

Twyford LIFE



Twyford School

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AUTUMN TERM 2020

I am absolutely delighted to have taken the helm of this fabulous School from Dr Steve Bailey. My first few weeks have been a whirlwind as I have sought to understand and appreciate what makes Twyford tick. I have found myself in the privileged position of seeing the School from all angles, whether reading stories to Pre-Prep or directing traffic on cold, blustery autumnal mornings! What has really struck me early on is the spirit and character of Twyford; the pupils here are so wonderfully positive and engaging. I have also been bowled over by the incredibly rich history of the School and the meticulously kept archives. Twyford School can look to the future with genuine confidence, due largely to the firm foundations it is built upon.

To say that it has been a challenging few months for all schools would be quite an understatement, but the Twyford

community has pulled together in the most remarkable and unique way. Staff and pupils have risen to the challenge; while we have had to introduce many changes and been faced with an ever-shifting landscape, it hasn't dimmed our passion and enthusiasm for learning. Indeed, pupils have relished being back in School and have adapted to the myriad changes with alacrity. Interestingly the virus has had a number of unforeseen benefits. The upskill required for teachers (and pupils) to operate remotely has been a steep learning curve but one we are far more comfortable with now. All pupils in Years 3-8 have their own Chromebooks and use of technology in the classroom has accelerated. Parents' evenings and meetings have been conducted via Zoom and pupils who are absent can now access lessons live, through the use of iPads. We have also learnt that,

despite all the technology in the world, the value and importance of outstanding teachers and schools has never been greater. The overriding need and benefits of human interaction is perhaps the greatest lesson we have learned from this pandemic.

"We must meet the challenge rather than wish it were not before us." William J. Brennan, Jr., Former Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

Thank you for your continued support of Twyford and I hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative. I have rarely encountered a stronger alumni community and it is a great strength of the School. My overriding hope is that we will be able to invite you back to your old School very soon.

Andrew Harvey
Headmaster

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Twyford School, Twyford,
Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 1NW

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THE NEW NORMAL: LIFE IN A BUBBLE!

Thinking back to the ‘normal’ activities of the spring term feels like a lifetime ago! So much change and adaptation has taken place since then.

The logistics and planning required for the return of different year groups into School in June (resulting in the full pupil body being back for the last week of the summer term) proved invaluable to the planning required for the September start.

The key difference to the working school day is the staggered drop-off and pick up times. Now running as a slick operation, it was daunting for the estates team at first! 390 children are dropped off within a 40-minute time frame; the car park has been divided into bays and year groups are dropped off at different bays at staggered times. Tracking on the hockey pitch in front of Pre-Prep has created a ‘road’ and enabled two of the Pre-Prep year groups to ‘drop and go’ lessening the traffic through the main court area.

Watching the children behaving as normal around School is uplifting. Whilst they are restricted to being in their whole year group bubbles,

they laugh, play and carry on in their lessons in a very normal fashion. Frequent handwashing and sanitising has become the norm. Boot lockers have been placed outside some classrooms to reduce the need for too many children to be in a small boot-room space. Windows and doors are open to enable an airflow; the timetable has been adjusted to allow for staggered break and lunchtimes which allow the year group bubbles to have their own eating or play areas.

Perhaps the current casualties of the ‘new normal’ are the reduction in boarding currently on offer, the restrictions placed on what Music is possible, and the lack of inter-school sports matches. House matches, always an important part of our school year have taken on a new resonance within year groups. Music lessons have been taking place effectively via Zoom and House Music has taken a new shape this term with



THEA ELLIS AND JESS REES

entries being submitted online. Chapel services started just before half term with one year group in the Chapel at a time and the service livestreamed to the others. Singing in year groups can take place, as can with distancing, the playing of instruments together. The Remembrance service took place on the astro with the whole Prep School gathered.

Trips and visits out of School have been possible in some form at outdoor parks and woodland activities. Year 2 visited Gilbert White’s House in Selborne, which they loved.

With the new restrictions that came into force on 4th November, we remain committed to providing as normal an experience as possible to the children whilst adhering to the guidelines. Along with the Year 7 and 8 children, the staff wear face masks or shields in internal communal areas.

One upside of the current situation is welcoming back, as our Gap students, two Old Twyfordians whose gap year plans have been thwarted for the time being. Jess Rees and Thea Ellis (both OT 2015) are here for the term as a brilliant



HOUSE HOCKEY



THE IT SUITE AND THE DT WORKSHOP BEYOND

DT & ART EXTENSION

Whilst the lockdown in March and the resulting disruption that everyone experienced in 2020 caused delays and frustration across the country, the work on the DT and Art extension, which had started in February, was able to continue albeit with a few weeks of delays and building supply issues.

