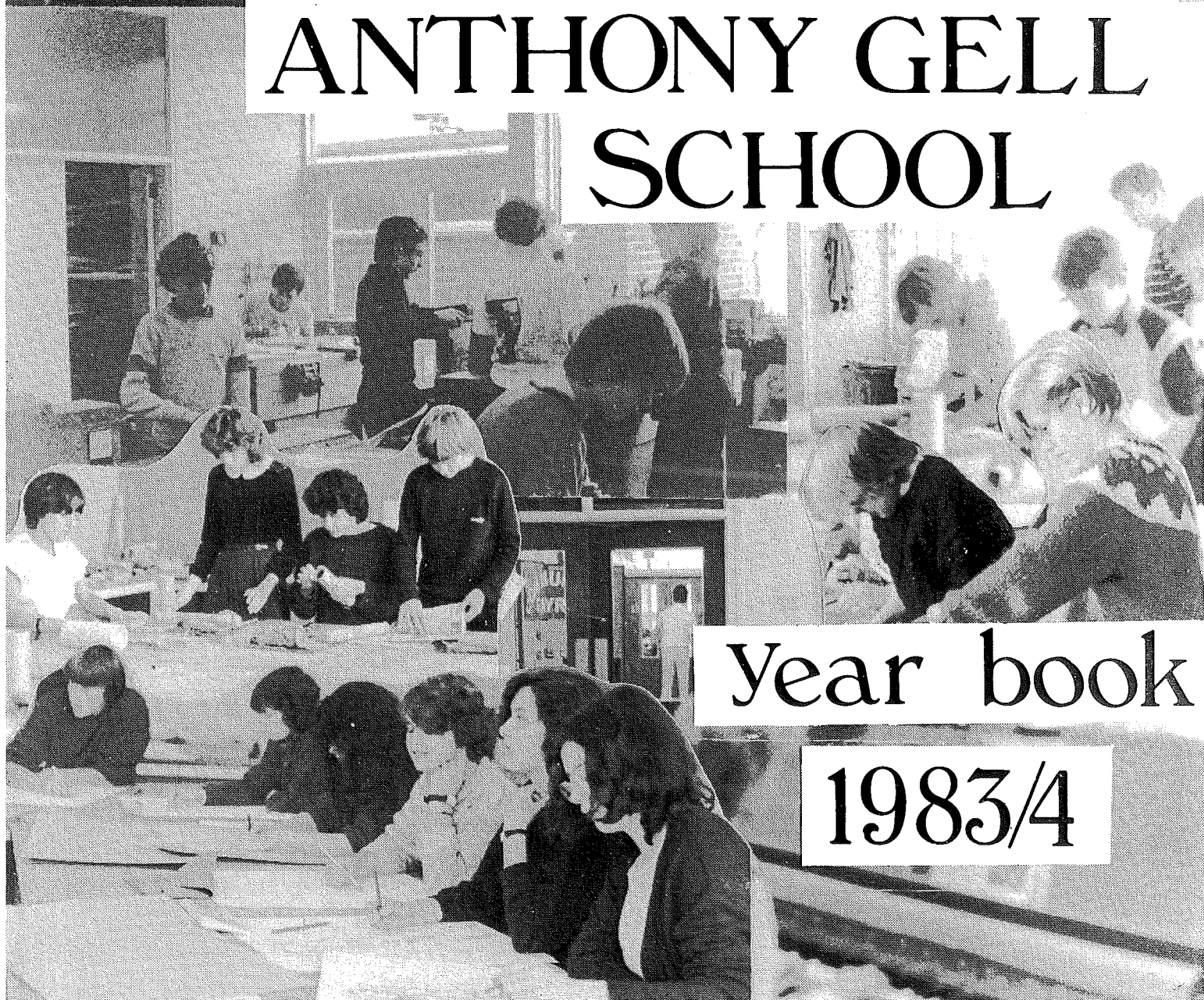




# ANTHONY GELL SCHOOL



Year book

1983/4



S T A F F 1 9 8 4

107 Years in Wirksworth by Retiring Teachers

Our thanks for splendid service and best wishes in retirement.

Mrs Joyce Brealey came to Wirksworth in 1953 from West Bromwich, where she worked as a PE teacher, to Newbridge under the legendary Joe Cresswell. A founder member of AGS when we went comprehensive in 1966 she was second in English to first Barry Foster and later in the new block to Malcolm Stanton. She was an effervescent tutor in Gell and Wright House, discoverer of the Gell ghost, and for many years staff representative on the PTA Committee.

Mr Ron Muschamp taught in both Newbridge and Anthony Gell Grammar School from 1961 before going comprehensive and to teaching in all three schools, a unique treble. He was a loyal Fearnie tutor and as Head of Art encouraged a stream of talented artists. Their 'A' level projects on local architecture are almost a local history collection. Well known personally for his drawings of local scenes, he enabled our students to see new things in their environment. One time tennis player, still connoisseur of ancient vehicles, both his sons were educated at Anthony Gell.

Mr Allan Merigold founded Fearnie House in 1965 after education at the Grammar School, service with the Navy, a spell at County Offices and Science teaching at Newbridge. As Head of House respected by pupils and parents, he cared for all his pupils and fought for their interests. Fearnie was a friendly House; often champions of the sportsfield, always keen and courteous. His administration was phenomenal, his eye for a form unmatched, his active Physics remarkable. Allan was a runner, a South Peak Sports officer for many years; now a bowler, a Parish Councillor and countryman.

Mrs Jean Merigold retires with him. Our school nurse for many years we will miss her tact, her ready ear. She bandaged our cuts and heard our troubles. The corridor is lessened by her absence and we will miss her concern for us all, the youngest pupil or the oldest teacher,

Mr Joseph Gould joined AGS as a pupil in the new building in 1939 and he links the generations. After a distinguished school career, Nottingham University, RAF service and teaching in Yorkshire and Leicestershire, he came home to the Grammar School in 1960. He served with unmatched loyalty as Head of Physics, Head of Science, Deputy Head for 17 years as the school grew, and on 2 occasions as Acting Head. His energy and dedication to Physics inspired many pupils, whose lives were changed by his teaching. He designed our Science labs. Joe knew the community, was a respected local Councillor, properly elevated to the bench. His 4 children followed him to AGS. The kindest of men, a gardener, practising Methodist, a runner in his youth, fervent Wirksworth patriot, local historian of lead-mining, and Derby County supporter, we will miss his towering support.

### Good Luck to Staff Leaving

Mr Tony Dimond (1972), a one-school man, goes to Devon in business. As Head of Science he guided a major department skilfully over our growth years as a comprehensive school. A fine teacher, and excellent organiser, he worked closely in support of senior pupils as a sixth form tutor. Tony was a keen sportsman and dedicated rugby player.

