

MALTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1911-1937

Once my interest in the history of the school was engaged, all kinds of material began to appear, in dusty corners of the school or fondly preserved by former students. The early twentieth century fascination for putting photographs of every location imaginable onto postcards provides a number of exhibits, and the creation of a school magazine, *The Maltonian*, in 1917 provides commentary from that date onwards.

One small treasure to be unearthed from these early days was what nowadays would be called a prospectus. A slim, twelve page booklet, six pages of text and six photographic plates, it tells us about the new school:

Malton Grammar School ... is now regulated by two schemes, the first framed in 1908 by the Charity Commission, and the second in 1910 by the Board of Education, under the Endowed Schools Acts. The schemes provide that the School shall be open to Boys and Girls

....

The New Buildings were opened in 1911, and contain accommodation for 120 Boys and Girls. They comprise a large Hall, five Class-Rooms, Science Laboratories, a Laundry and Cookery Room, and a Woodwork Room; Cloak Rooms, Lavatories, and Cycle Sheds are provided. The rooms are all well lighted and ventilated; as the School stands on rising ground and with its Playgrounds and Playing Fields covers an area of about four acres between the Broughton and Middlecave Roads, its position leaves nothing to be desired.



MALTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Three early postcards showing the new school, which was built around a quadrangle, but only three sides were built in brick, the fourth side occupied by a wooden shed (gymnasium and dining hall) from 1921 until 1935. The bottom photo shows the girls entrance - the boys' entrance is at the far end. It was blocked in at the end of the 1950s, with a new entrance created to the side of the building.

The tennis court photo is dated 1924, the others are undated.

EARLY PROSPECTUS

Top:

THE ASSEMBLY HALL

This hall is now room 40, a networked ICT room. It also served as a library from 1958 - 2000. A close look at the (original) parquet floor today reveals a different pattern in the front left corner, where the old stage used to be.

Middle:

THE MAIN CORRIDOR

Now the '30s' corridor (because rooms off are numbered 30 to 36). There was a simplicity to room allocation in the early days - the four rooms on the left of the corridor as shown were form I, II, III, and IV in order, and in the right near corner (now room 30) was form V. The specialist rooms were on the sides of the quad. The circular roof lights remain, but the stone floor and gas lamps have disappeared.

Bottom:

CLASSROOM

A typical classroom – this is likely to be currently room 34, and at the time of the photo, form I's room. The cabinet at the front is still in the room, though sadly now coated with many layers of gloss paint.





Top:

THE LAUNDRY

A domestic science room, nowadays this is room 39 – the art studio. It was converted for use by art in 1999, having previously been used as a music room for some years.

Middle:

CLASSROOM

A typical classroom – it could be any of room 31 to room 34. The windows remain the same to this day, apart from fluorescent strip lights replacing the gas lamps.



Bottom:

HANDICRAFTS ROOM

The woodwork workshop was in what is now room 36. A 1935 plan describes it as the handicrafts room. The teacher is probably Walter Metcalfe, who was woodwork master from 1911 - 1939, combining his part-time duties at Malton with a similar role at Whitby Grammar School and Malton National School.



Top:

PLAYING FIELDS

Even the grey expanse of grass that was the School's large playing field merited a postcard!

I think this picture is looking from the School across to Broughton Road on the right, with the hut positioned in the adjoining farm field to the left (west).

Middle:

SCHOOL HALL

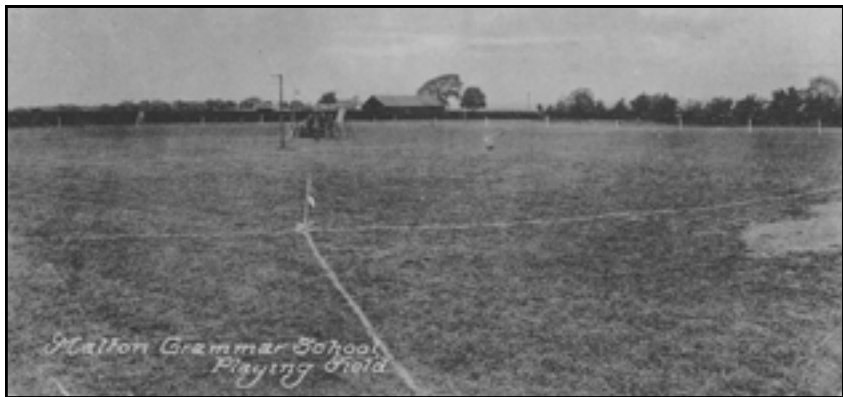
The school hall from a different angle, showing the elevated stage at the end of the room. This must be from the 1920s at least - the plaque at the end commemorates those who died in the first world war. It is still on display in the school today. The boards to the left and right are Honours boards, erected in 1921. The lectern may be the one carved by Mr Metcalfe.

