

CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

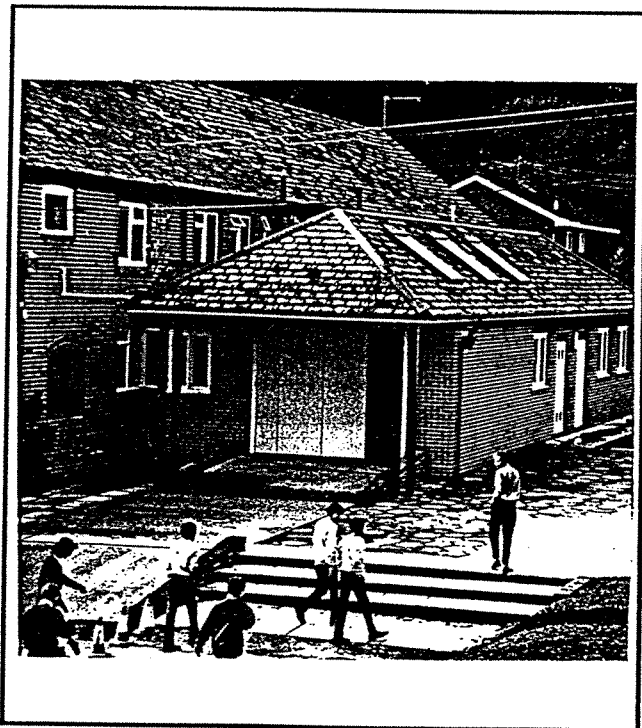
NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 1990

FORGING AHEAD!

Beset by many delays in building at last the Design Technology suite is nearing completion. The first lessons will be taken in the new accommodation in November.



As you enter the unassuming building tucked behind the stable block, you find yourself in a world of hi-tech equipment. There are two well furnished workshops bursting with facilities for welding, brazing, casting and forging, together with lathes, drills, buffers and grinders, and even a computer controlled miller. Projects can be undertaken involving ceramics, pottery and sculpture.

Without doubt Mary Hare is now equipped with one of the finest and most up-to-date design suites in the country, the envy of many secondary schools and colleges.

INDEPENDENCE

An exciting new venture this year is the move of about a dozen sixth form boys to the White Cottages. This pair of cottages is situated on the edge of the school site, well away and out of sight of the main buildings. Supervised by warden, Mr. J. Boyd, the lads share two to a room, have shower facilities and some cooking equipment. (Somehow) they cater for their own breakfast (including washing-up) and still manage to get to school on time! The taste of independence is good preparation for student life.

OUT AND ABOUT

As is increasingly required in the curriculum pupils have been out and about on field studies and excursions.

Members of the fifth and sixth form began on just the second day of term with a theatre visit. The unusual production of "King Lear" at the Lyttleton in London provided much discussion material for the literature groups. Another English group from the fourth year spent an afternoon at R.A.F. Greenham, particularly examining the fire-fighting equipment as part of an on-going language project. Groups from the new first year have been mapping the Chieveley area and fourth year business studies sets have been surveying Newbury's shopping centre.

The first years also spent a day at the Marwell Zoological Park, Winchester. This was part of their introduction to science - highlighting the marvellous variety of life and the responsibilities of mankind to endangered species. The Education Centre's "Hands On" session provided a number of stimulation (!) experiences.

A whole week for a Biology field trip to a crucial part of "A" and AS-Level studies. Seven members of the upper sixth and two staff travelled to the study centre in the Pembrokeshire National Park to make a survey of the flora and fauna of the coastline and off-shore small islands.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The Mary Hare Guide Company is thriving and an increasing number of hearing youngsters have joined. They indulge in many varied activities, both indoors and out, and would love to see even more new faces from the first year. There is a party planned for November.

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AN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

An American invasion took place at the end of September when the Air Force lads from Welford landed to give tuition in traditional activities from the other side of the Atlantic. Many sports including Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, together with the opportunity to gauge the speed of your throw or climb on their fire truck, provided a full and exciting day. They even gave the pupils a Barbecue treat for lunch. Our grateful thanks go to them for their generosity and time.

HOME BREWING?

A substantial sum of money has been advanced to the school as part of our involvement in T.V.E.I. (Technical and Vocational Initiative). The money has been allocated to development in several areas, particularly computer hardware and software for use across the curriculum, but also for a fermenter for the Modular Science and Biology courses. (Are they making home-brew?) It also provides expenses for cover while staff attend training courses.

ABSTRACT ART



Third year Sara Tyacke of Heston, Middlesex, pulled off a tremendous coup when she won a National Art Competition.

The Anastasia Trust for Deaf People held the competition in the summer and Sara's entry "Abstract" won the Hebben Award in the under 12 category.

The painting was subsequently sold in aid of the Trust and the purchaser has offered Sara a commission for a similar painting - an exciting challenge for this young artist.

NIMBLE FINGERS

A large number of last year's third year achieved success in the Pitman Examination's Institute Typing Elementary Grade after a short course at Newbury College.

Congratulations to: Helen Bloor (Sunderland), Rachel Doidge-Harrison (Shropshire), Alison Leach (West Sussex), Philip Eames (Derbyshire), Helen Casey (Hampshire), Sabina Chowdry (Waltham Forest), Corinna Simmons (Berkshire), Timothy Roberts (Hampshire), Steven Mifsud (Hampshire), Fiona Mitchell (West Sussex), Sarah Herriott (Wolverhampton), Jonathan Ballinger (Essex), Tony Curtis (Ealing), Lyndsey Cunningham (Berkshire), Suzanne Cluble (Berkshire), Catherine Burgess (Buckinghamshire).

The award is for a speed of 25 words per minute.

A MAJOR SUCCESS

Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved success in the summer Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams:



Michael Johnston - pictured above - (South Eastern Education & Library Board) Grade 4 Cornet
Alice Cobley (Bedfordshire) Grade 1 Piano
Natalie Veale (Somerset) Grade 5 Flute
Melanie Pitts (Ealing) Grade 3 Clarinet
and also Mr. Treasure (Physics teacher) who passed Grade 3 on his Flute. He often assists with the music in assembly.

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Following the successful U.S.A. tour the band can now be described as "internationally acclaimed". They are at present in rehearsals and have several concert activities lined up.

You may have seen them at the Manchester N.A.G. Conference, but if you missed it they will be performing in St. Nicholas Church, Newbury, on 4th December.

HELLO

A new face is that of the Bursar, Mr. B. Kane. Mr. Kane has retired from the rank of Wing Commander in the Air Force and is moving to the Newbury area from Stamford, Lincolnshire. And also recently appointed, Miss A. Bolton, as the School Nurse.

ELECTED

David Whitmore from Hitchin and Julie-Ann Ferguson from Bangor, Northern Ireland, have been elected by staff and fellow pupils as Head Boy and Head Girl for 1990-1991. David, in addition to studying for his A-Levels, plays bass guitar in the school band and toured the U.S.A. with them this summer. Julie-Ann is looking forward to success in her Maths and Biology A-Levels.

SPORTS DESK

Several major activities take place before Christmas including Cross-Country and the Swimming Gala. A full report, including the progress of the school teams, will be in the next newsletter.

ADDENDUM

Any suggestions or ideas for our newsletter?

Do you want copies for your friends?

Let us know Kevin Wright or Mrs. C. Ward.