

HERBERT JERRARD M.A.

**(Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's
Grammar School 1902-26)**

**by
Keith Jordan**

At the beginning of the twentieth century Bishop Vesey's School was in a somewhat moribund state.

Albert Smith, the incumbent Headmaster, had been in office for 37 years and retirement was looming.

Thomas Storer Eddowes, the Clerk to the Governors, was, in 1900, aged 75 and after 40 years in the post ill health was forcing him to delegate much of his work to his son, Herbert Macaulay Eddowes.

The two most senior Governors were Lord Norton and the Reverend W K Riland Bedford. Lord Norton had been on the board since 1839 and was aged 85 and Riland Bedford, although somewhat younger, was still at the advanced age, for those times, of 73.

After giving a lifetime of service to the School they were all, quite naturally, '*running out of steam*'!

In the event, Albert Smith resigned his Headmastership on the 30th April 1902 and Thomas Eddowes died in office during the summer of 1903. Subsequently, the Reverend Riland Bedford died on the 23rd January 1905, closely followed by Lord Norton, formerly Sir Charles Bowyer Adderley, on the 28th March of the same year, aged 90.

In February 1902, shortly before Albert Smith was due to leave the School, Thomas Eddowes arranged for an advertisement to be inserted in the *Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Birmingham Daily Post* and *Nature*, which was a weekly illustrated science journal.

The advertisement read, as follows:

"The Grammar School of Sutton Coldfield in the County of Warwick.

The Headmastership of the School will be vacant at the end of the Lent Term 1902, in consequence of the resignation of the Reverend Albert Smith, the present Headmaster, The Governors therefore invite Applications from Candidates for the Appointment.

Under the new scheme for the administration of the School, the following provisions are enacted with regard to the office of Headmaster.

He shall be a Graduate of some University in the United Kingdom.

No person shall be disqualified from being a Master in the School by reason only of his not being or not intending to be in Holy Orders.

There is a commodious house attached to the School for the residence of the Headmaster, which will be occupied by him rent free,

The sum of £40 a year is contributed by the Governors towards fuel and cleaning for the School.

The Headmaster is entitled to take Boarders and there is accommodation for upwards of 40. The payment to be made by any Boarder must not exceed £50 per year.

In addition to a fixed salary of £150 per year, the Headmaster will derive from the Foundation additional emoluments by Capitation Fees, which are fixed at £3 for each boy attending the School, including Boarders.

There are three Assistant Masters in the School and, at present, 73 boys.

It is earnestly requested that Candidates will refrain from making personal applications to the Governors.

Candidates for this appointment must transmit 20 printed or type-written copies of the letter of application and testimonials, under seal, on or before the 28th February 1902, to the Clerk, Mr T S Eddowes, Sutton Coldfield, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Testimonials should be recent and not be less than two or more than five.

The selected candidate must be prepared to enter his duties on the 6th May next.

Applications should be endorsed 'Headmastership'.

A copy of the new scheme will be furnished to any candidate, upon request, upon payment of one shilling, together with a printed Form of Application, which must be filled up in accordance with the instructions thereon."

Eddowes received a total of 124 replies, which came from all parts of the British Isles.

Many requested further information before submitting their official application, in particular, why the Reverend Smith had resigned, how many boarders were there and who was responsible for paying the Assistant Masters.

Eventually, by the end of February, 114 applicants for the vacancy on offer were forthcoming.

The Governors duly appointed a Sub-Committee to fully consider the merits of the individual interested parties and to draw up a short list of suitable candidates. The Sub-Committee comprised the following people:

General Arbuthnot.

Professor William Watts (Birmingham University Representative).

Alderman J T Glover (Local Estate Agent, with offices in Mill Street. He was also Mayor of Sutton Coldfield),

Charles Mathews (Solicitor).

Frederick Bill (Solicitor).

Samuel Taylor (Button Manufacturer and Senior Governor of the School, following the resignation of the Reverend Riland Bedford in 1900 and Lord Norton in 1901. He had first been appointed to the post of Governor in 1882).

Eventually, after much discussion, the applicants were reduced to a total of six and, on Saturday 22nd March, the Governors met in the Mayor's Parlour to carry out the final interviews.

After a second and then a subsequent final ballot, the post was offered to Mr Herbert Jerrard. At the time of the meeting, the Governors also had before them a letter from the Reverend Frank Collyer, the Minister of Park Road Congregational Church, now known as the Sutton Coldfield United Reformed Church. This letter had been printed in that day's edition of the Sutton Coldfield News.

During the course of a very long letter, he stated that:

"The Governors owe the Royal Borough to make an obligation the most careful selection from the large number of applicants that seek the honour of being elected and that the School has not held its own during the past few years is a fact no one will deny, whereas it ought to be one of the largest, most efficient and most popular educational establishments in the Midlands."

He went on to allege that some of the Governors had been invited to meet one of the candidates socially which implied, not only favouritism, but even that the election might be a sham.

In a similar irate manner, he went on to say:

"May I remind you that your first duty is not to your friends, but to the citizens of Sutton Coldfield and that, in this election, your action as honourable men should be to secure the very best and most efficient man as Headmaster and, at the same time, to deal with transparent integrity towards every applicant."

What brought on this verbal diatribe is impossible to say, but something must have happened in the past between one or more of the Governors and the Reverend Collyer to colour his views in this fashion.

The letter was raised again at the next Governors' Meeting and, as a result of the role played in the printing of the letter by the local newspaper, the Governors decided, in future, that, instead, the Clerk to the Trustees should furnish a summary of what had been discussed and agreed to the press, only after each meeting had been concluded.

At the time of his appointment, Herbert Jerrard was 35 years of age. He was born on the 13th August 1866 in Lewisham, Kent, to Samuel John Jerrard, a Builder of Bridport, Dorset and Sarah Jerrard, nee Gush, also of Bridport. In 1881, at the age of 14, the Census Return showed him to be a Scholar attending Faversham Grammar School.

He subsequently went up to St. Catherine's College, Cambridge and graduated in 1888 as 3rd Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos and went on to obtain an M.A. Degree.

Whilst attending St. Catherine's, he was appointed captain of both the College Boat and Cricket Clubs.

Herbert Jerrard further qualified as a B.Sc. at the University of London.

His first position was as the sole Science and Maths Teacher at Dewsbury Grammar School in Yorkshire. He then went on to St. Dunstan's College, Catford, London SE, where he spent the last 12 years of his career, eventually becoming Head of Mathematics and Senior Master at the school.

On the 8th August 1893, at the age of 26, he married Jane Remington Hobbs at St. Martin's in the Fields, Westminster, London. His wife was born in Maidstone, Kent and was the daughter of William Hobbs, a Wholesale Stationer.

They had one son, Alan Jerrard, who was born on the 3rd December 1897 in Lewisham, Kent.



Fig. 1. Herbert Jerrard B.Sc., M.A. Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School 1902-1926.

In his application for the post at Bishop Vesey's, Jerrard talked about his present school and stated that:

"The school had 400 pupils and was well known for the excellence of its Science teaching and for the comprehensive equipment of its Chemical and Physics Laboratories."

He further added:

"Many of its boys, for several years past, had gained Scholarships to the Central Technical College and University College, London, in addition to Mathematical Scholarships at Cambridge."

He ended by saying:

"I feel myself peculiarly fitted to conduct the important and responsible duties attaching to a Headmastership."

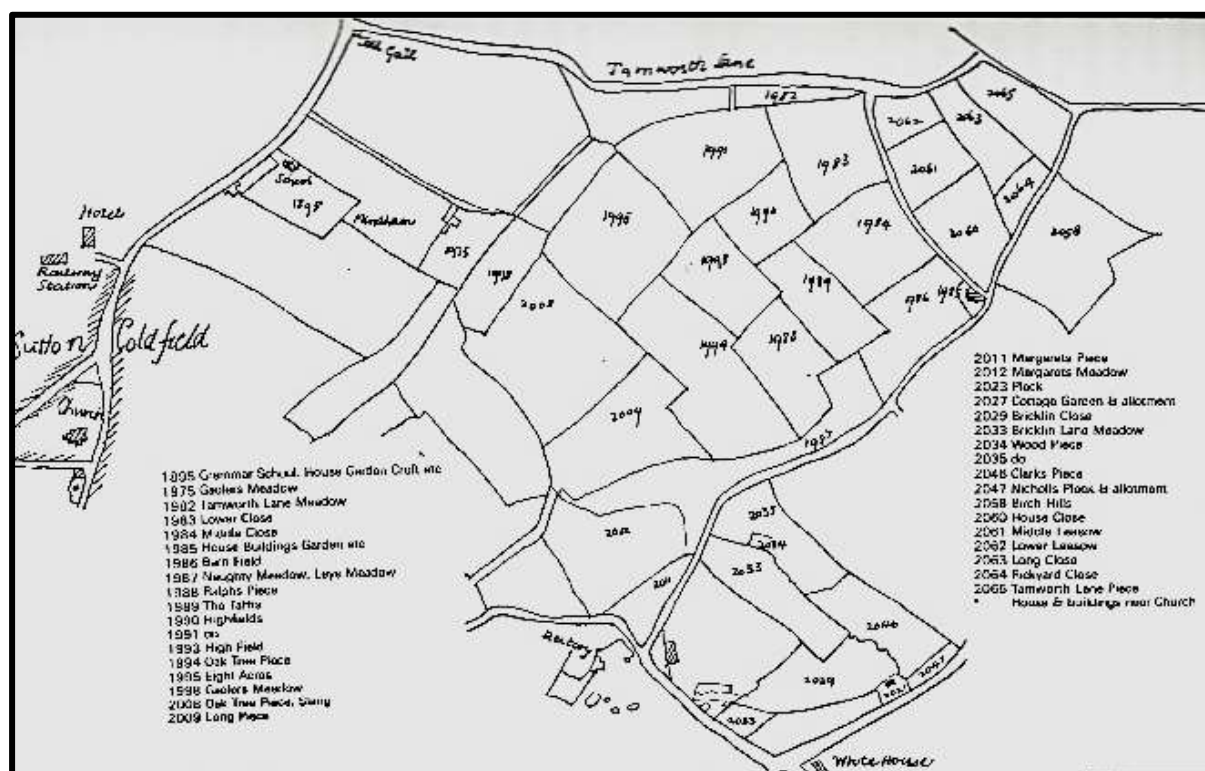
No doubt, one of the reasons the Governors voted for him, was that they were hoping he could turn Bishop Vesey's into a school with similar pupil numbers, many of whom would stay on until the age of eighteen and then go on to University.

Upon the retirement of Albert Smith, a considerable shift of power took place in matters appertaining to finance, between the Governors and the position of Headmaster. The Governors firstly resolved that, in future, all school fees should be paid in advance to the Clerk and not to the Headmaster. The Governors also assumed responsibility for the management of the Carpenter's Shop and the Laboratory, the use of which parents of the pupils had to pay extra fees.

Middle Field, at the rear of the School had, at an earlier date, been let to the Reverend Smith by the owner, Miss Goodall. Upon his retirement, the Governors agreed to take over the tenancy.

To raise additional funds, the grazing rights over Middle Field and Lower Field were advertised in the Sutton Coldfield News and an offer of £3.0s.0d. per acre from a Mr F H Harrison was accepted, *'subject to cattle not being allowed on the cricket field on match days.'* In my view, a most sensible precaution. One can visualise, in lighter moments, the poor boys on fielding duties having to negotiate the cow pats!

It was subsequently agreed, I am sure much to the boy's relief, that only sheep would be allowed in the field between the months of March and July. Not everyone was satisfied by this arrangement, however, as Mr Harrison later complained that the grass in the cricket field was being cut so low that there was nothing left for his sheep to graze upon!



In 1863, the Reverend Albert Smith, had been obliged to pay £142.5s.6d. to the previous Headmaster, Josiah Wright, for various items of fixtures and fittings, such as grates and chimney pieces, which today would automatically be considered as being part of the fabric of the building. This was a considerable sum and equated to almost nine months of Smith's annual salary.