Bottom:

DOMESTIC SCIENCE

The cookery room from a different angle to that in the prospectus. It shows a Rayburn stove on the right. This area caused problems in 1999 when we converted the room to an Art studio—the housing was still lined with asbestos.

The new school opened on 14th September 1911. Construction of the buildings, designed by Mr Brierly, had begun in 1910, by Mr L T Oldfield and his father. There was a shortage of space almost from the outset, as the buildings were only designed to accommodate one hundred and twenty pupils. The classrooms formed three sides of a rectangle: there was a hall, five teaching rooms, a science room and rooms for woodwork and domestic science. It had been planned that additional building should have taken place to provide more Science accommodation, with a gymnasium and art room. A house for the headmaster was also envisaged, but the outbreak of the first world war put paid to these plans.





Top:

THE ROSEWALK

A close look at the picture of the tennis courts on the first page, will just allow a view of the rosewalk running alongside them, westwards from the end of the main building.

Middle:

THE LIBRARY

Quite possibly this shows the entire stock of books and the entire seating capacity in the early years. The library was probably the small room (17' x 12') adjoining the main hall.

Bottom:

THE SCIENCE LABORATORY

This laboratory was housed in what is now room 35. It was moved when new extensions were built in 1938, and this became 'form room 6'.





Above:

ERNEST LORAINE WATT

First headmaster of the newly constituted grammar school.

From a plate in The Maltonian

THE STAFF

There were twenty seven boys and thirteen girls on the roll when the school opened, with a staff complement of six, of whom three were part-time. Eleanor Atkin, the first student on roll in the school's register, remembered in *The Maltonian*:

The thrill of that first morning when I went to the Grammar School an entire stranger - knowing not a soul and how impressed I was with the beautiful new building, new furniture, new teachers.

The headmaster, aged only thirty three, was Ernest Loraine Watt, who was to remain at MGS until his death in 1937. He taught English, Latin and scripture. Thomas Curzon taught mathematics, science, geography and boys' P.E.. His stay at the school was a short one, as in 1915 he left for war service. Miss Marion Edwards, the school's first senior mistress, taught French, needlework and some English. She was to resign in 1917 as a result of ill health, though she stayed closely in touch with the school through the Old Maltonians' Association until her tragic death in 1941, when she was killed in a London air raid, taking refreshments to the firefighters.

Two of the three part-time teachers, Miss Douthett, who taught art and Mr Metcalf, responsible for woodwork, also taught at Whitby, and travelled to Malton one day a week by train. The team was completed by Miss Tindall, who taught domestic science.

Another early days pupil, Helen Carlisle, remembers:

The School was divided at first into only two Houses. Fitzwilliam and Holgate The tennis courts were not ready for the first two summers and the girls played cricket There was no gymnasium; the boys had drill in the quadrangle and Miss Edwards took the girls for 'Swedish Drill' in the hall in our prim gym tunics, well covering our knees, black stockings and long - sleeved white blouses.

NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Ernest Loraine Watt officiating amongst the girls in the 1930s. A photo sent by Susie Bytheway in 2008, on behalf of her mother Pamela Ginger (née Bennett)



STAFF ARRIVALS

The end of the war brought a period of staff stability and the school was able to develop in a less troubled era, though often handicapped by economic restraints. In 1919 the school welcomed Mr Barty to teach history and geography. 'A B' was to devote the remainder of his working life to Malton School, retiring as senior master in 1955, having made a major contribution to many areas of school life, including the ATC, the orchestra, and countless school excursions.

