



The Hall School: Background

The school was originally known as Belsize School, founded in 1889 by the Revd. Francis John Wrottesley. The school was sold in 1898 to the Revd. D. H. Marshall, and an adjoining house in 1903. 1905 the Allen Olney girls' school was bought which Marshall's wife continued at Buckland Crescent. The school had to be moved to Crossfield Road and was renamed The Hall. However, the school was bought by G. H. Montauban in 1909. He helped the development of the school over the next 10 years. Robin Gladstone finally bought the school but his uncle, Gerard Wathen, really established the school. It is now an established school and has over 450 pupils from the age 4-13.

-Ben

Introduction the School News Report

Founded in 1889, The Hall School is an all boy, preparatory school in Belsize Park, Hampstead, consisting of 450 pupils. The Hall School seeks to train and educate in all areas of academia, sport and music. The age of the boys ranges from 4-13 and includes 8 year groups and a reception class. Over the years, the boys have



come to love and respect their school in all its ways and activities it offers. For many of the boys, it has become a part of them and has helped them develop to become mature and independent young men.

This year, the school celebrates its 125th anniversary, a significant year that all the pupils and teachers are proud to say. As a unique approach to celebrate this grand year, the boys have put together and created a School Report that gives a more in depth view of School life. In this report, the boys include their own experiences of the school and Teacher opinions of it, giving a well-rounded view on the School and its influence.

-Faiz

The Marquee, The Events:

The first thing that you notice when entering the school yard is a great, white marquee. As a result, the yard is out of bounds for pupils. It is slowly being converted into a dining space for tonight's old(er) alumni 125th anniversary dinner and Saturday's younger alumni dinner. The guests include 92 year old Julian Wathen who left the school in 1937 and Phillip Lough, a former headmaster.

-Theo



Purple House Initiative, The Events:

This week all of the boys in Purple House have dreamt up initiatives and then brought them into the school. These ideas have ranged from games of chance to sweet sales. All the boys in the school have flocked to these sales. It has brought beaming smiles to the pupils and frowns to the teachers. The money raised will soon be donated to MacMillan Cancer Support.

-Jack and Sam



The Hall School in Its Own Words: Melanie Casey, Director of Catering

Melanie joined the school in 1994. Since she joined, "Everything has changed." Mrs Casey thinks there are much more advanced staff members (in terms of teaching). Boys have become more mature as the years have passed. She's very excited about the 125th anniversary and cannot wait to cater and prepare for the different celebrations.

In the next 125 years of the school, she thinks that there will be even more advancements, for example new buildings and reliance on computers.

-Oliver

The Hall School Over The Years: Mr Fitzmaurice

Mr Fitzmaurice runs the Alumni, the old boys association, which holds events to gather the boys who used to go to the school and allow them to meet old teachers, get to grips with the new developments of the school and meet their old classmates. He has had three different jobs over my time at the school. He has been the Head of maths, the head of ICT and the Deputy Head.



By changing what he does in the school, it has kept him interested, so it was really good for him and how he dealt with changing his roles. One of the things that has not changed is the uniform, still similar to the colours of the prestigious Westminster School, black and pink.

When he joined the school in 1972, the headmaster of the time possessed a cane in his office and as far as he knows it was never used but detentions were still in place. This included detentions on a Saturday and after school detentions. So what has changed is that the punishments are not as serious. Classrooms used to be completely made out of wood, with huge windows. Some of these classrooms were unsurprisingly destroyed by the great fire in 1992. It was very hard to move out of the syllabus, he used to be able to do 3 or 4 lessons on the school requirements, and he then did a lesson based on things he thought were beneficial and amusing.

The respect for teachers from students has become a lot more casual recently compared to when he first arrived. It used to be rare for teachers to be called by their first names. The idea of the level of respect would be an equal balance of formality and casualness. Teachers must assess pupils in each class to make a judgement on how to use them.

-Callum and Matthew

The Hall School in its Own Words: Mr Cottam

Graham Cottam has been at the school for eight years and has enjoyed his time a great deal. He believes that the school has made a huge effort for this grand occasion and that the events are a fitting occasion. Mr Cottam's favourite event so far has been the scholar's concert at St. John's Smith Square. He thought it was, "a great representation of the school's musical ability." Mr Cottam does not know what will happen in the next 125 years but believes that some alumni will not recognise the school.

