

**On the British Education System
and
The State Schools in Cambridge (XIX)**

Minoru SHIGETA*

In the preceding essays (Vol. XVII-XVIII), I mentioned, according to the school brochure, "Equipment," "Travel," "School Fund," "Lost Property" and "Reports" in Section 1, and "School Aims," "Equal Opportunities," "School Rules" and "The Curriculum," "Public Examinations" and "Extra Curricular Activities" in Section 2. And then, I came to Section 3 containing "School Governors," "Community College Awards," "Manor Association," "School Calendar." However, because of the limited space, I have left "The Summer Term" in "School Calendar," "Useful Information" and "Community Education" in Section 3. Therefore, in this essay, I will tell you, first of all, about each item in the rest of Section 3, and then will come to the school lessons which my son had in Manor Community College.

SUMMER TERM 1987

<u>APRIL</u>			<u>JUNE</u>		
Monday	27th	First day of Summer Term	MONDAY	1st	1st and 2nd Year Examinations
Monday	27th	Student Council Meeting	to Friday	5th	
Monday	27th	Evening classes - Term begins	Friday	5th	Student Council Meeting
			Monday	8th	3rd Year Examinations
			to Friday	12th	
<u>MAY</u>			Monday	22nd	Student Council Meeting
Monday	4th	Bank Holiday	<u>JULY</u>		
Tuesday	5th	A parents' evening	Wednesday	8th	Student Council Meeting
Wednesday	13th	Student Council Meeting	Friday	10th	Evening Classes - Term ends
Friday	22nd	4th Year Reports issued	Monday	13th	New pupils visiting all day

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HALF TERM - SATURDAY 23rd MAY - SUNDAY 31st May	Monday	13th	4th Year Sports
	Tuesday	14th	3rd Year Sports
	Wednesday	15th	2nd Year Sports
	Thursday	16th	1st Year Sports
	Friday	17th	Reports issued for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year
	Saturday	18th	Activities Period
	to Thursday	23rd	

SUMMER HOLIDAY - SATURDAY 25th JULY -
MONDAY, 7th
SEPTEMBER

N.B. These dates are provisional and intended as a general guide. They may well be subject to adjustment according to the circumstances prevailing at the time.

4. SCHOOL INFORMATION

ADDRESSES

The Manor Community College	Arbury Road, Cambridge. CB4 2JF	354937
The Manor Evening Centre	Arbury Road, Cambridge. CB4 2JF	355745
Chief Education Officer) Education Welfare Officer)	Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge.	317111
Senior Area Education Officer	Cambridge Area Education Office, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge.	317111
Collegiate Board	74 Burleigh Street, Cambridge.	
Chairman of Governors	Councillor Mrs J. Jones, 39 Long Reach Road, Cambridge.	63816
Parent Governors	Mrs E. Rathlou, 3 Chapman Court, Cambridge. Mrs P. Crankshaw, 160 King's Hedges Road, Cambridge.	62345 359274

5. COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Manor Community College offers a thriving Community Education Programme. Through our programme we try and cater for all ages and interests from Mums and Toddlers to Senior Citizens' groups. You would be very welcome to join us whether it be an evening or day class, or one of the many clubs or societies. During this year a wide range of evening and daytime classes will be available for you to join and classes will include academic, cultural, practical, recreational subjects and sport. Please ask for a copy of our brochure from the Community Office in the College or pick one up from your Library.

There are many activities for young people at the Manor. The Youth Centre is open for the Senior Youth Club on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30-10.00 p.m. and for the Junior Youth Club on Wednesdays 6.30-9.00 p.m. Some of the Youth Centre activities include Judo competitions, trips, table-tennis, snooker, machines, arts and crafts, cookery, music, games, football training and friendship. Young people with personal problems and others who just want to chat with adults can do so with the trained team of youth leaders. Membership fees are reasonable so why not join and make new friends. Why not join in one or more of the other youth groups at the Manor such as Trampolining, Gymnastics, Disco Dance Class, Suitcase Circus Training, Musical instrument tuition, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and Arbury Community Theatre. Just enquire at the Community Office.

There is always something for you at the Manor Community College but if you cannot find that special activity which interests you then why not speak to the Senior Community Education Tutor. He may be able to help by starting a class or group.

If you require further advice or information why not contact the Community Office (Telephone: 355745) and speak to Peter Shipley (Senior Community Education Tutor) or Jackie Leyshon (Community Assistant).