In 1921 Miss Eleanor Atkin returned to join the staff; the first Old Maltonian to do so. Eleanor's name is the first entry in the school register in 1911, which is still in the School archive.

Another Old Maltonian who returned to teach at the school was Bruce Rolls, later to become deputy head. We have a picture of him as a pupil in the 1925 football team. The first rumour of his return appeared in *The Maltonian*, 1930: Bruce Rolls would be returning to the school where he had been a pupil, as a master who is 'to shine at Games.' Bruce was to continue working at the school until his death in 1970.



Above:
ALFRED BARTY
Alfred Barty, pictured in ATC uniform in the 1940s.



Above:
FOOTBALL XI 1925-6
Bruce Rolls is in the centre. Reserves Eric Broughton and Percy Dye; Jack Moore, Ted Barker, Mark Lupton, Tom Stockdale, Bruce Rolls, "Lim" Moore, Don Robson, Herbert Fryer, Ron Skilbeck, Jim Anderson, Jim Hunton, and Mr Williams. Won 17, drew 2, lost 6.



Below:
SPORTS DAY 1934
New sports master Bruce Rolls officiating at the 1934 sports day.



GEORGE BARKER

Caretaker George, pictured on a snowy day in the 1940s

Records of the school do not only mention the teaching staff. In 1934 Mr and Mrs Barker (George and Gertrude) celebrated their twenty first anniversary as gardener and cook. They became an integral part of school life until they retired in 1945 and 1946 respectively. Throughout the period, references can be found to the excellence of Mrs Barker's cooking and catering, for school lunches, parties and OMA reunions. She was at the centre of an annual tradition: each year on Shrove Tuesday she made and tossed two pancakes, prizes being awarded to boys and girls who collected the largest pieces.

1935 saw the retirement of Miss Margaret Douthett, who had been at the School since 1911. In the same year a Miss Eleanor Orr came as senior mistress to teach French. She would still be teaching at the school as it went comprehensive in 1971.

1935 brought sadness to the school with the death, at the young age of thirty-seven, of Isabella Williams, the wife of senior master Thomas Williams. More cheerful news was reported the following year as gifts were made to Mr Rolls on the occasion of his marriage.

A notable landmark was reached in July 1936 when Mr Watt celebrated his silver jubilee as head teacher and the one thousandth *Maltonian* was enrolled. Sadly Mr Watt was to die in the Christmas of 1936. In the same year chairman of governors and staunch supporter of the school, Sir William Worsley, also passed away.

Mr Watt quickly endowed the School with his philosophy of Education:

To give a kind of training that shall turn out good citizens well equipped for the service of life, not each seeking his own at the expense of others, but each earnestly desiring to serve his fellows.



HOCKEY XI 1912

A plate taken from The History of Malton Grammar School.

THE STUDENTS

Students came from a wide geographical area - from Gilling to Sherburn, and as far south as Fridaythorpe. It was common practice for children to lodge in Malton or Norton from Monday to Friday, only returning home for the weekend. There were no buses in those days. Half the students used the train to reach Malton, about a third came on the Gilling train, which necessitated them leaving at 3pm, whilst those on the Drifffield train always missed the first lesson of the day.

In these early years there was Saturday morning school, with games on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

The vast majority of the pupils paid fees, but there were scholarships available, as laid down by the education act of 1902. The sources of funding included the Robert Holgate endowments and the North and East Riding education committees. Children as young as eight were admitted. To gain entrance they had to complete tests in reading, spelling and basic arithmetic. Fifth and sixth forms were soon established, and by 1920 the total number of pupils reached one hundred and thirty.



Top:

FOOTBALL XI 1912

The earliest picture we have of MGS students.

This is the 1911-12 football team, for once with all names provided on the picture mount.

Back row: D Robinson, E Coates, W Butcher, H Hindley

Middle: J Horsfield, L Wallgate (Captain), J Carass, Mr Curzon

Front row: N Finch, C Mortimer, G Walker, W Lazenby, W Wolstenholme



Bottom:

FOOTBALL XI 1913

Sadly the thoughtful addition of names to the 1912 photo mount was not repeated here, but a close look suggests that many of the team remained the same.

