

A. INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

Situated on the banks of the Swan River some 15 kilometres from the centre of Perth, Guildford Grammar School stands among trees and lawns on grounds which extend over 80 hectares.

The School was opened with 14 pupils in 1896 by Mr Charles Harper. In 1910, with over 100 students, it was taken over by the Trustees of the Church of England who appointed Canon P U Henn as Headmaster. In 1900, the School moved to its present location and in 1914 the Gothic-style Chapel was consecrated.

The School has been operational on this site ever since, except for one period when in March, 1942, the staff and boys of the Senior School were evacuated to Fairbridge Farm School near Pinjarra for 18 months.

The School has grown since those early days and now has approximately 1000 students. There are two Halls of Residence for boarding. New classrooms and special centres such as the John Wickham Art/Craft Centre and the Cecil Oliverson PE Centre, now complement the older buildings, most of which have been modernised.

The Preparatory School, situated to the east of the Senior School, was founded in 1914 by Canon Henn and Mr C Priestley. It is co-educational and includes boarders. The Preparatory School boarders are accommodated in The Graham Malcolm Junior Hall of Residence for students from Years 6 - 9. The buildings include many modern facilities, such as the Priestley Hall, the Hamersley Centre incorporating the Library Resource Centre and the Kyle Visual Arts Centre.

1. The School Coat of Arms

The dedication of the School Chapel to Saint Mary and Saint George took place on March 25th, 1914. The dedication inspired the present School Arms, which were adopted in place of the cross and coronet of the Harper family. The Arms consist of the red cross of St. George on a white shield below the three fleur de lys of St. Mary against a dark blue field. "Go Forward", the School Motto which succeeded the Harper's "Coelum ipsum petimus", appears in a scroll under the Coat of Arms. This was chosen as being both English and Biblical, taken as it was from Exodus, Chapter 14, Verse 15: "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward". The School Arms and Motto are carved over the west door of the Chapel on an empanelled shield.

2. The School Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God, Heavenly Father, we give You humble and hearty thanks that You have called us to the knowledge of Your grace and to faith in You. Grant to the students and staff of this School that, having been made Your children by adoption and grace, we may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit. Sow the seed of eternal life in our hearts, that whatsoever in Your Holy Word we shall profitably learn we may in deed fulfill the same. Look, O Lord, mercifully upon us from heaven, and bless us, that obeying Your will and always being in safety under Your protection, we may abide in Your love, to our lives' end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

3. The School Hymn

1.

Forward be our watchword,
Steps and voices joined;
Seek the things before us.
Not a look behind.
Burns the fiery pillar
At our army's head;
Who shall dream of shrinking,
By our Captain led?

Chorus

Forward through the desert,
Through the toil and fight;
Jordan flows before us,
Zion beams with light.

2.

Forward, when in childhood
Buds the infant mind;
All through youth and manhood,
Not a thought behind.
Speed through realms of nature,
Climb the steps of grace;
Faint not, till around us
Gleams the Father's face.

Chorus

Forward, all the life-time,
Climb from height to height;
Till the head be hoary,
Till the eve be light.

3.

To the Father's glory
Loudest anthems raise;
To the Son and Spirit
Echo songs of praise;
To the Lord Almighty,
Blessed Three in One,
Be by men and angels
Endless honour done.

Chorus

Weak are earthly praises,
Dull the songs of night;
Forward into triumph,
Forward into light!