

Speech Day 1949

The 28th. annual Speech Day guests were Admiral Sir Ralph Leatham, late Governor of Bermuda, and Lady Leatham, who were paying a visit to Hemsworth, where the Leatham family lived for many years in the building which is now the Grammar School. Ald. A. Flavell, J.P., chairman of the Governors, presided.

Sir Ralph said that with the Church and the home, schooling was the foundation of culture and the willingness and capacity to contribute to the well-being and happiness of others. The common objective of schools was to send boys and girls into the world with a fair chance of getting a proper and useful place in society, and of becoming good citizens and assets to the country. Whether the objective could be reached by the age of 15, or a few years longer in the case of some, was a controversial point. It appeared to depend on the individual. He urged parents to be patient and considerate to the teachers, who had a hard task.

The chairman said they were all proud of the school's educational achievements. It had now been settled between the County Education Committee and the local Divisional Education Executive that co-education should continue at the school for the future. "We are still short of grammar and technical accommodation," Ald. Flavell added, "This is an industrial area, and it is vitally necessary to have accommodation for full-time technical education so that we can provide industry with the technical knowledge it requires and, at the same time, prepare students in the Grammar School for teaching and other academic posts." They had been promised that three classrooms were to be built for full-time technical education up to the age of 18, and the building would be attached to the Technical Institute in the Grammar School grounds.

Mr. R.W.Hamilton, presenting his report, said there were 625 pupils, against 640 the previous September. In June 95 pupils took the School Certificate, 64 being successful. Twenty-five took the Higher School Certificate and 17 were successful, a new record for the school. Pupils of the Sixth Form between them won a State Scholarship, an open scholarship at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, two open scholarships at Hull University, an open entrance scholarship at Birmingham University, three county major scholarships, a county exhibition, and a county music scholarship. Such a record for one year was unique in the annals of the school, and reflected great credit, not only on the pupils themselves, but on the staff who made such achievements possible, and on those men and women who, nearly 30 years ago, strove to bring the school into existence.

All the scholarship winners had gone to universities, and he doubted if any could have gone but for the financial help they won. "The further academic progress of nearly all our pupils depends upon scholarships," Mr. Hamilton continued. "It is true that only a minority are capable of winning them, but they are an important minority and should not be neglected. We are proud that all our pupils get an opportunity of a sound education, each according to his ability, but the academically bright pupils need the skill and knowledge which can come to them only from a highly-qualified staff. It is, therefore, very important that the salaries and conditions of service in our Grammar Schools should compare favourably with those of other schools and professions. This is not so today. There is a grave shortage of teachers of the right type with the necessary skill and advanced knowledge. We at Hemsworth Grammar School are lucky at the moment, but the temptation to move to other spheres is ever present and I do not know how long we shall continue to be so fortunate."

Mr. Hamilton added that the school's work outside the classroom had never slackened. "We believe the worth of a school should be judged by the general level of attainment and by the soundness of the training given rather than by high academic prowess of an odd pupil here and there," said Mr. Hamilton. "Because of this belief our governors are trying to increase the number of places in the area for grammar school education. They have, however, been badly let down of late by parents who have taken their children away from school before the completion of the course. Children admitted at the age of eleven are being taken away from school by their parents after three or four years. This is almost criminal, both to the child who is taken away and to the child who would have stayed till the end of the course had he been given the chance." Mr. Hamilton said that to check the unfortunate tendency, and at the same time, to give the disappointed ones a second chance, he was hoping that a larger number of transfer scholarships would be available next year. More than half the transfer scholars reached School Certificate stage, and of late some of their brightest and best pupils had been just those who failed to get a scholarship at the age of 11. Psychologically such children went prepared to make the most of their second chance. They were deeply conscious of one disappointment and were determined not to meet another.

A musical programme was given by the school orchestra and choir, conducted by Miss J.E.Carter, with Miss Joyce Dixon as accompanist. Mr. J. Renhard played violin solos. The prizes were presented by Lady Leatham.

Special Prizes

Prize for Head Girl	Marion Roberts.
Prize for Head Boy	James Foster
M.A. Griffiths' Prize for French	Margaret Foster
A.G.Jenkinson Prize for Latin	Malcolm Ackroyd
Junior Girls' P.T. Medal	Norma Stephenson.
Junior Boys' P.T. Medal	Roy Frost.
Senior Boys' P.T. Medal	Cyril Fozzard
Esperanto Prize	Joseph Hobson.
Star Prize	Maria Burns.
Prizes for Spoken English	T. Andrews and T. Robinson.
Individual Cricket Cup	Brian Rainforth
International Essay Merit Prize	James Foster
International Essay First Prize.	Brian Rainforth
International Essay Merit Prize	Rita Doughty
Guest Prize for Cookery	Sheila Braim
Guest Prize for Needlework	Ruth Kendall



Celia Asher shakes hands with Lord Halifax. Miss Smith is in the foreground. Mr. Hamilton is to the right.

Form prizes

1a - Brian Wood.	1b - Sheila Paynter	1c - Ronald Smethurst	1d - John Jones.
2a - Alan Mozley	2b - Arthur Allsopp	2c - Monica Weston	2d - Joan Dyson.
3a - Peter Haverty	3b - Amy Heppinstall	3c - Enid Locker	3d - Patricia Knapper.
4a - Edith Lill	4b - Mavis Stringer	4c - Sydney O'Marr.	
5a - Keith Bruce	5b - Jean Dillon	5c - Geoffrey Manning	5d - Denis Hartley

Cup

House Sports Cup
 House Football Cup
 House Hockey Cup
 House Cricket Cup
 House Challenge Cup
 House Arts Cup
 House Swimming Cup

First

Price (98 pts.)
 Price (75)
 Talbot (83)
 Talbot (66)
 Price (2,052)
 Price (117)
 Talbot (42)

Second

Holgate (83)
 Holgate (67)
 Price (50)
 tie Holgate & Guest (50)
 Talbot (1,306)
 Holgate (98)
 Price (38)

Third

Talbot (79)
 Talbot (58)
 Holgate (42)
 Holgate (1,291)
 Guest (97)
 Guest (20)

Fourth

Guest (40).
 Guest (50).
 Guest (25).
 Price (34).
 Guest (1,001).
 Talbot (83).
 Holgate (17).



The image comes from Celia Asher. Geoff Govier has provided some of the names. Thank you.

L-R: Arthur Askey, Mary Bingley, Peter Schofield, Rita Doughty, Bernard Milner, Patricia Waring, Richard Whittaker