The Governors offered Albert Smith £25.0s.0d. in settlement of the articles, which he refused and the matter was placed into the hand of the Governors' Agent, William Fowler. After investigating the matter, Fowler felt the amount to be on the low side and valued the items at £80.17s 6d. He was of the opinion that Jerrard should contribute £41.12s.0d, with the Governors paying the balance of £39.5s.6d.

However, as the new Headmaster's contract was on a fixed salary basis, the Governors eventually agreed to pay Smith £80.7s.6d., leaving Jerrard with just ten shillings to find.

The Governors could afford to be generous, not only because the Schools' finances had been put on a more efficient footing, but also because there was now a demand for building plots and the Governors owned land fronting Rectory Road, Tamworth Road, Bedford Road and Whitehouse Common Road, which was ripe for development, following a steady rise in the overall population of Sutton Coldfield. (FILE NOTE: 5,936 head of population in 1871 rising to 14,261 in 1901).

Subsequently, in August 1902, they sold 3 acres of agricultural land off Rectory Road for £640.18s.9d. to Colonel Samuel de la Grange Williams, who lived in Broomie Close. The land was not, in the end, used for housing development by the purchaser and it now forms part of Good Hope Hospital.

Although the Governors were unable to spend the capital arising from any sales without the permission of the Board of Education, later the Charity Commissioners, they were able to derive a steady income from the interest which accrued.

Probably, as a result of all these financial transactions, the Governors felt they were able to reward Thomas Eddowes with an additional £15.0s.0d. to reflect all the extra work he had put in, particularly in connection with the appointment of the new Headmaster.

Sadly, the aforementioned Thomas Eddowes, died the following year, in the summer of 1903, at the age of 77.

His widow, Margaret Eddowes, subsequently donated a sum of money to the School in order for them to set up the '*Eddowes Prize*' in her husband's memory. This prize is awarded each year to the pupil who is considered to have made the greatest contribution to the good of the School by example and by active participation throughout his school career.

The names of the winners of the '*Eddowes Prize*' from 1910 right up to the present day, are listed on a board within the School, beneath a heading in gold lettering, which reads:

The Eddowes Prize.
Founded by Mrs Margaret Anne Eddowes
in memory of her husband
Thomas Storer Eddowes
for forty-six years Clerk to the Governors
and a devoted friend of this School.

Thomas Eddowes was succeeded as Clerk to the Governors by his son, Herbert Macaulay Eddowes, who was born in Sutton Coldfield in 1865 and, following in his father's footsteps, was admitted as a Solicitor in 1890. He then joined his father's law firm, situated at 46 High Street, which practiced under the name of Messrs. Eddowes & Son.

Turning now once more to the new Headmaster, when he first joined the School the number of pupils attending numbered just 86. This figure, however, increased quite rapidly over the succeeding years, as detailed below:

Year	Number of Pupils at the School
1902	86
1903	129
1904	162
1905	161
1906	172
1907	193
1908	188
1909	155
1910	197

The rise in the number of pupils at the School naturally resulted in a corresponding increase in the number of staff members. As is the case today, however, there was a large turnover of teachers. Between 1900 and 1910, of thirty new members of staff, only six remained at the School for more than five years. These were:

1. Arthur Gibson Letty, known as 'Pongo', who taught Geography (1900-1935).
2. Jesse Flint, who was the organist at Lichfield Cathedral, who taught singing one afternoon per week (1902-1915).
3. Sergeant William King, who taught drill and gymnastics (1902-1915).
4. Wentworth Harrison, known as 'Chucky', who taught Modern Languages (1903-1939).
5. Gerald Richardson, who was the Senior Classics Teacher (1907-1913). He sadly died in office at the age of just 46.
6. Abel Sylvanus Jones (1908-1947).

Because of the influx of boys, within a year, Jerrard asked the Governor's permission to appoint a Science Master. This seemed rather harsh on the unfortunate and very popular Frank Thompson, who had, unceremoniously, been made redundant at the time of the Headmasters' appointment.

A little over a year after Herbert Jerrard became Headmaster, the Sutton Coldfield News included an article describing the annual Speech Day and Prize Distribution, which took place on the 28th July 1903.

The event was described, as follows:

"Tuesday was Speech Day and Prize Distribution at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and, as is invariably the case, there was a large attendance of parents and friends of the scholars to witness the presentation of the prizes, which was made by Mrs C E Mathews, and to hear the report of the examiner, Mr R S Bate, of St. Dunstan's College, Catford, Kent, the school with which Mr H Jerrard was connected at the time of his appointment.

The occasion was doubly interesting from the fact that it marked the close of the first year's work at the School under the new management. (FILE NOTE: If one were of a cynical nature, it could be said it was a very happy coincidence for Herbert Jerrard that the first examiner was no other than a trusted colleague from his previous school!)

The Mayor, Councillor C Vale, J.P., presided and was supported on the platform by Mr and Mrs C E Mathews, Alderman A L Crockford, Mr S A Taylor, J.P., Mr J A Jones, Mr E J Brookes, J.P., Mr Herbert Jerrard, M.A., and the examiner Mr R S Bates.

The Mayor, after expressing an apology for non-attendance on behalf of Alderman Glover (Chairman of the Governors), said that it was very gratifying to find so many friends of the School there that afternoon and, on behalf of the Governors and the Headmaster, he begged to offer them a most hearty and sincere welcome.

Such occasions were most interesting times for the boys, before they broke up and dispersed to their homes for a well-earned holiday. He hoped they would come back again with a fixed determination to gain that education, which was absolutely necessary for their welfare in their future life.

Mr H Jerrard, in briefly reviewing the work of the year, said great changes had taken place in this respect and that they had entered into quite a new schedule of work.

Since last September they had become a recognised codicil under the Board of Education. This involved, particularly, that they should make adequate provision for science teaching and also involved inspection by H. M. Inspectors and submitting a syllabus of the year's work.

Last year he made an appeal to parents to send their boys to the School, and he thought that appeal was very effectual. Parents had sent their boys to the School and he thought, if many more were sent, the School would grow too large for its clothes and would want a new suit.

Owing to the new Technical School, which was rising in their immediate vicinity, their accommodation would be added to, so that he thought they could take fifty or sixty more boys.

They had had a very successful year of sports and they had started a very interesting game, namely, Lacrosse, to which the boys had taken to very keenly. He was bound to say also, theirs was the only School within a radius of a hundred miles which played the game, which he should like to see taken up by other schools.

At the School Sports this year, there was twice the number of entries compared with the year previous.

Mr Jerrard concluded by thanking the Governors for all they had done for the School. They had also helped him in every possible way. He had had to ask many things of them and they had never refused anything he had asked for.

Mr R S Bate, who was the examiner of the School last year, followed with a verbal report on the work of the School, which was of an extremely encouraging character.

Last year was, with the School, a period of transition, but in various particulars he could see they were starting on the right lines and he then prophesied good results. He was glad to say that his remarks had been abundantly fulfilled.

Mr Bate briefly reviewed the work done in Mathematics, Languages, Geography, Latin, English History and Literature. The elementary work of the School last year was very good and was one of its most satisfactory features. The examiner summed up his critical remarks by saying that all the subjects taught in the School appeared to him to be proceeding on proper lines and the result was very satisfactory. He could conscientiously congratulate the Headmaster, staff and boys on a successful years work.

(FILE NOTE: No surprises there then!)

The prizes were then presented by Mrs Mathews

Mr S A Taylor, having moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Mathews, Alderman Crockford, in seconding, drew attention to the Education Act and said he believed they were justified in forming great expectations of what the Act would accomplish. He was certain it would mean a burden, in a sense, on the British ratepayers, but when the ratepayers saw the results which followed he was sure they would not grudge the call to be made on their pockets.

With regard to the County Council, his opinion was that its policy would be to help those who helped themselves. If they asked for a grant from the County Council, the Council might ask if they could not help them a little by raising the fees of the School which, he believed, were the lowest in the county. In this he hoped the Governors would have the parents at their backs and that they would not grudge a pound or two more on their sons' education.

In conclusion, he congratulated Mr Jerrard on the progress made by the School under his short management. The vote having been unanimously carried; Mrs Mathews said a few fitting words in acknowledgement.

Mr C E Mathews said he should like to add a word of thanks to Mr Taylor and Alderman Crockford for the courteous way in which they had shown appreciation of the little service which Mrs Mathews had been able to render. It seemed to him that it ought to be part of the private morality of every citizen to take some share in the public burdens and to render some public service and the best and wisest of us might find in the faithful discharge of municipal or philanthropic or educational duty ample field for honourable ambition.

Proceeding to refer to the School, Mr Mathews said they were at the close of the first full year of work under the new regime. Their late Headmaster served that institution for a period of forty years and since he was appointed the whole system of English education had changed and they must keep pace with the times.

He had been an educationalist all his life and he had learned many things, one of these being that the first essential in all education was a good sound physical foundation. Sometimes, school sports might be overdone in some places - he did not think them likely to be in Sutton Coldfield - and he was certain that the lessons learned in the playground were as important as the lessons learned in the school.

It was said that the classics had no practical utility, but the persons who said so did not know what they were talking about. The mistake was to draw education to too definite ends. Knowledge for its own sake irrespective of the objects to which it might be applied, only by that way would students get the highest intellectual pleasures or the richest material rewards.

The fault had been that the classics had been taught to the exclusion of subjects of equal importance. Science had now, at last, taken its proper part in education. It was of the most tremendous importance and no boy ought to leave school without possessing some knowledge of it. They hoped, in regard to their School, to secure the services of a Science Master who would be able to devote his time, both to the Technical School adjoining, and to the Grammar School.

He congratulated them on the enormous increase in the number of scholars. When Mr Jerrard came there were 73 boys and he believed they would open next term with 140. The general average standard of scholars, he was assured by Mr Bate, had been steadily growing.

Mr Mathews then gave some excellent words of advice to the parents, the masters and the boys and concluded by expressing the wish that, as the boys of that School grew up, they would realise both the duty and the dignity of public service; and by the pursuit of lofty ideals by personal culture and by private character, add lustre to the town and neighbourhood in which it was their happiness to live.

There followed a round of applause before an adjournment was made for tea in the grounds and an exhibition of drill was given by the boys, under the superintendence of Sergeant-Instructor King."

Despite the increased numbers mentioned in Mr Mathews' speech, however, the School's finances were still extremely precarious twelve months on, as the details of the Income and Expenditure for the period ending 30th September 1904 show below:

Income			Expenditure		
Rents		£324.0s. 0d.	Masters' salaries		£1371.5s.8d.
Dividends		£ 162.9s.0d.	Laboratory expenses		£ 10.0s.0d.
Tuition fees		£ 920.0s.0d.	Rev. Smith's pension		£ 120.0s.0d.
Gymnasium fees		£ 30.0s.0d.	Clerk's salary		£ 40.0s.0d.
Carpenter's shop fees		£ 25.0s.0d.	Prizes		£ 10.0s.0d.
Chemistry fees		£ 10.0s.0d.	Fuel and cleaning		£ 40.0s.0d.
Grants		£ 295.0s.0d.	Examiner's fee		£ 10.10s.0d.
			Rates & taxes		£ 60.0s.0d.
			Repairs		£ 60.0s.0d.
			Insurance		£ 6.9s.3d.
			Auditor's fee		£ 2.2s.0d.
			Printing, advertising etc.		£ 45.0s.0d.
			Entertainment		£ 8.0s.0d.
			Scholarships		£ 10.0s.0d.
			Sundries, petty cash		£ 7.10s.0d.
			Rent for field		£ 12.0s.0d.
Total		£1766.9s.0d	Total		£1812.16s.11d.
Shortfall					£ 146.7s.11d.
Income from £5,000 Consolidated Stock yielding 2.5% interest					£ 125.0s.0d.
Estimated deficiency					£ 21.7s.11d.

Far from making a profit, the School was actually still operating at a loss.

