

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT.

Autumn Term 1950.

December 1950.

NUMBERS. The average roll of pupils for the School Year 1949-50 was 572. We started last September with 572 so we should be able to admit four forms in September 1951.

EXAMINATION RESULTS The number of pupils who obtained the General School Certificate during the year was 65. Of these 36 qualified for exemption from Matriculation. The best individual results were those of Martin Ford with the "very good" mark in five subjects, and Jean Copps with four. The number of candidates this year was smaller than in previous years owing to the operation of the new age restriction. If the old regulations had continued, 30 more candidates would have been entered from our "a" and "b" forms.

At the Higher School Examination, the number of pupils obtaining the Higher School Certificate was 24, 16 in Science, 4 in Arts, and 4 in Economics. The best individual result was that of our head boy, also a member of the first games team, John Pamplin with the "distinction" mark in three subjects - Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Physics. The next steps for these 24 are to be - for Universities 17, for the executive branch of the Civil Service 3, Training Colleges for teachers 2, training in Physio-therapy 1, and commercial training 1.

It is in place here to state that grants are made by the Middlesex Education Authority to assist pupils who are accepted by Universities, Technical Colleges and other recognised institutions for Higher Education. The amount of the award is graded according to the parents' income. When a pupil's future is being considered and parents are debating whether or not to allow a boy or girl to proceed, the Headmaster is always pleased to discuss the matter with them and advise as to the suitability of the proposed course, the cost involved, and the financial aid obtainable.

Our two candidates in Civil Service examinations were both successful, Roy Chatterton in the Clerical Class and Peter Hearn in the Executive Class.

Another success I wish to mention is the entry into the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, of Alan Ginn. His outstanding record of achievement in the A.T.C. together with his school record with his many contributions to school activities shows promise of his making an

efficient and trustworthy officer. We congratulate the young man and his parents, and we shall watch his career with interest.

The School Examinations in their old form have been held for the last time. They have been a powerful factor in the working of the academic side of our grammar schools in the past forty years and in my opinion their influence has been most beneficial. They have helped to stabilise curriculum on sensible lines, and have provided guidance and incentive to both teacher and taught.

Of course they represent only a part of our purpose. We are a school, and not a mere certificate factory. I am well aware - no one more so - that the highest values and greater successes in life are not those proportional to the weight of ink that has to be used in writing distinctions on certificates. Cleverness without goodness is a menace to mankind. Nevertheless if in our modern social structure the aptitude and ability of a particular pupil is such that for him matriculation is the gateway to the highest personal development and hence to the widest sphere of service to his fellows, then it is his duty to pass through that gateway, and the teacher's duty to show him the way. Cleverness must be enlisted in the service of goodness.

The result of the first examination taken at the age of 15 or 16, has opened the eyes of many a boy and girl and their parents to future possibilities, and has started them on a road which has led to personal satisfaction, in many cases distinction, and to valuable service to the community.

The new examination set-up, which comes in next year, introduces several improvements on the old scheme, but there is one condition to which I am entirely opposed, namely the age limit. No pupil will be allowed to take the external examination unless he is 16 years of age by 1st September in the year of entry. This restriction has no effect on the average candidate, but to the academically more gifted pupil, it is in my opinion a hindrance, a stumbling block in the way of progress. If there are any to whom this new age limit is an advantage, I should like to know who they are and what the advantage is.

However it is our business to administer the scheme as it is. I would advise pupils not to interpret too literally the statement that they may now sit for the examination when they like (so long as

not too young), in what subjects they like, how they like and if they like. Some guidance on these matters - I hope benevolent- will be given by the Headmaster.

We have of course made a start at the adaptation of our organization to the new scheme, with its attendant requirements of Universities and professional bodies, and we hope that it will be at least as effective an instrument for the education of the pupils as was its predecessor.

SPORTS AND GAMES. These continue healthy and vigorous.

At Football all teams had a good season. The star player was Peter Deller who was selected to play for London Schoolboys versus Glasgow, and for Middlesex Schools versus Gloucestershire.

The first Cricket eleven went through the season without defeat by a school side, succumbing only to a strong Old Boys eleven. The captain, Roland Clark, played for Middlesex Schools on three occasions.

The girls hockey, tennis and netball had a successful season.

The games - especially the girls hockey - are handicapped just now, this term, by the loss of the field. Our small field attached to a large school gets heavy wear, and some repair had become necessary. Some patching, draining, grass seeding and tidying up has been done, and until the new grass has grown the field cannot be used.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING is a popular activity among the boys and teams entered at meetings do well.

In ATHLETICS steady improvement has continued among boys and girls, and high standards have been reached. Successes at local schools athletic meetings have been too numerous to detail here. Many trophies have been won, and I regret that we have no facility for effectively displaying them. The outstanding features were that four of our boys represented Middlesex Schools at the All England meeting at Port Sunlight and we had 14 representatives at the Middlesex Grammar Schools finals at the White City who obtained third place in the senior competition.

Swimmers too have had their victories, boys and girls each bring home trophies from the Southgate & Potters Bar Schools Sports.

All told, the year 1949-50 was, for Sports and Games, the best in our 40 years of history.

One pleasing feature is the increase in the number of boys and girls taking part in these outdoor activities, and continuing them after leaving school.

The girls would like to show their appreciation of what Miss Kirchhoff is doing for them, and the boys of all the help guidance and encouragement they get from Mr. Robertson.

You would like to say thank you in the same way to the Master in charge of swimming, Mr. Pratt.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES. These continue as before, and I will refer to two only.

THE RECORDER CLUB, started a year ago, now feels sufficiently proficient to come out into the open, and will be playing with the orchestra in the second half of this evening's programme.

THE OPERATIC SOCIETY upheld its reputation with performances of Ruddigore last Spring. Rehearsals of "The Mikado" under Mr. Knowles and Mr. Baggarley, are now in full swing, and we hope for the support of our friends again when the performances are given next March.

I would like to mention another activity. Last February at the Enfield Musical Festival, the school entered four verse speaking choirs and three drama groups. Between them they gained four first places and three second places - a very good result for which we are indebted to Mrs. Pole.

OLD SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION. This association now has the use of a sports field at Cockfosters which can accommodate Cricket and Hockey Clubs, but unfortunately not football. The football club is still hoping for a ground of its own. The Old Scholars Dramatic Society, after being in abeyance since 1939, has been revived, and presented its first post-war production a few weeks ago.

Here I would urge parents to encourage their boys and girls to join the Old Scholars Association when they leave school. There are games clubs - football and cricket, hockey and tennis, a dramatic society while dances and other social events are arranged periodically. By joining, the boys and girls will continue friendships started at school and make others, and will get their recreation

in congenial company.

STAFF. Four new members of the staff have joined us, Miss Kirchhoff for girls physical education in place of Miss Colombo who has left teaching for a hospital appointment, Mr. Turner as Senior Chemistry Master, Mr. Lewis for English, and Mr. Gale for commercial subjects. We wish them a happy and successful stay here.

In concluding this my last report as Headmaster, I should like to express two thoughts. First an awareness of shortcomings and things undone rather than of achievement, and secondly an intense gratitude for so much that I have met here-- to the members of the Governing body and the Administrative staff for the friendliness which has accompanied my dealings with them, to the parents for the confidence they have placed in me, to the boys and girls for the part they have played in my education, to the Secretary, Mrs. Long whose ability and experience contribute so much to the smooth and efficient working of day to day administrative affairs, to the members of the staff for all their work and their loyalty, with a special word for the senior members, teachers of sterling worth, with some of whom I have worked here for over twenty-five years, and finally to my chief assistants, the Senior Mistress, Miss Jeans, and the Senior Assistant Mr. Knowles for all the help they have given me, of whose services to the school I can speak only in the highest terms. To one and all my sincere thanks.

This is the forty first Speech day since I first came to Southgate County School. For 19 I was assistant master, for 16 senior master, and now for 6 years Headmaster. Great changes have come into the educational system in that time. The field in which schools operate has been largely extended covering more and more of the life of the child, while opportunities open to young people have become far wider than before. A social revolution has taken place and is still proceeding, which properly guided, must be productive of good to individual and community.

Yet the basic human relationships remain the same and fundamental social duties are independent of time.

To quote some words which are less well known in their context by our young people than they once were, it is as true as

ever for our boys and girls, as indeed for parents and teachers, that "my duty is to be true and just in all my dealing, to learn and labour truly to get mine own living,

and to do my duty in that state of life unto which - not as so often misquoted it has pleased - but unto which it shall please God to call me."