

THE SCHOOL-founded in 1608.

S O many old grammar schools have been swallowed up into the comprehensive system that the fate of another

bridge Grammar School linked up with atmosphere and buildings. It can't staff that it's worth pay- easily be transplanted. ing them special atten-

Are they playing

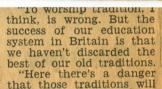
the fate of another seems, perhaps, of little importance.

But the decisions surrounding the future—or non-future — of Cowbridge Grammar School

What will be lost by a move to Llantwit? "Tradition," he replied. "Whatever they say, it affects everything. It affects academic standards. It affects tone.

"And tradition is closely bridge Grammar School"

Theories



for Girls will accommodate a new bilingual school in which Welsh will school in which Welsh will school in which Welsh will school.

This, says Mr. Iolo tion came as a complete Davies, senior resident surprise.

master at Cowbridge Grammar School, is a "conspicuous and severe injustice"

He thinks it wrong that

fair with

Herbert Williams looks at

the controversy surrounding

Glamorgan's oldest school

have been given for siting the comprehensive at Llantwit Major. One of them is that this is the natural "growth point" in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Boarding, he claims, is ever, says this was based becoming not less important in our increasingly tion trends made five galitarian society but years ago, Subsequent more important, because developments, such as the people move around more transfer of the Royal and many of them like Mint to Llantrisant and their children to have a the prospect of a new ever, says this was based on an estimate of population trends made five there's a brand-new school years ago, Subsequent there's a brand-new school there, Llanilltud Fawr developments, such as the Secondary," he said. transfer of the Royal "Cowbridge has very old Mint to Llantrisant and buildings and there just the prospect of a new isn't the space. This is town north of Cowbridge, going to be a large of the comprehensive at the comprehensive at

Cowbridge Gramma

the oldest grammar school in Glamorgan, and one of the oldest in Wales. It is also one of the best. The inevitability of educational change is accepted—albeit reluctantly in some circles—but there's a danger that those traditions will be scrapped altogether. I be scrapped altogether. I be scrapped altogether. I be scrapped altogether. I hink that's a mistake. "Tim fed up with the way education is being adverse treatment.

Other grammar schools in Glamorgan have been used as the nucleus for the come out with a new comprehensives which have replaced them. Not Cowbridge.

The nevitability of education system in Britain is that that always the adds, by selecting Cowbridge as the said.

Anyway, he adds, by selecting Cowbridge as elsewhere often choose to the stie of the bilingual is their children remain at the school as boarders. Think that's a mistake.

"Tim fed up with the way education is being messed about by politicians and psychologists." They come out with a new comprehensive which have replaced them. Not Cowbridge.

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Those psychologists! They come out with a new of the comprehensive is set up.

Those psychologists is the refer to the state of the bilingual when the comprehensive bear days the said.

Anyway, he adds, by selecting Cowbridge as the school of the state of the bilingual.

White Peners and Green the comprehensive is set up.

The impression of the county authost the school as boarders.

The nucleus for the county authost the school of the said.

Anyway the abcause the said.

Anyway, he adds, by

When I spoke to Mr.
John Brace, assistant
director of education for
Glamorgan, however, he
didn't mention the
"growth point" thesis.
"The reason we are pasing the comprehensive at
Llantwit Major is that

He made no secret of the fact that Coworing gets me that these schools would have been things tall lace without left alone some been things tall lace without us have been things tall lace without us have school for the county hadn't come up.

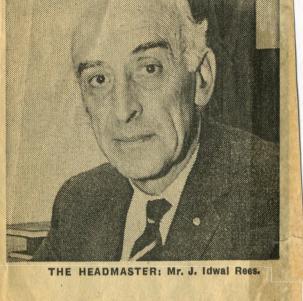
Mr. Brace said they needed a third school on the basis of the growth of numbers in the bilingual primary schools.

By basing the school in carry much weight in

By basing the school in owbridge, they could By basing the school in Cowbridge, they could then justify bringing forward their comprehensive plans for the area because obviously the "displaced" pupils from the local grammar schools have to be taught somewhere. where.

So this game of musical chairs means the end of an ancient school with a fine record of scholastic success. Its only crime is that it doesn't fit in with modern theories of education.

Suspicion



carry much weight in County Hall. But Coun. Ken George, a member of Cowbridge Borough Council, is pushing an alter-native scheme.

He thinks the growth of population in the Vale would justify two sevenstream comprehensives in five years time, one at Llantwit Major and the other at Cowbridge.

Whatever happens, there is a strong suspicion at Cowbridge that the school has come in for adverse treatment simply because it is an old foundation steeped in tradition.

steeped in tradition.

Inverted snobbery, in fact. The suspicion may be unfounded, but one thing is absolutely certain. There is an impatience hink w i t h "tradition" at are County Hall and an eagerchil-Some parents, like Mr. havid Beech, a Cowbridge aulage contractor, think he educationists are gambling with the children's lives."

"The scheme may not be a success," he said, "but the children don't get a be?

be unfounded, but one thing is absolutely certain. There is an impatience with the tradition" at County Hall and an eagerness to sweep away the old order as quickly as possible. Will the new be as a success," he said, "but the children don't get a be?

nave replaced them. Not theory every few months.

Cowbridge.

Injustice

*Injusti

He thinks it wrong that these two grammar schools should be the only ones in the county not to become the nucleus of a comprehensive

The headmaster, Mr. J.
Idwal Rees — a one-time
Welsh rugby international
who has been headmaster

who has been headmaster for 32 years—agrees.

In his study overlooking the school's secluded lawns, he sat at his desk near the portrait of one of the school's founders and told me:

"If comprehensive edu-

"If comprehensive edu-"If comprehensive education is to be thrust on the pupils of Glamorgan, I think it only right that the principle laid down in the authority's original document on this subject should be applied in Cowbridge — that where a bridge — that where a grammar school exists, it should be the nucleus of a comprehensive school for

the locality.
"I don't see why Cowbridge should be singled out as an exception."