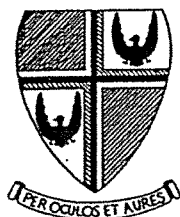


# THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL



June 1990

## NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

1989/90 has certainly been an interesting and exciting period. The massive storm in February left the school completely without power for five whole days and our own generator only gives supply to one of three areas: the kitchen, the Manor or the school lighting, not all three areas at once. Mansell House has no auxiliary supply at all - so we hired in generators - did wiring jobs and managed to keep essential services going. The staff were all brilliant - teachers stayed behind in the evenings to help with "entertainment" - additional care staff slept in the children's areas because of the increased risks in the event of fire - everyone put up with no heat - the kitchen kept the food coming! - the children themselves were fantastic - they are all very helpful - sixth formers even volunteered to get up at Mansell to refill the generator in the middle of the night as it always ran out of fuel at about three in the morning. We lost hundreds of trees in the woods, but very few of our most prized specimens; we lost no children and we didn't lose a single teaching day!

*HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP*

We need your help with a few things and hope you can give it.

### MONEY

There is an increasing number of children receiving money (sometimes quite large amounts) in cash through the post. This is a very dangerous practice from a security point of view and means that we can keep no overall watch on what is being spent by children. We have a very good banking system and would strongly suggest that all money should be sent to the school office, by cheque, made payable to Mary Hare Grammar School (School Bank Account) and enclose a note indicating to whose personal account it is to be credited. Please tell relatives to do the same and then we will be able to ensure greater security and also to prevent extravagant spending where this is a problem.

### FOOD

Pupils are allowed to purchase or bring to school sweets and "luxury" food items provided they store them in their *personal* security locker. Increasingly, pupils are breaking school rules and storing food in bedrooms. This is a **VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM**. It attracts mice and rats and as we are all aware these pests are much more numerous at the moment. We hate invading pupils' private drawers and cupboards etc. but we must insist that this practice stops and we have decided that food found in dormitories will be removed and served in tea in Blount Hall and shared amongst all the children. We cannot see a need for the problem. **ALL** children have personal lockers.

## SMOKING

Smoking is a worrying problem in all schools and, of course, it is against the rules for children to smoke in school. Research is reporting that as many as thirty percent of young teenagers in some mainstream secondary schools may be smoking. We do not think the numbers smoking at Mary Hare are anywhere near these levels but we are trying to educate the children not to smoke and staff set a very high standard - any member of staff smoking in front of children would be reprimanded and of more than forty teachers only one is a smoker anyway. Please do your best to support us at home and strengthen our warnings that children who smoke within the school grounds will be punished by having liberty restricted and that anyone found smoking in any school building will be suspended from school.

## A VERY MUSICAL YEAR

We think that this has been a very exciting year for music in the school - Christine Roderick is really firing the enthusiasm of the children to play and to assist her we now have five visiting teachers of individual instruments. Several children have achieved examination success. Sara Murray, who recently started to play the Cello, achieved Grade 1 with merit, Michael Johnston did very well in achieving Grade 3 with merit for his Cornet and Lisa Jones and Sandra Wood were both awarded Grade 5 Clarinet.

However, the most exciting feature of music for the year was the decision of four of the teachers to take the school band to America for a tour. This is to take place during the summer holidays and the band set about trying to raise sponsorship to aid with the cost (which is very substantial) and to arrange a series of venues.

The band laid on a lovely evening of American music to set the ball rolling on 3rd April. The hall was full, the band played really well and the Young Enterprise Company organised the whole thing, including advertising, food and wine and front of house service. It was a most enjoyable experience.

The money for sponsorship started to roll in from orchestras, individuals like Richard Baker and then came the fantastic news that Marks and Spencer are to sponsor the event to an amount of £10,000 plus providing the band with all clothes and travel bags. This is a really generous donation and meant that the trip was assured and that it could be mounted in some degree of style. There have obviously been many donations too numerous to mention here but one by a parent deserves inclusion. Mr. T. Torbuck and a friend undertook a sponsored cycle ride from home in Bury St. Edmunds to school and raised £1,245 for the event. Well done, a marvellous effort.

Whilst all this was going on the band were beavering away at a programme for the tour. To date they have major engagements playing at a dinner party for the British Ambassador in Washington, playing at the Clarke School, one of the most prestigious schools in the U.S.A., and playing at the International Congress on Education of the Deaf in Rochester. (Dr. Tucker is giving a paper at the Conference and hopes to meet up with the band there). We are sure that they will have the experience of a lifetime and we give thanks to all who have made it possible.

## OPERATION RALEIGH

Once again Mary Hare students have been very lucky (and capable because there is a tough selection procedure) in getting places on Operation Raleigh. Jenny Beech is going to Botswana and Victoria Callaghan to Zimbabwe. They will work very hard, meet lots of new people and have a marvellous time. We wish them well.

## C.D.T. AND THE SWIMMING POOL

The work on the C.D.T. facility has been delayed by the weather in February and by the fact that as we started to remove cladding and open up areas within the building more and more structural problems were found. This has made it a very difficult year for C.D.T. staff and children, but the building should be completed after the holidays and all of the new equipment should be installed early in September. The Graphics room is already completed and fully equipped.

We have just completed £35,000 worth of repairs on the swimming pool so this valuable resource will be back in action when the children return at the end of August.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

In November we had another very valuable week of work experience for fourth formers. They had opportunities to work with children, video equipment and computers, in offices, factories, for large and small companies, for banks and public services. Almost without exception our pupils enjoyed their week and were well received by their companies. This is an area where Mary Hare is ahead of its mainstream counterparts having organised work experience for six years.

## STAFF

Mrs. Garside has left to have a baby and Mrs. Peacock leaves at the end of term also to have a baby, so we wish them well. Miss Bennett is leaving and moving to work in Kenya after Christmas - she is very excited about the challenge that this brings and we thank her for her work at Mary Hare and wish her all the very best in her new post. New staff joining us are Mr. Waterman (Maths), Miss McKenna (Art), Mrs. Whitehead (History), Mr. Somerville (French), and after Christmas, Mr. Savoury (English). We welcome them and hope they enjoy working at Mary Hare.

All that remains is to await the examination results, which, we hope, will be good, and to wish you and your families a very enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday.

