

## School History 1923

### Introduction

The Hemsworth of 1923 would have had roughly 12,000 inhabitants, and there was a steadily increasing influx of families arriving from Wales, Scotland, the North-East and the Midland counties to find work in the growing Mining and Building Industries. The spread of the railway network had made travelling easier, and the West Riding County Council, the Hemsworth Rural District Council and the Hemsworth Urban District Council, formed only two years earlier, were all busily engaged in improving the roads, the water supplies, the fire service, the welfare services and the educational facilities for everyone.

Elsewhere in the country the 1920's were a time of youthful revolution which challenged the Victorian attitudes towards women - how they behaved, how they dressed and their role in society. The 'bright young things' of the 20's were known as 'flappers' and they were demanding the freedom to live their own lives. They wore provocative make-up, showed their knees, and abandoned themselves to the wild rhythms of Jazz, Charleston and the Black Bottom. While their elders considered such behaviour reckless and irresponsible, the young people listened to the songs of Duke Ellington, Al Jolson and Fanny Brice, and marvelled at the dancing of Isadora Duncan. It was an era of post war frivolity and optimism. To emphasise their new-found freedom, women threw away their corsets, cut their hair, wore trousers, smoked cigarettes and drove fast cars. Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, prohibition in America was forcing people into 'speakeasies' in search of illegal alcohol, and a gangland subculture of guns, police raids and bootlegged whisky was created. Life at Hemsworth Secondary School in 1923, however, was settling into a routine which exhibited few of these extremes.

### Head's House Approved

The Governors considered and approved the plans for the Head's house at their June 1923 meeting presided over by Ald. Gabriel Price.

### Straying Cattle

Throughout 1923 there had been a problem with cattle straying onto the school's grounds from an adjacent field, and by the month of June, action was taken to notify the responsible authority, which was the Hemsworth School Sport Association. Mr. W. Moody, the secretary of the Association was notified, and asked to urge his committee to strengthen the fencing. Messrs. F. Cressey and J. Peckett, (who as members of the Grounds sub-committee of the Governors had previously opposed Mr. Jenkinson's wishes to asphalt part of the garden) were involved in this, at a time when by rotation they were both re-appointed to that committee.

### Not Enough Shakespeare

A repeat performance of the scenes from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was staged on the nights of June 31st and July 1st 1923 probably at the school in the quarry area, although this is not specified in the contemporary accounts. It had been originally intended to stage a repeat of these scenes at the end of the previous January, using the quarry area as a grotto for the performance, but it was felt that not enough time had elapsed from the original staging to hope for a financial success. The weather that year may have also had some influence on the postponement, as outdoors in January can be unpredictable, not to mention chilly! The summertime Wednesday and Thursday evening's entertainment incurred both expense and labour which were much appreciated by the audience, and a plea was made in the local newspaper as follows,

"The prices were perhaps a little prohibitive for the majority of Hemsworth folk. A third evening with lowered charges for admission would no doubt have attracted a large crowd of those people who have never yet had the opportunity of enjoying the legacy of wit and poetry left them by the world's greatest poet."

A thinly-veiled attack on the prevailing forms of 1920's mass entertainment was contained within the praise for the production. "It would only require one or two presentations like those of last week to sour their (the general crowd's) palates for capering cowboys, blunt buffoons and sickly lovers." Even today, this could still apply!

Enthused by the success of their Shakespearean venture, plans were made to stage "As You Like It" at some time before the Christmas holidays of 1923, but these had been abandoned by October, much to the disappointment of the potential audiences. It was written in the local paper that, "We in Hemsworth get far too little Shakespeare."

### A Splendid Display - July 12th 1923

Mr. Jenkinson produced his promised display of folk-dancing and singing on a Thursday evening, using the quaintly-named "cricket patch" behind the school. The originally-planned area for the display was the forecourt of the school as was used the previous year, but it became obvious at an early stage that more space would be required due to the involvement of four of the local Primary schools. The extra spectators and participants were well-accommodated in this new area, although later generations of Hilmian cricketers might not have been so forbearing about the use of their hallowed turf. The school's children danced with Primary pupils from South Elmsall Central, North Elmsall, Moorthorpe and Fitzwilliam. About 500 spectators had an excellent view, and 150 children sang and danced to the accompaniment of piano and gramophone.

