



SRPA Jubilee Celebrations: R2L

LC: How can I develop
my knowledge of the
Academy and its history?

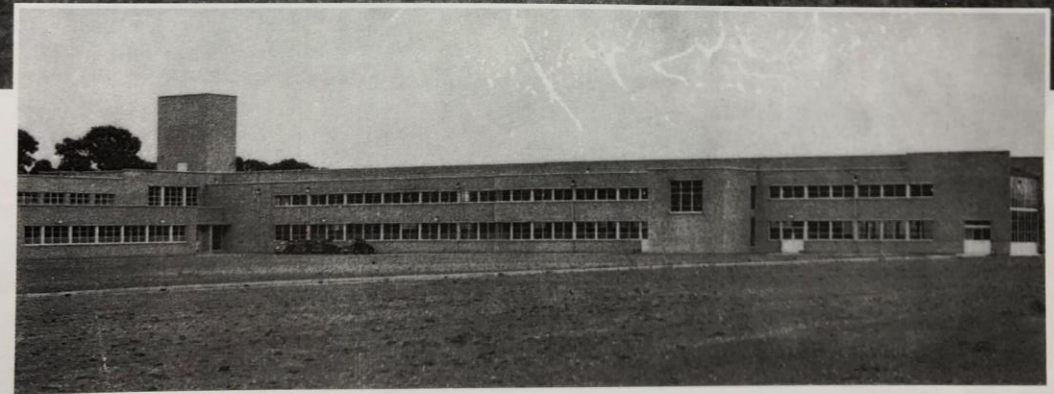
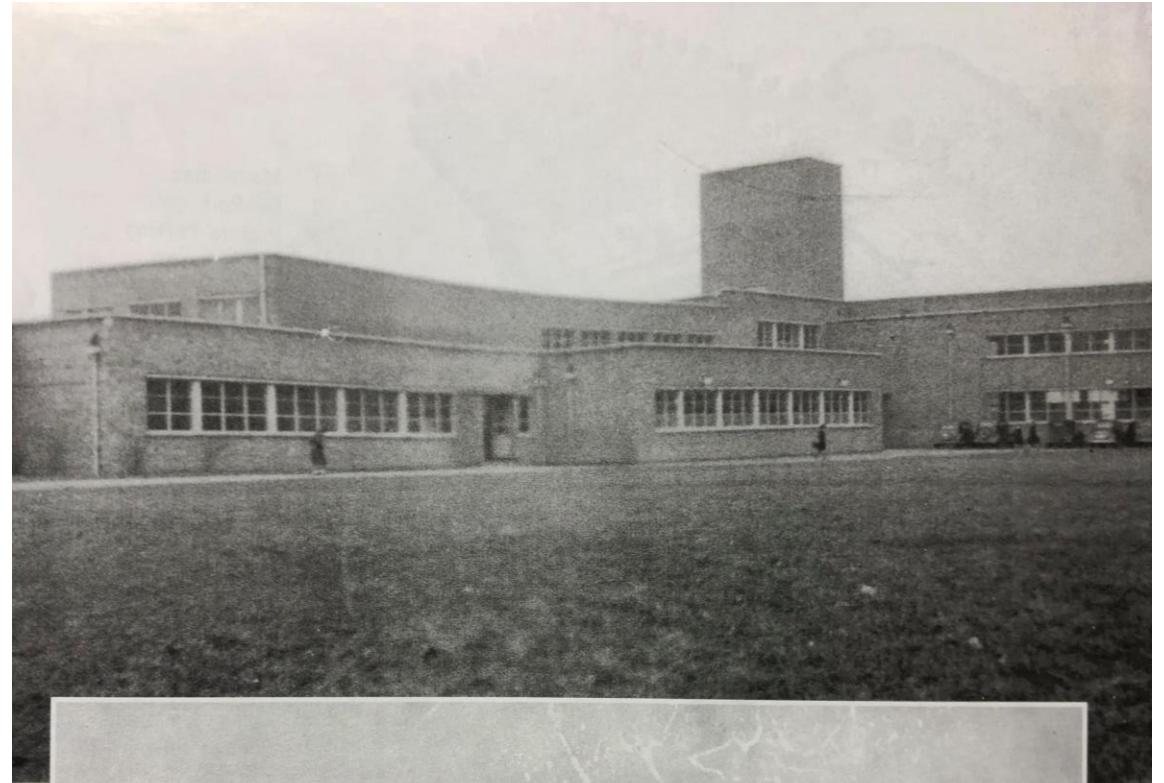
Day 1



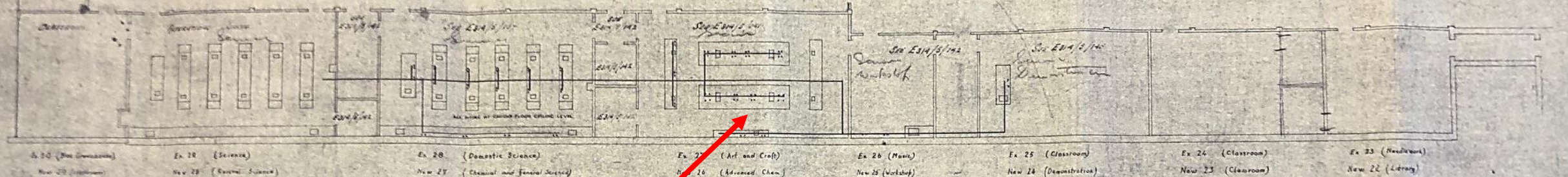
The origins...

