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This year sees the first glimpse of the exciting developments up at the Gamesfield, which will benefit pupils both present and future as well as their parents on match days. The new facilities provided by the construction of a new pavilion can only serve to improve the standard of an increasingly diverse range of sports at QEGS.

As a rugby player, I shall try to remain unbiased in my focus, but I cannot help but talk about the tremendously successful rugby season enjoyed this year. The First XV reached Twickenham for an incredible third time in the final of the Daily Mail Cup. Easily winning in terms of vocal support, we unfortunately were beaten yet again by an impressive Colston's side. Lower down the School it almost goes without saying that success was the key word, and the boys enjoyed two tours; the U12s and U15s travelling to Italy and the U13s and U14s travelling to France. At senior level both the hockey and rugby squads set off on world tours during the summer, partly financed by the various fund-raising activities which had been held throughout the year.

On the academic front the 1999 examination results maintained the same high standards at national level, while nine members of Year 13 applied successfully to Oxbridge. Unfortunately we said goodbye to five members of the teaching staff at the end of the 1999-00 school year. Mr Lionel Bolton left to become Head of English at Ermysted's, Skipton and Mr Leslie Kent took up a new post as Head of the Biology Department of Ellesmere College. Mr Duncan Matthews returned to his native Isle of Man while Mr Jonathan Barker,

in pursuit of a career on the stage, and Mrs Irene Wood also left us. We will miss them all. We are pleased, however, to welcome back to the Biology Department Mr Geoff Tingle after more than a year in New Zealand. We also welcome Mr Iain Loudon from Rossall School, who comes to teach English; Miss Amanda Barnes who will teach English and Drama and arrives here from Lincolnshire; and Mr Richard Matthews to teach Mathematics during the Autumn term.

On stage the lively and entertaining performances of 'The Canterbury Tales' and 'Oh! What a Lovely War' served to propagate the strong dramatic legacy which the School has built on over the previous few years, while the many musical performances confirmed the rich talent of QEGS pupils.

Among the numerous clubs and societies the Bridge club continues to go from strength to strength as this year the School represented Yorkshire, and achievements included the Yorkshire pairs and team championship and reaching the national finals in both paired and team events. So too has the chess team continued in the same winning vein. Many other extra-curricular activities have again provided a welcome release for all pupils.

Indeed, this is indicative of the School itself. High academic standards are a basic prerequisite. However, QEGS' pre-eminence in sport and the wide variety of clubs and societies available creates, in my view, a well-rounded school, and a school of which I am proud to be a member.

Marcus Blacker 12KJP

Ode to Queen Elizabeth I

Monarch at the heart of our foundation,
 To you this humble ode I write.
 With a gracious hand you ruled this nation,
 A leading example, a shining light.

As we assemble in this hall,
 You watch us through a gilded frame,
 A portrait hanging on the wall,
 An immortal testament to your name.

A precious pearl of powder white,
 Encased in fiery locks of hair;
 Like November's bonfires burning bright,
 A vision of purity, proud and fair.

Each year we unite on this Founders' day,
 Your royal charter to remember.
 Embodied in our School you stay,
 A glowing, never fading ember.

Marcus Blacker 12KJP

The Governors have begun a programme to upgrade the Gamesfield facilities for all the four schools of the Foundation. During the Summer of 2000 the new pavilion for the boys was completed, along with extra car parking for staff, sixth formers and match-day supporters on the site of the old pavilion. Four new courts to be used for tennis and netball were also constructed. Future developments include more tennis courts - to be constructed in 2001 - and there are plans for an astroturf pitch and a new pavilion for the girls in subsequent years.



Of most interest to the boys will be the new sports pavilion. The original pavilion was opened by the Earl of Scarborough in 1956 as a memorial to those who died in the Second World War. It has long seemed inadequate for the numbers of boys who have to change in it, both during the week and at the weekend. Plans for refurbishment proved unworkable and the old pavilion was demolished at the end of last term, on Wednesday 12th July. The basis for the new pavilion is the social pavilion which is being doubled in size and all the floor space given over to

changing rooms, showers, toilets and a first aid room. On the first floor will be a large social room with a kitchen along with male and female toilets for spectators. The windows of the social room will look out over the Gamesfield.

The official re-dedication of the pavilion as a war memorial will take place on 24th November 2000, when the ceremony will be performed by distinguished Old Savilian Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York.



Leslie Kent

“ Good morning, Headmaster. Good morning, boys.” How we shall miss the resonant tone of Leslie Kent’s introduction to our morning assembly. A young man of great courtesy and impeccable manners, Leslie left us in the Summer to take up the post of Head of Biology at Ellesmere College. We wish him well.



A graduate in Zoology from the University of Sheffield he joined the QEGS staff as an NQT in September '95. His infectious enthusiasm and lively involvement in many areas of School life have earned him the respect and affection of both colleagues and pupils.

Having quickly established himself in the Science Department, he

successfully embarked on the task of co-ordinating General Studies in Years 12 and 13. No mean achievement: students were made aware of the key skills required at that level and where they were to go to receive their tuition. Remarkably, even the staff managed to master the complexities of the timetable and, on the majority of occasions, turned up at the correct location to instruct and generally develop these skills!

As a Year 7 and latterly Year 12/13 Form Tutor, Leslie Kent would always demonstrate understanding, compassion and dedication in all dealings with his charges, whether offering guidance to young boys taking their first tentative steps in the Senior School or directing Sixth Formers through the minefield of university application.

With Christine Walker, he jointly ran the Gardening & Animal Clubs during school lunch-hour. Many were the occasions when boys, having enjoyed their post-prandial ‘potting’ session and cage-cleansing tasks, arrived for afternoon registration resplendent in straw thatch and carrying the pungent aroma of damp compost and hamster excrement. Staff were not amused.

Leslie has helped with drama productions, activity trips to Buckden House and has been instrumental in developing new ecology investigations for the Biology field trips to Anglesey, as well as being involved with the Year 7 Geography field trip to the Yorkshire coast. These visits were carefully programmed and designed to study Geography topics such as coastal erosion. But, true to form, Mr Kent would invariably hijack proceedings and lecture students on the bird life that abounds on the Yorkshire coast and the delights of rocky-shore ecology.

Leslie Kent possesses a deep knowledge and love of his subject and this is borne out in the ever-expanding menagerie that greets visitors to his Walton home. From tarantula to gecko, python to piranha, all find sanctuary at ‘Chez Kent’. This interest in all things living is coupled with incredible energy and drive.

This was witnessed at first-hand when Leslie enquired about the skills associated with the piscatorial art of fly-fishing. He quickly developed an obsession worthy of the fine entomologist that he has become. Fish were duly caught and Leslie was soon tying flies that were the equal of those tied by that perfectionist in the skill of fur and feather dressing, Mr J.P. Preston. ‘Not bad’ were the words uttered by JPP on witnessing Leslie’s imitations of a large dark olive that virtually came to life in the palm of one’s hand. Praise indeed!

Many are aware of his interest in classical music, but less well-known is his involvement in brass band music. In his youth, Leslie’s tuba-playing exploits saw him achieve distinction as the Brass Band National Champion of Great Britain (First Section). He has had articles published in School Science Review and currently has a work on Ecology under consideration by Minerva Press.

At the relatively young age of 27, Leslie Kent embarks on his first important career move, becoming Head of Biology at Ellesmere College. Leslie and his wife, Laura, move from the leafy suburbs of Walton to the more rural expanse of the Shropshire countryside. A shared love of walking, Leslie’s interest in ornithology, and Laura’s talent as a County-standard distance runner, will undoubtedly see them spend many happy weekends in their beloved Welsh Hills.

Although the Biology Department at QEGS will greatly miss the enthusiasm and cheerfulness that Leslie Kent brings to the start of the working day, we offer Leslie and Laura our very best wishes for the future. May their stay at Ellesmere be enjoyable and fulfilling.

JRB

Lionel Bolton

Lionel Bolton is leaving to become Head of English at Lermysted’s Grammar School, Skipton.

Lionel, who joined the School in 1995, was one of the original



‘gang of four’ or ‘the youngsters’ as ex-Deputy Head David Burkinshaw labelled them. Having served his apprenticeship well he can now look forward to the extra responsibility (and stress!) of managing a department of his own – no pressure there, then!

Lionel’s somewhat laid-back appearance generally belied an enthusiasm and, dare I say it, dynamism

that was never more apparent than in his work on School drama productions. His crowning glory was Guards! Guards! – a directorial debut which was critically acclaimed and unforgettably featured a six-foot orang-utan! This was a very

bold play to take on, although it was handled with consummate skill (comparisons with Tarantino were quick in coming). Lionel also had a valuable input into the successful production of *The Crucible* and co-directed *The Miller's Tale* (nudity, swearing and red-hot poker included) in the lower school's lively version of *The Canterbury Tales*. His contribution to this aspect of school life will be heavily missed.

Lionel was also a welcome addition to the Swingband's celebrated tour of Southern France in July 1998. Allegedly operating under the title "translator/tour guide" he was able to aid the touring party in their appreciation of local culture and customs (the word is that he had a good nose for affordable red wine), whilst making a few guest appearances on the drums – apparently Charlie Watts has nothing to fear. In fact, once given the spotlight, Lionel found it hard to give it up, displaying a fine grasp of a whole range of guitar chords on the Cabaret Evening. I think it was Sting who started out in life as a lowly English teacher before hitting the heights of stardom – could we be witnessing the start of something equally glamorous?

Many would not place the words sport and Lionel Bolton in close proximity to one another, yet, once again, appearances can be deceptive. Lionel was involved with the U15s cricket team throughout his time at QEGS and, according to his mentor Mr Trevor Barker "he loved every minute of it. In fact, he couldn't get enough cricket. I didn't have to feel his elbow on one single occasion." Friday afternoons often saw him dancing for delight at the prospect of a Saturday away fixture (although some cynics claimed he was actually performing a rain-dance). His last season at QEGS saw the U15s progress to the National Cup quarter-finals and Lionel was instrumental in motivating his teams to produce the goods on the day. Lionel was a keen footballer, one of the more skilful players in the staff matches and he has recently revived his interest in golf, although one suspects that this is largely due to the fast-approaching middle-age and the dubious fashion implications associated with it – Pringle sweaters, flat caps, Burberry socks etc.

Lionel will not only be missed by the English Department. As adaptable as ever, he spent his last year at QEGS teaching Politics to Year 12 students, displaying an excellent knowledge of the subject. His departure has reputedly seen a large decline in the number of WGHS students displaying an interest in this subject as an A-level option next year!

Lionel ran the Film Club at school, showing his interest in all films, from black and white classics to modern Hollywood blockbusters, with a smattering of obscure foreign language films thrown in for good measure. He also helped on a number of school trips, including two Cross-country Camps to North Wales, where his kamikaze 'mountain goat' style ascents gained admiration (or is that incredulity) from all those involved. Pressed on whether he would be looking to increase his involvement in outdoor pursuits at his new school, Lionel's reply was a revealing "no"!

So, Lionel leaves us with many happy memories. No doubt he will stay in touch; there is every likelihood that he will be spotted driving his family estate around the sheep-filled streets of Skipton, wishing to recreate those heady days of his youth when he drove a fast car (except when go-karting) and had few cares. He will undoubtedly prove to be a great asset at his new school.

AMR

Duncan Matthews



Duncan Matthews joined the teaching staff at QEGS in January 1999, having worked at Pontefract New College for 11 years. To say that he was 'thrown in at the deep end' is something of an understatement! Owing to earlier difficult circumstances, Duncan was faced with having to teach a timetable consisting entirely of junior/classes (year 10 and below), which may not appear at first glance to be much of a problem. However, since all his teaching previously had been to Sixth Form classes, he was faced with a rather steep 'learning curve', which included a Year 8 Parents' Evening just nine days into his career at QEGS!

That he not only coped with this, but also ensured that the boys in his charge received a top-class mathematical education, speaks volumes for the professionalism and ability of this fine Maths teacher.

Duncan has been a Year 9 Form Tutor, helping to guide his pupils through the tricky business of choosing their GCSE options. He has also undertaken responsibilities within the Maths Department as Year 8 curriculum co-ordinator and GCSE resources co-ordinator.

A natural sportsman, Duncan has shared his enthusiasm and expertise for basketball with Year 11 in Games sessions and with Sixth Form pupils by forming a Basketball Club. He is a gifted ball player in other respects, taking the opportunity to give various colleagues a lesson or two on the golf course and in the Sports Hall.

Duncan leaves us to join Ballakermeen School on his native Isle of Man and I speak for all who have had the pleasure of working with such a professional and talented Maths teacher when I wish him the best of luck for the future. Though he was with us but a short time, he will be greatly missed.

MF

Jonathan Barker

Jonathan joined the staff at QEGS in September 1999 after five years teaching mathematics, information technology and drama at Bristol Grammar School. At Bristol he was heavily involved with the performing arts programme, as well as working as second in the mathematics department and acting as mentor to new staff in the school. His wide range of other extra-curricular activities in that school included scuba-diving, skiing, horse-riding, circus skills, ice-skating, weight-training, school magazine and tennis.

During his time in Wakefield, he taught mathematics and IT with enthusiasm and very much enjoyed his involvement with the school production of *The Canterbury Tales*, where he



assisted with the directing and provided the musical accompaniment on the piano. He also had responsibility for organising parents' evenings. He has had a great interest in the theatre and performing arts for over twenty years and leaves us to pursue a long-term ambition to work in the theatre and become an actor. Having beaten intense competition for places on this highly-regarded course, he will spend next year studying for a Post-graduate Diploma in Acting at the Guildford School of Acting. We wish him well in his new departure.

PS

Irene Wood

Irene Wood joined us at very short notice in September 1996. In that year she taught a full timetable, and in subsequent years she has taught part-time.

She has taught English with her characteristic enthusiasm, but it is probably for her commitment to Drama that we shall best remember her. In her first term she agreed to take on the immense challenge of a production, with no knowledge of the pupils and less than two months in which to bring it together. This was "Buddy", a typically innovative and attractive production. Irene has also contributed to the development of



curriculum drama, which has taken off in her time with us, supported by the lunchtime Drama Club and other events, such as her annual pantomime trip for Year 7.

I could not end without mentioning what has brought her to the centre of the School's life, her assemblies: her honest, personal and challenging thoughts have kicked off so many days in the last four years, prefaced, as

ever, by "Good morning – boys"! I have been very grateful for her support, and wish her well for the future.

KJP

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Kristine Sørensen



At the time of writing I've only four weeks left here in Yorkshire and I realize that there are some things I will miss when I'm back in Germany.

First of all, I will miss my work at the two schools. It has been a pleasure to work with such friendly and interested pupils and of course also the teachers were very friendly (I'm not trying to flatter you: after all, that wouldn't be a typically German way to behave!).

Furthermore, I will miss the people in Yorkshire who, in my experience, are very friendly and open. I think it is a pity that I will have to do without being called "luv" in Germany. Every time I heard it, it made my day. Of course, I know that it is just a phrase as for example "hi ya" or "see ya" but still I think it is so nice to use these friendly words - it makes everyday life much pleasanter and you do not feel like an anonymous stranger. It somehow reduces the distance between people. I wish I could introduce it in Germany.

I will also miss the good atmosphere in the English pubs. The way people enjoy themselves - the old and young together - is something I would like to bring back to Germany as well. It seems that going out is something very precious, it is celebrated in a certain way - at least that is how it appeared to me, especially if I consider the way girls dress up, which is so different from the German style.

Finally, in order to prove that I am not trying to flatter you and that I really enjoyed being in Yorkshire, I will have to mention that I still appreciate German honesty and directness. I would say that in general Germans would not be friendly and pretend that they like you or, for example, your new dress if they don't. The most difficult situation for me was when my landlady asked me if she still could wear her very old sunglasses.

I must say that I haven't always been sure how to judge English politeness. Of course, this doesn't mean that Germans cannot be polite.

It has been a pleasure for me to teach the boys at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and I enjoyed lessons very much. See ya!

My Year At The Top

Regrettably, I feel I must start this report with a sincere apology. Last year Stuart Wright wrote of a break in tradition at the May Ball when, and I quote, "Chris and I (Stuart) failed to have any drinks bought for us by the new Head Boy or his three Deputies". For this hideous crime I am truly sorry, however if Stuart and Chris are present at the Old Savilians' Dinner in December, I will repay the debt. Needless to say, the tradition has been reinstated this year! Many thanks, Mandeep.

Now down to the serious business! The year started with a change. For the first time, three Deputy Head Boys were appointed and, after a few teething problems had been sorted out, roles and responsibilities were soon clearly defined. The main bulk of our duties revolved around the unseen glamour of prefect rotas. Organising 200 weekly duties between 80 people was never going to be easy but, added to the seemingly endless daily rugby training, music practices, drama rehearsals and many other social commitments, the job of organisation was somewhat thankless. Nevertheless, the system seemed to work reasonably well. Inevitably after UCAS references had been written, attendances started to dwindle but normally, as long as Mr Derbyshire had someone outside his office and Mr Haigh had someone at the Tuck Shop, everyone was happy.

All thirteen Senior Prefects were superb and I cannot thank them enough for all their help, from serving endless coffees to Mr Bunnell at Parents' Evenings to standing in the freezing cold, braving the elements whilst directing parking. The hardest day for all concerned was, as usual, Founders' Day, which coincided with Speech Day. For me the trip to the Cathedral, as someone who spent seven years there, didn't hold the usual fear, but Speech Day was something else. With only a skeleton script before the evening, writing the vote of thanks as the speech was delivered was somewhat nerve-wracking, but thankfully the day seemed to pass reasonably successfully - I think!

My eternal thanks go to everyone who has helped me in my post as Head Boy. It has been a great honour and without your help I wouldn't have had such an enjoyable year. Particular thanks must go to Mr Mardling and the Senior Management Team, Dr Goodall, the ladies in the office for endless photocopying and all the interesting gossip, the Senior Prefects and, of course, Richard, Paul and Ben.

Finally, my congratulations go to Mandeep Baveja on his appointment as Head Boy and Paul Lockwood, Deputy Head Boy. I wish them the very best of luck in the forthcoming year.

Nick Alexander 13LAK

Chess

QEGS chess continues to make progress and, in total, this has been a positive year. Far more boys played chess for the School than before, with some considerable success. But our main objective, The Times British Schools Chess Championships led to disappointment, though perhaps only relatively so. Yes, we won the zone again for the third year in succession (before this present group of players came to QEGS, to win it once had proved too much!), beating St Bede's School, Ashville College and Yarm School on the way - but so we should have done.

Gareth Mitchell, now playing regularly for the Yorkshire White Rose team in the major national clubs competitions in this country, the 4NCL, has been outstanding. He is one of two England Junior Squad members in the team, the other being David Jackson. Add to that the remarkable abilities of Rishdeep Baveja and the fine battling talents of Terry Craven, Robert Lund and Michael Lewis and you have an excellent team. Yet we lost badly in the first inter-zonal round at Cottingham. Why? Well, every team has a poor match in them, but that's not the answer: it comes down to progression. Like anything else, if you want to be good you have to keep moving on, don't rest on your laurels or sit back. You need to keep learning and working. With the best will in the world to be positive, there was some complacency evident from some members of the team. Perhaps they have learned their lesson. There is certainly plenty of competition for places in the top team ...

Robert Drummond captained a very young 'B' team in The Times Competition, but they lost early. They will get better. We went to The Millfield International Schools Chess Tournament and had a very successful weekend of competitive chess, absorbing the atmosphere and learning a great deal. David Jackson captained an U14 team in the Birmingham and District Open Championships held at King Edward's School, Camp Hill, earlier this year. Out of twenty teams we came second and came away with the trophy for the top visiting team. As part of encouraging the development of chess within our School, there were three Senior vs. Junior matches (with the Senior School leaving out the A-team), eventually going up to seventeen boards per team. Two were won by the Seniors, one by the Juniors.

When you think that only very recently the School played one, perhaps two matches in The Times competition each year and that was it, a lot has been done. However, we must not, and will not, sit back.

Thanks go once again to a fine teacher and friend of QEGS - International Master, Angus Dunnington - an inspiration to us all.

MCP

Community Service

Community Service developed another stage at QEGS with the opportunity offered to the Sixth Form to help at Riding for the Disabled at Chapelthorpe. This was the first time voluntary work has been undertaken outside the

immediate neighbourhood of the School and its success could point to a wider context for our future work. There have been the usual activities of work in local schools and hospitals and this help has been well received by the supervisors in those postings. The annual Senior Citizens' Christmas party was a success with many of the participants writing back and complimenting the boys who greeted, entertained or generally hosted the event. The WASP project for this year took the form of visiting Cathedral School and Park Special School and culminated in an Event Day at Thornes Centre of Wakefield District College for those schools plus the Girls' High School and Outwood Grange. The four mainstream schools sent four pupils each from Year 9/10. The whole venture proved a great success and there are plans to integrate more pupils into a similar scheme next year. Finally plans are well advanced to take the whole of the Year 7 in groups of ten down to Wakefield Hospice for an afternoon of "useful" work, probably in the garden, setting up a vegetable patch or something similar. This could prove to be a major kick-start to our boys' involvement in Community Service throughout their school career.

BPH

Senate Debating Society

This year the Senate Debating Society was very well attended by members of Years 11-13 at both QEGS and WGHS. The aim of the society this year, as with all years, was to provide lively debate without the playground fisticuffs!

A diverse array of debates took place, ranging from serious ones such as 'This House believes that laws are made to be broken' and 'This House believes that religion should be abolished' to slightly more humorous ones such as 'This House believes that Santa Claus is a criminal' and 'Boyakasha, this House believes that Ali G is wicked. Respect!'

Many thanks to Dr Goodall, Mr Bolton (whom we will miss!) and Dr Slingsby, who were the staff in charge of the society.

The Debating Society has had a wonderful year and hopefully will flourish in future years with even more lively, interesting and stimulating debates.

Mandeep Singh Baveja 12JRB

Caving Club

This year's caving began with a pre-season staff trip to the Yorkshire Dales. Although sworn to secrecy I can report representation from the DT, Chemistry, Physics and IT departments. Unfortunately for the boys the party survived the challenging underground obstacles, exhibiting the stylishness of experience rather than the speed of youth! As a team-building exercise, caving is surely second to none and our offer stands to parents, senior management and governors alike to join us on a subterranean trip of a lifetime.

Some good autumnal weather allowed trips to familiar venues in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, with a crop of Year 7 recruits

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continuing with the enthusiasm generated by the "Buckden House Experience". Ex-pupil Dave Cross guided a party into the depths of a Derbyshire lead mine. The picture of ten muddy but smiling faces made an impression on Mr Lambert as he arrived at the base of the shaft, but a vice-like squeeze turned smiles to grimaces for Dave and Mr Mason, each with 32 inch waists needing to fit through a 31 inch orifice. Where there's a will there's a way and, safely through, the group slithered and slid on all fours along winding passages, wondering how the miners extracted their load in days of old. A series of climbs led to the surface, during which much pulling, pushing and shouts of encouragement accompanied the 'thrutching' and scampering of the boys. Year 13 pupil Rob Hensby checked the passage for stragglers before impressing us with his unique climbing technique.



Gerald Blockley with the largest Barbel (11 1/4lbs) caught on a QEGS Angling Trip

The final trip of the year was almost cancelled when we arrived in the Dales to find that stream levels were well above normal. Our intended venue was inaccessible so caution dictated relocation to the friendlier and safer Great Douk cave. Ascending a tremendous waterfall was both exciting and wet, but first-timers Adam Wigley and Robert Cousin were quickly into their stride. Battling upstream, Harry Tabner, Edward English and Robert Stewart showed their experience. The end of a spacious passage gave way to a flat-out crawl in chilly fast running water. Danny Roper exclaimed it was impossible for certain bodily bits to get any colder but he found the strength to scramble over and under boulders, as we could now smell the fresh summer air. Andrew Mason found the correct route out as 'Sir' contorted himself into a tight corkscrew dead-end passage. A firm tug on the wellies by Mr Shaw retrieved the leader. Not content with the walk across the moor to get back to the road, Danny Leigh volunteered to retrace his steps underground, so Danny Roper and Mr Mason had to brave the icy water once again to accompany him.

So ended another caving season, with yet more black holes beckoning next academic year!

PM

Angling Society

The journey, on my second outing to the Angling Society Summer Camp, was about as fun as could be expected with Mr Birkinshaw at the wheel and Mr Benn providing the light entertainment. The journey flew by with tales of "the ones that got away", each one becoming less believable as the journey progressed. On arrival we quickly pitched our tents and rushed down to the river to see who could claim the title of Catcher of the First Big Fish. That night we ate our meal which was cooked by that well-known chef - Mr Benn! We were in bed by midnight as the journey had taken a lot out of us.



Richard Stone with an 8lb Barbel from the River Severn

Next day, the serious fishing began with most of the teachers (including the veteran Mr Clough - who had always bragged about monsters that no-one had ever seen) doing the catching (except Mr Clough!). Of course, I myself had a good day with a seven-pound beauty. The rest of the trip provided more outstanding catches from Oliver Bailey and Mr Birkinshaw.

On the whole, this was a very successful trip, with one of the biggest fish caught by Richard Wainwright, a barbel of close to eight pounds. The only disadvantage was the state of the camp showers, which left you dirtier than when you entered. Everybody really enjoyed our stay on the banks of the River Severn and the award for Most Fish Caught was split between Oliver Bailey and Mr Birkinshaw. Oliver takes the prize because he risked everything to wade across a fast-flowing river and retrieve his rod which had been dragged in by a large barbel. He even managed to land the fish.

Perhaps the happiest moment of the trip for everyone was when James (Robbo) Robinson caught his first fish after three years of trying!

Richard Stone 10PWS



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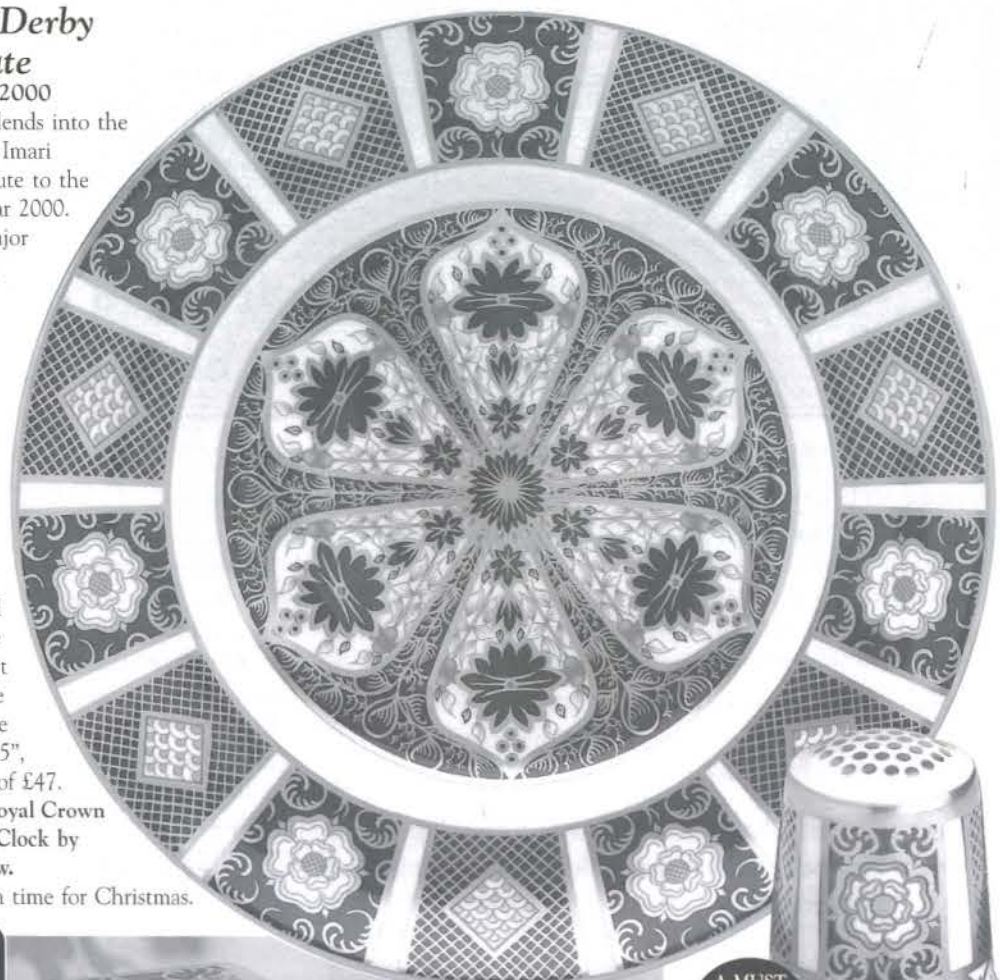
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Charities

A question that is often put to me is: 'Who actually chooses charities for the School to support?' The short answer is of course that boys of the School do so through their frequent suggestions. Additionally, occasional representations made by staff and parents, together with the steady flow of requests for aid received from outside agencies, mean that there is never a lack of ideas for charities to assist.

It is interesting to speculate whether choosing a single charity for a term or a year for School to focus on might result in an increase in funds donated. In the event however, efforts have been made to maintain a balance between charities both large and small as well as national and local, covering the wide range of humanitarian activity we traditionally support.