The opening processional dance, "Helston Furry" involved all the performers, followed by the Secondary School girls and their square dance, "The Old Mole". The children of Fitzwilliam then displayed excellent grace and rhythm in their dance, "The Merry Milkmaids" and this was followed by an old country folk song "The Keeper" by the Secondary School under the baton of Mr. Jenkinson. Everyone of all ages danced "Picking Up Sticks", and noticeable among them were the girls from South Elmsall Central, distinguishable in their light green dresses which seemed in harmony with the surrounding scenery. The boys and staff of the Secondary School performed a Morris Dance, "Blue-eyed Stranger", and they were joined in this by the supervisors of physical education for the West Riding, Messrs. Whitehead and Fitzgerald. The description from the local newspaper paints a clear picture of this.

"The ringing of bells fastened to multi-coloured trappings in which the dancers were gaily decked, attuned by precision movement, was accorded warm applause. The boys proved that charm and grace are not monopolised by the fair sex."

There followed a little country dance, "Scotch Cap" which had been one of the competition dances at the Pontefract Festival, and which was as short as it was sweet. The children from South Elmsall Central and North Elmsall then combined to perform a complex square country dance, "Winifred's Knot". Special admiration was expressed of the ever-popular boys' Sword Dance, which had been a show-stopper on more than one occasion.

In all, 27 dances and songs figured on the programme, and the interest of the spectators never flagged. The evening was a huge success, with a particularly pleasing feature being the correlation of Primary and Secondary children. The staff of both these sets of children deserved praise for organising the best al fresco entertainment ever seen in Hemsworth, and it was commented upon that many of the country and Morris dances were hundreds of years old, and their simplicity and grace had given the audience some idea of the merry scenes of the parish, village and town greens of the Middle Ages.

### The Second Annual Sports and Parents' Day - July 14th 1923

Just two days later, the school played host to the parents once more, at the second annual Parents and Sports Day. Unlike the year before, the weather did not interrupt the planned Saturday programme of sports, tea and cricket.

### The Sports

Points gained by the pupils in the sports were added to those gained for work and conduct during the ordinary school routine, and at the end of the summer term would decide which of the two Houses should be awarded the "Talbot" shield. (Previous reports of this "Talbot" trophy mentioned a silver cup) In keeping with the motto of the school, "Labor Ipse Voluptas" (find pleasure in the work itself) the only 'prizes' given to the winners of the events were the points gained for the pupils' respective Houses.

The trophy had been awarded to Talbot House in the previous year, and that competition had been keen and close, as it was on this day. Each event followed on smoothly from the last - a tribute to the organisation of the school's staff. Mr. A. G. Jenkinson, the headmaster, presided over the gathering, and had very efficient officials in Mr. Sydney G. Clift, (starter), Mr. Philip Crossland (marshall), Miss M. A. Griffiths (recorder), with the remainder of the staff giving valuable support. Members of the governing body assisted with the judging.

The two Houses ran practically neck-and-neck in their competition until the closing events. Holgate won the Cricket Ball event, and Talbot levelled things immediately. Talbot took the lead in the boys' Open 100 yards sprint, but lost it immediately in the girls' Open High Jump. Holgate went ahead by gaining a first and third in the 220 yards, lost it immediately in the girls' 300 yards, regained it in the boys' open high jump, and lost it again an event later. Then the Houses were level for a couple of events, and so it went on, with the lead changing again and again, until with twenty of the twenty-one events completed, the score stood at Talbot 62, Holgate 60. It was time for the Relay event, in which both girls and boys took part. Holgate jumped off with a lead and increased it to several yards in the first few laps, but amid excited cheering a Talbot boy got ahead. The girls maintained the advantage and finally Talbot House won well, while the whole school cheered itself hoarse.

