



SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF BENJAMIN BRITTEN HIGH SCHOOL



Fortieth Anniversary Commemorative Edition: September 2018

Special Feature: New School Opens

Lowestoft's newest high school opened on 3 September, 1978. The striking 1930s modernist inspired building 'reflects a considerable technical triumph over adverse physical conditions. The school, extremely lightweight, is set on a layer of pulverised ash a metre thick, one determining factor in the single storey construction. During substantial drainage work, great care was taken to preserve natural features, including ponds, ditches, hedgerows and a line of fine oak trees, now sources for nature study. All of the children like the contrasting crisp, black and white outline of the building and the warm, welcoming interior, where soft browns predominate. They remark the working quietness between departments, actually achieved by the air handling system and fibreglass filling between the walls. The children who so like their new school are drawn from Lowestoft and the Norfolk border and a background of towns, dormitory and farming villages'. Designed by Mr. J. Jackson, County Architect and constructed by Greengrass Builders of Norwich, the buildings were officially completed in May 1979, even though lessons had been taking place since the preceding September. One month later the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Sir Joshua Rowley, opened the school on 11 June, 1979 and a time capsule was buried in one of the courtyards under a slab bearing the school motif. Initially designated the North Lowestoft Area Relief School, it was given the name Benjamin Britten in memory of the world famous classical composer, and Lowestoft's most famous son, who had died from heart failure in 1976. Headmistress Miss Gillian Smith, the first female head teacher of a Suffolk school, was presented with 'the key' to the school.



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Community News

Windmill Volunteers: During the winter and spring of 1979-1980, a number of students joined the Friends of Norfolk Windmills Trust as part of a school project. The Norfolk Windmill Trust had begun work to restore the wind pump at St. Olaves and had their efforts boosted by the assistance from the Benjamin Britten School. It was envisaged that £2000 would be necessary to complete the renovation of the dilapidated sails and fantail. Miss Pauline Webber of Oulton Broad directed the work, with extra help coming from 'Mr. Peter Dykes, a master at the school, who is in charge of the boys'. Mr Dykes said of the project, 'you feel a great sense of satisfaction at the end of the day knowing you have done your little bit in helping to preserve the heritage of your own area here in Norfolk and Suffolk.' The article that later appeared in the Lowestoft Journal, citing that only boys were helping the project, was rewritten the following week to include the names of the three girls in the group, as well as an apology from the editor! The group is pictured right (*note the child working atop the fantail housing!*)



Lowestoft youngsters busy renovating the old pump mill at St. Olaves.



Dedication of Train: On 16 December, 1994 a group of students accompanied Head teacher Mr Mike Pinner to Lowestoft station for the dedication of a British Railways Class 153 diesel train named 'Benjamin Britten'. They were met at the station by Mr John Britten, Benjamin's nephew, and train guard Mr Irving Silverwood who was given the honour of officially naming the new engine. The group are pictured left posing for the Lowestoft Journal photographer.

Merry Christmas Every One: The first 'Carols by Candlelight' was held at the school in December 1979, organised by the Parent Staff Association (PSA). The carol service encouraged staff, students and parents to meet other members of the community and proved an extremely popular event on the school calendar for many years. In 1991, a **40 piece orchestra** accompanied by soloists played items ranging from a choral arrangement of Queen's 'Radio Ga-Ga' to an orchestral performance of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake.



New Wing Opened: The Community Wing was officially opened by Mrs Nina Alcock, Chair of the Education Committee, in May 1989. The new wing was opened for the benefit of the local community and hosted regular workshops, lectures, adult education classes and meetings for community groups. A commemorative tree was planted and Miss Gillian Smith, the school's first Head teacher, baked a special cake to mark the occasion. Headmaster Mr Harbour thanked the Education Committee and PSA for their support. The Community Wing remains an important part of the school today, being a polling station in elections and hosting visitors.

Eco Group Success: The school's Eco Group win First Prize and £1,000 at the Bernard Matthews Youth Awards in September 2015 for their efforts in making the school a more environmentally friendly place, including the installation of a biomass boiler and solar panels.

Easter Egg Collection: In March 2016, students donated Easter eggs to two local causes. Year 10s visited care homes in the North Lowestoft area, including the Blyford Road Care Home, which is situated close to the school site. Easter eggs and cards were distributed to residents and scholars had the opportunity to sit and discuss how their town had changed. At the same time, Year 9 students visited the Children's Ward at the James Paget University Hospital in Gorleston to distribute 109 donated Easter eggs to patients on the wards.