Mrs Sue Grimshaw (1975), Biologist and Aberystwyth field trip organiser, and loyal Gell tutor, slogged hard and efficiently for her pupils and they earned good results. She managed to instil an inner calm in the unlikeliest members of her Gell tutor group. As she and her husband move to Birmingham we congratulate them on their newly born son Sam.

Miss Janet Gregory (1982), was another keen Gell tutor, gentle and supportive of House people and activities. She brought grace, flair and happiness to the Textiles department and inspired creative work in both boys and girls.

Mrs Chrissie Garrett (1972), taught Drama in the Games room with optimism, a laundry basket and catching enthusiasm. The wide-ranging invention of her pupils spread precociously. A well known local actress she produced some lively school plays in the seventies.

Mrs Ann Hall, hard working laboratory technician for 5 years left to return to Matlock.

Mrs Shellia Parry, technician and friend to many computer club addicts, especially those tackling complicated technical jobs, left at Easter. We congratulate her on the new baby.

Mrs Jean Crapper, after 6 years in the whole variety of AGS office and clerical work, leaves the frenzied activity of the school office.

Mrs Elsie Wardman, our longest serving and most devoted cleaner, retired after working in Home Economics since 1965. Previously she had been in the old churchyard building, our last link with that time.

### We Welcome to AGS

Mr Tom Dee from Belper High School as Head of Science.

Mrs Margaret Howitt from teacher training at Birmingham Polytechnic to teach Art and Textiles.

Miss Jacqueline Porteous from Warwick University who will teach Drama.

Mrs Jane Griffiths who taught Mr Howard's classes for some time last year returns to teach Textiles.

Mr Richard Church from Sheffield University joins the Science Department.

AGS PEOPLE 1984

Stage lighting experts are Tony Harwood, Jonty Ashton and Tom Storer. Their work for school productions, for Ivanhoe and Theatre Wirksworth and for other community groups has been much praised and becomes very skilled. They worked with the professionals on Strange Migrations.

Richard Bourne was Player of the Season in Cromford's U12 side.

Young footballer Richard Austin (year 4 Wright) has won a trial with West Bromwich Albion.

Young Engineer of Derby. The engineering might of Rolls Royce came to the aid of schoolboy Matthew Wooliscroft (year 2 Gell) - and the result was one of the best nail-bashing machines on show.

Matthew (12) of Washgreen, Wirksworth, combined an old fire-extinguisher, polythene piping and a piston mechanism in a compressed air-driven machine which scooped two top prizes in a competition to test youngsters' ingenuity.

Matthew went to Rolls Royce experts and was given engineering tips, and his machine won first prize in the category for first and second years for both design and performance, and speed. (Derby Evening Telegraph)

Top typists passed RSA I Typewriting in November - 9 fifth years and Susan Stone from year 4.

Our 12 top 'O' level Maths students in year 5 took the exam early and all passed. Even the Editor can work that out at 100% success. And Claire Booth (year 5 Fearne) scored 100% in the East Midlands Numeracy Exam.

David Bunting, Gell House, already a corporal in the Wirksworth Army Cadets, has been selected for the Royal Engineers Junior Leader Course.

Helen Johnson and Lisa Chadwick, ace investigative reporters, published their first articles - a survey on the state of the Market Place and an interview with a self-defence expert - in the pages of Community Fayre, the Wirksworth town newspaper.

Alison Cooper (year 5 Fearne), won a prize book donated by well-known woodcarver John Matthews, when year 5 pupils visited an exhibition of Armenian Folk Art.

Charity collectors in AG, Sheila Mart and Sharon Spencer, raised £10 for the Blue Peter Weatherbeater Appeal.

Queen's Guides Sarah Greaves (year 4 Gell), Jenny Crossland and Tracey Ennis (year 4 Arkwright) were selected to go on a friendship trip to the USA, staying with families in Delaware County, Pennsylvania and spending a week in Guide camp at Hidden Falls.

Richard Hodson, AGS sixth form pilot, was grounded recently by a flying hockey stick. He passed his private pilot's licence with an 80% pass mark and 30 flying hours.

Peter Smith and Matthew Williams have won much prized places on the Automobile Engineering course at Chesterfield College.

Richard Ford's dog gained a third prize at the world famous London Crufts Dog Show.

Shaun Spencer is aiming for top spot as Britain's number one BMX Junior. Shaun's training schedule includes running as well as strenuous uphill cycling and never ending gym work.

Gell Discos have provided regular mid-day entertainment for jaded pupils, with Kevin Hawley, David Redfern, Barry Spencer and Sharon Waterhouse making the arrangements. Thanks to Miss Gregory for her encouragement.

Dr Barnardo's asked us to help their annual fund raising as they had no local collectors, so our sixth form took up the tins and raised £90. Collectors - Emma Bradley, Alison Webster, Teresa Bowmer, Jonathan Wilson, Duncan Beaumont, Helene Austin, Cindy Abson, Catherine Batterley, Peter Watts, Mandy Ashworth.

Elizabeth Roper, Elizabeth Land and Jonathan Wilson have been young people's reps on West Derbyshire Police Consultative Committee.

Joanne Ruddock and Michael Brown represent the sixth form on Wirksworth Home and Leisure Safety Committee.

Wrestler Michael Petts, Arkwright, represented Wirksworth Warriors in a three club international competition in Brussels, gaining a special award as Wrestler of the Day.

Mrs Cashdan's fourth year English students have produced a story on demand. Nervously they set off to the C of E Infants school to face a gruelling interview as 7 year olds dictated their choices. Some young authors have produced mini books with coloured pictures. It was a delight to see 15 and 7 year olds bridging the generation gap in deep one-to-one conversations.

Fire Prevention Quiz - AGS team came third in the County final, with a hard working third year team coached by Mr Few: Darren Allsobrook, Angela Hall, Michelle Simms, Claire Storer, Michael Chadwick.

BMX Club Free Style Display Team - Paul Smith, Eldon Stevens, Dean Bower, Nick Dutch, Andrew Taylor.

Holloway Horticultural Society gave first and second prize to plant growers Wendy Smith, Helen Ironmonger, Shaun Kerry and James Thorneycroft.

Winners in South Peak Junior Sports - John Upton, Nicola Marshall, Teresa Roach, Mark Stanier.

Sixth form Club Hockey Players include Jenny Bestwick (Belper), Amanda Coles and Catherine Batterley (Baileans), Helene Austin (Derwent Ladies).

