



his hopes dashed. Ironically, he then musters courage and energy in the wrong cause, ministering to Audrey II's needs instead of those of Audrey I! Vikram's moods were kaleidoscopic - timidity, unfounded elation, frustration in "I've given you sunshine", gloom (at Audrey's rejection of him), fear (first of the dentist Orin, then of Audrey II) and hysterical frenzy as he realises with horror the full extent of the plant's demands. Similarly in his work, he kowtows dejectedly to Mrs Mushnik, whether as flower shop owner or as surrogate mother (in the purely symbolic sense!). His ill-suppressed grief as he holds Audrey in his arms listening to her "swan song" before feeding her to the plant was particularly moving.

Karen Vites as Audrey cultivated a softly vulnerable, high-pitched, Marilyn Monroe-type delivery which was the perfect vehicle for her emotional insecurity. She made use of some delightful body movements, particularly running with little mincing trotting steps and bending her knees with her legs together to portray gauche girlish enthusiasm or embarrassment. She was suitably timid with the bullying dentist Orin and evasive with Seymour before she realises how much he loves her, which she finally accepts after first finding it too good to be true. The love duet "Suddenly Seymour" with Karen and Vikram was a highlight. But her greatest moments are those relating to her beautiful lyrical master-song "Somewhere that's green". She first dreams of such a home in a leafy suburb, but ends up voluntarily sacrificing herself to the plant inside which she will indeed still be "Somewhere Green" to help Seymour to fame and fortune. This, of course, lends a new poignant irony to her song. She alone recognises the full implications of the horrors in the little shop, and loves Seymour enough to die for him; her last moments lying with her head on Seymour's arm were sublime, and her self-giving to the plant was a real Liebestod. (This is all lost in the feature film, where she and Seymour survive and go to their green suburb, but even there a tiny Audrey II lurks in the garden!)

Caroline Shaw as the flower-shop owner Mrs Mushnik was a typical tough, weatherbeaten, middle-aged Eastern European émigrée who has seen it all and reacts to everything with laconic guttural cynicism. The scene where she invites Seymour to be her adopted son gave scope for her to be comic, which she readily seized, almost sharing the joke with the audience. Her thick ankle-socks were perfect - she had obviously forgotten that she was no longer in the steppes of Central Asia!

Aaron Greenall as the loutish Orin, the dentist who “dates” but really terrorises Audrey, was scarily “in the part”, loud-mouthed and swaggering in his sprawling arrogance. His scene with his customer, played by Robert Seddon, made his drilling of the latter’s teeth with a blunt instrument, to the “hyped-up” shouts and groans of the latter, an even ‘scarier’ sequence than those featuring Audrey II! So dominant was he that the scene where Seymour kills him was only shown briefly in tableau form - it would otherwise have lacked credibility. Aaron doubled at the end as Mr Martin, the “botanical entrepreneur” who wants to market little Audrey II’s all over the USA. This slick smooth business talk was in sharp contrast to his style as the dentist, apart from their shared self-confidence, but the script specifies that Orin and Martin should be the same actor. The message is clear - Orin is openly yobbish and cruel, Martin’s yobbish cruelty is masked by his suave hypocrisy. But both are brothers under the skin.

A crucial and sustained part of the action was provided by the Ronnettes, six girls dressed in immaculate evening dress and punctuating the action with song, choreographed movement, commentary and conversation with the main protagonists. These were superbly and professionally played by Levinia Clemetson, Frances Edwards, Laurie-May Edwards, Kati Greenall, Joanna Shaw and Carla Narnor. They were like a Greek chorus, though sometimes more like sirens in that they in turn actively encouraged, nay sometimes even “egged-on”, each main character (Seymour, Orin, Audrey), as if to hasten the catastrophe. They literally beckoned Mrs Mushnik to her doom in repeated slow motion as they sang “Suppertime”. And of course it was they who follow Mr Martin’s instructions to get moving on Audrey II and to take cuttings! For the opening and closing title number, set on Skid Row, the Ronnettes changed into jeans and tee-shirts and were joined by the Chorus whose names appear below. The closing scene was identical with the opening, showing us that these horrific events are about to begin again, and again, and again....!

There were some delightful cameo roles. Bill Shaw was the slick media smoothy Bernstein, sent from the NBC to get Seymour involved in a weekly TV gardening programme. Elli Metcalf played Mrs Luce from the smart top American magazine “Life” - appropriately, she over-hammed the vamp in her gyrations as she persuaded Seymour to appear on the cover of the next edition. Michelle Fearnley did an elegant classical Petipa-type ballet dance during Audrey’s first rendition of “Somewhere that’s green”, emphasising the inaccessible prettiness of the latter’s vision. Finally, no doubt inspired by the stage direction “The three of them are singing and dancing like fugitives from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” during the brisk broom-wielding song “We’re closed for renovation”, the energetic trio of florists stopped in their tracks with amazement to see Dan Coghill’s tapping feet doing a complete Riverdance turn - or was it Fred Astaire? - across the set. Why not!

In the “piano corner” of the New Hall sat or stood the Band, the mainstay of the evening, Mr Dewhurst (piano), Mr Barnwell (keyboard), C Coghill (Guitar), D Coghill (bass guitar), and Mr Alexander (drums), to whom special congratulations! Oh, and someone else was there too, Mr Hewston with his microphone, reading and singing the part of Audrey II with ever-increasing ferocity. This laid-back performance well deserves the word “cool”.

A full list of the backroom boys and girls appears below. It would be invidious to single out individuals, but the four puppeteers who helped Mr Hewston to bring all four Audrey IIs to life (Nishant Agarwal, James Lancaster, Will Stoddart and Wunmi Ademosu) obviously had a uniquely challenging and crucial role.

But above all, hats off the Mr Dewhurst and Mr Greenall for giving us, in the words of one of the Ronnettes, an evening of “botanical genius”.

G J Turner

THE CHORUS

Sunita Boodhoo; Laura-Jane Bulwich; Michelle Fearnley; Jackie de Freitas; Jaya Jairath; Clare Keable; Debbie Langer; Elli Metcalf; Miriam Mkumbwa; Sophie Nelson; Peju Pearce; Jennie Porter; Gemma Rosenthal; Kate Williams; Bill Shaw; Asha de Silva.

THE STAFF

Producers	Mr A Greenall
Co-Producer & Musical Director	Mr P Dewhurst
Stage Management	Mr A Austen & Miss A Boothroyd
The Band	Piano - P Dewhurst Keyboard - E Barnwell; Guitar: C Coghill, Bass Guitar - D Coghill Drums - D Alexander
Choreography	F Hamill
Props	Mr S Parkin
Costumes	Mrs S Watson, Mrs B Greenall & Mrs J Rogers
Make-up	Dr J Keable & Miss R Tandon
Front of House	Mr P Callaghan

Decorations	Mrs I Treharne
Tickets	Miss J Smith
Refreshments	Mr D Fisher & Mr D Myers

BACKSTAGE CREW AND FRONT OF HOUSE

Stage Manager	M Dodd
Lighting Manager	M Whyatt
Sound Manager	R Porter with M Gale
Stage & Lighting Crew	R Longworth, D Melmoth, J Silver, J Calderbank, P Beales
Puppeteers	N Agarwal, J Lancaster, W Stoddart, W Ademosu
Make-Up	S Ash, J Atherton, J Ahmed, H Ahmed, V Bramwell, S Hope, V Lane, N Ofoche, A Rashid, A Reah, N Sadeghi, N Sheldon, R Smith, O Taiwo, F Todd, P Trivedi
Set Decoration	L Berrisford, L Counsell, V Cohen
Front of House	P Badesha, K Bagley, G Brook, S Cochrane, S Johnstone, L Matheson, V Williams
Ticket Sales	D Baker, S Baker, J Cohen, V Cohen, E Cruickshank, C Duckworth, L Goodwin, R Goodwin, N Hanif, V Horn, V Lane, S Mehta, T Safdar, R Smith, D Trivedi, R Westbrook.
Refreshments	Members of Fraser and Whitworth Houses.

HOUSE PLAY FESTIVAL 1997

The results of the 1997 Competition were:

1st	Dalton
2nd	Gaskell
3rd	Heywood

The following gave very fine performances in a variety of small parts: Owen Edwards, Laurie Edwards, Graeme Laycock and Emma Cruickshank.

The large numbers of girls in major roles led to stiff competition for the Best Actress Award. Warm congratulations are offered to Carys Edwards, Jennie Green, Karen Vites and Carla Narnor. Strong male performances were given by Ben Green and Ross Jenkins. The winners were:-

Best Actress:	Sam Johnson (a.k.a. John Masson)
Best Actor:	David Melmoth

It is most encouraging to note the involvement of well over one hundred pupils in this delightful annual event. For the producers, the casts, the technicians and backstage workers, the house plays provide an opportunity to be part of a team and to enjoy a very valuable learning experience. All who took part this year deserve particular commendation for their achievements in a much shorter period of time than is usual. The January musical prevented rehearsals before February and the earliness of Easter brought the performances forward by one week. Undeterred, all six houses staged enjoyable plays.

BYROM HOUSE

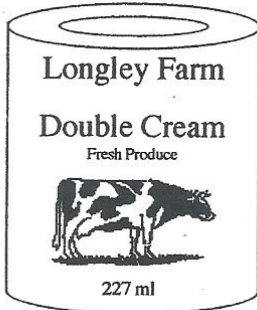
The shortness of rehearsal time did not limit Byrom's ambitions. In choosing 'Absent Friends' by Alan Ayckbourn, the producers asked a great deal of themselves and their fellow actors. Despite rigorous editing, the play maintained the Byrom tradition of staging the longest performance.

Byrom House Presents:

*A Non-Blighty Production of the one, the only,
the badly acted:*

"ABSENT FRIENDS"

By Alan Ayckbourn (Again)



needed and costumes were excellent for all involved. With just a little more time, the cast would have been sufficiently secure with lines to allow them to exploit the script's comic potential more fully. The climax of the play needed a brisker pace to be wholly successful. In conclusion, tremendous effort and considerable potential were apparent here and the hard work of all concerned was appreciated.

The three women dominate the first part of the play. Julia Atherton (Evelyn), Joanna Gregory (Diana) and Claire Lelonek (Marge) created a striking contrast in their appearance and manner. The supremely laconic Evelyn delivered her largely monosyllabic lines with an appropriate air of ennui, but was not easily audible when required to speak at greater length. Joanna's delivery was a little fast, again making audibility a strain, but some uncertainty with lines was understandable in this demanding part. The hysterical Diana of Act II was very well achieved. Claire worked extremely hard, being Marge as well as co-producer. She was always alert to movement and voice cues, but did not exaggerate the lines in the way Ayckbourn's script demands.

Richard Johnston began very impressively as Paul, moving and speaking with confidence and style. Similarly, Michael Graeme's entry entertained the audience. He made good use of gesture and facial expression. The build-up of dramatic tension and of comic confusion which heralds the arrival of Ben Stafford as Colin was quite well realised, if a little lacking in pace. The awkwardness between the three men was well communicated in their deliberately stilted exchanges. Ben Stafford was convincingly gauche yet well-meaning, although the severe editing of his part did make it difficult for the audience to understand his background and personality.

The failure of the men to deal with the increasingly irrational female behaviour was always amusing.

Byrom's set was impressive. An enormous array of props was

GASKELL HOUSE

"We hope the play will be as enjoyable for you as it has been for us." These words in Gaskell's programme summarised one of the key qualities of their production. The evident enjoyment of the large cast warmed the audience to their performance. There was a dynastic element to the Gaskell players, with no fewer than four members of the Edwards family, including one of the producers, treading the boards. This must, surely, be something of a record.

From the lively introduction, the excellent atmospheric music at the curtain to the dramatic opening lines delivered in the black-out, there was a stylish quality to this production. Carys Edwards and Cemile Egeli deserve congratulations on their direction.

The sinister mob was suitably menacing and intimidating at the start with particularly strong performances from Elli Metcalfe as Al and Kati Greenall as Hacker. David Melmoth willingly conveyed Kleinman's bewilderment and innocence. He covered occasional forgetfulness with some artful ad libs which were appropriate to his character, if not always helpful to his supporting cast. Carys Edwards was excellent as Kleinman's wife, Anna, and showed shrewd comic timing in her delivery of some archetypal Woody Allen lines. The dialogue between husband and wife was wonderfully rendered, encompassing a wide range of comic tones.

Al delivered some key lines in this play. "Correct timing is urgent in bringing this plan off." Words the producers of Gaskell's play had obviously taken to heart.

Ian Breen showed considerable skill in his role as the Doctor. He knew his lines well and needed the confidence to deliver them a little more authoritatively and at a measured pace. As Gina, the prostitute, Laurie Edwards' appearance stole the show. She fully exploited the potential of her lines and cultivated the audience's response to the full. Stance, accessories and body-language all contributed to make this a memorable performance. Although he knew his lines perfectly, Tom Gent seemed less comfortable in his role as the policeman, lapsing into inaudibility and a rather wooden delivery. In contrast,



Owen Edwards relished both of his cameo parts. He was helped by his delightfully absurd wig, to make Spiro a richly comic creation with a wonderful accent. Jane Balderstone, as his assistant, made the most of a small part and gave a fine performance.

Cemile Egeli was an appropriately amusing maniac with a lovely collection of absurd weapons. To re-write the ending might have been foolhardy, had it not worked, but it did. Kleinman died very well!

The lively sense of the ridiculous was captured in the mimes, the props and the costumes: putting the extras in togas was an inspired touch! Gaskell's supporting cast (Faye Todd, Frances Edwards, Talia Turnberg, Suzanne Nathan, Rebekah Lawson, Vicky Lane and Guy Brocklehurst) showed a rich seam of thespian talent for future producers to mine.

"Death" proved to be a joyous experience on this occasion and an excellent choice for Gaskell House.

WHITWORTH HOUSE

"Here Is Your Life", a parody of the well-known television programme, featured the largest cast of the competition, most making brief 'guest appearances' in the story of football ace, Johnny. A parody always requires a hyperbolic style. This was unevenly achieved in Whitworth's performance, but there were some hilarious touches and, again, much obvious talent for the future apparent in this production.

Jon Gordon, as the compère, gave a strong performance. His first appearance, in drag, to surprise (or should that be 'entrap') the hapless Johnny, was wonderful. Costume, make-up and manner combined to great comic effect here. Jeremy

Arnold, as the reluctant hero, Johnny, was bound and gagged for much of his part in the proceedings. There was scope for stronger mime here. The audience needed to see Jeremy's reactions to his guests' words expressed in his body language throughout the action. The contrast between Johnny's taped comments and his physical reality was a largely untapped comic source.

As Johnny's mother, Miriam Mkumbwa's was the first cameo role. She was followed by Ben Kent, Manish Prasad, Adam Miller, Tim Edwards, Bill Shaw, Olamide Taiwo and Suresh Balachandra. All had a clear sense of character and purpose. Alex Preston and Dawn Sing staged this play cleverly and the movement was always slick and fluent. The various guests all wore costumes which created the characters, but most delivered their lines at a speed which occasionally defied comprehension. Jeffrey Wu, as the team manager, was a notable exception. He delivered his collection of footballing clichés with a tellingly deadpan humour.

Jacob Haboubi, Chairman of the Selection Committee, looked impressive and was promising, if somewhat self-conscious at times. Ben Kent was animated as the Coach and Adam Miller came into his own in the part of Giorgio, where his accent was superb. The girlfriend, Helen, grew into her part and was magnificent in her fight with Mrs Pitts. Peju Pearce was a commanding and

clear-spoken Angel.

The performance relied heavily on Jon Gordon, who was always smooth and unruffled in the Michael Aspel role. The original theme music featured only once and could well have been put to greater use to introduce each guest. A great sense of fun was the hallmark of Whitworth's play. The producers are to be congratulated on involving so many people and the cast all revealed skills of which they can be proud.

DALTON HOUSE

The quality of Dalton's production of "I Spy" was outstanding. Karen Vites and Jennie Green chose a play which was entirely suited to the talents of their mostly very experienced cast. What distinguished this performance was the players' remarkable awareness of each other and of their audience.

The R.S.C. report for 1996 states, "Acting is 95% listening; get this right and the rest will look after itself". Dalton's actors were, at all times, listening to each other and responding to what they heard. This meant that any minor hesitations were intelligently covered and the audience was given time to laugh at the impeccably timed lines.

From the opening James Bond theme music, we knew we were in for a treat. The curtain opened on Sam Johnson, who appeared in the programme as John Masson, playing Cyril Greensleeve to perfection. Even the way she sat and walked was studiously masculine. The excellence of Sam's performance was abetted and complemented by Jennie Green's delightful rendering of wife, Edna. These two were utterly in command of the text and the characters, allowing them to relish opportunities for comic business, like the analysis of the morning's mail by smell, to the full.



Karen Vites was stunning, in every sense, as Olga Demetrioŭ. Appearance, accent, timing, all led to a polished and richly amusing performance. No less impressive was Ben Green as Bland, James Bland, complete with theme music. Ben combined the appeal of Sean Connery with Roger Moore to create a smooth, arrogant and wholly irresistible caricature. In their supporting roles, Michelle Fearnley was excellent as Buckman, as was Affan Burki as Valenko. This was burlesque at its very best. I will long remember the use of the umbrella as a means of defence.

The performance abounded in simple but highly effective directorial touches: the conspiratorial nudge, the blank look, the topical updates and the provision of the salutes at the end. The audience was treated to assured, skilful theatre and Dalton gave us a spoof to remember. Very well done to all.

