



Virtue, learning and manners

Traditional values in a modern setting



Brentwood School

The Brentwood School prayer

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father,
we ask your blessing upon our School.
Give us grace so to order our lives
that virtue, learning and manners
may here forever flourish and abound.
Make us diligent, true and faithful in all things.
Help us to give ourselves in love and service
to others and to you,
that we may be led to know you,
whom truly to know is life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The School song

The Old Red Wall

Words by C E W Bean (OB), music by T R Cockell

1. They bound a lad by a green elm tree
And they burn'd him there for folks to see:
And in shame for his brothers and play-mates all
They built them a school with a new red wall.

Chorus

**We may ride by land, we may ride by sea,
Ten thousand miles from the old grey tree,
But the best of days were, after all,
The days that we liv'd by the old red wall.**

2. The lads and their sons are long since cold,
And hundred on hundred of years have rolled,
But still there stands for folk to see,
An old red wall by an old grey tree.
3. Drake rolled the Spaniards down the sea,
And they heard the guns by the old grey tree;
the Dutchmen left our ships aflare-
And the wall looked out on a far red glare.
4. And still for a hundred years or two
We worked, and played, and talked, and grew
And the fate of Earth and Heaven above
We settled them all by the Big School stove.
5. The game was fast and the fight was clean,
And our foes were few and friend-ships keen
For old and young, and great and small,
We were all of us one by the old red wall.
6. And most that we've written, and said and done,
And the goals we've missed, and the prizes won
And why we conquered, and how we strove,
They tell of it still by the Big School stove.
7. The old red wall may hear again
The guns of an enemy sweep the main,
And if ships must fight and men must dare,
The old red wall will send its share.
8. And I wish them this: Whate'er befall
To live as they lived by the old red wall,
To live as they lived-and, if need should be,
To die as one died by the old grey tree.



Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to provide an accessible short overview of the history of the School and to reflect on the values which have permeated the School from the time of its foundation.

These are summed up in the School statutes of 1622 as: **"Virtue, learning and manners"**.

I hope that current pupils will maintain these traditional values, and use them to provide a framework for both their time at School, and in years to come.

Ian Davies
Headmaster



Brentwood School and the Martyr's Elm, from an original painting by L Burleigh-Bruhl, May 1908