SRPA was established in 1953 and was known simply as Robert Pattinson School. It was built on the grounds of Hykeham Hall and welcomed 545 girls and boys, which rose to 690 in 1954.

According to a G.W. Huston, one of the school's first ever governors, the school was built with the hope that it would 'help to put right a position where boys and girls of the rural areas had not been able to enjoy the same opportunities as the children in towns.'



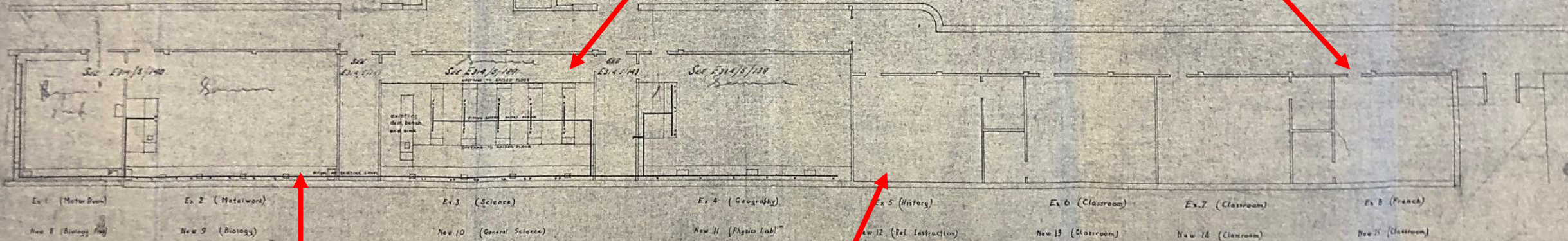
Here is one of the first maps of the school, which is the main modern English and Maths corridors ... Although it is difficult to see, many of the classrooms weren't where you now expect them to be...



C208 was an Art and Design room

C101 was once French

The library was once a Science lab!



C106 was Metalworking!

