

THE CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL Chronology of our School's History

This is a very basic guide to the School's chronological history. Most information was taken from "Ex-Cathedra", published in 1975 – a book which was not always easy to read or follow events sequentially. This summary is not necessarily accurate in all its dates or detail but it is better than nothing. The best source for information on the School's history is the new publication "Jubilate" by Roger Couper.

- 1880 Mr Merton opened a school at St Michael's, the Pro-Cathedral, with eight boys.
- 1881 Cathedral School opened on 16th May. (Roll: 55 boys, including 24 choristers.)
Mr G.H. Merton ("Gudge") - First headmaster under the supervision of Rev. Elton.
On 25th October, the choir held its first rehearsal in the Cathedral under the direction of Mr H. Wells, the organist and choirmaster.
- 1882 New Boarding House opened on 24th August. (All choristers became boarders.)
- 1885 Mr G.F. Tendall took over as organist and choirmaster from Mr Wells.
- 1887 Rev. Elton resigned and returned to England in 1888. His properties were bought by the Church Property Trustees.
- 1888 Dean Jacobs took over supervision of the School and Mr Merton took charge of the boarding establishment. However, this was short-lived and Merton was soon restored as Headmaster.
- 1892 Roll: 91
Hard times financially for the School.
- 1894 The Cathedral School ceased to exist as an entity.
- 1895 The Cathedral School amalgamates with Christ's College to become the Lower School of Christ's College. This arose out of the need for choristers to be educated.
- 1902 Dr J.C. Bradshaw became organist and choirmaster at the Cathedral. (1902 - 1937)
- 1919 Mr Merton retires as headmaster (1881 - 1919).
- 1920 Mr C.L. Young is headmaster (1920).
- 1921 Mr A.H. Fell is headmaster (1921 - 1922).
- 1922 Chapter and Christ's College were unhappy with the educational arrangements for the choristers and the agreement was terminated (ended).
Rev S. Parr (previously College chaplain) takes up position as headmaster, at short notice. (1923 - 1932)
- 1923 The Cathedral Grammar School began.
By August, the School had been registered as a Government primary school.
Drill and marching became part of the everyday timetable.
School motto: "Laudate Pueri Dominum" (Translation: Boys, Praise The Lord)
Old Boys' Association was officially formed under the name of the Cathedral Grammar School Old Boys' and Choir Association.

1924 until the early 1950s, boxing was an important sport in the school.

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1925 Cricket practice net and concrete pitch in the school grounds.

Because of polio epidemic, indoor assemblies were not allowed by the health authorities.

1926 A colours blazer was introduced for the first time. (Referred to as the school "Blue", it was in fact, cardinal and white stripes.)

Cadets introduced.

1927 School purchased a wicket at Hagley Oval.

Drill replaced by gymnastics, of sorts!

School acquired the old Deanery on the corner of Chester Street and Cranmer Square. The School was now registered as a secondary school and the extra space was to be used solely as a secondary department of the school with classrooms and a laboratory downstairs and boarding accommodation upstairs.

First official houses introduced by Canon Parr: North Town and South Town and Boarders.

1928 Statham Building (Foundation stone laid by Sir Charles Statham, parliamentary speaker, on 16th December).

1929 The School had its own cricket ground in North Hagley Park with turf and concrete wickets being laid down.

Jujitsu introduced for the first time.

Top story (east end) of Statham was transformed into a Chapel with the library next door.

Six new houses introduced, named after the first six Maori canoes (Tokomaru, Mamari, Takitimu, Tainui, Arawa and Aotea).

1931 A sports' committee was set up to control sport throughout the whole school.

"Fortnightly orders" began, when the places of the whole school were read out in Assembly. (Known by the boys as the "stars and stripes")

1932 Rev. Parr resigned to become warden of College House.

1933 Rev. E. Edmonds is headmaster (1933 - 1934).

The six houses replaced by Merton, Parr and School House (for the boarders).

1935 Rev. G.M. McKenzie is headmaster (1935 - 1936).

Roll: 97

Cadet Corps dissolved.

Parents' Association organised.

In March, a special meeting of the Cathedral Chapter was called to discuss the now urgent question of the future of The Cathedral Grammar School, if indeed there was a future. Further meetings and proposals continued throughout the year. [See Chapter 7]

1937 Mr C. Foster Browne is headmaster (1937 - 1938).

Roll: 34

Dr Bradshaw resigned over a difference with the Chapter. His place was taken by Mr Maughan Barnett.

Board of Governors was set up (Chairman - Mr Hugh Hobbs).

1938 Mr Maughan Barnett died suddenly after only 16 months as choirmaster. His successor was Mr C. Foster Browne, the present headmaster of C.G.S.

Football was replaced by hockey.

1939 Mr A.H. Insull is headmaster (1939 - 1946).

Roll: 47

Choristers wore their new red cassocks for the first time at the Choral Festival on 21st October.