-Jack

The Hall School in its Own Words: Year Four

Noah thought that the anniversary was exciting because "all the old boys come back." Michael also thought that it was special. When asked if they had done anything for the anniversary, Jacobus said he had researched the special occasion. Noah had also researched 125 for a homework assignment, finding out it shared the anniversary with Nintendo! All three of the boys agreed that the school was good at sport and Noah thought it pushes you to the limit. However, they all thought that they could do more for the 125th anniversary and Jacobus thought, "We could be more involved in organisation. Like a younger school council."

The Hall School in Its Own Words (Explanation)

The Hall is what it is thanks to the significant contributions by the teachers and boys. Therefore, the school reporters decided what better to do than interview the members who helped make up the Hall. Pupils in Year 4 to the Physics teacher were all asked on how their experiences with the Hall are and what they enjoy most about it. As there are a number of events taking place, two of our reporters compiled some information about them. These range from the alumni dinner to the purple house initiative week. Finally, the school has some teachers who have worked there for many years. They were interviewed and revealed all about how the school has changed from when they arrived to now.

Gilbey-Mackenzie interview

Mr Gilbey-Mackenzie is a huge contributor to the school, having been here for 28 years, making him a loyal teacher of The Hall. He is now the head librarian. The reporters asked for his opinion on the school.

Mr Gilbey-Mackenzie, when talking about his experiences, said, 'My best experiences were probably the plays. When I came here the school didn't really have a Drama department. I was called in by the headmaster, who said he was building a theatre, known now as the Wathen Hall that serves many more uses than just a theatre. There have been many good plays done by the boys, but my favourite has been *The Hired Man*. Manil Rashti, who used to meet him while walking his dog, invited the writer, Michael Bragg to see it. At first I was nervous, but it was a huge success! He supposedly called his composer and said it was the best school play he had ever seen and that he must watch it! Sadly, the composer couldn't make it.'

He was also proud to say that a few of the boys had gone on to be actors, notably Jack Farthing. 'Jack has always been a good actor, but is a bit on the small side, which stunts his career slightly. He was the idiot son in *Blandings* and played the villain in *Poldark*.'

Then he was asked whether or not he felt a sense of occasion about the 125th anniversary to which he replied, 'Yes, I do. I feel it's being handled perfectly. No-one is getting carried away and getting things which no-one will buy, and it's important to celebrate tradition properly. I'm celebrating it by going to many of the events, including the Alumni dinner'.

Concerning the future of The Hall, he was worried about books. He thought that Kindles and other electronic readers are taking over from books and that in the future few boys will go to the library.

-NAN

The Hall School in its Own Words: The Headmaster

Best thing about being headmaster

I enjoy thinking about how best to organise the school, to plan the future, to be involved in a strong community. I enjoy making sure lots of activities go well and ,one of the best things, especially this week, is being very varied.

First impressions.

He was impressed, very friendly, very open and the boys were very open and had lots of opportunities and activities. He would feel relaxed.

What do you feel towards the school now?



I am very lucky to be head teacher of such a school, I want it to be the very best school for the boys in it. To understand history and customs but to look forward to how we can develop and better it.

What about the school makes you the most proud?

Everyday, everyone gets on and works hard, both boys and teachers. I am proud of our achievements, our success and I am proud of staff and pupils alike, who enjoy and get so involved in everything we do.

What is the history of school?

Very little has changed. A boy in the 1930s would recognise a Hall boy as a boy who was very academic and full of activities that have broadened and changed over time. Traditions, customs and the history of the school haven't really changed.

This year, we are trying to bring people together, former teachers, former pupils to celebrate the history of the school. The programme has been enabled to enjoy and celebrate the history, music, many dinners and meetings and can show what the school does well.

If you could change one aspect about the school, what would it be?

I don't really want to change anything. I might change the uniform as it's a tiny bit boring but it does give tradition. We need to hold on to the colour pink.

What was your dream job when you were a child?

Not a headmaster, not a teacher. Probably rugby coach but wanted to do something else at the age of 20. Always enjoyed coaching, even when I was about 15 or 16 but gradually realized I would like to teach at a school by early 20s, wanted to be teacher.

What made you want to be a teacher?

Having experience of coaching and to educate new generations. I cannot regret it, especially in a school like this.

Did you study another subject at Uni?

Psychology, whether that would mean something in a school like this is a different topic but it's a real interest and I like it. Sociology. I preferred it over history and like it as well.

How will the school change in the next 125 years?

The school will change but a lot will stay the same. Parents want their sons to come to a school like this as there is lots to the society. The school will change to how the world develops but the school has always been good at that. Pupils will be able to learn in a way that is adaptable. It is really interesting to think about but hard to actually know, but I hope that there will be a Hall and that pink will always be a colour.