Of the overall figure of £5,771 raised this year, slightly under £2000 came from routine Tuesday morning collections in support of the charity of the week. While some of these weekly appeals have drawn a disappointing response considering the size of the School with its potential for giving, others have elicited heart-warming generosity.

In the latter category were two direct appeals made by speakers in full school assembly. In February Mr Woodside, recounting his recent experiences in Namibia, told an astonished audience that there was probably more physics apparatus in the QEGS laboratories than in the whole of that impoverished land. As a result of his assemblies £203-88 was raised in subsequent collections for the purchase of blank video tapes for the recording of radioactivity experiments. With computer graphics by Daniel Ladley (12GCA) to illustrate them and editing by Martin Hutton (12THG), these videos should prove a boon to young Namibian students of physics. In March Liam Townend (12TS) addressed assembly on behalf of The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust with such eloquence and passion that the encouraging sum of £219-57 was produced to further the work of that organisation.

On a more routine level, the new academic year started on a positive note for charities with £228 being raised last September for the Candlelighters. October's collections on behalf of The Meningitis Trust raised over £125 for that charity, while the collections in December for the BBC's 'Children in Need' Appeal fared marginally better, producing just under £131.

Two special emergency appeals were held during the year. While November's Indian Cyclone Appeal produced a meagre £71-24, The Mozambique Flood Appeal held in March met with a more sanguine response, resulting in funds of £120-28.

By far and away the biggest single contribution to the year's overall charity figures came once again from Mr Seal's October envelope collection in School on behalf of Oxfam. This initiative has gained significant momentum over the years and last Autumn produced the impressive total of £2,017-95, a sum well in excess of the previous year's collective donations.

Undoubtedly encouraged by the prospect of prizes on offer and in a spirit of healthy competition, this year's envelope collectors set about their task with verve and determination. Of the seven prize-winners, no fewer than five emerged from the ranks of Year 7. They were Daniel Lyndon and Gareth Bate (both of 7DRF), Bradley Phillip (7WG), Rishdeep Baveja (7JP), and Tim Cox (7HMS). Ben Hamilton (8MCP) and Edward Radley (13SLD) also joined the line-up to receive certificates and £10 vouchers from the Barnsley Building Society as well as signed rugby balls and match tickets from The Wakefield Trinity Wildcats. Our thanks go to our generous joint sponsors for their support once again this year.

Three other special collections, all held in the Autumn Term, the most fecund for charitable causes, yielded significant amounts for diverse charities. November's retiring collection held in Wakefield Cathedral at the conclusion of the annual Founders' Day Service produced £195-31 for the work of The Wakefield Samaritans, while The British Red Cross Society benefited from a donation of £340-91 following a similar collection there after December's well attended Carol Service.

Non-Uniform Day, held in December, a month chosen as a certain climatic disincentive to the sartorially more exuberant, raised £796-20 to finance the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas party, so expertly organised as usual by Mr Hamill and his team of willing assistants. After all expenses were met, the residual sum of £100-06 was allocated to the School Community Service account to facilitate projects in that field of endeavour.

Three forms have continued this year to support charities through child sponsorship schemes, each member of the form undertaking to pay a fixed monthly amount towards the upkeep and education of a 'Third World' child. In this way 11DBS through the agency of Action Aid, and both 12DB and 12GCA through Plan International, have forged and maintained close links with young charity recipients overseas, and have thus brought a more personalised dimension to their charitable giving.

In more modest ways, other initiatives have also made their contributions to charity. The aluminium can recycling scheme has continued, producing just over £14 in recent months for The British Red Cross Society. Our collecting box for that charity yielded a further £15, while the NSPCC collecting box housed in the Sixth Form tuck shop contained just over £18 in small coins. A further collecting box held by the ladies of the General Office recently gave up its small treasure of £34, despatched on that occasion to the charity Breast Cancer Care.

It seems to me right that the School, which is a part of and not apart from society, should make its contribution to the less fortunate in that society. In the last fifteen years alone since cumulative records have been maintained, the School has raised well over £82,000 for multifarious charities. We cannot delude ourselves that this sum has changed the world, but our hope is that it may have helped to make it more tolerable to some, albeit for a little while.



CHARITY ACCOUNTS 1999/2000

(a) Donations made from weekly collections:

1999	
June	
Help The Aged	£29-32
July	
R.N.L.I.	£87-11
September	
The Candlelighters	£228-54
October	
The Meningitis Trust	£125-10
Help The Aged	£100-48
November	
Shelter	£86-97
The Indian Cyclone Appeal	£71-24
December	
The BBC 'Children in Need' Appeal	£130-97
Crisis	£83-01
2000	
January	
The Royal National Institute for Deaf People	£90-75
February	
The Royal National Institute for the Blind	£92-00
Videos for Namibia	£203-88
March	
The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust	£219-57
The Mozambique Flood Appeal	£120-28
April	
The Muscular Dystrophy Campaign	£94-65
May	
The Imperial Cancer Research Fund	£108-33
R.N.L.I.	£48-70
Sub Total (a)	£1,920-90
(b) Other Sources:	
1999	
October	
Mr Seal's Oxfam envelope collection	£2,017-95
November	
Founders' Day collection on behalf of	
The Wakefield Samaritans	£195-31
December	
Carol Service collection on behalf of	
The British Red Cross Society	£340-91
Non-Uniform Day in aid of the Senior Citizens'	
Christmas Party	£796-20
Sub Total (b)	£3,350-37

(c) Miscellaneous:

Form 11DBS ('99/00) to sponsor a child through	
Action Aid	£180-00
Form 12DB ('99/00) to sponsor a child through	
Plan International	£168-00
Form 12GCA ('99/00) to sponsor a child through	
Plan International	£48-00
Guessing game for The Leprosy Mission	£10-00
Collecting box in school office for	
Breast Cancer Care	£34-49
NSPCC collecting box in Sixth Form Centre	£18-24
Collecting box for The Red Cross	£15-43
Can recycling on behalf of The Red Cross	£14-28
Sub Total (c)	£488-44
(d) Surplus in current account undistributed	
at the end of the financial year	£11-31
Sub Total (d)	£11-31
Financial Summary	
Total for the year represented by:	
(a)	£1,920-90
(b)	£3,350-37
(c)	£ 488-44
(d)	£ 11-31
Grand Total :	£5,771-02
	RDC

The School Archive

Since my retirement from teaching four years ago, I have been collecting and classifying many kinds of materials (documents and otherwise) relating to the history of the School. Perhaps it is not surprising that former colleagues look with some amazement when they see me in School on Tuesdays. "Can't you keep away?" "Are you still doing that job?"

"What are you actually doing?" are some of the profound questions that come my way. What am I doing? In fact the Archive has built up, and will continue to build in a remarkable way. Room 2A is almost exploding on its mezzanine floor! Amongst just some of the resources that have been gathered together are newspaper cuttings and photographs assembled by Matthew Peacock (Headmaster 1883 - 1911), the architect's drawings for the main School building (built in 1834 for the West Riding Proprietary School), several documents relating to the life of the Proprietary School, and examination papers from the 1840's on. Former headmasters and teaching staff are fairly well documented, including a letter of 1795 from the Rev Thomas Rogers (Headmaster 1795 - 1814) asking if the headmaster's house will be ready for his occupation on taking up his position. One of the oldest documents is a letter written in 1752 by a former pupil to his headmaster (then the Rev. John Clark) apologising, in a rather sickly way, for his ungracious behaviour whilst at School. Academic, sporting and cultural/leisure activities are all represented to some degree. There are also many photographs - of pupils and buildings. One of our largest collections is of those in the meticulously inscribed albums of the late Ronald Chapman, whose connection with the School began on his appointment to the teaching staff in 1936 and ended with his death in 1998.

When I look through the files of letters I have received, I have become even more aware than I was, of the ever-increasing circle of people, all over the world, who look to the School as a centre of excellence and take some pride in its long history. Enquiries have come (mainly from people who are building up a picture of their family history) from places as varied as Ambleside, Barnet, Cambridge, Derby, Harrogate, Norwich, Oxford, Sheffield, Sussex, Wilmslow and Worksop. Two enquiries came from people in Australia - in New South Wales and Victoria - and one from New Zealand. A request was received for information about the School's War Memorial from the Imperial War Museum.

Finally, we are registered as an Archive with the compilers of "British Archives" and during the last two years, in compiling a catalogue of materials, I have moved from being completely 'computer - illiterate' to being 'computer semi-literate'. We are always happy to receive materials relating to the School's history - and we hope that, increasingly, we can provide a service to those who are involved in the "history trail".

John Wilkinson

Bridge Club

The 1999-00 Bridge season was a highly active one by all accounts. At the end of the '98-99 season Mr Hamill ended his tenure and handed the baton over to Mr D Bunnell who received a team that really was in a transitional phase and to an extent lacking direction. Over the months that followed, QEGS Bridge has developed and should continue to develop. The events of the last twelve months have been important in this development. In September we were pitted against the Old Savilians. On paper it was always going to be a tough match - in the history of the event, the Old Savs had only once ever suffered defeat. Were the lads to rise to the occasion and show their worth? Sadly, this was not their day and the history books had claimed another victim. However difficult our start to the season, no-one could have predicted what was in store for us.

Our second match was the Midland Open Swiss teams championship, which was to be held at Loughborough Grammar School. Loughborough Grammar School's Bridge pedigree was well known and so they were the favourites from the start. However, the QEGS A team comprising Aruran Umapathee, Timothy Flatman, Chenthuran Umapathee and myself managed to battle against the odds and claim the victory. Our spirits buoyed, we were next to participate in the Yorkshire U19 pairs championships at Bradford. This was a very difficult and demanding match for all concerned. On this particular occasion the U25 and the U19 finals were being held simultaneously and it was also necessary for us to play against them. I feel that the QEGS pairs did not perform to their potential on this day, but there was some consolation to be gained when it was found that in spite of all the difficulties the Damita Abayaratne and Kasun Samarasinghe partnership had performed well enough to earn a place in the National final at the Chelsea Bridge Club in London. This was pleasing and astonishing at the same time, for Kasun had only been playing Bridge for two months! While Damita and Kasun were able to celebrate, the other pairs were left to contemplate what went wrong.

Having collected our thoughts, we proceeded to Brighouse, the home of the Yorkshire Schools' Cup. This venue appeared to have a far more positive effect on the QEGS players than the effect

generated by the environment of Bradford. This was reflected in the positions achieved by the QEGS pairs. Playing in a more relaxed and thoughtful manner, Chenthuran and myself managed to lift the trophy. There were excellent performances from Tim Flatman and Aruran Umapathee, who finished third, and Andrew Dodds and Daniel Ladley, who finished fifth. All of the pairs finishing in the top five earned a place in the National Final at Chelsea. There were also good performances from the Adam Grove- Martin Hopwood and Rory Martin-Jordan Thursby partnerships. Our last match of the millennium was the rematch against the Old Savilians. Despite the recent success of the QEGS team, the Old Savilians were unimpressed and took the victory.

On February 5th we were to host Loughborough Grammar School in a friendly. This again was an extremely tough match and a hard grounding for the new partnerships of Jonathon Fowler and William Wright; and James Branston and Chris Naylor, who gained a lot of experience from this, but sadly experience was the only thing that any QEGS player took home on that day.

Having suffered defeat twice in a row, we were resolved not to experience the sensation a third time as we proceeded to Brighouse to play in the Yorkshire Beacons Pair event. This was a closely contested match, but in the end Chenthuran and I managed to pull the victory off; it being given to us by the virtue of the fact that we had beaten Damita and Kasun by one point. James Branston and Chris Naylor also performed well.

Thankfully, Damita and Kasun were not bitter about losing to us by such a fine margin and joined Chenthuran and myself to participate in the Yorkshire Beacons team event. The event was conducted in an extremely relaxed and informal manner which helped us all to perform at our best. The antics of Will Wright and Ed Radley also contributed to the light-hearted atmosphere. At the end of the day the QEGS A team, consisting of Damita, Kasun, Chenthuran and myself, earned the victory, though I feel that we all gained something that day.

On Easter Monday, we had to journey to London to participate in the National U19 pairs final. Despite the intense atmosphere and fierce competition, Damita and Kasun were in 4th place at the end of the first session. Sadly, as the day progressed, the tide turned against all of the QEGS pairs and we all had to make do with positions outside the top 10. Despite the finishing of the QEGS pairs, I do feel that they had a lot to offer, but the fact that we had rarely experienced matchplay of this standard was really our downfall. Having left London on a relatively sour note, we returned to Yorkshire to receive the news that four of the QEGS pairs had been selected to represent Yorkshire in an inter-counties match.

The '99-00 season was an extremely active one and I feel that all the players appreciate this very much. So I feel that we must heartily thank our new master in charge, Mr Bunnell, for having taken the time to organise the events and drive us to all the locations. Bridge at QEGS is slowly gaining more recognition - we have played the two largest simultaneous pairs that have ever taken place at QEGS and we even managed to play Bridge on the School open day.

The enthusiasm of all the players and the support that they have given in organising events deserves special commendation. I hope that my successor enjoys himself as much as I did and I wish him the very best of success for the future.

Arjun Ravi 12WL

The Duke Of Edinburgh's Award



Planning the expedition

This has been an outstanding year in many respects. In terms of attaining certificates, it has easily been the best since the Award started at QEGS in 1987. In First Aid, over 100 boys successfully completed courses at Bronze and Silver levels and many thanks are due to David Brown of Civil Aid for his time and effort in this area. The level of commitment has been tremendous. It is very pleasing to see the variety of areas that participants involve themselves in, particularly the Service section where the contribution to others and the caring side of the boys shine through. This is epitomised by Andrew Westwood's study topic at Gold level shown below.

Many thanks go to Mrs Firth, Mrs Macklam, Mrs Merckx, Mrs Sheard, Mr Fitzsimons, Mr Lambert and many other staff who help in different areas, along with the Gold Award Leaders, Zaid Ali, Adam Clark, Andy Dodds, Mark Howley and Nick Laugier.



The expedition gets under way

The following boys have attained certificates:

Old Boys

Gold

Robert Bartle, Ed Shawcross, Matthew Sturgeon, Simon Laugier, Tristan Wooller

Silver

Stuart Wright, Ben Bynoe

Year 13

Gold

Ben Wood, William Tai, Matthew Wright, Andrew Westwood, Roland Hilling-Smith, Euan Allison, Paul Irving, Loren Rankin, Ed Radley

Silver

Chris Harrap, Liam McKenna, Oliver Platts

Bronze

David Hallwood, Jonathan Balcam

Year 12

Silver

Adam Clark, Zaid Ali, Mark Howley, Alex Leithgoe, Peter Worth, Damita Abayaratne, John Sussens, William Townsend, Tristan Bennett, Mark Jewsbury

Bronze

Richard Shawcross, Richard Lumb, Matthew Kidd

Year 11

Silver

James Cooke, Andrew Irving, Matthew Mills, Harry Robinson, Euan Smith, David Sugden, Simon Gallagher, Andrew Vickers

Bronze

John Mather, Andrew Butel, Daniel Farrar, Jeremy Gatti, Chris Platts, John Cousins, Simeon Spencer, Nathan Church, Andrew Lewis, Atheal Alwash, Edward Harrowsmith, Mark Chadwick, David Henderson, Richard Paxton, Jeremy Wilkes, Robert Wimpenny, James Dugan, Alex Lee, Leon Daoud, Kristan Caryl

Year 10

Bronze

Peter Sharp, Andrew Darnton, James McTaggart, Jonathan Lewis, Kieran Townend, Matthew Gara, Chris Dodd, Tom Horsfield, Jonathan Noble, William Robinson, Richard Stone, Jack Wolstencroft, Peter Maddan, Thomas Mason, Krishanu Baruah, Ryan Carver, Hugh English, Sam Whiting, Oliver Bridgewood

Gold Service Study Topic

The Changing of Attitudes Towards Elderly People in Society

In the past, elderly people have been perceived as well-respected and wise. Grandparents were regarded as part of the nuclear family, living with sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters. But times have changed.

Once part of an insular family circle, many elderly people have been condemned to living on their own, or with partners, or even a nursing home or retirement village. However, many of the elderly people today seem to enjoy this freedom, being able to see their families when they are at their best, with few family quarrels seen during their visit.

Perceptions of the elderly have also altered in society. Television is a prime example of such changes. Programmes such as "Steptoe and Son" and "Last of the Summer Wine" portray the elderly person as a genial and fun character, while in the present day, other depictions lurk within the television screen. "The Simpsons", for instance, shows Grandpa Simpson as a pill-popping, memory-lacking whinger who falls asleep mid-sentence.

Respect for the elderly has also changed in a drastic way, as almost every day we hear of an incident involving a granny, her pension and one or two young louts. However, times have also changed for the better. The Government acknowledges elderly people more than ever, and special concessions on daily services have been made, as well as more nursing and residential homes, and generally more care is given to the elderly, which can only be a good thing. As well as care from the Government, charities such as Help The Aged are there to help the elderly; the people who once steered the world and brought us all into this world.

With ever-increasing medical breakthroughs and care, life expectancy can only increase. As it increases, there will be more elderly people in the world than ever before, so greater actions to improve conditions the elderly face must be taken to reward them for what they have done in their life, and what they have given to the world and society.

Andrew Westwood 13 LAK

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Mathematics Competitions

Outstanding Performances

Richard Paxton came 18th in the United Kingdom in the I.I.M.C. and has subsequently been invited to the National Mathematics Summer School, having attained sponsorship from the UK Mathematics Trust.

Edward Kaye was not far behind, coming 47th. Edward is in Year 10 and so can have another attempt at it next year.

Daniel Grace attained an Exceptional Performance rating in the Key Stage 3 Extension Paper.

Distinctions were awarded to James White, Oliver Dockray and David Jackson in the European Kangaroo examination.

Years 12 & 13

UK Senior Mathematical Challenge

British Mathematics Olympiad Qualifiers:

Alan Ladd, Roopak Gupta, Adam Grove, Oliver Bailey

Gold

Daniel Ladley, Matthew Callaghan

Silver

Alex McAvoy, Chris Heyes, Euan Allison, Chris Naylor, Paul Irving, Jonathan Balcam, Ralph Pallister, Michael Elcock, Chris Winter, James Bontoft, Andrew Davies, David Hallwood, Zaid Ali, Edward Radley, Thomas Rees, John Bedford, Andrew Mills, Jonathon Fowler, Nicholas Alexander, David Hancock, Tom Hinton, Andrew Blackhurst, Jonathan Brier, Andrew Westwood

Bronze

Kamal Patel, Roland Hilling-Smith, Kasun Samarasinghe, Robert Eyre, Thomas Donohue, Edmund Barratt, Stephen Howell, Fawaz Julius, Arjun Ravi, Robert Duckett, William Tai, Matthew Steer, Martin Hopwood, Mark Arbon, Thomas England, Paul Lockwood, James Wild

Years 9-11

UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge

International Intermediate Invitational Mathematical Challenge Qualifiers:

Richard Paxton, Paul Sykes, Hiten Patel, Hugh English, Edward Kaye, Oliver Dockray

European Kangaroo Qualifiers – Year 9 only:

James White, Oliver Dockray, David Jackson, Matthew Carlton, Nicholas Hepworth, Michael Lewis, Stewart Bartlett, Alex Mahony, Thomas Shaw, Philip Hampshire, Edward Kaye

Gold

Richard Paxton, Paul Sykes, Paul Stafford, Mark Chadwick, Matthew Ingamells, Jeremy Gatti, Alex Lee, Timothy Flatman, James Turner, Andrew Vickers, Edward Aveyard, Jordan Anderson, James Dugan, Hiten Patel, Hugh English, Edward Kaye, John Barkley, Adrian Thomson, Tom Palmer, Richard Hepworth, Peter Maddan, Oliver Dockray, David Jackson, James White, Nicholas Hepworth, Alex Mahony, Daniel Grace

Silver

Alex Murphy, Simon Gallagher, Thomas Allen, Jonathan Varley, Paul Sadler, Adam Whaley, Benjamin Crookson, Andrew Lewis, Elliot Fowler, Mark Barraclough, Chris Kelly, Richard Stone, Andrew Robinson, Paul Brear, Matthew Mills, Thomas Black, Peter Burr, Jonathan Hey, Francis Kendall-Holmes, James McTaggart, Mehdi Ali, Edward Farmer, Faraz Khaliq, John Mather, William Lau, Joe Allen, Neil Fishwick, Adrian Wickham, Krishanu Baruah, Matthew Harper, Simeon Spencer, Kevin Wong, Alex Simpson, Alistair Wright, Andrew Darnton, Faraz Latif, Thomas Mason, Ben Nesbitt, Matthew Carlton, Thomas Shaw, Michael Lewis, Stewart Bartlett, Philip Hampshire, Edward Kaye, Richard Brooke, Jonathan Blacker, Harrison Crecraft, Mark Bennett, Andrew Stead, Alex Coombes, Tim Harrison, Paul Allison, Ashraf Abbas

Bronze

Kamran Akhtar, Tom Hoskins, David Sugden, Hayden Thomas, Azibanato Ajulo, Andrew Butel, Brett Camplin, Andrew Ford, Christian Lawlor, Martin Clarke, Andrew Irving, Daniel Scott, Tom Craik, John Leatham, Martin Allison, Atheal Alwash, Terry Craven, Edward Harrowsmith, Chris Platts, Nathan Johnson, Adam Rigby, John Crawshaw, Richard Fyfe, James Robson, Jason Howarth, Noman Ali, Nicholas Edbrooke, Chris Fan, James Berry, Alex Griffiths, Neil Parkinson, Mark Ward, Sam Whiting, Chris Dodd, Jonathan Lewis, Chris Lee, Euan Robson, Matthew Morton, Christopher Wigley, Oliver Wright, Gareth Mitchell, Oliver Bridgewood, Will Dixon, Sam Kiernan, Robert Zalesinski, Ben Earnshaw, Chris Walker, Ryan Carver, David Lloyd, William Robinson, Tim Pickles, Philip Sellars, Joseph Battye, Alex Khalifa, Rajiv Shah, Sam Bloomfield, Timothy Bowen, Richard Cressall, Edward Dyson, Robert Bennett, Stephen Cockcroft, Omar Shiekh, George Harrap

Years 7 & 8

**UK Junior Mathematical Challenge
Junior Mathematics Olympiad Qualifiers:**
Andrew Gibbons, Robert Drummond

Gold

Robert Drummond, Alex Bluett, Mark Goodhead, Chris Kurwie, Gregory Fowler, Aditaya Kumar, Robert Wildman, Andrew Gibbons, Philip Boon, Stephen Morris, Ian Bittiner, Andrew Widdowson, Rishi Baveja, Gareth Bate, Richard Crowther, Thomas Mollart

Silver

David Williams, Joseph Wigglesworth, Patrick Dean, Rory Martin, Vivek Patel, Aruran Umapathee, Andrew Batty, Edward English, Ross Fennell, Ben Forrest, Abrar Gundroo, Anthony Crowther, Vivek Nambiar, Matthew Ogg, Ben Townend, Paul Edwards, Daniel Wood, Nicholas Bramley, Mitchell Rhodes, Harry Tabner, Ross Britton, Benjamin Hamilton, James Austerberry, Chris Brookes, Gregory Aldred, Arnab Mandal, Nicholas Thornton, Thomas Williams, David Edwards, Philip Hirst, Alex Nixon, Kevin Whaley, Richard Johnson, Tom Wainwright, Jamie Sanford, Tom Hopkinson, Edward White, Henry Foote, Ben Satari, Sam Barker

Bronze

James Briercliffe, Chris Shields, John Dowson, Chris Sykes, Jordan Thursby, David Hicks, Chris Robinson, John Atkin, Lloyd Firth, Mark Jackson, Oliver Smith, Simon Greenwood-Haigh, Anthony Clarke, Peter Horsfall, Matthew Peckham, Antony Aleagha, John Sowerby, Paul Aveyard, Umesh Patel,

Ian Wainwright, Andrew Sykes, Nicholas Sankarsingh, Sam Coulson, Daniel Lyndon, David Smith, Nathan Palethorpe, Jack Buczko, Ben Johnson, Andrew Sellars, Abhishek Singh, Samuel Hartley, Dinesh Addala, Adam Blacker, Alex Galvin, Daniel Bolton, Shashwat Sahay, Matthew Thorne, Christian Cotter, Jordan Fletcher, Daniel Twohig, Robert Stead, Mark Renshaw

QEGS Christmas Quiz Winners

Year	Winners
7	Andrew Gibbons
8	Robert Lewis
9	Oliver Dockray
10	Daniel Grace
11	Alex Lee
12	Adam Grove
13	Richard Murphy

Worldwise Quiz

The Geography Department organised another annual round of Worldwise Quiz competitions during the Autumn Term. Teams of three competed for the honours within each year group, and congratulations go to this year's winners who were:

Year 7 "Capital Critters"

Jordan Fletcher, Andrew Gibbons and Alex Nixon.

Year 8 "The Big Chiefs"

Lee Creighton, Patrick Dean and Daniel Wood.

Year 9 "The Goons"

Matthew Beal and Oliver Busfield.

Year 10 "Get Your Money's Worth"

James Berry, Christopher Dodds and Hugh English.

Year 11

Mark Chadwick and Andrew Irving.

Mark Chadwick, Hugh English and Andrew Irving then represented QEGS in the Wakefield round, sponsored by the Geographical Association, and held this year in QEGS on the 15th December 1999.

Six schools from the Castleford, Pontefract and Wakefield area took part in the Wakefield round, with the QEGS team being the eventual winners (75 points) whilst Airedale were runners up (66 points). Excellent refreshments were generously provided by the School.

Mark, Hugh and Andrew then represented QEGS in the North East Regional Finals, held in York at the Joseph Rowntree Sixth Form College on 9th March 2000. Eight schools took part (each winners of their local round) representing Barnsley, Bradford, Durham, Halifax, Hull, Leeds, Wakefield and York.

During a long and challenging event, Barnsley, Halifax, Leeds and York were eliminated in the first half of the evening. The QEGS team achieved a very commendable third place in the final rounds of that evening, only three points behind the winners (Hymer's), two points behind the runners-up (Bradford Grammar) and four points ahead of the fourth placed team (Durham Johnstone).

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Swingband

The Swingband season kicked off early this year, with an invitation to play for Riding for the Disabled in the grounds of New Hall Prison at a function attended by Princess Anne. Initial fears of playing outdoors in September were allayed when the weather turned out to be the sunniest for several weeks.

On arrival, we were informed that we would recognise inmates by their green clothing. On hearing that prisoners were going to be around, DW promptly put his jacket back on, locked the speakers in the van and sat on the mixing desk with his scores under his arm... The band played well, but it was only afterwards that the irony of playing classic numbers such as 'Jailhouse Rock' and 'Don't Get Around Much Any More' was fully realised and indeed appreciated! When the Princess finally arrived - after we'd finished playing - Mr. Waters elbowed his way to the front to shake her hand and Mr. Bradley even managed to get himself a few seconds of background shot on that evening's 'Calendar'.

The annual information morning was held on Saturday, 9th October and once again the Swingbands were there in force to entertain prospective parents and Art Department staff. What has traditionally been an extended rehearsal for the bands ran very smoothly this year, with a now quite experienced band playing together for their second full year.

On Friday 5th November Swingband members sacrificed toasted marshmallows and fireworks to play at Tankersley Manor, Sheffield for the Wakefield 41 Club Annual Dinner. We were fortunate enough to be bolstered by guest trumpet player Nick Chandley, whom we met at Bretton Hall last year. Nick was kind enough to help us out at a number of gigs this year and as well as being a superb trumpet player he's a great guy too, providing encouragement and support to our resident trumpet section. We all wish him luck in his teaching career. Anyway, I can't remember anything about the gig, so it can't have been that bad.

On December 1st the Swingband travelled to Leeds for the St. James' Hospital Neurosurgeons' Christmas Ball in the very elegant Civic Hall. It was a very good performance, even supported by a few parents from the wings. In fact the doctors

present were so pleased (or at least so drunk) that they even paid us more than the fee previously agreed!

The QEGS Christmas Concert was once again a technologically advanced multimedia feast, this time with interactive big-screen programme, sound clips from the internet and karaoke 'White Christmas'. The show was stolen, though, by the Junior Swingband with their performance of the 'James Bond Theme', in a technical extravaganza that only I could have thought of, featuring Ben Steinitz as 'Ginger Bond' abseiling from above the stage to receive his vodka Martini (shaken, not stirred of course) from the awaiting Holly Waugh. Oh, bad luck about the rejection by the way, Ben.

The spectacle ended with 'Let it Snow' performed by Emily Alexander and Swingband, with polystyrene snow balls provided by Mr Mick Bradley through the light fittings up in the roof space. It was undoubtedly a memorable evening and special thanks must go to Mr Mason for providing the abseiling equipment and to Mr Sutcliffe for the artwork and posters.

On Saturday 11th December, Swingband were back in the QE Hall to play for the QEGS Rugby World Tour dinner dance. Despite a late start due to the auction, the band delivered a typically professional performance and was well received by the traditionally supportive rugby fraternity. It was also a special treat for all to see our Headmaster, Mr Cholewa and Mr Haigh on stage to sing 'White Christmas' in their own unforgettable way. Who knows, there may have been a future 'Stars in their Eyes' contestant there that evening - although I certainly didn't spot them!

