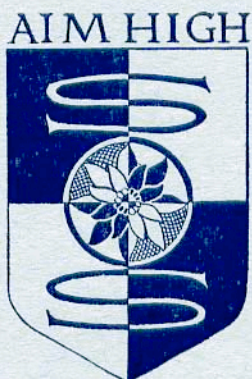


LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Dartmouth Road, S.E.26



CEREMONIAL OPENING OF NEW BUILDINGS

BY DAME JANET VAUGHAN, D.B.E., D.M., F.R.C.P.

Principal of Somerville College, Oxford

ON THURSDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1957

THE CHAIR WILL BE TAKEN BY

MR. HAROLD C. SHEARMAN, M.A.

Chairman of the Education Committee

SYDENHAM SCHOOL

HEADMISTRESS—MISS E. M. KIMSEY, B.A.

GOVERNING BODY

CHAIRMAN	MR. T. SARGANT
VICE-CHAIRMAN	MISS E. M. HAYDON, M.A.
	MRS. K. ANNS
	MR. T. BRADLEY
	MRS. E. A. CHAPMAN
	MR. F. W. GRIFFIN
	MISS P. MARTIN
	DR. M. F. PROUT
	MRS. V. REEDMAN
	MRS. E. E. SULMAN
	MISS W. A. TRICKEY
	MRS. B. D. VERNON, B.A.

The scraperboard drawing on the back cover
is by Maureen Amos 6A

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 2.15 p.m. DAME JANET VAUGHAN, D.B.E., D.M., F.R.C.P., will be welcomed by the Chairman of the Education Committee, MR. HAROLD C. SHEARMAN, M.A., and the Mayor of Lewisham, Alderman A. A. HAWKINS, J.P. The Chairman of the Education Committee will introduce leading Members of the Council and other guests; a short tour of the school will then follow.

Parents and other guests will be directed to their seats in the hall as they arrive.

- 2.55 p.m. Dame Janet Vaughan will be escorted to the hall and take her seat on the platform.

- 3 p.m. The Chairman of the Education Committee will welcome the guests.

Dame Janet Vaughan, after being introduced by the Chairman, will address the company and formally declare the new buildings open.

The Chairman of the Governors, Mr. T. Sargent, will speak.

A vote of thanks will be proposed by Mrs. Ian L. Phillips, Chairman of the Schools Planning Sub-Committee, and seconded by Mr. Colin Mann.

The Head Girl will speak.

The Headmistress will speak, and thereafter a short programme of songs will be given by the pupils as follows :—

Follow me down to Carlow	..	<i>Irish folk tune</i>
		<i>arr. P. Fletcher</i>
Silver	.. .. .	<i>Maurice Fathers</i>
The Song of the Jellicles	.. ..	<i>Dorothy Howell</i>
Your Harps and Cymbals Sound	..	<i>Handel</i>
		<i>arr. Grace Williams</i>

Sung by the Middle and Senior School Choirs,
conducted by Miss D. C. Lyall, G.R.S.M.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Guests seated in the main body of the hall are asked to remain in their seats until the platform party and the pupils have left the hall.

Members of the staff of the school and senior pupils will be pleased to direct guests round the school. Particulars of the various subjects in which the girls may be seen at work are given on the last page.

Tea will be served.



NOTES ON THE SCHOOL

THE opening of Sydenham School in September, 1956, as one of the larger secondary schools of London, with an initial roll of 1,300 girls, and with 70 staff in addition to the Headmistress and her Deputy, marked the fourth phase in the history of the school, which for nearly 100 years has played a leading part in the education of girls in South London, making a valuable contribution to every profession and having old girls in every country of the world.

Started in 1862 as a private school in Westbourne Road, Forest Hill, and shortly afterwards rehoused and renamed the Manor Mount Collegiate School, the original school had flourished as a day and boarding school for about 40 years, when in 1905 the Council, implementing the 1902 Education Act, bought it. Established by the Council as a county secondary school and now renamed the Forest Hill Secondary School, it entered its second phase with Miss Dangerfield as Headmistress. In the same year, the Council established another county secondary school in the district, the Sydenham Secondary School, housed in the 'Institute' at Kirkdale. The school entered its third phase when these two friendly rivals were amalgamated in 1917 under Miss Dangerfield in the beautiful new building in Dartmouth Road. Under the leadership of the next Headmistress, Miss Turner, the school was very

successful, gradually grew to over 500 and among other successes had a notable record of University Scholarships and Exhibitions. It is in this Dartmouth Road building that, in the fourth and present phase of the school's history, the Junior School is housed.

