

# A Potted History

Chorlton High School 1924-1952    Chorlton Grammar School    1952-1967

1 **School Opens** - September 15th 1924 - entry of 110 boys from various schools in Manchester area - boys selected by examination held by Man Education Committee, - teacher in charge Mr Crewe and teaching staff of Messrs Brown, Cone, Greene, Lanigan and Midgely as form masters.

2-**Agreed Tuition Fees** - "All children under 11 years of age £15 per annum" Children over 11 years of age whose parents are not rate payers of Manchester £9 per annum but Children over 11 years of age whose parents are ratepayers of Manchester £nil "

3-**Headmaster Appointment** - September 7th 1925 Mr Chappell appointed as the first Headmaster and teaching staff increased to 12.

4-**House Names** - October 16th 1925 - Introduction of House System - Dalton, Faraday, Grosvenor, Lancaster, Neville and Trafford.

5 **Refectory** - School was to open its refectory in November 1925 provided that the adequate cooking stoves arrived in time !!!!

6-**November 1927** - school records show school had grown to 420 boys registered..

7-**May 23rd 1928** - records show, on a rainy day - an inter-schools race was organised between Central High School, Chorlton High School and North Manchester High. No results recorded and one can only assume Chorlton did not win the contest !!!

8-**Sept 1928** - Sixth form created - total of only 8 boys.

9-**Early 30's** - 30 -School trips to Paris and first school summer camp  
33- Hockey was tried as an alternative sport to football.  
34- First school swimming gala at Chorlton Baths  
35- Public Speaking Contest introduced,  
35- Badminton Club formed,  
38- School records a flourishing number of societies Dramatic, Manchester Society, Arts and Handicraft to name but a few.  
39- School General Inspection Report - highlights the school's deficiencies in respect of gymnasium and playing field facilities.

10-**War Years 1939-1945,**

**Sept 1939** - School evacuated due to break-out of war to King Edward V11 school in Lytham. New entrants were first sent to Blackpool but it was later found impossible to transfer them all to Lytham. Move turned out to be a dismal failure due to inadequate billets, inadequate school buildings etc.

**Dec 1939**- The numbers evacuated declined to approx 100 boys and numbers were decreasing by an average of 12 per week

**Feb 1940** - School records show that 343 boys had returned to Chorlton from the evacuation.

**March 1940** - Evacuation ceases and a return to normal school life in Chorlton is recorded.

**Jan 1941** - Second evacuation recorded, this time to Fleetwood, however no details are recorded.

**Sept 1944** - Reports show school still increasing and number of boys reaches 500 with 30 boys in the sixth form.

**11-1949 April 1st** - Dedication Service held in memory of 56 boys who fell in the war, Service conducted by the Canon of St Ann's Church in Manchester, These boys' names were added to the Memorial Board in the School Hall.

**12 -1951** - Retirement of Mr A.F. Chappell as Chorlton's first headmaster.

**13 Summer Term 1952** - Mr Merriman appointed as the second headmaster of the school and the same year sees the retirement of the school caretaker Mr Fletcher.

**14 Sept 1953** - First girders arrive for the construction of the new biology laboratory and new classrooms.

**15 Sept 1954** - Highest number of boys in school with 550 boys with 82 boys in the sixth form.

**16-Sept 1954**- Start of the first Metalwork Classes, School kitchens renovated for the first time since 1924. Library refit with plans for additional playground space, tennis courts and games facilities on adjacent waste ground. Cadet force also inaugurated.

**17- 1954** - Cadet Force consisted of 150 boys and masters, parades took place every Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7pm - 8-30pm at the Drill Hall on Upper Chorlton Road.

**18 -1956** - Headmaster's report shows plans for a new school.

**19- 1959** - Long awaited engineering and technical laboratories built.

**20- 1962**- Reports show that the possibility of a new school being built on the Nell Lane playing fields complex seemed less remote.

**21-Sept 1963**- Mr C A.Crofts appointed as third and final Headmaster of the school.

**22 1964** - The emerald green blazer, which had been a feature of Chorlton boys for a long time was abandoned and a black one introduced.

**23 1965** - The total number of boys attending falls to approx 500.

**24 1966** - With falling numbers, plans for new school aborted with plans for closure or amalgamation with nearby Chorlton High.

**25 1967** - After 43 years, with over 4,000 boys having passed through the school gates, and final report concludes "which means that many have left the school well able in words of the school motto to "Quit Yourselves Like Men "

**26 1968** - House System that started in 1925 was disbanded in 1968.

Our Thanks to Tony Davenport, Don Marshall, John French for keeping and recording these informative records.

Please note - The full version and many more pages of historical information can be found on the Chorlton Grammar School website - [www.cgsob.co.uk](http://www.cgsob.co.uk).



