

Speech Day 1956

Major-General Sir Noel G. Holmes, Chairman of the North Eastern Division of the National Coal Board, presented the prizes and certificates at the 35th Annual Speech Day. Coun. A.E. Duckett, chairman of the governors, who presided, said they were about to open a new chapter in the history of the school. The extensions for which the governors had pressed for so many years were nearing completion, and when the school took possession of them the district would have a grammar school of which it might be very proud. The school had functioned successfully during the year. Its aim was not to cram boys and girls with all kinds of knowledge, but it was much more important to train the rising generation to think, to exercise powers of judgement, to discriminate between what was true and what was false, to know what was good and what was bad. Above all, its aim was to show boys and girls the virtue of the British way of life so that when their time came they might improve and extend one of the most precious things that Britain had given to the world.

Presenting his annual report, Mr. R. W. Hamilton said that in September 1955 the number of pupils was 691, and by July 153 had left. In September they took in 159 new pupils, giving a total of 697 for the beginning of the school year. Those who left took up the following careers:

Boys	No.	Girls	No.
Universities and Training Colleges	9	Training Colleges	12
Further Full-time education	2	Further Full-Time Education	3
N. C. B.	11	Clerical Work	33
Apprentices	8	Shop Assistants	2
Clerical Work	3	Nursing	7
Services	9	Trades and Factories	6
Other Employment	5	Laboratory Technicians	2
Not Known	3	Transfers and Left District	7
Technicians	2	Not Known 5	5
Transfers through leaving the district	10		

"A feature of this analysis is the small number who proceed to the University by way of the sixth form course," said Mr. Hamilton. "Five boys only went to University. No girls at all! Perhaps it is a symptom of the times in which we live. Today there are many more ways of entering University than through the sixth forms of grammar schools. Every great industrial organisation tries to attract the best of our young people by offering a good salary, after the G. C. E. at Ordinary Level, by giving time off for study at a higher level, and by promising scholarships to the University to candidates who are successful in further examinations. Moreover, the money grant for the University course usually has no means test attached to it. While we cannot but welcome such openings for our pupils, we feel that, by leaving at the end of the fifth year, they are depriving themselves of the incalculable benefits which come from a two years' stay in the sixth form."

Mr. Hamilton said that at the Advanced Level of the G. C. E., 28 pupils were entered as candidates and 24 passed. Two pupils were awarded County Exhibitions and five received County Bursaries, while one was awarded a County Music Scholarship. "On the whole, the standard of performance this year was a little below that for 1955." He added. "At the ordinary level, 83 pupils sat and all passed. The average number of passes per pupil increased from 3.6 in 1954 to 4.4 this year. When we take into account the enormous disorganisation to the staff during the year, I think it is really a most satisfactory result." said Mr. Hamilton. "It could have been much worse and the explanation would have been very simple. The excellence of the result is a testimony to the resilience, energy and skill of both teachers and taught."

Sir Noel Holmes said he regretted that only 11 of the boys who had left during the year had joined the N. C. B., and he hoped that would be rectified another year. Since nationalisation the coal industry had changed very considerably, and there were wonderful facilities for training. Safety had been his main anxiety in the coal industry ever since he came to the division ten years ago. "I have never stinted any money on making conditions safe for the men who are working for us," he said. "We have spent millions of pounds on improving the roadways and working conditions. The welfare arrangements are better than in any other industry I have seen." The education facilities were excellent and there were good wages and salaries. "I can assure you that the young people who come into the coal industry are well looked after," said Sir Noel, "I make it a point of honour that everybody who comes into the industry does not take any job, particularly underground, without supervision, until he has passed proficient in the job."

Mr. R. E. Morgan, who represents the University of Leeds on the school's governing body, thanked Sir Noel. County Coun. G. Guest, seconding, said Sir Noel was held in very high esteem in Yorkshire. He was a man who kept his promises - a valuable thing in the world of today - a man with a great capacity for work, and a sportsman. Ald. J. Fuller-Smith, chairman of the West Riding Education Committee, said the other careers which the County Authority were offering to young people were not competing with the coal industry. The Education Committee's job was to try to offer pupils in all their schools a knowledge and an opportunity to enter all the trades and professions there were in the country.

Items were given by the school choirs conducted by Messrs. C. M. Boyd and G. R. Burnett, with Mr. C. M. Owen and S. J. Farnsworth as accompanists.

SPEECH DAY AWARDS

Sixth Form

William K. Baxendale	M.A. Griffiths prize for French
Donald M. Maltby	A.G. Jenkinson Prize for Latin, Prize for University Exhibition
Ronald Smethurst	Lindley Prize for History, Prize for University Exhibition, Prize for Head Boy
M. Yvonne Harris	Prize for Head Girl

Fifth Form

Bernard Connolly	History Prize
Marlene Coughlan	English Literature Prize
Mollie Hepworth	French Prize
Carole E. Holder	English Language Prize, Latin Prize, Prize for Highest Aggregate
J. K. Bramham	Mathematics prize
Colin Nye	General Science Prize
Edwin Hambleton	Mechanical Science Prize
R. P. Harvey	Metalwork Prize
R. Nicholls	Art prize)
Ann Beaumont	Domestic Science prize

Form Prizes

Carole C. Holder 5A	Paul Toon 5S	Brian Mart 5G	
Margaret E. Biggs 4A	G. A. Lockett 4S	J. Cook 4T	A. Kearns 4G
Gwen M. Cavanagh 3A	Margaret Penny 3B	Maureen Ellam 3C	Peter J. Douglas 3D
Paul Toon 2A	K. Conway 2B	David M. Share 2C	John Morrissey 2D
C. Godfrey Wass 1A	Keith J. Gainey 1B	Leonard Linsey 1C	Janet Marston 1D

House Merit Prizes

Geoffrey A. Lockett (Guest)	Maurice Randall (Holgate)	James Wild (Price)	Sykes Beaumont (Talbot)
Geoffrey A. Lockett	Kenwood Biology Medal		

P.T. Medals

Junior Girls	Jennifer J. Lindley
Junior Boys	E. R. Matthews
Senior Girls	Susan J. Butcher
Senior Boys	Brian Moore

Dr. H. Walker's plaque
(for improvement in sport)

Anthony Pickering.

House Cups

Hockey	Price
Rugby	Talbot
Arts	Guest
Rounders	Talbot
Swimming	Price
Cricket	Talbot
Tennis	Price
Standards	Holgate
Sports	Price
Challenge	Guest.