

Character analysis in school reports?



Source: letters page in the Daily Telegraph, March 2010

School home truths

SIR – I remember my last school report from my public school (Letters, March 31). The headmaster wrote: “At least his education hasn’t gone to his head.”

William Aldersey
Malpas, Cheshire

SIR – My last report for Woodwork: “Give him the job and he will finish the tools.”

Kelvin Hard
Worcester

SIR – My mother refused to show me (aged 10) my first school report. I looked for it in her desk and found the envelope with a label marked “SNEAK”.

An effective lesson.

J. M. Reid
London SW6

School home truths

SIR – “Unlike the poor, Graham is seldom with us” was one of my brother’s reports at prep school.

Robert Fraser
Weymouth, Dorset

SIR – At the end of my first term at Radley, the warden wrote: “He may be the youngest in the school, but there is no need for him to be the worst behaved.”

There is hope for us all, as I became a headmaster.

David Prichard
Sherborne, Dorset

The lost art of distilling unwelcome character analysis into a school report

SIR – My teenage son’s English report (Letters, March 26) consisted of three words: “This brooding presence.”

Caroline Quentin
Thorpe Bay, Essex

SIR – “He sometimes catches one’s train of thought; usually by scrambling into the guard’s van.”

Brian Swindell
Burnaston Village, Derbyshire

SIR – My wife Alison, a teacher, received this endorsement as a pupil: “Henry Ford once said history is bunk. Yours most certainly is.”

Paul Harrison
Terling, Essex

SIR – A Latin report: “This boy would do well on the land – if properly spread.”

Richard Froggatt
Belfast

SIR – My fourth son at Oundle: “Effortless progress, in every sense of the word.”

Michael Hollands
Albrighton, Shropshire

SIR – My vocabulary was increased by the sole word “Slothful” in my music report.

Bruce Everett
Alfriston, East Sussex

SIR – Art: “John gets himself so messy.”

John G. Prescott
Coulson, Surrey

SIR – A chemistry master’s report: “I believe he plays the oboe.”

Tim Scott
Cambridge

SIR – My school report said that I had a “don’t care attitude” – and do you know what...?

Sally Hayman
Cuxham, Oxfordshire

SIR – One of the earliest school reports that my wife received described her as “a chatterbox and a fidget-bottom”.

Nothing has changed in the intervening 60 years.

John Rieley
Lindfield, West Sussex