

**A CHRONOLOGY
OF
EDUCATION 1547-2001
IN
CHELTENHAM**



Compiled by Jill Waller



**Cheltenham Local
History Society**

INTRODUCTION

The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council held their annual County Local History Afternoon in October 2001 at Sir Thomas Rich's School, Longlevens, Gloucester, the theme of which was 'Education'. This chronology of education in Cheltenham was put together as a hand-out to accompany a display put on by the Cheltenham Local History Society at that event.

Cheltenham has a persisting image as a centre of education, with its historic, high-achieving schools, including Pate's Grammar School, the Cheltenham Ladies College and Cheltenham College. Indeed the town's motto and coat of arms reflects this; '*salubritas et eruditio*', meaning 'through health and education', makes reference to two of the most important factors in the growth of the town.

Long before the appearance of Cheltenham's Public Schools, education was made available for at least some of the ordinary folk of the town, with the founding of Chantry schools in the middle ages. Pate's Grammar School is Cheltenham's oldest existing school, founded over 400 years ago, and for those who could not pay, a Charity School was founded in the 1680s. Today we have compulsory education whereby young people in England are required to stay on in education or training until the age of 18, a far cry from the days when education was a luxury out of reach for many.

Much of the research for this book was reliant on secondary sources and the author would welcome any corrections or contributions that the reader feels should be included in any amended future edition.

October 2023

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to Stephen Osmond for allowing me to lift large chunks from his *Chronology of Cheltenham 200BC – 2000AD*, which provided a framework for this Chronology.

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SOURCES

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A CHRONOLOGY of EDUCATION in CHELTENHAM

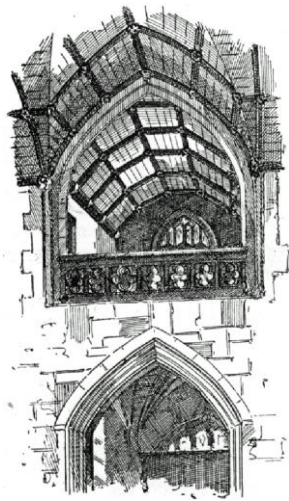
- 1547** A Grammar school existed in the Chantry of St. Katherine, in St. Mary's Parish Church. (This chantry was one of two which had been set up in the late middle ages, but it is not known who the founder was.)
Edward VI's Chantry Commissioners recorded that the chantry priest, Edward Grove 'was charged by special Covenant between the parishioners of the said town of Cheltenham and himself always to teach their children, which town is a market town and much youth within the same, whereunto is no school kept.' Edward Grove was paid an annual salary of £5 for his services as schoolmaster throughout the rest of Edward VI's reign.
The school was probably held in the north aisle of the church. The education provided was the preliminary training of the clerks on whom the Church, Law and other professions largely depended. The 'poor scholars' were mainly the sons of middle class townsmen. There was no provision for the children of the mass of the population, who worked in the fields beside their fathers.
- April 1572** Richard Pate began building a grammar school in the High Street near the church. He had been a member of the Chantry Commission in Gloucestershire, whose role was to record chantry property for confiscation. Born in Cheltenham, it is likely that he had himself attended the St. Katherine's chantry school before going to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, aged 16. He received legal training at Lincoln's Inn before returning to his home county, where he rose to become Recorder of Gloucester.
- 1574** Elizabeth I granted lands from the old chantry estates to Richard Pate, who used it to endow the new grammar school. The school opened to receive 50 pupils and the first master was Christopher Ocland.
- 1585** Richard Pate entrusted the Grammar School to the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi, his own Oxford College.
- 1682** George Townsend, an ex-pupil of the grammar school who had become a successful lawyer, endowed a scholarship to his old college, Pembroke, Oxford. Cheltenham was one of four towns given the right to present a candidate.
- 1683** In his will, George Townsend provided for elementary schooling in Cheltenham, among other local towns, where "the said children are to repair to the schoolsboth forenoon and afternoon of all days *not* excepting the weeks of Easter, Pentecost or Christmas, to avoid their being offensive at home or elsewhere."
- 1683** George Townsend also willed the proceeds from his estate at Wormington yearly 'for the binding and putting forth of a poor boy, able to read, to be an apprentice'
- 1713** Townsend's charity school was re-established by a group of subscribers led by the Rev. Francis Wells, Vicar of Prestbury and member of the S.P.C.K., and the Rev. Henry Mease, incumbent of Cheltenham and Master of the Grammar School. (The Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, established in 1698, stimulated the rapid growth of the Charity School Movement in the eighteenth century.) The Charity School was opened on 14th November at a house in the High Street, rented from Thomas Smith.
- 1719** Lady Capel, widow of the Baron of Tewkesbury, and one of the original subscribers, endowed the Charity School with a generous bequest in her will.
- 1723** The boys of the Charity School wore blue coats, yellow stockings, caps and bands; they spun the wool and knitted their own stockings, for which they were paid a small amount.

