

The King's School, Grantham

An Outline History



9. The nineteenth Century and the regime of 1876

Grantham townsfolk's enthusiasm for improved education triggered the Scheme of 1876

At the first meeting of the **Board of Governors** in July 1876, 23 leading citizens of Grantham, urged the Board to "*increase considerably the present fee in order to provide a thoroughly efficient staff of Assistant Masters*" and to provide a hostel or other accommodation for boarders.

Exhibitions were awarded within the school and two scholars were exempt payment of fees for three years. Various other charitable awards were made. Pupils from the National School and the British School were regular recipients of these awards.

Throughout 1876 the Governors regularly discussed proposals for new buildings including dormitories for 40 boys, a library and an infirmary. But the site was restricted.

There were suggestions that a new school should be built on a site large enough to include sports fields. Details of four sites, including costs, were considered.

1. Seven acres north of Gladstone Terrace with a **Headmaster's** house on the south and **E. M. Browne's** house (now the King's Hotel but then a school boarding house) on the north.
2. A seven-acre site between Manthorpe Lodge (Lodge Way) and the hospital.
3. A site bounded by St. Catherines Road, Harrowby Road, Dudley Road and Granville Street.
4. A seven-acre site "*part of the Militia Field*", presumably near the Barracks and where the Girls High school now is.

Most of those areas had not by then been developed for housing. The present playing fields were purchased in the 1880s. Expansion on the existing site did not begin until the next century and continued into the twenty-first century.

Ernest George Hardy 1879 to 1887 Usher **F Hollins**

E.G. Hardy organised the school in the light of the 1876 Scheme. He was an academic and when he left the school in 1887 he took a post of tutor in Jesus College, Oxford, eventually being appointed Principal of the College.

The English Department, which had been a separate department where boys paid a fee, was incorporated into the main syllabus. The hours devoted to each subject in each year was published and appeared in the Grantham Journal of the day, as do much of the school's activities. Half days on Thursday and Saturday each week were devoted to drill and games.

From 1880 to 1884 the number of pupils increased from 48 to 85. In 1885 the school contained 61-day boys 14 boarders in school and 6 boarders with **Mrs Pidcock** who ran a small boarding house for the school in a house in Manthorpe Road. In 1881 **Ernest Hardy** reported to the Governors that parents could be divided into four equal divisions "*Farmers, Grantham Tradesmen, Professional Classes and none of these*" But numbers continued to decline. This was a time of depression and the Governors were obliged to reduce the rents of the farms and the school income dropped.

William John Hutchings 1887 to 1898 Usher **Samuel R Brooke**

The attempt to expand the syllabus continued with the introduction of some commercial and technological subjects. County Councils were created in 1888 and each was responsible for education in its area. The Technical Education Act was passed in 1889 allowing the councils to levy a one-penny rate to fund Technical Education.

The British School closed in 1895 and the school bought it but boarded it up for three years.

Generally things did not improve and the **Governors** looked to replace **William Hutchings**.

He resigned in spring 1899 but asked to be relieved by Christmas 1898. The Governors agreed and inadvertently triggered a furore that had national repercussions.