

ABERDARE BOYS' COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL.

Report to Governors for the Period of
March 3rd to June 15th.

1. On March 14th there was a Governors inspection of the school. The need for more parking space and much greater tarmaced playing area was noted, as was the general need for repairs and renovations to correct deficiencies referred to Governors regularly for many years.
2. During the weekend of March 17th-18th, the school buildings remaining at Rhydywaun were broken into and vandalised. The culprits have not been found.
3. Prize Day was March 22nd and the Guest Speaker was Dr. A. Smith, Professor of Geology at Bedford College, London.
4. On March 29th, an "options evening" was held for the parents of children in Form 3. It was a highly successful evening and the many parents who attended expressed their appreciation to the Staff who advised them.
5. Pupils in Form 3, formerly housed at Hirwaun Infants' School, moved to Y Gadlys on April 2nd.
6. On April 8th, fire destroyed most of what remained of the Rhydywaun Lower School. On April 11th, a meeting was held to discuss the accommodation difficulties caused by this event. The Head and others were asked to submit suggestions for contingency measures. The Head's proposals were submitted on April 12th.
7. At the end of term Mr. Zecca (P.E. and Games) left to take up an appointment near his home. He was succeeded as Head of Department by Mr. Protheroe.
8. Summer Term began with the threat of disruption by the teaching unions. The disruption was to some degree limited by an early request for and provision of transport for commuting Staff refusing to use their own vehicles. There was, therefore, no time wasted as a result of their sanctions. However, the Authority's inability to provide supervisors instead of the 28 N.A.S./N.U.W.T. members working a five hour day, meant that school had to finish at 2.40, instead of 3.15 p.m. Other union members continued to teach classes or remain on premises until 3.15 p.m.
9. W.J.E.C. examinations began on June 4th and will continue until the end of the month. Internal examinations will begin on July 6th.
10. I am currently interviewing individually all the older pupils joining us in September.

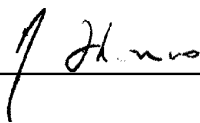
Transport Difficulties.

Use of Old Boys' Grammar School, Craft Rooms.

The disadvantage of having to use facilities sited half a mile away from the Main school has been highlighted during the past few months by labour disputes and the unreliability of transport. Up to eighty boys have to travel by contract 'bus to and from these craft rooms over the morning and afternoon break periods. When 'buses do not arrive or arrive late, the pupils waiting at either end lose up to half an hour of lesson time. Moreover, when they walk to or from the craft rooms in the rain, they arrive with soaked clothes and have no facilities for drying out. The fact that they have to use a busy main road also has obvious road safety implications. As indicated, the number of boys in transit can be up to this 80 and will increase to 120 when the old gymnasium becomes a woodwork room.

Dr. Grant informs me that he pointed out to the former Director the inherent disadvantage of building up this complex.

I suggest that when the new extensions are built at the Upper Comprehensive Site, some of the inherited deficiencies of the original school (such as the absence of adequate craft facilities) be remedied - that is, of course, if money permits. However, it is disturbing to note that the gymnasium at Rhydywaun will still have to be used when the replacement extensions at the Upper School will be completed. This will mean transporting over three hundred children a week to and from the site, again by contract 'bus, with the same vulnerability to industrial dispute or availability of 'buses.



Headmaster.

June 15th, 1979.