

1954/55 School Trip to Switzerland

In about 1954 or 1955, Mr Thompson led a mixed party of MHGS boys and girls with, (I think), Mr Owen and Mr Conway, on an Easter school trip to Aeschi on Lake Thun in the Bernese Oberland, Switzerland.

Mr Thompson was very disapproving when he learned that Mr Conway took some of us walking part way up the 7,750 ft Mt. Niesen in thick snow, where we nearly came to grief in our school shoes on an ice slope and later ran for our lives to miss an avalanche that started high above and appeared to be hurtling towards the hollow in which we were walking. Those were the pre 'Health and Safety' days in which it was still possible to have real adventures!

Some of the boys and girls cemented long-term friendships during that trip which included an epic train ride 10,000 ft up inside the Jungfrau Joch and a visit by train through the Simplon Tunnel over the border to Stresa and Lago di Maggiore in Italy.

For all of us, it was wonderful experience and a time for "coming of age."