

A History of Castleford Academy 1906 - 2014



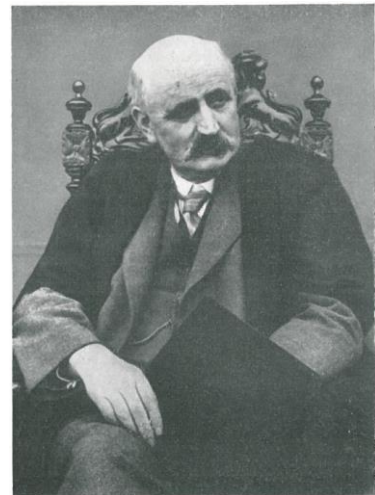
Castleford Secondary School circa 1908

Castleford Academy began its life as Castleford Secondary School in 1906. Up until this point, children in Castleford had to go to Leeds for their education. Whilst the people of Castleford were waiting for the school on Healdfield Road to be built, lessons occurred in a temporary wooden hut in the grounds of Wheldon Lane School. The hut was made up of 3 classrooms, a store room and an office. If you were unable to obtain an LEA scholarship, it would cost £6 per year with a charge of ten shillings for your textbooks. There was also a further fee of a shilling per term for membership of the Sports Club. In 1944 the Education Act abolished fees altogether.

Castleford Secondary School's first Headmaster was Mr T R Dawes (known as "Toddy") and he led the school for 24 years. The first Chair of Governors was Mr Tom Gill JP. After the opening ceremony in 1906, the school opened to 115 pupils served by 6 teachers (or "masters" as they were then called). Castleford Academy currently has over 1,200 pupils, over 80 teaching staff and over 100 support staff!

The official foundation stone for the building was laid on March 7th, 1908 by Sir Joseph Compton Rickett and Professor Smithells and this stone can still be found on the old part of the building at the Healdfield Road entrance with the name of Mr Tom Gill JP engraved on it. The school

finally had a building! It had cost £14,000 to build and was originally supposed to have "Swimming Baths" and a "Fives" Court. However, after much negotiation, they had to settle for a Gymnasium. The curriculum consisted of: English Language and Literature, History, Geography, Mathematics, Science, Housewifery, Handicrafts and PE.



T R Dawes MA Headmaster 1906-1930



A Domestic Science Lesson

The school slowly came to be called Castleford Grammar School over the next 50 years and the original staff were replaced. Over two World Wars, many staff (and pupils) left never to return. In fact, during the second World War, the gymnasium had to be used as a dining hall due to the sudden uptake in school dinners! The school also had air raid shelters built in

the school grounds.

Many events were held over the first 50 years including: Recital, Singing and Painting Competitions, an annual School Concert, War Exhibitions, Travelling Scholarships (where pupils were sent on adventures far away on their own!) and various Pageants. There was also a huge School Camp every summer in Flamborough. After the First World War, the school also made quite a lot of links with Germany and all pupils had to learn German. When the recent Maths classrooms were renovated (in the oldest part of our building) some exercise books were found inside a wall. There are some pictures at the end of this article and, as you can see, the handwriting looks incredible on this German Vocabulary Book kept by a pupil.



The School Camp, Flamborough

The school developed a House System that began in 1906 with simple colours (red, white and blue) and points were awarded for School Work, General Conduct and Athletics. Later, three houses became four and they were renamed after famous Yorkshiremen: Frobisher, Alcuin, Cook and Scott. The Academy currently operates an E-Praise system that rewards individual achievement but there are also a wide range of inter-form competitions including our very successful Sports Day.

In 1956, Castleford Grammar School celebrated its Golden Anniversary. By this point, it had 600 pupils. To celebrate, a book was written and there are several copies of this book available to look at in our Academy Library. To celebrate this 50th Anniversary, the school added a Biology Laboratory, a Master's Staff Room and a Store Room.

There are still a group of ex-pupils from the Grammar School days called the "Old Legiolians".

In 1970, the school ceased being a Grammar School. It joined with the Boys and Girls Modern Schools of Castleford to become a Comprehensive School better known as Castleford High School. Further changes occurred in 1989 as the school became a Technology College in a partnership with Hickson and Welch, a local chemical company. School uniform was also re-introduced.