Before the end of the century their 'uniform' consisted of a pepper-and-salt coat, corduroy trousers and stout shoes. (Goding, 1863)

- 1727** Giles Cox, Esq., malster, and a churchwarden of the parish, bequeathed an annual sum to either educate or apprentice out a 'poor lad belonging to Cheltenham'.
- 1729** The Charity School was removed to a small room above the porch in the Parish Church.
- 1787** Sunday School first held at the Parish Church, only six years after Raikes had set up the first one in the country at Gloucester.
- 1806** Female Orphan Asylum founded by Mrs. Williams, of Prestbury, as a school of industry for girls. It opened in a converted thatched barn in a lane off the London end of the High Street. Queen Charlotte became its patron in the early years. The day's work consisted almost entirely of housework, with an hour's reading and spelling practice every evening, and religious worship and instruction at the beginning and end of each day.
- 1807** The Benedictine L'Abbe Cesar taught a few pupils, probably in a room in North Street, then licensed as a Roman Catholic Chapel.
- 5 Jun 1816** First National School, based on Dr. Bell's monitorial system, commenced in the Old Town Hall. The National Schools were built and maintained by local voluntary subscription, aided by grants from the National Society, the main educational agency of the Church of England.
- 6 Jan 1817** National School moved to a new purpose-built building in the Bath Road. The first masters of the Cheltenham National Schools were sent to the Central School of the National Society in London for refresher courses on the monitorial system in the summer holidays. Their own schools were themselves used to "train" many teachers in Dr. Bell's system.
- 1818** The Female Orphan Asylum and School of Industry moved to Winchcombe Street.
- 1820** First Cheltenham British (Day) School was opened in a Sunday School room beneath the North Place Chapel (British Schools originated in the Sunday Schools of the Non-conformist Chapels.)
- 1823** Female Orphan Asylum and School of Industry moved into a new building in Winchcombe Street, which was itself re-built in 1834.
- 1824** The Rev. Francis Close established a Sunday School at an old farmhouse in Alstone.
- 1 Jun 1825** First Mechanics Institute formed in Cheltenham.
- 1826/27** First Infant School in the town opened at Alstone, set up by Samuel Wilderspin, the pioneer of infant education, who had realised that children learn by 'playing and doing'. The Rev. Francis Close had read his work on the subject and called him in to establish the school. It opened in a purpose-built schoolroom in Alstone Lane.
- 1827** First Roman Catholic School established, probably in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great in Somerset Place (south of Ambrose Street). The school was later relocated in St. Paul's St. North, with a convent opposite for the Nuns who taught the pupils.
- 1828** Rev. Francis Close established the town's second Infant School, which opened in temporary premises near St. James' Square.
- 1830** Second Infant School building opened in St. James Square by the Rev. Francis Close. Wilderspin's principles were abandoned and, under Close's supervision, the school was

conducted largely as a monitorial and scriptural training institution for the town's National Schools. (The building is now the oldest surviving Infant School building in the country.)

