

School History 1928

Historical Background

The year of 1928 was memorable for a great number of "Firsts". The day after New Year's Day 1928 marked the first religious Daily Service to be broadcast by BBC radio, and nearly eighty years later it is still running. The first payments under the new contributory pension scheme were made throughout the country in the first week of 1928. Nearly half a million recipients, men and women aged between 65 and 70, were entitled to 10s a week under the Contributory Pensions Act of 1925.

A Bill was introduced in March 1928 giving women the vote on the same terms as men, and after little opposition in Parliament it became law on 2nd July 1928. As a result, all women over the age of 21 could now vote in elections.

The first Budget broadcast, explaining the policies, was made on BBC radio by Winston Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Amelia Earhart became the first woman to cross the Atlantic in an aeroplane, and Alexander Fleming made the announcement of the discovery of Penicillin.

The Oxford English Dictionary was first published in 1928 after decades of work on it, and D.H. Lawrence published "Lady Chatterley's Lover" in Florence, in order to avoid censorship in Britain.

The first 'Mickey Mouse' films were produced by Walt Disney in America, where in this year Herbert Hoover was elected Republican 31st President.

Familiar to many people today, the introduction of Cadbury's Dairy Milk Fruit and Nut chocolate took place in 1928, when the poster appeared announcing that there were "1½ Glasses of English Full Cream Milk in Every ½ lb of Cadbury's Dairy Milk Chocolate".

The 1928 Olympic Winter Games, hosted by St. Moritz in Switzerland were the first to be held in a different nation to the Summer Games of the same year, with 464 athletes from 25 countries taking part. The Norwegian, Sonja Henie, caused a sensation by winning the women's figure skating at the age of just 15, a record which would stand for 74 years.

Later in the year, the Amsterdam Olympic Games established a few "firsts". Women were allowed for the first time to take part in any track and field, or gymnastic event, and the American Betty Robinson made history by winning the first track event, the 100 metres. The lighting of the Olympic flame at the opening ceremony, and the protocol of Greek athletes entering the stadium first, and the host nation last were established. With 28 nations competing, Asian athletes claimed gold medals for the first time. British athletes gained 3 gold medals, one of which was won by Lord David Burghley in the 400 metres hurdles. In the swimming, Johnny Weissmuller of the USA won the 110 metres freestyle, and later went on to star as Tarzan in films. Mention must also be made of the Ladies' Rope Climbing event, which was won by the French team.

A Literary Meeting

The first recorded event of 1928 at Hemsworth Secondary School was the delivery of two papers at the Literary Society's meeting held on Friday, January 27th. They were entitled, "Hardy's Rustics" by Kathleen Jagger, and "Selections from Browning" by Miriam Wass.

Mr. Bibby's "Pompeii"

The first recorded event of 1928 at Hemsworth Secondary School was the lecture entitled "Pompeii" given in the new school hall on the Wednesday evening of February 1st. The price of admission was 6d for adults and 3d for children, and Mr. Bibby's talk was illustrated with lantern slides.

A Debate

On Friday, February 13th, Mr. Hyde chaired a Debating Society discussion proposed by James Keenan and entitled "More has been contributed to Human Progress by Youth than by Age." Keenan showed how Youth excelled in sports and matters necessitating physical endurance, and pointed out the enterprise of Youth in the colonies.

John Mellor, the opposer, gave a comprehensive list of great men whose best work was completed in old age, especially mentioning the Apostles. H. Brookes, the proposer's seconder, averred that old people spend their time thinking of their youth. She also stressed the excellence of Youth in music. Conversely, Elizabeth Austin, the opposer's seconder, considered that the wider experience of Age made old people less hasty and more considerate, and that all young men who had made a name in the world, owed their success to the old folks. The debate was then thrown open to general discussion, which concluded that the Young were the innovators, and the Aged were consolidators.

Result: AYES....20 NOES.....8. The motion was thus carried by 8 votes

Painters and their Pictures

This was the title of the lecture to be given by Mr. Bush on Thursday March 1st, commencing, as did all the public lectures in this series, in the school hall, at 7pm. An unforeseen change in the programme, however, meant that Mr. Meggs presented "Art in everyday life", with hints on the value of art and how to recognise the faults in badly designed articles. It was obvious that not everyone agreed with Mr. Meggs' choices between good and bad examples of art - all the more reason to give careful thought to one's tastes.

Schubert and his Music



FRANZ SCHUBERT

Miss Morgan Jones, a member of staff at the school, presented her talk on Schubert on Wednesday evening, March 14th.

"The Songs of Birds"

Two weeks after the "Pompeii" lecture, on Wednesday evening, February 15th Professor Garstang of Leeds University (and the husband of one of the school Governors) gave an interesting lecture in the school hall on birdsongs. Once again, the talk was illustrated by the use of lantern slides.

It must be assumed that at some time during the latter part of March 1928 Mr. Dodd's lecture on "Roman Britain" which was postponed in January, was finally given.

Lantern slides were images on glass created by several means (hand painted, lithographic, or photographic) which were then projected from a lightproof box by means of a light source and lenses onto a screen - usually a white sheet or white wall. Originally called the magic lantern, it is the oldest form of slide projector. The standard size for British lantern slides was three and a quarter inches square (approx. 8.25cm square).

