

OTTERSLOW SCHOOL,
OTTERSLOW PARK,
MR. CHERTSEY,
SURREY.

27th AUGUST, 1964.

My dear *Michael*

Firstly, my wife and I want to say something to all Old Boys about the presentations that were made on Parents' Day. Capt. Marsden made a delightful speech on behalf of the Old Boys.

The sum which you had collected - £410 - was overwhelmingly generous. As most of you know £160 of this has gone, with £100 contributed by Parents, to the establishment of a Headmasters' Fund which will be used by my successor to give help to future boys for them to fulfil some special project from which their financial circumstances might otherwise debar them, and for which no other source is available. The remainder is in two parts, a token for £100 credit with the best Nursery at Winchester to be used for plants and shrubs for our future garden, and £150 for equipment for our cottage. Our new address is - Pitter Cottage, Crawley, Winchester. When you pass that way, call and see us.

We have no idea of the nature of the subscription list, but as the presents were on behalf of the Old Boys' Society, we are sending this letter to all members and they all share our gratitude.

Those of you who are able to come to future Old Boys' gatherings will have opportunity of meeting the new Headmaster, Mr. A.E.R. Dodds. I have assured him that the Old Boys' Society is almost the most important institution at Ottershaw and I am sure that he will value the stability that it gives to the School; also that you will be happy that the control of Ottershaw is in very good hands.

There is one point which perhaps I should mention; if you need any reference from the School for some future employment, you should write to the Headmaster at Ottershaw. The employer needs the reference from the person who is then responsible for the School, and not from the retired Headmaster who has no responsibility at all. The existing Headmaster has all the information from your files; he has the facts about your examination results, Trials performance and records; he can also consult your Housemaster and, probably, your Tutor. But the retired Headmaster, sitting at Pitter Cottage, will have none of these things; and though you may remember him well as he was your only Headmaster, and he is likely to remember you, his memory will not cover the details of your school life, which will be what an employer may ask about. But, apart from such business matters, we will always be happy to hear how things are with you.

Ottershaw School has been the whole of our life in the last 16 years, and we very much hope that it will continue from strength to strength. We cannot do much in future to affect its good name. But you can; and if in your public and private life, your employment and recreation, you keep up the standards you helped to establish at Ottershaw you will be contributing to a reputation that affects all who come to the School.

We leave for good on August 27th, with memories of many great kindnesses, and the Ottershaw Bo(a)rders at Pitter Cottage will keep these memories alive.

With deep thanks from us both.

Yours ever,

A. E. Foot