Chair of Governors Mr Bill Clift MBE JP MEd 1991 -



Y11 Leaver's Prom 2014

By 1991, a new Chair of Governor's started some of our most radical changes, Mr W Clift MBE JP. This appointment signalled the next big step for the Academy as it went through its biggest transformation in results (Castleford Academy this year achieved its highest ever results and results have been rising rapidly over the last 20 years) and in the development of the "whole child". The building rapidly expanded, the results went up and up, a new Drama Theatre was built and the school began achieving in National Theatre competitions.

Drama is a really good example of how the Academy does not just focus on the examination results but on the development of the whole child. Before 1990, Drama was not a major part of the Academy's curriculum and the days of performances by the Old Legiolians in the first part of the century had long gone. There wasn't a dedicated drama space, all lessons were either in the Butler Hall or the Well Area. Despite the obvious charms and challenges of competing with the sounds of the kitchen, human and mechanical, it was clear the students were eager to be turned onto drama and the Performing Arts. The signal change came when Mike Porter became Headteacher. He not only understood the curricular value of Drama but wholeheartedly recognised the part Drama and Music could play in having a positive effect on shifting the prevailing, somewhat insular culture of much of school life. To this end, he and Ivan Cooper, provided guidance and SLT support for transforming the fledgling area into a flourishing one. This support was significant and manifold. Crucially, after six years of increasingly accomplished productions and projects (1994-2000), the green light was given for a purpose built drama studio as mentioned above. Completed in 2002, the studio was central to the enhanced development of drama as a curricular and extended curricular subject.

1994-2014: A summary of shows:

Numerous variety and revue shows for all students interested in participating.

Annual participation in National Theatre Connections: 2002-2014

Each NT Connections show is performed in school and at the regional festival (Stephen Joseph, Scarborough and West Playhouse, Leeds)

On two occasions, 2004 (The Musicians written by Patrick Marber) and 2007 (Ruckus In The Garden written by David Farr) Castleford has performed at the National Theatre, London as part of the national festival. Ten schools/colleges from three hundred are chosen each year to perform at NT HQ. To my knowledge, we are the only school to be invited twice.

Twice participants in the Shakespeare Schools Festival (2004 & 2014).

Two brand new full length pieces of musical theatre created in house in collaboration with the music department for our own students to rehearse and perform. (Release The Gerbils, 2012 & Savage Parade, 2013).

The Technology status and the fantastic partnerships the academy has maintained (from Hickson's in the 70s up to TEI currently – and Pioneer in between.) have led to a wide amount of victory in a huge range of competitions. Some of these achievements include 4x4 National Champions in 2009 (the Academy has won an incredibly large amount of trophies in this competition since it began), F1 Rookie National Champions in 2010/11 (the prize was given by World Champion F1 Driver Lewis Hamilton) and National Finalists in the Vex Robotics Competition in 2014. This is as well as many trophies in local competitions such as the many set up by Rotary Club which the Academy Technology department has taken part in.



Y9 Presentation Evening 2014

It is also worth noting the wide range of links the Academy has established within Technology and the local community over the last 20 years. As mentioned before, the Academy has strong links with TEI (a local engineering firm) who taken 7 Apprentices through the Academy and currently has two ex-students as staff there. The department also has links with The Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield, The Royal College of Arts and Burberry.

Music is yet another area that the Academy has been incredibly successful in. As usual, Castleford likes to do things differently. This means that instead of traditional orchestras the Academy has had Toxic Waste Bands, Cas has got Talent competitions, Ukulele Band, The Cas Factor and pupils winning local Battle of the Band competitions.

Musical Achievements at Castleford Academy in the last 12 years

2002

Castleford Academy performed with Opera North at West Yorkshire Playhouse.

2009

A Year 11 Band with the Bailey Brothers made it to the final of the prestigious competition, Centre Stage. The Academy took two coach loads of students over to watch the boys' success.

2010-2013

Castleford Academy's school choir went to Blackpool's 'Sing for Pleasure' event where they performed in front of an audience of 200 people before an afternoon at Blackpool Pleasure Beach!

