

Queen Margaret's School

Governors' Executive 19 May 1997

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

1. THE TERM SO FAR

Examinations are off to a smooth start thanks to efficiency of [REDACTED] who is in her third year as Examinations Officer; orals and practicals have started and written papers begin on 19 May. I expect an average but respectable A-level year and, possibly, a better-than-average GCSE result. As usual sporting and outdoor activities come into their own and tennis seems exceptionally popular with considerable agitation for more time and more courts.

We have already had two spectacularly successful concerts - the Choral Society Concert in York and the Senior Orchestra Concert at St. Helen's with a second performance in school. The repertoire and expertise of the school ensembles is becoming more impressive at every performance and Stuart Nettleship is producing a quality of music hitherto unknown at QM.

Valerie and I attended the annual BSA Conference at Ambleside again and lost no opportunity to 'network'. Papers concentrated on The Political Scene, School Security, 'Foreign' Recruitment, Boarding Certification and the Lansdowne Initiative, but as usual much useful discussion was conducted informally; I met two recently sacked Heads and one who had retired early to become his own Bursar!

2. STAFF

Compared to last year we are having a relatively calm period given that this is the resigning and appointing term. There are still one or two other uncertainties but the final picture looks like: [REDACTED] (Clerk, Cleaning) [REDACTED] (Maintenance, Transport, Pigeons) [REDACTED] (Librarian) [REDACTED] (S) - about average. We have appointed a full-time resident Librarian who will act as 'floating' Housemistress and we are interviewing for another Assistant Housemistress this week.

3. NUMBERS FOR NEXT SEPTEMBER

We are still on course for slightly over 360, with Years III, IV and LVI at absolute maximum capacity.

4. TIMETABLE, CURRICULUM AND COMMITTEES

Rick Williams will report at the meeting

5. GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

Charlie Forbes Adam and I met with Paul Scrivener and representatives of Carey Jones Architects on Friday 2 May. I have some plans and pictures to show at the meeting. Things are well on course and plans are being prepared for submission. Meanwhile the conversion of the old stables is proceeding.

Our worst security fears were realised recently when a walk-in burglar was apprehended after he had wandered casually through Years II, III, IV and V dormitories at about 2.00 pm. We accelerated our day-time security plans and have had a watchman on duty since the end of Leave Out. We are preparing notices to direct all visitors and deliveries to him and will be introducing other measures, including car-labels and personnel-labels. The response of parents so far (including the PFA) is one of total support but they will certainly be inconvenienced from time to time. The Main Gates are now closed after dark and on Sundays and I continue to hope that eventually all traffic, even pedestrians, will stop using them.

6. OTHER

- (i) PFA - still some slight rumblings about the need to see Governors, duly labelled, at more functions. Fireworks party too expensive, to be replaced by buffet supper for Year I parents. School to target Years II and III at 'drinks for returning parents' evenings.
- (ii) No negative response to fee-increases yet.

GAHC 13/5/96