

East Grinstead Courier

Best Local Newspaper

SEPTEMBER 4, 1959

Postage: Inland 2½d. Abroad 2½d.

TO CLAIM SON

SIR WINSTON PAYS A VISIT

SIR WINSTON paid a surprise visit to the Queen Victoria Hospital on Sunday evening to see Lady Churchill.

He landed at London Airport from the Riviera and immediately drove to East Grinstead with his daughter Sarah to see his wife.

"It was all a bit of a surprise. We knew about it an hour before he arrived," said a hospital spokesman.

At the hospital, Sir Winston was received and welcomed by the Matron, Miss Ann Monteath, and Sister Hitchens. They escorted him to the Canadian Wing, where Lady Churchill has a private room.

Before they left the hospital to travel to Chartwell in Westerham, Sir Winston posed for photographs and talked with members of the nursing staff.

On Monday Lady Churchill drove to Chartwell and had lunch with Sir Winston. She returned to hospital later the same day.

Lady Churchill underwent a minor operation for a paralysed eyelid which followed an attack of shingles.

New era begins at Imberhorne

OVER 600 boys and girls of the East Grinstead area get their first taste of a modern County Secondary school on Wednesday when the new £300,000 Imberhorne School opens its doors for the first time.

They can count themselves lucky, for they will receive their education in surroundings that most of their parents could only dream about.

Within the limits of its budget, fixed by the Ministry of Education, the county has made a fine job of this school. It is both light and airy, compact and roomy, and much thought has gone into its design.

Every inch of space has been utilised, and, where practical,

economies made without disadvantage.

It is a school the town can show off with pride. The only complaint is: "Why was it not built sooner?"

Pupils will be drawn from a wide area—from the urban district of East Grinstead and the rural districts of Cuckfield and Uckfield.

JAM TART

To ensure they get safely to school, complex transport arrangements have been made by the county education authority.

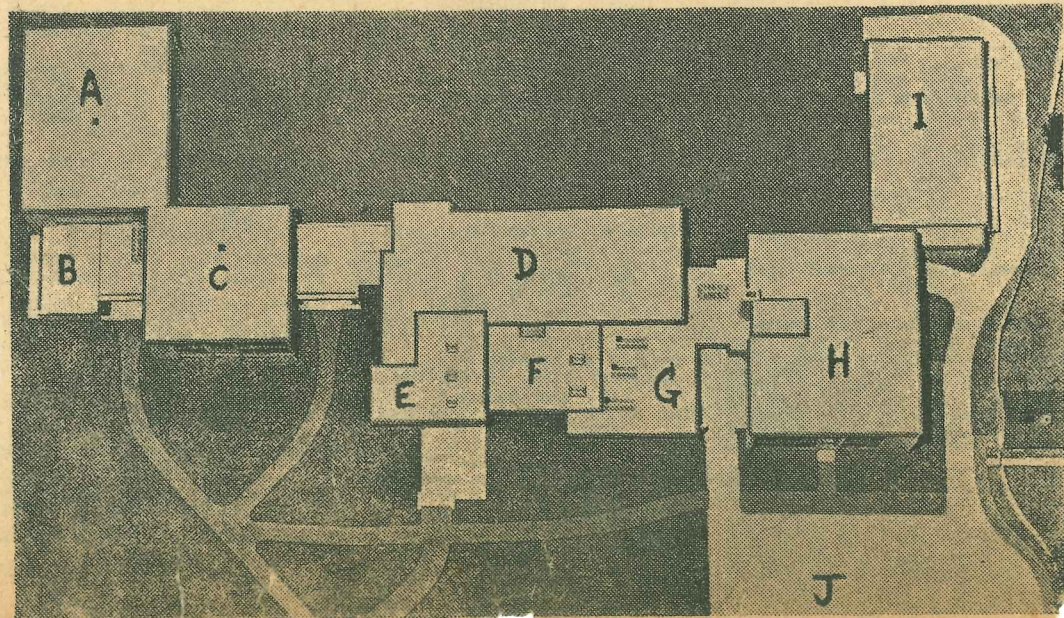
Buses, trains and hired transport will be used.

So they need not live off sandwiches, or rush home to bolt a quick lunch, hot meals are available at the school.