The pictures are taken in the quad. Notice that this is bare earth - it was not asphalted until 1928.



Above:

THE WHOLE SCHOOL 1922

I count 139 people - pupils and staff - in the photo. The staff are mixed in with the pupils.

Notice that the boys do not have a uniform. Many, though not all, are wearing a horizontal striped tie. One boy is wearing a bow-tie!

Three years after opening, the school had to cope with the outbreak of the first world war. Staff joined the armed forces, including Mr T A Williams, who had joined the school in 1913 to teach science and boys' PE. There was to be a high staff turnover in the coming years. Even more tragic for such a young school was the loss in battle of some of its first ex-pupils. The effect of the war is strongly present in the pages of *The Maltonian*.

Below:

FITZWILLIAM HOUSE 1930s

A photo from a souvenir album loaned by Norman Race in 2002. A little mottled from the ravages of time. Pamela Ginger (née Bennett) sent in the same photo. I believe she appears in the photo somewhere.

Even during peacetime there was further suffering. As the school tried to celebrate its twenty-first birthday in the autumn of 1932, a typhoid epidemic broke out in Malton and lasted for six weeks. Two hundred and thirty five cases were notified, and twenty-four deaths occurred. More than half the school stayed away. Fourteen pupils were infected, which equated to one in every ten of the school population. A young man, Peter Hick, did not recover. A tribute appeared in *The Maltonian*:

All seemed set fair with this young life and of a sudden he passes from us. He leaves behind him a good repute as a Maltonian, a Scout, and our best Junior Athlete. For this we offer thanks. .



THE MALTONIAN

In 1917 the first edition appeared of what was to become a central and vital record of the history of the school, the school magazine, *The Maltonian*. One had been planned for Autumn 1914, but was 'postponed on the score of economy.' (A loose-sheet version had appeared earlier, but this is now lost.)

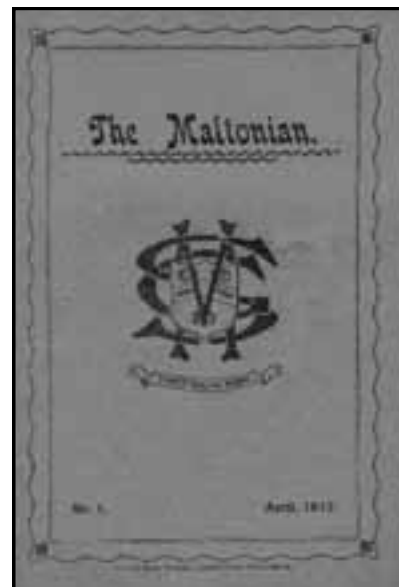
The magazine sets out on its pages the lives of those connected with a small Yorkshire school, against a backdrop of the Great War and its aftermath. The momentous action on the world stage intrudes into this small school history, and into the lives, and deaths, of its pupils and teachers. A roll of honour is printed - 'with details suppressed to avoid any assistance to the enemy;' a war relief collection is ongoing; lieutenant Williams (later to be headmaster) gained his commission in 1917 and was presented with a sword of honour; the school concerts at Swinton Grange and Hovingham were for 'The Tommies', and one was held for wives and mothers at the Assembly Rooms.

More mundane school fayre comes in the shape of articles on 'French epic poetry', 'Our Concerts', 'The Tortures Inflicted Upon A Sensitive Mind By A Drawing Lesson', and 'I Take Form II'. Articles are generally attributed to nom de plumes - KUI, NIL DESPERANDUM, SIROD, the MARKSMEN - as was the fashion of the day. 'Things We Should Like To Know' was to become a regular feature in *The Maltonian*: a collection of obscure questions and statements, presumably capable of raising a knowing eyebrow, or of stirring a nod from an affirmatory head amongst the inner sanctum of their audience. For example:

How did H-ld- lose her halfpenny?
Who or what haunts Br--ght-n Rd. every fine moonlit night?
Were all those who fled from Algebra to the kitchen on the fatal January 25th suffering from plums?

