

Sport at the College

Sport has always played a very important part in the College's curriculum.

Rugby, in a different form from today's game, was played from the early days (simply put, a cross between football and rugby). It wasn't until the early 1900s with the arrival of Mr EC Arnold (a future Headmaster) that the rules of the current game were adopted.



Gym display, 1930s

Cricket, too was played from the start. At first the College had to use the Town Club situated off Ashford Road but by 1871 College Field was ready and the opening match was played in the presence of the 7th Duke of Devonshire.

Other sports developed at the College, particularly in the 1920s and 30s. The rowing club was founded in 1927 and athletics took more prominence as well as lawn tennis and fencing.

Since girls have joined the College yet more sports, such as netball and rounders, have been added.

Rugby

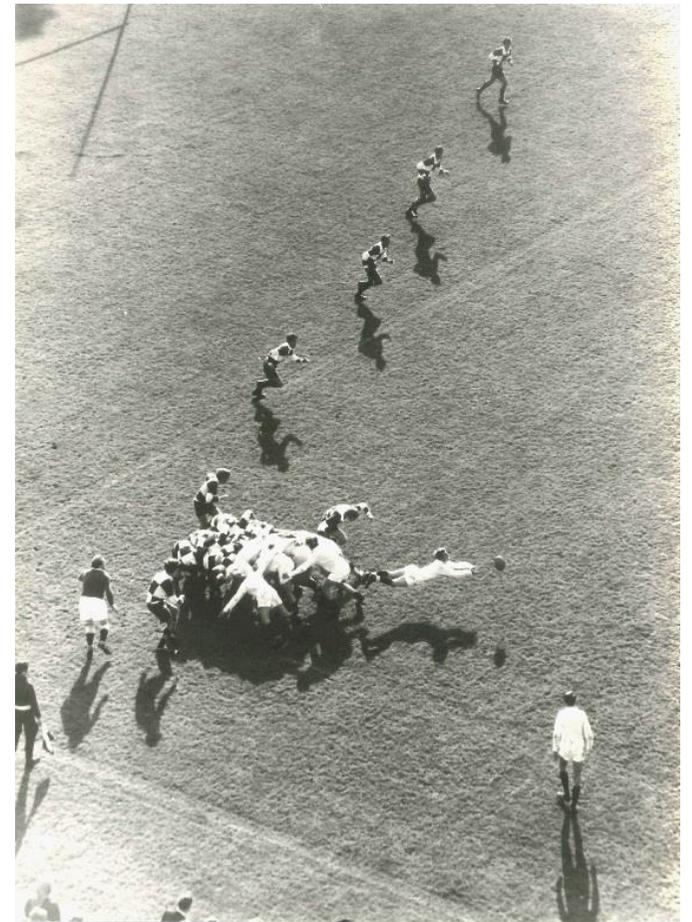
Douglas 'Daniel' Lambert (Gonville 1899-1902)

After leaving the College, he joined the Harlequins and was selected to play for their 1st XV in 1905. Perhaps his greatest achievement was during his debut match for England against France in 1907. He scored five tries, a record that wasn't equalled until 1995. Lambert continued to play for the Harlequins up to the outbreak of the First World War, when he joined up. He was killed leading an advance during the Battle of Loos in 1915.



