TSS Ping Pong is alive and well 112 years on...

Table Tennis, then referred to as Ping Pong was invented in the 19th century and was played amongst the upper class as a parlour game after supper. It was believed to be invented by British Military Soldiers who brought the idea back with them from India. A row of books was used as a net and two books were used for paddles or bats to hit a golf ball. Ping Pong was trademarked in 1901 by J. Jaques and Son in England and that is why other manufacturers started to use the name Table Tennis to avoid infringing copyright. Celluloid balls came in around 1901, as did the dimpled paddles. By 1921 a Table tennis Association was set up due to popularity of the game and the first world championships were held in 1926 in London.

In 1903 TSS boys used to play Ping Pong and improvise using Horace Dixon’s table in the class-room. This was a most popular pastime with the boys and soon became an unofficial Inter- House sport when McKinley House was formed in 1909 to rival Thorold House.

Ping Pong Championships would be held after class and on some weekends. Winners would receive an extra ration of butter or potato.

Below is photographs of the first sports committee in 1907, and the classroom tables used for Ping Pong in 1903.