Work continued apace through the summer holidays and as the beginning of the September term loomed, work accelerated and we were able to re-open the new area by the second week of the autumn term. The new build at the back of the existing DT and Art building has enabled the extension and refurbishment of the DT facility. The extension has continued upwards to include an upper floor classroom adjacent to the current Art room which is currently in use as a Science room for Years 3 and 4.

The DT workshop has been re-fitted with equipment and

includes a design studio, equipped with 10 computers and a wall-mounted screen which is connected to the 3D printer and the laser printer.

As Andy Lewis, Head of DT explains: “Over half term the new DT extension block was completed and commissioned. This is a fabulous state of the art facility and will enable us to undertake a greater range of projects. The workshop footprint has doubled in size and most of our equipment has been upgraded; the whole open plan scheme is a great working environment. The new air vent and extraction is also much more efficient and quieter!”

Possibly the most exciting aspect of the build is our new design studio complete with an integrated computer suite. This is directly connected to our laser cutter and 3D printer. Pupils will be able to directly send their computer aided designs to these machines.

Added to this we will start teaching a robotics component to our curriculum and of course expand our computer graphics projects.

This is a fantastic new resource and we are all looking forward to designing and working on making some great projects.”

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS...

Deep in the archives can be found photographs taken by Charles Dodgson aka Lewis Carroll on his visits to Twyford School 1858-1860.

The Reverend G. W. Kitchin was Headmaster at Twyford between 1855–1861. Kitchin was an enlightened master who led the school through a 'golden period' with great humanity. He balanced the Victorian discipline and rigour of the day with a humane relationship with the boys. A brilliant young tutor at Christ Church, Oxford, he was invited at the age of 28 to become Headmaster of Twyford School by a former Headmaster, Rev'd Robert Wickham, himself a Christ Church man.

Two other Twyford masters, Reginald Southey and Henry Collyns were also Christ Church graduates and great friends of a brilliant mathematics tutor who taught there, Charles Dodgson. He is otherwise known by his author name of Lewis Carroll.

The connections weave a Christ Church web; two of Dodgson's students were Robert Wickham's

sons, Latham (later Headmaster of Twyford in 1862) and George. Robert Wickham was at Christ Church himself with Charles Dodgson's father. The Dean of Christ Church in 1858 was Henry Liddell, the father of Alice upon whom Lewis Carroll modelled his famous character, and whose son Harry, along with Dodgson's youngest brother Edwin, was at Twyford under Kitchin. It is then perhaps no surprise that Charles Dodgson was a frequent visitor to Twyford during 1858–1860, visiting both acquaintances from Christ Church but also his brother and cousin. A legacy of these visits are photographs of the boys and buildings of Twyford.

Photography was the new technology of the Victorian age, both as an art form and as a science. Reginald Southey, a scientist and medic by training, took up photography in 1853 and taught his friend Dodgson this new discovery. Kitchin invited



1858 1ST XI

Southey to teach Classics and Science at Twyford and to also be the School's 'official photographer'. Southey took pictures of most of the boys at Twyford during Kitchin's time.

In the archives at Twyford lie Kitchin's 'Great Scrapbooks'; a remarkable record of the School's organisation and curriculum and a wonderful insight into Victorian Twyford. Within the scrapbooks are the photographs that Southey and Dodgson took; an extraordinary representation of 19th Century boyhood that can be counted amongst the earliest examples of 'school photographs'.

In 1851 a new photographic process, the wet collodion, had been invented and one which Southey started working with in 1853 and we believe then taught Dodgson. The 'wet collodion process' drew upon the latest advances of contemporary physical chemistry and enabled faster exposure to sunlight which resulted in portraiture as a genre rather than landscapes. A complicated process, the wet collodion

demanded considerable knowledge of practical chemistry and required great manipulative dexterity. If photographs were to be taken away from home and studio, a portable darkroom was required. No doubt Southey had the necessary kit and space at Twyford.

Edwin Dodgson started at Twyford in April 1858. An entry in Dodgson's diary notes:

April 17th Sat. Left with Edwin for Twyford at 11.30 and reached Kitchin's by about 1.30 - I could only stay an hour as I had to be at Winchester station again by 3.30. Collyns, Jimmy Dodgson and Edwin walked with me. Reached Oxford about 8.