An outstanding feature of the sports was the splendid running of Smith Major, who won the open 100 yards, quarter-mile and half-mile. The first two events produced very keen finishes, but Smith ran the half-mile with great ease in brilliant style. He also helped to turn the scale in the relay, so that he did great work for Talbot House during the day.

### The Results

Event	First	Second	Third
Throwing Cricket Ball	Kirk (H)	Knee (H)	Tait S.(T)
100 yards, girls under 13	Violet Dodds (T)	P. Addis (T)	M. Butt (T)
100 yards, boys, open	Smith Major (T)	Cockburn (T) & Kirk (H) dead heat.	
High Jump, open, girls	Molly Garbett (H)	Hilda Gaunt (H) & M. Lindsay (T) equal second	
220 yards, boys under 13	Harold Goulding (H)	Gorner (T)	Turner (H)
300 yards, open, girls	M. Lindsay (T)	May Bull (T)	Lizzie Pearson (H)
High Jump, open, boys	Kirk (H)	Knee (H)	Webster R. (H)
Three-legged, girls, under 13	M. Hudson & Ada Watson (T)	May Bull & Molly Price (T)	Clarice Allen & Connie Madden (H)
High Jump, boys, under 13	Wilson (T)	Chappell (H)	Clift (H)
Balance Race, open, girls	P. Addis (T)	Lizzie Pearson (H)	Maud Wood (H)
440 yards, open, boys	Smith Major (T)	Kirk (H)	Cockburn (T)
100 yards, open, girls	Molly Garbett (H)	Freda Swaine (T)	F. Hurst (H)
Sack Race, boys, under 13	Turner (H)	Gorner (T)	Chappell (H)
Obstacle, open, girls	Hilda Finch (H)	R. McAllister(T)	Freda Swaine (T)
880 yards, open, boys	Smith Major (T)	Garbett (H)	Copley (T)
High Jump, girls, under 13	Violet Dodds (T)	P. Addis (T)	Hilda Gaunt (H)
Blindfold Driving, girls	Adelaide Brandford & Maud Wood (H)	S. Dawson & Freda Swaine (T)	K. Thompson & K. Hawkesworth (T)
Sack Race, open, boys	Rothera F.A.(T)	Burns (H)	Turner (H)
100 yards, boys, under 13	Harold Goulding (H)	Gorner (T)	Clift (H)
Relay	Talbot.		
Four-legged race, open, boys	Dooley W.L., Raymond Wilkinson, Burns (H), (2) Buttnell, Rothera F.A., Cyril Teale (T), (3) Hawkesworth S., Harry Crossley, Raymond Pacy (T).		

**House Totals: Talbot 72, Holgate 60.**

### The Cricket Match

The Parents v Boys cricket match was enjoyed by all on that July afternoon, and the fathers just managed to snatch a victory over their progenies by eight runs.

Samples of the work of the scholars were exhibited during the day, and proud parents and visitors appreciated the drawings, needlework and handwork on display in the Art room. At the close of this day, Mr. Jenkinson, his staff and the Governors would have felt a great sense of achievement on a successful and busy few days. The summer holidays beckoned!

### **September 1923's Discussions**

At the beginning of the next school year, the Board of Governors met at the school on Friday 27th September, with Ald. Gabriel Price presiding. He introduced Mr. Charles L. Crossley as the new clerk to the Board, following on from Mr. Percy Beaumont, and stating that the Governors would find him a very amiable man. A resolution was moved to express sympathy with Mrs. Salisbury after her motoring accident, from which it was hoped she would speedily recover. Mr. C.B. Little seconded, and the resolution was passed. Mr. John Guest M.P. spoke of the Holgate Exhibition, which was available for any child who had attended a Hemsworth Elementary School for two years, and who, being 16 years old, still lived in the parish and had matriculated. He thought that it should be better known, and it was decided that the Headmaster should have particulars of the Exhibition.

