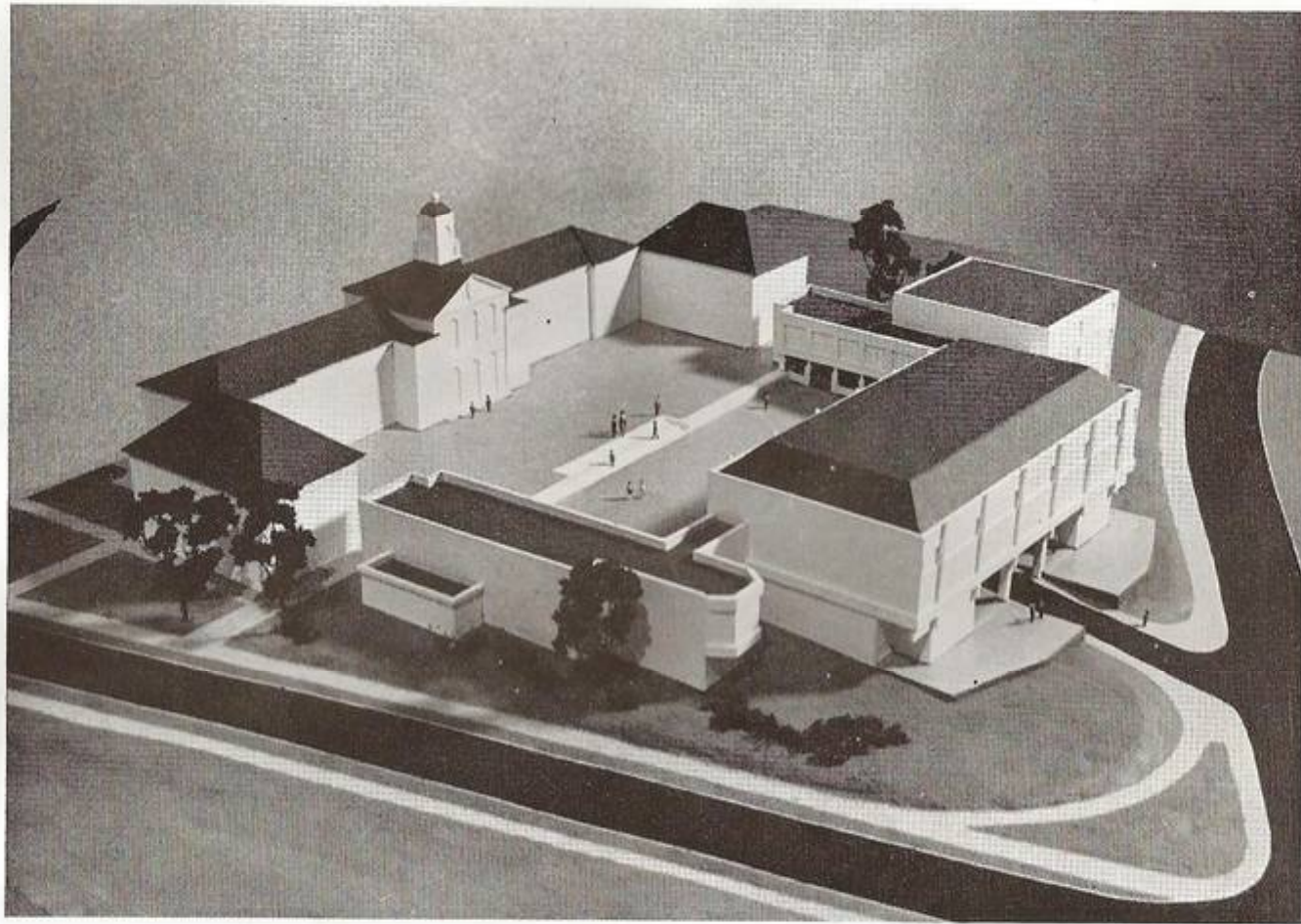


THE
ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
HIGH WYCOMBE





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PLAN OF THE NEW BUILDING

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 Boys' Technical School 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 provision 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 45 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 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 at right-angles, one from either corner of the main block (one wing contains two fine Libraries, the one on the ground floor for the use of the Senior School, the other a Junior Library available, however, for the private work of Prefects and 3rd Year Vith Forms also), a Wood-work and Metal Work Room, now temporarily converted into two Class Rooms, 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 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.

