

HBS successes

With the current problems still unresolved, do you often wonder what we are doing at HBS, what the school is really like?

I can assure you that the girls' education is paramount and that we continue to evaluate and to plan for the years ahead. We look forward very much to developing even closer educational links with the Institute.

I am often asked why the school is so successful. After all we do not have lavish facilities or very much space. I feel the quality of the relationships within the school is fundamental to our success. The relaxed but respectful relationship between staff and pupils ensures a purposeful atmosphere within the classroom and I firmly believe that only if these relationships are good can effective learning take place. We encourage independence and individual responsibility and rarely have to impose sanctions. We appreciate how much we need contact with parents and their support if we are to do our best for the girls. In all of this we are most ably led by our Governing Body and it is a great help that our Foundation Body has felt able to appoint Governors again and most of our vacancies are now filled.

As you would expect, we are strong in all areas of the academic curriculum from our thriving Classics department to our large Science department. Although much of the work is done in a hut or an attic room, our Design and Technology department is well established with all girls taking this subject at GCSE. Our Art department produces outstanding work and each year girls go on to Art Foundation Courses. We are very pleased to receive a generous bequest from a Suburb resident to

support Art students. With our limited facilities the Physical Education department manages to achieve regular success both in Barnet leagues and nationally. The department makes full use of the facilities available nearby such as the Welsh Harp, Lyttelton Playing Fields, local squash clubs, swimming pools, and of course the Heath. It also runs a challenging programme of outdoor pursuits.

What are our current concerns? Equality of opportunity is as much a concern for us as for any school and we constantly challenge our own practice. The staff are seeking to share good practice and to continue to expand our teaching and learning styles. We are also continuing to extend our provision for Art, Music and Drama. Next term we are looking forward to the production of our school play and to a concert by our orchestra in St Jude's.

We are a non-denominational school and seek to make our assemblies inclusive rather than exclusive. Representatives from different faiths contribute to our assemblies and we value very highly this close connection with members of local faith groups. No religious or cultural group dominates within the school and about a third of the girls are bilingual, speaking 30 languages. There 45 girls from N2 and 90



girls from NW11 in school at the moment. We feel we are a school serving its local community but also providing high quality education for girls from further afield who can benefit from HBS. We have received 800 applications for entry to Y7 in 1996 for 93 places. Selection is inevitably difficult and we must often miss very able girls. However there are also local girls who turn down places when offered them, invariably in favour of the private sector.

We must always look to the future. All girls do two weeks' work experience in Y10 and one week of work shadowing in Y13. We have 200 girls in our sixth form and all are offered work experience in France, Germany or Sweden in collaboration with other Barnet schools; we have received funding from the EEC to support this. Nearly every girl goes on to higher education and the routes chosen are very varied, some predictable such as entry to Oxford, Cambridge, into Law,

Medicine, English, modern languages, others more individual such as Anthropology and fashion retailing, business and marketing. We are also very aware of the girls' needs as women. Many will be wives, have partners, be mothers and this will also be a demanding and rewarding part of their lives. We have a structured Personal and Health Education programme; our Peer Education programme in which Y12 girls work with Y10 girls over sensitive areas has achieved national recognition.

In 1995/6 with trips to our Field Centre in Wiltshire, trips and exchanges to France and Germany, visits to Rome, Iceland, a PE tour of Malta, a skiing holiday, visits to the theatre and exhibitions in London and Amsterdam, Geography and Biology field trips, girls at Henrietta Barnett are offered a rich and challenging programme. How much we owe to our outstanding and dedicated staff.

Jane de Swiet

The Scourge of Honey Fungus

Honey fungus, perhaps the most devastating disease to occur in gardens, is rampant on the Suburb. Many residents who have encountered a severe outbreak have of necessity become expert on identification and often wedded to a particular nostrum for elimination, to such an extent that they are totally immersed in the topic, and in a way passionately involved with their enemy. So I shall not be surprised if the Editor receives letters of obloquy reviling the author of this information note.

Attendance at a recent Honey Fungus Study Day at the University of Reading has persuaded me that it is impossible to eradicate this scourge once it is present. Chemical treatment is expensive and laborious, and ineffective. The counsels of perfection, to remove and replace all the soil for at least a metre in every direction from every infected plant, are scarcely practicable in our modest gardens. Certainly one should dig up and dispose of the remains of any stricken tree or shrub as soon as possible, being careful to remove as much of the roots as is feasible. But there is no guarantee that this will be in time to prevent spreading.

