

TORCH

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(with the help of the V1th
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Foreword

The year 1968/69 has been an extremely full and busy one for in addition to the normal business of the school the staff have been much involved in discussion and forward planning for the re-organisation of the schools on this site. In this we have been joined by the staff of our sister school and of the Grange Grammar School, and to all who have assisted I offer my most sincere thanks. Given in the future the same whole-hearted co-operation which we have enjoyed in the past from pupils, parents and staff, then the Abbeydale Grange School due to emerge in September could be not only the biggest of Sheffield's schools but also one of its best. We shall share a heritage of which we can be justly proud and must seek to assimilate into the new school all that is best in the old.

WJG Massey
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The newly created school will house some 2,200 pupils and the pattern likely to emerge over the next three years is that the present Boys' School building will become the Lower School, and present Girls' School building the Upper School and the present Grange School a Sixth Form Centre. The economic situation is such that the only remodelling possible immediately is to such essentials as toilets and changing facilities. However, plans have been prepared for extensions to Art and Craft facilities and for re-equipping the Sixth Form Centre. Ideally we look to the day when administration and specialist services such as libraries can be centralised in a new block but this may be far distant. Unfortunately "temporary" arrangements have a way of becoming "permanent" and we must all be vigilant to guard against this.

Anyone directly involved in the changeover cannot but be impressed by the magnitude of the task we face. How we shall emerge from the challenge only time will tell. When the day comes to look back over our formative years we hope to be able to see that with your help we have built a sound future on the sure foundation of the past.

The year opened with a Staff of 42 and 802 boys on roll of whom 192 were in Form 6. This represents still further growth and our building is now grossly overcrowded. Four of the staff were new to the school: Mr. S. Bowes (Sunderland College of Education) joined the Music Department; Mr. N.S.B. Duncan, B.A. (Sheffield) joined the Geography Department; Mr. E. Fairclough, A.T.C. (Leeds) joined the Art Department, and Mr. E. Holmes, B.A. (Leeds) the Geography Department. We also welcomed Monsieur R. P. Romant as our French Assistant; Miss T. Palmer in the School Office and Mr. I. Wadsworth as Junior Laboratory Technician.

There have been a number of staff resignations during the year and we shall be poorer for the loss of these men who have given invaluable service to this school and its predecessor. Mr. O. Robertshaw retired at Easter after almost 40 years of service and Mr. L. P. Cook and Mr. C. N. Scorer are to retire at the end of this term.

In addition to his Honours Degree in German, Mr. Robertshaw also held the degree of M.A. in Music and was an accomplished pianist. With Mr. L. Buchan speaking the words, they gave a performance to the boys of Nether Edge of William Walton's "Facade" suite: no easy task for amateurs. During the war he served with an army Intelligence Unit where his knowledge of German was put to use. He will be remembered by certain boys, (without rancour, it is hoped), as the staff expert on detention, making good use of his knowledge of unusual words. For many years Mr. Robertshaw had intervals of ill-health, but we are pleased to say that he now seems on the way to complete recovery.

Mr. Cook joined the staff in January 1934. He took over the teaching of German during Mr. Robertshaw's absence on war service. Bicycles for transport were more common then than now and some fifty to a hundred old boys may recall a day when they rode in long columns into Derbyshire with Mr. Cook as "whipper-in" at the end. He is fond of walking and has an interesting collection of unusual photographs of insects and flowers. For some years he has supervised the chess club and had his work rewarded by some outstanding successes both by individual boys and by teams.

Mr. Scorer joined the staff in April 1937 and has been Deputy Headmaster since 1961. At Nether Edge he taught Mathematics, Physics and Biology; the latter in a room not much bigger than a cupboard. He regards as the height of his pupil's success the preparation of the skeleton of a large terrier dog (given to the school when dead). The skeleton was exhibited at a British Association Meeting; its photograph appeared in national newspapers, and only the initiated knew that one of its ribs was a mutton chop bone from a boy's dinner plate. During the war a flourishing 6th Form discussion group grew out of an argument in the physics lab. on the merits of Soviet Communism and lasted for several years. He has managed to keep fit enough to enjoy being on most of the Easter Hiking Holidays. Both as Senior Science Master and Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Scorer has given invaluable service to this school. He will be remembered by many boys and staff for his helpful guidance in times of trouble and by not a few for his famous "bob - martins"! Always cheerful and enthusiastic, his presence around the school has been a considerable influence for good.

