

PREFECTS FIND 'ARSENAL' AT BOYS' SCHOOL

A SURPRISE search on Monday by prefects at a Clapham school run by Brothers of a Catholic order, revealed weapons including air pistols, a meat hook, an ammonia spray gun and chairlegs, following rumours of an impending street battle between the boys of three schools in the area.

The weapons were found hidden in boys' desks and briefcases at Clapham College in Nightingale-lane, Clapham. Now there is almost certain to be an investigation by the school governors.

Police were called in by

headmaster Brother Peter after hearing rumours that a fight between pupils from the college, Balham Secondary School and Henry Thornton School was to take place in the evening.

According to schoolboys, trouble has been growing over the past few weeks following internal friction at Clapham College between fourth and fifth-formers.

It came to a head last week, they say, when a gang of youths, called in from Balham Secondary School by a fourth-year boy, invaded the college grounds.

The 400-pupil Clapham College, housed in a massive Georgian-style house over-

looking Clapham Common, is a direct-grant school run by the Xaverian Brothers with the help of lay teachers.

One of the prefects said, "The stuff that was found in the search was unbelievable. Three boys have been interviewed by police and 15 boys had weapons confiscated.

"This trouble has been coming over the past few weeks and the boys must have been arming themselves. If we hadn't stepped in I daren't think what might have happened."

Other weapons found included a pike hook, cycle chains, a bowling alley pin and three pairs of steel-toecapped boots.