It was perhaps fitting that the first gig of the new millennium illustrated so well the friendship and camaraderie that has become the Swingband hallmark. On Friday 14th January, Chris Langrick, a former band member invited us to play at his 21st birthday celebration at the Briar Court Hotel, Elland. The band volunteered to play, despite being in the middle of post-Christmas modules and mock exams. We played very well, with a couple of guest appearances from Chris playing a solo in 'Jailhouse Rock', and being joined by his former trumpet teacher, Ray Thompson.

Friday 28th February saw Dale Gibson, lead trumpet with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra visit School for a workshop session, bringing with him his vast experience and a selection of Syd Lawrence band arrangements. He wowed us with his awesome playing and became even more popular by letting us finish early! Mr Waters took a group in the minibus to Halifax to see the Syd Lawrence Orchestra later in March.

Swingband returned to Bretton Hall for the second 'Battle of the Bands' in association with Bretton College Big Band, and organised by Mr Graham Hirst, one of QEGS' many instrumental teachers. The event, a charity fundraiser, took place in one of Bretton's homely studio theatres. As last year, the joint numbers became a battle of the drummers (my bass drum's bigger than yours etc.), with Ben just about claiming victory in the end. I hope this event continues to be a regular one, as it is a rare opportunity for parents to hear the band play a gig and to raise money for worthy causes at the same time.

May 1st was a bank holiday for the whole nation, but not for the Swingbands. The two bands undertook a marathon six-hour sponsored play in order to raise funds for the Reunion Concert. Many thanks to all who supported us both financially and by coming to listen to us on the day. Thanks also to Sam Nicholls' group, who offered their services too.

On Friday 5th May, Swingband was once again at home in the QE Hall, this time for the Canada Millennium Hockey Tour dinner dance. This time we were supported by Damien from the Doncaster Jazz Orchestra on trumpet, and guest vocalist Mr Trevor Barker singing an arrangement of Billy Joel's 'Just the Way You Are' as a prelude to his summer concert appearance. A great time was had by all.

The summer concert, the climax to the school musical year held on the 11th May, was the last school concert for seven boys and two girls of the Swingband. The junior band, one of the strongest for many years, was again impressive, playing three pieces from the senior Swingband repertoire - things are certainly looking bright for the future! In spite of starting in pitch darkness, the Swingband gave a superlative last concert with 'Undecided', the band's signature tune, followed by an outstanding and emotional performance of the favourite 'Flashdance' by Sinead Twomey. Mr Trevor Barker again delighted the audience and shocked us by starting on the right note of 'Just the Way You Are'. The concert finished with Sinead singing 'Orange Coloured Sky'.

Many thanks to this year's leavers: Sinead Twomey, Claire Edbrooke, Rob Hensby, Rob Vickers, Paul Irving, Nick Alexander, Curtis

Stansfield, Martin Brammah and Ben Steinitz for their enormous commitment over the years. You don't get off that easily though - there is already a gig booked for the beginning of September! As I write we are looking forward to getting together again at the '10 Year Reunion Concert' on the 8th July. Plans so far include a sparkling wine reception, a buffet, a selection from the DW video archive, and a rumoured special guest appearance of the infamous 'deck chair' jacket.

Paul Irving 13JG

Oh! What a Lovely War

On June 28th 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot dead whilst on a visit to Sarajevo. This event precipitated what can be described as perhaps the most horrific and destructive era of modern history.



'Oh What a Lovely War' documents the period from the descent into war to the ensuing abhorrent devastation. This is where the difficulty of the play lay. The hard-hitting message of the play was underpinned by the light-hearted, upbeat and discerningly ironic narrative.



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The story of the Great War is re-enacted by a group of Pierrots performing a collage of songs and scenes - interspersed with a visual portrayal of revealing documents of the period - detailing life both at and away from the Home Front, all geared towards evoking the hypocrisy of the period.

Once again (after last year's successful 'Little Shop of Horrors'), Wakefield Opera House hosted this sparkling two-night spectacular. In what was essentially a musical, the cast of thirty-two crew comprising boys and girls from both QEGS and WGHS demonstrated not only an exceptional ability and willingness to act, but also to sing on stage: live music and dance providing edge to this stylish production. Indeed, all expectations must have been surpassed when on both nights the cast offered an assured, professional-looking performance.

The play was produced, directed and choreographed by Miss Jenny Gore, under whose guidance the performers delivered a performance worthy of any West End stage. Thespians both young and old paraded their talent, with the accomplished Nikki Hodgson essentially acting as a compere, maintaining audience enthusiasm (despite the grave nature of the story), even engaging them in the tongue-twisting song, 'Sister Suzie's Sewing Shirts for Soldiers'. Adept talent was demonstrated by the older boys, such as Nick Alexander, Ralph Pallister and Matthew Wright, playing the pompous, self-righteous generals of their respective countries; and by those in the lower school, the adroit Stuart Graham in his unforgettable bayonet-training scene.

However, it being a musical production, to forget Mr Jeff Ladd, the musical director, and his dexterous team of musicians would be a travesty. So too would it be to forget the contribution provided by the costume, props and stage teams, without all of whom the play would never have been such a success.

Described as "a lively, fast flowing musical portrayal of the ironies of WW1...bitingly satirical and poignantly moving," the production provided a searing insight into the war. The cast managed to act out this hard-hitting production with such enthusiasm and liveliness that audiences on both nights viewed the spectacular with delight and immense appreciation.

Thomas England 12NR

The Canterbury Tales

Geoffrey Chaucer is dead! However, in a dramatic attempt to bring him back to life, four medieval alchemists, the exuberant Chloe Middleton, Mary Dobson, Mark Goodhead and Alex Bluett, summon up a group of Chaucer's best known pilgrims, the Knight, the Wife of Bath, the Pardoner, the Nun's Priest and the Miller to tell their Canterbury Tales, in an attempt to resurrect the great Chaucer. Martin Riley, who



actually came to see the production himself, urges that the performance of this, his adaptation of the play should be 'fresh, lively and fun with strong characterisation... plenty of pace, action and constant audience contact'. The joint QEGS and WGHS production of the play was, indeed, abounding in all these qualities.



Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales', written in the fourteenth century, is a mixture of various story types, each story told by one of the pilgrims on a journey to Canterbury. Each story is therefore different: containing different characters, each with their own quirks and idiosyncrasies. However, what was a common factor linking each story in this performance was the enthusiasm exuded by all the actors. The quality of their acting, which was very professional whilst not compromising on the spirit of lively 'street entertainment' so pronounced throughout the play, demonstrated the highest quality of theatrical ability at the two schools.

The 'stories' themselves proved both challenging, 'avant garde' and thought-provoking, each containing a moral (if somewhat tenuous) of sorts. The 'Nun's Priest's Tale' warns 'to be on your guard against flatterers...and all those who open their mouths when they should keep them shut!' and the

'Pardoner's Tale' tells us that 'if you go out looking for death, don't be surprised if you find him!' However, humour and excitement proved the overriding entertaining factors, be it through audience participation, with the crowd chanting 'Help, help, the fox has caught our cock'; the apparently unnecessary but equally humorous pantomime cow strolling across the stage; or the use of unwitting but good-natured members of the audience as cast. Mr Trevor Barker deserves special mention here, being cast as the 'perfect thief' and being forced to do the 'conga' on stage. He may, possibly, have a bright future in acting.



However, what was demonstrated through the production was that QEGS drama does, indeed, have a very bright future. Possibly the first impression one gained of the performance was the exceptionally young age of the cast. With the majority of the actors being in the first three years of the School, it proved evident that the School is propagating a strong vein of acting prowess. Indeed 'The Pardoner's Tale' was actually directed by a team of Year 13 students.

There are too many people to name as the play itself aimed to involve as many people as possible in the production - a massive administration problem for the indefatigable Mrs Judy Plaut and her team. But it would be unforgivable to forget the sound, lighting, music and stage management crews who all worked so hard in order to make the play such a success. The production, whilst being professionally and authentically performed, created a real sense of audience contact: the type of bond rarely evident in such a piece of drama. The play captivated the audience, leaving them with raised spirits and a genuine feeling of delight.

Thomas England 12NR

Music Report

The plethora of musical events this year has been diverse and each better than the last (quite similar to Mark Ward's hairstyles, so some have said.)

It all began in the second week of October with the Young Composers' Concert, described by Mr Turmeau as "a wonderful evening". Just four weeks into the academic year, no fewer than 37 compositions justified what DJT had said, including the group workshops of the lower school which have become something of a tradition at these concerts and are always popular with parents. Beginning with Sam Nicholls' song "Heart On" the programme included compositions from every year group with both solo and ensemble performances. Despite the amount of high-quality work, however, we all managed to leave the event by midnight this year, with the exception of Mr Waters and his hard-working stage crew.

A month later, QEGS combined with WGHS for the ever-popular Chamber Concert at St John's church. Despite

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England's Euro 2000 qualifier being televised on the evening of the concert, the event was well attended and those who came were treated to Haydn's "Miracle" Symphony no. 96 amongst other things. Flautacious, the all-girl flute quartet, were also very well received, together with Anna Turmeau's Sonata for Oboe and Mark Ward, who impressed the audience with his organ-playing abilities. The evening of chamber music was rounded off by the Chamber Choir's rendition of "Te Deum", written by Andrew Carter, which although difficult was performed well even with Mr T glaring at us all.

Soon after this came the Founders' Day service at the Cathedral – one of the most important dates for the musicians of the School. With a capacity congregation (will turnstiles be introduced soon?) the music went without a hitch. Mr Chris Bacon deserves particular thanks, for it is under his direction that the brass group rehearse so diligently for this event (from about July).

With the bitterly cold December came the Christmas Concert. Advertised with a James Bond theme and entitled "For Your Ears Only", the flyer showed Mr Turmeau as the evil Dr No (or was it Odd Job?) and Mr Waters as 006½. This theme was brought to life in the course of the concert when Ben Steinitz abseiled from the top of the stage during which the Junior Swingband played none other than the James Bond theme tune. Sandwiching the interval, where the very popular seasonal refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies were served, were a collection of equally seasonal musical items. "Twelve Days of Christmas", performed by Nick Alexander, Paul Irving, Ben Steinitz and Curtis Stansfield, saw the Head Boy dressed in drag and had the audience in stitches (and

we've got the video to prove it – I might be willing to take a bribe, Nick). The recently-formed Mark Ward Ensemble performed Mark's very own and imaginatively titled "Christmas Song", which entertained the audience with its Cliff Richard-like qualities. The Swingband closed the evening with various classic numbers and had the audience singing along to the arrangement of "Silent Night" although how Nick got a whole semitone out of key in the a cappella section is another matter.

Before any of the QEGS musicians could go home and see in the Millennium with deserved festive cheer, the annual Carol Service lay ahead. The singing of a traditional collection of carols was accompanied by the musicians, who lugged all their gear to the Cathedral in the arctic weather. Despite a few frozen fingers, the congregation seemed to thoroughly enjoy the service and, at least from where I was sitting, the musicians excelled themselves.

A new year, a new Millennium, a new hairstyle for Mark, and another Composers' Concert – this time at WGHs. Having never had the privilege of attending this event before, I arrived for the performance looking the best possible in school uniform. No sooner had I got through the door than I realised no one else had come in uniform. This aside, the compositions were performed well, including Sinead Twomey's sax piece, Nicola Harris' "Shooting Star" and yet again the Year 7 and 8 group workshops appeared to please all and not only for their comedy value.

Jumping on the Millennium bandwagon (well, let's face it – we're not likely to see another one) QEGS hosted the "Millennium Music Competition" – the musician of the

year competition under a different guise. "Spider in the Bath", a song performed by Alex Simpson, seemed to captivate the audience before newly-appointed Head Boy, Mandeep Baveja, entertained the audience with his performance on the tabla (Indian drums) – without a doubt the most original entry in this competition. The two front runners in the race for the title of Musician of the Year were Curtis Stansfield and Ben Steinitz, both of whom entered every possible category. With Ben's composition, performed by Swingband, opening the first half, the second half began with Curtis' composition, originally called "Funk Off" but amended by the "powers that be" to "Funky". Shortly after, Ben, accompanied by Mr Turmeau, played a "Concert Piece for Piano and Percussion" by Malcolm Arnold. Despite having to restart owing to an uncharacteristic error from DJT, Ben won the competition with his performance. The Junior Musician of the year was Patrick Dean. The adjudicator for the evening was Dr Paul Mann, who paid tribute to the "remarkable dedication and patience" of the performers. "There can be few greater and more fulfilling pleasures in life than enjoying performing music one loves in the company of good friends," he told us. "Music lives only when it is performed." This vibrant evening was testimony to Dr Mann's words.

The musical year was brought to an end with the Summer Concert, which reminds me that, with the departure of James Heaton the year before, Mr Sutcliffe has worked wonders with the publicity artwork and programmes this year. The concert itself was jam-packed with material of high quality, including Liam Townend's rendition of Van Morrison's "Have I Told You Lately" – I'm sure that the bass section of the Chamber Choir will miss his mellow tones when he leaves. The String Quartet directed by Julie Maunsell included in their repertoire the Monty Python's Flying Circus theme which summed up the mood perfectly (even if I did expect a giant pink foot to come through the ceiling and squash them all at the end).

Next was Chamber Choir's turn. Accompanied by Michael Elcock who has come a long way since stopping half-way through James Heaton's piece the year before, we sang two Carpenters' classics: "Yesterday Once More" and "Close to You". Quite how we got through Toch's "Geographical Fugue" I'll never know, but the best was yet to come. At the request of Nick Alexander, who will be sorely missed in the choir next year, our encore performance was, believe it or not, "Old MacDonald". The way Mr T placed that fluffy chicken on his head led us to believe that he has finally lost the plot in a big way, but we hope he recovers over the long holidays. The Junior Swingband closed the first half in impressive style by playing one of Swingband's pieces and with the departure of so many senior band members at the end of the year, I'm sure a few promotions will be in order. Matthew Carlton excelled himself in his performance of Debussy's Arabesque No. 1 in the second half, as did the Junior Choir with their version of "The Girl from Ipanema" amongst others. The Swingband ended the advertised events with what has come to be known as their theme tune, "Undecided", followed by "Flashdance" featuring the sexy vocals of Sinead Twomey (also leaving us). Finally we had "Just the Way You Are" performed by none other than the PE department's own Mr Trevor Barker.

As has become a tradition, the QEGS leavers paid their tributes to the Music department staff in the medium of song. After last year's version of the Abba classic "Thank You For the Music (Lessons)", this year saw a "Whose line is it anyway?"-style hoe-down (although Curt isn't as attractive as TV's Laura Hall and Martin Brammah looked nothing like Clive Anderson). Having

studied the first year of Music A level, I can say the lyrics were all too familiar and whoever the lyricist was did better than most celebs on TV.

With so many talented musicians leaving, various ensembles will be a little thin on the ground at the start of next term. But, as they say, life goes on and if the potential of the students of the lower end of the school is anything to go by, then there will be no problems in finding replacements. Before some of the leavers allowed their time at QEGS to become a distant memory, there was the small matter of the Swingband Reunion to attend to, when 10 years' worth of band members congregated in the QE Hall to participate in an almighty jam session. With only another year left myself at QEGS, I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Martin Hutton 12THG

The Year 7 Poetry Evening

When I first heard about the Year 7 Poetry Evening I wasn't sure that it was a terribly good idea. Here are some of the questions that I asked myself:

- Do I like poetry?
- Would it be hard work learning all those words?
- Would the poems be very boring and dull?
- Do I really need extra work with the school exams looming?
- Would I be brave enough to stand in front of an audience and perform?

But there was to be no escape for any of us! Mrs Plaut and Mrs Wood were determined that it would happen. And so we began....

Just before half term we were all given our poems to learn. These had to be taken home and memorised (along with History, Geography, Biology, Physics, etc, etc for our exams).

For the next couple of weeks we spent our Drama lessons practising our poems in front of the class. We all had to work very hard and sometimes we felt a little bit fed up, even the teachers!

However the hard work paid off and my group was chosen to perform the poem "The Lion and Albert", (some of you oldies will know this poem), at the Junior Girls' School and the Junior Boys' School, to advertise the Poetry Evening. It was very nerve-racking performing it in front of all the girls and boys and some of my old teachers.

The time flew by and soon the evening arrived. We all assembled in the Junior School hall at 7 o'clock. I was extremely nervous along with everyone else. We did relaxation exercises with Mrs Wood and then it was time. All the staff involved wished us luck.

7 HMS walked out onto the stage first. The lights were very bright. Ben in Year 8 was in charge. The rest of Year 7 followed quickly, a little too quickly for one boy who tripped up on the way! The first poem was not our best performance that night but we soon forgot our nerves and started to really enjoy ourselves. We got better and better as the audience clapped enthusiastically.

Too soon it was over. The performance had gone well. We had all been stars for the night and the hard work and effort by both boys and teachers was well worth it in the end.

Long may the Year 7 Poetry Evening continue!

Adam Blacker 7HMS

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Spanish Exchange

After learning Spanish for only six months, two students from QEGS and three from WGHS set out on an intrepid journey to Spain to be thrown into the deep end. Could we get by with the vocabulary we had learnt or would we be hoping for a family with a wonderful knowledge of English?

Fortunately, we had already met our exchange partners when they had come to England two months previously so as we stepped off the bus in Seville we were greeted by familiar faces who whisked us off to our home for the next week.

I had only been in the house a few minutes when I had to face one of my biggest fears – Spanish food. However, the potato omelette was wonderful, like most of the food I was offered. In fact, I only had to resort to McDonald's on one occasion. The week was divided between parties, school and trips to 'interesting' towns and landmarks. These all added to the culture shock we were experiencing. The parties were every other night and lasted into the early hours, epitomised by our visit to the local night club, which we left at five in the morning. School was more relaxed with subjects differing from those which we study. Mealtimes were different as well but we became used to this. The trips were a mixture with some boring us but the beach visit was particularly interesting.

The Spanish exchange students were all lively and talkative except mine who received the nickname 'plank' – make of that what you will! They all made us feel at home and tried their hardest to speak to us in order to improve our language skills. All the students introduced us to their friends who gradually became part of our group, even inviting us to barbecues. Although I missed home at first I did not want to leave at the end as we had made so many friends.

If I was to sum up our stay I would say: terrible weather, friendly people, mobile phone bills, tiredness, Wilma and 'PUES'. Soy la maquina.

John Bedford 12THG

Ski Trip – La Plagne 2000

This was the sixth year running that we journeyed down through France to ski at La Plagne and, like all the other times, it was excellent. The double-decker coach, packed to the gunwales, arrived at the resort on time – everything had gone well on the journey and the settling-in period (always the worst) was smoother than ever. The snow was good and for the time of year – mid-April – it was more than good.

First-night tobogganing down the back of the apartments is just about right for the first day – a lot of excitement and energy built up on the journey was released and there were some epic runs – none more so than Mr Barraclough's with his son Daniel!

The following day saw a perfect blue sky and a ski base of 140cm at 2000 metres – we just couldn't wait to get out there. For a second time, Mr Ford had a snowboarding group who were in all-day lessons. The instructor was excellent and the wide ability range was well catered for.

La Plagne offers everything but the pretty Alpine village, and you can even get that if you ski far enough and venture down to La Coche, but the week just sped by all too quickly. The groups worked well and all improved beyond belief. The School ski race looked like it was to be the closest yet, with numerous contenders. In the end, the race was won by Jamie Scott quite convincingly – he just stayed parallel and went straight down the fall line. The snowboarding trophy went to Neil Parkinson.

It is very hard to contemplate going to another ski resort which will be as good as La Plagne for a school group – the QEGS groups have been spoilt over the years. The staff of Messrs Barker, Pickersgill, Ford, Barraclough, Benn and Gough were a great help and made sure the week, as usual, went very smoothly.

Finally, it is quite sad in some ways that, for me personally, it will be the last school ski trip that I have led after 25 years and nearly 50 school trips. There have been many fond memories and over 2000 QEGS boys have journeyed to ski resorts all over Europe with me. In all that time, I must compliment the boys who have come with me – we have had very few problems, very few injuries and great fun in what is a fantastic sport.

I hope the same fortune – if that's what you call it! – favours the new 'regime' as they start out on the next 50!

JPC

German Exchange 2000

Adjusting to German time was to be the least of our worries as we settled down on to a runway in Düsseldorf. The more vexing problem occupying the twenty-five English passengers aboard the BA flight was that of how to confront the unknown. The uncertainty involved coming face to face with a person of similar age but of different nationality and who had never previously been met. The nerve-wracking atmosphere in the coach upon arrival at the Kopernikus Gymnasium in Neubeckum, coupled with the excitement of being in a foreign country, was to combine with the jubilation at the prospect of being independent and among friends. We had arrived.

The congregation in the school entrance was, on the whole, disorganised but on meeting up with the allocated partners, we all subconsciously adopted our mode of best manners normally reserved for the elders of society. It was thus that we all embarked upon an experience that will undoubtedly live long in our memories. That very night many of us were whisked off to a party of sorts in different locations in the areas immediately surrounding Neubeckum. To be thrown straight into a different world of fun-loving Germans was one thing but to be expected to converse with them was quite another. As the night progressed however, a few choice pieces of vocabulary were added to the base we had already acquired.

The following morning was difficult as we needed to consider how to pose banal questions like 'What time should I get up?' and 'Can I have a shower?' as well as wrestle with the problem of what to say to the host's parents. Later the

partners, who had a circle of friends of the same age, rang round and eventually suggested that we go for a walk around Ennigerloh. So it was that Angela, Terry, Dave, Dan, Miles, and Peter were to form a group which was to experience much together. There were of course other, smaller groups such as those comprising Kristan, Annabel, and Natalie, but as they did their thing and we did ours the cooperation between everyone was fantastic. The perfect hosts took us to a typical German ice-cream parlour where we exchanged stories of the night before.

The first day at school necessitated getting up in time to catch the bus at the unaccustomed hour of a quarter to eight. Getting on to a bus packed with German-speaking youths was unnerving but interesting as polite conversation was broached with typically English references to the weather, causing great mirth amongst our fellow passengers. We were later to discover that everything we had been told about German humour was invalid. They do understand and indeed frequently use sarcasm, or 'Sarcasmus', in their daily banter. Both Andreas and Heidi later gave a well-received speech, talking in English and German respectively. As there was no official form room or assembly, we went directly to lessons at eight o'clock and were soon steeped in German literature on the subject of Napoleon. The teacher involved us and we each read out a verse from a poem. After our renditions there was an amusing drumming of knuckles on the tables from the other students who in this way expressed their approval of our efforts.

The attentive Mr. Gibb who ensured that we were all involved by making some sort of contribution to class also attended the English lesson taught by Herr Schulte. To our surprise (but was it really?) we found that the language the Germans are taught is of a high calibre and we were suitably impressed by the quality of their spoken and written English which was arguably difficult enough for the average English Joe to comprehend. The rhetorical question was one such issue that came under discussion. I still do not know if they had been preparing this topic the whole of the previous week in order to impress us with their English lessons but it certainly did the trick.

As the school day finished at one o'clock, the afternoon was spent in Hamm where we went bowling, an activity that proved to be one of the highlights of the exchange. The cheering and friendly competitiveness enjoyed by all was a typical response during such an enjoyable evening in which Andreas was finally out-manoeuvred. The price per game was half of that in Britain and as there had been a bet between the apparently even sides the stakes were high as the winning team had its drinks paid for.

Tuesday saw the whole exchange group going on the traditional ice-skating trip that promised to provide a few chuckles. We were not disappointed, with the rugby-playing Mr Gibb showing us how really to skate...or not! It was also an opportunity to witness the astonishing agility of the gentle giant Florian who whizzed around the rink hauling a whole group in snake-like fashion after him. The usual Samaritans were at the side of Miss Caswell and Mrs Firth's children, who all came along by leaps and bounds, at least metaphorically speaking.

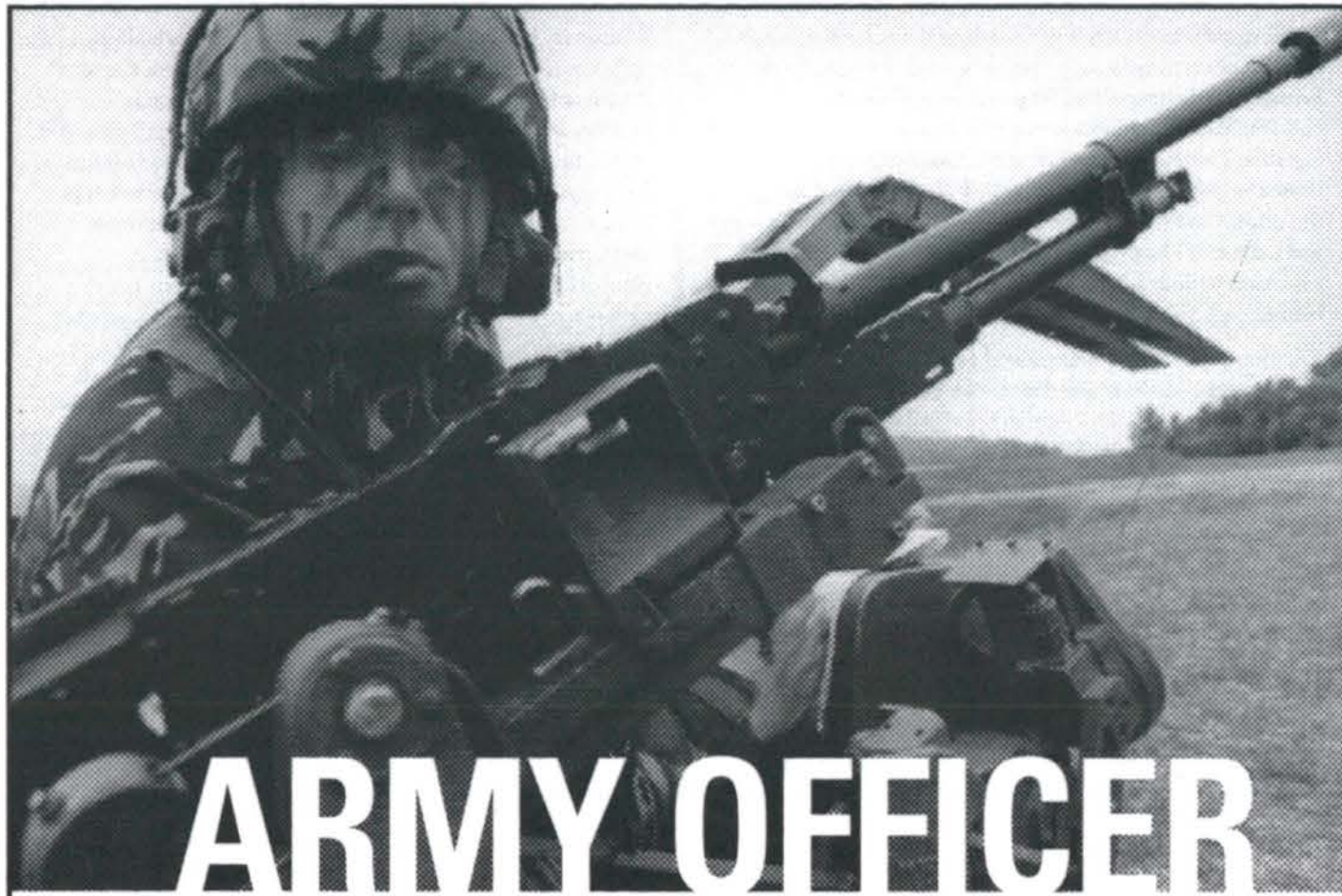
Wednesday brought with it a new lesson in the form of the aptly named 'Pedagogie' which was more to do with the social nature of human beings and behavioural patterns than anything remotely intellectually challenging. The pre-arranged visit to nearby Hamm later in the day enabled us to visit the town while our German partners stayed to finish school. The chance to sample more culinary delicacies was taken up as many tried 'Schaschlik' and fries. After arrival back in Neubeckum a privately arranged football and sports match took place in the village hall, creating much goodwill between all concerned. As the traditional Germany v England rivalry was reintroduced in the form of a polished game of football, the English triumphed at the expense of a despairing German team which had to lick its wounds in a 10-8 defeat.

On Thursday a group trip to Munster was organised for us. I am informed that the traditional competition involving the completion of a questionnaire on the beautiful city is enjoyed by all. Our enjoyment was increased by the fact that our group won... with a little help from our German associates! Twinned with York, Munster has a university of some 50,000 students and caters for those wishing to study German as a foreign language. The old sites of Munster were certainly eye-catching but then how could they fail to be when one was frantically trying to find answers to questions about the city and its principal monuments?

Friday was officially 'sports' day for us and we prepared for another eagerly anticipated England-Germany contest. This was not to be however, as we were split up into mixed groups of both sexes and nationalities. The winners of the previous day's competition in Munster were announced and we made sure that the extra money was put to good use. That night was a good one for all concerned on the exchange and joviality prevailed as we cast aside inhibitions and mustered well-constructed phrases to thank our hosts for such genial hospitality.