*England v France
1907; Lambert is
third from the
left, back row*

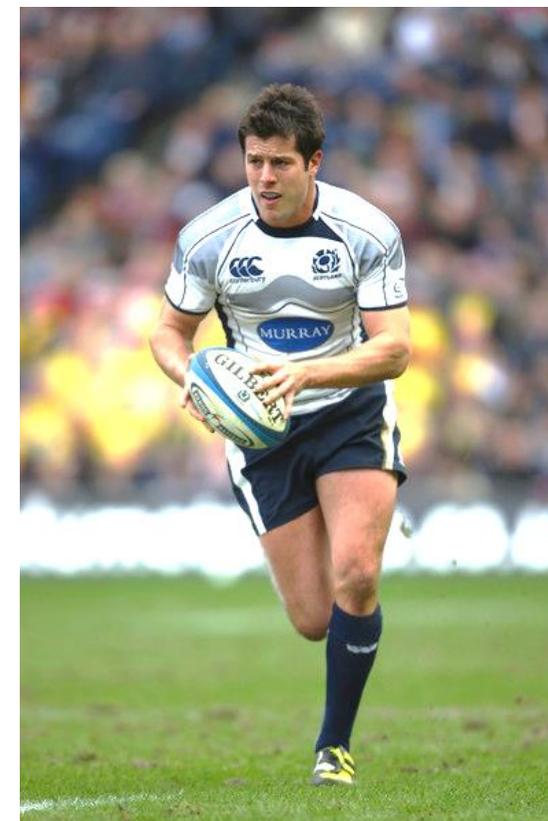
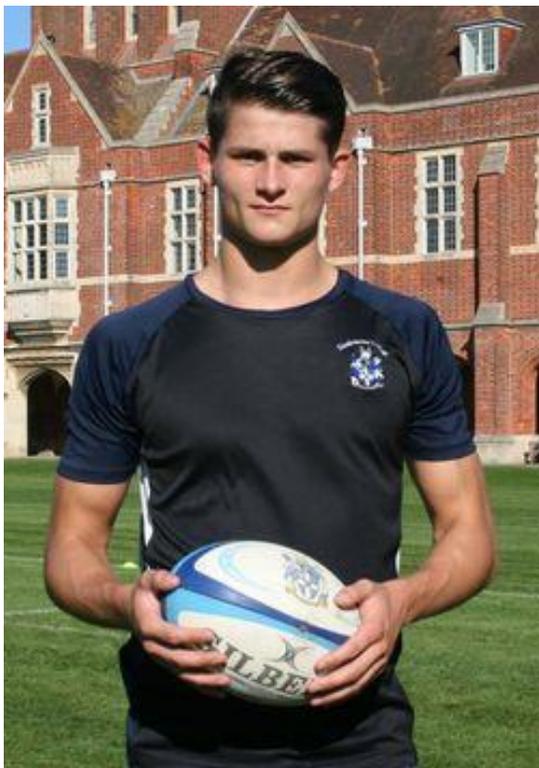
*College v Epsom
from the Memorial
Tower, 1965*



Rugby

Hugo Southwell (Wargrave 1993-98)

He played for Bristol, Worcester Warriors, Edinburgh, Stade Français and London Wasps, where he became captain in 2012. As an international player for Scotland he won 59 caps, making him the College's most-capped rugby player. He retired in 2014 due to injury and has taken up cricket, one of his earliest passions.



Piers O'Connor (Gonville 2009-14)

O'Connor played in the College 1st XV and left in 2014 to join London Wasps where he is now in the Senior Academy. In 2015 he was selected to play in the England under 20s Six Nations. He is currently on loan to the Bedford Blues rugby club.

Cricket

Francis Browne (Blackwater 1913-16)



Despite a bowling action which Wisden described as '*a weird delivery that defies description*' and earning him the nickname Tishy after a racehorse with a strange gait, he was a successful bowler in first-class cricket from 1919 to 1932. He played for Cambridge University and as an amateur for Sussex.



He went on to become joint Headmaster of St Andrew's Prep School in Eastbourne and was later Rural Dean at Firle and Beddingham in Sussex.

Cricket

Ed Giddins (Powell 1984-89)



Giddins was born in Eastbourne and played for four counties during his career - Sussex, Warwickshire, Surrey and Hampshire. He also played for England against New Zealand, Zimbabwe (England won the two-game series, much of this being down to Giddins) and the West Indies.



Eastbourne College 1st XI, 2015

Fives



Fives - hitting a ball against two or three walls with hands.

The College's first Fives court was opened in 1874.



