



Dr Colin George Hadley
05-08-1929 to 21-03-21
Founding Headmaster, Goffs School 1964-1994

Dr Colin George Hadley, who has died at his Bengo home, aged 91, was the founding headmaster of Goffs Grammar School in Chestnut. Taking up the post in 1964, aged 35, he started the school whilst working out of a few classrooms at Turnford School. During this time, he watched the school building being constructed and used his clear vision to mould the school: the uniform was light blue and dark blue (Oxford and Cambridge); the motto *Sola Virtus Invicta* (Only Virtue is Undefeated); the name, Goffs. The school grew with each new cohort, both in size and reputation, becoming increasingly popular and oversubscribed with pupils benefitting from a wealth of experience and opportunity.

Well respected within education circles, particularly in the field of languages, Dr Colin Hadley was involved in several language committees. These included Chairman of East Anglian CSE Modern Languages Committee, Chairman of Schools Council Modern Languages Committee, Chairman of Hertfordshire Modern Languages Teachers' Association and Governor of the Centre for Information on Language Teaching (CILT).

Many of his ideas were considered forward thinking and innovative: his was one of the early schools to introduce a language lab and in 1974 he devised and introduced a scheme of accelerated French language learning. One year 10 class had half of their history and geography lessons taught in French, all achieving top marks in the GCE exams at the end of that year, and reaching the equivalent of AS levels at the end of year 11. Many then chose languages for degrees and careers.

Born in Halesowen, Worcestershire, in 1929, the youngest son of Leonard and Amy Hadley, Dr Colin Hadley attended the local Halesowen Grammar School before reading Modern Languages at Oxford.

He did much of his National Service in Egypt before going to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, on a Worcestershire County Major Scholarship. Here he specialised in French, achieving a first class degree in Modern Languages and being awarded Senior Student at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. He played on one of his college's football teams and in the holidays he would cycle from Oxford back to his home in the Black Country, a full day's ride.

After completing a Diploma in Education he gained a Rotary Foundation Fellowship to the University of Aix-Marseilles where he undertook a Doctorat d'Universite (Distinction). His thesis was the study of a Medieval Provençal unpublished manuscript, *Le Roman de Sidrach*, with all the research being undertaken in medieval French.

In the early days Dr Colin Hadley taught as Head of Modern Languages at Kings School Chester (1954) and King George V School, Southport (1959) . During this period he met Jane Lathom-Sharp, who was to be his wife of sixty-five years and mother to their three children, Simon, Madeleine and Catherine.

He and his brother Douglas remained close until the latter's death, and they were enthusiastic West Bromwich Albion supporters.

In 1994, after thirty years as the Headmaster of Goffs, Dr Colin Hadley retired. Languages remained a passion: he taught himself Italian, before joining a small U3A Italian lesson group; and for over twenty seven years he ran a French U3A group, reading French classics and conversing. He enjoyed gardening and finally having time to fully enjoy his family and his six grandchildren.

Colin Hadley will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

There will be a private funeral service
Donations to the NSPCC through Powells of Hertford gratefully received.