

MALTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SUMMER TERM 1980

EDITORIAL

Malton School is, by the standards of today, a small comprehensive school. It nevertheless caters for the educational needs of over 700 boys and girls, employs 43 teaching and non-teaching staff. Within such a body the accurate communication of information through the media of notice boards, assemblies, meetings, etc. should present few problems but we have been aware for some time of the desirability of conveying to the thousand or so parents more news of our activities, both in and out of school, as well as of giving longer advance notice of things to come. A good deal is achieved to this end through the various activities of the Parent Teacher Association, and it is with the intention of adding to and supplementing this that this occasional Newsletter has been devised. I hope that there will be contributions from Staff, Pupils and Parents and we hope that the contents will be of both interest and value.

HEADMASTER'S NOTES

Mrs A. M. Hetherton

We are delighted to be able to congratulate Mrs. Hetherton on the birth of her daughter Jemima. In Mrs. Hetherton's absence from school her timetable was taken over for the Spring Term by Mrs. Carr, but consequent to Mrs. Carr's appointment to a permanent post at Tadcaster Grammar School commencing in April, Mrs. Brenda Thomas will take over the bulk of the timetable, whilst I shall take the 5th, 6L and 6U classes.

Mr. R. Barker

We are sad to record the death on 27th January of Mr. R. Barker who had been Clerk to the Governors and to the Endowment Governors since the school was established in 1971. Previous to that he had held a similar position for the Governors of the County Modern School. He is to be succeeded by Mr. C.G. Payne.

Mr. A. Dowding

For the last few weeks of the Spring Term we were without the services of our Caretaker, Mr. Arthur Dowding. Mr. Dowding had to have two spells in hospitals in Scarborough and Leeds for critical operations on both eyes and is still very much in the convalescent stage of his recovery. We all hope that it will be possible for him to be back with us before too long.

School Reorganisation

This academic year has seen the school enrolment reach its highest point yet, 719. Consequent to the steady increase in numbers over recent years, the triennial review of school enrolments carried out by the County earlier this year indicated that Malton School has now moved from group V to group VI. This reflection of our growth entitled us to an enhanced staffing structure and in particular to an additional Deputy Head and two Senior Teacher posts. I felt that these new senior posts should be deployed to strengthen our performance in the two areas which I feel many parents would consider to be of overriding importance, pupil welfare and discipline and the monitoring of academic standards.

Accordingly, after consultation with the Governors, I decided to restructure the administrative organisation of the school along lines first mooted but discarded several years ago, i.e. Upper and Lower School. Mr. Christal, as First Deputy Head, has now assumed immediate responsibility for the Upper School, the Fourth Fifth and Sixth forms with Mr. Lucas as Head of the Sixth form taking responsibility for the administration affecting that important part of the school. Mrs. Kay as Second Deputy Head has taken responsibility for the Lower School, the First Three years. It is now to Mr. Christal, Mrs. Kay and Mr. Lucas that any parental enquiries should generally be directed, according to the year of the form in which your son or daughter has been placed. To assist the two Heads of School, Mr. Thomas as a Senior Teacher has been appointed Mr. Christal's Deputy in the Upper School whilst Mr. Ewing has been appointed to a similar post in the Lower School.

This new arrangement has not affected the way in which the children use the buildings or the way in which they are allocated to classrooms in the two Wings. Similarly we continue to be flexible in our allocation of responsibilities. Mrs. Kay continues to administer our G.C.E. and C.S.E. examinations which brings her into contact with Upper School pupils, as well as continuing to be in overall charge of medical services throughout the school. Mr. Christal has taken over the role of Careers Counsellor and, since we intend to commence our work in that area slightly lower down the school than before, will come into contact with members of the Lower School, more particularly Year Three.

Further to the new arrangements Mr. Mason, as the recently appointed Senior master, has taken over responsibility for a number of more purely administrative matters directly related to the day to day functioning of the timetable and the planning of the school calendar.

These appointments have also led to minor re-arrangements of the allocation of the office accommodation. I now occupy the office in the East Wing to which I first came as Deputy Head in 1971, and used for the last eight years by Mr Hooke, whilst Mr. Christal and Mr. Mason share the larger office in the West Wing wherein visitors have, in the past, been accustomed to find me.