FRASER HOUSE

For the fourth successive year, my unofficial 'Best Set' award goes to Fraser House. The restaurant was brilliantly created with a host of effective properties and a keen eye for detail. The music, too, was well chosen, both for the opening and as background throughout.

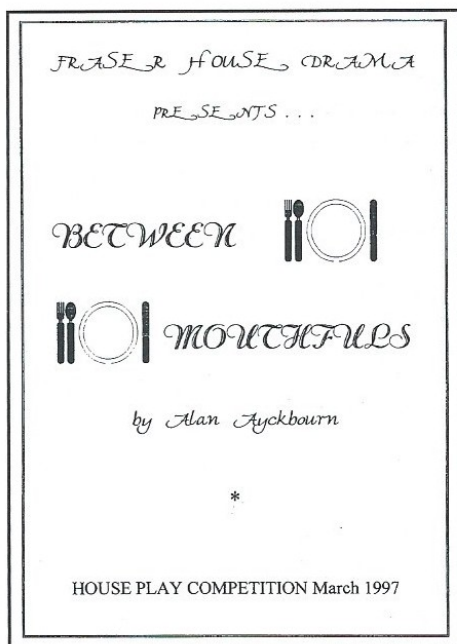
The second Ayckbourn farce of the Festival, "Between Mouthfuls", like the first, made tremendous demands on the cast. Louise Wellock, the courageous producer, acknowledged, in the programme, that the piece "relies heavily on well-

learned lines and well-timed cues". It did indeed! The technical demands were also considerable, requiring serious concentration from the lighting desk in particular. The idea that the audience hears only what the waiter hears as he moves between two carefully placed tables, is the concept around which the action develops. This notion required each pair to mime animated dialogue whenever the waiter transferred to the other table. Without this, much of the desired effect was sadly lost.

Fraser also had to cope with two of the four main players standing in at the last minute, a fact which made Ross Jenkins' performance the more remarkable. As Donald Pearce, he combined arrogance with irascibility, creating a strong stage presence. Emily Cochrane made a pleasingly contrasting wife who strived to appease her domineering partner. The second couple, Polly (Clare Keable) and Martin (Adam Dignan) performed valiantly but never quite recovered from losing the lines at an early stage. Drying on lines happens to the best and most experienced of actors, and, rather like stalling in your driving test, is not "a failing offence". What matters is how you deal with the problem. The script itself made recovery extremely difficult and I felt most sympathetic to the cast as they struggled to re-establish the plot.

Particularly impressive was Kessr Ali, who, as the waiter, had to keep the action going when lines broke down. This he achieved with admirable calm and a sustained deferential courtesy absolutely right for the part.

The non-speaking roles of those seated at the third table, Victoria Bramwell, Jaya Jairath, Alexis Dickson and Jahanzeb Junejo, were tremendously well raised. All of these young people reacted in a lively, appropriate way to the comic confusion around them and provoked the audience's laughter with their well-timed antics. The one who sneaked back at the end to steal the wine showed a touch of comic genius!

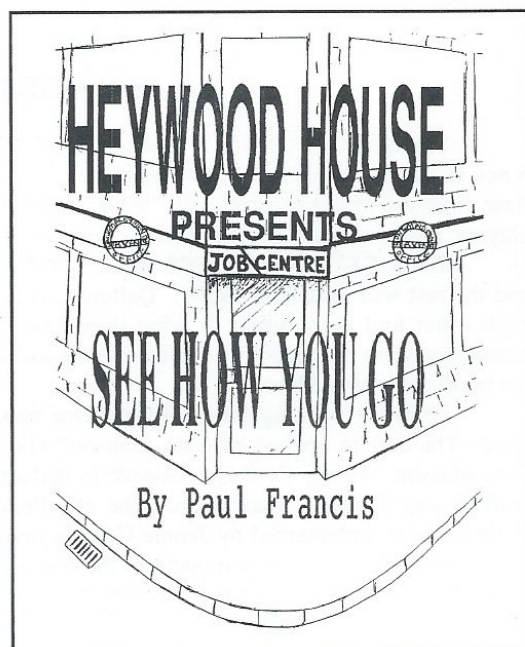


HEYWOOD HOUSE

The lively opening music and the skilful, busy mime from the splendid Mrs Prentiss (Carla Narnor) enlivened the audience for the final performance of the competition. Heywood produced the most enterprising, and brave, example of 'gender-bending' in casting Matthew Kay, as Alison, one of the three typists, who open the play. His performance entirely justified the decision. Matthew avoided being overly camp, and brought real conviction to the role which was subtly amusing. Carla was always impressive as the middle-aged and kindly Mrs Prentiss, while Levinia Clemetson completed a wonderful contrast as the stridently militant young Shelley.

These three were joined by the all-too-temporary new recruit, Clare, played with increasing surety of tone by Sophie Hope. The bosses, Sharon Becker as the timid Miss Neale, and Edward Barker as the executive Mr Morley, were helped to good performances by imaginative costumes and good direction from Laura Leveson.

In the second act, after a demanding and well-executed scene change, we met Clare's family. This was much the strongest part of the script, and the performances brought out its comic potential with skill. Rachel Aldersley and Glynn Roberts, as Clare's parents, were most entertaining and timed their lines well. Emma Cruickshank as



the radical granny, and Graeme Laycock as little brother Mick, were superb. Both exploited their cameo roles to the full and look set to be real stars of future festivals.

The final scene returned us to the office. Good performances were sustained, the typists eavesdropping on Shelley's conversation with Miss Neale being especially well done, but the weakness of the script itself somewhat defeated even this talented cast. Perhaps Heywood could have taken a leaf from Gaskell's book and re-written the ending, which fell rather flat. The fluency of the delivery, the artful casting and the strong characterisation made Heywood's 1997 production successful and a pleasure to watch.

The adjudicator would like to thank all who took part, their House Masters and Mistresses and Mr Geoff Turner for all his hard work and unfailing courtesy. I look forward to next year.

Miss M Green, Adjudicator.
(Head of English, Withington Girls' School)

Many thanks, as ever, to Miss Green for all her hard work and vision as our Adjudicator. She has kindly altered the dates of her production next year at Withington in order to be with us again in 1998!

SENIOR DRAMA CLUB

New this year and initially open to Sixth Formers, the Senior Drama Club has had a good first year at William Hulme's. Aside from some improvisational work, the main achievement of the group was to put on the comedy 'Teechers' by John Godber early in the Midsummer term. Because of commitments elsewhere such as the House Play Festival, the members of the group had a long time to rehearse the play and at times the end never seemed to be in sight.

The cast were however, unfailing in their energy and enthusiasm and pulled together to put in some memorable performances. Credit must go to all the cast but especially to Jennie Green, Alison Meakin and Cemile Egeli for their portrayals of the school leavers Salty, Gail and Hobby. Being the main characters is always hard work, but these three showed great talent and professionalism on stage that provided the foundation for a great project from start to finish.

Once again congratulations and thank you to all members of the drama group in making the production a minor success. There is one negative point, however. All this talent was displayed by female members of the Sixth Form, which is fantastic, but there must be some male actors in the School somewhere. Maybe we'll see you next year.....

J.R. Wise

'TEECHERS' - JOHN GODBER LOWER SIXTH DRAMA GROUP

For connoisseurs of drama at William Hulme's Grammar School, the Lower Sixth Drama Group's production of John Godber's 'Teechers' (sic) was a notable springtime pleasure.

Skilfully directed by Mr Wise, an all-female cast - some taking multiple parts - gave a performance of real comic brio which, nevertheless, allowed the play's more serious concern - a critique of how an underfunded and demoralised education system fails its pupils - to be clearly articulated.

Godber - himself a teacher for five years - centres his action upon the progress through his probationary year of drama teacher Jeff Nixon (Carys Edwards). He comes to Whitehall, a school with a 'bad reputation and no drama facilities' and eventually wins the trust and confidence of difficult pupils. As the year goes on, however, self-preservatory instincts triumph over idealism and he takes a job at the 'sanctuary' of St George's, the local independent school.

Carys Edwards handled this pivotal role with great elan. Radiating confidence and composure, she was particularly impressive in direct address to the audience - a technique frequently employed in a play which has its characters introduce themselves in third person narration before moving into role. They occasionally slip back into this narrative mode in mid-part. The device has comic potential but Bertolt Brecht, to whom Godber is, I think, indebted both formally and thematically, would recognise this as an 'alienation effect' designed to prevent a too-easy audience identification with character at the expense of a focus upon the play's political concerns. Clearly it takes real dramatic ability to pull this sort of thing off and the cast coped splendidly.

Indeed, significant though the role is, what impressed about this production was its strength as a group effort with all members of the talented ensemble distinguishing themselves in depicting a familiar gallery of staff and student types.

Key student parts of 'Salty', 'Gail' and 'Hobby' were taken by Jennie Green, Alison Meakin and Cemile Egeli respectively. Jennie's lively and streetwise performance, taking an obvious relish in the distinctly salty linguistic freedoms of the part, was captivating. Alison, too, consistently conveyed a genuine pleasure in performance to a receptive, if disappointingly sparse, audience. In Cemile Egeli there is an actress of natural comic gifts who reminds me more and more hauntingly of Victoria Wood at her funniest.

Gillian Aldersley, who also took on the roles of the curmudgeonly caretaker, Doug, and persuasively depicted the aggrieved Miss Witham, triumphed in her depiction of the student body's 'hard man', Oggie Moxon. Her strutting and self-preening speech of introduction drew a burst of spontaneous well-earned applause.

Claire Lelonek, building on similar roles she has played in House Drama, produced an enormously winning performance of the irrepressible Miss Parry, a headmistress hyper-receptive to praise, impervious to doubt and quite capable of a little genteel arm-twisting when occasion demands.

The abrasive disciplinarian Mr Basford was cleverly portrayed by Rachel Aldersley who managed to bring out of this opinionated, bullying and fundamentally unattractive character a sense of the underlying vulnerability of an easily-bruised ego. Alex Preston, Rachel Lee and Yasmin Khan juggled diverse roles adroitly. All three were admirable - Alex's incarnation as the whimsical Pete Saxon, Rachel's as the power-driven Miss Prime and Yasmin's as the cool and businesslike Mrs Coates all pleased.

A number of us in the audience hoped that the acutely rendered enactment of staffroom whingeing and bickering was not too closely based on locally available models!

David Melmoth supervised lighting and sound very professionally - a cathartic school disco sequence figures prominently - but all back-stage staff are to be congratulated for their contribution to a production of real pace and verve. The first half, especially, was as fluent an action as I can remember in school drama of late.

Plays about making plays are common enough, and rehearsal comedy - from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* onwards - is an established sub-genre. Nevertheless, a school play about producing a school play can exploit particular poignancies and not only because few other events in the School year quite so highlight both the buoyancy of youth and its transience.

Whitewall's students look forward, with a slightly strained optimism, to a future of depressing limitations. Our able group of actors have rosier possibilities and the irony of the Whitewall play performed by a cast from 'St Georges' cannot be lost. It is an ancient justification of theatre that we act out the fate of the unfortunate to avoid it ourselves. It is also a tribute to the cast and director that the evening raised not only laughter but sympathetic concern. In short, a good night of Hulmean theatre at its humane best.

A Watson

JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB

Back in the hazy days of autumn 1996, an English teacher, new to the School as well as the profession, decided that he wanted to do something on Monday lunchtimes and Thursdays after School. He had noticed that there was a gap in a particular extra-curricular activity that needed filling. Fortunately for him, it wasn't sport and it wasn't music either; it was drama. And so it came to pass that a fortnight into the Michaelmas term, the Junior Drama Club was born.

Beautiful hand-drawn posters decked the walls around the school inviting first and second years to attend the lunchtime session. Thirty pupils showed a keen interest and stayed for a couple of weeks. Once the pupils (and the teacher in charge) knew what was to be expected of the Club, over twenty became full-time members.

However, the Club was still in its infancy and it needed something to make it grow. Fortunately, two Open Evenings appeared in the School calendar and the Club pounced on this opportunity to show an unsuspecting public what it could do. As prospective parents, who were being shown around the school, entered the Upper Hall, a variety of sketches and improvisations were performed by a talented crew of ten pupils. As the evenings progressed and the repertoire became more assured, then the audience became more appreciative and less confused. Indeed, on quite a few occasions, the audience had to be almost dragged out of the hall by the impatient escort. The club was well and truly up and running.

Unbeknown to the Club, however, fate was to deal a most gracious blow. A television company was interested in coming into the school to audition some pupils for a new children's quiz programme. This was a most exciting prospect and interest in the Club suddenly, though perhaps not surprisingly, increased. In November, two representatives from Action Time auditioned about twenty pupils for "Crazy Cottage" and after much deliberation selected three, namely Daniel Blank (ex 2R), Amanda Marshall (1S) and Ceegay Verley (1S). In December, a minibus full of Club members - the "audience"-wended its weary way to Central Studios, Nottingham for the filming of the programme. Thanks must go here to Miss Raw who was kind (or foolish?) enough to agree to help drive the bus, look after the "audience" and contestants and clean up return travel spillages.

The filming of "Crazy Cottage" which, incidentally, was presented by the one and only Jez Edwards, was excellent fun. The "audience" watched the entire show being made from start to finish (or finish to start if you know what sort of quiz programme it is). Action Time were helpful and generous and treated us well. Exposure of the Club became nationwide as many members of the "audience" found themselves on television (most notably Joshua Duckworth) when the programme was screened on Granada in April this year. Regrettably we did not win but that was a minor disappointment compared to the enjoyment of the day.

Congratulations to the three contestants for putting up a valiant fight and thanks to all the pupils on the trip whose behaviour was a credit to themselves and the School.

After the festive season, a new year meant new prospects for the Club. It was decided that a play should be performed on the issue of bullying which could fit in neatly with the School's Personal and Social Health Education programme. A workshop of the now regular members was held and ideas were shared and developed. One week later, the script for "Someone's There" (copyright S.C. Parkin) arrived hot off the press and rehearsals began. Despite one or two initial casting problems, the final cast of seventeen pupils showed great enthusiasm and commitment to the play. Rehearsals continued in earnest and gradually the play began to take shape; eventually, the cast learnt their lines.

The performance was scheduled for the end of the Lent Term. However, due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. Chicken Pox), the play had to be postponed. After the Easter holiday, the director expected a few more weeks in which to

rehearse; he was given one. Any dictionary definition of the word 'panic' will not do justice to what the director, let alone the cast, felt on hearing such news. However, a rapid series of rehearsals meant that the play was just about ready to be unveiled. On Tuesday, 22nd April, "Someone's There" was performed in a Lower School assembly in front of all the first and second year pupils. It was intended to be an entertaining yet serious and thought-provoking play and the cast acted their roles extremely well. Indeed, they portrayed their characters in a realistic and sympathetic manner; the writer/director was most touched.

The creator of the Junior Drama Club was pleased with his efforts. He decided that it was appropriate to end the Club's first year with a showing of "Crazy Cottage". This had its own technical problems, namely finding a video that worked, but Miss Raw soon came to the rescue (again).

Overall, it has been a full and fulfilling year for the club. Hopefully, its present and future members will enjoy the various activities the Club can offer as it matures into healthy adulthood. The final curtain has by no means fallen.

S C Parkin

Cast Of "Someone's There"

1J	1R	1S
Zahra Habib Mareshah Sheriffe	Jenny Bowlas Kitty Hiscocks	Stephen Campbell Amanda Marshall Khalid Mir David Njegovan Peter Royle Ceegay Verley
2J	2K	2R
Joshua Duckworth Yasir Eldin	Gurpreet Singh	Moyo Adunola Kevin Ashtiany Gregg Harmston
2S		
Anna Rogers		

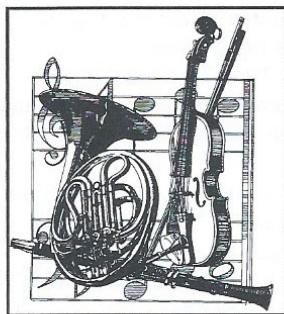
THE MEDEA

The Actors of Dionysus are a small drama group which specialises in ancient Greek tragedy. The group tours schools throughout the country putting on performances of well known and not so well known plays. They do a valuable service to the Classics since their performances reveal to a wide school audience the universality of Greek drama and amply demonstrate that the ancient dramatists still have something relevant to say to us today. The previous visit of the Actors of Dionysus gave us a performance of Euripides' Trojan Women, a play not widely known outside the world of Classics. However, when their tour brought them to the School on the 9th October 1996 they put on a production of another play by the same poet, but this time one which has had an immense impact on western drama, Medea.

Suspense is not important in Greek drama; the Greeks knew all the stories and how they ended. The question is not what or whether something will happen, but how the plot will unfold. Medea is about a woman, Medea, who has been betrayed by her lover, Jason. Spurred on by her passion for revenge, she is driven to commit the most horrible crime a mother can commit, the murder of her own children. The poet allows the spectators to witness the consequences of faded loyalty and ultimate revenge, and forces them to judge the action of the betrayed and perhaps feel sympathy for the betrayer. In his attempt to make Medea a sympathetic character - a difficult task given that we know what she will do - Euripides has created a powerful study in the psychology of revenge.

The Actors of Dionysus' Medea was their typical mixture of understated production and directorial panache. The role of Medea was taken by Tamsin Shasha who played the part with her usual gusto tempered by sensitivity. The other roles were soundly interpreted and in typical AoD style the chorus was reduced to three players which made the play more accessible to a school audience. The experience was very enjoyable and thought-provoking. It was a great pity that more people from the School did not take advantage of the opportunity. Perhaps the production of Medea with Diana Rigg which was on in Manchester at about the same time may have had some impact on our audience figures.