Philanthropy News

Seal Appeal: Students at Benjamin Britten rallied round in support of the RSPCA Seal Appeal in the winter of 1988/89. Thousands of seals were dying from a mystery virus in the North Sea and help was desperately needed to save thousands more at risk. The school **raised over £700 for the appeal**. Over **250 towels** were also donated by students and parents, with a further 100 donated from Elm Tree Middle School. These were used to prevent the seals from biting the vets and RSPCA Inspectors who rescued them from the beaches. Student Caroline Mortlock even designed a sweatshirt which was decorated with the Seal Appeal logo produced by Miss Ruth Dennis, TVEI assistant. School cameras went to Docketing, the UK's only seal sanctuary, recording efforts to save the seals and show to students. Mr Boor and Mr Holder oversaw House Half Day activities which resulted in **£300** being raised from activities that ranged from non-uniform, quizzes, Christmas card sales, book auction, sales of Seal Appeal jumpers and student Rachel Sterry earning £1 from Mr Holder for inserting a whole fist into her mouth! The final cheque of **over £700 was presented to the RSPCA's Chief Inspector Tony Eden**. This enormous contribution helped to fund the development of a life-saving serum which eventually brought the outbreak under control. The RSPCA thanked students and staff for their '*generous contribution to this vital work*'.



Comic Relief: On 5 February 1988, the school celebrated the first ever Comic Relief Red Nose Day. **£250 was raised through the sales of Red Noses alone!** Many ideas of a fittingly silly nature succeeded in raising further funds. These included sponsored falling over, fancy dress, three-legged timetable, shoes on the wrong feet, teachers fining students for sneezing, a troupe of Napoleon impersonators and a team of shopping trolley racers who rode their contraptions to school all the way from Oulton Broad. A final **total of £812.67** was raised.



Bosnian Red Cross Appeal: In December 1993, House Half Day activities were directed towards fundraising for the International Red Cross relief effort in Bosnia. An **incredible £1,537** was raised to aid the international relief effort. Consequently, in January 1994, Bosnian child refugees Danijela (6), Amal (5) and Zeid (11) and their Red Cross interpreter (*see left*) were invited to the school and entertained by staff and students. They found the game 'Mousetrap' most entertaining!

Race for Life: The whole school took to the field in June 2017 to compete in a Race for Life in support of Cancer Research UK. After completing two laps of the cross-country course in glorious sunshine, and enjoying a celebratory ice-cream, students succeeded in raising **an incredible £1,914**.

Rory Davies Charity Football Match: In May 2012, the Rory Davies Charity Football Match was established in memory of former student Rory, who died of brain and spinal cancer aged only 15. Year 11 play Year 10 at the Walmer Road football ground, home of Kirkley and Pakefield FC, and matches are well-attended by staff, students and parent alike. As a result of this incredible effort, in only six years, **nearly £10,000 is raised for the Teenage Cancer Trust**.



Christmas Cheer: The school continues to host its annual Christmas Fayre under the supervision of Mrs Overy with huge support from the local community. The 2017 Fayre saw **an astonishing £1,300 raised in one night**, with a large proportion of this being donated to the chosen charity, the Spinal Injuries Association. Other beneficiaries from recent fundraising events have included the Top Cats charity, Cardiomyopathy U.K, Lowestoft R.N.L.I and Guide Dogs for the Blind. In December 1985, Jupiter House students held fundraising events to adopt an unwanted pony at Redwings Horse Sanctuary, ensuring it was well-fed and safe for Christmas.

Support for Dunblane: Students at the school requested a non-uniform day in 1996 to raise money to help the victims of the Dunblane school tragedy. £422.15 was donated to victims' families to aid their recovery. The school later received a letter from Dunblane Council thanking students for their kind efforts.

