

The Royal Grammar School Archive



The Archive Room

The School Archive holds a wide range of material documenting all aspects of school life. As well as paper records and photographs recording the School, its pupils and Old Lancastrians, the Archive holds School memorabilia and artefacts. Its contents include:

- Photographs of sports teams, dating back to c.1870; house groups, dating back to 1896; whole-school, dating back to 1896; and many others.
- *The Lancastrian*, 1886-2018.
- *Old Lancastrian Newsletter*, 1941-present, and papers of the Old Lancastrian Club.
- Artefacts and memorabilia, including items of school uniform, dating back to the Victorian era.



The Archive Room, above and right



The Faithwaite brothers, c.1865

- Governors' Minutes.
- Admission records.
- Blue Books, 1940-present.
- Pupil magazines.
- Records of sports teams, clubs and societies.
- OTC, JTC and CCF material.

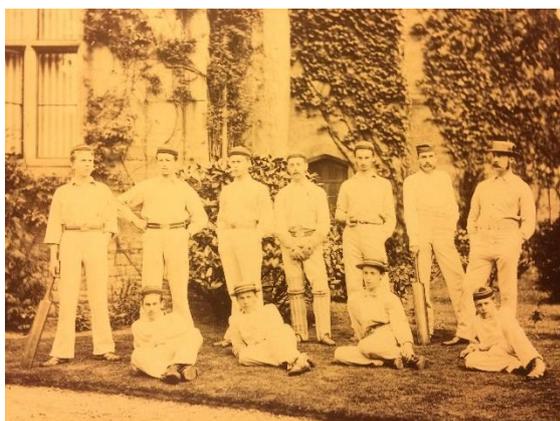


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Cambridge University OLC Menu Card

- Administrative and financial records.
- Estate papers and building plans.
- Works of art and antiquarian maps.
- Trophies.
- Collections of personal papers given by Old Lancastrians and others.
- Secondary sources: books and printed articles on the history of the School and its members; the *Biographical Register* (directories of former pupils 13th century-1850 and 1895-1946).



First XI Cricket Team, c.1870

The Archive was first established in the late-1990s. A suggestion to create one had been made by Mr Paul Andrew (OL, 1969-76) to Mr Peter Mawby (Head Master, 1983-2001) in the mid-1980s; the former had been collecting material since the 1970s, and in 1990-93 he wrote to all known pre-1939 OLs, resulting in the acquisition through purchase or gift of

many items dating as far back as 1885, though mainly post-1915.

Following the appointment of Mr Nick Chambers as Development Director, the Archive was formally established in 1998 in a room in one of the former School boarding houses in East Road. Significant impetus from the late Mr Alan Petford (Head of History, 1997-2001) and a Pupil Archivist, Oscar Van Nooijen, ensured that the Archive became an impressive reality. Existing material from within the School was transferred to it, most notably: a large collection of de-framed 1st XI and 1st XV Team photographs, and School and House photographs, dating back to c.1870; various architects' plans for School buildings dating back to 1851; assorted papers from School House; sets of *The Lancastrian* from 1886 onwards; trophies, etc.

The Reverend Thomas Faulkner Lee's Tower Room Study, situated in Old Side, together with the room above it, were then allocated to the Archive; they were thoroughly decorated and equipped with shelving. Mr Alec Mackie, the father of an OL, acted as Archivist for a short period until his untimely death.



Miller Room Display Cabinet

Subsequently, Mr Clive Holden, (OL, 1945-54, and Assistant Master, 1960-61), took up the role; he has done significant work over many years in arranging the identification of boys and masters on numerous School photographs, organising

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Founder's Day exhibitions, and responding to a steady stream of enquiries asking for details about OLs. The latter task is a particularly time-consuming one, given that the 1886-2018 volumes of *The Lancastrian* have not yet been digitised.

The Upper Room in the Tower suffered from damaging water ingress about four years ago, and the Archive Room below it was allocated to Business Studies after the gutting and renovation of the School House Dormitories for teaching use.



The Archive Room

The current Archive Room is located in a room on the first floor of Old School House. There are also some display cabinets elsewhere: a large one in the Rigg Room and a small one near Big School, both containing badges, caps and blazers, etc; two in the Miller Room, one of which contains various trophies and a quarter-bound-in-leather set of *The Lancastrian*, and the other case which houses various photographs, books and medals, etc.



Big School Display Cabinet

Further material is held in the Armoury, a safe in Lee House, and elsewhere. The

Lancashire Records Office also has various items, most of which are on 'loan deposit' and which their archivists say can be repatriated to the School; it is hoped to bring back to the Archive Room all such items, most notably a full set of bound volumes of Governors' Minutes from c.1920-77.

