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St. Mary's Hall



MAGAZINE 1996

Cover: drawing by the first year. This page: part of 'Statue at Hever Castle', 1030mm x 770mm, by Lucy Dimming, 40

Letter from the Headmistress

As usually seems to be the case, I am writing this at half-term in February. The saffron crocuses on the bank of the main driveway have been joined by the delicately-striped purple and white, and bulbs are coming to life in the rockery by what I am told were always known as 'the postman's steps'. The postmen nowadays, of course, come by van.

It is always a little difficult to write commending the magazine to you when I haven't at this point seen it – though I nevertheless do commend it with the utmost confidence. The magazine provides an opportunity for pupils to see their own work, of whatever kind, in print; and for members of the school of different ages, and parents with children at different stages of their schooling, to have a taste of work produced and activities undertaken throughout the school. I am most grateful to Dr Hopley, the Editor, to Mrs Lock, the Art Editor, and to Mrs Lewis who helped with the photographs, for providing this opportunity for the school.

This year I hope particularly to find something in the magazine about hockey. Mrs Jill Moss, introducing the game to the school, has not only enthused but also inspired the girls – to such an extent that fifteen of them turned out to play on the first day of the Christmas holidays (a bitterly cold day, too); and some of them have requested that they be allowed to continue to play during the summer so as to improve their standard

more quickly. What examples of dedication!

I hope too that there will be something in these pages about the wonderful opportunity we were given in the Autumn Term 1995 to mount an exhibition of St Mary's Hall art at The Grange, Rottingdean. For those of you who were not fortunate enough to see it, may I quote from the Visitors' Book? (And I am not knowingly quoting from visitors to the Gallery who are connected with St Mary's Hall.)

'Very innovative, creative work – quite splendid!'

'Absolutely marvellous, exhilarating, and brilliant exhibition.'

'One of the best exhibitions I've seen here. Absolutely first class. Congratulations.'

'A multi-media exhibition of the highest quality. Loved it!'

'Most impressive. A delight to see accurate observation and creative interpretation – and such variety.'

'A combination of outstanding talent and inspiring teaching.'

That last comment pleases me particularly, for it is a recognition of the combination of the skills of pupil and teacher which go to produce excellence, whether in the arts or on the hockey field, whether in pre-preparatory or the sixth form. For examples, just open the pages and read on

Mrs P J James, Headmistress

Obituary

Lieutenant Commander Michael Donovan Martin R.N.

15th November 1923 – 25th March 1995

Bursar of St Mary's Hall for 22 years

It was too late last year to include a tribute to Michael Martin in the school magazine. As I write, it is almost a year since he died, but his death should not go unrecorded in our annual magazine. There follows, therefore, an edited version of the tribute I delivered at his funeral.

Michael Martin served St Mary's Hall for 22 years - a great example to us all of service and dedication. During his time as Bursar he oversaw many building developments, including the building of our present hall and gym; the music room and practice rooms; the pool block; Venn House; and Martin House (now used for Mathematics but originally built for the juniors, and by request of the staff, named after Michael Martin).

Even after his retirement Michael Martin continued to serve St Mary's Hall, not only coming back to 'look out' for Commander Thompson when he was on holiday, but also writing *A Short History of St Mary's Hall*. That History itself illustrates an important point about Mike Martin's service to the school:

When he undertook the task he said that he wanted to write something he hoped would be of interest to and readable by the girls. He always remembered that the girls were the heart of the school. He liked to talk to them and involve them in decisions. He always had a great belief that girls could take up anything in the way of a career. Even

back in the early 70s, when the climate of opinion was very different from that of today, he was keen that girls should become, for instance, engineers; or do the backstage work for a play - the lighting and so on - so that that particular male preserve could be broken into. Mind you, he believed that girls could get up to anything too, and, when he saw them on the 'phone in the lunch hour, would mutter darkly that they were on to their bookmakers, laying bets for the afternoon's race meetings!

It is people who make places. From my early days at St Mary's Hall I picture Michael striding around the grounds with his golden labrador Sandy (also known as Shantus) at his heels. The day I was interviewed for a post here, Sandy was snoring in the headmistress's study, and I thought that a school where an interview was conducted to the accompaniment of a snoring labrador must be all right. Mike's dog's presence gave the human touch.

Michael Martin loved St Mary's Hall. Someone said, shortly after his death: He'll always be around the school in one way or another. I am sure that is true, in ways beyond our mental understanding, and I hope he can sense the great affection in which he was held. He would have been surprised; he was a diffident man.

May he rest in peace.

PJJ

Across the Years – 1899-1995

Some of you will have read this story in my December Newsletter. Nonetheless, I think it is worth both putting it on more permanent record and publishing it more widely.

In 1899 Miss Birrell, the Lady Principal, as the headmistress of St Mary's Hall was known at that time, retired. Her sixth formers made an album for her of quotations, penned by one of them, who was something of a scribe, and illustrated with water colours, as a present for her retirement. Miss Birrell died in 1906 and she left the book, among others, to one of those sixth formers by the name of Julia Sweet.

Julia Sweet (who incidentally had enjoyed her time at St Mary's Hall so much that she founded a school in Leicester for handicapped children, run on the same lines as St Mary's Hall) was killed in the London blitz in 1942. Her belongings, including the album, all went to her great-niece, Miss Jean Cram.

In October 1995 Miss Cram wrote to me to say that as she was now in her mid-seventies she was sorting through her belongings and felt that it was time that the album 'came home'. On 7th November she duly brought it back, nearly one hundred years after it had been produced.

But that wasn't the end of the matter, for in 'A Short History of St Mary's Hall' written by Lieutenant Commander Michael Martin, one-time Bursar, there is a photograph of Miss Birrell and her Sixth Form. Miss Cram was able to identify Julia Sweet. For those of you who have a copy of the History (available from school priced £3), she is standing just behind and to the side of Miss Birrell – a very fair girl. We therefore know that it was *this* Sixth Form, *these* young women looking out from the photograph, who nearly one hundred years ago were working in these very rooms in the main building, on their album for Miss Birrell.

There is so much in our fractured society today that is sudden and violent and our times are marked by the swiftness of change. At such a time it is of all the more value when an incident like this speaks to us over the years and reminds us that there is continuity – not only between those young women and ourselves, but also between all of us who are members of the school today, and those who will come after us.

P.J.J.