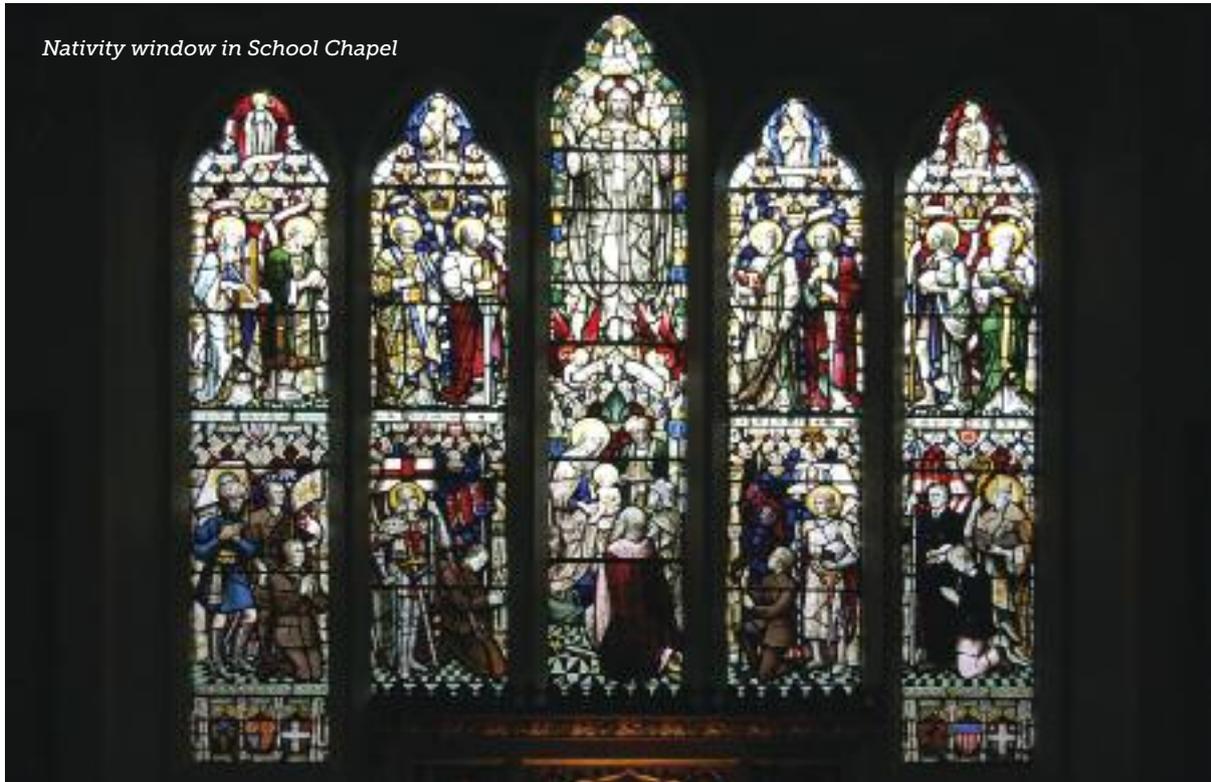
The Reformation

The Reformation in England is a good place to begin. This was a time when many Christians began to protest about the teaching and practices of the Church in Rome.

The Reformation in England was, from the beginning, of a different character to that in

Europe. In England it was closely associated with the personal circumstances of Henry VIII and what he saw as the political necessity of breaking free from the domination of the Pope in Rome. The monarchs following Henry VIII either tried to bring England closer to Rome or to maintain a suitable distance from the Pope.

Nativity window in School Chapel



Sir Antony Browne

The Foundation of the School

Sir Antony Browne, the Lord Chief Justice, acquired the land on which Brentwood School was first built in 1557 when Mary Tudor, a Catholic Queen of England, was on the throne. Mary's reign from 1553-1558 saw 300 Protestants burned in this country, most famously Hugh Latimer and Thomas Cranmer, who was responsible for the English prayer book.

In Brentwood a young 19-year old protestant called William Hunter was burnt by order of Sir Antony Browne, acting as an Essex magistrate on the wishes of Mary Tudor. His memorial can still be seen outside the School by Wilson's Corner, and William Hunter Way, which runs parallel to the High Street was named after him. In 1558 Elizabeth I became queen when Mary died and to Elizabeth fell the task of rebuilding a more tolerant England in which Protestants and Catholics could live happily side by side.

The great abbeys had fallen into ruin, the chantry (choir) schools attached to them had been abolished and much great craftsmanship in cathedrals and churches had been destroyed. However, some men of good character with the future of the nation at heart, helped to lay the foundations of a glorious Elizabethan age by founding schools which widened the religious education and literacy of the country and

encouraged the 'civilisation' of the English nation. Brentwood School was one of many grammar schools which taught local boys Classics and prepared them to serve their country.



William Hunter Memorial

Girls at Brentwood

It is important to understand that most schools, until about 100 years ago, were for boys only and therefore most of the early history of Brentwood School is to do with boys.

It was only in 1974 that the first girl – Lesley Hall – joined the School as a full-time pupil and in the early 1980s there were 23 girls in the School, all in the Sixth Form.



The first class of girls joined at the age of 11 in 1988, over 20 years ago and Brentwood was the first school in Essex, and one of the first nationally, to follow the 'Diamond Model' structure. This means that boys and girls are taught together in the early years, separately between the ages 11 – 16 and together again in the Sixth Form. In this way, Brentwood School pupils enjoy the benefits of a co-educational environment with single-sex teaching during the important adolescent years.



Three purposes of education

Some of the earliest teachers at the School understood that education was important for several reasons – the personal growth of each individual pupil, the development of an understanding of the created world and our place in it, and to ensure the good of the nation. William Payne, a priest and former pupil at Brentwood School, explained this at length in a 45 minute sermon before the first Old Brentwoods' dinner in 1682 in which he said:

“Those things which are most beneficial to the world which really conduce to the comfort and welfare and happiness of mankind, are best carried on with the help of the truest learning.”





John Donne

The School statutes, signed in 1622 by John Donne, Dean of St Paul's and one of England's finest poets, made it clear that pupils should be instructed in "Virtue, learning and manners", values which permeate our entire history and can be found in the School prayer.

