. D. Campbell, S. J. Cherry, T. K. Jones and A. J. Wolstencroft

The following House Prefects were also appointed during the term: D. R. Bryan, S. D. Hodes and R. I. Levene

The House welcomed many new members at the beginning of the year: H. A. F. Slack, like his brother two years ago, joined the School in the third year from the Ryleys School, Alderley Edge; we also were delighted to receive into Whitworth six sixth-form girls, namely N. Cross (from Hulme Hall), C. Venables (Manchester High School), S. N. Dickin (Withington Girls' School), K. A. McKinnon (Altrincham Girls' Grammar School), K. M. Adams (Hulme Grammar School, Oldham) and N. B. Khan (Whalley Range High School).

In last year's report I mentioned my optimism regarding the performance of Whitworth in the many and varied competitive activities which are organised on a House basis; we all felt our morale boosted by the addition of so many new and talented members and many of us felt that this year we would start to make our way towards becoming a major collector of House trophies. The new third-years seemed very lively and many had reputations for sporting skill and so my own confidence in the future was increased. The Michaelmas Term, however, is one for long-term planning (for the play, certainly, but also for the music competition), with rugby the sole competitive activity of the term.

As regards the third-years, I was quickly apprised of C. R. Jones's capacity for gaining the limelight when he told me of his forthcoming appearance on national television (the programme "Double Dare") but it soon became clear that not only he but also many others of his year were very talented rugby players. Their first game, against Heywood, was won 52-16 and then they beat Dalton 56-22. This set the tone for the rest of the season: the following game against Gaskell was won, although not so easily, but they then continued with resounding wins such as 50-4 against Fraser. A good fighting spirit was shown when Byrom looked like beating them at half-time, but they came back, helped by a well-earned try by A. R. Haber, to win 36-18. These results led to our third-year team winning the league trophy, no little compensation for failing, against a very strong Byrom team, to make it to the final of the junior knock-out. Apart from Jones, the chief points-earners were P. D. Warren (the captain) and S. J. Bookbinder. All three were awarded House Colours. The fourth-years, partners in the almost successful junior knock-out team, had a fine season too even though they did not quite manage to achieve a trophy—they came second in the league. Three early wins were not enough to build up their morale sufficiently to beat favourites Byrom; their best players were J. A. Chadwick, A. S. Mehta, D. J. Bourmad, B. J. Forshaw and L. Cawley, the highly reliable converter of tries.

At senior level the House again produced rugby of a standard which took us close to achieving trophies, but still not quite—yet. The season started with morale and expectations mainly low and these thoughts were underlined after losing two matches early on in the season. However the rest of the season was almost wholly successful; indeed a strong run of victories followed by defeat at the hands of Fraser left us only just short. The attitude of the players was most pleasing: we seemed to pick up round about the time when two fifth-formers, M. D. Bailey and D. A. Cooper, were drafted in from the second team. From this point on, everyone gave of his best. Our weakness was in the scrum in that we lacked weight, especially with the captain favouring a position on the back line. Because of this lack of size we did lose many of the scrums and the ones that we did win were often due to the excellent hooking of A. J. Wolstencroft. There were a number of good forwards, however, notably the powerful M. S. Shearer, who led by example, and the elusive P. J. Cassidy. The back line was useful and improved towards the end. At scrum-half, however, there was never really a consistent performer but C. S. Dean and S. P. Howell had their days. At fly half S. P. Harrington played excellently and his tactical kicking was useful on many occasions; he was also a fast runner and good passer. R. I. Levene and P. Bookbinder also played well in patches; one particularly remembers the latter's try against Gaskell, when he ran the length of the pitch. Bailey was probably the leading points scorer, due to his famous talent for conversions (a fame which had evidently not reached our unfortunate Headmaster, who idly offered a financial inducement on an occasion when the chance of the conversion being effected seemed remote). At full-back was the captain D. R. Bryan. His powerful running and hard tackling (on occasions a little high) spurred the team on to perform well. Throughout the season he led from the front and stimulated from his team the magnificent all-round performance which have already been alluded to. Little success was obtained in the Knockout, perhaps due to the notable absence of the team spirit which had so characterised the league team. In the Sevens we had some success, particularly with the second team (consisting of Bryan, Harrington, P. G. Hope, Wolstencroft, Cassidy, Dean and Howell. This team won both its pool matches but had to face Byrom in the final with only five players; one of its absentees had regrettably left early without good reason.

Head of House Nick Vowles had made attempts earlier in the term to initiate more social activities within the House: the first one to take off was the trip to Hulme House in Hardraw, especially designed to entertain sixth-formers. This was a success right from the start. We had no difficulty in attracting a minibus-full of Whitworthians, male and female, and everyone got on so well together that not even a wet weekend stood a chance of dampening the enthusiasm and healthy spirits of all. True, we had to cancel the projected ascent of Ingleborough, but we did manage to familiarise ourselves with parts of Hawes (and, at one stage, Kendall) that on several previous visits to Hardraw had not been discovered. At the very end of term a Christmas outing for prefects was arranged; this was a pleasant meal of Italian provenance, followed by a tour of sundry places of entertainment.

Lent Term

At the beginning of term we welcomed a new member, Anna Heaton, recently arrived from Hillcrest Secondary School, Nairobi, Kenya.

Simon Harrington was made a House Prefect midway through the term.

Two bad defeats for the senior team at lacrosse, one of them the first round of the Senior Knockout, made an ominous start to the season. While admitting the difficulty of doing well when there is an acute shortage of genuine

talent, it was a pity that the players did not meet beforehand for some effective practices or discussions of tactics. Again, one can make excuses such as that it is a crowded term with many conflicting interests (trial A levels and school squad practices, to name but two), but the fact remains that other Houses with similar numbers of weak lacrosse players can do better than us. The team we lost to in the first round of the Knockout (Dalton) had only three school squad players in it. As the season progressed the results improved, with occasional good wins, but the lesson to be drawn is that only with greater preparation shall we start to look like winning a trophy.

The Junior Knockout team had an emphatic win in the first round but failed to make it through to the final. Although we played well we lacked the ability to play as a team, something which our opponents (Byrom) has mastered. We had the players to win but were unable to score freely as Byrom's goalkeeper played exceptionally well. The defence, led by Anish Mehta, played well but were unable to stop Byrom on the break. Nicholas Holder and Jong Bin Kim, our most able players, were effectively stopped by a well-organised Byrom defence. Although we felt we dominated the match our lack of a strong goal-keeper made a big difference. After falling behind by three goals we seemed to lose interest and Byrom extended their lead to a 7-3 victory. The third years, who won the league trophy as they had done the previous term, were the most successful year group while the fourth-years saved their best efforts for the Hewlett Cup.