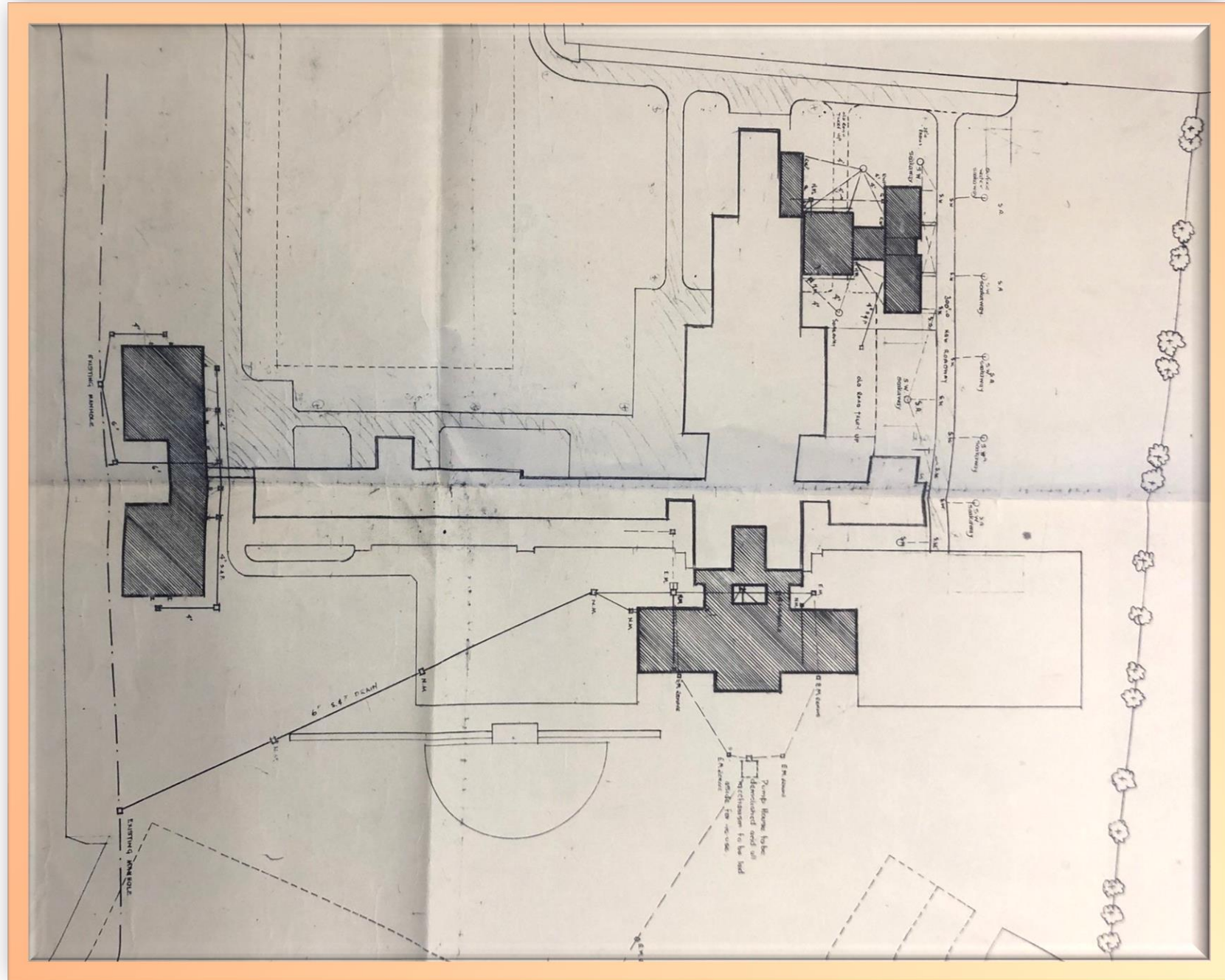
C104 was once History

Developments...

The school's original building – which was based on an RAF Hospital Burns Unit (a hospital which treated pilots injured in conflicts) – was shortly after modified, owing to the great success of the school. In fact, only four years later, the building expanded to cater for an additional 350 pupils...



In 1957, the three story-block, the pavilion and modern canteen buildings were developed and finished (opening in 1958), establishing much of the layout of the existing school today.





Here is the school in 1957/8 – see how familiar it looks! It even has a running track on the field (but no tennis courts... yet)!

Day 2



The early years...

The early years of the school were, in many ways, just like your own...
let's read about the memories of Ian Wand, a pupil who attended SRPA
between 1954 and 1960...

My enduring memories of the Robert Pat centre around non-academic activities - music, sport and drama. The musical activities were, for the 1950s, outstanding. The school was privileged to have two outstanding musicians: Mr Daubney and Miss Buckley, later Mrs Straw. I will mention three things: firstly Mr Daubney's song "There was a ship of Rio", something I can still sing(!); the two of them playing a Rachmininov suite for two pianos at a concert, a piece not for nervous performers; and lastly, the annual music festival where some of us wrestled with pieces probably too difficult for us to play in public! Then there was sport. The school had Heather Armitage on the staff - an Olympic sprinter who came 6th in the 1956 Melbourne 100m final and 2nd in the four by 100m relay. After her success, we all were given an extra day's holiday. Unfortunately she didn't repeat the success in 1960! Wednesdays and Saturdays were taken up with rugby, football or cricket with travel to all parts of the county. Perhaps we weren't very good: I remember Cranwell bowling us out for almost nothing, most of the wickets falling to a fast bowler of Tyson-like pace, and being beaten 60 points to nil in Rugby by De Aston, the only time they ever let me captain the school team! But the event of the year was the annual Shakespeare production by Dr Coles: during my years in the 6th we did 'Twelfth Night' and 'The Tempest'. I have so many memories of these productions: Mr Daubney's specially-written music, Dr Beckett's stage fireworks, wigs falling off and lights falling down, and wonderful times for us all backstage. But most of all I recall Alwyne Warnes' wonderful acting - to take on Prospero at the age of 17 or 18 and make a great success of it was a stupendous achievement. We even got a crit in the Times Educational Supplement!

What are your most enduring or memorable events of the school?

The science teaching, plus this wide range of extra curricular activities, was a wonderful preparation for the future and for university in particular. I went to Leicester to read Physics, which I enjoyed tremendously - the rigor and depth of the subject was a wonderful preparation for everything I have done since. I then became a researcher - where my interest was in the connection between the sun's radiation and the earth's atmosphere - and then a lecturer. After finding that I spent more time using a computer than I did researching Physics, I went into the computing industry, and then subsequently back into Computer Science teaching and research at the University of York. My career at York has been interspersed with further industrial experience and several periods in research laboratories in the US and Europe.

I have been lucky enough to have a hugely stimulating and rewarding career. The Robert Pattinson School gave me the opportunity to develop a wide range of interests and to build up my self-confidence. I owe the school, and particularly Mr Winwood the headmaster and Mr Boddy his deputy, a very great deal.