To each of these gentlemen we extend our sincere gratitude for their service and our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Mr. G. E. Croot and Mr. R. G. Ensum are leaving as a consequence of re-organisation. Mr. Croot's ten years of service to the school has seen the Biology Department emerge from a cinderella existence to one of the strongest and most vigorous departments within the school. We have gained considerably from the efforts of Mr. Croot and whilst sorry to see him leave, we extend to him our very best wishes in his new role as Head of the Biology Department of King Ecgbert School.

Mr. Ensum joined the staff in 1966 and became Acting Head of the Geography Department in 1968 following the resignation of Mr. D. J. Lewis. Mr. Ensum is leaving to take charge of the Geography Department at Itchen College, Southampton. This is a developing Sixth Form College and the post presents the kind of challenge on which Mr. Ensum will thrive.

We are also losing Mr. D. H. Welsh who joined the staff in 1967. He is leaving to teach in a mission school in Zambia. Since January Mr. Welsh has carried the school's German teaching almost single-handed and we owe to him a considerable debt of gratitude. He takes with him our very best wishes for success in his new sphere of activity.

Speech Night, held on 4th October, was chaired by Councillor G.E.A. Beardshaw and our Chief Guest was Professor W. Eastwood of Sheffield University, Department of Civil Engineering.

Early in December the School Bookshop opened under the supervision of Mr. J. G. Timmins and this service has been well used through the year particularly by Form 6. We wish to record here our appreciation of the help afforded us in this venture by the Methodist Bookshop.

On 10th December, the Band broke new ground when they played a concert of carols on the Cathedral forecourt. The choir of Abbeydale Girls' Grammar School joined with the Band for the occasion and we extend our thanks to Miss C. Crowther.

On 12th December a large group of Sixth Form mathematicians attended a one day conference held in the University Department of Probability and Statistics.

Prior to the Carol Services on 16th and 17th December a group of boys visited the Cheshire Home in Totley and subsequently recommended to the school that the collections should be donated to this worthy cause. The money received, coupled with the proceeds from the Variety Show given by the Sixth Form on the last day of term, enabled the same group of boys to present to the Matron on behalf of the school, a cheque for £75.

In March we were fortunate to have members of Theatre Vanguard in school on three days with a programme of activities for a large group of Sixth Form boys and girls on this site. This programme was much appreciated and we record our appreciation to the players.

Throughout the winter we competed in the University Union of Students Debating Competition and on 13th March our junior team of J. Ashworth and K. Haynes defeated the Girls' High School in the final of the Junior Section.

The Senior Cross Country Team rounded off another highly successful season winning the Sheffield Schools' and North Midlands' Championships.

The Annual Swimming Gala was held on 28th March at King Edward VII School Baths. The House and individual trophies were presented by Mr. D. Hughes who is Chairman of the Yorkshire Schools Swimming Association and a member of the P.T.A.

The School Concert was held on 1st April and was again very well attended. The collection in aid of the Musical Instrument Fund totalled £47 and we record our thanks to all who helped in any way.

Shortly before Easter we received an appeal from an Old Boy David Birks, who is doing voluntary service in Kenya, to provide some financial help towards making running repairs on the school in which he is teaching. Various activities were organised by groups of boys and as a result a cheque for £30 was sent out to Kenya. This was greatly appreciated by Mr. Birks who has made excellent use of the gift as his letters show.

During the Easter holiday a party of 8 staff and 62 boys led by Mr. D. R. Dunn took part in the annual hiking holiday which this year was based on Towyn in North Wales.