One of the greatest successes of our term was, to the surprise of many, on the lacrosse field. In a formidable display of responsibility and commitment the prefects and representatives of the various years organised the House into eight teams of six, adding up to at least fifty House members, for the Hewlett Cup competition. This was done so effectively and the matches played with such spirit, in truly appalling weather conditions, that Whitworth confounded all predictions and developed considerable pride in itself by just managing to beat Gaskell (by one point) to win the event. Notable successes within this competition were the two fourth-year teams and the fourth senior team.

We had a greater success in the swimming than many had expected, too: we were well represented in the finals and had several outstanding swimmers in Gareth Jameson, Claire Venables and Tony Foster, with many others just below that standard. Simon Harrington organised this most complicated of events with calm efficiency. In the relay finals we were only fourth but came equal second in the individual events—a vast improvement on last year.

The following day we set out to retain our hold of the cross-country running trophy, feeling somewhat at a disadvantage when it became apparent that Lee Cawley (the one truly excellent runner in our fourth-year team) was not in attendance at School on the day of the event. The third-years (Crispin Jones, Tony Foster and Steven Bookbinder) ran magnificently but our lead was reduced dramatically by our valiant, but less than top-rate, fourths. Matters were improved substantially by the next group which consisted of Patrick Cassidy, Gareth Jameson and Nick Stevenson. All three, but particularly Cassidy, ran brilliantly. By now we were in first place and more confident, considering that we had Robert Clark, Simon Harrington and Andrew Campbell to finish off the race with a win for Whitworth. Gaskell were very threatening, however, with J. A. Humm and J. E. Roden running strongly. Humm just beat Campbell to first place, but we had Clark very close behind and meanwhile Harrington fought well to make it up to seventh position.

Meanwhile Ashley Reece had been honing the House Play to near perfection in preparation for its performance on the night of 16 March. His efforts began the previous October. He had the expert guidance of Mrs Derham during the first stages of casting and initial rehearsals but then the whole cast were left entirely to their own devices until late February when, once again, Mrs Derham brought her watchful eye to the rehearsals. By this time lines had been learnt reasonably well by almost everyone, Dave Bryan had overcome certain inevitable weaknesses of the first-time actor and the finishing touches like programme design and publicity could be dealt with. By the date of performance everyone was confident that they had the makings of a winner, or, at least, that we should obtain a respectable ranking in the competition. In the event, we were given third place; the disappointment, after such sustained hard work and commitment in what was very much a team effort, was softened by outside comments to the effect that in many previous years it would have won the competition, but there happened to be two even better plays put on this time. Ashley's performance was outstanding as Henry Drake, but he was ably supported by all the others: Nicola Cross as Eileen Drake, Kathryn McKinnon as Mary, Dave Bryan as her husband Jim and Nasreen Khan as the librarian Miss Davidson.

Mike Shearer, assisted by N. Bhattacharjee and Paul Bookbinder, organised this year's musical evening. Nicholas Bhattacharjee's flute-playing was, as always, a highlight but other particularly strong memories are of the piano pieces by Mike Shearer and Daniel Moss, M. S. Shields's cello-playing and Purcell's "If music be the food of love", sung by Nicola Cross.

The Heaton Mersey Festival has, of course, no connection with the House, but it is pleasant to be able to record that three members performed creditably in the modern languages section of the competition: S. D. Williams (Spanish) and Simon Harrington (Spanish) won trophies, while Mike Shearer (French) won a second place certificate.

Summer Term

During the second week of this term, Simon Harrington was appointed Head of House, with Kathryn McKinnon and Tim Jones as his deputies.

The first event of the term was the first round of the Senior Knockout: a few well-attended practices were held, but not even the greatest of team spirits can replace genuine cricketing ability. Some of our players had not played cricket since the fourth year and consequently had difficulty in merely obtaining suitable clothing for the sport. We were defeated, of course, but only after we had accumulated a score which was reasonable considering our talents. David Cooper played particularly well and raised hopes for greater success next year.

The Junior Knockout team was a different matter. Against Fraser we scored 135 for 9 with Holder and Slack making 27 and 34 respectively. Many had expected third-former Perry Warren to be dominant in our batting but in fact he was dismissed without scoring. Moss and Williams also made useful contributions to our score. This strong team effort was followed by a good fielding performance as we held Fraser to 134. In the second round we met Gaskell and on a hot day scored 215 off our 35 overs. Warren was the main scorer with 119 not out, an excellent performance which made up for our disappointment over his first round failure. Most would have thought this score to be unbeatable but was not so: wayward bowling and two missing fielders, Moss and Smith, allowed Sochovsky to hit us for four almost at will.

Several athletics practices were arranged but we were repeatedly affected by poor weather and had to cancel most of them for this reason. Our poor preparation let us down, obviously, but so too did a general lack of ambition and will, particularly on the day of the finals. Several boys excelled however: of the seniors, Paul Bookbinder and Patrick Cassidy proved again to everyone that Whitworth have the best long-distance runners by winning the 1500 metres and the 800 metres respectively. We also took second place in the 400 metres relay, while Simon Harrington took second place behind Paul Bookbinder in the 1500 metres. In the senior field events we came second in the shot (Stephen Hodes) and in the high jump (Dave Bryan). Our best events in the fourth year were also in the field: Daniel Bourmad took first place in the discus while Ben Forshaw was disappointed to finish only second in the shot. A young man to look out for in the future is Steven Bookbinder (brother of Paul), who took first place in the third year 1500 metres and the javelin and second place in the 800 metres.

In August a party of nine boys, containing several guests from other Houses, took part in a House Cycling trip to Hardraw. Mr Gracey and Mr Moore assisted me in this venture, which entailed stowing eleven bikes in a minibus, catching two trains to Skipton, extracting said bikes and reassembling them and cycling up Wharfedale and Langstrothdale to Hardraw. Two days were then spent exploring the dale by bike and testing the dynamic capabilities of modern bicycle engineering, before returning to Skipton on the fourth day. All were agreed that it was, like last year's, a most successful tip. I should like to thank all boys concerned for making it so pleasant and, in particular, Gareth Knight and the aforementioned members of staff for their assistance in the organisation.

Fourteen boys left school in July and I should like to wish them all the best of luck for the future. Three of them were fifth-formers and their personalities and qualities will be much missed in the sixth-form: Jim Taylor (rugby captain in the fourth-year), Gareth Knight (ideas man and general factotum) and Nick Bhattacharjee (outstanding musician with other qualities only just starting to burgeon). The upper-sixth, ranging from the literate Julian Smith and the genial Dave Greenwood to sports-mad Robert Clark and creative-thinker Ray Neal, all made a memorable contribution to one of the House's most successful years for some time. My thanks are especially due to Nick Vowles, Mike Shearer, Rob Clark and Greg Armshaw for organisational and moral support over the past year.

The following have assisted me in the preparation of this report: Dave Bryan, Crispin Jones, Carl Moores, Marc Morrison, Perry Warren, Nicholas Williams and Jeremy Wolstencroft. I should also like to thank Jim Taylor and Andrew Campbell for donating to the House their sports equipment.