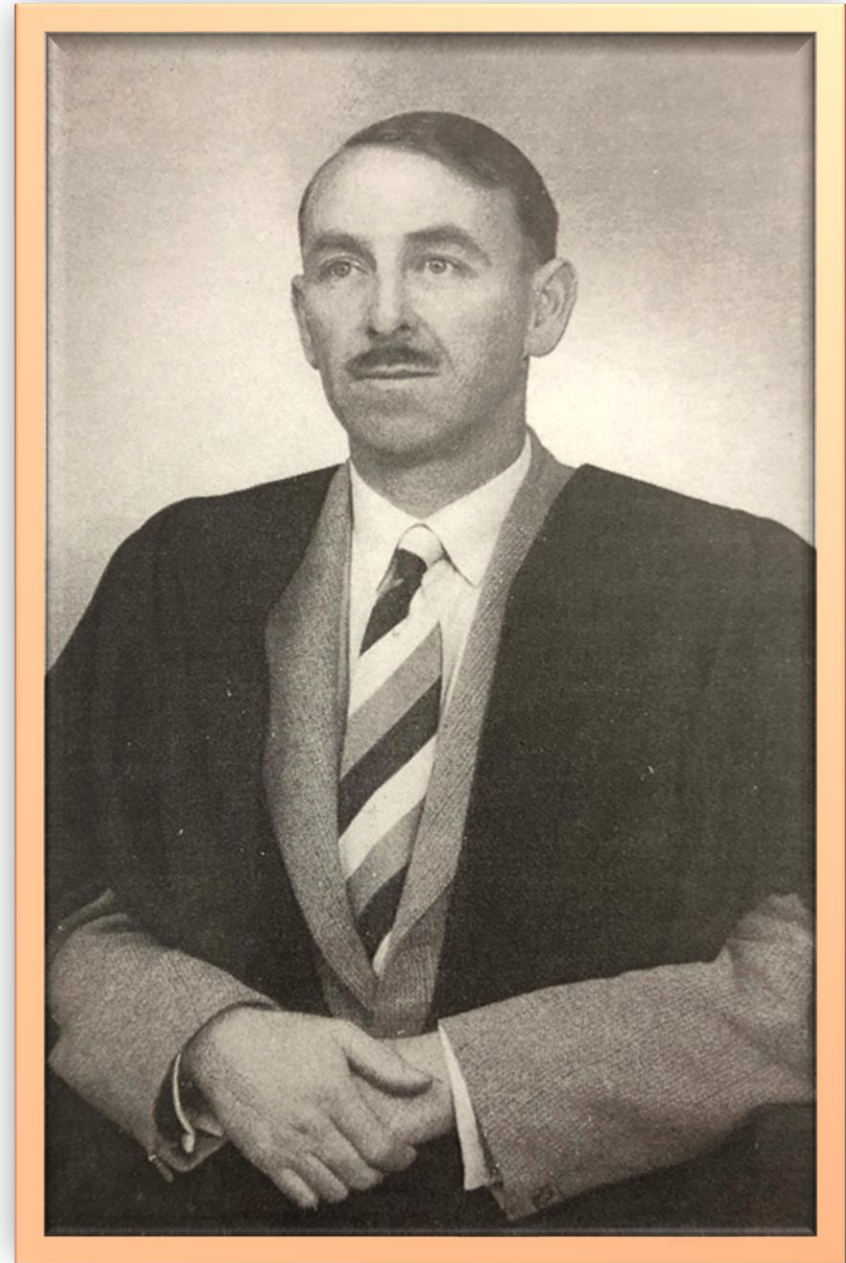
Ian Wand

20th January 2003

And here is Mr Jack Winwood, the school's first ever Headteacher...

He would go on to serve as headmaster until 1960.

FUN FACT: there have only been six headteachers in the school's entire 70 year history!