CAREERS COUNSELLING

Malton School Parents ' Career Register

At the PTA meeting on 18th March I launched an appeal for parents to join a register of occupations to enable us to put interested pupils (and their parents) in touch with a practitioner of a particular occupation in which they were interested, so that they could get together and obtain an impression of what the job entailed, the demands, satisfactions, etc. We can supply here information on entry qualifications, etc. but to my mind there is no real substitute for person to person contact in getting over the particular feel of a job - books come a poor second.

The initial response has been quite encouraging, but if you feel you could assist in this or the other matters outlined below please contact me.

Careers Convention

It is planned to hold a Careers Convention in the West Wing Hall on Thursday May 8th, 7.00-9.00pm. Representatives from the Malton School Parents Career Register and from organisations such as York and Scarborough Technical Colleges, the Police, the Forces, Nursing, University .etc. will be on hand to talk to parents and senior pupils individually about opportunities, entry etc. This should be a most helpful evening and I hope it will be supported.

Work Experience

We are proposing to offer our 4th Form pupils the opportunity of spending a fortnight towards the end of this term (probably 23rd June-4th July) at work. The basic aims of the exercise (which I have been involved in for some 5 years at my previous school in Scarborough, and which Norton School introduced in the area last autumn) are to give pupils meaningful experience of;

- a) the disciplines of going to work
- b) the nature of a particular type of work.

Allocation of places and types of work will be made in consultation with pupils and their parents - pupils are not paid - they work normal working hours - they are fully insured - they keep a logbook of their experience and at the conclusion of the fortnight we receive a report, back from the employer.

Above all it is an educational scheme - any danger of pupil exploitation as cheap labour will, I hope, be controlled by close liaison (including visits by teaching staff during the fortnight) with employers. Any offers from parents who could accommodate a Work Experience pupil will be gratefully received.

Curriculum change - September 1980

As part of our aim to prepare all our pupils for their roles as citizens, workers and probably later on as parents, we are expanding our Careers Education programme from September next. From that time all 4th formers will be following a course of general/ social/careers education (called for want of a better title 'Community Studies') of 2 lessons per week. During this course we aim, with the help of visiting speakers, film and TV, visits, discussion groups, to increase our pupils' awareness in such areas as Law & order - personal relationships- consumer matters religion & society -civics- contemporary issues - health & safety - leisure - people in need - preparation for career choice finding a job or course - settling in - money matters, etc.

A full outline of the course will be available for interested parents later this term.

D.J. Christal.

THE BRIDGE CLUB

The Club was formed last year under Mr. Mason's tuition, and eight members of the Upper 6th competed in matches with Ampleforth College and in the Yorkshire Schools Cup competition. The club has now been extended to other pupils and members of the 4th, 5th and Lower 6th forms have begun to play the game.

R.J.B. Hilton

THE CHESS CLUB

An additional lunchtime activity has been launched this term. Chess players and would-be chess players meet daily in Room 5, for friendly but serious battles on the chess board. Daily attendance runs between 20 and 30 and the first open knock-cut tournament with 42 entrants ranging from 1st year to Upper 6th has just started. Standards are improving rapidly - they must be for I've met my match on more than one occasion.

D.J. Christal

THE RIDING CLUB

Mrs. Hood started the Riding Club by organising five riding lessons at Major Coles' Riding School at Wigginton, near York. Each lesson cost £2.60 which included both the lesson and transport to and from Wigginton. There were three groups, the beginners, the intermediates and the advanced with about 12 pupils in each group. The groups went on different nights after school.

We went in the school Minibus accompanied by Mrs. Wood and Mr. & Mrs. Williams, although only Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Williams rode. Mr. Williams drove the bus and watched us ride - we hope he was not too bored!

We had great fun riding especially when we had races and competitions. Of course the teachers never won! We did quite a lot of jumping and riding without stirrups with our hands on our hips. This helped us to keep our balance.

Mrs. Wood hopes to organise a sponsored ride and some day rides during the Suiraner Holiday. We would like to thank Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Williams for organising the riding lessons and Mr. Williams for taking us to Wigginton.