Gifts to the School

- From the Hatzius family, a climbing rose for the terrace named 'Schoolgirl'.
- From Sarah, Katherine and Barbara Cole: The Cole Award For the Best Contribution to Musical Life for a Boarder from IVth Year and upwards.
- From Helen Bland, a book for the library: *Jane Austen and the Clergy* by Irene Collins
- From Mr & Mrs Millyard: The Anna Millyard Prize for Exceptional Progress

Mrs C. Robson

Despite our tribal differences and backgrounds, Mrs Robson and I became close friends. Born in the West Riding of Yorkshire, she was a fanatical supporter of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, won a cup for gymnastics whilst at school, was Ladies Champion at Birmingham University in fencing, and was an excellent dancer.

Her early interest in books started at primary school where, excluded by childhood ailments – measles, scarlet fever and others exacerbated by the grim northern climate – she avidly read *Mary Plain* and *Just William*. She cruised through her grammar school with eleven 'O' levels and English, French and German at 'A' level and the first two at 'Scholarship Level'.

At Birmingham University she met her husband, Geoffrey, who was a chemist, and they married soon after graduation. They moved to Hexham in North-umberland – famous for Hadrian's Wall and a race-course – and her first teaching post was at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. During their six years here, she became the mother of two daughters and wrote her first novel. The family moved to Durham where at Peterlee Grammar School she ran the poetry society and produced many school plays including 'a gripping half-hour version of *Macbeth*'.

The family moved south in 1974 to Bath, where she became Head of the Upper School and Deputy Head. She was interviewed for a Headship, but fearing this would mean the end of real teaching, she and her husband emigrated to Menorca where they spent ten happy years in a variety of occupations. She taught EFL, was a holiday representative, started a holiday villa company, was a bilingual secretary and bookkeeper, and wrote another novel and many short stories. She contributed many articles and crosswords to *Roqueta* – the local expatriate magazine.

In 1990, she returned to Britain (as I had from Tunis) and in September 1991 we both arrived at St Mary's Hall. As most expatriates discover, settling down again in the home country is not easy. She and her husband (a DIY fanatic) set about renovating a terrace house in Kemp Town with their two stray Menorquine dogs (after their quarantine).

She enjoyed teaching literature again and began her historical novel. Many students will remember the theatre trips she organised and the guidance she gave to the Debating and Public Speaking competitors. She joined the clan in the Upper Staffroom where her sense of humour and conversation on a wide variety of topics is sorely missed. We spent several 'cultural days out' during holidays. We visited the *Mary Rose* followed by a fruitless visit to Selsey Bill trying to find the fossil beds, several stately homes where she was very knowledgeable about the paintings whilst I could recognise the plants and animals in the grounds, and usually we got lost by travelling the 'scenic routes' in Kent and West Sussex.

Whilst in Brighton, she wrote more short stories which I was given to criticise and, last year, one was published in *The Lady* magazine. Frequent visits were made to Menorca to visit one of her daughters and a trip to Australia to the other. When her husband retired last Easter, they decided to move back to Menorca with their two dogs and are now living in an old Spanish house of character in Mahón. I spent a very happy week with them in July and we keep the Anglo-Spanish postal system busy with our letters. She is a major contributor to the local magazine again, visiting restaurants and interviewing ostrich farmers, yachters, new-comers and VIPs – as well as lesser lights. This is my revenge for an interview she wrote on me in the Grapevine columns of *Roqueta*!

V.M.

Entrants to Further Education

Lisa Askey	Cambridge Regional College	Art Foundation Course
Hanizah Besar	South Bank University	Foundation Architecture
Eleanor Clarke	Birmingham University	Classics/Archaeology
Barbara Cole	Salford University 1996	Geography
Masrina Damit	South Bank University	Foundation Architecture
Vanessa Davis	Reading University	Classical Studies
Amy Ellison	College of St. Mark & St. John	Theology
Caroline Green	Manchester University	Law
Chee-Wei (Alison) Ko	University of Central England	Architecture
Sara-Jane Lo	University of Central England	Law
Mazinawati Majid	Manchester University	Computer Engineering
Anna Millyard	Thames Valley University	Social Science
Nesheko Mundia	Humberside University	Media Production
Penny Powell	St Mary's College	Classics/English
Helen Roberts	Manchester University	Law
Sarah Stallard	Bristol University	Veterinary Medicine
Hsin-Yin (Jenny) Su	Kingston University	Business Information Technology
Alice Tatham	Liverpool Institute Higher Education 1996	Art & Sports Science
Joanna Terry	Worcester College of Higher Education	Psychology/Educational Studies
Lisa Woodhead	University of Hertfordshire	English/Educational Studies
Mariam Yousuf	De Montfort University	HND Land Management
Ani Zakaria	University of North London	Accountancy/Finance

A Level Passes 1994/95

Lisa Askey	Art C
Eleanor Clarke	Art A, Classical Civilisation C, English B
Barbara Cole	French C, Geography B, Mathematics D
Masrina Damit	Art D
Vanessa Davis	Classical Civilisation D, English D, Law E
Amy Ellison	Biology E, Business Studies D
Madeline Farr	Business Studies C, Design Technology D, English E
Caroline Green	Geography A, Law A, Religious Studies A
Chee-Wai (Alison) Ko	Art C
Sara-Jane Lo	Classical Civilisation D, English E
Mazinawati Majid	Art A, Mathematics C, Physics D
Anna Millyard	Business Studies E, Religious Studies E
Nesheko Mundia	Art B, English E
Asuka Nakamura	Economics C, Japanese B
Ciar O'Hare	Classical Civilisation C, French E
Penny Powell	Classical Civilisation D, English D
Helen Roberts	English B, Geography A, Mathematics A
Sarah Stallard	Biology A, Chemistry A, Mathematics A
Hsin-Yin (Jenny) Su	Mathematics C
Alice Tatham	Art B, Geography B, Religious Studies B
Joanna Terry	Classical Civilisation C, Design Technology C, Law C
Lisa Woodhead	Business Studies B, English B, History of Art B
Mariam Yousuf	English E
Ani Zakaria	Business Studies D, Economics E, Mathematics E

A Level Passes in Lower Sixth

Chinese	
Wai-Shan (Winsome) Chan	A
See Wai (Sylvia) Ip	B
Pui Jee (Janet) Lee	A
Wing Ki (Emily) Yeung	A
Wing Shan (Kitty) Tong	B
French	
Britt Hatzius	D
Spanish	
Katy Scott	B

A/S Passes in Lower Sixth

Art	
Mi Hee Kim	A
Physics	
Ye Hee Kim	A
Wing Ki (Emily) Yeung	C

Certificate in Additional Mathematics

Toyin Agbelusi	B
Virginia Alvarez	B
Wai-Shan (Winsome) Chan	A
Britt Hatzius	C
See Wai (Sylvia) Ip	A
Mi Hee Kim	C
Ye Hee Kim	A
Pui Yee (Janet) Lee	B
Penpitch (Joy) Phinyawatana	C
Rima Shuman	B
Kathryn Taylor	A
Wing Shan (Kitty) Tong	C
Pimonporn (Ann) Warunvacharin	A
Wing Ki (Emily) Yeung	A

Additional GCSE in Sixth Form

Siti Ahmad	1
I-Chun (Isabella) Chen	4
Britt Hatzius	2
Ciar O'Hare	1
Katy Scott	1
Wing Shan (Kitty) Tong	2
Pimonporn (Ann) Warunvatcharin	2

University of Cambridge

Preliminary English Test

Pass

Rose Abdullah	Maswani Damit
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Pass with Merit

Noaf Al-Rawaf	Virginia Alvarez
Julia Arkangelskaya	Wing-Yu (Fish) Chan
Li-Chun (Patricia) Chen	Nicole Garcia de Alba
Sandra Greve	Fay Hatzius
Yu-Chun (Jennifer) Hung	Katy Kohrs
Anna Vigerland	Theola Yuen

First Certificate in English

Haya Al-Rawaf	A	Hafizah Besar	C
Hanizah Besar	C	Maria Brandts	C
Britt Hatzius	A	Lynn Hatzius	B
Mi Hee Kim	C	Ye Hee Kim	B
Asuka Nakamura	B		

RSA Information Technology

Full Stage 1 Certificate

Olukemi Anibaba	Wai-Shan (Winsome) Chan
Vanessa Davis	Julia Fleming
Hannah Gale	See Wai (Sylvia) Ip
Ye Hee Kim	Katy Kohrs
Pui Yee (Janet) Lee	Jennifer Mathews
Rima Shuman	Kathryn Taylor
Pimonporn (Ann) Warunvatcharin	

Elementary Certificate

Maria Brandts	Madeline Farr
Nicole Garcia de Alba	Britt Hatzius
Nathalie Hojka	Katherine Holt
Mi Hee Kim	Susan Knight
Chee-Wai (Alison) Ko	Gloria Mok
Clare Newman	Penpitch (Joy) Phinyawatana

Young Enterprise National Examination

Toyin Agbelusi	Pass
Olukemi Anibaba	Distinction
Chloe Bartle	Distinction
Victoria Lewis	Pass
Joanna Lutkin	Credit
Jennifer Mathews	Pass
Sarah Nee	Pass
Clare Newman	Distinction
Shannon O'Neill	Credit
Rima Shuman	Credit
Kathryn Taylor	Distinction
Marie York	Distinction

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Bronze Awards

Julia Fleming	Hannah Gale
Christina Gill	Selena Hoskins
Pamela Maxwell	Kate Morrison
Katherine Ross	Lucy Telford
Emily Young	

Silver Awards

Olukemi Anibaba	Barbara Cole
Masrina Damit	Abigail Delow
Emma Kelly	Mi Hee Kim
Ye Hee Kim	Chee-Mai (Deborah) Ko
Hoi Ka (Judy) Law	Pui Yee (Janet) Lee
Victoria Lewis	Joanna Lutkin
Jennifer Mathews	Gloria Mok
Kate Morrison	Shannon O'Neill
Kathryn Taylor	Natalie Tench

Gold Awards

Caroline Green	Anna Millyard
Rachel Pratt	Helen Roberts

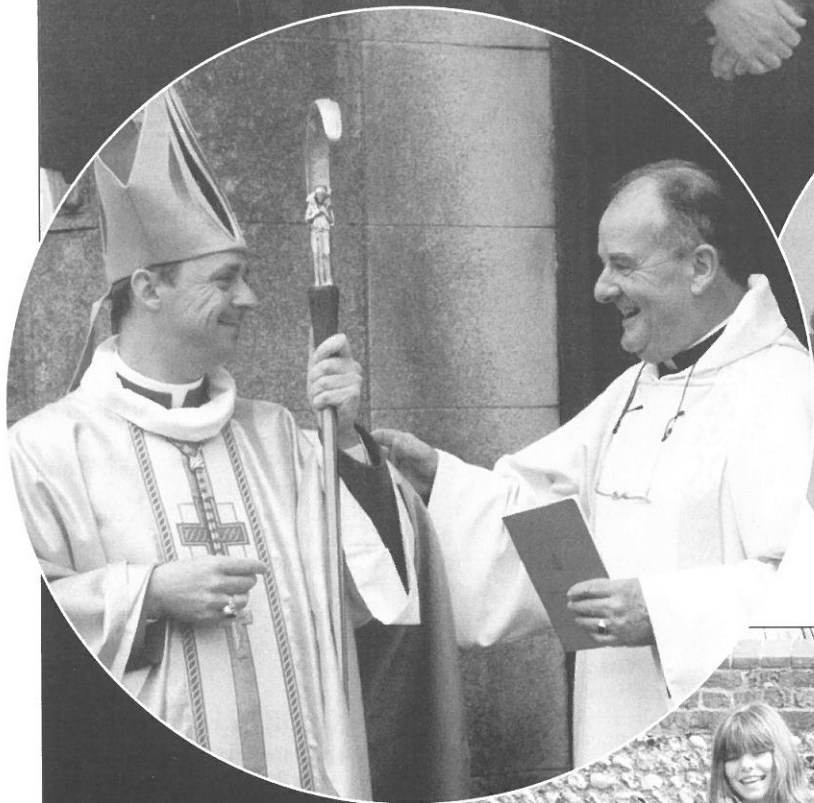
GCSE Results

The number of A Grades in brackets. Grades A, B, and C only are listed.

	Passes		Passes
Lyndsay Akehurst	10 (5)	Bazlina Murad	6 (1)
Haya Al-Rawaf	8 (2)	Maria Nunn	10 (2)
Clover Arnold	10 (9)	Louise Owen	9 (1)
Saffa Ayub	9	Shruti Pandya	8 (1)
Katie Ball	10 (4)	Emelia Papadamou	2
Alexandra Bearn	8	Elizabeth Pastouna	5
Claire Benton	6	Allison Rollinshaw	7
Hafizah Besar	1	Katherine Ross	9 (1)
Louisa Canavan	9 (5)	Natasha Tawell	7
Kar-Mung (Carmen) Chan	6	Zoe Temmerman	5
Kar Wai (Carol) Chan	5	Natalie Tench	10 (2)
Francoise de la Motte	3	Laura Tennant	9
Abigail Delow	10 (6)	Naomi Usher	10 (3)
Christina Gill	9 (1)	Katie Walters	10 (1)
Heather Goddard	10 (4)	Yee-Young Yoon	6 (1)
Laura Gold	8 (1)	Emily Young	10 (10)
Joanna Graves	6		
Samantha Greaves	9		
Laura Harvey	9 (2)		
Tiffany Henry	10		
Nathalie Hojka	8 (2)		
Clementine Hunnisett	5		
Tara Israel	8		
Emma Kelly	8 (3)		
Chee-Mei (Deborah) Ko	4		
Sara Latham	7		
Hoi Ka (Judy) Law	3 (1)		
Olivia Lipscombe	10 (3)		
Pamela Maxwell	8		
Gloria Mok	5 (1)		
Kate Morrison	10 (6)		

GCSE in Fourth Year

Yuen (Florence) Chan	1 (1)
Wing Yu (Fish) Chan	1 (1)
Lynn Hatzius	2 (1)
Ka Ying (Betty) Ho	1 (1)
Yu-Chun (Jennifer) Hung	1 (1)
Julia Scott	1 (1)



Top: Prize-winners with the Chairman of Governors, Mr. Elliott, on Speech Day 1995, and *above right,* Abigail Delow receiving the Technology Prize.

Above: The Bishop of Horsham with Father John, the School Chaplain, and, *right,* the School Confirmation candidates, 1995.



from a Third Form History Project

An interview with someone living during the Second World War

My Uncle

How old were you when the war started?

I hadn't started primary school yet, so I must have been three and a half.

Where did you live during the war?

I lived in Quinton, which is in Birmingham, during the war and for quite a while after it had ended.

Were you evacuated?

No. I wasn't evacuated. No one from Birmingham got evacuated I seem to remember. People only got evacuated if they lived in the outer cities of England. I can remember my Grandad, who was in the Homeguard, reading in the newspaper about children from London being evacuated. I can remember being frightened because I thought I was going to be evacuated!

Did you have to carry a gas mask around with you?

Yes I did! Nobody liked wearing them much. I can remember my cousin being sick, I think it was the smell. I must admit I did not like it either. One of my sisters was too young to wear a proper gas mask, so she was put in a gas-proof cradle. My other sister had a picture of some sort of bunny rabbit. I think it was meant to make

the little ones prefer to wear them. The little ones did not mind so much wearing them because of this. I can remember being jealous because I wanted one with a rabbit on the front, but I was too old!

Do you remember bombing, and were you ever bombed?

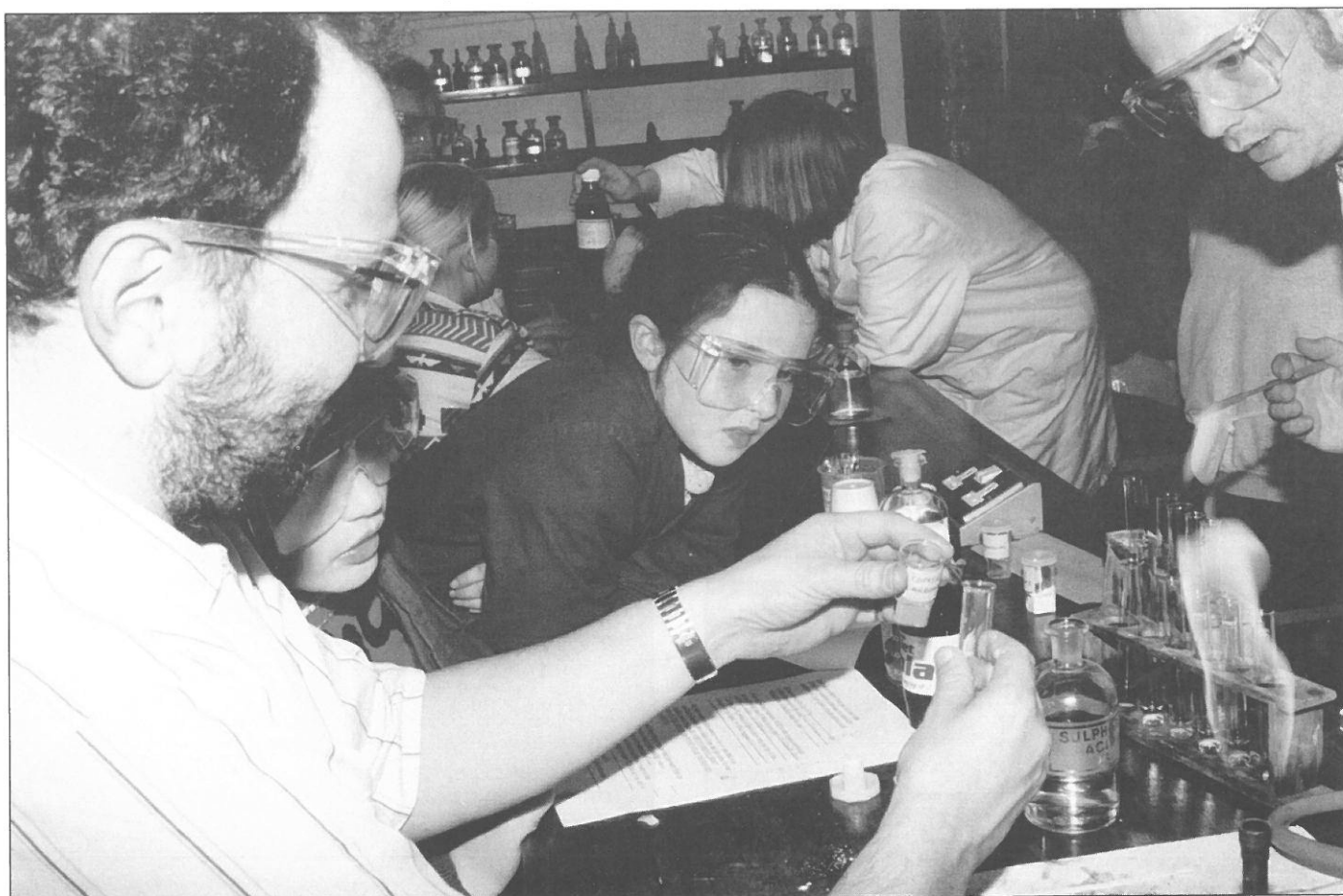
Yes I do remember bombing, but no, my house never got bombed. However, some of our friends' houses got bombed. When we heard the siren my family and I all had to go outside and into our Anderson shelter. Both my sisters were born in the shelter during an air raid. Actually, during the birth, we weren't frightened about the bombing but were concentrating on my mother giving birth! I hated going down in the shelter. It was dark, cold and damp. We always had some food, blankets, a pack of cards and a torch down there but it was so noisy with the bombs going off that we couldn't get any sleep and my little sisters always kept crying!

During the war there was hardly any anger. Everyone pulled together and helped each other, so my neighbours used to come into the shelter with us. It was a big cram! We used to sing a lot down there. This would sometimes keep our minds off the bombing; but as I said the noise was horrific!

Did you go to school during the war?

Yes I did. I didn't like school much. In fact, I remember always hoping that there would be an air raid and the school would blow up and therefore we wouldn't have to go to school! We had shelters at school

Chemistry evening 1995 – parents and children learning together.



with benches in them. When the air raid siren went off we would all go traipsing down to the shelters with our gas masks and do spelling or sums or something like that.

What happened when the war had ended?

We had a massive party in the street. Everyone made food out of their rations. Everyone brought their tables outside, even the spivs (men who sold on the black market) chipped in. The kids were allowed to stay up late. There were big bonfires and someone even bought their piano into the street, so we all sang which was a very big part of the war. We all listened to Churchill on the radio and I can remember everyone saying what a brilliant man he was! It is something I will never forget!

Was rationing difficult?

At first it was. People were used to their little luxuries, but after a while people started to get used to it. They had no choice!

I didn't mind that I didn't have any new clothes. It didn't really matter what I wore, and anyway when everyone is in the same boat as you and not getting any new clothes either, you don't stand out. But I can remember my older cousin Wendy always moaning because she wanted a new dress and she couldn't have one! We had to get used to some really awful food. I hated this thing called Woolton pie. It was revolting!

All the left-over food was put into a pig bin. There was one at the end of every street, and once a week or so local farmers came and collected all the tit-bits and gave it to the pigs.

Did any Americans come to Birmingham?

Yes. There were loads of them. I can remember my friends and I used to run down the streets singing and shouting that now the Americans had come into the war we would win!

Some of the people in Quinton were against the Americans. They said that they waved their money around and showed off a lot. The Americans had much more money than us. The Americans used to give out chewing gum to the children. I can remember being told off, because it had got stuck to my shoe and, when I walked into the sitting room, it got stuck to the carpet. People also didn't like the Americans because they were always flirting with the girls and a few fathers got very worried.

Hannah Draper, 3M3



Biology

Since my arrival last September there have been a number of changes in which you might be interested.

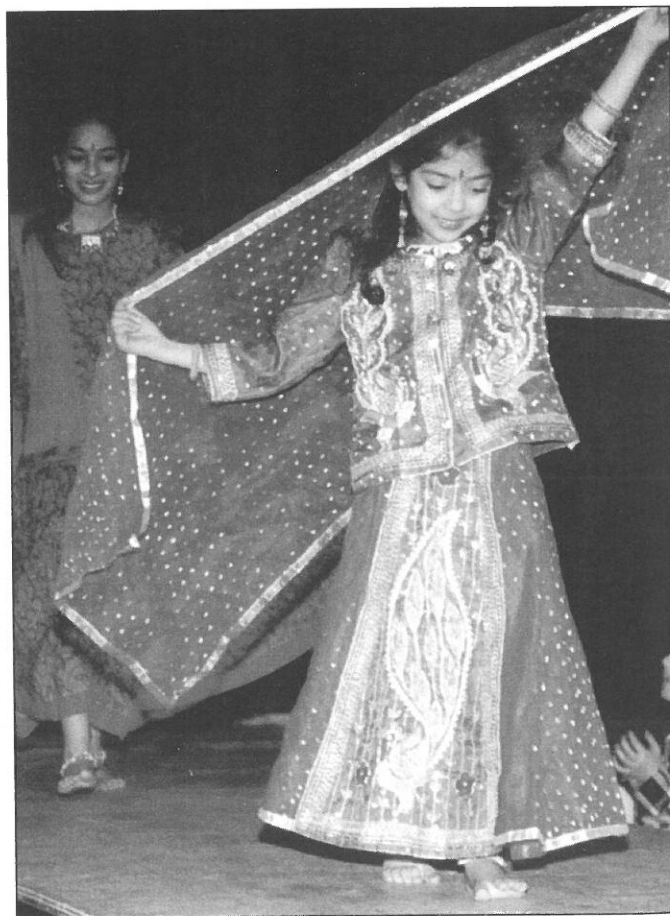
The Department will benefit from a new and exciting resource in the form of a pond; progress in its establishment is being made and the P.S.A., together with a number of outside organisations, is supporting its installation. In future we shall have an enclosed habitat for studying organisms for A-level, GCSE and junior science courses and it will be possible to stage long-term projects whilst having tight control over access.