Duke of Edinburgh News

Over the decades the school has organised numerous Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to locations around the world. Destinations have included the **Alps, Snowdonia, the Yorkshire Dales** and other more exotic areas such as **Peru, Bolivia and Tanzania**. On a trip to **Ecuador in 2001**, students helped dig the foundations for a hospice caring for AIDS sufferers, shared their tents with spiders and scorpions and climbed the western range of the Andes. There they held the first ever international football match between Lowestoft and Zimbahau (which students lost due to altitude sickness). Mr Went, Mr Holder and Mr Leech were all instrumental in arranging and leading these expeditions and remained committed to the scheme throughout their careers at the school. Countless students have followed in the footsteps of **Clare Evans, the first student ever to achieve a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award** at the school in March 1983. The report of the DofE expedition to the Lake District during Easter 1983 follows: *"with short days and low temperatures it proved to be a strenuous week. Twenty students travelled by minibus to Coniston in the Lake District. The cold weather produced snow on the high ground and for many this gave them their first opportunity of coping with blizzard conditions and a 'white out'. The Gold Group spent three delightful hours lost in a forest and along with Silver Group woke up on several mornings to a very heavy frost. Bronze Group are still recovering from their blisters incurred at the Walberswick bog."*



School Trip News

Apart from numerous local visits, here is a selection of the places the school has visited over the last four decades:

Otley Agricultural College, University of East Anglia, Cambridge University, Oxford University, Lincoln University, Loughborough University, Eton College, Felbrigg Hall, Cromer, Wembley stadium, Wimbledon, Dunwich Heath, Minsmere Nature Reserve, Houghton Hall, Carlton Marshes, Colchester Zoo, Co-Op canning factory, Bletchley Park, National Science Museum, Royal Norfolk Show, Sherlock Holmes Museum, Strawberry Hill House, Palace of Westminster, The Broads National Park, Theatre Royal, Tate Gallery, London Eye, 2012 Olympic Park, The Red House, Snape Maltings, Victoria & Albert Museum, BT Martlesham, Museum of East Anglian Life, Sizewell nuclear power station, Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Park, Santa Pod Raceway, Norwich Castle Museum, the 'Excelsior' fishing smack, Southwold, Norwich Airport, Hollesley Bay Open Prison, Aldeby Quarry, Ipswich County Museum, New Vic, Royal Academy, Greenwich Observatory, Grossburgwedel, Plaisir, Lille, Barcelona, Brussels, Calais, Ypres and Paris amongst others.

This incident is quoted from the very first newsletter in 1979:

'Mr Dyer's favourite riddle'.

Question: 'How do you spell Boulogne?' **Answer:** 'B-O-U-L-O-G-N-E'. **Mr Dyer:** 'Never!'

Answer to riddle: 40 of us do think it is spelt BOULOGNE. The other 40 distinctly saw the notice when they arrived. The spelling was CALAIS. Ask one of them to explain –but only if you have time for a lengthy story of broken down hovercraft, confused booking clerks, missing tickets, etc. Still a great trip!"

News in Sport

Sports Day: The **Victor Ludorum** sports cup was shared for the first time between Owen Garrod and Stephen Bennett whilst the **Victrix Ludorum** cup was awarded to Maria High on Sports Day, 1980. Relay events, sprints, long jump and the ever-popular tug-of-war continue to test individual endurance and promote team work and healthy competition today.

Five-a-side: In June 1996, boys from the GNVQ Leisure and Tourism course held a charity 5-a-side football tournament in the Sports Hall for the Pakefield Dog Kennels. A high standard of football was evident in all matches with the quintet of David Nolloth, Barry Wickes, Chris Cook, Scott Jermy and Ray Winney coming out on top and receiving the winning trophy. Top scorer was John Quinn who amassed a total of 20 goals. **£156 was raised for the Pakefield Kennels.** In other football news, Britten's U-16 team beat Kirkley High School for the first time in December 1983.

Thrilling Match: In a hard-fought match at Leiston football ground between Benjamin Britten and Chantry High School, the Britten team came out on top and were **awarded the John Turner Cup for 1992**. Play became congested in midfield, with scoring opened up by Britten's Gavin Baldry. The team's goalkeeper, Ian Barber, held the line superbly against Chantry until half time. Chantry scored a couple of goals within the first five minutes of the second half but the Britten team fought back, delivering two more goals before the final whistle, including a brilliant header by Alex Hook. Team Captain Richard Braybrooke congratulated his squad and team manager Mr Andy George said he was "*over the moon*". Final score **Britten 3, Chantry 2** meaning Britten win the Cup.

Netball: The Year 11 girls' netball team succeeded in **winning the Inter-School Tournament Cup** in the 1997 season. Captain of the Year 11 team Vicky George led her team to success (*see right*), whilst Carla Walpole, Captain of Year 10, brought her team to a close-run second in the competition.