2011-2012

Castleford Academy Ukulele Band performed at both the 2012 and 2013 National Music for Youth Wakefield heats. Performing pieces such as Nirvana's 'Smells like Teen Spirit' and 'We Are Never Getting Back Together' by Taylor Swift!

2012-2013

2012 and 2013 were the years that two original musicals were produced in house, 'Release the Gerbils' and 'Savage Parade' written by Head of Drama, Geoff Hook and Head of Music, Elizabeth Moran.

2014

2014 – a year for musical success! Conflare (Toby Hanmore, Ethan Bradley, Tate Maloney and Sam Wilkinson) came runner up in the prestigious competition 'Centre Stage' hosted by the Martin House charity. Also in 2014, Jack Walton, an ex student, got to the final 11 on ITV's talent show, the X Factor. He was the winner of the Cas Factor 2008. 2014 was also the year that Tate Maloney, Jack Senior, Josh Bean and Jake Wilkinson ('Third Knight') won Wakefield's 'Battle of the Bands' hosted by the Police force.

Sport had always been hugely important to the School from its very beginnings. For the first 50 years, the school established Cricket, Football, Athletics, Rounders, Tennis, Hockey and, of course, Rugby League teams that they completely excelled at. Competitions in those days were generally between local schools and there was a great rivalry between the school and Ackworth. The school's achievement in sports continued through the next 50 years and in 2007 the school attained Specialist Sports College status. This meant that it was one of the only schools in the country that had Dual Specialist Status (the other specialist status being Technology). The school was then renamed Castleford High School Sports and Technology College.

Castleford Academy is steeped in sports history and has dominated sports competitions at a local, regional and national level. In the last ten years Castleford Academy has achieved over 45 school rugby league teams, both boys and girls, in the Champion Schools National finals competition. Six of which

Girls Cricket XI, 1931



Boy's First Rugby XV, 1932-3



Y10 Boy's Rugby National Champions 2014



Y10 Girl's Netball Team 2014

have been Challenge Cup Final curtain raisers with four of these curtain raisers taking place at the new Wembley stadium. In the Academy's 2009 curtain raiser, ex-student Luke Metcalfe made rugby league history by scoring the very first rugby league try at the new Wembley stadium. As well as very committed and talented rugby league teams, the Academy boasts many successful athletes in many sports at all levels, with Cricket, Rounders, Netball, and Football teams all leading the way in Wakefield school sport. In 2009, the Athletics team not only were Wakefield School Champions but went on to achieve a place in the English Schools National Athletics Finals in London. The school has also established links with Mackay High School in Australia.

In 2013, the PE Department was included as a case study in a report on Competitive Sport in State Schools. The current government felt that competitive sport in the state sector had significantly fallen but Ofsted found that Sport at the Academy was Outstanding.

This barely scratches the surface of Castleford Academy's current achievements. There is so much now going on at the school from Chess Clubs, Computer Games Clubs and RE Clubs to Reading Mentors, Prefects, Student Councillors and even finalists in ITV's hit show The X-Factor (Jack Walton, 2014). The academy offers a fantastic range of after school clubs and a huge amount of enrichment through visiting speakers to trips abroad. The academy also offers quite a large amount of support towards careers and aspirations with pupils visiting the Houses of Parliament, taking part in Government and Politics Lectures, visiting Russell Group Universities such as Leeds, Durham and York and ex-pupils now studying at Oxbridge now coming back to the academy to offer advice. The vast majority of pupils at the academy go on to New College and our fairly new Sixth Form sends up to 90% of their pupils on to University. Furthermore, a staggering 98.4% of our pupils last year went on to education, employment or training.

In 2011, the school became Castleford Academy which made it independent from the LEA and able to set its own curriculum. In 2013, our current Headteacher, Mr George Panayiotou took over. After one year in charge, the Academy's results were celebrated with a letter from the Rt Hon David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools, especially in the value that we add to pupil's progress from when they start at our academy to what they achieve when they finish. The school was specifically placed in the Top 108 performing schools in terms of the progress of our pupil premium pupils.

