

THE
ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HIGH WYCOMBE



THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE, was first established in the reign of Edward VI. by the Mayor and Burgesses of the town, who purchased the ancient Hospital of St. John the Baptist (founded c. 1175 A.D.) and converted it into a Grammar School. On July 21st, 1562, a Royal Charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth, and for more than three hundred years the School was carried on in the Hospital of St. John. During this long period the School was well endowed by various pious benefactors. In 1882 the old Hospital was demolished, the ancient Norman Arches were exposed to view, and a School was built on somewhat higher ground behind the old site and further removed from the road. The Norman Arches of the old Hospital Refectory and the south wall of the Chapel are still preserved in the grounds of the Technical Institute in Easton Street.

From 1902 the School grew steadily in numbers ; by 1914 the sixty boys had increased to over 200 and it could be seen that an entirely new site must be selected and a new school built in a place where there was not only abundant room for playing fields, but also space for additional buildings if ever these should become necessary. With wise prevision the Governors, of whom Bishop Shaw was Chairman, fixed on the present site at the top of Amersham Hill, about a mile from the railway station. The new buildings comprised an Assembly Hall, Headmaster's Study, Masters' Common Room, Library, eight large Class Rooms, Art Room, Lecture Room, Physics and Chemistry Laboratories, Balance Room, Dark Room, Store Rooms, two large Cloak Rooms and Changing Rooms, Workshop and Cycle Shed. They provided for 212 boys who entered into possession of the new buildings in 1915. At the same time the present Headmaster's House and Boarding House were erected at the side of the school. This boarding accommodation was enlarged and modernised in 1935, and now provides excellent accommodation for 40 boarders. Considerable extensions to the Boarding side are in immediate prospect.

In 1928 the Governors were compelled by largely increased numbers, to add a further building, comprising a large and completely equipped Gymnasium, four Class Rooms (which are now used for the Junior School) and Changing Rooms ; while in 1937, faced with a recurrence of the same problem, the Governors, in conjunction with the Bucks County Council, enlarged the main building, and added further accommodation to enable the School to deal with 500 boys and to bring the whole structure in line with the most modern educational ideas. The new buildings, which were opened in September, 1938, by the Provost of Eton, comprise two wings running out at right-angles, one from either corner of the main block (one wing contains Library and Art Room and the other Geography Room and three Class Rooms) ; a Wood and Metal-work Room standing apart, to the north of the Gymnasium block ; two Changing Rooms, equipped with foot and shower-baths, behind the main block ; a Bicycle Shed ; and a Changing Room and shower-bath built on to the Gymnasium.

The alterations consisted of an enlargement of the old Hall—the new Hall is panelled in oak, and possesses a fine and completely equipped stage and dressing-rooms—and the conversion of the old Art Room and one Class Room into Biology and Advanced Chemistry Laboratories ; the Masters' Common Room has been taken for an Office and Waiting-room, and the Staff have been provided with new Common Room and lavatory accommodation. The School is lighted throughout by electricity and is most adequately heated centrally.

Finally the war brought further additions to the school's numbers and after certain fluctuations due to evacuation and the end of evacuation it was realised that places were required

for some 700 boys, and it is for this number that the Bucks County Education Authority is proposing to provide accommodation, and it is for 700 that the present framework and staffing of the school caters, even though the buildings are at the moment inadequate for these numbers under the recently published building standards of the Ministry of Education.

In addition, the waste ground in front of the school has now been taken in and the whole front laid out, with wide gravelled fore-court, and with grass slopes running down to the road on either side of the central main entrance.

The School faces south-east, and is situated on one of the hills outside the town. It lies in the midst of the beautiful Chiltern country, and is nearly 600 feet above sea level, commanding magnificent views of the surrounding country. High Wycombe is on the Great Central and Great Western Joint line, and there is an excellent service of trains between High Wycombe and the Gerrards Cross, Beaconsfield, Wooburn and Risborough areas. There are also omnibus services to all parts of the surrounding districts.