In November 1902 the School had been officially recognised by the recently established Board of Education. This, however, was only provisional, pending the installation of more accommodation and extra equipment for the teaching of Science.

The School had its first full inspection by four Board of Education Inspectors between the 25th and 27th July 1905.

Within their sixteen page report they included two interesting groups of statistics.

Firstly, of the 16 boarders at the School, 10 lived locally in Warwickshire. The remaining 6 boys were divided up between Caernarvonshire, Northumberland, Shropshire, Northamptonshire, and Surrey.

Secondly, a breakdown of the boys' ages was highlighted, as follows:

Age Group	No. of Pupils
Under 10 years of age	11
Aged 10	15
Aged 11	23
Aged 12	27
Aged 13	39
Aged 14	19
Aged 15	18
Aged 16	7
Aged 17	2
Aged 18 and over	1

By today's standard, the School had a 6th form of just 3 pupils, which emphasised the fact that boys were leaving or being taken out of school quite early in their career and very few were going on to higher education.

The Inspector's Report went on to say:

"The Headmaster has managed the School very effectively in spite of difficulties caused by his own serious illness.

The salaries, even judged by the standard usual in schools of this character, are decidedly low. Except for the Science Master, none of the staff are adequately paid. Such salaries must be to the detriment of the School, due to the frequent change in teachers this causes and when new teachers are selected the School is left saddled with the weakest of the men who happen to apply.

The Headmaster has, in two or three cases, supplemented out of his own pocket the salary provided by the Governors, even so he has great difficulty in getting teachers and the method is contrary to sound principle in any case.

A lesser evil, but still a serious one, is that the staff is too small, especially considering the choice of work offered to boys. The Headmaster's own teaching hours are too heavy, no master except the Science Master, who has evening duties, has any free time for preparation or correction and the bottom three forms are much too large for efficient work.

The curriculum is satisfactory as regards Science and Mathematics, but in other work it is seriously weakened by the attempt to supply alternatives with which the staff is not numerous enough to deal with adequately. Up to and including Form III the course is uniform, but in Forms IV, V and VI boys are allowed their choice between Latin on the one hand and German, Book-keeping and extra Shorthand on the other.

There are minor variations also allowed and the boys are permitted to change from the one course to the other and the results seem unsatisfactory all round. The three Latin classes are very small, containing only 3, 9 and 6 boys respectively, which is wasteful of staff and not really good for the boys. All the boys studying German have to be taken simultaneously by one master, who has therefore to work together with boys who have been at the subject for times varying from three weeks to three years.

Latin tends to be avoided because it is thought difficult. It would be much better to keep the work in Form IV uniform, insisting on another year of Latin for all boys.

Above that form, it is the opinion of the Inspectors, that until the literary work and the boys' attitude towards it has been greatly improved the School would be better on the whole for the total abolition of all alternatives until Matriculation has been passed.

The one period of Shorthand given to all boys seems a doubtful advantage. The subject is not of value, commercial or intellectual to them."

Nowadays, upon receiving a report of this nature, there would be a requirement for the school in question to draw up an Action Plan to resolve the various issues highlighted. In 1905, however, not even a formal response was required.

Needless to say, the Governors and particularly the Headmaster were aware there was an uphill task in front of them and that the principal causes of their problems were lack of space and lack of money.

Jerrard pressed the Governors to do something in this respect and they eventually approached Mr Titley, the Architect responsible for the design of the recently completed Technical School, later known as the School of Art. This had been built on the site of the 'Old Swan' Public House.



Fig. 3. Technical School, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, circa 1923. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School can be seen on the left-hand side of the photograph, slightly to the rear of the Technical School.

Titley was instructed to prepare a plan for submission to the Board of Education.

He subsequently proposed a 3-storey extension at the rear of the south end of the existing building and estimated the cost would be £4,750, plus fees and internal fixtures and fittings.

It was envisaged the extension would provide for five additional classrooms, accommodating 30 pupils each, plus new dormitories on the top floor for 14 boarders. The plan also included internal

alterations to the existing north wing of the School, to increase the size of the dining room, plus the building of new urinals at the bottom end of the playground.

The Board of Education eventually gave the go ahead to proceed and work commenced in the summer of 1905. The successful tender was submitted by Builders J E Moorhouse & Sons of Goldieslie Road, Wylde Green.

The extension and alterations were completed in good time and the official opening ceremony took place on the 27th April 1906. As is inevitably the case, however, the final cost of £4, 916 was higher than originally envisaged, although not disastrously so.

The opening was carried out by The Right Honourable Sir William Reynell Anson, Bt, FBA, the Liberal Unionist MP for the University of Oxford and a founder member of the consultative committee of the Board of Education.



Fig. 4. Sir William Anson Bt., FBA.

One of the earliest photographs in the School's possession depicts a group of 70 boys outside the Headmaster's House, awaiting Sir William's arrival, together with a gathering of about 20 or so Governors and local dignitaries. With them were the Headmaster and the previous Headmaster, the Reverend Albert Smith.



Fig. 5. Sir William Anson at the opening of the new extension to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, surrounded by local dignitaries from the Council and the Board of Governors, 1906. Sir William Anson can be seen in the light-coloured overcoat. R H Sadler, Herbert Jerrard and the previous Headmaster, the Reverend Albert Smith, are to his right, also in the front row.



Fig. 6. The boys at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School awaiting the arrival of Sir William Anson to open a new extension, 1906.

Twelve months later, in 1907, the Governors issued a Prospectus targeting potential parents, in an attempt to extol the virtues of Bishop Vesey's as a boarding school and to compete with the King Edward Foundation Schools in both Aston and Birmingham.

***Bishop Vesey's Grammar School
Sutton Coldfield***

GOVERNORS

*C Vale Esq., J.P. Chairman
J C Skelton Esq., J.P. Vice Chairman*

<i>J Ansell Esq, J.P.</i>		<i>F Bill Esq,</i>
<i>W H Bailey Esq,</i>		<i>J T Glover Esq, J.P.</i>
<i>* A L Crockford Esq, J.P.</i>		<i>W J Seal Esq, J.P.</i>
<i>Dr A H Evans J.P.</i>		<i>S A Taylor Esq, J.P.</i>
<i>P S Foster Esq, J.P.</i>		<i>T Turner Esq,</i>
<i>Rev. J F Forge B.A. Rector of Walmley</i>		<i>+Professor W Watts F.R.S.</i>

**Nominated by Warwickshire County Council
+Nominated by Birmingham University*

HEADMASTER

*Herbert Jerrard M.A., B.Sc.
Late Scholar St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.
Late Senior Mathematical Master at St. Dunstan's College, Catford, London S.E.*

Assistant Masters:

*H R Bell B.A. Magdalen College, Oxford.
C E Lutley B.A. Trinity College, Dublin.
W H Ault B.Sc., London.
W Harrison B.Sc., London.
L Winfield B.A., London.
J T Amos.
A G Letty.*

*Director of Gymnasium:
Sergeant-Instructor King.*

*Music Master:
J Flint F.R.C.O.*

*Medical Officer:
J O Turnstall Esq., M.D. London.*

*Clerk to the Governors:
H M Eddowes Esq., Solicitor, Sutton Coldfield.*

Sutton Coldfield is situated in the north east of Warwickshire, midway between Birmingham and Lichfield. It stands on gravel soil in a dry and breezy position 400 feet above the sea level. Although a Royal Borough and within eight miles of Birmingham, it is still a small country town set in one of the most picturesque and healthy spots in the Midlands. It possesses a magnificent park of 3,000 acres, the gift of Henry VIII, through the instrumentality of John Vesey, Bishop of Exeter. This park is within ten minutes walk of the School and is used by the boys for their 'runs' and Natural History Excursions, while the lakes and pools, which are set apart for the purpose, afford excellent bathing facilities.

The town is served by two lines of railway, the L & N W and the Midland. By the former, it is brought within two and a half hours of Euston and by both it is easily accessible from all parts.

The School was founded about 1543, by the John Vesey mentioned earlier, who endowed it with upwards of 300 acres of agricultural land. This endowment was further increased, some twenty years ago, by the Municipal Trustees of the Town, who presented the School with a sum of £15,000.

THE BUILDINGS

Of the original School, built by Bishop Vesey, nothing remains. About 200 years ago the School was rebuilt on its present site in its own grounds of ten acres, at a point just outside the town. This building is now the Headmaster's House and this has formed a nucleus to which, in quite recent years, wings have been added and an entirely new Science School erected, so that buildings used by the boys represent a capital outlay of some £20,000. With the exception of the Headmaster's House, all these buildings are quite modern and have been erected and equipped on the most approved plan.

They comprise the following:

Big School.

Eight Classrooms, each for 30 boys

Dormitories for 49 boys.

Dining Hall for 100 boys.

Chemistry Laboratory for 25 boys.

Physics Laboratory for 25 boys.

Lecture Room for 150 boys.

Workshop for 25 boys.

Art Room.

Gymnasium.

Library and Reading Room.

Changing and Drying Room.

Sanatorium.

Covered Playground, Fives Courts and all the usual offices.

EDUCATION

The curriculum is based on the Regulations of the Board of Education for Secondary Schools and furnishes a sound practical education on modern lines. It fits boys to pass the Matriculation Examinations of London or Birmingham Universities, at the earliest possible age. When boys have reached this stage in their Education, they are prepared either for the older Universities, the Civil Service or for the Intermediate Examinations of London and Birmingham.

Latin, English, French, History, Geography, Mathematics, Divinity, Drawing and Physical Exercises are taught throughout the School. Natural Science (Chemistry, Physics and Mechanics) are taught in the four higher forms of the School. German and Greek may be taken or substituted for some of these subjects, as a regular part of the school work. Singing and Manual Work are taught to all boys in the lower part of the School.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Governors may, if the income of the School permits, maintain Scholarships in the School at a rate of not more than one for every ten boys attending the School, each Scholarship entitling the holder to exemption, total or partial, from the payment of tuition fees, and to be awarded as the result of either the admission examination or the yearly School examination.

EXHIBITIONS

An Exhibition of £50 a year for three years, subject to variation at the discretion of the Governors, is awarded annually by competition. Candidates for this exhibition must have been in the School for three years and must proceed to some place of higher education to be approved by the Governors.

The School is examined annually by external examiners appointed by the Governors. Also, as a Secondary School under the Board of Education, it is frequently inspected by H.M. Inspectors and reported on annually by the Board.

SCHOOL CHARGES

The annual charge for each Boarder, including fees for Tuition and Board and all necessary expenses, is:

<i>For boys entering under the age of 10</i>	<i>£14 per term.</i>
<i>For boys entering under the age of 12</i>	<i>£15 per term.</i>
<i>For boys entering under the age of 14</i>	<i>£16 per term.</i>

There are three terms in the year of approximately 13 weeks each.

There are no other charges except for medical attendance, if necessary, and out of pocket expenses incurred individually.

In the Boarding House, a reduction is made for the sons of Clergy and for brothers admitted under the age of 14 and in the School together.

The cost of Stationery, School Books, Chemicals and Apparatus, wood for the Carpenter's Shop, Gymnasium Fees and Games' Subscription is covered by the above charge. The only and purely voluntary extras are:

<i>Instrumental Music</i>	<i>£1.1s.0d. per term.</i>
<i>Dancing</i>	<i>£1.1s.0d. per term.</i>

The fees charged for each boy must be paid in advance, with the account for disbursements during the preceding Term, before the commencement of every Term. All cheques shall be made payable to the Clerk, H. M. Eddowes Esq., Solicitor, Sutton Coldfield. Questions relevant to School payments should be referred to the Clerk.

One Term's notice in writing, of the intention to remove a pupil, must be given by the parent or guardian of such pupils to the Headmaster and one Term's payment will be required for every pupil removed without such notice.

(Although not mentioned, a charge of £8 per year was made for the tuition of day boys).