Congratulations to Linda Kleinhappel, Andrea Jackson, Jayne Spencer and Mandy Worth who have been "growing" a copper sulphate crystal for the last 6 months. It now measures 10 x 7 cm, is one cm deep and weighs 97.6 g. The crystal has almost outgrown our largest beakers and we'll soon be looking for a plastic trough to continue its growth.

Peter Phillips and Darren Hayhurst have been commended for their work at the local Infants school on Friday afternoons. It's not easy to work with young children and these two Gell fifth formers have got the knack. Well done lads.

Kevin Spencer (year 5 Wright), built a housing for the new Science department burner, showing great skill and achieving a high standard of finish.

House Cross Country individual winners were Max Ward, Julie Spencer, Mark Spencer and Guy Shirley (all Arkwright), and Tracey Higton (Fearne).

Sports Day year group winners were Clare Watson (Fearne), John Upton (Wright), Sharon Slack (Gell), Max Ward (Arkwright), Sarah Bateman (Wright), Leigh Woodhouse (Gell).

Keeping their heads above water our new water babies, the Kitchen Ladies Swimming Club, are learning a few strokes to help them in serving up the chip butties.

Gell skaters have taken to the ice each term with visits to Sheffield Ice Rink, organised by Mr Adams and Gell staff.

Our range of musical activities seems to extend all the time. As well as regular brass band sessions, with several public performances, our modern Blues Band has made a big impact with an inaugural concert at Christmas to fifth year pupils and a performance at the County Council Open Day at Elvaston Castle. Blues Band: Clive Gregory (Bass), Edward Davenport and David Bateman (Guitars), Kevin and Gary Spencer (Drums), David Brown (Vocalist).

The string quartet (Miss Coen, Nicky Richards, Elizabeth Seston, Elizabeth Acons), has made a promising beginning, but would welcome a viola player. The recorder group has played from Beatles to Bach and is now including other woodwind instruments. Both Junior and Senior Choirs have flourished and performed at the Carol Service.

Drum Club happened! Mr Hannam found a few rogues playing around on the drum kit. Impressed by Gary Spencer's untutored talent he began lunch time lessons for him and his friends. Now Gary and Kevin Spencer are teaching the Junior drummers while Mr Hannam takes a "master class."

Fourth year musicians are making music and perform their own compositions as part of the CSE course. Some are absolute beginners, others are experienced instrumentalists. The support of John Gill our Guitar Teacher is vital. Nick Dutch is a promising vocalist, and hear Jon Bower on the synthesiser.

The Wirksworth Community Orchestra has welcomed our players, and young brass, strings and woodwind members have enjoyed participating with adults. We are also pleased at our growing links with BMW Brass.

Wirksworth Project has invited us to form a Junior Steering Committee and a group of senior pupils has begun to make a contribution. Thanks to Mrs Hudson for her encouragement and for use of the Geogers Den.

Not So Nasty Videos - year 2 using the new video camera. They recorded two short films scripted by second years with sound effects and inventive costumes. The Haunted House had the audience shivering with many creaks and screams. Year 3 German videos produced by Mr Richards, scripted by our pupils - yes - in German - and on show to the Adult Evening Class.

## E V E N T S   O F   T H E   Y E A R

The School Carol Service was held on 17 December. Over 500 people joined in our congregational carols led by the School band. Prayers were led by Rev David Harvey and the lessons were read by Col Peter Hilton, Chairman of the Governors, by Sian Thomas and Christopher Locke, pupils, Mrs Jenny Acons and Mr Steve Adams.

Presentation Evening on 11 April welcomed over 200 visitors and friends. Certificates were presented by Mr Derek Brown, Principal Assistant Director of Education. Councillor Hubert Doxey, Vice-Chairman of the School Governors was in the chair. Excellent refreshments were provided by the Home Economics department.

PTA Craft Fair attracted 40 stall holders who presented a wide range of attractive crafts including silver jewellery, metal casting and cuddly toys, made by local craftsmen. Wirksworth Junior School Folk Dance Team "Tom's Capers" entertained visitors with a lively display. Thanks to our hard working organisers Mrs Harwood, Mrs Hazlewood, Mrs Illingworth, Mrs Spriggs, Mr Woolley and Mr Few. We raised £360 and were able to make a donation of £120 to MacMillan Cancer Unit, Derby.

Super Teacher Competition raised £250 for charity, with teachers taking part in vigorous tests of fitness, wit, sporting powers and dramatic talent. This splendid occasion was very well organised by Paddy Cooney (5 Gell) and by Jenny Bestwick (6th form) and the final concert was riotously appreciated.

Catastrophe was a community evening on the theme of Cats. Anthony Gell School contribution came from Junior Dance Club, Music Ensemble with woodwind and percussion, with membership of the Community Orchestra and BMW Brass. Mr Richards and Mr Roe co-ordinated the 300 performers whose work was appreciated by a vast audience.

Founder's Service was held on 3 July in the Parish Church. The preacher was Rev Brian Coleman of All Saints, Matlock, and the service was conducted by Rev Jack Walser. Lessons were read by the Headmaster and Karen Radford.

Ceramics Exhibition. Twenty six fifth year pupils preparing for CSE and 'O' level Art and Design exhibited their work in the school hall on May Day. Over 156 pieces of work were presented, showing high skill and imagination. Ceramics ranged through functional work to abstract and representational sculpture with an impressive variety of sizes, forms and glazes.

Well Dressing. We dressed our new well with its splendid convex centre (constructed by Messrs Ryde and Waring), and presented our annual exhibition of Art and Craft. This splendid display was visited by over 1,000 people over the weekend and reached the highest standard yet.

Parent and Toddler Group. Our Friday afternoon fifth year workers have had a growing attendance with the highlight being the Christmas tea for 26 smiling toddlers - paper hats, stockings, sweets and cakes and music by AGS pupils.



Gell OAP's tea and entertainment was well appreciated by our visitors. One visitor wrote, "For the first time I was able to go for my tea in your school and see a film. The tea was marvellous and the film was very enjoyable. The young people had happy faces and were so kind asking if we wanted another cup of tea. After a horribly foggy day we were uplifted and I came home happy. The world isn't so bad after all."

Parent Teacher Association. We have been active in fund raising for the school with a Christmas Fair, our annual raffle, bingo kindly organised by Councillor Mary Waterhouse, and a splendid Craft Fair with over 40 first class exhibitors, who displayed a wide range of crafts. We made a major contribution to the new school minibus and have purchased kit for school teams. At Christmas we ran a noisy and enjoyable disco for first and second year pupils in the Town Hall. On a more serious note we welcomed Mr Peter Thompson, Chief Adviser to the Director of Education, who talked persuasively about the Derbyshire Approach to the Curriculum. Parents contributed questions and comments to a thoughtful discussion. Mr Boston and the Maths department made a presentation on "How we teach Mathematics" and we saw children at work.

