



FARRINGTONS SCHOOL

THE HISTORY OF FARRINGTONS SCHOOL

In the early 20th century, the need for a Methodist girls' school akin to the successful Methodist boys' school, The Leys School in Cambridge, became apparent. A group of distinguished Methodists convened to address this gap, forming a committee to establish a sister school to The Leys.

Sir George (later Lord) Hayter Chubb assumed the role of Chairman of Governors, demonstrating unwavering dedication for many years.

Notable members of the Board of Governors included Mr T Ferens, the Revd R J Scott Lidgett, and Sir George Wyatt Truscott.

To finance the endeavour, individuals were invited to purchase shares in a private limited company. The committee diligently sought suitable land near London, emphasising a healthy and spacious environment for future expansions.

After considering various sites, the committee acquired the land in Chislehurst, Kent, where Farringtons now stands. This land had once been home to a 17th-century mansion, occupied by the Farrington family, lending its name to the school.

In 1911 the inaugural school building, initially named "School House" and now known as "East House," was constructed, and Miss Alice Hollingdrake Davies assumed the role of the first Headmistress. With an initial enrolment of fourteen pupils, Farringtons began to thrive, even enduring a brief relocation to Devon during World War I.

By the early 1920s, the existing accommodation at Farringtons proved insufficient, necessitating further construction to accommodate the growing student body.



Visit from Queen Mary 1925

In 1925 Queen Mary graciously visited Farringtons to inaugurate the new buildings, allowing the central area to be named Queen's Court in her honour. The assembly hall was named after Mr Ferens, who generously contributed to the construction. Queen Mary maintained an ongoing interest in the school, sending gifts and staying informed about its activities.

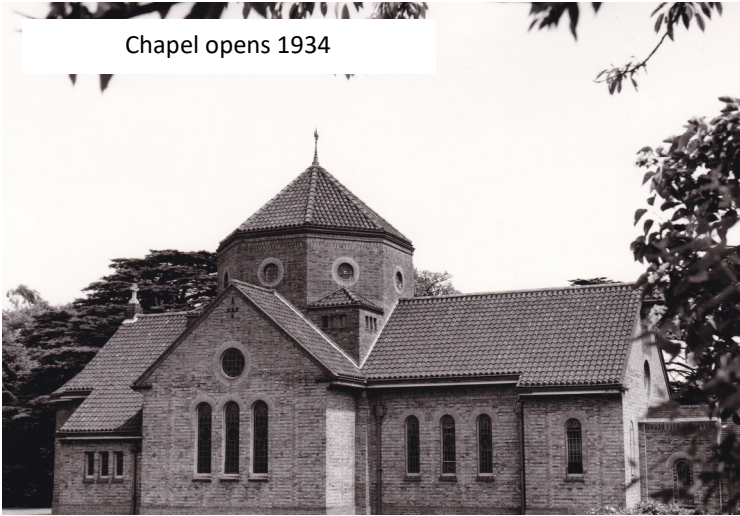
Farringtons was granted a royal charter in 1928, and Queen Mary permitted her royal cypher to be incorporated into the school's coat of arms.



Front of Farringtons School 1911



Chapel opens 1934



In 1934 the beautiful Chapel was erected on the school grounds and a few years later in 1938, Queen Mary made a private visit to Farringtons to inspect the Chapel.

At the outset of World War II, the school site was requisitioned for military use, prompting a temporary relocation to the Trecarn Hotel in Devon. Despite challenges, Farringtons resumed operations in 1946, welcoming both staff and pupils back.

Post-war, Farringtons experienced significant growth, necessitating the construction of additional facilities on campus, including houses, laboratories, a music school, a swimming pool, and a sports hall.

In 1994, Farringtons merged with Stratford House, a local girls' school, resulting in the combined institution being located at the Farringtons campus. This merger facilitated further development, including the construction of a new Art & Technology block named Stratford House.

In 2004, the school reverted to its original name, Farringtons School, operating harmoniously as a unified entity.

Under successive leadership, Farringtons continued to evolve, establishing a nursery, embracing co-education, and expanding its facilities, including new teaching blocks, enhanced boarding facilities, and improved outdoor amenities.



Miss Davies laying the foundation stone of West House - Ferens Hall extension, 1924

As of September 2020, under the leadership of David Jackson, Farringtons remains committed to growth and excellence, ensuring a dynamic and enriching educational experience for its pupils.

As a reminder of our important history, our four competitive houses, Davies, Wilson, Fisher and Hatton are named after the first four headmistresses of Farringtons School.