



MAIDSTONE.

TERMLY BULLETIN. SEPTEMBER 1952.

NEWS FOR ALL. Until the difficulties of the war period made it impossible it was our custom to publish a termly school magazine and between 1931 and 1947 thirty-six magazines were published. There were many advantages and much pleasure arose from the magazine and the useful purposes which it served have been sadly missed. As an interim experiment we are launching for a trial period a set of termly Bulletins in the hope that they will enable us to resume the full magazines in due course. If we find that there is a genuine demand for it we will persevere with the venture but before embarking on such an undertaking it will be necessary for two conditions to be well fulfilled. In the first place someone must be found who is willing to devote time and trouble to the onerous duties of editorship and secondly since the school is not a subsidised organisation that can draw on unlimited funds we must secure from among Maidstone firms an adequate number who are willing to buy advertisement space in order that the financial side can show a balanced budget. Until this is achieved the budding aspirants to literary fame among the boys will have to exercise patience before seeing their efforts in print. However, our previous magazine was a great success and we hope that it can and will be done again.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES. Congratulations to the following candidates who obtained General Certificates of Education at Ordinary Level last June. At the Oxford Locals, every candidate passed as follows:—

- J. W. Youngs, Mathematics, English Language, French.
- F. E. M. Piper, English Language, English Literature, Scripture.
- R. P. Viggers, Mathematics, Geography, English Literature.
- M. A. Bolt, English Language, French.
- P. W. Allum, English Language, Geography.
- D. W. Jenner, Geography, Art.
- B. R. Sutton, English Language.

At the College of Preceptors examination, J. D. Hitch obtained an Honours Certificate in the Senior Grade passing in 10 subjects with distinctions in Arithmetic, History and Geography. G. W. Cox passed in 6 subjects with distinction in Arithmetic. We are still awaiting the results of the London Chamber of Commerce examinations.

PAST RECORDS. The above list brings the school record of examination successes since 1931 to no less than 597. This figure includes 5 London Matriculation, 33 School Leaving Certificates of the College of Preceptors and over 200 Commercial certificates of various grades. This total does not include several admission entrance examinations for the Services, the Professions and the Civil Service. We cannot impress too strongly on all concerned especially the candidates themselves that these successes require much preparation and hard work and candidates will find that mere entry and ability without consistent study will not generally bring success.

FUTURE OUTLOOK. Further examination entries are contemplated for December, the Upper Sixth for the G.C.E., the Lower Sixth and Upper Fifth for the C.O.P. and certain L.C.C. examinations for boys from the Third Form upwards. Parents are asked to encourage suitable boys to take Commercial Courses which are now being taught. This work requires persistence and some boys abandon it just because

they 'do not like it.' This, we fear, is too often with the connivance of some of their parents. For all those boys who contemplate a business career of any description it is essential not to be unacquainted with the rudiments of Shorthand, Typewriting and Book-keeping, as well as some knowledge of general business routine, indexing, filing economic and statistical work, etc.

CONCERNING FEES. The school, like other business undertakings, is finding that costs tend to outrun receipts and it becomes imperative to keep the former at their lowest possible level consistent with efficiency and at the same time to ensure that the latter remain at their maximum. As a result of the decisions of the Burnham committee staff salaries have increased greatly throughout the teaching profession which has resulted in higher fees becoming necessary unless the quality of teaching staffs be allowed to fall, a course which we are certain parents will not approve. During the last five years the school has imposed only one general increase of fees—in June, 1951—and if that scale can be strictly maintained without any fall in numbers we hope that it may be possible to avoid any heavy increase, at least for a while. It has been customary to allow fee deductions for travelling, for brothers and for scholarships together with a small number of 'compassionate' allowances. Parents are requested to adhere strictly to the scale of allowances as shown on the fee forms. We regret that if we are to balance the school budget it will be necessary to discontinue the 'special' discounts which operated in a few cases. Each individual case will be reviewed and we anticipate that parents will approve these arrangements. We wish to remind parents that the fee scale is graduated according to age and the normal increases take place at ages 7, 11 and 15.

CONGRATULATIONS. A popular member of the staff has now completed his degree at London University. Mr. V. Dawson passed in the Upper Division of the Second Class B.A. Honours in French and Spanish. Hearty congratulations. Also to F. E. M. Piper who has been acting as Student Teacher recently on her acceptance at St. Gabriel's College, Camberwell, for a course of Training as a Qualified Teacher. Also to P. W. Allum on his entry into the R.E.M.E. where he hopes to begin an officer's training course. To B. R. Sutton who is starting his National Service. To J. Martin who is going farming. To June Beckley who is becoming a horticulturalist. To S. Severs and J. C. Meakin who have passed the Grammar School Scholarship examination. Good luck to all the others who left school this last term.

WEDDING BELLS. Congratulations to a very old friend of the school, Mr. A. M. Skeffington, B.Sc., (Econ.), J.P. upon his marriage to Miss Sheila Mackenzie. We wish them every happiness and trust we shall continue to see both Mr. Skeffington and his wife often in Maidstone.

FUTURE EVENTS. Just before Christmas we hope to hold the usual exhibition of work and handicraft. Boys are strongly advised to get busy at once in order to avoid hasty work during the last two or three weeks of term. There will probably be some prizes if the work is of sufficient excellence and also sufficient in quantity. The term ends on Wednesday, 17th December. Half-term occurs at 1st November.

THE OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION. We hope that parents will encourage an interest in this very active organisation by participating themselves in functions suitable to them and also by encouraging their sons to take an interest in the events applicable to them. Naturally we assume that on leaving school all boys will join the Association in due course as a matter of loyalty to the old school. Events already arranged include:—Lullingstone Silk Farm, 14th September, Whist Drive, 1st. October, 7.30 p.m. at the old Palace, 1/6. Square Dance, 17th October. Firework Celebration, 5th November. Musical Reflections, 13th November. Talk, 27th November. Christmas Party, 12th December. A.G.M. for 1952, 15th January. Annual Dinner, 7th February.