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Admission *Boys are eligible for admission at the age of eight years, upon passing a simple examination in Reading, Writing and the Elementary Rules of Arithmetic. No boy above 12 years of age is admitted without a certificate of his good conduct and character from his former master or tutor.*

Boarding House *The boys board in the Headmaster's House, which has accommodation for 49 boys. In this there are four open Dormitories containing room for four, eight, ten and twelve boys respectively and five smaller rooms capable of containing three boys each, allotted according to seniority, or to brothers.*

Meals *Breakfast – commons consist of porridge, bread, butter and tea with one of the following: Hot or cold meat, eggs, fish, jam or marmalade.
Dinner – meat, vegetables, pudding and bread.
Tea – bread, butter and tea with jam or cake. Boys are allowed to bring in such commons of their own at this meal as are approved by the Headmaster, but they are not, by any means, necessary.
Supper - bread and butter.*

Delicate boys can have milk and other extras at 11.00 a.m. and milk or cocoa at supper time by arrangement with the matron, but all such commons are charged for.

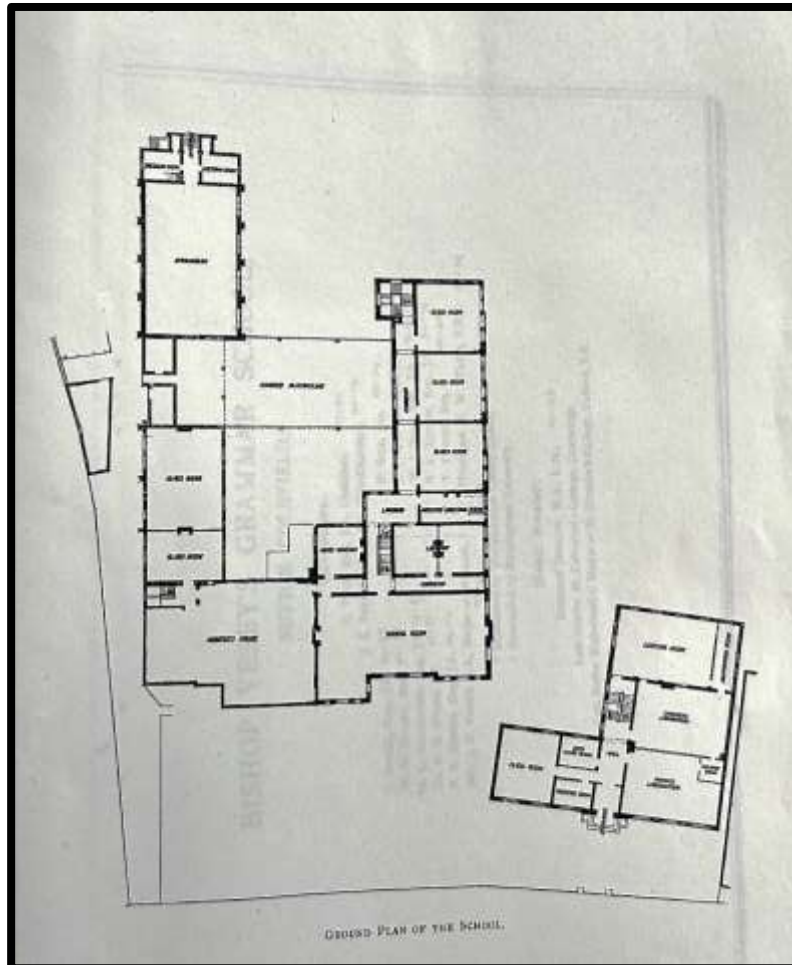


Fig. 7. Ground Floor Plan of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, included with the School Prospectus, 1906.



Fig. 8. The swimming baths at Keepers Pool, Sutton Park, where the boys of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School were allowed to swim between 7.00 am and 8.00 am during the Summer months, circa 1924.

As mentioned in the Prospectus, under *School Charges*, the Governors, at this time, were very keen to ensure that parents, who withdrew their sons from the School, should give a term's notice or pay a term's fees in lieu of notice.

The Clerk, Herbert Eddowes, was forever in correspondence with defaulting parents, who were very resourceful in thinking up reasons why the rules should not apply to themselves. This, of course, put pressure on the financial situation which, at the best of times, was extremely critical.

Many parents of boys at the School were badly in arrears with their fees and a considerable amount of Eddowes's time was spent cajoling or threatening them.

Each year Eddowes instructed proceedings against several defaulting parents in the Warwickshire County Court in Birmingham. In a few cases he was successful, but usually if matters had reached this far, the parents concerned were hopelessly in debt.

Eddowes decided to consult with other local schools in the form of Queen Mary's, Walsall and Coventry Grammar School amongst others, to elicit information on how they tackled the problem.

Following the feedback received, the Governors decided to take a firmer line and a note was added to the 'Accounts for Fees', as follows:

"By a recent Regulation of the Governors, all boys whose fees are not paid by the half term will be sent home until the fees are paid. This Regulation will be strictly enforced."

In 1908 the Board of Education Inspection Report revealed two interesting statistics, which gave the School pause for thought.

Firstly, it was noticed that the average time spent at the School per pupil was only about three years. Secondly, since 1900, only six boys had proceeded on to university. Of these, just three had actually attained their degree, two having sadly died before they completed their studies and the remaining one did not complete the course.

This resulted in a new contract which stated:

"To maintain the pupil in regular attendance at the School, at least until the end of the School Year in which he attains the age of sixteen years. Should the pupil leave or be withdrawn from the School at an earlier age, except with the sanction of the Governors, a payment of £2.0s.0d shall be levied in liquidated damages for each Term or part of a Term between the date of such leaving or withdrawal and the end of the School Year in which he attains the age of sixteen years."

In May 1909, the division of the School into Junior and Senior sections was put onto a formal footing. The teacher placed in overall control was a Mr Arthur (Pongo) Letty, who subsequently went on to give dedicated service over a period of 35 years before retiring in July 1935.



Fig.9. Mr Arthur Gibson (Pongo) Letty (seated), pictured in 1917. He was a teacher at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and subsequent Junior School Headmaster.

A circular was issued to parents, which itemised some of the main provisions:

- a) The Junior School would be for boys aged seven upwards, to prepare them for Upper School.**
- b) The department would be distinct and complete in itself, and the routine would be arranged so that, neither, in work or play, would the two Schools be brought together.**
- c) A separate wing would be set aside for the Junior School.**
- d) School hours would be 9.30 a.m. - 12. 30 p.m. with a break of 15 minutes at 11.00 a.m. The afternoon would be from 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) and between 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays).**
- e) Tuition fees would be calculated at £8.00 per annum, with small extra charges for Stationery and Games.**

A short time later, on the 12th October, a new Scheme for the management of the School was passed by the Board of Education, which repealed the previous scheme of 1882.

In view of the increasing involvement in the School by the Warwickshire County Council Education Committee and the Sutton Coldfield Town Council in providing grants, their representation on the Board of Governors was increased from five members to eight. Three members were to be appointed by the County Council and five by the Town Council.

Under the 1882 Scheme, as amended in 1899, the four Sutton vestries – Holy Trinity, Hill St. James, Boldmere St. Michaels and Walmley St. John, each appointed a Governor. A fifth vestry, St Peter's Church, was included in 1905.

The list of Governors under the new Scheme were, as follows:

Name of Governor	Source of Appointment	Time served as Governor
Samuel Allen Taylor J.P.	Co-optative	1882-1914
Joseph Ansell J.P.	Co-optative	1903-1937
Dr Alfred Henry Evans J.P.	Co-optative	1903-1937
Dr Philip Staveley Foster	Co-optative	1906-1912
John Charles Skelton J.P.	Holy Trinity	1899-1924
Arthur Radclyffe Whitelock	Hill	1907-1920
Rev. Reginald B Thompson	Boldmere	1909-1910
Rev. John Francis Forge	Walmley	1905-1932
Rev. Francis Barry Drew	Maney	1909-1912
Prof. Ernest de Selincourt	Birmingham University	1909-1914
Alderman William J Seal J.P.	Town Council	1895-1937
Alderman John T Glover J.P.	Town Council	1894-1918
Alderman Charles Vale J.P.	Town Council	1897-1920
Alderman William H Bailey J.P.	Town Council	1902-1920
Alderman Richard Hurst Sadler	Town Council	1910-1917
Councillor A L Crockford J.P.	County Council	1895-1933
Rev. Edward Arnold Anthony	County Council	1909-1911
Charles Henry Brampton J.P.	County Council	1910-1919



Fig. 10. Members of the Council of the Borough of Sutton Coldfield 1911. Of the five School Governors elected from the Town Council, four can be seen in this group photograph. They are Alderman R H Sadler (standing 2nd from the left), Alderman J T Glover J.P. (sitting 3rd from the right), Alderman W J Seal J.P. (sitting 2nd from the right) and Alderman C Vale J.P. (sitting on the extreme right).

The new Scheme also fixed the Headmaster's salary at £150 per annum, together with a capitation payment of not less than £2.0s.0d. per annum for each boy in the School. In practice, however, Jerrard received £3.0s.0d. per head.

In April 1910, the Governors purchased 5.45 acres of land from Emmanuel College, Cambridge. This land lay between the end of Boswell Road and Tamworth Road and was used to enlarge the School playing fields.

The plot was badly needed for the purpose of playing cricket and football. In the Headmaster's words:

"The possession of this field will confer great benefit on the outdoor life of the boys and will do away with the difficulties and dangers formerly encountered when four games of cricket were played simultaneously on one football field!"

In addition to cricket and soccer, athletics also flourished in the School and each year a Sports Day was arranged, to which parents and others were invited. The School also took the opportunity to raise additional funds, as can be seen from the following invitation, sent out in 1909.

"Dear Sir or Madam,

We are looking forward to holding our Annual Athletic Sports on Saturday June 26th. The success of the sports depends, to a very great extent, on the sympathy and support of the friends of the School. We therefore venture to appeal for your kind assistance, as in past years, and hope that we may have the pleasure of your company on Sports Day.

Subscriptions may take the form of money, or of suitable articles to be presented as prizes. Should any contributor desire his prize to be assigned to any particular event his wishes will, as far as possible, be respected."

In September 1910, the Warwickshire Education Committee asked the Clerk to the Governors if he could supply details of the destination of school leavers, in connection with an application from the School for an increased grant.

The return submitted gave details of 88 pupils who had left the School between 1908 and 1910.

25 went on to further education.

45 went into employment.

A further 8 left the district and 'Not Known' was given against a total of 9 other pupils. Sadly, one pupil died of heart disease.

The 25 who remained in education, were classified as follows:

1 went to Christ's College, Cambridge.

1 went to Birmingham University.

1 went to Agricultural College.

2 left to be privately educated at home.

The remaining ones transferred to other schools including public schools such as Oundle and Denstone.

Occupations upon leaving school were divided, as detailed below:

Clerk in an Insurance Office.	4
Apprenticed to the Grocery Trade.	2
Apprenticed to Wholesale Tea and Coffee Trade.	1
Apprenticed to Timber Merchant.	1
Clerk in Accounts Office.	4
Clerk in Architects Office.	1
Silversmith.	2
Articled to Solicitor.	2
Clerk to Coal Merchant.	1
Mechanical Engineer.	4
Apprenticed to Drapery Merchant.	1
Apprenticed to Corn Merchant.	1
Apprenticed in the Merchant Service.	1
Coal Merchant.	1
Elementary School Teacher.	3
Electrical Engineer.	2
Wholesale Printer and Stationer.	3
General Export Business.	1
Apprenticed to Builder.	2
Farmer.	2
Clerk for Birmingham Tramways.	1
Clerk in Solicitors Office.	3

Although there was disappointment at the small number of boys going on to University, it was clear that many were able to enter into a professional or business career straight from school.



Fig. 11. Front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School circa 1911.

The Census Return for 1911 provides a lot of useful additional information regarding Herbert Jerrard and his wife.

