

MALTON SCHOOL 1971– 1989

Malton School came into existence in September 1971. It was the most difficult of starts. Philip Taylor had been appointed headmaster of the 'new' school in March 1970, with John Gresswell his deputy designate from June 1971. Mr Taylor had spent the last year planning the new school, and winding down the old grammar school, but within a week he was taken ill, and died shortly afterwards on 16 October, at the age of sixty. He was not to see his plans, for Malton School or for his retirement, come to fruition.

The new staff team was a mixture of old and new, youth and experience, grammar and secondary modern. A staff list exists, but sadly no group photograph of the new body. A new brochure outlining comprehensive education was issued:

The eleven-plus examination has now been abolished in the Malton area. Since all children will be coming to one school, parents will no longer run the risk, as they did in the past, of implying that one of their children was a success, because he went to the Grammar School, and another a failure, because he "only" got to the Secondary Modern School. This year the best result at the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education at Malton Grammar School was obtained after two year's study in the sixth form there by a former pupil of the County Modern school – Alan Teasdale. The same applied last year, when it was Susan Peckitt. These two in succession are perhaps accidental, but they do show very clearly how poor a selector the eleven-plus examination could be.

The teachers and buildings of both schools will now be available to all your children. Obviously it will be a gain for scholars of both Schools to meet new teachers with new approaches to teaching; but the gain in buildings will be even more apparent. For instance, Malton Grammar School had much better Science Laboratories and a whole block devoted to Art and Crafts; on the other hand, the County Modern School had a proper Assembly Hall, a separate Gymnasium, better Domestic Science Rooms and a Metalwork Room.



MALTON SCHOOL BADGE

The 1971 design. It combines Archbishop Holgate's mitre, representing the grammar school, with the golden eagle of Rome (recalling Derventio) and the walled crown (representing Malton castle). Both are from the town's coat of arms, and were used on the Malton County Modern badge.

The Yorkshire Rose was a feature on both previous school badges.



MALTON SCHOOL

A photo digitally merged by ICT technician Graham Magee for the School's website.

In practice the 1971 merger was not quite so straightforward.

There was inevitably some bitterness amongst the staff following amalgamation – they had been required to apply for ‘their’ jobs, and in many cases there had been two holders of a position of responsibility where in the new school there was to be only one. All but one head of department came from the grammar school – A-level experience and qualifications were often the deciding factor. Only Mel Crawshaw, head of technology, was from the county modern staff. The situation was not eased by there being two staffrooms.

There had been many departures, and some new staff arrivals. There were also inevitable factions, amongst the pupils as well as the staff. Remember that the county modern and grammar school had been great rivals: talk to any former pupil of the 1960s who played sport and the needle match every season was MCM v MGS. Almost every visitor to the school from the past – certainly on the boys’ side – recalls the same memory when they walk up the wing path between the two sites: the snowball fights on the field between the opposing forces!

It is not easy when looking back to remember the unpleasant, but there was a belief, held by some staff and some pupils, that grammar school pupils (and staff) were better than their county modern fellows. This is an inevitable consequence of a selective system: where some are deemed to ‘pass’, then others must ‘fail’. The original 1944 concept of the three tiers of schools (grammar, secondary modern, and technical) suiting young people’s aptitudes never quite held with parents and pupils.

Against this background Mr Gresswell and his staff had to work to mould a single school, to put the new motto, *Unitate Fortiores*, (stronger through becoming one) into practice.

Right:

**COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
FOR PHILIP TAYLOR**

*John Gresswell with Steve
Cowham and Paul Goacher.*

*The plaque is oak, carved by
Robert Thompson of Kilburn.*

The inscription reads:

PHILIP T. TAYLOR M.A. (CANTAB)
WAS HEADMASTER OF
MALTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL
AND FIRST HEADMASTER
OF MALTON SCHOOL.

IN HIS MEMORY
DAFFODILS WERE PLANTED AROUND
THE TOWN BY THE STAFF
AND PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL



JOHN GRESSWELL

John Gresswell was appointed as deputy designate for June-September 1971. He was then deputy head for two weeks in September, and then acting head until 21 December, when he became head teacher. He had moved from Bicester where he had gained invaluable experience of comprehensive development when the modern school had been joined with the grammar, though in this case re-sited.

I met John Gresswell in 2003, when he was kind enough to lend me the photograph album of his retirement dinner (see later,) and talk a little about the time he was head. One of his first points was that he had taken four jobs in the space of four months - acting deputy, deputy, acting head, then head. Although he continues to live near to Malton, he has deliberately kept his distance from the day-to-day affairs of the school, allowing new blood its space.

He recalled the task facing him in 1971. The obvious divisions were exacerbated by having two staffrooms - 'three if you include the smokers room', and a different ethos in each of the two previous schools-'ten commandments in the grammar school, strict routine in the county modern'.

Mr Gresswell was interviewed for the new school magazine, *Incomprehensible*, in November 1971:

I am very proud and overjoyed to be headmaster of the school, although sad to take the place of a man who was my friend. The past few weeks have been the most enjoyable of my career, and the staff and pupils alike are some of the finest people I have met in both England and America.