C MacLachlan and M H Gracey



MUSIC

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The time I have spent at WHGS have been challenging but, none the less, very rewarding. Building up the department more or less from scratch has offered me a rare opportunity and has given me immense personal satisfaction. The past six years has seen the music department flourish and, whilst I will be leaving with a sense of achievement, this will be inevitably be tinged with sadness. The establishment of the Concert Band and Jazz Band has given greatest pleasure, not only to myself and Philip Goodwin, but also to the students involved and to the audiences who have heard them play. They are groups of which any school could be justly proud. None of this could have been possible without the help and support of everyone connected with the music department and I would like formally to express my thanks to all those involved.

It is difficult to list all the people to whom I owe thanks for making my time at WHGS such a pleasure and privilege for fear of missing someone out, but I will have a go anyway and, if I do miss someone out, please don't take offence at the oversight on my part since the thanks is no less heartfelt. Firstly, I would like to thank all the visiting music staff for all the support and companionship they have given me and whose unstinting efforts have done so much to enhance the musical life of students and the school in general. I would like to thank all my academic colleagues, not only for their friendship, but also for their good will and support in letting children out of lessons for music tuition and rehearsals. I do realise how frustrating this can be, especially when starting a new topic or an assessed practical! However, rehearsals have never been requested lightly and it is often the only full rehearsal that a group gets before a concert. Next, I would like to thank the ancillary staff - the secretaries, the catering staff, the Bursar and his staff (thanks for the money each month) and, not least, the porters for having to put up with the moving and setting out chairs on so many occasions before and after concerts.

Lastly, I would like to single three people out for special mention. Firstly, Patrick Briggs and Morris Loveland. Patrick's support was essential in ensuring the development of music within the school (I have a theory that a music department is only as good as the support given to it by its Head Master). Morris's efficient and business like approach has always made mole hills out of mountains (I must confess to being in awe of his efficiency). His pragmatic but human approach and sympathetic ear have been very much valued. Lastly, I would like to thank Philip Goodwin. Colleagues will know that Phil and I have had a very close friendship, spending nearly all our time together during school days. Phil has been a great friend who has had to put up with my sometimes irritating habits and whose level-headed approach and good humour have been indispensable. I have relied on his support and thoughts and will no doubt be frequently on the phone from Cheadle for his valued opinion. I know that Phil's fine musicianship and clear sense of purpose will mean that the department is in good hands for the future as he takes over as Director of Music.

It is the hall mark of excellence in a school, not only to have exemplary academic results, but thriving and successful activities outside the classroom be it in the sphere of sport, drama, art or music. I know that the continued support of everyone connected with the school will ensure continued success for music making at WHGS.

P Dewhurst

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

This year's House Music Competition, held on Friday, 11th October, was kindly adjudicated by Mr Eric Millest, Director of Music at Westholme School in Blackburn. The wide range of instruments featured in this event was a tribute to the flexibility the school offers in instrumental teaching. The winners this year were Gaskell House, organised by Kati Greenall and John Daniels. Mr Millest's written adjudications were encouraging and full of both praise and constructive criticism towards everyone who contributed to their House's recital. As well as a mark for each performance, Houses were rewarded marks for the balance and musical content of their programme. The standard was extremely high, with only 7.1 marks between 1st and 6th place. The highest individual mark awarded was 91% and this went to Mika Tong (who entertained us with an excellent performance of the "Golliwog's Cakewalk" by Debussy) and to Karen Vites (who sang "There Are Worse Things I Could Do" from "Grease" exceptionally well). The final results were:-

Gaskell	104	Dalton	100.9
Heywood	102.3	Fraser	100.4
Whitworth	101.9	Byrom	96.9

Clare Keable (LHH)

CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN CONCERT

This event was in aid of raising money for the young children of Manchester who suffer from Cancer. There is a fund running at the moment, "Friends of Rosie", in memory of Rosie Larkin, a little girl who died from this disease. She was a sister of one of the head girls here at our school, Sophie, and her brother Simon also came here before that.

There were about 10 schools involved in this and it was all hosted by local TV personality Felicity Goodey. Gordon Stewart rehearsed and conducted all the massed choir items. His lively, entertaining and enigmatic approach ensured that everyone involved gave of their best, the sound filling the Cathedral. There was a variety of hymns sung and each school did its own song. Our school performed John Carol Case's lovely "Lullaby at the Manger"; I enjoyed singing the echo solo to Andrea Reah.

Anna Rogers (2S)

CHRISTMAS

On Monday, December 16th, we had our annual "Christmas Celebration" of vocal and instrumental music with seasonal readings. The staple diet (varied, satisfying and tasty) was provided by Mr Goodwin's Concert Band which made three appearances. The first half of the concert was flanked by two lively opening numbers and, just before the interval, the evocative "Night Before Christmas" by John Moss. This latter item was narrated by our Director of Music who came on suitably and unexpectedly dressed in a nightshirt and nightcap, and holding a candle! Finally, the Concert Band gave us, at the end, "Stop the Cavalry" - here, Mr Goodwin stopped the audience, which he had optimistically invited to "sing-along" with the chorus, in a mock criticism of its weak participation! - and, finally, the ever-popular "Ski Sunday", also played to introduce TV coverage of ski competitions. In contrast, like a kind of Christmas-style Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, specialist instrumental groups were highlighted in turn: Helen Quayle's Brass Group, Colin Martin's Recorder Group and Sophie Johnson's Flute Ensemble. Mr Wilson's Jazz Band completed the spectrum of sparkling offerings with three scintillating numbers. The readings included the now regularly quadriennial rendition of Pam Ayres' "Don't Start", this time by Vicky Bramwell, a worthy successor to Nicola Ravenscroft (1992) and Olivia Dunbar (1988). And no-one will ever know what Moyo Adunola really had in her basket!

The Choir, under Mr Dewhurst, completed the evening with a selection from its 1996 repertoire at the two Church Carol Services - at Christ Church, West Didsbury on December 18th and at St Ann's in the centre of town at lunchtime on December 20th. This was our first visit to Christ Church, with its splendid acoustic and wide proportions. As ever, the carols were wide-ranging and full of charm. The well-known singer, John Carol Case, is undeservedly less famous for his compositions. Mr Dewhurst had unearthed two of these, "The Bellringers' Carol" with an entirely novel variation on the well-worn idea of vocal chimes ("Ding dong merrily" and "Up! Good Christian Folk"), and "Lullaby at the Manger", with Andrea Reah's searingly beautiful solo, her pure, clear voice free of the slightest vibrato, soaring high above the lovely melody, and echoed from afar by Anna Rogers. Jambling's "Ragtime Carol" was a down-to-earth foil to this ethereal offering! A suitable farewell Christmas for Mr Dewhurst here; we now look forward to Miss Day's bâton conjuring up the vocal magic of the 1997 Festive Season with us.

G J Turner

FIRST YEAR'S MUSIC TRIP

On Thursday, 13th March, the first year went on a trip to the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester to see the Hallé Youth Orchestra.

The conductor/presenter was Philip Ellis, a firm favourite with Manchester audiences. He also knows well how to establish a rapport with young people.

The four sections, Brass, Woodwing, String and Percussion, all wore different coloured sweatshirts to help us distinguish them from one another.

The programme consisted of six pieces:-

Shostakovich's Scherzo from Symphony No. 10,

Philip Ellis' arrangement of "Around the Hallé in Seven Minutes", - phew!

Elgar's Enigma Variations (excerpts) including the haunting "Nimrod",

Respighi's "Birth of Venus" from "Three Botticelli Pictures",

Berlioz's "Symphonie fantastique" (excerpt) including the gruesome "March to the Scaffold", which gave me goose pimples,

Mussorgsky/Ravel's "Pictures at an Exhibition" (excerpts) including the wonderful transition from the wild "Hut on Fowl's Legs" to the majestic splendour of the "Great Gate of Kiev",

and a soloist from Chetham's School of Music playing a concerto movement.

Many thanks to the Music Department for organising this musical trip for us.

Andrew Clark (1S)

LENT TERM SCHOOL CONCERT

This year's School Concert, held on 17th March, opened with an impressive medley of 60s Superhits, including "Louie Louie", and Steppenwolf's classic Beatle's songs, which included "Lady Madonna", "Yesterday" and "Hey Jude", amongst others. After an outstanding performance of "Send In The Clowns" featuring Karen Vites as a vocalist, accompanied by the Concert Band, listeners were transported back in time to "An English Country Garden" and "The Lincolnshire Poacher", commendably performed by the Saxophone Group, featuring the vast majority of the School's saxophonists. The evening's first instrumental soloist, Dan Coghill, both entertained and enthralled the audience with a remarkable performance of the Rondo from Mozart's 2nd Horn Concerto. Other highlights included the Recorder Group's "Singin' in the Rain" and the brass ensemble performing 3 movements from the Danserye Suite by Susato.

After light refreshments in the Old Hall, the audience was soon brought back to the lively spirit of the evening by the Jazz Group's trilogy of contrasting numbers; "Pensylvania 6500" (in which Mr Wilson required the audience's participation upon the bleep of a toy mobile telephone), "Moonlight Serenade", and "In the Mood" (where the saxophone section showed off its somewhat limited dancing skills!). The Flute Quartet also delighted us with its interpretation of Debussy's famous "Sarabande".

The second half featured two more instrumental soloists, Mika Tong and Rebecca Goodwin, who gave superb performances of Chopin's "Nocturne in E minor" for piano and Telemann's "Adagio" for recorder respectively. Nearing the end of the concert, birthday girl, Gemma Bookbinder, entertained us with a magnificent performance of George Gershwin's famous jazz number, "Summertime". Gemma then turned up with Karen Vites to sing the well-known duet from the musical "Chess", "I Know Him So Well". They were accompanied by the Concert Band and it was extremely well received by the entire audience. To close the evening, the band performed two of Mr Goodwin's excellent arrangements for the band of Robson and Jerome's version of "You'll Never Walk Alone" and Mark Knopfler's theme tune to the film, "Local Hero", "Going Home". We were pleased to hear the Head Master congratulate all the musicians in his farewell speech as this was the last concert he would attend. Messrs Dewhurst and Goodwin then presented Mr Briggs with a framed photograph of the Band at Speech Day in the Bridgewater Hall. In conclusion, a very enjoyable evening was had by all and many thanks go to the entire music department, especially Mr Goodwin and Mr Dewhurst, for making the evening as entertaining as it was.

Clare Keable (LHH)

BLACK DYKE BAND AND CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

Black Dyke Band is renowned for being one of the best bands in the world, and because of this it is obviously in great demand. It has made over 50 recordings, and often appears on television and radio. Its conductor, James Watson, is one of the world's finest exponents of the trumpet soloist's art, and as well as being the leader of the band, he is Professor of Trumpet at the Royal College of Music, London.

When they came to us on Tuesday 24th June, these indefatigable players had recently returned from Switzerland, and the conductor James Watson confessed to a stunned audience that some members of the band had only managed four hours' sleep over three days before they gave our concert!

This however did not affect their performance at all on the night, and they provided a wide range of pieces for our enjoyment. A few of such pieces were: "Hora Staccato" by Dinecu, in which the cornet section, although tired, gave one of the fastest renditions heard by many of this piece, and amazed the audience; "Jupiter From The Planets" by Holst, well known to all of us; and the very amusing "Temptresses for Trombones", featuring some of the world's best trombonists, Simon Cowen, James Stockdale and Adrian Hirst (I bet you've never seen a juggling trombonist, have you?).

Of course, this concert could not have been what it was without the WHGS Choral Society in the first half, with their version of Movements 1 and 3 from Rutter's "Gloria", and Handel's "Zadok The Priest", accompanied by a small selection of the Black Dyke Band. The WHGS Choral Society was formed in 1991 by Mr Dewhurst, with the idea of giving pupils a chance to sing larger scale choral works. It consists of basically anyone who wants to (and is not afraid to) sing, and rehearses during the Summer Term.

The Choral Society is greatly enjoyed by all its members, and hopefully will continue when its creator moves on!

The concert was enjoyed by all audience and participants, and a big thank you goes to Mr Dewhurst, Mr Goodwin and of course James Watson and the Black Dyke Band!

Julia Atherton (4B)

SUMMER CONCERT: "LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS"

After the rip-roaring success of the inaugural 1996 "Last Night of the Proms" here at William Hulme's, the formula was repeated this year on Tuesday, 1st July. Who but Mr Dewhurst and Mr Goodwin and their musicians would have dared to mount so ambitious a programme only a week after the equally successful joint concert of our Choral Society with the Black Dyke Mills Band?! Needless to say, the evening was no less vibrant and fresh on that account, as the New Hall temporarily acquired some of the atmosphere of the Albert Hall in London.

The first half of the concert consisted of orchestral and of solo items, all but one of them instrumental. Mr Goodwin's Concert Band gave us two light modern items by Conti and Elton John respectively, Mr Wilson's Jazz Band set our feet tapping with a sequence of four numbers just before the interval, and Helen Quayle's Brass Group had a lovely spot

with Banchieri's "Echo Fantasia". There were three instrumental soloists; Daniel Coghill (French Horn) with the most unashamedly "classical" item of the evening, a movement from Beethoven's F major Horn Sonata; Rebecca Goodwin (recorder), who showed how the recorder can adapt to modern light music; and Matthew Whibley with a fine tuba solo.

The only vocal number in the first half was the lovely duet by Gemma Bookbinder and Karen Vites, "I know him so well", by Andersson and Ulveus. These two young ladies are utterly professional in everything they perform, with firm, clear, mature voices and magnetic "stage presence". (Gemma's blossoming musical career was the subject of an article in the "Manchester Evening News" in November 1996; this is published in facsimile here, page 94).

Of course, the real magic of the "Last Night of the Proms" lies in the second half, with its light-heartedly "patriotic" repertoire, quite properly purged of its former nationalistic and triumphalistic overtones. After a further offering from the Concert Band, the audience was invited to join in eight nostalgic numbers from yesteryear, culminating in "Land of Hope and Glory" to the accompaniment of party poppers, balloons, festoons, etc., etc., ! Karen Vites sang the verses of "Rule Britannia" at twenty-four hours' notice, no mean feat. Finally, there were well-deserved tributes and speeches, highlighting particularly in this, his last public performance here, Mr Dewhurst's exceptional contribution to School life in his time as Director of Music.

The "two Philips", as he and Mr Goodwin have been affectionately known these six years (no comparison intended with the Two Ronnies!), have formed an exceptional professional partnership, which was elaborated upon with a great deal of good humour.

G J Turner

(I should like to add a significant postscript to this review. Our own Dr Keable and her two daughters Elisabeth (OH 1988-95) and Clare (LHH) were victims of a road accident on the very morning of this concert, when a car behind theirs hit it at a zebra crossing. Despite their very real and painful injuries, they all insisted on playing in the Concert Band the same evening, showing a fine spirit of loyalty and determination which deserves to be recorded. GJT)

JAZZ FM

THE PATRICK CLAHAR QUARTET

This lively quartet came to play an informal concert for our Junior School one morning towards the start of the Summer Term. They are touring Northern schools to introduce young people to Jazz. The whole idea was conceived by Ralph Bagge, head of operations at the Jazz FM radio station at Salford Quays. They showed how Jazz developed throughout the century, with numbers from different decades and in different moods. The youngsters learned a lot, and enjoyed it too.



(Photo: courtesy of the Manchester Evening News and Mr Howard Barlow)

BBC "SUNDAY HALF AN HOUR" RECORDING/BROADCAST

The half -hour recording took place at the Central Methodist Church, Oldham Street, Manchester. The same schools took part in the half-hour recording as in the "Children For Children" concert. There were about 7-8 schools that took part in both events. Roger Royle was the host of the broadcast. First, there was a rehearsal on Tuesday, 20th May and then the recording was on Thursday, 22nd May. The programme went out on the 25th May. There were about 7 hymns in all and most of them were the traditional ones. They were also selected by Gordon Stewart, the musical director, and ranged from old favourites such as "In my heart there rings a melody" (Mr Dewhurst said he sang this at Sunday School when he was 5!) to "You've got to move when the spirit says move", a modern "happy-clappy" number. As it was around the Whitsun time, it was the traditional Whitsun songs that were sung.

Anna Rogers (2S)

LUNCHTIME AND EVENING RECITALS

The series of informal evening recitals is now well established but it was decided this year to run some lunchtime concerts both to add to the performing opportunities for pupils and also to give people in the School the chance to hear live music making.

The lunchtime recitals were slightly different in that the three concerts given represented families of instruments starting with clarinets and saxophones, the second by flutes and the third by brass. The standard of playing was very high in all the concerts and much credit must go, not only to the performers, but also to the visiting staff who were responsible for providing a very varied programme of music utilising virtually every one of their pupils. The attendance at the concerts varied somewhat, being, at times, regrettably sparse; one of the problems of a very full school calendar.