Extra curricular activities appear to consist of the literary and debating society, House concerts, and a reading circle, which met every Friday evening to read such works as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Henry VIII* under Miss Shapley's direction. Sports results are limited to football, hockey and netball amongst the houses, and W or L (won or lost) are the closest we get to scores.

The Maltonian was born. It is not a major work of literature. It is dated in style and at times obscure in content, and probably was not a major success amongst its student readers at the time. But it was successful enough to begin a run of one hundred and twenty-six copies over the next fifty years.



Above::

THE MALTONIAN

The first copy of the school magazine, The Maltonian, which was to be published two or three times per year until 1971.

Note the school motto at the time: 'Vince Malum Bono' - 'Overcome Evil With Good'.

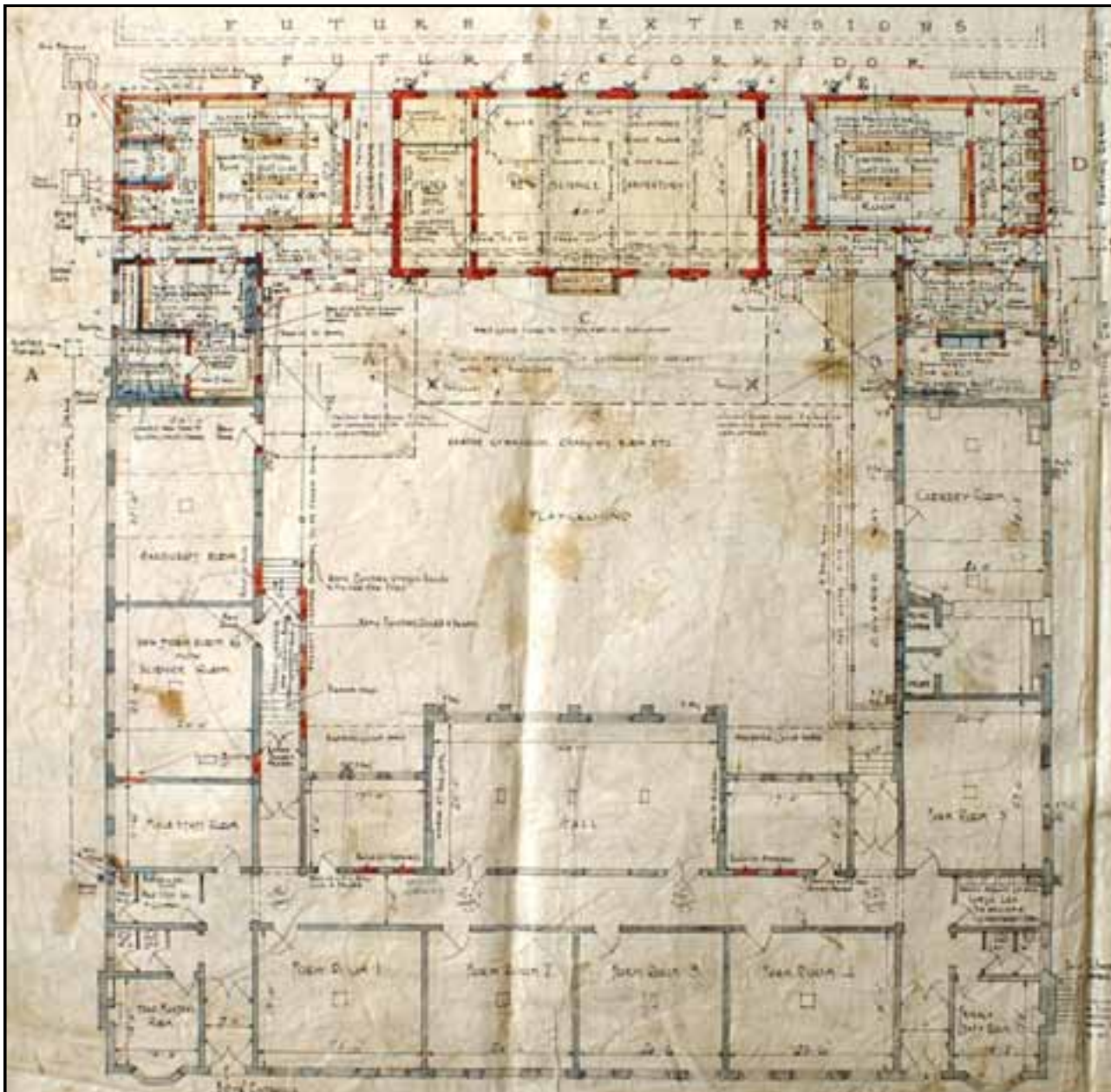
EXPANSION

Pupil numbers remained well above the one hundred and twenty for which the school had been intended. As early as 1917 an inspector called for the building of a second storey. There was still a shortage of accommodation after the building of 'the hut' in 1921, which was used as a gym, dining room, reading and recreation room, and later as a prefects' room.

EXTENSION PLANS 1935

These original plans for the 1935 extension, drawn on linen, were unearthed by site manager John Coates in 2007 whilst clearing out a room. They show details of how the buildings were laid out in the early days of the school.

Life was at first Spartan. In 1925 the girls' cloakrooms had hot water, but not the boys'. There were still no hot showers. In 1926 H Watson Pearson, clerk to the governors, offered to provide changing rooms and showers in memory of his father, who had served as a governor for fifteen years. In 1928 the quad. was asphalted and in 1930 the hall was provided with shutters and blinds for 'lantern lectures'.





In the same year the first cricket net was constructed, and a loudspeaker system was bought. The outdoor stage was also completed at this time.

To celebrate the school's twenty-first birthday, plans were made to buy two adjoining fields so that a proper playing field could be provided: the likely cost was said to be £500. In the summer of 1935 plans were discussed for a new science laboratory on the site of the hut.

