

## WHEATLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

The school opened on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1950, with a school roll of 304 pupils, and 14 staff.

It was built by Kingerlees of Oxford, 1947 - 1950, at a cost of £20,000

Pupils were admitted from Wheatley, Holton, Waterperry, Forest Hill, Stanton St. John, Beckley and Horton-cum-Studley, and the Headington estates of Sandhills, Risinghurst and Barton.

- 1950 - 1957 Annual dramatic productions, included one-act plays, mimes, The Arms and the Man, by G. B. Shaw; The Boy with the Cart; The Mock Doctor, by Moliere; The Bells, by Irving; Desperado; Mountain Ash; and Our Town, by Thornton Wilder.
- 1953 An ornamental fountain and lily pond were built in the Quadrangle.
- 1954 Horspath, Garsington & Cuddesdon pupils now admitted.
- 1955 Swimming pool started. School visit to Snowdonia.
- 1956 Three classrooms on the west side, and a lean-to greenhouse were added. The swimming pool was opened by the Director of Education.
- 1957 Great Haseley, Little Haseley, Tiddington, and Little Milton pupils admitted. County Certificate of Education started. Pottery kiln purchased from school finds.
- 1958 Production of The Beggar's Opera. The school had the second highest number of County Certificates in Oxfordshire. Between 700 - 800 people attended the first Open Evening.
- 1959 A third greenhouse was built. 'Alternative Courses of Study, and 'Commercial Courses' started. There was a production of Quality Street.
- 1960 Richard Roberts from Sandhills played football for England and gained an international cap. The Roberts Cup was presented by the governors. The Wheatley School Record 1950 - 1960 was published, edited by Mr J. W. Babb.
- 1961 The old pavilion was burnt down and replaced by the Halls' building, costing £900 and £283 of equipment. There was a production of 'David and Broccoli'. Girls took part in a residential course at Tregoyd, in Breconshire.
- 1962 The first of three Arts Festivals took place, on three evenings. A school group visited Pineda, in Spain.
- 1963 The Youth Centre opened and a Youth Officer was appointed. The second Arts Festival took place. Holnicote House, in north Somerset, opened for residential courses. A new metalwork and drawing office was opened. The Parent/Teacher Association donated £400 for a new filtration and chlorination plant for the swimming pool. There was a school visit to Lugano.
- 1964 The third Arts Festival took place. 30,000 tons of soil from the A.40 roadworks were used to build another football pitch.

- 1965 For the first time the school had a Fifth Form of sixteen pupils who Stayed on to take the Certificate of Secondary Education. There was a visit to Glay in the Franche Compte. The school fete raised money for a trampoline. **Wheatley Secondary School** was the top school in County Certificates which were presented in Oxford Town Hall. Mr J. R. Allen left to become Headmaster of the Abbey School.
- 1966 Mr J. F. Shepherd was appointed Deputy Headmaster. The school summer fete raised £350 on instruments for the school band. The school took part in the Combined Schools' performance of The Messiah.
- 1967 The school staff was entertained to sherry at Shotover House. The combined school choirs sang Carmina Burana. New stage curtains were provided. Students from the school took the General Certificate of Education for the first time. Money was raised to provide a school minibus and a garage, costing £400 in all. A cedar wood greenhouse was bought. There was a concert by the 5<sup>th</sup> Enniskillen Dragoons.
- 1968 The combined choirs sang Mozart's Requiem. School Roll now 448, the largest ever, and a fifth form of 55. There was a public meeting about Secondary Education in East Oxfordshire. **The school was renamed 'Shotover School'.**
- 1969 The combined schools sang in a performance of 'King David', by Honniger. The school had two exhibits at Oxford Science Fair. There were further meetings about 'Comprehensive Education'. The school visit was to Salzburg. Best ever results in C.S.E. and G.C.E. Norman Taylor gained nine passes. New changing accommodation was provided for girls. The Royal Marines Band gave a concert.
- 1970 There were many meetings with the Local Education Authority and County Architect concerning new buildings and plans for the future. The Combined Schools sang the Brahms Requiem. A choice of meals is now provided at lunch time. The school visit went to Nordwyck. **There were combined meetings of the governors of Shotover School and Holton Park.** Mobile classrooms are now in use. There was a production of 'Oliver' with a cast of over 100 from both schools. Staff meetings involving members of staff from both schools were held to plan the future.
- 1971 A lay-by was constructed and new buildings begun. Combined staff appointments were made, and the first comprehensive intake of 156 pupils, including 18 from Buckinghamshire. There are now 23 staff teaching in both schools.
- 1972 The Library and Visual Aids theatre were completed and books transferred.
- Shotover School**, which served twenty villages, received 3,215 pupils, and had a total of 119 staff during its twenty-two years, ended on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1972, with the resignation of Mr F. C. E. Anson - its first and only Headmaster. It will then become **Shotover Lower School** which, with **Holton Park Upper School**, will form **Wheatley Park Comprehensive School**, under the Headship of Mrs A. A. Mills.