

*Original version*

Memorandum to the Governors on Buildings

The first part of a three stage plan of extensions to the buildings has been completed, and apart from one or two very minor details has only one unsatisfactory feature - that certain unforeseen structural difficulties have caused two of the classrooms to be of a size incapable of taking a whole form.

But this was to have been the first part of an extension scheme, of which the second part was to have been in the 1955 programme. It is understood that at present this second part has been dropped since this creates an impossible situation.

The Governors and local authority are committed, by various published statements, to the fact that this school is to take an extra form of pupils from next September onwards. It is difficult to calculate exactly at what stage this additional intake will completely fill the existing accommodation as at present extended. It will possibly do so at the end of two years, and certainly at the end of three. We shall then be obliged (unless the extensions are continued as originally arranged) to reduce the entry by one form for a space of probably two years.

This would present the following difficulties:-

1. It would mean telling the people of the neighbourhood either (a) that grammar school entry was not on merit, or (b) that Providence had so arranged things that a third of the male population of the area was born with inferior intelligence every third and fourth year.
2. It would prevent any regular organisation, e.g. of the existing type which the Inspectors have praised, and would mean that the school organisation would consist of a series of expedients varying from year to year, so that, apart from the disorganisation of work and apart from muddle which would cause loss of efficiency, it would be possible to prepare boys for certain careers and advanced examinations in one year, and not in another.
3. Without further extensions, we shall not be able to carry out what are, I believe, statutory requirements in the matter of meals service: it is doubtful whether we shall be able to do so for more than one year's entry, and we certainly could not for more than two years' entry.
4. The fluctuation of numbers (seeing that for two years the entry to the school would be reduced by a whole form every so often) would mean that staffing would have to fluctuate. This in its turn (a) would lead to the bad position of having continual supplies of temporary masters; (b) would create a further disorganisation, and incidentally (c) would cause the salaries of masters receiving special allowances, and the Headmaster, to fluctuate in an undesirable way.

The printed report of the full Inspection supports the necessity for extension in a number of places, to wit:-

The last few lines of para. 1 on page 2 refer to bomb damage and the handicap imposed by present use of the hall.

Para. 3 stresses the important implication of extension of buildings.

On page 3, from the third paragraph onward, the section headed "Premises and Equipment" deals with this continuously, endorsing briefly and in general terms in para. 3 the difficulties I have listed above, and subsequently pointing out four matters - laboratory, dining room and kitchens, handicraft, and library - of which the first three make it essential, and the last highly desirable, that the plan of extension should be continued.

At the top of page 11, the absence of a proper Geography Room is noted; and in the section on Modern Languages on the same page it speaks of desirable grouping, which has hitherto been impossible owing to lack of rooms and which, carried out as it is at the moment in accordance with the Inspectors' suggestion, will become impossible again in two years' time for the same reason of lack of accommodation.

On page 15, the last paragraph but one of the section dealing with Science points out that the accommodation will be inadequate for a three form school (in verbal report to the Governors, the Inspectors stated it would be short by two laboratories).