

## School History 1927

### Introduction

In 1927 the World's population was calculated to have reached two billion and Adolf Hitler held his first National Socialist Party meeting in Berlin to the chants of 'Heil Hitler'. This year was also to see the first holiday camps opened in England by Billy Butlin, a Canadian who had come to Britain in 1921, and also the first Proms concerts sponsored by the BBC under Sir Henry Wood. Laurel and Hardy managed to make fourteen films during these twelve months, and at the beginning of the year, after several previously unsuccessful efforts, Captain Malcolm Campbell achieved a new world speed record of 174 mph in his 450 hp motor car Bluebird on Pendine Sands, Carmarthen. Pope Pius XI and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Randall Thomas Davidson were the leaders of their respective faiths in 1927, and King George V and Queen Mary were continuing their reign over the United Kingdom and her Dominions. Contrasting with the influence of these important individuals was the London staging on January 15th 1927 of the national championships for British players of the mouth organ. The winner is not listed in the record of this event.

At the school, the new Assembly Hall and adjacent cloakrooms were nearing completion, ready for the official June opening. The Head's house was almost ready for occupation at a final cost of £1,372/ 8s/ 1d and the new Science rooms and Woodwork and Metalwork facilities were already in use. In view of the increased number of pupils on the roll, another House was formed, and given the name Guest, in honour of the local MP, Mr. John Guest.

### The Holgate Endowment

In Hemsworth the resentment about the transfer to Barnsley forty-four years previously of Archbishop Holgate's fund (established for Hemsworth's benefit in 1546), rumbled on throughout 1927. The subject dominated the first Governors' meeting of the year in January, and was introduced by Mr. Jenkinson, who would no doubt be well aware of the future benefits to his school were the return of the fund to be made. He drew the Governors' attention to the speech of the Bishop of Wakefield at the school's Speech Day the previous November in which he advised that, "no stone should be left unturned to get the coat of arms back from Barnsley to Hemsworth". Interestingly, this part of the Bishop's speech was omitted from the local newspaper's report of the ceremony. Mr. Jenkinson enquired whether anything positive had been done by the Governors towards this end. The Chairman, Ald. Price, responded by saying that he had been appointed to represent the West Riding County Committee on the Holgate Trust, which administered the funds, but had not yet attended a meeting. During the previous week the County Committee had discussed a number of endowments, and they were endeavouring to get the Board of Education in London to take an interest in the matter, with a view to getting some of the endowments transferred to the County authorities, who could best administer the funds to the areas where they applied. The County Committee felt it would not be an easy matter to reclaim the endowment from Barnsley, but had decided to get involved because they felt it should be administered for the benefit of the parishes for which it was originally left. So far as the coat of arms was concerned, it was felt that if Hemsworth were to be awarded the endowment, the coat of arms would automatically follow. On a more cautious note, Ald. Price warned that Dr. Baillie, the vice-Chancellor of Leeds University had expressed the view that Hemsworth would have great difficulty in getting the endowment back. Coun. J. Peckett remarked that he remembered the time when the endowment was taken away from Hemsworth (the late 1880's). There was practically no interest taken in higher education in those days, but now that things had altered, he felt that the original endowment should be returned to serve its original purpose in the district. He urged that a recommendation to this effect be forwarded to the Holgate Trustees. Coun. Potts seconded, and the resolution was carried. It would appear that Ald. Price had a foot in both camps, and a realistic notion that complete success was unlikely.

### A Reminder

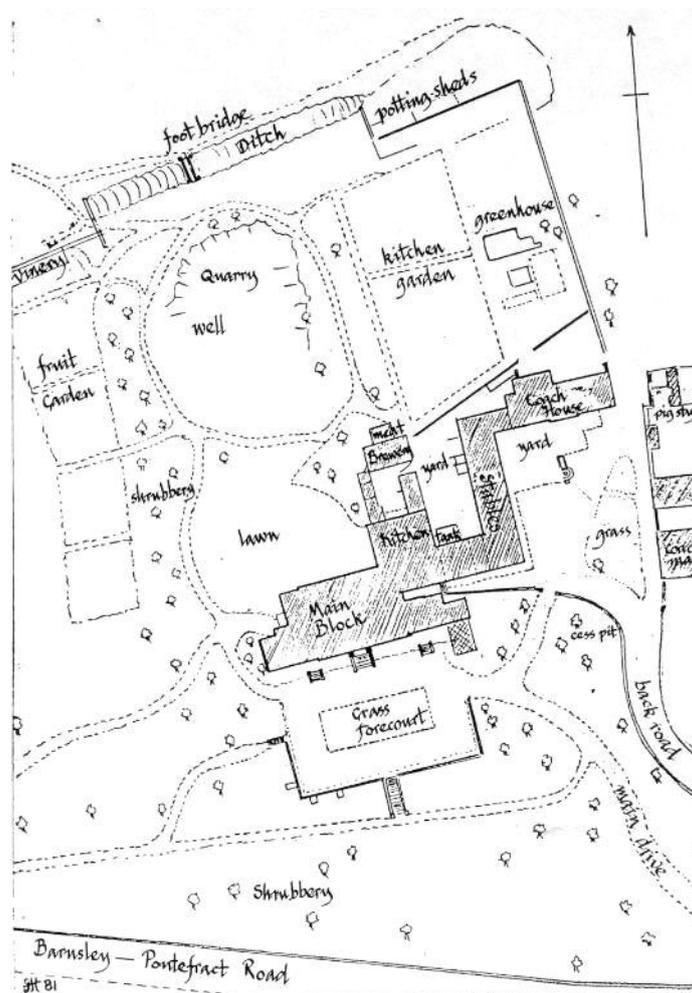
The attention of the County Authorities was once again drawn by the Governors to the need for providing extra accommodation without delay, in view of the increasing number of students. Mr. Jenkinson estimated that by September 1927 there would be 360 students at the school, and the present premises did not have a sufficient capacity for them all.

At the same Governor's meeting, Mr. Jenkinson suggested that a policy should be adopted whereby there should be no admission of students to the school other than at the beginning of each term, except by special permission of the Governors. Whereas in former times, there was no impedance to any prospective pupils, with this proposal it was clear that a more measured attitude to increasing the numbers was being pursued.

### Back in the Black

After the upset of November 1925, when the Dinner Fund accounts showed a loss, the new measures adopted to prevent a recurrence of this proved so successful that in February 1927 there was a credit balance of £104, and the question of revising the charges for meals was to be considered at a future meeting.

## More Tennis Anyone?



A request to the County Council was made by the Governors early in 1927 for the provision of two grass tennis courts near the school hockey field. They also accepted a scheme for a playing ground with hard tennis courts on the ground which was at that time used as a kitchen garden, and known to later pupils at the school as the area upon which the Dining Hall and the New Block were built.

### The Head's First Secretary

In March 1927, one of the older pupils of the school, Richard White, was appointed secretary, at £39 a year. It is not known whether Mr. Jenkinson's ambitious request of November 1925 for a secretary who could also teach elementary subjects was fulfilled.

### A Male Specialist

At the March Governor's meeting it was decided to appoint a male specialist to teach physical drill two days a week.

### Worries About Water

In view of the likelihood of a curtailed supply of water to the school, steps had to be taken to arrange for the testing of the flow and capacity of the well in the quarry garden. The County Architect was authorised, should the tests be satisfactory, to install a pump and provide an additional water tank.

### The Head's House



The first recorded mention of a proposed residence for the Headmaster in the school grounds was made in September 1922 by Ald. G. Price, the chairman of the Governors. After four years of plans, refusals, re-applications, delays, shortage of money and some prevarication, it was finally built in 1927 at a cost of £1,372/ 8s/ 1d which was not too far away from the original 1925 estimate of £1300 given by the builder, Messrs. Gregory and Sons of Castleford.

### Old Girls' and Boys' Dance and Social

A Springtime event on April 1st was enjoyed by more than 70 persons at the school on that Friday night. This was the first time they had chosen a different season for the gathering, as the two previous meetings had been held at Christmas time.

**H**EMSWORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL.  
The NEW ASSEMBLY HALL and GYMNASIUM will be formally opened on WEDNESDAY, the 1st JUNE 1927, at 3-30 p.m., by County Alderman G. PRICE, J.P., Chairman of the Governors.  
County Alderman D. HARDAKER, J.P., will give an address.  
The Public generally are cordially invited to attend the ceremony.  
CHARLES L. CROSSLEY,  
Clerk to the Governors.  
8, St. John's North, Wakefield.

May 27th, 1927

### The May Elections

The usual pattern of events concerning the annual re-election of the serving Governors and the appointment of new Governors took place in May 1927. County Alderman G. Price, J.P. was unanimously re-elected chairman on the motion of Mr. J. Potts, seconded by Jasper Smith. Mr. Potts declared that it was due to the interest and influence of Alderman Price that the school had developed so well. In reply, Ald. Price assured the Governors that he would continue to do all in his power for the good of the school and the students. Mrs. Schorah was re-elected vice-chairman, and then a cordial welcome was extended to Mrs. Knee, a newly-appointed representative of the Hemsworth Urban Council. Every male member of the Governing Board was appointed to a Grounds Sub-Committee.

### Dinner Fund Profit

The Headmaster reported yet another balance in hand of £160 9s 11d for the Dinner Fund at the close of the Spring Term. No further discussions on the reduction of the price of meals took place.

### The opening of the new Assembly Hall

It was decided to officially open the new Assembly Hall on Wednesday, June 1st 1927 and to invite Dr. Baillie, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, to give an address. The chairman of the Governors would then perform the opening ceremony. It would appear from this advertisement that Dr. Baillie was unable to accept the invitation, and Alderman Hardaker J.P. stepped in as his replacement.

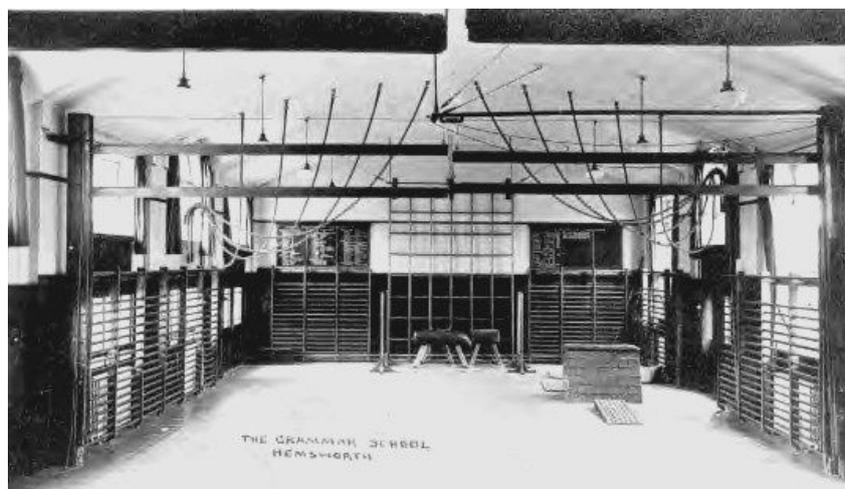
### Definitely Not!

In May the Secretary of the Archbishop Holgate Foundation replied to the Governors' representations of January concerning the re-transference of the Trust to Hemsworth. He stated that his Governors could take no part in the proposals. This was a short and not so sweet response which sounded quite final.

### Alone Across the Atlantic

On 23rd May 1927 Captain Lindbergh, the young United States airman, reached Paris at 10.22pm on a Saturday night on his non-stop flight from New York. He was the first pilot to have crossed the Atlantic by himself, the first to fly from America to France, and the first to make an uninterrupted flight of 3,600 miles. The journey took 33 hours.

### The Opening of the Assembly Hall and Gymnasium - June 1st 1927 3.30 pm



This valuable addition to the Hemsworth Secondary School was opened on the Wednesday afternoon of June 1st 1927. The opening ceremony was performed by County Ald. G. Price, J.P., Chairman of the Governors, in the presence of a large number of parents and pupils. Ald. Price was supported by County Ald. D. Hardaker, J.P., Mr. J.H. Hallam (director of Higher Education in the West Riding), County Ald. T. Foulstone (Darfield), Mr. A. G. Jenkinson (Headmaster), Mr. C.L. Crossley (Clerk to the Governors), The Governors, and the staff.