### **Mr. Sydney Cliff Resigns**

The Governors received a letter from Mr. S. Cliff, an assistant master at the school, which read as follows:-

"I beg to tender my resignation as assistant master at Hemsworth Secondary School. I regret I am obliged to ask the Governors to release me from my contract by allowing me to terminate my engagement with them at the half-term (Nov. 1st 1923). The Appointments Board of Nottingham University College has offered to keep open to me the post of lecturer in Geology, providing I can commence duties on November 1st. As this offer gives me the chance of attaining further academic qualifications through research in geology and geography, I trust that the Governors will allow me to accept this appointment. I have kept the Headmaster informed as to my intentions and regret that as the vacancy only occurred during the vacation, I have not had longer to consider the appointment. I have made arrangements to recommence duties as usual, at the beginning of term."

The Chairman said they were sorry to have Mr. Cliff's resignation, but were pleased he was going to improve his position. The Headmaster said he would be sorry to lose him, but Mr. Cliff was anxious to gain further qualifications in geology, and was taking up his new post at a financial loss. Mr. Cliff received official approval to terminate his contract at the end of the Autumn half-term of 1923. The Chairman now suggested that the vacancy caused by this resignation should be advertised as a full-time position without delay.

### **Another Member of Staff**

The numbers of scholars at the school had risen from 130 to 155 for the new school year, and there were now six classes instead of five. This was stretching the resources of the assistant teachers, and for this reason, a request was made for another member of staff. It was also felt that no-one was capable or experienced enough to cover the English curriculum, which was a serious enough matter to warrant another appointment.

During the summer holiday, the Headmaster had received a letter from the County Council Education Authority offering a part-time "physical drill instructress", or P.E. teacher, to the school. Mr. Jenkinson did not want to accept the offer, maintaining that in Miss Prince, who had recently attended a holiday course on this subject in response to the encouragement of the Governors, the school already had an efficient teacher of the subject. It would be ridiculous to employ another additional person to do the same thing, and it would be unfair to remove Miss Prince from those lessons.

On the other hand, Ald. Price stated that he had already advised the Clerk to take advantage of this offer. He knew that the County Authorities were likely to lose the instructress if they could not find her full-time employment, and he understood that she was an excellent teacher, who would no doubt help to relieve some of the pressure on the staff at that time.

As a parting 'shot' Mr. Jenkinson made the point that as they had no covered space at the school, drill could only be given in fine weather. It may never be known whether the lady finally came to the school.

### **Insurance**

There were 882 squares of glass in the school in 1923, and the cost of insuring them was calculated to be £7/10s per year, a figure which was deemed to be too expensive to undertake. The name of the person who went round and counted all the panes is not recorded.

### **The Estimates**

The new Clerk submitted revised financial estimates to the Governors for 1923-24, stating that:-

Total Receipts	£1,375
Total Payments	£4,227

These estimates were accepted by the Board.

### **Days Off Without Permission**

An unexpected problem had developed since the opening of the school. The rules clearly stated that pupils should attend school from the first day of the school term to the last, and yet it had been noted that pupils were going on holidays with their parents during term-time. Added to this, some were taking days off attending church festivities when they should have been in school. What was to be done about this?

- The Headmaster commented that it was a "very bad" situation - "the thin end of the wedge".

- The Chairman did not think it wise to change the school rules, but suggested they be administered in a more flexible manner. There would be a few individual cases where special arrangements could be made. He proposed that Mr. Crossley, the new Clerk, should write to the different denominational bodies requesting that they arrange their festivities during holiday periods.
- Mr. Flavell commented that the 13 weeks' holiday should be sufficient time during which the treats and trips could be held.
- Mr. Smalley wondered what the official line would be in the cases where children were taken on holiday by their parents, who had to take holiday leave at the discretion of the employer. Perhaps in these circumstances, a month's notice should be given to the Headmaster?

The practical outcome of the discussion on this matter was that letters were to be sent to the religious denominations and all the parents, pointing out to them the absolute necessity of children being in school throughout the term.

