
On the British Education System
and
The State Schools in Cambridge (Vol. XXXIII)
—Careers Convention, Consultation Evening
and House Photograph in Impington Village College—

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In the preceding essay (Vol. XXXII), I have told you about “Governors and Parents Meeting of Impington Village College.” In the essay, first of all I have showed you some written records which inform us parents of the results of C.S.E. and G.C.E. exams of the year before, and have explained who the Governors are, and what Governors do, and also have mentioned the work of the review and development committee and the work of the finance committee, and so on.

In this essay, I will tell you about Careers Convention of Impington Village College, and then I will tell you about “Consultation Evening” which seems to be similar to a kind of “Parents and Staff Meeting” in Japan, and last I will show you a very interesting photograph named “House Photograph,” which could not be seen in school photos in Japan.

On 18th December, 1986, we received a school letter from the Warden which informed us of the important dates for the Spring term to be noted in our diaries and said that both students and parents were allowed to attend the convention. With the letter, we received a brochure, entitled “Careers Convention,” in which I took a great interest. However, my wife and I did not attend it because we thought the convention had nothing to do with my daughter’s future course for the time being. And yet I think that it is important to know an aspect of counseling

2001年12月6日 受理

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students on their future careers in England. Therefore, first of all I will tell you about the "Careers Convention.

The brochure said that it was to be held on Wednesday 21st January 1987 in the Main school hall and Promenade from 6.30 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. for students of Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. In the preface, Mr. J. N. Cleaver, Careers Tutor, says:

Dear Students and Parents,


On Wednesday evening of the 21st January we are holding a Careers Convention from 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. You are cordially invited to come to this event.

The Convention is designed to bring you into touch with representatives from professional and from employers organisations, from local companies and from local F.E. Colleges. It plays an important part in helping to make a right decision about courses to follow at the ages of fourteen, sixteen and eighteen. It gives a chance to explore some of the employment opportunities available, both locally and nationally. It will, I hope, help those of you who attend to be better informed about career opportunities, and to develop enthusiasms and make contacts, which will bear fruit later on.

I do hope you will be able to take advantage of this event. So that we may have an idea of the number of people likely to attend the Convention I would be grateful if you would sign the Reply Slip, and return it to the College via your son or daughter.

I should warn you that car-parking facilities at the College are limited. If you can avoid coming by car, or share your car with another, that would be helpful. Off the road car-parking is also available at Chivers Home Farm, next to the College.

Yours sincerely,



J.N. Cleaver (Careers Tutor)

As Mr. Cleaver says, you will understand that the convention is designed to help the students to make a right decision about courses to follow in the near future, and that it is

similar to a kind of briefing for job applicants, However, in Japan, it is not common to invite from professional and from employers organizations, from local companies and from Further Education Colleges, and to give a chance to explore some the employment opportunities available, both locally and nationally. In addition, it is very good for the students to attend the convention along with their parents, which will never been seen in our country.

Next to Mr. Cleaver's message, they put list of careers areas, organizations and representatives on the brochure. In the list, there are further Education Colleges, such as Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology, Cambridge College of Further Education, Cambridge Farm College and Isle College. From this page and In the following pages, I will show you the list.

LIST OF CAREERS AREAS / ORGANISATIONS / REPRESENTATIVES

(N.B. Circumstances sometimes prevent particular representatives from attending on the evening. Apologies in advance for any disappointments because of this.)

Further Education Colleges:

Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology	Miss.S.Garnham
Cambridge College of Further Education	
Cambridge Farm College	Mr. M. Smith
Isle College	Mr. T.E.Alcock

Teaching (Homerton College)

Mr. PJ. Rundall

Youth Training Scheme / Managing Agents:

Cambridge Training and Development Group	Mrs. S.Rayner
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce	Mr. M.Hill
Cambridge Information Technology Centre (ITEC)	Mr. J.Wilson
Manpower Services Commission Training Division	
W.Anglia Engineering Training Assoc.	Mr. E.Cant