Cadets were reformed and given official recognition by the Defence Dept. (C Company, 1st Battalion, Canterbury region)

A set of rules was laid down for the awarding of colours (not only for sport but also to the Dux and to two further boys for general excellence).

1940 School Hymn - written by Rev. Harvey with the music by Mr Foster Browne.

1942 In November, the first Annual Sports Dinner was held.

1943 Rugby reintroduced.

Learner's pool (30 ft x 12 ft, 3 ft deep)

12 pews given by Old Boys for the Chapel.

School closed for a time because of polio epidemic.

1944 Colours were now represented by white piping round the edge of the ordinary school blazer.

An organ was presented to the school by the Parents' Association.

School closed for a time, this time for scarlet fever.

1946 Mr R.R. Gibson is headmaster (1946 - 1954).

1948 Secondary department closed and preparatory school established to cater for boys from 5 to 14 years.

1951 C.G.S. takes part for the first time in the Canterbury Boys' Cricket Association games on Saturday morning.

Parents' Association disbanded.

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- 1952 Gymnasium in Statham was remodelled as a hall and chapel, and The Cathedral Grammar School Memorial Hall and Sanctuary were dedicated by the Bishop on 11th November.
- 1954 Mr L.S. Hart is headmaster (1954 - 1967).
- 1956 Hansen House added to the other three houses.
- 1957 Football teams take part in the Saturday morning competitions.
- 1959 Mr Foster Browne was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to music.
- 1961 Hockey reintroduced. (New uniform: Divided down the centre front and back in half white and half maroon, the white sleeve was next to the maroon side and vice versa.)
- 1964 New library established (Scott Library).
- New classroom block (Debenham) opened on 9th April.
- Roll: 260 +
- 1965 Formal gymnastics become part of the school physical training programme.
- 1967 Mr F.W. Penberthy is headmaster for 3rd term only.
- School acquired "Inveresk" in Armagh Street (Headmaster's house).
- 1968 Mr P.N. Valder is headmaster (1968 - 1972).
- 1969 Mr Foster Browne visits Lambeth Chapel and has the degree of Doctor of Music conferred on him by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- 1970 New metric swimming pool (20 m x 10 m)
- First annual school service took place in the Cathedral.
- Friends' Association began.
- 1971 School choir became the Chapel Choir.
- 1972 Mr N.F. Daniels is headmaster (1973 - 1983).
- More field events have been added to the Athletic Sports programme, including discuss, shot and javelin.
- Chapel Choir sang at the first Advent Carol Service in the Cathedral.
- Extensions to Debenham Block completed to accommodate changing rooms, an art room and science room.
- 1974 C.G.S. Trust Board purchased the former Helen Connon Hall from the University of Canterbury and renamed Chester Hall.

- 1975 Sport against Scots College began.
Hockey was taken over by soccer as a second winter sport.
School Chapel moved to Chester Hall for first two terms but then reverted to the Memorial Hall.
St. Saviour's Church was given to the School by the Lyttelton Parish and Diocese and officially handed over to the school on 5th October.
- 1976 Mr Foster Browne retires from the position of organist and choirmaster.
St. Saviour's re-sited and officially opened on 26th June by Bishop Pyatt.
- 1977 Mr David Childs was appointed organist and choirmaster at the Cathedral.
On 9th November, fire broke out in the infant room on the 1st floor (far west end) in Statham.
- 1978 School became affiliated with the Choir Schools' Association of the U.K.
- 1979 Old Boys donated a newly restored organ for the Chapel which was dedicated on 29th April.
- 1981 School celebrated its Centenary.
- 1983 Roll: 185
- 1984 Rev. R.B. Couper is headmaster.
Installation of a computer network in computer room.
- 1985 Elton House demolished.
Opening of new Pre-School facility in Chester Hall.
Centenary of St. Saviour's Chapel being built in Lyttelton (29th October)
- 1986 The Headmaster is installed as a canon.
- 1987 Junior School moved into the Education Department Building.
(ex St. Margaret's)
- 1988 Three artificial surface cricket nets installed.
- 1990 Purchase by the Board of land and buildings now used by the Junior School (originally built for St. Margaret's College).
Miss Molly Mullan died after a long association with the School as teacher. Board member and lay Canon of the Cathedral.
Hockey reintroduced. (1st XI was 1st in their Saturday competition)
Gala in Term III raised \$25,000

- 1991 Library re-sited in old dining-hall of Chester Hall.
New Staffroom in Chester Hall (1st floor).
New surplices for the Chapel Choir.
New cover for Swimming Pool.
Staff Car Park created on Cranmer Square.
Hockey 1st XI won their competition and the Sportsmanship Trophy. Christopher Clements selected for Hatch Cup.
Cricket:- 1st XI beat Medbury.
Centuries by Rupert Horrocks (102 n.o.) and Ben Jones (102)
Roll: 289
- 1992 New west entrance to the library near Chapel.
Tennis Court built near Junior School and Car Park.
Junior School painted.
New seating arrangement in the Chapel.
Headmaster on sabbatical leave in Term II.
1st XI Hockey: Angus Jennings selected for Hatch Cup.
- 1993 First public art exhibition of work by the Prep School at the Applied Art Gallery at beginning of Term II.
16 new Apple Macintosh computers bought in Term III.
Production in Term III: "The Wizard of Oz".