P. M. Bull

WHITWORTH HOUSE CYCLING TRIP TO HARDRAW SUMMER 1989

On Monday 31 July, the group of eleven cyclists and Mr Moore met at School between 5-6 p.m., to pack the minibus with all the bikes.

Day One: Tuesday, 1 August

The group of nine boys and Mr Bull all met at Piccadilly Station around 08-25. By now the minibus would be preparing for its journey to Skipton driven by Mr Gracey.

We all left from Manchester on time, and arrived in Leeds an hour or so later. We all changed trains and we were on the move 70 minutes later, heading for Skipton.

When we reached Skipton the bikes were unloaded from the minibus and all our clothes etc. were put in.

Then we were off, riding through beautiful Yorkshire countryside at various speeds, reaching 50 m.p.h. at some stages. We rode through places such as Grassington, Kettlewell and Buckden to name but a few. There was one mishap on route to Hawes, which befell M. Ogier, a puncture to his rear wheel—through toughie-tape!

The main group of riders arrived in Hawes around 4 p.m., followed an hour or so later by M. Ogier and a companion.

The evening was spent unpacking, cleaning and fixing the table tennis table, at which R. Avery seemed to be quite an expert. Mr Moore followed later, and added his usual spice to the proceedings.

Day Two: Wednesday, 2 August

We were all up early that morning, helped by the ever present Mr Moore.

A hearty breakfast was had by all and packed lunches were arranged.

We all set off around noon for Castle Bolton, via Grinton. The ride was a very enjoyable one, but also very steep—everyone was pushing his bike at one stage or another.

Unfortunately M. Ogier had another puncture on route—but this was soon repaired.

That night Mr Gracey and Mr Bull displayed their cooking talents by producing a superb pasta bolognese, after which C. Nix and C. Sehat were required for the washing up.

Another late night followed, listening to Pink Floyd and other stimulating music.

Mrs Avery's museli bars were also enjoyed by most.

Day Three: Thursday, 3 August

The same morning routine followed and the group was off riding at about noon again.

Dent, a small town in the hills, was our destination today. All the riders made it to Dent except M. Ogier, who had yet another puncture.

G. Knight and J. Bull kindly offered to go and search for M. Ogier. The rest of the group was allowed to wander round Dent for an hour or so.

Mr Bull and Mr Gracey went into a small Tea House where they had what they fancied.

The whole group met up later on, and we all cycled back to Hawes at a blistering pace.

That night we all went riding in and around Hawes, where there are no street lights.

A chippy dinner was had by all, from the infamous Hawes chippy.

The night continued with more interesting events, namely cards and board games.

To round off the final night, Mr Bull had a truly magnificent idea—to run the circuit of Hardraw House, Hawes and back to Hardraw House again. This is at 1-30 in the morning!

Anyway Mr Gracey and two other members of the group were persuaded to undertake this journey.

On returning the two teachers were very tired, to say the least, while the two younger members were none the worse from the exercise.

Day Four: Friday, 4 August

Hardraw House was cleaned vigorously by all, and after all the packing was completed, the group set off again on the last leg of the journey.

Heading back to Skipton R. Avery misjudged the turning on a steep hill and consequently incurred a severely buckled wheel—luckily the minibus was close behind, and was able to pick him up.

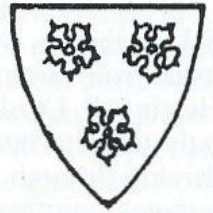
Coming into the picturesque town of Grassington, C. Sehat and C. Nix accidentally collided, putting yet another member out of the journey home.

In all the trip was enjoyed by everyone and hopefully there will be many more trips of this kind in the future!

P. Cassidy



FRASER HOUSE



Head of House: Stuart K. White

Deputy Heads of House: Amy Blake and Paul F. Herring

School Prefects: Amy Blake, Douglas J. Burke, Paul F. Herring, Kim Segal and Stuart K. White

House Prefects: Kirsten G. Barker, M. E. Carden, P. Dardick, Katrina W. I. Hazel, M. F. Ince, Karen L. M. Jones, M. D. Langslow and D. H. Wilcox (Upper Sixth), and M. Brandreth and R. D. Slown (Lower Sixth).

Michaelmas Term

The House welcomed the following boys from the Junior School at the beginning of term: S. Arora, O. Asgher, K. J. Blakey, E. F. Buckley, A. V. Bulwich, T. C. Cooper, N. Docherty, D. Garside, A. J. Howarth, P. R. Ireland, K. W. E. Jones, M. C. N. Maunder, N. C. Morton, B. S. Patel, D. B. Radiven, D. S. Rich, M. D. Shroot and J. A. Walmsley.

Although rugby continued to dominate the term to a large extent, two innovations this year added an extra dimension to the life of the House. For some time the House Masters had been seeking a means of gathering their Houses together more effectively than at lunch, and more frequently than the existing termly House meeting. Accordingly, six suitable venues having been established, weekly House Assemblies were inaugurated at which House Masters, Prefects, Team Captains and organisers of our many activities could make announcements, comment on individuals' and teams' performances, seek support for future events, and in doing so, of course, make themselves known to the entire House body. The new assemblies were outstandingly successful for Fraser, greatly enhancing the corporate spirit which is every House's *raison d'être*.

The second departure from our termly routine was narrower in scope but nonetheless worthy of being recorded. We were asked by Mrs. Treweek to provide appropriate refreshments during the interval in the Sixth Form play, *The Importance of being Earnest*, and the several senior boys and girls who undertook the task did so with the intention that it should be accomplished with a rather greater level of refinement than usual, in keeping with the play itself. China cups were duly hired, a large batch of Mr. and Mrs. Gregson's excellent scones was ordered, and price-lists were printed. It seemed sensible to make coffee on the spot, so that it could be readily identifiable (a further innovation!). The extra cost and considerable extra effort all this entailed proved well worthwhile, and the many compliments heard and overheard were amply deserved by our efficient, cheerful and meticulous team. Particular credit is due to M. Brandreth, A. N. Haffner, and R. P. E. Brook for their considerable contributions. The operation was repeated with similar success during *The Golden Mask of Agamemnon* towards the end of term, although here the scones were replaced by more seasonal mince pies.

After sensible preparation the Senior Knockout XV took on Byrom, but very much as the underdogs. We felt we had the strength to make a match of it, however, and a performance pervaded by an almost tangible sense of team brought a rousing 20-0 victory that would have done credit to a final. Our confrontation with Heywood in the second round brought us down to earth, reminding us that we can only get so far on spirit, strength and courage: it requires skill and experience spread liberally across the team if one is to gain the highest honours.