We shall look forward to seeing you.

Now we have seen the general statement of the Manor Community College, including "The School Day," "The Pastoral System," "Uniform / Special Clothing," "School Aims," "School Rules," "The Curriculum," "Public Examinations," "Extra Curricular Activities," "Community College Awards," "Certificate of Merit," "School Calendar" and "Community Education," and so on, according to the school brochure. Then we will come to the school lessons seen through the textbooks and notebooks of my son.

As I mentioned in the preceding essay (Vol. II), compulsory education in Britain begins at the age of five, and most primary schools cater for children up to the age of eleven, when they go to secondary school. Pri-

mary schools may be housed in a single building for the 5-11 year old children. Within this single school there are usually two departments, Infants and Junior with one head teacher. The same is the case with Milton Road Junior School. The children in infant schools are all under seven. The Juniors are aged from seven to eleven. School life in the first year in infant schools is like the enlarged and prolonged life of nursery schools, but it is educational, and the quality of school life becomes systematic. The aim of education is to form a good habit and conduct a training for social life, like that of nursery schools. Almost all infant schools adopt coeducation, and in most cases female teachers take care of pupils. At the age of seven infant school children go on to the junior school. The educational method is the same as infant schools, but remarkable change into study from play can be seen, and the curriculum is drawn up on a full scale about each subject, and comes to be much more based on the teaching schedule. At the age of compulsory education, the textbooks are lent, and some stationary such as notebooks and pasteboard is offered free, to all school children, and of course all the schools require no school fee. In the case of my younger daughter, she was ten years old then, so she was admitted in 4th Year of the school.

At the age of 11 most children move into secondary education. After 1944, most secondary schools could be classified either as *grammar* or as *secondary modern schools*, school children were selected by passing an examination (called the eleven-plus examination) for grammar school if they were academically clever. If they failed the eleven-plus, they went to a secondary modern school. Originally "it was intended that children should be able to move easily between one type of school and another, but in practice this proved to be impossible. During the 1950s pressure against this selection system at such an early age increased until in 1964 the Government officially recommended it should be abolished and all secondary schools should become comprehensive so that children could move right through the education system without taking any form of selection examination."¹ So the eleven-plus examination has gradually been disappearing, and comprehensive schools have gradually been disappearing, and comprehensive schools have rapidly increased in number, and they now make up the vast majority of secondary schools. In spite of such a tendency, there are still a number of grammar schools as well as private schools, to which parents who can afford it can send their children if they wish.

All types of secondary schools have 5-year courses for pupils from 11 years up to the school leaving age

(normally 16 years). Promotion to a higher class every year does not depend upon examination results. It is almost automatic. At the end of the five-year course, pupils can take CSE (Certificate of Secondary Education) and GCE (General Certificate of Education) exams, but children in Britain still leave school with no formal leaving examination certificate. As is shown in the page of public examinations in the preceding essay (Vol. XVIII), here we will investigate roughly what kinds of examinations GCE and CSE are. GCE exams are one of the most important examinations in secondary schools, and are set and graded by 8 Examination Boards under the control of universities in Britain. These are classified into three levels; Advanced, Ordinary and Special (Scholarship) levels. Ordinary level is usually taken at the age of 16, and Advanced level after the lapse of two years. But even those who are not on the register in any educational institutions, are allowed to take the exams if university authorities approve. The Advanced levels are estimated by 7 grades of A, B, C, D, E, O and F, and A to E grades are passing marks. If we get O grade in A Levels, we are given a certificate of O level. The result of these exams are used by the local authorities as a material for evaluation of scholarship, and universities and other higher educational institutions make use of the results as reference data for selecting their new students. Moreover, the results may be used as job – order conditions on the part of employers. The general control and supervision over this examination system is in Schools Council for the Curriculum and Examination. As the eight different institutions make examinations of their own, the level of the examinations could be different. So the council always care about the same level of the examinations made by the institutions. CSE exams, like GCE, are examinations on academic subjects, and students can take as many subjects as they want. In addition to the same subjects as GCE, students can take not only some subjects such as architecture, civics, but also some subjects on practical knowledge and technical skill like typewriting. CSE exams are indeed intended for those who have the ability below the average from the 5th – year students taking O levels of GCCE. The results of the exams are usually shown by 1 to 5 grades, but sometimes without any grades. Grade 1 shows the same academic level as O level of GCE, and the examinees below grade 5 cannot have any grades. And in the Certificate are these grades recorded. The exams are managed by some teachers working at the local institutions, and the certificate is made use of by employers as well as by the applicants for a position. Furthermore, the certificate serves as one of the requirements for admission to a college of further education like Technical Colleges.

