

# The evolution of the Barnton Campus

This document seeks to describe the lifecycle of the Barnton building, starting from the decision taken in 1961 to proceed with the construction of the new school.

The principal reasons for the move from Regent Road could be said to be overcrowding, lack of facilities, and probably the inability to allow comprehensive education in the existing space. Despite the prospect of the school enlarging, the first building showed no prospect of facilities for girls, and in the five years between the move and the introduction of girls in 1973, little was done to prepare for their arrival. In the event, the first female intake was just 78 pupils, of a total of 223 first formers, representing 35% of the total. The timeline shown below shows that there have been a couple of major building upgrades, along with associated development of the adjacent grounds, and also regrettably a couple of building failures. There appear to be no further building modifications planned.

**Click on any of the following topics**

## Barnton Campus timeline

## Recollections of the move to Barnton from contemporary pupils

Regent Road to Barnton – an extract from the 1974 Barclay history

Regent Road to Barnton – an extract from the 1997 John Murray history

## Building issues and modifications listed in annual reports, 1974 - 2016

## Barnton Campus timeline

1. 1961 – Edinburgh Council decide to relocate the School
2. 1962 – site acquired, including two acres of former railway cutting as access
3. 1966 – Building commenced
4. 1968 April 24th - Building was near completion when the 'Royal preview for two' took place - **School roll 675**
5. 1968 June 18th - Barnton Campus opened for two weeks of snagging at the end of the Summer term
6. 1968 June 29th - Regent Road building closes after Prize Giving
7. 1968 September 17th - the official Barnton opening date, when the Evening news visited to find that the assembly hall chairs had not arrived
8. 1973 - August 20th 1973 - School becomes comprehensive, first ever female intake - photo below
9. 1977 - insufficient accommodation so many temporary classrooms installed
10. 1978 - 850th Anniversary- from Holyrood Abbey in 1128
11. 1987 - Completion of major alterations and extensions
12. 1990 - Sports pavilion and refurbished pitches
13. 1993 - The twenty fifth anniversary - **School roll 1050**
14. 1995 - All weather hockey pitch
15. 2004 - Major refurbishment completed
16. 2016 - Major building failure, necessitating many temporary classrooms
17. 2018 – The fiftieth anniversary - **School roll 1260**



