

# Headmaster's Report

Very Rev. Fr. Roy Campbell, Vicar General, our guest speaker, Rev. Fr. Rector and Members of his Board, Mr. William Wynter, Mrs. Monica Wynter, Parents, Friends of the Graduates, Members of the Faculty, Graduates and Students.

Our first duty in giving this report is to express publicly our profound gratitude to God for His great graces and protection all year long. It was a year of light and darkness, accomplishment and frustration, joy and pain. These elements come into every life and must be expected in our own school. Through it all the good God was with us.

In these days of change — industrialisation, urbanisation and computerisation — the school is caught up, is affected and sometimes developed. How to prepare our students for all the changes that they will later meet is indeed a difficult task for us. Sometimes no sooner has an adaptation been made than it becomes obsolete. St. George's has to change not just for the sake of change but for real improvement and progress from one definite point to another.

With this in view, we began optimistically a self-study programme in January of this year. Due to the leadership and expertise of Mr. James Bowler, the Design Group after several week-end meetings presented the aims and goals of the school for the next five years to a group of educators including some of our own teachers. This meeting set the stage for a Professional Day involving all our teachers, elected students, delegates from our Old Boys Association, members of the Board and parents. That was only a start for the real work of the Voting Congress, the great Red-letter Day, which decided in plenary session on 5th June the recommendations of the various Task Forces for implementation. Already many decisions have gone into effect.

We wish to record our sincere thanks to our teachers, students, Old Boys, Members of the Board, parents and Frs. Dorsey and Ruddy of our daughter college, Campion, for their splendid cooperation. We must add a special word of congratulations to the students for their outstanding contribution. We cannot thank Mr. James Bowler enough for his help. May God bless him in the years ahead. All of us of the St. George's College family look forward with hope and courage to the future of St. George's

In our zeal and enthusiasm to improve our social work of education we are always reminded to strive only for the right values of the temporal things of earth by the realisation of death, which is the beginning of eternal life with God. Last year November, Hector Allen, Class of 1968, gave up his soul to God after several weeks of suffering in union with Christ. In June this year Lloyd Anthony Eaton also of the Class of 1968 and Garth Dehaney, Class of 1970 died almost immediately in tragic accidents. Hector and Garth were just 19 years old and Lloyd just 20. How these three young men would remind us — parents, students, teachers — this night that we were made for far more important things than money and comforts and position. "Man does not live by bread alone...What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" Surely these three young men more than all of us here realise the worth of the chief purpose of St. George's College which is to help our students to make Christian men of themselves. Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam. For the Greater Glory of God.

In this social apostolate of education we need dedicated teachers to work for your sons. But here we must take cognizance of the very real crisis in staffing our schools. The Overseas Teacher Recruitment Scheme of the Ministry of Education is at best a stop-gap. It must be the concern of all of us that Jamaica should set about keeping teachers in our schools.



Fr. Maurice Feres, S.J.

St. George's like some other schools, was severely affected this past year when some fourteen full-time teachers, a little less than a third of our staff left us. True, 3 left on study leave hopefully to return, two had signed up for one year. Earlier in the year one teacher resigned for a more lucrative job in the commercial world. Let us face it, teachers give up the classroom for other jobs because of a more reasonable salary and conditions, or because the overcrowded classrooms especially in the primary schools plus the lack of ordinary equipment and teaching materials contribute to the frustration which reaches the breaking point, or because some students by their attitudes make the teacher's work seem so very worthless and wasteful.

All of us, including the Minister of Education, wish that the allocation of the national budget to education this year was higher than 18%. However, what really matters is that this money be used to provide a first-class primary school education. If this is done then a better prepared student will enter secondary school and later our teachers college. Surely with this improvement a teacher will find the work for the children of God much more satisfying and worthwhile.

Although such a high percentage of teachers left St. George's at the end of the school year, we are truly blessed by God that we have dedicated teachers. In April last Mr. Chaplain began his 45th year of teaching at St. George's and a month ago Fr. Blatchford completed his 40th year of service and is still going strong. Thanks be to God that last September our new teachers heard these things when we welcomed them: the Chang Brothers, Egerton and Victor, Old Boys, Fr. George Duffy after one year's absence, Miss Gordon, Brother Kelleher and Fr. Walsh both of whom came to Jamaica for the first of many years, we hope, Mr. Woolcock and Mr. Zamora; Messrs. Harper, Morck and Vermillion on the Recruitment Scheme. Again this year we have the example of three college graduates giving a year's service to the Mission: Messrs. Ainsworth, Doyle and Nienberg, graduates of Boston College. Fr. Hayes, our Sportsmaster of sparkle and bubble changed his classroom for the Administrator's office of the Jesuit Community and so Mr. McKay, Physical Education instructor became Sportsmaster.



Academically the year's record is fairly good. Nearly 70% of these Graduates passed 3 or more subjects, with the highest percentage 86+ in Elementary Mathematics and Additional Mathematics. 17 of the Graduates gained Distinction (1) in several subjects — 24 prizes in all. Among our post-Graduates, Basil Burke, Class of 1960 won a scholarship for post-doctoral work in Chemistry, Martin Chance, Class of 1961 gained the Alcan Research Fellowship for a Ph.D. in Physics at U.W.I., Willard Pinnock, Class of 1961 won a scholarship for a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Dundee, Patrick Duncan, Class of 1966 won a scholarship for a Master's Degree in Chemistry and his brother Donovan a scholarship for a B.Sc. in Engineering at U.W.I. Stephen Morgan of last year's Sixth Form a Football scholarship to St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, Karl Lee of the same class a scholarship to Miami Dade; Keith Garell, last year's Head Boy earned the Jamaica Scholarship and is now at M.I.T. — a college that had offered him \$1,000 award which he took in preference to a \$3,000 scholarship to Yale, Dudley Walters, last year's Sunlight Captain received the Allan Wynter Award, given by his children in memory of their father the late Allan Wynter, a devoted Old Boy, competent lawyer, apostolic family man and layman.