So it seems best to accept defeat and for some years to avoid susceptible species and concentrate on re-planting trees and shrubs which are known to be most resistant to the fungus.

What should one avoid? Sadly, the list includes roses, rhododendrons including azaleas, birch, walnut, witch hazels, apples and crab apples, forsythia, cherries and plums, Leyland cypress (hooray), peonies, willows, wistaria, privet and maples - and this is by no means a comprehensive catalogue.

What are the resistant species? Happily they include many desirable subjects - the Tree of Heaven, the London plane, clematis, bamboos, the Indian Bean Tree, yew, mahonia, ivy, jasmine, fothergilla, thorns, the Smoke Tree and the Stag's Horn Sumach, heathers, cornus, the Judas Tree, pieris, oaks, rue, sarcococca, box, hollies, limes and tamarisk.

If your experience in our local clay contradicts entries in either of these lists, please write and tell the Editor. Meanwhile, the Trust has a useful free information sheet, 'Honey fungus and how to cope with it', and I should be glad to lend any interested resident the Royal Horticultural Society's new leaflet on honey fungus or the Forestry Commission's bulletin, which has excellent illustrations of both the underground 'boot laces' and the very variable fungus fruiting bodies. If all else fails, it may be some consolation that Selfridges sells honey fungus in its vegetable department at up to £4.95p a quarter!

Spencer Hudson

Crematorium equipment delay

Residents living near the crematorium have complained regularly about the smoke and smell which at times, especially in the summer, have become a serious nuisance and a health hazard.

The general manager Mr Phillip Reeves (0181-455 2374) explained in May 1995 that new equipment had been ordered which would comply with the UK Environmental Protection Act 1990. It was expected to be installed and in use by the end of 1995 or early 1996.

There have been delays. Because of the Act, there has been a huge demand for the equipment, some of which has to be imported. The crematorium is a listed building and this entails discussion and

agreement with English Heritage and other bodies, and the design and construction of new bronze doors.

The 1990 Act provided that new equipment had to be in use by 1996. This date has now been extended to 1998.

The latest information (in November 1995) is that the work is expected to start in November 1996 and that it will take about six weeks to complete.

Mr Reeves stated that the crematorium spent about £40,000 during 1995 on temporary modifications to the present equipment and that the cost of the new installation is expected to be about £1 million.

Tom Sales

FARM WALK Lawn Tennis Club

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new members

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starts April 1st

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Esmé Kingsley
0181-203 1731



John Marshall MP leads the field in the Autumn 'Round the Heath Extension' walk to benefit the North London Hospice

The Big Fun Walk

The ever active North West Support Group of the North London Hospice, which is centred at Fellowship House, is planning a Sponsored Big Fun Walk on Sunday March 10th.

The 7.5 mile walk from Cherry Tree Wood to Parliament Square will be in two stages, taking in Highgate Wood - Parliament Hill Fields - Primrose Hill - Regents Park - Hyde Park - Green Park and St James' Park. Drinks and snacks

will be served 'en route', first-aiders available and participants can walk all or part of the way.

Pauline Treen, the Hospice Fund Raiser, said at a recent committee meeting at the Hospice "This promises to be a major event and will help to raise the increasing funds needed to keep the Hospice running. The local authority pays for less than 25% of its upkeep and an event such as this will help towards bridging the

enormous financial gap."

The Hospice, which serves the Barnet Borough and surrounding areas, is accepted as being a centre of excellence both in its medical expertise, the caring and comfortable atmosphere and its truly multi-faith ethos.

Anyone wishing to take up the challenge of the Big Fun Walk please contact Harold Karton - 455 7983 or Gillian Newman - 455 5432.

Gillian Newman

In the doghouse

Suburb residents are up in arms against those dog-owners who allow their pets to foul the pavements and grass verges. Some roads on the Suburb are never free of dog mess - Oakwood Road is a case in point with the pavements and grass verges constantly being fouled. There have been stories of ruined shoes, car carpets which had to be washed and disinfected, etc. So to all dog-owners: **Please use a poop scoop or teach your dog to use the gutters or your own garden.** And, if walking in Northway Gardens or Central Square, use the Poop-Scoop bins.

Freehold lock up garage
required in North or
South Square.

Please reply to: Box No 001/96
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