The early departure on a cold Saturday morning was not best welcomed by the group as tiredness took its toll for the nth time that week. The anticipation of going home was equalled by the depression of having to leave a second family and a new circle of friends. It took some time for the coach seats to fill up with those anxious to fit in a few extra 'goodbyes' having to be persuaded on to the coach just before leaving time. The last person aboard the coach heralded the end of an exciting forage into the previously unknown. It was time to take stock of all that had been achieved on the highly enjoyable exchange which is a 'must' for all language students. Herr Schulte and his students can be justly proud of their school as a true representative of their country and its culture. For many of us some perceptions of the German people which arguably should not have existed in the first place have been cast aside and washed away by the changing tide of memorable experiences of warm friendship and hospitality. We look forward to extending our hospitality in turn to our German guests and to developing this pioneering friendship.

David Coleman (12NR), Daniel Habe (12THG),
Heidi Frances (WGHS).



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Cleaning Boots

Cleaning boots is such a bore!
It's just another horrible chore!

First of all you start with scrubbing,
Then you move on to the dubbing.

It makes a mess all over the floor,
So we have to clean them outside the door.

Picking the dirt out of the grooves
Requires a lot of difficult moves.

You scrub until your hand begins to hurt,
You scrub until there is no dirt.

With your hand you have to dub.
The dub is in a butter tub.

If left on the boot there's any grain,
You'll have to do them all again.

If you don't take lots of care,
You'll have to do another pair!

There is no time to be laid-back,
So get those boots back on that rack!

Christian Cotter 7DRF



Alex Murphy 11LB 'Can Opener abstraction'



Andrew Irving 11DBS 'Roots'





Andrew Irving 11DBS 'Yorkshire Landscape'

Buckden Night Walk

We set off when the sky turned dark
 In cheerful spirits and having a lark.
 It wasn't till we got weary,
 The cold night atmosphere turned eerie.

As we climbed higher up Buckden Pike,
 Continuing on our night-time hike,
 We came across a gap in the wall
 Through which some poor man had had to crawl.

When his plane had crashed in the snow,
 In search of help he had needed to go.
 About to give up, he saw some fox-trails,
 A sight that put some wind in his sails.

He knew that in winter foxes will
 Travel for certain to the bottom of a hill.
 At a stone wall he couldn't believe his luck,
 Freezing to death and covered in muck!

He'd reached a village, but then abandoned his friend
 For the weather had developed a worrying trend.
 The cold winds howled in a chilling snow-storm,
 But he was safely inside comfortable and warm.

Louis Corney 7GW.



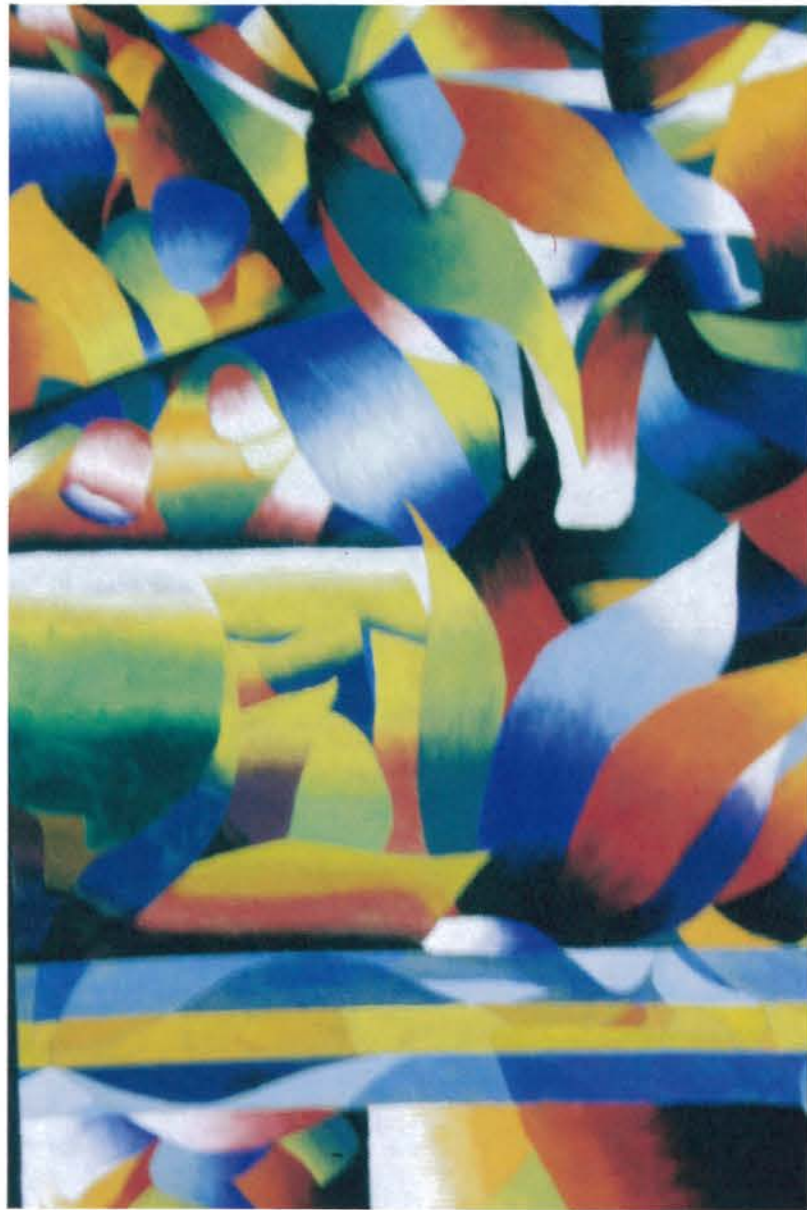
Robert Eames 11PM 'Pelican'



Matthew Hibbert 13JJP 'Spatial Construction'



Paul Jones 11LB 'Chess Pieces'



Chris Platts 11DBS 'Plant Forms'

A Postcard from The Future

Here in the future ships sail the sky,
The air seems fresh, the grass unreal.

People mingle with mechanical lookalikes,
They do not work or sell or buy.

Pears taste like peaches, cherries taste like pears
Apples taste like burgers, bread/tastes like apples.

But up in the sky a monster lurks,
A six-horned beast the enemy of freedom.

The monster runs across the sky,
Grabbing ships that dare pass by.

This monster is born of genetic modification
Caused by our grandsons of the future.

This monster cannot be tamed,
And if it were, we'd end up the same.

Andrew Mason 8CJW

People Who Live In Greenhouses

(Inspired by a poem by Simon Armitage)

I am very bothered when I think
Of the bad things I have done in my life.
In the back garden where I hurled
Half a dozen stones at the greenhouse glass.
I tossed them gently and played with them in my hands.
In the midday sun part of my shadow sheared away,
A splintering crash of multiple shards
Summoned my sentence.

I pleaded with my Mum for a pardon
But this time she would not let me pass.
A crimson web-tide etched through my white skin,
Marked.

Never again would I revisit this pain
Of guilt and seclusion for that crime.
It was just my bad way at nine.

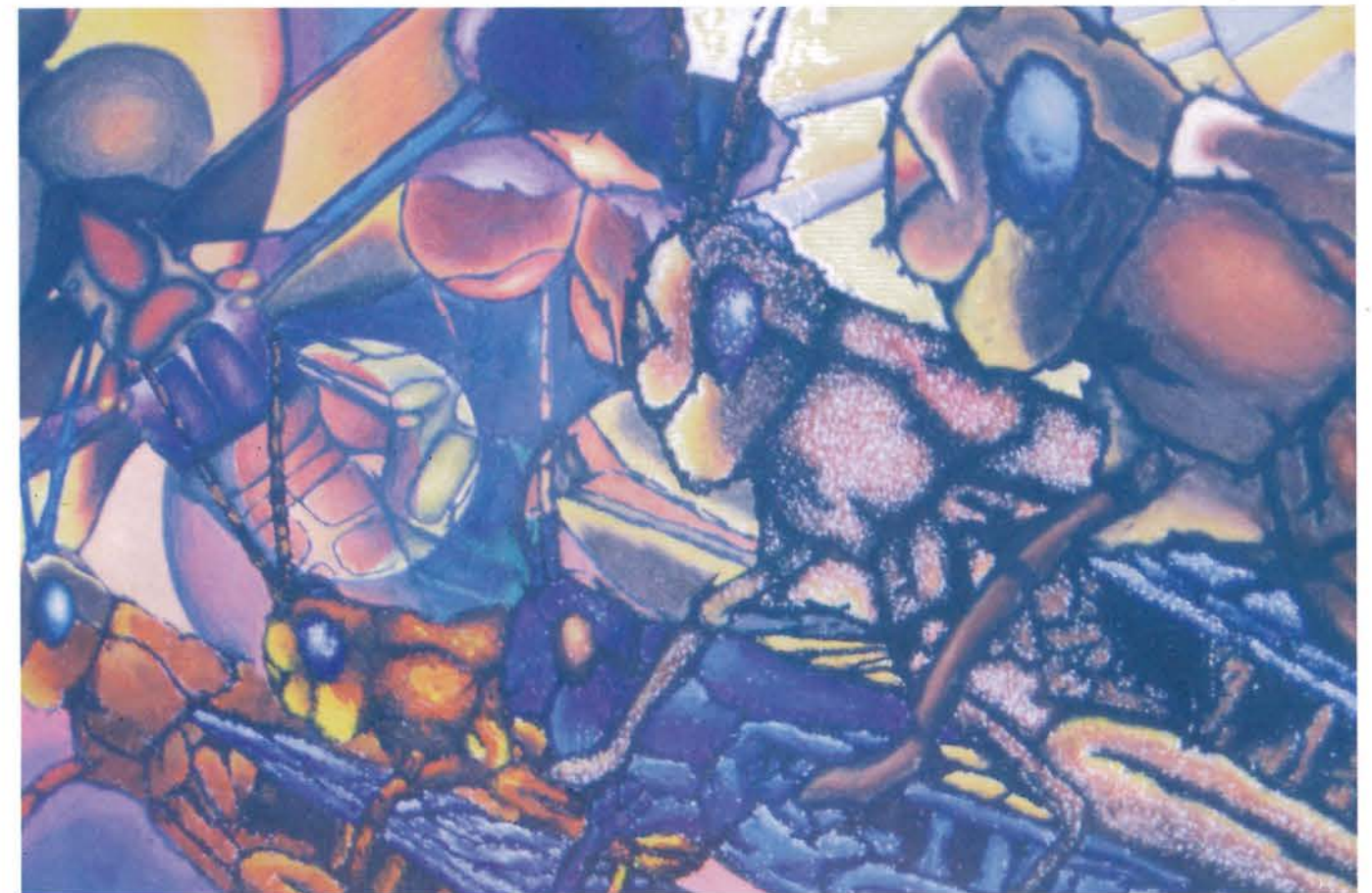
Kristen Kirkland 10 LDB



Alex Murphy 11LB 'Strata'



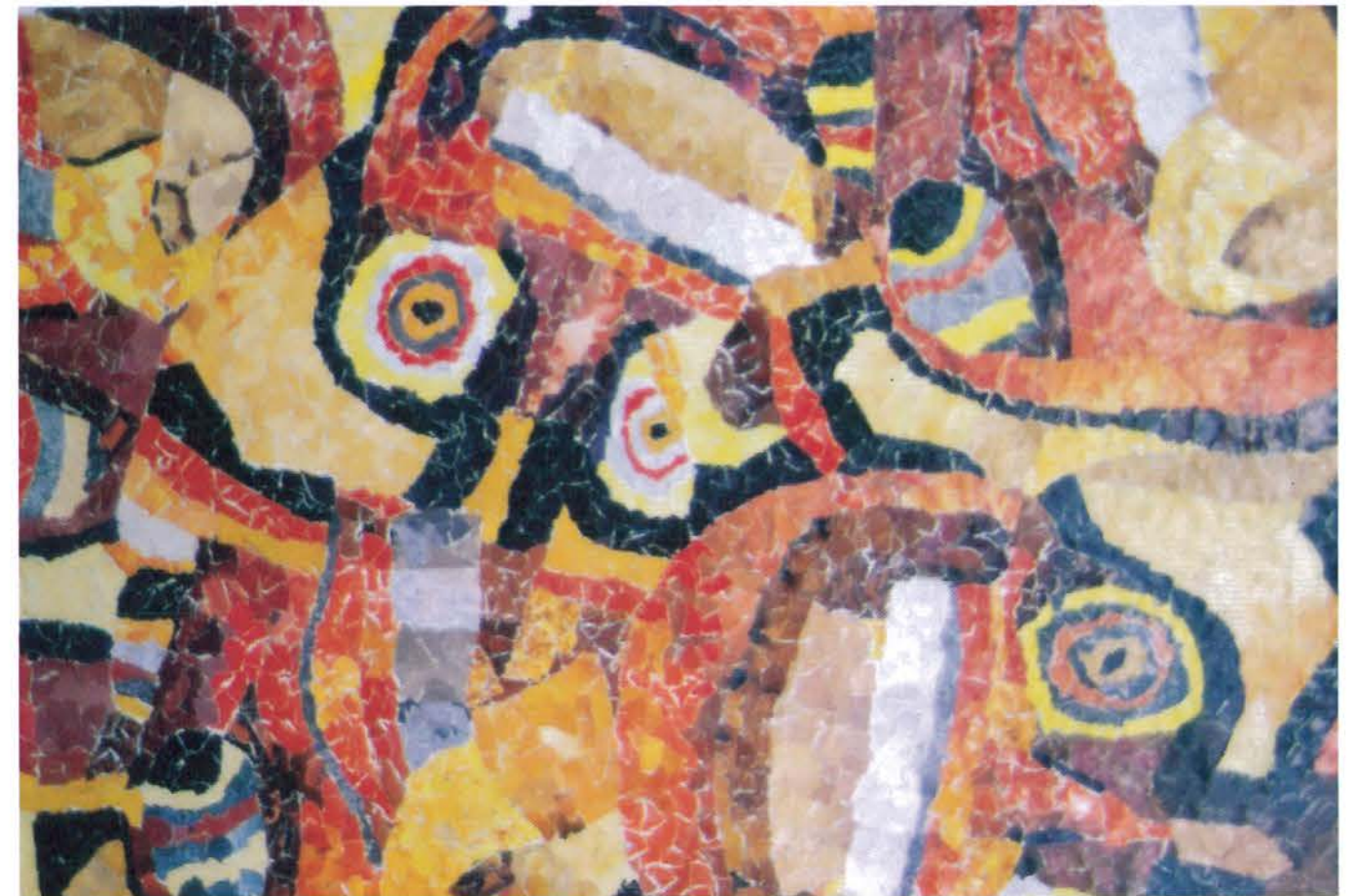
Robert Eames 11PM 'African Masks'



Harry Robinson 11PM 'Locusts'



Nick Edbrooke 11DBS 'Growth'



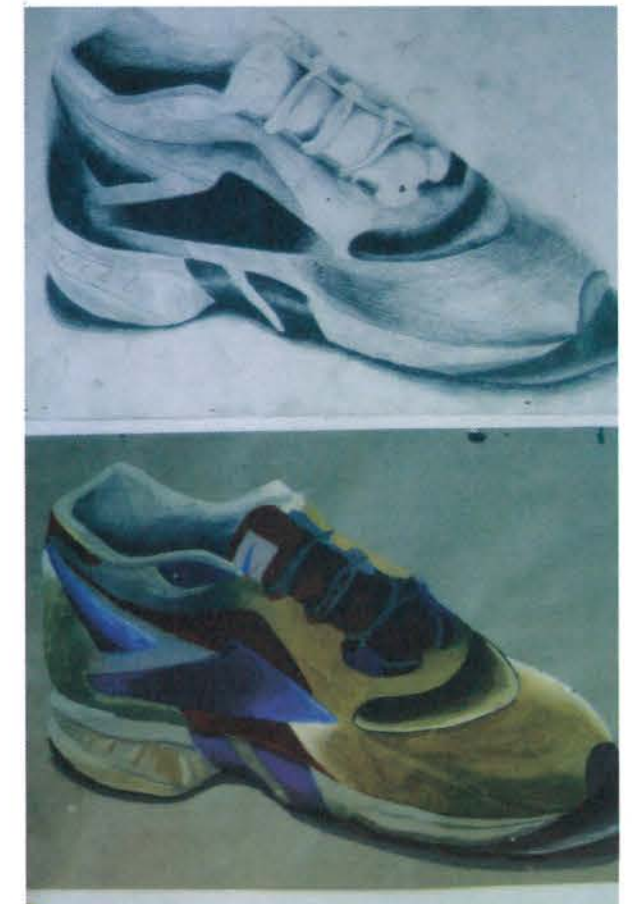
Andrew Butel 11LB 'Masks'

Divided Loyalties

(Inspired by a poem by Simon Armitage)

I am very bothered when I think
Of the bad things that I have done in my life:
The last opportunity to see my grandmother alive neglected,
Cast aside in favour of fun and laughs and larking.
Not a moment set aside to consider the fate of the sick.
Gone has the chance to hold her warm, feeble hand one last time.
But how was I to know that death would snuff out the sweet scent
Of my grandmother's thirst for life?
Divided loyalties: family or friends?
The lure of excitement wins hands down.
I long to speak with the lady of the North.
Yet shall I see this warm face smile again
As sure as night shall meet the day.

Matthew Hawkins 10LDB.



Nick Edbrooke 11DBS 'Trainers'

Guilt

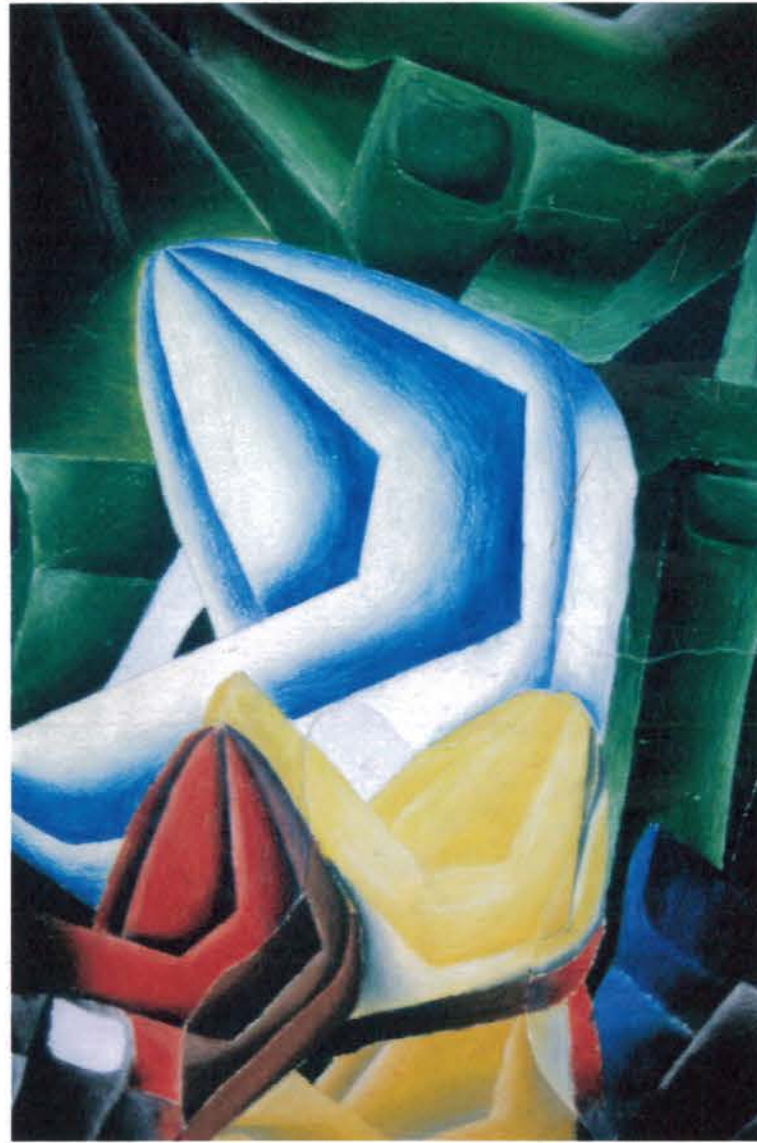
(Inspired by a poem by Simon Armitage)

I am very bothered when I think
Of the bad things I have done in my life.
Like that time I was short in the wallet
Walking past the shops on a cold Winter's day.
A nearby bakery offered warmth and comfort
Coaxing me in like a child does a puppy.
As I walked through the door the sweet aroma
Overpowered me and drew me further in.
It was indeed a worthy refuge.
The hustle of people within was as great
As the gnawing hole inside me.
The baker's back was turned, I seized my opportunity,
Grasping the soft, warm bun in one swift movement.
People too involved in their own lives to notice,
I devoured it savouring every rich, sweet mouthful.
I lay at home satisfied and content
When my Mother entered bearing a bag.
She delved inside and produced a bun,
Insisting it was mine.
The flame of guilt burned on my conscience,
Its fiery claws grasping my spine.
Then I thought: she made me like this,
It's her fault not mine.

Sam Kiernan 10 LDB



Jamie Bennett 13PD 'Rock Forms'



James Dugan 11DNG 'Spanners-Futurismo'

Regrets

(Inspired by a poem by Simon Armitage)

I am very bothered when I think
Of the bad things I have done in my life:
Why, oh why, oh why the strife?
And why should I think of these
Instead of thinking thoughts that please?

I haven't done so much that's bad,
I'm much too young for feeling sad.
But still my thoughts turn to regret.
Is it just a blue mind set?
Could it be chances missed?
Girls I've met but haven't kissed?

Is it just early learning,
To later stop my thoughts from turning,
From today to yesteryears,
And save myself the future tears?

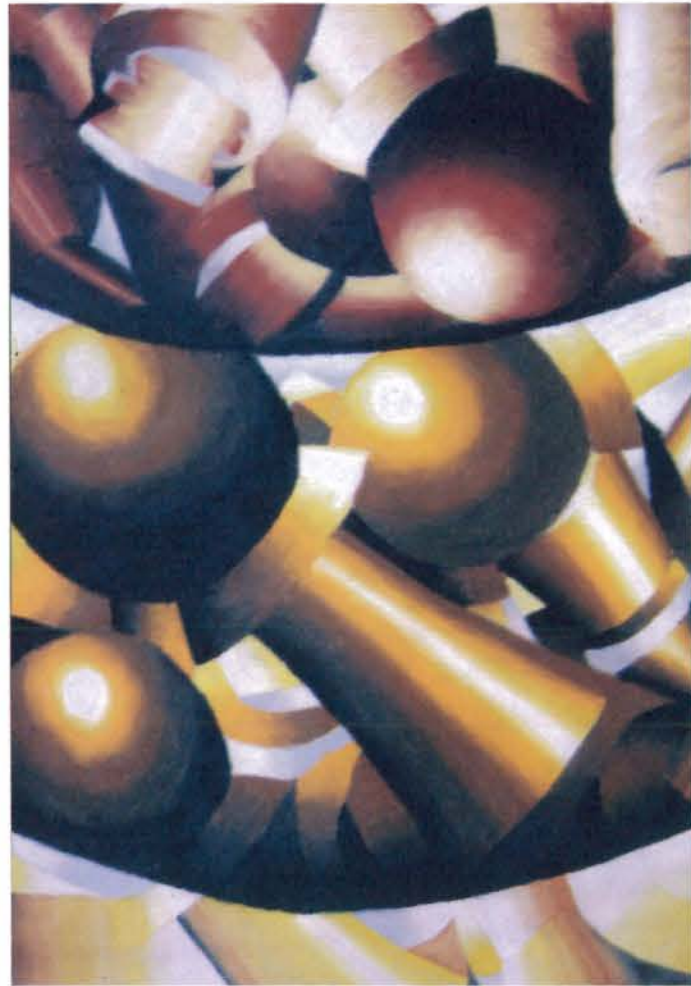
Robert Lockwood 10LDB



David Hallwood 13PD 'Canal Lock'



Christopher Fan 11PM 'Stone Bridge'



Chris Platts 11DBS 'Swinging Pawns'

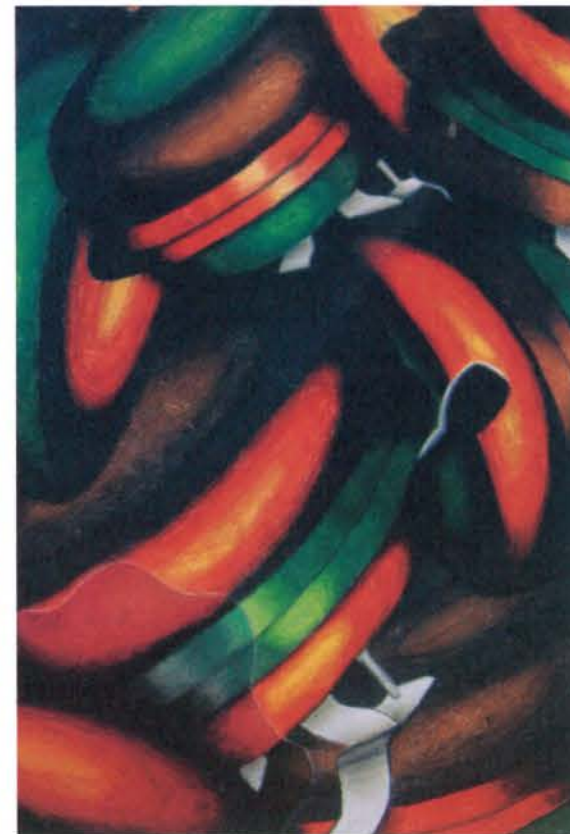
A Postcard From The Future

I ran around. I looked. I saw.
 Just discarded on an open shore.
 Into my view came a huge pink city
 Whose all-green floor seemed somewhat gritty.
 There were people there in large round cones,
 Some were see-through, you could see their bones.
 All the buildings stood short and stout
 And there was something a bit like a roundabout.
 It was tall and flashing and stood on a stick.
 'Hello', I shouted. 'Is this a trick?'
 There were aliens with yellow circles,
 They might have been teeth or very small turtles.
 The sky was changing from blue to gold.
 'It's night-time now,' I was convincingly told.
 Everyone's ears were amazingly blurred,
 I screamed and shouted but couldn't be heard.
 A silencer had been grafted over the town
 And this now drove my spirits down.
 So there's my card. I hope you get it.
 It'll be there tomorrow if the aliens let it!

Vivek Nambiar 8CJW



Stephen Howell 13PD 'Water with Distant Hills'



James Robson 11DNG 'Cycle Bell'



Jen Kui Choi 13PD 'Dilapidation'

A Starters' Guide To Q.E.G.S.

The blue, red and black badge
 Makes me feel proud.
 The Computer Room
 Keeps me happy and entertained.
 The school building
 Makes me feel older when I enter.
 The library reminds me
 Of my Grandpa's days at school.
 The games fields:
 I'm cold before I get changed!
 The piles of homework
 Make me feel tired.
 The school gardens
 Cheer me up again.

Stephen Morris 7JP



David Hallwood 13PD 'Metal In 2 States'



Jen Kui Choi 13PD 'Windsor'

The Thermometer

(Inspired by a poem by Simon Armitage)

I am very bothered when I think
Of the bad things I have done in my life.
Not least the time I heated a thermometer
In the pale aqua flame of a bunsen.
I can still remember the blue bubble
Expanding like a balloon blown
Until pop and crack goes the glass.

A shower of turquoise substance
Cascading down my white school shirt.
All that remained was a cracked thermometer
And a scarred shirt, never to be white again.

I look around the lab helplessly with adolescence,
Everything is blue; everything is humid.

Zoheb Ahmad 10LDB.



James Lawlor 13JG 'Rocks and Landscape'



Christopher Harrap
(13JPP) 'Lounger'



Matthew Hibbert
(13JPP) 'Kit Powered Buggy'



James Atkinson
(13JPP) 'Lawn Scarifier'



MARCH 2000



EASTER 2000



Rugby

World Tour 2000

The decision to go on a world tour is not taken lightly – whilst the prospect of a fantastic voyage to far-off lands sounds great, the eighteen months before departure demands much organisation, much fund-raising and a lot of hard work out of school. It does help when the parental support is enthusiastic and willing, and the support for the Millennium World Tour was tremendous. The excellent, small but dynamic group of parents, ably led by Mr Ross Cadman, raised over £40,000 to ensure that we departed not only with a superb tour kit but that any excursion we wanted to do was possible.

The problems in Fiji caused us numerous pre-tour dilemmas but, thanks to David Cusani, our tour operator, we traded in the little island for Los Angeles and New Zealand. It was a good decision.

The party of 39 boys and 3 staff left QEGS on Thursday 13th July for Manchester Airport and the shuttle to Heathrow and then Calgary via Vancouver. Calgary was a wonderful first stop. It is a vibrant city at the foot of the Rockies and to be there in the middle of the 'stampede' was special. We were hosted by Calgary Hornets, who had done the same in 1988, and we were very well looked after. After two excellent wins against Calgary (1st XV) and San Jose Seahawks (California) 2nd XV we were privileged, parents and all, to be invited to the Calgary Hornets' 40th Anniversary Banquet.

We moved on over the Rockies by coach and it was a journey of a lifetime towards Banff and Lake Louise, where the boys took a dip in the glacial lake. The scenery on both days of the journey was memorable – even the boys commented on its magnificence.

We then prepared to meet the Vancouver Union Select at both 1st and 2nd XV level, a much sterner test played on the University of British Columbia's lovely pitches. It was an evening we all want to forget and the low point of the tour. Iain Marlow badly broke his ankle in an ill-tempered game against a very physical Canadian side. We won the match but we were all down as poor Iain was in hospital with the prospect of a major operation. When Iain had to leave the tour it was a big blow for us all but he took it better than most.