The Under 15 Soccer XI captained by J. Hinch, won the Clegg Shield in their first year in the competition. The final round was against Chaucer School and was only decided after a replay.

The Joint Choir Concert held in May was again a very successful event. The Choir took the first part and individual items by instrumentalists and the Brass Group took up the second.

During June a large party from the Lower Sixth attended the pre-university conference organised by the Sheffield University Union of Students.

During the year boys have figured in two programmes put out by Radio Sheffield. The first was recorded in the Language Laboratory and dealt with modern teaching techniques in French and the second was a recording of a discussion by a group of Sixth Form boys on Religion in the School.

A further extensive programme of field studies work has been run in Snowdonia, the Isle of Man, Shropshire and Pembrokeshire and day excursions have been run to York, Malham, Edale, Chester and many other places.

Educational visits have been made to plays, concerts, libraries and art galleries and have served to widen horizons and make the courses within school more relevant.

The Careers Advice programme began last year in Form 4 and has now been extended into Form 5. Mr. I. C. Mayo has been responsible for this development and has received much help from Mr. B. Branch of the Careers Advisory Service.

The School Council has met regularly throughout the year under the chairmanship of the Head Boy, Ian Austin, and in addition to administering the School Fund has provided a useful forum for an exchange of ideas between boys and staff. Discussion has always been thoughtful and constructive and has covered all aspects of school life. The decision to utilise the monies in the School Fund to equip a Careers Room is much to be applauded and should be of great benefit in the future.

This year our Sports Day is to take place on a Saturday afternoon and the P.T.A. are working very hard in preparation for the Fete which will accompany the sports programme. We hope for fine weather and a large attendance.

Alongside this wide and varied activity the steady day-by-day work of the school has gone on much as before. The severe winter took its toll of our normal sports programme and illness and absence amongst both staff and boys was much more noticeable than for many years. As always, many boys have worked steadily and well whilst a few have worked below capacity both at school and at home. Opportunities that are allowed to pass unheeded and talents not fully developed are a source of sadness to any schoolmaster or thinking parent. There is great reward in a performance which is the result of application and persistence and one hopes that all will strive to this end for it forms the basis of personal responsibility and self-discipline.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr. C. N. Townsend on the production of his play "The Journey" at the Merlin Theatre.

To C. L. Euesden who wrote the music for the Sheffield Playhouse production "It's all in the mind".

To Mr. K. H. Dowsell on the award of his Full Badge as an F. A. Coach.

To P. Taylor and J. Dawson on being selected to represent the S. Yorks Schools' Cricket Team last summer; and to J. Clatworthy, J. Redgate and P. Higgingsbottom who played for the Sheffield U15 team.

To N. Fryer and K. Wheat on receiving their Colour Awards from the Y.S.S.F.A; to P. Swinden on playing for the Yorkshire Colts' team; to T. C. Gill and A. Hoyland on playing for the Sheffield Schools' U15 team.

To S. Howard on being chosen to play last summer for the Yorkshire Boys' Tennis team.

To P. Shepherd who recently was invited to swim before the Queen in the Centenary Gala of the A.S.A.

To D. J. France, D. J. Moffat, A. S. Smith, C. R. Niven and R. D. Marsh on being selected to run for the City Team in the Yorkshire Schools' cross-country championships; also to A. S. Smith, D. Parker and R. D. Marsh who, later this term, will represent Sheffield Schools in the Yorkshire Schools Athletic Championships.

To C. Wood and I. P. Charlesworth who played for the Sheffield Schools' Badminton team, the County Representative team and the North of England team, the latter two at U16 level; to C. Jubb who played for the City and County teams at U18 level; and to P. Kidger, F. Hoytink and D. Knight who played for the City at U15 level.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Bruce Wragg for the gift of a silver cup for annual inter-house competition in road relay running.

To Mr. D. E. Hill for his continuing help and support with the School Band.

To the P.T.A. for a further gift of crockery and also for a Fordigraph Duplicator for the use of the staff.