Local Entertainment

PALACE, ROYSTON.	
PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY, 1928.	
THURSDAY, Feb. 4--	"HINDLE WAKES" (Estelle Brody).
MONDAY, " 6--	"PALS IN PARADISE."
THURSDAY, " 9--	"RANSOM'S FOLLY."
MONDAY, " 13--	"BARDLEY THE MAGNIFICENT"
THURSDAY, " 16--	"THE MERRY-GO-ROUND" (by request).
MONDAY, " 20--	"THE LAST FRONTIER."
THURSDAY, " 23--	"GOOD LUCK."
MONDAY, " 27--	"PUPPETS."
COMING: "BEN-HUR."	

GRIMETHORPE EMPIRE PALACE.	
PROGRAMME for MAY and JUNE.	
Monday, May 8--	"BLUE BLOOD."
Thursday, " 6--	"WINGS OF YOUTH."
Monday, " 10--	"KISS BARRIER."
Thursday, " 13--	"WOMAN HATER."
Monday, " 17--	"LAUGHING AT DANGER."
Thursday, " 20--	"TRAPPED IN THE SNOW COUNTRY."
Monday, " 24--	"HOW BAXTER BUTTED IN."
Thursday, " 27--	"SHE WOLFES."
Monday, " 31--	"SCARLET HONEYMOON."
Thursday, June 3--	"RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE."
Monday, " 7--	"FLAMES OF DESIRE."
Thursday, " 10--	"GOLD AND THE GIRL."
Monday, " 14--	"GREATER THAN A CROWN."
Thursday, " 17--	"RAINBOW TRAIL."
Monday, " 21--	"THORNS OF PASSION."
Thursday, " 24--	"SCANDAL PROOF."
Monday, " 28--	"DICK TURPIN."
Supplemental by PATHE WEEKLY GAZETTE, COMIC and SERIAL.	

During the early part of 1928, two of the local cinemas offered varied programmes of silent films for the film goers. These parish magazine advertisements show that Mondays and Thursdays were the days to look forward to a new film.

Is it a Menace?

The Friday debate of March 2nd asked the question, "The present popularity of the Cinema is a menace to the community." Fred Williamson, in proposing the motion, deplored the pleasure loving tendencies of the nation, emphasising the unhealthiness and low moral standard of the Cinemas, and their detrimental effect on the rising generation. He earnestly maintained that the educational value of the Cinemas could be replaced by other institutions. In opposition to this, V. Dodds considered that the scenery and music of the Cinemas had considerable influence on the minds of the public. The contact with new ideas and everyday events shown on the films developed the mind and increased both general and specific knowledge. Mary Hodgson, in seconding the motion, pointed out the evil moral influence of American films, especially as regards religion. She contended that films did not exercise the imagination. Leslie Bancroft, the opposer's seconder, showed how films developed a feeling of sympathy, and he maintained that the effect of the morals of the films depended on each person individually. The ensuing general discussion mentioned that the popularity of the Cinemas was due to laziness. Complaints were made of the dubious effects of "Love" films on young people.

Result: AYES.....19 NOES.....7. The motion was carried by 12 votes.

Empire Day, May 24th 1928

Local schoolchildren of all ages were encouraged to sing patriotic songs and salute the flag on this day of celebration throughout the Empire. Started as a British Imperial Celebration of the end of the Boer War, each year on the birthday of Queen Victoria, towns were decorated with patriotic flags and colourful bunting, and brass band performances commemorated Empire Day. Musical plays involving "Britannia" were staged, and both primary and secondary-aged children learned about the many countries linked to Britain in a unique commonwealth of nations. The monarchy in the form of King George V and Queen Mary was at the centre of the celebrations, and processions and the National Anthem were strong features of the day in every country involved.

Optional Alternatives

The long held opinion of Ald. Price in 1928 was that secondary schools were regarded far too highly as places for the creation of parsons and teachers. He welcomed Mr. Jenkinson's proposed alternative of optional two year courses of arts, applied science and commerce for third and fourth year students, which would lead up to the school certificate. In explaining his support for this new initiative, Ald. Price stated that in the previous year of 1927, 38 students had completed their education, and of these, only four had progressed to teacher training colleges. What had become of the other 34? In such a time of high unemployment, he felt that the school curriculum had not been broad enough, especially in the Hemsworth district, which relied heavily on the mining industry for the employment of school leavers. The new applied science course in particular would equip students for entry into this industry with a better chance of success in the more important positions. Parents had been consulted on this matter, and the Governors decided to ask the County Authority to appoint an additional master with an engineering qualification, who would be needed when the number of students increased during the school year.

Comings and Goings

In June 1928 the part time Art master, Mr. H. Taylor, resigned. He had gained an appointment as Art master at Scarborough High School, starting in September 1928. Miss Morgan Jones the Music mistress also handed in her resignation, and after interviewing three candidates, the Governors appointed Miss Phyllis Wright L.R.A.M. who had recently completed a teachers' training course at the Royal Academy of Music.

You May Extend

The plans for further extensions to the school received the formal approval of the Board of Education in London in June 1928, and the Governors discussed the recommendation that a house for the caretaker should be included in the scheme. Four large classrooms, a dining room, dressing rooms, lavatories and the caretaker's house were a step closer.

