

ST. ANSELM HALL,

Victoria Park, Manchester, 14.

—:0:—

Application for Admission.

Application for admission should be made to the Warden on this form, and should be returned to him as soon as possible.

—:0:—

1.—Name in full (surname first)

DUNCAN, ROBERT JAMES.

2.—Home Address

37, Gordon Terrace, Stakeford,
Choppington,
Northumberland.

3.—Name of Parent or Guardian

Robert Duncan. (Parent)

4.—Profession of Parent

L. N. E. Railway, Signalman.

5.—Date of Birth

20th March 1917.

6.—Date and Place of Baptism

26th April 1917. Elderton Str. Edlingham
Parish.

7.—Date and Place of Confirmation

8.—Places of Education, with dates

Stakeford Council School

March 1922 to Sept 1928

Bedlington Secondary School.

Sept. 1928 until July 1935.

9.—Public Examinations passed. Give particulars of subjects taken, credits or distinctions gained, &c.

University of Durham School Leaving.

English, French, (pass)

Chemistry, Geography Woodwork

Physics (credit)

Mathematics (distinction)

10.—Games played. State if House, School, or other Colours have been won

Football, Cricket, Tennis,

11.—What subject do you propose to study at the University?

Physics or (Physics Chemistry Maths)

12.—For what University Scholarships (if any) are you competing?

13.—Do you wish to compete for one of the Hall Scholarships?

14.—In what occupation do you hope to engage after leaving the University?

Teacher of the Deaf.

15.—Religious Denomination (if not Church of England)

16.— Names and Addresses of not more than three persons to whom reference can be made. One of these should be the applicant's head master, house master, or tutor

Mr. A. J. Williams

Bedlington Secondary School

Northumberland

Alderman M. Hugh J. P.

Front Street, Guide Post,

Choppington, Nthd.

Dr. H. S. Brown

Selant House, Stakeford,

Choppington, Nthd.

17.— Signature of Parent or Guardian

Robert Duncan

18.— Signature of Applicant

Robert James Duncan

Date

April 12th 1935

The Warden, Dear Sir,

Enclosed

you will find the £1.0.0.

as requested for an Entrance
Deposit, thanking you for the
vacancy you have
retained for me.

yours faithfully,

R. J. Duncan.
— —

Acknowledged
3.15/34

NORTHUMBERLAND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS,
C. WILLIAMS, M.A.,
DIAL HOUSE,
NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE 1.



PRINCIPAL :
ARTHUR J. WILLIAMS, M.A., LL.B.,
SECONDARY SCHOOL,
BEDLINGTON,
NORTHUMBERLAND.

April 19th. 1935.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 16th.

regarding R.J.Duncan of this school who has just been admitted to the Teachers Training Department of Manchester University, I beg to state:-

(a) that his intellectual powers are really good, and that, in my opinion, he is well able to profit by a Honours Course;

(b) that his athletic abilities are negligible although he is interested in all out-door sports. Socially, he is shy but would prove an admirable "mixer". I should not fear for him in any form of communal life. His ready smile and his skill on the violin make him persona grata anywhere;

(c) that his character is and always has been irreproachable. He is a splendid fellow in every way.

Yours faithfully,

Arthur J. Williams

TELEPHONE
ASHINGTON 100.

LELANT HOUSE,
STAKEFORD,
CHOPPINGTON,
NORTHUMBERLAND.

April 24th. 35.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your enquiry of the 16th inst.

I have known Robert James Duncan for 15 years and can testify to his good moral character and respectability. He is bright, cheerful, intelligent and keen on his studies, but I am not in a position to express an opinion with regard to his scholastic attainments or capabilities. He is a healthy minded lad, is physically fit, energetic and interested in foot-ball, cricket, and tennis, and plays the violin. I think he would settle happily in the college life, and enter into the social side of the institution.

With apologies for the delay in writing to you.

I am,

Yours faithfully.

H. J. Brown

The Rev. The Warden.