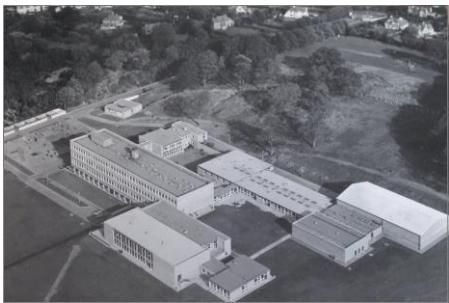
### *Artists impression 1966*



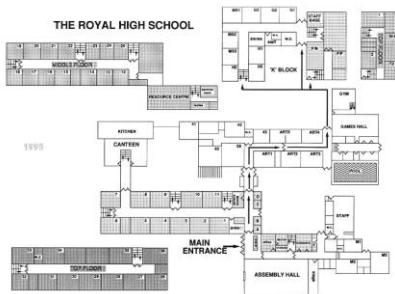
### *Evening News report 1966*



*Ian George describes the move in the July 1968 Schola Regia*



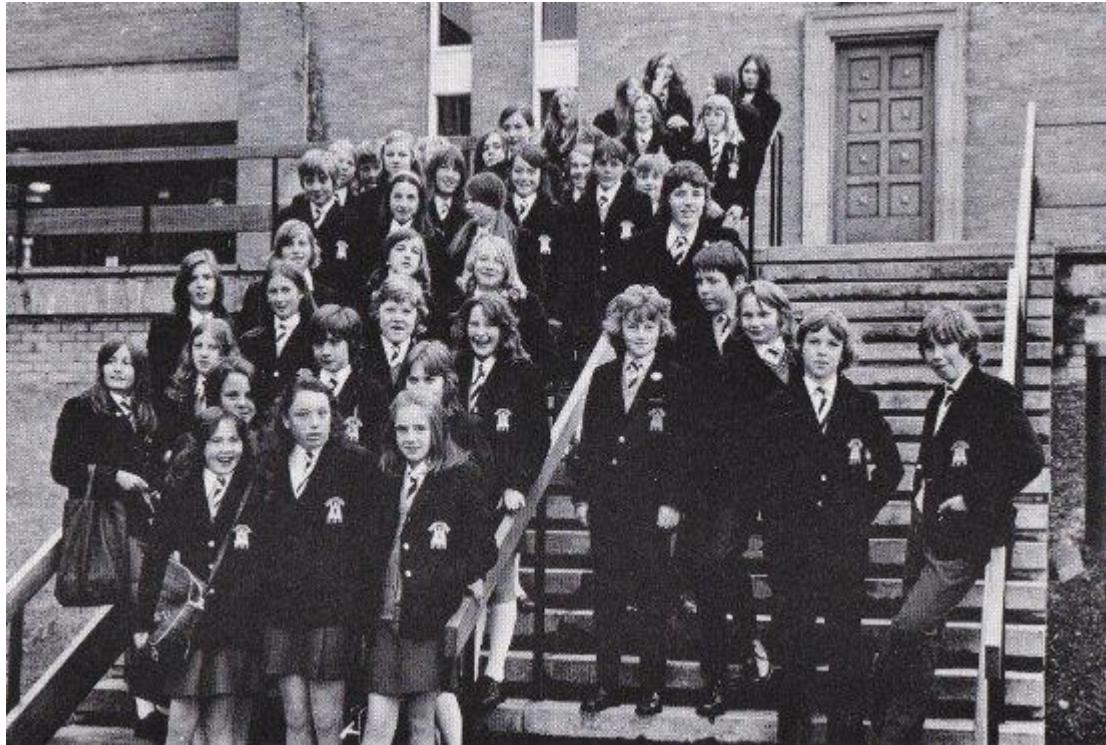
Aerial view, 1969



The school plan in 1995



Aerial view, 2003



This is the only surviving image of the arrival of female pupils in 1973. The thirty six girls look to be more than a match for six boys who appear to have an air of nonchalant disregard.

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## Recollections of the move to Barnton from contemporary pupils

Seven pupils who made the move from Regent Road to Barnton in 1968 took part in a survey to record their memories and feelings about the move. They were Al Senter, Alex Prentice, Colin Todd, Paul Jackson, David Coker, Neal Seager and Will Dunnet. Their responses have been gathered under the topic headings posed in the questionnaire; individual thoughts have been suppressed to protect the identity of the narrator.

### Were you happy to leave Regent Road, and if so why?

*Respondents broadly were happy to leave for the improved facilities at Barnton, but regretted losing the history and atmosphere of the Georgian building. Another said 'The unique central oval hall, which in hindsight said everything about the common purpose of learning, was lost in the transition'.*

### Were you impressed with Barnton Campus and facilities?

*All respondents were impressed with the new facilities, particularly sports related (with the exception of the pitches which took some years to settle), with one describing how he and his parents had visited the building site regularly throughout construction and marvelled at the scale of pool and PE hall. Other described the stage and big show facilities, which were vastly better. Another was disappointed at how difficult it was to escape from the campus compared to Regent Road, where one could quickly escape to the comfort of Edinburgh's east end.*

### Was travelling a problem? How did those of you living in the East of Edinburgh make the journey?

*Those who continued to travel from the East had mixed views; one liked the travel experience, but others were already in the West and travel was therefore much easier.*