County Minor Scholarships announced June 1928

Boys (19)	
Crofton	T. F. Clarkson, A. Simpson, P. Watson.
Hemsworth	Lionel Newby, W. W. Summerscales, G. B. Wainwright.
Ryhill	V. Barnsley, T. Kennett.
South Elmsall	R. Leeming, H. Mason, F. Smith, G. E. Walker,
South Kirkby	G. Crapper, W. Rowley, Robert Thorpe, W. F. Carroll, H. Hardy, S. Nettleton, F. B. Ward.
Girls (22)	
Badsworth	M. S. Matthewman.
Brierley	Alice Collinson, Doris Hall.
Crofton	Emily Cullingworth, M. Cullingworth, D. Dyson, Mabel Townend.
Havercroft with Cold Hiendley	M. E. Jones, E. G. Sayers.
Hemsworth	K. Cooper, E. Lindsay.
North Elmsall	L. Pearman.
Ryhill	M. Jennison, N. Ormonde, M. M. Smith.
Shafton	Ruby Jackson, Lorna W. Jagger.
South Elmsall	Barbara Farmery, D. Mart.
South Kirkby	Winifred Bower, Gertrude E. Ramsden, M. L. Chivers

A Mannequin Parade

On Wednesday evening, June 27th 1928, the staff organised an event at the school in the Assembly hall to raise funds for the provision of new tennis courts. Tea was first served in the dining room (as yet unidentified, as this was before the separate Dining Hall was erected) to a large attendance of parents, and afterwards the girls created tableaux of the items they had designed and made during the sewing class. Afternoon dresses, aprons, tennis frocks and night dresses were exhibited, and between the different tableaux, a display of country dancing was given. The evening culminated in a grand parade of all the mannequins, and the announcement that the amount raised was £8.

A Concert

The evening after the mannequins had appeared in the Assembly hall for their fund-raising event, Miss Morgan Jones organised a musical concert before a large and appreciative audience, to raise funds for a new piano.

Songs were sung by Miss Morgan Jones, May Bull, Mollie Price, Miriam Wass and Gwennie Jackson.

Classical dances were performed by Kathleen Barker.

Violin solos were given by Mr. R.H. Pearson of Barnsley, who also brought other instrumentalists to augment the school orchestra.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the artists at the end of the concert, the Headmaster, Mr. Jenkinson, mentioned that this was probably the last performance in Hemsworth for Miss Morgan Jones, as she was leaving at the end of the present term, owing to her forthcoming marriage. In seconding the motion, Ald. G. Price commended the sterling work she had done during her previous four years at the school. The amount raised for the piano fund was over £21.

The Exams

During the summer term the usual end of year examinations were taking place throughout the school, and in the higher forms, 53 scholars sat the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate exams, all no doubt hoping for Matriculation, or perhaps Scholarships to University. Royal Society of Arts examinations were also being held in book-keeping, arithmetic and shorthand.

The Seventh Sports and Parents' Day, Wednesday July 25th 1928

Guest House won the Challenge Cup for the second year running, with a total of 89 points at the annual sports, held in fine summer weather at the school. Many records were broken, most notably the throwing of the cricket ball by Stanley Hawkesworth, which exceeded the previous record of 94ft 1in. by a distance of 7ft. The awards were distributed by Mrs. G. Price, and in a brief speech, the Headmaster thanked Mrs. Price and the competitors. Throughout the afternoon, selections were rendered by the Frickley Band, and tea was served in the school dining room.

The Results

[Names have been augmented where possible]