- 1830s** Samuel Wilderspin lived at Alpha House, St. George's Rd., and from here he supplied the Infant schools of the country with their equipment as the movement spread with his nationwide lectures. His daughter ran a private school at Alpha House (and later in Portland St.) "for the Early Education of the Higher Classes."
- 1832** Dr. Andrew Bell, founder of the Madras (Monitorial) system of education, died at Lindsey Cottage, (Oriell Road).
- 1833** Literary & Philosophical Institution formed.
- 1834** Mechanics' Institution formed in Albion Street. (Building now demolished.)
- 7 Feb 1834** Cheltenham's third Infant School opened in Exmouth Street.
- 1835** Infant School built in Waterloo Street.
- 6 Apr 1835** Cheltenham Athenaeum opened in Portland Street as a Young Men's Mental Improvement Society.
- 30 Aug 1836** Literary & Philosophical Institution new building opened in the Promenade, containing a lecture room and museum.
- 1836** Holy Trinity National School opened in Sherborne Street.
- 1836** St. Paul's National School opened in St. Paul's Road.
- 28 Feb 1837** Girls' Union School opened in St. George's Street.
- 2 Oct 1837** Coltham Fields Infant School opened in Rosehill Street.
- 1840** Holy Trinity Girls' School built.
- 1841** The Cheltenham Proprietary College opened in Bayshill Terrace, St. George's Road, to provide education for the 'sons of gentlemen'. (The Grammar School was felt to be inadequate for the sons of the army and clergy.)
- 1841** Free Grammar School closed as its affairs were in such a poor state, largely due to neglect under the trusteeship of Corpus Christi.
- 1841** Leckhampton National School opened.
- 1842** Highbury (Commercial) School established, in Grosvenor Street.
- 29 Mar 1842** St. John's National School opened in Albion Street.
- 1843** Cheltenham College moved to new buildings in Bath Road.
- 1843** Two more large British Schools were begun, one in the vaults beneath the Wesley Chapel in St. George's Street (known as the Girls' Union School), and the other at the Congregational Chapel in Grosvenor Street.
- 5 Apr 1844** Unitarian Chapel at Bayshill opened with a vestry and schoolroom.



The small room above the porch in Cheltenham parish church which housed the Charity School (30-40 boys) from 1729. In 1844 it was described as 'a miserably appointed seminary mouldering for years in a nook of our Parish



Built in 1830, the Infant School building, St. James' Square, is the oldest surviving such building in the country.



Ham House School, Charlton Kings, in 1826, one of many private academies in and around Cheltenham.



This first purpose-built National School in Cheltenham was opened on Bath Road in 1817.



Cheltenham College, 1889. Opened in Bayshill Terrace in 1841, the College moved to the Bath Road site in 1843. The chapel on the right was added in 1858.

- 17 Dec 1845** Infant School in Waterloo Place renamed ‘St. Peter’s Infants’ School Room’.
- 1846** Over 1000 Sunday School from Cheltenham went on the new railway to Birmingham for their annual treat.
- Jun 1847** St. Paul’s Teacher Training College opened in two rented houses in the town, largely instigated by the Rev. Francis Close. It was one of the country’s earliest Anglican Teacher Training Colleges.
- 1847** Christ Church Schools founded.
- 22 Nov 1847** The Old Charity School ceased using the room above the church porch and became the new National School in Devonshire Street - the (St. Mary’s) Parish Boys’ School.
- 1848** St. Paul’s Infant School established.
- 1848** The Boys’ Union School took over the Girls’ School building as numbers were so low, and the Girls Dept. transferred to Bedford Buildings in Clarence Street.
- 19 Apr 1849** Laying of the foundation stone, by the Earl of Shaftesbury, of the St. Paul’s College buildings in Swindon Road, designed in Tudor Gothic style by Samuel Dawkes.
- 1850** Christ Church Schools moved to new buildings, by the architect R.W. Jearrad, in Malvern Road.
- 1850** The female department of the Teacher Training College was housed in the former General Hospital in the Lower High Street, now called ‘Normandy House’.
- 1851** Wesley Mixed School built in Great Norwood Street.
- 1852** Cheltenham Schools of Art and Science established.
- 1 May 1853** Grammar School publicly re-opened under a revised scheme sanctioned by the Court of Chancery.
- 9 Dec 1853** Public meeting held at the Town Hall to establish a local School of Art & Design.
- 1854** A Practising School (Boys’), designed by G.F. Bodley, opened at St. Paul’s Teacher Training College.
- 13 Feb 1854** The Ladies College opened at Cambray House, founded due to the efforts of the Rev. W.H. Bellairs, and the Principal of the Boys’ College. Francis Close was the first President of the Ladies College Council.
- 1856** Girl’s Parish School, instigated by Francis Close to accommodate infants and girls, was opened in Knapp Lane on the site of the former Workhouse.
- 1857** The Ragged School, an industrial school for the children of the very poor, was built in Milsom St. As well as the three Rs and scripture, the boys were taught shoemaking and tailoring, and the girls were taught sewing and laundry-work. (The Ragged School movement was partly a pioneer effort to prevent these children from turning to a life of crime.)
- May 1857** The Roman Catholic school, St. Gregory’s, moved to a new site in St. Paul’s St. North.
- 1859** St. Paul’s Infant School moved into new building in St. Paul’s Road.