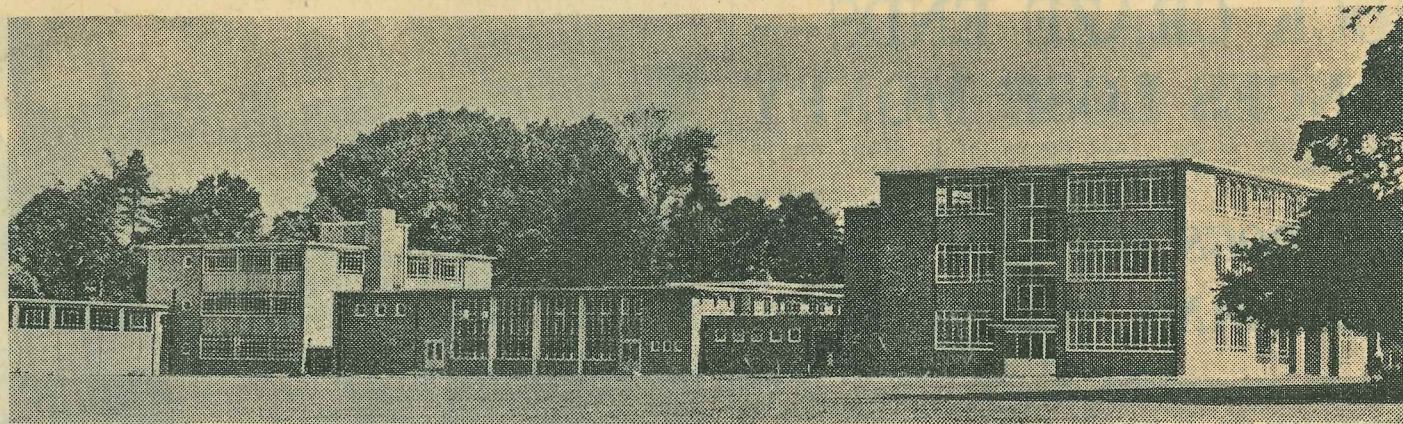
On Wednesday, when the number wishing to stay for the midday meal is yet an unknown factor, the menu will be a practical one: corned beef, salad and potatoes with salad cream, and a sweet to follow of jam tart and custard.

Now turn to Page Five for an illustrated feature on the school.

Below is a bird's-eye view of the new Imberhorne school. A is the science block; B—staff room; C—class rooms; D—main hall; E—entrance hall and offices; F—dining room; G—kitchens; H—technical block; I—gymnasium; J—car park and entrance. Separate entrances for vehicular traffic and pupils, have been provided. At the back is the hard-surface playing area, fenced in by high wire as a ball barrier.



THE FINE NEW SCHOOL AT IMBERHORNE



East Grinstead's newest school, the £300,000 Imberhorne Secondary School, which opens on Wednesday. This is the view over the playing fields that drivers will see from the town by-pass—when it is made

Education—1959 style— comes to our town

ON Wednesday next a new era in education begins in East Grinstead. The new Imberhorne County Secondary School will open wide its glass doors to 627 children—and the town's shortage of school accommodation will be considerably eased.

Children over the age of 11 years in the area north of the railway line between East Grinstead and Forest Row, including Queen's Road, together with those living in the area served by the primary schools of Copthorne, Crawley Down, Turners Hill and West Hoathly, will be drawn to the school.

This will mean that nearly two-thirds of the 800 pupils attending the over-crowded Sackville Secondary School will move to Imberhorne.

East Sussex children at the Surrey schools of Baldwins Hill and Felbridge Primary Schools will also be eligible to attend.

The school is the biggest in the East Grinstead area. With three blocks of classrooms on three floors, it has cost £200,942.

Another £3,615 has been spent on the laying out of its nine acres of playing fields, and a further

£16,000 on equipment and school furniture.

MELLOW BRICKS

Built of mellow Sussex brick around a steel frame, metal windows and cedar weather board, it blends harmoniously with its surroundings.

Contemporary materials, such as continuous durable plastic tops to the bannister rails, and washable glazed plaster walls on the staircases, have been used throughout its construction.

Special roof tiles insulated to keep out the cold in Winter and the heat in Summer, have been used. The floors are covered with hard-wearing thermo-plastic tiles and where a softer surface was needed, linoleum and wood.

Huge windows catch every shred of sunlight, and the feeling is one of space, with no unnecessary duplication.

Open planning is the key-note,

interfere with the pupils during their studies.

TREES RETAINED

To cut costs, wherever possible, concrete and brick finishes have been left. To add to the school's external appearance, clumps and screens of trees and shrubs have been retained.

Showers in changing rooms have been fixed at shoulder height, so as not to wet the hair of pupils during the colder months, and water temperatures are pre-set.

