DEATH OF MR. PHILIP TAYLOR

A headmaster with many talents and wide interests

MR. PHILIP T. TAYLOR, headmaster of Malton School, who died on Saturday, aged 60, was a man of exceptional talents.

An old boy of Manchester Grammar School, he had a brilliant academic career. He was a Somerset exhibitioner and was later elected scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was awarded a first class in the BA classical tripos and the Cambridge University teachers' certicate.

He took an MA degree in 1945 on his return from five years' war service in the Royal Air Force, which included three years in India on special intelligence duties. He attained the rank of fiflight lieutenant, and received the commendation of local commanders.

Before his appointment as head of Malton Grammar School, in 1951, he was the head of the classics departments at Thornton Grammar School, Bradford, and Mundella Grammar School, Nottingham.

Mr. TAYLOR

Co-operation

He was a convinced believer in co-education, and he and his wife showed their faith in Malton Grammar School by sending their own two daughters there. Both later graduated at universities and entered the teaching profession.

He was also a firm believer in co-operation between parents and school, and rarely missed a meeting of the school's parent's guild, of which he was chairman.

An accomplished and knowledgeable musician, he took an informed interest in all the arts.

Although very much involved in all activities of the school and although his private interests were many, he still found time to serve the community interests of Malton and Norton to a remarkable extent.

His desire was always to be of the greatest possible service and in pursuit of this ideal he was a member of Malton Urban Council for 15 years and was at one time chairman. He represented the council on many other bodies, including the burial board, of which he was chairman, the Ryedale Water Board, and the North Riding Area Planning Committee.

His humanity

Through his membership for many years of Malton and Norton Rotary Club, he aided many national and local charities and was a past president of the club. He was also treasurer of the Malton Road Safety Committee, and a founder member and at one time vice-chairman of the Malton Abbeyfield Society.

He leaves a widow and two married daughters.

In a tribute, Mr. John Wainwright, chairman of Malton School governors, said:

"Philip Taylor, the third and last headmaster of Malton Grammar School, not only continued the fine tradition set by his predicessors but led a period of expansion and the development of new buildings. A greatly enlarged sixth form and an ever-increasing tale of academic success were the outward signs of this period.

"Mr. Taylor would not have seen in this the true hallmark of his own headship. A classicist by training, he brought to the school a deep humanity and for those in his charge sought always an all-round development of personality.

"His own love of music and his participation in the school's music-making demonstrated his awareness of the richness of life which he wanted to pass on to others. As the years passed his concern for the school never flagged.

"It was a measure of his real love of education and his belief in its possibilities that after a lifetime spent in grammar school teaching he sought the wider opportunities of leading Malton into comprehensive education.

"Those who worked with him in the preparations for the new school know the care he gave every detail in order that it should be a united school.

"The new motto, Unitate Fortieres — We Are Stronger Through Becoming One — was his own choice, and embodied his hopes for the new school. He was concerned that every boy and girl should have a chance to develop to the utmost.

"Struggling against ill-health, he saw the school start on its new life. It is a tragedy that he did not live to see the fruit of all his planning and hopes."