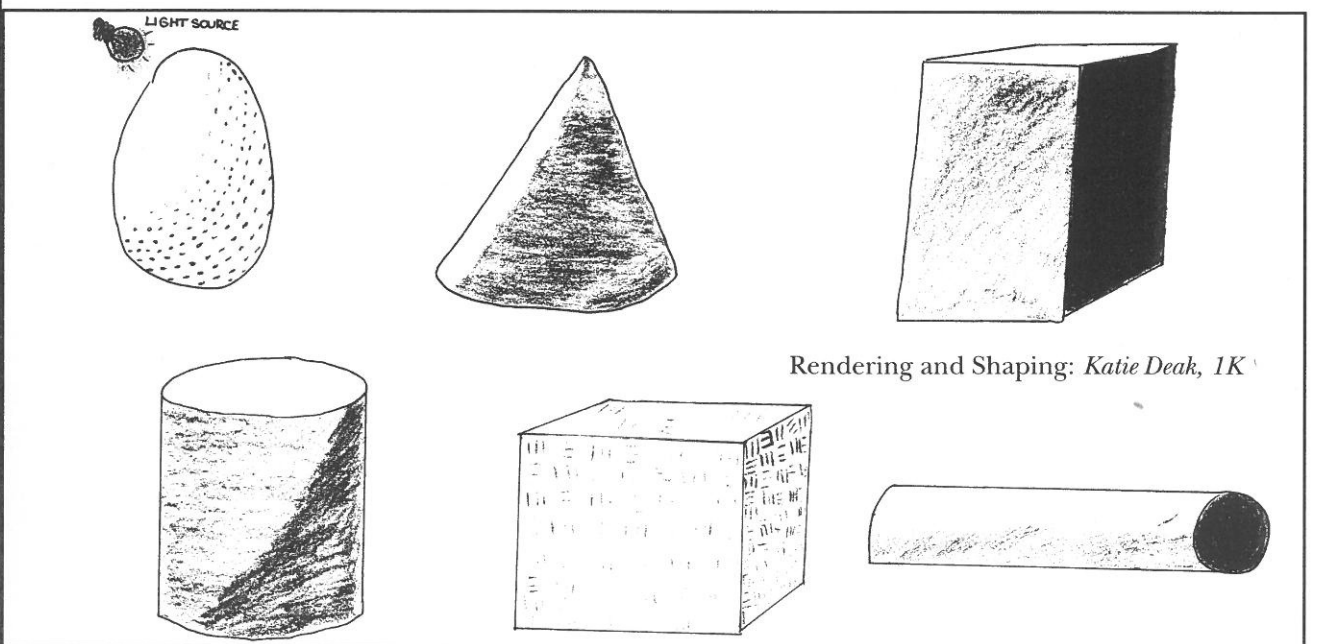
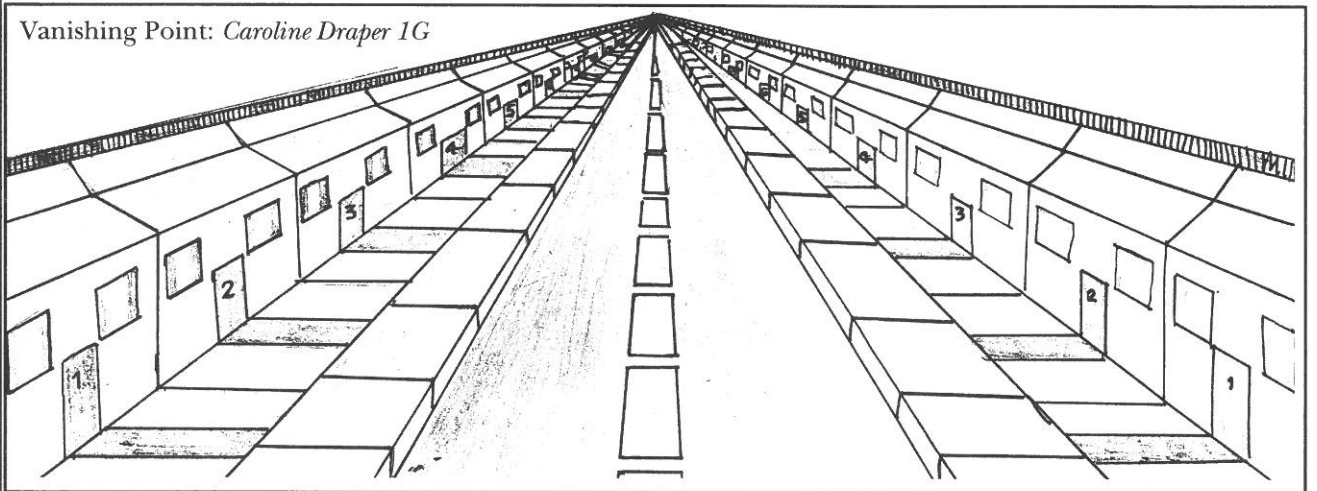
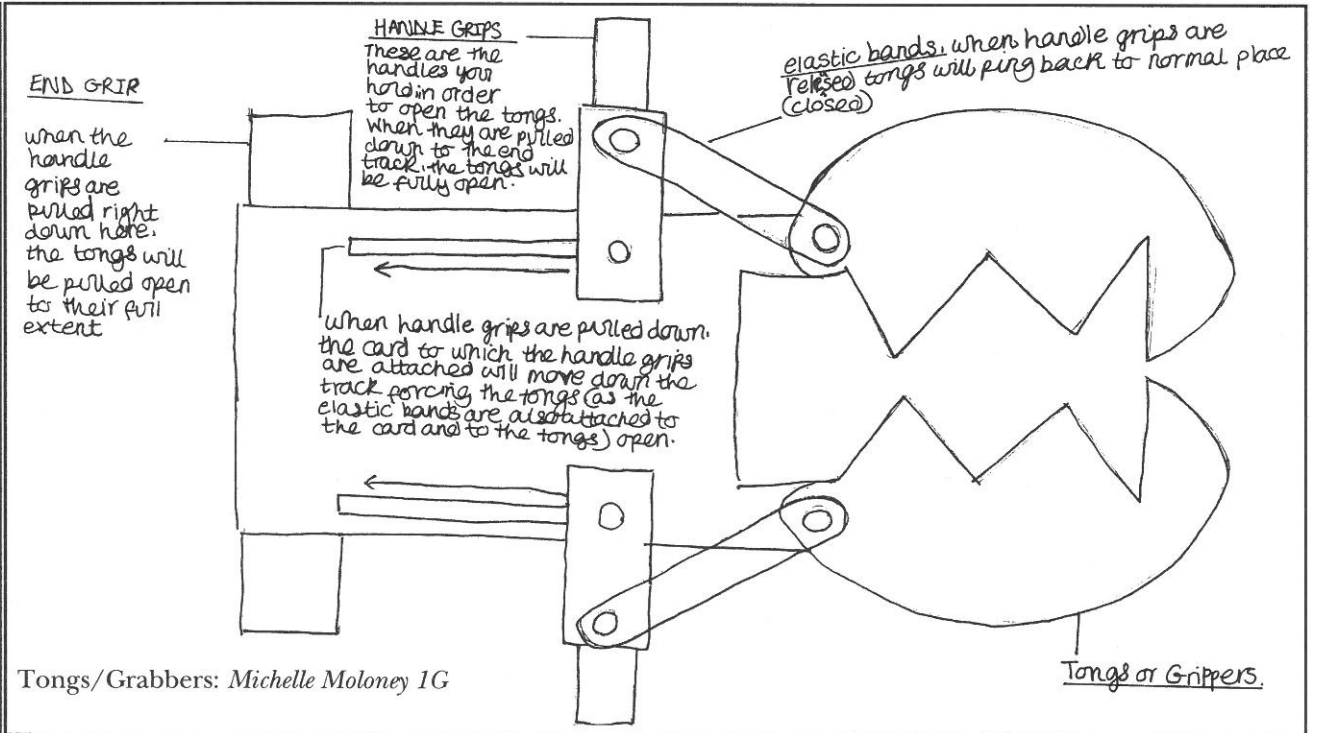
The Cambridge A-level Biology course has changed direction a little. We are following the Applied Plant and Animal Biology option which involves a higher content of applied topics that affect our everyday lives. The intensive farming of cattle and study of embryo transfer techniques contrasts with the cultural reasons for growing Cassava in developing countries. Such is the breadth of this topic.

