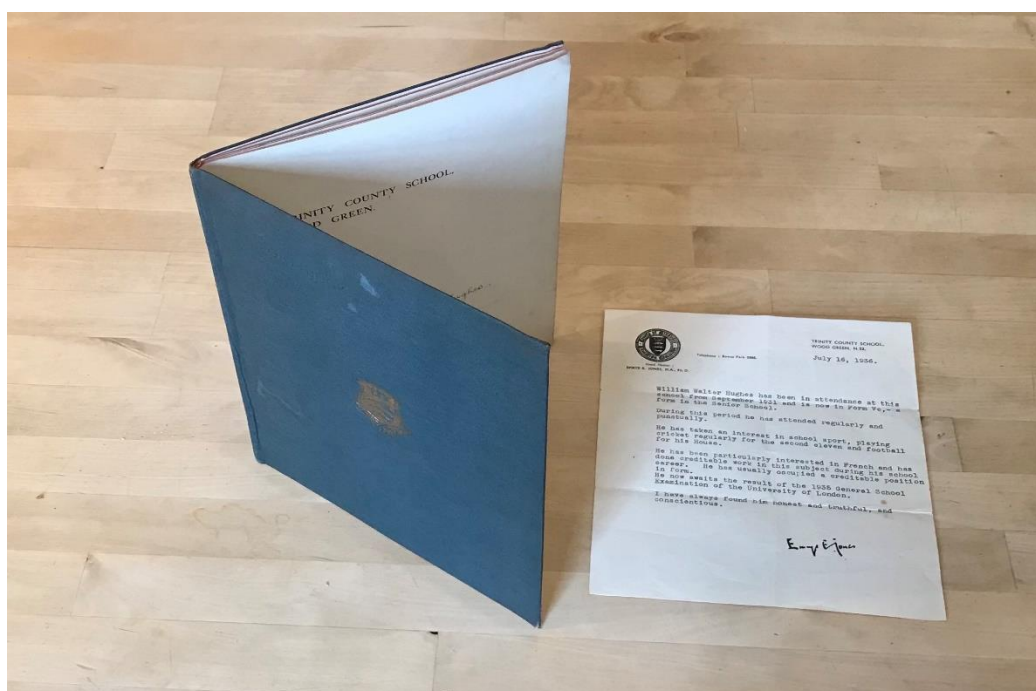


Trinity County School in the 1930s – William W Hughes

William Walter Hughes, known as Bill Hughes, was at Trinity from 1931 to 1936. Documents donated by Robert Hughes, who is a nephew of his late uncle Bill Hughes, have formed the basis of other stories related to World War II and the 'In Memoriam' booklet, which are already on the Trinity website. In addition, there were other documents related to Bill's time at Trinity in the 1930s, which give an insight into some aspects of education at that time, and these are the source materials for this account.

The main document is Bill's report book; an impressive hard-covered gold-embossed book that includes reports at the end of each of three terms for the six years that Bill was at the school.



I can't recall what form the reports took in 1950s when I was a Trinity, but they weren't so prestigious and valued as they seemed to have been in the 1930s. The first page shows how reports would be given for each of the three terms and how the Report Book is the Scholar's responsibility while it is in his or her charge. Also, that the Parent or Guardian must see it and sign it at the end of each term, and that the Report Book forms a permanent record of the Scholar's school career. In total, Bill's book gives reports for each of fourteen terms.

Four of these reports have been selected to show Bill's progress through the school and these are reproduced in the following pages. Note that each subject teacher gives the individual subject marks, with position in class, their comments on progress, and with their initials. There is an overall position in class and a written comment by L. A. Swinden, the Form Master. For most reports there is an overall sign-off and comment by Dr Emrys E. Hughes, Head Master. Mr Swinden was Form Master throughout Bill's time at Trinity and he became Head Master after Emrys Hughes retired in 1949/1950.

Age 12 yrs. 6 mths.
 Av. Age of Form 12 yrs. 5 mths.

REPORT No. 3.