1911 Census Return

Name	Relationship	Age	Condition	Occupation	Birthplace
Herbert Jerrard	Head	44	Married	Headmaster of Grammar School	Lewisham, Kent
Jane Remington Jerrard	Wife	44	Married	-	Maidstone, Kent
Norman Squier	Boarder	23	Single	Schoolmaster	Bulphan, Essex
Sidney Grey Wintle	Boarder	23	Single	Schoolmaster	West Kensington, London
Beatrice Smith	Servant	33	Single	Matron	Shillington, Bedfordshire
Sarah Hughes	Servant	32	Single	Cook	Stourbridge, Worcestershire
Elizabeth J Bending	Servant	22	Single	Housemaid	Rhodes, Lancashire
Harriet Jane Evans	Servant	18	Single	Housemaid	Tal-y-Cafn, Denbeighshire
Elizabeth Spooner	Servant	21	Single	Kitchen Maid	Brownhills, Staffordshire
Robert Camy	Boarder	15	-	Scholar	Paris, France
Alfred Henry Abbey	Boarder	15	-	Scholar	Moscow, Russia
Claude Frank Townley	Boarder	15	-	Scholar	Punjab, India
Paul Stoer	Boarder	9	-	Scholar	Hampstead, London
Christopher P Howells	Boarder	11	-	Scholar	Cardiff, Glamorgan
William D Wedgwood	Boarder	9	-	Scholar	Queensland, Australia
George Gilbert Wilcox	Boarder	12	-	Scholar	Small Heath, Warwickshire
Percival Donald Walters	Boarder	8	-	Scholar	Pontardawe, Glamorgan
Thomas P Buckingham	Boarder	7	-	Scholar	Brailes, Warwickshire
Arthur Kingsley Guest	Boarder	11	-	Scholar	West Morden, London
Charles Ian Jerrard	Boarder	10	-	Scholar	Lewisham, Kent
John B Whitehouse	Boarder	15	-	Scholar	Erdington, Warwickshire
Lionel Hugh Forrest	Boarder	13	-	Scholar	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
Leo George Burton	Boarder	16	-	Scholar	Erdington, Warwickshire

It can be seen from this that they were looking after two of the young masters at the school, who were described as being boarders.

In addition, they employed five servants to assist Mrs Jerrard in the running of the household and to look after a total of 14 boys who were also boarding there.

Although several of the boys had parents who lived relatively near to the School, others were scattered across the country and it was a surprise to find that quite a few came from much further afield.

One was from Queensland in Australia, whilst others were based in such diverse countries as Wales, France, Russia and even the Punjab in India.

It is likely that their fathers were engaged in commercial activities or may have been attached to the Diplomatic Corps in some form or another.

Jerrard, at the age of 45, was initiated into Warden Lodge No. 794 of the Freemasons in Sutton Coldfield, on the 7th May 1912.

In July 1912, the Bishop of Birmingham was invited to present the School prizes and the Town Hall was hired for the occasion. The presentation was preceded by a display of physical exercises and a speech by the Headmaster on the work of the School.

Herbert Jerrard took the opportunity to quote from the third Board of Education Inspection Report, which had been completed a few months earlier in the February of that year.

"The School is, in general, well managed and though, without distinction, is doing much useful work. The most serious weakness is the small number of boys who remain beyond the age of 16. However, before basing any conclusions adverse to the efficiency of the School on this defect, there are two points to be remembered. Firstly, it is natural that boys who wish to and are capable of doing advanced work, will avail themselves of the special opportunities offered by the larger schools in a great city such as Birmingham. Secondly, parents often wish to send their sons away to a boarding school when they reach the age of 13 or 14 and the removal of them from a day school is not necessarily any evidence of dissatisfaction with that school.

The fact that more boys do not stay cannot be attributed to any weakness of the staff, for in the three cardinal departments of Classics, Mathematics and Science, there are masters fully qualified and capable of taking work up to the level of a good Sixth Form.

The establishment of a Preparatory Department has brought into the School a large number of boys, many of whom show good promise. Even if, as will probably be the case, some of them leave in order to go to boarding schools, it may be expected that a good number will remain to the end of their school life. It will be fair ground for criticism, if the success of the Junior School does not, within a few years, lead to a corresponding strengthening of the Upper School."

Later that same year, after discussion with the County Council, the offer of a larger grant for the School was agreed. Unfortunately, this was on condition that tuition fees were raised and the Headmaster accepted a reduction in his salary.

In October 1912, approval by the Governors was finally reached and the following resolution was proposed by the Reverend O H Wethered (Vicar of Boldmere) and seconded by the Reverend J F Forge (Vicar of Walmley):

“That the Governors greatly regret the pressure which was put upon them by the County Council to compel them to raise the tuition fees for the scholars and the inadequate amount of the grant held out to them on condition that the fees be raised, but although serious doubt is felt as to the effect of raising the fees and great objection is taken to this step by the Town Council, the Governors are in such a position that they cannot resist the pressure put upon them if an adequate grant be given of at least £750, the Headmaster being prepared to accept a reduced capitation fee of £2 on all boys over the first 100.”

The tuition fees were duly raised from £8.10s.0d. to £9.9s.0d. per year. The Headmaster's reduction in capitation fees cost him around £90 per annum, but the Governors agreed to pay some of the household expenses of the Old School House by way of compensation. It was a gamble whether increasing the fees would increase the Governors' income or deter parents from sending their boys to the School.

The School accounts for the year ended 31st March 1912 showed a deficit of £657.12s.1d. and by the 31st March 1914 the overdraft with Lloyds Bank had increased to £715.15s.10d.

The Governors increased their income to some extent by hiring out the Engineering Shop to the Technical School and letting the Gymnasium to Miss Dugard for the purposes of a Ladies Gymnastics Class on Monday evenings.

Any hope the Governors may have had of improving their finances, however, was thwarted on the 4th August 1914 when Great Britain declared war against Germany, following their invasion of Belgium. Britain had earlier entered into an agreement to protect their neutrality and so the First World War began.

Herbert Jerrard acknowledged the event by writing in *'The Veseyan'* school magazine, as follows:

“The school session upon which we are now entering is attended by a circumstance more remarkable and critical than any we have experienced for fully a hundred years.”

The Headmaster's Report to the Governors in July 1915 dealt largely with the effects of the war and was couched in language, to modern ears, that exalted the courage of volunteers above the risk of death or injury. He stated:

“I am pleased to be able to record that I have the names of 133 old boys who have joined the Colours since August 3rd 1914 and 37 of these have been granted commissions.

He further commented:

“Mr Pochin (FILE NOTE: a previous teacher at the School) had joined his Regiment at the beginning of the war and had been at the Front since the early Spring. He received his Captain's commission on the 10th May.

The Engineering Shop had been used during the last month for the production of munitions. At the present time they were turning out the driving discs for the 45/60 lb shrapnel anti-personnel projectiles at the rate of 500 per week.”

In November 1915 the School was asked to help with the work of the Camps Library in supplying books and magazines to H M Forces. Apparently, between 70,000 and 80,000 books, were being sent abroad every week and the demand for them was practically unlimited. The most sought-after books were largely fiction and, in particular, the small 6d, 7d and 1/- shilling editions of cloth bound novels.



Fig. 12. Bishop Vesey's Junior School 1st Form 1915.

L-R Back Row: Marshall. Mossdale. Frear. Bullows. Clark. Taylor. Greathead. Harvey. Boston. Hudson.

Middle Row: Clarke. Moore. Collins. Freeman. Price. Miles. Preedy. Glover. Bushell. Phillips.

Front Row: Raybould. Walker. Dawson. Jackson. Taylor. Withington.

The following March, despite two and a half million men having volunteered to join the Army, the Government reluctantly introduced conscription, due to the high casualty rates suffered since the commencement of the war. It was decreed that all men between the ages of 18 and 42 should join the armed forces. Those who evaded the call or refused on conscientious grounds were to be imprisoned.

In July 1916, the Headmaster reported to the Governors that:

"Of the 12 Masters at present teaching, five are over 42 years of age, three have been declared unfit for any military service, two are fit for garrison duty at home and may be called up, one has been discharged from the Army after 13 months service as medically unfit and Mr W D Hills, the Science Master, the only sound man on the staff, has been granted exemption so long as he continues to train munition workers."

Jerrard also stated that:

"Captain Pochin had been wounded, but had made a recovery and had rejoined his regiment."

By this date, twenty of the 200 serving old boys had been killed in the war and three old boys had been awarded the Military Cross, namely; Captain Hampson, Lieutenant Parkes and Lieutenant Sampson.

In the meantime, the work of the School continued and a record of 10 boys passed the Oxford Senior Local Examination.

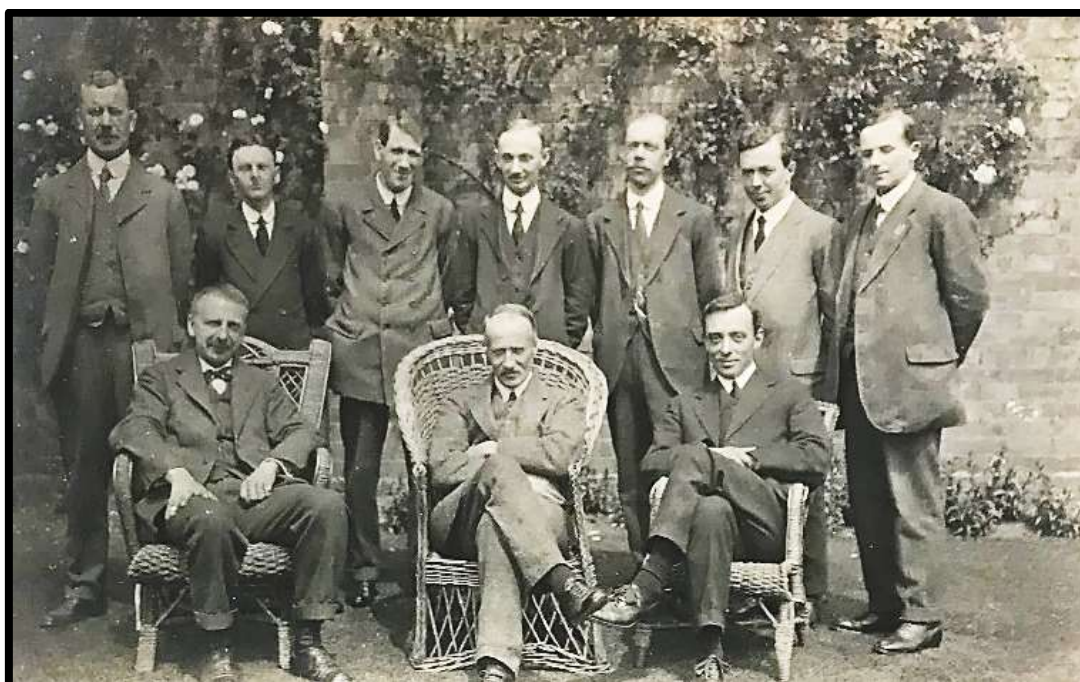


Fig. 13. Group of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Masters circa 1916.

L-R Back Row: Mr Collier?. Mr S Jones. Mr Hopkins? Mr Moreton, Mr G H Gifford. Mr R A Pritchard. Mr W D Hills.
Front Row: Mr Letty. Mr Jerrard (Headmaster). Mr W Harrison.

Towards the end of 1916, Eddowes received a letter from Captain Pochin, written from the trenches:

"My wife has forwarded me a letter asking if my appointment as adjutant makes any difference to my Army Pay. Whilst holding this appointment, I receive an extra 5/- shillings per day designated as Duty Pay.

I did not think of writing to you to tell you this, as it did not occur to me that it would affect you. I have secured promotion mainly because I have stuck to my work, remained out here, and generally been through it.

If the extra pay I receive in recognition of this is deducted from my civil salary, then I derive no benefit at all, which appears to me to be rather hard.

The weather lately has not made things any easier for us here, but we are getting through all right. I shall be very glad when I can return to Sutton Coldfield."

When one reads something like this, knowing now the conditions the troops had to endure on the front line, one can only feel great sympathy for them and immense admiration for their courage and fortitude.

