



FROM THE HEAD'S DESK



and discussion.

We wish all our entrants in the Eisteddfod which started on the 24th February all the very best.

As the shortened month of February comes to a close, there is much to report on at the College. Our Clubs started at the beginning of the month following the conclusion of the cross-country season. It was such a pleasure walking around the "Club Fair", where students were able to experience what each club had to offer and make their choices as to which Club or clubs to sign up to.



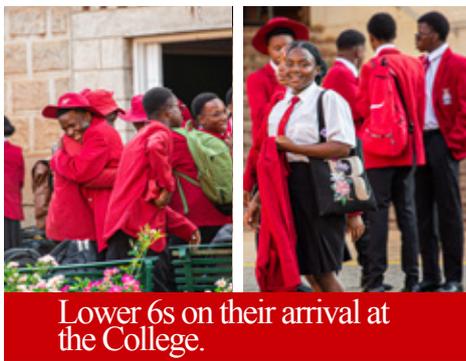
Students at this year's Club Fair.

Lower 6 students were back in classes, following the conclusion of their Service Projects at their Service sites. The next stage of the journey with their Agencies commenced following the **Ash Wednesday Mass**, when they were able to begin their Lenten Campaigns with the classes that had been assigned to them.



Scenes from Ash Wednesday Mass.

The College welcomed parents of new Lower 6 students to the College on Monday 9th February. Our second Ignatian evening of the term with parents of Form 2 students was held on the 10th of the month, with parents turning out in their numbers for this important evening of dialogue



Lower 6s on their arrival at the College.

Our results from our co-curricular activities have been outstanding, with notable successes from boys and girls volleyball, basketball and chess.

Our Water Polo, Basketball and Cricket Teams travelled to South Africa over the last weekend of the month. Thank you to all who were involved in the organization of these trips. The boys gained valuable experience which will add value to their performances in the future. Well done to Water Polo for bringing home the Silver Medal from the tournament that they had entered.



Our Water Polo Silver Medal Winners.

All our attention now turns to our Athletics programmes with two compulsory support Saturdays on the 14th and 21st March.

J. Farrelly
Headmaster

SGC@ 130 years

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HISTORY ARTICLE:

The College Library – arguably the 2nd oldest in the Country?

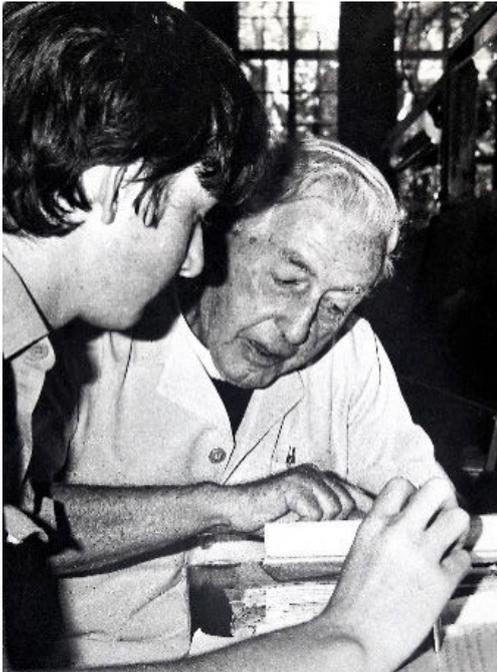
The College Chronicle of 1976 included an article marking the fact that the Library was then 75 years old. Now, as we celebrate the school's 130th year, we take real pride in the fact that the Fr. Thomas Crehan Library, as it has been known since 1980, is 125 years old and, we believe, is the second oldest in the country.

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History Article continued:

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Fr. Thomas Crehan, circa 1975

In 1901, according to the 1976 article, Fr. Barthelemy wrote in the school’s diary, “This term we started a boys’ library and already have several hundred books.” Whilst no precise date was given, the start-up was believed to have occurred in the first term. In the same article it was noted that the Bulwayo Public Library was founded in 1896, while the then Queen Victoria Memorial Library in Harare was officially opened in February 1903, hence our belief that our magnificent library might be the second oldest. Other than a photograph, we have no specific detail as to where the Library was housed in the Bulwayo days, but after the move to Hartmann Hill it was



Front parlour, Bulwayo, circa 1912 – library shelf left

moved between various classrooms as the school steadily expanded, and was run largely by the boys themselves. Then, around 1938, after a number of seniors complained to the Rector about the lack of new books, and contributed £10 from their own pocket money towards the purchase of new stock, he doubled the amount and the fortunes of the College Library never looked back.



College Library, 1955



College Library, 1974

History Article continued:

In 1941 plans that were drawn up for a new block of three large ground floor classrooms, just north of the Beit Hall, included a dedicated library gallery above, but, alas, no sooner was it completed in 1942, than it was taken over as a Chapel. For the next 13 years the Library continued its peripatetic existence until, in 1955, it was moved to the room now occupied by the College Chaplain, while some of its stock was housed adjacent in what is now the stationery store. It remained there until after the opening of the new College Chapel in November 1973, after which the Library was able to expand into the gallery room that had originally been designed for it over 30 years previously.

An interesting history of the Library and its development over the years can be found on page 144 of the 1975 Chronicle. Incidentally, there is another library at the College that is nearly 100 years old – a library that was exclusively for the use of the Priests at the College, in the days when there were many more of them serving on the staff. Largely forgotten about, it is located directly above what is now the Headmaster's Secretary's office, and includes books that are several hundred years old!

J. McCarthy
College Archivist



College Library, 2008



Priests' Library