### A Parent's Challenge

As previously mentioned, when the school was first opened it was decided, in the light of previous experience, to require the parents of pupils to sign a document undertaking to allow their children to remain at the school until the end of the term in which the child was 16 years old. It was thought best to be reassured that if any child received a grant towards attendance at the school, the Governors should have some official commitment from the parent that the child would complete his or her education, and not leave at the age of 14, as was often the case. The parents of one of the prospective new pupils of September 1923 had duly received such a letter, inviting an assurance of the attendance of their child for the full period. His (or her) reply must have caused a stir! It was published in a local newspaper.

Dear Sir, I wish to point out the following,

1. It is not my intention to sign any form of agreement which in my opinion would be prejudicial to the best interest of our child (or children).
2. I consider that the terms laid down in your form of agreement place a premium on parents' efforts to educate their children to the best advantage in the children's own interests. That means to say that if a parent is not prepared to sign an agreement to send the child to your Secondary School until she (or he) attains the age of 16, that child is prevented from having a Secondary Education from the age of 10 to the age of 14.
3. That I have not the slightest intention whatsoever of meeting the Governors of your Secondary School to discuss whether or not I shall be bound to pay to the Governors of Hemsworth Secondary School the sum of "Nine Guineas" if I desire to withdraw my child from the school before she attains the age of 16.
4. What I am prepared to do is pay a term's fee in advance and if the tuition given is satisfactory, and the pupil is making reasonable progress, then there is no reason why the child should not remain at the school if it is the parent's wish, but if the parents desire to withdraw the child from the school at the end of any term, they may do so.
5. That your agreement is all on one side, that of "THE GOVERNORS." The parents (if he or she has signed the agreement) have no further say in the matter only by paying the NINE GUINEAS. FUDGE!
6. The great motto of the Penistone Grammar School is "LEARN or LEAVE". The great motto of the Hemsworth Secondary School is, "PAY UP AND LOOK PLEASANT", and if circumstances (over which you have no control) change, and you cannot afford to send your child to the Hemsworth Secondary School, you may, by making application to the Governors of the School, tell them all your circumstances, then they will tell you whether or not you can afford to pay NINE GUINEAS, as they are the deciding factor.

Ald. Gabriel Price's reaction to this as Chairman of the Governors was to repeat that it was the duty of all Governors throughout the County to ensure that the parents signed the Forms, but he quite understood any reluctance to do so if the Forms were worded in a complicated way or phrased in an overly-formal manner. Any parent who wanted to transfer a child from one school to another was at liberty so to do. There would be no difficulty in a child's leaving the school if the parents were leaving the district; however, it was his opinion that if a child was going to be fully educated at the School, it was imperative that the Agreement should be signed. He promised to see the writer of the letter, together with other parents who had refused to sign the agreement or wished to withdraw their children.

It seems clear that this policy was experiencing difficulties at this time. The writer of the letter does not seem to be the only objector. The Agreement Form was probably established with the best of intentions, and it would be interesting to see how long it continued to exist.

### Which One to Choose?

The usual Friday afternoon meeting of the Governors at the school in October 1923 was considering among other things the appointment of a member of staff to replace the imminently-departing Mr. Sydney Clift. As usual, Ald. Gabriel Price was in the chair, aided by Mr. C.A. Crossley, the clerk, who reported that there had been 23 applicants for the post of assistant-master, and these had been reduced to three by the Headmaster, all of whom were currently unemployed. They were:-

Mr. James Arthur Storer, B.Sc. (33), single, of Birmingham

Mr. Roy W. Proctor B.A. (29), single, of Macclesfield

Mr. Harry L. Murray B.Sc. (24) single, of Brampton, Cumberland.

By a vote of six in favour of Mr. Storer and five in favour of Mr. Proctor, Mr. Storer was appointed to the post.

### We Need More Help

The Dining accommodation at the school was giving cause for concern in November 1923. There were now 154 pupils, of whom 90 to 100 had dinner at the school each day, and Mr. and Mrs. Manning, the caretaker and his wife, were the only paid servants to provide this service to the diners, who were charged 8d per day. In comparison, at Barnsley Grammar School where a hundred children stayed to dinner each day, there were three maids, a housekeeper and a caretaker and his wife. Moreover, the

housekeeper there received £75 from the managers and £45 from the dinner fund. The time had come to give some help to the caretaker and his wife, and so it was decided to employ a maid, with her wages to be taken from the Dinner Fund.

### **The Second Speech Day Dec 18th**

The Hippodrome was once again the venue for the Wednesday afternoon ceremony of 1923. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. J. Dymond, of Burntwood, and Sir James P. Hinchcliffe, chairman of the West Riding County Council was also present, and gave an address.

### The Governors and Staff

County Alderman Gabriel Price (chairman); Mrs. Alice Schorah (vice-chairman); Mrs. Guest, Mrs. Garstang; Mrs. Price; Coun. J. Potts; Coun. E. Beaumont; Coun. C.B. Little; Mr. A.G. Jenkinson (Headmaster); Miss M.A. Griffiths, (Senior Mistress)

### The Opening Address

Ald. Price opened the proceedings by welcoming the parents and visitors, and proceeded to give an up-to-date account of the school, its staff and its pupils. When it was first opened on the morning of November 8th 1921 there were 98 pupils, with accommodation for 181. There were 73 who paid fees, 23 who held County Major Scholarships and 2 Intending Teachers. The Staff comprised the Head master, senior mistress, Science master and two assistant mistresses. Since then the school had gradually grown to an attendance of 154 pupils, of whom 94 paid fees, one received a South Elmsall Pretoria Club Scholarship, one a Holgate Scholarship and one a Cudworth Education Foundation Scholarship. The Staff had been strengthened to meet the needs of the increased numbers of scholars, and now comprised the Head master, senior mistress, three assistant masters, three assistant mistresses and a part-time manual instructor. There were seven Forms in the school, and the highest Form would be taking the School Certificate of the Northern Universities in 1925. Subjects taught were:- English, History, Geography, French, Latin, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Art, Music, Needlework, Woodwork and Scripture. Since the temporary laboratory had been equipped, good progress in Science had been made, and the magnificent grounds of about 20 acres offered good facilities for Cricket, Football, Hockey and Tennis.

The chairman expressed appreciation to the South Elmsall Pretoria Club and the Frickley Working Men's Club in each offering a free scholarship tenable at the school. He said that the Governors remained convinced that they had the makings of a Secondary School second to none in the Riding, and it was their desire and intention to keep abreast of the times and secure the best staff, accommodation and equipment necessary to fully meet the demands made upon the school. Having done this they hoped that parents who resided within the catchment area of the school would show their appreciation of the splendid facilities provided by making every effort, and if necessary, some little sacrifice, to enable their children to attend the school immediately they became eligible for admission.

In conclusion, he said the Governors and staff wanted to feel that the Hemsworth Secondary School had come to stay, and was going to send out boys and girls who would play a very important part in the life of the Empire.  
(Applause).

### Sir James Hinchcliffe

Sir James began his speech by offering praise to Ald. Price, whom he observed to have common sense and a logical mind. Hemsworth people were fortunate to receive the services of such a man. Proceeding, he compared the advantages of the children of that time to the limited educational options of his boyhood days. The County Minor Scholarships offered by the County Council meant that everyone who could attain the standard required had a chance to succeed. From his own experience, he knew of the son of a shoemaker in his own village who had received such a Scholarship, and was presently at Oxford University. He then spoke in favour of encouraging correspondence between children of English schools and children in other parts of the Empire, so that when they grew up, the English boy or girl would be more familiar with countries abroad. This, he pointed out, was necessary so that a supply of raw material to this country should be ensured. He was also in favour, he said, of teachers from the Dominions changing posts with English teachers for a period so that minds might be broadened.

### The Headmaster's Report

*"In looking back over the history of the past school year, my general impression is one of progress and improvement in every direction - if I except building construction, the progress of which has been more evident to the imagination than to the eye"*

So began the speech of Mr. Jenkinson, who continued to assert that, "...in work, in games, in the various side-lines of school life, and most of all, and most important of all, in character formation there has been a distinct move forward, and there has been no slipping back."