- 1994 Two astro cricket nets laid and old oak tree taken out (rotten).
- The computer lab has been established in the Mullan Room. (Also used as Fm III classroom this year) Four more Apple Macintosh computers bought.
- Choirs sing national anthems at Lancaster Park for the French test and Canterbury v South Africa game.
- 1st XI Hockey: Timothy Campbell and Philip Marshall selected for Hatch Cup.
- James Kim wins a prize in the Australian Mathematics Competition and a medal in the ETC Mathematics Competition.
- In Term III, 1st XI and Cathedral choristers (with some Std. VI supporters) spent 10 days in Australia (Melbourne and Sydney). 1st XI won all 3 games.
- School Fair in Term III raised over \$7,000.
- Musical evening at the James Hay theatre to a capacity audience.
- 1st XI cricketers complete a most successful year, including wins over St. Andrew's, Waihi and Medbury. (Only one loss in 1994)
- 1995 Girls Prep School opens. (Roll = 9)
- Chester Street upgraded.
- Operetta at Cathedral "Godspell"
- 1st XI Cricket team unbeaten throughout the year.
- Geoffrey Williams wins a prize in the Australian Mathematics Competition.
- 1996 First four term year.
- "Inveresk" remodelled for Girls' School. Opened by Dame Mirian Dell. (4 Girls' houses: Connon, Dell, Hart, Mullan) (Roll = 27)
- Music and Art Evening in the James Hay Theatre
- 1997 Re-development of the Boys' Prep playground
- Mandarin introduced at Years 7 & 8.
- Steve Chen wins a prize in the Australian Mathematics Competition.
- Simon Buchan wins a medal in the Australian Science Competition.
- Operetta "Oliver"
- Bruce Bygate retires (Bursar since 1987).

- 1998 Music School opened (Morning Cathedral choir practises now at School)
Alex Young wins a prize in the Australian Mathematics Competition.
School celebrated Mr Reg Gibson's 90th birthday in November.
Mr Wheelans retires from Chairman of the Board after 16 years in this role.
- 1999 Mrs Wagner takes over as Chairman of the Board.
New Pre-School built (& opened by Governor General, Sir Michael Hardy Boys in July)
Fundraising Campaign
1st XI Hockey and 1st XV Rugby both won the Fair Play Trophies
Chester Hall (Helen Conon Hall) pulled down in Term III.
Operetta "Jesus Christ Superstar"
Edward Perry - NZ Primary Hockey team
John Howe - World Trampolining Age Group Champs
3 prizes in Australian Mathematics Competition
(Hyung Jun Park, William Chisholm and Andrew Todd)
- 2000 New Elton Administration bldg opened in Term III (by the boys of the School)
- 2001 School House renamed Gibson House
Mr Couper retires at end of Term 1.
Mr Arnst is Headmaster from Term 2.
Operetta "Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat"
- 2002 New Library & Technology building opened by Margaret Mahy.
(Couper Building / Henderson Library)
- 2003 New Girls' School opened by the Governor General, Dame Sylvia Cartwright.
New roof on Statham building. Junior School and Boys Prep buildings painted.
Mr Garland takes over as Chairman of the Board.
Operetta "Pirates of Penzance"
Mr Willett retires as Director of Music at Chch Cathedral (Mr Paul Ellis is Acting-Director).

- 2004 Astro-turf established between Debenham and Inveresk.
New hard surface area established for Girls' School.
Deputy-Headmaster's study relocated to Debenham.
Educational trip to Australia (42 Years 7/8 students)
Mr Brian Law is appointed Director of Music at Christchurch Cathedral.
School Roll = 403
- 2005 Mrs Daniels and Mrs Hentschel retired at end of Term II.
Mrs Clarke takes over as Head of the Girls' School in Term III.
Operetta at Cathedral "Godspell"
- 2006 125th Anniversary (Special celebrations to commemorate 125 years)
Mr Gould appointed Chairman of the Board
Jubilate by Roger Couper (a new publication of the history of The Cathedral Grammar School)
Educational trip to Australia (40 Years 6/7/8 students)
- 2007 Operetta
- 2008
- 2009 Operetta: Hansel and Gretel (Junior School); Hip-Hip Horatio (Years 4 & 5); Seussical (Years 6 - 8)