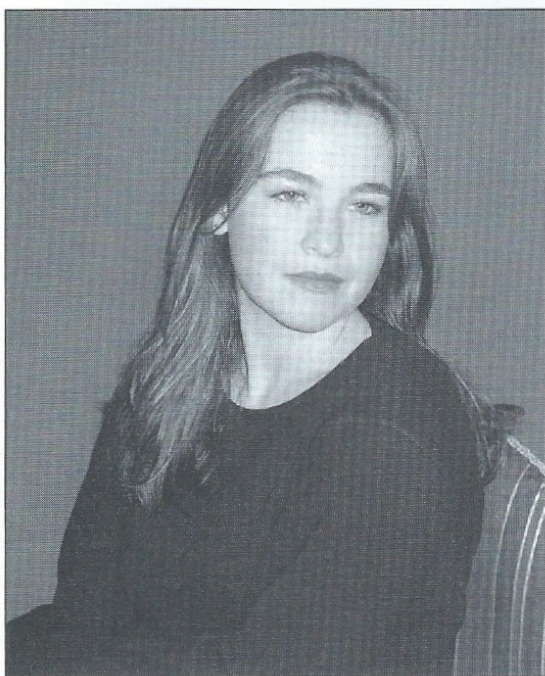
By comparison, the evening recitals were extremely well attended and the informal atmosphere, created by an audience of parents, relatives and friends, helped produce some very fine individual performances.

The variety of the music was as wide-ranging as ever, from the reflective 'Romance' by Binge played by John Daniels, along with Kati Greenall's atmospheric performance of Mendelssohn's 'Song Without Words', to the elegance of Handel, Telemann and Mozart played by Natalie Sheldon, Rebecca Goodwin and Sara Sadeghi. Foot-tapping music was provided by Geoffrey Kinsella, Elli Metcalfe and Andrew McLeod and a very powerful performance by Clare Keable of Prelude No.14 for Piano by Shostakovich. There were also very fine performances by Chloë Duckworth, David Freeman and Graham Laycock on saxophones, whilst special credit must be given to Dan Coghill not only for his solo performance of Mozart's Horn Concerto but in his efforts to produce a small group performance of his own arrangement of 'Too Much Love Will Kill You'.

Space does not allow me to mention every performance but all of the pupils that took part deserve credit for their efforts as does Mr Colin Martin for the time he gives in his role as accompanist.

There will be another series of recitals next year and I hope to see many of you in the audience supporting and appreciating the skills of our pupils.

P Goodwin



GEMMA BOOKBINDER: Two shows tonight

Auntie Elkie's advice

■ SHE'S not yet 14, but Gemma Bookbinder from Altrincham has a mature voice which looks set to see her follow the success of her famous auntie, Elkie Brooks.

"Elkie reckons I might have problem because of Gemma's talent," says her proud financial adviser dad Ray.

"She was singing in the clubs at a similar age, and she has always regretted not staying on at school.

"We were down at her home in north Devon recently, and had a go in the recording studio. And she told me, 'Gemma has a wonderful voice and lots of potential, but make sure she sticks to her lessons'."

Gemma, whose favourite songs are jazz and blues numbers and standards in the Bette Midler mould, says sen-

sibly: "I really want to be a famous singer, but I know how important the other stuff is."

A pupil at William Hulme Grammar School, one of her earliest memories is as a three-year-old singing No More The Fool, one of the more famous numbers by Elkie, singer with Vinegar Joe before starting a solo career.

The song is now very much a part of her repertoire. Despite her tender years, Gemma has already played several dates. Tonight she's even got two bookings, first at north Reddish Conservative Club. After that, she'll whizz to her cousin Brian's Bookbinder's self-titled club for the over 25's in Minshull Street, Manchester city centre, to celebrate the niterie's seventh birthday.



■ ELKIE BROOKS: Regrets

HOUSE NOTES

BYROM HOUSE

Heads of House Michael Dodd*
 Victoria Fleming*

House Prefects Caroline Alderson, Eitan Amir, Pritpal Badesha, Paul Beals*, Nicholas Bell, Thomas Craven, Charles Ellis, Jon Hodges, Katrina Mackay, Matthew Robinson*, Robert Seddon*, Tanuj Sobti, Pryesh Vara, Emma Weeden, Joanna Zucker.

*denotes school prefect

MICHAELMAS TERM

Welcome to the members of 3 Byrom who are

Waqar Ahmad	Samantha John
Homera Ahmed	Gemma Litherland
Hadi Al-Bayati	Ryan Lustgarten
Imran Ali	Alexander Rennie
Darren Daly	Anisa Rashid
Daniel Gall	Rupinder Sagar
Laura Hopkinson	Daniel Scolah
Omar Hussain	Stanley Tso
Pater Irving	John Watson

Wunmi Ademosu (L6) also joined the house from another school. We wish all these new Byromites every success and look forward to reading of their contributions.

It should not pass without mention that this is the first Byrom House report not penned by Mr Alan Blight for some 25 years. As we move into this new era of Byrom history we should not forget the past and the great debt of thanks which generations of Byromites owe Alan Blight; his name and character runs through Byrom House like Blackpool's runs through its rock. I know he is looking forward to reading of our exploits, so down to business.

The music competition was the first major event and Vicky Fleming organised the rehearsals for the entry. Eitan Amir produced the programme which put forward a varied selection of mainly short solo pieces which were announced by R Bowie and A Power. A lack of depth combined with no large group work was our downfall. We did manage a better overall score than last year but so did all the other houses and unfortunately we finished 6th. This does not however detract from the people who played. Wunmi Ademosu played "Memory" from "Cats" extremely well and though they were very nervous Chloë Duckworth and Darren Daly both gave good performances on Saxophone and Guitar respectively. It was also a delight to hear Debbie Langer singing a number from Les Misérables; she has a wonderful voice and with more confidence will surely be a star performer next year. Vicky Fleming gave a very musical rendition of a Brahms Sonata on Clarinet and was our top scorer. The area that we lacked in was group performances, and thought they did quite well on the day the Flute trio and Clarinet duet would have benefited from more work together. Perhaps what we would all benefit from is the confidence to give a performance with poise and style; all too often everything looked rushed, as though we are trying not to be noticed. One should never be afraid to show what one is good at.

The Hockey competition was moved to this term with great success. Both Juniors and Seniors provided some excellent hockey at times; however I did notice a reluctance among our players to move up or down the field with the play. The attackers stayed up and the defenders back. This made it very difficult for the midfield to get the ball from one to the other. We did however make it to the semi-finals in both competitions but lost in both putting our girls in the 3rd & 4th play-offs.

The Juniors played extremely hard with Caroline Bell leading by example, and they overcame Dalton 1-0 in a very close game to finish in 3rd. The Seniors, having pushed Heywood, the eventual winners, close in the semi, looked good for 3rd spot also. They recorded a 3-0 win over Whitworth despite having some players without sticks for part of the game, Stephanie Jackson proving to be our key player.

The Senior League Rugby come under the category of "the one that got away". We had a good side when all present and we played some exciting games, winning 19-18 over Gaskell, 29-28 verses Dalton and 22-19 against Fraser. However on two occasions we could not field a team, only having 9 players with kit, so forfeited these two games and ended the competition in second equal place, very disappointing. The knockout was a different story altogether; strengthened by our squad player, our good league form was raised and we progressed to the final in some style. In the final, which was an excellent game, Fraser pushed us very close. Michael Dodd lead from the front as always, while Robert Seddon almost gave me a heart attack at the base of the scrum with his passing. This was perhaps a little harsh of me as it transpired that he had broken his thumb and was playing on in great pain to be part of a terrific 19-15 winning team. We completed the double by winning the Junior Knockout, beating Whitworth in a very close game played in extremely wet conditions that prevented much open-handling rugby from being played. Richard Hopkinson's kicking was a key element in our success as, whenever Whitworth made inroads, Richard pushed them back with long kicks and then the rest of the team tackled hard.

The Junior 7's was an embarrassment. We had by far the strongest team in the 4th year group, all squad players. However, because two headstrong individuals could not play with each other or the rest of the team, we lost a pool game and only managed 3rd place. I have never seen such selfish and immature behaviour on the field before and the two boys concerned should be ashamed. In the 3rd year team we only had one squad player and although we tried very hard we just could not live with the opposition and we lost all our games. The Senior Raymond Cox 7s effort managed to restore some pride. The first team played well but lost narrowly to Fraser in the final.

The second team tried very hard but lacked the specialist knowledge and organisation needed in sevens and so lost both pool games. The 3rd team were a real success namely due to the pace of Martin Daniel who had just started to play again after an injury. At the end of the day, with the 3rd team winning their final, the competition result was a tie between ourselves and Heywood.

Overall an extremely successful Rugby season.

The House Swimming is always a good competition that never quite manages to fulfil its potential. This is mainly due to a lack of commitment and organisation from the competitors. It takes place after school and because of this some free time has to be given up or some changes to normal travelling arrangements made, so some people are unwilling to take part. Yet often the same people are the first to volunteer if there is a chance of missing a lesson or two. Clearly many need to examine their motives and commitment; this applies in many areas but especially swimming.

Those who did compete swam well, but with only one relay team in the final our lack of depth was exposed, but well done to the 4th year freestyle team "first". There were good individual performances from Tom Hickman, first 4th year backcrawl our only winner, also from Gillian Alderson, Nick Gilmore, Ben Stafford, Caroline Bell, Joe Holland and Oliver Roe.

The ROAD RUN is a very tough event, it is physically demanding but it is also psychologically hard; can you keep going when it starts to hurt? This is the real test and sadly many are not even willing to try. Therefore great credit is due to the people who do run and give their best shot.

Byroms runners and their placings out of 36 were:

3rd Year -	Rupinder Sagar	4th	Daniel Gall	23rd
	Daniel Scoriah	17th	Samantha John	33rd
	Imran Ali	20th	No Second Girl	(36th)
4th Year -	Saeed Khan	4th	Caroline Bell	18th
	Joe Holland	8th	Chloe Duckworth	32nd
	Tom Hickman	10th	Richard Hopkinson	Disqualified (36th)
5th Year -	Richard Nixon	3rd	Ross MacKay	11th
	Martin Daniel	6th	Stephanie Jackson	18th
	Zahoorul Haq	8th	Anya Dearden	27th
6th Year -	Richard Johnson	2nd	Wunmi Ademosu	24th
	Tom Craven	10th	Gillian Alderson	31st
	Nick Bell	18th	Nick Gilmore	Disqualified (36th)

The combined total of 434 put us in 3rd place which in normal circumstances would be very good, however when looked at closely it can be seen that had we not had two runners placed last for cutting corners and if another 3rd year girl could have run we might have won. The 5th year team were our star outfit, winning their age group by 13 points. Richard Johnston's run for 2nd in the senior race, in a time of 18.21, are the high points but to all the others very well done.

A very busy term was brought to a close with the Debating competition. Kamran Tahir and Wunmi Ademosu were defending the motion "This house does not believe in Corporal Punishment". Both were well prepared and delivered the argument against Corporal Punishment very confidently. Kamran dealt with the questions from the audience and gave a good summing up and as a team they were highly commended by the judges, Mr Briggs and Mrs Brown. However they were up against an excellent Heywood pair, who managed to rebut our case and carry the day. Heywood then went on to become outright winners of the competition.

LENT TERM

The largest and most demanding event of this term was the House Play, and after some deliberation the producers, Claire Lelonek and Ben Stafford, decided on Alan Ayckbourn's "Absent Friends". In choosing this they set themselves and the rest of the cast a difficult task, and even after much rigorous editing Byrom maintained tradition and staged the longest performance.

The rehearsals got off to rather a slow start, and as time was short anyway this year it meant that in the performance we were not sufficiently secure with the lines to concentrate on acting, movement and timing. However, the six characters played by Julia Atherton, Jo Gregory, Claire Lelonek, Michael Graham, Ben Stafford and Richard Johnstone were convincing and amusing at the right times. It was a great effort done with spirit and all are to be highly commended. This also applied to the stage manager Michael Dodd and his team Rob Seddon, Wunmi Ademosu and Waqar Ahmad for providing an impressive set.

This term being short, and combined with the introduction of the 6 day cycle, it meant that there were two fewer games afternoons. For this reason the Senior House Lacrosse League was unfinished. In the games played, however, we recorded some good wins and were clear contenders for the title. In the Senior Knockout we first met Gaskell. The game was very close with defences dominating, but we managed to run out 2.1 winners which put us in the final to play Dalton. This turned out to be another close game. Dalton had most of the possession. They won every face off and were much quicker on to any ground ball. We were therefore unable to get enough shots on goal, while our defence was magnificent and kept Dalton out. As we pressed towards the end Dalton scored on the break and were good winners at the final whistle. The Junior Knockout was dominated by Byrom's squad player as they made up most of the team. We were much too strong for Heywood, winning easily. However in the 2nd round we came up against Whitworth, who were a different story. We struggled to match their collective effort and, while our stars did not shine, Will Kent was like the Pole Star for Whitworth, leading the way, and they were the well-deserved winners.

The Hewlett Cup ended in confusion. A Byrom player was disqualified for playing out of his age group, despite my gaining permission for the move up from Mr Seddon, and one set of group games ran so far behind time that the final was played out by 3 Byrom players against 6 Dalton as the others had to leave to catch school buses. Dalton were the overall winners.

The Netball competition was much more efficiently run. However, our seniors were not strong enough in the early rounds and ended up in the wooden spoon playoff where they played well and beat Dalton to finish 5th overall. In the Juniors we played in two very close games and were unlucky to end up losers in both. The last game against Heywood was very exciting as each team scored in turn and the pace got faster and faster towards the final whistle. Heywood had just scored when the end came and won 8-7, disappointing for our girls but great sport.

MIDSUMMER TERM

Midsummer seems rather strange title for the last few weeks this year as it rained almost constantly and therefore certainly affected the sports events. As each day came, and with it the rain, a re-arranged date was announced. We started to run out of days to have events on. Most heavily hit was the rounders. The early rounds were played and the Junior competition squeezed in the finals. Our girls finished 3rd equal having lost narrowly to Fraser 3-4 and then drawn with Heywood 4-4. All very close and, judging by the noise, really exciting stuff. The Senior girls fared less well and were heavily beaten by Whitworth and Heywood in the 1st round, so were in the playoff for 5th & 6th place. However the weather struck and the event was washed out, somewhat to our relief.

The Cricket was more fortunate. We had byes in both Junior and Senior competitions and then had comfortable wins in both second round games, putting Byrom in each of the finals. Congratulations must go here to all the boys, as this meant that Byrom made the KO finals in all three major sports bar one at Junior and Senior age groups, a great sporting achievement for the House.

The senior final was against Fraser who looked a strong team. However a magnificent Byrom effort, when they all managed to get into the field, overcame them to win by 9 wickets. Victorious captain Nick Bell leading the way with strong support from Rick Bowie, Saqib Arshad and Will Stoddart, who had captained the team in the previous round to get us to the final, well done to all who played.

The Junior cricket was yet another example of poor team work and selfish individualism costing the stronger outfit the game. Byrom had on paper much the better cricketers. We battled first and did not do as well as we had hoped; Richard Hopkinson got out early trying to score all the runs in the first three overs. We looked in danger of not using up the full amount of overs, but our middle and late order dug in and took us to 103, Imran Ali and Hadi Al-Bayati doing particularly well.

However, when we went on to field we only had ten men; one had simply gone home, this individual's action let the whole side down and it could well have been the difference between winning and losing. As it was the game finished in a very close exciting but frustrating way, with us literally throwing the game away. I hope some lessons were learnt from this, about not relying on one player, all supporting each other to get the best out of everybody and staying calm when under pressure! Whitworth did this, and won. We did not, and lost.

The Athletics Sports were split, senior on a day before the exams, juniors after, and both were very successful days. Our seniors finished 3rd in their competition which is a good team effort and all who contributed are to be congratulated. The highlights were Marvin Daniels' superb sprint double; he took both 100 and 200 metre titles and was very close to the records. He followed this with 3rd in the high jump. Tom Craven was also 3rd in the 200 metres. Paul Beals won the 1500 metres in great style and was 4th in the 800 metres. Anya Dearden won the girls' shot put and was 3rd in the discus, while Stephanie Jackson was 3rd in the high jump and 4th in the 800 metres. In the relays the boys won the 4 x 100 with a great performance and were second in the 4 x 400, and the girls were 5th in the 4 x 100. These events rounded off a super day.

The Junior sports day was particularly special this year and everybody worked hard to make it a memorable one. There were events in two age groups 3rd year and 4th year, with many excellent performances, great team spirit and with a little more luck in the relays we would have won the day; as it was we were a very close 2nd to Heywood. I would give special congratulations to everybody, but our thoughts were mainly with those who could not be there.

In the 3rd year our star performer was Rupinder Sagar who won both 1500 and 800 metre with some very stylish running and then was second in the boys' long jump. Samantha John was second in the girls long jump and Gemma Litherland was 3rd in the shot put. However we needed more support for these which did not come and therefore we did not pick up many more points in the placings. The 4th year, on the other hand, was very strong and both individual winners were from Byrom, namely Caroline Bell first in the high jump, 2nd in the 100 metres and 3rd in the long jump,

and Richard Hopkinson who won all his events, 100 metre, 1500 metre, and triple jump. Very well done to both of them. They received good support, as other winners were Joe Holland discus, javelin and second in the 800 metre which is another superb individual performance. Tom Chung won the shot putt and Tom Hickman was 3rd in the 800 metres. When the results from both days were totalled Fraser were comfortable winners with Byrom coming in a very respectable 3rd. Athletics is a particular favourite of mine as it covers many areas. There is something for everybody to have a go at, one can have personal targets and improve best performances which may be far short of winning the event but represent great personal achievement and that 1 point which you get for sixth place can make all the difference to the team result.

So this brings to an end the year, my first in association with Byrom and I must say it has been a most pleasurable and successful one, all due to the members of the house. I have no doubt not done some things that I should have done and there are still many activities that I would like to fit in and do. With the houses help and co-operation I hope we can do more next year. We should set ourselves high standard, we may not achieve them all but will certainly improve by trying to. Finally, thanks should go to Miss Kelly and Mr Addison who have been a great help and support to me personally and the house generally, also to the heads of house Vicky Fleming and Michael Dodd for their hard work and leadership together with the support of the House prefects. To all our leavers we wish you every success in the future, and come back and see us some time.