#### **Other comments**

*Alex Prentice encapsulated the comments - Despite being in a new location at Barnton day-to-day school life went on much as it had done at Regent Road. There was still an all-male school population of around 600 boys and most of the same teachers were still in place: The Rector - Baillie T Ruthven, 'Curly' Bill Mitchell, Jock Dewar, Sandy Forsyth, Nigel McIsaac and many other well-regarded teachers. The big changes to life at the Royal High that were to come later, i.e. co-education with the girls and comprehensive education, were still several years away but they were probably facilitated by the new location at Barnton. It is hard to see how these later changes could have been introduced at Regent Road with its somewhat cramped town centre location.*

*Another controversial proposal – 'At a class reunion, one of my smarter friends suggested that it would have been more interesting to place the school in Pilton or someplace similar.*

**An additional question - Did you help with the move?** returned no responses, but it is known that at least one pupil (Neil Forrest) took part in the exercise, and sequestered the best chairs from the Regent Road staffroom for the Prefects room at Barnton.

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## **Regent Road to Barnton**

### **From the 1974 J B Barclay history**

It was in 1961 that the city Education Committee took the decision that it could no longer attempt to patch up the Royal High School but would move it to a new site at Barnton which the City Treasurer claimed "could be described as the most desirable school site in the city." History was made at that meeting in that the then Lord Provost, a former pupil of the School, attended in person and took part in the discussion. In the following spring the Town Council agreed compulsorily to purchase the lands of Barnton Park along with two acres of the cutting of the abandoned Barnton railway.

**In 1966** the new building was begun. The architect was George Steedman of Cairns and Ford who was again commissioned to design a new extension in 1974. The main contractor was Alexander Hall and Co. The building cost £712,000, while the first part of the new extension has been estimated at another £550,000. Preparation for the removal required much planning by the rector and staff. The library was carefully examined and on its shelves were found a number of rare and valuable books. The library had been in existence from the seventeenth century and possessed treasures from that time. While the Town Council provided the accommodation for the library the masters, scholars and citizens provided the books. It became a tradition for a time that boys leaving School presented a book to the library. In the reappraisal of the library before moving to Barnton it was found that many of the older books needed extensive repairs and that some were only of interest for research. It was agreed to hand these over to the National Library of Scotland and to the Edinburgh City Library to be preserved as the Royal High School collections. First editions and books written or donated by former pupils were retained in the new library where accommodation was also provided for private study.

**In 1966** the boys leaving School walked through the memorial door at Regent Road for the last time (*Martin Bryden left in 1967 and described "leaving through a builder's door"*). The memorial windows and the organ were removed. It was not found possible to remove the armorial stone bearing the School arms and motto which survived from the 1578 building and had been placed above the west entrance to the Great Hall in 1897. The new School had to be content with a replica. The bronze plaque of Thomas Hamilton, the architect who designed the School at Regent Road and who was himself a former pupil, also remained to enrich the building which was his greatest work.

**A service was held in Canongate Church**, the Kirk of Holyrood House, in whose parish the first known school was situated. The governor of the Castle from which the monks first moved to Holyrood and the rector read the lessons; the sermon was preached by the minister and the benediction was pronounced by the Dean of the Thistle. It was symbolic of the School's departure from the ancient Royal Burgh of Edinburgh and the Burgh of Canongate. The School was given a week's holiday while masters and senior boys helped to load the vans from the yards. The final ceremony at Regent Road was the prizegiving of 1968 (on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July) when the keys of the old School were handed over to the Lord Provost by the rector. The rector, staff and pupils then left the old buildings with a feeling of pride in what had been achieved there but also with a sense of loss of old familiar places. There was, however, no great procession from the old to the new, only the convoy of furniture vans carrying equipment. The governors, the Town Council, did not make the occasion a memorable one for their *Tounis Scule* as they did when the School went first to

Calton Hill. In 1829 after the ceremonies of the day the event was celebrated in the evening by a public banquet attended by four hundred gentlemen, including many learned and distinguished citizens and old pupils of the High School. The great public interest evinced on the occasion augured well for the future prosperity of the School and showed how highly its benefits and the services of its masters were valued by all classes of the community. The great public was scarcely aware of the change in 1968. The services of staff and pupils of nearly a century and a half were unsung.

