

Education

Pate's Grammar School

In the mid-16th century Edward Grove, one of the parish chantry priests, kept a school in the town which the chantry commissioners recommended should continue, and Grove received payments for it until c.1555.¹ The commissioners recommended that a new grammar school be founded in Cheltenham, which they described as a market town with 'much youthe', but without any other schools nearby.² One of those commissioners, Richard Pate, who was probably a native of Cheltenham,³ built a new school in 1572 on land he had acquired in the town.⁴ Two years later he obtained a grant of former chantry lands within Cheltenham, and also the glebe and tithes of the Leigh, to support his foundation of a school and almshouse in the town.⁵ To these in due course he added other chantry lands that he had acquired in Cheltenham and Gloucester.⁶ By the terms of the original grant, Pate was to appoint a master and an usher (assistant master), and to make the regulations of the school. After his death Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was to appoint the master and usher, while the management of the foundation's estate was to be left to the corporation of Gloucester.⁷ In 1586, however, Pate reached an agreement with the college, whereby they would henceforth manage all aspects of the foundation.⁸

By the detailed regulations drawn up by Pate and appended to the foundation deed,⁹ three-quarters of the profits of the estate were to be used to maintain the school and almshouse, and the college was to keep the remaining quarter for itself. The schoolmaster was to be a Master of Arts and aged at least 30. He was to have a salary of £16 a year, the schoolhouse (except for one room), and the use of the grounds, including common of pasture for one cow in the Marsh. The usher was to receive £4 a year, and to have the use of one room in the schoolhouse. The boys who lived in Cheltenham were to pay 4d. each when they were admitted to the school, and other boys were to pay 8d., which was to be used to purchase teaching books, and these were to be kept on chains in the schoolhouse. The school was to have 50 pupils, and Pate left detailed instructions about the level of competency in Latin and Greek that should be achieved by them, in an effort to deter any negligence on the part of the schoolmaster.

¹ *VCH Glos.* II, 424; TNA, E 301/23, no. 53.

² *VCH Glos.* II, 424; TNA, E 301/23, no. 53.

³ *ODNB*, s.v Pate, Richard (1516–88), lawyer and refounder of Cheltenham grammar school (accessed 12 Sep. 2017).

⁴ GA, P78/1 IN 1/1, p. 39.

⁵ Cal. Pat., 1572–5, 297–98; TNA, C 66/1117, mm. 11–13.

⁶ Cal. Pat., 1548–9, 260.

⁷ Cal. Pat., 1572–5, 297–8.

⁸ CCC Archives, Fe 42/1.

⁹ CCC Archives, Fe 42/1.

The small salary of the schoolmasters was mitigated in the middle of the 17th century by leasing to them the tithes of the Leigh, a small parish six miles west of Cheltenham. The tithes were held successively by four masters between the years 1636 and 1677.¹⁰ Problems with collecting the tithes from the parishioners in this period may have contributed to the master, Robert Jones, choosing not to renew the lease when it fell vacant. Without this extra income the schoolmasters were forced to hold other posts in plurality, and this became an issue of concern to the parishioners. They petitioned the college to improve the master's remuneration, but apparently to little avail. Nevertheless, despite these concerns, the school had sufficient pupils to warrant erecting a separate gallery in the church to accommodate them.

Little is known about many of the early masters of the new school. The first was Christopher Ocland, a noted Latin poet, who may have taken up his post as early as 1574.¹¹ He was possibly succeeded by John Chew, probably a graduate of Trinity College, Oxford, described as the schoolmaster at his death in 1586.¹² John Crowther, another Oxford graduate, kept the school in Cheltenham for over 20 years.¹³ William Stroud was described as 'of the school' in the parish registers in 1610 and again at his burial in 1648, although it is not clear in what capacity.¹⁴ William Dedicote, schoolmaster by 1619, was investigated in 1621 by the college for various unnamed misdemeanours.¹⁵ No outcome of the inquiry was reported, but it was during this period that orders were issued allowing the usher to teach writing to up to ten boys without interference or extra charge by the master. The master was also ordered to supervise his pupils during divine service, and not to allow the boys to play more often than was allowed under the founder's orders.¹⁶ Also attributable to this date is a petition to the College calling for a more liberal maintenance for the masters, and provision to enable them to take in boarders, so that the school might 'flourish with credit and applause'.¹⁷ Christopher Bayley's appointment as schoolmaster in 1622 presumably indicates that Dedicote had been dismissed,¹⁸ although he was still in Cheltenham in 1624 when he was presented to the court leet for assaulting a gentleman and insulting the constable.¹⁹ Bayley, the first graduate of Corpus Christi to benefit from the college's possession of the presentation, served as schoolmaster for over 30 years, and left money for the building of a new market house at his death in 1654.²⁰ Little is known about Bayley's

¹⁰ CCC Archives, F3/2/8, ff. 131–31v, 238–9; F4/3/10, f. 43.

¹¹ *ODNB*, s.v. Ocland, Christopher (d. in or after 1590), writer; Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 30. He described himself as 'of Cheltenham school' in 1582: Ocland, *Anglorum Praelia* (London, 1582).

¹² GA, P78/1 IN 1/1, p. 76; *Alumni Oxon.*, 1500–1714, I, 269.

¹³ He was master in 1594, and still in 1609: GA, GDR/73, p. 33; CCED 148679; Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 54, 262; *Alumni Oxon.*, 1500–1714, I, 358.

¹⁴ GA, P78/1 IN 1/1, p. 157; P78/1 IN 1/2, p. 96.

¹⁵ CCC Archives, F4/3/6, f. 128.

¹⁶ CCC Archives, Court Book, 1617–23, Ma 2/9, f. 44.

¹⁷ CCC Archives, Undated petition, Fe 46/3.

¹⁸ CCC Archives, F4/3/6, f. 148v; FE 47/1; Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 57, 268; *Alumni Oxon.*, 1500–1714, I, 391.

¹⁹ GA, D855/M9B, p. 67.

successor, Edward Trotter, who was appointed in 1655 and had left by the Restoration.²¹ William Gardiner was briefly appointed the master before Trotter's appointment, and he was reappointed in 1660, when he lost his fellowship at the college.²² Gardiner remained at the school until 1673,²³ and a successor, Robert Jones, was recorded in 1674.²⁴ Jones resigned in 1689, when he was replaced by Robert Rogers, originally from Dowdeswell, who was master for thirteen years.²⁵ William Alexander, appointed in 1703, combined his duties at the school with a curacy at Coberley, and the rectory of Colesbourne.²⁶ Alexander resigned as schoolmaster in 1718, when he was replaced by Henry Mease, who had previously served as curate of Cheltenham.²⁷ Mease, who was subsequently appointed as rector of Alderton in 1724 and then of Swindon in 1738,²⁸ remained at the school until his resignation in 1743 in favour of his nephew John Mease.²⁹

Henry Mease, who had been perpetual curate of Cheltenham between 1709 and 1716, was appointed master of Cheltenham grammar school in 1718.³⁰ He became rector of Alderton in 1724 and rector of Swindon in 1738.³¹ John Mease, vicar of Elmstone Hardwicke and rector of Swindon, had succeeded his brother as master by 1753.³² His management of the estate belonging to the Pate's charity which financed the school was highly disorganised, as he failed to collect rents or correctly levy fines, and he owed the College over £110 when he died in 1763. The reduction in 1762 of the stipends of the master and usher, to £13 6s. 8d. and £2 respectively, indicates that the

²⁰ *Alumni Oxon.*, 1500–1714, I, 90; Goding, *Cheltenham*, 244–45, 396; GA, D855/M11, f. 150.

²¹ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 58. He may have been the same Edward Trotter who was vicar of Lewisham 1658–77: CCED 3576; L.L. Duncan, *The Parish church of St Mary, Lewisham* (Blackheath, 1892), 49–50.

²² GA, GDR/208, p. 33; *Hockaday Abs.*, cxlviii; CCC Archives, Progress Books, VIII, f. 239v; X, ff. 35v, 41v; *Alumni Oxon.*, 1500–1714, II, 549; CCED 150890; Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 262, 264.

²³ GA, GDR/223, p. 135; Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 262. He may also have served as the curate of Cowley in the 1660s, and as rector of Fonthill Bishop (Wilts.) 1680–81; CCED 109691.

²⁴ GA, GDR/220, f. 43v; Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 262. He may have been the rector of Leckhampton, appointed in 1653: A.G. Matthews, *Walker Revised* (Oxford, 1948), 172; CCED 155993.

²⁵ GA, GDR/226A, pp. 104, 116; *Hockaday Abs.*, cxlviii; P78/1 IN 1/3, p. 132; CCC Archives, Progress Books, XIV, f. 36v; Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 64, 264; *Alumni Oxon.*, III, 1276; CCED 162540; Hodsdon, *Court Books*, xxxiii.

²⁶ GA, GDR/226A, p. 186; *Hockaday Abs.*, cxlviii; CCED 7092. He was still master in 1716, three years after his appointment to the rectory of Colesbourne: GA, P78/1 IN 1/4, p. 47.

²⁷ GA, GDR/226A, p. 292; Corpus Christi College Archives, Fe 47/1.

²⁸ CCED 53085.

²⁹ Corpus Christi College Archives, Fe 47/1; A. Tindal Hart, *Country Counting House: the Story of Two Eighteenth-Century Account Books* (London 1962), 93, 110.

³⁰ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 79.

³¹ CCED 53085.

³² CCED 36589

number of the boys at the school had fallen below 50.³³ Mease's successor as master was John Chester, a native of Cheltenham and therefore probably a former pupil of the grammar school.³⁴ He was already vicar of Brockworth at the time of his appointment, and was vicar of the Leigh from 1775 until 1777, when he resigned the latter in order to become rector of Wickwar.³⁵ Concerns were expressed about the state of the school in 1774, when Chester was accused of making the school a mere sinecure. In response, he complained that the townsmen removed their children from the school as soon as they could write.³⁶ Chester resigned as master in 1780,³⁷ he was succeeded by Henry Bond Fowler, who also took the benefices of Elmstone Hardwicke in 1789 and Tredington in 1802.³⁸ The numbers of pupils attending the school remained low, and the master was forced to take in private boarders to supplement his income. Nevertheless, in 1803 Fowler informed the president of the College that there were only five boys at the school, of whom only one could properly be said to be on the Pate's foundation.³⁹ The state of the old school building in the high street was also of concern, as Fowler had partitioned the schoolroom to create private lodgings, in order that he might let the building during the summer season.⁴⁰ Despite continued concerns about the management of the school, Fowler remained as master until he resigned in 1815.⁴¹ He was replaced briefly by William Gray, who died in the following year.⁴²

Under the mastership of William Hawkins, appointed in 1816,⁴³ the school entered a protracted period of conflict. Concerns were expressed in 1816 that Corpus Christi was not fulfilling the terms of its trust, and it was reported to Parliament that the school had almost entirely fallen into disuse. By 1819 the school had sufficiently recovered that there were 30 boys on the books, although it is not clear how many were private pupils.⁴⁴ Concerned that the College had allowed the revenues of the foundation to dwindle, and determined to make the school more appropriate to the needs of the growing town, the vestry initiated a suit in Chancery against the College which would ultimately last over 30 years.⁴⁵ In 1824 a committee of the vestry made a number of recommendations for a new

³³ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 79. CCED 36589.

³⁴ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 85.

³⁵ CCED 24557.

³⁶ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 88.

³⁷ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 89.

³⁸ GA, GDR 292A; CCED 11029.

³⁹ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 93.

⁴⁰ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 94.

⁴¹ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 97.

⁴² Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 98. He is perhaps the man who served as curate at a number of Gloucestershire churches in 1810 and 1811: CCED 151220.

⁴³ GA, GDR, 281A; CCED 236036.

⁴⁴ *Digest of Returns on the Education of the Poor*, 1819 (224), p. 294.

⁴⁵ *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 16 Jun. 1831 & 9 Mar. 1848; *Gloucestershire Chronicle*, 19 Apr. 1834.

foundation for the school. The number of boys should be limited to 50, the greatest number that could be taught by one master and one usher. The annual salaries of the master and usher were to be at least £350, and the master was to receive an extra £3 from the family of each boy admitted into the school. The curriculum was to be Greek, Latin, English writing, mathematics, and arithmetic.⁴⁶ The college was to continue to appoint the master as the post fell vacant, and a standing committee comprising of the minister, churchwardens and twelve inhabitants were to inspect the school, although not in such a way as to ‘abridge the power of the College as Visitors’. The college rejected any claim by the parish to interfere with or oversee its management of the estate, but claimed to be prepared to expend three-quarters of the profits on the school and almshouse. This however would allow no more than £280 for the salaries of the two masters. The college also rejected the teaching of English reading or writing in favour of a classical grammar syllabus.⁴⁷ In 1831 the vestry proposed that the syllabus should include English reading and writing, arithmetic, the liberal arts and the sciences.⁴⁸ The parishioners complained in 1848 that the system of education at the grammar school was not adapted to the needs of the townspeople, and appointed a committee to examine by what means the curriculum might be enlarged to include literature, science, commercial and general education.⁴⁹

After the death of Hawkins, who had opposed any changes to the foundation of the school, a second committee was appointed by the vestry to devise a new scheme with the College, which was adopted in 1852.⁵⁰ The master was to continue to receive the ancient stipend of £16, plus a sum of between £100 and £400, to be determined by the College, and a further £2 for each of the first 100 pupils. The master could also take in another 30 pupils as private boarders. The usher, now called the second master, was to receive the ancient stipend of £4, a sum of between £50 and £200, and £1 per pupil. Up to 500 boys from Cheltenham parish were to be admitted to the school, at a fee of 6 guineas a year. Besides the classics, the school curriculum was now to include subjects ‘which tend to qualify youth for mercantile and commercial pursuits’. Provision was also to be made for the teaching of languages and drawing. Dr Edward Rupert Humphreys was appointed the headmaster under the new scheme in 1852.⁵¹

Reinvigorated by the long-running Chancery suit, the trustees began to take steps to expand and improve the Grammar School in Cheltenham. The adjacent Yearsley’s Boarding House had already been let in 1851 to provide extra space,⁵² and after the adoption of the new scheme for school in 1852 it was reported that a new school room was also under construction.

⁴⁶ GA, P78/1 VE 2/2, 10 Jan. 1824.

⁴⁷ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 24 Sep. 1824.

⁴⁸ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 9 June 1831.

⁴⁹ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 25 Apr. 1848.

⁵⁰ The scheme is reproduced in *History of the Cheltenham Grammar School*, ed. Alfred Harper (Cheltenham, 1856), 12–19.

⁵¹ Goding, *History of Cheltenham*, 395; *Cheltenham Grammar School*, ed. Harper, 6; *Officers and Graduates of University and King’s College, Aberdeen*, ed. Peter John Anderson (Aberdeen, 1893), 119

⁵² *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 20 Nov. 1851.

Between 1853 and 1856 the number of the boys at the grammar school had never exceeded 281, while the number of teachers varied between 11 and 14. The vestry committee observed that this meant that the proportion of masters to boys varied between one master to 18 boys and one master to 23 boys, expressing the opinion that a more appropriate ratio would be one master to 30 boys.⁵³ By 1857 it had become apparent that the scheme adopted in 1852, whereby the capitation fees had been set at 6 guineas a year per boy, was leaving the school in financial difficulties. The headmaster, Dr Humphries, was reportedly forced to make up the shortfall from his own pocket, and a number of parents expressed concern that the situation was untenable in the long-term. They therefore suggested the adoption of a new scheme, whereby the capitation fees would remain 6 guineas a year for boys attending the Lower Commercial School, whilst they would be raised to 8 guineas a year for those attending the Higher Commercial and Classical Schools. It was also proposed that the fee for attending in the Headmaster's class, comprising the most advanced students who were expected to proceed to the universities, should be set at 10 guineas a year.⁵⁴ By 1866 there were a total of 127 boys attending the school, with 58 boys attending the classical section and 69 the commercial section, but this subsequently fell to just 17.⁵⁵

A new scheme was adopted for the school in 1881 under the 1869 Endowed Schools Act, ending the management of the school by Corpus Christi.⁵⁶ A new governing body was constituted, consisting of the mayor of Cheltenham and three other representatives of the borough council, four representatives of the college, two justices of the peace of the Cheltenham division, and two representatives of the parents of pupils at the school. A new headmaster was appointed by the new governors of the school early in the following year.⁵⁷ The curriculum was expanded at this time.⁵⁸ chemistry and physics were now taught to all upper school pupils, English literature was studied in every form, and drawing, French, and Latin all became ordinary subjects, while German and Greek were introduced as extra subjects. Extra tuition was also offered out of school hours in vocational subjects such as shorthand, book-keeping, and joinery. The new scheme adopted in 1881 also set the usual leaving age of pupils at 17.⁵⁹

The governors also turned their attention to the inadequate facilities of the school, still housed on the original site in the high street. At this time the school building had been divided into three classrooms, behind which was a playground and another two small classrooms. The headmaster's residence was in an adjoining building. It was unanimously determined that the school buildings needed to be replaced, and a majority of the governors proposed that the school should move to a more spacious area of Cheltenham. A site was identified near Christchurch, but following a public meeting in opposition to the proposal the Charity Commissioners refused to sanction the move, and

⁵³ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 9 Oct. 1857.

⁵⁴ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 11 Dec. 1857.

⁵⁵ *VCH Glos. II*, 427.

⁵⁶ *VCH Glos. II*, 427.

⁵⁷ *VCH Glos. II*, 427.

⁵⁸ *VCH Glos. II*, 428.

⁵⁹ *VCH Glos. II*, 428.

the governors were left with no alternative but to build new facilities on the existing school site. After two years of building work, the new premises were opening in 1889, consisting of ten classrooms, a hall, an art room, a chemical laboratory, and a science lecture room.⁶⁰

The school encountered competition from the school of science in Clarence Street after the latter founded a day-school for boys with financial support from the borough council. In 1894 the school of science was absorbed into the grammar school, which took over its facilities in Clarence Street and agreed to create a 'modern side' for the provision of science to all pupils of the school of science, and also to maintain the provision of evening classes for adults. A new scheme was adopted in 1898 to formalise these arrangements.⁶¹ At the same time, the governing committee was remodelled, with the addition of three more representatives of the borough council, and the school leaving age was raised to 18 or 19.⁶² Another amendment was made to the scheme governing the school in 1900, when the governing body was reconstituted to comprise the mayor and five other representatives of the borough council, five representatives of the county council, four representatives of Corpus Christi, and two representatives of parents. At the same time the school was given a county council grant of £1,000 to enable it to supply secondary education to almost 100 small towns and villages neighbouring Cheltenham, with classes and lectures undertaken by staff of the grammar school and visiting lectures.⁶³ The grammar school also took over management of the school of art in the Clarence Street Buildings in 1900. These changes caused numbers at the grammar school to fall, with 115 boys enrolled at the end of 1900, but they had recovered within a few years, with 165 enrolled at the end of 1906.⁶⁴

In 1901 a pupil-teachers centre was established by the governors of the grammar school, also based in the Clarence Street Buildings, taught by the staff of the grammar school.⁶⁵ There were a far greater number of girl pupil-teachers than boys, and other girls were also admitted as pupils on the payment of frees, so that by 1904 there were 90 girls and 10 or 12 boys enrolled at the school.⁶⁶ In that year the governors acquired premises in North Street for the purpose of establishing a day-school for girls, and this was opened in 1905 as the County High School for Girls.⁶⁷ By 1906 there were already 140 girls enrolled at the school.⁶⁸ New premises were erected adjoining the grammar school to accommodate new laboratories and art rooms for the use of both the boys' and the girls' grammar schools.⁶⁹ A new scheme was adopted in 1905 to formally provide for the education of girls

⁶⁰ *VCH Glos. II*, 428.

⁶¹ GA, CBR 1897, p. 16.

⁶² *VCH Glos. II*, pp. 429–30.

⁶³ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 430.

⁶⁴ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 430.

⁶⁵ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 430.

⁶⁶ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 430.

⁶⁷ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 430.

⁶⁸ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 430.

⁶⁹ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 431; *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 17 Mar. 1906, p. 8.

as well as boys on the original Pate's foundation. The governing body was altered with the addition of two more representatives of the county council, who must both be women.⁷⁰

Cheltenham College

Motivated in part by concerns over the poor state of the grammar school, it was proposed in 1840 to found a proprietary grammar school in Cheltenham.⁷¹ Shares were initially valued at £10, but later increased to £20 when it was ascertained that there were no suitable buildings within the town, and that new premises were necessary.⁷² Besides offering a traditional education in the classics, liberal arts and mathematics, many of the parents intended their sons to progress to careers in the military or colonial civil service, and so subjects would also be offered suitable to these careers.⁷³ Revd Edward Phillips was appointed the first headmaster, and the school opened in 1841 with 120 pupils. At first occupying premises in Bayshill Terrace,⁷⁴ the new school building on the Bath Road was opened in 1843.⁷⁵

Partly in response to the deficiencies of the grammar school during the long dispute with Corpus Christi, and partly in response to the changing character of Cheltenham over the course of the 19th century, a demand grew for a suitable school for the sons of its growing genteel population. Founded in 1841 as a proprietary school, the College was a success from the beginning, opening with approximately 100 pupils, and it was necessary for the school to move from the high street to larger premises at its present site on Bath Road in 1843.⁷⁶ Built in a Late Perpendicular style, the original College premises consisted of two large rooms, one the large classroom later called the Big Classical and the other a gymnasium, which stood either side of a tower and were lined on either side by small classrooms.⁷⁷ The first Principal, Dr Alfred Phillips, was succeeded by Revd William Dobson in 1845, under whose tenure the College was established as one of the leading public schools in the country. From its founding the school was divided between a classical department, for boys intending to study at the universities, and a military and civil department, later known as the modern department, for boys intended for a career in the military or civil service. The modern department was usually the larger of the two during the 19th century, and its first head master, Revd Thomas Allen Southwood, held the post from 1843 until 1879.⁷⁸ To better accommodate this side of the school, the gymnasium was converted into a second large classroom, known as the Big

⁷⁰ VCH Glos. II, p. 431.

⁷¹ Cheltenham College Archives, Minute Book of the Board of Directors, 9 Nov. 1840.

⁷² Cheltenham College Archives, Minute Book of the Board of Directors, 26 Nov. 1840.

⁷³ Cheltenham College Archives, Minute Book of the Board of Directors, 23 Feb. 1841.

⁷⁴ Cheltenham College Archives, Minute Book of the Board of Directors, 4 Feb. 1841.

⁷⁵ Goding, *History of Cheltenham*, 151.

⁷⁶ H. E. Bayly, 'History of the College', *Cheltenham College Register, 1841–1889*, ed. Andrew Alexander Hunter (London, 1890), p. 2.

⁷⁷ *Cheltenham College Register*, p. 11.

⁷⁸ *Cheltenham College Register*, pp. 2, 32; VCH Glos. II, p. 431.

Modern, in 1850.⁷⁹ A new post of Vice-Principal was created in 1853, at first to assist the Principal in the classical department, but from 1865 the post was merged with that of the head master of the military and civil department.⁸⁰ In 1865 the curriculum of the modern department included Latin, French, German, Sanscrit, Hindu, mathematics, history, geography, drawing, and experimental science. Special classes were also offered for preparation to the military academies or for direct admission into the military or civil service.⁸¹ The school facilities were expanded again in 1853, with new classrooms and a racquets court, and the large chapel which now dominates the site was begun in the same Late Perpendicular style in 1856.⁸²

Unlike other proprietary schools, the proprietors of Cheltenham College took no share of the financial profits, which were instead reinvested in the College. Instead the possession of shares in the school conferred the power to make decisions concerning the school's management and finances, and the right to nominate a boy to the College. Shares could be sold but the selling of nominations to the College was strongly frowned upon, and proprietors were limited to a maximum of five shares each, in an effort to prevent the school being viewed as little more than a commercial investment.⁸³ The school was initially managed by a governing body of directors, elected by the proprietors, called the Discipline Committee. Under this system, the Principal was responsible for the appointment of teachers and the content of the curriculum, while other matters, including discipline, were to be supervised by the committee. Here, as in other aspects of this period of the town's history, we can see the dominance of the incumbent of the parish church, Revd Francis Close. His involvement in the foundation of the school had ensured that it would be managed according to the principles of the Church of England, and it was probably his influence which ensured that the supervision of religious instruction within the College was also the responsibility of the Discipline Committee and not of the Principal. In reality, the committee was dominated by Close until his appointment as dean of Carlisle in 1856, with many other members showing little interest in the management of the school. Revd H. Highton, appointed as Principal in 1859, took on many of the duties relating to discipline which had formerly been the responsibility of the Discipline Committee, which now ceased to exist. Highton's period of tenure was characterised by his difficult relationship with the directors, and he departed the College after only two years.

It was apparent that the governing structures of the College were in need of remodelling. A new council of 24 members was established in 1862, comprising twelve representatives of the shareholders serving three-year terms, and twelve life members, who need not include shareholders, which included university professors, clergymen and prominent MPs and who were to choose new life members when a vacancy occurred.⁸⁴ The new Principal, Dr Alfred Barry, was only in post for six years, but his reforms of the College were to have a long-lasting impact. Under the new

⁷⁹ *Cheltenham College Register*, p. 11.

⁸⁰ *Cheltenham College Register*, pp. 2–3.

⁸¹ *1866 Schools Inquiry Commission*, p. 527.

⁸² *Cheltenham College Register*, pp.11–12.

⁸³ *Schools Inquiry Commission* (1868), vol. 15, pp. 525–26.

⁸⁴ *Schools Inquiry Commission* vol. 15, 524.

system of governance, the Principal was to be responsible for all affairs within the school, and he introduced the prefect system to assist with discipline, whilst also taking charge of services in the chapel.⁸⁵ In 1865 a new junior department was established at the College, housed in a new wing added to the south side of the College.⁸⁶ Barry also turned his attention to the modernisation of the accommodation for boarders. Until that time there were no purpose-built boarding houses, and house-masters had accommodated between 30 and 40 boys in large houses throughout the town. The College Boarding House Company was formed and was responsible for building four new houses, while another four private houses were built or enlarged at the same time.⁸⁷ In 1865 there were 695 boys enrolled at the College, of whom 460 were boarders, taught by 40 members of staff.⁸⁸ The College's facilities continued to expand during the later 19th century, with the erection of a museum in 1870, of workshops for training in practical skills such as carpentry and blacksmithing in 1879, and the addition of a large chemistry laboratory and science classrooms in 1884.⁸⁹

As at other Victorian public schools, sport came to play an important role in the life of the College, with cricket, rugby and athletics all prominent. A boat club was also founded in 1859, despite the lack of a suitable river in Cheltenham, its members travelling by train to Tewkesbury to practise.⁹⁰ A gymnasium was built in 1864, to replace the one converted into the Big Modern in 1850, the Leckhampton sanatorium was acquired in 1867, and swimming baths were built in 1879.⁹¹ A rifle corps was founded at the College in 1862, later changed to an engineer corps in 1889.⁹² The prominence of the modern department and military ethos of the school was reflected in the College's reputation for producing army and navy officers, with over 1,800 of the College's pupils having joined one of the armed services, principally the army, by 1890.⁹³ The College also enjoyed success in producing civil servants, in particular through the difficult Indian Civil Service Exam.⁹⁴ The College also engaged in mission work to the poorer parts of the town, establishing a technical school for poorer boys. The College was incorporated in 1894.⁹⁵

By the 1980s girls were being admitted to the sixth form. In the autumn of 1983 there were 525 boys, 25 sixth form girls and 268 junior school boys.⁹⁶ By 1998 the junior school had expanded to

⁸⁵ *Cheltenham College Register*, p. 4.

⁸⁶ *Cheltenham College Register*, p. 4.

⁸⁷ *Cheltenham College Register*, pp. 20–21.

⁸⁸ *Schools Inquiry Commission* vol. 15, pp. 524, 530.

⁸⁹ *Cheltenham College Register*, pp. 21–22.

⁹⁰ *Cheltenham College Register*, p. 7; *VCH Glos. II*, p. 432.

⁹¹ *Cheltenham College Register*, pp. 19–22.

⁹² *VCH Glos. II*, p. 432.

⁹³ *Cheltenham College Register*, p. 7.

⁹⁴ 57 & 58 Vict. ciii, Cheltenham College Act, 1894.

⁹⁵ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 432.

⁹⁶ *The Times*, 13 Sept. 1983.

include girls and had 395 pupils.⁹⁷ In 2008 the college had around 600 pupils aged 13 to 18, of whom 40% were girls and two-thirds boarders.⁹⁸ The college also had a pre-prep school (3-7) and prep school (7-13).⁹⁹

Cheltenham Ladies' College

The demand for adequate educational provision for the daughters of Cheltenham well-to-do residents resulted in the founding of the Ladies' College in 1853.¹⁰⁰ The school initially had 82 pupils and 10 teachers, under the direction of Mrs Proctor, the first principal, and was based at Cambray House, near the high street.¹⁰¹ Dorothea Beale was appointed principal of the College in 1858, a post she would continue to hold until her death in 1906. During her long career she would not only transform the College, but she also had a profound impact upon education nationally.¹⁰² At her appointment the College was struggling, with a falling roll and declining revenues, but Beale's reorganisation of the school's finances in 1860 secured its future. The premises at Cambray were enlarged to better accommodate the growing number of pupils, and Fauconberg House in Bays Hill was purchased as a boarding house.¹⁰³

The College had been founded on the principle that the education of its pupils should not sacrifice learning to the promotion of domestic accomplishments. From the beginning it was intended that pupils should undertake external examinations. Nevertheless, Beale's opinions on the education of girls were more advanced than the parents of her pupils, and she was forced to adapt her curriculum to their demands. The teaching of science has to be 'smuggled' into the classroom through the teaching of natural geography, and she was unable to introduce mathematics into the curriculum until 1868. Beale disapproved of the teaching of Latin to girls, preferring instead to teach German.

The College moved to new purpose-built facilities next to Fauconberg House in 1872.¹⁰⁴ These premises were soon outgrown, and the school building were expanded to accommodate the growing number of girls in 1873, with a new kindergarten opened in 1876.¹⁰⁵ A proprietary school in all but name since its founding, the College was formally incorporated in 1880.¹⁰⁶ A constitution was adopted creating a governing body of 24 members, comprising twelve men and six women to be elected by the shareholders, and six others to be appointed for six-year terms by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, the Hebdomadal Council of the University of Oxford, the Council of the

⁹⁷ *The Times*, 23 Feb. 1998.

⁹⁸ *Daily Telegraph*, 25 Sep. 2008.

⁹⁹ *The Times*, 29 Sep. 2011.

¹⁰⁰ Cheltenham Ladies' College Archives, School Council Minutes, 30 Sep. 1853.

¹⁰¹ Cheltenham Ladies' College Archives, School Council Minutes, 1 Nov. 1853.

¹⁰² *ODNB*, No. 30655.

¹⁰³ *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 11 July 1871.

¹⁰⁴ *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 24 Sep. 1872.

¹⁰⁵ *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 20 May 1876.

¹⁰⁶ *VCH Glos. II*, 434.

Senate of the University of Cambridge, the Senate of the University of London, the principal and the teachers of the school.¹⁰⁷ There were 501 pupils enrolled in 1880, including 32 in the kindergarten, accommodated in ten boarding houses, and these were subsequently added to in the following decade. Cambray House, the school's original premises, was acquired by Beale in 1889 and converted into a preparatory school and boarding house.¹⁰⁸ Music and art wings had been added to the school in 1882, and a library, a museum, and a new residence for the principal were completed in 1894.¹⁰⁹ The numbers at the school had risen to over 800 by 1894, of whom 500 were boarders, and a staff of 50;¹¹⁰ by 1902 there were 1,014 girls enrolled at the school.¹¹¹

Concerned by the lack of adequate teachers, in 1876 Beale founded a separate boarding house for pupil teachers who were unable to afford the College's fees. Many of the College's future teachers would be recruited from among their numbers, and in 1885 the house was reconstituted as St Hilda's College, Cheltenham. In 1893 Beale founded St Hilda's Hall in Oxford,¹¹² originally with the intention of providing accommodation for pupils and staff of the Ladies' College who wanted to spend a year undertaking research or reading without taking examinations, but these intentions were soon disregarded. In 1901 St Hilda's college in Cheltenham was amalgamated with St Hilda's Hall in Oxford under the name of St Hilda's Incorporated College.¹¹³

After a tenure as principal of 48 years, during which she had transformed both the College and the education of girls and women in the country, Dorothea Beale died in 1906.¹¹⁴ The school was awarded a royal charter in 1935.¹¹⁵ The school caters for around 850 pupils.¹¹⁶

Dean Close School

Founded in 1886, the school was named to commemorate Francis Close, Dean of Carlisle and former perpetual curate of Cheltenham. Its early success was in part due to the disruption at the Grammar School, the temporary relocation of which during its rebuilding coincided with the first two years of existence of the Dean Close School.¹¹⁷ By the end of the first year there were 70 boys enrolled at the

¹⁰⁷ *VCH Glos. II*, 434.

¹⁰⁸ *VCH Glos. II*, 434.

¹⁰⁹ *Gloucester Citizen*, 9 Mar. 1897.

¹¹⁰ *Kelly's Directory* (1894), p. 67.

¹¹¹ *VCH Glos. II*, 434.

¹¹² *VCH Glos. II*, 434.

¹¹³ *VCH Glos. II*, 434.

¹¹⁴ *ODNB*, No. 30655.

¹¹⁵ *Gloucester Citizen*, 25 March 1935.

¹¹⁶ *The Times*, 18 Sept. 1985; *The Stage*, 18 May 2000.

¹¹⁷ *VCH Glos. II*, 430.

school, which had risen to 200 by the 1890s.¹¹⁸ The first headmaster, William Herman Flecker, was invited to join the Headmasters' Conference in 1896.

The school was temporarily relocated to Monkton Combe School in 1939 after the buildings were requisitioned by the Home Office on the outbreak of the Second World War, but the buildings were restored to the school in the following year. In 1949 Dean Close Junior School opened as a separate preparatory school.¹¹⁹ In 1954 there were 231 pupils in the senior school and 202 juniors.¹²⁰ In the 1960s the junior school had 130 boarders and 100 day boys.¹²¹ The first girl was admitted to the school in 1968.¹²²

Elementary Education before 1902

As a small market town, educational provision at the start of the 18th century was limited. The Tudor grammar school provided education for boys of the locality with scholarly ambitions. As the reputation of Cheltenham as a spa increased, a number of other schools were founded in the town to cater for the needs of genteel families lodging in the town whilst they visited the spa. In 1763 Samuel Wells maintained an English school in the town, and was apparently seeking to appoint a teacher of Latin in order to compete with the grammar school. The president of Corpus Christi enlisted the assistance of the bishop of Gloucester in order to have the school closed.¹²³ There were boarding schools for genteel boys and girls in Cheltenham by 1781, which could also take in day pupils.¹²⁴

Educational Charities

By his will of 1683 George Townsend left the manor of Wormington, land in Winchcombe and a portion of the tithes in Guiting Power (all in Gloucestershire) in trust to support the teaching of poor children in four towns, one of which was Cheltenham, and for apprenticing five poor boys, of whom one was to be from Cheltenham.¹²⁵ By the terms of Townsend's will the children were to be taught in the mornings and afternoons of every day except church holy days and festivals, 'to avoid their being offensive at home or elsewhere'. The schools were each to receive £4 a year, to support the teacher and for the purchase of books, and £25 was to be set aside to bind the five apprentices. From c.1723 the charity was paying £20 a year to support the charity school in Cheltenham,¹²⁶ and it continued to function into the 19th century.¹²⁷ George Townsend also left the manor and tithes of Little Aston in

¹¹⁸ *Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette*, 25 July 1895.

¹¹⁹ Revd. R. F. McNeile, *A History of Dean Close School* (Shrewsbury, 1966), 73.

¹²⁰ *Ibid*, 94.

¹²¹ *Ibid*, 75.

¹²² *Birmingham Daily Post*, 30 Apr. 1968.

¹²³ Bell, *Tudor Foundation*, 86–88.

¹²⁴ Butler, *Cheltenham Guide*, 28.

¹²⁵ GA, D855/M70; Rudder, *Glos.*, 337; Goding, *Cheltenham*, 416–18.

¹²⁶ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1; Goding, *Cheltenham*, 416.

¹²⁷ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1; Goding, *Cheltenham*, 418.

Cold Aston parish to Pembroke College, Oxford, to support eight eight-year scholarships at the college, of which two were to be for pupils from Cheltenham Grammar School.¹²⁸ Each of the students was to have one-eighth of the value of the estate, which was worth £80 in 1683.¹²⁹ The students were expected to devote themselves to the study of divinity for the second half of their studies, and Townsend added livings in Buckinghamshire, Essex and Middlesex to encourage this. The scholarships were still being awarded as late as 1887.¹³⁰

In 1704 Revd William Stanesly left an estate in Badgeworth in trust for the binding of the children of poor day labourers as apprentices. The trustees, who were to include the minister of Cheltenham, were to pay £5 and £3 respectively to the parishes of Badgeworth and Churchdown, with the residue of the profits, said in 1779 to be £6, to be used for the poor of Cheltenham.¹³¹

In 1727 Giles Cox vested a piece of land called Picked Oakley in trustees, to pay £4 a year towards the teaching and apprenticing of poor boys.¹³² In 1863 the then lessee, W.J. Agg, was paying £20 every five years to apprentice a boy from Cheltenham.

In 1900 John Alexander Hay left £5,000 to the Ladies' College to found Hay exhibitions or scholarships at St Hilda's Hall, Oxford.¹³³

Cheltenham Charity School

There was an 'English school' in the town in 1670,¹³⁴ and one Wright was noted as a schoolmaster in Cheltenham in 1677.¹³⁵ This may refer to the school that George Townsend was later said to have founded when he left money in his will for the teaching of poor boys.¹³⁶

In 1713 41 parishioners subscribed a total of £39 4s. towards the erecting and maintaining of a charity school within the town.¹³⁷ In 1716 the master was ordered to teach twelve boys. By her will of 1721, Dorothy, Lady Capel, left an estate in Kent in trust to support twelve charity schools, of which Cheltenham was one. In the first two decades the payment from the charity to the school was usually c.£8 a year.¹³⁸ By 1723 the school was also receiving £20 a year from the Townsend charity.¹³⁹

¹²⁸ GA, D855/M70; Goding, *Cheltenham*, 412–16; VCH *Glos.* II, 354–5; IX, 13.

¹²⁹ Goding, *Cheltenham*, 412.

¹³⁰ Goding, *Cheltenham*, 412, 415; VCH *Glos.* II, 355.

¹³¹ GA, P78/1 CW 3/4; Rudder, *Glos.*, 337.

¹³² GA, D2132/1; P78/1 CW 3/4.

¹³³ *The Times*, 14 Dec. 1900.

¹³⁴ GA, GDR/208, 280; Hockaday Abs., cxlviii.

¹³⁵ GA, GDR/220, f. 43v.

¹³⁶ Rudder, *Glos.*, 337.

¹³⁷ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1.

¹³⁸ Herts. ALS, D/EB2043/Q1.

¹³⁹ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1. Lady Capel was the widow of Henry Capel, Tewkesbury's post-Restoration MP.

The first master, Peter Maurice, was paid a salary of £15, raised to £20 for his successor, Dr Ballinger, in 1721. However, when John Spurling was appointed in 1728, it was at a salary of £12, and it remained at this level until 1788. In addition to supporting a master and purchasing teaching materials, the foundation also made payments for the clothing of 20 boys. Payments for the rent of a house in the high street are recorded until 1729, but thereafter the school was kept in a small room over the north porch of the parish church. In 1752 there were 21 boys on the register, but this number declined over subsequent years, and it was only through a concerted effort in the late 18th century that the school did not cease to exist. The later history of this school will be considered elsewhere.¹⁴⁰

The school received an annual payment from the trustees of Lady Capel's charity, comprising one-twelfth of an estate bequeathed by Lady Dorothy Capel in 1721.¹⁴¹ From 1723 the school also received £20 a year from Townsend's charity.¹⁴² For an annual subscription of 5s., townspeople might either nominate a pupil or take part in the general management of the school.¹⁴³ The school master was paid a salary of £12 until William Garn was appointed in 1788 with a salary of £15.¹⁴⁴ From c. 1730 the school was held in the small room over the north porch of the parish church. In 1752 there were 21 boys on the register, but this had fallen to 10 in 1798, when the deaths of a number of subscribers left the school in danger of closing. New subscribers were found, and there were 29 boys on the register in 1812.¹⁴⁵ Despite this, the early 19th century was a difficult period for the school. The death of Revd John Delabere in 1810 left the school without a treasurer for eight years, during which time the stock which had been accumulating for the building of a new schoolroom for the charity school was appropriated for the building of the National School in Bath Road. During this period, the school had continued to receive donations from Lady Capel's charity and from the Townsend trustees, and the latter had thought that they had the right to manage the school. In 1819 there were 50 boys educated in the school.¹⁴⁶

An investigation by the vestry in 1844 found that the payment of subscriptions had largely fallen into abeyance in c. 1831, but that the average income from Lady Capel's Charity should amount to £40 a year, to which was still added £20 a year from Townsend's charity. The vestry also condemned the use of the room over the porch as 'indecorous, a nuisance to the immediate residents, and injurious to the health of the children', and recommended the immediate removal of the school to more appropriate facilities.¹⁴⁷ A report of the school trustees in 1844 described the room above the north porch as small, dilapidated, and poorly lit, but well ventilated thanks to the broken windows. The school had once owned a well-stocked library, but this had been lost, and was not the same as the

¹⁴⁰ *VCH Glos. XV* (forthcoming).

¹⁴¹ TNA, PROB 11/580/271; HALS, D/EB2043/Q1.

¹⁴² See below, charities.

¹⁴³ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 9 Apr. 1844.

¹⁴⁴ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1.

¹⁴⁵ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1.

¹⁴⁶ *Digest of Returns on the Education of the Poor*, 1819 (224), p. 294.

¹⁴⁷ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 9 Apr. 1844.

lending library that was kept in the vestry of the church. The master, John Garn, who had succeeded his brother William in 1797, was now too elderly to teach, and the place was supplied by his son, also William. There were 39 boys in the school, aged between 7 and 14, who were taught reading writing and arithmetic, as well as psalms and Bible readings. The boys were allowed Saturday off, in order to allow Garn, who was paid 9s. by his father and an extra 5s. a week by the trustees, to earn an extra income through his trade as a tailor. There was only one subscriber still paying a contribution and the charity was reported to be almost dormant.¹⁴⁸

Through the efforts of Revd Francis Close, the charity was reinvigorated, and a new list of fifty subscribers was quickly built up, who were to have the management of the school.¹⁴⁹ In 1845 a plot of land in Devonshire Street was leased by the trustees of the school from the Pate's Charity estates, upon which a new schoolhouse for the charity was to be built.¹⁵⁰ Garn's salary was raised to 52 guineas a year, and this rose to £70 a year in 1848, when C. H. Smith was appointed schoolmaster.¹⁵¹

School of Industry

A charitable school of industry was founded in 1806 to instruct poor girls in domestic skills, such as making bread, cheese and butter, milking, cooking, spinning, sewing, and making clothes, which were then sold to the poor at a reduced price. The school was located on Winchcombe Street, near the turnpike on the Prestbury Road. The charity served as an asylum for orphans, a house of refuge, and a lying-in charity for married women. Up to 24 girls were boarded at the school, who were required to wear the uniform of the charity. The school was supported by charitable donations and subscriptions, and an annual ball.¹⁵² There were 40 girls registered at the school in 1819.¹⁵³ By 1832 it had become solely an orphanage for girls aged between 8 and 15, with 27 residents in 1832.¹⁵⁴ New premises were erected for the orphanage in Winchcombe Street in 1833.¹⁵⁵

Other Schools

Sunday schools were opened in Cheltenham in 1787, funded through a subscription of the inhabitants and visitors to the spa.¹⁵⁶ John Garn, the master of the charity school, was also master of the Sunday schools, teaching the boys in his house and receiving £5 a year through an annual sermon to support the school.¹⁵⁷ A National School was founded in 1816, the pupils meeting in the

¹⁴⁸ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1.

¹⁴⁹ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1.

¹⁵⁰ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 25 Mar. 1845.

¹⁵¹ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1/1.

¹⁵² Williams, *New Guide to Cheltenham* (1825), 81–85.

¹⁵³ *Digest of Returns on the Education of the Poor*, 1819 (224), p. 294.

¹⁵⁴ Davies, *Stranger's Guide to Cheltenham* (1832), pp. 97–98.

¹⁵⁵ Goding, *History of Cheltenham*, 444.

¹⁵⁶ Moreau, *Tour to Cheltenham Spa* (1788), 26.

¹⁵⁷ GA, P78/1 SC 1/1.

town hall at first.¹⁵⁸ A new school house was built on the Bath Road and opened in 1817,¹⁵⁹ appropriating for the project £700 of stock that had been accumulating for the old charity school.¹⁶⁰ The National Society made a grant of £100 towards the repayment of the mortgage.¹⁶¹

In 1819 there were eight schools in the parish, including the grammar school, the old charity school, and the School of Industry.¹⁶² The newly established National School had 100 boys and 99 girls attending the school daily, and another 16 Sunday pupils.¹⁶³ A Methodist school taught 90 boys and 89 girls, most of whom attended only on Sundays, and an Independent school taught 95 boys and 85 girls, the majority attending the school daily.¹⁶⁴ There was also Moland's school, attended by 30 girls, and a school for 40 adults, presumably a night school, in the parish in 1819.¹⁶⁵ A British School was established in the town in 1820,¹⁶⁶ presumably replacing the earlier schools of the Methodists and Independents, and had 170 boys registered by 1825.¹⁶⁷ A Catholic school was established in 1827.¹⁶⁸

An infant school was established in Naunton in 1826, and two more were established in St James' Square and at Alstone by 1833. In 1833 the three infant schools were attended by a total of c. 400 pupils of both sexes them daily. There were also thirty-six junior schools, and thirteen Sunday schools operating in the parish. The National School, attended by 294 pupils, was supplemented by a branch National School, attended by a further 216 pupils. The British School educated 290 boys, whilst the Catholic school was attended by 80 pupils of both sexes. A fifth school, run by Miss Leacock and Mr Cooper, had 55 pupils, the majority of whom were girls. The remaining twenty-nine private daily schools, including twelve boarding schools, were of highly variable quality, and were estimated to educate a total of at least 750 children between the ages of three and seventeen.¹⁶⁹ Five of the Sunday schools, including one for adults, were attached to the Church of England, three were for Methodists, two were associated with the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, one was Baptist, one Independent, and one was attached to Cheltenham Chapel.¹⁷⁰

¹⁵⁸ Williams, *New Guide to Cheltenham* (1825), pp. 89–90.

¹⁵⁹ Williams, *New Guide to Cheltenham* (1825), p. 90.

¹⁶⁰ GA, D245/III/57.

¹⁶¹ Williams, *New Guide to Cheltenham* (1825), p. 91.

¹⁶² For these schools, see below.

¹⁶³ *Digest of Returns on the Education of the Poor*, 1819 (224), p. 294.

¹⁶⁴ *Digest of Returns on the Education of the Poor*, 1819 (224), p. 294.

¹⁶⁵ *Digest of Returns on the Education of the Poor*, 1819 (224), p. 294.

¹⁶⁶ *Abstract of Educational Returns 1833*, 1835, xli, p. 310.

¹⁶⁷ *20th Report of the British and Foreign School Society* (London, 1825), 130.

¹⁶⁸ *Abstract of Educational Returns 1833*, 1835, xli, p. 310.

¹⁶⁹ *Abstract of Educational Returns 1833*, 1835, xli, p. 310.

¹⁷⁰ *Abstract of Educational Returns 1833*, 1835, xli, p. 310.

A new National School attached to Trinity church was completed in 1835.¹⁷¹ A Sunday school had been established in St Paul's by the minister in 1831, and by 1833 it was attended by c. 265 pupils.¹⁷² In 1835 the incumbent of St Paul's abolished the afternoon service on Sundays in order to use the church for his Sunday school, to the consternation of the school management committee, who were anxious to enforce the rule that pupils must attend worship twice on Sundays. The committee were concerned that if they were forced to abandon the rule, it would encourage the parents of National School pupils to take their children to nonconformist services instead. The incumbent agreed to resume the afternoon services, but observed that many of the children of St Paul's would benefit more from the Sunday school, not having the opportunity to attend a school during the week.¹⁷³ A new National School was built on the west side of St Paul's St North in 1836.¹⁷⁴ A girl's school was established in St Paul's in 1842.¹⁷⁵

Attendance at the British School had apparently fallen heavily during the 1840s, but was reported in 1848 to have recently risen again to 182.¹⁷⁶ At that time the curriculum consisted of grammar, arithmetic, history, geography, and important scriptural truths. By 1848 a British school for girls had also been established, but it was reported that attendance was poor.¹⁷⁷

By 1847 there were five infant schools in the town, at Naunton, St James' Square, St Peter's, Alstone, and Fairview, and a sixth school was being built in St Paul's.¹⁷⁸ The master and mistress of the central school at St James' Square had passed teaching exams and were paid £80 a year; three of the other schools employed masters and mistresses, paying between £66 and £73 a year, whilst Alstone employed a solitary mistress at £35 a year. Pupil teachers were employed in all five schools. The schools were supported by subscriptions, donations at three of the parish churches, and weekly payments by the parents, totalling c. £575 in 1847.¹⁷⁹

In 1849 a decision was taken to make the congregation of each church responsible for its local schools as soon as the outstanding debts of the mortgages for the schools at Bath Road and St Paul's were cleared.¹⁸⁰ The wealthier districts of the town were reminded of the needs of the poorer districts, especially that of St Peter's, which was unable to support even a single school from its own resources.¹⁸¹

¹⁷¹ GA, D2025/Box 138/Bundle 1, Minutes of St Luke's National School Committee, 28 Nov. 1835.

¹⁷² *Abstract of Educational Returns 1833, 1835*, xli, p. 310.

¹⁷³ GA, D2025/Box 138/Bundle 1, Minutes of St Luke's National School Committee, 24 Feb. 1835.

¹⁷⁴ GA, D245/III/57; D2025/Box 138/Bundle 1, 21 Mar. 1836.

¹⁷⁵ GA, D2025/Box 138/Bundle 1, Minutes of St Luke's National School Committee, 7 Feb. 1842.

¹⁷⁶ GA, D1950/Z6.

¹⁷⁷ GA, D1950/Z6.

¹⁷⁸ GA, D1950/Z6.

¹⁷⁹ GA, D1950/Z6.

¹⁸⁰ GA, D2025/Box 138/Bundle 1, Minutes of St Luke's National School Committee, 27 Nov. 1849.

¹⁸¹ GA, D2025/Box 138/Bundle 1, Minutes of St Luke's National School Committee, 4 Dec. 1849.

Following the division of the parish into the new school districts, the several infant schools of the parish were attached to the respective church of its district. This left the congregation of the parish church responsible for two infant schools and three junior schools, which created anxiety within the congregation. In 1851 it was reported that the high cost of the rent and mortgage interest on the two infant school rooms, and the high rent of the master's house, were causing difficulties in raising funds to support these schools. A new church was then under construction in Bath Road which it was anticipated would reduce the unequal burden laid upon the congregation of the parish church. In 1851 it was reported that there were a total of 870 pupils registered at the five infant schools of the parish, and the number attending the two schools at St James' Square and Naunton had increased by 40 in the previous year.¹⁸²

A total of 82 day schools were recorded in Cheltenham in the 1851 census, of which 23 were public and 59 private schools.¹⁸³ The public schools included the ancient grammar school, a school at the workhouse, a ragged school, a school for orphans, and nineteen schools managed by religious organisations. Of these, there were 13 Church of England schools, one nondenominational British school, four schools for non-conformists, and one school for Roman Catholics. Due to the strength of evangelical influence within the town only two Anglican parish churches were associated with the National Society, considered by the dominant Revd Francis Close too heavily influenced by Tractarianism. For the non-conformists, there were two schools for Wesleyan Methodists, and one each for Independents and for Unitarians. In total, 4,711 children – 2,756 boys and 1,955 girls – were educated in the day schools of Cheltenham, more than two-thirds of whom in the public schools. These day schools were supplemented by 22 Sunday schools, the diversity of which again reveals the strength of non-conformity in mid 19th-century Cheltenham: as well as seven Sunday schools connected to the Church of England, there were also three each for Independents and Wesleyan Methodists, two each for Baptists, the Wesleyan Methodist Association, and the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, and one each for Unitarians, and Christian Brethren. There was also one Sunday school for Roman Catholics. Together they provided education for 1,385 boys and 1,753 girls, a total of 3,138 children.¹⁸⁴

The need for better trained teachers and concerned at the spread of high church Tractarianism had also led to the foundation of two teaching colleges and a practising school for the training of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses.¹⁸⁵ In 1856 there were two trade schools, one for boys and another for girls, which were both heavily criticised by the inspector of schools for the low level of attainment in elementary subjects.¹⁸⁶ The increased demand for education in Cheltenham, particularly for the girls of tradesmen, led to the establishment of a juvenile girls' school in St James Square in 1853. This quickly outgrew the accommodation there, and the school was moved to the vacant former workhouse in Knapp Lane in 1855.¹⁸⁷ A separate school of Instruction in Domestic

¹⁸² GA, D1950/Z6.

¹⁸³ *1851 Census of Education*, p. 127.

¹⁸⁴ *1851 Census of Education*, p. 139.

¹⁸⁵ See below, University of Gloucestershire and its predecessors..

¹⁸⁶ *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, 1856–57*, pp. 270–71.

Duties was built adjacent to the girl's school in 1858, and a parish industrial school was opened at a similar time.¹⁸⁸ The British Schools moved to new premises in Dunalley Street in 1859.¹⁸⁹

In 1859 the curriculum at the parish boys' school consisted of grammar, numbers, arithmetic, and Euclidian geometry.¹⁹⁰ In 1861 the school comprised six classes taught by a master, two pupil teachers and two paid monitors.¹⁹¹ The boys' school in Devonshire Street was considered one of the best elementary schools in the district in 1868, when the children were taught, besides the standard subjects, geography, grammar, drawing, music and scripture, and it was proposed to teach chemistry. The high attendance at the school was causing it to become overcrowded, however, and enlargement was considered an urgent necessity.¹⁹²

By 1870 there were seventeen public schools, one private school, and ten adventure schools in existence in Cheltenham; those public schools which made a return provided education for 2,129 boys and 1,908 girls.¹⁹³ The diversity of religious opinion and concerns about the costs of education ensured that no school board was ever elected in Cheltenham. Consequently education remained for the rest of the century under the authority of a school attendance committee of the borough council, appointed under the terms of the 1876 Elementary Education Act. There was an industrial school for blind children in Winchcomb Street in 1878.¹⁹⁴

The Town and College Industrial School was founded in 1883 as part of Cheltenham College's mission to the poorer districts of the town.¹⁹⁵ Evening classes were conducted most nights of the week, boys from the College chopped wood for the poor, and lodging was provided for 'respectable boys' with bad or no homes. Boys who lodged at the school were also given assistance in finding work or emigrating. A new National School in Lower Alstone was opened for St Mark's parish in 1861 for 120 pupils with an infant school for 75 pupils following in 1873. In 1887 a new school in Roman Road was built to accommodate the junior boys.¹⁹⁶

Schools of art and science were established in the Clarence Street Buildings, adjoining the Free Library, comprising purpose-built classrooms, lecture halls, art rooms, and laboratories for physics and chemistry.¹⁹⁷ Following the 1890 Local Taxation Act, the corporation were able to grant funds for

¹⁸⁷ GA, P78/1 VE 2/3, 21 Apr. 1855; P78/1 SC 1/4/2.

¹⁸⁸ GA, P78/1 SC 1/4/1.

¹⁸⁹ *Cheltenham Journal*, 22 Jan. 1859.

¹⁹⁰ GA, P78/1 SC 1/4/2.

¹⁹¹ GA, P78/1 SC 1/4/2.

¹⁹² GA, P78/1 SC 1/4/1.

¹⁹³ *1871 Return of Elementary Education*, pp. 134–35.

¹⁹⁴ GA, CBR C2/1/1/1, p. 107.

¹⁹⁵ *Cheltenham College Registers*, p. 23.

¹⁹⁶ *Kelly's Directory* 1897, p. 69; GA, P78/8.

¹⁹⁷ *Kelly's Directory* (1894), p. 61.

the provision of technical and scientific education within the borough. A portion of this was given to support science education at the grammar school, a portion to support the school of art, and the remainder was granted to the school of science, partly to support its existing range of evening classes for adults, and partly to introduce a day-school for boys.¹⁹⁸ Although the day school was not a success, its low fees proved problematic for the grammar school. In 1894 an agreement was reached whereby the grammar school would occupy and maintain the facilities of the school of science, and set up a distinct ‘modern side’ in the grammar school, to which would be admitted any pupil of the school of science.¹⁹⁹ The evening classes for adults were maintained at the school of science, and in 1900 the grammar school also became responsible for the school of art.²⁰⁰ A new purpose-built facility was built near the grammar school in 1906 which would accommodate the teaching of science and art for pupils at the school of science and technology and the school of art, as well as pupils at the boys’ and girls’ grammar schools.²⁰¹

By 1894 the school facilities in Cheltenham were considered outdated and unsuitable for modern requirements. Many of these schools had been built 50 years earlier, when Cheltenham had been at the forefront of educational provision for the working classes, when the principal consideration had been the ability to accommodate large numbers of children into a single space. Besides the unsuitability of the classrooms, the inspector of schools also highlighted the inadequate ventilation and lighting in many of Cheltenham’s schools.²⁰²

Primary and Secondary Education since 1900

A large county school was opened on the former site of Six Chimneys Farm on Gloucester Road and another next to Naunton Park in 1907.²⁰³ As a consequence, several existing schools either closed or were merged. Those which closed included the Bethesda Wesleyan and Baker Street British schools.²⁰⁴ The Gloucester Road county school was expanded in 1919 to become a central school. Additions included a handicraft block, science and art rooms, an expanded domestic science block, and four new classrooms.²⁰⁵ Pupils were to attend the school for four years, and study subjects including English, history, geography, French, mathematics, science, art, shorthand, book keeping, type-writing, singing, and scripture. A playing field was also attached to the school, enabling physical education and the formation of sports teams for football, cricket, and tennis. The school was expected to accommodate over 500 pupils. In 1925 there were 317 boys and 297 girls attending the

¹⁹⁸ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 429.

¹⁹⁹ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 429.

²⁰⁰ *VCH Glos. II*, p. 429.

²⁰¹ *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 17 Mar. 1906, p. 8.

²⁰² *Report of the Committee of Council on Education, 1893–94*, p. 32.

²⁰³ *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 31 Aug. 1907, p. 5.

²⁰⁴ *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 3 Aug. 1907, p. 2.

²⁰⁵ *Cheltenham Chronicle*, 20 Nov. 1920, p. 2.

two Parish Church schools, which employed a total of 16 teachers.²⁰⁶ Lady Capel payments continued to be made until 1923.²⁰⁷

Pate's Grammar School for Girls opened in North Street in 1905²⁰⁸, moving to Albert Road in 1939.²⁰⁹ Alternative sites for the boys' grammar school were being actively considered from 1929.²¹⁰ In 1929 the All Saints girls' and boys' schools were amalgamated to create a mixed senior school.²¹¹ Naunton Park boys' secondary school opened in 1930.²¹² There was a general reorganisation of the town's existing schools in 1934²¹³, which included the opening of Christ Church Senior Girls.²¹⁴ St Gregory's Roman Catholic primary school moved to Knapp Road in 1936.²¹⁵ The development of the Whaddon estate in the 1930s led to the opening of a primary school in 1938, although there was immediate controversy about whether the capacity of the school was sufficient.²¹⁶ Whaddon senior school opened in 1941.²¹⁷ In 1938 St John's school was seriously damaged by fire.²¹⁸

Cheltenham Borough Council was granted 'excepted district' status under the Education Act 1944 despite opposition from Gloucestershire County Council.²¹⁹ The rapid expansion of Cheltenham during and in the immediate aftermath of the war created a need for new schools. In 1947 the inadequacy of provision for primary children in Whaddon, exacerbated by the erection of pre-fabs in the area, was addressed by moving the senior school to Oakley and using the vacated premises for juniors and infants.²²⁰ A primary school for the Lynworth estate opened in January 1953.²²¹ Despite opposition from the county council on the grounds that the school was outside the borough limits, it was administered by the borough council.²²² During the 1950s St Mark's primary school was divided

²⁰⁶ GA, P78/1 SC 1/4/1.

²⁰⁷ GA, P78/1 SC 1/4/1.

²⁰⁸ Cheltenham Chronicle, 23 Dec. 1905; GA, P11.6GS

²⁰⁹ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 16 Sept. 1939.

²¹⁰ GA, CBR/C2/1/2/27, Housing Committee Minutes, 10 Dec. 1929.

²¹¹ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/18.

²¹² GA, SM78/9.

²¹³ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 5 Jan. 1934.

²¹⁴ GA, S78/11/5

²¹⁵ GA, D5587/box 95529; K874/6; K428/1/9.

²¹⁶ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 20, 25 & 27 Aug. 1938.

²¹⁷ GA, S78/17.

²¹⁸ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 26 Mar. 1938.

²¹⁹ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/23, 17 Jan. 1945

²²⁰ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/24, 15 Jan. 1947; GA, SM 78/28/MI, p. 56.

²²¹ SM 78/28/M2; GCC/COU/1/1/26, 22 Apr. 1953.

²²² GA, GCC/COU/1/1/26, 16 Jul. & 29 Oct. 1952

into an infant school on the Roman Road site, renamed Red Roofs, and a separate junior school in Hatherley Lane.²²³ In 1957 the County Council approved a recommendation from Cheltenham Education Committee for a joint managing body for Whaddon and Lynworth County Primary Schools.²²⁴ As the Hester's Way development progressed primary schools were provided at Monkscroft on Princess Elizabeth Way and Rowanfield on Alstone Lane.²²⁵

Until September 1949 technical education was provided by the junior department of the North Gloucestershire Technical College, after which the Gloucester Road school became Cheltenham Technical High²²⁶. In 1951 the practising school attached to the training college closed.²²⁷ It had 228 boys on its roll, who transferred to the Swindon Road Boys school,²²⁸ which was subsequently divided to form Elmfield Secondary Modern, Elmfield Junior and Elmfield Infants.²²⁹ The girls went to Christ Church Girls' school.²³⁰ As the Hester's Way estate was developed Monkscroft County Secondary School was opened on Princess Elizabeth Way in 1956,²³¹ followed by Arle Secondary Modern on Howell Road in 1959.²³²

Catholic parents whose children qualified for selective school places could seek a county council funded place for them in the independent Whitefriars School or Charlton Park Convent School in Charlton Kings.²³³ In 1958 the county council agreed to acquire a site in Arle by compulsory purchase and convey it to trustees to provide a grant aided secondary school for the town's growing Roman Catholic population.²³⁴ St Benedict's College subsequently opened in 1963.²³⁵

In the early 1950s it was intended that the grammar school would move to a new site in Warden Hill Road.²³⁶ The sale of Cheltenham Grammar's school playing field to the borough council for housing development led to the resignation of the headmaster Geoffrey Heawood in 1952, although the public enquiry requested by the Parents' Association exonerated the county councillors and

²²³ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/15.

²²⁴ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/27, 16 Jan. 1957

²²⁵ *Birmingham Daily Post*, 28 Oct. 1954; GA, SM78/21.

²²⁶ GA, SM78/2; GCC/COU/1/1/24, 13 Jul. 1949.

²²⁷ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/25, 17 Jan. 1951.

²²⁸ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/25, 31 Oct. 1951.

²²⁹ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/3/1.

²³⁰ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/26, 22 Apr. 1953.

²³¹ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/27, 25 Apr. 1956.

²³² GA, GCC/COU/1/1/28, 16 Jul. 1958; Chris Green, *The History of Hester's Way* Vol. 1 (1999).

²³³ GA, K1217/1.

²³⁴ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/28, 29 Oct. 1958.

²³⁵ GA, S78/31.

²³⁶ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/25, 18 Jul. 1951 & 16 Jan. 1952.

governors.²³⁷ The building of the new school as part of the Hester's Way development began in 1958²³⁸ and it opened in 1965.²³⁹

The expansion of Cheltenham in the post-war period led to fluctuating school rolls, reflecting variations in the age profile of the population and in the birth rate. By September 1955 Monkscroft primary had 330 pupils on the roll, which was 10 more than the official accommodation.²⁴⁰ In 1956 Whaddon primary, which inspectors noted suffered tough problems educationally and socially, had a roll of 245 infants and 326 juniors.²⁴¹ Between 1966 and 1971 the Whaddon primary roll remained around 550, but as the Priors Estate neared completion numbers increased to 578 June 1971.²⁴² An extra teacher and terrapin classroom were provided.²⁴³ Within two years numbers had returned to their previous level. Built to accommodate 320 children, Lynworth opened with 147 pupils and reached a peak of 365 in 1954, declining to 244 in 1962.²⁴⁴ In February 1964 the roll was 250, of whom 10 were children travelling to the school from Warden Hill.²⁴⁵ By June 1967 the roll had risen to 296 and continued its upward trend until reaching a peak of 373 in June 1972, after which it fell rapidly. Additional accommodation was provided by a terrapin and the use of the dining hall and library for teaching.²⁴⁶ In 1964 the Parish Church and St Paul's schools were amalgamated.²⁴⁷ By 1968 further infant and junior school had been provided for the Warden Hill²⁴⁸ and Hester's Way estates.²⁴⁹

In 1970 as Cheltenham converted to a comprehensive system the 11 existing secondary schools provided 5,370 places.²⁵⁰ In the subsequent decade there was a significant drop in pupil numbers, which necessitated further reorganisation with the LEA favouring a concentration on fewer, larger schools.²⁵¹ The Technical High School closed in 1972,²⁵² moving to a new site on Warden Hill Road to

²³⁷ GCC/COU/1/1/26, 16 July & 29 Oct. 1952 & 15 July 1953

²³⁸ GA, K1940.

²³⁹ David Aldred, 'Cheltenham Grammar School Fifty Years Ago', *CLHSJ* 31 (2015).

²⁴⁰ SM 78/28/M2, p. 16

²⁴¹ GA, SM 78/28/MI, insert.

²⁴² GA, SM 78/28/M2, p. 92

²⁴³ GA, SM 78/28/M2, p. 95

²⁴⁴ GA, SM 78/28/MI, insert.

²⁴⁵ GA, SM 78/28/M2, 32.

²⁴⁶ GA, SM 78/28/M2

²⁴⁷ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/11/4.

²⁴⁸ GA, K46/83; K863/54; K781/6.

²⁴⁹ GA, SM78/15.

²⁵⁰ Gloucestershire Education Committee, *A Guide to Secondary Schools in Gloucestershire 1970-1971*

²⁵¹ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 23 Oct. 1979.

become Bournside school.²⁵³ Christ Church Girls' and Elmfield were amalgamated in 1973 to become Christ Church with Elmfield.²⁵⁴ All Saints closed in 1978²⁵⁵ followed by Christ Church with Elmfield in 1981.²⁵⁶ In 1982 Naunton Park admitted only 12 children into its first year and was closed in 1984.²⁵⁷ Oakley closed in 1985.²⁵⁸ In 1986 the two Pate's grammar schools merged on the Princess Elizabeth Way site,²⁵⁹ while the new Pittville School was opened on the Albert Road site.²⁶⁰

The Arthur Dye primary school opened on Springbank Road in 1971.²⁶¹ The following year the development of the Benhall estate led to the building of a new infants school on Robert Burns Avenue²⁶², while St Mark's Church of England junior school was moved from Hatherley Lane to an adjacent site.²⁶³ A Roman Catholic primary school, St Thomas More's, opened in Lewis Road in 1975.²⁶⁴ In 1977 Elmfield infant school moved to a new building on Gardners Lane and became Cleeve View Infants.²⁶⁵ By the late 1970s the roll at the Warden Hill infant and junior schools had fallen to around 400 and it was decided to merge the two schools on the junior school site. As further development was expected in the area, the infant school premises were retained by the LEA and were re-occupied by the school in 1988.²⁶⁶ Red Roofs closed in 1975²⁶⁷ and the Parish Church with St Paul's in 1981.²⁶⁸ St James primary school moved from Great Norwood Street to new premises in Merestones Road in 1985.²⁶⁹ In 1988 there were 5,098 primary pupils spread across 5

²⁵² GA, SM78/2.

²⁵³ GA, K863/37.

²⁵⁴ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/20.

²⁵⁵ GA, K530/2/21; K1658/131.

²⁵⁶ GA, S78/13 & SM78/26.

²⁵⁷ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/22/3.

²⁵⁸ GA, S78/17.

²⁵⁹ GA, SP/78/8.

²⁶⁰ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/25/1; SP/78/25.

²⁶¹ GA, SM78/30.

²⁶² GA, K29/1, K410/11, K410/50, K786/56, K863/36, SM78/24.

²⁶³ GA, SP/78/31.

²⁶⁴ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 2 Feb. 2015.

²⁶⁵ GA, S78/22.

²⁶⁶ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/16/1.

²⁶⁷ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/15/3.

²⁶⁸ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/11/6.

²⁶⁹ GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/78/13/3; K1658/270.

infant, 5 junior and 13 primary schools, of which 5 were Church of England schools and 2 were Roman Catholic.²⁷⁰

By 1988 the secondary provision had been concentrated into 5 larger schools: Arle, Pate’s Grammar School, Bournside, St Benedicts and Pittville. Between them the schools had a roll of 4,732 pupils.²⁷¹ A decade later the secondary roll had fallen by 300 pupils.²⁷² In 2007 Christ College, the county’s first joint Catholic and Church of England school opened on the St Benedict’s school site.²⁷³ Following the closure of the troubled Kingsmead school in 2009,²⁷⁴ a new academy was built on the site. In 2011 Christ College closed and opened in the new buildings as All Saints academy.²⁷⁵ A strategic review of secondary school places in 2017, when the 4 existing schools provided 3,291 secondary places, anticipated that a further 750 places would be required in the period 2018 to 2023, requiring the provision of an additional school.²⁷⁶

In 1998 Elmfield Junior school was amalgamated with Cleeve View infants on the Gardners Road site as Gardners Road primary school,²⁷⁷ while Dunalley Street school moved to new premises in West Drive in 1999.²⁷⁸ Despite the lowering of the age of entry by a year the primary school roll had risen to only 5,365 by 1999.²⁷⁹ By 2006 the Monkscroft primary school roll had dropped to 86, with only 12 pupils entering reception.²⁸⁰ Despite a vigorous campaign to save the school, it closed in 2008.²⁸¹ By 2009 the primary school roll had dropped to 4,389,²⁸² leading to the merger of Whaddon and Lynworth as Oakwood primary, which moved into a newly built school on the Lynworth site in 2011.²⁸³ Arthur Dye primary converted to academy status as Springbank Primary Academy in 2011.²⁸⁴ In January 2018 there were 4,716 pupils across Cheltenham’s primary schools.²⁸⁵

²⁷⁰ GCC, *Education Services Directory 1988/89*, pp. 1-34.

²⁷¹ GCC, *Education Services Directory 1988/89*, pp. 35-44.

²⁷² GCC, *Education Services Directory 1999/2000*, pp. 45-51.

²⁷³ GA, S78/31.

²⁷⁴ GA, S78/29.

²⁷⁵ BBC News, 11 Mar. 2010. [Accessed 12 Oct. 2018].

²⁷⁶ GCC, *Strategic Review of Secondary Education Planning for Cheltenham* (Nov. 2017)

²⁷⁷ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 20 July 1999.

²⁷⁸ GA, *Western Daily Press*, 17 Nov. 2000.

²⁷⁹ GCC, *Education Services Directory 1999/2000*, pp. 9-44.