Now I have finished, according to the school brochure, a general statement of the Manor Community College including "the School Organization," "Curriculum," "School Aims," "School Rules," "Public Examinations" and "Extra Curricular Activities," and so on.

From now on, I will tell you about my son's school life including the school lessons and events, and miscellaneous things in which I took interest.

My son received a lot of school letters from the Manor Community College. First of all, I will show you a timetable in the next page, and I will tell you about some of the school lessons my son received from the college.

There are four classes in the first year. Each of them is called 1-1, 1-2, 1-3 and 1-4. My son belonged to 1-1. The school day begins with a registration and assembly period followed by 4 lesson periods in the morning and 4 in the afternoon. The time is:

9.00 – 9.25	Registration and Pastoral time	1.00 – 1.05	Registration
9.25 – 10.00	Period 1	1.05 – 1.40	Period 5
10.00 – 10.35	Period 2	1.40 – 2.15	Period 6
10.35 – 10.50	Break	2.15 – 2.30	Break
10.50 – 11.25	Period 3	2.30 – 3.05	Period 7
11.25 – 12.00	Period 4	3.05 – 3.40	Period 8

The duration of each lesson is 35 minutes, and of course some of the lessons are continuous. Breaks, which they call Playtimes at Milton Road Junior School, are 10:35 to 10:50, and 2:15 to 2:30. Lunch time, which is shorter by 15 minutes than that of Milton Road Junior School. School is over at 15:40 from Monday to Friday. Registration and Pastoral Time, which is called, I think, Assembly at Milton Road Junior School, is 9:00 to 9:25, and in the afternoon registration is 1:00 to 1:05.

Now I will give you an outline of some of the school lessons according to my son's notebooks and drawings, worksheets, school letters, and the school brochure, and so on.

At the Manor Community College, they teach students various subjects, such as English, History, Science, Art, Geography, Mathematics, Music, Practical Subjects, Physical Education, French, Library, Religious

	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 8
M O N TEACHER ROOM	FRENCH MR SMITH 5.	ENGLISH. MRS QUARRIE 18.	MATHS - MISS SINKINSON.	MATHS - MISS SINKINSON.	PRACTICALS. MRS BROWN H E I.	LIBRARY. MR BROWN. LIBRARY.	LIBRARY. MRS DAWS. LOWER HALL.	DRAMA
T U E S TEACHER ROOM	P.E.	ENGLISH. MRS QUARRIE 18.	ENGLISH. MRS QUARRIE 18.	MATHS. MISS SINKINSON.	MATHS. MISS SINKINSON.	MATHS. MISS SINKINSON.	SCIENCE MRS FORESTER	SCIENCE
W E D TEACHER ROOM	HISTORY. MRS KILBURN. 1	HISTORY. MRS KILBURN.	MUSIC MR DURRANT M I.	RELIGIOUS STUDIES. DR MAGLTON 20.	MATHS. MISS SINKINSON.	MATHS. MISS SINKINSON.	FRENCH. MR SMITH. 5	GEOGRAPHY. MR HARKER. 6
T H U R S TEACHER ROOM	PRACTICALS. MR JONES 3 2.	PRACTICALS. MR JONES 3 2.	MUSIC. MR DURRANT M I.	HISTORY. MRS KILBURN 1	FRENCH. MR SMITH. 5	FRENCH. MR SMITH. 5	ART MR ILSLEY. A2	ART
F R I TEACHER ROOM	ENGLISH. MRS QUARRIE. 18.	ENGLISH. MRS QUARRIE. 18.	SCIENCE. MRS QUARRIE. 18.	SCIENCE. MRS QUARRIE. 18.	GEOGRAPHY. MR HARKER 6.	GEOGRAPHY. MR HARKER 6.	P.E. Geography	P.E. Geography

TIME TABLE

YOSHIHIRO SHIGETA

Studies and Drama. Religious Studies are, in my opinion, equivalent to Religious / Moral Education at Milton Road Junior School. Especially I took interest in French as the first foreign language, Drama and Library. So I will tell you first about Religious Studies, French, Drama and Library.