Drama Club has met regularly with Mr Richards and Mr Roe. Our sixth form group presented "The Incredible Vanishing" to groups of Junior school pupils and to AGS first years. This humorous children's play was well received by our young audiences. Incredible Vanishing actors were: Sally Pearson, Peter Wilson, Francesca Hodgkinson, Martin Hamilton, Cindy Abson, Emma Bradley, Kati Foster, Emma Wood, Daisy Butler.

Christian Union has been meeting regularly and welcomed visitors Colin Mark from Christian Aid, who talked about the Philippines, and Dr Angela Kindleysides who had worked in a hospital in northern India. The group has seen the One World Exhibition and continued to make home visits to old people. They also took an afternoon service for senior citizens at Barmote Croft. Robert Holmes and Thomas Thomas performed a short sketch about John the Baptist, others read lessons and prayers and the whole group sang modern gospel songs. Our hosts enjoyed the friendly chat and tea and biscuits afterwards. In April Christian Union and Young People's Fellowship sang at the Christian Aid Singalong at the Baptist Church to raise money for a clean water project in Mali. Taking part: Sian, Peter and Thomas Thomas, David Neaum, Karen Radford, Joanne Insley, Louise Hanson, Anna and Julia Theaker and Malcolm Schofield. In the summer members visited Villa Park to hear Billy Graham. Nina Coultard, Inter Schools Christian Fellowship, talked about her work for ISCF, including her trip to New Zealand. CU/YPF summer barbecue was hosted by Karen and Stephen Radford. Rain didn't stop play but there was lots of smoke. Dr Andrew Skinner gave a short epilogue to close festivities. We celebrated our first birthday with a party in July and plan a long weekend in York in August. The discussion meetings have been challenging and members have explored many questions about Christianity.

AGS Bird Club (Members of RSPB Young Ornithologists Club) - activities have included:

A visit to Pollyanna Pickering and her collection of birds of prey  
RSPB film show in Derby

Regular trips to Via Gellia bird feeding station

An expedition to the Shropshire moors to see black grouse, and to

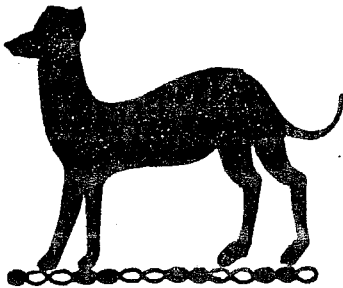
Martin Mere Wildfowl Reserve in Lancashire to see swans, geese and ducks

A survey of winter birds for the British Trust for Ornithology

Speaker Nick Brown of the Derbyshire Naturalists Trust

The third annual Gell House Concert was held in the School Hall before an appreciative audience of parents, friends and fellow pupils. Words and music of a school theme were produced by Phil Richards and a wide variety of music co-ordinated by Maggie Coen. The audience warmed to a troupe of young comedians - Rose Butler, Ruth Lownds, Louise Champion, Helen Bennett, Jane Ormond, Paul Webster, David Maskrey and Jonathan Hamilton - who displayed good timing amid many laughs and splendid confidence. The Junior and Senior Choirs made brief but tuneful appearances in contrasting styles. The Woodwind Group was well disciplined, playing Scarborough Fair and the Entertainer, and the energetic performance by an enthusiastic Dance Group was warmly applauded. Another contrast was a moving woodwind duet (Elizabeth Acons and Lisa Wilson) and the bounding finale of the ever improving Blues Band. Jem Hannam was MC and lighting was by Tom Storer and Jonty Ashton. Steve Adams was responsible for an entertaining evening, the profits from which will go mostly to the NSPCC Centenary Appeal.

Meet Greyhound, our Sign of the Times.



Our new computer in admin system is Greyhound and he will help the office to produce all our lists in future. Greyhound stores everyone's names accurately on magnetic disc with class, sets, tutor groups so we can count, categorise and print out speedily and without error. Greyhound will save typing time and we hope to use the word processor much more for school publications. We do not keep medical or private data, or even addresses, and each year Greyhound will give a print-out of information held, in return pupils check it out and make sure our details are correct.

The Careers Convention was attended by over 600 pupils and parents of years four to seven and they were able to receive information from over 70 advisers on a wide variety of jobs and careers. The advisers were hosted by members of the third year and the teaching staff, to whom grateful thanks.

During the last four months over 160 pupils have received 30 minute interviews with a County Careers Officer. Many of our fifth form students have applied for College Courses and received interviews. Many others have applied for jobs and apprenticeships whilst the programme for entry into our sixth form goes ahead with year six tutors.

S P O R T I N G   J O T T I N G S   1 9 8 4

BASKETBALL

U15 and U16 teams reached North East Derbyshire semi-final. Mark Goodwin and William Shawcross won County selection.

SOCCER

U15 eleven lost their first three games but recovered to win the last five, showing great team spirit, enthusiasm and determination. First year team, keen, tiny but inexperienced, never lost their enthusiasm against stronger teams.

The staff played 3 matches, drawing with the fifth form and Frederick Gent staff, but losing to the sixth form by a Bruce Harris goal.

Six-a-side tournament for years 3/4 was won by the Magnificent Seven (!) who beat City Six in the final.

Area U15 team included Neil Woodhouse, Richard Austin, Tom Thomas and Stephen Towe.

HOCKEY

Indoor tournament with 16 teams entering showed high skill, was watched by enthusiastic lunch time crowds. Winners were the Hodson Hatters (Simon Lawley, Andrew Potts, Simon Bunting and Mark Rowlands) who beat US (Pete Barry, Elaine Powell, Alan Brown, Margaret Brown and Kate Windsor) 3-1 in an exciting and skilful final.

The 1st eleven made a slow start, losing two early matches, but since then remained unbeaten during the season. They did well in the National qualifying tournament in October, losing in the semi-final to Repton School, but not so well in the March tournament, finishing well down in their section.

Mixed hockey in the senior school has been a great success and we drew 1-1 with Belper High School in our one and only match. We are losing many hockey stalwarts from the upper sixth - notably Kate Windsor, Rachel Cooper, Rachel Hughes and Emma Short - the only 4 left in school from our County Championship team of 1982.

The U13 eleven have improved rapidly throughout the season and look to have a promising future. We have drawn many matches and lost only 3 and now need to find the net more often, having strengthened the defence.