Girls have been playing Fives at the College since 2009; Tessa Mills (Nugent 2008-13) won the National Open Singles title for four years in a row

Hockey

Sam Brooks (Craig 2007-12)



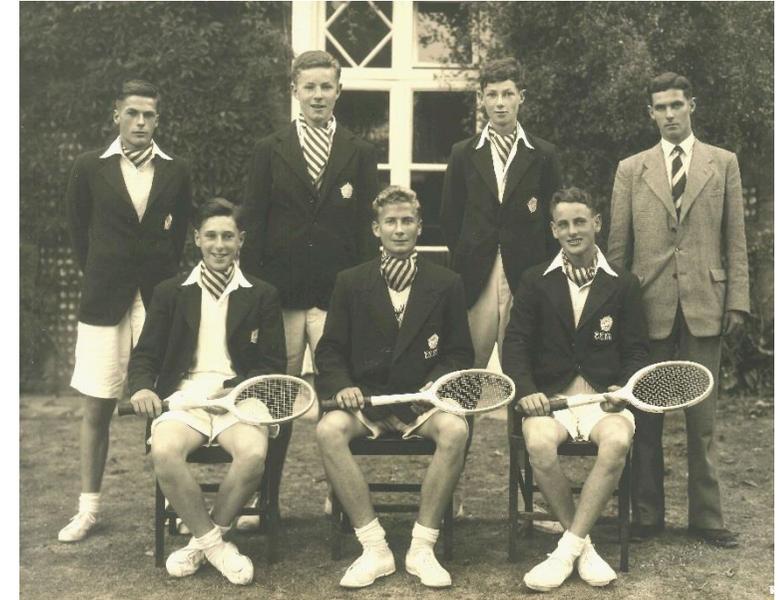
In 2010 Sam played for the England U16 hockey squad and won 10 caps against Spain, Germany, Scotland and Wales. Two years later he was selected to represent England at the Four Nations U18 hockey tournament. He has recently played for Cambridge in the varsity match against Oxford, so gaining his Blue.

Eastbourne College Girls 1st XI, 2015



Tennis and netball

Tennis has been played at the College for many years and with the introduction of girls, initially in 1968-69 and fully co-ed in 1995, other sports such as netball have been added to the curriculum.



1952



2015

Equestrian and Fencing

Camilla Kruger (School House 2000-05)

Born in Zimbabwe, Camilla started riding at an early age on her family's farm and was a member of the horse riding team at the College. She recently represented Zimbabwe in the equestrian category at the 2016 Rio Olympics.



Camilla with her horse Biarritz II



Fencing has been taught at the College since the early 1930s and has its own fencing club with a mix of boys and girls

Squash and Boxing

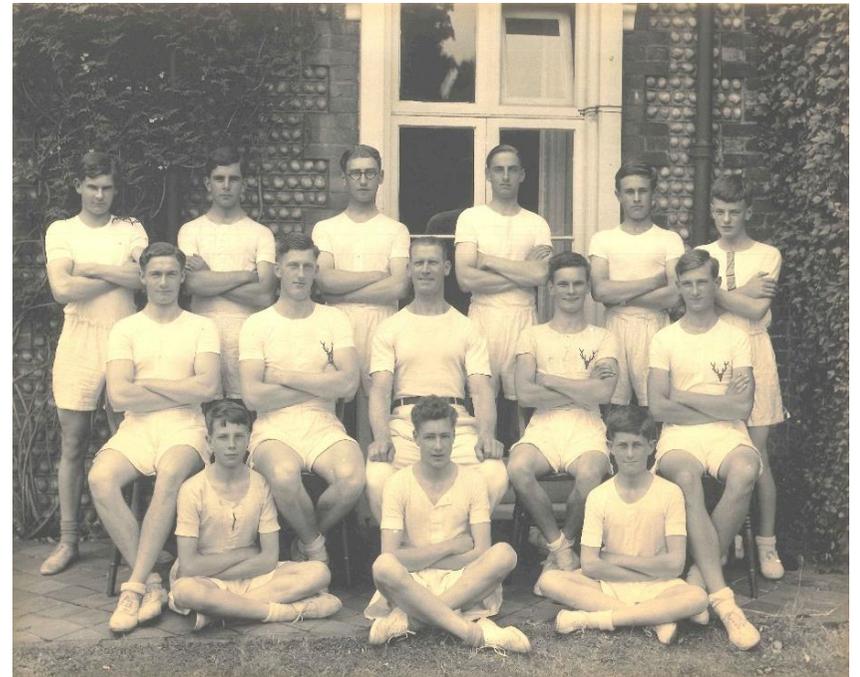


Another sport which was begun under Gordon Carey was squash. The pupils had to play in the Devonshire Park courts until the new ones were opened at the College in 1977.