Currently, Castleford Academy is an 11-18 Academy that delivers some of the best results in the authority for its pupils. It still has a similar catchment to the one it has received for over 100 years and it is still celebrated for the amount of progress it achieves throughout the pupil's time at the academy. It recently became a Multi-Academy Trust along with several of its feeder primary schools such as: Castleford Park Juniors, Three Lane Ends and Glasshoughton.

So as the academy enters its second century we can look forward to

continuing our tradition of taking children from the town of Castleford and turning them into full rounded individuals who fulfil their potential both in qualifications and in the area they love. We look forward to continuing to care for these pupils, continuing to make them aspire to be the best they can and ensuring they have everything they need to succeed.



G Panayiotou Headteacher 2013 -

Mr S Prinsep
Assistant Headteacher
Castleford Academy

Alumni:

- Bombardier Craig Hopson, 40th Regiment Royal Artillery (killed in Afghanistan in 2009)
- Nigel Beard MP
- John Durham (Ambassador to Mongolia 1997-99)
- Tim Bresnan, English and Yorkshire Cricket Player
- Henry Moore, sculptor (He attended Castleford Secondary School 14/9/10 to 26/7/15. Henry Moore became the greatest sculptor of his age.)



Picture of Castleford Academy, 2014 and pictures of Student Work found dating back to early 20th Century in Maths Classroom refurbishment
All photos taken by Y10 pupil, Jordan Parker



Headteachers of Castleford Academy 1906 – current

Castleford Grammar School:

1906-1930 Mr T.R. Dawes M. A. (known as Toddy) – rather a frightening figure who became legendary in the town. Distinguished by his originality and bold experiments. Died 1949. First World war did interrupt the school's development. Chairman of the Governors 1906-1919 was Mr Gill JP whose name can be found on the stone plaque at the front of the old building – notice the School then was termed **Castleford Secondary School**. The stone was dated March 7th 1908.

1930-1955 Mr J.L. Hampson M.A. He led the school through the restless thirties and turbulent forties with his steadiness and thoroughness. A period of steady development. During the second World War ex pupils and staff joined the forces. During this period Cr. C. Anson J.P. Chairman of the Governors for 26 years, and Governor of school for 32 years, retired in 1946.

1955-1973 Mr E. Riley M.Sc. A period of great educational disputation, yet unrivalled opportunity. Chairman of Governors at this time (from 1955) was County Alderman Ezra Taylor G.P.

Headmasters of Castleford High School:

1973-1981 Mr Peter Hughes. This was a period of non-uniform.

1981-1988 Mr Malcolm Victor Butler. Died whilst in office at the age of 53. The '**Butler Hall**' was so named after him.

1989-1995(?) Mr David Earnshaw. Along with Hickson & Welch, the local chemical company and their cash assistance he helped develop a new school logo and a smart new school uniform. Under his guidance the school became a Technology College. Chairman of Governors between 1981 and 1991 was Mr A. Edmonson (also Governor from 1972).

1995-2005 Mr Mike Porter. Chairman of Governors 1991 to present day – Mr W. Clift MBE JP. The school has always been fortunate throughout its history in having a governing body who have taken a personal interest in the well-being of the school.

2005-2012 Mr Roy Vaughan In 2008/09, the school achieved Outstanding status by Ofsted and the school's results became some of the best in the authority. Mr Vaughan also oversaw the school attaining Academy status at a time when all Outstanding schools were invited to. Castleford High School Sports and Technology College became Castleford Academy.

Headteachers of Castleford Academy

2012-2013 Mr Steve White Mr White was responsible in the school reintroducing a Sixth Form offering BTEC Level 3 courses for pupils in Sport, Health and Social Care and Public Services. The Academy offered more vocational courses to its Sixth Form to retain its Sports and Technology College roots.

2013-present Mr George Panayiotou

Mr Panayiotou, known to the pupils and staff as "Mr P" was appointed to Headteacher in 2013 becoming the youngest Headteacher in the Wakefield Authority. In his first year as Head, the Academy achieved its highest ever exam results and also received a letter from the Minister for Education placing the Academy amongst the 108 top performing schools in terms of the progress of pupil premium pupils.