St Anselm Hall.

Victoria Park.

Manchester. 14.

Telephone and Telegrams: Rusholme 1398

ST. ANSELM HALL
A HALL OF RESIDENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
(Recognised by the Board of Education)

Warden

The Revd. T. H. South, B.A.

VICTORIA PARK
MANCHESTER, 14

26:4:35.

R. J. Duncan, Esq.

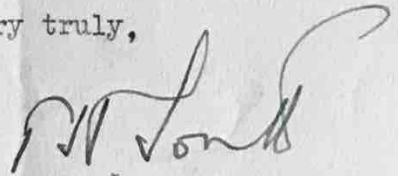
Dear Duncan,

I have pleasure in offering you my congratulations on your
your acceptance in the Training Department for Teachers of the Deaf; and,
having received satisfactory testimonials concerning you, I ~~have~~ am glad
to offer you a vacancy here for next Michaelmas Term. On receipt of your
Entrance Deposit of £1, a place will be definitely reserved for you.
This deposit, as you will see from the prospectus, is returnable by deduction
from the first term's fees, but is not returnable in the case of withdrawal
prior to the commencement of the Session.

The term will commence on October 1st., and a circular will be sent
out early in September giving such information as Freshmen are likely to require;
but if there are any questions which you would like answered now, please do not
hesitate to write to me.

With best wishes for your University career,

Yours very truly,



Warden.

26:4:35.

R. J. Duncan, Esq.

Dear Duncan,

I have pleasure in offering you my congratulations on your acceptance in the Training Department for Teachers of the Deaf; and, having received satisfactory testimonials concerning you, I ~~was~~ am glad to offer you a vacancy here for next Michaelmas Term. On receipt of your Entrance Deposit of £1, a place will be definitely reserved for you. This deposit, as you will see from the prospectus, is returnable by deduction from the first term's fees, but is not returnable in the case of withdrawal prior to the commencement of the Session.

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With best wishes for your University career,

Yours very truly,

Warden.

37, Gordon Terrace,
Stakeford,
B. Hoppington,
Northumberland.

27: 9: 35.

The Warden,

St Anselm Hall.

Dear Sir,

I have to report that with the concurrence of Mrs. Ewing, I am postponing entry into the University (Dept of the Deaf - Teachers' Training Dept) until Oct 1936.

Thus I would be grateful if you would please allow me to withdraw and postpone entry into St Anselm Hall until Oct. 1936.

Yours obediently,
R. J. Duncan.

September 27th. 1935.

My dear Duncan,

I heard from Mrs. Ewing today that owing to a failure in a chemistry examination, you are considering postponing for a year your entry to the University.

I can see that there might be something to be said for another year at school in certain cases; but I should have thought that so far as you are concerned there would be serious objections to this course, in view of your age and the fact that Mrs. Ewing recommends you to commence here at once.

The fact that Professor Bragg is prepared to allow you to read for the Honour School of Physics notwithstanding the failure in Chemistry is, I think, significant. Speaking from a personal rather than an official standpoint I should say that this suggests that you would not be spending your time to the greatest profit by devoting the year to school work when you could be progressing with the work for your degree. You have a four year course before you in any case, and I know that the men here usually feel that they are more ready to commence on the practice of their profession by the time they are twenty two.

I trust that you will not feel that I am trying to influence your judgment unduly. Obviously the choice is yours, and must be made by you; but I should be sorry to see you regretting the year when you found yourself junior to men of your own age, and when it was too late to alter things.

Yours sincerely,

October 2nd. 1935.

Dear Duncan,

I am sorry that our letters crossed; but from what you say it is clear that your mind is made up, so there is nothing more to be said.

Of course a place shall be kept for you here for next Session, and I shall look forward to welcoming you to the Hall a year hence.

Yours sincerely,

Warden.

37, Gordon Ice,

Stakeford,

Choppington.

Nthd,

Feb. 8th 1936.