Event	First	Second	Third	Performance	
100 Yards scratch, girls, open	Kathleen Sayles	Ethel Gee	J. Fowler	12.5 secs	record
100 Yards scratch, boys, open	Frank Rothera	Stanley Hawkesworth,	Harold Gerner	10.5 secs	record
100 Yards scratch, boys under 13	Hodgson	Walter Parsons	George Woodall	14 secs	record
100 yards scratch, girls U13	Muriel Bewick	Barbara Mills	Estelle Rhodes	15 secs.	
100 yards scratch, boys U15	Harris	Fred Williamson	Donald McAllister	12 secs	record
100 Yards scratch, girls U15	Mary Sutton	Nancy Parsonage	J. Cauldwell	14 secs	record
Sack race, open, boys	Albert V. Heywood	Horace K. Porter	Frank A. Rothera.		
High Jump, girls under 15	Grace Mills	Hannah McCroakam	A. Leonard	4ft.	
120 Yards hurdles, open, boys	Frank A. Rothera	Harold Gerner	Brian Harrison	16.1 secs.	
120 Yards hurdles, open, girls	Kathleen Sayles	Phyllis Addis	Ethel Gee and J. Fowler, tie.	20secs.	
120 Yards hurdles, boys U15	Harris	Fred Williamson	Moss	18.5 secs	record
120 Yards hurdles, girls U15	Phyllis Bywater	Eunice Allen	Francis Hodgson	21.5 secs	record
High Jump, open, girls	J. Fowler	Elizabeth Austin	Jennie Hodgson	4ft. 5in	record
Four-legged race, open, boys	1. John Taylor, Morris Gibson and Arthur Thorpe 2. Hudson, Guest J.G. and Thomas Hebden, 3. Norman Poole, Kemp and Ernest Townend.				
220 yards scratch, boys, open	Frank Rothera	Stanley Hawkesworth	Harold Gerner	25.5 secs	record
220 Yards scratch, boys, U15	Harris	Fred Williamson	Moss	29.5 secs	record
220 Yards scratch, girls, U15	Mary Sutton	Ivy Cauldwell	M. Bower	34.5 secs	
220 Yards scratch, girls, open	Kathleen Sayles	Phyllis Addis	J. Fowler	32 secs	record
High Jump, boys, open	Frank A. Rothera	Brian Harrison	Harold Goulding	4ft. 10in	record
High Jump, boys U15	Fred Williamson	Marlow	Bernard Hemstock and Moss, tie.	4ft 3ins	record
Slow bicycle race, girls, open	Marion Birkin	M. Bower	Barbara Mills.		
Wheelbarrow race, girls, open	1. White and M. Highfield 2. Heywood and M. Walker 3. Walsh and Helen Penn.				
440 Yards, scratch, boys, open	S. Hawkesworth	Frank A. Rothera	Harold Gerner	61.5 secs	
440 Yards, scratch, boys U15	Moss	Bernard Hemstock	Francis Time	70.5 secs	record
Obstacle race, old girls	Millicent Leaver	Mary Sutton	Nellie Leaver		
Bunny race (under 4ft, 9in), girls	B. Hancock	Edith Booth	Joan Jagger		
Four-legged race, girls, open	1. Vera Parton and Co 2. Edna Law and Co 3. Hannah McCroakam and Co.				
Mile handicap, boys, open	Taylor	Stanley Hawkesworth	Philip Bull	5min. 26.5 secs.	record
Plant pot race, girls, open	Joyce Webster	Sybil Howson	P. Turner		
Old girls balance race	Elsie Nicholson.				

Old boys race, 100 yards	James Smith			10.5 secs	
Brothers' and Sisters' race	M. Austin, Millicent Wootton.				
Band race	J. Webb	S. Crow	J. Hill		
House relay race	Talbot				
Tug-o'-war	Guest House.				
Long jump, girls, open	Kathleen Sayles	J. Fowler	Lilian Dykes	13ft. 9.25 in.	
Long jump, boys, open	Frank A. Rothera	Brian Harrison	Harold Goulding	17ft. 5.5in	record
Long jump girls U15	M. Parsonage	D. Parkinson	R. Fisher	12ft. 4in	
Long jump boys U15	Gordon Sterry	Francis Walsh	Moss	13ft.3in	
Throwing the cricket ball	S. Hawkesworth	Frank A. Rothera	Reginald Clark	100yards 1ft	record
Swimming House relay race	Holgate House.				

The "Victor Ludorum" cups awarded for the most points in open scratch events went to Kathleen Sayles (girls) and Frank A. Rothera (boys) with 12 and 19 points respectively.

The total House points scored by the respective School Houses were: Guest 89, Talbot 65, Price 43 and Holgate 40.

The Boys v Parents cricket game was played during the evening, and the scores were: Parents 116, Boys 130 for 5.

A New School Year, and Exam Successes

In the September of 1928, the news of the excellent results of the previous terms' examinations delighted parents, Staff and Governors alike. At that time, pupils aged 15 or 16 sat the School Certificate examination, which was a grouped test in which candidates were awarded certificates at two levels according to their success in a range of subjects. The higher level, known as "matriculation" required success in English, mathematics and a language other than English plus two other subjects. Unlike its successor the GCE exam, it had a number of compulsory subjects and all had to be passed at a single sitting. Of the 53 candidates at Hemsworth Secondary School, 40 obtained the Certificate, and of these, 35 had matriculated, while ten had passed in various subjects with distinctions. These were excellent results. Of special note was the success of Adelaide Branford, who was the third student in the history of the school to achieve the award of a County Major Scholarship. In the RSA examinations, seven scholars had credits and 14 a pass in book-keeping, and one failed. In Arithmetic, there were five credits, 15 passes and 2 failures, and in Shorthand, eight passed and five failed.

Down by Tuppence

The previous school year's dinner accounts were discussed at a Governors' meeting on Friday 28th September. From September 1927 to July 1928, a profit of £62 /10s./10d. had been made, and therefore it was decided that the price of a weekly ticket should be reduced from 3s./ 2d. to 3s. The Chairman, Ald. Price, commented that Mr. A.C. Madeley, an H.M. Inspector who had recently visited the school, had made favourable comments to him on the kind of dinner served to the scholars. Mr. Jenkinson had informed the inspector that between 30 and 40 children brought their own dinners to school, 59 were receiving grants for their meals from the County Authority, and around 200 dinners were served every day.

Yes, You May, (after all)

The Governors decided in October 1928 that they would grant permission to the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association to use a room at the school once a week for tutorial classes. In November 1921, even before the formal opening ceremony of the school had taken place, Mr. Alfred Richards, then secretary of the Hemsworth branch of the WEA had enterprisingly requested the use of such a room, and had effectively been refused, by dint of the matter's being referred by the Governors to a Hemsworth Education sub-committee. Now that the school and its managerial staff were better established, it seems that permission could be granted without fear of repercussions.