N.P. Dunn

DALTON

House Officials 1996/7 :

House Deputies	Ms S.R. Tandon, Mr A.C. Crane
Heads of House	Samantha Johnson, Richard Beenstock
School Prefects	Samantha Johnson, Richard Beenstock, Chris Hewison, Kate Williams, Sara Khoshveviszadeh, Geraldine Brook
House Prefects	James Calderbank, Miles Newton, Andrew Matson, Shabbir Sobhani, Francesca Matthews, Amarjit Sagar

Michaelmas Term

The following appointments were made :

Rugby Captains :	Senior Knockout	David Hancock
	Senior League	Richard Beenstock
	Junior Knockout	Jonathan Murphy
Hockey Captains :	Senior	Geraldine Brook (also School captain)
	Junior	Georgina Laird
Swimming Captains :	Senior	Chris Hewison, Sam Johnson
	Junior	James Veitch
Music Organisers :		Affan Burki, Paul Murphy
Debating Team :		Affan Burki, Niki Jerath

Rugby played a major part in the Term's activities, including a Senior League Competition each week. Many offered to participate, even though they may not have been natural rugby players, and we realised that the experience was to come from captain Richard Beenstock and Kopul Rahman. In our first match against Gaskell, tackling in numbers put opposition under constant pressure. Forwards won the ball, backs ran well and we won 31 - 0. In the second match we were behind to Heywood, before superior teamwork won us the game 26 - 24. With many absentees on week 3, our weak side lost 17 - 39 to a strong Fraser team, coming back to easily beat Whitworth in the penultimate game. Our final game was against a tall but not particularly skilful Byrom side, where a victory would have won us the League. Despite four converted tries, carelessness from the backs meant that we surrendered a 21 - 5 lead, for a final score of 28 - 29, and only second place in the League. It was still a very enjoyable season from a hard working bunch of boys, with scrum half Miles Newton consistently playing well, both with his distribution of the ball and with his kicking.

We should have been strong enough to have progressed in the Senior knockout competition, but an unfit David Hancock hindered our team preparation, and avoidable mistakes, together with poor teamwork, produced a first match loss 10 - 12 to Whitworth. Our Juniors were all slight of build, and endeavour was never enough to help us progress against strong individual players, and we were beaten in the first round.

In the Senior Ray Cox 7-a-side tournament, the first team, despite their individual skills, lacked leadership, and lost both their matches. The second team was well led by Shabbir Sobhani and won both their initial matches without conceding a point, although they lost the Final. The third team won one and lost one, with Dalton finishing in 5th place. We had not expected much from the Juniors as we had no single individual strong enough to win a match. Both our Third and Fourth Year teams won one of their games, and Dalton again finished 5th.

It is only three years since Dalton won both the individual and relay swimming competitions. This year, however, we lacked strength, with many unable to swim at all. The Seniors managed to get no individuals into the final. Jamie Veitch won 4th Year Butterfly heat, Alex Hyde got through in 3rd Year Butterfly. We also had three of the six relay teams through. We were disappointed to only finish no better than 5th in the relay competition, and 6th in the individual.

The Road Run Competition involved six runners per year, most of whom struggled because of lack of training. Our best placed runners were Jonathan Murphy 5th place in 4th Years, and Warren Dawkins, Asad Chaudhry, Mika Tong 7th place in 3rd, 4th and 5th Years respectively.

In the girls' hockey competition, our Juniors showed both skill and enthusiasm. We had few School players, but teamwork showed through in the first round, when we were beating Heywood until the last minute, when they scored to equalise at 1 - 1. We had all the play against Byrom in our second match, but could not score, partly because the attack seemed to rush too much when close to goals. In the semi-final, we again dominated the game, but could not score against Gaskell, and lost 0 - 1. In our final match, we did not play well against Byrom, and finished 4th. These girls showed the potential to do well in the future, and showed a commendable attitude. In the Senior competition, we had enough good players, but did not play as a team, expecting one or two to do all the work. We lost both first round matches 0 - 2, to Fraser and Byrom. We finished with 2 - 0 win over Gaskell, and were 5th in the competition. This group of girls have shown much promise and expertise over the years, but have not fulfilled their true potential.

In the Inter-House debate, Dalton were to oppose Whitworth's motion that "This House does not believe animals have rights". Affan and Niki, helped by others, put in much research. They presented their case concisely and coherently. With their well-put-together arguments they dominated their debate, and were highly commended, but did not manage to win.

Our Music Competition entry was organised with many practice sessions, and ten entries, more than any other House. Our entry included variety, with one flute duet, three piano solos and three other instrumental solos. Maybe a small group should have been attempted, as this would have brought all together. It was also pleasing to have two vocal duets and Karen Vites a very confident vocal solo. The latter gained 91 marks, higher than anyone else in the whole competition.. Lack of a group entry brought down our final mark, but it was a very pleasing performance by all.

Lent Term

The following appointments were made :

Lacrosse Captains :	Senior Knockout	Ben Veitch
	Senior League	Miles Newton, Jim Calderbank
	Junior Knockout	James Veitch
Netball Captains :	Senior	Geraldine Brook
	Junior	Laura Berrisford
Play Producers :		Jennie Green, Karen Vites

Bad weather and a very short Term restricted the time available for a League lacrosse programme, and four matches had to be played over two weeks. We again had a co-operative group of boys who were willing to participate in the team. Our strength lay in the ability of Jim Calderbank, Miles Newton and Aneet Kapoor. We needed each of them to organise the others, but they also took turns to play in goals. Most handled well, and we were seldom troubled in our first two games, when we beat Gaskell and Heywood without conceding a goal. After a 2 - 0 victory over Whitworth, only Byrom stood in the way of our winning the League. From 1 - 0 up, we conceded our first goals, and a late equalising goal brought a 2 - 2 draw, and the first trophy of the season to Dalton.

We hoped for success in the lacrosse knockouts, and a splendid performance in the first round against Heywood saw Paul Murphy lead the attack well with three goals, with Miles and Jim Calderbank dominating the midfield, and the latter scoring six goals in a 16 - 0 victory. The same players dominated our second round performance against Fraser, with Jim and Paul again scoring six and three respectively. A good team performance resulted in our winning convincingly 12 - 0. The final was against Byrom, with both sides having many School team players. We dominated the first quarter, but one mistake led to Byrom taking the lead. Before half time, we had more shots, but most were comfortably saved. We went in at half time with a score of 2 - 2. Injury restricted our progress temporarily, but three late goals gave us the victory we deserved, at 5 - 2. The Juniors again lacked size and strength, and were against a strong Fraser side. Our midfield switched between Jonathan Murphy, James Veitch and Anthony Edwards to supplement the excellent and never-tiring Warren Dawkins. This was an excellent game, in which the score constantly fluctuated, 0 - 2, 5 - 2, and half time at 5 - 3. We were tiring and a 6 - 3 lead became a 6 - 8 deficit because of Fraser's strong running. A mistake let in Jonathan, and we regained control by slowing down the play. 10 - 8 up eventually became a 12 - 10 victory, and many tired legs. In the Final, we seldom played well, conceded two early goals, shot too high, and played as individuals instead as a team. One opposition midfield player dominated, and we lost a game 6 - 10 that we should have won. There were pleasing points to note in Andrew Pickford's goalkeeping, Nick Sharwin's defensive work, Julian Chapman's good handling in attack, and our midfield players mentioned above.

In the six-a-side tournament, we had five teams, three Senior teams and one from each of the Third and Fourth Years. Our 1st team played as they should and won every game, including the Final. The 2nd team won one, as did the 3rd team, who reached the Final and gained a victory. The 4th Year team won every match, and, despite the 3rd Year team gaining just one point, the competition was won by Dalton. This was a splendid all round performance.

The girls played in a netball tournament this Term, and the Seniors were again very disappointing in their two first day losses,. The Juniors were excellent, however, with victories by 4 - 1 and 6 - 5 over Byrom and Fraser respectively. They all encouraged each other and each played their part in the team performances. We convincingly beat Heywood 6 - 3 in the semi-final. Our Final was against Gaskell, when play fluctuated between one end and the other, we missed a late chance, and the match finished as a draw. Sudden death ensued, and, when Gaskell were given the ball, and all the advantage, they immediately scored. Well done to the Junior girls, however, and commiseration went to Iram who broke her arm in a fall.

Drama rehearsals took up many lunchtimes and after School sessions. 'I Spy', by John Waterhouse was a spoof on the lines of James Bond. Mistaken identities, KGB agents, secret weapons, codewords ... and a council house in Bradford! Our cast included producers Karen Vites and Jennie Green, and experienced Sam Johnson. Attempts were made to involve work-shy Cyril Greensleeve (a superb performance from Sam) in espionage. Much comedy came from the dialogue between Cyril and wife Edna (played by Jennie). The Russian spy, Olga, was superbly acted by Karen, whose appearance

and manner were presented with thought and confidence. Other lesser parts were played by Michelle Fearnley, Ben Green and Affan Burki (a late replacement). The ending was totally unexpected and very effective. The whole play was came together because of the hard work put in by the producers and actors. There were many thoughtful touches, and all completely involved themselves in the plot and the dialogue. The adjudicator's opening remarks stated that 'The quality of Dalton's production of "I Spy" was outstanding'. This outstanding performance brought yet another Drama victory for the House, and the best actress award to Sam. Can we still produce this quality when she has left?

Midsummer Term

The following appointments were made :

Cricket Captains :	Senior Knockout	Jim Calderbank
	Junior Knockout	Jonathan Murphy
Rounders Captains :	Senior	Vicky Raynes
Athletics Organisers :	Senior	Garth Rowlands
	4th Year	Anthony Edwards, Georgina Laird
	3rd Year	Daniel Endlar, Gemma Carolan

At the beginning of the Term, we welcomed Daniel Endlar to Dalton in the Third Year.

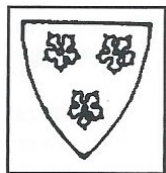
All the Senior activities were crushed into the first three weeks of the Term, before external examinations began. Insufficient bowlers against School 1st Team cricketers gave us no chance in the Senior knockout, and, when we batted, after the first few wickets, the rest of the side collapsed. In the Senior rounders, one heavy defeat was followed by one win, but the competition could not be completed because of bad weather. Many absentees on the day of the Senior Sports greatly reduced our entry, and, despite efforts to reorganise, we were unable to provide entries for several events. Our few successes included 1st place in the discus for Nicola Whiterod, 2nd place in the 100m for David Hancock and 3rd places for Paul Murphy (400m), Alison Featherstone (100m) and Boys' 100m relay.

The Junior cricket knockout team again lacked bowlers necessary to dismiss a School 1st Team player and suffered defeat in the first round. The girls' rounders team worked hard, but it was our bowling that let us down, with too many no balls. We were capable of scoring the rounders, but fell just short in both our early games. All were very annoyed with themselves (and the umpire!) as they knew they could have won. They did win their final match. When athletics entries were put together, it was found that many had never tried some of the events, and time could not be found to practice. All tried hard, and enjoyed participating even though we did not gain much success. 1st places were gained by Julian Chapman (3rd Year 100m), Natalie Ofoche (4th Year 1500m), Laura Berrisford (4th Year Shot) and 4th Year Girls' 100m relay. 2nd places were gained by Gemma Carolan (3rd Year High Jump), Vicky Raynes (4th Year 800m), Georgina Laird (4th Year High Jump), Nick Sharwin (4th Year discus) and 3rd Year Boys' 100m relay. Others who gained 3rd places were Natalie Sheldon, Rupert Wakefield and Anthony Edwards.

At the end of the Term, we said farewell to Mr Crane, who was taking up his new position as Deputy Head of Lower School. Thanks to the encouragement he has given to members of the House. He was replaced by Miss Minto, and we hope she enjoys her involvement in the affairs of Dalton House. We had four pupils appointed as School Prefects, namely Paul Murphy and Jennie Green (Heads of House), Affan Burki and Karen Vites.

All leavers are wished success in their future, and it is hoped that they have enjoyed being part of the many sports and cultural activities within the House.

M. D. Wood



FRASER HOUSE

Heads of House:

Rachel Goodwin*
Edward Choularton*

House Prefects:

Kelly Bagley (Library Prefect), Riana Bedi, Sarah
Cochrane* (Head of School), David Gilbert*, Simon
Johnson, Soraya Khan, Lucy Mattison, Richard Porter*,
Laura-Marie Ramsumair, Louise Wellock.

Captain of School Rugby:

Simon Johnson

Captain of School Netball:

Sarah Cochrane

*denotes School Prefect



Fraser's Senior Athletes, Sports Day 1997.
(Photo: D.M. Fisher)

MICHAELMAS TERM

Nineteen third-formers were welcomed into the House this year.. They are:

Elisha Bailey
Victoria Bramwell
Emily Cochrane
Alexis Dickson
Anthony Green
Sam Higgins
Jaya Jairath
Mohammed Jilani
Alex Johnstone
Ali Maan

James Meers
Umar Mian
Hannah Naylor
Brett Ramsumair
Paul Stonehouse
Michael Walker
Daniel Wood
Daniel Wright
Saqib Zahid

Additionally, Clare Keable and Zeeshan Rana (both L6) joined the House from other schools.

It may be as well to remind avid readers that "Junior" in the context of the Houses refers to the Third and Fourth Form groups, "Senior" to the Fifth and Sixth. This confusion should persist no more now that the Junior School has changed its name to Lower School.

Another superb set was prepared this year for our **House Music** entry, this time by Sarah Cochrane and Richard Williams. It would have been naive to think that Fraser would win the event for a fifth consecutive year, but no less care or effort went into preparing and rehearsing the pieces (except perhaps the finale?). We were the first House to go, and an extremely unfortunate fifteen minute delay in finding the key to open the piano led to a nervous and rather condensed programme from the Fraser musicians. An overrun is simply not feasible since each of the six sets must end with each lesson or the last House would be put at a disadvantage. As it was, it was the first that was at a disadvantage. Riana Bedi introduced each performance with clarity and, on the whole, accuracy. First of all the flute group of Kim Hayden, Emily and Sarah Cochrane, Louise Goodwin and Laura Smith played Gershwin's *Summertime*. Here nerves were understandably evident but the girls still achieved a high score from the Adjudicator. Clare Keable had chosen a difficult Mozart Violin Sonata (no. 1 in A major) which she played confidently (and which gained an even higher mark!), then Emily Cochrane produced a lovely sound in her 1st movement of a Gluck sonata. *Old Deuteronomy*, from Lloyd-Weber's *Cats*, was Richard Williams's brave choice as the only voice in the programme, after which the Cochrane sisters treated us to a clarinet and flute duet. Playing the piano with a heavily bandaged finger, Louise Wellock's contribution this year was Elton John's *I Guess That's Why They Call It The Blues*, an excellent choice for the occasion. Louise managed it very well under the circumstances. *The Bare Necessities* (Gilkyson arr. Hare) provided the rather under-rehearsed finale for the Fraser Band of a dozen musicians, including all the above-named together with Alexis Dickson, Tim Barraclough, Hannah Naylor and James Byrom. A delightful programme had been designed by Louise Goodwin and Richard Williams, and the entire project was as polished as was possible under the circumstances.

Our excellent record in the **Debating Competition** continues to decline, though this year under quite unusual circumstances. Luc Zentar was left to cope on his own on the morning of the competition after his seconder's sudden and unforeseen illness, having to prepare and deliver a second speech rather smartly. Luc has never before been short of something to say so he managed reasonably competently. He had already gone to quite a lot of trouble to research and prepare for the difficult and uninspiring motion that This House Would Censor the Internet, which he was to oppose. The two other debates concerned animal rights and corporal punishment and either would have given Luc more scope to *ad lib* at such short notice, but there you are. In the event Luc spoke clearly, persuasively, humourously and articulately, perhaps reading a little too much of his speech(es), understandably, but fielding well questions from the floor (most of which, however, were directed towards the motion's proposers, thereby increasing their scope for consolidating). In summing up he presented a reasoned if somewhat wide-ranging argument, and ultimately the audience was convinced, although whether they had or had not been before the debate we shall never know. Our thanks to Miss Tandon for organising the event and to Mrs Brown and the Head Master for their adjudication.

The House **Hockey** season got under way earlier than in previous years, and our Junior girls used their talents effectively to win their first match 3-0. Safely through the semi-final with Byrom we met Gaskell in the Final, and despite being overwhelmed for much of this game our defence managed to keep out all but one of Gaskell's shots! No-one had expected our girls to progress this far in the competition this year and so they were all rightly proud of themselves to be runners-up. Louise Goodwin, Saima Khan and Hannah Naylor played especially well in all matches.

In the Senior competition our first two matches against Byrom and Dalton did not stretch our very experienced girls unduly, but two key players, Katie Chesworth and Kim Hayden, were ill for the Finals, and this meant that with so few senior players to call upon we were noticeably lacking in bite. Consequently we scored not a single goal in the last two matches, qualifying for the Final itself on short-corners then losing to Heywood in the same way. Most of the girls played tirelessly throughout the competition: Sarah Moore and Kim were strong yet serene full-backs, there was excellent interplay between Rachael Lee, Laura Smith and Rachel Goodwin, Lucy Mattison scored useful goals in the preliminary games, Laura Ramsumair again proved what a great catch she was when she joined Fraser two years ago, a slightly reluctant Gemma Rosenthal again made a good strong contribution, Riana Bedi was a very good surprise goalkeeper, and Clare Keable volunteered to play in all the games, trying out the keeper's pads to start with then looking much more comfortable as a full-back! As for Sarah Cochrane, she led throughout by her fearsome example, running until she could run no more and taking no prisoners - from either side. Second place at both levels reflects the Fraser girls' continuing strength of ability and commitment. Long may it last.