We were a little sad as we flew on towards Los Angeles, but two days of fun at Disneyland lay ahead. The view of Mount St Helen's, the desert, Lake Tahoe and Death Valley made the journey certainly interesting. Disneyland was special and indeed, to quote Matthew Callaghan after he had seen the firework and laser show: "This has been the best day of my life" although he was to say that at least another ten times.

The flight from LA to Auckland was certainly the longest flight of my life. We left LA at 9.30 on Sunday 21st July and arrived in Auckland at 5.30am on Tuesday 25th July. None of us, including Trevor Barker who joined us in LA, ever saw the 24th of July 2000 as we crossed the dateline.

Auckland is perhaps the major centre in what to many is the best rugby country in the world, and we were going to play

Auckland Grammar School, which has some 1800 boys from 13 to 18. We were blessed by good weather for our four days in New Zealand, which made such a difference from our last visit in '95. We were unbeaten and spirits were high the day after our epic flight. In a very hard game which we could have won, we just lost to a strong Auckland team. Jet-lag and tiredness were excuses we used at the time but we were upset. We didn't like losing but it showed us that we could live with the best and we turned it to our advantage later. We all enjoyed our stay: we crossed the harbour, ate out in the new Americas Cup Village, went up the new Sky Tower – the fifth biggest structure in the world – and even met up with Barnard Castle School on their way back from Samoa.

Spirits were still high as we jetted off to Brisbane and warmer climates. We were hosted for four nights by Souths Rugby Club in Brisbane, the top club side in Queensland who have produced many Wallabies. It was a memorable stay and we made many friends in the beautiful city, not because we were especially nice but because we gained a great deal of respect by beating their very strong Academy side that contained Australian schools internationals. Brisbane offers much with the Gold Coast just below and the beautiful Sunshine Coast to the north. We put out a 'development' team to play the Sunshine Coast Select, a representative side gathered from 68 schools. In a very close game our young team just lost, but it was a big learning curve. We all enjoyed Brisbane.

It was at this time I bought a dress from a jumble sale and the boys chipped in and bought a particularly naff tracksuit. We betide anyone who was either late for a meeting or made a bad mistake in a game – the tour now had an addition to the fining system! Neither garment fitted anyone but both had to be worn by the offenders.

Cairns and sub-tropical Australia greeted us with its heat and humidity and we were back at the Colonial Club for four days' respite and a game against Northern Queensland. The white-water rafting, followed by the trip up to Port Douglas on the Captain Cook Highway was excellent and our venture on the catamaran to the Barrier Reef must be one of the highlights of anyone's life, never mind tour. It was mesmerising to see the hundreds of fish and the colour of the coral, its shapes and movements. It was as if we were in a dream world.

After Ayers Rock and Alice Springs, we came off the plane in Perth to be greeted by a banner: 'QEGS' in black and gold, as Mr & Mrs Bridges were there to meet us. Perth is a beautiful city but remote – the nearest city is Jakarta in Indonesia – as it is surrounded by bush and desert. The 2nd XV had an excellent win against a combined 1st XV of Guildford Grammar School and Hale Grammar School and the 1st XV were too strong for Western Australia schools. In Brisbane we saw and fed kangaroos and koalas in a sanctuary but in Perth the boys had them in the back garden.

The next move was an 11½ hour flight across ocean to Johannesburg and South Africa. On the long flights the party generally sat in a block and often went through three meals and three or four films. We had some fun with the flight attendants and all were surprised at the boys' good behaviour, unlike most rugby teams, they said.



QEGS victorious against Pretoria H.S., South Africa

We didn't know what to expect from South Africa, never having been there before, but we were not disappointed.

On our early evening arrival in Jo'burg we knew straight away that we were in a different culture. After a five-hour journey northwards, up to the border of Mozambique almost, we made our first stop. Our late check-in at the Hazy View Hotel in pitch darkness left us wondering where we were. The morning revealed a stunning landscape of banana plantations and distant volcanoes. It was beautiful and we were a little taken aback. Soon were playing Nelspruit High School, a very strong Afrikaaner school. It was 25°C and we were a little jet-lagged to say the least, but after touring and playing around the world no-one was going to beat us now. Two very good victories followed what was a super day, followed by excellent hospitality. Like all the teams we had played, Nelspruit had received their fifty Millennium diaries and were quite overwhelmed that we had bothered to send these across 6,000 miles for them. The £1,200 it cost us to send the diaries was well worth it – they were very much appreciated.

The trip from Nelspruit to Pretoria was one of the most memorable of the tour. We travelled the famous route up to 'God's Window' and MicMac Falls in what is truly a glorious part of Africa – rift valleys and volcanoes surrounded by sub-tropical vegetation. We stopped to buy our presents from the African craftsmen and Tom England, already into his third suitcase, could not resist the drums, the masks and the bracelets. He saw it, he bought it!

Once out of the highlands and heading towards Pretoria we saw the townships and the countless hundreds of Africans who walk the roads – everywhere they walk for miles, it seemed. We knew our matches against Pretoria Boys' High School, one of the oldest schools in the country, would be tough, especially at 4000 ft above sea level. The whole school turned out to watch and both games were played at a furious pace. The 2nd XV did everything to stem the tide but it wasn't to be their day. Every player, however, stayed to support the 1st XV in what seemed like an impossible task at 13-0 down after fifteen minutes against such a tough side. Our school team was carrying a few injuries and was slow to start. But they responded magnificently to draw level and then go ahead. It was a game of quality that swung from end to end. When the referee blew, it was 26-24 to us and it was as if we had won the Tri-Nation Series and more. We were ecstatic – the first

English school ever to have won there. The South Africans were truly shocked and it wasn't until late into the night that they mellowed. It was a great day to belong to QEGS.

We left Pretoria shattered but heads high for our last three days at Sun City. It was time for a holiday, to heal the cuts and bruises and see the wildlife of Africa. Our night drive took place the evening after our game against Nelspruit and it was a memorable experience in the Kruger National Park to see the giraffe, the elephant and the pride of lions that met us on the road. In Sun City we also became involved in the World's Strongest Man Competition – watch out for us just after Boxing Day on BBC1! Sun City was a fabulous way to end the trip: it had everything for a great stay as we did every watersport possible around the lake.

The last night Final Dinner in Sun City saw boys, staff and parents celebrate a fabulous tour with an African Banquet. It was a night to remember – speeches, presents and lots of emotion.



Last Night Dinner, Sun City, South Africa

The Millennium World Tour was probably the biggest school rugby tour ever undertaken. It was very successful from a playing point of view and had an excellent, supportive group of parents as supporters who were all great tourists. Most of all it had a group of players who by their behaviour both on and off the field made all the hard work and effort worthwhile. The players were a credit to their school and families.

My thanks go to them and also to Terry Spencer for the first leg in Canada and to Trevor Barker and Mike Halls for all their help throughout a truly memorable trip.

JPC

First XV

Another season, another squad, another challenge! With no pre-season tour, the Blackpool training camp was all the more important. Boys go away in July with the best intention of getting fit for rugby but very few achieve it.

Our first game – away at Oundle – was always going to be hard. They had just come back from a tour to the Pacific and were fit but I was pleasantly surprised and encouraged by our performance in a game we could and should have won.



First XV at Twickenham

Oundle scored in the fifth minute of injury time to win the game. We competed well up front and showed promise in the backs, the try of the match coming from Tom Bradley.

A determined team journeyed to the other end of the country, in what was a big away season for us, to play a strong RGS Newcastle team. This was a frustrating game where we were ahead in the first half and looked in control, only to see the game slip away. The RGS backs were just a little quick for us and it highlighted a problem in midfield which would cost us dearly later on in the season.

Two played and two defeats was not a usual QEGS First XV story and a full week of hard work saw the team travel to King's Macclesfield for our third away game on the trot. In what was an excellent performance, the team dominated the game and came out 27-7 winners.

Three victories followed against Lancaster (14-6), Leeds (22-15) and Mount St Mary's (14-5). The first two performances were poor but we were winning and finding our pattern of play. The game against Mount was a little unsavoury both on and off the field and new boy Ed Barratt scored his first try for the School to secure a good win.

Directly after half-term we lost the next two games, by one point (12-13) at Yarm, in a match that we should have won, and 12-24 to Sedbergh in what was an outstanding game of rugby. The game against Sedbergh was a classic end-to-end encounter: we took a well-deserved lead and then Sedbergh fought back to win by two scores. The game was much closer than that, with their backs a little too quick for ours but our forwards winning the battle.

The last two games of the term saw the School beat Loughborough 54-17 and an injury-hit team sneak a last-second win against Bristol (15-14), thanks to an Oliver Bailey

try. After the Christmas break, only two games in the normal fixture list were possible and both resulted in victories. Nottingham High School were well beaten by 37-0 and Arnold were also beaten 54-7.

The season had been successful and there was no doubt that we got better and better as we increased our fitness and developed our unit work. Robert Vickers was an outstanding captain both on and off the field; he adapted to hooker and prop from the back row, played for Yorkshire and should have played for the North. Robert became a very strong player and gained respect from all who saw him train. Danny Smith, our vice-captain, also improved and got his county cap; he always trained well and held the backs together.

We had a lot of pace and strength on the wings - both Matthew Callaghan and Tom Bradley played deservedly for Yorkshire and both scored some memorable tries. At full-back Oliver Bailey always took the opposition on and always with great success. I do not remember him kicking once in the season. Ed Barratt, a forward before he came to QEGS, adapted well to the No. 13 shirt and was one of our top defenders - he is a great acquisition to the School.

Simon Kelly, when he received quick ball, showed what a good ball player he is and deservedly kept the role of playmaker. Simon's partner at half-back eventually was Gordon Fearn, another very talented ball player. Gordon did well and with improvements in his delivery could become a dominant force next year.

The QEGS pack was once again an outstanding unit - Matt Derbyshire, Richard Padley and Alisdair Felstead were the cornerstone. Matt got better as he got fitter, Richard was the best hooker in the county and unfortunately broke his ankle playing for Yorkshire against Leinster. Richard recovered to

have an excellent second half of the season. Alisdair Felstead was outstanding all season both in his attitude to training and in his role at tight head prop - he is certainly one to watch for the future. I certainly will never try and sell him a dummy again! The powerhouse second row players were Robert Cooke and Iain Marlow. Both secured good ball and showed up well as the games got harder.

We had an excellent back row yet again this season. Ben Woods and David Hallwood both played for Yorkshire and were good enough to go further - Ben at No.6 had the power and the pace to break any defence - he scored some amazing tries and will go far in years to come. David could play in most positions and his tireless work ethic and excellent hands made him a key player for us. Greg Cadman rose from 'super sub' to make the No. 8 position his own and was excellent going forward. Greg was another very good footballer who could play in a number of positions.

A number of other players were regular squad members and deserve mention: Javed Dar, an improving winger who will do well next year, as will Sunil Nursiah in the second row. Justin Hughes also got stronger and better as the season developed. Perhaps the most unfortunate player not to be considered first choice was Tristan Bennett. Tristan started the season at full back and has obvious talent and natural ability - he will become a key player next year.

My thanks as always go to Trevor Barker for the big input into First XV rugby and QEGS rugby in general. It is also important to mention Glen Howitt, our Head Groundsman, and his team for all their excellent work and also Janine for the way she so calmly deals with over 100 teas every week.

JPC

The Daily Mail Cup 1999 - 2000

No one knows perhaps more than I the commitment that First XV players put into their rugby. The five days a week training and match day preparation almost make it a job in itself, so to do well on the Daily Mail Cup is a record and to get to the final again - the last in the 20th century was a monumental achievement.

It took me at least a month however to get over losing our third final in five years against Colston's - for me the thrill and the great achievement in reaching the final, which I am sure is acknowledged nationally, could not take away the pain of a third defeat. The squad had some magnificent wins on the road to the final - many games were like mini-cup finals themselves, and all the squad can take immense credit for the way they scored some brilliant tries but perhaps more so for the way we defended. It was a shame therefore that we just didn't fire on all cylinders at Twickenham against what was a virtually unbeatable team. It seemed that having climbed all the mountains in the Himalayas we were denied the chance of getting to the top of Everest. The new laws had restricted Colston's to just six scholarship players but no normal school side can ever hope to beat them on the big stage. It was as if

half of you knows you can't win but the other half is always telling the boys you can and will.

The journey to the final was a thrilling ride and started with a great win at Stockport Grammar School by 36-3. We then went back to Manchester Grammar School to play a repeat of last year's fixture. It was the same result - a 19-13 win - and the same unpleasant atmosphere, full of intimidation, resulting in a bad advert for schools' rugby.

It was after Christmas however that we started to play at our best, beating Yarm away 15-10, and Rossall at home 60-0, which secured a quarter final against Oakham away. The game against Oakham was an epic tale of defending and then taking our chance to win, which we did by 15-8. The rugby was excellent and it was a proud coach that journeyed home to Wakefield - we had seen that the team had character.

The semi-final against St Peter's, Gloucester was QEGS' eighth semi-final in seven years at both age groups - no other school has achieved this. The result was 25-7 and it would appear to have been an easy victory, but nothing could be further from the truth. St Peter's battled hard and dominated much of the play - it was only in the second half when we had taken much of their sting that we pulled clear and deservedly reached the final again.

The build-up to the final as always is an exciting time - full of expectancy - with increased training and media coverage and I had to organise the travelling army of supporters some 800 bodies - as many went by car as went by coach. We must give a big thank-you to everyone who supported the team: the support and noise made was fantastic.

The game itself goes very quickly and it was good advice from Dean Richards and Neil Back, whom we saw on our way down to Twickenham at Leicester. They said to enjoy the day and take it all in as it will go quickly - and it did. Colston's were very strong and as I expected were too quick in the centres and at half-back for us. Their fly-half Oliver Barclay was a class player (England U18) and was taking two of our players out in every attack - he created so much space for the Colston's centres. I felt our pack played well and gave a good account but it was not to be. It was a disappointed team that came back into the dressing room. It took at least 10 minutes to get a smile out of someone. It was 'Calla's' wit that did it when he said at the top of his voice: " 'Hughsie', it was all your fault we lost!" Justin had only been on for two minutes.

I hate losing but at least yet again we were 'invited to the wedding' and played on the hallowed turf. The name of QEGS went around the rugby world once more and our young U10s, U11s and U12s who watched have seen the standards that this excellent QEGS First XV have set. It is now up to them to go that one step further.

JPC

PS A big thank-you to our Twickenham sponsors Paul Blackhurst for the excellent tracksuits and Stewart Vickers for our match shirts.

St Joseph's Festival

We always look forward to the Ipswich weekend – the rugby is excellent and there is the chance to meet old friends but more importantly the chance to get the team together and see how we compare with the best – of which we are one!

The straight wins against Abingdon, Pangbourne and Campion saw us top of our group and sent us back to the hotel feeling more than optimistic. We had achieved our objective for the tournament – Sunday was a bonus. Our first game in the 'group of death' saw us lose narrowly 12-6 to Sedbergh. It was close but they had more pace than us. The second game against Millfield saw us play well and we were winning 7-0 when the referee gave them a try in the last second and then said that it had been converted – everyone knew it had missed. We had to beat Colston's in the final game and hope the other games and results went our way – it was a tall order but we did it by 9-7. It was a great win – our third against Colston's at Ipswich - and had the whole crowd cheering us. It cheered us all up because the results went against us and Colston's still went through and on to win it.

Many thanks to Dominic Ford who helped out that weekend – it was much appreciated by all.

JPC

Second XV

The season always starts with a very difficult match against Oundle, who seem to get into their stride weeks before we have pulled on our boots. This year was no different. On a beautiful Autumn day at Oundle, we were caught napping in the first half as the opposition built up a healthy 33-3 lead. However, after the half-time breather we were delighted to at last get into the game and played some good rugby to draw the second-half 7-7. Although this would be recorded as a fairly heavy defeat at 10-40, there had been many encouraging signs to work on.

From that point the squad, which was a fairly large one, showed a lot of enthusiasm and had some notable successes during the course of the season. It is not easy to find the right rhythm at Second XV level, with regular changes in personnel and spasmodic training, but all the squad kept up high spirits and enjoyed themselves, which is really important when sometimes they think the odds are stacked against them.

A well-deserved victory at King's, Macclesfield, steered through by some outstanding goal-kicking by Tom Rigby, saw the start of an unbeaten run of matches which lasted into mid-November. This included a tremendous win over a strong team from RGS Lancaster and a first half in particular at Mount St Mary's which produced some of the finest Second XV rugby I have seen.

Unfortunately, fortunes changed and a run of four defeats was to follow, one of which was against a very powerful Sedbergh team who looked invincible but who had actually lost to the RGS Lancaster Second XV that we had defeated earlier in the term – one of the things about sport which makes it so fascinating.

The Millennium brought new hope and the forthcoming tour renewed enthusiasm. Two excellent wins against Nottingham

HS and a strong Arnold team raised spirits enormously but sadly the season ended with a very disappointing defeat in a bad-tempered game at Hymer's – one on which we had a stranglehold and let drift away.

All the boys have been good-natured and made the best of things this season. I am very grateful to the senior boys in the squad who have done all my chasing around and making sure that we have always had a good turn-out on Saturdays. Particular thanks must go to Nick Alexander, the team Captain, who has been my eyes and ears and remained in good spirits throughout, no matter what I have asked of him. Thanks also to the large group of supporting parents whose devotion to the squad has never wavered.

Record: Played 13 Won 6 Lost 7

The Second XV this year has been well-served by the following squad:

Nick Alexander (Captain), David Archer, Jonathan Balcum, Marcus Blacker, Charles Bridges, Carl Butterfield, Javed Dar, Fraser Dunphy, Thomas England, Robert Eyre, Gordon Fearn, Stephen Howell, Justin Hughes, James Lawlor, Russell Moran, Sunil Nursiah, Andrew Parkinson, Richard Parrish, John Preston, Tom Rigby, Richard Shawcross, Matthew Shotton, Hiran Silva, John Sussens, Chris Whitworth, Peter Worth, Lawal Zubairu

MJH

Under 16 XV

They did the School proud! Willing to learn and to work hard, the Under 16s gave all they could in each and every game. There was not so much raw talent as in previous teams but they more than made up for that with spirit. They came to with a reputation for not getting on as a team – too many factions, not good at pulling together when losing – but they conquered that, and in spades. There was excellent leadership, a powerful pack, a lively and quick three-quarter line with a real cutting edge and reliable and honest players in reserve. All in all it was a team to restore this coach's faith in the willingness of lads of this age not to let the adolescent traumas of Year 11 on and off the pitch get in the way of their progress as rugby players. They were accompanied by a fine set of parents, who gave me every support and encouragement, organised a most enjoyable U16 dinner, and always outnumbered any opposition parents, no matter where we played.

The players: Danny Mellor: captain, scrum-half, brave, fine pass, good break, demanding leader, the really essential player in the team. Alex Lee: vice-captain, Yorkshire A, No.8, dedicated, powerful, will make a lot more progress yet. Tom Van Hille: Player of the Season, sharp and brave centre, over 20 tries in 11 games, the focus of all our best attacks. Paul Sykes: prop, Most Improved Player, came from being reserve to first-choice. Chris Wood: Yorkshire A, fine prop when on his game, real potential which real fitness should realise. Chris Lawlor: hooker, awesome potential if he gets fit – he has all the qualities needed otherwise to be a top player. James Turner: lock, line-out jumper and very good at it, big tackle, thoughtful player, close to MIP, as was John Leatham: lock, another player to really come through, brave and always fully-committed. Luke Wilson: essential

player, biggest tackle in the team, super fit, great potential. Nick Padgett: flanker, fit, everywhere on the pitch, utterly reliable in all he did. Ed Harrowsmith: fly-half, talented in all areas, runs a game well, always focused. Martin Clarke: centre, good tackle, sharp off a standing start, would never let you down. Paul Jones: full back, a successful conversion from centre – best one-on-one tackler in the team, always willing to learn and improve, saved a number of scores. Wingers Terry Craven, John Ogden, Kristan Caryl: all very similar, not big, but sharp and determined in all they did. Martin Allison: did not have an easy season but stuck at it. Andy Ford: super-sub, what all teams need – someone who'll give his all in any suitable position whenever asked. Thanks also to Adam Rigby and Jordan Anderson, who were always available if needed. Best performance of the season – against Loughborough – and we didn't win. But winning's not everything. I was proud to be associated with these players – they did themselves and QEGS proud.

MCP

Under 15 XV

It was another successful season for the Under 15 rugby team, who achieved a playing record of Played 18, Won 12, Lost 6.

Having said that, it was one of the most difficult seasons in a while. In a season of injuries and expulsions, it was difficult ever to pick a full strength side and full credit must go to the core of the squad for making it so successful.

The squad returned to School in September reasonably fit but, as usual, without having done the amount of work suggested! The first fixture saw a trip to Oundle, Northamptonshire – always a difficult place to travel to. The result in these matches tends to go with the home side and this was again the case. We showed a lot of spirit but let our heads go down for ten minutes in the second half and lost fairly comfortably. Good victories followed over RGS Newcastle, King's Macclesfield and Birkdale but it was still not easy to select a settled side. We picked up quite a few injuries and we were not yet certain of the best position for some of the players. A tough trip to Lancaster resulted in our second loss but we returned to defeat Leeds GS 76-0 in one of our best performances of the season. We then went to Mount St Mary's with a very much weakened side but came through with a good victory. A lot of the 'stars' from the squad were missing from this game and some of the players who were not regular starters certainly 'stood up to be counted', which proved to be important for the rest of the season.

Next followed our Yorkshire Cup match at Bradford GS. We realised that Bradford had a strong side this year but we went there confident after our recent performances. After having a try disallowed, we went down 12-7. It was a good performance, though. Bradford scored two tries from our mistakes and survived great pressure towards the end. All agreed a draw would have been a fair result. Another defeat followed after the long journey to Sedbergh but good victories over Loughborough (away) and Stockport brought us to our annual fixture against Bristol GS. Bristol arrived with an excellent reputation and a side they believed could win the National Cup.

On a wet December morning, the two sides fought out an epic in the mud. Both teams showed tremendous commitment, playing rugby of a higher standard than the conditions should have allowed. Bristol won 10-7 in a game that could have gone either way; parents from both teams commenting on what a fantastic game it had been; definitely one to remember. It was now the break for Christmas but with Daily Mail Cup games to follow, after we beat Cowley HS in the first round, we came in early after New Year for extra training.

The first match back saw a long journey to Newcastle for the second round of the Daily Mail Cup against Dame Allan's. After losing players through both injury and expulsion we drafted in Robert Bennett and James Smith from the year below to strengthen the side in key positions. A very good victory was recorded, with these two playing a great part in it on a rather muddy pitch in front of a large, vociferous crowd. Victory over Nottingham HS (away) followed – never an easy place to go and win – leading up to the Daily Mail Cup games against Manchester GS. Manchester were one of the favourites for the competition in some people's eyes. Our boys were certainly ready but started very nervously and were 14-0 down after five minutes. Throughout the other 55 minutes we were generally on top, scoring a good try, but Manchester defended very well. They eventually won 20-7 but the team produced an excellent performance and could hold their heads high at the end. The season itself finished with victory away at Arnold School in a close-fought game.

The season was finished off with a five-day tour to Italy, based in Rome. It was a fantastic experience for staff and boys alike. We didn't really know what to expect when we got there and games had been organised against regional sides rather than club sides because of their unknown strength. As it happens, youth rugby in Italy is very well organised with some good coaching and lots of talent. We ended up on the end of two defeats from much bigger and stronger (and older!) teams but again the boys showed a lot of character and ability in defeat. The tours of Rome by bus were an experience (making one bus ticket last five days!) and the boys definitely made themselves known at the Italy v England international – certainly something to remember.

So the season finished successfully. It could have been better but, with a lot of disruption and not too much good luck, the efforts of the boys cannot be faulted at all.

Eight boys represented Wakefield and District this year: Neil Fishwick, Adrian Thomson, Greg Stanton, Oliver Wright, David Lloyd, Peter Sharp, Richard Scott and Steven Blackhurst. The most improved player award went to Richard Scott, with Steven Blackhurst winning the most outstanding player award.

Other boys making up the squad were: James Bluemink, Jonathan Swanston, Matthew Morton, Ian Hamilton, Tom Palmer, Edward Farmer, Jonathan Habe, Gareth Johnson, Richard Birtwistle, Hiten Patel, Andrew Thrower, Neil Parkinson, Hugh English, Chris Smith, Chris Walker and Jonathon Hopkinson.

GP

Under 14 XV

As another season dawned, the coaches were ready to work with a fine group of lads; and hopefully have an enjoyable and successful season. There was the Yorkshire Cup to be recaptured and a tour to France to look forward to.

Indeed, the season began very respectably with a couple of good home victories and the boys began to grow in confidence. The 'B' team lost narrowly to Birkdale in a cracking game and all squad members were developing an appetite for playing. The first of several long away trips, to RGS Lancaster, brought us all back down to earth with a bump. Although they fought hard on the day, the players never found their best form and Mr F's 'on the top of a hill, in the pouring rain, miles from home' speech had us all pledging that next time would be different. Next time was very much the same, however, as Leeds came and beat us at QEGS on Information Morning, and once more a brave effort was for nought as we struggled to find our rhythm. Another couple of straightforward home victories followed and then came the tortuous trip to Sedbergh. I have rarely seen a QEGS team fight so bravely and yet get so little out of a match as that day. Sedbergh were magnificent. That the 'B' team won a very creditable victory on the other pitch did little to lift the 'A' players' spirits and the mood in the team was getting a little gloomy. It was gloomier still when, the following week, we lost to Loughborough (another long trip!) despite showing up well for long periods of the match. It seemed we had a team 'which didn't travel well' to quote one spectator! A well-fought home victory against Stockport saw us leave for Bristol with faith somewhat restored and hope in our hearts. You can guess what happened whether you were there or not! To be fair, Bristol have a very good side and, as at Sedbergh, there really wasn't much more our lads could have done – they gave it everything on the day.

Yet, when we re-grouped in the new Millennium, the players seemed to have an even greater determination than ever before and played some great rugby in defeating Nottingham and Arnold (both away – hooray!), and Hymer's at home. This was notable for another reason: a large fellow with no hair wielding the whistle for the first and only time in his life! The 'B' team finished the fixture card in fine style with a convincing victory over Outwood.

Sedbergh and Bristol aren't in Yorkshire so we were looking forward to mounting a realistic assault on the Cup; but first would come the tour. The old maxim requires that 'what goes on tour stays on tour' but suffice it to say that a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all. Playing against 'psycho girls' and adapting to 12-a-side "minime" laws, while living in a French household, were just some of the experiences which broadened the boys' experience of the game. The Club at Savigny made us feel very welcome and we look forward to reciprocating their wonderful hospitality next year.

Preparations were going well for the Yorkshire Cup tournament, which was to be held at QEGS. No travelling – Yippee! The team had been learning and growing all year, particularly since January and we were confident of a good showing. Unfortunately the first game was the final. We lost 0-5 to Bradford in the opening group game and one of the best two teams in the competition was out of it. Bradford went on to win the final easily, despite Leeds running them close in the other group game. The U14s have never been a team that makes excuses, but they have been unlucky on occasions.

This year's squad had much to commend it. James Smith is potentially one of the best flankers QEGS has produced. He led by example with fearless and ferocious tackling in defence and breathtaking speed and power in attack and was the clear choice for Most Outstanding Player. Jonathan Blacker was ever present at no 6, where his willingness to "get stuck in" and find the ball inspired all. Robert Lund is a powerful and creative No 8, while Thomas Mieszkowski is developing into a fearsome prop forward. His absence through illness from the cup match against Bradford was certainly a factor in the result. The other props were Sam Broderick and Nick Watkins. Both possess enormous strength and physical presence, being difficult to stop with the ball in hand. Rajiv Shah, though slight of build, is big of heart and showed up well in the loose at hooker. Robert Howes and Simon Brambles also played here later in the season to good effect and Piyush Mahapatra showed promise in the 'B' team before he left at Christmas. In the second row, Mark Bennett discovered that he was developing a taste for the contact side of the game and he ended the season as Most Improved Player. Paul Allison is a safe pair of hands in the line-out and a strong runner going forward. Alex Coombes deputised in the second and back rows, while Oliver Busfield, James Umbers, Thomas Burkill and Adam Crawshaw were worthy squad members. This pack has worked hard in training and is well on the way to becoming a formidable unit.

In the backs it was all change. We tried lots of combinations, some more successful than others(!), and while we still may not have got it completely right, the players certainly have a greater awareness of their own strengths and weaknesses. Joe 'le' Battye started the year in the second row but spent most of it in the centres, where he proved powerful and effective. Robert Bennett is an excellent decision-maker and was always influential at fly-half, until we moved him to inside-centre to try and involve the irrepressible Nicky Darnton more. Both players seemed to flourish in the latter half of the season, enjoying an almost telepathic understanding in midfield. Ryan Hale suffered more than most with all the changing around but he has the potential to regain a place in the centre in future years. Duncan Moran is an excellent scrum-half, who has learned the value of communicating with his pack and having the cheek to nip through on his own to score the odd try. Neil Tempest is also developing in this position, having shown up very well on the tour, while 'Steady Eddie' Kaye also played here. Chris Kirk and Kieron Gregson offered blistering pace on the wings, and no mean number of tries. Bankole 'Banks' Zubairu was a safe pair of hands at full-back and Official 'Man-of-the-Tour'. Mark Rigby, Kyle Hopkin, Andrew Douglas, Tom Smith and Ian Short all played their part in the back line when needed.

