Dear Fred,

This morning Shaw (our Head) gave me your letter which I was very surprised to get. About 1½ years ago I read a letter from you in which you invited me to come to London for a day and I replied to it but didn’t get an answer, so I thought you had gone to America. My mother once told me that you had left for America and were married but she didn’t know anything else.

I was very surprised to see that you are in Manchester now. Have you got a job and what sort of a job is it? Do you stay at a boarding-house or
Have you got a home of your own now? How are you getting on? I've been here at school for 1½ years now and I like it very much.

It isn't an ordinary boarding school; it's a psychological school especially for children who can't stay at home for some reason or other.

You see the difference is that a psychological school is run by a psychologist (in this case two) and that there are boys and girls from any age (5 to 18). One of the pupils, a Jewish boy from Czechoslovakia called Paul Pollak, is doing staff duties although he is only 17.

There are only a few other overgrown seniors; the senior group consists of about 10 boys aged 13-15.

There are two other pupils who are worth mentioning: Madge (my best friend), a girl of 17 and Leslie who...
appears very grown up but is only 15. (He is Jewish and Paul's friend) All the other girls are much younger and still play with dolls. One of them, Vera (aged 5), is Madge's and very sort of "fosterchild". We look after her and even when one of the staff tells her to do something she always asks either Madge or me whether it's right to do it or not.

By the way, now I want to ask you to plunk on the nearest chair before going on reading. There are some very modern and queer to me habits. Bathrooms and W.C.'s have no keys !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! That means: Entrance free! Well, you can imagine me: it's so terribly amusing. I creep out in the dark and run into the bathroom.
after everybody is in bed and take some chairs and other pieces of furniture and put them against the door. You have no idea what fine it is.

Besides there is a pond here where people go swimming in the summer but without bathing costumes. I'm the only person who doesn't go in partly because I don't like swimming and partly because of my mother's morals. I often used to watch boys of 18, and Paul Leslie and Madge going in the pond to have a swimming race or games.

I have already started doing staff-duties and I take children for walks and sometimes prepare tea and supper for the whole school. Everybody calls staff including the
Head by their Christian names

You see, Redhill is a sort of private school which is run by two couples consisting of two very brainy psychologists, their wives extremely dull but pretty and their babies. One family has got a baby girl of 16 months, the other family a baby boy of 7 months. Then there is an old nurse Marion who has a baby boy of 20 months and whose husband is employed in a school in London.

Then there are gardeners, cooks and charwomen who are all terribly decent.

By the way, Madge with whom I'm very intimate wants me to tell you that she considers the naked bathing in the pond as very good thing and as very pure.
It is always hard to make an outsider clear that these sides of R.H. life are not all shocking as one always thinks.

At the moment we are having a holiday but Midge and I will start working tomorrow.

I've chosen the following subjects for Matric: English, Maths, French, German, Heat, Light & Sound.

Please excuse my writing but it's after late and I've got a lot more to do some letters have to be answered to-night and I want to play Bridge with Paul and Midge. We share a very nice room and often invite people to our supper.

By the way we had a marvellous Xmas and parties. Only twenty of us stayed here and it was ever so nice. We got marvellous stockings
With tin stuff. Many people gave us joined presents consisting of lots of tin food and sweets and other things like soap, books, toasting fork and handkerchiefs.

Did you know that Dr. Kirsch and his family have left for America more than a year ago and that a certain Mrs. Asch is looking after his affairs?

By the way how Pong will it be with your waiting number for U.S.A.

Have you heard anything from Yse and Hanney and do you know whether they are still at home and what they are doing? It's funny to think that Yse is nearly 21 and Hanney 19.

Well, I've to close now. Best wishes for the New Year! Please let me know how you're
getting on. I'm extremely glad to be in touch with you again. By the way have you got a snap of you which you could let me have?

Love from 'Hilde' Edith.

P.S. My nickname here is Madame Bug for some unknown reason.