

Issues of Cowbridge

east grammar schools

SIR. — The real issues in the educational controversy at Cowbridge are too important to be shelved in favour of that age-old pastime, or disease, of Wales — quarrelling emotionally over the language.

No one, Welshman or not, should be happy at the prospect of a bilingual or Welsh school being introduced anywhere, if there be a suspicion that it is being brought in, not on the merits of such schools alone—which merits I do not deny—but partly as an expedient for hastening the demise of an ancient and honourable existing school of another sort.

As I understand it, this is what the Glamorgan Education Authority propose to do:

1. To close Cowbridge Grammar School, and Cowbridge Girls' High School, by or from 1975 in favour of a 10-stream comprehensive to be built at Llantwit Major;
2. To utilise the existing premises of the two schools at Cowbridge for the creation of a bilingual comprehensive to serve the Maesteg, Porthcawl, Barry and Cardiff area, to be called Ysgol Gyfun Pontfaen;
3. To "solve the problem of boarding" by making the September 1970 intake of boarders at the grammar school the last, and then by running down the boarding house.

The authority have evidently decided this is the time to make public an intention of theirs which has been implied, but never specifically stated, for several years—the extinction of Cowbridge Grammar School.

Their spokesman, as reported in a local weekly newspaper, added that setting-up the bilingual school will enable the present system to be terminated here in the near future instead of continuing, as had been envisaged, "well into the 1980's."

The extremely large amount of daily travel for the pupils of the bilingual school, the administrative difficulties especially from the staffing angle inevitable in the change-over in the form outlined (a kind of phasing which appears to be meant merely to give a kind of spurious continuity of tradition to the Cowbridge school). These are important issues, but even these must give place to the more fundamental.

Firstly, granting the comprehensive principle, it is a conspicuous and severe injustice that Cowbridge Grammar School, the oldest school in Glamorgan and one of the best, is the only grammar school in the county which is not to be made the nucleus of a comprehensive (with the sole exception of the local girls' high school which is marked down along with the grammar school).

Letters to the Editor

It is to be dissolved and incorporated in a school built on the nucleus of an existing secondary modern, not that I am decrying schools of that type in themselves.

The only argument that has ever been given in support of this markedly prejudiced treatment is an estimate of population trends in the Vale of Glamorgan made five years ago, which suggested that the greatest increase was, and would be, in the Llantwit Major area.

The conclusion, not necessarily logical, drawn from this was that Llantwit was therefore the centre to which pupils should be brought for a new comprehensive to serve the area. I should say myself, that subsequent developments like the transfer of the Royal Mint and the prospect of a new town to the north of Cowbridge have already made this assessment obsolete, which might explain the haste which the authority now display.

But, in any case, the authority have, unwittingly perhaps, stultified their own argument, for if Cowbridge is the obvious centre-point for a bilingual school to serve the whole of East Glamorgan as well as the Vale, it cannot be so lightly downgraded from its natural position as the focus of the Vale — which it always has been and still is.

Llantwit Major, on the other hand, would be an ideal place for a bilingual school. It is almost as central as Cowbridge. Famed as a legendary seat of Welsh culture, yet lacking, hitherto, any distinctive academic tradition in modern times, Llanilltyd Fawr could begin to hark back to the golden age of Illtyd himself.

I hope no one will play, here, the trump card that, in going to Llantwit even in a dismembered condition, Cowbridge school will be returning to its original home. I published, several years ago, my reasons for regarding all that as one of Iolo Morgannwg's tales, and typical of him; and I have not seen my submissions refuted so far.

So much for the general position. What concerns, indeed distresses, me most acutely about the published statement of intent is the proposal to run down the boarding house at Cowbridge Grammar School after next year. I must in all good faith declare my personal interest here.

I have been a resident master in the boarding house for 22 strenuous happy, and I hope useful years, and had looked forward to more years in the future. But there is more involved here, I submit, than any question of my own wellbeing or otherwise.

