

ABERDARE BOYS' COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL.

REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 2nd, 1979.

The Autumn half-term holiday was followed by the W.J.E.C. 'O' Level re-sit examinations. The results of these were generally satisfactory.

Internal examinations were held for Forms 1 to 4 inclusive during the first two weeks of December.

During the term we learned of the successes of two former pupils. Christopher Spiers received the Judd Award for outstanding originality in research at the Imperial College of Science, London. This is the third award for outstanding work that Christopher has won.

Another former pupil, Dr. Alec Smith, was made Professor of Geology at Bedford College, London. Dr. Smith is to be our Guest Speaker at Prize Day on March 22nd.

The term saw the re-constitution of the former Grammar School Parents' Association. The new Association is broadly representative of parents of all pupils at the Upper and Lower Comprehensive School. Parents of the pupils at Rhydywaun expressed particular pleasure at having the opportunity to join a Parents' Association.

'Open evenings' were held for parents of pupils in Forms 1, 2 and 5 and there will be similar evenings for parents of pupils in Forms 3 and 4 during the Summer Term.

On November 30th the School held a Christmas Fayre and raised more than £900 for subsidising school activities.

December 18th saw the first of what is hoped to be a series of Concerts at Rhydywaun Lower Comprehensive School. It was very successful and the pupils who took part were highly commended.

On December 19th, Carol Services were held concurrently at Rhydywaun Lower Comprehensive School and Carmel Chapel, Trecynon. These also proved very successful and enjoyable.

On December 15th a lightning strike by some school caretakers caused a school closure. Two end-of-term film shows for the pupils at Rhydywaun and four Rugby matches had to be cancelled as a result of this action.

On January 7th, the eve of the Spring Term, fire rendered Rhydywaun unusable. Details of alternative accommodation arrangements have previously been issued to Governors.

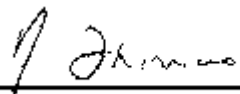
The re-siting of 361 displaced pupils obviously presented some problems on those children who are scattered over 4 sites. However, re-timetabling and adjustments to the disposition of Senior Staff have ensured continued smooth running on which I was pleased to report last term. Inclement weather, transport difficulties and industrial action have conspired to make this a difficult term, but extra work has been given to pupils to help compensate. Fortunately, the mock 'O', C.S.E. and 'A' level examinations, suffered little from the factors mentioned. I have, however, made special representations to the W.J.E.C. especially on behalf of the C.S.E. pupils from Rhydywaun where facilities for practical work have been limited as a result of the fire at the school.

During this term we heard of more successes of former pupils. Peter Jenkins gained his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology at Aberystwyth, and Stewart Hughes and Jeffrey Davies won a national prize with their text book in Managerial Economics.

School Societies have continued to thrive in the period under review and many visits have been made to places of educational interest.

Mr. Pritchard, Head of the Physics Department, spent a week on secondment to industry at the G.E.C. factory, Rhigos, and arrangements are being made to place several boys in work experience with local firms.

St. David's Day was celebrated in the usual manner, with a concert for the pupils of the Lower School.



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Headmaster.

2nd March, 1979.