The Warden, Dear Sir,

I postponed entry to the University until Oct 1936, but you informed me that a place would be kept at the Hall for the next session. However during the past week I have received applications forms for admission to Hulme and Dalton Hall.

Would you please inform me as to whether a place is still kept for me or not at St Anselm Hall. And Oblige,
yours faithfully
R. J. Duncan.

February 11th. 1936.

Dear Duncan,

Most certainly a place has been reserved for you at this Hall, and we are looking forward to welcoming you here next Session. Your Entrance Deposit of £1, which you paid last year, holds good, and will be refunded by deduction from the first term's fees.

I do not think that you need attach any great importance to the fact of having received particulars from other Halls. All those accepted for the Training Department, and who have expressed a desire to reside in a Hall, are sent information about each Hall as a matter of course.

All good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Warden.

37, Gordon Terrace
Skefard
Whoppington
Northumberland
September 30th 1937.

The Narden,
Dear Sir,

I am sorry to inform you that my brother Robert James Duncan will be unable to attend Manchester University at the beginning of the Autumn Term, so, he will not be staying at the St. Anselm Hall.

He was admitted to Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary on the 14th August for appendicitis and was operated on, on the same night, he had a further operation on August 20th and then again on September 2nd which I am very sorry to say nearly cost him his life. After 5 weeks in the R.V.I. he has been removed to a convalescent home at Wylam, this being his second week there.

I am unable to give any definite date as to when he will be able to commence with his studies again, but, he will write you himself when he comes home which I expect will be sometime next.

week

I have also informed the Registrar of the
University, of his illness

Yours Truly,

Kessie Duncan

1st. October 1937.

Dear Madam,

I am extremely sorry to learn of the serious illness of your brother, and I trust that he is now ell on the way to recovery.

I take it that he is hoping to resume work here some time this term; and it will be of great assistance to me if you can let me have definite information at the earliest possible moment. The position is that the Hall is full, and I have been refusing candidates, so you will understand that I do not want to get left with a vacancy after all, should your brother not be returning until next year; but i very much hope that this will not be the case.

Please give your brother my kindest regards, and best wishes for a speedy and permanent return to complete health.

Yours very truly,

Warden.

Miss N. Duncan.

37, London Terrace
Sikatford
Choppington
Northumberland.
October 5th 1937

The Warden,
Dear Sir,

I am still unable to give you any definite date for my brother Robert James Duncan returning to college, as mother has seen our family doctor and by the report he has received from the Infirmary my brother will be some weeks before he will be able to commence with his studies again, as he is only making very slow progress.

I am sorry but this is all the information that I can give you at present.

Yours truly
Nesie Duncan.

October 7th. 1937.

Dear Madam,

I am sorry to trouble you again at what must be an anxious time for you; but your letter regarding R.J. Duncan leaves me in a difficult position. I have another candidate anxious to come into Hall, and if I refuse him, I shall be obliged to charge your brother the fees for the present term. If it likely to be a matter of two or three weeks, or even a month, I will gladly keep the place open, but if your brother were away for, say, the whole of this term, the position would be difficult for everyone concerned. Of course I realise that in matters of health no one can speak with certainty, but I wondered whether you could perhaps obtain from the doctor some statement as to whether this period of convalescence is likely to be nearer three weeks or three months; or perhaps he would write me a confidential letter on the matter.

I have this morning spoken to Mrs. Ewing at the University, and she made the suggestion that if your brother was a month or two late in resuming his studies this year, and was even then not in the best of health, it might be better for him if she could arrange for him to have a light post in a School for the Deaf this year, and then take up his studies at the University in October 1938. Of course this is only a suggestion, and I can make no promises, but it did strike me as a most generous offer, and one which ought to be carefully considered.

Perhaps now you can review the situation again, and let me have further word, as I am keeping this other student waiting in the meantime.

Yours very truly,

Warden.

Miss N. Duncan.