The general discipline of the school was a cause of great satisfaction to all concerned. A good tradition was being established, and the children were beginning to realise that their outward behaviour was a reflection of the character within. The good name of the school was in the hands of the children, and their orderly behaviour was being noticed and commented on by people outside the school.

Compared with the previous December, there were 14 more pupils in the school, which was only a small increase and probably due to local conditions which they all hoped would soon change for the better. (He omitted to mention the increased fees.)

In his report of the previous year, he had extolled the virtues of the teaching of Latin as a way of training the mind, awakening latent powers and showing how, by labour, to acquire knowledge. This had played no small part in the considerable improvement of the powers of self-expression within the school over the past year. The current outstanding weakness of the children was carelessness which had shown itself in the July examinations. Inaccuracy in the working of mathematical papers; carelessness in reading the questions set; insufficient attention to elementary points of grammar - these were the common faults throughout the

examinations, and they sprang from one common cause, a lack of determination to concentrate the mind upon the thing of the moment.

### *Concentration of Will*

"This concentration of will is a quality to which we schoolmasters attach, and rightly, I think, a very great importance. Many a career in life is ruined by vacillation and instability. If the power of concentrated effort and minute attention to detail has been acquired at school, it will not fail its owner in after life. And that is partly why it is a true dictum that it doesn't matter so much what we teach at school as how we teach it, or what we learn as how we learn it. Any subject taught in the true spirit of culture will do something towards fulfilling the aim of education".

The 'aim' of education should be to equip a boy or girl for the future; but he asserted that there was more to it than that. Educators should avoid allowing the teaching in school to become narrow and cramped. Learning should contribute to the fullness of life. He did not advocate dispensing with formal teaching, but would have it woven into larger schemes of culture rather than be treated separately. As an example, he felt that in English, the essential teaching of Grammar should be incorporated into the whole scheme of literature, and not ignored, as was the current trend. Unless a child had a clear idea of English Grammar, it would be very difficult to learn a foreign language.

As far as the teaching of French in school was concerned, he knew that some people asked what use that would be when the child had left the school. The justification for teaching any foreign language had already been mentioned as performing a useful function, and where French was concerned, it was a modern language, and it should not be beyond the bounds of possibility for Secondary pupils to maintain an interest in, and continue their studies of this after leaving school. Perhaps reading circles could be formed among old pupils for the study of French Literature. It was well-known that as a nation, the British were more ignorant of the literature of other nations than they were of ours.

### *Activities*

- Rugby Football: As a result of Mr. Crossland's encouragement, the boys' Rugby skills had greatly improved, and several matches had been played.
- Fives: Many boys played 'Fives' with great enthusiasm, and it was hoped to arrange some matches during the next school year.
- Cricket: Some excellent progress in batting, bowling and fielding had been made, thanks to the encouragement of Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Crossland. The cricket ground had improved beyond recognition, and was becoming one of the best grounds in the district. The end of term match against the parents was enjoyable, with the parents achieving a respectable victory.
- Hockey, Tennis and Netball were played regularly by the girls, and some tennis matches had already been arranged for the next term. A grass court was established on the cricket ground, and another court was being prepared for the next season.
- Athletics and Folk Dancing had been two successful activities involving all the school.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" had been performed successfully in the delightful setting of the old quarry garden. The first edition of the School Magazine had been produced, and a gramophone had been acquired to encourage the appreciation of good music. Gifts of gramophone records of good music were requested. The Boy Scouts Troop lost an excellent leader with the departure of Mr. Cliff, and hopes were expressed for the activities of the troop to be maintained and even increased by his successor. By the beginning of the September term, there would be a wireless apparatus installed at the school which, under the supervision of the male teachers, would facilitate much useful experimental work, as well as entertainment. The school had a National Savings Bank which was looked after by Miss Griffiths and had a growing membership.

The School Library was steadily accumulating a stock of about 360 books both for reference and circulation, and thanks were due to those members of staff and pupils who had made gifts of books to the library. More donations were invited. There were 124 books on loan from the County Circulating Library, and the small reference section already included two encyclopaedias and many other interesting books.

