

TIMELINE OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOL'S HISTORY

In 1557 Sir Antony Browne, the Lord Chief Justice, acquired the land on which Brentwood School was first built. During Mary Tudor's reign, hundreds of Protestants were burned at the stake and a well-known Brentwood Protestant, William Hunter, was ordered by Sir Antony Browne to be executed. This act may have led Sir Antony Browne to found Brentwood School.

Here is a brief timeline of developments at Brentwood School since its foundation.

- 1557** Sir Antony Browne purchases Weald Hall (salvaged parts of which remain at the School) and land for the School
- 1558** Charter granted by Queen Mary Tudor. George Otway appointed first Headmaster
- 1568** Old Big School built at the expense of Edmund and Dorothy Huddleston
- 1622** Signing of School Statutes by the Bishop of London and John Donne, Dean of St. Paul's and one of England's finest poets. The statutes declared that pupils should be instructed in Virtue, Learning and Manners, which are values still embodied today
- 1765** Boarders admitted
- 1773** School House built for £1,100
- 1793** Lack of pupils forces temporary closure
- 1801** School re-opens
- 1806** Charles Tower took over as School Master, the School had only 12 boys
- 1851** The name Brentwood School and Charity Act replaces 1622 statutes
- 1851** Start of revival under headship of Dr W. D. West, the school experienced growth and the foundations were set for future development
- 1868** School chapel built
- 1870** Governing Body set up to appoint principal and teachers
- 1870s** The School gained its reputation for sport, producing an international rugby player and cricketer
- 1891** Dr Edwin Bean MA appointed Headmaster and encouraged boys from local state primary schools to join the School through scholarship examinations
- 1892** Foundation of Preparatory School, the first classes were held in the School House dining room
- 1907** Edwin Bean wrote the words to the School song to mark the Schools 350th anniversary
- 1907** Evelyn Heseltine purchases Roden House and adjoining land, donating the land to the School, which became the sports fields dedicated in his name
- 1909** Main School building facing Ingrave Road opens. Evelyn Heseltine's wife lays the foundation stone for the building
- 1911** Evelyn Heseltine provides swimming pool
- 1914** James Fisher Hough appointed Headmaster. School's golden era begins with acquisitions that form the basis of today's site. James Hough increased pupil numbers from just over 200 pupils when he took over to almost 900 pupils when he retired in 1945
- 1924** Memorial Hall built
- 1929** Bean Library opened as a memorial to Edwin Bean

- 1930s** Lawrence Building, swimming pool, squash courts, gymnasium and covered rifle range built. Middleton Hall purchased
- 1945** Charles Allison appointed Headmaster
- 1949** Over the years, the Preparatory School has moved to various parts of the Brentwood School site, including Roden House (now the Senior School Headmaster's House), the Hermitage, and finally to Middleton Hall in 1949
- 1955** Memorial Pavilion built
- 1957** 400th Anniversary: HM Queen Elizabeth opens new Science building named the Queen's Building
- 1966** Richard Sale appointed Headmaster
- 1974** Girls admitted to Sixth Form
- 1976** Direct Grant status withdrawn
- 1981** John Evans appointed Headmaster
- 1986** Courage Hall opens
- 1988** The first all girls' class begin from age 11, with boys and girls being taught separately to age 16
- 1993** John Kelsall appointed Headmaster
- 1994** Allison Building built
- 1995** Foundation of Pre-Preparatory School under the solid and imaginative leadership of Founder and Headmistress Mrs Ann Murrells
- 1992** Boarding at the Prep ceases
- 1999** Preparatory School becomes co-educational
- 1999** Hardy Amies Design Centre opened, major refurbishment of Performing Arts Centre launched
- 2002** New indoor heated swimming pool and fitness suite officially opened by Olympic Swimmer Mark Foster
- 2003** Science Study Centre and new Pre-Preparatory Hall, Preparatory classrooms and computer suites open, refurbishment of Queen's Building
- 2004** Ian Davies appointed Headmaster
- 2005** Extension to the Allison Modern Languages building completed to provide six new classrooms and a state-of-the-art language laboratory
- 2007** The School celebrated its 450th anniversary
- 2007** International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme introduced as post 16 option
- 2008** 200-person changing room block on the Heseltine's opens
- 2009** Over 200 Brentwood School CCF cadets, officers and Old Brentwoods travel to Belgium to unveil a memorial at St. George's Church in Ypres
- 2010** New Reception, School Shop and Dining Hall extension
- 2011** A new cutting-edge 400-seat auditorium and Sixth Form Centre opened by HRH Prince Edward
- 2012** New running track opened by Fatima Whitbread
- 2013** Building works commence on the Cunliffe building and the Bean Library. The Pre-Preparatory School and Preparatory School are amalgamated into one Preparatory School providing seamless progression from age 3 to age 11.