When Lord Ogmore raised the

question of the school's future in the House of Lords in April 1967, the official attitude expressed by the spokesman for the (Socialist) Minister was that in any development "the status of this school will not be materially altered."

Status is not a material thing, and so there is a Delphic quality about this response. But I dare assert that no reasonable interpretation would cover either the total dissolution of the school, or the closure of the boarding house, so distinctive a feature of the foundation.

Such latter closure is ruled out further, by Section 8 (2,d) of the 1944 Education Act as I read it, together with the fact that national policy appears to be moving in the direction of increasing, not decreasing, the provision of boarding places in maintained schools.

The sub-section provides that "a local education authority shall, in particular, have regard... to the expediency of securing the provision of boarding accommodation either in boarding schools or otherwise, for pupils for whom education as boarders is considered by their parents and by the authority to be desirable."

When taken in conjunction with the oft-quoted Section 76 of the same Act, laying down the "general principle, that so far as is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure, pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents," the sub-section appears to make the closure by an authority of their sole secondary-school boarding house impossible to justify in law, if, and so long as, there is a continued demand for boarding places.

Is *this* what the education authority's Press release means by "the problem of boarding?"

Have they taken the point, that a parent who was insistent enough, might be able to take out a court injunction in this matter — or even force them to comply with the Act by paying a boy's fees at an independent boarding school if they close the boarding house at Cowbridge?

There are certainly no "problems" at our end, beyond the fact that the boarders' accommodation and facilities are antiquated and inadequate; and this could be easily enough remedied without "unreasonable public expenditure." This, I maintain, should be done, and we should be allowed to continue here the necessary service we provide for

certain categories of boys — no, Sir, not a certain class! Did I not regard such service as "necessary," I would not have devoted so much of my working life to it.

ILOLO DAVIES.

The Grammar School,
Cowbridge.

★

SIR.—Cowbridge grammar schools—like, for example, the Girls' Grammar School, Bridgend—are about to become redundant. They will be replaced by a comprehensive school—and this will come to the Vale through the policy of a Government and county council which, at the time of writing, represent a majority in Britain and Glamorgan respectively.

So much for the "rule of minority" in finding an economical use for the unwanted buildings at Cowbridge.

Then we read "The Vale of Glamorgan has always been one of the most Anglicised parts of South Wales." Ask a Llangan farmer about the names of his fields—or refer to the Tithe Commutation Act documents at the National Library—or, more conveniently, read the *National Library of Wales Journal Vol XIV (3), 1966*, for "Field names in Coychurch Parish," by the late M. Morgan-Richards—or, in the same number, Tecwyn Ellis on "Iolo Morgannwg," a celebrated Cymro whose commemorative tablet is on the front wall of one of the biggest shops in the main street of Cowbridge. These authorities reveal that Welsh is the language in and by which Glamorgan was cultivated and made dear.

For the learned, there is the brilliant work by the late Professor G. J. Williams on "The Literary Tradition of Glamorgan"; for the lover of tradition, Llanilltyd Fawr, alias Llantwit Major.

Then try to leave Cowbridge without running into evidence—Pentre Meyrick, Llandow, Llanblethian, Llantrithyd, Tair Onen, Ystrad Owen and dozens more in the area, for which Cowbridge is the congenial and deservedly popular shopping centre.

Further, children who attend Welsh secondary schools can hardly fail to communicate with their English-speaking parents (and one grants gladly that more and more English-speaking parents now choose to send their children to these schools). After all, in a Welsh secondary school, science subjects and English are studied through the medium of English mainly. These

Issues of Cowbridge

east grammar schools

SIR. — The real issues in the educational controversy at Cowbridge are too important to be shelved in favour of that age-old pastime, or disease, of Wales — quarrelling emotionally over the language.

No one, Welshman or not, should be happy at the prospect of a bilingual or Welsh school being introduced anywhere, if there be a suspicion that it is being brought in, not on the merits of such schools alone—which merits I do not deny—but partly as an expedient for hastening the demise of an ancient and honourable existing school of another sort.