Our thanks must go to a dedicated band of parental followers who cheer faithfully from the touchline every weekend, to Mr Parsons for refereeing and Mr Ford for helping out with fixtures.

A nicer group of lads you could hardly wish to meet. Perhaps on occasion they are too nice and some players might need to find a 'harder edge' when the chips are really down. These boys really enjoy their rugby and there is an enormous amount of potential in the team. We wish them all the best in the Daily Mail Cup next season.

DTB, MF

Under 13 XV

The Under 13s enjoyed a very successful season due to their clear love of the game, which manifested itself in an enthusiastic participation in training sessions. On many occasions the boys were genuinely sorry to have to finish a keenly contested game on Wednesdays and Fridays. Whilst there are obvious stars in the side, many positions were hotly contended for and there was little to choose between a large number of players. This strength in depth was to prove an advantage, as was the fact that the squad succumbed to few injury problems, despite in many cases playing rugby twice a week. In my opinion, the second weekend game helped the boys in technique and fitness.

The team opened the campaign at home to Newcastle RGS and never looked like losing, in spite of some determined defence by the opposition. Our ability to retain possession through three or four phases eventually told and we won by 20-7. It quickly became apparent that Daniel Wood's (DJ) tactical nous and James Henry's ability to drive the ball forward were going to prove very effective. Easy wins were achieved over Macclesfield and Birkdale with Sam Shutt-Vine and Ayad Hassoon beginning to make their presence felt.

Against RGS we should have won by 30 points, but our anxieties and dissatisfaction were registered by the boys, who didn't perform well, and it was only through individual tries by Anthony Clarke and James Henry that we won 19-17. I believe that we were all a little wiser after the game and didn't get quite so fraught when all was not quite plain sailing.

Leeds is always a difficult fixture, but the team tackled superbly with Andrew Sykes and Ross Fennell to the fore. Joe Wigglesworth was everywhere and some encouraging runs were made by James Lewis. Chris Sykes scored a nice try under the posts.

We were eventually beaten and well beaten at St Olave's. They were quicker in thought and deed, but it has to be said we defended poorly. The inclusion of Paul Edwards and Ayad Hassoon in the second half bolstered our defence and it was evident that they were here to stay. Comfortable wins against Yarm, Loughborough and Stockport left us with Bristol Grammar School away, on a very cold and wet Saturday in December. For me, this was the highlight of the season. In appalling conditions the forwards drove the ball on time and time again. Simon Greenwood-Haigh had been encouraged to run off DJ and he did this mightily well. Lloyd Firth played a skipper's game and was always in support to maintain the momentum. At the end of the first half the team scored the try of the season, when after ten or so phases of play, with the forwards making the 'hard yards', Sam Shutt-Vine finished off the move by scoring in the corner. We won by 17-0, but it could have been a lot more. Our remaining matches against King's Pontefract, Nottingham HS, Arnold School Blackpool and Hymer's were all wins. Mitchell Rhodes had refound his aggressive running, as had Andrew Rennison. David Lovegrove was starting to score tries from prop and Joe Skelley was back, as was the vastly improved Chris Robinson. Rob Stewart was as determined and consistent as ever and Andrew Mason didn't have to be hounded to produce his runs at the opposition fly-half.

The team also enjoyed a tour to France, where we were hosted by Savigny, to the south of Paris. The matches were incidental – wins of course, but the experience benefited both staff and boys.

I was perhaps foolhardy to suggest that this team could be the next to represent the school at Twickenham. However, if this side can maintain its positive outlook and its relish for the game, and if one or two individuals can remain focused, and one or two can keep their weight down (they all know who they are!), then I shall book my ticket for 2002.

The B team also enjoyed matches against Outwood and St Olave's and it is welcome news to learn that we shall have more B fixtures next season.

The Squad:

John Boucher, Anthony Clarke, Paul Edwards, Edward English, Ross Fennell, Lloyd Firth (capt.) Simon Frewin, Simon Greenwood-Haigh, Ayad Hassoon, James Henry, Alexander Jack, Chris Kurwie, James Lewis, David Lovegrove, Andrew Mason, Matthew Ogg, Umesh Patel, Andrew Reakes, Andrew Rennison, Mitchell Rhodes, Chris Robinson, Kapil Samra, Sam Satari, Sam Shutt-Vine, Joe Skelley, Oliver Smith, Rob Stewart, Andrew Sykes, Chris Sykes, Ben Townend, Daniel Wood, Daniel J Wood, Joe Wigglesworth.

THG, AJB

Under 12 XV

I was delighted to meet the new squad fresh and keen in September. It is this time of year when I realise why I am in teaching and why I eventually chose QEGS as my base. The satisfaction I get from working with this group is something I never take for granted. Whilst we work hard, training three times a week, their enthusiasm and appetite for the game never diminishes. At times, I do have to take a step back as I may demand too much of them, particularly when I spend a lot of time working with older players, but as I always try to reassure them I, and my colleagues, only want the best for them and their future development.

There were, and still are, one or two personality clashes but these need to be forgotten, both for the good of the team and themselves as individuals. Generally, the group has made an effort to mould into a significant strong unit. Typically, the U12 squad grew and developed all through the season but it was clear from the first few weeks that I had more of a challenge this year. It is normally the case that a strong and large group of players come up from the Junior School and initially I have to find new players to break the mould.

There were some able players but the squad needed a fresh input of talent to enable the team and these good players to flourish. Fortunately this happened with an influx of boys from the new intake and therefore initial worries and concerns were soon forgotten and I was again 'rubbing my hands' at the thought of developing this squad. Whilst there is some



U12's Squad

untapped potential in the 'B' team there seemed to be three clear layers. There were approximately ten or twelve players who would be required to play in most, if not all, the games. A further dozen would compete for the remaining positions and be the mainstay of the 'B' XV who, once again, were very short of fixtures. The remainder of the 40-plus boys were very keen and were coming to terms with the game in the Senior School.

We had been spoilt with the depth of talent the previous season and I found myself struggling to find the right permutation within a nucleus of five or six players and this had some effect on the overall team performance but, I feel, enhanced all the players individually. I often find myself warning the U12s that it may get harder next year but I do feel that there is still a lot to come from this group. They proved that in the seven-a-side at Hymer's College.

As I have previously commented, all the squad improved and developed, inevitably some more than others! There is a strong group who, I am sure, will continue to be the backbone of the team and others will find their place in the team coming under pressure from boys developing in the 'B' squad. Often these boys become the core of the future as they battle for a place now and maintain a strong desire to stay in the team.

Highlights for me through the season, apart from our full-blooded encounters on Friday afternoons, have to be the win against Leeds Grammar School, but also the way we played against a strong and unbeaten St Olave's team; the battling draw versus Loughborough and, I am told, the

game we should have won at Bristol; together with the outstanding performance of the Sevens squad, losing in the final at Hymer's but having beaten – and beaten well – St Olave's in the league.

As I am sure you are aware (and as I said at the dinner) I do not like to single out players but there were some regulars who deserve a mention. The forwards were well led by Philip Boon, with Skip McGee and Daniel Leigh partnering him in the front row and Mark Renshaw and Adam Blacker becoming a strong and successful second-row pair. David Smith started and finished at flanker but could and would have played anywhere. David, together with James Smith, a very committed and determined player, were outstanding in all the positions they played. Alex Nixon, a 'never-say-die' player with the heart of a lion, continued to improve all year. Edward White made an excellent contribution at No.8, assisting the rota of new scrum-halves.

Thomas Pearce showed superb hands wherever he played; having been our first scrum-half, he looked at ease both at fly-half and centre. Matthew Jones became our regular scrum-half with a good pass and darting runs. Kevin Whaley, as the season progressed, made an excellent transition from winger to centre (with a few games in the forwards). Daniel Lyndon maintained his form on the wing with some powerful runs as Bradley Phillip, Daniel Twohig and Jordan Fletcher continued to pressurise these boys for their places. David 'Eddie' Edwards grew in confidence: a strong runner and exceptional tackler.

Other players who made a good contribution to the 'A' team were Michael Saunders, Stuart Dunphy, Thomas Kaye, Daniel Downs, George Moate and Thomas Hillkirk. I am sure I have disappointed some but I hope they recognise, as I do, the contribution of the whole squad to the success of the main side.

I would like to thank my colleagues and in particular Mr Pickersgill, who led the trip to Italy and Mr Parsons for standing in at short notice. Both staff paid tribute to the behaviour and the standard of rugby played by the boys. Mr Spencer, together with Ben Wood, were, once again, a great help and their support does enable me to work with and watch the older boys and particularly our First XV.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the strong body of support. I must particularly thank parents for their support of the 'expensive' tour. In typical fashion, no complaints ... just another overdraft! All in all, another good season and the conveyor belt rolls on!

Squad:

Jordan Fletcher, James Smith, Robert Cousin, Mark Renshaw, Skip McGee, Thomas Mollart, Michael Saunders, Daniel Twohig, Edward White, Thomas Pearce, Thomas Kaye, Adam Parkin, David Edwards, Thomas Hopkinson, James Shaw, Kevin Whaley, Philip Boon, Nicholas Thornton, Adam Blacker, Bradley Phillip, Daniel Lyndon, Thomas Hillkirk, Andrew Gibbons, Daniel Downs, Stuart Dunphy, Benjamin Satari, Alexander Nixon, Daniel Leigh, Matthew Jones, David Smith, Sam Binks

Results:

September 26, Birkdale, Home,	55-0
October 2, Lancaster, Away,	10-0
October 9, Leeds GS, Home,	47-0
November 4, St Olave's, Home,	0-7
November 13, Yarm, Home,	19-7
November 27, Loughborough, Away,	12-12
December 11, Bristol, Away,	0-7
January 15, Nottingham, Home,	12-5
January 22, Arnold, Home,	37-0
January 29, Hymers, Home,	3-19

TB

Under 12s Rugby Tour to Italy

Having safely negotiated our journey to foreign lands we arrived on a scorching Thursday afternoon in Rome to discover that our tour guide was none other than the massive 6ft 8ins Dave Cusani, the former Orrell and England lock. We unpacked our belongings at the classy hotel we were staying at and headed off for the first of many delicious meals which were to come our way. Then we were off to the conveniently placed main railway station in Rome to stock up on sweets, then back to the hotel for some homesickness (not me!) and sleep before our rugby the next day.

Off to victory! However, when we arrived at the venue to play what was essentially a set of warm-up matches for the big tournament on Sunday, we discovered that Italians of our age don't play 15-a-side rugby but 10-a-side and they have non-contested scrums, know none of the rules (like us really) and have clearly all stoked up on the national dish of pasta to excess! We split into A and B teams and won our first ever 10-a-side matches, but then the A team, in a sweltering heat lost to a Roma side by 6 tries to 1 – we were well beaten but lessons were learned. The Under 15s played against the usual assortment of men pretending to be boys that you often meet on tour abroad and performed admirably in defeat.

Saturday arrived and it was England versus Italy at the Olympic Stadium in the Six Nations championship. Of course, England won easily and we felt we were destined to follow in their footsteps the day after.

Up early on Sunday morning. One draw and two wins in our group with not a try scored against us led to our topping the table. In the semi-final we played a team from Westcliffe rugby club in Bristol who had not lost for four years at their age group and won by three tries to nil. So off to the final to face – yes inevitably – the mighty Roma, home country favourites. The Under 15s had returned from another venue where they had again performed creditably and were ready to give us support.

Mr Pickersgill gave us a mighty warm-up - he almost got cross - and off we went. It started to rain in the first half, which made us feel more at home and we started to play like we had never played before. We wanted to show Roma how the English really play rugby. We had nearly all the possession in the first half and, starting the second half full of confidence after Mr Parson's pep talk during the interval, we carried all before us. We won the cup! No team got past our defence to score! You can see it in the Sports Centre trophy cabinet (how do we get it back?) All 21 of us played at some time in the five games (but only 10 at once – I think!) so it really was a team effort.

By Monday it was raining and, battered and bruised, we naturally decided to go to the beach and do some sightseeing and shopping. That night we hit the station again and then back to the hotel to watch some TV. We saw something called the Colosseum too!

It was Tuesday and we flew home. I was happy to see my parents again, yet I had had a great time and I would definitely go again. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

Philip Boon 7WG

Hockey

First & Second XI

The start of the season was buoyed by the news that the School would be sending two teams to Canada in July 2000. This appeared to have added a fresh sense of hope to the squad. Since many of the previous Under 16 hockey players had left School over the summer, the personnel of the senior side had an unchanged look about it. Roland Hilling-Smith took over as captain, ably supported by the enthusiastic Andrew Pell in his vice-captain role. Euan Allison in goal improved greatly as the season went on, finally having an extended run in the team after being a reserve all last season. Matthew Wright, Chris Butterworth and Jack Wolstencroft (drafted in from the Under 15s due to his tremendous potential), all contributed stoutly to the defence, with Paul Irving, Dave Charlesworth, Roland, and Ben Foster (another under-age star) making up the midfield triangular formation (at least that was supposed to be the tactic). The forward line consisted of the ever-willing Andrew Devey and the dribbling skills of Chris Victory, the latter not known for his passing. On the sidelines there were guest appearances for Mandeep Baveja, Imran Aslam, Robert Frodsham, Chris Heyes, Daniel Habe and Andy Ball, all of whom also played a key role in the fledgling 2nd XI team.

We faced a number of the usual fixtures against the likes of Harrogate (won 4-0), Guiseley (won 3-0 and 4-2). Tougher opposition came in the form of games against Yarm and Hall Cross. The Yarm game at Norton Hockey Club was a very close affair with QEGS going down 2-1 after a second half fightback by the opposition. The return fixture saw the team record a creditable draw at College Grove. The Hall Cross fixture had the added spice of being a cup match. In a hard-fought first half QEGS had taken the lead which they held till half-time. However a suspension for Andrew Pell and injuries to key players (in a very physical encounter) saw the team surrender their lead and ultimately make an early exit from the cup competition. Other fixtures saw an under-strength team record a large margin of victory (8-0) against Reed School and the team lose 1-0 to a skilful Spalding side, in what hopefully will be the first of regular fixtures against the South Lincolnshire school.

The 2nd XI had a few fixtures to keep interest going amongst the fringe players. Matches against Pocklington School resulted in a draw at College Grove but the side went badly in a poor second half performance at Pocklington on a very difficult shale pitch. Mandeep enthusiastically led the team, and on a personal level was always keen to improve his skills.

With the summer beckoning there is still Canada to look forward to and for many this will be a swan song to their hockey careers at QEGS.

DAB

Under 16 XI

The Under 16s had a very good season. They have really put QEGS hockey on the map and are now competing with some of the best hockey schools in the country. The season began with good wins away from home against Pocklington, Guiseley and Hall Cross. Then came the first round of the RAF HA Cup against Almondbury Hockey Club on a wet Tuesday night. The team

started slowly, but finished the game 4-1 and so went into the next round with another away fixture at Hull. With problems beyond our control we arrived at the ground late, but were kindly allowed to play a shorter game and managed (just) to leave with a 2-1 win against a strong Hull side. The next game was the first home match of the season and the semi-final of the Yorkshire section against Harrogate on a Sunday morning. A good 2-0 win put us into the final, which was to be played in Harrogate against Bradford Hockey Club. With good support from both parents and staff the side produced some excellent play and became Yorkshire Champions with a 2-1 win. This then qualified the team to participate in the North East final which took place at Beckett's Park. The team played a strong Gateshead club team and lost their first game of the year 3-0. The Gateshead side were so strong that they also managed to win the U14s competition but felt that they could not compete at both age groups. So the QEGS U16s had another chance and would now compete with the last eight in the country in a tournament held in Oxford. We won't talk about the results but the boys played to the best of their abilities and learnt a great deal during the weekend.

The side played many more games as friendlies and over the season lost just one of them, against Guiseley late in the term.

Many of this team will play for the First XI next season and will have another hard season ahead of them but will gain in experience.

From a personal point of view, I have enjoyed working with them over the last two years and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Squad: James Astin (capt), Richard Fyfe, Robert Edwards, Adam Whaley, John Mather, Ben Foster, David Henderson, Kamran Akhtar, Chris Kelly, Mike Tolman, Paul Jones, David Wood, Andrew Irving, Euan Robson, Chris Lee, Jack Wolstencroft, John Lewis, James McTaggart, David Sugden, Jordan Anderson and Daniel Farrar.

DRF

Under 15 XI

At the Hockey Presentation Evening back in May, U15 Captain Chris Lee talked for little more than one minute. While the other team Captains worked hard to convincingly excuse their defeats with the odd witty remark, Chris talked briefly of a ten match fixture list from which came nine victories and just one draw. With this team now undefeated in the last two seasons, what more is there to say?

With opponents from all over Yorkshire, and with the likes of Guiseley, Pocklington and Reed all beaten comfortably at home and away, it was only Doncaster-based Hall Cross that could quench our thirst for a good hard game, and a weary 1-1 draw at home just before Christmas set up a classic return game. If our strongest local rivals thought they could get away with such a result, they were mistaken. As the season reached its climax, QEGS strode confidently into the game and, despite strong local support, Hall Cross collapsed under pressure to a 4-0 defeat.

Analysing and explaining the excellent successes of the U15 team is not a simple task. Our opponents usually had one or two star attacking players who rarely remembered to pass and only occasionally infiltrated a rock-solid QEGS defensive wall of William Robinson, Chris Dodd, Krishanu Baruah and Chris Lee.

Those players who did manage to slip through still had to pass goalkeeper Richard Charlesworth, which is not an easy task – he let in a mere five goals all season. However, a story at the other end of the pitch is somewhat different.

All fierce predators hunt in groups and so, like a pack of hungry wolves, the QEGS midfield went in search of goals. They did not have to stray far. Last season eight different players scored at least one goal, with Jonathan Lewis leading the way. In midfield Chris Wigley and Jamie McTaggart displayed true QEGS spirit with stubborn, no-surrender runs, often resulting in a shot from either Zo Ahmad, Euan Robson or Sam Kiernan. It shows the fine teamwork that existed and shows how effective the team was as a unit. However, there are two players who, Captain apart, locked the team together. Jack Wolstencroft in midfield and Jonathan Lewis on the right wing controlled a majority of the play, and between them master-minded some clever goal-scoring moves. Supported by the rest of the team, both players showed moments of true excellence: Jack's short, quick runs and stick trickery; and Johnny's rapid right wing dashes and lightning quick crosses and shots. Both played for the first team, and Jack just beat Johnny to Most Outstanding Player award.

Towards the end of this season, a few members of the U15 team played with the U16s in a national competition, and an U16/15 team also played and beat Spalding in an invitation match. To end an excellent year, eight U15s were chosen to represent Wakefield in the Millennium Youth Games, and some members of the team then went to Canada on the School tour.

Next year will be even better than the last, and it will also be very important. The team, as U16s, will be in a national competition, and it therefore remains to be seen whether or not we will be undefeated three seasons running! If teamwork and individual skills continue to improve, and more players become more influential, only time will tell!

Christopher Dodd 10DHH

Under 13 XI

After two trials on dark Friday nights on the astroturf at College Grove, the Under 13 squad was selected for the season which as usual began after the Christmas break. The team would play three games and participate in a tournament at Kimbolton School. All the matches would be played against schools with at least one year's experience.

The first game was against Guiseley School. The QEGS team, which was made up of players with just six weeks' experience, still managed to produce an excellent 2-0 win. They came back down to earth the following week when playing a strong Hall Cross team, losing 3-1, before the team went on to take part in the 7-a-side tournament in Cambridgeshire.

We met early Saturday morning and drove in the minibus for 2 hours down to the Fens. On the way back the boys discovered they had learnt a great deal about hockey, but not scored many goals.

The final game was played away from home again with just a short trip down to Spalding and finished the season with a good 3-3 draw against a strong side.

I look forward to seeing this side develop into a useful team in the future.

Squad: Joseph Skelley (capt), Anthony Aleagha, Christopher Swanston, James Glover, Michael Bonito, Robert Drummond, Ben Hamilton, Paul Wimpenny, Christopher Brookes, Sharabh Sinha, James Austerberry, Nicholas Backhouse, Richard Sugden, Ian Wainwright, Christopher Shields, Christopher Robinson, Alex Blucett, Harry Tabner, Greg Aldred, Phillip Porter, Mark Goodhead, Oliver Shea, Matthew Ogg, Stuart Graham, Adam Shute, Vivek Patel.

DRF

Tour to Canada

On Friday 14th July, the tour party met at the unreasonably early time of 4.00am to depart for Toronto via Manchester Airport. After delaying the flight to allow a special courier service to deliver Nimesh Shah's passport (apparently it is an easy mistake to bring your father's passport!) we were airborne and on our way to the land of the maple leaf.

Having survived a mini tornado (thunder, lightning, flash-floods, etc) the boys tried to get some rest before their first hockey matches. The pattern for the whole tour was set after the first games – a narrow defeat for the U18s against high quality opposition (Ontario U21s) and a well-contested draw for the U16s. Both sides performed with great determination in the stifling Canadian heat and, although no wins were recorded on the tour, the boys came back with a wealth of experience – rarely will they have the opportunity to play against such talented opposition, and all agreed that their hockey skills had improved as a result.

The matches apart, the tour was a rip-roaring success. In Toronto the boys enjoyed the company of other English schools taking part in the Millennium Sports Festival – Ben Foster seemed to enjoy it a little too much! There was a variety of cultural visits – the CN Tower ("Hard Core Glass Floor"), the Skydome ("Let's Go Blue Jays") and the Eaton Centre (shopping par excellence) being the main highlights. After a glorious victory in the "Millennium Gala Evening" where QEGS Club 7 excelled, the boys moved on to Montreal, where their French speaking skills were very much in evidence (honest). It was here that the tour party took advantage of the excellent playing surface at Dulwich Park to organise a mini QEGS tournament, where Mr Ford and Mr Rees showed their considerable hockey skills (and their ability to dispute Mr Binney's dubious umpiring decisions). After a brief stay in Ottawa, where the staff finally managed to sample Moosehead beer, it was back to Toronto and a trip to the Niagara Falls; a spectacular experience on the Maid of the Mist ended the tour on a real high.

It was finally farewell to the land of the concrete mooses and big breakfasts and back to good old Blighty for a well-earned rest.

AMR

Cross-Country

As usual, the season began with the Wakefield League. This comprises four races at Outwood Grange, Silcoates, QEGS and Cathedral School. The QEGS runners performed extremely well. In the U13 age group, James Smith finished 1st, with Mark Renshaw and Daniel Leigh finishing 11th and 12th respectively. They were supported by very good performances from Daniel Roper and Adam Wigley.

In the U15 age group, Nicky Darnton finished first, well backed up by Ian Wainwright (8th), Mitchell Rhodes (10th) and Phil Hampshire (12th). There were also strong performances from George Metcalfe, James Sampson, Phillip Porter and Robert Stewart. In the U17s, David Sugden finished joint first after four hard-fought races and Adam Whaley finished fourth, with Hayden Thomas eighth.

All runners should be commended for their performances, especially those finishing in the top 12 in both U13s and U17s, as they qualified to run in the West Yorkshire Trials.

David Sugden once again qualified to represent West Yorkshire in the English Schools' Championship, where he finished an outstanding 22nd (amongst a top-class field of 250) to qualify as an England reserve.

One of the most enjoyable days of the season was the trip to Stonyhurst. Once the senior boys had recovered from the shock of the conditions in which they were expected to run (which were at times blizzard-like) over a 5½ mile course, they performed extremely well. David Sugden ran brilliantly, finishing 2nd, David Coleman finished 22nd, Adam Whaley 29th, Robert Forbes 39th, Adham Ali finished 80th and Jordan Anderson (dragged around by myself and Mr Smith, who kept having to stop to retrieve Jordan's trainers from the mud!) finished 107th out of a top-class field of 150 runners. These performances entitled the School to a well-earned team result of 8th.

The season was finished off with the traditional Northern Schools' Championship at Heaton Park, Manchester. In the glorious sunshine, all runners could be proud of their performances – well done to Ben Satari, Daniel Roper, Adam Wigley, Richard Crowther, Nicky Darnton, Robert Howes, Philip Hampshire, James Sampson, David Sugden, Hayden Thomas, Adam Whaley, David Coleman and Robert Forbes.

All season the boys have trained really hard and improvements are clear to see all round. Special mentions go to Daniel Roper, Joseph Black and Hayden Thomas for their improvement throughout the year.

As usual I should like to thank the Junior School for sending through such talented and enthusiastic runners to the Senior School. Special thanks also to Mr Smith for his help during training and for chauffeuring the team to and from races; and to Mr Rees and Mr Barker for their advice and support; and, last but not least, to team captain David Coleman for his assembly notices throughout the season, which I know he loves.

Cross Country Club:

Year 7

Daniel Roper, Richard Crowther, Thomas Hillkirk, Ben Satari, Mark Renshaw, Daniel Leigh, James Smith, Kevin Whaley, Adam Wigley, Robert Cousin, Skip McGee

Year 8

Robert Stewart, Phillip Porter, Ian Wainwright, Mitchell Rhodes, Lloyd Firth, Oliver Smith, Greg Fowler, John Boucher

Year 9

James Sampson, Joe Black, George Metcalfe, Nicky Darnton, Philip Hampshire, Robert Howes (whom I should like to thank for his enthusiasm, as he is leaving us for America this year – Good Luck!)

Year 11

David Sugden, Adam Whaley, Adham Ali, Hayden Thomas, Jordan Anderson

Year 12

David Coleman (Captain), Robert Forbes, Paul Lockwood

NAL

Cricket

At the annual and very successful Cricket Dinner, I had been quoted as saying that this was a very exciting period for QEGS Cricket. I still believe, with the new Sports Hall nets, a new Gamesfield pavilion and an ever-improving playing surface, that this is true. Even so, there are other problems on the horizon, with increasing exam pressures on staff and boys in the Summer Term and the loss of two cricket staff last Summer.

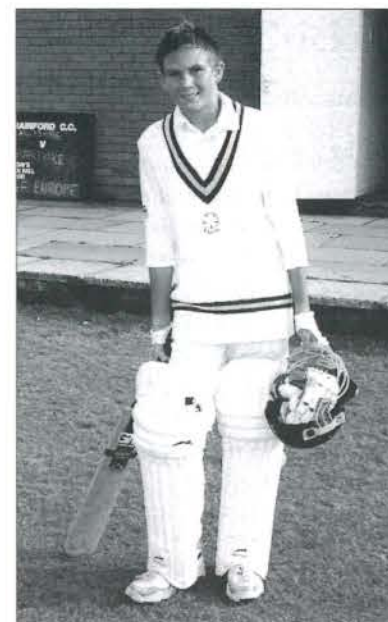
Mr Leslie Kent has done an excellent job with the development of our young talent in the U12s. He began his contact with cricket under the guidance of Mr Ted Fox and thankfully, from our point of view, stepped in when Ted retired. He has certainly developed his role and will be sadly missed in many areas of School and not least cricket. We do hope that Leslie and Mr Lionel Bolton, our other departure, will keep in contact and maybe bring some teams to play us next season. Lionel has a more 'flamboyant' and 'casual' approach to the game but is no less committed to helping provide the boys with the opportunity to play. Both have enjoyed successes with school, Leslie with the Calypso Cup and Lionel this season with the U15s in reaching the National quarter-finals. I would like to wish them both good luck and we hope to see them at our annual dinner in September.

Our season started much earlier with nets beginning in January, even though we were still busy with the winter sports. The First XI soon took shape and for the first time I was confident that we were prepared for the Summer Term. Once again, a wet start saw the loss of our first two fixtures to rain but thankfully the last.

The highlight of the season for me has to be the development of the First XI and the fact that no team was ever better than us but we always seemed to be our own worst enemy with our 10-over 'blips', either with bat or ball. Our captain, Simon Kelly's century in his fifth season against Bradford GS, was certainly special and the team's successful run chase against South Craven (needing 187 off 28 overs) was quite something! I was bitterly disappointed by our narrow defeat in the Bradford 6's semi-final as we were certainly the best team on the day but this time it was a 10-ball blip!

The U12s suffered a narrow 5-run defeat in the quarter-finals of the Calypso Cup and our U13s look to have a very strong squad. In this team, Daniel Wood, who scored a century for the County, looks a complete player. Andrew Rennison also played at County level and is developing into an excellent cricketer. Both these talented young men will play a lot of First XI Cricket in the future.

Tim Harrison has certainly come of age with the bat in the U14s. Having just missed out this year on County selection,



Daniel J Wood after scoring a century for Yorkshire U13's v Lancashire

he has gone on to produce some quality innings. His team are still in the cup and will probably play their County semi-final next term.

The U15s were very unlucky at Macclesfield but this strong squad, together with the able support from the talented juniors, will ensure the continued success of QEGS cricket.

We still have to address one or two problems for next year, not least the staffing of teams, but I am sure QEGS cricket, under the umbrella of Physical Education, will continue to flourish.

Finally, before you move on to more in-depth detail about the season, I would like officially to thank a few people. First, the staff who give a tremendous amount of time to cricket. I am always grateful for their commitment, together with the talented and hard-working ground staff, ably led by Glen Howitt.