With four consecutive years of Junior Knockout victories behind us, it would have exceeded our fondest hopes to retain the cup yet again. Given the questionable advantage of a bye, our inexperienced XV were then set to face Byrom, winners in the first round. It was always going to be a tough match. but A. R. Ladd's team held back the inevitable onslaught very effectively and courageously. A first-class try from J. R. Beckett gave us some hope, but in the final stages we were overrun, losing by 25 points to 4.

The Third and Fourth Form League Teams played with verve and enthusiasm, if not always with notable direction or success. Players such as J. R. Beckett, M. R. Clyne, J. A. Haber, R. C. Mattison and P. A. Tweed developed well during the season and many Third Formers also showed great promise.

Both Senior League Teams were led by the example of their respective captains, P. F. Herring and S-U. Rahman, who engendered such enthusiasm for the weekly matches that we suffered far less than usual from absences and the concomitant disruption. The 1st XV seemed quite invincible at times: P. F. Herring, P. Dardick, M. F. Ince, M. A. Hope and S. Arora all had memorable seasons, and this was the only team to beat Gaskell all term. Herring's labour-saving stop-start runs and Dardick's fearsome driving through the scrum stand out especially in my mind. The 2nd XIII, refreshed by the captain's oranges, comfortably won the second team competition but missed the opportunity of acquiring our only trophy of the term, since the decision to procure and award a separate second team trophy was taken too late for it to apply to the rugby season. This in no way diminished the remarkable achievement of this team who remained unbeaten throughout, as were their counterparts in 1987: they succeeded in reproducing the ferocious domination that enabled the earlier team to record victories which very nearly took their score into triple figures. It reached the stage this year where Rahman's customary two-page match report was supplanted by the words "A massacre", to describe a 78-4 victory over Whitworth!

Fraser's extended tenure of the Ray Cox Sevens Cup was destined to come to an end this year. Despite a sustained effort from our twenty-one senior players we amassed far too few points during the afternoon. Each team contributed points to the total, however, and no one disgraced himself!

Five-a-side football was well supported each week but, as ever, by a small group of senior boys. The younger ones seemed to prefer table-tennis and the girls stuck to hockey.

In November S. O. Martineau joined the House, his family having recently moved to Manchester from France.

Lent Term

Six more Lower Sixth-formers became House Prefects in time to take on some of the responsibilities of the older group, who were now embarking on their trial A-Level exams. They were S. Arora, A. N. Haffner, M. A. Hope, R. M. R. Ince, B. G. Lee and A. R. Lodge. At the same time M. Brandreth and R. D. Slown were appointed Fraser's two surrogate School Prefects, temporarily exercising the usual prefectorial duties and helping to keep things running smoothly.

Paul Herring was named as Captain of School Lacrosse, and also had to lead our tiny group of one Sixth-form and three Fifth-form squad players into the Inter-House Knockout competition. It was not quite a case of wheeling out everyone who could carry a lacrosse stick, but it was close! The side was short on experience, and our very good defence left A. K. Hollingworth on his own in goal too often because they were caught out trying to help the rest of the team build up attacks through midfield and beyond.

At the other end of the field our attack had little possession and Heywood's goalkeeper thwarted almost all our attempts to score.

It was a similar story with the Junior X, where inexperience—and errors—let us down. A. R. Ladd, J. C. Frost, R. M. Mattison, G. R. Dalzell, O. Asgher and S. Arora (Jnr.) all made their contribution, but were ultimately defeated 5-10 by Whitworth.

In the League, the usual problems with kit and goalkeepers resurfaced. A goalkeeper is an absolute essential in the game, and where there is no obvious and willing candidate, the rest of the team must be prepared to fill the post from time to time. Where kit is concerned, there is a danger of some House players coming to depend entirely on limited House supplies for their kit, including the House shirt itself, in certain cases. This situation has made it extremely difficult for team captains to turn out full teams on a regular, reliable basis.

M. A. Hope and N. J. Butson undertook to organise and coach our entry into the yearly Road-Relay race, the nearest we come to inter-House cross-country. (In fact, if any runner tries to go cross-country—in Alexandra Park—his entire team is disqualified!). Our three untried Third-formers, J. A. Walmsley, A. V. Bulwich and M. C. N. Maunder got the race off to a solid start with positions of sixth, ninth and tenth (out of eighteen runners). J. C. Frost ran well, making up three places on his lap, supported by A. R. Ladd and J. D. Butson. The House lay third overall at this stage. Then the Fifth-form runners went out, G. R. Noble and D. Jones holding their positions, and E. J. Davies running superbly well to overtake all thirteen runners who set off ahead of him, and record the third fastest senior time of under seventeen minutes. With this group back in, we were lying second, and feeling exhilarated! However, try as they may, Lodge, Hope and Putson were unable to fend off the challenges mounted by several other senior runners, and so slipped back a few places each, despite dogged performances from them all. The House finished in fourth place. In recognition of the gruelling nature of the extended circuit they have to run, all our senior runners were awarded House Colours after the race.

D. J. Burke was deservedly promoted to School Prefect in March.

Black Comedy, a play by Peter Schaffer, was chosen as our ambitious entry in the Drama competition this year. Unfortunately it was found to be considerably too long, and much work had to be done to reduce it to a manageable length while maintaining its integrity. An even more alarming problem arose with the need to change producers in mid-stream, and C. S. Blairs found himself in the unenviable position of taking on a production fraught with difficulties of a play he himself had not chosen. With support all round, from the actors, from A. N. Haffner, from Mrs. Statham who was overseeing the play, and from Mr. Blairs who constructed the all-important trap-door in the apron-stage, Blairs succeeded in mounting a very reasonable production with some excellent moments, especially at its climax. The play this year brought together Fourth, Fifth, Lower and Upper-Sixth formers. Playing the central role of Brin, Paul Tweed had the delicate task of balancing his affections for the two women in his life (played by Kirsty Barker and Kim Segal) while being confronted by a series of near disasters. It was a commendable effort, although the entire cast might have benefited from learning their parts a little earlier in the proceedings: indeed Mr. C. T. Lowe commented on this problem in his meticulous adjudication which appears elsewhere.

The House had recently been reminded of a former success in the drama competition when Noel Coward's *Hands Across the Sea* won in 1983. One of the leading parts in that delightful production was played by Neil Roland, and this month he launched a new review, *The Greater Manchester Theatre Magazine*. We all wish him well in this exciting venture.

With the support and encouragement of Mr. M. P. Jones. M. Brandreth succeeded in bringing out the best in our musicians this year. Especially good was Brandreth's own singing of *Some Enchanted Evening*, the small choir's *Scarborough Fair*, Amy Blake's Haydn sonata, and M. A. Hope's mellifluous saxophone solo and controlled display of drumming. Kim Segal announced with her usual clarity, and A. N. Haffner and G. J. Beswick produced an unusual and attractive programme. After such a polished and well-balanced half-hour of music, we felt disappointed to be placed only second!