As I understand it, this is what the Glamorgan Education Authority propose to do:

1. To close Cowbridge Grammar School, and Cowbridge Girls' High School, by or from 1975 in favour of a 10-stream comprehensive to be built at Llantwit Major;
2. To utilise the existing premises of the two schools at Cowbridge for the creation of a bilingual comprehensive to serve the Maesteg, Porthcawl, Barry and Cardiff area, to be called Ysgol Gyfun Pontfaen;
3. To "solve the problem of boarding" by making the September 1970 intake of boarders at the grammar school the last, and then by running down the boarding house.

The authority have evidently decided this is the time to make public an intention of theirs which has been implied, but never specifically stated, for several years—the extinction of Cowbridge Grammar School.

Their spokesman, as reported in a local weekly newspaper, added that setting-up the bilingual school will enable the present system to be terminated here in the near future instead of continuing, as had been envisaged, "well into the 1980's."

The extremely large amount of daily travel for the pupils of the bilingual school, the administrative difficulties especially from the staffing angle inevitable in the change-over in the form outlined (a kind of phasing which appears to be meant merely to give a kind of spurious continuity of tradition to the Cowbridge school). These are important issues, but even these must give place to the more fundamental.

Firstly, granting the comprehensive principle, it is a conspicuous and severe injustice that Cowbridge Grammar School, the oldest school in Glamorgan and one of the best, is the only grammar school in the county which is not to be made the nucleus of a comprehensive (with the sole exception of the local girls' high school which is marked down along with the grammar school).

Letters to the Editor

It is to be dissolved and incorporated in a school built on the nucleus of an existing secondary modern, not that I am decrying schools of that type in themselves.

The only argument that has ever been given in support of this markedly prejudiced treatment is an estimate of population trends in the Vale of Glamorgan made five years ago, which suggested that the greatest increase was, and would be, in the Llantwit Major area.

The conclusion, not necessarily logical, drawn from this was that Llantwit was therefore the centre to which pupils should be brought for a new comprehensive to serve the area. I should say myself, that subsequent developments like the transfer of the Royal Mint and the prospect of a new town to the north of Cowbridge have already made this assessment obsolete, which might explain the haste which the authority now display.

But, in any case, the authority have, unwittingly perhaps, stultified their own argument, for if Cowbridge is the obvious centre-point for a bilingual school to serve the whole of East Glamorgan as well as the Vale, it cannot be so lightly downgraded from its natural position as the focus of the Vale — which it always has been and still is.

Llantwit Major, on the other hand, would be an ideal place for a bilingual school. It is almost as central as Cowbridge. Famed as a legendary seat of Welsh culture, yet lacking, hitherto, any distinctive academic tradition in modern times, Llanilltyd Fawr could begin to hark back to the golden age of Illtyd himself.

I hope no one will play, here, the trump card that, in going to Llantwit even in a dismembered condition, Cowbridge school will be returning to its original home. I published, several years ago, my reasons for regarding all that as one of Iolo Morgannwg's tales, and typical of him; and I have not seen my submissions refuted so far.

So much for the general position. What concerns, indeed distresses, me most acutely about the published statement of intent is the proposal to run down the boarding house at Cowbridge Grammar School after next year. I must in all good faith declare my personal interest here.

I have been a resident master in the boarding house for 22 strenuous happy, and I hope useful years, and had looked forward to more years in the future. But there is more involved here, I submit, than any question of my own wellbeing or otherwise.

When Lord Ogmore raised the

question of the school's future in the House of Lords in April 1967, the official attitude expressed by the spokesman for the (Socialist) Minister was that in any development "the status of this school will not be materially altered."

Status is not a material thing, and so there is a Delphic quality about this response. But I dare assert that no reasonable interpretation would cover either the total dissolution of the school, or the closure of the boarding house, so distinctive a feature of the foundation.

Such latter closure is ruled out further, by Section 8 (2,d) of the 1944 Education Act as I read it, together with the fact that national policy appears to be moving in the direction of increasing, not decreasing, the provision of boarding places in maintained schools.