[The Workers' Education Association (WEA) was founded in 1903 under the title Association to Promote the Higher Education of Working Men. The WEA was also linked to the trade union movement and was closely involved in campaigns for better state education. The WEA is now a national voluntary organisation existing primarily to provide adults with access to organised learning. Today it is a registered charity and is non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion. The WEA is, organised into 13 districts in England, and has a Scottish Association. It has over 650 local branches and 28 local organisations.]

Poverty Nearby

The effects of the 1926 Miners' Strike continued in the Hemsworth district throughout 1928. Many victimised men were still unable to find work in the mines because of their active involvement in the General Strike and its aftermath. As a measure of this, when the school advertised for an assistant gardener, there were 64 applicants, 36 of whom were unemployed. In the local Primary Schools, the School Medical Officer found many cases of actual malnutrition among young children, together with insufficient clothing and poor footwear. Free school meals, dried milk, biscuits and cod liver oil were provided as subsidiary nourishment in schools, together with pairs of boots for the most needy.

Cornish China Clay

On Wednesday evening, October 24th, Mr. Robert Shields, the Chemistry master at the school gave a lecture, illustrated with the aid of lantern slides, on the Cornish China Clay Industry. He described the quarrying of the stone, and how it was ground into a fine powder ready to be made into the finished article. One of the slides showed a 15th century church which was built of china stone, and Mr. Shields commented that to build such a church in 1928 would be far too expensive, as the stone had become far too valuable. He mentioned that everything around the quarries grew luxuriously, and while nature's beauty was usually spoiled by the advance of industry, in this particular area it was actually enhanced. Mr. Walter Wright, the Head Boy at the school thanked Mr. Shields and also the Headmaster for having arranged the talk, which was one of a series which was planned for the winter months. Mr. Jenkinson commented on the extraordinary natural beauty in and around the clay works, and indicated that this was where Cornwall differed from the North of England. Having come to Hemsworth from St. Austell himself in 1921, this talk would have a particular interest for him. (One can only wonder about what he would nowadays make of the Eden Project situated there!)

In conclusion, Mr. Jenkinson appealed for 'the other' lectures to be well attended. Sadly there is no record of these.

Seventh Annual Speech Day, Wednesday November 14th 1928

The prizes were presented by Miss L. Leatham at this well-attended ceremony held at the Hippodrome, and the principal speaker was Dr. James Black Baillie O.B.E. Vice Chancellor of Leeds University. (Doubtless Dr. Baillie would have inspected the new Assembly Hall at the school before proceeding to the Hippodrome, as it was he who had originally been invited to perform its opening ceremony. Having been unable to attend this event, this was an opportunity for him to see the building.)

As was usual, Ald. G. Price presided, and in his opening speech he stated that there were now 357 pupils at the school, which was a small increase on the previous year. He congratulated the Headmaster and Staff on a successful year, and especially the achievement of Adelaide Branford's County Major Scholarship, which was the third such award in the short history of the school. South Elmsall Pretoria Club had granted a scholarship for three years, which was a praiseworthy example of support.

Efforts were being made to address the lack of accommodation at the school, with extensions receiving approval from the Board of Education, and work scheduled to begin without delay. The amount spent on the school since its establishment was around £60,000. The money was well spent, and it was pleasing to know that several former students were now attending universities.

The Headmaster's Report

First Link with the Universities

Mr. Jenkinson stated that during the previous few years the school had forged links with the universities, and now had about a dozen former pupils at universities and training colleges. Such education need not cost parents anything, as the Board of Education and the County Council gave grants, and the remaining cost could be covered by loans which students could repay in five years. (This would appear as a familiar method of support to any present-day student.) Mr. Jenkinson quoted the headmaster of a City of London School:

"I never met a man who wished he had not been to a university; I have never met a man who left school half-educated and did not regret it." He urged parents to be ready to make sacrifices which would be amply rewarded later.

The year's pleasing examination results in the Higher School Certificate were that seven of fifteen candidates were awarded full certificates, and three others passed in all principal subjects. In the School Certificate exams, 40 out of 53 passed, and 15 matriculated, 13 with distinctions. There were only four failures in Mathematics, five in French and seven in History, and in History 32 candidates of 53 reached matriculation - a high percentage. These results compared favourably with those of any school in the West Riding. Commonly, French was the stumbling block of boys and Mathematics of girls, and if a school had sound teaching in those subjects there was little to complain about. From the commercial form 22 candidates were entered for the Royal Society of Arts' examination, 21 passing in book-keeping, 28 in arithmetic, and eight of 13 in shorthand.

Three former pupils at Leeds University were all scholarship holders: E. John Barker, County Major (History); Adelaide Branford, County Major (English); and Philip Bull, Holgate Scholarship (Mathematics)

Examinations

Mr. Jenkinson referred to Dr. Cyril Norwood's recent address to the British Association on examinations: "I am all in favour of Dr. Norwood's suggestion to abolish external examinations except for the purpose of University Scholarships and other such awards, and to rely more on a certificate from the Headmaster of the Secondary School. This ideal, which has been achieved to some extent in America, may be at present outside the range of practical accomplishment in this country, but of one thing I feel confident, and it is being more generally recognised every year: that if we must have examinations conducted by outside bodies, the examining bodies must conform more liberally to the requirements of the school. Schools must have freedom to expand in any direction that they feel to be necessary in the interests of their pupils, and must not be so tied as at present to tiresome restrictions."