A tactical decision was taken to use our swimming strengths in the individual events rather than attempt to win the relays this year. We had very few really good swimmers to rely on, so taking such a course was the only possible way of coming through the Gala with any measure of success. As expected, we came last in the relays having qualified for only three of the six races. Unfortunately we very nearly came last in the individual competition as well! Worthy performances came from B. G. Lee, J. F. Tozer, T. J. Clarke, and A. V. Bulwich.

The Hewlett Cup was played for in dreadful conditions this year. In addition we found our first team in the same group as the two Knockout finalists, Gaskell and Heywood, and we were without P. F. Herring, who was away on interview. Our fourth Senior and first Third-Year teams reached their finals, but this failed to compensate for three other teams losing all their games, and by the end of the afternoon we were well down the field. A hapless T. C. Cooper, keeping goal for team eight, helmet and pad awry, shivering and covered from head to foot with mud, somehow epitomised Fraser's six-a-sides in 1989.

Several Fraser boys gained awards in the Languages Classes of the Heaton Mersey Festival: S. (Bobby) Arora came top in the German Free Speaking (Sixth-form); he and B. G. Lee also took second places; A. R. Lodge's Spanish Reading was commended; and Sebastien Martineau, who had not been allowed to enter the French Classes, took second place to another Hulmeian in German Reading!

Midsummer Term

We returned in April to a completely refurbished and refurnished room 14, which is the smaller of our two House rooms. It is used by members of the House principally as a quiet workroom jealously guarded facility!), but also for team meetings, drama rehearsals, and even for the mysterious activities of the Third-form Dungeons and Dragons aficionados. Everyone was pleased to see the room once more restored to health!

N. M. Butson and D. J. Murray became House Prefects at the beginning of term, and were joined soon afterwards by M. J. Streuli.

Success once again eluded us in cricket this year. The Junior Knockout XI lost narrowly to Whitworth after good performances from A. R. Ladd, N. J. Jackson, R. C. Mattison, K. W. E. Jones, A. J. Howarth, S. Arora and O. Asgher. With the exception of R. D. Slowen (Captain) and B. G. Lee, most of our senior cricketers were Fifth-formers: A. K. Hollingworth, A. A. Khan, O. F. Islam. J. J. Meadows and G. R. Noble all played well and showed tremendous promise, but with another year's experience behind them they should progress further through the Competition than this year. After all, thirty-four all out is not an impossible score to better, is it, men? In fairness, I have to record that despite their inability to break down Dalton's batsmen (or to score runs) the entire team played with great character and never allowed this rather one-sided game to deteriorate.

In May the Head Master appointed six masters to serve as deputies to the House Masters. We were indeed fortunate to have Mr. M. P. Jones allocated to Fraser, and look forward to his involvement in many of our activities next year.

Invited by the School to run House Trips during the Half Term break, Messrs Fisher and Jones attempted to persuade members of the House both present and future to accompany them on a day's walk in the Yorkshire Dales. An itinerary was prepared, an enthusiastic letter circulated and minibuses booked, but yet it proved impossible to interest more than a handful of boys, the others all having planned an even better way of spending their free time. The trip was abandoned with great reluctance, but we will try again!

An opportunity for Mr. Jones and his wife to meet all the House Prefects informally came after the examination period when they gathered together for a buffet at an exclusive venue in the heart of West Didsbury. This in fact turned out to be nothing more than the House Master's house, and exclusive only to the extent that people had so much difficulty in locating it! However, R. D. Slown plus carload did eventually arrive, much to everyone's relief. It was a nice occasion: Stuart White and Amy Blake came to represent the retiring Prefects, and several Sixth-form Girls were borrowed from Whitworth to add elegance and decorum to the proceedings. Then B. G. Lee set out to prove to his newly-arrived French exchange partner that the English really do know how to let their hair down. Yet the highlight of the evening, I think, was the unexpected arrival of A. N. Haffner, who was convalescing after a recent and successful eye operation. We hardly recognised him without his glasses!

Sports Day arrived, and we found ourselves running second for much of the afternoon, and so began to entertain tentative hopes at last of a tangible victory before the year was out. Eventually we slipped down into fourth place, a maddening four points only behind our nearest rival. There was plenty of excitement during the day, however, and great satisfaction to be derived from many of our athletes' performances. First or second places were recorded by M. E. Carden, M. A. Hope, J. R. Beckett, P. A. Tweed, J. C. Frost, A. R. Ladd, J. Walmsley, S. Arora and O. Asgher, and our excellent squad of P. F. Herring, G. R. Noble, A. K. Hollingworth and J. J. Meadows took the 4 x 400m Relay in fine style at the very end of the afternoon.

Just as these Notes customarily begin by announcing the names of the year's new intake from the Second Forms, so they invariably end with valedictory remarks for those leaving after their three or five year association with the House. The Upper Sixth one expects to see leave: the departure of certain Fifth-formers, on the other hand, can come as a rather disagreeable surprise, and none more so this year than that of E. J. Davies, our outstanding middle-distance runner of recent years, and D. Jones, a strong all-rounder with a special love of lacrosse. Both of them have given unstinting support to their team-mates in the House. A. Fareed and N. R. Humphrey-Taylor also leave, having made their contribution too, and all four take the best wishes of the House with them.

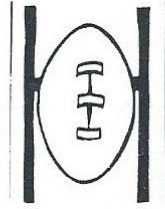
Amy, Karen, Kim, Katrina and Kirsty completed their pioneering two years at William Hulme's, having thrown themselves into the widest range of School and House activities, making quite sure in the process that the place will never be quite the same again. Their vivacious and challenging presence will be missed by everyone.

This year's Head of House, Stuart White, undoubtedly presided over one of the most difficult periods in Fraser's recent history. Yet through all the disappointments, as cups and trophies fell inexorably from our pillar, and the prospect of success appeared to grow dimmer by the day, Stuart retained his equanimity and refused to be discouraged, satisfied as I was that the corporate spirit of the House remained intact, and was arguably even strengthened by the lull in our fortunes. To Stuart, and to all the senior boys and girls who gave their support in their differing ways, we wish a contented and successful future. I hope they will feel that they have gained something from their involvement with the House, something quite beyond the momentary triumph of this or that personal victory.

By September the House room will have been redecorated and equipped with new desks and chairs, new enlarged notice-boards, and a complete set of new lockers. There is a considerable amount of enthusiasm for a tuck-shop in the House, and if circumstances permit, then a discreet, small-scale pilot scheme will be launched early next term. I look forward to it with interest and a little trepidation!