Difficulties and renewal

As with many grammar schools, Brentwood School experienced difficulties in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries as disputes raged about what sort of School it should be and how it should be governed. When Charles Tower took over as Schoolmaster in 1806, over 200 years ago, there were only 12 boys in the School. It was not until Dr West, a graduate of St John's College, Oxford, took over in 1851 that the School started to be recognisable as a modern School.

Education and Europe

It was under Dr West that the typical Victorian and Edwardian emphasis on school sport as character-building became embedded in the culture of the School, alongside a particularly muscular Christianity. All schools at that time were like this because pupils at these schools had to develop the character, skills and determination to assist in the formation and preservation of the British Empire. The chapel was built in 1868, and the School produced its first international footballer in 1871, first international rugby player in 1873 and a cricketer called Charles Kortright who developed a national reputation for being the "fastest bowler ever".



Our most recent international sportsmen are Frank Lampard, at football, Eric Peters, at rugby and Alex O'Connell, our Olympic fencer.

Three of Dr West's School precepts or rules caught my eye as being as relevant now as they were when they were written in 1858:

**"Join social games with spirit keen
Nor loitering round the porch be seen"**

**"No angry word invade your sport
Nor malice prompt the quick retort"**

**"When older grown protect the young
And be not sharp with hand or tongue".**

It is interesting to note that Dr West was one of only 25 Headmasters to attend a meeting in London in 1869, from which developed the Headmasters' and Mistresses' Conference that counts among its members some of the best schools in the country.

Dr West

Expansion and wider access

When Edwin Bean took over in 1891 he continued Dr West's work. He had been a pupil at Clifton College and had spent time in Australia as a master at Geelong Grammar School, with which we still enjoy excellent relationships. Several gap-year students as well as some staff have joined us from Geelong in recent years. Edwin Bean was determined to widen access to Brentwood School and eliminate the sense of exclusivity that can lead to unpleasant snobbery. He wanted to make sure that boys from local state primary schools should be members of the School in the fullest sense, and in his time Essex County Council started to provide scholarships to pupils to help him to achieve this vision.

One of Dr Bean's first innovations was to found the Preparatory School in 1892 and appoint Miss Brimley as Headmistress.

In 1907, Edwin Bean wrote the words to the School song *'The School Beside The Tree'* with music by Gordon Burgess (OB), to celebrate the School's 350th Anniversary. However, the School song we sing every summer at our Promenade Concert, *'The Old Red Wall'*, was written by his son, Charles Bean.

Also in 1907 a card was given to every pupil in the School by Evelyn Heseltine, Chairman of Governors, with the following words:

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore I can do, or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again".

In 1909 the foundation stone was laid for the new Main School building by Mrs Heseltine, the wife of the Chairman of Governors. This building was thought necessary because of an inspection in 1900 which stated that:

"This ancient School is at the turning of the ways. Brentwood, on its healthy, breezy plateau, will in no long time be a large suburban town... there is a need for modern school buildings and playing fields".