- 2 Feb 1859** Opening of the Baker Street Mission Schools.
- 9 Feb 1859** Cheltenham's first British School, founded in 1820, moved from beneath the North Place Chapel into new buildings in Dunalley Street.
- 1 Jun 1859** Cheltenham School of Art re-opened in Winchcombe Street.
- 1860** St. Philip & St. James' School built at lower end of Leckhampton Road.
- Sept 1860** Final break-up of the Literary & Philosophical Institution.
- 1861** St. Mark's Schools opened in Alstone Lane, in a new building by John Middleton, on the site of Wilderspin's first Infant School.
- 1865** Cheltenham College Junior School opened, designed by John Middleton.
- April 1865** Centre stone of the Boys' Orphanage laid in new building in St. Margaret's Road.
- 2 Oct 1865** St. James' National School opened in Great Norwood Street.
- 1867** St. John's Parish Schools opened.
- 1869** Female department of the Teacher Training College moved to the purpose-built St. Mary's Hall in St. George's Place, later known as Shaftesbury Hall, and now a residential development.
- 1869** Opening of All Saints Girls' School, with an Infants' Department.
- Sept 1869** The Cheltenham Athenaeum, now established in the Promenade, inaugurated its literary session.
- 1871** The Christ Church Night School was in existence, where 70 pupils over 14 years of age had benefitted from its instruction. For twopence a week, the lads could learn drawing, Latin, arithmetic, orthography and spelling during two hours nightly instruction.
- 13 Nov 1871** New schools opened in connection with the Bethesda Chapel in Great Norwood Street.
- 25 Mar 1873** The Ladies College moved to new buildings in St. George's Road, designed by John Middleton.
- Sept 1873** Holy Apostles School opened for Boys, with a Girls' Department established the following year.
- 6 Mar 1874** School and lecture-room opened in connection with the Bayshill Unitarian Church.
- 1875** Hatherley Primary School opened.
- 1876** Miss Dorothea Beale, Principal of the Ladies College, began at Cheltenham the first Training College for women teachers in secondary schools, to which she added, in Oxford, a hall of residence. The two later amalgamated, in 1898, to form St. Hilda's, a women's Hall of Oxford University
- 1876** The kindergarten of the Ladies College provided the nucleus of the first training centre for kindergarten teachers in the country.
- 1876** Hatherley Lane branch of the St. Mark's Schools opened as a Mixed school.

- April 1876** The Town Council became responsible for the provision of elementary education. School Attendance Committee established.
- 24 Sep 1879** Convent of St. Gregory opened in a cottage near the Roman Catholic School in St. Paul's St. North (which had opened in 1857).
- 1882** Industrial School founded in Oxford Passage.
- Oct 1883** Working Men's College & Union Club, founded by H.H. Martyn, opened at 16, Clarence Street.
- July 1884** A branch of the Teachers' Guild was established in Cheltenham.
- 1886** St. Peter's Boys' School moved to new buildings in Swindon Road.
- 1886** Cheltenham's third public school, named Dean Close School, was opened as a memorial to Francis Close, and was to be run on evangelical principles.
- 1887** St. Mark's Infant School opened in Roman Road.
- 1887-89** The original Grammar School building in the High Street was replaced by a new building designed by Knight & Chatters in Tudor Gothic style.
- 21 Jun 1887** Laying of foundation stone of the Free (Public) Library and Schools of Science & Art. The building opened 2 years later in April 1889.
- 1888** The Christ Church Schools designated the 'Christ Church Higher Grade Schools'. They achieved this new status by extending the school curriculum to include lessons in science and drawing.
- 14 Oct 1889** Miss Beale, Principal of the Ladies College, opened a practising school in Albany Road, St. Stephen's Parish, for her trainee kindergarten teachers.
- Dec 1889** Working Men's College moved to 3, Liverpool Place.
- May 1891** All Saints' School moved to newly-built premises in Fairview Road, when the Boys' School was established.
- Oct 1895** Working Men's College moved to North Street.
- May 1896** Voluntary Schools Town Committee reported on money raised to ward off School Board. The Cheltenham schools were almost exclusively 'church-built' and were very concerned about losing control of their 'investment'.
- 1897** Miss Beale began a women's Training Department for elementary teaching.
- 1897** Holy Trinity Girls' and Boys' Schools merged to form Holy Trinity Mixed School.
- 1898** All Saints Junior Mixed School formed; rebuilding of the Fairview Rd. school begun.
- April 1898** Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers held in Cheltenham.
- Oct 1898** Working Men's Club renamed the Cheltenham Institute.