**THE Royal High School** moved to the new buildings at Barnton in the summer of 1968. This was the fourth purpose-built home for the School since the Reformation. Each succeeded its predecessor for almost the same reason, inadequate accommodation and facilities. Each time the School moved further from the centre of the town. Each represented the type of architectural thought of its period. *Schola Regia* in July 1968 wrote, that "architecturally our new building presents faceless rectangles to the onlooker, is modelled on the celebrated Swan Vestas matchbox and is tedious through being stylistically identical to thousands of other schools, factories, office blocks and flats being pushed up throughout Britain." The faceless northern wall of the School was adorned by the memorial coat of arms of the School erected by the Royal High School Club in 1973 in memory of former pupil, master and deputy rector, W. C. A. Ross, who wrote the last history of the School. The art department also brightened up the inner quadrangle with a statue and mosaic background, and a metal sculpture. In planning the new buildings the outstanding consideration was a functional one. There was no thought of Doric columns or Craigleith stone.

Though perhaps uninteresting outside like many of its contemporaries the provision within is as good as the thinking on school facilities could suggest at the time. Chemistry and physics have laboratories of the kind they require while the technical departments have room for machines and equipment. If the new gymnasium of 1885 was one of the largest in the country the new gymnasium or games hall at Barnton is vast in comparison. The lecture theatre is a valuable addition, while the language laboratory accommodation made it possible to present candidates for oral examination in languages. Audio-visual aid facilities are provided and the swimming pool is well equipped with modern filtration plant. It is a school for the new age or as the editor of *Schola Regia* in 1968 wrote, "In the very well-equipped but, to my mind, soulless structure in suburbia, pupils may well develop a new ethos - one appropriate to the technological culture, worshipping productivity and the gross national product".

All is not new. The School spirit will be handed on in the tradition and in the monuments of the School which have been taken to Barnton. The assembly hall, though strange compared with the great amphitheatre of Regent Road, features some of the gifts which were beloved by High School boys of past generations, the two war memorials, the organ and the portraits of famous former rectors. The memorial porch of Skye and Iona marbles was originally erected in 1925 and bears on the brass tablets the names of 182 former pupils who died in the 1914-18 War. The marble was the gift of Dr James Watt: the architect was James Gray. The inscription OYAE TEQNAEI @ANONTEE is by the Greek poet Simonides and may be translated into modern idiom as "Their Name Liveth."

The memorial stained glass windows were the work of William Wilson and the panels by William G. Dey, both former pupils. They were dedicated in 1949 to the dead of the 1939-45 World War. The symbolism represents Scotland and her great men throughout the centuries and their connections with the School, the builders of the nation, its thinkers and its heroes. We owe the windows and the panels bearing the names of the fallen to the work of the Ladies' Committee who under the energetic convenership of the rector's wife raised the funds to meet the entire cost. The grounds in which the School now stands was the site of Barnton Park, the extensive policies of Barnton House. A house had stood on the site since the late sixteenth or early seventeenth centuries. In 1770 it was sold to Lord Glenorchy whose widow resided there till 1787. Lady Glenorchy is remembered for her charitable and religious benefactions. She was interested in the Orphan Hospital and built a church in her name adjacent to it on the site of the present Waverley Station. She left money as a capital sum to provide the Lady Glenorchy scripture prizes in city schools, among them the Royal High School.

