

Memories of 'Lines' By Jim Marriott. Pupil 1960 — 67.

A minor punishment.

Masters or prefects 'gave' lines and the offender 'took' lines —the master would say, "You boy, take 100 lines..."

'Lines' would be a phrase or sentence to be written repeatedly. Often 100x or 50x but sometimes as little as 10 or 15.

Some masters habitually gave out lines e.g. 'Froggy' Hanson. Other masters would rather deal out more physical and immediate punishments but Froggy could never be bothered getting up out of his seat to do that.

Sometimes lines had to be completed on an almost impossibly small piece of paper.

Sometimes they had to be done in a short time frame e.g. by the end of first break.

Sometimes linked to a detention.

Sometimes a school rule e.g. the first school rule; 'Any offence against the dictates of common sense or good manners is a breach of school rules.'

Sometimes linked directly to the offence e.g. not passing beakers carefully about the lunchtime table.

If you knew a busy time was coming up in your social calendar, lines could be written in advance and stored in case of future need. There was of course a risk attached to this - the lines you were given might not match any you had prepared. However, lines were a marketable commodity and lines surplus to personal requirements could be sold, in batches. Equally, they could be written specifically for sale; some pupils earned enough to buy break-time bread rolls stuffed with crisps by selling lines.

Examples of my lines follow together with some in another boy's handwriting— I guess I may have bought these.