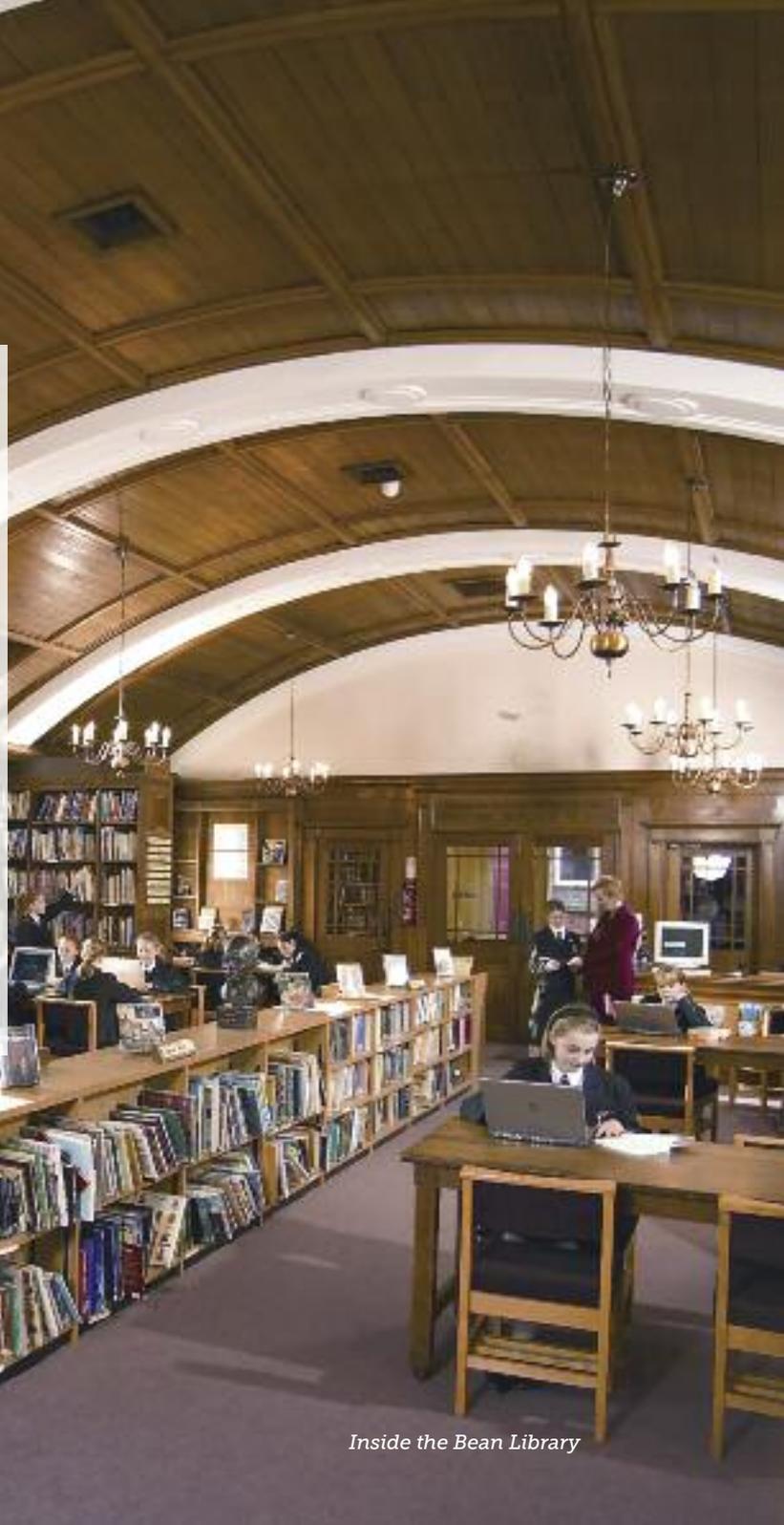
This report provided a catalyst for the developments of the last 100 years, during which land and buildings were acquired, and new buildings erected, often at personal cost to major benefactors such as Evelyn Heseltine, Chairman of Governors from 1907-28, James Hough, Headmaster from 1914-45, and Edwin Bean, Headmaster from 1891-1913.

Another of Dr Bean's legacies and an idea he brought with him from Clifton was to call the prefects "Praepostors", a custom which we proudly maintain today.

In order to recognise the contribution of Edwin Bean to the development of the School, a memorial library, the Bean Library, was opened in 1929 by a fellow Old Cliftonian, Sir Henry Newbolt. His famous poem *Vitae Lampada* seen by many as an imperialistic period piece, contains many of the elements Edwin Bean and many other Victorians thought necessary in a great public school; a sense of honour, of esprit de corps and a spirit of self-sacrifice.

The first verse reads as follows:

**“There’s a breathless hush on the Close tonight
Ten to make and the match to win
A bumping pitch and a blinding light,
An hour to play, and the last man in.
And it’s not for the sake of a ribboned coat.
Or the selfish hope of a season’s fame,
But his captain’s hand on his shoulder smote
‘Play up! Play up! And play the game!’ ”**