Tilework in the foyer of the former squash courts designed by College pupils

Boxing Club 1934

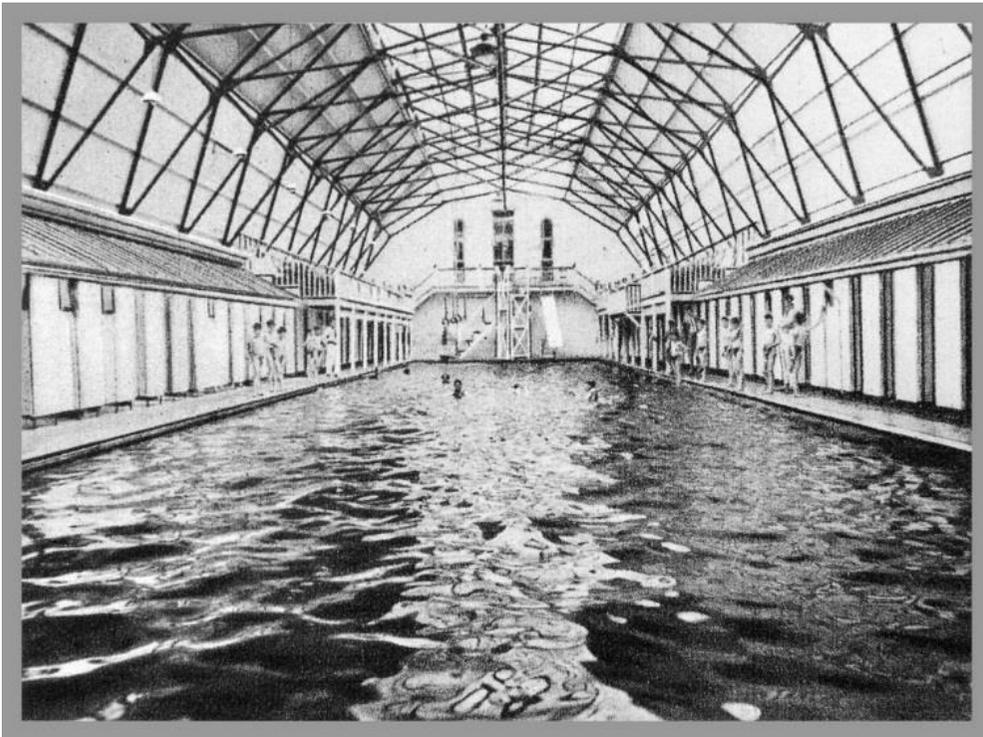
Brothers Douglas and John Jowitt, were both in the boxing club (pictured in the photograph). In a bout between Douglas and a Westminster School pupil, the latter lost, *'his blows failing to land due to Jowitt's clever footwork'*.



Swimming

Swimming has been an important part of College life since the school opened in 1867.

Before the opening in 1874 of the Devonshire Park Baths, Carlisle Road (now the site of Devonshire Court), the boys swam in the sea.



Boys at the Devonshire Park Baths in 1939

The building closed in 1974 and was replaced at the Crumbles by the Sovereign Centre (originally the Leisure Pool) in 1977.

Interior of the Devonshire Park Baths

Swimming

The Devonshire Park Baths closed in 1974 and the boys had to wait until 1976 before a new swimming pool was built at the College. The former Headmaster Michael Birley opened the pool both officially and unofficially; first by unveiling a plaque and then by diving into the pool.