The following year, *The Maltonian* announced that builders were to start work on a new laboratory, girls' showers, and an extra staff room and classroom. The contract went to Wilfred Oldfield, whose father had been responsible for the initial building work in 1910.

Above:

NEW SCIENCE LABORATORY

The view of the new science laboratory from the playing fields side of the school. The high windows can be seen in a number of subsequent photos, until eventually they were expanded to a fuller length in 1958.

Middle left

EAST & WEST ELEVATIONS

Middle right

FIELD PLAN

This plan shows the strip of school grounds with the school in the corner, tennis courts to the left, then hockey pitches and playing fields with garden at the end.

On the left (west) are the two fields coveted for playing field expansion, which were eventually purchased in 1938.

Bottom:

NEW LABORATORY

The view from the quad, little changed to the present day.





HORACE HOLLINRAKE
1904-55

Horace was a pupil at Malton Grammar School, then went to Selwyn College, Cambridge where he received an MA and a BMus, as well as receiving the Rannoch prize for church music. He went on to become professor of music at Auckland in New Zealand.

The photo was donated in 2004 by his son, Roger, who now lives in Oxford. It was taken at Cambridge, c.1925

Below:

MGS GIRLS 1930s

Eileen Inkster (nee Canham); Vera Marshall (died 2003); Joyce Jackson, Muriel Dobson?, Nellie Beckett; Dorothy Wilson; Nancy Wilcox (nee Armstrong); Mary Appleyard; Margaret Dobson; Mary Cooper; Hilda Holtby (now Kirby)

A photo donated by Joyce Jackson in March 2008



EXAMINATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

As David Lloyd says in his *History of Malton Grammar School*, it is difficult to obtain an accurate picture of the academic standing of the school in its early years. About a quarter of the pupils were entered for external examinations. The first success came in 1913, when Eleanor Atkin passed Part 1 of the Board of Education Preliminary Certificate, which was needed to enter the teaching profession. Others soon followed her example. The Oxford Seniors Examinations, taken from 1915, were followed in 1920 by the School Certificate. Matriculation, necessary for university entrance, was first taken in 1917. The number of passes in School Certificate were low, but in 1924, fourteen out of twenty-three candidates had success and in 1925 ten pupils matriculated. Successes at the Higher Certificate were much fewer, with only four between 1920 and 1937: Cecil Goodings, Donald Robson, Louis Fuller and Eric Robson. Cecil was the first Maltonian to be awarded a PhD.