Belinda Bilscrett & Jillian Anderson 3.

6TH FORM VISIT TO LONDON 12th FEBRUARY 1980

The Royal Academy of Art's Post-impressionist Exhibition and the National Gallery. "A FEW IMPRESSIONS"

The exhibition at the R.A. provided a 'once in a life-time' chance to see many paintings which may never be publicly exhibited again in this country. A glance at the list of lenders in the catalogue reveals the ownership of many great late 19th, early 20th century art: Stavros S. Kiarchos, Durand-Ruel, Sir Isaac Wolfson, Sir John Rothenstein and the National Galleries of Canada, France, USA, Germany and Switzerland. The exhibition rooms themselves were a riot of colour, the vigorous flickering forms reflecting the surging crowd, straining to see billions of pounds worth of Van Gogh, Renoir, Cezanne, Monet, Picasso, Gauguin, Degas, Lautrec, Seurat, etc. After two hours of such rich feasting, the eyes became unreliable, the legs weary and the visitors oppressive. By far the most admired works were the Van Goghs but works by Seurat were favourably commented upon.

It was time for a change of pace. Leaving behind the large hats and their 'oh how avant-garde' occupiers and abrisk reviving walk brought us to Trafalgar Square. This proved to be - for the Lower 6th at least - the high spot of the visit. The National Gallery. What was the magic? The Uccello masterpiece? The genius of Leonardo? The colours of Monet? Constable's skies or Rembrandts' masterly brushwork? Or was it the shop? Here in the centre of the Nation's

collection - an art gallery in miniature printed on card - on film -in books, even on record and tape cassette;and the post cards were cheaper than at the R.A.I

It was the contrast with the R.A. that was particularly memorable to some of the party- the uncluttered rooms, the quiet scholarly atmosphere - the history of Western Art (or at least the 'A' level syllabus) caught in a single building.

Soon it was time to sample the capital's culinary delights. Some opted for the exotic fare of McDonald's Hamburgers Inc., others the nearby Pizza Restaurant to sample a variety of excellent pizzas (or even egg, beans, sausage and chips). Then a walk to the Oxford Circus Underground station (closed due to a bomb threat) - a walk back with the now pedestrian rush-hour crowds. Tube to Kings X and a "high speed Inter-City" train home (delayed at York of course). **D. McManus**

SIXTH FORM EXPEDITION TO LONDON

A recent trip to London, organised by Mr. Spencer and Mrs. Shields, was intended to take in a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a visit to the London Experience Exhibition. It was open to the Upper 6th History and Economics Groups, and the Lower 6th History Group. We arrived at Westminster in time for our tour which was most comprehensive and included the House of Lords and the House of Commons, various Lobbies and corridors, and was spiced with numerous anecdotes from our guide. Mr. John Spence M.P. for Thirsk and Malton arrived for just long enough to shake hands with Mr. Spencer and hurriedly departed.

After the guided tour, the entire party was received in Westminster by Clement Freud (Liberal M.P. for the Isle of Ely and presenter of dog meat commercials). This was an extra item on the agenda and proved to be amusing, interesting and most informative, Indeed it was regarded by many members of the party as the high spot of the day.

The London Experience involves a film, shown on 5 screens, which gives a history of London, together with representations of the traditions and places of interest. At intervals smoke is emitted from the floor and screams rend the air, but overall the production is quite entertaining.

All those who went to London would like to thank both Mrs. Shields and Mr. Spencer for a most enjoyable and interesting day, and hope that similar trips may be organised in the future. **Katharine Ridley 6L.**

THE IDEAL HOMES EXHIBITION

On March 19th a group of 31 4th years accompanied by Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Baxter visited the Ideal Homes Exhibition in London. The Exhibition was very crowded and noisy due to half day closing in London and in places we found it difficult to move. This was particularly true around the show houses on the Ground floor where we had to queue to get inside. We felt that most of the furnishings and patterns did not match and many of the colours were pale and impractical. Also on the Ground floor were furniture, domestic equipment and Home Improvements.

