

JM final Open Day, end of term 1971.

Thanks.

Now that the day has come to say goodbye to so many of you ..sad. Some of us have kived through a trying time together, others I have just begun to know.

In some ways the years have gone very quickly. The consolidation of the school as a Senior School, the establishment of a viable Sixth Form ..next term there will be at least 22 girls in the Sixth ...the amalgamation at this level with KSB, the nerve-wracking but rewarding experience of the General Inspection which assured us continuing recognition .. building developments and projected building developments .. all these I suppose have been fitted into a very few years.

And yet, when I realise the burning question of the day when I came was whether or not

it seems a long time ago! Since then I have endeavoured to keep pace with change without, as my sons put it, exaggerating my prejudices into principles, but I think the time is ripe for my departure. My eyebrows have reached their limit.

As, indeed, I hope have skirts.

However, our forbearance in this as in other matters does mean the girls work through their awkward phases and get it all out of their systems, and at the top end of the school they emerge, not always without astonishment on the part of all, as young ladies of poise and personality, and we hope, some learning.

We have been delighted with the way in which our girls have held their own at King's. This year Elizabeth Yateman, in the Upper Sixth, won the prize for English and Political Studies. Joanna Hazelton, in the same Form, shared the ~~prize~~ Hobhouse Essay prize with one of the boys. Christine Clothier and Anna Hancock had Commendations for English, Josephine Thomas for French and German. In the Lower Sixth, Jane Andrews shared the English prize with a boy, Nicola Stanley won the Biology Prize and Bronwyn Matheson had a commendation for her Hobhouse Essay.

I would ask parents to cling to the faith that though adults, both parents and staff, may emerge a little frazzled from the year long struggles, their daughters emerge, with astonishingly few exceptions

as happy, mature beings ready to face life on their own.

I myself am emerging at the end of my five years under the happy illusion that honours are fairly evenly divided. The girls, of course, may know better. Through everything I have had the unwavering loyalty and tireless good-will of the Staff. I leave them with gratitude and regret and shall remember them with affection. Girls and parents, too, have enriched my life with their friendship and I hope the links we have forged are not to be broken for good. But it is with pleasure I hand over to Mr. and Mrs. Hesketh, who together will be able to contribute so much to the school. A new approach, new energies will mean an infusion of new life, and I wish them all success and happiness.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, girls, if I may quote one of the Fifth Form leavers, ..being here has been quite an experience.

Goodbye .. and thank you all.