

## CAVENDISH ROAD HIGH SCHOOL: 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1964 CLASS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 50 YEARS MAKES! I AM SURE YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT YOUR TEACHERS WERE MUCH 'OLDER THAN YOU'; TODAY YOU MAY NOT BE QUITE SO CERTAIN AS THERE IS A LOT OF GREY HAIR IN THE ROOM AND IN MORE THAN A FEW CASES "NO HAIR' AT ALL .

COMING TO CAV RD WAS REALLY SPECIAL FOR ME AND I THINK THAT IS PROBABLY TRUE FOR ALL OF THE OTHER TEACHERS HERE TODAY. I'D BEEN TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL, LOVED IT, AND THOUGHT THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS DID NOT QUITE MEASURE UP. HOW VERY WRONG I WAS! CAV ROAD WAS UP THERE WITH THE VERY BEST IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, SPORT, MUSIC, THE ARTS AND MOST OF ALL SCHOOL SPIRIT. WE LOVED TO WIN AND THAT WAS A GREAT THING FOR SCHOOL SPIRIT. WOE BETIDE ANY TEACHERS WHOSE SPORTING TEAM LOST ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON; THEY USUALLY TOOK EVASIVE ACTION FROM MR JENKS ON THURSDAY MORNING. AND, IF THE A GRADE FOOTBALL TEAM LOST, IT WAS A DAY OF MOURNING WITH A FULL "BLACK ARM BAND" PARADE. AS YOU CAN SEE, IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE I HAD JOINED THE CHORUS OF VOICES WHO TOLD EVERYONE THAT CAV ROAD WAS THE BEST SCHOOL IN THE STATE. AND, I STILL TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT MY TIME HERE EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ONLY 6 YEARS. MOREOVER, AFTER TALKING WITH MANY OF YOU TODAY, I FEEL AN EVEN GREATER PRIDE IN HEARING WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED.

LET ME FINISH WITH A TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA-A FAVOURTIE STORY IN MY TIME HERE. YOU MIGHT REMEMBER THAT EVERY YEAR THE SCHOOL WAS VISITED BY A TEAM OF INSPECTORS; THE TEAM WAS "NOT SO AFFECTIONATELY" KNOWN AS THE *WOLFF PACK* AFTER THE NAME OF THE HEAD INSPECTOR. WE PROBABLY TOLD YOU THEY WERE HERE TO INSPECT YOU BUT BELIEVE ME THEIR TARGET FOR THE WEEK WAS THE TEACHERS. NOW THE IDEA WAS YOU PUT ON A MODEL LESSON TO IMPRESS THEM. MINE HAPPENDED TO BE IN CHEMISTRY AND I HAD GROUPS MAKE CHLORINE GAS AT EACH TABLE WITH THE INSPECTOR UP THE BACK. CHLORINE WAS AWESOME!- A GREENISH YELLOW GAS THAT REACTED IN ALL KINDS OF SPECTACULAR WAYS BUT THERE WAS A DOWNSIDE, IT WAS POISONOUS. ALL WENT WELL EARLY (STUDENTS IMPRESSED-INSPECTOR SMILING) THEN ONE OF THE STUDENTS KNOCKED OVER A FLASK THAT WAS PRODUCING THE CHLORINE AND IT BEGAN TO SPREAD AROUND THE ROOM LIKE A VENOMOUS SNAKE. A FEW SMALL COUGHS SUDDENLY BECAME LIFE-PRESERVING ASPHYXIATED GASPS FOR OXYGEN WITH THE INSPECTOR SHOWING MORE THAN A LITTLE DISCOMFORT. IN TRUE MILITARY STYLE I EVACUATED THE ROOM JUST IN TIME AND BRACED MYSELF TO SEEK CLEMENCY FROM THE INSPECTOR. WHAT WAS VERY TOUCHING NEXT DAY WAS THAT NEARLY ALL OF THE STUDENTS INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER I WAS IN BIG TROUBLE! I WAS VERY CHUFFED AND IT REMAINS ONE OF THE FOND MEMORIES I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH ABOUT CAVENDISH ROAD: "PEOPLE CARED ABOUT EACH OTHER AND I SUSPECT THAT IS WHY SO MANY OF YOU ARE HERE TODAY"

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF SPEAKING TODAY AND BEING PART OF THIS MEMORABLE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

Graham Jones