

CLAPHAM COLLEGE BROADSHEET

BROADSHEET NO. 12



November 1986

Dear Parents

The end of another term is in view already, and for many of our boys this means Trial Examinations and all the necessary preparation and revision. Please give every encouragement to your sons if they are in the 5th Year to prepare carefully for these examinations. We usually find that the boys prefer to work at home during the examination period and attend only when they actually have a written test, but we are, of course, always ready to provide facilities for those who need a quiet place to work.

It was pleasant to see many of you at the Annual General Meeting of the P.T.A. and during the afternoon set aside for parents of boys in the 5th Year. As you well know, your support is valued greatly by all of us in the school. Please continue your support and I would ask you, in particular, to ensure that your son's school uniform is complete. Any deficiency in the uniform will be noted by your son's form teacher and you will be contacted accordingly. Problems can easily be avoided by ensuring that blazer, tie, badge, trousers etc. do conform to our regulations.

For many years now, as you will know, we have held our annual Carol Service in the evening. For many reasons the attendance has decreased and has led us to reconsider the timing of this event. Our Carol Service will, this year, be held in the school at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 16th December. We hope that some parents and guests will be able to attend and join the 3rd and 4th years and the staff in this joyful act of worship.

On behalf of all the staff I should like to wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R.W. Sparks'.

R.W. Sparks
Headmaster

N.B. School resumes at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 5th January 1987. On Tuesday, 6th January, the Feast of the Epiphany, there will be a Mass at 9.00 a.m. and school will start at 10.00 a.m.

Trial Exams for Fifth Years

All Fifth Year boys will be involved in trial examinations from Thursday 9th December up to the end of term. Your son may also be involved in practical exams the week before the trial exams start.

Time-tables detailing your son's exams are available. Fifth year boys will only be required to attend school from 9th December if they have an examination. Those boys on link courses should carry on attending college.

Needless to say, your son should be spending a lot of time revising his work and if need be, discussing with his subject teachers any gaps in his required knowledge and skills necessary to pass an 'O' level or CSE.

Your son's entry for public examinations may depend largely on his performance in the trials. Please make sure that your son is spending sufficient time revising. The written examinations start at 8.45am and your son will be expected to be in school at 8.30am in full school uniform for his exams. The afternoon sessions start at 12.50pm - School dinners will be available for fifth year boys involved in trial examinations.

The examinations are conducted under public examination conditions to give your son as near an experience as possible to the real tests in May and June of next year.

Reports about your son's performance in his trial exams should reach you on Friday 16th January 1987.

School Exams for Third & Fourth Years

School examinations for third and fourth years will take place between Tuesday 9th December and Friday 12th December.

For the fourth years these are their first examinations since they started their GCSE courses. Some examining boards allow there examinations to form part of the course work required for the completion of set assignments. Subject teachers will be informing your son should this apply.

The attitude grades awarded to third and fourth years before half-term were very encouraging indeed. Only a tiny minority of boys were given D and E grades.

It should now be your son's aim to match up his right attitude with achievement in these examinations. He can only achieve this by constant revision and by following the advice offered to him by his subject teachers.

The reports to parents will be sent on Friday 16th January 1987.

PTA Executive 1986-87

The annual General Meeting of the Clapham College PTA took place on Wednesday 12th November, 1986. The following parents have been elected to serve on the Executive Committee for 1986-87:

Mrs Borestero - Chairperson,
Mr Weil - Vice Chairperson
Members: Mrs Parrish, Mrs Baker, Mr Cronin
Mrs Cronin, Mr McNish, Mr Amedume,
Mr Doyle, Mrs Doyle, Mr Thomas.

The office of Treasurer has been deligated to the Chairperson.

St. Francis Xavier Sixth Form College:

Applications to join the Sixth Form College in September 1987 are now being filled by fifth year boys. 5.1 boys visited the College on Tuesday 18th November and 5.A/5PW visited the college on Thursday 20th November. A group of sixth formers from the College accompanied by staff visited the school on Friday 7th November. Slides were shown and a discussion about the courses available at the college took place.

As the College is oversubscribed every year, it is essential that all applications are made by 12th December 1986.

S. Felice-Pace

Harvest Festival:

The gifts of food given by the boys to celebrate harvest thanksgiving was organised this year on a house basis. Boys in all three houses donated very generously and the gifts were sent to the following parishes:-

More - Father Henderson - Brixton. Xavier - Father Sanders - Balham
Gerard - Father Richins - Battersea.

The Priests assured me that these gifts would brighten the Christmas of many an elderly person.

Our thanks to parents for their usual support.

Glyn Morris.

Careers:

This has been a very busy term in this department, especially for the 5th year. All the 5th years have been interviewed by the Careers Officers from Balham Careers Office, and 24 of them visited the Careers Exhibition in Westminster on Friday 14th November. Many jobs and colleges were represented at the Exhibition so the boys were able to collect information about their prospective careers.

In the past 6-weeks, all the 4th year and 35 5th years visited the main Post Office in Nine Elms. The conducted tours were very well organised by the staff at the Post Office and both staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the visits. The boys particularly enjoyed the drinks and chocolate biscuits at the end of the tour.

A visit to IBA has been arranged for the 3rd and 4th years, to see their careers exhibition and to find out about ITV companies.

Ms. M.T. Montero.

5th Year Visit to North Wales 1986:

Once again at the end of September 18 5th year pupils led by Mr Watkinson spent a week at the ILEA Mountain Centre at Ty-N-'Y' Berth. Two of the participant, Kevin Craig and Michael Octave write-"Fortunately this year the weather was very good and unlike last year we were able to camp out on Cader Idris, one of Wales highest mountain. Other activities in the week included ab-seiling, rock climbing and a very long walk. The two Wardens Jack and Terry add their own brand of humour which on the Gorge Walk included trying to give us a swim in the river.

It was a good week and everyone said that they enjoyed it and that it was a worthwhile venture."

My thanks go to the pupils who took part splendidly and also to Mr Chatterton who was a tremendous help throughout the week.

Mr.D.Watkinson.

Carol Service

This year we are introducing a little drama into our preparation for Christmas. At the moment scripts are being learned, stage lighting modified, costumes sewn and Christmas music practised. Mr Felice-Pace and Miss Montero are busily rehearsing their roles as Joseph and Mary

Altogether 16th December promises to be a memorable afternoon. I feel confident that nowhere in this great city will the Christ Child be made more welcome than in Clapham College.

Mr K. McGlynn

School Photographs:

We still have a large number of unsold photographs, both groups and individuals. The group photographs cost £2.50 each and the individual sets (large + 3 small pictures) are £3.50. These are a valuable memento of the last groups of boys in the school and we would hope that many of you would want to purchase one. All unsold photographs will be returned at the end of term.

Mr R.W. Sparks

Annual Report to Parents:

The report for 1985-86 is now available. Should you wish to receive a copy of the report please contact the School or ask your son to collect a copy from the school office.

Governors' Fund:

We would like to remind parents that the Governors' Fund is now due for next term.

£2.00 per term or £6.00 per year.

School Uniform:

We have made a special effort this term to improve the standard of uniform throughout the school. As a result of your co-operation and support we are pleased to report that very few boys are without acceptable uniform and we hope that this will be rectified very shortly.

School ties may be bought from the school office (£2.20). Other items of uniform may be purchased at:-

A.E. Bostock Limited
286, Streatham High Road
London SW16 6HE

(PRICE LIST AVAILABLE FROM SCHOOL)

Christmas Holidays:

Last day at school: 19th December '86

First day at school: 5th January '87.