The President of the Board of Education had recently pointed out that employers could help considerably by not insisting too rigidly on the possession of a School Certificate as the only test of ability and fitness, but by relying far more on the judgement of the headmaster or headmistress. Holders of a Certificate may not have the qualifications required in particular subjects, whereas those who have these qualifications may have nevertheless failed to gain a certificate owing to the regulations of the examining body.

The widening of the curriculum

Mr. Jenkinson described the attempts being made by the Governors and Director of Education to widen the curriculum by allowing three alternative courses in the third and fourth years, which could later be carried on to fifth and sixth years. Commercial courses were already under way, soon to be followed by an applied science course offering workshop practice experiences which would be valuable in a mining district such as Hemsworth. Hopes were high that the approved extensions to the school would be completed in the next twelve months.

Sports

Much gratitude was due to Miss Hanson, Miss Shortridge and the other mistresses for their efforts with the girls' sports. Mr. L. Collette had coached the boys for cricket and Mr. Scott, who was about to leave them, for rugby. Swimming had been taken up by a number of pupils, and Mr. Storer organised a swimming gala. They were grateful for financial assistance from the Education Authority concerning this.

The Arts

The Arts and Craft Exhibition of the previous summer had given particular pleasure to the Headmaster, and Parents' Day had been successful. Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" was shortly to be presented, and many successes in singing and dancing were achieved at the Pontefract Music Festival of 1928, much of which general progress was due to the fine efforts of his loyal and capable staff, the support of the Governors, and in particular, the chairman Ald. Price. Thanks were given to the parents, together with an appeal for them to take an added interest in the work of their children, and to report to him any irregularities or errors.

Careers

Mr. Jenkinson said he would welcome any help or advice concerning the careers of the scholars. He had a notice board in school on which he posted information relating to this, and people were invited to come and speak on the subject. He would like more parents to attend these talks, and discuss the matter generally with himself and the staff. He felt that the teaching profession was overcrowded, and other avenues must be found for young people. On the other hand, the real aim of education was the formation of the character, and he ended his report by quoting the late Lord Oxford's address to Aberdeen University:

"Keep always with you, whatever your course may be, the company of great thoughts, the inspiration of great ideals, the example of great achievements and the consolation of great failures. So equipped, you can face without perturbation the buffets of circumstance, the caprice of fortune and all the inscrutable vicissitudes of life."

Dr. Baillie's Speech

The influence of the Secondary School

Dr. Baillie congratulated the Headmaster on his report, saying it was one of the best he had heard. He admired Hemsworth Secondary School which had achieved so much in such a relatively short time, and which had demonstrated the value of raising the level of intelligence in the community. Such schools had not been created just to prepare for University. He welcomed the fact that the Headmaster mentioned guiding his pupils in their career choices. Schools should assist their students to prepare for, and choose the work they would do after leaving.

One of the most valuable elements in the success of a school was the cultivation of a fine tradition. A school with a tradition was like a person with brain and character. One of the best and most important elements in a sound tradition in a school was the cultivation of a sense of fair play. Another quality was the cultivation of self-reliance. In these days, when public opinion moulded political and social life, it was more important than ever that boys and girls should be taught to think for themselves. Then there was nothing like hard work for forming character.

The speakers were thanked, on the motion of Mr. J. Potts, seconded by Mrs. E.L. Dooley

The Presentation

[The owners of the High Hall before it became a school were members of the Leatham family, and it seems likely that the guest of honour, Miss L. Leatham of Wentbridge, who presented the prizes, was invited with this in mind.]

Higher School Full Certificates

Adelaide Branford, Philip Bull, Lilian Dykes, Kathleen Jagger, James Keenan, Kathleen Thompson, Thorpe S.

Higher School Part Certificates

Violet Dodds, Olive Tooth, Miriam Wass, Stanley Hawkesworth, Mart A., Frank A. Rothera, Williams R.V.

School Certificates

Leslie Bancroft, Barker J.R., J. Lawrence Frazer, Harold Gerner, Brian Harrison, George A. Hunt, J.A. Leslie Jago, Richards J., Leslie R. Smith, Edwin Taylor, Arthur Thorpe, Cyril Warner, White W., Fred Williamson, Arthur L. Wilson, Albert V. Heywood, Hopkins A.J., Howitt N., George C. Mellars, James H. Smith.

Betty Austin, Annie Brailsford, Nellie Chilton, Ethel Gee, Edith Guest, Jennie Hodgson, Edna Law, Doris Miles, Hilda Newton, Vera Parton, Helen Penn, Winifred Penn, Clarice Allen, May Bull, Margaret Cunningham, Hilda Finch, Nancy Parsonage, Molly Price, Ethel Smith, Maud Wood.

County Major Scholarship

Adelaide Branford.