Happily, I am pleased to report that Captain Pochin survived the war and returned home to Sutton Coldfield and Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, eventually becoming Principal of the Technical School.



Fig. 14. Bishop Vesey's Junior School 2nd Form 1916.

L-R Back Row: Forge. Dixon. Bullows. Mosedale. Keortgn. Taylor. Bushel. Marshall. Clarke. Greathead.

Middle Row: Bowen. Preedy. Price. Glover. Freeman. Griffiths. Boston. Moore.

Front Row: Dawson. Taylor. Jackson. Clarke. Green.

In his Annual Report, issued in July 1917, the Headmaster revealed that:

“Another three old boys had been awarded the Military Cross, namely; Lieutenant Clarke, Lieutenant Pitt and Lieutenant Wykes, whilst a further six old boys has sadly died in action,

Frequent staff changes had been unsettling to the smooth running of the School, with several leaving and having to be replaced. Among the new arrivals were Miss L Le Huray, Miss G Forrest and Mr J V Lamb, who later became known as ‘Jerky’.

Miss Le Huray was the first teacher to be employed by the Governors. Although Miss Hall had previously taught Art between 1890 and 1908, she had been officially on the payroll of the School of Art.

These many upheavals prompted Jerrard to remark:

“It cannot be pretended that this is a good arrangement, but it appears to be the best which could be made during the abnormal conditions caused by the war.

In November of the same year, the Governors approved a scheme of increases in the teachers’ salaries every year until the end of July 1923. These increases were to be financed from a Board of Education fund know as ‘Fisher money’, H Fisher being the President of the Board from 1916 to 1922.

The scheme of increases envisaged that the Governors would have to find £170 from their own resources, but this was approved on the assumption that some senior teachers would leave before 1923 and would be replaced by younger applicants who would accordingly be paid a lower salary. In this respect they miscalculated, as only one of the more senior teachers left during this period.

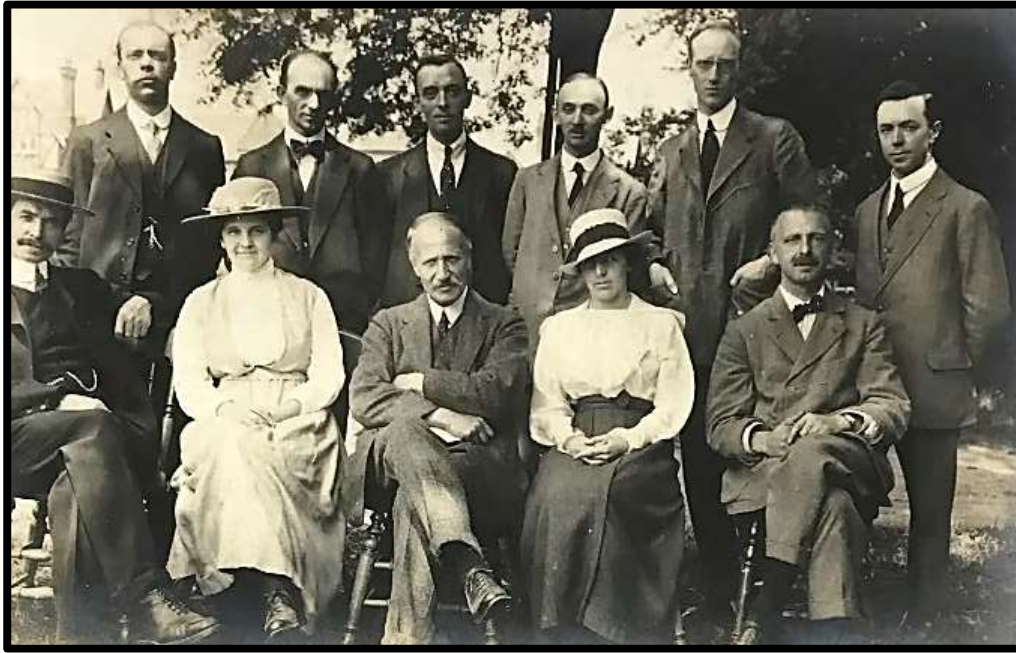


Fig. 15. Teachers at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in 1917.

L-R Back Row: Mr G H Gifford, Mr J V Lamb, Mr W Harrison, Mr Moreton, Mr F W Burd, Mr R A Pritchard.
Front Row: Mr J T Amos, Miss G Forest, Mr H Jerrard (Headmaster), Miss L Le Huray, Mr A G Letty.

November 1917 was also a momentous day for Lieutenant Charles George Bonner, who had attended the School between 1893 – 1898. He was awarded the Victoria Cross whilst serving on board HMS *Dunraven* when it came into conflict with a German submarine in the Bay of Biscay on the 8th August.

Charles Bonner died on the 7th February 1951, aged 66 and is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Aldridge, West Midlands.



Fig. 16. Lieutenant Charles George Bonner VC, circa 1917.

In May 1918, Lieutenant Alan Jerrard, the Headmaster's son was also awarded the Victoria Cross. He was born on the 3rd December 1897 in Lewisham, London and educated at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and Oundle School in Northamptonshire.

In 1915, he began a degree course at Birmingham University but, by the end of the year, he had decided to enlist in the Army. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the South Staffordshire Regiment on the 2nd January 1916. After a few months as an infantry subaltern, he applied to the Royal Flying Corps and on the 16th August began ground instruction at the School of Military Aeronautics.

Following further postings to No. 25 (Reserve) Squadron, No. 9 (Reserve) Squadron, No. 59 Squadron and No. 50 (Reserve) Squadron, Jerrard was transferred to Upavon Central Flying School, from which he graduated as an RFC pilot on the 14th June 1917.

His first operational posting was to Liettres, in France on the 19th July 1917, when he was promoted to Lieutenant. On the 5th August, he destroyed a German convoy before the engine of his plane cut out and he crashed into a railway embankment breaking his nose and jaw in the process.

After spending several months back in England recuperating from his wounds, he was posted to No. 66 Squadron in Italy, arriving at his new unit on the 22nd February 1918. There followed a series of missions, during which he destroyed an enemy balloon, two Berg scout planes and an Albatross scout.

On the 30th March 1918, near Mansue, Italy, Jerrard, with two other officers, on offensive patrol, shot down one of five enemy aircraft. Then, flying at 50 feet in his Sopwith 'Camel' Scout plane, he attacked an aerodrome where some 19 machines were either landing or attempting to take off.

After destroying one of these he was attacked by more enemy aircraft but, seeing a brother officer in difficulties, went to assist him, shooting down a third enemy machine. He continued his attacks, only retreating, with five aircraft in pursuit, on the orders of his patrol leader. Even then he repeatedly turned to beat off the enemy until he was finally forced down.

Alan Jerrard was taken prisoner by the Austro-Hungarians, interrogated and taken to a regular POW camp at Salzburg. Following repatriation after the end of the War, he opted to continue his career in the Royal Air Force.

He was one of only 19 members of the flying service to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the course of the First World War. He was presented with his medal by King George V at a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace on the 5th April 1919. In addition, he was also awarded the French and Italian Military War Crosses.



Fig. 17. Alan Jerrard at Buckingham Palace for his VC award ceremony. Accompanying him is his mother. His father, Herbert Jerrard, can be seen to the rear.

Alan Jerrard died on the 14th May 1968, aged 70, at Lyme Regis in Devon and was cremated at the Exeter & Devon Crematorium. His ashes were interred in a family grave at Uxbridge & Hillingdon Cemetery, Middlesex.

His medals can now be seen in the Lord Ashcroft Gallery, Imperial War Museum, London.



Fig. 18. Alan Jerrard's Group of Medals, with the Victoria Cross on the left-hand side.



Fig. 19. Lieutenant Alan Jerrard VC in the uniform of the South Staffordshire Regiment, circa 1916.



Fig. 20 Alan Jerrard pictured with his SPAD S. VII 1917.

In 2014, Sutton Coldfield Civic Society organised the erection of side-by-side blue plaques to officially commemorate the achievements of these two brave ex-pupils of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.

The plaques can be found on the front elevation of the School overlooking Lichfield Road.



Fig. 21. Front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Lichfield Road, showing side-by-side blue plaques in commemoration of two Victoria Crosses awarded to ex-pupils of the School during the First World War. 2014.

When the war finally came to an end on the 11th November 1918, a total of 313 'Old Boys' are known to have served in either the Army, Navy, or Royal Flying Corp and of these, 64 were killed in action.

An impressive list of decorations were gained during the conflict, which included:

- 2 Victoria Crosses.
- 2 Distinguished Service Orders.
- 1 Distinguished Service Medal.
- 1 Distinguished Flying Cross.
- 13 Military Crosses,
- 1 Military Cross and bar.
- 1 St. George's Cross.
- 1 Order of the British Empire.



Fig. 22. Some of the Teachers at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School 1918.

L-R Back Row: Mr Fairweather? Mr J V Lamb. Mr F W Burd. Mr R A Pritchard. Mr G H Gifford. Mr W Harrison.
Front Row: Mr J T Amos. Miss G Forest. Miss L Le Huray. Mr H Jerrard (Headmaster). Miss Gates. Mr A G Letty.

In October 1919, the Governors launched an appeal for contributions towards a memorial to be erected in the School for those who had served and those that had made the ultimate sacrifice. This took the form of a central panel with the heading of 'Roll of Honour', with two panels on either side.

This was officially unveiled on Saturday 25th November 1921.

Tuition fees at the School were increased from £9.9s.0d. per annum to £10.10s.0d. in January 1919, together with the cost of boarding fees from £36 to £45.

These changes were described as being necessary 'owing to the exceptional conditions produced by the war'.



Fig. 23. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Form 3a 1919.

L-R Back Row: Boydelle. Miles. Boston. Bowen. Banks. Bird. Jorge. Price. Harvey.
Middle Row: Laud. Clarke. Whitely. Hawkins. Turnbull. Preedy. Dixon. Mosedale.
Front Row: Baker. Brockington. Horsley. Bennett. Glover. Nicholls. Keortgn.

The number of boys joining had also increased from 188 to 235 during the conflict and the Governors expected that this figure would further increase quite rapidly. In this assumption they were correct as, in the summer of 1920, the total was 249 and by September 1921 it had increased to over 300 pupils.



Fig. 24. Members of Bishop Vesey's Army Cadet Corps, circa 1920.

The first Board of Education inspection of the School since 1912 took place in February 1921 and extracts from their report are, as provided below:

"Since the last full inspection, the numbers of pupils have increased. Unfortunately, this increase was only in the lower part of the School, there being 153 boys below the age of 12, but only 11 boys above 16.

This figure has been adversely affected by the transfer of boys to other Secondary Schools, due to exceptional migration during the war but, even allowing for that, it is still obvious that the School is not keeping its pupils long enough to do work of a really secondary type.

The Junior School rooms are not satisfactory and the little boys are being taught under very bad conditions as regards lighting, heating and ventilation. The temperature of one of the rooms during the inspection was only 47 degrees.

Under present circumstances, permanent buildings are out of the question but, in the interests of the pupils, class rooms for the juniors are still more necessary now than in 1912, owing to the increase in numbers. It is suggested therefore that steps should, at the earliest opportunity, be taken to provide three or four temporary class rooms and cloak rooms near the Gymnasium and that the Gymnasium should be used as the Assembly Hall for the juniors, thus making the Junior School self-contained.

The equipment in some class rooms is in a very bad state, some of the desks are old fashioned, mutilated and with no support for the back.

The sanitary provision has not kept pace with the increased numbers.

The staff is adequate in number but, academically, is poorly qualified. There are 13 full-time assistants, only four of whom have a University degree. Four others have apparently no paper qualifications at all. Although there may occasionally be circumstances which may furnish a reason for the presence of such teachers in a Secondary School, it cannot be denied that so large a proportion of them on the staff of one school cannot fail to have a detrimental effect on the standard of work.

The organisation of the Junior School is not altogether suitable. Junior 1 contains 27 boys and clearly needs sub-dividing, since the best boys are very much in advance of those at the bottom of the class.