A large number of new practicals have been incorporated into the GCSE courses, including use of information technology to capture data. The new Pentium computer will be a useful adjunct in gathering information for projects and investigations. We look forward to further innovations next year.

M.H.

Pictures below: The Cultural Fashion Show, February 1996





HOUSE REPORTS

Adelaide House

Adelaide House has had a productive year so far. The mufti day held in the Autumn Term was very successful raising approximately £190 for our House charity, The Tommy's Appeal. We are continuing to raise money this term by selling soft drinks during first break.

We achieved pleasing results in the inter-house sports competitions, and there was a particularly good response from the first years in the swimming competition.

The House play this year is *Daisy Pulls It Off*. Joanna Graves and Hannah Fitt are directing and rehearsals are going well.

Marie York & Kate Taylor, 6I

Babington House

Last year ended well with out success in the House Play Competition, our play *Passion, Poison and Petrification* enabling us to win the competition for the fifth year running. Olivia Lipscombe and Maria Nunn are directing this year's entry, a comedy by Philip Johnson called *The Old Fool* – they say the rehearsals are going well.

Our charity this year is the Royal National Institute for the Blind and Antonia Bell and Patricia Ireland have been in charge of a small team who have already raised £200 by selling confectionery.

Congratulations are due to everyone who swam in the inter-house swimming gala. We might have come last but there were some good performances auguring well for next year.

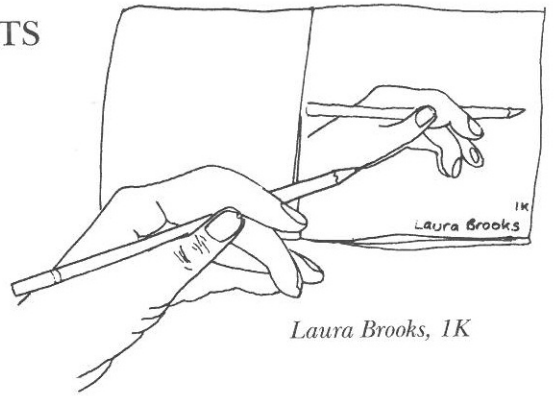
Chloe Bartle, the deputy head of house, and I would like to thank the staff for all their help and support during our term of office.

Sarah Nee, 6I

Bristol House

This term we decided to sell hot chocolate and fortunately for Bristol House the snowy weather arrived which provided encouragement for people to buy it, and allowed us to benefit from the cold. Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold a mufti day; nevertheless, we have raised a pleasing sum of money for our charity: Leukaemia Research. Not resting on our laurels from our success in the inter-house swimming, we are looking forward to the inter-house matches at the end of this term.

Jo Lutkin, 6I

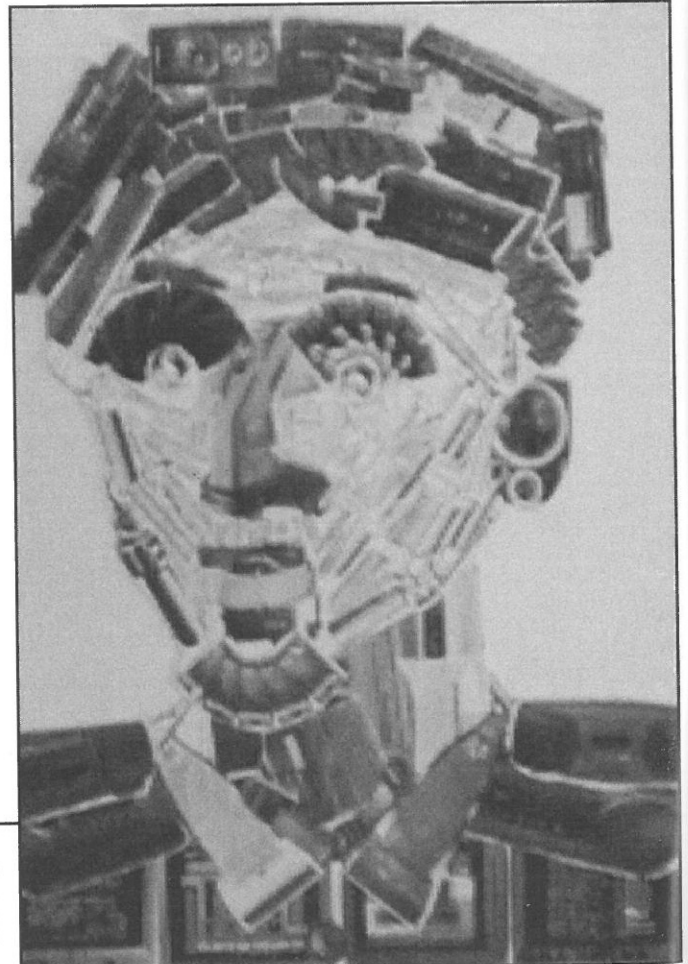


Laura Brooks, 1K

Chichester House

Chichester House have been very busy this year raising money for the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children. We have raised money by selling crisps in break times and holding a mufti day, when everyone pays fifty pence for the privilege of wearing their own clothes. We were all very pleased when we came second in the inter-house swimming competition, and, at the moment, rehearsals are taking place for a performance of an extract from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the inter-house drama competition – this is an ambitious choice but we hope it will be very entertaining. We are also in the midst of setting up an egg decorating competition; so watch this space!

