

# School Clothing through the Ages

Like most Schools which have endured for a few centuries, the Royal High has sported a great many fashions and fashion statements in its time. The 1974 History described the changes in between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

*Up to the early 1950's boys did not regularly wear blazers as school uniform. Lord Cockburn says that in the eighteenth century boys wore a round black hat, a shirt fastened by a black ribbon, a cloth waistcoat "with two rows of buttons so that it could be buttoned on either side," a single breasted jacket, brown corduroy breeches tied at the knee, stockings and "clumsy shoes made to be used on either foot and each requiring to be used on alternate feet daily." The jacket and waistcoat were "of bright colours, blue, green or scarlet." By the twentieth century the essential wear was a black cap with the intertwined monogram RHS in silver thread, a black and white tie and stockings with black and white tops. In 1921 the School badge with the castle was substituted for the monogram and towards the end of the decade the blazer became regular daytime wear. The School cap tended to disappear about the time of the Second World War when supplies were difficult to obtain and boys tended to go about bareheaded.*

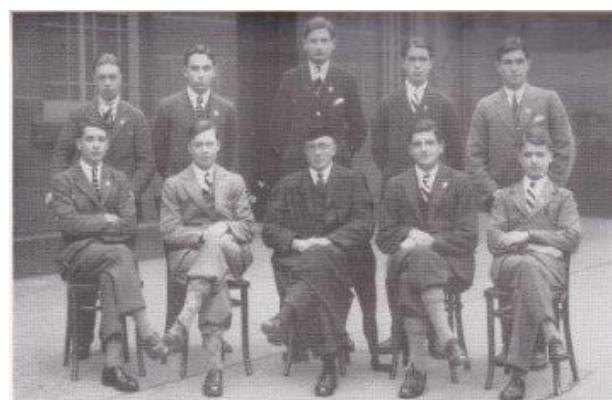
*(The School dress regulations for the girls and boys in the 1970s were supplied in an appendix in the 1974 History)*

Among the categories in this history are the following:

- Pupils attire
- Prefects and Celebrities attire
- Military, including Combined Cadet Forces and Pipe Band
- Sports, including Rugby, Cricket, Athletics, Football
- Recent events, including Stage, Concerts, special events
- New School Blazers and Colours



The 1871 Former Pupils Rugby XV, nattily attired in White knickerbockers



The 1927 Prefects with their Rector. Note the Rector's gown and mortar board, a mix of blazer colours (black and grey), and two in the front row wearing plus fours



The 1931 School Celebrities photo, featuring three pupils wearing waistcoats, the other with a double-breasted blazer



The Evening News Sports feature from around 1953, showing the Summer garb worn by Junior School competitors in the Annual Games at Jocks Lodge



Two sets of dress styles in this fabulous image. The year is around 1950, and the School Pipe Band leads the CCF (Army section) off the School precincts on their way to Waverley Station to catch a train to CCF Annual camp. The officer leading the boys with the rifles is Major (Pongo) Forbes. Note the brewery chimney in the background spewing smoke over the Holyrood area. Note also the mother with pram and toddler on the left.



1904 FP Cricket XI at Holyrood (the site acquired for the Scottish parliament. Note the School tie used as a trouser belt, and the fine bicycle in the background. WCA (Bogie) Ross, author of the 1934 History, is seated second right



The 1960 School Athletics team at Holyrood, featuring matching badged vests and short shorts



*The 1954 image of Pupils from various Edinburgh Schools at the Scottish Schoolboys camp. You might notice that almost everyone is wearing rugby kit including boots. No such thing as trainers and hoodies in those days!*



*Competitors in the 2014 Sponsored Walk. No lack of expensive kit and trainers shown in this image!*



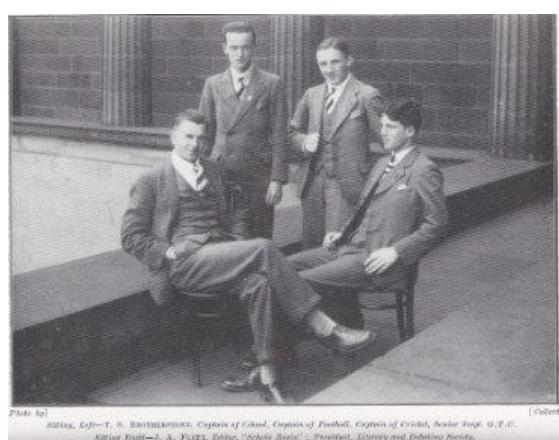
*CAST OF "THE CRITIC" (July 1921) [Photo by R. H. S. Camera Club  
Standing—S. M. OSBURN, A. SMITH, J. ROBERTSON, W. G. GIBSON, L. W. ARNOTT, W. DYKE, L. R. M. BRANDER, J. L. COCKBURN.  
Sitting—J. LIPSETZ, H. WHITE, A. J. CLEMENTS, H. WATSON, R. H. WESTWATER.*

*July 1921 – The cast of Sheridan's play 'The Critic'. Contrast this with the recent RHS production shown opposite*



*The 2010 School Production of 'Hairspray'. Thoroughly modern portrayal with hi-tech lighting, sound and video*

## **Captains, Prefects and School Celebrities clothing – comparative through the ages...**



*Photo by [unclear]  
Seated, Left—T. H. BROTHICKER, Captain of School, Captain of Football, Captain of Cricket, Senior Vug. G. P. C.  
Virtue Right—A. F. LEE, Senior, "White Horse" President, Literary and Debating Society.  
Standing Left—A. DUNNISON, Head of School, Standing Right—W. L. M. MACLELLAN, Captain of Debating Society.*

**1931**

*School Celebrities photo, featuring three pupils wearing waistcoats, the other with a double-breasted blazer*



*Seated: Robin Forrester-Paton (School Captain), Murray McLean (Vice-Captain), Ian George (Editor  
School Paper, Due of the School).  
Standing: Christopher Crosley (Piper-Major); Paul Thomson (Captain of Cricket; President of Literary  
and Debating Society).*

**1968**

*The last year at Regent Road.  
Very different from 1931, but  
very similar to 1968*



**2017**

*The new School Blazers with purple and  
silver piping – cuff piping colours vary  
between Captains and other Prefects*