The next royal occasion was when Queen Victoria entrusted part of the education of the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VII, to the rector, Dr Leonhard Schmitz. The Prince lived at Holyrood and on prize-day presented the Carson medal. To commemorate the Prince's connection with the School the Queen approved the commissioning of a bust of Edward by John (later Sir John) Steell. During the celebrations to mark the Prince's coming-of-age, the city, with great ceremony, erected the bust on its marble pedestal immediately behind the rector's chair in the Great Hall. The bust and pedestal now find an honoured place at Barnton. Shortly after the Prince's visit an application was made by the Lord Provost on behalf of the rector for the use of a part of the Park of Holyroodhouse so that the School could play cricket. This was granted in 1860. So the School obtained its first playing field, perhaps the only School in the country to play on royal ground. The Holyrood ground was given up in 1971 after the move to Barnton where playing field accommodation was planned but in the earliest years could not be used because of bad drainage. Proposals were also made to remove all the buildings to the east of the main block at Calton Hill and to erect a purpose-built four-storey building on the site so that the School could be retained in the centre of the city. The planners showed that this would mean that alternative accommodation would require to be found for the School for

some two or three years during demolition and construction. So came about the exodus to Barnton as the most feasible solution of a difficult problem.

Jock Dewar alludes to another potential extension which would have been on the South side of Regent Road.

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## John Murray History, 1997

However, at the end of the 1962 session the Town Council decided that a new building should be erected on the Barnton estate where a site had been earmarked for a senior secondary school. Subsequently, they promoted a compulsory purchase order. In spite of the historic and emotional implications of a move out of the town, Dr Imrie affirmed his support for what he believed to be both inevitable and desirable. "Accommodation which served the school of the nineteenth century is manifestly inadequate and substandard for the needs of the latter half of the twentieth century and beyond". He remained confident and optimistic about the rightness of the move to Barnton and, although he was not destined to lead his colleagues and pupils to the new school after spending so much time and effort on the project, he was aware of the school's long history of adapting and relocating and he looked forward to those years before his retirement when he would see the plans brought to fruition, the boys installed in their new surroundings, and his successor beginning a challenging new chapter in the life of Schola Regia.

**By the time of Baillie Ruthven's installation** the new building was already under construction and there was a general acceptance of the move albeit with considerable regrets since the new facilities, although far superior, were housed in an architectural style very far removed from the pure Doric of Thomas Hamilton. One unimpressed pupil wrote of his new surroundings, "Architecturally, our new building presents faceless rectangles to the onlooker, is modelled on the celebrated Swan Vestas matchbox and is tedious through being stylistically identical to thousands of other schools, factories, office blocks and flats being pushed up throughout Britain". Aesthetic reservations were compounded by the logistical problems caused by the distance between Barnton and the preparatory school and Jock's Lodge, problems that would be solved with the passage of time. The need to preserve something of the school's rich heritage ensured that such overt symbols of the High School's distinctive history and tradition as the memorial door, memorial windows and the boards bearing the names of past rectors, school captains, duxes and former pupil club past presidents were incorporated into the fabric of the new home. These were just some of the issues Baillie Ruthven was called upon to address as he pursued ongoing discussions with the directorate staff of the education department, local politicians, former pupils and his own colleagues, especially the heads of departments, all of whom had very different, often mutually exclusive, agendas, priorities and requirements. All the requirements for the actual move were coordinated by the rector, depute rector and the director of education. Packing was organised by the heads of department with the assistance of senior boys and directorate staff. Transportation was organised by the directorate, loading and unloading by the removal staff and janitors and supervision was the responsibility of the heads of department.

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## Building modifications listed in Annual Reports

Your Editors have scoured Annual Reports from 1974 onwards, and in the first instance to reduce the load have produced the details on a biannual basis. Cursory examination of intervening years has revealed that approximately biennially may be sufficient.

### Annual Report 1974

Their (female pupils) presence, however, has created certain problems in a building designed for boys only. In particular, the lack of a Home Economics Department has involved a special bus service to Broughton Secondary School and this will have to continue on an even bigger scale next session. Indeed, the new extension with its specialist provision for Home Economics and Business Studies will not be ready before August 1976, a year later than was originally planned. At the same time the increased intake of pupils is beginning to press upon the accommodation currently available and makes the erection of temporary classrooms essential in the short-term.