The magazine continues with a strong message of support, indicating that Mr Gresswell had made an impact in the few months that he had been in Malton.

Sixth formers who know Mr Gresswell and his sympathetic views towards their needs were delighted at his appointment. They knew he had consistently worked for improvements in provision. He called for unity throughout the school, and said that 'we will make Malton School better, if we can make the most of our ideas and abilities.' Readers of *Incomprehensible* will join in wishing the Headmaster success in his new appointment, and assure him of their full support.

Below:

JOHN GRESSWELL

A photo taken in the early 1970s.





Above:

STAFF WALKING GROUP

Late 1980s

David Fisher with dog, John Horsman, Richard Peters, Hugh Spencer, Derek McManus, Roy Howell (head of geography at Norton)

Below:

STAFF CARTOONS

From the new Maltonian 1982-4.

Derek McManus, Keith Williams, Roger Hadfield, Eddie Lucas, Peter Lees, Keith Williams again. Published anonymously, possibly to avoid reprisals!



STAFF NOTES

A number of staff remained at the school throughout the period, watching others come and go, and marking the retirements of some long-standing servants of the school in one or other of its previous forms. They will be mentioned in the next chapter, as they take their leave.

Glen Hooke, deputy head 1972-79, resigned in August 1979. He looked after upper school, east wing, careers, timetable and exams. Sadly his wife had died in December 1978 and he chose to leave teaching at the end of the year.

Arthur Dowding, the caretaker, retired through ill-health in 1981, following operations on his eyes. He died in 1984, having served as caretaker since 1947. School secretary Joan Grice had been school secretary at the county modern throughout its existence, and continued the role at the comprehensive until her retirement in 1981. She was very helpful when I met her on a number of occasions in providing information for this project.

Rita Kay, deputy head, retired in 1984. She had arrived at the grammar school in 1958 as Miss Simpson, marrying in 1960, as David Evans recalls: 'a major event, when I was in about form five, I think. It broke a lot of hearts, as many of us had fallen for her on the day she arrived.' Davina Burn arrived as her replacement. John Christal, deputy head, came and went (1980-84) en route to the headship of Ramsey Grammar School on the Isle of Man.

Molly Skelton retired in 1986, having taught in Malton National School in 1955-8, then at the county modern throughout its existence. Reg Waterworth was another National and County Modern teacher, who retired in 1978 after twenty-one years service to the school in its various guises. John Delaval retired in 1975 - he had been head of science at the County Modern.

Two mathematicians departed: George Rowntree retired in 1984. He had been head of maths at Malton County Modern from 1966. Alan Martindale retired after thirty-five years, having started at Malton Grammar in 1953, teaching woodwork and Games. I met George and Alan at Richard Hilton's retirement in 2003, when both were in good health.

Eddie Lucas took early retirement after twenty-five years at Malton Grammar and Malton School, having served latterly as head of sixth form. John Gresswell, in a letter to me in 2008, remembers three sad losses to the school who died in service: Mel Crawshaw, Bernard Greaves, and caretaker Ken Hopwood, 'who, through his wholehearted commitment to the school, gave so much to its general ethos'.



**JOHN GRESSWELL'S
RETIREMENT 1989**

1. Philip Mason, Dave Ewing, Ann-Margaret Hetherton, Barry Miller, Kate Schofield, Barbara Key
2. ... Davina Burn and Carol Peters
3. Moira Wood
4. Peter Eggleston and his wife
5. Julie Dowson-Boyes, Jenny Johnston and others
6. Jennie Capstick, Jackie Ewing and Carol Peters.
7. Brenda and Roger Thomas with Mrs Williams
8. Roy Settle, Chris Lawes, Geraldine Lawes, Mrs Settle and Elaine Hubery



STAFF LIST

Printed as part of an information brochure for the parents of all students in the new school. (First names have been added for information - they were not in the printed list.)