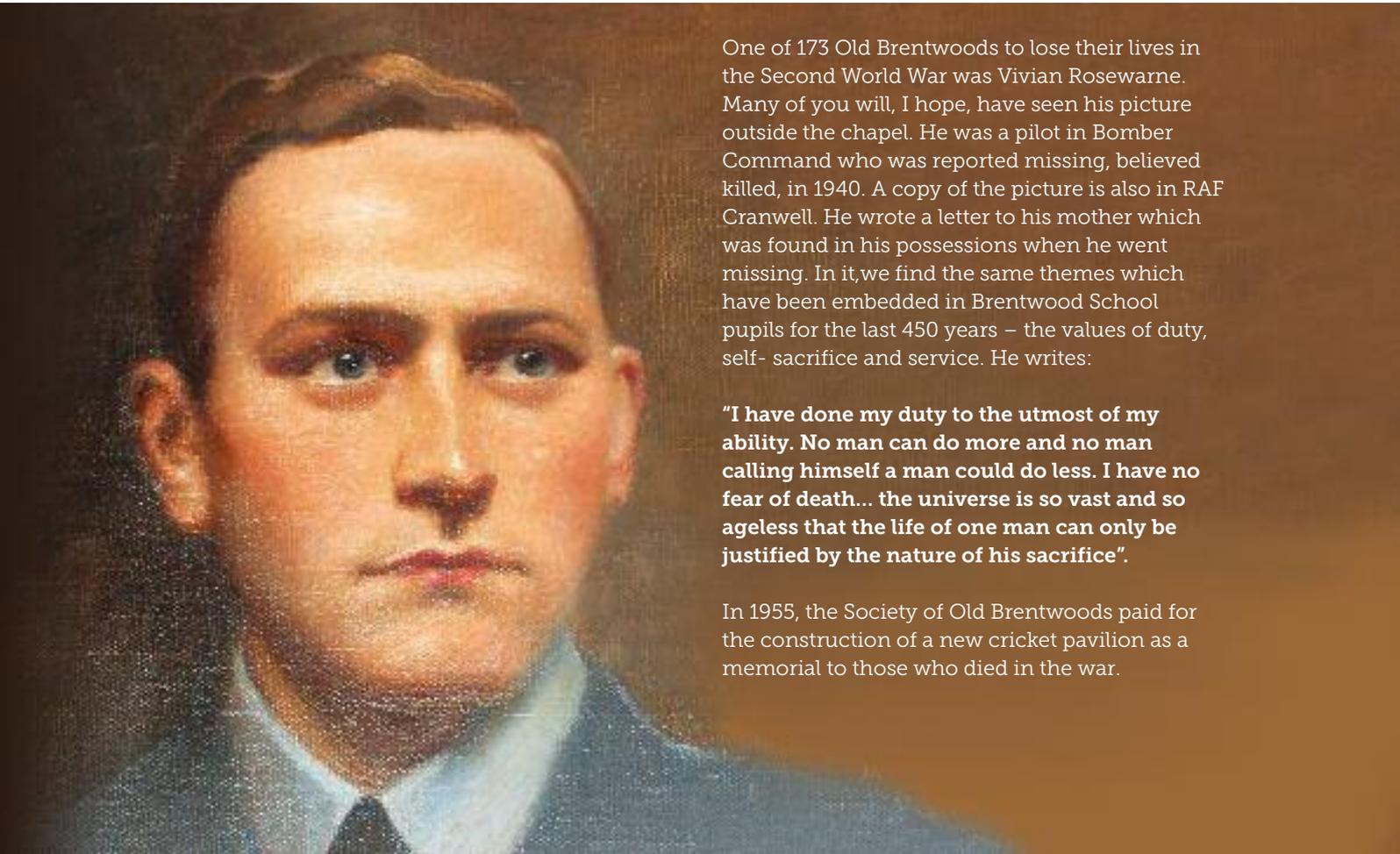


Inside the Bean Library

Two World Wars

The School's next Headmaster, James Hough, took over with 211 boys in 1914, and when he retired in 1945 numbers had increased to 887 boys. He is the only Headmaster who served during both World Wars, and many Old Brentwoods still alive speak warmly of his time as Headmaster, even though they were most difficult times.

A sign of the respect in which he was held is that in 1941 he was asked to be Chairman of the Brentwood District Council, and as Chairman was given £500 by the Lord Mayor of London's fund to alleviate the distress of the homeless drifting into Brentwood to escape the Blitz.

A portrait of Vivian Rosewarne, a young man with dark hair, wearing a blue suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right of the viewer. The background is a dark, textured brown.