D. M. Fisher

GAMES



RUGBY FIRST XV

Results: Played 14, Won 5, Lost 9, Points for 131, Against 222

v. Marple Hall School	Won	14-6
v. Birkenhead School	Lost	6-15
v. Poynton High School	Won	9-6
v. Stonyhurst	Lost	0-34
v. Cheadle Hulme	Lost	18-24
v. St. Bede's	Won	24-6
v. Merchant Taylor's School	Lost	0-32
v. Woodhouse Grove	Lost	0-32
v. King Edward VII, Lytham	Lost	9-15
v. Manchester Grammar School	Lost	7-20
v. Bolton School	Won	14-12
v. Bury Grammar School	Won	22-0
v. Stockport Grammar School	Lost	4-9
v. Sale Grammar School	Lost	4-20

The Season commenced with a shortage of players with first team experience. Despite the fact that the nucleus of the side was made up of Upper Sixth Formers, it became obvious throughout the season that maturity in years means little in terms of maturity on the field. Although the commitment and enthusiasm were ever present, the lack of experience meant that the team did not possess the necessary skills and knowledge of the game to compete with some of the better rugby schools in the North.

As the pack was relatively light and mobile, lacking any real height in the lineout and weight in the scrum, it became apparent that an expansive running game should be adopted. This meant improving basic ball-handling skills. Scrummaging also proved to be a problem with the team unable to win its own ball, but with the help of a certain Welsh member of staff and the quick strike of Chow, the scrummaging improved as the season progressed.

Although there were many encouraging displays, the forwards were never able to win a constant supply of ball for the backs to use efficiently. This was not just confined to the set-piece but also to open play. Here inexperience and over-eagerness regularly caused players to take the ball too far in the tackle rather than making it available, thus depriving the backs of valuable second phase possession. In the backs, although many set-pieces were well rehearsed in training and worked successfully in games, the basics of running forward and supporting the ball carrier were too often forgotten.

Many points were given away early on in matches as a result of poor tackling, leaving the side too much to do in the latter part of the match. This was highlighted in the game against Cheadle Hulme where non-existent tackling allowed the opposition an eighteen point advantage before the team rallied, only to lose the game in the final seconds.

As the season progressed however, the 1st XV began to start working together as a unit rather than as fifteen separate individuals. The forwards did at last begin to win some good second phase possession with Slown and Clark strong in the mauls and Roffey rapidly improving in the rucks. Jordan, at scrum-half, made full use of the increase in possession with many darting runs and probing kicks whilst Chudleigh, his partner at half back, ran hard and straight his cover tackling being of outstanding quality.

Although the season has been rather disappointing in terms of results, winning only five out of the fourteen games played, I have been impressed with the tremendous team spirit and enthusiasm. Much credit must go to the two captains, namely McNeany for the first half and Chudleigh for the second half of the season, both team men who were never short of words of encouragement and motivation.

Thanks must also go to Mr Dunn for his help in coaching the senior squad in what has been for myself a most enjoyable, if not the most successful, of seasons. Finally I hope that everyone who has played for the 1st XV this season has enjoyed his rugby sufficiently

enough to want to continue playing next year, whether it be for the School, their university or a club side.

The following boys represented the 1st XV: S. J. Cherry, C. Chow, C. J. H. Chudleigh, R. J. B. Clark, G. T. Davidson, P. J. Davies, S. D. Hayes, P. D. Higginbottom, W. E. Hockenhull, A. K. Hollingworth, G. C. Jameson, J. J. Johnson, R. T. Jones, I. R. Jordan, R. J. Ketteridge, S. P. H. Larkin, M. C. McNeany, A. S. Partington, S. N. J. Roffey, R. D. Slown, N. E. Taylor, S. W. Veitch, N. J. Vowles, S. K. White, C. A. Willott.

D. J. Mallinder

SECOND XV RUGBY

Results: Played 14, Won 3, Lost 11, Points for 100, Against 433

	F	A
v. Audenshaw High School	4	28
v. Birkenhead School	10	34
v. Poynton High School	24	0
v. Stonyhurst College	3	52
v. Cheadle Hulme School	7	16
v. St. Bede's College	0	32
v. Merchant Taylor's, Crosby	0	51
v. Woodhouse Grove School	0	34
v. King Edward VII, Lytham	0	68
v. Manchester Grammar School	0	31
v. Bolton School	7	21
v. Bury Grammar School	29	12
v. Stockport Grammar School	3	43
v. Sale Grammar School	13	6

From the outset the prospects for this season did not look good. The team would largely be made up of boys from the 5th year plus one or two inexperienced sixth formers. There were problems in the key positions of half backs and No. 8 positions which require high levels of skill and experience, two elements which we had in short supply. Also the fixture list was made very much stronger with the exit of Bramhall High and the inclusion of one of the country's top rugby schools, namely Stonyhurst College.

However, spurred on by the size of the task ahead, the season started as usual with a week of pre-season training. The sessions were well attended and all the players worked at both fitness and ball handling. Many found the fitness very demanding as they had clearly done little or no exercise since they last played which was now eight months past. Also it took some time to relearn skills and key minds back to the tactical aspects of the game forgotten during the long layoff. There were positional switches for some players which meant extra work for them to pick up new skills. A number of players showed up well in the training and earned places for the first game.

As always the first game was due as soon as we were back at School. This year our usual opponents Marple Hall could not field a side at 2nd team level. At very short notice Audenshaw High stepped in, and they filled it very effectively, as we went down 4-28. Audenshaw won the game because they possessed greater handling skills and were able to move the ball quicker. They also had good awareness of tactical options open to them during the passage of the game. The reason for this was experience as many of their players play club as well as school rugby, I learned after the game. In our favour we more than matched them in spirit determination and sheer effort. This pattern was to repeat itself throughout the season.

Our next game was against Birkenhead School. This had added interest as it was the first return of Mr Lytollis, last season's 1st team coach. We had a good first half and were still in with a chance. However Birkenhead came out in the second half and won most of the possession with some excellent rucking. They used the ball well and ran out good winners. The following game we visited Poynton High School and performed with more purpose and direction. The team benefited from the inclusion of Wayne Hockenhull in the centre and despite losing Gary Noble with a hand injury early in the second half we put together a good performance and won—convincingly.

UNDER 15 RUGBY

Squad: Cunningham, Cope, Wystepek, Barnes, Williamson, Sochovsky, McConnell, Kim, Malik, Bourmad, Samuels, Blackshaw, Wilson, Sutcliffe, Ladd, Frost, Pagan, Lambert, Dean.

This has been a very disappointing season for us, having 235 pts scored against us, and only scoring 408. This was not because of the lack of enthusiasm but really the lack of know-how. When we played Cheadle Hulme and put 48 pts past them I thought we had turned the corner. This was not so, as the very next game we were beaten by that same score. The skills are in the team and when we are practising or playing amongst ourselves the quality of play is high. Once we are against an unknown quantity then we are not the same team.

Special mention must go to Sochovsky as Captain for the majority of the season and Blackshaw who took over from him. The change does not imply any criticism of Sochovsky as Captain, but to see if it would help to improve performance. The run down of the season is as follows:

Played 12, Won 4, Drawn 1, Lost 7, For 108, Against 235

Although we lost quite heavily to St. Gerrard's (Dublin), a touring side, I feel that had we been able to field our strongest team we would have won that game. Unfortunately, we had to field six reserves. They played well, but we were certainly lacking the little extra bite that was needed.