For a second successive year the **Senior Rugby XV** took the league trophy in a season where only five matches per House were possible. After a poorish display against Byrom, in which we lost by three points, Edward Choularton's team hardly put a foot wrong, beating Whitworth 27-0 with Amir Tabatabaei containing Jacob Haboubi and Edward, Craig Baker, David Gilbert and Gurpartab Sathi embarking on run after run at the opposition. Next came Dalton. Encouraged by their performance in the Knockout the team supported each other much better, Richard Williams proved again what a fearless and effective tackler he is by taking down Alan Lee as he reached our line, and both Fayaz Ahmed and Amjad Khan showed improvement with the ball, winning it, making good ground and most importantly retaining possession. Alex Yap, new to the game, applied his intelligence and his strength and developed quickly. Alex played in most of our matches and always made his presence felt. Registering thirty-nine points in this game then seventy-one in the next enabled the team to average just over thirty points per match, a creditable record. Richard Porter, Richard Ip, Richard Longworth, Luc Zentar, Marc Zentar, Chris Johnstone, Arfan Malik, Matthew Norcliffe (and even Tom Ross) made up the squad. This was by no means a vintage season for the inter-House League, but the great majority of participants gave it their all, and the Fraser XV's confidence, running, tackling and obvious enjoyment of each game helped to redeem it. Ed Choularton's powerful running and sure handling made him a captain to look up to, and his practical leadership style is perhaps most effective at House games level.

The **Ray Cox Seven-a-Side Tournament** is invariably a tense and exciting affair. This year our captains were Simon Johnson, Chris Johnstone and Amir Tabatabaei. The 2nd and 3rd VIs played reasonably well but did not adapt their game sufficiently and could only therefore manage a win apiece, contributing only four points to the total. The greater experience



Ray Cox Sevens: Fraser 1st VII (capt. Simon Johnson second from rt).
(Photo: D.M. Fisher)

and flair of the 1st VII was evident the moment their first match started. They won the ball, expended as little energy as possible in keeping it, contained their opposition quickly and efficiently and exploited openings as soon as they presented themselves. Even Dalton's outstanding David Hancock could find no way through our defence, and after a comfortable win over Gaskell Fraser's weary seven held on to beat Byrom 14-12 in a gripping Final in which the winning points were scored by Simon drop-kicking the conversion to our last-minute try. The House finished third with eleven points, a single point behind the joint winners Byrom and Heywood, reminding us that the strength of competitions like this is that everyone's contribution counts. It is not enough for the top players alone to succeed, nice though that is. This lesson was brought home to us even more strongly in the Junior Sevens.



Junior Rugby Sevens: Fraser Third Year VII.
(Photo: D.M. Fisher)

Our talented Fourth Form team, feeling the absence of the injured Daniel Naylor perhaps, continually tied the ball in and failed to win either of their preliminary games, scoring no points at all and leaving it to the third-formers to restore some pride. This they did by winning their group and coming away with six points, despite being rather swamped by a huge and swift Whitworth team in the Final. They have quite a bit to learn about the seven-a-side game, but lack nothing in skill, enthusiasm and determination. In this competition as well we were third. All the players were awarded House Colours. They were Chris White and Anthony Wardle (joint capts.), Bilal Iqbal, Balal Rana, Kessr Ali, Jon Byrom and Richard Lee from

the Fourth Form and Anthony Green (capt.), Sam Higgins, Daniel Wright, James Meers, Brett Ramsumair, Paul Stonehouse, Alex Johnstone and sub. Michael Walker (Thirds).

A bye, followed by a good win over Gaskell in round two took the **Senior Knockout XV** into the final again this year with a real chance of repeating last year's rare double. With eight players representing the School and our senior VIs team having just won their final the previous week the omens were favourable. However we did not produce our best rugby, were not inventive or disciplined enough, and moments before the end of the match we let Marvin Daniel through to score the winning points for Byrom.

The **Junior Knockout XV** showed tremendous resilience and spirit in their postponed first round match, trailing 0-21 at half-time yet clawing their way back to lose only by the narrowest margin of 19-21. The lesson, of course, is not to allow yourselves to be steam-rollered in the early stages of a match by a team that you are clearly capable of beating! It leaves you too much ground to make up. Chris White, Brett Ramsumair, Anthony Wardle and all the third-formers played particularly well in this encouraging game.

The **Road Race** produced the greatest disappointment for Fraser this year. It is one of the best inter-House events of the calendar and the one most reliant on each individual participant's sense of loyalty and pride. Normally it tends to bring out the best in people as they overcome their disinclination to compete, since they know the rest of the House's runners are dependent on them. This was the case for the majority of our runners, but the Fifth Form boys who'd been selected and whose names had been on the House boards all the previous week decided that they would prefer to be elsewhere than at School that afternoon, their House Master was not there at lunchtime to double check (as if that would be necessary!) and so only the excellent Gurpartab Sathi was there to represent the House at this crucial level. The result was inevitable: the three absent runners were awarded the last three places in their group and thus amassed a deficit of over a hundred points as their contribution to the team effort. What an insult to the twenty-one other Fraser boys and girls who did run and whose tremendous efforts came to nought. Here are the runners and their placings:

Third Form:	Brett Ramsumair	6th	Alex Johnstone	19th
	Paul Stonehouse	8th	Hannah Naylor	27th
	Danny Wood	12th	Emily Cochrane	28th
Fourth Form:	Daniel Naylor	3rd	Kessr Ali	22nd
	Balal Rana	12th	Anthony Wardle	23rd
	Louise Goodwin	21st	Saima Khan	27th
Fifth Form:	Gurpartab Sathi	15th	No runner	34th
	Alison Hawcroft	28th	No runner	35th
	Chloe Pepall	32nd	No runner	36th
Sixth Form:	Zeeshan Rana	4th	Richard Williams	16th
	Simon Johnson	5th	Rachel Goodwin	22nd
	Edward Choularton	6th	Rachael Lee	29th

Last year we won this competition, this year we slumped to fifth.

Knowing that our chances of winning the **Swimming Sports** this year were slim we decided to concentrate our strengths in an area where there was a realistic possibility of success. Consequently the relay teams were reinforced as far as possible, meaning that our individual entries were slightly weakened but that more swimmers had the opportunity to represent the House. The tactic was fully justified by the outcome: Fraser's relay teams all qualified for the finals, won the Relay Trophy, and yet the House still managed a respectable third place overall. It was pleasing to see less reluctance on the part of the girls to enter this year. They really made their presence felt, especially in the relays. Results were:

RELAYS:	<i>Squadron (freestyle)</i>	<i>Medley</i>
1st	-	4th yr; Senior
2nd	Senior	-
3rd	3rd yr	3rd yr
4th	4th yr (disq)	-
INDIVIDUAL:	First:	Alison Hawcroft (Snr butterfly); Danny Wood (3rd yr butterfly)
	Second:	Alison Hawcroft (Snr individual medley); Chris White (4th yr backstroke); Danny Wood (3rd yr individual medley)
	Third:	James Byrom (Snr freestyle); Richard Lee (4th yr ind. medley)
	Fourth:	Louise Wellock (Snr breaststroke); Anthony Wardle (4th yr breaststroke); James Meers (3rd yr backstroke)

A tremendous amount of goodwill and cooperation was required for our performance to be a success: swimmers had to change to compete in events which weren't their strongest (or favourite), sometimes at the last minute - this was especially true of the relay finals - some swimmers turned up to take part and then were not used, and absentees had to be replaced at short notice. But everything was resolved more or less amicably and everyone shared credit for the result. Thanks to Miss Matthews, Mr Austen and James Byrom for their valuable help in planning this complicated event.

The House term ended with the usual frantic but enjoyable Christmas Dinner, House Masters providing seasonal drinks and extras to enhance the traditional meal provided by the Catering Team.

- Richard Longworth, Rachael Lee and Michael Gale were nominated to perform Prefects' duties during the Trial Exam period in December;
- Jennie Porter and Arfan Ahmed represented Fraser on this Term's Catering Committee;
- In the end-of-term Christmas Celebration all the senior readers were from Fraser. They were Sarah Cochrane, Laura Ramsumair, Richard Williams and Vicky Bramwell.
- School Colours were awarded for rugby to the following: Simon Johnson (Full), Stephen Kellett (Club), and Daniel Naylor (Junior);
- Helped by their Form Tutor Miss Minto, Fraser's Fourth Form (4F) raised £125 for the housing charity Shelter after giving a presentation in Middle School Assembly.
- Jennie Porter raised money for developing countries at Christmas with sales of Fair Trade goods in the Old Hall, exploiting her well-known powers of persuasion to do so!

LENT TERM

The Lent Term began well with the news that Sarah Cochrane had been offered a place to read Veterinary Medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge. We hope she makes it!

Several people had been involved in the early stages of the **House Play** this year; Rachael Lee, Luc Zentar, Kelly Bagley, Lucy Mattison and Jahanzeb Junejo all showed an interest but finally Louise Wellock was chosen for her confidence and experience. Auditions went well and a very promising cross-section of the House was cast and began rehearsing with regularity and enthusiasm. Two actors had to be replaced at very short notice, which caused quite a stir, but Clare Keable and Ross Jenkins stepped in and quickly learned their lines, though not as quickly as Emily Cochrane and Adam Dignan. Kessr Ali took the important role of the waiter in Ayckbourn's *Between Mouthfuls* and attended rehearsals assiduously, although nerves got the better of him during the performance and caused him to freeze once or twice. Still, it kept the play short and to the point! Jaya Jairath, Vicki Bramwell, Alexis Dickson and Jahanzeb were extremely authentic and plausible as the more or less silent group at the table in the background, and the principals sustained the tension and interplay well. At the end the audience was treated to a guest appearance from Penny Cochrane, this being her only opportunity to represent her sisters' House as sadly she is leaving School at the end of the year. House Colours were awarded to all participants, including Zeeshan Rana who helped Jahanzeb backstage during the performance. Miss Green's full adjudication appears elsewhere in the *Hulmeian* and as ever is essential reading.

Senior Lacrosse has suffered badly in recent years both from appalling weather rendering matches impossible and from the reduction in the number of senior games afternoons dedicated to the inter-House league. This year was the worst yet. Simon Johnson and Edward Choularton, elected Captain and Vice Captain saw their season reduced to farcical proportions for a variety of reasons, at least some of which were under our control. Only four matches were played, squeezed into two afternoons in the first half of term. We lost our first two then won the rest, playing without either captain, nor any Upper Sixth-Former. Unfortunately we did not have the chance of a crack at Dalton's X, the eventual winners. One of the chief justifications for the House game is that it functions as a breeding-ground for School lacrosse, which it is not being allowed to do at present. The other chief justification is that team sport is one of the cornerstones of the modern, liberal education offered by schools such as ours and which would be severely diminished were organised games to be abandoned through expediency. However, the one player who should be singled out in a review of our four short league skirmishes is Richard Longworth who resignedly strapped on the pads in the absence of an enthusiastic volunteer to keep goal, then performed superbly, stoically placing himself between ball and goal with such courage that we managed to beat a visibly superior side, Heywood, solely because Richard refused to let them score!

The Lacrosse Knockouts went rather better. Anthony Wardle and Chris White did their best to arrange and run practices for the Juniors, and after winning our first round match we met Dalton in the semi-final. Paul Stonehouse and Kessr Ali shared the unpopular keeper's role, and our boys all played well, especially Brett Ramsumair and Daniel Naylor. We seemed to rely rather too heavily on Daniel, though, and despite taking the lead early in the second period we lost 10-12. The Senior Knockout X had a bye, then they too faced Dalton. We had an enviable blend of skill and commitment and might have done better than a 5-9 defeat had we won more face-offs. Matt Naylor and Steve Kellett just couldn't break down David Hancock so Dalton's strong group of School players invariably came away with the ball. In the third quarter three excellent goals brought Fraser back to 5-6 but we were again unable to hold Dalton, and they too scored another three. This defeat against an extremely good side was no disgrace, but experienced School players should know better than to be sent off twice for the same offence, and they know that rules are applied less liberally for House matches. Fayaz Ahmed had a good game in goal but we had too little expertise in defence to support him, making up for this with determination and sometimes sheer brute force - but I mention no names. Craig Baker and Adam Dignan played well and our league stalwarts did all they could, and deserve credit.

Next came the **Hewlett Cup** six-a-side tournament with its attendant highs and lows. The lows started at the outset for Fraser when the senior teams were checked and it was found that two or three senior boys had not made themselves available for the occasion but had not seen fit to face up to anyone to explain why. They should re-read this section in last year's *Hulmeian* for my views on their actions. We managed to resolve the turmoil that ensued and created three new teams out of the players we had. Surprisingly our much-diminished 1st VI, featuring the likes of Mike Gale and Richard Ip, reached their final as did the 3rds, both to be beaten by Dalton. The 2nd VI had suffered most from absenteeism and could only draw one game, the 4th Formers won one, lost one, but the 3rds again did superbly, winning their group for maximum points. Second place was a nice reward for that extra degree of cooperation and commitment the day had required from all our players.



Fraser's Winning Senior Netball Team 1997: Alison, Kim, Katie, Sarah C. (hiding), Laura, Sarah M. and Rachel (Capt) in action against Gaskell.
(Photo: D.M. Fisher)

Netball is always so much easier (and pleasurable?) for a House Master, somehow. The girls organise themselves superbly with the minimum of fuss, and are entirely dependable. On court they seem well drilled, play with gusto, and enjoy themselves. This year our Senior girls were rather less confident than last year of beating either Heywood or Byrom, but their exceptional positional play and teamwork made all their four victories inevitable, despite a very sluggish start! After this they were always sharper and more inventive than their opponents, dominating in all areas.

The Junior girls were really much better than their final placing of fifth would suggest. They too played very much as a team and in the first round of matches they had more than enough possession to win - they just couldn't shoot straight. It was as simple as that. Confidence was restored, though, when they avoided the wooden spoon by beating Whitworth in the play-offs. Louise Goodwin, Sophie Nelson, Saima Khan, Louise Lee and Hannah Naylor played especially well.

- Richard Williams, Clare Keable, Sophie Nelson, Jennie Porter and Joyce Fairath all took part in the wonderful *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Richard Porter, Sarah Cochrane, Kelly Bagley, Lucy Mattison, Rachel Goodwin, Mike Gail, Richard Longworth and Vicky Bramwell all had backstage or front of House responsibilities;
- Neil Roland OH (ex-Fraser House and sometime Editor of the NW Arts magazine) has just completed the latest in the *Rough Guides* series of travel guides, the *Rough Guide to Sweden*, and has also been working on a similar guide to Scandinavia covering Lapland and Finland;
- Representatives from Fraser provided the refreshments for the School Play. They were Sarah Cochrane, Rachel Goodwin, Rachael Lee, Soraya Khan, Zeeshan Rana, Paul Stonehouse and James Meers, among others! All proceeds went to offset the play's expenses;
- School Colours were awarded at the end of term to the following members of the House:

Full:	Richard Porter (Drama) Sarah Cochrane (Netball and Hockey) Sarah Moore (Netball)
Club:	Michael Gale and Richard Longworth (Drama) Craig Baker (Lacrosse) Rachael Lee (Hockey) Laura Smith (Netball)
Junior:	Alison Hawcroft and Kim Hayden (Netball) Adam Dignan (lacrosse) Kim Hayden, Alison Hawcroft and Katie Chesworth (Hockey)

MIDSUMMER TERM

Richard Longworth is Captain of School Tennis.

Craig Baker, Tim Barraclough, James Byrom, Michael Gale, Richard Ip, Jahanzeb Junejo, Clare Keable, Rachael Lee, Richard Longworth, Sarah Moore, Zeeshan Rana and Laura Smith were, after much deliberation and an early meeting with the existing Prefects, appointed House Prefects at the beginning of term.

Rachael Lee and Richard Longworth helped their House Master explain the intricacies of the House system to the incoming Second Formers.



Fraser Junior Rounders Team. Captain: Louise Goodwin (rear centre).
(Photo: D.M. Fisher)

The **Junior Rounders Competition** went well this year, a 0-1 defeat by Gaskell then a 6-3½ win over Dalton taking the girls into the semi-finals. Their place in the Final came with victory over Byrom (rounders coming from four different players), but unfortunately the opposing finalists were the very strong, confident Gaskell girls, and we duly took second place. This was a big success for our team, however, but did they realise it?

The senior team put on an excellent display of fielding in both preliminary matches, again having a shaky start against Byrom, then cruising through to victory by eight rounders over Dalton. Best among the fielders were Kim, Rachel, and Sarahs Moore and Cochrane. Laura, Gemma, Chloe and Clare all played their part too. The Finals were postponed until the last week of term, the day before Sports Day 2, but even so Alison, Katie, Kim, and Sarah and Rachel of course, all came into School at lunch for the event, and Rachael, Laura, Clare and Sarah Moore were here all ready to play, so we had the strongest possible team raring to go with a high probability of success. Then for barely fifteen minutes it rained heavily, just long enough to render the fields unsafe, and the competition was abandoned. The disappointment caused not one murmur of annoyance from this great group of girls, so there was only the rain to sour the afternoon (which turned out to be rather warm and sunny...)

