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These five boys were reported to be out of bed on Monday night (13th December). It was also reported that there was evidence of sexual malpractice.

On investigation the reports were substantiated by the boys concerned. Furthermore there was an incident of abusive and threatening behaviour towards the member of staff who had brought the Monday night incidents to the notice of Mr. Winn.

Mr. Winn and I interviewed each boy extensively and drew the following conclusions :

- (a) that this sort of behaviour had occurred on previous occasions.
- (b) that it has been occurring for a number of years.
- (c) that whilst other boys are on the periphery the above named boys are the majority of the central core.
- (d) that the informant was initially motivated by jealousy and thereafter manipulated a diversionary tactic to cover himself.

During the course of the interviews each boy was directly or indirectly threatened with expulsion, suspension or transfer, the situation was "spelled out" in clear, simple uncompromising terms and finally given a "stay of execution" depending on compliance with various conditions.

This is felt to be the extent of any punishment but it is now incumbent on all staff to observe and record incidents which are indicative of any change of attitude (positive or negative).

It has become clear that this sort of behaviour has been a sub-cultural tradition in the school and it is clearly our responsibility to intervene and hopefully put an end to this situation.

It is interesting to note that the four boys concerned could be said to have the most inadequate or damaged parental relationships and thus are able to find some security and gratification in the emotional relationship with another boy. However, though we may strive to understand such behaviour we can in no way condone it as it is not the behaviour itself but its consequences that cause the more concern.

The consequences of such behaviour are :

- (1) The setting up of emotional barriers against those who are most able to help each boy, i.e. staff.
- (2) The periphery behaviour — bullying, bribery, protection manipulation, blackmail, induction/seduction of younger, newer boys, subversiveness, etc.
- (3) The existence of a sub-culture that militates against the effective treatment of the majority.

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