In his introduction to the proceedings, the Chairman said that another step forward in the progress of education in the district had been made, and he was sure that the parents would feel exceedingly proud of a development so creditable to the district. When the school was established to meet the need for higher education in the district, it was long overdue. There were pessimists in the area who, when the County Council was induced to open the school, said it would be money wasted, and that there would not be the necessary number of students to fill it. Those predictions proved false, and now they had a "fully fledged" school. Last year their examination performances were second to none in the county. It was a proud record.

### **What the School had cost**

The conveyance of the Hemsworth Hall and the grounds was completed in November 1920 at a total cost of £9,297. The County Education Architect prepared a scheme of buildings in successive stages: Adaptation of the Hall residence as a skeleton school at the minimum cost, erection of science and gymnasium blocks, and the completion of the full school to accommodate 365 pupils.

- Stage 1 was carried out and accommodated 181 pupils, at a cost of £2,826, and was opened in November 1921.
- Stage 2. The accommodation quickly became inadequate, and the new science block was erected and the old coach house adapted for woodwork and metalwork, and brought into use last year at a cost of £7,025.

Owing to financial stringency, the Board of Education refused to allow the erection of the proposed gymnasium. The pressing need of an assembly hall resulted in a scheme for a new hall which could also be used as a gymnasium. The pupils now numbered over 300, and there only remained the final stage, the erection of the full and complete quadrangular school, with separate gymnasium and dining blocks. Ald. Price assured the guests that the Governors would press for Stage 3, to make more classroom accommodation for the incoming students.

### **The Uses for the Hall and Science Rooms.**

The assembly hall would accommodate all the pupils of the completed school, and was adapted for various uses, such as lectures, stage plays and concerts, examinations, and as a gymnasium. The girls' cloakroom was also planned for the ultimate accommodation, and the fittings were up-to-date. There were now two science laboratories with preparation and dark rooms. A domestic science room for girls, fitted with a range of gas and electric cookers, had a pantry and store. The boys were provided for by the conversion of the old coach house and stable into a woodwork and metalwork shop.

Every effort had been made by the architect to preserve and carry on the traditional design of the original building and to preserve the trees and shrubs.

### **Equipped for Education**

The whole of the premises had been re-drained on the most modern principles, heated throughout by hot water installation, and lighted by electricity. The erection of the assembly hall, cloak room and corridor had been carried out by Messrs. A. Gregory and Sons of Glasshoughton (the contract price being £5,725), who also built the science block and adjoining corridor, which had been brought into use in 1926.

The Governors had endeavoured to equip at Hemsworth, in the midst of a large coal mining area, a secondary school which would be a credit to the county and the district, and give that education to the students which their parents desired. The largest percentage of the pupils was drawn from working class homes, and the previous year's examinations showed that they had in the district some of the most brilliant children in the West Riding. The Governors would not be satisfied until they had one of the finest schools in the county. He trusted the school would be a blessing to the district. (Applause).

As a memento of the occasion, Ald. Price was presented with a vase by the staff.

### **Ald. Hardaker's Address**

Ald. D. Hardaker, J.P., said credit was due to the Governors for the way in which they had tackled their problems. The West Riding Education Committee believed in providing facilities for higher education for every child in the county. "It seems to me that we must consider what kind of higher education we have to provide," continued Ald. Hardaker. "Today it is suggested that the ordinary type of secondary school is too academic in character, and that it is necessary to introduce what some people call alternative courses of instruction. Whether you agree with alternative courses of study, I do not know, but my own personal opinion is that in certain modified forms it would be a good thing for the rising generation."

A few secondary schools in the West Riding had adopted the plan, and he was given to understand that they had been very successful. He hoped and trusted, however, that the literary side of education would not be sacrificed for special courses. The first principle they had to establish was to put within the reach of the young people a sound general education, that would give them a broader outlook on life, so that they would be able to appreciate the beautiful in art and literature, an education that would form characters which should be honourable, and would produce a race of men and women far superior to the race which preceded them.

A report had been published by the Board of Education, (the Hadow Report) and one of its recommendations was that the school-leaving age of boys and girls in the elementary schools should be raised to 15. The object of this was to provide a four-year course of study, so that school leavers would be fully equipped for the battle of life. How far that would become an accomplished fact remained to be seen, but he would like to make one observation. Raising the age to 15 was very desirable, if the economic

position of the parents was taken into account. If the recommendation was carried into effect, he thought financial assistance should be given to parents who needed it. Another reason why it was considered necessary to raise the leaving age was because of unemployment. Every year 450,000 children left the elementary schools, and a large number of them could not find work. At present there were nearly a million adults wanting work. Lounging about street corners had a very damaging effect upon character, and to maintain their moral standard it would be infinitely better for the child and the country if the child attended some kind of school where he could receive continued education.

In conclusion, Ald. Hardaker expressed the earnest hope that the school would continue to succeed as it had begun.

### **The Holgate Trust**

An old resident of Hemsworth, Ald. T. Foulstone, now of Darfield, said that every boy and girl should take advantage of every opportunity which came their way. It would give them a wider outlook, and they would be less easily led by a good deal of nonsense which must come their way.

Mr. A. G. Jenkinson, the headmaster, said the hall would become the centre of the school life. Referring to the Holgate Trust, which, he declared had been stolen from the school and sent to Barnsley, Mr. Jenkinson said he would not rest until it was returned to Hemsworth, and he urged the parents to agitate for its return.

Mr. J. H. Hallam said he recognised that Stage 3 was badly needed at Hemsworth, and he promised to do his best in the matter. A comprehensive vote of thanks was moved and seconded by Mrs. Schorah and Mrs. Garstang, (Governors) respectively.

### **Entrance Exam**

The Clerk to the Governors, Charles L. Crossley announced on June 17th that those pupils desiring admission to the school in September 1927 would be required to sit an entrance examination at the school at 10 am on Saturday, the 25th June. The fees were to be £3 3s 0d per term.