Cricket has so often meant instant disappointment for Fraser that the House Master is almost immune to it and even ran a fielding practice for the squad at the beginning of term. This summer, though, the frustration was withheld for a week or two as the promise of an historic success hung tantalisingly about the pavilion. Simon Johnson led his Senior XI superbly in the first match with Dalton, bowling with great pace and making 105 not out. Matt Naylor scored 68 and Steve Kellett showed his all-round talents; Tim Barraclough kept wicket (for the first time?) remarkably capably, Zeeshan proved to be a very effective bowler, and Awais Arshad, Edward Choularton and Shazad Arshad worked hard in the field. Thus we progressed into the semi-finals. The team was in a hurry for this match, bowled Whitworth out for 45 and Simon and Matt rattled the runs off in no time, winning by nine wickets. Craig Baker, not the most experienced of bowlers, took two wickets in his first over, Luc Zentar kept wicket this time, and in the absence of the fifth-formers Chris Johnstone, Mike Gale and Richard Longworth were drafted in to make up the team. After all this one would surely be forgiven the assumption that these players would be looking forward to a final in which they had a real chance of playing some enjoyable, rewarding cricket and coming away with a shield. This was not the case, apparently. The captain phoned and left a message crying off late on the morning of the Final, none of the fifth-formers contacted us about the game, and four of the above-mentioned senior boys failed to accept the foregone conclusion that they were playing and instead wandered evasively around the School even as the match was under way. Their House Master was then faced with the indignity of persuading them to find kit and play, and then watching Steve Kellett, Zeeshan Rana and six non-cricketers being humiliated on the front square in a match that was over before the end of School, much to everyone's relief. The boys whose behaviour was such an affront to their friends will be relying on their House Master to make a positive contribution to their UCAS applications in the near future.



Fraser Junior Cricket Captain: Anthony Wardle (foreground).
(Photo: D.M. Fisher)

The **Junior Knockout XI** got off to storming start, scoring 191 runs in twenty overs. Daniel Naylor, with 1st XI experience already behind him, made a massive 152, setting Dalton, our opponents yet again, an impossible task. Excellent support came from Balal Rana, Anthony Wardle (capt.), Kessr Ali behind the stumps, Brett Ramsumair's quick bowling, Paul Stonehouse, Jamie Meers and Alex Johnstone. The semi-final against Byrom was a very different affair, however. Hopkinson and Imran restricted our batsmen to 108, seldom enough on the back square, and we could not control their innings. Hopkinson in particular had a field day at our expense, just as he had last year. In the end the match was only lost by a couple of wickets, and it had been a respectable and coordinated team performance, enhanced by the confident batting of Richard Illingworth.

Sports Day(s): it was clear that we needed a special effort from our Fifth and Sixth-Form athletes again this year as there was at least one other House whose juniors would chalk up more points than ours. Last year the seniors' winning margin was not sufficient and the younger group slipped down into third place on the second day. This time a twenty-seven point margin over Heywood was more than enough: both seniors and juniors surpassed themselves, doing better in all departments. One of the highlights this year was Simon Johnson regaining the Senior Victor Ludorum trophy (the Gaskell Cup) that he'd won in 1995. Simon won the Long-Jump and the 800m race, and was second to Luke Hassett in the Javelin. The Relays always provide a thrilling climax to the afternoon; not even the most world-weary spectator can fail to experience at the very least a mild interest as the four teams vie with each other on the track and try to achieve a legitimate baton-change. Double points are awarded for each relay team to reach the final, which adds rather more tangible interest to the events, since at that stage of the afternoon it is seldom clear which House has a real advantage. Kim, Rachel, Gemma and Alison ran faultlessly in their 4x100m event, coming second to Heywood, the boys' 4x100m team of Craig, Zeeshan, Steve and Chris came in just behind Byrom, and Edward, Simon, Luke and Adam won their 4x400m Relay by a considerable margin. The thirty-four points gained from these three races ensured that a substantial lead would be carried over to the final day some weeks later (when most of the boys and girls who were responsible for it would have left School, sadly).

Performances to record were:

1st Place:	Simon Johnson (800m and Long Jump) Luke Hassett (400m and Javelin) Edward Choularton (High Jump) 4x400m Relay Team (Boys)
2nd Place:	Kim Hayden (100m, 200m and High Jump) Katie Chesworth (Discus) Edward Choularton ((800m) Chris Johnstone (200m) Simon Johnson (Javelin) 4x100m Relay Team (Girls) 4x100m Relay Team (Boys)
3rd Place:	Adam Dignan (1500m) Rachel Goodwin (800m and Shot) Craig Baker (100m and Long Jump) Luc Zentar (Shot) Stephen Kellett (Discus)

4th/5th Places: Chris Johnstone (100m)
 Rachael Lee (200m, Long Jump and High Jump)
 Craig Baker (200m)
 Sarah Cochrane (800m)
 Laura Smith (100m)
 Michael Gale (Shot)
 Alison Hawcroft (Shot)
 Edward Choularton (Triple Jump)

In the Junior Sports division Fraser runners scored a higher points total in the six relays than any House, an encouraging indication of the level of commitment in the Third and Fourth year-groups. The long list of those twenty-five finalists who contributed to winning the Athletics Sports - for the third time in four years - is:

1st Place: Saima Khan (Long Jump)
 Anthony Wardle (200m)
 Louise Goodwin (800m)
 Chris White (High Jump)
 4x100m Relay, yr 3 Girls
 Emily Cochrane (Long Jump)
 Anthony Green (Discus)
 Daniel Wood (Javelin)

2nd Place: Daniel Naylor (200m and High Jump)
 Saima Khan (1500m)
 Anthony Wardle (Shot)
 4x100m Relay, yr 4 Girls
 4x100m Relay, yr 4 Boys
 Hannah Naylor ((100m)
 Emily Cochrane (200m)
 Elisha Bailey (800m)
 4x400m Relay yr 3 Boys

3rd/4th Places: Saima Khan (High Jump)
 Sophie Nelson (200m and Javelin)
 Alex Johnstone (800m and 1500m)
 Brett Ramsumair (Triple Jump)
 James Meers (400m and Discus)
 Alexis Dickson (1500m)
 Victoria Bramwell (Javelin)
 Hannah Naylor (High Jump)
 Paul Stonehouse (800m)
 Anthony Green (Shot)

5th/6th Places: Richard Lee (400m and Triple Jump)
 Sophie Nelson (100m)
 Louise Lee (Shot)
 Daniel Naylor (Long Jump)
 Chris White (1500m)
 4x400m Relay yr 4 Boys
 Paul Stonehouse (400m)
 Daniel Wood (Triple Jump)
 Jaya Jairath (Shot)
 Saqib Zahid (200m)
 4x100m Relay yr 3 Boys

* * *

It is tempting to write the same remarks year after year about the boys and girls who are leaving the House after five, sometimes only three, years. Every group of Fifth and Upper Sixth-Formers is different of course, but they all tend to bring the same qualities to the House and the School in greater or lesser measure. They are always a challenge, they are invariably bright, good-natured and in the main dependable and loyal; and the vast majority are very good company. It is always a wrench for those of us who remain (and remain...), therefore, to see them leave for their long summer holiday before the Universities swallow them up and they are seen no more! I hope this year's excellent group will want to keep in touch and pop in to see us from time to time when they are at a loose end and we are all at School! My thanks to all of them for everything they have done to enhance our lives at William Hulme's. I am certain they will be taking away with them something of value from their association with the House.



Heads of House 1996-7 Edward Choularton and Rachel Goodwin, with Sarah Cochrane (centre) at the Leavers' Lunch.
(Photo: D.M. Fisher)

As joint **Heads of House** Rachel and Edward have been quiet but effective and dedicated, setting an example to all in the House, playing the fullest possible part in House activities as they have always done, and confirming that they have developed into impressive, capable and dependable young adults. Sarah has been an exemplary, dynamic and high-profile Head of School and pillar of Fraser. We wish them and all our leavers a full and happy life after WHGS.

- Of the several Lower Sixth-Formers recommended as temporary School Prefects, Craig Baker, Timothy Barraclough, Michael Gale and Richard Longworth were appointed;
- Thanks to Mr Austen and Miss Matthews for their continued support for the House;
- Full School Colours were awarded to Simon Johnson and Stephen Kellett (Cricket), Club Colours to Zeeshan Rana (Cricket) and Clare Keable (Music), and Junior Colours to Jennie Porter (Music and Rounders), Louise Goodwin (Rounders and Tennis), and Daniel Naylor (Cricket). Congratulations to them all.

D.M.Fisher

GASKELL HOUSE REPORT

Welcome to our new members, J. Case, P. Johnston, M. Kotecha, A. Race, A. Siddiqi, A. Farooq, D. Goodkin, R. Goodwin, F. Shah, B. Vara, A. Aslam, U. Azim, R. Garner, M. Platt, K. Shah, M. Choudhury, H. Hassan, O.Raja and A. Rogers. I expect them all to contribute something to the House over the next year, enthusiasm vital, skill irrelevant.

Why Gaskell House? The name comes from Elizabeth Gaskell the novelist who wrote about 'Cranford', a fictitious village based on her own experience of living in Knutsford. She later married William Gaskell, a Unitarian minister who lived in Manchester. Her novels provide a microcosm of English living from the gentry of Tatton Hall and Dunham Massey to the industrialists at Quarry Bank Mill - a rather harsher world than today's Industrial Museum.

So much for the history, what about the past year? 1996-97 has been a year of change - Head Master, Government and even the House System. After years of debate we finally have House tutor groups, groups that will stay together for three years, hopefully with the same form tutor. This stability enables the pupils and staff to get to know, and appreciate, each other extremely well. Miss Derby and Mrs Worthington (3G & 4G) and their forms have already set a very high standard. The pupils have been willing to participate in a wide range of activities, have largely kept out of trouble and must be congratulated on their academic achievements. The reward was a visit to Laser Quest in Manchester where the staff certainly enjoyed shooting the pupils - but also proved to be excellent target practice for the pupils.

The third and fourth year girls have been totally dominant throughout all competitions this year. They have won all the major sports competitions and made useful contributions to 'whole' house activities such as swimming, drama, music and athletics.

Kati Greenall's report on the year follows:

REPORT ON GASKELL'S TRIUMPHS

This year, Gaskell certainly seemed determined to break their previous reputation of winning very little. Everyone's moral was given a huge boost when we managed to stun and shock the judges with our performance in the House Music. No one is actually quite sure how we managed to win this, but I believe that it must have had something to do with Faye Todd's amusing performance on the keyboard. She managed to bring a smile to everyone's face. Afterwards, some believed that we had hired Margarita Pracatan to play for us! Also, Tom Gent's effort on Mr Veevers' bike in 'The Leader of the Pack' was another pointer to victory.

This left us with an amazing sense of achievement and we just had to look forward to the coming hockey match. To see such enthusiasm from each individual player on the team inspired people to play just that little bit harder. Although everyone wanted to win, there was a sense of fun brought to each of our matches. At some points of the match against Dalton, there were some heated and tense moments, but everyone carried on with enthusiasm and high spirits. I know from being in goal that it was a very close match, and at times it could have gone either way. We won the hockey tournament and people found things out about themselves that they didn't think was possible. Rebekah Lawson managed to bring back her powerful and deadly hits, which she claims that she hadn't seen since the first year! The third years also showed talent and great team spirit. They were obviously following from great examples from us fourth years!

Months after the victory, certain members of Gaskell were still talking about the matches, until it was now time for the netball. Again, the matches were played in great spirits and humour. Anna Robertson certainly seemed to be amusing herself, along with her excellent playing. There was some doubt in the final of the netball, as we had to run into overtime, when unfortunately some people had to leave for their buses. This left one or two people not very pleased but we carried on with even more determination to be successful. At times it seemed that Miss Derby was more bothered about our winning than we were. And so, due to great encouragement, we were again victorious.

It was ironic that the hockey tournament ended up almost the same as the netball. The final was again fought between us and Dalton. It was another extremely close match but again we pulled through, with smiles and cheers. We were invincible! Our next challenge was the rounders. We thought that our luck must end here, and that surely we couldn't possibly win this as well. The first round was played without Laurie or myself. We were ecstatic to find out that we were in the semi-final. Due to the weather, the matches were then postponed. It wasn't until towards the very end of the term that we managed to play our matches. Gaskell produced a very strong team, all willing to give the very best that they could. There were times when we felt that the matches could have gone either way. I know that my fielding could have done with being a bit better at times. The catch of the match almost certainly came from Faye Todd. The player of the match was Rebekah Lawson. Her rounders were spectacular, and were certainly the key factor to our victory, again! Also, this was the first of our tournaments where we were provided with refreshments. Thanks, Mr Veevers!

All in all, Gaskell has had an extremely successful year and we hope to keep the winning streak throughout the rest of our years here at School. I would just like to thank Mr. Veevers, Mrs. Hesp, Miss. Derby, Mr Gorman and Mrs Worthington for all their support and help throughout the year. We couldn't have made any of our successes possible without them there for us. Also, thanks to everyone who turned out to team practices and played and supported in the games. Although sometimes we had to bend a few arms to get people to play, generally everyone played with great passion and team spirit. Without these factors, there is no point in having these games. Not only did we produce the skill required to win, but also the great sportsmanship. WELL DONE GIRLS!

The following girls played in the matches for Gaskell: Faye Todd, Talia Turnberg, Victoria Lane, Anna Robertson, Rebekah Lawson, Elli Metcalfe, Laurie Edwards, Kati Greenall, Sunita Boodhoo, Nicola Endlar, Adanna Opara and Laura Alexander-Williams.

Kati Greenall (4G)

Tom Gent, international journalist and member of 4G takes over the story from his point of view.

The fourth year Rugby Sevens side for Gaskell was very strong. The team consisted of Mark Brown, David Rogers, David Freeman, Chris Harwood, Tom Gent, Jeff Kinsella and Kasim Ullah, not all squad players but still a strong unit. Our best victory in the tournament was playing Byrom House who had 3 Cheshire players. Hopkinson captained the side, however he decided to control the game by the boot; this proved costly with his going for goal 3 times and missing them. Gaskell capitalised on this and scored a converted try before the break (7-0). Byrom really began to apply the pressure, but in the dying seconds David Freeman intercepted a pass and ran in to make the game safe. We went on to make the final and comfortably beat Whitworth 24-0 and walked away with the honours.

The knockout game against Fraser was always going to be tough, especially with quality players such as Wardle, White and several talented third years. A bonus was that Daniel Naylor was unfit to play and meant that our backs had the edge over the Fraser set. The game started brightly, with, as expected, Fraser winning all of the ruck and making ball due to the work of Wardle and White, however Gaskell had an ace in their backs. Scott Griffiths at outside centre had the pace and the strength when we had the ball through the backs to run in two quick tries, with a try in reply from Fraser before the break (14-5). After the break Fraser hit back with two quick tries, one converted and one missed, which left the score at 14-17 in Fraser's favour. The Gaskell team realised they had to produce something special and did with ten minutes left, the backs ran in a try from 20 yards and left the score at 21-17. Fraser pressured and pressured and with 5 minutes left scored a penalty kick - 21-20 in Gaskell's favour. Constant pressure still and with referee causing mayhem by disallowing a try by Wardle in the dying seconds, Gaskell went through to play Byrom in controversial style.

Playing Byrom again was going to be a mountain to climb. Hopkinson, Cheung and Holland ran riot and didn't allow the Gaskell backs to flow. Harwood, Griffiths, Rogers and Robinson had trouble containing Hopkinson, and Gent found difficulty at scrum half controlling a weak pack of forwards who only once won a scrum (final score 31-5).

In the Third and Fourth Year Cricket Gaskell had a first round bye and met Whitworth in the semi-final. Gaskell didn't bowl or field badly. The pick of the bowlers was Rogers and Booker, though the opening pair of Ullah and Gent failed to have any luck. Whitworth were dismissed for 135. Gaskell's batting line up was weak. Griffiths, McLeod and Ullah fell early and cheaply and with a brave attempt from Rogers and Booker to steady the ship, it was to no avail. Rogers made 20 before being bowled by the raw pace of Umar Sohail. Gent scored 35 from 22 balls before being caught by Wu off the bowling of Robson. Final total 110 - a loss by 25 runs.

In the fourth year football five-a-side Gaskell were far superior. The first game against Fraser started off slowly but was eventually won 2-1. Next it was Dalton's turn, final outcome 3-1. Heywood for the third game, was going to be difficult, however the team were satisfied with 3-1. Whitworth proved no match with a hat trick from Ullah producing a 3-0 win. Lastly it was Byrom with Gaskell producing possibly their best performance 5-0, the eventual score. The team was Phil Robinson, David Rogers, Mark Brown, David Freeman, Kasim Ullah and Tom Gent. Mr Gorman announced Gent and Rogers joint men of the tournament and Gent was top goalscorer with 9 goals in 5 games. Ullah also picked up 5 goals in his 5 games and Brown 2 goals in 2 games.

Many thanks to all the third and fourth formers who made the year so enjoyable.

Tom Gent (4G)

The House Music competition took place in October and was expertly organised by John Daniels and Kati Greenall. We have a House full of Saxophones and Messrs Daniels, Freeman, McLeod, Kinsella and Greenall formed a band to perform one of Andrew Wilson's compositions. Faye Todd, John Daniels, Stephen Johnston and Kati Greenall all performed excellent individual pieces. The world renowned singing group The Gaskettes performed Dancing in the Street and Leader of the Pack. Though Rebekah, Elli, Jackie, Laurie and Sunita were dynamic, the appearance of Tom Gent with an old bicycle as The Leader of the Pack brought the House down! A grand total of 104 points meant that Gaskell House had once again proved their cultural merit. The success was largely due to good organisation and more attention to rehearsal than has previously been shown.