In consequence of the school's ancient foundation, its importance in the neighbourhood, the scope of its Sixth Form work and the number of boys proceeding annually from the school to the Universities, the school was in the Spring of 1943 officially recognised as a Public School by the election of the Headmaster to the Headmasters' Conference.

Admission.

Boys are eligible for admission at the age of 10 years, and may remain in the School until the end of the term in which they attain the age of 18, or with the permission of the Governors, on the recommendation of the Headmaster, until the end of the term in which they attain the age of 19.

The general method of admission to the Main School is by the Bucks County Education Committee's Special Place Examination which is held in March of each year. On this examination, for which all children whose parents reside in the County are eligible whether they attend Public, Primary or Private Preparatory Schools, a large number of places is awarded.

Out-County Pupils.

Whenever parents who do not live in the County of Bucks wish their sons to be admitted to this school, either as transferred pupils or at the age of 11, application should be made to the Headmaster on a form of application, but the consent of the County Education Committee must first be obtained before the boy can be admitted. It is not likely that where a boy has been unsuccessful in the Special Place Examination in his own County he will be accepted as suitable for Grammar School education at this school by the Bucks Education Authority. It is recommended that even when boys are intending to stay at their Preparatory Schools until the age of 13 if there is the slightest likelihood of their wanting a transfer at that age to this school the parents should make arrangements for the boys to take the County's Special Place Examination when they are between the age of 10 and 12.

Transfer.

Where parents have moved into this area from other Counties it may be accepted that where a boy has already secured a place at a Secondary Grammar School and can produce a

satisfactory report regarding character and progress from that school, he will be eligible for admission to a comparable form at this school after due communication has been made to the Chief Education Officer.

Notice of withdrawal must be given in writing on or before the first day of the term at the end of which the pupil is to be withdrawn.

Withdrawal.

All boys entering the school are required to sign a written agreement with the Governors by which they undertake that a boy shall remain in school until the end of the year in which he reaches his sixteenth birthday, except for some reason which the Governors consider satisfactory.

It is earnestly hoped that as many boys as possible will take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the school by remaining until they reach the age of 18. The curriculum is designed in such a way that given normal progress every boy attains the standard of the School Certificate Examination by the time he reaches the age of 16. After that age advanced work in the Sixth Form provides great opportunities not only for intellectual development but also for the undertaking and discharging of responsible tasks in connection with various school activities. Boys who leave at the age of 16 undoubtedly miss much that the school has to offer.

Fees.

Under the terms of the Education Act, 1944, this school has now become a Voluntary Controlled School and there are, therefore, no fees payable for tuition or books.

Curriculum.

The curriculum is based on the Regulations for Secondary Schools issued by the Board of Education. Boys receive a sound education on modern lines and the subjects of instruction are : Scripture, Arithmetic, English, Geography, History, Latin, French, German, Mathematics, Natural Science, Economics, Drawing, Woodwork and Metalwork and Physical Training. Class Singing and Modelling are taught in the Lower Forms. In the upper forms Greek is taught to small classes of selected boys, while in the post matriculation forms boys may specialise in Classics, Science and Mathematics, or Modern Studies in preparation for University Scholarships, the Services, Civil Service Examinations, Higher School Certificate, Intermediate Arts and Science Examinations of the University of London, and various other Professional Examinations. The work of every form is reported on regularly to parents and arranged and supervised by the Headmaster.

General Regulations.

Day Boys must reside with their parents or guardians, or must obtain the consent of the Governors to reside elsewhere. Arrangements can be made for Day Boys to stay at the School for dinner.

All boys attending the School are expected to wear the School cap and School tie, not only to and from the School, but also in the evenings and during week-ends. It is desirable that grey suits should be worn to School during the winter months, while in the summer term the School blazer with short or long flannel trousers and white flannel shirt is recommended. Boys

are not permitted to wear open necked shirts except when a white flannel shirt is worn with a School blazer and flannel trousers.