This academic record had to come first since I must preface race over Sports. Injuries, sickness, near-misses at goals, not enough goals plagued us this year as they did last season. We will not mention our score when we were bowled out of the Sunlight Competition. A refreshing breeze blew at Championships when Mark Clarke, a Third Former, achieved the Class III Boy Champion award — an achievement indeed for Mark and a credit to Mr. McKay, Track Coach. Fr. Hosie and Mr. Passailaigue's Tennis Team Relinquished the Gibson Cup to Wolmer's Boys but held on to the Alexander Cup and Jamaica Mutual Shield.

Other extra-curricular clubs were active. Due to the efforts of the Student Council and the hard work of the first three forms, the college won the Jaycees Cup for their Christmas Clothing Drive. Mr. Doody and his staff brought out an excellent edition of the "Lance." Our Sixth Formers did well in the JBC-TV Schools Challenge. The Sodality directed by Mr. Allen met weekly. Last year the school received an award for participating each year in the Drama Festival on its 21st birthday. Our Thespians did a very fine job in "Chippy." Mr. Ainsworth, this year's Drama Moderator, promises another first-class production on Tuesday, 23rd November. Come to the Little Theatre on that night if you want to see a real good show. (End of commercial). Our elocutionists did well in the contest last February. Tonight they will receive their prizes. The House Trophy for academic and extra-curricular activities was won by Champion captained by Earl McEachron with Fr. Sheehan the Moderator. In the Independence Festival, Paul Shaw, now a fourth former, our accompanist and violinist tonight won in the Independence Festival 3 Silver Medals and 1 Bronze Medal in Piano competitions and 1 Silver Medal and 1 Bronze in Violin. We are all as proud of Paul as his parents are.

Last summer a decided effort was made to re-organise the Old Boys into a more effective group not just to help with Sports and other activities, nor just to contribute to any prospective "drive" for funds but most especially to provide help in a very tangible way in their community. Rev. Fr. Rector with the help of Bro. Woolcock and his staff compiled a directory of as many Old Boys as we have on record. Surely, this directory, when it is completed, will be a most valuable help to the school.

What of the future? Hopefully a new dawn is breaking over the school. One ray of light comes from the students, who for the first time in the history of the school elected the Head Boy — another first since last year they began their voting training by electing the House Captains to prepare for this year.

William Pearson is the Head Boy and George Aarons his assistant. We congratulate the students on the very responsible way in which they voted for these officials and again for the House Captain. The Student Council with Mr. John Mackay as Moderator now comprises apart from the Prefects, elected members. Another change is in the flexibility of our fourth form classes. Instead of the rigid streaming, the students choose four electives to complete the schedule of four core-subjects: English Language and Literature, Religion or Scripture and Mathematics. The execution of this massive programming for each student and teacher was due to the intensive and difficult work of Fr. Hughes and Mr. Rupley. I term them "Human Computers" since they did what the computer could not do. Both the teachers and students seem satisfied with this new and flexible arrangement. A third ray on the horizon is the Counselling Programme involving Fr. Fuhs and Fr. O'Toole and several volunteer teachers. This personal attention should help the students to choose their courses more realistically, to adapt to pressures more maturely and to develop their Christian characters more surely. Yet another ray is the Advisory Council to which Mr. Chaplain, Fr. Hosie, Mr. McKay, Fr. Quinlan were elected by their fellow-teachers to help the Principal in the administration of the school. A fifth change under consideration is the Industrial Arts Programme. This future change we envision to ensure that our school is truly relevant to the needs of all our students and the community.

Perhaps more than all these we need a truly community spirit at St. George's. Fr. Quinlan and all of us feel that the discipline is somewhat adequate but not as satisfactory as we would wish. This community building rests equally on both the students and the teachers. Thank God, we do have a Faculty of cooperative and dedicated teachers. How else would we have been able to come through the very first weeks of this term when we started with three teachers short, one of whom did not honour his agreement made weeks before the opening of school! I am very grateful to our teachers for their patience and consideration when I had to ask them to change schedules. I refer especially to Mr. Chaplain and Bro. Kelleher who were kind enough to take on some Accounts in place of Math classes, Messrs. Allen and Doody and Fr. Walsh whose English classes were changed.

It is a real pleasure to have Fr. Roy Campbell, Class of 1936, with us tonight not only to address the Graduates but also to give us the opportunity of congratulating him on his new appointment and promotion as Vicar General. We thank Mr. William Wynter Class of 1950 and Mrs. Monica Wynter for coming to present the awards. We are grateful to the members of the Board for their help and encouragement. What can I say to thank you, the parents, who entrusted your sons to us? Please God, your sons will be your reward.

And to our Graduates. After this ceremony you, our Graduates, return to the world of work or further education. Whichever it is, you still belong to us in the years ahead in your successes and in your failures, your hopes and disappointments, your joys and sorrows. With great confidence in you we ask you to remember the Christian values you were taught at St. George's: the love of God for you, his sons through Grace, the dignity and true freedom of each person rooted in the fact that each is a child of God, the importance of the life of Grace for your own salvation — and for your service to others. This service is to be Christian service in your concern for your brothers and sisters who are illiterate, poor, unemployed, hungry, homeless for all practical purposes; your brothers and sisters without the love and security of a real home and family. Please remember that Jesus, your elder Brother told you: "Love one another as I have loved you." Give your love to all which means giving yourselves in service.

Rev. Maurice Feres, S.J.,  
Principal.