Swimming Success: Backstroke swimmer Kerry Jiggins earned a **silver medal** at the Crystal Palace National Championships in London in July 1997, with a time of 64.11 seconds in the 100 metres. She came to the notice of the Great Britain squad and was invited to join them in their training in Canada. She aimed to represent England in the Commonwealth Games. Twenty years' later, student Jack Pallant secured an incredible **three Gold, three Silver and one Bronze** medal along with seven personal best times at the Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Swimming Gala in 2017. He went on to compete at the Suffolk Championships.



County Cup Winners: Benjamin Britten football teams helped the school become the first in Suffolk to hold **two County Cups at the same time** by the end of 2000 season, namely for under 14 and under 16 football. Both teams played exceptional football throughout the season and were worthy winners.

Cross Country: Thirty students from all year groups travelled to the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook in October 2017. Each race had around 165 runners competing and Britten students achieved some notable results, including Ole Alexander who finished in 18th place in the Year 11 boys' race. Anais Winney managed to hold on to 33rd position in the Year 7 girls' race, despite encountering some determined opposition.

Rugby: Inter-school rugby competitions began in 1979. However, as the newsletter noted, stones brought to the surface during building work at the school severely limited tackling practice on the new pitches. Nonetheless, with a determined effort, results were still quite good. Notable performances were made by Chris Tarrant, Mark Turner, Sean Sustins, and Simon Walker, who also had a County trial that summer.



Work Experience News

In July 1991, twelve Sixth Form students spent a day at sea on board the Dawn Warbler, an oil rig stand-by and rescue vessel. Under the guidance of the media studies department, students were tasked with making a promotional video for local company Boston Putford Offshore Safety Limited which was later presented to Mr Michael Paine, Director of the Warbler Shipping Company. The week concluded with a trip to Albion Television to see first-hand how film is edited for television.



In June 1991, students worked with the Birds Eye factory in Lowestoft to create educational videos about food production. Personnel Manager at the factory, Mr Herbert, used the videos for staff training.



In July 1995, Catherine Winterton became the first student from the school to secure a work experience placement at the Palace of Westminster in London. She submitted a letter of application and was accepted as a clerk to Mr John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party (see left).

Countless other placements in supermarkets, offices, garages, primary schools, hospitals, laboratories, gyms, libraries and charities have resulted in valuable references that have helped thousands of young people on their way into employment over the last four decades.

Britten's Legacy

Britten-Pears Arts has worked closely with the school over the last four decades to ensure our students have the opportunity to enjoy and understand not only Britten's music, but also his life and principles. The school continues to mark **Britten Day** on 22 November and to lay flowers on Britten's grave in Aldeburgh churchyard on behalf of all staff and students. Numerous visits have been made to The Red House since 1979 and a showcase of students' banners celebrating Britten's life adorned Lowestoft seafront during the **Britten 100** celebrations in 2013. Students in 1980 even had the opportunity to speak with Sir Peter Pears, while Britten's musical assistant, Miss Rosamund Strode was a regular visitor to the school. Miss Smith and a group of students also attended the **dedication of a memorial window to Britten** in Aldeburgh church. Students have also visited Snape Maltings Concert Hall, established by Britten, to play classical music and work as ushers. The legacy of Britten is also shown in our school uniform; the striped school tie being an homage to the tie that Britten wore to the South Lodge Preparatory School in Lowestoft. Our crest was inspired by the view of fishing smacks visible from his bedroom window on Kirkley Cliff Road. We remain proud of our link with Benjamin Britten and hope that through our association with the BPF more singular moments like that on Britten Day 2017 can occur, when Year 10 students Regan Osborn and Jamie Lucas became the first from our school to play Britten's Steinway piano. These GCSE music students were overjoyed by the experience. *'We shall follow in the footsteps of the man whose name we are proud to bear. He was an outstanding person but he found his fulfilment in working with and for others.'* –Miss Gillian Smith (1979)



Performing Arts, Music and Drama News

Benjamin Britten Youth Theatre's March 1993 production of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' caused eyes to water as a number of fight scenes used real fencing rapiers. Despite very careful choreography, some over-enthusiastic attacks left a number of actors with cuts and bruises. Drama teacher Mr Collar explained, *'when the fighters are really involved in the passion of the play, it's easy for mistakes to occur'*. Other notable performances included 'Richard III', 'There is a War', 'The Good Woman of Szechuan', 'The Sound of Music' and a Christmas cello and clarinet concert at St. Margaret's Church in 1981 starring students Zoe Hunting, Helen Chapman, Patrick Abbott, Thirza Loose and Beryl Gentry.

