

A Brief History Of Loughborough Grammar School

by

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FOUNDATION

By long-held tradition, linked with Thomas Burton, a wealthy local wool merchant of the Staple of Calais. Burton set aside endowments of property [Hence the name 'The Endowed Schools'] in his will, made in June 1494, to provide income for masses to be said for his soul in Loughborough Parish Church. The first teaching may well have been in the room over the south porch of the church but we do not know. There is no mention of educational provision in Burton's will, so the actual origins of the School are unknown. The Burton endowments were confiscated by the Crown in 1547 when private chantry masses were made illegal; but most of the endowment was given back to the town of Loughborough by Elizabeth I for educational and charitable purposes, including a grammar school. The feoffees of this Burton Charity were the predecessors of the present School Governors.

EARLY HISTORY

'A fre [grammar] scole in Lughborowe' existed by 1514 but we have no way of knowing whether this was our school.

The first reference to a schoolmaster is in the parish register for 29th August 1542: 'Edward Calton the sonne of Mr Robert Calton...whose father aforesaid had tought the Grammer Scoole heare in Loughborowe.'

LOCATION

Documents from Elizabeth I's reign show that the School was functioning within the chancel of the Parish Church - in the 1590s a separate, two-storey building was erected within the churchyard of the Parish Church. No trace of this survives.

In 1825/26 the School moved into a building in Churchgate not far from the Parish Church. This building has also been demolished.

The new Grammar and Commercial School' was built between 1850 and 1852 on land owned by the Burton feoffees [governors]. This new school is what we now know as the Tower Block and School House. The School opened on 2nd August 1852 with 71 boys on its register.



THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- 1850/2 the building consisted of two large halls [now G1 and Sixth Form Centre and rooms above] with extensions, and two classrooms in the Tower. School House was the Headmaster's house, and by tradition he also took in boarders.
- 1895 first science buildings opened [part of the L block], equipped for physics and chemistry and including a lecture room with tiered seating [L1].
- 1895 Cricket pavilion opened.
- 1896 what is now L4 added as a manual training room, known originally as the Sloyd after a Swedish educational system.
- 1900 sanatorium and extension added to School House.
- 1904 The Reading Room [R] for free-place pupils from the town to do prep in the evenings.
- C1900 the room that is now known as G1 was equipped as the School's first gymnasium.
- 1925 Barrow Block, with additional classrooms, opened.
By July 1927 Ten Acre playing field in Shelthorpe in use [now a housing estate near Loughborough Cemetery].
- 1929 Swimming Bath opened, the same bath as nowadays minus the roof.
- 1931 School Gymnasium opened [on the site of the present Art Block] additions to the L Block [see the date over the entrance to the Library].
- Inter-War years: various wooden 'huts' and other temporary [?] buildings put up on the west side of Burton Walks, some still there, some still forming the shell of the Craft and Design Centre, some on the site of the Burton Hall.
- 1958 extensions to the L Block for more science teaching [now L5 and small rooms around and above].

- 1961 Hodson Hall opened [until then school assembly took place in 'Big School', now 6th Form Centre and above] and classrooms in the N Block [N=North; South was a wooden building used for classrooms for the junior boys, before they became part of Fairfield, and now used by the groundsmen].
- 1963 Science Block opened for the teaching of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. L Block subsequently used for different purposes, for example the School Library.
- 1971 Pullinger Building opened, mostly for Mathematics.
- 1972 Extension to the Hodson Hall
- 1978 Murray Building opened for Biology teaching.
- 1981 Sports Hall and accompanying buildings.
- 1989 Art Building on the site of the old gymnasium.
- 1990 Burton Hall replaced older dining facilities.
- 1994 New Playing fields and Pavilion opened at Quorn
- 1995 Queen's Building, including drama studio, erected as the School's Quincentenary project. Officially opened by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in June, 1996.
- 2000 Cope Building added for Modern Languages.
- 2006 Tomlinson Building [named after a former Chairman of the Governors] opened as music centre for all three of the Endowed Schools.
- 2009 Norman Walter Building [named after former Headmaster] opened as new Chemistry building.
- 2011 John Millward Extension [named after former Headmaster] opened adding 3 new classrooms to Biology
- 2012 Neville Ireland Building [named after former Headmaster] opened as new Physics Building
- 2013 Pullinger Building refurbished.
Extension to Denton House