In the Debating Competition Aaron Greenall and David Melmoth were called upon to propose the motion 'This House would censor the Internet'. Both prepared well and spoke forcefully. Aaron fielded the questions with expertise and earned himself a commendation from the judges. The motion was defeated and Heywood won the overall competition.

The House rugby team got off to a bad start that was made worse by Marc Olden's promotion to the squad. We lost two games by a single point and had high spots such as 30 yard sprints and tries from Aaron Greenall and Alex Xidacis. Chris Edwards tried hard to get people to be as motivated as he was. Iffy turned up in October and despite never having seen a rugby ball before made an instant impact and showed great promise for next year. Srinivas turned up from Bombay but the November snow was too much for him, however he continues to practice for the House Scooter competition.

The Ray Cox seven a side tournament started badly as Marc Olden broke his fingers in the pre-match warm up. This meant a mass shuffle of personnel and a six man third team. Only one victory was secured by the first team and a humiliating 6th position resulted. The junior competition had to be more successful. The third form team lacked some power from the forwards and had to settle for 4th place, however the fourth years made a great team effort. They won all their games and used all their players effectively, for example, Mark Brown produced an excellent side step to avoid a tackle and then charged downfield to produce a try for Chris Harwood. The Juniors thus gained an overall 2nd place, an excellent effort. The Juniors also did well to qualify for the knockout final but the lack of real forward presence and some weak tackling handed the game to a strong Byrom side.

The Inter House hockey competition produced contrasting results. The experienced Seniors failed to score a goal and allowed Dalton to beat them 2-0 in the competition for 5th and 6th place. However, the Juniors compensated for this disaster by winning three games 1-0 with a 0-0 draw in the qualifying competition. Excellent goalkeeping, stout defence and a goal from Rebekah Lawson in the final meant another success for the Junior girls.

The annual road run took place on December 16th this year. Scott Griffiths got us off to the perfect start, winning the third year race in a time 90 seconds faster than the winner of the fourth year race. Robert Booker was not far behind, and new recruit Laura Alexander-Williams came in eleventh overall. Laura joined the School in the middle of term but rapidly got

involved in all the activities. Her enthusiasm and effort were welcome and set an excellent example for some less enthusiastic fellow pupils. Robert Thompson, Darren Looft and Nicola Endlar ensured first place overall for the third years. Phil Robinson, Tom Gent, Geoffrey Kinsella, Rebekah Lawson and Vicky Lane ran well for the fourth year team but four boys are required and a total lack of responsibility among the other boys meant no fourth runner and therefore last place overall. The fifth year team of Fady, Stephen, Justin, Craig, Lecia and Jane came third overall as did the Seniors of Paul, Alex, Iffy, Ashish, Yasmin and Carys. The final House positions gave Gaskell 2nd overall, an excellent result from 23 willing runners. The missing fourth form runner could well have cost us the competition.

Sadly the Lacrosse season is somewhat shortened, though as far as the Seniors are concerned this was fortunate as the best result was a 4-4 draw with Whitworth. Both teams were defeated in the first round of the knockout competition. The Senior netballers got themselves well organised and with the guidance of Jane Lawson managed to defeat Whitworth 4-3 to come third overall. The Juniors once again set the perfect example to the rest of the House. They were well organised and, thanks to my in-depth knowledge of the game, managed to defeat Byrom 5-2 in the semi final and Dalton 3-2 in the final. The third and fourth years combined well and defended expertly.

The Hewlett Cup involves virtually all the boys in the House and vast amounts of kit have to be lent out all over the place. There are always individuals who seem to think that House Masters are really representatives for Olympus Sports and can therefore supply them with, socks, boots, helmets and gloves on request, usually just after the game has started. It is certainly a difficult job to keep a track of everything and even some results were in dispute. However, Gaskell's 2nd team and third form team were very successful and helped Gaskell to a respectable third place overall.

The swimming competition also calls on a large number of competitors, not all as enthusiastic as they should be. The relays are always exciting and, in our case, successful. The third years gained second and first, fourth form second place and seniors two thirds to gain 18 points from the relay section. Robert Booker, Laura Alexander-Williams, Ben Radnor, Sam Hughes and Scott Griffiths gained points from the finals of their individual races. Phil Robinson won both the medley and the freestyle and Geoffrey Kinsella gained an excellent second in the freestyle. John Daniels won the senior backstroke and gained a creditable third in the butterfly, Chris Edwards was a brave fourth in the backstroke and Guy Brocklehurst was second in the freestyle and third in the medley. Credit must go to all who took part in the heats but a special mention to Phil Robinson who won the fourth year individual trophy and the whole team for an overall second. Whitworth won by a large margin; they had practised!

The major activity of the Lent Term is the House Play. House Masters and pupils become visibly more tense as the great day arrives. Fortunately Gaskell are blessed with the Edwards dynasty - four of them - who all took part in this year's play. Carys and Cemile produced the play and must be congratulated on the way they approached the task. Lights, props, costumes, timing and accents were all excellent. Carys is reckoned to be slightly crazy but her true character could be seen as she stayed calm during the final rehearsal and coolly sorted out characters who were in danger of a nervous breakdown.

Faye Todd and Talia Turnberg produced an excellent programme for 'Death' by Woody Allen. We always try to produce a humorous, entertaining play and this was no exception. In 1993 David Melmoth pulled faces in my Geography lessons and it occurred to me that he could do that on stage. Though it took four years to get him there it was worth the effort. He portrayed Kleinman brilliantly and spent many hours learning the part. It is vital that actors and actresses listen to each other in order to perfect the timing - vital in the delivery of a comedy. The cast, helpers and audience all enjoyed the production, many thanks to Mr Gorman for helping, Mr Austen for the stage management and Mr Turner without whom the event could not take place. David Melmoth won the Oscar as the best actor and there is hope for the future as Owen Edwards has promised to write a play, and Miss Green commented "Gaskell's supporting cast: Faye Todd, Frances Edwards, Talia Turnberg, Suzanne Nathan, Rebekah Lawson, Vicky Lane and Guy Brocklehurst showed a rich seam of thespian talent for future producers to mind".

The cricket season consisted of two games and two defeats - enough said. Sports Day occurs in two parts with the Senior event early in May. Again this is a chance for everyone to have a go but sadly there is the usual list of feeble excuses. The people who competed all did their best and often the individuals who had to put in the most effort failed to win any medals. The triers are not forgotten, however; a third place for Marc Olden in the 800 metres was our only track success. Aaron Greenall came third in the triple jump, Hamza won the shot and Chris Edwards won the discus. Iffy, Ashish, Paul Edmundson, Jane Balderstone and Helen Collins all gained points and the relay squads claimed two fourth places and a fifth.

Junior Sports day was a sad day but nevertheless there were some encouraging performances especially from the third years particularly Adanna Opara, Laura Alexander-Williams, Scott Griffiths and Sunita Boodhoo. Scott won the 200 metres, long jump and triple jump. Sunita won the 200 metres and Laura won the high jump. Adanna broke the school record for the shot and also won the 100 metres - an excellent effort all round. Darren Looft was second in the discus and 400 metres, Laura was second in the 1500 metres and Sam Hughes was second in the high jump. Robert Thomson was third in the discus and Anna 'why don't we play basketball' Robertson third in the 800 metres. The 100 metre relay teams did very well to gain a second and a third place. Scott Griffiths was the individual year group champion. The fourth form are so keen to appear laid back that they never seem to get started and therefore are in danger of wasting their talents. The boys won the 100 metres relay convincingly. Laurie Edwards, Rebekah Lawson, Kati Greenall, Mark Brown and Faye Todd all gained second places, with Laurie and Rebekah also gaining third places. There were others that gained places in the finals but we could have done better - the fourth year boys managed to send only three competitors to the 4 x 400 metre relay. The grand computer (Mr Wood) worked out that Gaskell were 5th overall - disappointing.

The Senior girls managed to qualify for fifth or sixth place in the rounders but the Junior girls, competed the grand slam defeating Fraser by 6 rounders to 1 in the final. Once again, well done girls.

Mrs Hesp, Mr Gorman, Miss Derby and Mrs Worthington have all given a lot of their time and energy to provide opportunities and counselling for the pupils. Hopefully the pupils will all take on board the 'nothing ventured, nothing gained' motto. be enthusiastic make the most of your opportunities.

The upper sixth that have now left have all taken part in various activities some have consistently done everything. I trust they have enjoyed themselves and developed a positive involved attitude to life. Certainly the first question at a re-union is "What House were you in? not, "What 'A' levels did you get?" or "How much money do you earn?" That is the comment that makes it all worthwhile.

H.N. Veevers

HEYWOOD HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

Head of House:	Rachel Westbrook
Deputy Heads of House:	Louise Ives, Nick Davenport
School Prefects:	Rachel Westbrook, Louise Ives, Asha de Silva
House Prefects:	Rachel Westbrook, Louise Ives, Asha de Silva, Nick Davenport, Dan Bishopp, José Camarasa, James Leinhardt, Laura Leveson, Asif Majid, Matt Pimbley, Vicky Seel.

Senior Rugby K.O. Captain:	Nick Davenport
Senior Hockey K.O. Captain:	Louise Ives
Senior House XV Captain:	James Leinhardt
Junior Hockey K.O. Captain:	Emma Cruickshank
Junior Rugby K.O. Captain:	Luke Coffey/Andrew Machin
Road Race Captain:	Rachel Westbrook
House Music Organisers:	Asha de Silva/Rachel Westbrook
House Swimming Captains:	Seniors - Matthew Whyatt
	4ths - Graeme Laycock
	3rds - Jenny Street

As a major boost to the House system, the Middle School forms for years three and four are now House based. Miss Smith was given 4H and Mrs Hampson took on 3H. The term started with the news that Rachel Westbrook, Asha de Silva and Louise Ives were confirmed as School Prefects and Rachel was chosen to be Head of House. Louise Ives and Nick Davenport were appointed Deputy Heads of House and Rachel, Asha, Louise, Nick, Dan Bishopp, José Camarasa, James Leinhardt, Laura Leveson, Asif Majid, Matt Pimbley and Vicky Seel were made House Prefects.

The first job of the new term was awarding House Colours for the athletics and junior cricket from the preceding Summer Term. Owing to Sports Day taking place on the day school broke up and the cricket final never being played, due to rain, no final House Assembly took place. Lucy Counsell and Joe Malik were the only new awards. Also, in the first House meeting, planning for future events looked more difficult due to the six day cycle. In the past, senior games was always on Wednesday. Now all events would change from week to week, but House assembly remained fixed on a Tuesday. With hindsight, my concerns were unfounded and seldom did pupils forget to bring the right kit. Of course, this may be because it is dumped in their games locker, whatever its state, until required again! The only other change to previous years was the moving of the hockey competition into the Michaelmas Term.

The first trophy of the year is the House Music. Asha de Silva and Rachel Westbrook assembled a wide and varied talent, across all year groups in the House, with a programme based around the theme of film and television music. Asha began with the theme from the film, 'The Piano'; Rachel performed, 'The Perfect Year' on the flute; Sophie Hope and Carla Narnor played, 'America' on clarinet and flute; Dan Coghill played the theme to, 'Colin's Sandwich' on the French Horn; Carla and Sophie, with backing from Asha and Rachel, sang, 'I Can't Help Falling in Love', originally by Elvis, but used in the film, 'Sliver'; Graeme Laycock played, 'The Pink Panther' on the saxophone and all the musicians together played Asha's and Rachel's arrangement of 'Dallas' and 'Last of the Summer Wine'. Overall, we were placed second and my thanks go to Asha and Rachel for their superb efforts in organising such an excellent programme of music. Colours were awarded to everyone and to Andrea Reah as a new award.

In the Senior rugby knockout, Heywood beat Gaskell 17-10 in the first round but it was a rather ragged performance. We won plenty of ball but Robbie Richardson, at scrum half, was never given good service, particularly at line-outs. The only occasion the ball was passed right down our back line was with five minutes to go when James Higgins scored our third try. Robbie put us into an early lead with a try, converted by Matt Whyatt, and Jaime Stockberger added a second. In the second round, against Fraser, we scored first after José Camarasa charged a kick down and followed through and we were playing some good rugby as a team. However, a long kick-off from Simon Johnson, from the restart, saw us concede a line-out close to our line and Fraser scored. After that, the flood gates opened and our heads went down. A final score of 7-41 was very disappointing and rather demoralising. In future, we must stay alert, particularly after taking the lead, and keep trying to the end.

The Junior rugby knockout followed a similar pattern to the Seniors. A comfortable win 31-0 against Dalton in which the team played as a unit, scored several superb running tries and for once stayed calm and quiet, put us into the semi-final against Whitworth. However, with our Captain, Luke Coffey, unable to play due to long term injury, we were unable to cope with the all round talent of Will Kent, who practically defeated us on his own, and scored several tries by running from his own half for a result of 48-5.

The Junior Sevens competition proved very frustrating for the Fourth Years, who lost both group matches but finally won their 5th/6th play off. The Third Years were more successful but at 5-0 against Fraser with seconds to go, they conceded possession in their opponents 22 and lost 5-7! Tight play and keeping the ball are essential in sevens. In the second pool match against Dalton, they held on to win 12-10. In the 3rd/4th play off, they comfortably beat Gaskell 17-5. Colours were awarded to both teams including, for the first time, Third Years James Wimbleton, Sam McClements, Imran Khan, Aamar Gill, Matt Dewsnap and Daniel Booth for excellent commitment.

The Senior League started badly for Heywood and never recovered. With one minute left in our first match against Whitworth, we were winning comfortably 14-7 when we conceded a penalty in their half. When one of our players questioned the decision, the referee rightly penalised us 10 metres. Further stupidity cost us a further 20 metres. Worse still,

Whitworth then scored a try and, to add insult to injury, converted to tie the result with the last kick of the match. One person, by his thoughtlessness, had let his team mates down and cost us victory. I expect Heywood players to play to the whistle, play hard and fair, respect referees and keep their mouths shut. A narrow defeat in our second match, 26-24 to Dalton, again in a match we could easily have won, meant we were now playing to avoid finishing last in the league. Realistically, we were unlikely to beat Fraser, but we were certainly good enough and strong enough to come second, as opposed to joint fourth, after wins against Byrom and Gaskell.

The real consolation in rugby at Senior level came in the Ray Cox Sevens. The first team lost both matches but with the second team winning 17-0 against Byrom, 7-5 against Fraser and 26-5 in the final against Dalton, and the third team beating Dalton 12-0 and Whitworth 29-10, only to lose to Byrom 21-0 in the final, we shared the trophy with Byrom. All three teams played some excellent sevens and colours were awarded to all players. Waseem Khan, new to the Sixth Form in September, was the only new award but he fully deserved them for his excellent running skills and major contribution in the third team, despite rarely having played rugby before.

Hockey knockouts had always been played in the Lent Term in the past so it was decided to move them forward so the girls had a competition running at the same time as all the rugby.

In the Junior Hockey, we were placed with Dalton and Byrom for the pool stages. The first match against Dalton was very one-sided in our favour but we only managed to draw 1-1. Against Byrom, Caroline Bell proved far too strong for us and, despite resolute defending, we lost 1-0, although the ball rarely left our half. In the 5th/6th play-offs against Whitworth on a mud bath of a pitch, scoring proved impossible. Every time the ball went near the goal it stopped and it was quite funny, except for the groundsman, to see players hacking lumps of mud, water and grass everywhere. Heywood had most of the play and won on penalty corners.

For the Senior Hockey, Levinia Clemetson was unavailable in goal for the pool matches but with Carla Narnor in superb scoring form, and ably supported by the rest of the team, we comfortably beat Whitworth 3-0 and Gaskell 2-0 to reach the semi-finals. A 1-0 win against Byrom put us into the final against Fraser and, despite neither team's scoring, Heywood had the majority of the play and won 3-1 on penalty corners to clinch the trophy. The team played splendidly in all four matches and, although it would be wrong to single people out, Carla scored all six goals, Lauren Standring played superbly in midfield and Levinia, despite long periods of boredom in goal, made a couple of fine saves. Colours were awarded to the whole team.



Heywood's winning Senior Hockey team left to right: L. Sharp (House Master), Tabassum Safolor, Duygu Uffaz, Priti Shah, Vicky Seel, Carla Narnor, Sophie Hope, Lauren Standring, Louise Ives, Suzanne Ash, Rachel Westbrook, Levinia Clemetson, J.F. Smith (Deputy House Mistress).

(Photo: L. Sharp)

Over the past few years, Heywood's swimmers have always done their best trying to avoid coming last and the House has possessed very few quality swimmers. Fortunately, this year, Jenny Street joined Heywood and is currently swimming with Stockport Metros. Jenny and Leanne Davidson, along with the medley and squadron relay teams, Year 3; Neel Shah Year 4; Nick Davenport and Glynn Roberts, along with both relay teams in Seniors, were our only qualifiers. Fourth place in both competitions was quite pleasing and hopefully we can build on this in years to come. Colours were awarded to all finalists and included Jenny, Leanne, John Sharp-Little, Beth Coffey, Benji Mannheim and Seb Bowe from Year 3.

The final sporting event of the term was the Road Run on the last Monday of term. Successes on the day were, amongst others, Rachel Westbrook fastest Senior girl; Lauren Standring fourth and Sophie Hope fifth out of the Fifth Year girls; David Wynter second in the Fifth years; Neel Shah sixth in the Fourth Years and, by far the greatest achievement, Beth