

HAGLEY SCHOOLS

HAGLEY RC HIGH SCHOOL

When Hagley RC High opened on a snowy day, 9th January 1959, there was a real sense of achievement on the part of the local Catholic community; collections for a school fund had begun seventeen years earlier in 1942. In those early years the pupils arrived by train from Kidderminster but now the catchment area extends to Halesowen, Stourbridge, Stourport, Brierley Hill and Birmingham.

There were fewer buildings on the site than there are today and it was a few years before the field in front of the school was levelled. Early Sports Days took place in the park, across the railway line, in the village.

The first headmaster was Mr. Durkin (1959-1974). He oversaw the production of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. A school magazine, "The Hagley Chronicle" was published. There were trips to Belgium and Bristol. In 1967 the school choir appeared on "Songs of Praise" and made a record. The following year the school grounds were commended for tidiness.

In 1976 the school took a massive step forward when it became fully comprehensive. The headmaster was Mr. Bonnoud (1974-1979). A new sixth form block was built and 'A' levels were introduced. As the school's academic success grew, so did it become a force in local sport, particularly in football. In the 80s and 90s the school produced a number of professional footballers, most notably, Lee Sharpe who played for Manchester United and England. Another highly successful Hagley pupil is Dominic Thompson, a leading neuro-surgeon in London. We are also justifiably proud of Umberto Giannini, Hairdresser of the Year for the United Kingdom.

The current headmaster, Mr. Hill, was appointed in 1979. Under his guidance Hagley RC High School has continued to flourish. It has grown in size from a few hundred pupils forty years ago to over one thousand. The school is well regarded in the Archdiocese of Birmingham as it is known for its faith in action, good behaviour of pupils and high academic standards.

Stephen Roberts

2000