In another diary entry Dodgson notes *'I like very much the system of freedom and intimacy which prevails here between masters and the boys; though there must often be a risk of the boys passing over the bounds of the respect due to their masters. It is quite the system of ruling by love, and with a master like Kitchin seems to answer well, but I should doubt if there are*



GROUP OF SEVEN BOYS



TWYFORD SCHOOL HOUSE AND BOYS

many in whose hands it would succeed.'

This encapsulates Kitchin's approach to education: he put himself in charge not only of intellectual education but also their religious and physical education. He took the boys on

walks, taught them to swim in the nearby river Itchen, had the boys act charades and give concerts. Whilst he practiced punishment he also rewarded good behaviour and introduced the Good Conduct awards (all noted in the 'Black book').

Three of the photographs held in the Twyford archives are shown in this article:

'Group of seven boys'

The central boy is Edwin Dodgson; the verandah setting, with the sofa taken outside is believed to be the window of Southey's lodgings; now the Headmaster's cottage. The sofa encouraged the boys to huddle together and reduce movement (helpful for the exposure!)

'1858 1st XI'

In 1858 Cricket was as important at Twyford as it is today. Here the XI pose with confidence, captain leaning proudly on his bat and his teammates carefully arranged so that each head is at a different level; this adds interest to the composition. Some wear their peaked caps, some don't. Harry Liddell, brother to Alice, is on the back row – last on the right, dark hair, no hat.

'Twyford School House and boys'

Whilst the trees in front of the front door are no more, the house remains remarkably familiar to the building we know today. Lined along the wall, the boys and masters are identified left to right: Mr Collyns, James Hume Dodgson, Norris, sitting, Clement Malet, John St.John Frederick, Thomas Mason, sitting, Faber, sitting, George Aldersey Dickin, George William Kitchin, Headmaster, C Turner, Edwin Dodgson, brother, sitting, Unwin, F Brace and Mr Hart, teacher.

We celebrate today our links with Dodgson but also how the web of connections and loyalties between Kitchin, Twyford, Christ Church and Dodgson resulted in these early Victorian photographs. A technical triumph in their own right.

TWYFORD SCHOOL – THE EARLY YEARS

Twyford School's very early history, leading up to the headship of Revd. James Bedford (1815–1833), has always been somewhat confused.

*I*t was assumed that the Twyford School of 2020 can be linked to a Catholic

school, established in Segar's Buildings, Twyford, which closed before 1745 and where the famed poet, Alexander Pope was educated. However, recent research has discovered errors in the established history of Twyford School which, nevertheless, can still be linked to an educational establishment in

Twyford run by the Rev'd Stretch in the 1790s.

To read Andrew Keeling's piece about our founder, the Reverend Liscombe Stretch, and the early history of our school, please look on the School website/ About Twyford/History.

Andrew Keeling, the School's archivist, would be delighted to hear from any OT with information, queries or the offer of any archive material.

Please contact
Andrew on: archives@twyfordschool.com

Rebecca Andreeae looks after the Alumni database and is the editor of Twyford Life magazine. She would love to hear from you with your news, updates, university and career news!

Contact Rebecca
on twyfordsociety@twyfordschool.com



1830 SKETCH OF TWYFORD SCHOOL

We turn the spotlight on a couple of teachers who will be remembered by many!

NOEL KEBLE WILLIAMS

Today's generation of Twyfordians will know of the world map on the ceiling of the games room, but why is it there? The answer is that it has not always been a games room; until the 1990s it was the geography room and the domain of Noel Keble Williams or N.K.W.

A stalwart of Twyford School, Noel Keble Williams was the embodiment of, and yet so much more than, the classic prep school teacher. He taught at Twyford for 34 years from 1959–1993, serving under three Headmasters and teaching numerous generations of Twyfordians. He held many posts: Head of Geography, Teacher of Latin, Form Master of III form, Keeper of the School Farm, Manager of Taffy's, the School Shop, party liaison officer for the Prep Schools Association's overseas trips on SS Uganda and other ships, founder of the Pioneer Club and responsible for the Cine club. Oh, and Head of Hockey (and Shinty!). He was also a great believer in the TPA, building strong friendships with a number of parents and was on the committee from when it was set up in 1984 to his retirement in 1993. He had a phenomenal memory for names – both children and parents. Even after his official retirement he spent a further five years at Twyford assisting the support staff.