Religious Education

The school brochure says, " In the first year we begin the Religious Education course by looking at the different types of literature found in the Bible and then we go on to study the Creation Myths from World Religions. In the second year we look at the signs and symbolisms found in different religions and then move on to study the various initiation ceremonies such as baptism, confirmation, bar-Mitzvah and Amn't. The third year course is a study of places of worship, such as the Mosque, Synagogue, Church, Gurdwara and Hindu Temple. This is followed by a study of how Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh festivals and customs inform, nourish and express religious faith. R.E. is non-denominational but if parents object to their son / daughter taking part, on religious grounds, they should write to the College requesting exemption."

Here it must be noteworthy that Religious Education is non-denominational. In fact they teach various kinds of religions all over the world, although they begin the education by looking at the different types of literature found in the Bible and studying the Creation Myths from World Religions in the first year. Such religious education is not done in Japan.

French

According to the school brochure, they teach the students two foreign languages as modern languages; French and German. The brochure says, "**French** – This is the principal foreign language studied by all pupils in the first three years. The first year pupils will follow the "Tricolore" course and the second year pupils will complete the two year course "Éclair." In the third year everyone will follow "Tricolore" and those who opt for French in the fourth year will continue with this course in preparation for G.C.S.E. in the fifth year. **German** – In the second year pupils who have shown linguistic ability are offered German as the second language. They follow, for the second and third years the new !Deutsch Heute! Course which places

great emphasis on the spoken word. In the fourth and fifth years course will lead to G.C.S.E. Examinations. Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in an exchange visit with a school in Heidelberg, Cambridge's twin town." So my son automatically had French, the principal foreign language. And I think he enjoyed the lessons very well, because he sometimes spoke to me in French. As the space is limited, I will finish this essay by showing you a memo of the lesson and an exercise of "Éclair", and in next essay I will give you an outline of the rest of the lessons my son had at the college.

(Continued)

NOTE

1. Shirey Toulson, *Education in Britain* (Kinseido, Ltd., Tokyo, 1985), p.64.

DU RAIN

WRITE OUT THE QUESTIONS, EACH WITH ITS CORRECT ANSWER, IN THE WHOLE LOAVES BELOW.

1	Quelle heure est-il?	Oui, c'est fermé.
2	La gare, c'est loin?	Oui, c'est à droite.
3	La poste, c'est fermé?	Ah oui, je voudrais des pêches.
4	Le collège, c'est à droite?	Non, c'est tout près.
5	Tu voudrais des pêches?	Il est midi.

Quelle heure est-il? Il est midi.

La gare, c'est loin? Non, c'est tout près.

La poste, c'est fermé? Oui c'est fermé.

Le collège, c'est à droite? oui c'est à droite.

Tu voudrais des pêches? Ah oui, Je voudrais des pêches.

LA JOURNÉE de MONIQUE

TICK THE CORRECT ANSWERS.



- 1a) Monique nage.
 b) Monique aime le vin.
 c) Monique prend le petit déjeuner.



- 5a) Elle prend le déjeuner.
 b) Elle prend le petit déjeuner.
 c) Elle prend un Orangina.



- 2a) Elle quitte la banque.
 b) Elle quitte le marché.
 c) Elle quitte la maison.



- 6a) Elle va à la maison.
 b) Elle va au commissariat.
 c) Elle va à la piscine.



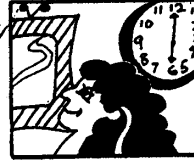
- 3a) Elle va au Prisunic.
 b) Elle va à la gare.
 c) Elle va au collège.



- 7a) Elle nage.
 b) Elle dessine.
 c) Elle écrit.



- 4a) Elle prend du vin.
 b) Elle prend des oranges.
 c) Elle prend des raisins.



- 8a) Elle regarde la télé.
 b) Elle écoute un disque.
 c) Elle mange une pomme.

If you write out all the correct answers here, you'll have a full description of Monique's day.

- 1) A sept heures monique prend le petit déjeuner
 2) A neuf heures Elle quitte la maison
 3) A neuf heures et demie Elle va au Prisunic
 4) A dix heures moins le quart Elle prend des oranges
 5) A midi Elle prend le petit déjeuner
 6) A deux heures Elle va la piscine
 7) A deux heures et demie Elle nage
 8) A six heures Elle regarde la télé