

BIG CHANGES IN COALVILLE SCHOOLING
Griffydam Houses Coalville Junior Grammar
School From September 1954



GRIFFYDAM SENIOR SCHOOL ENTRANCE

BY SAMUEL T STEWART - OCT 2026

Transcribed from the Coalville Times

Published Friday, 11 June 1954

Big changes are on the way for schooling in Coalville. From next September, the former Senior School at Griffydam, is to be put at the disposal of the Coalville Grammar School and a move is on foot to build a new secondary school in the town next year.

The premises at Griffydam, consisting of six good classrooms, two of which can be opened into one, to form a hall, and also a large room for science and practical subjects, will accommodate the Junior Grammar School branch of the main Coalville Grammar School as a temporary measure.

When the secondary school is completed, Broomleys School will become a junior and infant school, thus providing very necessary schooling facilities for the growing population in the area. At that stage, the Primary School premises in the centre of the town will then become available as an annex to both the Grammar School and to Bridge Road Modern School, and provide temporary additional classrooms necessary to take the exceptionally large number of children born at the end of the War.

In giving this information, Mr S. C. Mason (Director of Education for Leicestershire) says this information is subject to confirmation by the full Education Committee on July 7th.

Mr. Mason states in a letter to the governing body of Coalville Grammar School (a similar letter being sent to every parent in the district whose child, will in September, be entering a Grammar School explaining these moves) that the Education Authority has every confidence that the Minister will accept the case for the new Secondary School in Coalville, although the building of new schools has so severely been curtailed in recent years.

HOW THE SCHEME WILL WORK

He points out that immediate steps are necessary to prevent serious overcrowding at the Grammar School, which has already had to hire premises outside the school.

The Griffydam premises, Mr. Mason says, will temporarily form the Junior School of The Coalville Grammar School, and will house the new admissions each year until the building of the new secondary school sets free buildings in the centre of Coalville for use by the Grammar School.

The children of the 'Junior Grammar School' will take as full a part as possible in the activities of the School as a whole. They will travel to the Junior Grammar School by the usual buses, some of which will be retained at the School to take them on to Griffydam after general assembly in the Main School is over.

Children will remain at the Junior Grammar School for the day except on one, or possibly two, days of the week, when they will return to Coalville after lunch for games and to use the library in the main school.

Mid day meals will be served at Griffydam. At the end of each day, the children will again be brought back to the main school by bus. It will be possible to make an adjustment of the lunch hour to ensure there is no loss in teaching time.

The Headmaster will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the children will have the specialist teaching staff.

TRANSFER AFTER ONE YEAR

At the end of their first year, the children will be transferred to the main school and the following years intake will go to the Junior grammar School, and so on.

Although this is an emergence measure, writes Mr. Mason, the committee feels that there are advantages in putting children, on their first entry into the Grammar School, in a small community of their own. First year children, especially those, and there are many of them, who come from small primary schools, often feel overwhelmed when they are plunged into a school of over 600 children. Their entry into the main Grammar School might well be eased by this arrangement rather than otherwise.

Many benefits will accrue in the main school. There will be a relaxing of the tremendous pressure on accommodation, and the school will be able to spread itself out and use the specialist rooms to the best advantage,

There is every reason to believe that the conditions in both the Junior and Main Schools, when these new arrangements come into force, will be better than is the case in many of the other Grammar Schools in the country.

PICKED STAFF TO BE IN CHARGE

The Junior Grammar School at Griffydam will be the special responsibility of a member of the staff, who will be granted an allowance for this purpose, and who will be responsible to the Headmaster for the day-to-day administration of the Junior Grammar School. The Headmaster and Senior Mistress will, of course, frequently visit the Junior grammar School, and it will be in the forefront of their thought and care.

The committee is sure, Mr. Mason. concludes, that with the full co-operation of everyone concerned, these temporary arrangements will prove successful, and will bring benefits to the Coalville Grammar School as a whole.

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail

Published Friday, 12 November 1954

An experiment which led to the establishment of a Junior School of Coalville Grammar School more than 3 miles away from their main building in the village of Griffydam, was mentioned by the headmaster. Mr. T. A. Evans at the prizegiving.

When this step was first proposed to solve the problem of the lack of accommodation at Coalville, he felt apprehensive.

After a trial period, however, he had formed the view that, as a temporary solution to the school's difficulties, it had been a success.

As to the possibility of a new building to house his school, he thought it would not be commenced for another ten years, if at all. The present building is at least a handsome one he declared. 'It is the home and source of tradition, and many happy memories'.

Prizes were won by the following:-

Advance Level of the General Certificate of Education :-

D. N. Harris (prize for head boy).
Kathleen Butler (prize for head girl)
Hillary Stirland
G. Mitchell,
Joyce Whitmore,
R. I. Clamp
A.R. Arnell
Enid Webster
Judith Eatough
Monica Kendrick
Norma Barnes

Ordinary level of the General Certificate of Education :-

Freda Allen
Jean Burton
Shirley Oldham
Eileen Salt
Anne Saunders
Jenifer Sersions
Margaret Whittle
Freda Wilcox
D. Capel
D. Haynes
G.Hurd
Jaqueline Bennett
Christine Smith
K.Barnes

N.Bayliss

C.W. Freeman

D.A.Widdowson

Form Prizes 4th Form :-

Vivien Bemrose

D.Sharpe

R.Shelton

3rd Forms :-

S. Birkenhead

Elizabeth Liggins

J. Hazlewood

2nd Forms :-

C. Austin

T. Hall

K. Kendrick

Audrey Hough

Dorothy Saddington

Service Prizes :-

Marlene Wilson

J.T. Bradley

Reading Prizes :-

Thelma Pickering

C. W. Freeman

Norma Chambers

Ann Burrows

Jean Saddington

Essay Prizes :-

Margaret Whittle

Janet Dowell

R. Oxford

Athletics :-

Victor Ludorum

Senior

G. Mitchell

Middle School

I. Miller

Junior

C. Freestone

Victrix Ludorum

Senior

Mary Brooks

Middle School

Kathleen Dearden

Junior

Susan Tyrell

Standard medal awarded by the Schools athletic association :-

Mary Brooks (for throwing the discuss)