The expansion of the school in September, 1956, to just over double its previous size was brought about in the main by fusion with the Shackleton School, which also came from the original 'Institute' building in Kirkdale where, in the eleven years after the second World War, it had been a friendly neighbour, both schools sharing the same Governing Body. The union of the two schools is symbolised by the presentation of two lecterns for use at School Prayers; the one on the occasion of its Jubilee in July last by the Manor Mount and Sydenham Old Girls' Association and the other by Shackleton School. The School Song and the School Motto 'Aim High' symbolised by the eidelweiss, all chosen in Miss Dangerfield's time, serve as reminders not only of the links in the school's history but also of its fundamental aim, which has always been and must continue to be the same—the spiritual, moral, mental, aesthetic, social and physical growth of each individual girl, so that she may have faith in herself, develop her talents to the uttermost and make her fullest contribution to society.

The Morning Service is based on a weekly theme and different forms in turn are responsible for Friday's Services. It is the keynote to each day, and the annual Harvest Festival Service and Family Carol Services widen the girls' sense of fellowship. Senior girls are stimulated by membership of the School Branch of the Student Christian Movement and weekly good cause collections encourage thought for others.

Subjects for which provision is made on the Timetable include Scripture, English, History, Geography, French, German, Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Art, Craft, Domestic Science, Commerce, Singing, Musical Appreciation, Gymnastics, Games, Dancing and Swimming. During the first three years, all girls take a general course, in which the number of subjects and the way they are studied depend upon the pupils' abilities. Those studies traditionally regarded as academic and leading to the General Certificate of Education at ordinary and advanced levels continue to have an important place in the school and all girls who can derive benefit from them are urged to pursue these studies, serving as they do as a basis for specialised work and as a preparation for courses such as those offered by Universities, Teachers' Training Colleges, by Hospitals (for medicine, nursing and allied professions), Colleges of Art, Music or Physical Education, or Courses in Librarianship or Laboratory work. Information about such courses is disseminated in the annual careers conference.

Many other courses are available at the school, Pre-Nursing, Commerce and Housecraft, but none before the Fourth Year and some of these are properly and wisely deferred until the Sixth Year.

Art, Craft, Music and Physical Work all have their due place in the day's work, further stimulated by the Pottery Club, the School Choirs, the Music Club, the Madrigal Group and out of school class and individual instruction in piano, violin and cello, and by the Swimming, Vaulting, Scottish Dancing and Badminton Clubs and inter-school fixtures in hockey, netball, tennis and rounders. Amongst other out of school activities are the Geography and Science Clubs, the Bird and Tree Society, the French Circle, the German Club and the Stamp Club. There is a wide connection through pen friends with foreign countries and holidays abroad are arranged both through these pen friends and in groups. In recent years, many pupils have been awarded scholarships in modern languages by the Council for travel abroad.

Valuable opportunities for training in self-government are provided in the system of Form Captain, Prefect and Senior Prefect. The loyal service of the girls who accept such offices and the support of the long standing associations of Old Girls and of parents are a source of strength to the School which, rich in tradition and example, must continue to be a great force for good to the community.

NOTES ON THE NEW BUILDINGS

THE new buildings consist of a six-storey classroom block, a staff and library block, assembly hall, kitchen block and a gymnasium wing. They stand on a sloping site and the classroom block on the lower part of the slope has been raised on reinforced concrete columns bringing the lowest classroom floor level with the other buildings, so minimising the distances between all parts of the school, and also providing space below for covered play areas and cycle parks near the cloakrooms.

The new accommodation consists of twenty-eight general classrooms; geography and history rooms; five science laboratories; science lecture and preparation rooms; a model office and a commerce room; a needlework room and three art rooms, one of which is used for pottery; five housecraft rooms and three model flats. There is a large assembly hall, the stage of which can be used as a small hall; music practice rooms; a dining foyer and a library; three gymnasia with a continuous viewing gallery and changing rooms at mezzanine level, under which additional play space is provided. The buildings form a series of open courts with attractive views through the colonnade of the main block.