The new swimming pool in the Winn Building

Athletics



Denys Charles Hopkinson
(Gonville 1927-31)

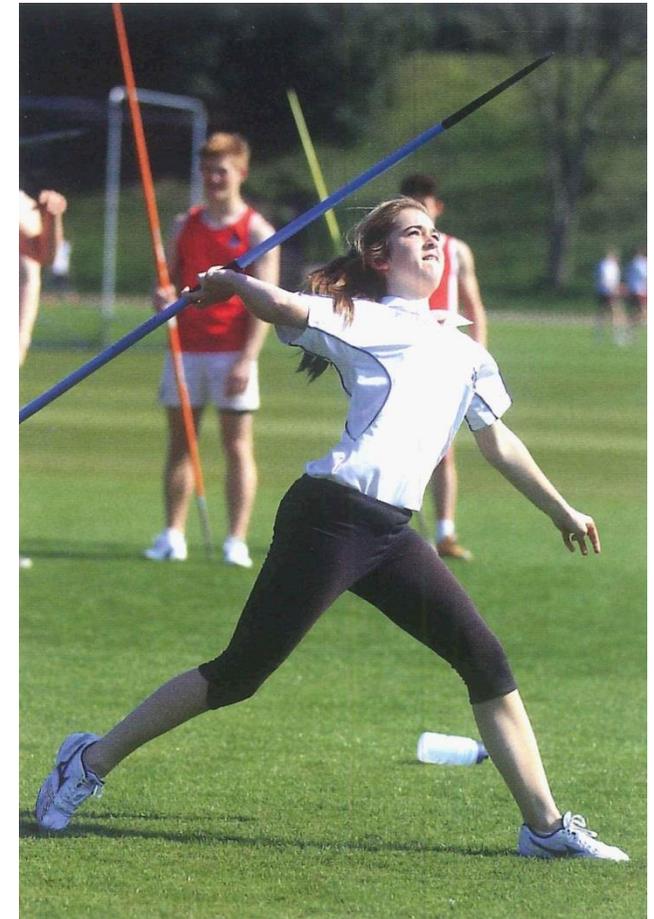
A talented athlete, he won the Victor Ludorum at the College sports day in 1931



Cecil Walkley
(School 1944-48)

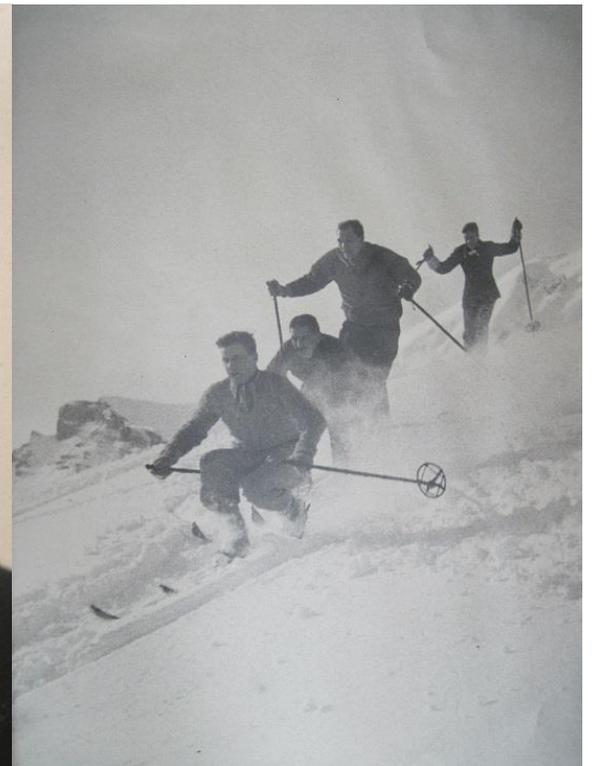
Athletics Blue at Cambridge, still running long-distance races in Australia in his 80s

Georgie Moore
(Nugent 2011-16)



Christopher Mackintosh (Blackwater 1917-22)

A sportsman who excelled in rugby, athletics, tennis and winter sports, he won seven of the ten events in the College sports in 1922. While at Oxford he was picked for the British athletics team in the 'Chariots of Fire' 1924 Olympics in Paris and between 1923 and 1933 he was the outstanding British skier, captaining the 1931 British team. In 1938 he joined the British four-man bobsleigh team which won the world championships. Mackintosh played a crucial role as brake man.