One of 173 Old Brentwoods to lose their lives in the Second World War was Vivian Rosewarne. Many of you will, I hope, have seen his picture outside the chapel. He was a pilot in Bomber Command who was reported missing, believed killed, in 1940. A copy of the picture is also in RAF Cranwell. He wrote a letter to his mother which was found in his possessions when he went missing. In it, we find the same themes which have been embedded in Brentwood School pupils for the last 450 years – the values of duty, self- sacrifice and service. He writes:

"I have done my duty to the utmost of my ability. No man can do more and no man calling himself a man could do less. I have no fear of death... the universe is so vast and so ageless that the life of one man can only be justified by the nature of his sacrifice".

In 1955, the Society of Old Brentwoods paid for the construction of a new cricket pavilion as a memorial to those who died in the war.



Ypres Memorial

Over 200 Brentwood School CCF cadets, officers and former pupils travelled to Belgium in October 2009 to unveil a memorial at St. George's Church in Ypres. The memorial commemorates all members of the School who lost their lives in the service of their country.

The CCF then laid a wreath during the daily 8pm service at the Menin Gate. Old Brentwoods were in attendance and three senior cadets represented the School admirably, wearing their CCF uniform as a mark of respect at the ceremony.

Modern times

Many other buildings have been opened since, and a Pre-Preparatory School was founded in 1996. Our facilities are now the envy of many schools in the country, as is our very active Society of Old Brentwoods. We occupy a 72-acre site, and recent developments include changing facilities for 200 pupils, an Olympic standard running track, a second Astro Turf, a new Sixth Form Centre with 16 additional classrooms and the 400-seat Wessex Auditorium.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the School was in 1977 when the government withdrew the Direct Grant, meaning that bright pupils who could not afford the fees were no longer able to attend the School. The effect of this was mitigated somewhat by the introduction of a Government Assisted Places Scheme in the 1980s, which was also withdrawn in 1998.

The Governing Body met this challenge by developing an extensive fund for scholarships and bursaries to enable a significant number of pupils to benefit from an education at this School, whose parents otherwise would not be able to afford it, keeping alive Edwin Bean's vision that **"the children of judges and those of mechanics and tradesmen should mix on equal terms"**.

In more recent times the School has placed greater value on academic achievement than ever before and we celebrate our sporting successes alongside superb achievements in other areas such as music, the performing arts, chess, public speaking and debating.





View of the Sixth Form Centre across the quadrangle



St Paul's Cathedral

The background image shows the interior of St Paul's Cathedral. It is a large, ornate space with high ceilings, arched windows, and classical columns. A large group of people, mostly men in suits, are seated in the foreground, holding papers, suggesting a service or a formal gathering. The lighting is warm and comes from chandeliers and high windows.

In 1957 the whole School travelled to St Paul's Cathedral to mark the 400th anniversary of the School. We undertook the mammoth task of ensuring that all Senior and Preparatory School pupils could experience a similar occasion in 2007. More than 800 guests – mostly parents and Old Brentwoods – swelled the congregation to over 2,000 people on a bright and brisk spring afternoon in March. The 55-minute service featured an inspirational sermon by The Bishop of London.

A message to our pupils

I hope that you will enjoy being part of this School, and that you will keep in mind, at all times, that Brentwood School and you as pupils are part of a long and proud history. You, as current pupils, have your part to play.

I expect you to exhibit your pride in the School and also your self-respect in all that you do and say. I expect pride in appearance and I expect the values I have talked about to be values that permeate your existence; values such as courtesy, consideration for others, kindness, looking after each other, honour, courage, sportsmanship, duty and selflessness.

I hope that you understand that you are all, each and everyone of you, ambassadors for the School and that you are history in the making. You should be crucially aware of the importance of the individual contribution that you can make both in School and when you have left the School. I hope that you will understand the importance of your School days in forming you as well-rounded human beings who are able to make a contribution to society and have a good understanding of your place in this wonderful world. I hope that you will enjoy the camaraderie of your School days and that in 2057, when the School celebrates its 500th Anniversary, you will be able to look back with pride and enjoyment over your last 50 years.



As Edwin Bean once said to the School before he retired in 1913:

“If you desire to belong to a school of which you may be justly proud, if you wish to hear this School spoken of as one that bears a high name... a place where all that is unworthy is hated and despised, then remember that it rests with you to give it that name”.

The reading at the service in St Thomas’s Church to start the 2007 Anniversary year included the following words, and it seems appropriate to close with them:

“May the Lord God be with us as he was with our fathers; May he never leave us nor forsake us”.





Brentwood School

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