MALTON SCHOOL STAFF SEPTEMBER 1971		
Name	Area	From:
P T TAYLOR	HEADMASTER:	MGS
J D GRESSWELL	DEPUTY HEADMASTER:	MGS
MRS R KAY	SENIOR MISTRESS:	MGS
Mrs J Appleyard (June)	Art	MCM
Miss G R Blake (Gillian)	Music, R.I.	MGS
G Bowman (George)	English, Economics	MCM
P M Burrow (Peter)	Rural Science	New
R Calpin (Ray)	Woodwork	New
Miss M B Clarke (Marian)	Housecraft	MGS
E M Crawshaw (Mel)	Tech. Drawing, Woodwork	MCM
J Delaval (John)	Science	MCM
Miss R Duckels (Ruth)	Housecraft	MCM
J P Dunstan (John)	Geography	New
P Eggleston (Peter)	Metalwork	MCM
D I Ewing (Dave)	P. E. Geography	New
Miss S M Fricker (Sheila)	P. E., English	MGS
J B Greaves (Bernard)	Chemistry, Physics	MGS
R J B Hilton (Richard)	Mathematics	New
A S Joannidis (Alex)	English	MGS
Mrs L S M'Caw	French	MCM
G E Makins (Geoff)	Art	MGS
E R Lucas (Eddie)	Geography, R. I.	MGS
V A Martindale (Alan)	Mathematics	MGS
P G Mason (Philip)	Mathematics	MGS
W F Owtram (Bill)	English History Latin	MCM
A J Robinson (Alan)	French	MGS
G A Rowntree (George)	Mathematics	MCM
Miss D Rushton (Diane)	P.E. English	New
Mrs N Skelton (Mollie)	Needlecraft	MCM
H S Spencer (Hugh)	History	MGS
R D W Thomas (Roger)	P.E., History	MGS
R S Waterworth (Reg)	R.I. Science	MCM
P R Wellard (Paul)	English	MGS
A White (Alf)	Physics	New
J Whitehead (John)	(Youth Leader), Geography	New
Mrs E N H Williams (Eleanor)	Modern Languages	MGS
J K Williams (Keith)	Biology	New
Mrs M Dobson (Eileen)	English	MCM
Mrs M Duggleby (Marjorie)	Remedial Work	MCM
C H Macdonald (Charles)	Music	New
W E Probert (Bill)		
Mrs G Smith (Shirley)	Commercial Subjects	New
Mrs I Emmerson, (Rene)	School secretaries:	
Mrs S W Grice (Joan)	School secretaries:	
S Biggins (Stan)	Laboratory Technician:	
A Dowding (Arthur)	Caretaker:	
Mrs F W Ledingham (Wendy)	Cook Superintendents:	West
Mrs G M Morris (Gladys)	Cook Superintendents:	East

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The spaced-out buildings were a problem, as they remain today. Thankfully the 'split' in the split site was not as severe as that experienced by some schools – where travel expenses are paid to staff commuting the mile or more between two buildings. The extensive fields at the rear of the school provided a natural link, and in reality the wing path provides a brisk three minute walk between lessons for the eager pupil (a ten minute excuse for lateness to the less committed!). This path features in much early discussion in the new school – originally a dog-leg around the tennis courts, it was not properly laid until late 1972, and not fenced until summer 1974. It took until summer 2001 to straighten it (and widen it) into a more natural line, and the protective privet hedge due to be planted in 1975 never saw the light of day. A beech hedge was planted in 2005 as part of £10000 tree project sponsored by *Barclays New Futures*.

Being an important artery for student flow, discussion of it being a covered walkway was frequent throughout the thirty years following 1971. The minutes of 1976 record the problem being that of cost – an estimate for £576 being far too expensive. Mr Gresswell explained the problem to the county education officer, E E L Owens, on a visit on 27 March 1975:

I explained to him [Dr Owens] our concerns about the passage of children in inclement weather. We started down the path in fair weather, but, as if to emphasise the problem, by the time we were half way down a veritable blizzard had developed. Dr Owens saw the point but doubted whether money would be available.

The path was such an issue that the first change to uniform - to allow girls to wear trousers – related to the wing path and its terrors.



Above:

THE WING PATH 1990s

For thirty years students were herded along this narrow dog-legged path until, with an eye on disabled access, common sense finally prevailed in 2001.



Right:

WING PATH 2001

The new flags being laid in a more sensible straight line between the two wings. We now just need the covering!

In 1983 the school grounds totalled twenty acres, having been reduced in 1979 when the A64 Malton by-pass was constructed. John Dunstan (a teacher 1971 - 2001, latterly head of geography,) found an earlier six-inch-scale map giving the size as twenty nine acres – so nine acres appears to have been lost to the bypass. The bypass cost £7 million; work began in 1977, plans having been first proposed back in 1926. Something of a Malton trait, these long gestation periods!

Below:

A64 BY-PASS 1979

A photo with kind permission of David Wakeley, who took it from a plane flown by Carl Wilkinson. This view is from west to east with the route for the road scraped off and most of the route clearly visible. Peasey Hills and Malton School are marked.

Only two new buildings were constructed as a result of the school going comprehensive. The raising of the school Leaving age was a major change to education, being planned from 1964 onwards, and coming into force on 1 September 1973. It required pupils to stay on at school until age sixteen. Whereas many schools had whole new blocks built, ('ROSLA blocks'), Malton School got room 13.



This was perhaps not a bad thing: ROSLA buildings were delivered to schools in self-assembly packs, constructed often in a matter of days. They were not intended to stand long-term, though many remain.

The ROSLA room was described, in a letter of complaint to Dr Owens at County Hall, as a 'two-thirds size technical studies room constructed in 1971 instead of a full size room'. The room size was one of a long list of complaints: others included the large population creating pressure on classrooms, with classes timetabled in west wing hall and in the remedial room; heating; lighting; electrical wiring; inadequate storage provision; inadequate hard play and parking facilities; and a lack of acoustic tiling in the gym.

Comprehensive education had arrived in Malton. John Dunstan puts it in memories of his early days, 'very much on the cheap'.