- 1899** Hatherley Night School opened.
- May 1899** Men's Institute closed.
- 18 Nov 1899** East Ward Continuation School opened in Grosvenor Street.
- 21 Sep 1901** Pengwern College (for girls) opened in Pittville Circus Road.
- Oct 1903** Education Committee resolved to abolish all school fees.
- Oct 1903** Cooking & Laundry Teaching Centre set up to instruct senior school girls. The boys were taught metalwork & carpentry.
- 1904** St. Paul's College bought The Priory, London Road, for use as a women students' hostel. It remained in their possession until 1962.
- 1904** Hatherley Brake Home School for Backward Children established in Hatherley Road.
- Feb 1904** Voluntary Schools Fund Committee disbanded with the implementation of the 1902 Education Act.
- 1905** All Saints Infant School closed and amalgamated with Holy Trinity Infants.
- 17 Jan 1905** County High School for Girls opened at Livorno Lodge, St. Margarets Road.
- April 1905** Schools of Art, Science & Technology moved from the Public Library site to new buildings in St. Margarets Road.
- July 1905** The Pate Foundation was enlarged to incorporate the County High as 'Pate's Grammar School for Girls', by which name it was known from 1907.
- 1906** Prestbury National School became Prestbury Church of England School.
- April 1906** After renovation, the former British School in Dunalley Street opened as Cheltenham's first Council School.
- 30 Apr 1906** Leckhampton Church School officially opened in Hall Road.
- May 1906** The Annual Conference of the British Child Study Association was held at the Cheltenham Ladies College.
- 1907** The first purpose-built state-run school opened in Gloucester Road, built by the new Cheltenham Education Committee.
- 31 Jun 1907** Baker Street Mission Schools closed.
- 2 Sep 1907** Official opening of the Gloucester Road and the Naunton Park Council Schools.
- 1908** Closure of St. Philip & St. James School in Leckhampton Road.
- 10 July 1909** Cheltenham College new Junior School opened.
- 1914** St. Peter's Girls' School moved to new premises in Swindon Road (eventually to become Elmfield Girls' and Infants' Schools.)
- 1 Aug 1918** Metalwork Centre for Boys opened at Milsom Street by Education Committee.

- 1919** Technical School moved from Marlborough House, Montpellier, to The Lypiatts, Lansdown Road.
- 21 Apr 1919** NUT Conference held at the Town Hall.
- 8 Dec 1919** The Gloucester Road Elementary Schools re-opened as the Cheltenham Central School, a selective secondary school.
- Feb 1920** Following the new Education Scheme in Cheltenham, elementary schools now officially admitted pupils from 3 years of age.
- Nov 1920** The Central School opened in Gloucester Road - a selective, Mixed, secondary school. It later became the Technical High School.
- 1921** The female department of the Teacher Training College was reconstituted as the separate St. Mary's College, and moved out of town to the Park.
- 4 Sept 1923** Official opening of the Girls & Infant Departments at the Swindon Road Schools. (The completed Swindon Rd. Schools scheme was opened by Earl Beauchamp in 20 Oct 1925)
- 13 Oct 1923** Joint Improvement class for engine-drivers, firemen & cleaners begun.
- 29 Nov 1924** County Education Committee bought The Lypiatts as a Day School of Commerce.
- 1929** Amalgamation of the parish schools to create All Saints Senior Mixed, St John's Junior Mixed & Infants, and Holy Trinity Junior Mixed & Infant schools.
- 1930** Naunton Park Boys' became the Senior Council School and the Girls' became a Mixed primary school.
- 1930** Cheltenham Technical Schools became known as the Technical College.
- 1931** St. Mary's Training College bought the Fullwood site at the Park. (Fullwood had been the Ursuline Catholic Girls' College in the 1920s.)
- 1932** The Bath Road National Schools were demolished.
- 1934** Separate Boys and Girls Departments were abandoned at the Dunalley Street Schools.
- 1 Aug 1935** The Convent of St. Gregory, in St. Paul's, closed.
- 1936** Charlton Park School formed.
- Oct 1936** St. Gregory's Roman Catholic school re-located from St. Paul's St. North to a new building in Knapp Road.
- 6 Feb 1937** New Junior Mixed school opened in Gloucester Road, at a cost of £7,800.
- June 1937** Cheltenham Ladies College new Junior school opened.
- 1938** Technical College Commerce Department moved to The Woodlands, in the Park.
- 28 Apr 1938** Official opening of Whaddon Junior and Infant Schools.
- 19 Sept 1938** Official opening of the Art School's School of Printing.
- 1939** A Convent School run by the Sisters of La Sainte Union was established at Charlton Park.