The Army

Major I.Jefferson

The Royal Navy

CPO B.Parkin

The Royal Air Force

F/Officer M.L.Page

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Mrs. J.F.Raglaine-Hall

Mrs. S.Simmons

The Post Office

University of Cambridge Assistant Staff Board - Mr. K.Dyson

Construction Industry Training Board	Mr. J. Hughes	The Legal Profession	Mr. D. Hindmarsh
Building Employers Federation	Mr. J. D. Green	Institute of Legal Executives	Miss. A. Read
Architecture	Mr. T. Brading	Librarianship	Miss. M. D. Knowles
Architectural Technician	Mr. B. D. Stanley	National Health Service	Ms. A. Jolly
Chartered Surveying	Mr. P. Yeandle	Nursing: Addenbrooke's Hospital	Ms. K. Irving
Surveying Technician			Mr. E. Jones
Civil Engineering	Mr. M. S. Ford	W. Essex School of Nursing	Mrs. A. McLeod
Electrical Engineering	Group Captain	Environmental Health	Ms. L. Markville
	D. W. Densham	The Pharmaceutical Society	Mrs. A. Grayland
Telecommunications (Brit. Telecom)		Addenbrooke's Hospital (Pharmacy)	Mr. E. Brock
British Broadcasting Corporation	Mr. M. Davis	Boot's the Chemist	Mrs. P. Sanderson
	Ms. B. Hawker	Occupational Therapy	Miss. L. Kennedy
Marshall's (Engineering)	Mr. C. F. Smith	Osteopathy	Mr. J. Lant
Marshall's (Motor Vehicle Div.)	Mr. R. Tingey	Chiropractics	Dr. P. G. H. Milbank
Pye Group (Pye Unicam)	Mr. R. Brown	Hotel and Catering Industry	
The Welding Institute	Mr. R. Hood	Training Board	Ms. F. Dolon
CIBA-GEIGY (Plastics Div.)	Mr. G. Brown	Catering Dept. C. C. F. E.	Mr. J. Dodd
Schering Agro-Chemicals Ltd.	Mr. B. Malllyon	Printing / Art and Design	
Cost and Management Accountancy	Mr. A. B. Dasgupta	(a representative from C. C. A. T.)	
Chartered Accountancy	Mr. A. Hulme	Hairdressing (John Oliver)	Ms. S. Skillings
	Mr. P. Grouch	Merchant Shipping (Andrew Weir and Co.)	Mr. R. W. Ireland
Banking (Banking Information Service)	Mrs. M. Gardiner	Debenham's PLC	Mrs. C. Stafford
Cambridge Building Society	Miss. S. M. Roberts	W. Eaden Lilley and Co.	Mr. E. Lilley
The Insurance Institute	Mrs. D. Cleary		
		Computer Department	
The Civil Service	Mr. D. Prince	Camps. County Council	S. Hunt
			M. Lucas

After the list, they put the acknowledgements on it, saying, "We are most grateful to Mrs. June Bishop and to Mr. Alan Andrews of the Cambridge Careers Office for their work in helping to organise this Convention. We also welcome to the College and extend our thanks to all the visiting representatives without whose presence there could not be a Convention."

In the back cover, they put the message from "The Cambridge Careers Office." The message says like this:

The Cambridge Careers Office will provide a stand at the Convention, and will have some examples of careers literature available for purchase.

The careers Office is based at 52 Burleigh Street, Cambridge. It is open during normal office hours from Monday to Friday (with a lunchtime closure from 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.). It houses a large Careers Library. There are always Careers Officers available to provide advise.

The Careers Officers particularly responsible for own students are:

Mr. Charles McCartney

Mrs. Liz Blackadder

The telephone number of the Careers Office is CAMBRIDGE 62345.

As we have seen, "Careers Convention" is a very useful convention for both students and their parents. Indeed it is helpful for students to make a right decision about courses to follow in the near future. Therefore, I think that such a convention should be established at any cost in Japanese schools.

Next to "Careers Convention," I will tell you about "Consultation Evening." One day in December, '86, my daughter came back with a school letter entitled "Lower Sixth Consultation Evening." The letter says, "This letter is a short report on your son/daughter's first term in the Sixth Form. There will be full reports in July 1987 and early 1988." As to the short report, I have already tell you in the preceding essay (Vol. XXX) in detail. The letter continues: "We propose to hold a Consultation Evening in the Gorge Edwards Hall [Lower School], between 7.99 and 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 14th January, 1987. Please write on the slip below the names of staff you would like to meet and return it, by Thursday, 18th December.

It will then be sent back to you with appointment times added.”