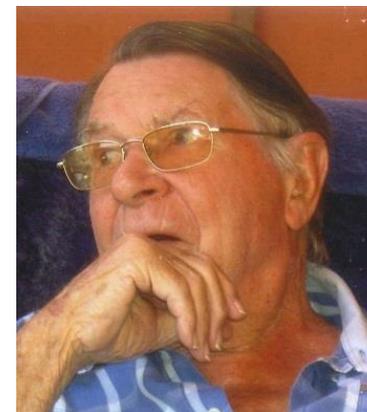


Rowing

The Eastbourne College Boat Club was originally established in 1870 when rowing took place at sea. Restarted in 1927, the club moved to the Cuckmere river but now uses the Pevensey Levels.

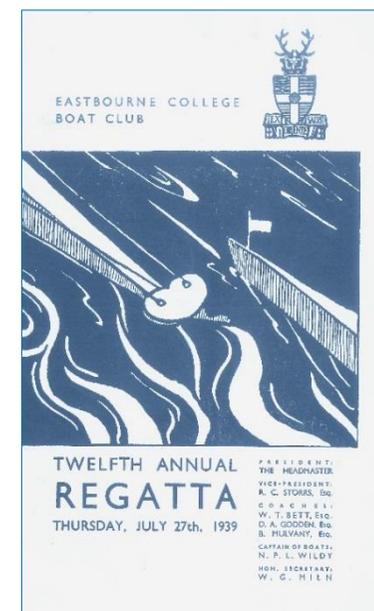
Cuthbert Buckle (Pennell 1926-31)

Captain of Boats in 1930 and 1931, he was awarded his rowing Blue while at Cambridge. He was part of the crew that not only beat Oxford but which set a course record that stood for 14 years.



