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ALFRED HOUSE

Ashford School



1910-1960



HEADLEY BROTHERS LTD
109 Kingsway London WC2
and Ashford Kent

School Verse

BUILD IT WELL, WHATE'ER YOU DO
BUILD IT STRONG, AND STRAIGHT, AND TRUE;
BUILD IT HIGH, AND CLEAR, AND BROAD,
BUILD IT FOR THE EYE OF GOD.



THE QUIET ROOM

In the Year 1910

when horse traps were still far more common than motor cars, when men really did wear Edwardian curly bowlers as a matter of course and not in belated imitation of the dandies of an earlier age, and when ladies crowned their hats with ostrich feathers and wore skirts so long that they completely covered their high buttoned boots, Ashford School opened its doors to its first twenty pupils. It had a staff of four. Of the twenty pupils only three were boarders; a few were little boys. Its headquarters were next to the County Hotel, at the foot of the High Street, in what used to be known as the Broad Pavement. Mrs. Edwards, happily still very much alive in Australia at the age of ninety, was then Head Mistress and it is to her foresight, scholarship and genius for teaching that the school owes its firm foundations. Of the four rather serious looking young ladies who made up the rest of the staff one was Lilian Brake, eventually to become known to generations of Ashford girls as "Cherub", without doubt one of the most dynamic and beloved Head Mistresses of all time.

Little schools, like little girls, tend to grow rapidly, and within a year or two the school had begun to spread itself over that pleasant corner of Ashford, East Hill, on which it has now made its permanent mark among the white

and red brick Georgian houses, the big cedar tree and the orchard where Archbishop Cranmer, long, long ago, is said to have walked in meditation and composed his Litany.

Alfred, Nightingale, Somerville, Bridge, Cranmer, Brooke Place and their annexes came to house the boarders, while day girls formed first one, then two Houses called Chaucer, named after that superb and robust poet who wrote of those who travelled the roads of Kent. In the course of fifty years more than 4,000 girls have passed through the school: girls from Kent and the rest of the British Isles, together with girls whose parents live and work in every part of the globe, girls whose holidays take them anywhere, perhaps to Arabia or the Argentine, Cambodia or Ceylon, Japan or Australia, Malaya, Sierra Leone or Zanzibar.

From all five continents, then, girls come here where their school is part of the community of Ashford, in the beautiful county of Kent, which is its home. Here its pupils, in a school which makes no distinction of creed or race, have had the opportunity of learning the difficult business of growing up and the art of living. This emphasis on true education as opposed to the



NIGHTINGALE

THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN

[Photo: Photocraft]





BRIDGE

BROOKE PLACE



mere acquisition of learning, has had its inspiration from within, first in the person of Lilian Brake, then in its present headmistress, Mary Nightingale. With no outside financial help at all the school has grown into one which has the satisfaction of knowing that, although its history is not a long one, in that comparatively short time its impact has been both wide and lasting.

Now, in this its Golden Jubilee Year, when it plans at considerable cost to make still further expansion to meet the needs of education in the world of today and tomorrow, the School stands, rooted strongly in its past, ready to grow into a still more illustrious future.



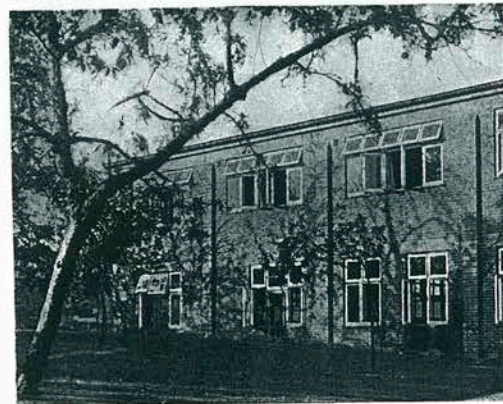
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FESTIVAL WING



CRANMER

