

Making the best of a bad job

— says *High School Captain*

Sir, — In the light of the present discussions on Chichester High School for Boys, I feel myself bound to correct certain misconceptions which have arisen.

Although not specifically stated in his letter, Robin Gates was referring to the loss of opportunity to study A level botany, zoology, Greek and Latin. Latin has not, as yet, been cut as an O level course, which I believe is the significance of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons's letter (February 6).

Certain O level courses have been cut and now the pupils are permitted to take a maximum of eight O levels in the fifth year.

Interest in sport has been sustained and the school is now able to put out more teams than ever before.

However, the interest in sporting activities does not necessarily imply a greater sense of belonging to the school. Indeed, this is now much reduced and is evident in the non-confirmity of many boys in not wearing the school uniform.

Staff put much work into the school to promote its smoother running, and I would not wish to detract from this for one moment.

They are, however, faced with the difficulty of trying to make the best of what was essentially a bad job — the compulsory "amalgamation" of the two schools on the present site in 1971. I am certain the majority of boys appreciate this work.

This type of long-term project is not one which may be judged after such a short period.

One cannot hope to make any unbiased views on its success, or lack of success, before the first intake of the comprehensive has finally left us.

Then, perhaps, one may successfully investigate the effects of compulsory comprehensive education.

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