The First floor held most of the stalls. These sold such things as books, records, clothes, food and drink. There were many demonstrations of electrical equipment and kitchen hardware, the emphasis this year being on microwave cooking.

The theme of the exhibition was "Craft in the 80's" and this was depicted by various practicing craftspeople demonstrating their skills. These included silver smithing, embroidery, making stained glass windows, violin making, pottery, leather craft, glass engraving and many others. The Greater London Council gave valuable information and illustrations of conversions and redecorating of old property.

We arrived back in Malton at 10.06pm at the end of a very tiring but much enjoyed day.
Susan Morrill, Year 4.

THE SKIING EXPEDITION TO SCOTLAND

We stayed at the Spey Valley Hotel in Grantown on Spey. The proprietor was very friendly, the rooms clean and well furnished and the meals, of which we had a choice, were satisfactory. On Monday we got up expectant of a good days skiing. Unfortunately due to wet conditions it was impossible and so we were taken on a tour round a whiskey distillery. On Tuesday the weather improved so we went to the ski slopes where we met our instructors. Apart from occasional strong winds which blew the snow causing white-out conditions, the weather remained clear. On Wednesday it poured with rain. To make it worse the chair lift was not working so we had to walk to the middle station. By the end of the day we were soaked to the skin and eager to reach the Hotel and have a bath and a hot meal.

Thursday dawned a fairly fine day and we got a full day's skiing. Again in the evening the hotel provided an excellent disco. The weather was almost perfect on Friday, and it was a great shame we had to leave at two o'clock to return home. The more experienced of us skied down the White Lady, one of the more difficult runs, while the rest took their Bronze Badge. We arrived home safely at 11.00pm. Despite the bad weather which rather hindered our skiing, we all enjoyed the holiday and returned with a healthy tan. The staff, Mrs. Key, Mrs. Wood, Mr. Horsman and Mr. Thomas had little work to do apart from the organising as everyone was on their best behaviour, so they enjoyed the week too. Altogether it was a very pleasant and successful expedition.

Deborah Rowntree, 6L.

2nd YEAR HOLIDAY IN FRANCE

37 2nd year children will spend 7 days of the Whitsuntide half-term holiday in France. They will be staying in the Loire Valley, with visits to Paris, Orleans, Fontainebleau, Chartres and some of the chateaux of the Loire. The group will travel by coach and ferry. This will be the third annual spring holiday in France for 2nd year pupils. There will be four teachers accompanying the trip. Miss B. Speak, Mrs. C. Smith (and her husband Mr. J. Smith) and Mrs. P. Seymour.

B. M. Speak

TRIP TO AEGINA (GREECE)

8 pupils (7 from 5th year and 1 in 6L) will be travelling to the island of Aegina this summer. The island is the largest and nearest to Piraeus (1 and a half hours by ferry and 30 mins. by hydrofoil). It has beautiful sandy beaches and the sun shines daily - temperatures fluctuate between 75 F - 95 F. The island does have some important ancient monuments - the beautiful temple of Afaia which is high on the mountain peak and overlooks the Bay of Aegina Marina where the party will be staying. The pupils spend the days at the beach and the nights at the open air discos. There is a day spent in Athens when the Parthenon and other tourist attractions are visited.

A.S. Joannidis

6th FORM VISIT TO ROME

After an enjoyable trip to Rome last summer, Mrs. Shields accompanied by Miss Speak will again be taking a 6th form group to the 'Eternal City' this summer. In addition to the essential sight-seeing at St. Peter's, the Sistine Chapel, Roman Forum, Colosseum and Capitol, the party hopes to make visits outside the city. One will be to the catacombs and another to Ostia Antica, the port of ancient Rome. The group will also spend a day on the beach and make the traditional pilgrimage to the Trevi Fountain on the last night.

E.L. Shields

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NOTES

The first meeting in 1980 was the Careers Evening on 18th March which was extremely well attended and I think enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Mr. D.J. Christal for his hard work in organising this for us.

The committee are organising a Mid-Summer Dance on June 13th in the West Wing Hall. This is not restricted to parents and staff so please do bring your friends and make up a party to dance the night away to Triangle Two and have a delicious supper prepared by the committee. Further details nearer the time.