The buildings were designed by Basil Spence, A.R.A. & Partners, architects, and erected by Lavender, McMillan Limited.

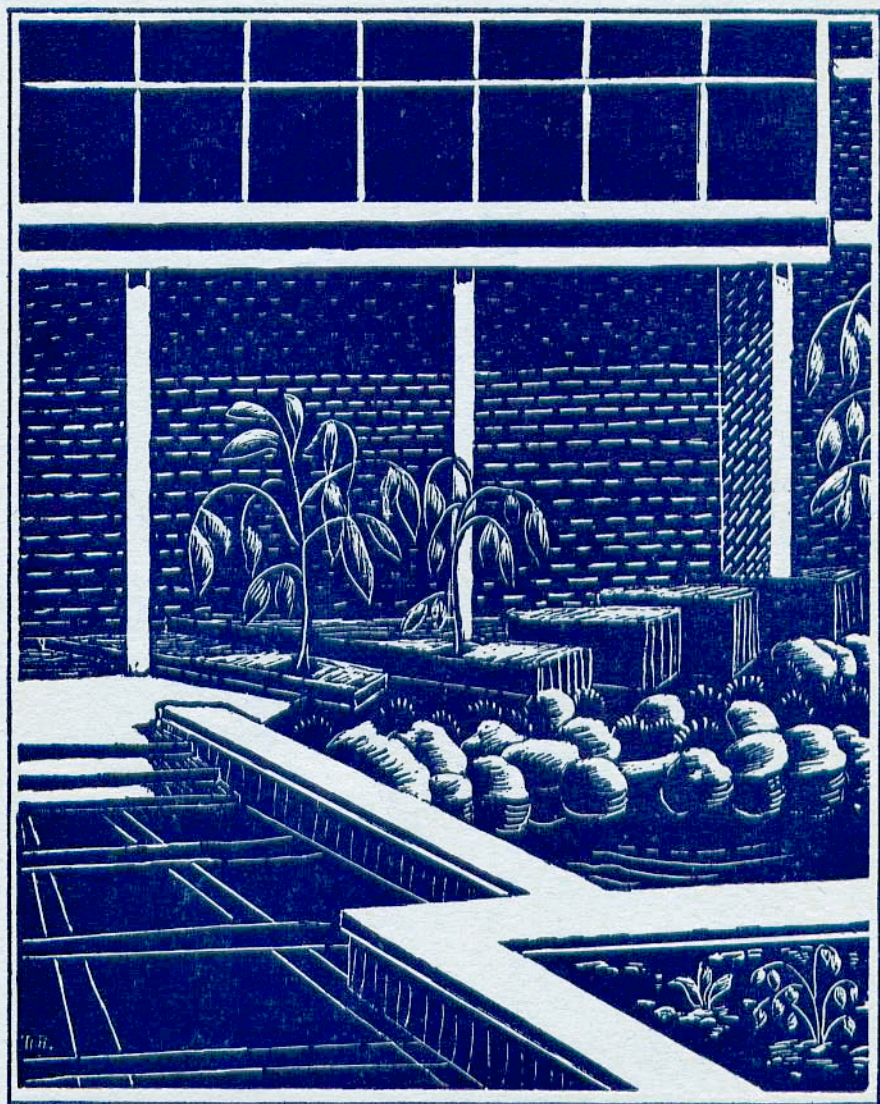
The estimated cost was about £351,000, including fees and incidentals, while the cost of furniture and equipment was approximately £35,000. The net cost per place on the Ministry's standard was just under £253.

GIRLS' WORK CAN BE SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION	..	..	..	..	Gymnasium No. 3
DANCING	..	..	..	..	Junior Hall
ART AND CRAFT, GEOGRAPHY	..	..	..	..	5th floor
HOUSECRAFT	..	..	..	..	4th floor
SCIENCE AND COMMERCE	..	..	..	..	3rd floor
ENGLISH	..	..	..	..	Rooms 22 and 23
FRENCH	..	..	..	..	Rooms 24 and 25
HISTORY	..	..	..	..	Rooms 29 and 31
MATHEMATICS	..	..	..	..	Room 3
GERMAN AND CLASSICS	..	..	..	..	Room 4

It is suggested that guests take the lift to the top floor and work their way downwards.

W. F. HOUGHTON
Education Officer



THE BIOLOGY POOL, ADJACENT TO THE NEW HALL