Dedicated and energetic, some were frightened by his fiery Welsh temper and his exactitude for manners and tidiness and clean hands (he inspected all pupils

hands before they went to lunch) but his strength lay in his enthusiasm, encouragement and kindness and above all his loyalty to Twyford. Discipline and good manners were everything to N.K.W. and being a poor sport was frowned upon, which made it particularly tricky that the annual capitals competition took place below the world map on the ceiling; seeking inspiration from the Lord in this instance, and looking up, was clearly not on!

You knew when he was teaching as his booming voice resonated down the corridors.

He arrived at Twyford aged 22 years and lived with his wife in Serle's Hill; now the Pre-Prep building but then residential accommodation. When Pre-Prep opened in 1985, Stablecross cottage (which became Nursery in 2000) was built to accommodate staff who were previously in Serle's Hill.

He threw himself into all areas of life at Twyford as his list of roles above testifies.

Early on, he took on the running of the School farm located on fields either side of Bourne Lane. When he took over the farm, it was still of considerable value to the School, not only for milk, but also for hay. N.K.W. doubled the herd to 28 Guernsey milking cows and substantially increased the yield. In 1967 the herd produced 17,798 gallons and provided a good contribution to the School's income. By 1971 it was struggling; expensive new pasteurisation equipment had to be installed. By 1978 it was closed.

Taffy's was the School Shop, named as a nod to his Welsh roots. It opened in 1983/4.



In N.K.W.'s words: "Sales range from all types of batteries and balls to a very wide selection of biros, ballpoint pens, refills and all other such items connected with 'at school' requirements. On Saturday mornings a popular selection of sweets are available for purchase. The school benefits from a small profit margin on each item sold which enables small vouchers to be given as competition prizes. If anyone has any bright ideas of items to sell in the shop, please do not hesitate to contact the 'manager'."

Taffy's in more recent years remained in name only when the boarders enjoyed sweets and treats on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Pioneer (camping) club was for weekend activities when N.K.W. roped in local parents with space in their gardens for a tent invasion. On his retirement he presented a hornbeam tree which was planted on the southern boundary of the cricket pitch.

FELTON RAPLEY



Music maestro extraordinaire!

With a name few could forget, the colourful character of Felton Rapley was very much part of Twyford's music scene from 1968 until his death in 1976.

In David Wickham's words: 'I could write a book about Felton Rapley who was heaven sent when he retired to Winchester just as his predecessor music master had suddenly to pack it in. He was known for his regular BBC broadcasts 'Felton Rapley on the cinema organ'. Would he answer our cry for help? 'Not a hope, I thought. He would turn his nose up at our little organ with no rising console or spotlight while he played!' Nevertheless, I took my courage in both hands and rang him, and he offered to come and see me.

Shortly afterwards there arrived up the drive a great tub of a bearded man above a pair of scooter wheels. It was not many minutes before he agreed to come and play for our two chapel services a day and I for my part had threatened to report him to the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Mopeds. Our friendship took all of half an hour to seal.

He would appear 20 minutes before morning chapel daily, lead his choir and those who wished to

join it – in other words it seemed over half the school – to see what they would like to sing that day. The grand piano in the music room was on the way to chapel and any tune request would be busked before more serious musical work took place in the chapel. His adaptability was astonishing.

We always knew the day any choir member had a birthday as somewhere in the voluntary would be threaded in the notes of 'Happy Birthday to you'.

We never had another staff member so obviously a Pied Piper. I don't think he was, or even professed to be a good teacher, but the enthusiasm he engendered was remarkable; he only had to appear through the front door to have a crowd of boys around him.

During his time with us, he produced a number of light-hearted operettas, including '1066 and All that' a production requiring over 100 in the cast from a school with a roll in the 80s! An extract from the 1969 Twyfordian is below:

1066 and all that—1969
The Musical Director, Mr. Felton Rapley, who had been performing so tunefully and unostentatiously in the 'orchestra' set the scene for the second Act by proudly wearing a gladiatorial helmet of Roman design. This modification of dress successfully diverted the attention of those Doubting Thomases who were wondering whether he would be able to squeeze his ample frame through the narrow gap between the front benches and the stage, to regain his place of duty. Shame on them. There were inches to spare!