I feel that as the season progressed the team did improve. At the beginning of the season there was little enthusiasm, but this grew, and by mid-term we had boys playing who wanted to be in the team. Without picking anyone in particular I would like to thank the whole team for the change in attitude and for the enthusiasm shown. We didn't win many, but that does not mean that we will not in the future.

There is a possibility of a tour next year to S. Ireland. If this is arranged, then I am sure we will avenge this season's defeat.

A few matches have been played fielding a weaker side during the Lent Term. The opposition in these fixtures realise that our first priority is to Lacrosse at this particular time, so they have fielded teams accordingly.

The games played have been of excellent value. Having played three, we won two and lost only one. As I have previously stated the enthusiasm is there. Let us hope that it continues into next season, and that we can build on the skills already learnt.

J.F.C.

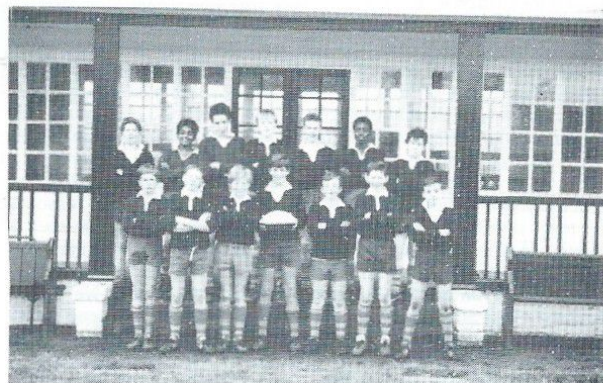
UNDER 13 RUGBY

Played 10, Won 6, Lost 4, Points for 208, Against 158

B XV Played 1, Won 0, Lost 1, Points for 0, Against 4

v. Marple Hall School	Won	29-0
v. Poynton High School	Won	32-12
v. Cheadle Hulme School	Won	46-6
v. St. Bede's College	Won	38-10
v. Woodhouse Grove School	Lost	0-28
v. King Edward VII School, Lytham ...	Lost	6-36
v. Manchester Grammar School	Lost	4-36
v. Bolton Grammar School	Won	32-4
v. Stockport Grammar School	Lost	4-14
v. Sale Grammar School	Won	17-12

The following boys regularly represented the School: T. Allen (Captain), C. Armstrong, A. Bailey, A. Bakkioui, S. Bates, M. Belwood, M. Butterworth, M. Forshaw, J. Hall, S. Hussain, B. Howells, T. Kelly, M. McLean, S. Murray, D. Riste, A. Rodgers, M. Sellers, M. Shelmerdine, I. Sherwin, D. Taylor, M. Tweed.



U13 'A' XV

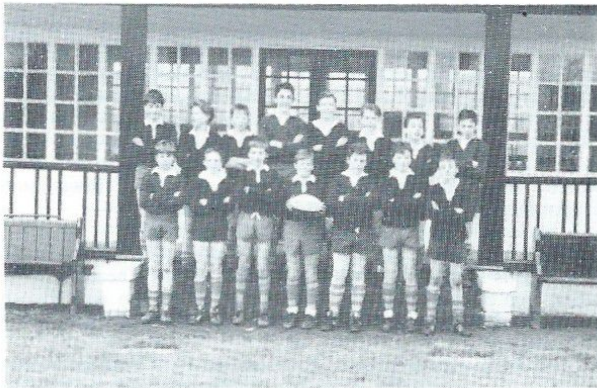
This was a most satisfactory season in terms of results, in terms of enthusiasm and commitment it was outstanding. Most of the boys trained hard during the week and gave 100% effort for the School on Saturdays.

As the season progressed the ability of the players to use the ball intelligently greatly improved, although the ability of the forwards to secure second phase possession could not always be guaranteed. In the pack Chris Armstrong was the outstanding forward. Always in support, his physical style of play meant that he generally made deep inroads into the opposing territory. Shahid Hussain, Simon Bates and Matthew Butterworth also contributed well both in attack and defence and provided the team with a sound back row combination. Some positions were blessed with an abundance of players, any one of whom could be relied upon to give maximum effort. We could, therefore, select the props from Tom Kelly, Stewart Murray, Anwar Bakkioui, Matthew Belwood or later Matthew McLean. Hooking is a specialist job and although John Hall started the season as first choice, he was closely challenged by Alex Rodgers - although Alex needs to work very hard on his throwing in. Daniel Riste and Mark Shelmerdine formed the "engine room" of the scrum. Both will develop into fine players but will need to pay attention to line out technique and their positions when entering the ruck or maul.

Behind the scrum, Damien Taylor claimed the scrum half position from Ben Howells by virtue of his tenacity and determination to attack close to the breakdown. His passing improved and he formed an effective link with Tim Allen. Tim is a natural, balanced runner with a keen eye, good side-step and a safe pair of hands. As both of these players progress they should both work hard at their kicking both in attack and defence. Ben Howells moved to full back, where he looked safe and secure. Always willing to run out of defence, he looks a good prospect as his basic speed improves.

Once the ball moved out to the wings, our most elusive runner was Alvin Bailey. With his very fast, rather strange running action, he was almost unstoppable. Alvin worked very hard during the season) learning not to wait for the ball but to go looking for it, as all wingers should. He was also the best tackler on the team. Ian Sherwin, Matthew Forshaw, Matthew Tweed and Mark Sellers completed the three-quarter line, playing in the various centre or wing positions. Each brought different qualities and skills into the team. Matthew Forshaw lacked a little speed but was very sound in defence; Ian Sherwin had the pace but needs to develop his awareness with the ball in his hand; Mark Sellers and Matthew Tweed are both deceptive runners capable of making a telling break.

Such was the talent and enthusiasm available that many other boys were selected to play at Under 13 level during the season. All these boys gained credit from their performance and with continued application and determination could well secure a permanent place on the team in future seasons. These boys were: Nick Goddard, Aaron Callendar, Simon Whittingham, Hadley Newlove, Richard Gandy, Matthew Musgrove, Ben Adey-Davies, Nick Owen, Ben Wood, Ketan, Misra and Daniel Ormerod.



U13 'B' XV

Finally my thanks to all players for their support and dedication throughout the season. Only with hard work will players develop the necessary skills to play at the highest level. My thanks also to the ever-present band of parents who supported the team and the School: I know the boys welcome this support. It was also pleasing to know that, should the weather turn cold, there would always be a warming "thermos" produced containing hot tea, or more generally coffee with just a hint of ...!

Thanks are also due, from all the teams, to Mr. Gregson. Present at every home fixture, he provides the super after-match refreshments working with the mums who volunteer to help (thank you all). Lastly I must thank Mrs. Mattison who has organised the mums' rota so efficiently for many seasons.