In 1925 Harold Kirkbride became the first pupil, passing straight from school to university, to be awarded his BSc, at Leeds University. Horace Hollinrake was an early entrant to Cambridge, where he became the first Old Maltonian to win an oar for rowing in 1926. He was later to be appointed Professor of Music in Auckland, New Zealand. This sporting success was followed in 1927 when George Horsley was made captain of cricket at Leeds University. In 1933, Louis Fuller gained an exhibition to Cambridge and a First Class in the Economic Tripos; tragically, he was killed in 1935.

The occupations followed by Maltonians were many. Donald Robson was to become assistant general manager for the Westminster bank, his brother Eric lectured in history at Manchester university. Herbert Fryer worked for the *Daily Telegraph* and Andrew Weir for the *Yorkshire Post*, whilst Teddy Barker, son of George and Gertrude, entered the police force, rising to chief constable. Many Maltonians became teachers; amongst the first being Eleanor and Winifred Atkin. They were followed in later years by Ruth Thorpe, to become senior mistress of Norton County Secondary School, Basil Terry, John Feasby, Charles Wood and many others. Two of the many girls who entered nursing were Alison Watt, daughter of the headmaster, and Dorothy Blanchard. Both became matrons. Some boys entered the merchant navy, including Geoffrey and Clive Freer, who won nautical scholarships.

School inspections took place throughout the period: that of 1921 led to an ending of lessons on Saturdays, but they were introduced on Wednesday afternoons (replacing a games afternoon) and the school day was extended to 4:30pm.



SPORT

Despite the relatively small population, sport flourished from the early days. In the first edition of *The Maltonian*, there is mention of a challenge to MGS, issued by Lady Lumley's School at Pickering, to take part in athletic sports match. Annual house sports were being held in 1917, at which time half-day games sessions (Wednesday and Saturday) were held. Physical exercises were undertaken at 11am and 4pm inside classrooms, supervised by prefects. Sports colours were awarded and matches were played against Old Maltonians.

In 1918 it was suggested that the rolling of the cricket pitch should be the responsibility of the pupils: a tradition which was to long continue. Cups for tennis, hockey, netball, cricket and football were made available and the following year matches against other schools, which had been delayed by the war, began. Early hockey fixtures were against St. Michael's (a private school in Malton), Lady Lumley's and Whitby County Secondary School. The football team played Malton Wesleyan and Norton Boys' schools. The girls in the majority of the period had less success than the boys. Cricketer Herbert Sutcliffe visited the school in 1932 to give coaching, whilst Peter Donaghy and Maurice Webster came to coach football.

The triangular athletics fixture against Pickering and Whitby also started in 1918. In 1920 a hundred pupils went by train, cycle, and motor lorry to the sports at Pickering, an event that was to continue until 1927.

The programme at the inter-house sports was varied, with events such as the four legged race, potato race and a bean bag race as well as more usual track and field events. Sports days were popular: one hundred and sixty tickets were sold in 1927. Cross country runs and a paper chase were later introduced.



Above and below:

PT PRACTICE 1930s

The first student on the left above is Vic Wilson, destined to become captain of Yorkshire County Cricket Club. He arrived from Norton Boys' School in 1935, aged 14.

Writing to me in 2002, Vic commented: 'The thinking behind this [his move to MGS] was because of the tremendous sporting facilities at MGS and equally important that at MGS was a brilliant sports master there called Bruce Rolls. He was a very fine sportsman himself, both at football and cricket.'

Others in the line include Dennis Rawes (2nd), Ted Kirkwood (5th), Macbeath (9th), Colin Walker (12th), Frank Tweddle (14th), Bill Snowball (15th), Basil Terry (16th), Freddie Pincott (18th).

Names and photo provided by Arthur Snowball in May 2002.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Top left:

GUIDE CAMP 1933

One of a set of photos donated by Joyce Jackson, née Horsley, in 2008. The camp is at Cloughton, and was shared with Northallerton Grammar School guides.

Top right:

LIVERPOOL 1934

Dorothy Wilson, Hilda Kirby and Joyce Horsley aboard ship on a day trip to the port of Liverpool in July 1934.

Below left:

HULL 1933

Joyce Horsley and Nellie Beckett (now Eleanor Barry) on a day trip to Hull in March 1933.