Girls who have represented school this year, 1983-84:

1st eleven - P Holgate, A Goddard, A Coles, J Bestwick, J Hawley, D Wilson, E Short, K Windsor, R Cooper, C Batterley, H Austin, K Radford and K Talbot (thanks to T Bark for turning out one Saturday when we were short)

U13 eleven - F Beale, L Hanson, T Hitchcock, J Theaker, E Drayton, R Bacon, J Jacobi, S Kelly, S Slack, G Watson, L Hall, C Willis, C Woodcock, E Rowland, I Webster, W Hoole, G Geary

NETBALL

We have fielded three teams at U15, youthful and enthusiastic with four year groups represented, U13 the strongest team who just failed to reach the County Tournament final, and the U12 who have been learning fast.

CRICKET

The XI had three notable victories against adult teams. In a well contested match against Old Wirksworthians, who included Ian Buxton, the school (reinforced by Brown and Barry) won with a wide and two pavilion sixes from Mr Barry from the last two balls (bowled by veteran Old Wirksworthian Marsden). They beat a cheerful parent's side also in the last over after hostile bowling by Davenport and steady tactical batting by Cooney. Against the Chamber of Trade we made a remarkable 244-4 during a blazing hot afternoon (Pearce 50, Cooney 43, Bunting 43, Neaum 40, Fennah 31). Records show no higher score by a school XI! In reply the Chamber made 166. Our thanks to Wirksworth Cricket Club who not only hosted all three games most generously but included many school players in their U13, U15 and U18 teams. Wirksworth U13 Cricket team reached the County semi-final. Members included Michael Petts, David Neaum, Edward Acons, Paul Heappy, Stephen Wanford and Neil Taylor (captain).

TABLE TENNIS

Many of Matlock's rising table tennis stars are Gell students. Playing out of the newly renovated Cromford Community Centre they compete mainly in Division 2 and 3 and occasionally in Division 1 of the Matlock League. Between them over the last three seasons they have collected many of the trophies (although not eligible for the veterans!). Warren Slaney, Kate Windsor and Robert Blackburn have each won the trophy for the most promising young player in the League. Together with Tom Windsor, Amanda Coles and Mark Beck they have represented Matlock Juniors in the County League. Mark and Chris Chambers, Graham Lowe, Patrick Watson and Simon Lawley in their first competitive play have added lots of enthusiasm (and not a little cheek) to the Third Division. In the recent Matlock and District Closed Championships, Kate Windsor won the Ladies Singles and was losing finalist in both Division 2 Singles and Mixed Doubles. Warren Slaney won the U17 Singles and was losing finalist in the U21 Singles. Mark Beck won the U14 Singles and was runner-up in the U17. Mark Chambers was the losing finalist in the U14 Singles and Robert Blackburn lost in the final of the Division 3 Singles and was voted the most improved Junior player this season.

ESCA NATIONAL CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over 15's - Emma Wood not only easily won the Schoolgirl Championships, but put on the record books the fastest ride ever by a girl. She broke the record set up in 1981 by eight seconds, completing the ten miles in 24 mins 53 secs.

Under 13's - Robin Gould received a bronze medal for 3rd place with his ride of 12 mins 58 secs for five miles. Richard Pearson (15th) and Shaun Vallance (21st) supported Robin well enough for the school to become National U13 Team Time Trial Champions.

Jon Hartill was 21st in the U15 Time Trial Championship - time 26 mins 9 secs..

Our thanks to Matlock Cycling Club who have welcomed our young riders.

O U T   A N D   A B O U T   1 9 8 4

AGS Writers spent October half-term in residence at Lumb Bank in Yorkshire. Mrs Cashdan and Mr Pearson were joined by 16 enthusiasts from year 1 to year 7. David Jackson was tutor for the week and walking, talking, thinking, cooking and laughing together produced distinguished writing which was published in 'Writing from Lumb Bank 1983'. Course members were Dean and Jonathan Bower, Alex Key, Amanda Collis, Patrick Etherden, Alison and Jo Goddard, Jem Hannam, Elizabeth and Jonathan Hartill, Alison Morton, Sally Pearson, Rebecca Shawcross, Louise Smedley, Clare Stanton, Kathryn Woodcock.

High Peak College for lunch and conducted tour. Year 3 pre-option lads ate ravenously in the Bistro, where food is cooked and served elegantly by college students, and then viewed the students at work. Many AGS pupils (not just the girls) go to the college for courses in Catering and Community Care.

Gell Skiers. Forty three pupils trekked to Italy with Mr Brown, Miss Powell, Mrs Gibbon and Mr Waring, braving the French lorry strikes and the counter attraction of Winter Olympics to venture on the snow covered slopes. The party showed speed downhill, growing skill on the nursery slopes and good voice on the long trans Europe coach trip.

Theatre Visits by senior pupils included:

Moby Dick, Royal Exchange, Manchester

Hamlet, Sheffield Crucible

Twelfth Night by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford; study day and performance for sixth form pupils

Waiting for Godot (in French) at Nottingham

Educating Rita and Julius Caesar at Derby Playhouse

Henry IV at Victoria Theatre, Stoke

Derby Playhouse backstage to see preparations for an Alan Ayckbourne play.

As part of the sixth form induction week 10 prospective sixth formers visited the Tate Gallery, London, in preparation for the 'A' level Art course. An exhausting but stimulating day out which was enjoyed by the whole group who returned keen to get started on their own work.

Exhibition of American Folk and Fine Art including a talk and demonstration by John Matthews, the well known wood carver.

County Offices Careers Exhibition. Forty four senior pupils learnt about opportunities with Derbyshire County Council, especially in the administrative and clerical areas.

Sixth form BEC students travel to Buxton High Peak College each Monday for vocational education. Their work experience this year has been in local offices, Junior and Infant schools, the school library and in the PE and HE departments. Anthony Hazlewood has worked in the Computer department at Highfields School and Elizabeth Land and Jackie Hawley have been involved in Barmote Croft Day Centre.

Rolls Royce. Year 4 Technology group visited the training centre to see new technology in use with computer aided design in a modern drawing office, a video of how jet engines work and practical activities in the workshops, circuit soldering, metal fabricating and electrical wiring. From AGS workshops to this technological powerhouse was a marvellous revelation. Thank you to our welcoming hosts.

Walking round the town with Barry Joyce, director of the Wirksworth Project, was a small group of senior pupils who are keen to find out more about the town and its future. They looked at the restoration work encouraged by the Project, originally set up by the Civic Trust. They learnt a lot and also put the point of the younger generation.

To Chesterfield College of Art and Design - Year 4/5 Art students with Mr Howard, were shown round the college and found out about the wide variety of courses available. They know about DATEC, Foundation Courses and Diplomas in Fashion Graphics and Design.

To Twycross Zoo - Year 1 Man outing was a great social and educational success, with a lecture on Natural Selection as well as personal study of the animals. Miss Cunningham congratulates the first year on their excellent work, with many attractive illustrations on display afterwards and on their mature and responsible behaviour.