The behaviour of the boys in and out of the class room calls for favourable comment. A reasonable share of the discipline appears to be exercised by the prefects who are elected by the staff.

Two of the most serious defects in the School is firstly, the small number of boys who remain beyond the age of 16 and secondly, the lack of a definite aim in the advanced work at the top of the school.

Now that parents are required to keep their boys at school, at least until 16, many will doubtless be disposed to keep them still longer, but they will need assurance that this will be to the boys' advantage.

If a definite 2 years' course of work leading up to a Second School Examination is planned and carried into effect, there is little doubt that enough boys will remain to form a good top to the School. Until this advanced work becomes a reality, however, the School is failing to fulfil its proper function in the area."

With the exception of the boys' behaviour and the good efforts of the prefects, it is difficult to find much solace in the contents of the report which showed a sad state of affairs in general, which must have disappointed the Governors and particularly Herbert Jerrard, the Headmaster, who was now in his twentieth year at the School.

The Board of Education's Report also included some interesting statistics- see below:

Occupation of Parent	Percentage
Professional	21
Farmers	4
Wholesale Traders	19
Retail Traders & Contractors	19
Clerks & Commercial Agents	22
Public Service	3
Artisans	11
Labourers	1

Area boys came from	Percentage
Sutton Coldfield	73
Rest of Warwickshire	21
Rest of England	5
Places outside England	1

In May 1921 school fees were again increased from £10.10s.0d. to £12.0s.0d. The Warwickshire Education Committee held the view that £12.12s.0d. should be a minimum fee and they threatened that future grants would be dependent on this figure being agreed.

Despite this threat the Governors resolved not to increase the fees again. They also pointed out that, as they were charging £12.0s.0d. for the Junior School pupils instead of the £8.8s.0d. recommended by the County, the total fees at the School were more than the required level.

Several of the Secondary Schools in Warwickshire were in revolt against the County Education Committee and a Conference was held on the 9th June 1921, which representatives from the Grammar Schools of Coleshill, Atherstone, Stratford, Warwick, Rugby and Coventry attended. The Reverend Forge and the Clerk, Herbert Eddowes, were present on behalf of Bishop Vesey's.

The main areas of discontent were proposals that the Education Committee should be given the right of veto on the appointment of Headmasters, that it should have the power to set tuition fees and boarding fees and that it should be able to fix an upper limit on Headmasters' salaries, inclusive of boarding and capitation fees.

The Education Committee's argument was that, as they were making grants to aided Secondary Schools at the rate of £33,500 per annum, they thought it was only reasonable that they should be able to fix such conditions of the grant.

In the meantime, the Director of Education had already written to Eddowes telling him that the Headmaster's salary should be set at £750. Included in the calculation was a charge of £70 per annum for occupying the School House.

The Governors instructed the Clerk to reply that:

"They cannot see their way to reduce the stipend of the present Headmaster."

In reply, the Director of Education used a similar expression when he stated:

"My Committee do not see their way to recommend their County Council to alter their present rule."

The right of veto on the appointment of Headmasters was subsequently withdrawn and replaced by a condition that the Committee should have three voting members on a school's appointment panel. The schools strongly objected to this proposal, as being contrary to their schemes and because the Council already had representation on the Governing Bodies.

The committee's response to the first objection was unequivocal, that since the Board of Education was behind the proposal there would be little, if any, difficulty in obtaining their consent to any necessary alteration to the school's schemes.

Its response to the second objection was more caustic, in that the Local Authority Governors were appointed by the Council not the Education Committee.

On the question of fees, the schools wanted them to be fixed by agreement between the Committee and the Governors, but the Committee insisted on the level of fees being resolved by the Committee after consultation with the Governors.

After further negotiations a compromise was reached that the fees would be agreed upon after consultation between Governors and the Committee, such fees to be in the opinion of the Committee in reasonable conformity with those generally prevailing in the County, after making such allowance as the Committee approve for any special circumstance.

It is easy to understand the schools' resentment of bureaucratic interference but, in light of their ever-increasing dependence on public funding, a shift of power in the management of schools was inevitable.

The Governors joined forces with Sutton Town Council in an endeavour to secure fair and proper treatment for the School. The County had calculated that the Headmaster was receiving £1,000 - £1,100 per annum from his salary, capitation fees and boarding fees, which was at least £200 more than their scale.

The Governors, however, provided figures to show that Jerrard's average net salary for the last five years had not exceeded £600. When the cost of feeding and maintaining boarders and the cost of servants required and other expenditure incidental to the keeping of boarders were taken into account, the Headmaster was more than likely to make a loss on the boarding house than a profit.

The Headmaster was receiving £50 per annum for each boarder and the County expected him to pay 10% to the Governors. The Governors' view was that to expect any contribution, especially in times they were experiencing, was unwarrantable.

The Governors stated:

"The Headmaster takes boarders, not as a source of profit, but in order to improve the tone and esprit de corps of the School."

They could also have added that the Headmaster's wife acted as an unpaid Housekeeper of the boarding establishment and took responsibility for the boarders' welfare.

The Town Council supported the Governors' stance and were also opposed to raising tuition fees believing that, in taking up this position, they represented public opinion.

The County Council, however, had the upper hand and they announced a reduced grant of £600 for the 1921/22 period, as a result of the Governors not complying with their conditions.

The Governors called for a meeting with the Education Committee and, on the 3 November 1921, they duly came to an agreement that:

- a) Tuition fees would be increased to £12 12s.0d. with effect from September 1922, with an extra £2.2s.0d. for boys from outside Warwickshire.
- b) Boarding fees would be increased from £49.10s.0d. to £60.0s.0d. from September 1922 and the Headmaster would contribute £5.0s.0d. per head to the School funds. For boys outside Warwickshire, the fees would be £65.0s.0d. with the Headmaster contributing £10.0s.0d. per head.
- c) The Headmaster's salary would be £800 rising to £900 by annual increments of £20, less £70 for the value of his use of the School House.

In exchange for the Governors giving way on all three points, the County Council agreed to reinstate the grant of £750.

The consequence of raising the boarding fees became more apparent once the increase was announced to parents.

Herbert Jerrard wrote a letter to the Director of Education in March 1922, in which he stated:

"At present I have 24 boarders. Thirteen of these live between here and Gravelly Hill.

If their fees are raised next September, 3 boys will cease to be boarders and will become day boys. Of the remainder, I expect to lose three boys as a consequence of the change of fees.

This sudden diminution of boarders must involve me in serious financial loss and may lead to the closing of the boarding establishment altogether."

The Education Committee were, however, unmoved and replied that they saw:

"No reason to alter their previous decision."

In January 1922, Jerrard applied to the Governors for secretarial assistance and for a typewriter to enable him to deal with the **"voluminous correspondence and returns required by the Board of Education."**

The Governors allowed him £20 to purchase a typewriter and authorised him to engage a secretary for 40 weeks in the year, at a salary of 10s.0d. per week.

The first School Secretary was, in fact, Mrs Letty, the wife of the Junior School Master.

On the 11th September 1922, a tragedy occurred which shook everyone at the School.

Mr Henry Fairweather, who had been the Science Master at Bishop Vesey's since 1917 and was part-time Principal of the Technical School in succession to Captain Pochin, was found dead.

Further investigation found that he had committed suicide. He had taken potassium cyanide from one of the School's laboratories, gone into his office and written letters to his wife and the caretaker and then took his own life.

Later, at the Coroners Court Hearing, his widow gave evidence that:

"Her husband was in good health, but for the past two years had felt the strain of his work, which kept him engaged until ten o'clock at night."

Herbert Hawes, who was the Chief Clerk at the Warwickshire County Council, was called to give evidence about Henry Fairweather's finances. He stated that:

"Although there was no reason for Fairweather to take his own life, he was obliged to say that there were certain moneys due to the Council from Fairweather as Principal of the Technical School and at the time the Council were pressing him."

Henry Fairweather was only 37 years of age when he sadly died and it would seem that overwork and financial pressures were the cause of his demise.

His successor, as Principal of the Technical School, was Mr Sylvanus Jones, who served the School loyally from 1908-1947, becoming Headmaster in 1929.

The Clerk to the Governors, Herbert Eddowes, gave the Governors notice of his intention to resign his position on the 31st December 1922.

The Governors duly convened a Special Meeting and it was agreed that the post should be advertised at a salary of £125 per annum.

Mr Crockford proposed:

“That Mr Perry be invited to accept the office.”

Mr Ansell further proposed:

“That Mr J H Perry, a Sutton Coldfield Solicitor, be and is hereby appointed Clerk to the Governors at a salary of £125 per year as from the 1st January next and otherwise upon the same conditions as his predecessor.”

This was carried unanimously.

Eddowes was 57 years of age and had no ambition to rival his father’s record of 47 years in the post.

He did, however, remain as senior partner of Eddowes & Perry for a further 15 years but, after dealing with the Board of Education and the Warwickshire Education Committee, he was more than happy to hand over the reins to his partner in the firm, John Perry, who was only three years his junior.

In 1923, the maintenance grant paid by the County Council was reduced from £700 to £250, their reason being:

“In view of the fact that schools are now receiving a larger sum in fees and therefore do not need so much assistance.”

This contention was borne out by the fact that the School accounts for the year ending 31st March 1923 showed a saving of £573.17s.7d. (the equivalent to approximately £44,000 in today’s money).

There was, however, a large decrease in the number of boarders, following the increase in the boarding fees and, in consequence, the Headmaster’s income had suffered considerably.

In 1924, the Governors purchased from Miss Charlotte and Miss Mary Goodhall the property known as ‘The Firs’, which stood in two acres of land on the corner of Boswell Road and Lichfield Road, next door to the Grammar School.

‘The Firs’ was a substantial, three storey, 18th century residence and its acquisition by the Governors showed considerable foresight, as without it the School could not have developed in the way it has.

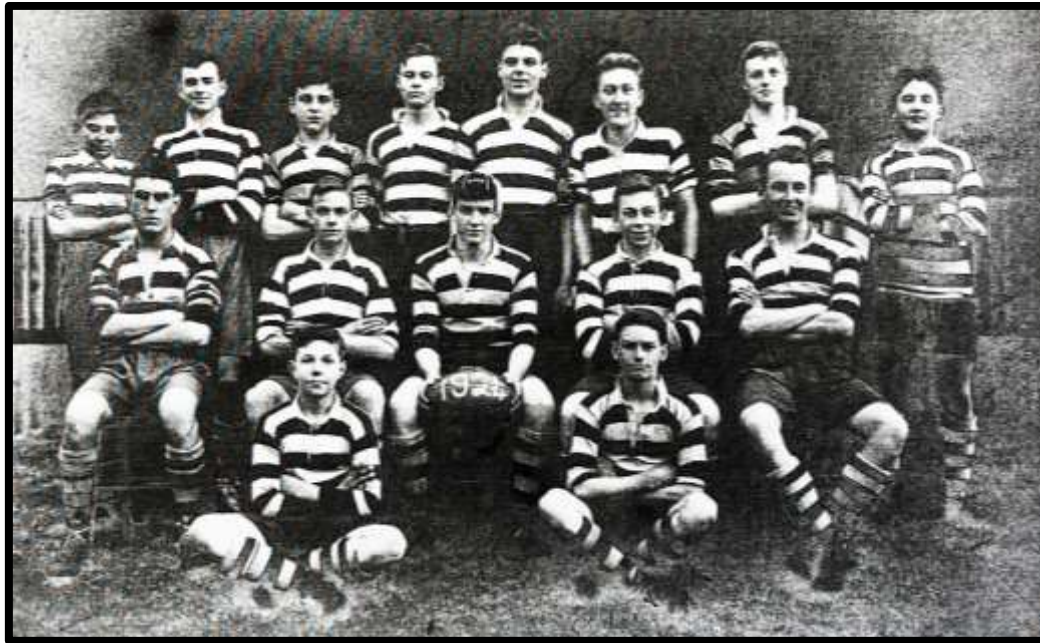


Fig. 25. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Rugby Team 1924.