The sub-section provides that "a local education authority shall, in particular, have regard... to the expediency of securing the provision of boarding accommodation either in boarding schools or otherwise, for pupils for whom education as boarders is considered by their parents and by the authority to be desirable."

When taken in conjunction with the oft-quoted Section 76 of the same Act, laying down the "general principle, that so far as is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure, pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents," the sub-section appears to make the closure by an authority of their sole secondary-school boarding house impossible to justify in law, if, and so long as, there is a continued demand for boarding places.

Is *this* what the education authority's Press release means by "the problem of boarding?"

Have they taken the point, that a parent who was insistent enough, might be able to take out a court injunction in this matter — or even force them to comply with the Act by paying a boy's fees at an independent boarding school if they close the boarding house at Cowbridge?

There are certainly no "problems" at our end, beyond the fact that the boarders' accommodation and facilities are antiquated and inadequate; and this could be easily enough remedied without "unreasonable public expenditure." This, I maintain, should be done, and we should be allowed to continue here the necessary service we provide for

certain categories of boys — no, Sir, not a certain class! Did I not regard such service as "necessary," I would not have devoted so much of my working life to it.

ILOLO DAVIES.

The Grammar School,
Cowbridge.

★

SIR.—Cowbridge grammar schools—like, for example, the Girls' Grammar School, Bridgend—are about to become redundant. They will be replaced by a comprehensive school—and this will come to the Vale through the policy of a Government and county council which, at the time of writing, represent a majority in Britain and Glamorgan respectively.

So much for the "rule of minority" in finding an economical use for the unwanted buildings at Cowbridge.

Then we read "The Vale of Glamorgan has always been one of the most Anglicised parts of South Wales." Ask a Llangan farmer about the names of his fields—or refer to the Tithe Commutation Act documents at the National Library—or, more conveniently, read the *National Library of Wales Journal Vol XIV (3), 1966*, for "Field names in Coychurch Parish," by the late M. Morgan-Richards—or, in the same number, Tecwyn Ellis on "Iolo Morgannwg," a celebrated Cymro whose commemorative tablet is on the front wall of one of the biggest shops in the main street of Cowbridge. These authorities reveal that Welsh is the language in and by which Glamorgan was cultivated and made dear.

For the learned, there is the brilliant work by the late Professor G. J. Williams on "The Literary Tradition of Glamorgan"; for the lover of tradition, Llanilltyd Fawr, alias Llantwit Major.

Then try to leave Cowbridge without running into evidence—Pentre Meyrick, Llandow, Llanblethian, Llantrithyd, Tair Onen, Ystrad Owen and dozens more in the area, for which Cowbridge is the congenial and deservedly popular shopping centre.

Further, children who attend Welsh secondary schools can hardly fail to communicate with their English-speaking parents (and one grants gladly that more and more English-speaking parents now choose to send their children to these schools). After all, in a Welsh secondary school, science subjects and English are studied through the medium of English mainly. These

Cowbridge head was 'converted'

THE CHAIRMAN OF the governors of Cowbridge Grammar School today claimed that the headmaster supported comprehensive education when he was reappointed last year.

Ald. Percy Smith, who is also vice-chairman of Glamorgan education committee, said that when the headmaster, Mr. Iolo Davies, supported a campaign by Old Boys to stop county plans for the school this

was a "complete shock" for him.

Ald. Smith said: "Until 1968 Mr. Davies had opposed comprehensive education and in his history of the school he made this clear and said that he would like to see the Grammar School continue as before, with a boarding section."

But according to Ald.

Smith the headmaster experienced a "conversion" in the summer of 1968 when he went on a school cruise, organised by the county council, and including children from all walks of life and educational systems.

"After the cruise he wrote to me telling me of his change of heart, which he said came as a result of all he had seen on the cruise in the ship S.S. Nevasa," said Ald. Smith.