During June Mrs Gough and a group of 4th year Computer students visited Derby to see the exhibition of entries by regional finalists in the Young Engineer for Britain and the Technology Projects Exhibition. AGS Computer Department were at the exhibition demonstrating various computer controlled projects.

Paris '84 - During Easter a group of AGS pupils led by Miss Taylor travelled to gay Paris. We climbed the Tour Eifel and to the top of l'Arc de Triomphe, though someone was sick. We were guests of Quasimodo at Notre Dame and explored the delights of Mont Martre and Sacré Coeur. We explored the Centre Pompidou, an ultra modern museum of modern art (dead boring). After a magic holiday, au revoir Paris, bonjour Angleterre. Adam Ward

Ferney Voltaire, near Geneva. A foursome of third years joined an eventful Ecclesbourne exchange. Jonathan Hartill won a cycle race and Elaine Else lost an appendix.

Sixth form students joined Ecclesbourne sixth formers with teachers and the French assistants for a French only speaking residential week-end in Ashbourne. Study of film and literature was central to their work.

Open house at Nottingham University attended by sixth formers Karen Radford, Jenny Bestwick, Stephen Trevor, Donna Wilson and Nick Richards.

Army Cadets visited Dunkirk in June with the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Cadet Battalion to see Second World War Battlefields. The party included John Alton, Shane Bent, Darren and Gary Page, Jason Leaske, Gary Ward, Stephen Povey.

Village Visits. The Headmaster has talked to parents at Middleton, Carsington and Bonsall, and the Computer Department showed its skills to Brassington PTA.

The Geography Department has been on study visits to:

Cumbria, week's work for senior pupils based at Cleator Moor Field Study Centre, with trips to Whitehaven for town study, St Bees for sea cliffs, Keswick Forestry, Sour Milk Gill and Sellafield Nuclear Factory.

Telford New Town, years 4, 5 and 6. Castleton, year 3.

Derby, Sheffield, Milton Keynes, Mr Lomas's farm at Brassington for year 4.

Wirksworth for footpath study undertaken by year 3.

W E W E L C O M E D

BARRY JOYCE, Wirksworth Project, to talk to the sixth form.

NICK MOORE, ex AGS pupil, now working as a psychiatric nurse in Newcastle, to share his experiences with an English group.

SIMON JENKIN, Principal Assistant Director of Education to see the school. He particularly enjoyed meeting a handful of sixth formers who quizzed him strongly on educational provision.

Chairman of the Education Committee, COUNCILLOR FRANK REVELL, who inspected our school buildings on a wet and windy afternoon with plenty of mud. We thank him for his interest and for the work subsequently done to upgrade our changing room facilities.

PETER THOMPSON, Chief Adviser to Derbyshire Education Committee who talked to parents about "What should our Children learn". A small audience joined in vigorously and we all went away wiser and more thoughtful about the big challenges for the future.

FLT LT SPINKS from Matlock Air Training Corps to talk to senior students about opportunities in the Air Force.

JOHN HUCKSTEP from East Midlands Sports Council inspected our sports provision with a view to community use. Yes, we would like a covered sports hall and lots of other things but .....

COLIN MARK, Christian Aid Area Organiser.

ALAN PHILLIPS, former Deputy Head, now retired.

JOHN WILMOTT, RNIB, to receive a cheque from first year collection for the blind.

MR N N MORRIS, from Derbyshire College of Higher Education talked to sixth formers about Infinite Numbers.

PC BARRY HALL, Wirksworth Community Policeman has talked to groups of fourth and fifth years about the role of the police on several occasions. It is always a pleasure to see his smiling face under the helmet.

LAWRENCE LERNER, Professor of English at Sussex University, read a selection of his poems to sixth and fifth form students, a most stimulating and thought provoking session.

MARGARET MATHESON, Central TV distinguished producer and winner of a recent BAFTA award, came to talk to senior students about television and education. Our sixth form TV studies group subsequently visited Central Studios.

SHAUN TRAYNOR, poet in residence at Derby College of Further Education, visited the school on two days to work with keen writers. After two days of individual work and guidance our writers presented an evening of poetry to an enthusiastic audience of parents and friends. Shaun Traynor introduced the readings with gentle grace and closed the evening by reading a selection of his own poems.

Elizabeth Seston (3 Arkwright) wrote:

What is a poet?

A coffee-drinking intellectual?

Or perhaps an unemployed word-layer?

No. The poet is definitely a mystery.

Is it his acute intelligence?

Or his infinite store of phrases,  
metaphors and similes?

No. These are not essential to a poet.

Could it be his sense of fun?

Or his persistence?

No. A poet is a poet.

Other contributors included Michael Brown, Clare Stanton, Michael Walker, Robert Holmes, Martin Pearce, Elaine Else, Joanne Thorneycroft, Jem Hannam, Clare Willies and Catherine Greaves.

NORTH WEST AREA HEADS (fifteen Head teachers), for an afternoon conference.

To our Farewell to Staff many former teachers including MISS LESLIE NORTHROP who came to AGS in 1925.

BELPER HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND who entertained a large group to an informal concert in the Hall. Mr Hannam guested on piano and we admired the skill of the soloists.

PERSPECTIVES THEATRE COMPANY twice. At Christmas they presented a play with music, The Story Spinners, with their small group of actors performing a variety of parts with skill and humour.

MRS IDA SINGLETON who attended AGS 1912-18 and now lives in York. Her grandfather, William Doxey, had attended the "old Grammar School" in the churchyard. She remembered assemblies held in Gell corridor when the bell tolled for the death of boys killed in the First War.

Visiting pupils from FERNEY VOLTAIRE on an exchange visit with third year pupils.

LITTLEOVER SCHOOL STEEL BAND who played at Assembly and gave a lively performance with a teaching workshop in the afternoon.

GRAND UNION, a London based company of professional musicians, presented a programme Strange Migrations, to a capacity audience in the Hall in July. We were captivated by the blend of classical music and jazz, with inspiration from around the world. Tony Haynes led the group and a memorable evening finished with dancing in the aisles. The company returned the following week to run a workshop for musicians of all ages and varying talents. Our young people made friends as well as music. Thank you to Mr Hannam who invited the company and found the subsidy to enable them to come.



A C T I V I T I E S   W E E K   1 9 8 4

a selection from many adventures home and away

North East Camp, a gentle week in the glamorous Consett, camping and cooking with the Browns: visits to ice rinks, the reservoir and the local Wimpy.

