

## Life at the College



From 1867 until the late 1960s, only boys were admitted to the College and mixing with girls was strictly prohibited.

One former pupil recalls in the summer of 1959 meeting girls from the nearby School of Domestic Economy in Silverdale Road, left, to go for a picnic at Beachy Head, where unfortunately they were spotted by a teacher. Summoned to the Housemaster's study the

next day, the boys were told that as they had broken school rules, they were 'gated' for the rest of the term: confined to their house at weekends and during free time.

Things changed under Michael Birley's headmastership, with the first girl joining the College in 1968, followed by girls from Moira House School in Meads, who entered the sixth form in 1969. The school became fully co-educational in 1995.

Pupils are either boarders (living in a 'house') or attend the College on a daily basis. From the earliest days pupils have come from Eastbourne, the UK and from around the world. They still do.

# Girls



*Two of the sixth form girls who carried out a geographical survey of the coastline by air in 1973. One of the planes was flown by Donald Perrens, a distinguished Second World War pilot and teacher at the College*

*School House girls near Beachy Head lighthouse, 2009*



*Nugent House (which originally provided day rooms for the girls from Moira House School), is now a girls boarding house*



# Houses

Boarding and day pupils live or study in buildings called 'houses', supervised by a housemaster or housemistress.

For many years until the 1930s, College masters (teachers) ran their own houses and received money from the boys' parents for their board and lodging. A master's wife or housekeeper would provide the food and supervise the laundry. Tuition fees would be paid to the College itself.



Eventually, it was decided it would be more economic for the College to take over the houses and, by the 1960s, dining was concentrated in the main dining hall.

The newest is Arnold House, a girls day house named after former Headmaster Mr EC Arnold. Pictured above is the original Pennell House in Grassington Road, since demolished. The new Pennell House opened in 1986 in Blackwater Road.

# Houses



*School House, 1901.  
Housemaster (and  
Headmaster) HR  
Thomson and his wife  
seated centre. Note the  
trophies arranged in  
front*



*School House 2014, now a  
boarding house for girls*

# Houses



*Blackwater House, Blackwater Road - built as a boys boarding house in 1873*



*Blackwater House rebuilt as a girls day house*



*The Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley MP opening the new building in 1996*

# Generosity



*Powell House, a gift to the College by Stanley Powell in the 1930s, became a house for day boys in 1934*



*The extensive gardens of Powell House in the 1930s*



*Reeves House in Carlisle Road, is named after former pupil Herbert Reeves, who gave £10,000 towards its purchase. This building is now known as Craig House, and Reeves is housed in a property in Grange Road*

# Meal Times



Gonville House dining room 1925



Wargrave House, c.1955 - very little change

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
Breakfast. Porridge. Sausages.  
Lunch. Roast Beef. Spicabi. Apricot-Sweet.  
Tea. Sandwiches. Jam.

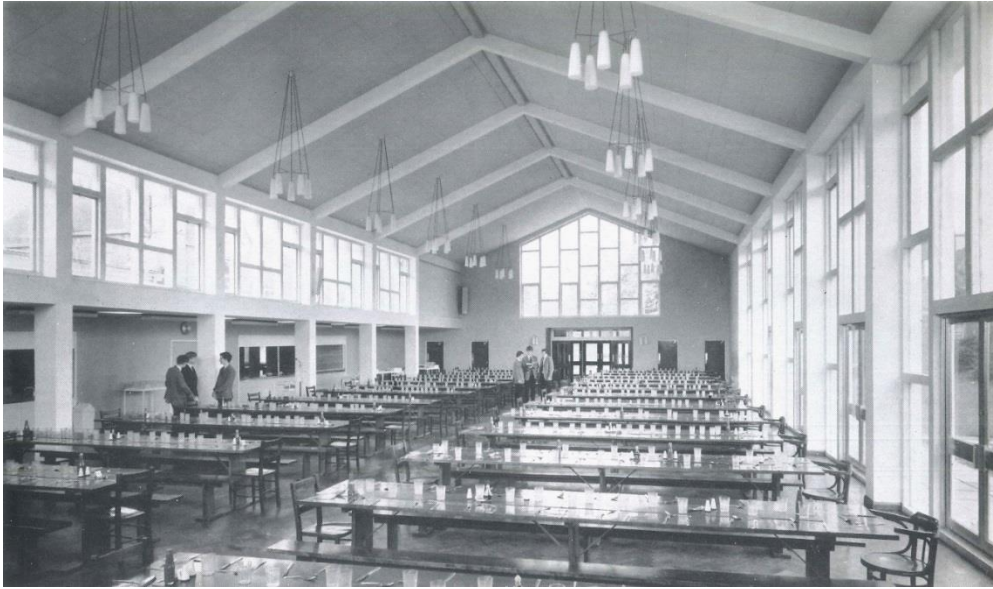
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.  
Breakfast. Porridge. Bacon & Spaghetti.  
Lunch. Herrings. Boiled ginger pudding & custard.  
Tea. Fried eggs. baked beans. Jam.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.  
Breakfast. Porridge. Kippers.  
Lunch. Mince. Peas. Jam Tart.  
Tea. Boiled eggs. Apples.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.  
Breakfast. Porridge. Cold Ham.  
Lunch. Roast Mutton. Cabbage. Fruit Pudding.  
Tea. Cake. Jam. Oranges.

Mrs Storrs was the wife of the Housemaster of Pennell.  
This is a page from her menu book in 1936. Note bacon and spaghetti for breakfast on 30 October!

## Dining Hall



*The new central dining hall was opened in 1965. It was originally set out like the dining rooms in the houses with benches and long tables. Pictured here in 1967*

*The new dining hall in the Winn Building has much greater capacity, and includes function rooms and a café*





# Interiors



*One of the boy's dormitories in the 1920s. Note the jugs and wash basins in the bay window.*



*Girls' bedroom 2015*



*Gonville House bathroom in the 1950s*