Born in Gosport in 1907, he came to Winchester as a chorister. Fired with the ambition to follow the profession of his teacher, finance forced him to leave School at the age of 14 and take up the triple job of pianist for the 'Silents' at

the Picture House on Winchester High St (now Anthropologie) accompanist to the local operatic and musical societies and organist at Hursley Church. These led in time to his becoming a full-time cinema organist; he made his first broadcast in 1930 and after service in the R.A.F during the war he became in time the Musical Supervisor to Gaumont British Picture Corporation.

Lest we should feel that Twyford ever had any sort of monopoly of his activities, he threw himself in retirement into composing, arranging, performing music of a vast range. I think his record was four weddings and a concert



We love to hear your news. Please keep us updated on Twyfordsociety@twyfordschool.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF:



Shirley Davies
Year 5
Form Teacher,
Maths and
Humanities

Is your first ever zoom meeting an event that sticks in your mind? Mine was a couple of days into lockdown and was for the interview which secured me this job. Any interview is daunting but add in the stress of how zoom works and it takes it to another level. But it was worth it!

My first visit to Twyford was on a beautiful summer's day; the scenery confirmed that I had made the right choice. This was further endorsed by the welcoming and helpful emails I received from several staff members before term had even started. The supportive friendly environment is one of my main takeaways of my first half term. After several years as Head of Year 6, PE and Science at my previous school, I was looking for new challenges. The change of environment, structure of the school day and teaching maths to Year 8 has provided me with exactly what I have been looking for. I'm excited to see how my role will develop and what new challenges lie ahead. No more Sunday night feeling!



Theo Johnson
Head of Latin,
Lay Chaplain

Many friends joke about my 'commute' as I live in Twyford, but during this autumn's beautiful Indian summer, walking to and from work has been a pleasant way to start and end the school day. The cheerful enthusiasm pupils have for learning makes teaching them a joy. All my new colleagues have been very patient whilst I am still learning the ropes. Reopening the chapel, starting regular services and singing hymns again has been very satisfying.



Gayle Hadaway
Teacher of Art

What a wonderful School! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term working with the children and staff at Twyford. The children have shown great creative talent and inspiring each other. Their creative ideas have shown growing confidence since the start of the term. Spaceship portals, planets and monsters and more have already been completed and we are now planning new exciting projects.



Kelly Holdway
Teacher
of English

There is always something special about starting somewhere new. Alongside excitement, nerves and an eagerness to begin, there are new people to meet, new lessons to teach and new paths to be taken. My first term at Twyford has been hugely enjoyable and I am looking forward to many, many more. The children, staff and parents provide such a welcoming environment that I quickly felt at home here. Our days are vibrant, broad and exciting and it is a pleasure to be part of something so great.



Mollie Stallard
Year 3

I have just started teaching in Year 3 after moving to Hampshire over the summer. So far, I have really enjoyed my time at Twyford. Being able to teach such a range of subjects is fascinating and I have appreciated getting involved in the variety of sports taught here. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming; it has been a great first term.



Darren Ford
Head of
Maths

I cannot believe how quickly my first term has gone at Twyford but as the saying goes – time flies when you're having fun. I have had the warmest of welcomes from a wonderful staff team and have thoroughly enjoyed teaching. I'm looking forward to setting some maths challenges over the next term, one of which is to beat the Guinness world record for Times Table Rockstars – 196 questions in 1 minute!

GOODBYE TO:



Clare Johnson

In Clare's 25 years as Art technician, her role has been varied! From running the boarders craft clubs and Beehive club to helping art scholars prepare their portfolio, making costumes for the School play and camping and helping out on many adventure weeks she has also washed countless paint-pots!

'However, my love of all things outdoor is calling and before I get any creakier or my ice axes get any rustier I need to go climb some mountains and paddle some seas whilst I still can. Thank you Twyford for a wonderful quarter of a century'



Roger Porteous

Ifirst became associated with Twyford in 1985 when our two boys joined the school. There were about 100 boys – all boarders – and two girls (the headmaster's daughters). Curtains had arrived in the dormitories relatively recently. One of the first people we met was Noel Keble Williams who knew everyone. I returned to the school in 1998 as the bursar, by which time the school was considerably larger. There were about 250 boys and girls, and an almost complete set of new classrooms, the magnificent cricket ground we know today, and the dear old canvas marquee (where the Mulberry pavilion is today). To this we added the science block, the all-weather pitch and the Saxon Court classrooms. I became the school archivist in 2007 and, with the help of others, we established a fine archive of material, which is now in the capable hands of Andrew Keeling. Even though there have been very many changes in the last 35 years, the school remains what it always has been to us – a friendly welcoming place where the staff do their very best for the children in their care.