Yorkshire potholers tented at Dent. David Bateman writes, "After scrambling up gills and hills and spending frustrating hours trying to find the correct route, Mr Thornley laughed off our suggestions that he couldn't map read. He chose "sporting" caves and most of us developed phobias we never knew we had, like Providence Pot Phobia, fear of low crawling in ice cold water and deep mud for a long time. Mr Magnetic put his flash new caving gear to the test, but Spike's mooney suit came unstitched. We survived the Three Peaks Walk and recommend the trip to anyone next year, especially as there's some butter stained raspberry jam left in the tin."

A Big Barge with Hall at the helm meandered gently through the Midland Canals with pupils and Humanities staff aboard.

Youth Hostellers based at Grasmere, led by Mr Dixon, Mrs Swift and Mrs Slaney, strode the Lakeland fells.

Normandy cyclists set out en velo with Mr Clarke in the van, Ms Duncan en bicyclette. Jonathan Hartill was technical adviser and puncture repair man.

Rudesheim for Rhine hostellers, extended German oral with Herr Richards.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award, bronze expeditioners set out from Whitehall, Buxton - and returned! Mrs Neaum and Mr Bowden instructed in first aid, map reading and survival technique.

Drama on the Borders. Messrs Roe and Pearson led a group of enthusiastic Drama students on a week's Country House activity in Herefordshire.

Sheffield visitors enjoyed the sights and sounds of the modern city and were interviewed by Radio Hallam.

Local camp at Whatstandwell was organised by Mr Few and Mrs Wolsey.

School based activities included: High Peak Trail cycling, table tennis coaching, archery, all day cricket, swimming, computing, cookery, tennis, badminton, ice-skating, motor cycle maintenance, bowling and a splendid jazz workshop with Grand Union.

Mother and Toddler Group rounded off a successful year with a picnic outing to Atlow Mill as part of Activities Week. A team of ten prepared food and games in the morning, and accompanied mothers and children in the afternoon. We were met by "Farmer" Hannam and shown the livestock and allowed to paddle in the river. After tea and games, the crusts and crumbs were used for a ceremonial duck feeding to end a happy afternoon.

Day Trips to Blackpool (Maths staff and chips), York ("Everything in York appears to be historical. Much of it is. The old houses, cobbled lanes, city walls, churches, buskers singing Mr Tambourine Man and even the facade of Marks and Spencer's is historical."), Bradford National Photography and Film Museum ("A fascinating historical display"), London Walk, seeing the tourist sites on foot, and the very popular fun frolic to Alton Towers.

Now Get Back tested initiative and map reading and the winners were Adam Ward and Robert Seals.

SPECIAL REPORTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In September, 34 5th year volunteers embarked on a variety of community tasks. Among jobs tackled on a regular basis were - working in the homes of the elderly, shopping, cleaning, making the fire, sitting and chatting over a cup of tea, chopping wood, painting, decorating, gardening, working with young children in the family home, giving mum a welcome break by either entertaining the children or doing household tasks, ironing, cleaning and preparing food.

Many students became attached to "their families" and still attended in their school holidays. Many have developed baby sitting jobs through their placing.

Community service has been responsible for distributing the Help the Aged newspaper "Yours". From this, contact is made with elderly people in Wirksworth.

Our students have benefited greatly from the degree of responsibility they are given, and contact with their "families", young or old, has developed their social awareness.

We received great help through the Health Visitors at Wirksworth Health Centre, and thank them for their support.

We plan to develop a "task force" to cope with jobs within the Wirksworth community, either in homes or public places, tidying litter, gardening, spring cleaning, chopping wood and other jobs.

Gell pupils comment:

"I went to visit Mrs ..... in hospital last Sunday. She was worried about her house, so I checked up for her and laid a fire ready and did a bit of cleaning."

"I do Mrs ..... shopping and cleaning, and the elderly ladies nearby - it saves them a difficult walk to the shops."

"I can't do my nappies like Mrs ..... but I'm getting better at them."

"We took ..... swimming last Friday, and it was lovely. Mrs ..... stayed behind to do some baking."

"I found Mrs ..... in tears yesterday. I was 10 minutes late and she thought I wasn't coming."

Family comments:

"Angela and Helen have been invaluable, they've taken total care of ..... and I can get on with my studies."

"Please put me down for another student, she's been such a great help."

"I couldn't have coped without Patrick, he's been every week, holidays too."

"Oh, she's lovely, does all my shopping and cleaning, makes me a cup of tea, and often calls in on other days on her way home from school."

## IMPRESSIONS OF LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM 1984

When you reach the sixth form you have for the first time free periods. These can either be used for relaxation or for doing some of the large amount of homework which hits you unexpectedly on entering the sixth form.

There was a lot more reading and essay writing than I had expected. 'A' level study is a big jump from 'O' level .....

The free time you get should not be abused and use should be made of the study room, a facility which we often neglect.

It is to be remembered there is a difference between 'O' and 'A' level studies. They are different generally speaking and require an interest and not simply a proficiency at a certain subject. It is easier to work at 'A' levels if you know it will help you in a particular career than if you are aimlessly trying to study.

It helps to get on well with your teachers then it is easier to accept criticism and praise.

You must make sure your tutors know what you intend to do and the advice needed ie nag them! The tutors are helpful and will give the best advice they can.

### Some Typical Lessons

#### English

The 'A' level English Lit lesson is usually informal and thought provoking. A lot of the course deals with 20th century writers. Their work, and indeed some of the more "elderly" writers, often raises questions about people, their problems, their relationships with others and the society in which they live. Certainly the course made me look at society from a totally different perspective.

#### General Studies

There isn't a typical General Studies lesson as there are at least three teachers and quite a diversity of topics. The course isn't handicapped by a strict curriculum and there is opportunity for full expression of viewpoint. Little writing is required and the success or failure of the course is to a large degree dependent upon the attitude of the student. If the student adopts a negative approach the course will be boring and probably a waste of time although a General Studies pass can mean the difference between entry and non-entry into Higher Education. I strongly advise all students to adopt a positive approach to General Studies and contribute fully to the discussions for it is the only way to ensure that General Studies does not deteriorate into a time wasting bore.

Over the past two years the sports facilities have been made available to us whenever we wanted them. The PE department have bent over backwards to help us with everything. We have even had a timetabled lesson which has been very enjoyable. It has helped a lot in bringing the sixth form together as one and not just upper and lower.

The sixth form terrapin provides a good study room, a social room and small office for working on UCCA and job applications. The building itself is a little fragile and requires treating with care. The social room has an easy-going atmosphere with facilities for playing table tennis, darts, chess and draughts.

LOWER SCHOOL IMPRESSIONS OF LIFE AT AGS IN 1984

I like this school because of the chip butties. There is nothing more satisfying than sinking your teeth into the soft cob and crisp chips.