The war brought further additions to the School numbers and after certain fluctuations due to evacuation and the ending of evacuation it was realised that places would then be required for 700 boys. Temporary accommodation was provided in 1950 by the Bucking-

hamshire Education Committee at the request of the Governors on a site 100 yards away from the School; this now houses the 300 boys in the Junior School, and also provides a Music Room and a small Music Practice Room.

Of recent years, however, the numbers have grown so steadily that in 1958 the Buckinghamshire Education Committee, at the urgent representation of the Governors, prevailed upon the Ministry of Education to bring the School accommodation up to the standard required for a Five-form Entry School with a nominal school roll of 950 boys; the new building was to be provided in two phases—first the new Science Schools so badly needed in view of the vast increase in VIth Form work, and second, the residue of the requirement, a ten classroom block, a new Great Hall, additional Staff accommodation and Administrative quarters.

The new Science Schools were completed and handed over to the School in July, 1960. Consisting of eleven Laboratories and two fine Lecture Rooms, with most generous and spacious ancillary accommodation, they provide a new Science Headquarters which invites comparison with anything in the country.

The second phase, which is due to be commenced in the Spring of 1961, should be completed in the Autumn of 1962—when the School will celebrate the 400th Anniversary of its Foundation. The whole will then present the general appearance of a Great Quadrangle with the Hall dominating the entrance of the School and the original facade and Clock Tower so familiar to the neighbourhood still providing the traditional background.

The School is situated a mile to the north of the Town of High Wycombe on the main road to Amersham. At the rear of the School stands the Headmaster's House, with the School Boarding House attached to it; behind the main School building the playing fields provide the First Rugby and Cricket Pitches, Tennis Courts, and the School Memorial Pavilion.

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 10 or 11 and may remain until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 19. Since the new Education Act all admissions have been controlled by the Buckinghamshire Grammar Schools Entrance Examination which is held in March of each year. All children whose parents reside in this 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 10 but not 12 on the 31st August. At the wish of their parents, however, boys not in the School may also take an Older Pupils Examination in their thirteenth year. This examination is conducted by the County Education Committee and application to enter for this examination must be made by the pupil's parents to the Chief Education Officer early in January of each year.

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. While the curriculum has been to some extent re-organised to meet the requirements of the new General Certificate of Education which no boy is allowed to take except by the Headmaster's recommendation until he has passed the age of 16 years, advanced work in the sixth form still provides the chief opportunity 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.



ROOF GARDEN, SCIENCE SCHOOL



THE SCIENCE SCHOOL.

Curriculum

Boys receive a sound education on modern lines ; those entering at 10 or 11 commence Latin and French, Chemistry, Physics, Algebra and Geometry. They also receive lessons in Scripture, English, History, Geography, Art, Music, and Physical Education. One afternoon is set aside for School Games. At the end of the first year, all boys, who have followed an identical curriculum up to this point, undergo a searching examination, and after careful discussion between the members of the Staff, the quickest and ablest boys are selected for Form IIIx, which is destined to take the "O" Level Examination of the G.C.E. in three more years, while other Forms take four. The Express Form retains French and Latin, Mathematics and Physics, but each boy has to make a choice between Chemistry, German and Greek. In the other forms German, Russian, Latin and Spanish are optional subjects.

In the Sixth Form, entry to which can be gained only after a creditable and promising performance in the "O" Level Examination of the General Certificate of Education, boys are able to choose advanced work in one of several groups of subjects :—Classics, Modern Languages, Modern Studies (English, History, Latin, Geography). Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Biological Subjects, and Engineering. Art, Music, and Economics can also be offered at this stage.

The work of each form is arranged and supervised by the Headmaster and reported on regularly to parents.

The total number in all the sixth forms is now over 260.

Residence

Day boys must reside with their parents or guardians, or must obtain the consent of the Governors to live elsewhere.

Dress

All boys attending the School are expected to wear the School Cap and School tie not only when proceeding to and from School but also in the evenings and during weekends. It is considered desirable that all members of the School should conform to dress regulations. The prescribed garments for School wear are a grey suit (short or long trousers at parents' discretion) or alternatively grey flannel trousers with School blazer. Shirts should be either white or grey, and the rain-coats provided should be of navy blue. Boys are expected not to wear open-necked shirts at School except when a white flannel shirt is worn with a School blazer and flannel trousers. Only Prefects are exempt from wearing the School Cap.

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.

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

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

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

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

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. 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 Dining Hall (1951) at a charge of one shilling 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-third of a pint per School day without charge.