This season, for the first time, Rugby fixtures have been arranged during the Lent Term. Any boy not required for School Lacrosse was available for selection. This meant that many more boys than usual gained School representative honours and also that we could play against Schools not normally on our fixture list. The Under 13 XV played against St. Bede's (Lost 12-16), Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Blackburn (Won 32-6) and Audenshaw High School (Won 22-12).

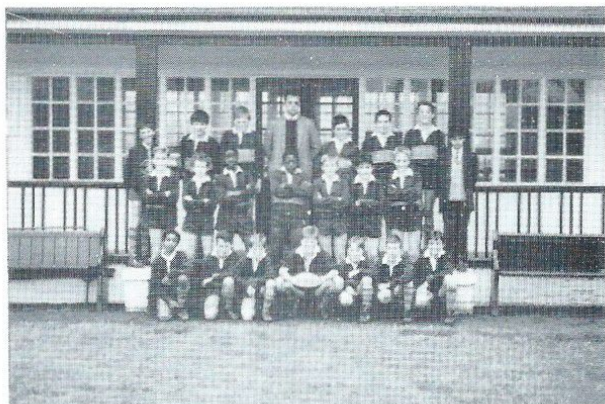
C.H.S.

U12 XV PLAYING RECORD

Played 10, Won 5, Drawn 1, Lost 4
Points for 178, Against 112

Results:

v. Cheadle Hulme Grammar School	Lost	12-16
v. Woodhouse Grove School	Lost	0-26
v. King Edward VII School, Lytham	Lost	4-34
v. Saint Gerard's School, Dublin	Won	12-10
v. Manchester Grammar School	Lost	0-18
v. Bolton School	Won	28-4
v. Stockport Grammar School	Drew	4-4
v. Sale Grammar School	Won	46-0
v. Saint Bede's College	Won	24-0
v. Audenshaw High School	Won	48-0



Stardate: September 1988. William Hulme's Grammar School - the final frontier. This is the log of the first year Rugby Team. Its one term mission - to learn new skills and techniques, to run, catch and pass, to ruck and win good ball - to boldly play a game no-one had played before!

Our fixture list had given us three and a half weeks to train the 'Starship Rugby's' new crew before our journey to the nearby planet of Waconius (Cheadle Hulme), the traditional opener to the season. The training sessions had gone grimly. Many of the crew's sensors were not tuned in properly to the instructions received and insisted on passing the ball forwards and running backwards. Many of the crew held the belief that the ball was in fact some form of explosive device and as soon as they touched it, promptly threw it skywards and ran for cover before detonation. Fortunately, not everyone acted so, and we had the technology to make a game of it against the Waconians. Their crew was however, considerably bulkier than ours, which was to lead to our eventual undoing. We played some spirited rugby, with no tackles shirked and held the lead with five minutes to go only to concede two late tries by their forwards from close to our goal line as we tired. Still, we had fared well in a close encounter and felt a bit unlucky at having lost - so we lifted off from Waconius with some hope for the future months.

Our next contest involved the transgalaxian space vault to Woodhouse Grove in the Yorkshire constellation. On touchdown we made our customary greeting - "We come in

peace" - but we left in pieces! Our 'heavy battle cruisers' performed well up front and we won enough possession, our main undoing being down to their centre, who ran at Warp Factor Ten and disintegrated our defensive forcefield to beam down on four occasions. Once more we had performed well and gained no result: but we had improved in the meantime.

The following week our planet was visited by travellers from a distant part of our galaxy, from beyond the Pits of the Murzee and Black Hole of Skow-Sirse. They were the Mekons from the planet Edwardus Septimus Rex. We knew from bitter experience that tackle phasers would have to be on full power to halt the Mekons but there was mutiny in the ranks and they surged through time after time with little resistance offered. "Cling on, cling on" was the cry but no-one noticed and we learnt a lot that day from a high quality battle fleet. Outmanoeuvred up front, the need to redesign our Better Accelerating Catchers (not) Kickers - BACKS - was the more pressing priority.

The weekend's activities were not over though. Word reached us that a ship from another universe known as Ireland had landed nearby and were keen to meet us. These splendid aliens, their conversation was rich and full. They spoke of the wonders of their planet - of "healing liquids" called Ginn-Nez and Jac-Massons and though a team small in stature, they played with a fire normally associated with an exploding supernova reputed to have been passed down from the High Elders of their Intergalaxian XV. An evenly fought game was narrowly won but this was the game when our Power Assisted (heavy) Cruiser/Kerfufflers (PACK) really emerged as a force to be reckoned with. As we bade farewell to our visitors, rocketing homewards in the setting suns, our thoughts turned to the preparations which would have to be made for the invasion from the local, minor moon of Grammatica Mancunium - arch, but respected foes. We trained hard. During the game, our pack played some wonderful rugby, but we did nothing with the possession and had four good tries scored against us. Our backs in attack looked as much use as a chocolate teapot, whilst in defence played like a set of Jellied Blobs from the planet Rowntree. The only course of action was to seek guidance from the highest intergalactic authorities.

The newly appointed Captain of the Starfleet, Captain Jim T.M. Mallinder and the grey haired and ageing alien from Yorkshire, Mister Dunnsk were consulted. I opened, "They're a team Jim - but not as we know it. With our strength in the pack shouldn't we just play to them?" The alien spoke first, its dazzling neckware temporarily blinding me, "Illogical. The backs must be given the ball at every opportunity." Captain Mallinder quizzed me, "Do your backs not line up steep enough in attack?" "Its worse than that, they're flat Jim, flat Jim, flat Jim, its worse than that, they're flat Jim, flat Jim, flat!" was the only reply I could give.

So the backs received instructions from two of the universe's mega-experts who passed on their knowledge of positioning, handling and even 'backmoves' involving the cloaking device of a dummy-scissors! The midfield were re-equipped with two new highly destructive weapons involving a simple redeployment of the crew. The remaining five games saw our refitted fleet atomise the opposition scoring one hundred and fifty points conceding only eight. Four of the games were won, with the match against Stockport producing a rare draw, where a slippy ball amongst other factors caused an interruption to our winning streak. All in all, an excellent voyage!

This has been a very good term's work by the rugby squad. The pack had developed into a truly formidable unit and have 'buckled' the opposition in nearly every game. With a regular "take no prisoners" front row of Young, Stephens and Slack, mobile locks in Berkeley and line-out specialist Grove and a frenetic back-row of Clemetson, Crawshaw and the Captain, White, a plentiful supply of ball was assured.

Brown at scrum-half is a complete natural in the position, a real terrier with an experienced rugby brain already. Some of his service to his other half back was a joy to watch. The final flyhalf/inside centre combination of Reading and Gleave made some of the hardest tackles I have seen at this level of