Here I will mention briefly the details of my daughter's hardships and difficulties of studying 'A' level subjects : the short report was from Mr. Hjort, Head of Sixth Form. To sum up, the point of his report is as follows; about six weeks have passed since my daughter began to study at the Sixth Form, and she is studying very hard at Maths and Biology. But she is not able to benefit from their teaching because of her limited ability in English. So the lessons can be of little help to her either to progress in her understand of Maths and Biology, or in her confidence in English. Therefore he thinks it is better to study English as a foreign language at one of the private language schools in Cambridge. Reading Mr. Hjort's letter, I was much perplexed, and sought of my neighbour Mr. Michell. At the same time, thinking it important to contact Mr. Hjort, I wrote a letter saying I would like my daughter to study at Impington Village College, wanted to her to stay in an Englishman's house if possible. In the meanwhile, my daughter's five intimate girls, hearing my daughter's wretched condition, discussed the problem with their parents and proposed to let her stay in their homes as part of the family for about two weeks. Since there were five offers, she was supposed to stay with an English family for a total of ten weeks. Thus Mr. Hjort arranged for us to meet the five girls' parents at Lower Sixth Consultation Evening. So writing on the tear-off slip the names of staff I would like to meet, that is, Mr. Hjort and Mrs. Wood (Form Tutor), I returned to the form tutor. Soon it was sent back to me with appointment time added. In the next page, I will show you the copy of the school letter for reference. Thus on 14th January, my wife, my daughter and I had dinner earlier than usual, and left home for Impington Village College at 6.30 p.m. When all the girls and their parents came, we discussed the matter with them. After the meeting with the five English girls' parents, we met Mr. Hjort and Mrs. Wood, and reported them about the matter and went home.

Apart from my daughter's problem, "Parents and Staff Meetings " as well as "Careers convention" and "Consulting Evening" about which I have just told you were always held in the evening. This is partly because, in my opinion, the parents and guardians of students in Cambridge are very busy in working including their housework during the daytime, and both fathers and mothers may have their own jobs and they have to take a day off if the meetings



CAMBRIDGESHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

IMPINGTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

WARDEN: SYLVIA WEST, M.A.

IMPINGTON,
CAMBRIDGE.
CB4 4LX.

Telephone No:
HISTON 2835
(STD 022 023)

Our reference: DH/BJ

Your reference:

December, 1986.

LOWER SIXTH CONSULTATION EVENING
WEDNESDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 1987: 7.00-9.30 p.m.
GEORGE EDWARDS HALL [LOWER SCHOOL]

Dear Parent.

This letter accompanies a short report on your son/daughter's first term in the Sixth Form. There will be full reports in July 1987 and early 1988.

We propose to hold a Consultation Evening in the George Edwards Hall [Lower School] between 7.00 and 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 14th January, 1987. Please write on the slip below the names of staff you would like to meet and return it, by Thursday, 18th December. It will then be sent back to you with appointment times added.

During the evening careers advice will be available, and there will be a short talk at 7.30 p.m. lasting about ten minutes and repeated at 8.10 and 8.50, about arrangements for private study at home.

Yours sincerely,

D. Hjort
Head of Sixth Form

PLEASE RETURN TEAR-OFF SLIP TO FORM TUTOR BY THURSDAY, 18th DECEMBER 1986

NAME OF PUPIL: CHI HARU SHIGETA FORM: 6 T11
[BLOCK LETTERS]

Consultation Evening, January 14th 1987: 7.00-9.30 p.m.

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<u>Mr. D. Hjort</u>	<u>7.00</u>
<u>Mrs. Wood</u>	<u>7.00</u>
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guardians really want to take a relax on Saturday and Sunday, forgetful of all cares. So I think Japanese school meetings would be like English school ones in the near future. Then parents and guardians would be very glad to attend the meetings.

At any rate, my daughter enjoyed staying at the five English families'. As for the stay, I have already mentioned it in the preceding essay (Vol. XXX). Therefore, I will omit the matter here and tell you about "House Photograph" which could not been seen in Japanese schools.

On November 26th, '86, we received a school letter informing us of "House Photographs." To tell the truth, at first I could not understand the meaning of "House Photographs," but I managed to make out the meaning. The Oxford Concise Dictionary says the meaning, "(boys or girls in) BORDING *house* of school; one of divisions of day-school for games etc." So in this case, I think "House" means the latter. At any rate, the school letter said, "Earlier this term each House had its photograph taken, including all pupils and staff belonging to the House. The photograph measures 60cms x 19cms. Such photographs are expensive, but they do give pleasure—especially in future years. The College only has these photographs taken every few years—the next will be in Autumn 1989. You are welcome to view the photographs which are on display in the Promenade of the College." I do not know how many *houses* there are in the college. And I cannot remember clearly how much the photo was, but maybe it cost me £20 or so (it was equivalent to about ¥5,000 then.). Indeed the photo was expensive, but we decided to purchase a copy of the photo, partly because the photo would remind of my daughter of her stay at Impington Village College, and partly because I had not seen such a big photo at all in Japanese school photos. Soon we received the photo, in which they wrote "Teresa House 1986" in gold letters. Indeed I tried keeping count of the people in the photo, and was greatly surprised to find that there were 261 students and 15 staff of the college! Even now when fourteen years passed after we left Cambridge, my daughter, who got married five years ago, as well as I, thinks that the photo is a very good souvenir in Cambridge. So I will finish this essay by showing you a copy of the "House Photograph" in the following page.