The School Choir had participated in the Pontefract Music Festival, but had gained no certificate despite being only nine marks behind the winning choir. At the next festival, certificates were to be awarded on merit to all choirs reaching a fixed standard. The school also entered for various classes in the Folk Dancing competitions at Pontefract, and obtained five certificates. Miss Jackson and Miss Prince deserved thanks for their untiring efforts in connection with the dancers.

The School Gardens were still being cultivated, though they were fewer in number, as part of the grounds had been rented out. Mr. Cressey had kindly given prizes for the two best allotments.

The House Competition had been keenly contested, and won for the 1922-23 school year by Holgate with a score of 847½ against Talbot's 841.25.

### *The School Staff*

The first changes to the staff of the school were as follows:-

Mr. Stanley Cliff left the school at half-term to take up a post as Assistant Lecturer in Geology at Nottingham University College. His skills as an excellent teacher, a cartoonist and a Scoutmaster were greatly missed.

Mr. J.A. Storer B.Sc. was appointed to replace Mr. Cliff.

Miss Robinson was appointed as a senior teacher of English.

In welcoming the two new members of staff, Mr. Jenkinson repeated the praise he had given during the previous year's Speech Day in commending the unswerving loyalty and willing co-operation of all his colleagues. The parents and Governors, especially

the chairman and vice-chairman, were thanked for their cordial support. He appreciated the fact that they recognised his position and consulted his wishes, and was looking forward to the prospect of the new buildings. In that connection he urged the creation of new playgrounds and a covered drill hall as necessities. He ended his speech with the words, "A useful work lies ahead for all of us who desire the prosperity of this school, and as our school motto says, may we find pleasure in doing it." (Applause).

During the afternoon, carols, songs and dances were given by school children, and then the prizes were awarded by the Guest of Honour, Mrs. J. Dymond.

### **The Prizewinners**

The following is a list of prizewinners: -

[Names have been augmented where possible]

English	Fearnside E., Margaret Foster, Miriam Wass, E. Kitchen, May Bull, Clarice Allen
History	Freda Swaine, Margaret Foster, H. Garner, Adelaide Branford, Clarice Allen
Geography	Barker E. J., Hawkesworth S., Hilda Gaunt, H. Sharpe, Adelaide Branford, Wilson A.L.
French	Freda Swaine, Carter S. L., Hilda Gaunt, Adelaide Branford
Latin	Barker E. J., Carter. S. L.
Mathematics	Barker E. J., Carter S. L., Hilda Gaunt, Doris Miles, S. Brown
Physics	R. H. Slatcher, S. Hawkesworth, Hilda Gaunt
Chemistry	Barker E. J., Kirk W., Hawkesworth S.
Scripture	Florence Hodgson, E. J. Langley
Singing	N. Miles
Art	Emma Bate, M. Jebbett
Needlework	M. Wootton
General Knowledge	Dooley W. L., Alice Scott, E. Martin, J. Taylor, Olive Tooth, H. Garner, E. J. Langley
Greatest Progress	S. Thorpe, Raymond Wilkinson, K. M. Thompson, E. Partridge
Star Prize	Freda Swaine, Hilda Gaunt
Talbot Challenge Cup for Houses:	Holgate House 847½ marks against Talbot House with 841¼ marks.

### **Taking Stock**

The year of 1923 had been a busy one for the school and the Headmaster. Sport, Folk-dancing, Drama, Athletics, a School Magazine and a Speech Day had all come and gone. Mr. Clift had departed for Nottingham, and Mr. Storer and Miss Robinson had joined the staff, together, one would hope, with the new maid engaged to help Mrs. Manning with the dinners! The Governors, with their new clerk, Mr. Crossley, had continued to manage the affairs of the school under the charming and dependable guidance of Ald. Price. As yet, the proposed new buildings had not materialised, despite the many hints and requests made by the Headmaster, but in general, the school was set fair to continue to flourish and encourage the pupils of the following year to excel in their first Public Examinations.