

Celebration of St Elphin's 150th anniversary

Young Enterprise schemes prove very rewarding

YOUNG Enterprise was started at St Elphin's in 1986 and has been running productively ever since.

Mrs Outram, the French language and careers teacher who was responsible for starting this venture, heard about it through a young female electronics engineer who strongly recommended it to her.

"The more I found out," said Mrs Outram, "the more it seemed to be a very good way for people in school to find out what business and commerce really means."

From then on, girls at St Elphin's achieved great success each year by setting up their own companies and running a business.

Advisors from the business world visited them to help and guide them each week.

Mrs Outram feels that her fondest memories as co-ordinator of YE have been when business leaders or teachers from different schools have told her how superbly the

Elphinians had presented themselves.

Over the years, girls have won countless awards at presentation evenings, and one year practically swept the board. However award winning is not the most important aspect of YE.

"I have enjoyed watching the girls learning, setting themselves goals and achieving them," said Mrs Outram when asked what she had gained most from the

project.

After watching the growing success of other YE groups, my friends and I were delighted when it came to our turn to run the group.

We decided to call ourselves NUDE, making the name deliberately provocative to attract attention, which stood for Naturally Unique Designs Enterprise.

We justified our title by making an array of unusual scented candles and ethnic shell and bead jewellery.

We are taking the YE international exam this month and although that and other aspects of YE haven't been too pleasurable, the experience on the whole has been very rewarding.

As a group we have learnt to listen to one another, to share ideas and organise things efficiently.

As Mrs Outram says: "However maddening they may be within the four walls of school, the girls always rise to the occasion when it



Two St Elphin's pupils enjoy the challenge of the hurdles during the Annual Sports Day

Physical Education

SPORT and physical education are an integral part of life at St Elphin's.

According to Susan Haywood, the school's Director of Physical Education, the aim is to look after all the pupils and their needs, whether they are running for Derbyshire in cross country championships or just jogging for fitness.

All the girls are encouraged to take part, whatever their ability and activities range from trampolining and aerobics, basketball or badminton, and even more unusual sports. One girl, Georgina Elder, even took up carriage driving.

Whether competing in teams or as individuals, pupils are given an opportunity to excel, under the experienced guidance of Mrs Haywood, who herself represented Great Britain for nine years in both the pentathlon and hurdles.

Schools' social work

PUPILS at St Elphin's spend a lot of time helping others as well as trying to better themselves.

Social service work this year has supported the Red Cross Bosnia Appeal and the Africa in Crisis appeal with numerous charity and fundraising events.

The charities which benefit are usually health related. For example Muscular Dystrophy and The Terence Higgins Trust have all received donations recently.

Other major efforts take place from time to time and a sponsored Asthma Campaign last summer.

Pupils who take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme are also involved with the mental health charity Mencap.

Girls attend the Mencap Youth Club each Friday evening and help out those less fortunate than themselves.

Alongside this, the school has an Amnesty International group made up of pupils drawn mainly from the sixth form.

Activities focus on three objectives: to increase awareness of human rights issues, to provide support of individual cases and to raise funds.

Looking to the future

WHEN I think back to 1986, the first memory that comes to me is that of myself at eight years of age, staring up at the school's tall and seemingly sinister chimney.

In 1994, the chimney still stands with all the height and authority it once prevailed, but very little surrounding it has remained unchanged.

It may be 150 years old, but St Elphin's School has been moving swiftly along with time.

You only have to look at the Sixth Formers' sitting room to realise this - plush blue carpets and cerulean-coloured walls festooned with framed photographs. It is hard to believe that

go a significant transformation was the music squares.

As a junior, I often spent much of my piano lessons lost in the maze of tiled white walls or shivering in front of temporary heaters.

By the time I gave up the piano, the squares had been carpeted, wall-papered, fitted with proper radiators and re-opened by the Duchess of Devonshire.

St Elphin's pre-secondary department continues to move from strength to strength and new buildings have been added to accommodate the growing numbers in the infants and juniors.

They have a new boarding assembly hall. And there is no need to position buckets around the room in

order to catch the rain - the leaks went with the old wooden huts.

Upper Orchards, the Upper Fifth boarding area, lost its white-washed, psychopathic-tinged walls in 1991. Nowadays, the walls are a more lucid pastel pink. And a welcoming pale blue carpet runs through each of the twenty cubicles.

Probably the most notable change to take place at St Elphin's in recent years is the construction of the Robinson Block.

Opened in 1992, Robinson was built with the prime intention of providing the Lower Sixth boarders with able to study there in their free time.

R. Crilles

draiest rooms in the school. But one of the first places to under-

assembly hall. And there is no need to position buckets around the room in

able to study there in their free time.

Anita Liu



ST ELPHIN'S SCHOOL

Celebrates 150 Years of Excellence

Darley Dale
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 2HA
Telephone:
0629 732687

Nursery
and Infants
3 - 7

Junior
School
8 - 11

Senior
School
11 - 18



Transport from Chesterfield
Ashbourne and Sheffield
from September 1994

Day/
Weekly
Boarding
Full
Boarding

High in League Table
Small Classes
- means individual attention
Extended Day
- until 6.00pm
Dyslexia Unit