In 1992, French teacher Mrs Graham received quite a shock when a Year 10 pupil arrived at her lesson with an apparent slice to her throat! Things did not improve when another pupil arrived soon afterwards with bloodied hands. Finally, a zombie, complete with pale face and running sores, appeared in the doorway. Fortunately, these realistic looking injuries were due to a make-up display in drama lessons where Mr Verrell had demonstrated theatrical make-up techniques he used in the TV, film and theatrical industry.

The school's production of 'Twist & Shout', a play set in the rock 'n' roll era of the 1950s and written by the school's media teacher Mr Scott Mullinger, proved a great success. The 'Pirates of Atlantis', also written by Mr Mullinger in 2013, saw over 60 students take to the stage in an exciting and swashbuckling adventure, supported by a live band.

Performing arts students from Benjamin Britten **win the national finals of Rock Challenge**, held in Grimsby in June 2017. Under direction of Mrs Corinne Breen, students achieved no fewer than 23 awards, along with the national title. The prestigious dance contest challenged students to create an interpretation of a story which resulted in an intense day of top-level competition. Student George Butler described the event as *'truly incredible –just like a movie'*.



Modern Technology

The school received its **first computer in November 1980** as a gift from the Norwich Union to mark Britten Day. Mr Wiltshire, mathematics coordinator, demonstrated the new computer to the whole school during an assembly. It was later deployed in maths lessons.

In July 1981, the **Typing Department reported that 20 out of 21 candidates passed** the Pitman's Elementary Examination, with a further 7 passing the Intermediate stage.

In November 1985, the Parent Staff Association held fundraising for school equipment. Some items of note were a cassette recorder for languages (£100), floppy discs and a mouse for computing (£250), tape recorders for English (£180) and a typewriter (£92).

The School Management and Administration Computer (SMAC) was instituted at the school in October 1987, whereby details such as name, address, date of birth, timetables, etc., were held on a central computer for the first time.

In December 1996, the **school's first homepage address** was revealed as BBHS.SUFFOLK.SCH.UK with the school magazine proudly reporting that 30 machines were able to connect to the Internet at once. **Internet Club** was established after school and proved immediately popular. The first piece of **homework to be sent electronically** was from students Chris Pinner and Alex Crawford to their A-Level teacher, Mr Houghton (*see right*).



Media Studies students created a **live TV show** in December 1997, broadcasting throughout the school raising money for the James Paget Hospital and Lowestoft's Carla Burden, the UK's youngest stroke victim. £532 was raised in one afternoon. The live broadcast by media students from the school's TV studio was a regular feature of House Half Day activities. A student radio station was also established, utilising the school's intercom system.

Engineers spent two weeks rewiring the school ready for the **new computer network** during Easter 1998. An I.T technician was employed to supervise the network and an extension to the technology area was completed to accommodate the new computers. By September 1998, the computer system was up and running in time for the school's 20th anniversary and the awarding of **Technology School status**.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication

On 3 September 1978, the school played host to invited guests, staff, students and parents in a service of thanksgiving and dedication led by town's industrial chaplain, the Reverend Ned Townshend. Prayers were spoken for the future success of the school and of its students and the hymns '**Lift up you hearts!**', '**Father, hear the prayer we offer**', '**Be thou my vision**' and '**Now thank we all our God**' were sung by the choir and assembled guests.

Readings were as follows:

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me -put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.'