Day 3



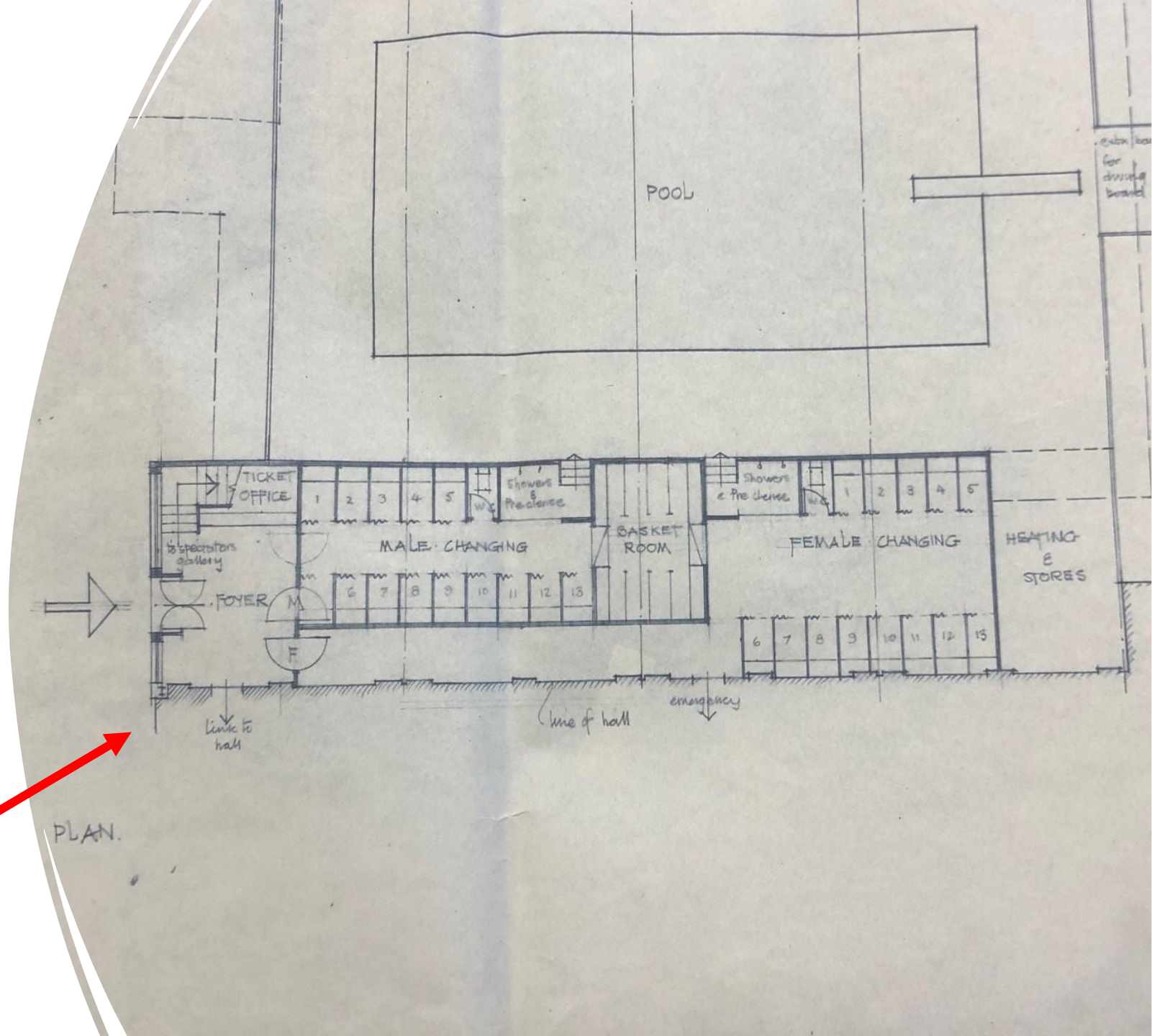
By the 1960s, the school had established itself well within the local community and had some familiar and unfamiliar rules and ideas taking place...

Here are some facts about the school from these early years:

- **1962** - an outdoor swimming pool was built, known by 1964 as Oliver Pool, after a teacher, Mr Oliver, who fell ill and was in hospital at this time!
- **1964** - a debating society was established 'to improve spoken English' of pupils
- **1964** - 212 pupils were taught to swim and the possibility of allowing NK Grammar school to use it was discussed by the Headmaster and Governors – they said no!
- **1964** - night classes began and a careers convention was held
- **1964** - first video tape recorder purchased for the school
- **1964** - jewellery banned in school for the first time!
- **1965** - there were over 1,101 pupils in school – double that of only ten years earlier
- **1965** - mixed bathing allowed for first time in pool!
- **1966** - first A Levels offered at the school were in Woodwork, Engineering Metalwork and Technical Drawing
- **1965** - a timber framed livestock unit built on the field to support with Rural Studies
- **1965** - stray cattle damage school fences! (Don't forget we designed as a rural school and many of the houses in North Hykeham weren't yet built – there were just fields!)
- **1966** - first full time nurse appointed
- **1967** - pottery kiln and potters wheel purchased
- **1967** - hall hired in December for two days by the society of magicians
- **1968** - existing Sports Hall built

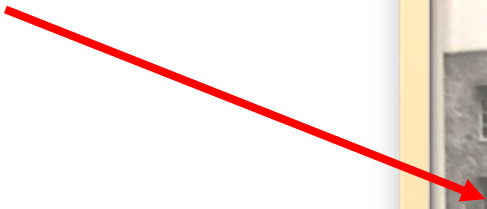


The Swimming Pool (built in 1962) was once located on the big concrete block to the side of the sports hall – it was later filled in!



Note that plans to build a bespoke changing room for the swimming pool was never built... These changing would have been built on the site of the current sports hall (built 1968)!