In the letter Mr. Davies wrote: "I wonder if you will allow me to add while I am writing to you, that I have come to regret to a considerable extent the somewhat reactionary line I adopted in the final pages of my book on the school."

"The Glamorgan County Council cruise in the S.S. Nevasa opened my eyes to the potentialities of comprehensive education in a very rewarding manner."

Ald. Smith also claimed the headmaster had expressed himself willing to teach as part of a comprehensive scheme, and that he would regard the opportunity to do so as a privilege.

The headmaster, he said, had not given any indication of changing his mind on this issue until he suddenly swung behind the campaign by Old Boys to save the grammar school.

Reappointment

"He has continued in the same vein as his letter ever since he wrote it, and certainly gave us to understand this was his position when he came to the reappointment."

The Old Boys Association had said the campaigners had nothing to do with them.

Another blow for the campaigners, who last week handed in an 11,000-name petition to the Secretary of State for Wales, came from Cowbridge Borough Council.

Originally the council supported the Glamorgan plans which involve the eventual closure of the grammar school.

Then the campaigners claimed that more than half the council members had signed the petition and so the council policy was, in effect, null and void.

But last week a full meeting of the council reaffirmed their support of the comprehensive scheme.

Ald. Ken George, the council's spokesman on education said the authority had felt that original county plans for a bilingual school in Cowbridge would deprive children of a local secondary school. But as the comprehensive plan would fill this need they supported it in the interests of the children. There was no reply from the grammar school today when attempts were made to ask Mr. Davies for his comments.

Head not 'gagged', alderman says

A NEW ROW blew up over the role played in the wrangle over Cowbridge Grammar School by its newly-married headmaster, Mr. Iolo Davies, today—two days after his wedding.

As Mr. Davies honeymooned with his bride Josephine, the chairman of the 364-year-old school's governors denied that the headmaster had been "gagged".

The row over what part Mr. Davies played in the campaign to save the school—faced with closure because of comprehensive education—was sparked-off by the Liberals.

It followed an attack on Mr. Davies by Ald. Percy Smith, chairman of the school governors and deputy county education chief.

Ald. Smith claimed Mr. Davies had said he backed the comprehensive scheme, but had then circulated protest petitions against the plan around the school.

In a statement yesterday the Welsh Liberal Party demanded to know whether Mr. Davies had now been told not to talk about the axing of the school.

"Is it suggested that the headmaster is not entitled to put forward his personal views? Is this simply because they do not happen to agree with the views of the chairman of the Glamorgan education authority?" the statement said.

And the Liberals also accused the county council of making the headmaster, parents and campaigners

Echo Reporter

fighting to keep the school open a target for "abuse and attack."

But today Ald. Smith, who three weeks ago lashed out at Mr. Davies's stand on the school's future, said: "The headmaster is perfectly entitled to express his point of view.

Deplored

"I have certainly not told him he must not speak freely on this matter. But he must not use the school organisation, pupils or staff to do so.

"He has been told we deplore the attitude he has adopted and that he has abused his position by distributing and collecting petition forms in the school."