In 2017, a part-time professional archivist, Mrs Hazel Gafford, was appointed for a few months, following a bequest and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. These monies enabled us to begin cataloguing the Archive as part of a project, *The Changing Face of Lancaster*, which invited local people to discover how three influential Victorian philanthropists, all Old Lancastrians, invested in the infrastructure of the town and provided buildings and schemes for the local community. The Gregson Centre was founded in memory of Henry Gregson; James Williamson, Lord Ashton, created Williamson Park, and Herbert Storey funded the Storey Institute and assisted with the development of the Westfield War Memorial Village.

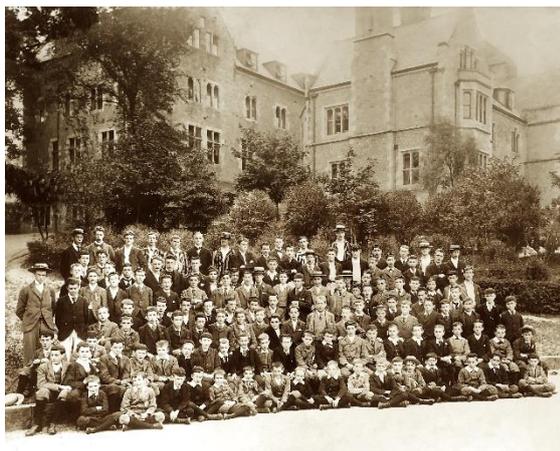
5 Oct 1812	St. William Williamson	23 Nov 1812
	St. James Moore	June 1814
	St. Francis Simpson	June 1813
	St. John Langshier	June 1814
	St. Bernard Moore	Decr. 1814
	St. Edmund Perry	June 1813
	St. Nicholas Herbert	Decr. 1812
	St. William Halford	4 Nov 1812
	St. Chas. Frederick Jarvis	Decr. 1813
	St. John Brett	Decr. 1813
	St. Richard Owen	Novr 1819
	St. Henry Gregson	June 1815
	St. John Louthan	Decr. 1813
	St. George Herbert	Sept. 1813
	St. John Spindall	June 1813

Admissions Register

Using Excel, Mrs Gafford established an appropriate classification and cataloguing system for the Archive, with valuable help from a couple of pupils, Sam McLoughlin and Edward Eastham. Significant work was also done earlier, in 2015-16, by a Pupil Archivist, Al-Yasa Khan.

One of our Volunteer Archivists, Mr Stephen Clarke (OL, 1966-73), has recently spent many hours electronically scanning some of the whole-school photographs in high resolution, editing them to improve their quality.

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Whole-School photograph, 1896

Also working as a Volunteer Archivist, mainly since 2017, is Mr Paul Andrew; he retired a couple of years ago after 100 terms as a schoolmaster at a minor public school, where he was a head of department, housemaster, archivist and editor of the school's magazine, etc. He is a member of the School Archivists' Group, a 250-strong body of professional and volunteer archivists working mainly in British public schools.

The archivists work on an entirely voluntary basis, never claiming expenses from any of the School's funds.

Over the past few months the following work has been undertaken: the re-arrangement of the Archive Room to make more efficient use of space, enabling the remaining contents of the Upper Room in the Tower to be transferred to it, and to give much greater surface work space; the re-hanging of the doors on the bookcases; the hanging of framed photographs on its walls; the transfer of archive material from the Lee House attics; the sorting of large boxes of papers into archive boxes; the purchase and assembling of shelving racks; the removal of a wash-basin, pipes and stand; the detailed cataloguing of photographs, nearly 1,000 so far; the photographing of existing material; a search of the School's safes and cellars to locate hitherto missing items and to find further suitable material for placing in the Archive; cleaning the mould-damaged Royal photographs/prints, which used to hang in the Assembly Hall; establishing an

Accession Register in Excel format; attending a training day organised by the School Archivists' Group to look at the implication of GDPR for school archives.

Over the coming months and years the following tasks need to be completed: sorting recently acquired documents into the relevant archive boxes; checking that the existing sorting of documents has been correctly done; registering new accessions and cataloguing them; cataloguing the rest of the Archive, the vast majority of which is currently uncatalogued; digitally photographing all the existing photographs, starting with the earliest ones, so that we have copies of them on computer; photographing/scanning the more important papers and objects so that we



have a safe record of them; arranging changing displays; placing some duplicate records in the Lancashire Records Office; continuing to answer queries from the Development Office, School departments, external people, etc; involving pupils in the work of the Archive; providing articles for the *OL Newsletter*. If possible, we would like to digitise the entire set of *The Lancastrian* so that it is searchable on computer; it currently often takes hours of research to look for relevant material, but if digitised it could be found in seconds.

Although the School's history is already well covered, an interesting task would be to publish all the existing pre-1945 photographs in one volume, together with relevant description and commentary.