(Philippians: 4, v.8-9) and *'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'* **(Matthew: 5, v. 13-16).**

Retrospective News & Notices

- **School Council News Broadcast:** Notices for broadcast should be submitted to Mr Boor by the end of Friday afternoon. Notices should be brief. Broadcast will take place every Monday afternoon during tutorial time. Pupils should remain seated quietly in classrooms until the broadcast is concluded. (1978)
- **Fifth Year Leavers:** We said goodbye with affection to our original Third Years who are embarking on numerous plans including eighty joining the 6th Form, twenty-nine taking up college places, twelve on apprenticeships and twenty-four in other employment. Carl Goddard is the first from Benjamin Britten to join the armed forces, after securing a definite position with the Coldstream Guards. We wish them all well. (1981)
- **Police Visit:** A Superintendent from Suffolk Constabulary recently visited the school along with members of staff from HMP Blundeston to set up a magistrates' court for us in the School Library. A trial was then staged in front of students of a man accused of having stolen a motor car. The case was attended by a reporter from the Lowestoft Journal. The experience illustrated to students the legal process involved in criminal cases. (1981)
- **Trial Cycling Success:** Eighteen riders from Benjamin Britten participated in a trial cycling event organised by the Lowestoft Cycling Club in June 1983. Despite it being their first time in any competitive cycling event, the Britten team won by a landslide and won the Lowestoft Journal Cycling Trophy. They succeeded in breaking a monopoly on the event held by the Denes High School since 1973. (1983)
- **House Half Day Success:** Events held on 16 February 1984 included river fishing, time trial cycling, darts, crazy golf, model aeroplane flying, Valentine's telegram delivery service, and orienteering on Corton Beach. The winners of this were: J. Durrant, C. Shaw, J. Shreeve, J. Porter, S. Norman and R. Barnard. Although many students lost their way, *'they all succeeded in finding their way back...eventually!'* (1984)
- **Visit to Brooke Marine:** Last term Mr Mills, of the Craft and Design Technology department, spent a week with local company Brooke Marine. Within British shipbuilding there exists a wide range of jobs which could provide a useful insight for students into employment. Pupils J. Sparkes, S. Pond, C. Murray, P. Yallop met with Mr Bottomley, head of personnel at Brooke Marine to discuss the process of job applications. (1983)
- **Sailing Success:** Sixth Formers Joanna Boyd and Judith Gooch entered the 1984 North Suffolk Schools Annual Sailing Regatta, and despite bad weather, managed to achieve first place in the ladies' event and fourth place overall. In 1991, students Chris Bowles and Holly Dexter achieved second place in the Mixed Centreboard category at the County Sailing Regatta at Oulton Broad, with Daniel Wilcox securing third place in the Topper Class.
- **Top of the Pops 1983:** Sixth Form students arranged a survey to discover the favourite pop songs of 1983 amongst pupils and Sixth Formers. The categories and results were as follows: Best Single: *'Pipes of Peace'*, Best Album: *'Thriller'* by Michael Jackson, Best Male Singer: *Paul Young*, Best Female Singer: *Tracey Ullman*, Best Group: *'Culture Club'*, Best Music Video: *'Thriller'* by Michael Jackson.
- **Back to School:** Residents from the new Blyford Court Residential Care Home were invited to the school as guests of the Sixth Form. Mr John Sizer, still teaching at the school, led a discussion about the 'good old days' when TV, radio and computers were rare or yet to be invented. Lunch was provided for the guests with some Sixth Formers even dressing as waiters.

Do your children make you feel inferior? If so, contact Mr Holroyd for details of a course entitled 'Computing for Parents' to be held at the school on the evenings of March 7 and March 9. 'Mathematics for Parents' will also be held on May 8. (1979)

WANTED: *the single 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' by ABBA on Epic Records. If anyone has a copy they are willing to sell, please contact 4WH. Also, 4SM require a Union Jack flag, full size, for prop. Contact with offers please. (1978)*



Images from the official opening ceremony held on June 11, 1979.

Top left: Headmistress Miss Smith leads assembled guests, including Sir Joshua Rowley, Lady Rowley, Mr Harwood, Mr Hill, Councillor Scarles, Mr Robert Britten (Britten's brother), Mrs Beth Welford (Britten's sister), and Miss Rosamund Strode (Britten's musical assistant) out of the Theatre towards the front of the school.

Left centre: Assembled guests gather to release balloons from the front of the school building.

Bottom left: Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Sir Joshua Rowley, presents the key to the school to Miss Smith and Mrs Brenda Chamberlain, Assistant Head teacher (right) in the Theatre. Mr Leedham, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, looks on.

Top right: Students are pictured working in the Neptune House common room.

Right centre: Deputy Head Mr Loose interviews a candidate in the Theatre for the school election campaign, 1978.

Bottom right: A game of football in full swing on the school field. Large stones brought to the surface during building work made the first season of play quite challenging. The old Suffolk job of stone-picking was resurrected by the PSA to help clear the pitches!