FOR TERM ENDING July, 1932 FORM 1c

Exam. Position 18
 No. in Form 35

Times absent 1 Times late - Times in detention -

| SUBJECT. | TERM MARKS, 100. | EXAM. MARKS, 100. | EXAM. POSITION | REMARKS. | MASTER OR MISTRESS. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| ENGLISH | <u>54</u> | <u>61</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>An improvement.</u> | <u>Emm</u> |
| FRENCH | <u>71</u> | <u>83</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>Quite good.</u> | <u>Emm</u> |
| GEOGRAPHY | <u>40</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>Moderate.</u> | <u>L.A.D.</u> |
| HISTORY | <u>51</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>33</u> | <u>Fair. more effort needed</u> | <u>S.R.J.</u> |
| MATHS. Arithmetic ... | <u>46</u> | <u>63</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>Satisfactory.</u> | |
| Algebra | <u>25</u> | <u>33</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>Weak.</u> | <u>L.A.D.</u> |
| Geometry | <u>18</u> | <u>64</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>Satisfactory.</u> | |
| Trigonometry | | | | | |
| SCIENCE. Physics ... | <u>63</u> | <u>37</u> | <u>32</u> | <u>Weak.</u> | <u>L.A.D.</u> |
| Botany | | | | | |
| ART | <u>56</u> | <u>48</u> | <u>21</u> | <u>Fair.</u> | <u>M.P.J.</u> |
| MUSIC | <u>56</u> | <u>63</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>Very fair</u> | <u>H.</u> |
| HANDICRAFT or DOMESTIC SCIENCE | <u>Making good progress</u> | | | | <u>Y.C.</u> |
| PHYSICAL EXERCISES | <u>Very good.</u> | | | | <u>Shr</u> |
| NEEDLEWORK ... | | | | | |

GENERAL REPORT.

On the whole a fair result. More "attack" is needed.

L.A. Swinden Form Master or Mistress.

Ernest E. Jones Head Master.

Edward James Hughes Parent's Signature.

Next Term begins *Sept. 13, 1932.*

This is Bill's report at the end of his first year. He is doing quite well, 18th in a class of 35 and with an overall rating of "Fair"

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Age <u>12</u> yrs. <u>11</u> mths. | | REPORT No. <u>6</u> | | Exam. Position <u>5</u> | |
| Av. Age of Form <u>13</u> yrs. <u>5</u> mths. | | FOR TERM ENDING <u>July, 1933</u> | | FORM <u>2c</u> | |
| | | Times absent <u>-</u> | | Times late <u>-</u> | |
| | | Times in detention <u>-</u> | | No. in Form <u>35</u> | |

| SUBJECT. | TERM MARKS, 100. | EXAM. MARKS, 100. | EXAM. POSITION | REMARKS. | MASTER OR MISTRESS. |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|---------------------|
| ENGLISH ... | <u>66</u> | <u>68</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>J.D.</u> |
| FRENCH ... | <u>61</u> | <u>71</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>J.D.</u> |
| GEOGRAPHY ... | <u>49</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>Moderate</u> | <u>J.D.</u> |
| HISTORY ... | <u>66</u> | <u>41</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>Moderate</u> | <u>J.D.</u> |
| MATHS. Arithmetic ... | <u>77</u> | <u>88</u> | <u>1</u> | } <u>Satisfactory except for trigonometry.</u> | <u>S.A.D.</u> |
| Algebra ... | <u>87</u> | <u>67</u> | <u>6</u> | | |
| Geometry ... | <u>59</u> | <u>47</u> | <u>18</u> | | |
| Trigonometry | <u>75</u> | <u>34</u> | <u>34</u> | | |
| SCIENCE. Physics ... | <u>76</u> | <u>61</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>S.A.D.</u> |
| Botany ... | | | | | |
| ART ... | <u>51</u> | <u>47</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>Fairly satisfactory</u> | <u>J.D.</u> |
| MUSIC ... | <u>74</u> | <u>59</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>Fair</u> | <u>L.T.</u> |
| HANDICRAFT or DOMESTIC SCIENCE | <u>Fairly Satisfactory</u> | | | | <u>J.C.C.</u> |
| PHYSICAL EXERCISES | <u>Good</u> | | | | <u>J.D.</u> |
| NEEDLEWORK | | | | | |

GENERAL REPORT.

A satisfactory term's work.

L. A. Swinden, Form Master or Mistress.

A good result.

Emrys E. Jones, Head Master.

Next Term begins Sept. 14, 1933 Edward James Hughes, Parent's Signature.

This is a year later, at the end of his second year with some encouraging marks of progress. 5th in class and 1st in French. Swinden's comment is "satisfactory" and Emrys Jones' is "A good result". Note that on all of these reports, Bill's father, Edward James Hughes signs them with perfect text-book and 'copper-plate' handwriting.