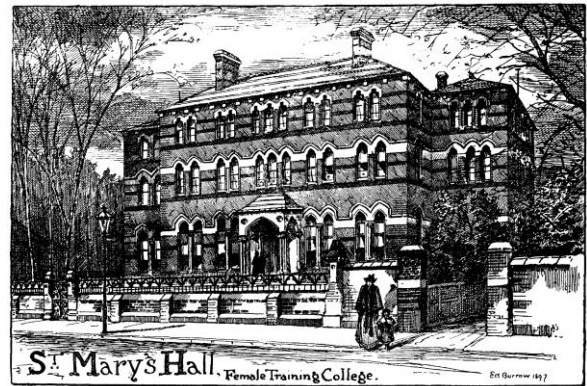
- 4 Sept 1939** Pate's Girls' Grammar School moved to a new site in Albert Road.
- 10 Aug 1940** New Methodist Hall and Sunday School opened at Whaddon.
- 1941** Airthrie School moved to Cheltenham from the south coast, and was established in Christ Church Road.
- Feb 1941** Whaddon Senior Mixed School opened (officially ceremony held later on 12 August.).
- 20 Sep 1945** First pupils admitted to Berkhamstead School
- 13 Dec 1945** Scheme of Divisional Administration for the Borough, under the 1944 Educational Act, approved by the Minister of Education. This authorised that both Primary and Secondary Education be administered by Cheltenham Borough on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.
- Sept 1946** Pate's Junior School was established in Livorno Lodge, St. Margarets Road, the former Girls' Grammar School buildings.
- 1947** Cheltenham's Senior Council Schools were re-designated Secondary Modern schools.
- 13 Apr 1948** Cheltenham gained greater direct control over Further Education in the town.
- July 1949** Dean Close Junior School officially recognised as an independent prep. school.
- Sept 1949** Lakeside Infant School opened in Hatherley.
- Oct 1949** The Catering & Baking Dept. of the Technical College moved to new premises on the Woodlands site.
- 18 Oct 1849** Leckhampton School granted voluntary status.
- 1951** Elmfield Secondary Boys' School formed following plans to close the Boys' Practising School at St. Paul's College, and the Swindon Road Boys' Secondary school. Elmfield Junior Mixed and Infant Schools renamed Swindon Road Primary.
- 1951** Building of the Mechanical, Electrical & Science Departments begun at the Technical College.
- 20 Mar 1951** Oakley Emergency Training College for Men closed after training 800 students.
- Sept 1952** Boys' and Girls' Central Schools in Gloucester Road amalgamated to form the Technical High School.
- 1953** Cheltenham New Schools Committee formed.
- Jan 1953** Opening of Lynworth Primary School, near the new Priors estate, and Rowanfield Junior and Infant schools in Alstone Lane following the development of housing in St. Marks.
- 20 Aug 1953** North Gloucestershire Technical College under construction at the Park.
- 1954** St. Gregorys Roman Catholic School leased the former Parish School in Devonshire Street for the next 30 years.
- 1954** Monkscroft Primary School opened in Hesters Way.



The Normal College (later Teacher Training College), founded in 1847, moved into S.W. Daukes' Tudor Gothic buildings in 1849. Renamed Francis Close Hall, the site is now part of the University of Gloucestershire.