L-R Back Row (Standing): Cyril Northwood-Batham. Cyril Goffe. B T Jones. Walter White. Colin R Fenby. Alan C Cope. R G Heath. Norman C Heath.

Centre Row (Seated): Eric R Shelley. J R de Carteret. C W Miller. H A Heeley. A K Thompson.

Front Row (Seated on the ground): Kenneth C Shelley. Frederick J Nokes.

In early 1925, the Board of Education instructed Local Education Authorities not to make grants to schools **"beyond what is necessary to avoid a deficit on the year's working,"**

This was intended to be an economy measure, but it actually encouraged schools to spend more money, as there was no virtue in making a saving.

In May, the Headmaster reported that **"In consequence of the serious diminution in boarders and the heavy expenditure incurred in keeping the necessary staff"**, he had decided to close down the boarding establishment at the end of the summer term.

The Governors instructed the Clerk to refer the matter to the Local Education Authority, presumably in the hope that they would do something to solve the dilemma, but they were not interested in the Headmaster's plight, beyond expressing regret at his decision.

Jerrard was off work for much of the summer term because of an illness, which necessitated an operation. His colleague, Mr Sylvanus Jones, was appointed as Acting Headmaster during Jerrard's absence.

In January 1926, Jerrard **"with considerable regret"**, gave the Governors notice of his intention to retire on the 31st August, giving as his reason **"if I live until that date, I shall have reached the pensionable age of 60 and completed nearly 25 years' service in my present office."**



Fig. 26. Herbert Jerrard B.Sc., M.A., when he was close to retirement.

Later that same year, in May, Lt. Colonel Joseph Henry Wilkinson of Ashfurlong Hall gave the Governors £1,200 (worth approximately £92,000 in today's money) for the purpose of providing a scholarship of £60 per annum. His portrait, in full uniform, can still be seen today, as it continues to hang on the wall in Big School.



Fig. 27. Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Henry Wilkinson (1845-1931).

The Wilkinson Exhibition remains the highest academic award which the School gives, competing jointly with the Duncalfe Exhibition and these two awards are handed out in alternate years.

On the 26th July there took place a retirement presentation for Herbert Jerrard, attended by some of the Governors, most of the staff and many of the boys.

Mr Sylvanus Jones spoke of Jerrard's faithful service to the School during a period of 24 years and the self-sacrifice and excellent management which had marked his tenure of office. He went on to say that he had led the School successfully through very critical years and, in spite of all difficulties, had conducted it to its present high position.

The Head Prefect spoke of:

"The great strides the School had made since 1902 when the boys numbered only 70, with a staff of three. The alterations and improvement too in the School itself had been no less striking. In 1906 a new wing had been added and later a much-needed Gymnasium had been built. New buildings for the Junior School had had to be erected to cope with the ever-increasing numbers who sought admission. Under Mr Jerrard, games had been organised on a proper basis, the Operatic Society had come into being and a first-class Cadet Corps had been instituted."

Mr Jerrard was presented with an armchair and he said it was:

"A very acceptable gift to a decrepit old man who was very sorry to leave, but he now wished for a rest."

Mrs Jerrard, who was evidently a popular figure with the boys, was presented with a silver bonbon dish, which she said would remind her of:

"The happy days she had spent at the School."

She ended by expressing a hope that:

"The new Headmaster would not whack the boys any harder than 'Old Jerry'."

In his 25th and last Annual Report to the Governors, Jerrard praised his staff by saying:

"I can speak most highly of the devotion and hard work of those who have assisted me. The coming of the Burnham Scale (FILE NOTE: A national pay scale for teachers in primary and secondary schools.) enabled me to get together a first-class staff who, by their efforts both in and out of school, have raised the quality of the work and influenced the outlook of the Upper Forms. I am happy that there has been a great advance over the past three years and that the School is now in a position to go forward with higher work."

The School House had become somewhat neglected over the past fifteen years and the Governors spent £275 on redecoration work, connecting a gas cooker and gas fires and installing electric lighting.

The Governors paid the Headmaster ten guineas for the furniture in his Study, which comprised, six walnut framed chairs, an armchair, knee hole writing table and linoleum, together with 13 trestles and 4 table tops in the Dining Hall, all as valued by Messrs. Fowler Bewlay & Co.

Jerrard was invited back to the School in November 1926 to present the prizes at Speech Day, when a further presentation was made to him from money collected from many of the 1,200 old boys who had passed through the School during his Headmastership.

Herbert Jerrard retired to Weston-super-Mare and, after a lifetime in the teaching profession, it would appear that he was determined to enjoy his retirement. In 1928, it was known that he

travelled to the West Indies accompanied by his brother, William Jerrard, who was a Builder and, at the time, was residing at 'Fairview', Vicars Hill, Lewisham SE13.

On their return journey, they departed from Kingston, Jamaica and sailed via Santa Marta, Trinidad and Barbados on board the vessel 'City of Christiana' on their way to Bristol, where they docked on the 5th September 1928.

He died on the 12th November 1936 at 'Trelynwydd', 9 Eastfield Park, Weston-super-Mare, at the age of 70. Probate was granted in London on the 25th January 1937 to his brother Harry Jerrard and Graham Cunningham, a Company Director, and his Personal Effects totalled £40,740.14s 8d.

Jerrard Drive was named after him, thus leaving a lasting legacy of his time spent in Sutton Coldfield.

ADDENDUM

All the following entries come under the heading of Trinity Ward and noted as being a Dwelling House.

Sutton Coldfield Burgess Roll

Year	Name	Address	Description
1903-04	Herbert Jerrard	Lichfield Road	Grammar School
1904-05	"	"	"
1905-06	"	The School House, Lichfield Road	The School House
1906-07	"	"	"
1907-09	"	"	"
1909-10	"	"	"
1910-11	"	"	"
1911-12	"	"	"
1912-13	"	"	"
1913-14	"	"	"
1914-15	"	"	"
1916	No Record	-	-
1917	No Record	-	-

Sutton Coldfield Voters Register (Polling District – Sutton Coldfield W23 Division II)

Year	Name	Address	Description
1918	Herbert Jerrard	The School House, Lichfield Road	The School House
1919	Alan Jerrard (Son)	"	"

Sutton Coldfield Register of Electors

Year	Name	Address	Polling District
1920	Herbert Jerrard Jane Remington Jerrard (Wife) Alan Jerrard (Son)	The School House, Lichfield Road	Sutton Coldfield W23
1921	"	"	"
1922	"	"	"
1923	"	"	Sutton Coldfield Y25
1924	"	"	"
1925	"	"	"
1926	"	"	Sutton Coldfield Z26

Bibliography

Internet Sources

www.ancestry.co.uk
<https://www.thisdayinaviation.com>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_William_Anson_3rd_Baronet
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_George_Bonner
<https://art.org/discover/artworks/lieutenant-colonel-joseph-henry-wilkinson>
<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=alan+jerrard>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Jerrard
<https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/alan-jerrard>
<https://www.lordashcroftbravery.com/press/hero>

Sources taken from the Local Studies Section of Sutton Coldfield Library

Sutton Coldfield Burgess Roll.
Sutton Coldfield Voters Register.
Sutton Coldfield Register of Electors.

Newspapers

Sutton Coldfield News dated 1st August 1903.
Staffordshire Advertiser dated 18th January 1919.

Census Returns

1871 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1881 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1891 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1901 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.
1911 Census Return for Sutton Coldfield.

Books

'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School – The Twentieth Century' by Kerry Osbourne. Printed by Horton Printing Company, Birmingham. Published by Sadler House, Sutton Coldfield.

'The Street Names of Sutton Coldfield' by Kerry Osbourne, 2007. Printed by Horton Printing Limited, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield. Published by Sadler House, Sutton Coldfield.

Photographs

Fig. 1. Herbert Jerrard B.Sc., M.A. Headmaster of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School 1902-1926. Photograph courtesy of Kerry Osbourne.

Fig. 2. Plan of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Estates in 1868. *'A History of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School – The Twentieth Century'* by Kerry Osbourne. Printed by Horton Printing Company, Birmingham. Published by Sadler House, Sutton Coldfield.

Fig. 3. Technical School, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, circa 1923. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School can be seen on the left-hand side of the photograph, slightly to the rear of the Technical School. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection. No. 1571.

Fig. 4. Sir William Anson Bt., FBA. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_William_Anson_3rd_Baronet

Bibliography (Continued)

Photographs (Continued)

Fig. 5. Sir William Anson at the opening of the new extension to Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, surrounded by local dignitaries from the Council and the Board of Governors, 1906. Sir William Anson can be seen in the light-coloured overcoat. R H Sadler, Herbert Jerrard and the previous Headmaster, the Reverend Albert Smith, are also in the front row. Photograph courtesy of Kerry Osbourne.

Fig. 6. The boys at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, awaiting the arrival of Sir William Anson to open the new extension, 1906. Photograph courtesy of Kerry Osbourne.

Fig. 7. Ground Floor Plan of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, included with the School Prospectus, 1906. Ground Floor Plan courtesy of Kerry Osbourne.

Fig. 8. The swimming baths at Keepers Pool, where the boys of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School were allowed to swim between 7.00 am and 8.00 am during the Summer months, circa 1924. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection No. 3660.

Fig. 9. Mr Arthur Gibson (Pongo) Letty (seated), pictured in 1917. He was a teacher at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School and subsequent Junior School Headmaster. Photograph courtesy of Mark Weston.

Fig. 10. Members of the Council of the Borough of Sutton Coldfield 1911. Of the five School Governors elected from the Town Council, four can be seen in this group photograph. They are Alderman R H Sadler (standing 2nd from the left), Alderman J T Glover J.P. (sitting 3rd from the right), Alderman W J Seal J.P. (sitting 2nd from the right) and Alderman C Vale J.P. (sitting on the extreme right). Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection.

Fig. 11. Front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, circa 1911. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection. No.1524.

Fig. 12. Bishop Vesey's Junior School 1st Form 1915. Photograph courtesy of Mr Mark Weston.

Fig. 13. Group of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Masters 1916. Photograph courtesy of Mr Mark Weston.

Fig. 14. Bishop Vesey's Junior School 2nd Form 1916. Photograph courtesy of Mr Mark Weston.

Fig. 15. Teachers at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School in 1917. Photograph courtesy of Mr Mark Weston.

Fig. 16. Lieutenant Charles George Bonner VC, circa 1917.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_George_Bonner

Fig. 17. Alan Jerrard at Buckingham Palace for his VC award ceremony. Accompanying him is his mother. His father, Herbert Jerrard, can be seen to the rear. <https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=alan+jerrard>

Fig. 18. Alan Jerrard's Group of Medals, with the Victoria Cross on the left-hand side.

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid>

Fig. 19. Lieutenant Alan Jerrard VC, in the uniform of the South Staffordshire Regiment, circa 1916.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Jerrard

Fig. 20. Alan Jerrard pictured with his SPAD S. VII 1917. <https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=alan+jerrard>

Fig. 21. Front elevation of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Lichfield Road, showing side-by-side blue plaques in commemoration of two Victoria Crosses awarded to ex-pupils of the School during the First World War. 2014. Keith & Janet Jordan's Photographic Collection. No. 3528.

Fig. 22. Some of the Teachers at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School 1918. Photograph courtesy of Mr Mark Weston.

Fig. 23. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Form 3a 1919. Photograph courtesy of Mr Mark Weston.

Fig. 24. Members of Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Army Cadet Corps, circa 1920. Photograph courtesy of Kerry Osbourne.

Fig. 25. Bishop Vesey's Grammar School Rugby Team, 1924. Photograph courtesy of Kerry Osbourne.

Fig. 26. Herbert Jerrard B.Sc., M.A. when he was close to retirement, circa 1926. Photograph courtesy of Kerry Osbourne.

Fig. 27. Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Henry Wilkinson (1845-1931). <https://art.org/discover/artworks/lieutenant-colonel-joseph-henry-wilkinson>