### **The First Eclipse that has not Struck Terror into People - 29 June 1927**

On 28th June 1927 the Illustrated London News stated: "Whether the sun's rise is properly visible tomorrow morning or whether there is only a gradual lightening of darkness, more people will be inspectors of the dawn in England than have ever before been engaged with that occupation on a single day." Sir Frank Dyson, the Astronomer Royal, chose Giggleswick in Yorkshire as the site for the official British observations of the eclipse. Thousands of people travelled from all over the country to various sites along the path of totality in order to get the best view of this phenomenon, and many were disappointed, as the morning was cloudy. From their camp on the grounds of Giggleswick School, at the right moment the clouds parted, and the scientists had a wonderful view of the flaming corona of the sun through the whole 23 seconds of its total eclipse. [A total eclipse could be seen from the UK on 30 June, 1954, but it was only visible from the northernmost part of the Shetland Islands. The next eclipse was to be in 1999].

### **Exam Time**

As had now become the established modus operandum, the months of June and July 1927 at Hemsworth Secondary School were given over by the Fifth Formers to the studying for, revising for, and sitting of the examinations for the School Certificate. The usual end of year tests were also taking place for every student at the school. Of greater interest to the first Upper Sixth Form, which had done so well in the 1925 examinations, would have been the first sight of their Higher School Certificate papers. The outcome of their labours, announced later in the year was that of seven candidates, five passed, and one, who obtained a distinction in history, was awarded a County Major scholarship.

### **The Sixth Sports and Parents' Day, Wednesday July 20th 1927**

Although the weather was inclined to be showery, the Sixth Annual Sports and Parents' Day at the school attracted a large number of visitors. The sports were held on the school playing fields which were bordered on three sides by tall trees. The local newspaper mentioned that the scholars "should consider themselves very fortunate that the school is so well equipped in this direction".

Since the last sports, a new house, "Guest" House, had been formed, and had the honour of winning the Challenge Cup, with a total of 74 points, Talbot House was second with 73, Price House was third with 72, while Holgate House were so badly off for athletes that they could only amass 8 points.

The "Victor Ludorum" Cups were won by Stanley Hawkesworth 14 points, and Jennie Hodgson 11 points.

Records were broken in the following events:

440 yards scratch (boys),

300 yards scratch (girls),

Long Jump (boys). No prizes are awarded to the successful competitors.

### **Results**

[Names have been augmented where possible]

<b>Event</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Girls 100 yards scratch, open	K. Sayles (G)	E. Lee (G)	J. Fowler (T)	13.4 secs.
Boys 100 yards scratch, open	Stanley Hawkesworth (T)	Frank A. Rothera (G)	Harold Gorner (P)	11.4 secs.
Boys 100 yards scratch, under 13	Hodgson (G)	Pattison (P)	Breen (P)	
Girls 100 yards scratch, under 13	K. Sayles (G)	D. Parkinson (G)	G. Wootton (T)	11.4 secs.
Boys 100 yards scratch, under 15	Senior N. (T)	Fred Williamson (T)	Miller (P)	12.6 secs.
Girls 100 yards scratch, under 15	E. Wilson (T)	S. Watkinson (P)	M. Parsonage (H)	13.8 secs.
Boys Sack Race, open	Hodgson (G)	Heywood A.V. (P)	Frank A. Rothera (G)	
Girls High Jump, under 15	B. Austin (P)	E. Wilson (T)	M. Parsonage (H)	3ft. 10ins.
Boys 120 yards Hurdles, open	Frank A. Rothera (G)	Harold Gorner (P)	Philip Bull (P)	

Girls 120 yards Hurdles, open	Jennie Hodgson (P)	Phyllis Addis (G)	J. Fowler (T)	20 secs.
Boys 120 yards Hurdles, under 15	Fred Williamson (T)	Miller (P)	Grayson (T)	20 secs.
Girls 120 yards Hurdles, under 15	K. Sayles (G)	S. Watkinson (P)	Nellie Leaver (G)	21.8 secs.
Girls High Jump, open	J. Fowler (T)	Jennie Hodgson (P)	W. Lee (T)	3ft. 9ins.
Boys Four-Legged Race, open	Hodgson & Co. (G)	Bowen & Co. (T)	Pickersgill & Co. (P).	
Boys 220 yards scratch, open	Stanley Hawkesworth (T)	Harold Gorner (P)	Frank Rothera (G)	26.4 secs.
Boys 220 yards scratch, under 15	Fred Williamson (T)	Miller (P)	Nelson (G)	31.4 secs.
Girls 220 yards, under 15	(equal) E. Wilson (T) & K. Sayles (G)		S. Watkinson (P)	
Girls 220 yards scratch, open	Jennie Hodgson (P)	J. Fowler (T)	B. Heath (P)	34.4 secs.
Boys High Jump, 15	Fred Williamson (T)	Nelson (G)	Senior N. (T)	4ft. 0½ins.
Girls Slow Bicycle Race, open	G. Laycock (T)	N. Bower (P)	E. Austin (P)	
Girls Wheelbarrow Race, open	M. Walker & Heywood (P)	Jennie Hodgson & Fullwood (P)	N. Chilton & Mellor (P)	
Boys 440 yards scratch, open	Stanley Hawkesworth (T)	Philip Bull (P)	Harold Gorner (P)	<b>61.8 secs Record</b>
				previous record 64.4 secs.
Boys 440 yards scratch, under 15	Fred Williamson (T)	John Mellor (P)	Clifford Morgan (G)	74.2 secs.
Girls 300 yards scratch, open	J. Fowler (T)	Doreen Schorah (G)	E. Wilson (T)	<b>42.6 secs Record</b>
				previous record 58.4 secs.
Girls Bunny Race, under 4ft. 9ins.	G. Laycock (T)	H. Paley (T)	K. Bramley (T).	
Girls Four-Legged Race, open	J. Oakland & Co. (G)	G. Wootton & Co. (T)	Hilda Finch & Co. (H)	
Boys Mile Handicap, open	Taylor J. (G)	Thorpe A. (G)	Brian Harrison (G)	5min. 35.6 secs.
Girls 300 yards Handicap, open	S. Watkinson (P)	G. Wootton (T)	F. Hudson (G)	
Old Girls' Race	Freda Swaine	A. Bowler	G. Wootton.	
Old Boys' Race	Brooke	Kirk W.		
Brothers' & Sisters' Race				
Boys - B. Rappitt				
Girls - Millicent Wootton.				
Relay Race	Price House	Guest House	Talbot House.	
Tug of War	Guest House.			
Girls Long Jump, open	Jennie Hodgson (P)	Ethel Gee (G)	Violet Dodds (T)	13ft. 5ins.
Boys Long Jump, open	Philip Bull (P)	Stanley Hawkesworth (T)	Frank A. Rothera (G)	<b>15ft. 10ins. Record</b>
				previous record 15ft. 2ins.
Girls Long Jump, under 15	M. Parsonage (H)	K. Sayles (G)	K. Barker (T)	12ft. 3ins.
Boys Long Jump, under 15	Fred Williamson (T)	Taylor J. (G)	Heywood A.V. (P)	13ft. 4½ins.
Throwing the Cricket Ball, open	Stanley Hawkesworth (T)	Wright (H)	Arthur Thorpe (G)	88 yards.