Distinction in School Scholarship

Fred Williamson, J. Lawrence Frazer, George A. Hunt, John Mellor, Leslie R. Smith, J.A. Leslie Jago, Albert V. Heywood
Betty Austin, Nellie Chilton

Form Prizes

5A	Vera Parton	5B	Howitt F.N.			
4A	Florence Parsonage	4B	Kathleen Webster	4C	Harold Goulding	
3A	Sidney Fox	3B	Hilda Paley	3 Remove	Flora Hudson	
2A	Laura Austin	2B	Mary Sutton	2C	Sybil Howson	2D - Leslie Guy

Needlework Prizes (Special Prizes given by Mrs. Guest)

Edith Guest, Ethel Midgeley,

Reading Prizes

Seniors: Mary Highfield

Juniors: Ethel Midgeley.

General Information

E. John Barker, Maurice Gibbon

General Progress

Grace Mills (17 places), A. Walsh (15 places)

Star Prizes

Mary Sutton (70), Florence M. Parsonage (68), Phyllis Howe (67), J. Webster (57), Sybil Howson (55), Arthur Thorpe (52)

House Challenge Cup

Guest 601 points Holgate 524.5 points Talbot 414 points Price 73 points

A musical programme was given by the scholars with Miss Wright as conductor and Miss Hodgson accompanist. Part songs were given by the school choir, violin solos by George Mellars, songs by Miss Phyllis Wright, solos by Misses Miriam Wass and Mollie Price, and items by the school orchestra.

"She Stoops to Conquer", Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and 17th, 18th, 19th December



The pupils of the school further enhanced their reputation with their presentation of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" in the Assembly hall on Wednesday evening, 18th December. The acting was good, and the producers were Miss E.D. Robinson and Mr. J.A. Storer. Mr. Storer was also Stage Manager. Each of the players showed confidence, with no prompter's voice being heard. Entrance musical items were given by the school orchestra, assisted by Mr. A. Willey and Mr. E. Silverwood, under the direction of Miss Phyllis Wright. A repeat performance took place on Thursday, and a matinee was held on Tuesday for 75 elementary school children. The proceeds went towards the school tennis court fund.

The Cast

Character	Actor
Mrs. Hardcastle	Maisie Thorne
Kate Hardcastle	Miriam Wass
Constance Neville	Mollie Price
Sir Charles Marlow	Leslie R. Smith
Mr. George Hastings	Frank White
Tony Lumpkin	Fred Williamson

Minor characters were satisfactorily played by:

Edwin Taylor, Harry Maybury, Cyril Warner, Arthur Thorpe, Thomas Hebden, K. Ellison, Leslie Jago and Arthur L. Wilson

Goldsmith's masterpiece had young Marlow as a rich, handsome and single young man, but despite his infamous ability to charm a barmaid, he was hopelessly bashful in the presence of a society lady. His chances of impressing the beautiful Miss Kate Hardcastle were further jeopardised when he was persuaded by the mischievous Tony Lumpkin that her family home, Liberty Hall, was in fact the local inn. To the horror of her father, Squire Hardcastle, Marlow made himself thoroughly comfortable and somehow got the idea that Kate was a serving girl. In fact Kate assisted in this deception in a bid to capture his heart. Thus, in terms of the social status, she stooped to conquer. This practical joke leads to a night of misunderstanding, embarrassment and confusion for all concerned. First staged in 1773, 'She Stoops to Conquer' or, 'The Mistakes of a Night' proceeded at electric pace, with nothing quite as it seemed.

Raising a Storm - in a teacup?

The last days of 1928 saw the development of a situation which sounded the first major note of upset and disagreement in the school's history between some of the Governors of the school and the Association of Old Students. The matter concerned the wording on invitations to the Christmas social which had been sent by the Association to the Governors, and which made it clear that anyone accompanying the invited Governor who was not an old student of the school should be prepared to pay an entrance fee. This apparently caused great offence. In the heated discussions which followed the receipt of the offending invitations, accusations were made that such a lack of tact reflected badly on the education which the old students had received at the school. This in turn offended Mr. Jenkinson, who denied that this was relevant, and claimed that he had had no influence over the issue of the invitations, and could not therefore, as requested by one or two Governors, chastise those who had sent them out. In trying to pour oil on the troubled waters, the chairman of the Governors, Ald. G. Price, expressed the hope that those small errors of tact would not affect the future good relations of the Governors, Staff and old students. In turn, several of the Governors pointed out that if the old students held dances at the school at a cost of practically nothing, and yet felt they should charge their guests, then their invitations would not be welcomed. After all, if the socials were only for old students, then why send out invitations?

As it was, the evening itself was a great success, with seventy members present, including the chairman of the Governors and his wife, and several of the other Governors. In the first part of the evening a whist drive was held in the school hall, the M.Cs being Messrs. S. Carter and P.T. Burns. The successful players were Miss Kathleen M. Thompson, Miss F.M. Long, Mr. S. Carter and Mr. S. Cliff who received prizes from Mrs. Austin.