The other new construction was the youth annexe, built in 1970. A new post of youth tutor was created on a half teaching timetable, to which John Whitehead was appointed. This extract from *Incomprehensible* (1972) describes the club:

There are now 90 members regularly attending the club. The club is open to visitors except on special members evenings. The building contains a comfortable lounge with a coloured TV – a fully equipped kitchen, a large Games area also used for dancing and a ladies room equipped with a large hair dryer, easy chairs etc.

Room usage changes were numerous in the early days of the new school. Room 37 became music instead of domestic science (causing a problem with heating, as the old stove had been removed, leaving one radiator to heat the large room.) Room 21 (the old art room from MCM days) was being used as a sixth form common room in 1971-2, but was due to become a science and general teaching room. The sixth form were shipped down to one of the three art rooms in east wing. Eventually, in September 1974, the west wing library was converted into a sixth form common room, with study booths being moved from the east wing to provide study space. The garden room (room 10) became engineering drawing in 1972. Room 4 converted to a typing room in 1974.

Dining rooms remained split until 1980, when the east wing provision closed, with all dinners being taken in west wing. The old MGS dining room and kitchens were converted to art rooms in 1984, and remained so until 1999 when the space became a new library.

YOUTH CLUB 1985

Includes: Ken Hopwood, Linda Dorman, Dave Sneddon, Julie Jeffries, Lydia Wright, Jill Megginson, Andrew Seagust, Lisa Jeffreys, Graham Boyes, Bruce Watson, Edward (Teddy) Pickering, Mark Bottomley, David (Sucker) Bayes, Sean Cass, Geoff Riding (deceased), Andrew (Chubby) Hall, Chris Matthews, Richard (biff) Long, Chris (Banner) Lawrence, Rich Burley, Andrew Carlisle, Michael Bayes, Andrew, Peter Fox, Adrian Shepherdson, Melanie Lonsdale, Tina Shepherdson, Paula Nendick, Joanne Rookes, Will Dorman, John Pople, Steve Langstaff, Nicola Riding
On floor: Darren (Daz) Smith, Mark Mackie, Anselm Dorman

A photo passed on by Bruce Watson, with additional names from John Pople in 2003.



Above:

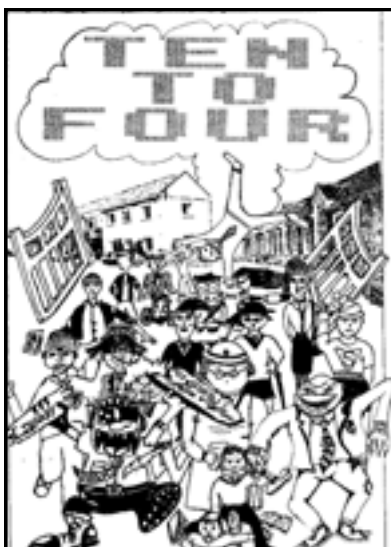
INCOMPREHENSIBLE 1972

An in-house roneo-produced foolscap production, sadly poor quality duplicating and paper, rendering the content quite difficult to read.

Below:

TEN TO FOUR 1988 & 1989

A 70-page spiral bound collection of poetry, jokes, quizzes, creative writing, reports on school trips and activities, and a few photographs. Again poor quality reprographics diminish an entertaining offering.



DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Formal school photos do not seem to have been popular in this era, or if they were they have not turned up as frequently as those from other decades: certainly not the traditional school panoramic photos, the form groups and the sports teams. To see students from the seventies and eighties we have to rely on snapshots and the occasional press photo, though there are some quality photos and slides from camping trips and school productions in these years, in particular from teachers Richard Peters and Keith Williams.

As with photographs, printed commentary on the life of the school is sparse. The minutes of governors meetings for 1970-1985 remain, but *The Maltonian* ceased publication in 1971 and the new school did not replace it with a printed school magazine. There were, however, at least three issues of a magazine known as *Incomprehensible*, priced at 2p and produced in 1971-2. It is more in line with the *Nainotlam* magazines than the more formal *Maltonian*.

John Gresswell has assured me that formal reports and records were typed up, and school secretary Jennie Capstick confirms this, though it has proved possible to find them all. Informative annual reports to the governors and PTA, from the 1970s to 1988 do remain, and have helped in the telling of this story.

There was a revival of *The Maltonian* in 1982-4, (*The New Maltonian*) under the editorial supervision of Eddie Lucas and Clive Ashworth, and six issues were printed in these years. They were a mix of comment, record and literary contributions, with jokes, cartoons and other lighter items thrown in.

FORM GROUP 1973

A typical snapshot from the period, sent in by Julie Mason (née Dobson).

Includes Stuart Ellis, Neil Paylor, Derek Langstaff, Andrew Powell, Martin Hague, David Knaggs, Colin Baxter, Clive Richardson, Paul Twamley, Stuart Boyes, David Bland, Martin Golaglee, Kevin Simpson, Jayne Hindby, Mandy Blake, Julie Dobson, Jill Brewster, Anita Ward, Shirley Johnson, Karen Talbot, Duncan Graham





STUDENTS' SNAPS FROM THE 1970s

1. PADDLING 1974

A photo loaned by Christina Oxtoby in 2002.