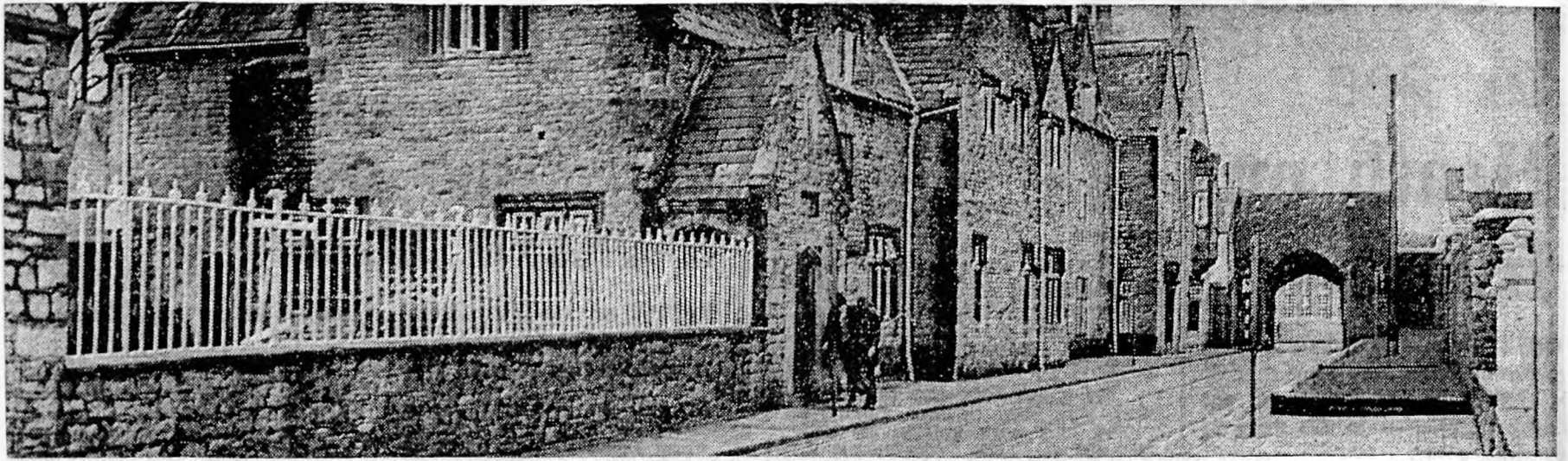
Mr. Roger Collings, leader of the old boys' committee which organised the "save our school" petition, said "We are delighted that the Liberal Party have pointed out to the county council that they are out of order in the way they are opposing our objections.

Mr. Davies was married on



MR. ILO DAVIES

New Year's Day to the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Haydn Evans, of Brynteg, Pendoylan. Today the couple were on honeymoon. They are due back at the school tomorrow.



Cowbridge Grammar School by the South gate of the town: its proud history over more than a century is part of the argument against it going comprehensive.

Why is Cowbridge school so special?

By JOHN OWEN-DAVIES

DURING the past decade scores of grammar schools throughout Britain have been swallowed by the comprehensive system, so the fate of yet another—at Cowbridge—would, at first glance, seem to merit scant attention.

But a major confrontation has occurred between Glamorgan County Council and “hands off Cowbridge” campaigners, who claim that the boys’ grammar school is worthy of special consideration.

The first shots in what promises to be a bitter struggle follows October’s announcement that Cowbridge boys’ and girls’ grammar schools were to be replaced in 1973-74 by a mixed comprehensive school. This plan was the latest of several involving the boys’ school and comprehensive education put forward by the county council since 1970.

The campaigners—mostly old boys—are turning up school records for past successes, arguing the importance of the boarding facilities, placing some hope on legal loopholes, and making as much noise as possible to save Cowbridge from what they see as a decline.

During the past three weeks an old boys’ action group has been formed, more than 9,000 signatures to a “save the school” petition have been recorded, a plea for intervention sent to Mr. Peter Thomas, the Secretary of State for Wales, and a writ issued by the action group has been served on Glamorgan County Council’s deputy clerk, Mr. A. G. James.

Display flaw

The group claims that notices announcing the reorganisation of the three schools involved in the comprehensive shuffle—both Cowbridge schools and Llanharri secondary school—were “displayed incorrectly.”

Mr. Roger Collings, a wealthy landowner living in Peterston-super-Ely who is chairman of the old boys’ group, says that the purpose of this legal action is to gain another two months breathing space in which to swell the list of signatories objecting to the school’s closure to 100,000.

What is Cowbridge’s claim to special treatment?

The school was founded in 1608

by two members of the Stradling family of St. Donat’s Castle and is the oldest establishment of its kind in Glamorgan. Today, with 490 pupils, including 46 boarders, probably its greatest claim to fame among many Welshmen is its reputation as the first home of rugby in the Principality.