At the conclusion of the sports, Coun. Mrs. Dooley, J.P., distributed the awards. Holgate House seemed to have a poor representation among the competitors.

The whole of the school was open for the visitors' inspection, and in the new Hall an exhibition of the scholars' work in art, needlework and cookery was held. Some excellent exhibits were on view, especially in the cookery section, where a number of the articles looked very tempting. Conspicuous by its absence was the Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Prize Band, which owing to unforeseen circumstances, was not able to be present.

A cricket match, Parents v. Boys, was held in the evening, resulting in a win for the boys, who declared at 91 for 4, to which the parents replied with 80 all out.

### Mr. Jasper Smith

Present at the opening ceremony of the school in 1921, and a member of the Board of Governors at the school since then, Mr. Jasper Smith, aged 76 a retired farmer of Doncaster passed away in a compartment of a railway train travelling between Sheffield and Doncaster on July 22nd 1927. He had been taken ill at Tinsley, and a telephone message was sent to Rotherham for a doctor, while two nurses who happened to be travelling on the train rendered assistance. On arrival at Rotherham, however, Mr. Smith was found to be dead.

For the previous 30 years Mr. Smith had been a member of the Hemsworth Rural District Council, and represented North Elmsall, and was on the Hemsworth Board of Guardians, and the South Elmsall Education Sub-Committee. He was also a Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Superintendent and during the First World War served on several agricultural committees. His conscientious contribution to the Board of Governors was much appreciated and would be missed.

### County Minor Scholarships announced July 1927

These children were awarded County Minor Scholarships, and would be starting at Hemsworth Secondary School in September 1927.

#### Boys (39)

<b>Ackworth</b>	Harry Brooks, Herbert Ridsdale, John R. Valance, John Hardaker.
<b>Brierley</b>	James W. Baxendale
<b>Crofton</b>	Thomas Hebden, Walter H. Rushton, Ernest Townend, Harold S. Yemm
<b>Hemsworth</b>	Percy R. Farmer, Basil A. Gibbon, Harry Hyde, Bertram Newitt, Leslie Smith, Richard S. Townend, J.H. Turner, Clifford Wainwright, Arthur Walsh, Roland P. Watson, Thomas Wattam, George Woodall
<b>South Elmsall</b>	Kenneth Brown, Edward Butler, Frank Ellis, George Elvidge, Fred Harrison, George F. Potts, Leslie A. Taylor, James Parsons, Horace K. Porter, Kenneth Goodall, Bernard Walton.
<b>South Hiendley</b>	J.G. Guest, John Taylor
<b>South Kirkby</b>	Harry Taylor, Arnold Skelding
<b>Huntwick with Foulby and Nostell</b>	James K. Brewin, Arthur E. Whittle.

<b>Girls (19)</b>	
<b>Ackworth</b>	Joyce Eskriett,
<b>Brierley</b>	Annie Thorpe, Enid Toone, Millicent Webb, Eileen Morley
<b>Crofton</b>	Hilda Boulton
<b>Hemsworth</b>	Gladys Humphries
<b>Hessle and Hilltop</b>	Muriel Bewick
<b>Shafton</b>	Estelle Rhodes, Joan Jagger
<b>South Elmsall</b>	Millicent Leaver, Kathleen Liversidge, Marjorie Kitching
<b>South Hiendley</b>	Kathleen Perry, Edith E. Booth, Annie Dodd
<b>South Kirkby</b>	Sybil Howson.
<b>Huntwick with Foulby and Nostell</b>	Dorothy Rogers, Gwendoline M. Jackson

With this announcement of next year's intake of pupils, the school year ended. The handful of 18 year olds who had spent their previous years as pupils of Hemsworth Secondary School, and who had experienced the evolution of their school from its beginning in November 1921, would have said their goodbyes (or at least au revoir if they had joined the Old Students' Association). They could look back on many changes - new Staff, new buildings, new traditions and a growing attitude of confidence and pride that a first class education could be acquired there by any student willing to work hard. Throughout their time at the school, there had been constant and energetic leadership from Mr. Jenkinson, backed by the indefatigable Alderman Price and the Board of Governors.

#### **Fifth Form School Certificate Results September 1927**

<b>Boys Matriculation</b>	Morris S. Gibbon, Walter H. Wright,
<b>School Certificate</b>	John R. Barker, Harold Gerner, Arthur E. Rappitt, Arthur Thorpe, Fred Turner, Arthur L. Wilson
<b>Girls Matriculation</b>	Evelyn Parker, Doreen Raine, Winifred M. Sadler, Alice G. Scott, Maisie W. Thorne
<b>School Certificate</b>	Eunice M. Cousins, Florence M. Hodgson, Winifred M. Penn.

*Days after these successes were announced, the Guardian newspaper of 15th September announced the death of Isadora Duncan, the famous dancer. She had been accidentally strangled by the end of her scarf catching in one of the wheels of the motor car which she was driving along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice.*

#### **Improving the Mind**

Eager to put the new assembly hall to use, and to display the new hall to the local population, arrangements were made for a series of lectures and a play to be given by a professional company. Between October 1927 and March 1928, anyone interested and with the necessary admission fee could spend an evening at the school and leave (hopefully) more enlightened. This was not an isolated trend just to show off the new building. Such lectures were taking place, and extremely popular, all over Yorkshire in the Secondary Schools in the 1920's.