Where SLC is today!



Here are
some pupils
enjoying the
weather!



Fun in the water



Day 4

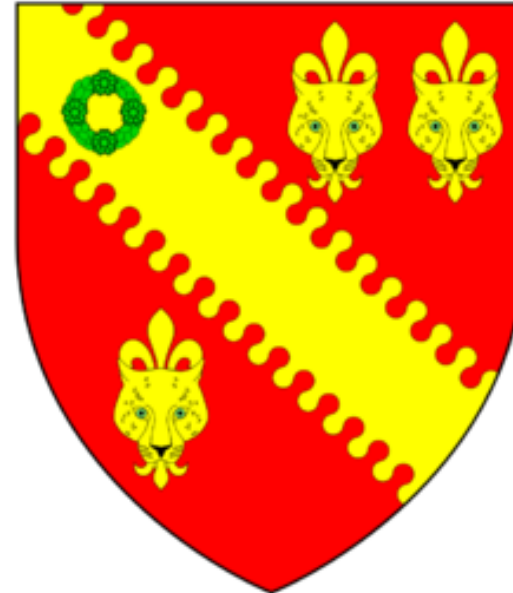


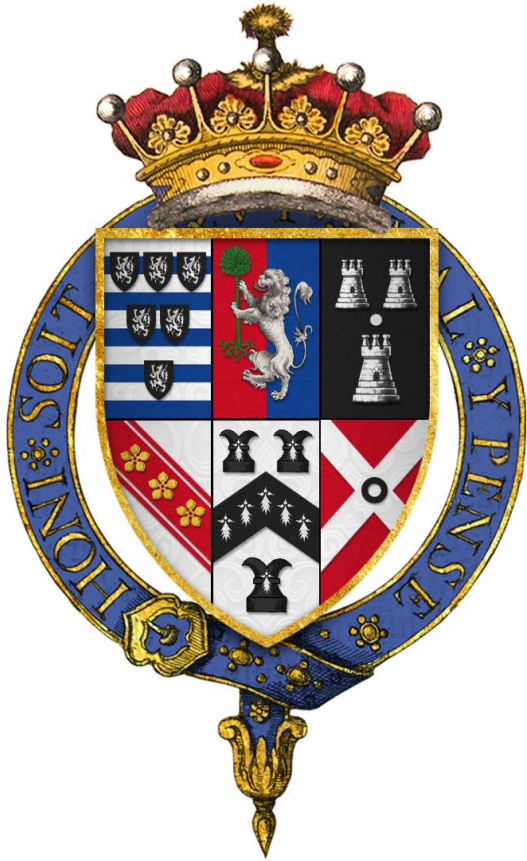
The House System...

When the school opened in September 1953, the house system was completely different.

To begin with there were SIX houses and they were completely different... Let's take a look...

Can anybody
guess what
these houses
were?





Burghley House

Named after William Cecil, Lord Burghley (1520-1598). The Cecils were one of the most important families in the Early Modern England and served Queen Elizabeth I.

Franklin House



Named after Sir John Franklin, a Lincolnshire gentleman (1786-1847) who found great fame in North America and the Arctic as an intrepid explorer. Franklin also fought in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 as a young man!



Hawke House

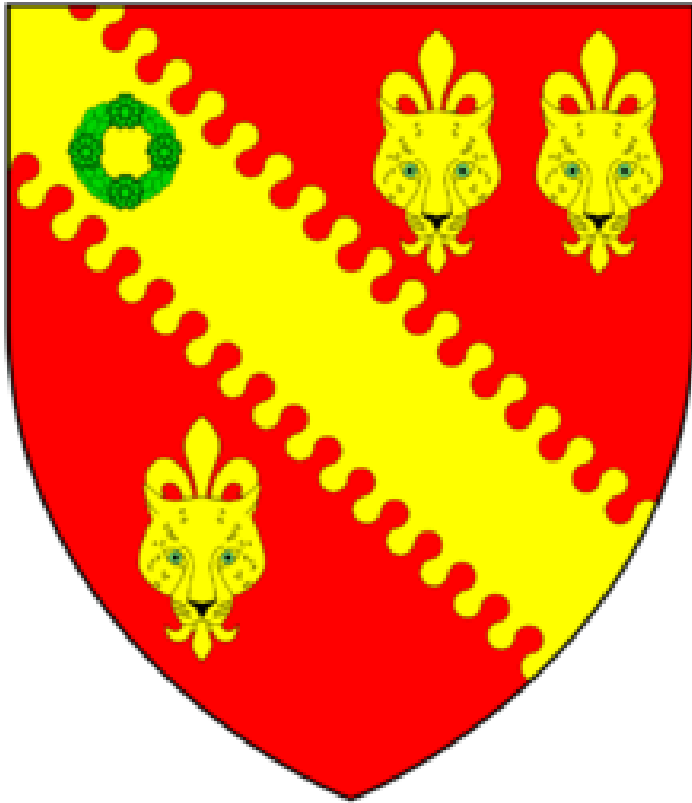
Named after Lord Martin Bladen Hawke (1860-1938), a man born and bred in Lincolnshire, who would go on to captain the Yorkshire cricket team for twenty-eight years! He also captained England during two tours of Australia and one to South Africa.