In 1847, three years after rugby was first introduced into the school, its team played against the newly-formed Cardiff club and a year later the first-ever Welsh XV to play England included two then pupils at Cowbridge—Treharne and Summers. Since that time a steady flow of former pupils have reached the higher echelons of the game.

The school also has an academic record described by Mr. D. P. M. Michael, headmaster of Newport High School and a member of the Headmasters’ Conference, as “unusually good.”

Since 1960 nine open awards have been obtained to Oxford and Cambridge. During the past three years eight pupils have gone to Oxford, four of them to read classics. Indeed, the school claims to be one of the last remaining bastions of the classics in South Wales.

According to Mr. Idwal Rees, a former Welsh rugby international who retired last year after 33 years as headmaster at Cowbridge, it is the fact that Cowbridge is the only local education committee controlled school to include boarders in South Wales that is important.

Under the comprehensive system there will be no boarders, and to this end no fresh boarders were admitted to the school this academic year.

“Whatever authority becomes responsible for education in the Vale of Glamorgan it must also be responsible for the children of RAF personnel at St. Athan,” says Mr. Rees. There is a demand for boarding schools “in this age of increasing mobility of labour.”

It is the children of people going from posting to posting, sometimes overseas, who suffer

“and nowhere is this more obvious than with the children of forces personnel.”

“In my first 20 years here no RAF son who was a day-boy went on to university. Then four of them, all boarders, won scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge within five years. What would have happened if they had not had continuity of education?”

Of the 46 boarders at the school now, eight are sons of RAF personnel, two come from Army families at present in Germany and four are the sons of Vale of Glamorgan people in Government or other service overseas.

This is considered by the campaigners as one of their stronger arguments for the retention of the school.

Mr. Collings’s old boys’ action group was formed “because we felt that the only way to prevent the school from going comprehensive was to bring as many big guns as possible to bear.”

One of the group’s first moves was to contact Mr. Raymond Gower, M.P. for Barry, who has already asked questions of the Welsh Office and the Glamorgan County Council on behalf of the school and parents in his constituency.

“While all the details of the case should be examined, I would deem it most unfortunate if the school should cease to exist as such,” he says.

One of the group’s major targets is to get 100,000 signatures to their petition and then throw a section of the Education Act, 1944, back at the Government. The section (76) states: “...that so far as is compatible with the efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure, pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents.”

The group believes that many people moved to the Cowbridge area originally so that their children could be educated at one or other of the grammar schools.

“We believe Cowbridge to be a first-class school giving a first-class education. Secondly, all of us believe in parental choice. We are not condemning the comprehensive system out of hand, although we would point out to Glamorgan County Council that in two-thirds of the education authorities in England grammar schools and comprehensive schools do work in parallel—and we believe they can work in parallel in Glamorgan,” says Mr. Collings.

The group claims that the school has a strong academic atmosphere which, while free from academic snobbery, provides the right milieu for the development of clever boys, and more especially the shy or sensitive clever boy, to their full capacities.

Dedicated

Also, it is maintained that with a well-qualified, dedicated and long-staying staff the school offers an unusually large range of subjects at both “O” and “A” level—21 at the former and 19 at the latter. These are impressive statistics, but ones that seem unlikely to sway Government opinion.

There is a tendency for the old boys’ group to put much play on sentiment, such as the rugby tradition, and a form of educational elitism akin to that prevalent in public schools. “Sentiment must not play a part; the group must have something stronger,” says Mr. Idwal Rees.

Not everyone is for the retention of the school, of course. Prominent among them is Alderman Percy Smith, chairman of the school’s board of governors and also chairman of the South-East Glamorgan Education Committee, who sees “no reason at all” why the school should be preserved.

“I became a member of the governing body in 1939 and I have been chairman for nearly 20 years. During that time I have used my influence to develop Cowbridge Boys’ Grammar School as a part of the overall concept for the children in the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan,” he says.

The old boys’ group is putting up a gallant rearguard action, but have they enough ammunition to convince Whitehall that the Cowbridge school is something really special?