

# THE RICHMOND SCHOOL TRUST

## The Origins of The Richmond School Trust

The following is a history of the Richmond School Trust taken from notes compiled by Dr T G Bishop, former Chairman of the Richmond School Trust in 1980

*The origins of the Richmond School Trust can be traced back to the governing body of the Free Grammar School, founded in 1566/67 by the "bailiffs and burgesses of Richmond". The original endowments were derived from some of the property seized in 1544 by the Richmond Corporation, when it suppressed six of the nine Richmond chantries. To these were later added two charitable bequests, one by Dr John Bathurst (an old boy of the School and physician to Oliver Cromwell), who died in 1659 and in his Will left £12 per annum to maintain two poor scholars at Cambridge University and to put one poor boy a year to be an apprentice; and the other by Hannah Brackenbury of Hove\*, who, in 1873, left £1,600 to found three exhibitions tenable at the Universities of Oxford and Durham.*

*Under the "Scheme regulating the Foundation called "Richmond Grammar School" dated 4th August 1914 are listed several benefactors, including Hannah Brackenbury, and it is stated that "these Foundations and endowments shall henceforth be one Foundation, and shall be administered under this Scheme, under the name of Richmond Grammar School, hereinafter called the Foundation".*

*The Charity of Sir Thomas Wharton of Gilling was founded in 1875 and in 1942 the School's endowments were increased by the funds which provided the Ellerton Scripture Scholarship but shortly afterwards, under the terms of the Education Act of 1944, the old governing body ceased to have any responsibility for the maintenance and running of Richmond School, Yorkshire, which was granted 'controlled status' and administered and financed as a grammar school for boys by the North Riding of Yorkshire Education Committee. All the Foundations and Charities were amalgamated in 1960. The governing body (known as the 'Endowment Governors') continued to manage this small endowment fund.*

*An occasional Brackenbury\* Exhibition was awarded and in 1969 the first Brackenbury Foreign Travel and Study Award was made to a former pupil; small grants were also made to the School for specific purposes. The Endowment Governors had actually continued to be the legal owners of the Grammar School until the North Riding Education Committee, in the late 1960s, adopted a plan for comprehensive education in the County, under which it proposed to amalgamate the Richmond Grammar School, the Richmond High School for Girls and the Richmond County Modern School. The plan required the North Riding Education Committee to purchase the property still owned by the Endowment Governors, whose funds were in consequence considerably increased, and a new scheme for the administration of the Richmond School endowments was drawn up and eventually sealed by the Department of Education and Science on 29th December 1972 when the Richmond School Trust came into being.*

Brackenbury Awards continued to be made over the years but they were awarded, on the advice of the Headmaster, to students at universities or colleges of higher or further education. As at 2014, the Award was for £500 each year for three years. The student provided Trustees with a short reference from their Tutor confirming attendance and that he/she was progressing well.

The Brackenbury Travel Awards were granted to students at universities or other colleges of higher or further education. Candidates had to spend at least one year at Richmond School. It assisted the student to pursue a project which was an integral part of his or her higher education course. Approval in writing by the student's academic tutor had to be made and the student had to submit a report of about 1,500 words to the Trustees on his/her return.

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In 2020, the Board of Trustees reiterated their commitment to ensuring that the funding goes to those who are in greater financial need. Brackenbury Awards are available, at the discretion of Richmond School Trustees, to students at universities or colleges of higher or further education or who are undertaking an apprenticeship. The award is a one-off payment of up to £1,000 for those students who are under 25 years and who are either an existing student, moving on to their next stage of education, or who have been a student at the school. Normally students would have attended the school for at least one year or would have attended Richmond School's 6th Form College.

*\*Hannah Brackenbury (also Brakenbury) was born in 1795 in Richmond, Yorkshire, the daughter of a doctor, and died in 1873 in Port Slade, Hove, Sussex. Hannah was unmarried but inherited her Uncle James's fortune which was so great that she was able to give £100,000 away during her lifetime. Apart from the £1,600 she gave to Richmond School she also supported Balliol College where there is a Brackenbury Scholarship funded to this day from her bequest, and some of the buildings are named after the family. Durham University was also a recipient as well as scholarships she funded at St Bartholomew's Hospital and Manchester Medical School. Hannah also founded a primary school in Portslade, Sussex*