Leaving Scholarships

Boys whose parents reside in Buckinghamshire are eligible for County Major Scholarships and Exhibitions, Art Exhibitions, Music Exhibitions, awarded now in very large numbers by the Buckinghamshire Education Committee. All boys taking Advanced and Scholarship Level Papers of the General Certificate of Education are eligible until 1962 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.

Health Certificates

For day boys these are not now necessary.

On admission and on returning to School after the holidays each boarder is required to bring a Health Certificate, signed by one of his parents, stating that the boy has not been exposed to any infection; these certificates are enclosed with the report at the end of each term.

Should a boy contract any infectious illness, or come in contact with any infection, the Headmaster must be informed at once; 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 and three subjects on alternate nights ; all other forms have three subjects nightly. The time to be spent on each subject should be approximately half-an-hour. Where boys regularly do 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 four times every term 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 (lunch 12.45—2.00 p.m.).

There is no school on Saturday mornings.

There is an interval of 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 usually taken up by School matches. Throughout the year in Rugby Football and Cricket there are usually five School teams engaged in these representative games, the School first, second and third teams, colts team for boys under 15 and the junior colts for boys under 14. There are also frequent cross-country matches throughout the winter and regular lawn tennis fixtures in the summer. It must be understood 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. Where a boy is absent for more than three days, parents are requested to inform his Form-master by letter. 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. For each form one afternoon is set aside for games. Lessons end each day at 4 p.m. All boys are expected to remain on the School premises until 4 p.m. especially when they would normally be playing games but are prevented either by the weather or by ill health. In the winter terms Rugby football is played and this is supplemented by boxing, hockey, cross-country, fives, badminton, basketball, rowing and running. During the Summer term cricket and lawn tennis are played and the Athletic Sports are held.

Swimming

A large Swimming Pool, 75ft. x 25ft., to which parents and Old Boys have contributed generously, is included in the final phase of the Building Programme and should be completed by the Autumn of 1962.

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; the Naval Section was added in 1950. Membership of this C.C.F. is extremely valuable for boys though they no longer proceed to a period of National Service. It is also of great practical help to boys competing for Cadetships in the Navy, Army and Air Force, as a number do every year. The contingent is Officered by Masters of the School and Commanded by Lieut.-Col. R. Pattinson, R.A. Parties of cadets of all three Services attend training at various centres during the Easter and Summer holidays. 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.

Out-of-School Activities and School Societies

In addition, the Operatic Society produces a full-length Gilbert & Sullivan Opera each year, usually at the end of the Christmas Term, and the Dramatic Society a play at Easter. The producing is done by masters and the scenery is designed and made by masters with the assistance of boys. The School Orchestra, School Choir and various musical societies have weekly practices and appear at Festivals, in addition to providing music at various School functions. The Scientific Society also arranges lectures and excursions of more specialised 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. Other Societies include the Aeronautical, Art, Camera, Christian Fellowship, Classical, Historical, Jazz, Model Railway, Modern Languages, Natural History, and the Philatelic Society.

Boys on leaving are encouraged to become members of the Old Wycombiensian Club, the Secretary of which is Mr. P. L. Jones.

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 5/- 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 106 boarders. While no fees are payable for tuition at the School, the boarding fee of £170 per annum has been fixed for all boarders. The full fee



THE ALTAR, SCHOOL CHAPEL.



THE SCHOOL CHAPEL

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, now offers annually six boarding scholarships tenable at this School, for which sons of parents resident in Buckinghamshire are eligible. 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 : Rev. A. J. Skipp.

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.

School Chapel

In November 1960, a new Boarders' Chapel was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Robert Hay, a member of the Governing Body, and for fifteen years Bishop of Buckingham. The furnishings of the Chapel were provided entirely by the generosity of a number of Old Boys who expressed a wish to be associated with the new provision. The Honorary Architect was also an Old Boy—Mr. Eric Janes, to whose inspired vision the School will always be deeply indebted.

Holy Communion is celebrated on Sunday mornings during term time at 8.15 a.m. and on Saints' Days at 7.30 a.m. The Annual Confirmation Service is held in this Chapel after preparation which extends through the Easter Term, and Boarders' Sunday Evening Services are held here at 6.30 p.m. Parents are invited to attend this Service and also the Service of Matins which is held in the Chapel on the first Sunday morning of each month, and to which visiting preachers are invited. The School Chaplain is the Rev. John Skipp, M.A.

July, 1961.

E. R. TUCKER, M.A. (Oxon.), J.P.
Late Classical Scholar of Jesus College,
Headmaster.