37, Gordon Terrace,
Stakeford,
Choppington
Nthd.

11:9:37.

The Warden,

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your kindness
and for the information regarding Mrs Ewing's
offer.

I am unable to give any definite date as
to my return to Manchester but should be
back before half term therefore you had better
use your own discretion as to whether the
room is for me or not.

Even if I cannot keep my place
in Hall I will be able to find some
lodgings when I return to Manchester.

Yours faithfully
R J Duncan

October 18th. 1937.

My dear Duncan,

Let me first say how extremely sorry I was to learn of your serious illness this summer, and to express my best wishes for your speedy and complete recovery.

I really hate bothering you with all this Hall business at a time when you need to have nothing to think about except getting fit; but you will understand the difficult position I am in.

I have given the matter a lot of thought, and it seems to me that the best course to take is to fill up your place here now. This will relieve you of any responsibility in the matter of fees, and when you are fit to come back you will be free to decide on the best line to take without any feeling that you are pledged to come back here at the earliest moment. It may so turn out that when, in say five or six weeks' time, you are able to resume work, the prospect of working extra hard to make up for lost time on your Part 1 work would not seem the ideal course, and if Mrs. Ewing is then able to offer you a light post for the remainder of the year, you might be well advised to accept it. If, on the other hand, you did come back to Manchester then, I might be able to fit you in here again at the beginning of next term, and could definitely do so for the Summer Term.

Therefore I think we must leave it like that now, and I shall be grateful if you will let me now how things go on with you, and what you eventually decide to do. I think it would be a wise move to get in touch with both the Director of the Department of Education, and Mrs. Ewing, and to be guided by their advice.

We shall all miss you very much here, and I for one very much trust that it will not be long before we have you with us again. If you will let me have the Hall account I sent you, I will amend it, and let you have the balance due to you.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Warden.

37, Gordon Terrace,
Stakeford,
Choppington
Nthd.

Amended
20-10-37
Vacation
for you 11-37
19-12-37

16:1X:37.

The Warden,

Dear Sir,

Please find

enclosed the Hall account which
you are going to amend. I would
like to mention that I haven't
already got the Rigger photograph which
has been put on the account.

I was allowed to get out
of bed for a while today so
I expect to return to Mr/c. fairly
soon and hope to return to Hall.

^{when}
if you can accommodati me.

Thanking you for your kindness

Yours faithfully R J Duncan

(COPY).

BOARD OF EDUCATION,
Whitehall,
London. SW.1.

8th December, 1937.

Manchester University Training Department.

U. 982 D/370.

Sir,

With reference to your letters of the 22nd ult and the 1st inst., I am directed to say that, if Mr. R.J.Duncan continues in regular attendance for the remainder of the session, a deduction of £3.15.0 from Resident Maintenance Grant will be made in respect of his absence from the 7th Oct. to the 24th Nov. inclusive.

I am, &c

H.E.ME.VIN.

Dr. W.C.R.Hicks,
The University,
Manchester.

*Duncan
advised
14.12.37*

Duncan: Withdrawal.

St. Anselm Hall,

Victoria Park,

Munc 14.

18th December 1939.

The Warden,

Dear Sir,

Today I have received a letter from Mrs. Ewing of the Dept. of Education of the Deaf.

One of the students, at present living in the Royal Deaf School at Old Trafford, is joining the Forces and I have been invited to become resident in his place. I have previously been considered as a resident student, when it was decided that I should continue living in Hall with a possibility of being granted a Bursarship which has not materialised due to the War. I am at present receiving the normal Education grant for a resident student but this of course may be changed should I leave Hall.

I will not really like leaving St. Anselm after living here for over three years, but there appears to be some Educational value to be obtained should I accept this invitation since I should come in contact with many types of Deaf children.

I would therefore be extremely grateful to you if you could assist me in assessing my new financial position should I accept.

Yours sincerely
R. J. Duncan.

Pay as recognition. \$5.

Duncan; 20 Decemrs.