To Mr. D. E. Hanson for the gift of a collection of coins to the Coin Club.

To Mr. Jan Parker for the gift of many stamps to the Stamp Club.

LOOKING AHEAD

In September we expect to receive into this building some 300 boys and girls aged 11+ largely from 4 junior schools: Carterknowle, Sharrow Lane, Woodseats and Abbey Lane (girls only). To accommodate them our third year will move into the present Girls' School building and our Lower Sixth into the present Grange School Building. The accommodation in all three buildings is due for modification in its toilet, changing and staff facilities during July and August and a pathway is to be made between this building and the Grange. The three present schools are to have a common telephone system coupled to an automatic branch exchange.

As we develop we plan to utilise the existing buildings on an age-band pattern. The present boys' building will be known from September as "Abbeydale Grange Lower School" envisaging its future as the base for the first two

To those boys and their parents who have presented gifts of books to the Library.

To the University, the Polytechnic, firms and organisations who have been hosts to parties of staff and boys.

To the many speakers who have visited the school to address forms, clubs and societies.

To Mr. L. E. Veale who has coached boys in fencing each Saturday morning throughout the year.

To all those who in any way have contributed to the well-being of the school over the past year.

years (ultimately ages 12 – 14) of the emerging school. Similarly the present girls' school will be known as "Abbeydale Grange Upper School" and will develop for the age-range 14 – 16. Until its replacement, the Grange School will be used by the Sixth Form and be known as "Abbeydale Grange Sixth Form Centre" and will serve other schools as well as Abbeydale Grange.

A "school" with an age-range of 2 years has much to commend it since the younger end can more readily make the transfer to the environment of a large community and the Sixth Form can share the benefits of staff and equipment which the large school offers whilst being able to enjoy the more adult atmosphere of a sixth form centre. Of necessity there will be movement of both staff and pupils about the site and this should serve to knit the three sections together for we must look upon ourselves as one community.

By September 1970 two new art rooms and two technical drawing rooms should have been built on the bank behind the library. The present art rooms will become part of the Technical Studies Department which will then have 2 woodwork rooms, 2 metalwork rooms and a general craft room. The next phase of development should be the replacement of the Grange buildings by a new Sixth Form Unit which ideally should also house all of the administration; a central library and new specialist facilities. The development of a Sports Centre including a sports hall and swimming pool available to the school during the day and the general public in the evenings is a facility for which we shall continue to press. How successful we shall be depends very critically upon the nation's ability to foot the bill and at the moment both of these developments seem far distant.

As a temporary measure we have submitted plans for the re-furnishing of the Sixth Form Centre so that students there will have the benefits of more adult surroundings. We hope to develop a common room and coffee bar and less formal teaching situations. If these students were in the Further Education sector they would enjoy such facilities as by right and we see no reason why we should be denied the same facilities in the Sixth Form Centre of this school. From September, Further Education classes will be held in this Centre and this is a development likely to grow in the next few years.

Whilst important, buildings alone do not constitute a school. What is of greater importance is how the members of the community are presented with opportunities to develop to the full. If we do not provide an environment in which each pupil can have the best possible opportunity to develop, then we have failed. As we recruit new staff we must not only consider the needs of present pupils but also the well-being of future generations whose needs will in many instances be quite different. This change-over will begin in September and continue for several years as the selective pupils decrease in number and the comprehensive element grows.

The role of the Head in this new situation is of necessity quite different from what it is now. Without a team of senior staff to whom can be delegated much of the day-to-day routine and administration, the situation would be impossible. To this end; parents, pupils and staff must increasingly make their contacts with my deputies: Miss E. M. Durrant and Mr. N. J. Jepson, and the Heads of Schools: Miss J. B. Williams (Lower School); Mr. J. Fielding (Director of Sixth Form Studies). This is not to say that I myself will be inaccessible or remote from the day-to-day life of the school, but I cannot be involved in all of its many facets at once.

We are embarked upon a tremendous challenge of change and development and it affects everyone of us.

W. J. G. Massey.