LEGEND

- B Barrow Block, named after Mr. B. Barrow, a former Chairman of the Governors.
- C Cope Building, named after the Helen Jean Cope Trust, which provided the finance.
- G Gym, G1 was the School's first gymnasium.
- HH Hodson Hall [named after Mr. F.W.Hodson, O.L., whose widow left money for the building fund]
- I Ireland Building, named after Headmaster D.N.Ireland
- L Lecture Room, L1, so the L Block is named after that.
- M Murray Building, named after former teacher of Biology, Mr. Harry Murray. Millward Extension, named after Headmaster J.Millward.
- N North Block, to distinguish it from the South Block, a wooden building with classrooms, now used by the groundsmen.
- P Pullinger Building, named after Headmaster S. Pullinger
- Q Queen's Building, opened by H.M. Elizabeth II in 1996.
- R Reading Room, so-called because it provided a reading room where town boys could do their prep before going home.
- W Walter Building, named after Headmaster N.Walter



HEADMASTERS OF THE SCHOOL since it moved to the present site

1852-1860	Revd. John G. Gordon
1860-1875	Revd. James Wallace
1876-1893	John Brise Colgrove
1894-1900	Cecil W. Kaye
1901-1920	Bingham D. Turner
1920-1926	Cpt. Tom Stinton
1926-1955	Sidney R. Pullinger
1955-1959	Walter L. Garstang
1959-1973	Norman S. Walter
1973-1984	John S. Millward
1984-1998	D. Neville Ireland
1998-2015	Paul B. Fisher
2016-	Duncan J. Byrne

THE SCHOOL HOUSES

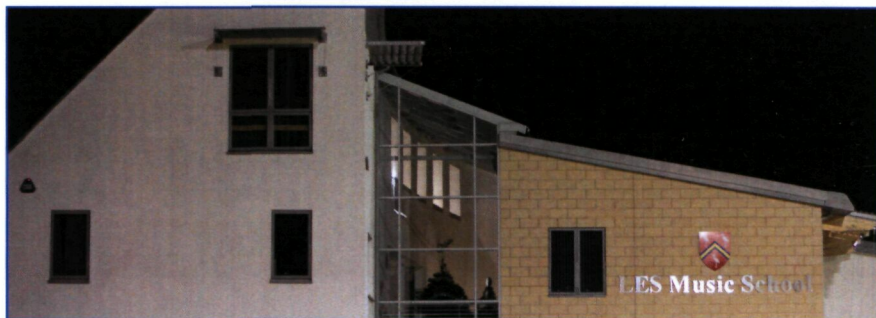
The present House names were introduced in 1991, and they are named after distinguished Old Boys.

ABNEY after Sir Thomas Abney, a London merchant of the second half of the 17th century, one of the founder members of The Bank of England in 1494, and Lord Mayor of London in 1700/1.

YATES after William Yates, orientalist, Baptist missionary to India, linguist and translator, especially of the Bible into Bengali in the first decades of the 19th century.

PULTENEY after Dr. Richard Pulteney, a distinguished 18th century botanist and Fellow of the Royal Society.

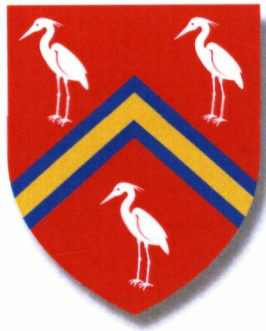
DAVYS after Bishop George Davys, clergyman, tutor of the young Princess Victoria before she became Queen, and Lord Bishop of Peterborough from 1839 to 1864.



SCHOOL SHIELD AND MOTTO

The School adopted the arms of Ralph Lemyngton [like Thomas Burton, a wealthy local wool merchant and executor of Burton's will] in the 1860s/1870s. The shield is described heraldically as *Gules [red], a chevron engrailed [blue] surmounted of another or [gold/yellow] between three herons argent [silver/white]*. Hence 'The Heron' publication and the awarding of Herons.

The School motto is *Vires acquirit eundo* which can be translated as *We gather strength as we go*.



THE SCHOOL HYMN

Words and music written by Revd Canon George Briggs, Rector of All Saints Parish Church, Loughborough, 1918-1934.

*Our Father, by Whose servant
This House was built of old...
Five [four until 1995] hundred years enduring,
From age to following age,
A hundred generations
Have built our heritage.*

Canon Briggs also inaugurated an annual Burton Service for both Grammar and High Schools, and the Burton War Memorial Chapel in the Parish Church.