Janine has worked tirelessly on our behalf, despite the poor surroundings at the field, to produce quality cricket teas. I am sure she, like all of us, is looking forward to working in the new pavilion.

Lastly, my thanks to the parents and not least the strong body of support for the First XI. I will miss the smiling Rod Kelly and our after-match pint. Together with Adam and Simon, he and Mrs Kelly have been watching First XI cricket for seven years. I'll miss them and perhaps it signals the end of an era – who knows?

TB

First XI

The season started early for the First XI with indoor nets after the Christmas break. The main weather condition in the summer months – rain – meant the eagerly-awaited match against the MCC was cancelled and therefore our first match of the season was against William Hulme GS. QEGS batted first and scored 175-5 with Jordan Anderson (69) and Gordon Fearn (45) sharing most of the runs. In reply William Hulme managed 65 with D Raper being the pick of our bowlers with 2-16 from 7 overs.

Unfortunately, the match against Pocklington had to be postponed and later cancelled due to the weather and examinations. This meant that we had only one game under our belts when we were confronted with the 'grudge' match against Leeds Grammar School. Leeds batted first scoring

154-4 with (Flash) Gordon Fearn, finding his form behind the stumps, aiding in the fall of two wickets. QEGS then got off to a reasonable start with the first 4 batsmen getting 60 runs. Then impressive batting performances under pressure by Oliver Platts (25) and Andrew Pell (20) put us within reach of our target but quick wickets fell and disappointingly for us LGS won.

Ashville were our next opponents. Ashville batted first, scoring 170-4 in 42 overs with Rob Wainwright taking 2-22 from 11 overs. In reply, we managed 139-8 in 38 overs with S Kelly top-scoring with 34. Batley then arrived at QEGS. Our batting got off to a poor start but was rescued by good performances by Andrew Pell (39) and Simon Hooson, who scored an impressive 86 not out as he thought Italian cricket selectors were coming to watch him bat! What made it more impressive was the fact that he could only muster 13 more runs during the rest of the season. In reply Batley got 144-4. Next came Woodhouse Grove with QEGS making 186-9, Simon Kelly showing his true quality with 70 and Tom Bradley scoring a quickfire 47. In reply Woodhouse Grove scored 190-6 with Kelly taking 3-49 from 17.1 overs.



Our first full-day game came towards the end of the season against Bradford Grammar School. Batting first we scored the immense total of 234-9, with Kelly showing signs of his classic batting performances of previous years with 113. In reply BGS made 218-8, Wainwright taking 3-40 from 15 overs and Kelly 4-83 from 19 overs.

QEGS then went to South Craven with what seemed to be a young and under-strength team. South Craven batted first, scoring 186-3, with newcomer James Bluemink taking 2-34 from 7 overs. QEGS knocked the runs off with superb batting performances from the first five: Anderson (37), Bradley (40), Fearn (32), Wainwright (47) and Fowler (18). Two days later we travelled to Lancaster feeling confident after the win over South Craven. After getting off to a good start, with both openers scoring quickly, Fearn, batting third, made an impressive 62 but then a collapse was stopped only by the last man Jonathon Fowler, who scored 22 not out to give us a total of 168 all out. In reply RGS Lancaster scored 171 for the loss of only two wickets.

In our next match, against Hymer's, QEGS made 203-5 with Bradley making 79 not out in under 40 balls. Hymer's replied with 191-4, Robert Edwards taking 2-33.

Bradley's big innings gave us encouragement for the Bradford 6's tournament four days later. We won our group with impressive batting performances from Kelly and reached three-figure totals in two games, which may have made us favourites, but a poor batting performance in the semi-final against Hymer's let us down.

The last home match of the season was a relatively new fixture against King Edward's, Lytham. King Edward's batted first and scored 179-4, Wainwright taking 2-26 and in reply QEGS scored 151-8 to earn a deserved draw.

The season finished on a relatively high note, with youngsters Jonathan Habe, John Barkley and Neil Fishwick showing that they will do well in first team cricket.

Thanks must be given to Mr Trevor Barker, Mr Dominic Ford and Mr Clive Jackson, who together formed a top coaching outfit. Thanks also to the catering and ground staff and to our loyal supporters, who formed their own Western Terrace at QEGS.

Robert Wainwright 12GCA

Results

William Hulme (home)

QEGS 175-5
Anderson 69 Fearn 45
William Hulme 65 all out
Raper 2-16 QEGS won by 110 runs

Leeds GS (away)

Leeds 154-4
Edwards 2-24
QEGS 139 all out
Platts 25 QEGS lost by 6 wickets

Ashville (away)

Ashville 170-4
Wainwright 2-22
QEGS 139-8
Kelly 34 QEGS losing draw

Batley GS (home)

QEGS 185-5
Hooson 86*
Batley 144-4 QEGS winning draw

Woodhouse Grove (home)

QEGS 186-9
Kelly 70 Bradley 47
Woodhouse Grove 190-6
Kelly 3-49 QEGS lost by 4 wickets

Bradford GS (away)

QEGS 234-9
Kelly 113
Bradford 218-8
Kelly 4-83
Wainwright 3-40 QEGS winning draw

South Craven (away)

South Craven 186-4
Bluemink 2-34
QEGS 188-3
Wainwright 47* QEGS won by 7 wickets

Lancaster GS (away)

QEGS 168
Fearn 62
Lancaster 171-2 QEGS lost by 8 wickets

Hymer's (home)

QEGS 203-4
Bradley 79*
Hymer's 101-4
Edwards 2-33 QEGS winning draw

King Edward VII, Lytham (home)

King Edward's 179-4
Wainwright 2-26
QEGS 151-8
Anderson 42 QEGS losing draw

Kimbolton Festival

Kimbolton
QEGS 82
Kimbolton 84-3 QEGS lost by 7 wickets

Monmouth

Monmouth 128
Barkley 3-30
QEGS 131-2
Anderson 69*
Fearn 36* QEGS won by 8 wickets

Averages

Bowling:

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Av
Wainwright	119	28	365	11	33
Kelly	98	13	347	10	35
Moss-Ward	42	8	143	4	36
Fishwick	28	5	78	2	39
Edwards	29	3	95	2	48
Pell	67	5	260	5	52

Batting:

	Total runs	Innings	H.S.	Times not out	Av
Kelly	306	9	113	0	34
Anderson	327	12	69*	1	30
Bradley	229	9	79*	1	29
Fearn	284	12	62	1	26
Pell	172	8	39	0	21.5
Hooson	99	9	86*	4	20
Wainwright	98	10	47*	3	14
Edwards	51	5	19	1	13
Zubairu	23	6	17*	4	11.5

Qualification: 5 or more innings

Kimbolton Cricket Festival

The dawn of the new millennium brought a new school into this annual competition as QEGS joined hosts Kimbolton, Berkhamstead and Monmouth to compete in a four-way round robin tournament. Despite having only just managed to scrape a draw against King Edward VII Lytham on the preceding Saturday, the squad proceeded to Kimbolton with a high degree of optimism. With Simon Kelly, Rob Wainwright and Ed Moss-Ward all in the squad, the journey could not help but include a stop at McDonald's. Although feats such as the eating of a cheeseburger in two bites and a quarter-pounder in three vastly increased the chances of someone being sick, the minibus, under the expert (?) control of Mr Ford, continued on its journey. The squad then settled into the 'White House', one of Kimbolton School's boarding houses.

The opening game was played in the grounds of Kimbolton Castle and was against the hosts. QEGS got off to the worst possible start as wickets tumbled. Only Rob Wainwright and Jonathan Habe offered any real resistance, both scoring 16, as QEGS slumped to a disappointing 82 all out just after lunch. Despite an excellent fielding performance and some tight bowling, particularly from the two spinners, 82 was never going to be a winning total and Kimbolton, with an unbeaten 50 from Tom Huggins, reached their target with seven wickets to spare.

The next day consisted of just 15 overs of cricket as rain washed out the game against Berkhamstead with QEGS 24 for 2 at the close. The day was thus taken up by a game of football in the Kimbolton sports hall and concluded with a formal dinner in the castle. Entertainment was provided by the former West Indies Test batsmen Alvin Kallicharran and a thoroughly good time was enjoyed by all. The day was also memorable for Johnny Habe and Simon Hooson attempting to woo three local girls under the pretence that Johnny's cousin was in the pop band Westlife.

Any doubts in which the final day of cricket had been put by the heavy rain of the previous day were dispelled as the squad awoke to a dry, if overcast day with the sun even managing to shine occasionally. Another excellent fielding performance from QEGS, combined with some good bowling, particularly from John Barkley (3-30) and Ed Moss-Ward (2-38), saw Monmouth restricted to just 126. With Wainwright scoring 9 from 30 overs, laying solid foundations, Gordon Fearn and Jordan Anderson guided QEGS home with 36 not out and 69 not out respectively with eight wickets and eight overs to spare.

Hopes of a four-way tie with each side having won a game and lost one were dismissed as Kimbolton beat Berkhamstead to lift the trophy as winners for the second consecutive year. QEGS thus finished a respectable joint second with Monmouth and the hope is now that we can continue to participate in this festival for years to come with the ultimate aim being to host the competition at some stage.

Edward Moss-Ward 12KJP

Second XI

This has been a difficult year, both in putting together a team and in achieving good results. For that reason I am going to describe one game rather than review the season, not just because it provided our solitary victory, nor even because it was an excellent game, but because it showed school sport at its best; it exemplified why we put so much time and energy into something other than achieving exam results.

The match in question was against Leeds - obviously major rivals, with merit points at stake, and carrying with it for me a memory of last year's fixture in which we played well, had two 50s and a 5-for and still lost. One of those 50s came from Danny Smith, and he was the only survivor in our team from that match.

The great thing about this match was the overall team performance: everyone contributed. Danny Smith made a small score this time, but captained well and took two good catches. The other opener, Andrew Butel, who had batted for an hour and three-quarters the previous week, also made a small score, but did his job in protecting the stroke-makers at three and four. His time came in the field when a Leeds middle-order batsman was slogging them back into contention and he took a steeping catch at long on. The highlight of our innings was a mature 50 from Peter Worth, but when the middle order fell away it took a controlled innings from Edward Moss-Ward to see us over the hundred mark to a score which, if not secure, was at least defensible.

Nick Bucknell took two early wickets and Moss-Ward one; then the balance swung backwards and forwards until a long innings from Leeds' best batsman had put them into a winning position, with eleven runs needed from the last two overs and two wickets in hand. On the last ball of the penultimate over they needed seven to win, and the good batsman pulled the ball wide of mid-wicket for the single that would make the target a very achievable six from the last over with himself on strike. But suddenly Danny Mellor dived to his left and hung on to a splendid catch. The captain brought back David Sugden, who had bowled a very tight line and length, and he took the final wicket with the first ball of the last over to win the match.

That enthusiasm and focus in the field had made the victory possible. In addition to the catches already mentioned, there was a fine diving run-out from Moss-Ward, and, possibly the highlight of the match, a real Jack Russell effort from Peter Worth behind the stumps. He took two catches early on which, though reasonably straightforward, are often missed. But the best was a snick travelling high towards first slip's face. Peter took off to his right, clutched it in his right hand, rolled over and came up with the ball, to complete what is probably the best wicket-keeping catch I have ever seen at schoolboy level.

This was first of all a great game of cricket, with all four results possible at the start of the final over. But it was also about character, determination, and working for one another - team spirit, and the building of those other qualities that make education so much more than just learning facts in lessons.

Results:

May	6	QEGS 147 for 5 dec C. Lawlor 50*, D. Smith 35, A. Butel 33 William Hulme GS 92 for 5 C. Lawlor 2 for 20, E. Harrowsmith 2 for 25	Draw
May	13	QEGS 125 for 9 P. Worth 50, E. Moss-Ward 25* Leeds 119	Won
May	20	QEGS 162 W. Townsend 40, D. Mellor 30 Ashville 163 for 7	Lost
June	17	Woodhouse Grove 173 for 9 QEGS 48	Lost
June	24	QEGS 72 D. Mellor 21 Bradford 73 for 3 D. Sugden 3 for 17	Lost

Squad:

Daniel Smith, David Hallwood, Naresh Kumara, Edward Moss-Ward, Peter Worth, Nicholas Bucknell, Matthew Kidd, Kasun Samarasinghe, William Townsend, Chenthuran Umapathee, Andrew Butel, Daniel Mellor, Christian Lawlor, Euan Smith, David Sugden, Edward Harrowsmith, Thomas Mason.

My thanks to Mr Cholewa for umpiring, and to Mr Barker for his support.

KJP

Under 15 XI

Super smashing great, and not a bendy bully in sight.

The season opened with the now traditional non-appearance of Silcoates but from then on, despite my finest rain-dances to date, not one match was lost due to inclement weather.

In the National Lord's Taverners' Cup the team enjoyed a bye in the first round, swept Lindsey College aside in the second and then faced Bury Grammar School in the third. Apparently this was a side that had not lost a match for three years, and so when we snatched victory from the jaws of defeat they were less than happy (and that is something of a euphemism).

The quarter-finals saw our side travel to Cheshire to play King's School, Macclesfield. In a terrific match that saw the advantage change throughout. QEGS required two wickets to win. In what can only be described as surreal we seemed to claim the desired wickets, only the umpires failed to agree. A pyrrhic victory for King's Mac - but an outstanding set of performances and achievements for QEGS over this two-year campaign.

The side meanwhile remained undefeated throughout the Saturday fixtures, concluding with a resounding victory over King Edward's, Lytham (John Barkley making 107 not out, to add to his previous two 95's). James Bluemink deserves a mention for a mighty six that cleared the trees, road and was only stopped by a pane of glass that ceased to function as windows should.

A special mention must go to Daniel Wood, Tim Harrison and Andrew Rennison for their appearances in the cup matches. Also I

must commend John Barkley, Neil Fishwick and Jonathan Habe for being an integral part of the First XI tournament at Kimbolton School.

Many thanks to Dominic Ford whose friendship, advice and cricketing clichés I greatly appreciate. My elbow is finally free.



The Under 15 squad, who were wholly reliable, talented, positive and entertaining were: John Barkley, Jonathan Habe, Chris Smith, Ryan Greatrick, James Bluemink, Neil Fishwick, Adrian Thomson, Gareth Johnson, Matthew Hawkins, Hugh English, Chris Dodds, Chris Wigley, Euan Robson, Chris Lee, Jonathan Noble, Jonathan Swanston, Zoheb Ahmad, Rob Lockwood, Oliver Bridgewood and William Lau.

LJB

Under 14 XI

As I write this report I cannot comment on the end to the U14 season. Unfortunately – or perhaps fortunately, the season is not yet finished and will not be until the beginning of the Autumn term. The School has reached the semi-final of the Lord's Taverners' competition for the fourth year in succession but, owing to poor weather and a slow beginning in the earlier round, with match deadlines not being adhered to by a number of schools, our semi-final has not yet been played. Still, by the time you read this I hope we will be aware that the School has kept the trophy which it won so convincingly last year. (Incidentally, it turns out that there are five Yorkshire U15s in this year's England Schools squad – good luck to them – but none from the side which were County champions?!)

The U14s this year were a developing side. There was one player of real quality in Tim Harrison. Perhaps too often under-rated because of his unassuming personality, he held the side together. Tim has scored over 400 runs for School this year, averaging almost 70. He is the best batsman yet to come through this age group in my time. His temperament at the crease is remarkable – opening the innings he has carried his bat through five times! He captained the side well, tolerant of their mistakes and readily encouraging when things went well. At selection he was constantly concerned that all got a fair chance. Bankole Zubairu came to us this year and is a player of real potential. He only needs to ally discipline to his considerable talents in both batting and bowling and he will make fast progress. He was the other really class act in the team and the only fielder upon whom you could always rely.

The regular Saturday team was complemented by other sound cricketers who have nearly turned the corner in their determination to reach a good standard. Tom Craik, Rajiv Shah, Tom Burkill, Alex Coombes and Ian Short all have plenty of ability but need, in varying degrees, to work on their technical skills in their particular disciplines to get better. Rajiv is a fine left-arm bowler, Tom Burkill a hard-hitting batsman and Alex an attacking bowler. Tom Craik and Ian bring a maturity and sense of purpose to the team. I know they will continue to practise hard and I have no concerns about the future of the School 1st XI in the hands of these young cricketers.

After these, there were many players with a great deal of pleasant enthusiasm, faultless commitment and constant cheerfulness, who nonetheless have a lot to do technically (many are good at only one aspect and their place in the team suffers accordingly, e.g. they can bowl but can't really field or bat) to really make a mark in this game. They include; Ryan Hale, Chris Eames, Nick Hepworth, James Smith, Robert Lund, David Jackson, Edward Kaye, Andrew Stead, Joe Frost, James Umbers and Robert Howes. But chances are limited in any school team and I would apologise to any who feel they did not get enough of a go – we did try to be fair.

The worst aspect of this team is its constantly poor standard of fielding, its great plus their determination to do better, even when little progress is being made! So far 11 games have been played, with 7 won, 2 drawn and 2 lost. I wish them luck in the future; they were a pleasure to coach this year. Thanks to Andrew Rennison, Richard Sugden and Daniel Wood who have bolstered the side for the Taverners' games.

Thanks also, as always, though nonetheless genuinely meant, to Mr Clive Jackson, coach par excellence, and Master i/c Mr Trevor Barker, always full of support and encouragement.

MCP

Under 13 XI

This has been an exceptional season: only one game was cancelled due to rain. Several threatening Saturday morning skies gave some hope to the weary umpires but blue skies and sunshine regularly dismissed the dark clouds. The season opened with the traditional curtain non-raiser: the Silcoates fixture being cancelled due to what some might call 'rain'. Other schools on our fixture list allowed themselves to be exposed to the awesome firepower of this year's squad, our only defeat being against our ancient adversary Leeds Grammar School.

Our first victims were William Hulme Grammar School, Manchester. QEGS battled first on the rather green and uncertain pitch and after a rather edgy start with a couple of early dismissals it was left to Vivek Patel and his mighty log-like bat to get the scoreboard ticking over. Weaker deliveries were confidently dispatched over the boundary, a gleeful WWG able finally to air his six-run signal in an umpire Shepherd style. At the other end Richard Sugden displayed his familiar cool, calm technique and both batsmen reached their 50 (or so Vivek would have us believe although the score book

reads 48). Having scored 162 for 5, QEGS' bowling restricted the opposition to 33 all out, Andrew Reakes giving a glimpse of the effectiveness of his spin technique in taking three wickets for 13 runs. The result was the first of many victories.

An additional fixture followed as Pindar School requested a friendly as a warm-up to their Calypso Cup national rounds as Yorkshire Champions. (Pindar had beaten Leeds in the 1999 season who had, in turn, ejected QEGS from the competition). Pindar fielded two very strong batsmen but once these wickets had fallen it became apparent that our opponents did not have the necessary strength in depth: the last eight wickets fell for a meagre 24 runs with Sugden and Chris Robinson helping themselves to three wickets each. The 102 total was soon exceeded by QEGS with Andrew Rennison steaming towards a fine 53 not out.

Then came Leeds who exploited some uncharacteristic slackness in the QEGS bowling and fielding to clock up a healthy 137. Our captain, Daniel Wood took some comfort with a hat trick which unfortunately came late in the innings. Wood and Chris Kurwie set off well with a first wicket stand of 45 but the middle and lower order collapsed and with a final score of 107 we were forced to concede defeat.

Our visit to Ashville College put us back into our winning ways. QEGS scored a massive 212 with Andrew Rennison very unlucky to miss out on a century. He carried his bat to a splendid 96 not out, ably supported at the end of the innings by the rapidly developing Chris Brookes (29). The QEGS bowling attack devoured the hapless Ashville batsmen with Wood and Rennison producing some particularly miserly figures of 3 for 6 and 3 for 11 respectively. It was a conclusive victory for QEGS as Ashville ended 44 all out.

We must apologise for our unavoidable delay in arriving for the fixture against Batley – we lay responsibility squarely at the door of Mr Benn's curry (don't ask!) and the AA. In our absence QEGS had set off to a flying start. Wood, Sugden and Rennison had feasted on a weak attack (all retiring 50 not out) so that QEGS finished on a very healthy 228. An easy victory beckoned but Batley's tail wagged fervently and we were unable to dismiss all the Batley batsmen before the overs were used up despite the deployment of a West Indian-style slip cordon.

A week later we encountered Woodhouse Grove and it was disappointing to see that the lesson of Batley had not been learned. A similar result ensued: QEGS turned in a magnificent 213 for 6 with Wood 50 not out, Patel 42 not out and Robinson 42. The bowling was economical, with Woodhouse Grove always on the back foot achieving only 98 runs but preserving their last five wickets.

Bradford provided a much tougher challenge. Batting first they scored 171 all out, Sugden taking 3 for 13 and Samra 3 for 25. QEGS took up the chase with a fine 50 not out from Wood, ably assisted by the rejuvenated Chris Kurwie (35). Briefly under the misapprehension that they had missed the target by 2 runs, you can imagine their delight when the scorebooks were 'adjusted' to remedy a minor oversight on the part of one of the umpires regarding a lost ball. Bradford's amended score was 165 and QEGS had therefore stolen a well-deserved victory.

Our visit to Hymer's was a much more clinical affair. Hymer's unwisely elected to bat and with Samra on top form, exploiting the overcast conditions to produce maximum swing, they were soon regretting their decision. A combination of bowling aggression and accuracy on the part of Samra soon had the opposition innings in disarray reducing them to 13 for 3 in the opening spell. The rest of the bowlers feasted like laughing hyenas on the remaining carcass of the Hymer's innings, whittling them out for a meagre 62. We should have remembered the law of the wild: that an animal is most dangerous when wounded. The opposition bowling attack struck back at QEGS in the first over: Kurwie and Brambly returned to the pavilion without troubling the scorers (diamond and golden respectively). Sugden and Wood steadied the ship and performed the necessary to prevent Hymer's any prolonged suffering and QEGS won by six wickets.

The last match of this eventful season brought King Edward VII School all the way from Lytham for an afternoon of torment. QEGS batted first and it was business as usual as Rennison cruised to a solid 74, ably assisted by Wood and Samra, and after only 35 overs QEGS produced a challenging 157 for 7. King Edward's could only reply with a whimper: the now infamous QEGS slip cordon and wicket keeper Paul Aveyard snaffled up every edge that came their way. Awesome, spitting, high-velocity deliveries from Rennison and Samra had the batsmen thankful for the new ECB helmet directive. Mitchell Rhodes bamboozled his victims to take 3 for 16. King Edward's were lucky to avoid embarrassment, reaching 67 all out.

This season was the first to see a full completion of 'B' team fixtures. They remain the only team in School with a 100% record, beating Leeds, King Edward's and Woodhouse Grove comprehensively. Indeed they racked up a magnificent 212 without loss at Woodhouse Grove, which illustrates the strength in depth at QEGS which other schools simply cannot match. The 'b' team fixtures allowed us to give a large number of boys the opportunity to represent the School and impress with their exemplary enthusiasm, conduct and sportsmanship.

We would like to thank the scorers, Alex Bluett, Matthew Ogg, Peter Horsfall and Robert Drummond, for their essential contributions and not least Mr Clive Jackson once again for his invaluable advice and support.

Results:

	P	W	WD	LD	L
A team	9	6	2	0	1
B team	3	3	0	0	0

A team leading batsmen

	runs	innings	n.o.	av
D.J. Wood	275	9	5	68.75
A. Rennison	316	8	3	63.20
C. Robinson	79	4	1	26.33
R. Sugden	152	8	1	24.50
V. Patel	122	8	2	20.33

A team leading bowlers (5 wickets or more)

	runs	wickets	av
R. Sugden	69	8	8.63
M. Rhodes	26	5	5.20
A. Reakes	46	8	5.75
D. Wood	87	15	5.80
C. Robinson	33	5	6.60
K. Samra	101	15	6.73
A. Rennison	79	8	9.88

Squad:

Nicholas Backhouse, Abrar Gundroo, Chris Kurwie, Vivek Nambiar, Andrew Reakes, Mark Stephens, Daniel Wood (1), Daniel Wood (2), Chris Swanston, James Austerberry, Chris Brookes, Alex Bluett, Ross Fennell, James Harris, James Lewis, Andrew Rennison, Kapil Samra, Joseph Skelley, Richard Sugden, Matthew Ogg, Joseph Wigglesworth, Paul Wimpenny, Robert Drummond, David Hicks, Vivek Patel, Mitchell Rhodes, Sharabh Sinha, Phillip Porter, Greg Fowler, James Charlesworth, Alex Jack, David Lovegrove, Chris Robinson, James Briercliffe, Paul Aveyard, Oliver Shea, Ayad Hassoon, Simon Frewin.

WWG, AMG

Under 12 XI

For once the season's weather, despite its extreme variability, did not really infringe on 'the great game' this year, with only two games being replayed because of monsoon conditions. However, the typical British climatic recipe of wind, hail, sleet, rain and the occasional flash of sunshine through thick cloud were all met in equal proportion. At Spalding, it was even so hot that I nearly passed out twice whilst umpiring at square leg. Luckily for me, no dubious, nor contentious decisions were to be made during my light-headed moments and the excitement of the highly talented Under 12 team's play soon brought me round in time to witness their usual performance of sharp bowling, rapid catches and occasionally exemplary batting or dubious lbw appeals.

The season started in traditional style with the first game against Silcoates abandoned due to bad weather. In the five years that I have been with the Under 12s, I'm not sure that we have ever played the Silcoates team. But they offered us the chance to replay the fixture and, having already defeated William Hulme Grammar School and Ashville College in two high-scoring games that saw the team reverse the loss against Leeds Grammar School, we felt up to the match. Thankfully we won, setting a target of 73 which they just could not meet.

Another victory came at Spalding, a new fixture and a wonderful cricketing location out in the land of no hills (Lincolnshire) for which we have to thank Mr. Parsons, our Under 14 coach who has devoted much invaluable time, energy and commitment to the U12s this season. Other victories came against Woodhouse Grove School, famous for their wonderful teas, Outwood Grange School, a talented local side whom we met as part of our Calypso Cup Yorkshire bid, and Hymer's College. However, we fell victim to Bradford Grammar School and later to Heckmondwike Grammar School, who knocked us out of the Calypso Cup competition. Here was a side, which, if we had wanted that victory badly enough, we could well have rallied to beat. Sadly, no matter what level of stomach ulcer and fit I had at the boundary, we didn't quite get the edge we needed to beat their score of 69 in the 20 overs. However, we came daringly close and lost only by 5 runs. Our one 'B' team fixture this year was against King Edward's School, Lytham St. Anne's, a game in which we unusually played in a force ten, offshore gale amongst the Blackpool suburbs and sand hills. We played on a well-drained, sandy turf, of crispy brown character, that despite ample rainfall still looked in need of sprinkler treatment in contravention of their local hose-pipe ban. (This reminds me that thanks must be

given to our own ground staff, who despite awful weather conditions this year have done us proud, as ever, in maintaining top class wickets and outfield.) The 'B' team won a resounding victory, despite the number of untried players representing QEGS under the strong captaincy of Dinesh Addala and the watchful eye of parent umpire Mr M Leigh (many thanks). Unfortunately, the 'A' team, reduced by illness and fatigued by the long bus journey (this was the official excuse), did not quite field as well as they can and lost their game by two wickets. Adam Parkin stepped in as an able captain due to the illness of Edward White.

As ever, I have enjoyed the Under 12 cricket season immensely, and it is with great regret that I now leave the side after five years, to pursue another teaching post in Shropshire. Sadly, this and other teaching commitments have drawn me away from some matches and disturbed some of the training so that although I have received wonderfully accurate reports on the play of the boys, their achievements, successes and occasional failures, it has not been as much at first hand as I would have liked. Thankfully I have received the help and support of a number of colleagues from the QEGS Common Room.

Firstly, I must thank Mr John Holt and Mr Brian Hamill, who between them umpired many of the weekend matches, for which I am very grateful. Secondly, I would like to thank Mr Martin Parsons, who not only umpired a good number of matches in the Calypso Cup competition, allowing me freedom to talk to and encourage boys from the boundary or prepare them to bat, but also attended every training session the squad had, arranged extra sessions when these were needed, coached, cajoled and even had to argue with some boys, all in his usual style. His aim is "the improvement of each individual boy's cricketing skills". Boys, I only hope you have listened to Mr. Parsons and learnt as much as I have from him in this last season, and I thank him on our behalf for the help and coaching he has given us so freely. Many thanks also go to Mr Clive Jackson, School coach, for his typically anecdotal approach to the game and his depth of experience, coaching abilities, scorebook advice and the immense archive of cricketing statistics that he carries around with him and uses to illustrate the game and coach it - ask him any question on the game, past or present, and you will understand what I mean! Thanks must finally go to Mr Trevor Barker who keeps the flame burning for QEGS cricket, and has supported the Under 12s and all other teams this season in everything from arranging the matches, the facilities and teas to coaching and umpiring the first team, and even by winding me up on many occasions for my numerous absences from games this season.