2. UPPER SIXTH JUNE 1979:

Nigel Laws, Paul Tate-Smith, Ian Pearson, Peter Harris, Nicholas Messenger



3&4. TREASURE HUNT 1974

In Princess Road car park, and outside the Middleton Arms
From Christina Oxtoby in 2002

5. SMALL SNAPS 1975

Kevin Hubery with Jill Holden, Michael Walker and Sue Hoggard. Typing group, back: Shirley Smith (teacher), Paula Williamson, Sandra Pearce, Suzanne Howe, Anne Wentworth, Diane Kerr, Denise Bigg, Amanda Gibson, Pauline Dunning. Kneeling: Caroline Powell, Karen Hoggarth, Lyn Johnson, Linda Barker, Sue Hoggard, Diane Walker, Pauline Verity, Katrina Kane, Jane Routledge.
From Jill Swailes (née Holden) 1999



6 & 7. SCHOOL FIELDS 1978

Stuart Ellis, Sara Pope, Paul Wright, Mark Suddaby, Della Nicholson, Tim Verity, Sue Crosier

7. Simon Tate, Diane Crosier, Louise Rowe, Kathryn Fairweather, Tim Verity, Michael Hill, Paul Wright, Stuart Ellis, Denise Jeffreys, Karen Bradshaw, Sally Stonehouse, David Jefferson

From Helen Paylor 2002



8. OUTSIDE SCHOOL 1974?

Kathryn Fairweather, Sally Stonehouse, Diane Crosier, Sue Crosier, Helen Challis, Clair Dobson, Karen Bradshaw

9. LAKE CONISTON 1975

Shirley Johnson, Julie Dobson, Jill Brewster (Photos from Julie Mason)



11. 5th FORM 1977

Denise Sleightholm, Julie Sleightholm, Yvonne Fothergill, Josie Myers, Clive Ashworth, Susan Queen, Sally Rogers, Michelle Ellwood, Angela Sleightholm

12. FOUR GIRLS

Gillian Guildford, Camilla Barker, Denise Sleightholm, Margaret Clifford (photos from Gillian Guildford).

CURRICULUM

In the early years of comprehensive education, a genuine attempt appears to have been made to widen provision, particularly in the sixth form. In 1972 thirteen A-levels and eleven O-levels were offered, including general studies, which Mr Gresswell felt was very important. Community studies appeared for the first time in 1980-81.

Careers education was introduced in 1972, under Glen Hooke's guidance. Work experience and careers applied for all 4th years in 1980, at the end of the summer term.

The first computer studies results, for Mr Rowntree's group, appeared in 1981. The group initially used a terminal connected by telephone to "the North Yorkshire Computer". The school got its own computer - an RM 380Z - in 1980, when Peter Inman of the 6th form demonstrated it at the school open evening. In 1983 three BBC Model B's arrived ("doubling the school's computer provision!"), and students were using "Edword" for word processing. By 1984 keyboard skills and computer appreciation was on offer, and the computer club supervised by Mr Hilton flourished.

Students were entered for O level, CSE and some 16+ exams until 1987, when these exams were replaced by GCSE.

The 1987 Education Act changed salary structure and conditions for staff: five extra days were introduced for staff training (initially called Baker days, as Kenneth Baker was the education secretary), and stipulated 1265 hours directed time, plus marking, preparation and reporting on top of this. Many staff saw this as an insult to their professionalism. Mr Gresswell saw it as a sign of things to come.

CLASS OF '86

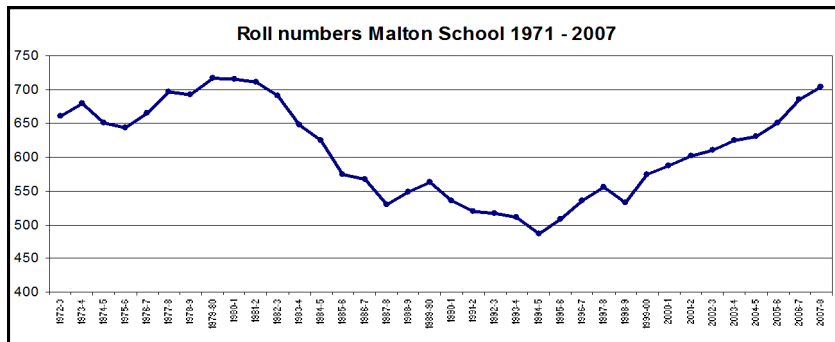
A news clipping found in an album loaned by Mr Gresswell. Andrew Legget, Vicky Gall, Stuart Richardson, Michael Hill, John Roberts and Alison Taylor. The caption reads "At Malton School, a fierce antipathy to Mrs Thatcher".



Photo: Paul Cousins

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

On amalgamation, the school was one of around six hundred and fifty pupils. This number would fluctuate in the coming years, as far as one can tell due to demographic changes rather than parents exercising choice, though the private sector may have had an impact. It dropped to a low of six hundred and fifty-three in 1975-6, then climbed again to its largest ever of seven hundred and nineteen in 1980-1, only to see a decline again in the 1980s. In 1984 Mr Gresswell comments in *The New Maltonian* that only eighty-four pupils were enrolled into the first year of 1983, and that this trend would continue for some years to come – the national trend in population of school age children was downwards. By the end of Mr Gresswell's headship, in 1988-9, the roll stood at five hundred and thirty-eight. It would fall further. The sixth form increasingly suffered from competition from Scarborough and York sixth form colleges.



