

THE
ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HIGH WYCOMBE





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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 College of Further Education 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.

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 Buckinghamshire Education Committee, 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 was taken for an Office and Waiting-room, and the Staff were provided with new Common Room and lavatory accommodation.

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 School caters. At the moment temporary

accommodation is in use, provided in 1950 by the Buckinghamshire Education Committee at the request of the Governors, on a site a hundred yards away from the School. This provides very satisfactory accommodation for the two hundred boys in the first two years. They have their own hall, class rooms and laboratory, and in addition two splendid music rooms in a separate building have been provided on the same site. It is anticipated that a more permanent home for the Junior School will be commenced in the near future.

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 550 feet above sea level, commanding magnificent views of the surrounding country. 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.

Headmasters' Conference.

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 normally enter the School at the age of ten or eleven and may remain until the end of the year in which they reach the age of nineteen. Admission is controlled by the Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools Entrance Examination which is held in March each year. All children whose parents reside in the county are eligible to take this Examination at the appropriate age, whether they attend Public Primary or Private Preparatory Schools. The Examination is normally taken in the years in which the boy has reached the age of ten, but not twelve, on the 31st August. On the recommendation of their Headmaster, however, boys may also take the Examination in their thirteenth year. The Examination is conducted by the County Education Committee and application must be made through the Headmaster of the pupil's present school for permission to sit this Examination.

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 the prescribed form, but the consent of the County Education Committee must first be obtained also. It is not likely that where a boy has been unsuccessful in the Grammar Schools Entrance Examination in his own County he will be accepted as suitable for admission to this School. Since tuition fees were abolished under the 1944 Act no boy residing out of the County can be admitted except with the consent and approval of the Education Authority in whose area he normally lives. He will almost certainly be required to take that Authority's Examination, the age limits for which are not necessarily identical with those fixed by the Buckinghamshire County Education Committee for boys in this County. 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 their County's Grammar Schools Entrance Examination when they are between the ages 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.

Withdrawal.

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. All boys entering the School are expected by the Governors to remain in School until the end of the year in which they reach their 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 has been reorganised to meet the requirements of the new General Certificate of Education which no boy is able to take at any level until he has passed the age of 16 years. For boys over 16 advanced work in the VIth 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.

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, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Spanish, Music, Economics, Drawing, Woodwork and Metalwork, and Physical Training. In the upper forms Greek is taught to small classes of selected boys, while in the VIth Form boys may specialise in Classics, Science and Mathematics, or Modern Studies in preparation for University Scholarships, the Services, Civil Service Examinations, General Certificate of Education at advanced and scholarship levels, 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.

In recent years the numbers in the VIth Form and consequently the numbers proceeding to the Universities, have been very large indeed. The total number in this group ranges from

130 to 150 boys. It is thus possible for various groups in each subject at every level to be catered for in separate classes without any over-lapping. It is also possible for every subject to be catered for up to Scholarship Level.

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 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:—

For Gym : Shorts, towel and rubber-soled shoes.

For Rugby Football : Shorts, maroon and white jerseys, stockings, boots.

For Cricket : White 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 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 new School Dining Hall (1951) at a charge of seven pence per day. The Governors earnestly hope that every parent will take advantage of the excellent provision that has now been made for school dinners and that no boys will be encouraged to leave the school premises during the dinner hour except where they reside very near to the School. The dinner charge is usually collected on the Monday of every week; boys should give in their names at the beginning of the term and are expected to continue to take school dinners throughout that period.

Milk.

Each boy requiring milk receives one bottle per School day without charge.

Leaving Scholarships.

Boys whose parents reside in Buckinghamshire are eligible for County Major Scholarships, Art Exhibitions, Music Exhibitions, awarded by the Local Education Authority. All boys taking Advanced and Scholarship Level Papers of the General Certificate of Education are eligible for State Scholarships and a considerable number of the most advanced pupils are entered for Open Scholarships at Oxford, Cambridge and other Universities each year.