Will agree that he shd.
withdraw, but that he
shd. make a token
payment.

Ration book.

Rev. G. J. Inglis.

23 December 39.

Dear Mr. Duncan,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December. I note that you have been invited to reside in the Royal Deaf School, and I think that such residence would be of real value to you in your training.

I have discussed with the Bursar the question of your withdrawing from the Hall in order to accept this invitation. The Hall regulations lay down that a Student, who desires to withdraw from residence before completing his course at the University, can do so only at the end of a Term, and must give notice during the first week of the Term at the end of which he wishes to leave. According to these regulations, you are not free to withdraw until the end of the Lent Term, having given notice in the first week of that Term. But I am anxious, as you know, to help you in your work, and, if you let me have formal notice of withdrawal, I am willing to accept it as taking effect at the end of the Michaelmas Term. I think, however, that if you withdraw, you might make a token payment to the Hall, in recognition of the fact that we are not holding you to your contract

I should be glad to hear from you on this matter as soon as your plans are definite.

With all kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Duncan, Esq.

37, Gordon Terrace,
Stakeford,
Choppington,
Northumberland.
27th December 1939.

Dear Sir,

I have not received your letter as we arranged at the interview on Wednesday.

I wish to leave St. Anselm on payment of a nominal fee and to become resident at the Royal Deaf School instead. Leaving St. Anselm will be difficult at first since I certainly have spent three pleasant years there, however, living at the Deaf School offers different types of educational values which I ought to grasp if possible and so with these in view I propose to leave Hall.

As I mentioned at the interview I think I would like to stay in Hall for a few days at the beginning of term but do not know definitely about this and so will write again about this point as soon as possible.

I wish to thank ^{you} very much for your helping me in my difficulties and I do hope St Anselm Hall continues as the well known Hall of Residence for the University

I am,

Yours truly

R. J. Durcan.

37, Gordon Terrace,
Stakeford,
Choppington.

29. December 39.

The Warden,

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 23rd Dec. which I only received yesterday.

The Royal Deaf School does not begin until Jan. 15th and so I would like to stay in St. Anselm from Jan 10th until after breakfast on Jan. 15th if at all possible.

If you are agreeable to my staying in Hall then it seems that there will be very little trouble with rationing since I would be using almost a full weeks rations in Hall and then I could be transferred on the 15th. when I leave for the Deaf school.

I should be glad to hear from you about this.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Duncan

Rev. G. J. Inglis, M. A.

3 January 40.

Dear Mr. Duncan,

Thank you for your kind letters of 27 and 29 December. I am willing to accept your notice of withdrawal from the Hall as taking effect at the end of the Michaelmas Term, and I am glad to know that you will make a token payment to the Hall, in recognition of the release from your contract.

I shall be very glad to have you here from Wednesday, 10 January, until after breakfast on Monday, 15 January. I propose, in the circumstances, to make a charge of 6/- per day for lodging and meals, excluding lunch on the usual weekdays. I shall have to allot your room in Main Building to another Student, but I shall provide accommodation in Manor House. I shall draw your rations for the week beginning 8 January, as you suggest, and shall let you have your ration book and counterfoils on 15 January.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Duncan, Esq.

Seen RWB.

Telephone:

TRAfford Park 0355.

WORRALL HOUSE,

683 CHESTER RD.,

OLD TRAFFORD,

MANCHESTER, 16.

14/4/54

DICKY

Dear Sir,
Thank you once more for your letter. I enclose a cheque for 17/- for Floreat & Hall Reunion Dinner.

I was sorry to read of the death of Canon Armytage although I only met him at the '49 Reunion.

I am looking forward to the Reunion again and hope that more of the '36-'40's will turn up this year. Perhaps they will turn up in force to meet Dicky Richardson again.

Term just finished today & we're having lots of jobs done during the holiday. It will be a change if not a rest!

Yours very sincerely,

R. J. Duncan (1936-40)