Left:

THE SCHOOL ROLL IN COMPREHENSIVE DAYS

The school population fell quite dramatically during this period, in line with national and local demographic trends. It continued to fall until a low point of only 487 in 1994-5, before rising again to top 700 in 2007-8.

The location of lessons was deliberately mixed, with students being required to take lessons in both wings. Mr Gresswell felt it was important for staff to integrate as well. Departments in general were not split - history, English, art and most modern languages in the east wing, and maths, geography, craft and design technology in the west wing. Problems with the science department being split between the wings were raised by the HMI's in their visit of 1974:

they liked the organisation of accommodation by departments but expressed dismay at the scattered nature of the science accommodation and commiserated with us over the fundamental weakness of the school caused by the split site

The school day consisted of seven forty-minute periods, a pattern that was to be maintained until 1994. There was a slight variation in the late 1980s, when registration and assembly shortened and five minutes were added to periods two, four and six in response to the issue of time-loss during wing changes between lessons. John Gresswell had proposed a change to a five-period day with five-minute changeover times in 1972, but County officials would not accept this.

SCHOOL DAY 1971-87

09:00 Registration
 09:10 Assembly or form period
 09:30 Period 1
 10:10 Period 2
 10:50 Break
 11:05 Period 3
 11:45 Period 4
 12:25 Lunch
 13:40 Registration
 13:50 Period 5
 14:30 Period 6
 15:10 Period 7
 15:50 School ends

Top right:
BARON BOLLIGREW 1972

Middle Right:
PYGMALION 1973

Middle left:
THE DEMONS 1974

Bottom left:
THE BRIDESTONES 1975

Bottom middle:
A PHOENIX TOO FAR 1975

Bottom right:
THE DUMB WAITER 1974

The last four plays above are described as 'experimental drama'. The Bridestones and Phoenix were reportedly performed 'to a surprised audience.'

DRAMA AND PRODUCTIONS

There were many productions large and small in these years. In early days Robert Bolt's *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew* (1972), took to the stage with a large cast of forty pupils from years two, three and four. According to *The Incomprehensible*, lead parts were taken by Noel Tiernan, John Peterkin, Christopher Binge and Gillian Jagger. In 1975 three short plays were performed - *A Phoenix Too Far*, *The Bridestones*, and *How the Stars were Made*.

One of the biggest and most fondly remembered productions was the musical, *Oliver*, performed in February 1978, which sold out on all three nights. A cast of over one hundred students and staff took part, and some high quality photographs of the show remain.





OLIVER 1978

1. The chorus
2. Kate Ridley as Nancy
3. John Horsman in his den
4. John Whitehead as Sykes
5. John Horsman as Fagin
6. Hugh Spencer as Bumble
7. The chorus
8. Nicky Thompson as Oliver





SMIKE 1984

Four photos loaned by Richard Peters who appears as the teacher in this production. Tessa Tate-Smith is the girl in the fourth photo.



Bottom:

HAY FEVER 1983

A smaller scale production, performed at Easter 1983

Richard Peters, Moira Wood, John Christal, Alison Burnett



OKLAHOMA 1981

Top:

REHEARSALS

Back: Catherine Caldwell, Rebecca Pay, Joanne Pope, Janine Smith, Katherine Bradshaw, Jayne Powell, Charlotte Hamilton, Belinda Barrett, Karen Loseby, Gillian Marshall, ..., Paul Loborovic, Andrew Ellis

2nd Row: Ashley Bayes, Beverley Earnshaw, Bethan Fox, Helen Archer, Ann Roberts

1st Row: Jillian Sanderson, Lorraine Knaggs, Christine Douthwaite, Sandra Hill, Angus Smith, David Ainley

Front: Alison Wilmott, Julie Delaney, Melanie Iredale, Tim Moulds, Sarah Gale

The show was produced by Mr Jones
Picture and names from school attendance secretary Lorraine Cooke (née Knaggs) in January 2008.

Photo: Gazette and Herald.

Below:

SURREY WORRY OVER

Local farmers John and Janet Sturdy 'came to the rescue' and loaned the school a cart for its production, to act as the famous 'Surrey with a fringe on top'. In the trap are teacher John Horsman and pupil Mandy Iredale ('Curly' and 'Laurey')

Photo: Ryedale Mercury



SCHOOL TRIPS

There were so many trips that a whole book could be written on this subject alone. Here are just a few venues that might jog a memory somewhere:

Aegina (Greece), Barnard Castle, Bath, The Bridestones, Brimham, Brittany, Chambord, Chamerolles, Cochem, Durham, Farinette, Glyfada, Grantown on Spey, Hasty Bank, Heidelberg, Interlaken, Koblenz, London: – Houses of Parliament, Post-impressionist exhibition, Ideal Homes, Natural History Museum and Science Museum; Newtonmore, Normandy, Northumberland, Paris, Peak Scar, Pila, Pithiviers, Rheinfels, the Rhineland, Rome, Rouen, Rudesheim, Sangatte, Trier, Switzerland – the Bernese Oberland, Vendome, Wembley, Whitby and Wimbledon.

