

We were standing outside a classroom waiting noisily to be allowed in when the Deputy Head Louis (Bert) Metcalfe arrived and told us off for making too much noise. He told us that we should be spending our time revising for our exams as we would soon have to take our GEC. He kept repeating that without a good GEC we would have no future. Ted Matthews told Bert that he did not see what the General Electric Company had to do with our careers. He ended up in his office in pain

David Henderson 1956

I remember the tuck shop and savvy businessman Peter Keenan at the helm of this establishment. He was possessed and driven to meet the demands of all of his hungry customers and often used the term 'Banned for Life' to any students who pushed in, took too long to decide what to buy or didn't have the correct change. End of terms meant all stock was half price or less - I think PK has much to answer for with recent obesity levels increasing. He also never following through with his threats as he would welcome you back into the tuck shop next day no questions asked ready to take your money for those Space Raiders....

Mr C Janata

“First Day at the School”

September 1st 1942 was my first day at the School. I was 9 and had slipped in from doing a term in the pre-school or whatever it was at the time.

We all had to attend Assembly so we were crammed into the first 4 classes opposite the white house with partitions opened up to accommodate us all.

The occasion is one that I have always remembered. At the end of the hall were all the teachers. In front of them were the prefects. Frankly I don't remember the teachers except that they looked like what they were supposed to look like - teachers with gowns on. What I do remember vividly was how the prefects looked. With their blazers and tassled caps emblazoned with words that later I found out read "da nobis recta sapere", and their heads held high I thought to myself ' golly I'd like to look like that one day'.

Two of the prefects I still remember were James Bredin and Wozniaski. They all looked so proud and aweinspiring, it made you feel in turn proud and excited to be part of it.

There were speeches, and then, all of a sudden, a tremendous burst of singing. I did not catch all the words immediately, but they were about St. Alban, and this is what I heard. I hope I am quoting correctly:

(..... "dying knelt he down to pray
pray for those who took his life
slain for the faith first martyr Alban
lifted to thy throne on high
TEACH us for the faith to live
TEACH us for the faith to die"

The whole hymn or song was sung so enthusiastically that added to make the first day of School an event that stayed with me for the rest of my life. I still remember the tune of course.

John West