Of course I cannot omit mention of the boys themselves. It is these young gentlemen who on so many occasions have excelled as ambassadors for the School in their demeanour, behaviour and dress, not to mention the superb standard on most occasions of their cricket. There was a good level of natural talent in this year's team, which will develop if they are prepared to listen to their coaches and to leave behind some of the junior cricket ideas and styles that some of them have unfortunately become used to. Some boys also need to learn that cricket is not an individual's game, of a man with a bat and a ball. It involves a team, and no matter how good we are individually we should do everything to encourage the best from the team, to build up the others, to help them learn and support them.

Thankfully, most of the boys understood the need for team-work most of the time, ably captained by Vaibhav Kumar, for two matches, and later by the very successful Edward White, who captained the side in all other matches, bar one due to illness when

Adam Parkin stepped into his shoes. We were always impressed by Edward White's captaincy abilities. He was quick to learn tactics and how to change the field. At first, this was under the direction of the coaches and umpires and later in the season he demonstrated his ever-broadening knowledge of captaincy in making well-informed decisions at vital moments in the game.

Vaibhav Kumar turned out to be a most successful wicket-keeper, making two stumpings. He was backed up when absent by Matthew Jones and Alex Nixon. Andrew Sellars made his debut as a very keen and able wicket-keeper in the last match of the season for the 'B' team.

Impressive pace bowling by Adam Parkin, Shashwat Sahay and James Smith was well supported by Edward White (a boy keen to learn and with formidable accuracy), Matthew Jones (who developed a beautiful arm through the season) and Dinesh Addala. Similarly strong batting performances from James Smith (a dangerous demon with the bat, but with something of a predilection for lbw), Matthew Jones (whose skill grew with his confidence through the season and who always apologised to the coaches for getting out) and Edward White (a strong, safe batsman with an excellent understanding of tactic and game play). Sadly, I do not have the space to list all the boys and their important parts to play, but suffice it to say that the sincerity and interest for the game of Edward White, to the cheek and humour of Andrew Gibbons, Adam Parkin and Shashwat Sahay all added to the enjoyment of running this side.

Many thanks for everyone's support and good luck in your future pursuit of 'the great game'. I look forward to umpiring a new fixture for you over at Ellesmere College next year if the fixture card allows and hope that you continue to develop your cricketing skills throughout your time at QEGS.

Season's Summary		Bowling Average	
Played	13	J.Smith	3.8
Won	8	M.Saunders	4.3
Lost	4	E.White	5.7
Drawn	1	D.Addala	6.0
Cancelled	2	S.Sahay	9.2
Batting Average		Highest Catches	
J.Smith	28.8	V.Kumar	5
M.Jones	15.8	J.Smith	4
D.Addala	13.1	A.Parkin, D.Smith,	3 each
E.White	12.4	S.Sahay & E.White	
V.Kumar	11.9		LAK

Tennis Senior

This was a much abbreviated season. After the late return from the Easter holidays, the Year 11 and 13 boys were only back in school for 2½ weeks before leave of absence started! What with the introduction of modules in AS and A2, and the lengthening of the exam period, senior summer fixtures are more and more difficult to fulfil and organise!

The First VI started the season at St Peter's, York, with a close-fought game. After being 'up' after the initial round, we eventually lost 5-4. There is no doubt that, had captain Andy

Fitt been available, this game would have been won. The first pair of Michael Tolman (11PM) and James McTaggart (10LDB) won all three points but we were unable to find support for them. The Second VI playing against St Peter's drew 4 1/2 - 4 1/2 with good debuts from the younger members of the squad, Philip Hampshire (9JPB) and Alex Thornton (9DMM).

The matches against Hymer's College were lost to the weather and the next fixture was against local rivals Silcoates. With Andy Fitt and Richard Lumb (12THG) being available to come back into the team, a fairly comfortable victory was gained by 7 points to 2. After losing fixtures against Ampleforth to the shortened half-term, the next matches were away at Pocklington. The 1st VI gained another victory, coming out on top 5-4 in a game that was finely balanced and could have gone either way!. These types of games tend to balance out throughout the course of the season! The 2nd VI drew 4-4 against St Peter's in a match which was played at York University courts. The next matches scheduled for Woodhouse Grove were cancelled, as was the Old Savilians fixture, which brought a sudden and premature end to the senior season.

Members who played Senior tennis this year were Andy Fitt, captain (12NR), Michael Tolman, vice-captain (11PM), Richard Lumb (12THG), Peter Worth (12JRB), Roland Hilling-Smith (13LAK), Jonathan Lewis (10RMR), James McTaggart (10LDB), Adham Ali (11LB), Jordan Anderson (11LB), Matthew Ingamells (11PM), Chris Kelly (11LB), Philip Hampshire (9JPB) and Alex Thornton (9DMM).

In the end-of-season Open Singles Championship, after the initial elimination rounds, the semi-finalists were Andy Fitt, Michael Tolman, Roland Hilling-Smith and Jonathan Lewis. The draw saw the two favourites, Tolman and Fitt meeting in the semi-final with Mike coming out on top 7-5. Jonathan beat Roland 6-2 in the other semi and Mike retained his title from last year, beating Jonathan 6-1 in the final.

Michael Tolman will be next season's captain of tennis with Jonathan Lewis as vice-captain.

GP

Junior

This year's report must start with a return to September and October 1999 to recap the end of last season. The U15 team of Michael Tolman, Jordan Anderson, Adham Ali, Jonathan Lewis and James McTaggart qualified for the knockout stage of the Midland Bank Cup as Wakefield Champions from the previous year. They eventually progressed through three matches to the semi-final of the NE England section. Here we travelled up to Middlesbrough before going out to a strong Redhouse School by a score of 4-2 - a good effort to reach this stage for the second year running.

This year the junior team has again done well. The Wakefield & District Schools Competition is becoming more popular and with eight schools entering, the competition was divided into two groups of four. Both the U15 and U13 squads defeated Castleford High School (U15s 6-0, U13s 6-0), Knottingley and Horbury (U15s 5-1, U13s 6-0) to make their way through to the final. In the U15 competition, the team played Ossett High School and a good performance all round by Jonathan Lewis, James McTaggart, Philip Hampshire and Alex Thornton resulted in a 5-1 victory. The team now goes through to the

National Knockout Competition in September. The U15 squad was made up of James McTaggart, Jonathan Lewis, Philip Hampshire, Alex Thornton, Andrew Darnton (10RMR), Matthew Rust (10DHH), Duncan Moran (9DMM), Nick Darnton (9JPB), Stewart Bartlett (9JH) and Michael Roberts (9DMM).

In the U13 competition, the final was against Kettlethorpe. In a closely-fought game, the team lost 1-5 but with three of the losing sets going to tie-breaks. On the day the Kettlethorpe boys showed a little more fight and deserved their victory but were not better technically than us!

The U13 squad was made up of James Lewis (8MCP), Ayad Hassoon (8RDC), James Austerberry (8CJW), Ben Hamilton (8MCP), Nick Backhouse (8CJW), Nick Bramley (8CJW), Andrew Reakes (8CJW), Oliver Smith (8NAL), Thomas Kaye (7DRF), Nathan Palethorpe (7DRF), Gareth Bate (7DRF), Anand Chima (7DRF), David Barron (7JP), Stephen Morris (7JP), Thomas Wainwright (7HMS) and Nick Sankarsingh (7HMS). Many other juniors turned up regularly on Wednesday evenings, which continue to be an open evening when anyone from School can come up and play!

This year saw a first fixture against Wakefield Girls' High School. On a Saturday morning in July, it was great to see so many U12s, U13s, U14s and U15s playing in a friendly match. The results didn't really matter (we didn't lose any but didn't win them all!) and hopefully this can become an annual date on the fixture list.

This year also sees the end of the boys' grass courts; they are being dug up and replaced by tarmac. The grass courts had deteriorated in recent years due to overuse and were never really suitable to play on until July, when they started to dry out. I'm sure that Glen Howitt and his ground staff will not be sorry to see them go but I would like to thank them for all the effort that has been put in to keep them playable. Hopefully, next year we should be able to 'hit through' the ball with a true bounce!

A big thank-you again to the caterers, and especially Janine, for their help. This year has not been too difficult! With the construction of a new kitchen and pavilion taking place throughout the season, we have lived on pop, crisps and fruit. The new pavilion is well on its way with, hopefully, the return of some proper food!

GP

Athletics

There is no doubt that the Summer Term gets shorter and with exams and holidays, the Athletics season gets squeezed. The weather doesn't help athletes either, with Summer usually confined to a steamy weekend in June.

Athletics Club flourished in the first half-term but a poor turnout of first-year athletes on a regular basis meant little was known of the U13 team. Our first competitive match was the Yorkshire round of the English Schools Cup at Thornes Park. Both U14 and U16 teams were strong and both won their matches and qualified for the Northern Final.

The Junior team did well but did not pull it together in the Northern Final at Derby. On the track, Sam Shutt-Vine in the sprints and Ian Wainwright at 800m had outstanding performances. Other athletes who performed well were Mitchell

Rhodes (400m and long-jump); Anthony Clarke and Sam Satari (hurdles); and Kevin Whaley, James Henry and Ayad Hassoon in the sprints. At middle distance, Chris Robinson, James Smith (Yr 7) and Joe Wrigglesworth did an excellent job. In the field events the U14s were strong. Paul Edwards got better and better in the triple jump and James Smith as a Year 7 broke the school record with 1m 50cm. Ross Britton (javelin), James Henry (shot and discus) and Ayad Hassoon dominated the throws. This was a good junior side that represented the School well this year.

The Intermediate team was unlucky not to reach the National Final: they finished second by six points to Tupton School and scored a massive 436 points. The absence of two key athletes did not help the team but the great back-up they received from Year 9 athletes was excellent.

In the sprints, Matthew Morton was a street ahead: his 23.7 seconds run in the 200 metres destroyed the opposition. Matt was ably backed up by John Barkley (100m and triple jump), Neil Fishwick (200m and long jump) and James Smith (Yr 9) in the 200metres (24.7 secs) and high jump. James Bluemink got better and better in the 400 metres - he has much ability and more training could see a bright future. A star of the team must be Chris Walker - he is very reliable at 400 metres and what an excellent thrower he is becoming, with 41m in the javelin. In the middle distance, three athletes were outstanding - Jack Wolstencroft (1500m), Chris Dodds (800m and triple jump) and the excellent Year 9 athlete Nicky Darnton (800m and triple jump). The remaining outstanding Year 9 athlete is Chris Kirk (hurdles and all the jumps).

Other athletes in this very strong team who did well were Matt Winter (high jump), Steven Blackhurst and Oliver Wright (middle distance) and Jon Habe (javelin).

The Year 9 U15 team was unbeaten and won matches against Silcoates, Outwood, Hymer's and Longcroft. The star athletes and all-rounders who represented the year above were never in trouble in their own age-group. James Smith, Chris Kirk and Nicky Darnton are excellent all-rounders.

In the sprints, Nick Watkins and Mark Bennett both improved. In the middle distance, James Sampson was ably supported by Kieron Gregson and the three throwers who were outstanding were Thomas Mieszkowski (shot-putt), Sam Broderick (discus) and Jonathan Moate (javelin). They are an excellent team who should do well next year.

The U13 team won their fixtures and a number of promising athletes emerged. Perhaps top of the crop was James Smith, an excellent high jumper and capable middle distance runner. Following close are Kevin Whaley (sprints and jumps) and Thomas Hillkirk (middle distance). Daniel Twohig improved in the sprints and David Edwards looks a promising sprinter/jumper. David Smith did well in the triple jump and the best thrower to emerge was Philip Boon.

There were no school matches at senior level but athletes took part in championships and did well - all senior athletes are club athletes, as it should be in these days of long summer exams. James Wild and Shane Booth are outstanding high jumpers who are representing the County and doing well at regional level. Both are jumping at around the 2 metre level. Richard Shawcross and Arjun Ravi are two other exceptional athletes: both are heavily involved and have the qualities to do well.

Congratulations must go to James Wild, Shane Booth (high jump), James Smith (200m) and Chris Kirk (long jump) on their selection for the County in the National Championships.

JPC

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Personalia

Eric Nock (36-43) continues to be a keen reader of the O.S. Notes. He was sorry to miss the Annual Dinner due to a long holiday and was sad to learn of the death of **Rex Baynes** (32-43) whom he remembers as a long-striding wing in the excellent teams of 1942 and 1943. Eric also reminds us that Rex's father was Headmaster of the Junior School.

Congratulations to **Simon Hellewell** (77-87) on his marriage to Sarah McKinnell in Edinburgh on 30th April. This was a splendid occasion and brought together likeable rogues from the past such as **Adam Shea** (81-88) and **Greg Chivers** (80-85). Congratulations also go out to Simon's younger brother **Stephen** (77-88) who was married in Leeds on 17th June.

Thanks to **Mark Hird** (92-97) who organised the reborn Northern Dinner in Durham last October. This event was well attended by a large number of Old Savs and their paternal guests. It seems likely that this will now become an annual event. **Richard Metcalfe** (57-68) is hoping to attend future dinners in Durham. Richard read Sociology at the University of Durham and was their Director of Estates from 1989 to 1999. Since 1972 he has been a tutor at Hatfield College and remembers **Lee Cholewa** (87-96) and **Andy Halls** (84-95) as Durham students. Richard has now taken up the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors of the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, which reminds him of QEGS and gives him somewhat divided loyalties when it comes to 1st XV rugby matches between the two schools!

Roger Ackroyd (75-83) wrote to tell us of a number of years of good intentions of attending the Annual Dinner. Perhaps getting married to Helen some three years ago and working as a Senior Registrar at a hospital in Adelaide, Australia may be valid excuses! Now that he is based more locally and working as a lecturer in surgery at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield we may enjoy his company at one of the dinners? We were sorry to hear of his father's death in September 1999.

Mary Oldham of the WGHS secretarial staff was kind enough to send in news of her son **Alex** (85-94) who is currently working for Barclays Bank at an area processing centre in Leicester.

One of our recent Presidents **John S Jackson** (57-63) is now President of Wakefield & District Hospitals Contributory Scheme.

We are pleased to print large parts of a letter received from **Frank Smith** (36-41) who lives in Napier, New Zealand: "According to the telephone directory, Terry Cass still lives at 7, Kupe Road, Hillcrest, Whakatane. We used to see Terry and Barbara quite regularly when they lived in Rotorua but we have been out of touch since they went to Whakatane. Our last meeting was when Ronald Chapman visited his nephew in Auckland and went on to stay with Terry and Barbara in Whakatane. They brought Ronald as far as Taupo - a half-way point, we met them there. Frequently and lustily, but not always tunefully, we rendered 'Floreas Wakefieldia' during his memorable and enjoyable stay with us. Our next meeting with him was in Wakefield on one of our visits home but sadly, such pleasures have gone with his departure.

"We left Southampton 38 years ago today (letter dated 17/3/00) to sail for New Zealand and Terry came out here only a couple of years later. Terry would be an ideal person to write his memoirs for the Savilian. He is an Oxford Blue and experienced rugby in England and in New Zealand. He has an extensive experience of teaching in New Zealand. When I think of all the distinguished and learned people who read The Savilian I am too afraid to write my memoirs. I still split infinitives and in spit of Harold Teasdale's efforts to teach me, I don't always remember that a preposition is a bad word to end a sentence with!

"I'll be 75 in April and I am in every way still a Yorkshireman at heart. My health is not as good as it was and so I don't wish to pay my subscriptions too far in advance! You will know what I mean. I used to live in Crigglestone and it was generally accepted that everyone living west of Emley, Flockton and Scissett was tighter than a pair of new shoes."

Frank will be interested to hear that **Ian Plimmer** (49-57) and **Alec Sykes** (48-56) are two Old Savilians who met up with Terry Cass on his extended holiday in Europe last Spring. Ian spent some time with Terry in Scotland, while Alec, a great Italophile, introduced him to the pleasures of Tuscany. Alec continues to run Wakefield Jazz, a club based at College Grove which has earned a national reputation over the past twelve or so years both for the quality of its music and its unique Friday night atmosphere.

We were pleased to see that **Mike Rylance** (57-63; AM 74-), editor of this magazine, received such a favourable reaction to his recent book *The Forbidden Game*, which deals with the conflict between the two rugby codes in France. "Mention Vichy to any self-respecting rugby league enthusiast, and it is not the French town's famous mineral waters that spring to mind, but a shameful episode of sporting malevolence, the facts of which had never been fully explored. That omission is superbly corrected by Mike Rylance in *The Forbidden Game*, a graphic account of how rugby league was wiped out by the collaborationist Vichy Government of 1940-45," wrote *The Times* reviewer. *The Independent* called it "a searing account of how an unholy alliance of rugby union partisans and collaborationist politicians combined to ban [rugby league] during the war." We also noticed Mike's book featuring in the sports book bestsellers lists for several weeks. In addition his work has been presented as evidence to the Commission of Enquiry set up by the French Minister of Sport to investigate sport under the Vichy regime.

May 20th saw the first performance in Wakefield Cathedral of Jonathan Bielby's *Millennium Mass*. This setting of the service was commissioned as a memorial to **Ronald Chapman** (AM 36-70 SM 70-77) who died on 9th March 1998.

Congratulations to **J. David (Jim) Edge** (48-55) on his marriage to Clare Prest (née Kitson), the widow of the late **Stephen O. Prest** (47-57), on June 16th.

Douglas Haigh met up with **Simon Bailey** (78-89) for the France v England rugby match in Paris in February. Simon is currently working for IBM in Paris after being based in Germany for a number of years. He was disappointed at not being able to attend the last London Dinner in March with his contemporaries **Neil Willings** (78-89) and **Robert Otley** (78-89). Neil is becoming a regular supporter of OS events and is currently enjoying a new supplier of liver and onions! Of the same vintage is **Chris Cooper** (78-89). We understand he has suffered an illness recently. We wish him a full recovery and look forward to him getting back in touch.

The London Dinner was again organised by **Nick Lavender** (75-82). This event at Frederick's in Islington had a good cross-section of support including **Jonathan Mardling** (85-93), **James Mountain** (84-93), **Andrew Lavender** (82-84) and **Peter Beilby** (31-38). Peter is a mine of information about the School and its pupils in the 1930s and has kindly donated some photographs of his time at School and his rugby cap to the OS club. Peter not only attended the London Dinner but made the journey to Twickenham the following day to see the First XV play in the Daily Mail Cup final, where he was proudly sporting his original First XV tie. He hopes to attend the Wakefield Dinner at Christmas. **Phil Dewhurst** (92-98) was also a diner at London after organising the Cambridge dinner on behalf of the OS Club.

We were pleased to receive news from **Alastair Haigh** (76-87). He has now moved to Shrewsbury with his wife Liz and their three children Isabel, Joe and Sophie (born on 27th May – congratulations!). Alastair is now working for the Defence Helicopter Flying School. Proof of this came when he brought a Squirrel helicopter to school for the Careers Convention earlier this year. He was suitably impressed by all the new buildings but was unable to find Dean Bunnell!

Nick Harriman (90-97) sent a postcard from his study visit (?) to Hawaii in March. He claimed that Hawaii was like Swillington with a beach but at least it had a volcano and a rain forest as a backdrop.

Simon Clark (82-89), a veteran of many school trips, e-mailed us some news. Simon claims to be having great fun trying to make his first million. He has started his own business in Technology Consultancy in London and is looking forward to the next London Dinner.

Simon Plaut (81-92) is now practising as a barrister in Leeds, specialising in personal injury and employment work. More excitingly, he says, he has recently announced his engagement to be married next year. He hopes to find a prospective wife before that time! It was good to see Simon and **Josh** (83-94) at the Swingband Reunion in July along with others many!

Jonathan Peach (79-90) has completed a long stint in the army and has now embarked upon a new career training to be a prison governor.

Simon Mordue (78-89) is currently two years into a four year term with the European Union in Romania. Based in Bucharest he is responsible for the European Commission's financial assistance programme to the country, worth in excess of 620 million euros per year. He recently met up again with **Michael Alderson** (82-89) whom he visited in Beijing, where Michael was working as a Production Engineer for Shell. Michael is now back in Europe, working in The Hague.

John Cholewa was kind enough to write us the following notes on **Michael Tindall** (86-97). It was a great pleasure to all of us to see his inclusion in the full England team to play in the first Six Nations game against Ireland.

"Michael had developed well at Bath but was still only young at 20 years old and had much to prove. The Irish of all teams are unpredictable and the game would test Michael to the full. Fortunately, England dominated the game and when Mike scored his debut try it made the day for all of us connected with him. Mike consolidated his place and played an important part in England's Six Nations Championship. The defeat by Scotland and the loss of the Grand Slam with it must have hurt the senior pros in the side and certainly I know Mike was upset. Selection for the South African tour and his major role in the test victory is testament to his ability and his total dedication. As a young boy he always said to me that he would play for England and he has, at all levels. We all hope he keeps injury-free and continues his fantastic career right at the top of world rugby."

The remarkable run of success in one-day cricket of his county, Gloucestershire, has made **Mike Smith** a triple cup-winner, with victories in the Benson and Hedges Cup in both 1999 and 2000, and the NatWest Trophy in 1999, a feat never before achieved by any county. In fact, with Gloucestershire through to the quarter-finals of the 2000 NatWest competition as well, an unprecedented fourth Lord's final is, at the time of writing, a possibility.

Mike was the subject of a feature article in the July edition of *The Cricketer* magazine, in which it was pointed out that in the first class game he has "one of the best, if not the best, recent records among

England's quicker bowlers". In the last five seasons he has taken 327 wickets, a total bettered only by Andrew Caddick; his bowling average, 21.29, is better than that of all other English bowlers, and so is his strike-rate of one wicket every 44 balls.

The School receives a mention in the article, which goes on to describe Mike's current non-cricketing activities, in which he is studying part-time for a Law degree.

Appointments, Distinctions etc.

John Milner (48-58), Captain of Wakefield Golf Club from March 2000.

Allan Coy (48-54) Senior Skipper of Wakefield Golf Club from November 1999.

Anthony Greaves (53-60), an Oxford graduate and a former President of the Young Liberals was made a Lord on the 8th May, taking the title Lord Greaves of Pendle.

Dr Dan Webster (82-91) has passed all three exams at the first attempt to become a Member of the Royal College of Physicians. Dan is currently working as a Senior House Officer in the Neurology Department at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and is hoping to take up the post of Specialist Registrar.

David Storey (43-51) has been honoured by Wakefield Civic Society who have placed a blue commemorative plaque at his boyhood home to celebrate his work as a novelist and playwright.

Damian Dryland (88-95) Kinross scholar in Florence (October-December 1999); two prints accepted by the Royal West of England Academy and RWA Open Print Exhibition (March 2000).

Gareth Green (AM 83-90) took up his new duties as Vicar of Saint Mary's Church in Woodkirk on 25th May.

Jonathan Riley (90-98) 2:2 in first year examinations in Physics with Astrophysics, University of Leeds.

James Hinchliffe (85-96) 2:1 BA(Hons) Economic and Social Studies, University of Manchester.

Ben Woodside (88-95) 2:1 BA(Hons) Economics with French, University of Durham. **Andrew Halls** (84-95) 2:1 BSc Mathematics, University of Durham.

Lee Cholewa (87-96) 2:2 BSc Sport in the Community, University of Durham.

Colin Sowerby (87-95) 2:2 BA(Hons) Business Information Systems, Nottingham Trent.

Richard Johnstone (84-95) 2:2 M.Eng Electronic Engineering with Music, University of York.

Ian Walker (89-96) 2:2 BA English Language with Linguistics, University of York.

Adam Kay (88-96) 2:1 BA Mathematics, Jesus College, Oxford.

Mark Ridyard (92-96) MA Ordinary, University of Glasgow. Mark is now living and working in Glasgow.

Richard Land (85-94) 2:2 BSc(Hons) Technology, University of Bradford.

Matthew Gower (93-94) 2:2 BSc Medical Biology, Brunel.

Simon Plimmer (86-95) 3 BSc(Hons) Astrophysics, University of St Andrews.

Andrew M Weston (88-95) 2:1 in Electronic Engineering, University College, Durham.

Ben Annable 2:2 in Modern Languages, University of Durham.

Richard Whyte (88-97) 2:1 BA (Hons) in Music, University of Newcastle.

David Whyte (86-95) has gained an MSc in Environmental Protection from the University of Salford. He has been working as a Transport Policy Officer in Stockport and is taking up a new post as a Research Assistant in the Geography Department at Manchester University.

Andrew Howe (81-92) is currently working in London for KPMG and is to be married to Nicola Rice on December 23rd.

Paul Whitham (86-92) has joined leading marketing agency Outside The Box as an account manager. He remains an active sportsman, playing for Kirkhamgate Cricket Club and playing hockey with Slazengers in Horbury.

Robert Garnish (88-95) obtained a First Class Joint honours degree in Art History and English from St Andrews. He started work in July as a graduate trainee manager with the John Lewis Partnership at their store in Brent Cross, London.

Timothy G Bisset MA 2:2 in History, University of Edinburgh

Jonathan Michie 2:2 BA(Hons) in African Studies, University of Birmingham

Andrew Michael Firth MA 2:1, University of Glasgow

Douglas Macklam MChem 2:1, University of Bath; now studying for PhD at University of Warwick

Paul Townend BSc 2:2 Computer Science, University of Durham

Jonathan Markham 2:1 MSci in Physics and Astronomy, University of Durham

M. R. Alcock BA(Hons) 2:1 in History, University College London

Obituaries

KENNETH RAWLING HARRISON (32-37)

We were very sorry to learn of the death on October 13th 1999 of Kenneth Rawling Harrison after a short illness. He was taught by the renowned Mr Waters and the equally renowned Mr Teasdale. He enjoyed playing rugby for the School – his sister speaks of her vivid memories of his kit hanging up in the kitchen! He left School and went into the Rating and Valuation section of local government. During the war he saw active service in North Africa and Italy with the Royal Signals. He took early retirement in 1980 to pursue his other interests, model railway building, sweet peas, Severn Valley Railway restoration and Church Property Steward. He spent some 20 years as conductor of his local Methodist Church Choral Society where his schoolboy Latin was put to good use. Ken's elegant written style, his systematic approach to his work, together with his integrity and self-discipline surely reflect much that he learned at QEGS.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

ANDREW PETER AUCKLAND (87-94)

Andrew was a popular, successful and conscientious student at QEGS and was highly regarded by his Sixth Form teachers for his full and committed role in School life. He was a dedicated naturalist, a keen historian and a competent pianist. He went on from QEGS to Newcastle University to read Zoology, following this with a Master's degree. Andrew then worked on projects for the RSPB at locations on the Farne Islands and on Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire. It was towards the end of his tour of duty on Ramsey Island that his life ended so tragically.

We extend our profound sympathy to his parents Bryan and Alison, his brothers William and Jonathan, sister-in-law Jane and to all family and friends from QEGS and elsewhere.

Future events

AGM - November 16th.

Opening and dedication of the new Pavilion - Friday, 24th November at 12 noon (see below).

Annual Dinner (Wakefield) - December 22nd. Guest speaker: Henry Naylor (73-84).

Cambridge Dinner - 27th January 2001. Pembroke College.

London Dinner - 2001. Date to be finalised.

Dedication of the War Memorial Pavilion

Elsewhere in the magazine the developments at the Gamesfield, including the new pavilion, are described. The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, (49-59), will perform the ceremony of dedication at 12 noon on Friday 24th November 2000. Those Old Savilians who died in World War II will be mentioned by name on a plaque in the entrance hall of the pavilion. Their names are listed below and any relative of the deceased wishing to know more details should contact the Headmaster's Secretary at the School.

R H Aitkenhead	D D P Bowrie	G K M Elliott
J L Hartley	O A Mackenzie	R S Setchell
R P T Akeroyd	A Brown	N Ellis
M Haslegrave	T A Marsden	P M A Sherwin
D H Badderley	A Cartwright	G M R
C H Hobson	K E M Mitchell	Fairweather
F W Baker	J Chapman	M Stonehouse
A Horton	P H Noney	J Fielden
C Beatson	W R Chapman	J Suffield
F Johnson	F Parker	B C Fieldsend
J A D Beaven	N Clarke	W H P
K L Jones	C E Pettit	Summers
R D Beilby	F Colbeck	F A S Fletcher
D Kuhnel	A L Plummer	P F Thomas
J Bell	W C Colley	H Foxton
N T Lawrence	N Potts	D Thompson
J W Blakey	J R M Critchley	T M Gledhill
M W Lofthouse	D Poulson	D Warburton
B Blunt	E J H Dixon	H Gravett
L Longbottom	R G Richards	B U Ward
A R R Bower	P W Durham	D Haigh
G H Loxley	K A Sayer	K F Wilson

The Friends of the School

After three years at the helm, Anne Wood passed on the post of Chairman to Marilyn Jackson, who will now serve for a second time.

Over the three years, Anne has kept the Friends moving onwards by her hard work and inspired leadership with the full support of the Committee.

The calendar was once again filled with the usual most enjoyable events such as the Bubbly Brunch in November, during which members attended a service at the Sports Pavilion Gates when they were named after our late Secretary, Maude Wilkinson. The Annual Dinner Dance was once again a great success and was very well attended.

Although Friends are a non profit-making organisation, they were still able to give the school over £2,300 to buy the portable noticeboards which are now proving to be extremely useful.

For anyone wishing to keep a link with School by joining the Friends, please contact our Secretary, Mrs Fran Slater, 5 Bede Court, College Grove, Wakefield, WF1 2JH - who will be happy to put you on our mailing list for future events.

RICHARDS

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