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE.</b>	
<b>HEMSWORTH SECONDARY SCHOOL.</b>	
<b>LIST OF LECTURES, 1927-28.</b>	
1927.	
Fr., Oct. 7.	—Story-telling Extraordinary, "Christmas Carol" (Dickens).—Lecturer: Rev. A. R. Runnels-Moss.
Wed., Oct. 26.	—Beaumont and Fletcher's "The Knight of the Burning Pestle."—Mr. Roger Williams and Company (in costume).
Wed., Nov. 16.	—Belgian Towns.—Sir Cecil Hevleslet
Thur., Dec. 8.	—South Africa.—Mr. Herdman.
1928.	
Wed., Jan. 25.	—Roman Yorkshire.—Mr. Dodd
Wed., Feb. 1.	—Pompeii.—Mr. Bibby.
Wed., Feb. 15.	—The Songs of Birds.—Professor Garstang.
Thur., Mar. 1.	—Painters and their Pictures—Mr. Bush.
Wed., May 14.	—Schubert and his Music.—Miss M. Morgan-Jones.
*Illustrated by Lantern Slides.	
All Lectures are to commence at 7 p.m., and will be given in the School Hall.	
Admission: Adults 6d., Children 3d.	

A fairly large audience listened to the Rev. A.R. Runnels-Moss on the first Friday evening's lecture which was entitled "**Story-telling Extraordinary, Christmas Carol**", and later in October the assembly hall was again filled when Mr. Roger William's small dramatic company, comprising himself, Miss M.L. MacFarquhar and Miss Kathleen Kennan gave a recital version of "The Knight of the Burning Pestle". The object of this was to show the manner of dramatic performances and the disposition of the audience in its relation to the players in the Elizabethan period. Mr. Williams gave a short introductory talk on the theatre of the time, and then performed three separate sections which resolved into three pieces of broad farce which the audience vastly enjoyed, and which formed an interesting and instructive little cameo on Elizabethan play going.

"**Belgian Towns**" had been re-scheduled to the 17th November, and the lecture was given by Sir Cecil Hertslet, a former British Consul-General in Antwerp for 30 years, and the treasurer of the Anglo-Belgian Union which was founded in 1918 for the purpose of encouraging friendly relations between Belgium and England. He had been at the Foreign Office in London for 20 years, and gave lectures in both countries. In welcoming him, Mr. Jenkinson praised the efforts of Sir Cecil in his public service. The lecture was effectively illustrated with lantern slides of scenes in Belgium before, during and after the war. The lecturer was formally thanked by the Rector of Hemsworth, the Rev. W. Williams.

So ended the 1927 section of the series of lectures, with "Roman Yorkshire" moved for reasons now lost in time, from January to March 1928.

### **Let's Build a Mining Technical College**

At a meeting of the West Riding Education Committee in early October 1927, the topic for discussion was the provision of advanced mining classes in the Hemsworth area. As a member of the committee, Alderman Price proposed that the sum of £6,000 which had been granted by the Central Miners' Welfare Committee for educational purposes, be used to erect an advanced technical mining institution at Hemsworth. His suggestion was provisionally adopted. This is the first recorded public mention of the intention of Ald. Price to establish such a college, which was eventually situated close by the secondary school. Soon after this, Mr. G. Forster, organiser for mining education, was invited to the school to address the pupils upon the opportunities offered by the Miners' Welfare National Scholarships.

The Miners' Welfare Fund was raised from a levy, initially one penny per ton of coal produced, and after 1926 a levy of five per cent of coal royalties. Between 1920 and 1951 over £30 million of such money was spent on pithead baths, clubs, recreation grounds, colliery canteens, rehabilitation centres for injured miners, research into safety measures in mines, institutes and non-mining education including university scholarships.

During the same month of October, it can be assumed that the Governors were reminding the Education Authority in Wakefield of their duty to review the numbers attending the school over the past three years, with a view to re-grading HSS from Grade 1 to Grade 2.

### **More Pressure for Stage 3**

The Governors were intent on keeping the need for urgency in the provision of extra classrooms and dining facilities at Hemsworth Secondary School to the top of the County Authority's agenda. To this end, they reported to the Board of Education in London that the present number on roll at the school in October 1927 was 355, an increase of 60 on the previous year. Of these, 17 were from the Bentley and Brodsworth area, and were being accommodated at Hemsworth until their own County Borough of Doncaster was able to provide them with their own secondary school in their own area. This influx of neighbouring children served Hemsworth's purpose of accentuating the urgent requirement for additional classroom and dining room accommodation, and also for further hard playing ground for the girls to play tennis and netball.

### **Sixth Annual Speech Day November 23rd 1927**

County Alderman G. Price J.P. presided at the Speech Day and prize distribution held at 2.30pm on that Wednesday afternoon at the Hippodrome. Lady Kathleen Pilkington, a member of the West Riding Education Committee presented the prizes, and the Governors were in attendance. In his introductory speech the chairman spoke of his pride that since the last Speech Day, the new assembly hall, which was also fitted out as a gymnasium, had been completed. However, owing to increased attendance and lack of classroom accommodation the hall had necessarily been used for purposes other than those for which it was intended. There were now 355 pupils at the school, compared with 287 a year before, and 98 six years ago. The Governors were making every effort to secure the approval of the Board of Education for further extensions. They realised the need for economy, and they had many obstacles to face, but they would do their utmost to surmount them. On Tuesday he had seen the drafted plans for scheme 3 which had been submitted to the Education Department at Wakefield. These included provision for five additional classrooms, a caretaker's house, gymnasium, and dining room. The Governors would do all they could to bring the urgent need of the extensions to the notice of the West Riding Education Committee.

### **Sacrificing Parents**

Comparatively speaking, Ald. Price said that Hemsworth Secondary School was a new school, and the Board of Education Inspectors had paid it a high compliment with its excellent report. He congratulated the pupils and staff on this, and trusted it would be an incentive to double their efforts to maintain the reputation which had been acquired, and paid tribute to all connected with the internal or external administration of the school. He expressed to the parents and public generally the Governors' appreciation for their sending their children to the school. Owing to the hard times through which we were passing, many parents were making a great sacrifice to themselves. He hoped the children would realise that, and re-double their efforts and in the end repay their parents three-fold for their sacrifices.

Some years ago he said he wanted to feel that Hemsworth Secondary School had come to stay, and that it would send out young people who would play an important part in the life of the country and Empire. He was now quite satisfied in this direction, and children attending the school had the same opportunity of reaching the university as pupils at other secondary schools in any part of the country. He hoped they would work hard to achieve that end. There was very little room at the bottom, but plenty at the top, and his advice to the students was to aim high. No public office he held had given him greater pleasure than to watch this school grow, not only numerically, but in importance, and fulfil what had been a long-felt need in the area. The school was known, not only in the area it served, but throughout the length and breadth of the country, and many people whom he met commented on the splendid achievements the school had made in such a short time.

