

I remember he would go on an annual school trips to Molveno, Trentino Italy, organised by John MAESTRI as it was near MAESTRI's ancestral home town. They would take around thirty boys and there would be five or six members of staff. Laurence went on most of these trips.

I also recall going on the occasional school trip with Laurence to places like Tring Hertfordshire near where his parents lived and Buckinghamshire to historic sites and similar.

During my time at St Benedict's I heard a number of rumours and boys talking. When I was on the coach taking the boys to away rugby matches, I heard them talking about being caned and that Laurence would offer them six with the cane with trousers on but three on their bare backside with trousers off.

I have been asked by Police if I've ever heard the expression 'PD'. I heard the boys talking about 'PD', which was the 'pants down' policy expounded by Laurence.

I thought that Laurence was overly fond of corporal punishment. From my point of view, I did not approve of corporal punishment and having caned a boy once, I hated it and never did it again, whereas Laurence would beat boys for the slightest infringement as would MAESTRI and others in the school. I believe that Dom Anthony GEE banned the practice after a number of parental complaints about, the over enthusiastic use of the cane by some monks and lay staff.

There was another rumour about a family named [Name Redacted] having been paid off after an allegation had been made. [Irrelevant] Laurence SOPER was the bursar and had access to finances at the time.

Signature: PETER JOSEPH OLIVER HALSALL
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Signature witnessed by: