

A Time Line of Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Some Major Events in the History of the School

29 August 1554: Letters Patent given at Hampton Court laying down that there should be a grammar school in Clitheroe: *“which shall be called the free Grammar School of Mary, Queen of England, for the education, instruction and learning of boys and young men in grammar, to be and to last for ever.”*

And also that there: *“shall be six of the more discrete and honest inhabitants of the town of Clitheroe and parish of Whalley who shall be governors of the possessions, revenues and goods of the said school.”*

1558: First school house (wooden) erected in Clitheroe Churchyard at a cost of £60.

1610: Rough hewn oak chest for the School’s papers and documents made. (Still in the Sixth Form Centre at York Street)

February 1622: Order in Chancery made appointing the Bishop of Chester as Visitor to the School.

3 May 1622: New Statutes for the administration of the School drawn up by the Bishop of Chester. Amongst other things these laid down that every year on Midsummer Day there was to be a Commemoration Service in the forenoon attended by the Governors, Master, Usher and scholars of the School. And that after the service there was to be a dinner for the Governors. Traditionally this was held at the Swan Inn.



1662: School seal made in silver at York for a cost of £2-2s-6d.

30 August 1781: Work started to replace the wooden school in the churchyard with one built of stone on the same site at an estimated cost of £355. Students taught in the Moot Hall during the duration of the work. Further work required in 1794 and final cost of building noted to be £420.

August 1812: Well Hall, an old mansion in Well Terrace, purchased by the Governors for £728 to provide an official residence for the Master and boarding accommodation.



1834: The school building in the churchyard disassembled, the stones and timbering carefully removed and the building rebuilt on its current site in York Street adjacent to Well Hall.

12 July 1837: The Clitheroe Grammar School Act receives the Royal Assent, enabling the Governors of the Free Grammar School of Clitheroe to sell and grant Building Leases of the School Estates and to enlarge the powers of the Governors.

15 August 1853: Second Clitheroe Grammar School Act receives the Royal Assent, amending the 1837 Act and enabling the Court of Chancery to apply parts of the proceeds of the sales of School property to the discharge of debts of the said School etc.

1859: An Exhibition Fund established to fund exhibitions at Oxford and Cambridge. £1600 quickly raised and two exhibitions per year worth £40 each established.

Dec 1864: The Charity Commission established a Schools Inquiry Commission to inquire into the education given in Endowed Schools – including Clitheroe Grammar School.

22 February 1878: As a result of the Schools Inquiry the Scheme of Administration of the Foundation of the School received Royal Assent at Windsor on 22 February 1878. Under this Scheme the rights of the Visitor were vested in the Crown and exercised through the Charity Commission.

The Governing Body increased from the six local gentleman, who themselves chose any successors, to thirteen. These included the Mayor of the Borough of Clitheroe (ex Officio) and three members of the Clitheroe Town Council.

1882: Some alterations and additions carried out to Well Hall (at the York Street site of the current school) costing £1500.

8 March 1906: The Board of Education Scheme for the administration of Clitheroe Grammar School sealed. This amended the 1878 Scheme.

The number of Governors increased to eighteen; i.e. five foundation governors, five appointed by the Clitheroe Town Council, three by Lancashire County Council, one by the West Riding County Council, one by the Victoria University of Manchester, plus two co-opted women governors.

This Scheme also stipulated that a girls' grammar school be established. To enable this to take place a requirement was placed upon the Governors to provide a new building with suitable accommodation for the two schools.

1912: Well Hall and its associated buildings were demolished to clear the way for the new school building.

19 October 1912: The foundation stone of the new building was laid by Lord Derby.

September 1914: Lord Derby opens the new school building with the boys' school occupying the southern wing of the building.

September 1915: The Girls' Grammar School opens in the north wing of the new school building.



BOYS' SCHOOL—SOUTH FRONT.

2 June 1937: Land acquired on Well Terrace by Lancashire County Council to enlarge the School's plot at York Street.

9 May 1947: Orders issued by the Ministry of Education directing that both the boys' and the girls' schools in future be "controlled schools" under the auspices of the 1944 Education Act.

July 1947: New Articles and Instruments of Government for the Clitheroe Grammar Schools issued by the Ministry of Education.

Under the new Instrument the number of Governors decreased to 15; i.e. Five Foundation Governors (1 appointed by the Univ. of Manchester, 1 each by the Old Boys and Old Girls Associations, and 2 by the Foundation Governors themselves) and ten Representative Governors (inc. at least two women) appointed by the LEA (inc. 3 from the Borough Council and 1 from the West Riding)

1947: Land rented by LCC on Waterloo Road, Clitheroe where the LCC erected a prefabricated canteen to provide schools meals for both schools.

17 February 1948: The charity of the School, the Clitheroe Grammar Schools Foundation, becomes a separate body from the Governing Bodies of the two schools

18 July 1949: Following representations by the Governing Body the Ministry of Education issued a further Instrument of Government, which revised the Governing Body back up to 18 members; i.e. 6 Foundation Governors (1 appointed by the Univ. of Manchester, 1 by the Old Boys Association and 4 by the Foundation Governors themselves) and 12 Representative Governors (inc. at least two women) appointed by the LEA.

9 January 1957: The foundation stone of the new buildings for the Girls' Grammar School at Chatburn Road laid by Lord Clitheroe.

September 1958: After seventy years of sharing the York Street building with the boys' school the Girls' Grammar School moved to its newly completed buildings at Chatburn Road.

Easter 1964: Two of the prefabricated classrooms erected at York Street after World War II to enlarge the School's accommodation demolished to make way for two new chemistry laboratories. These laboratories (opened 1966) were planned to be the first phase of a modernisation programme of all of the boy's school's facilities. The planned overall introduction of comprehensive education by the then Labour Government meant that this programme was "put on hold".



25 May 1966: A new Scheme for the Clitheroe Grammar Schools Foundation issued by the Charity Commissioners to reflect the two separate Schools of the Charity. Foundation also registered as a charity under Section 4 of the Charities Act 1960.

9 September 1969: Land acquired at Well Terrace by Lancashire County Council to enlarge further the School's plot at York Street.

6 April 1976: Land acquired at back of playing fields at Chatburn Road by Lancashire County Council.

23 November 1983: After about 20 years of discussions, consultations and public meetings over the reorganisation of secondary education in the Ribble Valley, with a view to abolishing selection at age 11, a proposal to amalgamate the two grammar schools, by closing the girl's school and changing the character of the boys' school to admit girls, issued by Lancashire County Council.

5 December 1983: Two fields acquired by Lancashire County Council to provide extra playing field space at Chatburn Road.

22 May 1985: Field adjacent to Green Drive acquired by Lancashire County Council to provide further playing field space at Chatburn Road.

1 September 1985: The amalgamated co-educational Clitheroe Royal Grammar School comes into being, composed of a three-form selective entry 11 – 16 Main School in the former girls' grammar school buildings at Chatburn Road, and an open-access Sixth Form in the former boys' grammar school buildings at York Street.

1985 to 1988: The buildings at Chatburn Road enlarged to provide new Technology and Music Rooms, followed by a new gymnasium and extra changing rooms.

27 June 1988: Work started on alterations and extensions at York Street to provide a better Sixth Form Centre.

1989: The admission number of the Main School increased to 120 to make a four-form entry school.

9 February 1990: An amended Scheme for the Foundation issued by the Charity Commission to reflect the amalgamation of the two schools.

18 October 1990: HM Queen Elizabeth II visits Clitheroe Royal Grammar School to open officially the recently extended Sixth Form Centre at York Street. The extensions include a 180-seater lecture theatre and the old school building is finally connected to the rest of the buildings.

1 September 1991: Clitheroe Royal Grammar School becomes Grant Maintained under the provisions of the 1988 Education Act, and is therefore directly funded by the Department for Education rather than by the County Council.

A new 15 member Governing Body structure that reflects the role of the CRGS Foundation becomes into being; i.e. 7 Foundation Governors (appointed by the CRGS Foundation), 5 Parent Governors (elected by the parents of the School), 2 Staff Governors (elected by the staff of the School) and the Headteacher (ex officio).

5 December 1994: A new science block comprising six laboratories for chemistry, biology and physics at Chatburn Road officially opened by: Professor Richard Catlow of the Royal Institution.

8 July 1996: The Scheme of the Foundation is again changed to accommodate the change of status of the School to a Grant Maintained School.

Summer 1998: Work starts on an extension to the canteen at York Street with five new classrooms above, to provide extra vital teaching and social space for the growing Sixth Form.

1 September 1999: The School becomes a Foundation School with a Foundation under the provisions of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act, under which Act Grant Maintained status was scrapped.

A new “stakeholder” Governing Body of 5 Foundation Governors, 7 Parent Governors, 3 Staff Governors, 3 co-opted Community Governors, 2 LEA Governors and the Headteacher comes into being.

2 October 2007: The new Specialist Language Building at Chatburn Road officially opened by Lord Shuttleworth, Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire.

Summer 2008: The remaining two post World War II prefabricated classrooms are demolished to make way for a new block comprising six classrooms, conference room, musical instrument store and extra student toilets. (Opened September 2009)

22 June 2010: Resolution passed by the Governing Body (supported by a resolution passed by the Trustees of the CRGS Foundation the next day) to pursue academy school status under the auspices of the Academies Bill 2010.

August 2010: The Secretary of State for Education issues an Academy Order approving the school’s application to convert to academy status.

22 December 2010: A Modification Order to the Scheme of the CRGS Foundation issued by the Secretary of State for Education so as to enable the School of the Charity to convert to academy status.

1 January 2011: Clitheroe Royal Grammar School becomes a school with academy status under the Academies Act 2010. The School ceases to be maintained by Lancashire County Council and again starts to be funded directly by the Department for Education.

All land and buildings at both York Street and Chatburn Road transferred from the former Governing Body and/or the CRGS Foundation to the newly formed academy trust; i.e. Clitheroe Royal Grammar School – A company limited by guarantee, an exempt charity.

The new Governing Body of Clitheroe Royal Grammar School has a revised “stakeholder” structure to ensure representation of the local community; i.e 5 Foundation Governors (nominated by the Trustees of the CRGS Foundation); 4 Parent Governors (elected by the parents of students at CRGS); 3 Staff Governors (elected by the staff of CRGS); 4 Community Governors (appointed by the Governing Body to be representative of the local community), 3 Co-optative Governors (co-opted by the Governing Body for their extra expertise or experience); 1 Member Governor (appointed by the Members of the academy trust) and the Headteacher (ex officio).

23 March 2011: A full size 3G all-weather pitch officially opened at the Chatburn Road site by Sir John Lewis, old boy of CRGS and eminent amateur sportsman.



7 November 2014: A four-court Sports Hall officially opened at the Chatburn Road site by Jon Schofield, Olympic Medallist and former CRGS student.

A Note on the Name of the School:

Clitheroe Royal Grammar School has been known by a number of different but similar names since its foundation in 1554.

In the Letters Patent of 1554 it is referred to as “The Free Grammar of Mary Queen of England” and also “The Free Grammar of Philip and Mary”. Since then, even in official documents, it was known at different times as: Queen Mary’s Grammar School, Clitheroe Grammar School, Queen Mary’s Free Grammar School; etc.

It is not clear as to when the name “Clitheroe Royal Grammar School” was first used officially or unofficially. The cover of the School’s prospectus of 1889 clearly calls the School: “Royal Grammar School Clitheroe” and it is similarly called in the booklet produced to commemorate the opening of the current York Street buildings in 1914/15.

The Board of Education Scheme of 1906, however, refers to Clitheroe Grammar School for Boys and Clitheroe Grammar School for Girls; names which are used again in the Ministry of Education Orders etc. of 1947/48. Although throughout the negotiations with the Ministry of Education it is interesting to note that all letters from the Governing Body were headed “Royal Grammar School Clitheroe”.

By the time of the amalgamation of the two schools in 1985 the LCC was referring to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School for Boys and Clitheroe Grammar School for Girls. There is, however, a handwritten annotation on a copy of the draft proposal to amalgamate the two schools that suggests the term “Royal” in the name of the boys’ school was added by a former headmaster, Laurence Hardy. After the amalgamation the school was officially known by the LCC as “Clitheroe Royal Grammar School”

More recently there has been another twist to this 450-odd year old story. As part of the process to convert to academy status permission was required from the Cabinet Office (as successors to the Lord Chancellor’s Office) to be able to use the restricted word “Royal” in the name of the new academy trust – a company limited by guarantee. This permission was granted, in a letter dated 15 November 2010, therefore recognising “Clitheroe Royal Grammar School” in perpetuity.