Newton House



Named after Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), arguably one of the greatest English mathematicians and scientists. Newton was (presumably) chosen because he was born near Grantham, Lincolnshire. Newton developed telescopes, had reform coinage in England, and, of course, developed the theory of gravity!

Tennyson House



Named after Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892), a poet and leading thinker of Victorian England. Tennyson would go on to be Poet Laureate for Queen Victoria, who thought him the oddest man she had ever met! Some of you will have studied (or will study) his poem, Charge of the Light Brigade!

Wesley House



Named after John Wesley (1703-1791), a cleric and religious thinker who inspired thousands through preaching and teaching. He spent his whole life travelling on horseback to spread the word of God and founded the 'Wesleyan Methodist Church'.



Despite these colourful beginnings, the House system changed dramatically again in 1956 because 'the physical appearance of the school has changed, so have its institutions.' This saw the introduction of the current house system ... well almost. Lancaster House was only added to the roster of houses in 2018!

What or who do you think the current houses are named after?

Day 5



Changes...

Although SRPA is now an Academy – which means it is in control of its own destiny – it wasn't always so. In fact, this change in status only occurred in 2011. Before that, SRPA was known simply as The Robert Pattinson School (no, not that Robert Pattinson!) and was managed for the first half of its existence by the local educational authority.



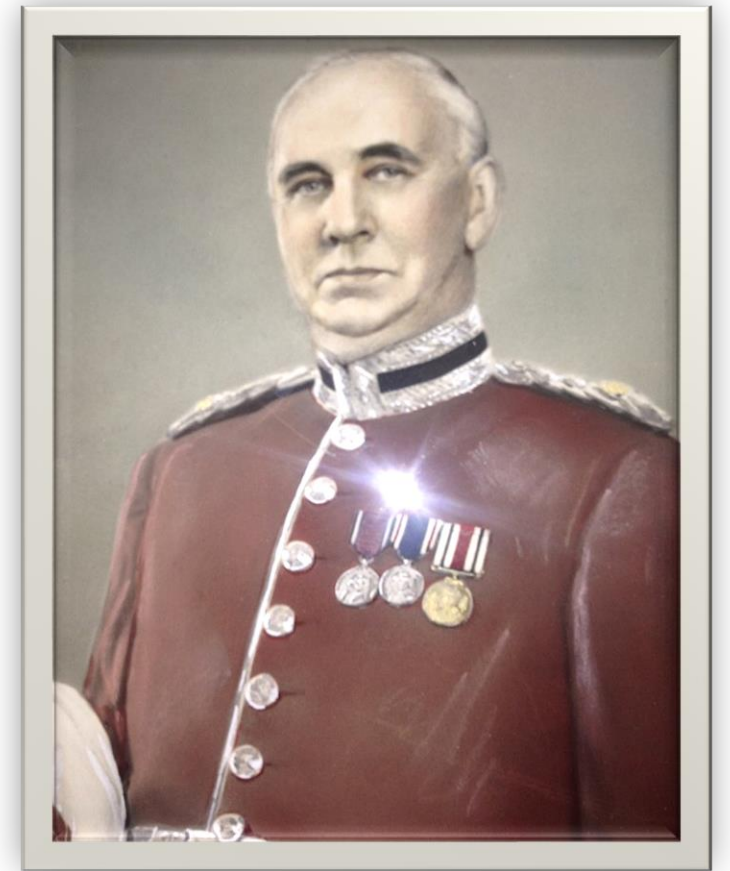
The Origins...

In fact, our Academy was named after an altogether different Robert Pattinson (1872-1954).

This particular Robert was a liberal politician and businessman who played an active role in Lincolnshire life for over 50 years as a county councillor. Sir Robert Pattinson also had a passion for maintaining rivers and railways, served as a magistrate in Kesteven (think Sleaford/Grantham area) and High Sheriff of Louth, as well as helping frame the Education Act of 1944 alongside the government. He was knighted by George V in 1934.

The school was thus named in his honour as Sir Robert was deemed an individual to whom people could look to for aspiration, dedication and focus.

And, as the first ever school magazine stated, 'You all belong to the Robert Pattinson School and you should all do your best for it,' as Sir Robert did for the county.



Portrait of Sir Robert Pattinson at the coronation of King George VI in 1936

Day 6



School uniform...

The school uniform wasn't always what it is now, nor were the colours of the school the same! What colour do you think it might have been?