### Annual Report 1977

The completion during the session of the new wing, providing specialist facilities for Home Economics, Business Studies and Physical Education, together with the addition of four temporary units comprising two Science laboratories and two general classrooms, have gone some way to alleviate our accommodation problems. In particular, girls will no longer require to be transported daily to and from Broughton High School, and this relieves a strain on pupils and a constraint on timetabling as well as helping Broughton with their problems. To Dr Shepherd and his Home Economics staff, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere appreciation for their Co-operation and willing assistance over a period of more than three years when we had the use of part of their premises. Predictably the provision of specialist rooms here for Business Studies and Home Economics has resulted in a substantial increase in demand for these two subjects from pupils who will enter S3 and S5 in the new session. Given the range of subjects now on offer from S3 onwards and the increased number of pupils moving into the upper school, the pressure on classroom space remains acute and more temporary units will be required in August to meet this demand.

#### **Annual Report 1985**

Meantime, a planning application for the first phase of the development within the School grounds has been lodged with the local authority. This involves building a Sports Pavilion including squash courts, fitness room and changing accommodation. If successful, detailed plans for the second phase will be drawn up to provide an artificial surface sports pitch (suitable for tennis, hockey and general physical education), upgrade the cricket square and install floodlighting and a stand for Rugby.

#### **Annual Report 1987**

##### **ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS**

The problems that we shared with schools at large were compounded in our case by those arising from a protracted building programme. During the course of the session, the final phase of the extensions and improvements to our accommodation at last reached completion. However, such a statement masks a comprehensive catalogue of delays, disruptions and assorted vicissitudes whose consequences were very hard to bear. In particular, the continuity of teaching in certain subject areas was seriously affected and the many frustrations inflicted unnecessary strain and stress upon teachers and pupils alike. It is to the lasting credit of all concerned that some vestiges of normality were maintained in a very abnormal situation. The session got off to an inauspicious start with the entry of pupils having to be deferred by several days because of the dangerous and unhygienic state of the building when staff returned in August. This required a massive cleanup operation to be mounted by Janitorial Service, following which we embarked upon a phase which lasted until the October holiday. During this period, several departments attempted simultaneously to effect a smooth transition from old accommodation to new whilst endeavouring to safeguard their educational offerings. The Science staff, who had spent the final few days of last session packing up and storing a vast amount of equipment in order that the conversion of the top floor could be carried out during the summer vacation, spent the first few weeks of this session juggling available laboratories and other spaces before embarking upon the unpacking process. During the same period, the Social Subjects gradually moved into K block. A complete enumeration of the problems encountered by both faculties in those first traumatic weeks - problems which included an inadequate heating system, leaky gas taps and equally porous roofs, unventilated laboratories and dangerous wiring would now appear to be both petty and barely credible. Happily, most of these faults and failings are now no more than bad memories, and the departments concerned are well established in their new bases.

Whilst the problems and migrations of the Science and Social Subjects Faculties have been the most overt aspects of the building programme during the session. Much else has happened; The Guidance Department took possession of their new suite in the converted old staff room at the beginning of term and, at the same time the new staff room became available for its intended use. It was officially opened in November by Mrs Madeleine Monies, Chair of the Education Committee. Its myriad attractions which include a fridge, microwave, a quiet room and extra bridge tables have proved powerful enough to seduce most colleagues away from the security of assorted staff bases. As a result, it has become a much more vital focal point in the life of the school than its predecessor ever was. A Staff Room Committee, under Mrs Jarvie's Chairmanship, has done much to ensure the vitality and popularity of this facility even among the smoking fraternity!

The Religious Education Department finally made their escape from their huttied accommodation and are now cosily ensconced on the first floor of the main building in rooms 19 and 20I. On the same floor, the Computing department expanded their burgeoning empire by occupying room 12. With the completion of the new Learning Support Services facility in room 25 and minor additions to the Guidance provision and the Language Staff Base, we shall have reached the promised land of the suiteing plan envisaged some years ago. At long last we can put away our safety helmets, plumb lines and plaster boards, and pursue our chosen profession.