The newly-built Science Wing in 1905 at the Cheltenham Ladies' College, St. George's Road.



Purpose-built for the female department of the Teacher Training College, St Mary's Hall opened in 1869. Later Shaftesbury Hall, now part of the residential development, Chelsea Court.



Pate's Grammar School for Girls was housed at Livorno Lodge, St. Margaret's Road, from 1905 before moving to Albert Road in 1939. Livorno Lodge became the Richard Pate Junior School, until the 1980s. Site now Lewis Carroll Lodge.



The Gloucester Road Council School, prior to its opening in 1907. It was the first purpose-built, state-run school in Cheltenham.

- 1954** St. Vincent's Nursery and Infant School opened for severely disabled children.
- Sept 1954** Thirlestaine Court Special School opened.
- 29 Oct 1955** Pate's Grammar Schools awarded voluntary aided status by the Ministry of Education.
- 1956** Closure of Cheltenham Boys' Orphanage in St. Margarets Road.
- 1956** Whaddon Secondary Modern renamed Oakley Secondary Modern; Monkscroft Secondary School opened.
- 17 Jun 1956** St. Vincent's School for Spastics opened.
- Aug 1957** Cheltenham Training Centre at Smith's Industries renamed 'Aviation Division Training School'.
- 1958** New Charlton Kings Secondary School opened in East End Road, and the Junior and Infant Schools moved into former Secondary School premises.
- 1958** Whitefriars Catholic Boarding School established as Battledown was opened.
- 1958** Closure of The Female Orphan Asylum at Charlotte House in Winchcombe Street, and building demolished.
- July 1961** Site acquired in Battledown Approach for the new Holy Apostle Church School buildings.
- 20 Sept 1961** National Association of Schoolmasters strike - 300 Cheltenham children have a 'holiday'.
- Oct 1961** Three-year building programme at Fullwood, The Park, completed and St. Mary's College moved to site. St. Mary's Hall, St. George's Place, transferred to St. Paul's College and renamed Shaftesbury Hall.
- 1962** St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Secondary School opened in Arle Road.
- 1964** Brookfield Secondary Special School opened in temporary premises.
- Sept 1964** Cheltenham Parish School amalgamated with St. Paul's Primary School.
- 1965** Gloucestershire College of Art opened - first phase of building completed in Albert Road.
- 1965** After nearly 400 years in the High Street, the Grammar School moved to a new site in Princess Elizabeth Way.
- Sept 1965** Warden Hill Primary School opened. (It was re-designated a Junior School when the Infant school was opened in 1967. The two schools combined as a Primary School in 1982.)
- 3 May 1966** Cheltenham Education Committee decided in favour of adopting comprehensive education.
- 31 Oct 1966** First part of new Swindon Village School opened as an Infant School.
- 3 April 1967** The Cheltenham Education Committee re-organised the town's secondary schools: two comprehensives for 11-18 year-olds, and the rest were schools for 11-16 year-olds.
- 1968** The new Charlton Kings Junior School was opened next to the Secondary School. Charlton Kings Infant School occupied the vacant Junior School buildings in School Lane.

