

COLLEGE INCREASING PASS RATE



Mr. Ronald Wolsey looks at a selection of graphs showing Wymondham College exam results.

—compared with 7½ per cent four years ago but the emphasis must be put on the science subjects, he explained.

Of the 199 entries for science subjects over the past two years there had been 190 passes and about 45 per cent of these were at either grade A or grade B.

In both physics and chemistry the pass rate had increased steadily since the early 1970s until it was almost 100 per cent in science, Mr. Wolsey pointed out.

In biology the failure rate had been totally eliminated and in all three subjects the number of candidates obtaining grade A or B was increasing rapidly, he added.

Praise

In mathematics there was an 88 per cent pass rate and the results in all three subjects were the best the college had ever had.

Last term, said Mr. Wolsey, Sir Neville Mott, Professor of Physics at Cambridge University, visited the college to follow up his interest in the maintenance of standards in science teaching in schools.

During his visit he said there should be more schools like Wymondham College serving large areas with good resources and staff which could cater for the high ability science pupils, said Mr. Wolsey.

candidates went on to degree courses — about 69 pupils out of 101.

Nissen huts

“We have been teaching kids in Nissen huts for years. I wonder if we had good buildings all the time what we would be achieving now.

“I am not interested in league tables or comparing our results with those of other schools. All I am interested in is comparing our present results with those of the past.”

At O level, 262 candidates obtained an average of over six passes and more than half of them gained seven or more passes in last term's exams.

At A level, 101 candidates obtained an average of two and a-half passes. The pass rate was 85 per cent and 65 per cent of candidates passed three or four subjects.

Emphasis

Of these passes 15 per cent were at grade A — the highest grade

The warden of Wymondham College, Mr. Ronald Wolsey, yesterday stepped into the debate on education standards in Britain's schools.

He said he had analysed his own college's examination results in the light of general criticism about education standards.

The results gave the college some cause for satisfaction and proved, he said, that standards were not falling in every school in the country.

Science

In science subjects — physics, chemistry and biology — the A level pass rate had been increasing gradually since the early 1970s until it was now almost 100 per cent.

In last term's exams about half the candidates who entered for these subjects attained grades A or B — the highest grades at A level.

Of the 1800 boarders and day pupils at the college, 353 were in the sixth form — the largest sixth form ever at the college — and next year the number was expected to rise to 400.

“Some people say large schools have disadvantages,” said Mr. Wolsey. “but it seems that the more pupils we get at the college the better we do.”

Hard work

Asked why the trend seemed to be improving year by year Mr. Wolsey said: “We have an excellent staff who work jolly hard and I think the pupils develop a habit of work.

“We expect them to do well and this makes a difference,” he said. Analysis of examination results over the past six years had provided evidence of improvement and raising of standards.

There was now a waiting list for places at the college for the first time in its history, although boarding fees had gone up in the past year.

“Parents are interested in high standards and I think they see them here,” said Mr. Wolsey. “Last year 70 per cent of our A level