Oldfield's "Sonors" Band supplied the music for the dancing which followed, and the M.Cs were Messrs W. Leo Dooley and P.T. Burns. Dance prizes were won by Mr. G. Walsh and Miss F. Long. During supper, provided by Mr. and Mrs. Manning, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson thanked the old students and in particular Mr. Richard White, the secretary of the Association who had made all the arrangements, for making the gathering a success. He mentioned that about 20 other members were unable to be there due to bad weather. Mr. Dooley, the president of the Association, also thanked the members, and his committee. Ald. Price, chairman of the Governors, also expressed his appreciation of the pleasant evening, and wished for many such more. Mr. Dooley proposed that all members of the teaching staff at the school should be adopted as members of the Association, and everyone, Governors, teachers and old students alike, agreed.

As an interesting footnote, the secretary of the Old Students' Association, Mr. Richard White, resigned during this evening, and was replaced by Mr. J. Grayson. As the employed secretary to the Headmaster, as well as secretary to the Association, Mr. White may have felt he had compromised Mr. Jenkinson in some way with the misinterpreted invitations he and the committee had issued.

Governors' Meeting October 1928

Congratulations to the staff and scholars of the Hemsworth Secondary School on the excellent results gained in the recent school certificate examinations were offered by the Governors at a meeting on Friday. Alderman G. Price, JP (chairman) who presided, said the Governors were more than delighted with the results. Of the 53 scholars who sat for the examination, 40 obtained the certificate, and no fewer than 35 matriculated, while ten passed in various subjects with distinctions. That was a great achievement for a new school, and he extended the Governors' hearty thanks and congratulations to the staff, who must have worked exceedingly hard and strenuously, and to the students. Mr. J. Potts supported, and remarked that great credit was due to the staff for the manner in which they had carried out their duties. It was reported that Mrs. Guest, a Governor, was unable to attend owing to injuries received in a motor accident, and it was decided to send her a letter of sympathy expressing the hope for a speedy recovery. It was decided to send a letter of congratulation to Miss Branford, a student at the school, upon winning a county major scholarship. Permission was granted to the local branch of the Workers' Educational Association to use a room in the school for tutorial classes once a week. The tender of Mr. G.W. Bingley, of Hemsworth, for carting coal and coke to the school, was accepted. It was reported that the school dinner account for the term ending July last showed a profit of £62 10s. 10d. The weekly ticket for dinner this term had been reduced from 3s. 2d. to 3s. The Chairman observed that he had heard a very favourable comment by H.M. Inspector on the kind of dinner served. In reply to Mr. A.C. Madeley, the headmaster (Mr. A.G. Jenkinson M.A.) said 30 or 40 children were taking their dinners to the school, 59 were receiving grants for their meals from the county authority, and about 200 dinners were served every day. Mr. Jenkinson reported that in the Royal Society of Arts examination last term, seven pupils had credits and 14 a pass in book-keeping, and one failed: in arithmetic there were five credits, 15 passes and two failures and in shorthand eight passed and five failed.

1928 in Context

In comparing and contrasting this year at the school with the previous years since its opening, there are a few things to take into account. In this regard the omissions of 1928 can possibly be as informative as its inclusions.

For the first time since 1921, there had been no official mention of the resentment felt by the Headmaster and Governors at the transfer of the Holgate Fund to Barnsley, nor any cries for its return to Hemsworth. Had the realisation dawned that this was unlikely? Perhaps moves were still afoot in the background to reclaim what had been lost, but the urgency seems to have abated as the school and its management team realised that investment in the buildings and facilities was forthcoming after all from both National and County Authorities.

Although the school may have been represented in the Country Dancing sections of the Pontefract Music Festival in 1928, and even performed one or two such dances as part of the presentation of the Mannequin parade, there was no mention of a separate Country Dancing celebration for the schools of the district at Hemsworth this year. Maybe with more Forms studying for the School Certificate, and with the widening of the curriculum to embrace ever more subjects, less hours would have been available in the timetable for this recreational activity.

With no further mention of the 1927 vice-chairman of the Governors, Mrs. Alice Schorah, during 1928 and thereafter, it must be assumed that she had ceased - perhaps temporarily - to be involved at Hemsworth Secondary School.

The sharing of the school's financial situation with the local newspaper-reading public seems to have lapsed in 1928. Prior to this, articles regularly appeared giving specific figures concerning estimates given for the cost of buildings, and their eventual cost, or in the earlier days of the school's existence, the income derived from fees payable, balanced against the running expenses of the school. In 1928 there was only a small report on the dinner fund profit, and the announcement of the subsequent reduction of the price of a meal. This dearth of information is more likely to stem from lack of communication with the journalists rather than a new secretive attitude.

On the positive side, the first efforts made by the pupils and staff to gather the necessary funds to provide musical instruments and tennis courts for themselves, occurred during this year. Several fund-raising events were held for this purpose in 1928, aided by the increased audience capacity offered by the new school Assembly Hall.

The new initiative to widen the range of subjects offered at the school, and thereby the range of qualifications attainable, was a far-sighted move on the part of the Governors and especially Mr. Jenkinson to address the employment problems experienced by those pupils who had no intention of progressing to University, whether through lack of ability or lack of financial support. Hard times were on the way for everyone. Whether the Governors and Mr. Jenkinson had the vision to see this, or whether they were responding specifically to local conditions as they saw them, their 1928 curriculum changes were to serve the pupils well in the immediate years to come.