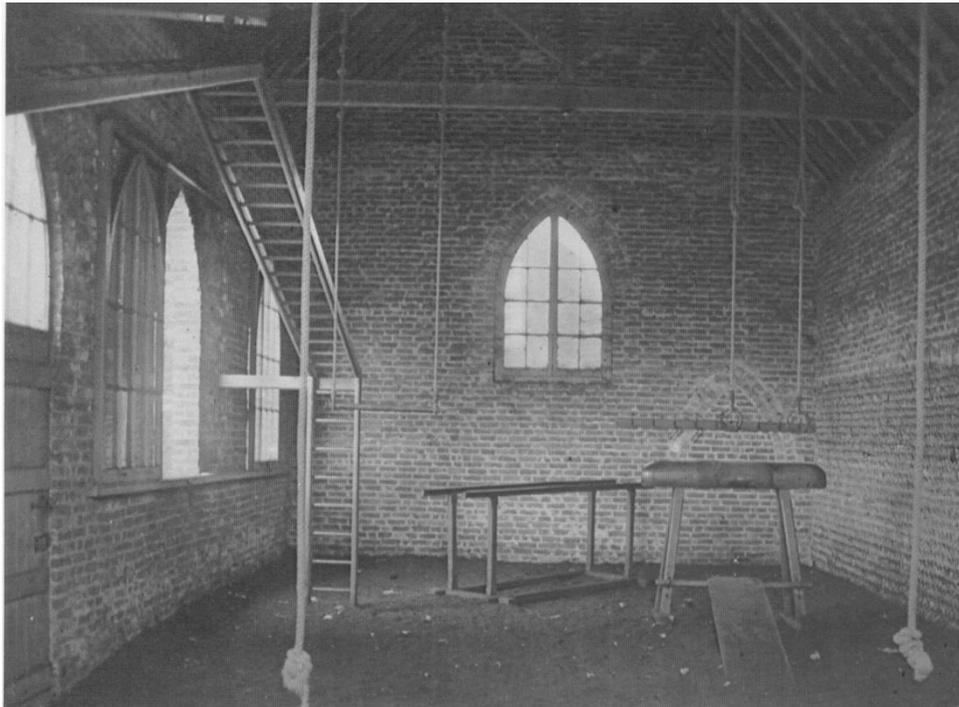
*Girls' 1st IV rowing team
1991*

*A brochure for the
Boat Club Regatta at
Cuckmere, July 1939*



Gym

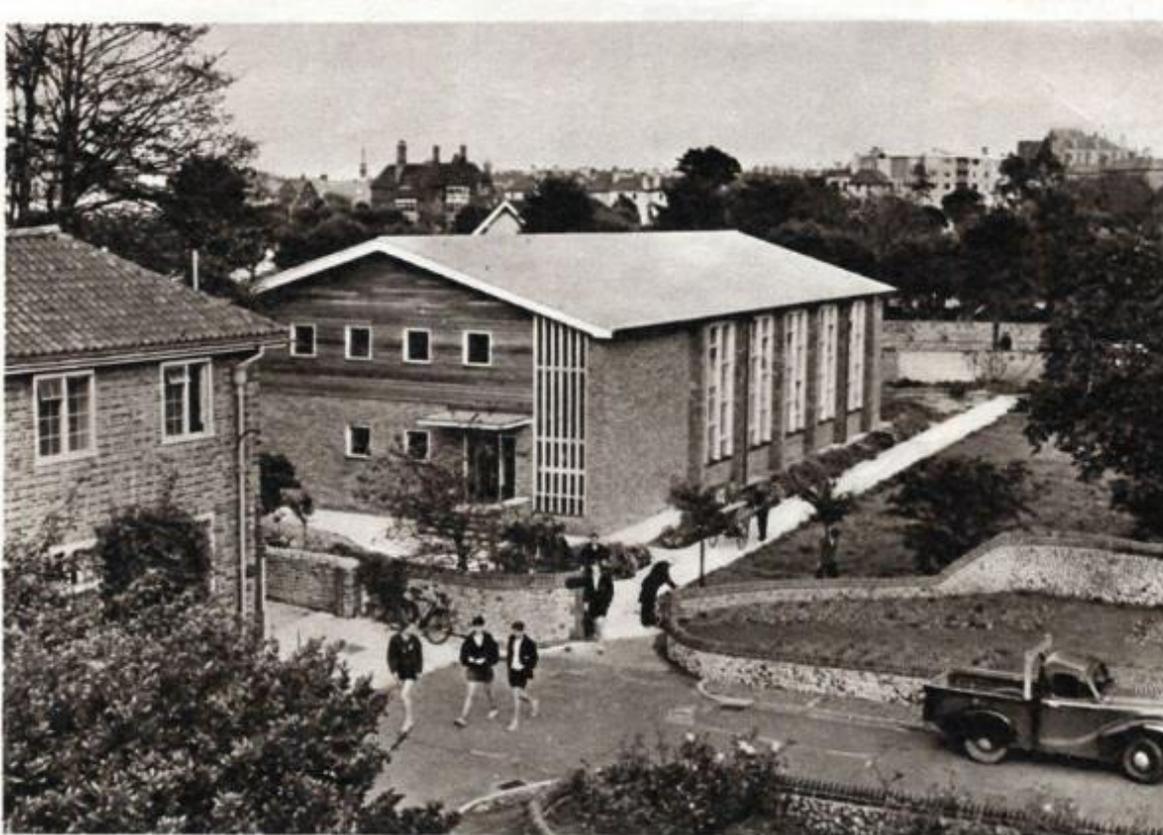
The first gym was built on the present College site in the 1870s. From the 1920s the gym was situated in the Memorial Building, but it wasn't until 1958 that a separate purpose-built structure was opened. This has now been demolished in readiness for Project 150.



The first gym at the College c. 1880



Group of boys in the gym, 1917



A VIEW OF THE NEW GYMNASIUM. AMONG OTHER RECENT ADDITIONS—LARGELY DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF OLD BOYS—ARE NEW LABORATORIES AND PLAYING FIELDS.

The new gym opened in 1958



Gymnastics in the gym, 1950s

The new sports facilities

*The new sports hall
in the Winn Building*



*The old gym prior to demolition, temporarily filled
with the chapel pews*