Below right:

GUIDE CAMP c1932

A camp at Carlton Bank, near Helmsley, probably 1932. The photo was loaned by Pamela Stringfellow (née Barty).

Bottom right:

AS YOU LIKE IT

Produced on the outdoor stage, 1933, one of a series of 'pastoral plays.' A photo sent by Pamela Ginger (née Bennett). See the cast list on the following page.

Bottom left:

JOYCE JACKSON

A photo taken by John Dunstan in March 2008.



The Maltonian shows the range of activities in which pupils were able to participate, including creation of the magazine. School camps were first mooted in 1915; by 1918 a literary and debating society and a field club were in existence (the latter, initially, only for girls.) House concerts were held; in 1918 a school play was presented at the riding school of Hovingham Hall. Scout and guide troops were attached to the school.

Concerts were held on Sunday afternoons. A reading club, a choral society and school band began in 1922, lectures were given by visiting speakers, mock elections were held, and a historical rambling society flourished. Dancing was taught to the pupils and the Christmas parties, often in fancy dress, became a social highlight. A bible fellowship was formed, as was a poultry club and Cércele Francais. The houses had their own concerts and parties and each devised ways of raising money, including an ankle competition and 'hold-ups', when passers-by were stopped and money demanded.





Top three pictures:

THE TEMPEST 1934

Three pictures from the July 1934 production of the play.

The Maltonian of December 1934 offers some clues as to names: Betty Lott was Ariel, Jean Armstrong Miranda, Marie Sledge - Ferdinand, Robson as Prospero, Appleton as Caliban. Theasby and Nendick played Stephano and Trinculo.

The third picture was also donated by Joyce Jackson, who put names to almost all the girls in the line-up: Joan Sonley; Joyce Wise; Pamela Bennett; Muriel Wise; ...; Pamela Barty; Beatrice Blades; Joyce Horsley.



Bottom:

AS YOU LIKE IT 1933

The Maltonian of December 1933 provides a cast list, though characters must be guessed from costume. Joyce Jackson notes that Betty Lott is in the centre, and on the far right is Arthur Nendick and herself, Joyce Horsley.

Duke - Robson; Silvius - Staples; Amiens - Haykings, William - Fish mi; 1st Lord - Harrison ma; Touchstone - Nendick; 2nd Lord - Hornsey; Rosalind - B Lott; Jaques - Wise; Celia - P Bennett; Usurper - Kirby; Phoebe - P Barty; Le Beau - Grice mi; Audrey - J Horsley; Orlando - Kendall; Hymen - M Simpson; Adam - Mason; Pages - J Bielby and J Wilkinson; Oliver - Prest; Charles - Theasby; Corin - Fish ma.





Above:

E L WATT MEMORIAL

A carved-oak memorial by Robert Thompson of Kilburn. The mouse on the top right shoulder is just visible.

ERNEST LORAIN WATT

On January 20th 1937, the school was shocked to hear that Mr Watt had died, though it was known that he needed a term's rest. A memorial service was held at St. Michael's church.

Mr. Watt had created a new school, which had a troubled early history because of war and general economic problems, but he had laid good foundations. To scholars he was 'ELW'. His tributes were many.

Mr Watt had a high sense of duty to the School and to the local community. He followed the careers of ex-scholars with interest and replied to their letters the day he received them. Scholars and ex-pupils were always encouraged to discuss their problems and he was seen as broad-minded on all social issues. It is said that he was never too busy or too tired to help members of staff, that he had 'no need to resort to angry words or forbidding countenance and he had a sincere belief in the goodness of everyone.'

A memorial fund was launched for Mr Watt by the OMA and raised £6-6-3. The memorial took two forms: a synchronised electric clock system, installed in 1939; and a tablet, carved by Robert Thompson of Kilburn (the 'Mouseman') to be placed in the hall. The clock system has gone, but the commemorative plaque still hangs in the school entrance today.



Right:

E L WATT - SPORTS DAY

Mr Watt at a sports day in the 1930s

Below:

E L WATT AND PUPILS

A picture from the 1920s, possibly the prefects with Mr Watt in the centre. Again no uniform for boys, though two are wearing the school badge.