- 1968** Hesters Way Infant and Junior Schools existed by this time.
- 1968** The Technical High School took over the Bournside annexe.
- April 1968** Westlands Special School (formerly Thirlestaine Court) moved to the Bournside complex.
- April 1968** St. Mark's Junior School re-opened in Robert Burns Avenue, and the Hatherley Lane buildings were closed.
- 1 Sept 1968** Gloucestershire College of Art & Design created by the amalgamation of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Colleges of Art.
- 27 Sept 1968** Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) moved to Cheltenham from London.
- 1969** Opening of the new Prestbury St. Mary's C/E Infant School - the old one remained the junior school.
- April 1969** Dean Close School became co-educational.
- 27 Jun 1969** New nursery unit opened at Pate's Junior School.
- 16 Jun 1971** The new Nurses' Training School for Cheltenham General Hospital opened.
- Oct 1971** Arthur Dye County Primary School opened to serve rapid development of the Arle suburbs.
- 5 May 1972** Benhall Infants School opened in Robert Burns Avenue.
- 22 Jun 1972** The new Swindon Village Junior School officially opened.
- Sept 1972** The Technical High School moved from Gloucester Road to new premises in Bournside Road. It was renamed 'Cheltenham Bournside School'.
- 1 Oct 1972** Glenfall County Primary School opened with admissions to the Infant department.
- Nov 1972** Betteridge School for children with severe learning difficulties moved to new purpose-built school on Bournside complex.
- 31 Mar 1976** Sandford School moved from Thirlestaine Road to the former primary boarding school at Seven Springs House, to become the largest school for emotionally disturbed children in the country at the time.
- 1977** Elmfield Boys' Secondary Modern amalgamated with Christ Church Girls and was accommodated in the former Technical High Buildings in Gloucester Road. Christ Church Junior School moved from its old buildings in Alstone Lane (the former St. Mark's school) to the vacated Girls' School in Malvern Road.
- 6 Sept 1977** Cleeve View Infant School opened in Gardner's Lane off Swindon Road.
- 7 Sept 1977** Pate's Junior School renamed 'The Richard Pate School'.
- Jan 1978** Gloucestershire Education Committee decided on all-in comprehensive school re-organisation plans for Cheltenham and three other areas in the county. The Governors of Pate's Foundation threatened to take Shirley Williams, Education Secretary of State, to court if this decision were to lead to the phasing out of the Foundation. (These plans for re-organisation were ultimately thrown out by the County education committee in 1980).
- 21 July 1978** All Saints Schools closed.

- Sept 1979** The Colleges of St. Paul's and St. Mary's merged with 1,200 students. The St. Paul's site was renamed 'Francis Close Hall'.
- 25 Jul 1980** Revised plans for re-organising secondary education in Cheltenham were approved.
- 24 Jul 1981** Christchurch with Elmfield High School & Cheltenham Parish with St. Paul's Primary School were closed.
- April 1981** St. George's Centre, a behavioural unit for secondary pupils, was opened in St. George's Road.
- 2 May 1984** County Council voted to keep grammar schools in Cheltenham.
- 20 July 1984** Naunton Park Secondary School closed.
- 25 July 1985** Oakley Secondary Modern School closed.
- Sept 1985** St. James' Primary School moved to new premises on the Bournside Campus.
- Sept 1986** Bournside School re-designated 'Cheltenham Bournside School & 6th Form Centre'. The two Pate's Grammar Schools amalgamated to form a co-educational school. Pittville School was established on the site of the former Pate's Girls' Grammar School in Albert Road.
- 14 Nov 1986** Formal opening of Balcarras School (formerly Charlton Kings and Monkscroft Secondary schools.)
- 1987** Pate's Junior School buildings in St. Margaret's Road demolished following the Richard Pate School's move to a new site in Leckhampton.
- 1987** Whitefriars School became independent of the Carmelite Order and merged with La Sainte Union School to form St. Edward's School.
- 8 July 1989** Secretary of State for Education, Kenneth Baker, approved plans to form the Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education as first step towards polytechnic status.
- 1 April 1990** The College of St. Paul & St. Mary merged with the higher education section of the Glos. College of Art & Technology to form the Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education.
- Sept 1990** Pate's Grammar School became grant-maintained.
- 3 Dec 1993** The new £3.9M media centre at the Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education's' Pittville campus was officially opened by David Putnam.
- Sept 1994** Lakeside Junior School re-designated Lakeside Primary School, and Greatfield Park Primary School opened in Hulbert Close, Up Hatherley, with 160 children.
- 20 July 1995** St. Edward's First School became a primary school.
- Sept 1995** Pate's Grammar School moved into new buildings in Oldbury Road, Hesters Way.
- April 1998** Westlands & Brookfield Special Schools merged to become Belmont School.

- 16 Jun 1998** Balcarras School designated a technical college.
- 1 Sept 1998** Gardner's Lane Primary School formed from Elmfield Juniors & Cleeve View Infants'.
- 18 Dec 1998** Dunalley Primary School moved into new premises in West Drive, Pittville.
- 10 Nov 1999** County Councillors voted to integrate 16,000 children with moderate learning difficulties into mainstream schools, a decision which may lead to the eventual closure of Belmont School.
- 18 Sept 2001** Demolition of original Hatherley Lane School building, (designed by John Middleton and opened in 1876), despite a campaign to save it by the Up Hatherley community.
- Oct 2001** The Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education was awarded university status to become the University of Gloucestershire.

Jill Waller, Sept. 2001

SOURCES:

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