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 Trustees, on the recommendation of the Headmaster, to boys requiring assistance to enable them to proceed to a University.

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 contract 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 Form 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 6 weeks are given in the Summer, 3 weeks at Christmas and 3 weeks in April.

School Hours.

The hours of attendance are :—

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily.

There is no school on Saturday mornings.

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 Thursday afternoons there are combined Cadet Force parades. Each form has organised games on one afternoon per week, but 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. Boys exempt from games or C.C.F. are expected to remain in School employed at useful work until 4 o'clock.

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 4 p.m.; 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 p.m. even when they would normally be playing games but are prevented by the weather. In the winter terms Rugby Football is played and this is supplemented by Boxing, Cross-country, Fives and C.C.F. work. Cricket and Tennis are 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.

Combined Cadet Force.

In the Autumn of 1909 a Contingent of the Officers' Training Corps was formed. In 1939 the name was changed by the War Office to the Junior Training Corps. Throughout the war the School had a very large contingent numbering about 400 boys and all members of the School were expected to join this contingent on reaching the IVth Form. In 1941 the School formed, at the request of the Air Ministry, a squadron of the newly-formed Air Training Corps. Both the Junior Training Corps and the Air Training Corps have now been amalgamated into a new unit called the Combined Cadet Force. Membership of this C.C.F. is extremely valuable for boys when they proceed to their normal period of military service. The contingent is officered by masters of the School and sends parties to attend camps at various centres during the Summer holiday. Parents however, who do not wish their sons to take part in this important activity may secure exemption by making a written request to the Headmaster.

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 is 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 Scientific Society also arranges lectures and excursions of more specialized appeal. There is also a Chess Club, and the National Savings Scheme has a branch in the School and boys are encouraged to deposit their savings in this way.

Boys on leaving are invited to become members of the Old Boys' Club.

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 twice a year, and serves as a useful record of School events and as a connecting link with Old Boys. It is expected that every boy in the School will purchase each number of *The Wycombiensian*.

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.

School Fund.

It has been found desirable to initiate a School Fund, which can be very useful to finance additional athletic and social activities in connection with the School and also where necessary to help boys to take Open Scholarships to the Universities. Parents are therefore invited to make a contribution not exceeding 2 6d. each term towards this Fund. Such contributions are entirely voluntary and not solicited in any way, but in these days when boys get a substantial amount of pocket money and when many of them undertake small but regular jobs during the holidays, it seems not very burdensome but a very useful contribution to the School activities. Boys who leave are also asked if they would care to make any contribution to this Fund.

Boarders.

The School now possesses three Boarding Houses, two of which have been recently acquired by the Buckinghamshire Education Committee at the Governors' request, so that there is now accommodation for some 90 boarders. While no fees are payable for tuition at the School, the boarding fee of £96 per annum has been fixed for all boarders. The full fee has to be paid for every boy whose parents wish him to board, and admission for boarders as well as for day boys is regulated by the Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools Entrance Examination. The Education Committee, however, has now commenced to offer annually six Boarding Scholarships to be tenable at this School. Parents of boys who are awarded such scholarships will be required to pay a boarding fee graded according to their income.

Applications for the admission of boarders must be made to the Headmaster well in advance of the beginning of term in which admission is desired. Boarding scholars, however, are elected by a Joint Committee of Governors and the County Education Committee after the results of the annual Entrance Examination have been published. The first application for these Scholarships must be made to the Chief Education Officer, County Offices, Aylesbury.

The Boarding Houses consist of :

School House.	The Headmaster.	House Tutor : Mr. R. Howard.
Tylers Wood.	Housemaster : Mr. R. Pattinson.	House Tutor : Mr. H. W. Johnson.
Uplyme.	Housemaster : Mr. M. M. Davies.	

Normally boys between the age of 11 and 13 will be accommodated at the School House, while boys reaching the age of 13 may be allocated to any one of the three houses.

E. R. TUCKER, M.A. (Oxon.),

Late Classical Scholar of Jesus College,

Headmaster.

July, 1951

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