Theatre and cinema trips visited York, Newcastle Scarborough Hull Leeds and London to see: – *Heartbreak House*, *Joseph & his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Hamlet* (Derek Jacobi), *Anthony & Cleopatra* (Alec McCowan and Dorothy Tutin), *A Man for All Seasons*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Rivals*, *Dr Faustus*, *The Master Builder*, *The Devil's Law Case*, *The Mikado*, *The Tempest*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Edward II*, *Hiawatha*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *Wuthering Heights*, *A Patriot for Me*, *Make or Break*, *Amadeus*, *The Silver Sword*, *King Lear*, *The Changeling*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Godspell*, *The Lady's Not for Burning*, *Look Back In Anger*, *Pravda*, *The American Clock*, *Three Sisters*, *Pam Gems*, *Camille*, *The Benefactors*, *Flags and Bandages*, *Tess of the Durbervilles*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Room with a View*, *Ran*, and *Dumb Waiter*.

This is just a sample of what was offered to the pupils, and this at times against a background of strike action and withdrawal of goodwill by teachers. Malton always has been a school to give its students the opportunity to travel and sample what is out there: the tradition continues today.

Right:

EAST BARNBY GROUP 1973

Students ready for their trip to the North Yorkshire outdoor pursuits centre at East Barnby, near Whitby, in January 1973.





CAMPING TRIPS AND FIELD STUDY TRIPS

Camping trips to Langdale in the Lake District started in 1972, and Keith Williams together with a variety of other staff continued taking students on these trips for thirty years, only being forced to stop in 2001 due to the foot and mouth crisis of that year which placed restrictions on large tracts of the Lake District, and indeed the country as a whole. Through these trips over the years many students have been able to take in the delights of Langdale Pike, Striding Edge, Helvellyn, Scugdale, Ullswater and many more classic delights of the National Park

Top:

FIELD STUDIES 1974

A biology group on the east coast, possibly at Saltwick Nab.

Below:

DERWENTWATER 1977

John Whitehead with a group by the boat jetties at Keswick.

Below left:

JOHN WHITEHEAD 1977

Middle:

LANGDALE 1974

Right:

THE LAKES 1977

Looking over Glenridding to Ullswater.

Bottom:

KEITH WILLIAMS 1977

I am unsure exactly where, probably Cat Bells.



Keith recalled in 2008:

The first camping trips started when John Gresswell let me have enough money to buy Black's Good Companion tents, sleeping bags and cooking kit including Primus stoves sufficient to take 12 kids and 2 staff camping. Transport in the early days was my car and whoever else we could persuade to take us across, and a trailer made by Pete Eggleston and some of the lads in metalwork. Early cooking was very experimental, including the use of dehydrated food. I recall on one of the trips some lads complained that their bacon was either raw or burned black; we hadn't told them that you had to separate the slices from each other before frying!

CAMPING TRIPS AND WATERSPORTS

Top right:

LANGDALE 1982

Barry Miller on one of the many camping trips to Langdale that took place from 1972 onwards.

Below:

LA FRANCE 1989

Watersports in the south of France seemed like a good way to finish off the school year for ten years 1985-95

Below left:

FANCY DRESS

A tradition on the watersports trip

Below middle:

CUMBRIA 1983

Below right:

LANGDALE 1987

Bottom:

HELVELLYN 1988

At the windbreak on top of Helvellyn

Keith Williams again:

Watersports trips were initially to a permanent campsite right by a beach on the Mediterranean, not far from a little fishing village called Grau d'Agde. Getting there involved a 24hr bus trip down the Autoroute du Soleil, which fortunately usually lived up to its name, and also involved about 8 million French families with similar ideas of heading south for some sun. Later trips included 3 or 4 days canoeing down the Ardeche gorge before the beach part.





SKI TRIPS

The first of many annual ski-trips took place in 1974 when Moira Wood and John Dunstan took a group to Aprica, Italy, on a trip organised for pupils from the North Riding. It proved so popular that when the county organiser left and the area schools trip was not to be repeated, Malton School organised its own trip, this time with two busloads of over sixty students going to Newtonmore in the Cairngorms. In 1976 Barbara Key (née Richardson) took a group to Innsbruck, Austria, where the group was able to ski the Olympic downhill course. The ski-trip tradition was firmly laid and set to continue every year to the present day. In later years Barry Miller, John Horsman, Richard Peters, Roger Thomas and others took on the organisation.

The photos here are from Richard Peters, date and locations unsure.

Below right:

INNSBRUCK 1977

Gill Harrison (née Wentworth) on the 1977 ski-trip.



MUSIC GROUPS 1970s

Top:

MISS BLAKE 1971

I am not sure whether this is from grammar school days or after the merger. Music teacher Gillian Blake is on the left.

Photo: York Evening Press

Middle:

ORCHESTRA PRACTICE 1972

A photo dated February 1972.