I like the English block because it is mostly quiet and I like reading or writing in the small room.

My friends and I take our sandwiches on to the top field and sit under a tree and talk at lunch time. Then we walk around the school and meet people.

What I like about Anthony Gell are the girls. They are very pretty.

At the drinks machine you get black, fizzy coffee.

The people are inexplicable and buzz around like bees lost in Las Vegas.

The English block has carpets and is painted up rather well. There is room to put posters and pictures and articles of writing.

The thing I like about Drama are the plays we act each week. Last week a boy got run over.

I like Maths lessons. Mr Boston gives you easy ones to start with and they get harder, so you have to think about them.

If there's something you want to say to the teachers they listen and always give a polite answer.

The best things are mixing chemicals so they bubble out of the top of the test tube.

In English we do exciting things like writing poetry about our friends.

I learnt how to program a computer for myself so I bought one to use at home.

The draughtiest building in Derbyshire.

Drama came as quite a surprise to me. I really enjoyed it. At first we play a game to warm us up and then we usually get in to pairs. In the first year we concentrated on miming but in the second year we concentrate on the talking side of acting. I like the change from just sitting down and writing, it gives you a chance to speak out, of course keeping it in proportion.

THIRD YEAR ACTIVITIES WEEK AT GLENBROOK by various survivors

Mr Barry's songs were a laugh. I didn't exactly enjoy the company of the little mouse upstairs because it ate our biscuits! The teachers actually seemed human! It was a good idea not to have a TV. We should have had curtains upstairs. Canoeing which I had only done once before was brilliant, especially near the end of the day when we pushed Mr Bowden and Mr Ryde in the water! The rule of not being able to go up to the girls' room was unfair because you might just be going up to ask them for something. I wish the course was longer, extended to a week. It would be good if you went dry-skiing. The only problem was the trains at night. The caving was really good because I like getting muddy! I will give this course ten out of ten. There should be BMXing sometimes. Will I ever go in a cave again? No way! A bit more furniture upstairs would be good. There weren't many rules, which was good. I think Mr Barry's songs were brilliant. The canoeing part was good because the water was like a warm bath. I didn't like washing up and tidying up, but it did make a few lazy boys do a bit of work, for a change!

DESTINATIONS OF YEAR 6/7 LEAVERS 1984 (as at September 1984)YEAR 7

Elizabeth Atkinson	completing a diploma course in Dance
Sally Baines	employment at County Offices, typist
*Duncan Beaumont	degree course in Science, Polytechnic of Wales, Pontypridd
Teresa Bowmer	employment at County Offices, Social Services Dept
Paul Brass	employment at Rolls Royce, technician
Michael Brown	employment at Cord Chemicals, Wirksworth
*Rachel Cooper	degree course in Medicine, Birmingham University
*Neil Davies	degree course in Engineering, Oxford Polytechnic
*Angela Gimbert	degree course in Agriculture, Seale-Hayne College
Jenny Gimbert	part-time voluntary work in occupational therapy
*Joanna Goddard	degree course in English, Birmingham University
Mark Goodwin	employment with 'Mountain Haulage', administrative assistant
*Bruce Harris	year off, degree course in 1985 in Mechanical Engineering, at Aston University
Francesca Hodgkinson	employment at Gulliver's Kingdom
Richard Hodson	applying for RAF pilot
*Nicholas Howard	year off, degree course in 1985 in Computer Science at Warwick University
*Rachel Hughes	degree course in Chemical Engineering, UMIST
Jane Jackson	employment at County Offices, Junior Clerk, Magistrate's Office
*Stephen Jeffery	degree course in Chemistry at University of East Anglia (with 2nd year in USA)
Simon Lawley	year off, has 2 'A' levels for Polytechnic application in 1985
Darren Middleton	employment as Trainee Manager, Tilcon
*Nicholas Payne	degree course in Pharmacy, University of London School of Pharmacy
*Andrew Potts	degree course in Politics, Univeristy of Newcastle upon Tyne
Joanne Rowbottom	Nottingham School of Nursing, SRN
*Mark Rowlands	degree course in Politics/Industrial Relations, Cardiff University
*Joanne Ruddock	degree course in Education, College of St Paul and St Mary, Cheltenham
*Emma Short	degree course in French at University of East Anglia
Andrew Springall	applying for Trainee Engineer, BBC
*Sian Thomas	degree course in History, Girton College, Cambridge
*Richard Tucker	degree course in Social Administration, Hull University
*Jonathon Twigge	degree course in Computing, UMIST
*Ruth Williams	degree course in Medicine, Leicester University
*Kate Windsor	degree course in Medicine, Welsh National School of Medicine
Lynn Woolley	employment as Operating Assistant, Leicester Royal Infirmary

\* indicates degree course being followed

YEAR 6

Catherine Batterley	employment as supervisor's assistant at Swegmark (Burnley) Ltd in Matlock
Nicola Draycott	in USA, employment at Gulliver's Kingdom on return
Jackie Hawley	employment as Secretary at GMS (Wirksworth) Ltd
Anthony Hazlewood	BEC (National) course at Buxton
Elizabeth Land	employment, Reception/Accounts at Temple Hotel, Matlock Bath
Karen Morley	
Julie Newton	

NEWS OF YEAR 7 LEAVERS FROM 1983

- Samantha Hill starting degree course in Expressive Arts at Brighton Polytechnic
- Julie Hitchcock starting degree course in Education at Liverpool College
- Moira Hunter starting degree course in Business Studies/French at Leeds Polytechnic
- Paul Neaum starting degree course in Economics at Durham University
- Michael Pearson starting degree course in Computing at Sheffield Polytechnic
- Edwin Richards returned from year in Kenya, starting degree course in Linguistics at Sussex University
- Rowena Wigley starting Physiotherapy course at Nottingham Physiotherapy Training College

NEWS OF PAST ANTHONY GELL SIXTH FORMERS

- Paul Ashworth has gained a 2:1 degree in Chemistry with Biochemistry from University of Leicester
- Richard Jackson has gained a 2:2 degree in Humanities from Huddersfield Polytechnic
- Niall McEwen gained an honours degree in Music from Huddersfield Polytechnic. He has successfully auditioned at Trinity College of Music for post-graduate studies.
- Mark Richardson has gained a 2:1 degree in Building Economics and Measurement from Aston University
- Christopher Swift has gained a 2:2 degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne
- Gillian Wareham has gained a 2:1 degree in Library Studies from Loughborough University
- Ashley Wigley has gained a 2:2 degree in Biochemistry from Imperial College, London

If your name has not been included please contact Mr Payne. We will publish the details in next year's booklet.