Every boy must be provided with :—

White gym shorts.

2 Towels.

Rubber-soled shoes with white canvas uppers.

Belt.

Football outfit (blue shorts, House and white jerseys, stockings, boots.)

Cricket outfit (white flannel shirts, white shoes or boots, flannel trousers).

Boys taking chemistry in the upper school would be well advised to wear overalls to protect their suits.

Boys will not be permitted to use the sports field except in proper attire.

All property must be clearly marked with the owner's name. Cash's name tapes are strongly recommended.

New boys are recommended to provide a large linen bag in which to keep their gym. clothes.

Each boy has a desk in his own Classroom for his books, and a locker and pigeon hole in the Cloakroom for cricket and football clothes, etc., and for boots and slippers. There is excellent accommodation for changing for games. There are numerous shower baths and foot baths in addition to the usual basins.

Dinners.

A hot dinner is provided for day boys in the school hall at a charge of 6d. per day. Parents whose boys take school dinner at the commencement of any term are asked to see to it that this arrangement is continued throughout the term. It is not possible to make satisfactory arrangements unless a regular number of boys take school dinner throughout the given period. The dinner fee is 2/6d. per week which should be brought on each Monday morning.

Milk.

From the beginning of the Autumn Term, 1946, each boy requiring milk receives one bottle per school day without charge.

Entrance Scholarships—Boarding House.

While no fees are now payable for tuition at the school a fee of £22 5s. 0d. per term is still chargeable for boarders in the School Boarding Houses. At the present moment the full fee has to be paid for every boy whose parents wish him to board. All boys who have secured admission to the school on the County Special Palce Examination are eligible to become boarders at their parents wish. It is probable that in the near future the Bucks County Education Authority will award a number of boarding scholarships tenable at this school. Parents of sons who want such scholarships will be required to pay a boarding fee graded according to their income on a scale regulated by the Education Authority.

Leaving Scholarships.

Boys whose parents reside in the County of Buckinghamshire are eligible for State Scholarships, County Major Scholarships, Art Exhibitions, Music Exhibitions, awarded by the Local Education Authority.

A Scholarship Fund has been established in memory of 2nd Lieut. Frederick Youens, V.C., an Old Boy of the School. From this fund Scholarships are awarded by the Governors, on the recommendation of the Headmaster, to boys requiring assistance to enable them to proceed to a University.

Examinations.

School Examinations are held in February and July. Boys in the Upper Forms take Scholarship, London Intermediate and Matriculation and Oxford Higher and School Certificate Examinations. As a Secondary School under the Board of Education, the School is regularly inspected by H.M. Inspectors, and reported on by the Board as to efficiency of Staff equipment and work.

Reports.

A comprehensive report on every boy's work and conduct is sent home at the end of each term. The boys are measured each term, and their measurements are entered on the reports.

Health Certificates.

On admission and on returning to School after the holidays each boy is required to bring a Health Certificate, signed by one of his parents, stating that the boy has not been exposed to any infection. Forms are supplied by the Headmaster. Should a boy contact any infectious illness, or come in contact with any infection, the Headmaster must be informed at once, and the boy will be permitted to return to School only on presentation of a medical certificate.

Home Work.

Parents can assume that every boy will be set a definite amount of work every evening. The boys in the Second Forms have two subjects nightly, and in the rest of the School three subjects. The time to be spent on each subject should be approximately half-an-hour. Where boys regularly do much more or much less than this amount, parents should communicate with the Headmaster. Marks are awarded for home and school work in each subject, and every fortnight marks and positions in each subject are entered on each boy's record card, which has to be brought back to the form master with the parents' signature. Parents are expected to keep themselves acquainted with each boy's progress in this way.

Holidays.

About 7½ weeks are given in the Summer, 4 weeks at Christmas and 3½ weeks in April.

School Hours.

The hours of attendance are :—

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except Saturdays.

On Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

There is an interval of ten minutes or a quarter of an hour in the morning. The hours are shortened for the younger boys.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons there are organized games and O.T.C. and A.T.C. parades. Saturday afternoons are left free for boys to be with their parents or for the pursuit of their own hobbies. It must be understood, however, that any boy who is required to represent the School in any capacity whatever, must give up any other engagement, athletic, or otherwise, that he may have made. It is hoped that when home matches take place on Saturday afternoons, parents will encourage their sons to be present to support their School team, and will themselves come and watch the matches whenever possible.

Attendance.

Regularity of attendance and punctuality are strictly enforced. No cause, except accident or illness, is recognised as a sufficient excuse for absence unless permission has previously been obtained from the Headmaster, and it is particularly requested that the Headmaster should not be asked to excuse boys from attendance except in cases of special urgency. When a boy has been absent for any reason, he must, on his return, bring a note from a parent or guardian stating the reason for absence. This regulation applies also in cases of absence from the regular School games.

Discipline.

The whole internal organization, management and discipline of the School are in the hands of the Headmaster, by whom authority is delegated to the Masters. All complaints should be addressed direct to the Headmaster and not to individual Masters, though Masters are, of course, glad to be consulted by and to assist parents in any matter concerning the interest or advantage of the pupils. Prefects are chosen by the Headmaster from among the older boys ; they are responsible for the discipline of boys out of School hours and whenever no Master may be present.

Out-of-School Activities.

A very large and important part in education is played by the numerous out-of-school activities, which are conducted by Masters voluntarily and in spare time. It is essential that all boys in the School should take every advantage of the facilities provided and it is hoped that parents will co-operate in this matter by encouraging boys to take an active part in every possible organization connected with the School.

Games.

A large playing field adjoins the School and all boys are expected to join in school games unless they are physically unfit. During the winter months lessons end at 3.55 p.m. on long school days ; the half-hour before 4.30 p.m. is thus left free for brief football practice, a short cross-country run or training for athletic sports ; all boys are expected to remain on the school premises till 4.30 p.m. In the winter terms Rugby Football is played and this is supplemented by Boxing, Fives and O.T.C. work. Cricket and Tennis is played during the summer months. The Athletic Sports and Cross Country Races are held in Spring or early Summer, the Boxing Competitions in March and the Swimming Sports in July.

Officers' Training Corps.

In the autumn of 1909 a Contingent of the Officers' Training Corps was formed. All boys when eligible should, if possible, join the Corps. The Contingent is officered by Masters of the School, and cadets over 15 attend the Public Schools' Camp at Aldershot, Strensall, or on Salisbury Plain, at the close of the summer term.

Other Societies.

In addition, the Dramatic Society produces a full length play each year, usually at the end of the Christmas term; the producing is done by Masters and scenery designed and made by Masters with the assistance of boys. The School Orchestra and School Choir have weekly practices and appear at competitive Festivals in addition to providing music at various School functions. The Hobby Club arranges excursions and lectures throughout the year and for three weeks during the summer vacation a large camp is held at some selected sea-side place within the British Isles or abroad; of late years a hundred Masters and boys took part in these camps. The Scientific Society also arranges lectures and excursions of more specialised appeal. There is also a Chess Club, and boys on leaving are invited to become members of the Old Boys' Club. The National Savings Scheme has a branch in the School and boys are encouraged to deposit their savings in this way.

Library.

The School Library consists of works of reference and of good fiction. Systematic reading of good authors is encouraged as much as possible.

Magazine.

A School Magazine, *The Wycombiensian*, is published each term, and serves as a useful record of School events and as a connecting link with Old Boys.

Interviews.

The Headmaster will be glad to see parents and guardians at the School, preferably by appointment. It is very desirable that parents should communicate any difficulties that may arise to the Headmaster personally, so he is prepared to see parents during the evenings as well as in School hours.

Boarders.

An illustrated Prospectus for Boarders (annual fees £66 15s. 0d.) may be obtained on application.

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Headmaster.