### The Holgate Trust

In conclusion he mentioned that he had recently been appointed a member of the governors of the Holgate Trust. This Trust was not as well known to the residents in the Hemsworth area as it ought to be. The endowment was left many years ago by Archbishop Holgate to provide educational facilities for children in the district. He was hoping that they would soon be able to make it better known what the endowment was left for, and to bring to the notice of parents the kind of administration it would be directed to achieve, so that every student in both elementary and secondary schools might be able to take the fullest advantage of the endowment. Many people felt that when the Trust was removed, Hemsworth was robbed of something which belonged to the district, and the Governors would not rest until it was returned to the school.

### The Headmaster's Report

In his annual report, Mr. A.G. Jenkinson reiterated the urgent requirement of the school for further classroom accommodation. The new Hall was being used for ordinary classwork as well as physical exercise, but there were still five forms without proper classroom accommodation. A new dining room was also badly needed, and the kitchen accommodation was quite inadequate to deal with the 200 diners which were now being served daily.

An inspection of the school had taken place during the previous term, and the Board of Education inspectors expressed themselves satisfied, saying, "**The appearance and manners of both boys and girls are excellent, and the tone and discipline of the school are good. The school has clearly made a good start, and a firm foundation for future good work has been laid.**"

Two additional forms had been added to the school, and Form I had been merged into IId. Next July two forms, Va and Vb, would be taking the School Certificate Examination, and the curriculum of the school had also been extended in several directions.

### School Certificate Examinations

The results in the school certificate exams last July were disappointing, and fell considerably short of those for the previous year; but in the higher certificate, which was taken for the first time, the results were good. Of seven candidates, five passed, and one, who obtained a distinction in history, was awarded a County Major scholarship. In the school certificate, 16 candidates passed and seven matriculated.

### The Value of Homework

The training of pupils in independent and individual thought was valuable, and facilitated by unsupervised work at home. Conditions in homes varied greatly, but in response to requests, he had arranged for every parent to have a copy of the homework timetable, so that they might do their share by seeing that the proper work was done.

### School Activities

During the year, the school had taken part in the usual reading competition, at which the rector of Hemsworth (Canon Williams) adjudicated, and had showed intelligence and care. The school had a good library, containing some 450 books, but suffered from the lack of a proper reading room; this was, however, part of the new buildings scheme, and in his opinion as serious a need as that for classrooms and dining room.

There was also during the year an inter-house musical competition, including classes for piano, violin, solo singing and choral singing. Miss Purdon adjudicated, and considerable enthusiasm was shown. The school choir had competed as usual at Pontefract, and had been awarded 176 marks, with a first class certificate; and for sight reading 78 marks out of 100. The school had taken part in the Folk Dancing Festival at Pontefract, and won two first-class and seven second-class certificates, as well as the banner put up for competition among secondary schools. An art club had been formed by Mr. Taylor, and had a fairly large membership.

In games, too, the school had done well, though there was great need for tennis courts for the girls. The successful organisation of games in the school was due largely to the care and energy of members of the staff and to the school captains. Sports were held as usual on parents' day, and were a great success.

A course of public lectures had been launched, and were proving an appreciated feature. It was hoped to produce the first school play in the hall at the end of the term.

### The Staff and Governors

The ready co-operation and interest of his colleagues was much appreciated by Mr. Jenkinson. During the year, the staff had been augmented by three more teachers for Latin, Mathematics and Physics, and by an English and French mistress. A full time teacher had been engaged to take charge of the Domestic Science Department, which had meant the departure of a part-time teacher, Miss Morrison, whom they were all sorry to lose.

He commended the work done by the school prefects and particularly by the two heads of the school for the way in which they had lived up to the responsibilities of their position, and he emphasised the importance of the last two years of school life, between 16 and 18, in the formation of character and the training for a career. It was worth some sacrifice by the parents to ensure for their children this invaluable period of school life, and he was glad to believe that this obligation was, in his school, being satisfactorily discharged.

### The Presentation

In distributing the prizes, Lady Kathleen Pilkington gave some advice to the girls, particularly on what professions they might pursue with advantage. She assured the parents that she would do all she could for the benefit of the school, and declared that its

progress during its six years existence was nothing short of marvellous. She appealed to the pupils to be more adventurous, and said that at present there was a tendency for everyone to crowd into the same profession. Let them have originality, instead of following each other like silly sheep, and they would find life brighter.

Lady Kathleen was thanked, on the motion of Mrs. Schorah, seconded by Mrs. Guest (Governors of the school).

### Successful Scholars

E. John Barker had secured a County Major scholarship, and the certificates and prizes were as follows:

### Higher School Certificates

(g) - Good (p) - Pass (s) - Subsidiary

E. John Barker Distinction in History, Latin (g), English literature (g), Pure Mathematics (s).  
Stanley Hawkesworth Pure mathematics (g), Physics (p), Applied Maths (s), English Literature (s).  
R. N. Slatcher Pure Maths (g), chemistry (g), physics (p), English literature (s),  
Kathleen Thompson History (g), English (g), French (s), Latin (s).  
S. Thorpe Maths (g), Chemistry (g), Physics (p), History (s).

### School Certificates

(M) Matriculation

John R. Barker cr. in History, French, Mathematics; pass in English.  
(M) Morris S. Gibbon Distinction in Mathematics and Chemistry; cr. in English, History, Geography and French.  
Harold Goner cr in History, French, Geography and Mathematics, pass in English.  
Arthur E. Rappitt cr. in History, French, Maths, pass in English, Physics and Art.  
Arthur Thorpe cr. in English, History, Geography, Maths, Art and Chemistry.  
Fred Turner cr. in French, Maths, and Chemistry; pass in English, History, Geography and Art.  
Arthur L. Wilson cr. in History, Maths, and Art; pass in English, French and Chemistry  
(M) Walter H. Wright Distinction in History, Geography and Maths; cr. in English, French, Latin, Physics and Chemistry.  
Eunice M. Cousins cr. in English, History, French, and Maths; pass in Geography.  
Florence M. Hodgson cr. in History, Maths and Chemistry; pass in English, Latin and Physics.  
(M) Evelyn Parker cr. in English, History, French and Maths; pass in Geography, Latin and Scripture.  
Winifred Penn cr. in English, History, French and Maths; pass in Scripture and Art.  
(M) Doreen Raine cr. in English, History, French, Maths and Chemistry; pass in Geography and Art.  
(M) Winifred Sadler cr. in English, History, Geography, French, Maths and Art; pass in Latin.  
(M) Alice G. Scott cr. in English, History, French and Maths; pass in Scripture, Geography, Latin and Art.  
(M) Maisie W. Thorne cr. in English, History, Geography, French, Maths and Art.