Victoria Lewis & Katy Scott, 6I



Right: Collage 'The Electronic Engineer' by Adela Hussain, 4O, based on the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldi

Letter from Germany

Hello, I'm Britt. I'm 17 years old and from Germany. Last August my family and I moved from Heidelberg to England. My father wanted to spend one year at Sussex University and because my mother is English, we all decided to go with him to Brighton. This was an excellent decision! Brighton is such a wonderful town by the sea that we soon felt comfortable in our new surroundings.

I've got two younger sisters: Fay who is 12 years old and Lynn who is 15. We wanted a school which took all three of us and St Mary's Hall seemed just right.

At the beginning I was a bit worried because this school was completely different from my school in Heidelberg. It is a private girls' school and in Germany I had always gone to a mixed state school, but now I can definitely say that it was a great experience and I would never have wanted to miss it.

Because I had to take as many subjects as possible to keep up with the work I would miss in Germany, I took Art, English and Latin as GCSE-subjects and Physics, Mathematics and French at A level.

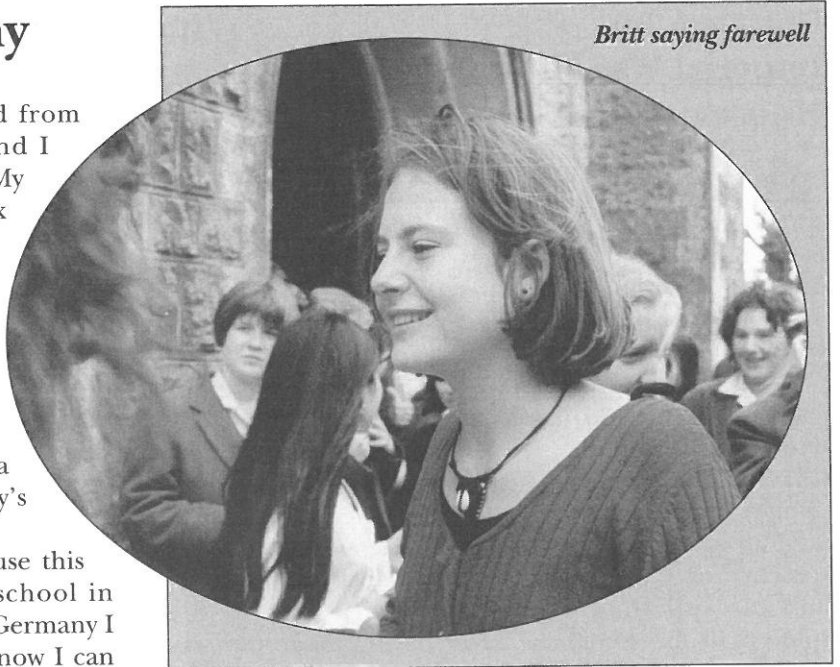
It was great that I could have this combination and everybody tried really hard to arrange everything for me. I also had Physical Education and Information Technology lessons, where I learned a lot, especially because I hadn't been introduced to computers before.

As extra activities I took pottery and photography, which was great fun. I also took part in Young Enterprise. At my school in Heidelberg we don't have this and it is an excellent opportunity to learn how to run a company and deal with the problems that arise. St Mary's Hall also offers other extra activities, for example first aid, squash, riding and dancing (which my sister enjoyed). It's great to have this variety of things to do and wherever you need to go or whatever you need to do, there is always help and friendly smiles.

The thing I liked most at this school was that there were so many different nationalities. Of course most of the girls were English, but you could also find Japanese, Chinese, Mexican, Spanish, African, Malaysian and Swedish girls. It is amazing how so many different cultures and languages can come together and form a harmonious atmosphere. The school was like a big family. The relationship between teachers and pupils was excellent and for the first time I enjoyed learning.

Every morning we went to chapel for a short assembly where all the happenings of the day were announced. I would love to have this in my school, just a few minutes when the whole school comes together, sits in silence, thinks quietly and sings - a great start to the day.

I also enjoyed the special occasions: the concerts, theatre and especially the garden party at the end of the year. Everything reminded me of a typical English girls'



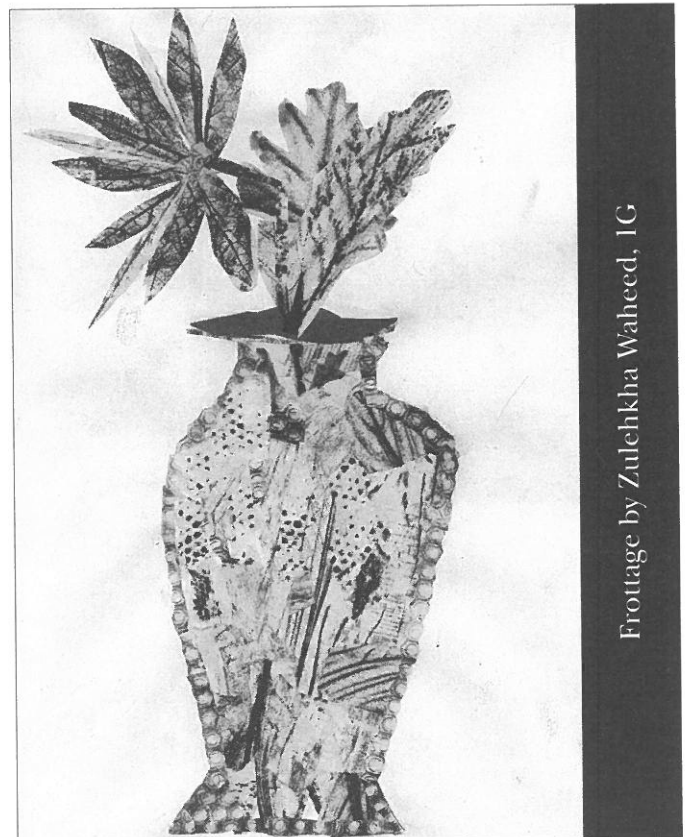
Britt saying farewell

school with traditional values and a moral code which you probably don't find very often these days.

I enjoyed staying at St Mary's Hall a lot. I have met great people and made good friends and I would have loved to have stayed longer, but it is better to leave when it's the nicest, so that you can keep it as a lovely memory. I'm sure it would be a great experience for anybody.

I can only thank everybody at St Mary's Hall who made me feel so comfortable and looked after me!

Britt Hatzius, Lower Sixth, September 1994 - July 1995



Frottage by Zulekhha Waheed, 1G