### **Annual Report 1989**

At last after six years of protracted negotiation we can confirm the relocation of the Athletic Club to Barnton. Final details have now been agreed with Lothian Regional Council in regard to a 135 year lease of ground extending to 0.4 of an acre for a new Clubhouse at the school. Building operations are now well under way on the Athletic Clubs new £550.000 Pavilion. The Pavilion comprises changing accommodation and social facilities along with extensive car parking which will release the playground, much to the approval of our pupils from its present parking duties during the school day. John Dennis and Company, the main contractors, anticipate having the project completed by late autumn 1989. Further plans are now also in preparation to provide a small stand for the rugby pitch which will adjoin the Clubhouse. It is also the intention of the Athletic Club, dependent on local community support, to diversify into other sports areas such as Volleyball. Netball. Hockey and Basketball.

### **Annual Report 1990**

At long last the efforts of the Athletic Club to move across town have come to fruition with their splendid new Pavilion, situated in the School grounds, now open for business. The building comprises Changing accommodation, First Aid and Referee's Room, Foyer, Office, Kitchen, Cellar and a large Social Area which can be split into two sections. Internally, great use has been made of facing brick and cedar wood to make the building attractive and to minimise future maintenance.

The Club's committed aim is to become the focal point for sport in the local community and to this end the Trustees of The Royal High School Athletic Gounds have appointed Ian Erskine for one year as a Development Officer with the remit of maximising the use of the new Pavilion - both socially and recreationally- developing new Sections of the Club (such as Volleyball, Netball, Athletics, Hockey etc), liaising with the School on a day-to-day basis to promote team sport, assisting Sections to raise sponsorships and launching a Royal High School Development Appeal in the Autumn to enable this work to be continued in some form in the future.

Meanwhile work has continued on improving the sports facilities with further extensive treatment carried out on the playing field last autumn to upgrade the playing surface. This is an ongoing programme of ground improvement and evidence of this can currently be seen in the earth works which were necessary to enlarge the No.1 Rugby Pitch to full size and provide access for the Club's ground machinery to move between the different playing levels. Planning permission has recently been received for the erection of training floodlights and while the Rugby Section will continue to use their lights at Cramond the intention is that the new facility will be available as a back-up and also assist the coaching of school teams during the dark winter months.

### **Annual Report 1993**

This is the 25th Anniversary of the move from the old Royal High School on Calton Hill to the new Bamton Campus. In his Annual Report of 1968 the Rector, Baillie T. Ruthven looked forward "with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little trepidation to making a fresh contribution to the history of an institution which can trace its origins as far back as the 12th Century". In 1825 the celebration of the laying of the foundation stone for the Calton Hill site took the form of a mammoth procession and was celebrated by a public banquet for four hundred people. The 1968 move was quieter, and the Rector looked forward to a formal opening ceremony befitting a school "guided by the best of traditions; I am happy to report that traditions are still valued in our school and important occasions are marked with due formality".

Our 25th Anniversary at Barnton was marked yesterday evening by a dinner attended by the School Captain from each year since 1968. For twenty-five years staff have served with vision, wisdom and energy to uphold the fine traditions of our school.

### **Annual Report 1995**

Just after the New Year the school and the Former Pupils' Athletic Club embarked on a project which will benefit all pupils at the school and the community at large. The result is a magnificent international sized all-weather hockey pitch and a bowling green. I am confident that the sporting facilities available to pupils are now as good as any

throughout the country. I certainly look forward to young people taking advantage of the facilities whether it be for participation or competition. Both the Athletic Club and the school are extremely grateful to Lothian Regional Council, the Trustees of the Athletic Club and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts who provided the £500,000 which made this development possible. I hope that the school and the Club will, in the near future, compete at the highest levels in a variety of sports.