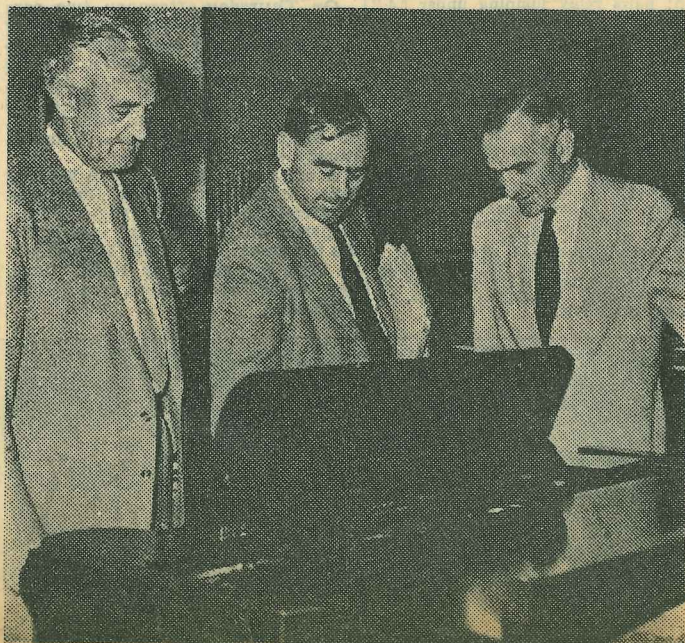
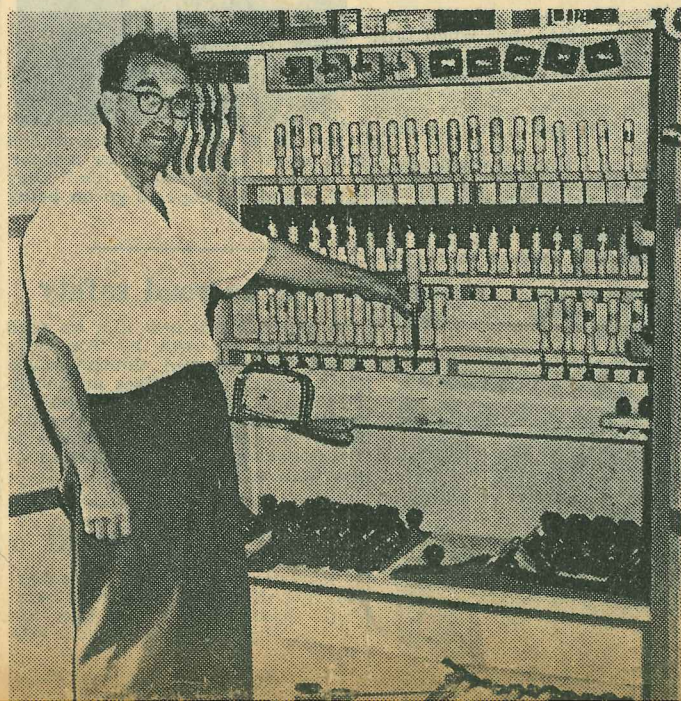
To reduce the noise made when changing classrooms, ceilings above staircases have been fitted with sound-soaking acoustic boards.

Central feature of the school is its large assembly hall with spacious stage, and combined passageway and gallery at the opposite end.

Double sliding doors lead to a general purpose dining area where 228 pupils can eat at one sitting,



Mrs. Janet Coster is the school's already-busy secretary. Apart from the Head's study, there is a separate room for the school's Deputy Head, and another for the use of the evening institute's organising master. A common-room has been provided for the teaching staff, and a "quiet" room in which they can mark pupils' books. A common-room for the evening institute has an adjoining scullery in which hot drinks can be prepared



The school's new life to the school. Left to right: head

Mr. J. Hodgson, wood master at Sackville Secondary School for many years, has moved to Imberhorne.

He will take 20 boys at a time and teach them carpentry and joinery in a room fitted with a circular saw, a turning lathe and a grinding stone.

The cupboard, encasing the tools, has been made by Mr. Hodgson during the school holidays.

with gay, soft, colours.

FRENCH TAUGHT?

Eventually, the school is expected to have a population of some 700 pupils. On opening, headmaster, Mr. B. M. McDermott,



Thirty-five-year-old Mr. Leonard Bullen is caretaker of the school. With his wife and two children he will live in a three-bedroomed cottage built for him opposite the technical block. Five nights a week ten part-time women Thirty-five-year-old Mr. Leonard Bullen is caretaker of the school. With his wife and two children he will live in a three-bedroomed cottage built for him opposite the technical block.

Five nights a week ten part-time women cleaners with mechanical aids will clean and polish their way through the school.

B.A., will have a teaching staff of 28, including specialists in physical education, woodwork, metal work, domestic science and the teaching of backward children.

The curriculum will include all normal subjects taught in a mixed modern school, but later it is proposed to teach a foreign language—probably French.

Pupils will be encouraged to remain at school after the age of fifteen and to take various courses leading to G.C.E. or other appropriate external examinations.

Provision has been made for the installation of television and radio at the school.

Much thought has gone into the school's design. The kitchens and technical block have their own unloading yards so as not to

and a large entrance hall adjoining, gives even greater space if required.

AUTO-KITCHEN

And there are no unsightly radiators or pipes in the hall. Instead, warm air from the oil-fired hot water heating system, is driven through concealed grills by electrically operated fans.

Two course meals can be ob-

tained at the school for 1s. a day. They are prepared in a fully automatic kitchen, which has a cooking capacity of 450 meals, by a cook supervisor and a staff of eight.

Adjoining is a washing up room with two deep sterilising cabinets and three sinks.

The school will have its own library—on two levels—medical rooms and rest rooms for girls.