The four clarinet players are Judith Hicks, Angela Smith, Julie Craggs and Angela Thompson. The flute player on the left is Rosemary Anstey

Bottom right:

VIOLIN AND VIOLA 1972

A photo e-mailed by Simon Crozier in December 2002. Catherine Ilett Ann Crozier and Juliette Tate-Smith are at the front of the photo.

Bottom left:

THE ORCHESTRA 1980

A photo e-mailed to me in 2008 by Ruth Hatton (née Hadfield.). The picture was taken when the orchestra visited Malton Primary School.





RED NOSE DISCO 1989

*The second year of Comic Relief.
Students clearly enjoyed their
fundraising*



SPORT

Reports on sporting activities are sparse, but this is not reflective of sporting activity itself. Head of PE Roger Thomas had a personal preference against publicity, feeling that those who needed to know results knew them (the participants and the spectators) and that no more need be said. An indication of the quite amazing level of activity, given the size of the school, can be gained in an extract from the headmaster's report of 1977-8:

82 soccer fixtures, 36 basketball fixtures, 35 Girls hockey, 14 Tennis, 29 Rounders, 10 netball. 270 fixtures in total in the course of the year. Roderick Ireland represented the county at Hockey, Simon Tait County Junior Javelin champion, Paul Suddaby and Duncan Bradshaw County Tennis Doubles Champions. Angela and Denise Sleightholme Area and County Tennis Champions at U18 level.

The following year 'three hundred fixtures against other schools, plus one hundred house fixtures' were noted. Again in 1982: 'Sport was as vigorous as ever, and the open tennis tournament at the end of the summer term has become a regular and popular fixture.' As with a number of introductions from this period, this tennis tournament is yet another annual tradition which continues until the present day.

Swimming instruction was provided for 1st and 2nd years until 1980, when the LEA cut funding and it became for 1st years only, supported by the endowment governors, as it continued until 2002. The swimming sports was restored in 1987, organised by sixth formers led by Alison Horton and David Smurthwaite, and enjoyed 'vociferously by all' as it came down to the last race. As exciting as this was, who won the tournament unfortunately was not recorded in the head teacher's annual report.

SPORTS TRIP 1978

Angela Howgate, Julie Knights, Julie Dobson, Melanie Rowe, Sue Crosier, Helen Challiss
A photo from Helen Paylor, sent in 2002



In 1987 a national press article suggested that sport was not receiving the time it used to 'in the olden days' in Britain's schools. Malton School's response was to list the extent of activities:

For girls there were six hockey teams, six netball teams, five rounders teams, two tennis teams; for boys, six soccer teams, five cricket teams, four basketball teams, a senior hockey team, plus tennis and cross country fixtures. In a given week there were usually eight lunchtime practices, one after school recreational class, one gym in use each lunch hour. All this in addition to house matches and district tournaments. Rugby coaching was provided by Malton & Norton Rugby club on one lunch-hour per week.

Head's report 1986-7

Only a handful of photos remain in the archive from this period, which appear on the next page.



Top:

NETBALL TEAM 1980

A photo found behind a cupboard in the girls changing rooms, 2003. Kate Miller (née Schofield) provided the names and estimated the date.

Christine Hardy, Joanne Pope, Rebecca Pay, Helen Archer, Caroline Saul, Sarah Abbey, Samantha Smith

Upper middle left:

HOCKEY 1st XI 1982

Lower left:

2nd YEAR FOOTBALL 1984

Middle right:

NETBALL TEAM 1984

Area netball champions in this year.

The back row are Joanne Baxter, Katrina Fothergill, Kirsty Williamson, Lindsey Seekings. Front row unsure.



These three photos are scanned from the New Maltonian magazine rather than original photographs - therefore quality is a little lacking

SPORTS DAY 1975

A photo loaned by Lorraine Cooke (née Knaggs) in 2008. Her brother David is in the photo



IN CONCLUSION

In 1989 John Gresswell had been headmaster of Malton School for eighteen years, effectively since its inception in 1971. It was a period of unrest, with major strike action (particularly in 1980, 1984 and 1986) and withdrawal of goodwill from a teaching force that felt undervalued by its government. It was a period of frequent experimentation, with new structures, new courses and new examinations, and a new leaving age, all introduced often with inadequate funding and training. In his final headmaster's report to the governors in 1988, Mr Gresswell warned of significant changes in education in the coming years:

...new developments originated by the LEA or one of the ministries, have to be monitored, which generates paperwork, and call for discussion and training which generates meetings. ... time for counselling, proposals, responses, submissions, reports, reviews, assessments, returns - all are time-consuming and in the mind of some teachers and irritating and pressure building diversion from their real purpose, the classroom teaching of children.

Schools will be funded according to pupil numbers. That, coupled with open enrolment, means that, apart from all their other problems Heads must actively promote their school. The pressures caused by increased competition will be enormous. (quoting Dave Styan, an education director)

John Gresswell: Report to PTA 1988

The years to come would show much insight, indeed foresight, present in Mr Gresswell's final words.



JOHN GRESSWELL 1989
At his retirement dinner with his wife.