### **Annual Report 1999**

We have faced a number of difficulties with the school building this session, and have now reached a stage where refurbishment is essential.

The School, in Partnership with the School Board, has taken up this issue and a deputation was ably and professionally presented to the Education Committee in February 1999. The strength and cogency of the Royal High School case was recognised and we were delighted to be informed that we had been included in the Authority's Public Private Partnership (PPP) Programme for a £1.7m refurbishment.

### **Annual Report 2001**

Finally this year has seen major progress on the plans to refurbish the school, with Edinburgh Schools Partnership being selected as the Preferred Bidder to work with the school in this significant building project. To date, after full Consultation, we now have detailed plans for an enhanced refurbishment, which will give us a school with a great deal of new build and significant modernisation of existing areas. By this time next year we will hopefully be well on the way to creating a modern building to match the quality and excellence of the teaching and other activities which makes the Royal High School such an effective school.

### **The Opening of the Refurbished School - Friday 2nd July 2004**



*Photo includes Councillor Rev. Ewen Aitken, Sarah Boyack, Ms Evelyn Small and the Rector*

### **2004 Annual Report**

Rector George Smuga

Session 2003-2004 has been a highly significant year in the history of the school in that we moved in August into our completed refurbished building. We mark this event today in a joint ceremony to celebrate our official opening along with our traditional annual prizegiving and leaving ceremony. We are delighted that today's ceremony will be chaired by Councillor Rev. Ewan Aitken, Executive Member for Children and Families, and the official opening will be performed by Sarah Boyack, MSP, a former pupil of the school. The refurbishment of the school has given us an excellent new building designed to allow us to deliver a modern curriculum in modern attractive surroundings. The refurbishment option has not been an easy one and staff and pupils deserve the greatest of credit for coping with considerable disruption for the three years of the project. However the school has gained in some ways from a refurbishment as opposed to a new build and in particular we have retained our School Hall, which is so important to the history and traditions of the school. Over half the school is in new build and the other half, which is refurbished, enjoys excellent teaching facilities.

The school welcomed parents, the local community and friends of the school to an open evening in October and the overwhelming reaction was one of appreciation for a lovely 'new' school. I would wish to thank all parents who



...and nothing until (unsurprisingly considering the 2004 building investment) the...

campaigned for improved accommodation and those who worked so hard to see the project through. Throughout this session we have all worked hard to acquaint ourselves with the new building to get the best possible use out of them educationally as well as in terms of improved social facilities for the pupils. We have given a lot of attention to aspects of display and we hope that our new entrance is attractive and gives the same sense of occasion as did our previous foyer. We are particularly pleased with the display of photographs of the school in its various locations and buildings and in the general display of pupil work across the school. Finally, we are also particularly pleased with the landscaping of the school and many visitors comment very favourably on the appearance of the outside of the school.

...and nothing until (unsurprisingly considering the 2004 building investment) the...

### **2013 Annual Report**

A major development in the school is that we have been officially nominated a Community Sports Hub. This will make facilities at the school available to local clubs and groups at evenings, weekends and during the holidays. Further development of our grounds and resources will take place in order to support this and the school will benefit as a result. Preliminary work towards establishing the sports hub has been undertaken this session and we hope that it will be officially launched next session.

...and then the annus horribilis

### **2016 Annual report**

In April we returned from the Easter break to the news that the majority of our building was going to be closed to staff and pupils. This led to the installation of our huts where we have been temporarily housed for the whole of Term 3. This has been a very challenging time with a large number of staff and subjects displaced across the small part of our building we have access to. Staff have been incredible at making the best of this very challenging situation and I have been very grateful to them all for their resilience and spirit in ensuring our pupils continue to access their learning. Pupils have also shown great maturity in coping with numerous room changes, practical subjects in all sorts of unusual accommodation, picnic lunches and 'festival' toilets. We are due to return to our building in August and I know we are all looking forward to getting back to normal.

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