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|------------------|--|
| Age... 13 yrs. 8 mths. | | REPORT No. 8 | | Exam. Position 6 | |
| Av. Age of Form 14 yrs. 1 mths. | | FOR TERM ENDING <u>March 1934</u> FORM 3c | | No. in Form 35 | |
| Times absent <u>4</u> Times late <u>0</u> Times in detention <u>3</u> | | | | | |

| SUBJECT. | TERM MARKS, 100. | EXAM. MARKS, 100. | EXAM. POSITION | REMARKS. | MASTER OR MISTRESS. |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| ENGLISH ... | 46 | 51 | 15 | Fair - more effort needed. | Emm |
| FRENCH ... | 55 | 72 | 1 | Good. Steady application needed. | Mr. |
| GEOGRAPHY ... | 62 | 71 | 1 | Good. | W.B.S. |
| HISTORY ... | 30 | 43 | 12 | Moderate. | W.B. |
| MATHS. Arithmetic ... | 40 | 74 | 4 | Satisfactory. | L.A.D. |
| Algebra ... | 44 | 59 | 9 | | |
| Geometry ... | | 50 | 3 | | |
| Trigonometry | 72 | 76 | 7 | | |
| SCIENCE. Physics ... | 50 | 42 | 15 | Moderate. | L.A.D. |
| Botany ... | | | | | |
| ART ... | 63 | 54 | 24 | Satisfactory | Emm |
| MUSIC ... | 94 | 25 | 24 | Poor exam. result. | L.T. |
| Scripture. | | 22/50 | | Fair. | E.F.B. |
| HANDICRAFT or DOMESTIC SCIENCE | Fairly satisfactory. | | | | H.C.C. |
| PHYSICAL EXERCISES | Satisfactory. | | | | Shr. |
| NEEDLEWORK ... | | | | | |

GENERAL REPORT.

Is capable. I am hoping for a greater effort next term.

L. A. Swinden Form Master or Mistress.

Making Progress.

Emrys E. Jones. Head Master.

Next Term begins April 18, 1934 Edward James Hughes Parent's Signature.

This report is for the second term in Bill's third year and shows a recovery after some less-good results in previous terms. Form position is 6th, again is 1st in French, but Art and Music are not so good. Swinden hopes for "greater effort" and Emrys Jones comments on "Making Progress".

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Age <u>15</u> yrs. <u>5</u> mths. | REPORT No. 13 | Exam. Position <u>12</u> |
| Av. Age of Form <u>15</u> yrs. <u>9</u> mths. | FOR TERM ENDING <u>Dec</u> <u>1935</u> FORM <u>5c</u> | No. in Form <u>25</u> |
| Times absent <u> </u> Times late <u> </u> Times in detention <u> </u> | | |

| SUBJECT. | TERM MARKS, 100. | EXAM. MARKS, 100. | EXAM. POSITION | REMARKS. | MASTER OR MISTRESS. |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|---------------------|
| ENGLISH | | <u>57</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>Improvement continued.</u> | <u>E. J. B.</u> |
| FRENCH | | <u>44</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>Ought to get credit.</u> | <u>20th</u> |
| GEOGRAPHY | | <u>33</u> | <u>14/28</u> | <u>Weak. Must give him time to it</u> | <u>W. B. E.</u> |
| HISTORY | | | | | |
| MATHS. Arithmetic ... | | <u>45</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>Moderate. Should reach standard in these subjects.</u> | <u>L. A. J.</u> |
| Algebra ... | | <u>39</u> | <u>10</u> | | |
| Geometry ... | | <u>26</u> | <u>10</u> | | |
| Trigonometry | | | | | |
| SCIENCE. Physics ... | | <u>30</u> | <u>6 1/2</u> | <u>Below standard.</u> | <u>J. B.</u> |
| Botany ... | | | | | |
| ART | | <u>41</u> | <u>3/8</u> | <u>Some improvement.</u> | <u>W. B. E.</u> |
| MUSIC | | | | | |
| HANDICRAFT or DOMESTIC SCIENCE | | | | | |
| PHYSICAL EXERCISES | | | | <u>Set factory.</u> | <u>Shir</u> |
| NEEDLEWORK ... | | | | | |

GENERAL REPORT.

With steady work should reach necessary standard.

L. A. Swinden Form Master or Mistress.

Emrys E. Jones Head Master.

Edmond James Hughes Parent's Signature.

Next Term begins Jan. 14, 1936

Should get the Certificate

This is Bill's final detailed report before his final assessment for the General School Examination Certificate. It shows him 12th in a class with a reduced size of 25. The comment on French is that he "Ought to get credit". Swinden encourages "steady work" and Emrys Jones "Should get the Certificate". And indeed, six months later he does! See next page.


This is Bill's final certificate – a most prestigious large rolled parchment issued by the University of London and signed off by Emrys Jones and the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education. It records that Bill was examined in English Subjects, Languages, Mathematics and Science, and Other Subjects, also with Credits in French and Elementary Mathematics. The reverse of the certificate lists all eleven of the subjects covered by it. This certificate was rolled into a tube and posted to Bill at his home address after he had left Trinity.

