

SCHOOL PERSONALITIES

David Williams (Headmaster 1949-1967)

In 1949, Mr Williams came as Headmaster to Kilburn Grammar School from Manchester Grammar School, where he had been since 1932. Before that he had read Modern Languages at Downing College, Cambridge, and he taught for a short time at Bromsgrove School.

Much of Mr Williams' teaching at Manchester Grammar School had been concentrated on University Scholarship work. He came to KGS with a deeply felt concern for academic standards. At the time, the school was still suffering from the aftermath of the upheaval of wartime, and he set himself to raise standards. In the years since his appointment at the school, he has enjoyed many successes in University Entrance and Scholarship work.

All genuine education depends on a proper relationship between teachers and their pupils. Mr Williams has always been keenly aware of this. He has placed great emphasis on the quality of the staff and has been at pains to retain good men. The result has been that many gifted teachers, who have served the school for long periods and who have themselves enjoyed working in an atmosphere where they felt free to devote themselves fully to the task of teaching.

Mr Williams has brought to his work as an educator a cultivated mind and a gift for the telling phrase, whether in speech or on paper. He has been constantly aware of the dangers of too early and too narrow specialisation, and has played an active part in resisting the rising pressure for this. His high standing in the profession has been shown by the many calls made on him to lecture and broadcast. He belongs to a generation which gave to the teaching profession an unusually large number of men of high intellectual calibre and, during his eighteen years at KGS, he has lent distinction to the school. He has held the reins of authority lightly but firmly, and innumerable boys have had cause to thank him for his knowledgeable, realistic guidance. His retirement is a sad loss to the school.

By **Maurice Fireman** and reprinted from *Kilburnian* 163, Summer Term, 1967