²⁸⁰ Gloucestershire School Organisation Committee Report, 25 April 2007, p. 3.

²⁸¹ GA, S78/18.

²⁸² GCC, *Education Services Directory 2009/2010*, pp. 6-54.

²⁸³ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 24 Dec. 2009 & 14 Jul. 2011.

²⁸⁴ Ofsted 137194, Report 14-15 June 2012.

Oakley Teacher Training College

In the autumn of 1945 it was proposed by the Ministry of Education that two emergency training colleges for intending teachers should be established in the redundant government buildings at Oakley Farm.²⁸⁶ The Oakley Training College for Men opened in June 1946, offering an intensive 48 week training course for ex-servicemen and war workers.²⁸⁷ Of the 250 students at the college in February 1947, 96% were from the armed services.²⁸⁸ The college closed in March 1951.²⁸⁹ The Oakley Training College for Women opened in the summer of 1948 offering a similar course and closed in May 1951.²⁹⁰

University of Gloucestershire and its predecessors

The University of Gloucestershire is the successor to a large number of separate institutions. The earliest of these is identified as the Mechanics' Institute, which opened in Albion Street in 1834 and provided evening lectures on a wide range of topics.²⁹¹ In 1845, concerned by the rising influence of the Oxford movement within the Church of England, Francis Close determined to establish a college for the training of evangelical teachers.²⁹² The training school 'commenced operations' in 1847²⁹³, although the foundation stone of the college building in Swindon Road was not laid until April 1849.²⁹⁴ A School of Art was subsequently established in 1852 and by 1857 was reported to have educated 1,350 students.²⁹⁵

The training school curriculum in 1851 included scripture, catechism, arithmetic, reading, grammar, etymology, geography, and history.²⁹⁶ There were 90 students in 1862,²⁹⁷ and still in 1894.²⁹⁸ Initially

²⁸⁵ Figure calculated from Gloucestershire County Council school information [<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/find-a-school/>].

²⁸⁶ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/23, 31 Oct. 1945

²⁸⁷ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 24 Jun. 1946

²⁸⁸ *Gloucester Citizen*, 22 Feb. 1947

²⁸⁹ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/25, 18 Apr. 1951

²⁹⁰ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 1 July 1948; GCC/COU/1/1/25, 18 Jul. 1951

²⁹¹ Owen Ashton, 'The Mechanics' Institute and Radical politics in Cheltenham Spa 1834-40', *CLHSJ* 2 (1984), pp. 25-30.

²⁹² GA, D573/28; F. Close, *the Pulpit: A sermon preached by the Revd Francis Close*, 12 May 1848, cited in Nigel Scotland, 'the College of St Paul and St Mary, Cheltenham', *The Churchman*, 103 (1989), 230.

²⁹³ *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 24 Jan. 1849.

²⁹⁴ GA, D573/28; *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1852, p. 410; *John Bull*, 28 Apr. 1849.

²⁹⁵ *Cheltenham Journal and Gloucestershire Fashionable Weekly Gazette*, 11 Dec. 1852; Goding, *Cheltenham*, pp. 483-4.

²⁹⁶ *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1850-51, II, p. 88.

²⁹⁷ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1862-63, p. 213.

²⁹⁸ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1893-94, p. 146.

the students did their training practice in the National Schools²⁹⁹, but a model practising school was opened in 1854.³⁰⁰ The majority of students had been pupil-teachers before enrolling on the two-year course at the college.³⁰¹ Nine teachers taught a range of elementary subjects, including English history, geography, music, drawing, and method. A government grant of £4,382 10s. met most of the costs of the college in 1862, supplemented by c. £83 paid in fees by the students, and c. £168 raised by the managers of the college.³⁰² A total of 624 teachers had been trained in the college by 1862.³⁰³ A reading room and a chemistry laboratory were added to the college in 1894.³⁰⁴

A second training college, for schoolmistresses, was established in 1851, also managed according to evangelical principles of the Church of England. The curriculum in 1855 included scripture, arithmetic, reading, penmanship, spelling, grammar, domestic economy, English history, geography, music, drawing, industrial skill, and school management.³⁰⁵ Initially it was under the authority of the principal of the training college for schoolmasters, supplemented by a resident superintendent and two governesses. Training was provided by a lecturer in teaching method, supported by lecturers from the college for schoolmasters.³⁰⁶ There were 72 students in 1855, when the accommodation was considered wholly insufficient for such a large number.³⁰⁷ The number of students enrolled had fallen to 59 by March 1862, but the facilities were still considered inadequate and a poor return for the large government grants paid to the college.³⁰⁸ New premises, called St Mary's Hall, were erected in St George's Place in 1869.³⁰⁹ By 1893 the resident superintendent was assisted by three governesses, who were also lecturers, and there were teachers of music and of drill. The 60 students enrolled at that time taught at an infants' school and a girls' elementary school, both of which it was noted were at some distance from the college. All students undertook training in at least one science subject and one language, and they also received education in calisthenics at the gymnasium.³¹⁰ In 1921 the Cheltenham Training College was formally split into the separate colleges of St Paul's and St Mary's at the instigation of the Board of Education, while retaining the same governing body and sharing facilities.³¹¹ In 1930 St Mary's purchased The Park site for residential use.³¹²

²⁹⁹ *Cheltenham Examiner*, 1 Sep. 1852.

³⁰⁰ *Cheltenham Examiner*, 29 Dec. 1852 & 31 May 1854.

³⁰¹ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1862–63, p. 213.

³⁰² *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1862–63, p. 214.

³⁰³ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1862–63, p. 214.

³⁰⁴ *Kelly's Directory* (1894), p. 67.

³⁰⁵ *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1854–55, pp. 324–34, 353.

³⁰⁶ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1854–55, p. 342.

³⁰⁷ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1854–55, pp. 342–43.

³⁰⁸ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1861–2, p.249; *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1862–63, p. 244.

³⁰⁹ Verey & Brooks, *Glos. II*, p. 248.

³¹⁰ *Report of the Committee of Council on Education*, 1893–94, p. 188.

Provision for the Schools of Art and Science was made in the upper rooms of the public library in Clarence Street when it opened in 1889. The School of Arts and Crafts moved to St Margaret's Road in 1905.³¹³ The School of Industry became the Cheltenham Technical School in Lansdown Road and the School of Commerce, which was under the authority of the same principal, was based in St Margaret's Road.³¹⁴ In 1937 the Cheltenham Technical College was renamed the North Gloucestershire Technical College and The Woodlands in The Park was acquired to provide a new site,³¹⁵ although the building work was delayed by the war.³¹⁶ As the technical college grew, congestion on the site was relieved by moving the junior department to a separate school and acquiring leases of nearby properties as they became available.³¹⁷

In 1947 St Paul's and St Mary's joined the University of Bristol's Institute of Education³¹⁸ and in the following decade both colleges were expanded as a result of the baby boom. The Park site was developed to provide teaching facilities, while the original St Mary's Hall building was transferred to St Paul's and renamed Shaftesbury Hall. During the 1960s the colleges expanded to around 700 students a piece, although they were contracting by the time of the 1972 James Report on Teacher Training and Education.³¹⁹

In 1958 the College of Art took a 21 year lease from the borough council of part of the Pittville Pump Room to house its architectural department.³²⁰ In 1959 the amalgamation of the Cheltenham College of Art with the Stroud School of Art to create the Gloucestershire College of Art was approved.³²¹ It included the Pittville campus, which had been purchased by the Gloucestershire College of Art in 1961.³²² In 1969 the Gloucestershire College of Art amalgamated with the Gloucester City College of Art to form the Gloucestershire College of Art and Design.³²³

³¹¹ Charles More, *The Training of Teachers 1847-1947* (1992), pp. 45-6.

³¹² GA, D5587/box 95525.

³¹³ Geoff & Elaine North, 'The Opening of Cheltenham's Public Library and Schools of Art and Science – 1889', *CLHSJ* 25 (2009), p. 23.

³¹⁴ *Built-Leonards Directory of Cheltenham and County for 1935*, p. xiv.

³¹⁵ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 22 Nov. 1937 & 10 Feb. 1938.

³¹⁶ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/24, 17 Jul. 1946.

³¹⁷ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/25, 19 Apr. 1950 & 12 Jul. 1950; GCC/COU/1/1/26, 16 July 1952; GCC/COU/1/1/28, 17 Jul. 1957; GCC/COU/1/1/29, 18 Jan. 1961.

³¹⁸ More, *The Training of Teachers*, p. 49.

³¹⁹ Charles More, *A Splendid College* (1992).

³²⁰ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/28, 16 Jul. 1958

³²¹ GA, GCC/COU/1/1/29, 15 Jul. 1959

³²² GA, GCC/EDU/1/1/41.

³²³ GA, GBR/L6/23/B7814.

In 1974 Bristol University decided to stop awarding its BEd to 5 local colleges, including St Mary's and St Paul's Cheltenham and Gloucestershire College of Education, Gloucester. The three colleges subsequently validated a joint degree with the Council for National Academic Schools.³²⁴ Plans to merge the colleges to create a Gloucestershire Institute of Higher Education were pursued for several years.³²⁵ Eventually the College of Education in Gloucester closed and St Paul's and St Mary's united as the College of St Paul and St Mary in 1979 with the St Paul's site becoming Francis Close Hall.³²⁶

In 1980 the Gloucestershire College of Education, Gloucestershire College of Art and Design, Gloucester City College of Technology and the North Gloucestershire College of Technology were merged to form the Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology.³²⁷ Following the 1988 Education Act the county council decided to merge the higher education component of the Gloucestershire College of Art and Technology with the College of St Paul and St Mary to create the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education (CGCHE). The new institution was formally inaugurated on 1 April 1990.³²⁸ In 1992 CGCHE was given permission to award its own undergraduate and taught postgraduate degrees, followed by research degrees in 1998.³²⁹ On 23 October 2001 the college was awarded university status, becoming the University of Gloucestershire.³³⁰ A new student village in Pittville opened in 2018.³³¹

³²⁴ D10118/10; D10118/9; Times Higher Education, 10 May 1974

³²⁵ *Gloucester Citizen*, 30 April 1975.

³²⁶ *More, A Splendid College*.

³²⁷ GA, K404/1

³²⁸ University of Gloucestershire Archives, U/01/12/2.

³²⁹ *Gloucester Citizen*, 25 February 1998

³³⁰ GA GCC/COU/1/1/62; JR13.103GS; NR17.186GS.

³³¹ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 12 Apr. 2018.