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

GENERAL SCHOOL EXAMINATION



SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

I. This is to certify that William Walter Hughes
born 22 July 1920, has been a pupil at Trinity County School, West Green
(inspected by the University and the Board of Education) for a period of 5 years and - term ending July 1936,
and has pursued a Course of Study in the subjects set out on the back of this Certificate.

Emrys Jones, M.A., M.J.
Head of the School.

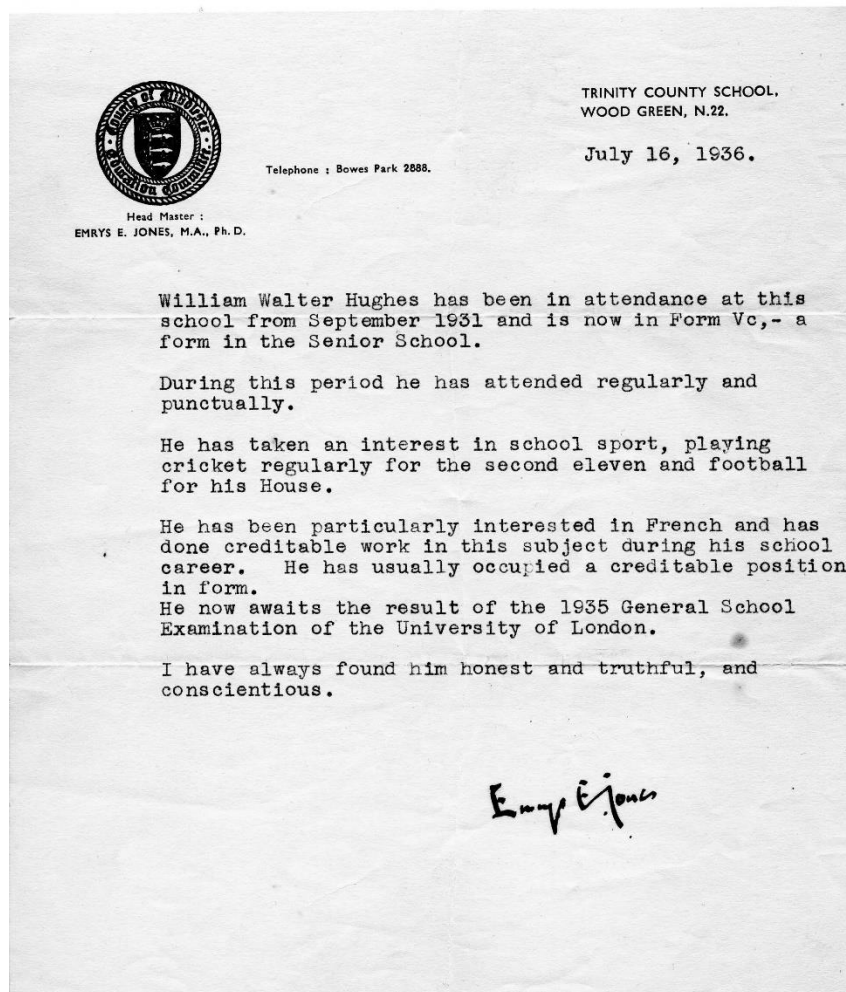
II. Also that this pupil, having been examined in the following groups of subjects :—
(i) ENGLISH SUBJECTS, (ii) LANGUAGES, (iii) MATHEMATICS and SCIENCE, (iv) Other Subjects,
has passed the General School Examination held at the School mentioned above in Midsummer 1936,
with Credit in the following subjects (2 in number):—
French, written & oral
Elementary Mathematics

Signed on behalf of the University of London,
S.H. Shorrocks
Secretary for School Examinations.

III. The Board of Education have inspected the school and recognised it as an efficient Secondary School and accept the Examination as reaching the approved standard and as being suitable for the school.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Education,
A. Maxwell Lyte
Assistant Secretary.

At the time of leaving Trinity in July 1936, before his actual General Certificate would have been available, Bill was issued with a testimonial letter, which would have been helpful in securing employment. It is reproduced below.



Bill was also given an application form to join the Old Trinity Scholars' Association, but there is no indication that he filled it in and chose to become a member.

We know from other stories about Bill Hughes, which are also on the Trinity website that Bill did find employment in 1937 and went on to work at a firm of stockbrokers in the City of London until he enlisted with the RAF, just before his 20th birthday in July 1940. For more details about what happened, please refer to the story of Bill's life and tragic wartime death in 1942 – this is to be found under the heading, Stories of People as "William Hughes and the 1939-1945 War Memorial board at Trinity".

Colin Marr – 22 May 2021