### Prizes

**For distinction in examinations** E. John Barker, Walter H. Wright, Morris S. Gibbon, G.A. Hunt.

### **Form Prizes**

Form V Walter H. Wright;  
Iva - Vera Parton IVb - Annie Brailsford IVc - Harold Goulding  
IIIa - Nancy Parsonage IIIb - Doris Wilson  
IIa - Hodge IIb - Fred Williamson IIc - Fox  
I - Francis.

### **Reading Prizes**

Seniors - Maisie Thorne  
Juniors - Fox

### **General Information**

Walter H. Wright, Morris S. Gibbon.

### **General Progress**

R. Lincoln (23 places), Fred Turner (22 places).

### **Star prizes**

F. Parsonage (64), Vera Parton (58), P. Mustill (47), P. Howe (46), Annie Brailsford (46), Richards (46),  
D. Wilson (43), Fred Williamson (38), Fox (35), Harry Heppenstall (35)

### **House Challenge Cup**

1. Holgate (860 points), 2. Guest (521 points), 3. Talbot (474 points), 4. Price (78 points).

### **South Africa**

Mr. Herdman delivered his scheduled lecture on "South Africa" on Thursday evening, December 8th in the School Hall.

### **Old Students' Dance Dec 9th 1927**

What a difference there would have been in using the new hall for the old students' social evening held at the school, compared with the previous gatherings in the old building! The anticipation of the event on that Friday evening however, must have been outweighed by the disappointment of a low turnout, as there were only 60 persons present. There must have been plenty of room to twirl their partners in a Hall built to accommodate pupils in their hundreds, and at supper, the Headmaster regretted the small attendance and appealed for recruitment. It must be mentioned that in England throughout the winter of 1927, it was reported that up to 1,000 people per week were dying from influenza, and this may have been a factor. Nevertheless, an enjoyable time was spent. We do know of four old students who were there, - the MC's were Messrs. W. Kirk, R. Webster and H. Parsons, and Miss Winnie Walsh presented a writing cabinet to Mr. and Mrs. Manning, the school caretakers, on behalf of the association. The evening was enlivened by a Mr. S. Brown's Havana Band.

## "The Rivals" 19th, 20th, 21st December 1927

The first play to be staged in the new school hall was presented on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

### Characters

[Names have been augmented where possible]

Lydia Languish	Miriam Wass
Lucy	May Bull
Julia	Martha Mustill
Mrs. Malaprop	Kathleen Thompson
Sir Anthony Absolute	Stanley Hawkesworth
Fag	H. Teale
Captain Absolute	Frank Rothera
Faulkland	Leslie Jago
Acres	Fred Williamson
Sir Lucius O'Trigger	Brian Harrison
David	F. Howitt

Perhaps the drama critic of the local newspaper did not intend the first line of his account of the play to sound so dismissive, but it might have been a little insensitive to say, "In presenting Sheridan's comedy, "The Rivals" the Secondary School Dramatic Society made a welcome change from their previous Shakespearean plays". What had happened to "there's not enough Shakespeare in Hemsworth."(1923)? An opinion not consistently held, it must be assumed.

Frank Rothera further enhanced his reputation by his rendering of the part of Captain Absolute, while Kathleen Thompson as Mrs. Malaprop caused much laughter by her absurd sayings. The play was well presented, with a cast of such equally high abilities as to make discriminating between them a hard task.

Between the acts, incidental music was provided by the School Orchestra, conducted by Miss Morgan-Jones. The play was produced by Miss E.D. Robinson and Mr. W.A. Storer. Mr. R. Shiells was the business manager, and a beautiful front curtain depicting flowers and peacocks was painted for the occasion by Mr. H.S.P. Taylor.

### Celebrations! Stage 3 at last!

The long years of campaigning for more accommodation by the Headmaster and Governors were finally rewarded when the announcement was made on December 20th 1927 that the West Riding Education Committee had approved plans for the extensions scheme. Stage 3 would become a reality, at a cost of £12,500. The scheme was not without an element of compromise, however. The Secondary Education Sub-Committee said, "That, subject to the omission of the gymnasium and changing rooms from the scheme, the plans of the proposed extensions at Hemsworth Secondary School be approved...." It would seem that the well-equipped gymnasium which formed part of the new assembly hall had been so impressive that it was deemed unnecessary to duplicate this in a separate, expensive building. **The provision was for four large classrooms, a dining room, caretaker's house, dressing rooms and lavatories.** Alderman Price's hard fight to secure this improvement was much appreciated by both staff members and parents, not to mention the later pleasure it would give to the pupils upon completion.

It would have been with a great sense of satisfaction that the Governors at the close of the year would have congratulated themselves, knowing they had received the best of Christmas presents. They were over the first major hurdle, and now the final approval of the Board of Education in London would be sought.

As they looked towards 1928, those who attended Hemsworth Secondary School as pupils, members of Staff or Governors would have had a good idea of the future framework of the following year. Another school play; a Speech Day at the Hippodrome; the School Certificate exams; the Sports and Parents' Day; a School Magazine; the activities of all the societies now in existence; Folk Dancing; choirs and music, and of course classwork and homework. The four Houses were now at full complement, and discipline was well-established. The Headmaster, now comfortable in his house to the side of the front elevation of the school building, would be assessing the needs of the students and preparing to welcome new teachers for them. For the Governors would come the incessant requesting of funds from the West Riding Authority for the necessary upkeep of the buildings and expansion of the facilities, alongside the 'leitmotif' forever running through their activities which was to keep in the limelight the return of the Holgate Funds to Hemsworth.