In the 1950 and 1960s, the school uniform was actually for the most part **DARK GREEN!**



Some early uniform requirements

In winter **Girls** had to wear a 'dark green blazer, a dark green beret with a badge and a dark green raincoat'. They must also wear 'black shoes, white or grey stockings or knee length socks, a white blouse, a dark green V necked pullover, and a school tie.'

In summer, girls had to 'choose a check dress of either red, yellow or green, and during sports they were to wear dark green shorts, a white cotton shirt and white tennis shoes.'

All year round, **Boys** were expected to wear a 'black blazer with badge, a black school cap with pleated sides and a badge, steel grey or dark green V necked pullover, grey trousers, steel grey socks, a navy raincoat, and a school tie.'

For sports, boys had to wear 'black shorts, white socks and have one white and one green top depending on the sport being played'. Like the girls, they had to wear 'white gym shoes.'

What would you change about the school uniform if you could?

**1972/73
approximately**





1977 – the uniform appears to still be the same as the 1950s and 1960s



Sports kits from 1976 (left) and 1979 (right)



1981 – the uniform has changed and is similar to today, especially for the boys (see back row on the left with different coloured ties!). The girls, however, had some way to go!

Day 7





School motto: *Via diversa, vita una* (Latin)

According to the first ever school magazine, the school motto, ***Via diversa, vita una*** means that *'although we all share the same life (vita una) and have the same ultimate goal, we take many and various routes (via diversa) towards that goal.'*

The editor of the magazine also went on to say that the motto was established with *'particular regard to its suitability for a large school of this type and in the hope that it would prove an inspiration towards a communal spirit within the school and the ultimate good of the school.'* The also urged that all pupils should *'live up to it'* as it is the *'basis of tradition, tone and spirit in school.'*

DISCUSSION: How do you feel you live up to these ideals? How could you improve yourself and support others around you to live up to it?

Day 8



Library Rules... written by a second year pupil (Year 8) in 1954

How to behave in the Library

When you enter the Library you should not just pick up a chair and start talking to someone else. Nor should you rush about like a madman. The Library is there for your use but it should always be used properly and as much help as possible should be given to the people in charge. If you find a book that is damaged you should report it at once. If you take a book from the shelves you should put it back in the same place when you have finished with it with the spine facing outwards so that other people can tell at a glance what the book is called. If the book is too big to go in vertically you should lay it on its side with the title facing outwards. When the library is closed or when you wish to change your book, you should not rush to get out or crowd round the issue desk. If you remember these simple points, the library will be a better form of enjoyment for you and others.

What do you think of those rules? If you had to write your own library rules, what would they be?

Bee club

There was also a bee club established in 1954, which contained ten hives, and produced 230lbs of honey in its first year!

The club itself had a total membership of thirty pupils and five members of staff.

Two issues arose with this early venture: there wasn't enough protective clothing (!) and the first ever colony 'perished within a week of its arrival'. It is clear that both issues were soon cleared up.



What new clubs or societies would you like to see in school?

Day 9



Famous valedictorians

The academy has had a small number of 'famous' pupils in the last seventy years, so let's take a look at some of them...

Perhaps in the next seventy years you could join the list...



Any Eastenders fans in the room?

This is Lindsey Coulson, who played Carol Jackson in Eastenders for eleven years between 1993 and 2015, returning to the show on and off, winning two Soap Awards for her role. Lindsey is also well known for her performances on stage and on screen, and has acted in *Heartbeat*, *Casualty*, *Doctor Who*, *Bulletproof* and *The Bay*.

Lindsey attended the school in the early 1970s. She is 63 years old.

Rising to the top

Nigel Huddleston is a British politician serving as Minister of State for International Trade since February 2023. He served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport from 2020 to 2022, and is a member of the Conservative Party.

Nigel attended Sir Robert Pattinson school in the mid-1980s. He is 53.





One of Lincoln's finest

Paul Mayo is a former Lincoln footballer, who played as a defender for the imps between 1999-2004 and 2005-2007. He also had a stint at Watford in 2005 when they were in the Championship but quickly returned to Lincoln. He made over 240 appearances as a professional.

Paul now works as a police officer in Lincoln. He attended Sir Robert Pattinson School in the mid-1990s. He is 41.



Olympic hero!

Sophie Wells is a British para-equestrian who won 3 medals at the 2012 Summer Paralympics, 2 Golds and 1 Silver at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, and most recently a Team Gold & Individual Silver at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. Sophie was awarded an OBE by the Queen shortly before her death in 2022.

Sophie's achievements are all the more impressive because she was born with amniotic band syndrome, meaning she has no feeling or little movement in her feet and has lost numerous fingers.

Sophie left SRPA in 2008 and went on to study Sport & Exercise Science at Lincoln University. She is aged 33.