

King Edward VII Wing (boys' school) & Queen Alexandra Wings (girls' school) opened

During the late 19th century, the number of children in residence had been slowly increasing. In 1906 the Board of Education indicated the boys' classrooms, dormitories and dining hall were all overcrowded. The Board of Governors recognising the problem had to be urgently rectified decided to add an additional wing to the building to contain classrooms and dormitories, and to enlarge the boys' dining hall. They also decided to add a hot water system. Around £2,700 (equivalent to £365k at today's rates) was raised to fund the alterations.

In 1908 the Board of Governors decided that no children would be admitted unless they could read and write.

The orphanage was 60 years old in 1910. Two new wings for the girls' school were added containing a classroom, a reading room and dormitories for 24 beds. The buildings were designed by F. T. Beck and built by Henry Willcock & Company.

They were known also as the Jubilee Extensions.

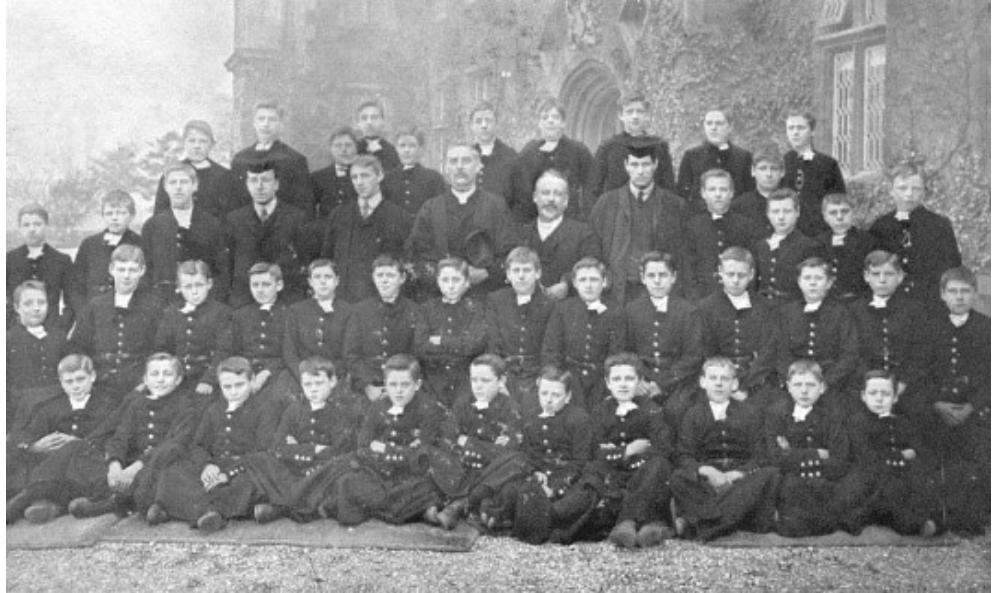
In a speech on 7th July 1911, the Earl of Dartmouth announced that the new boys' wing would be called the King Edward VII Wing and the two girls' wings would be the Queen Alexandra Wings.



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The opening ceremony took place on 7th July 1911 with full Masonic honours.

William Heneage Legge, 6th Earl of Dartmouth (1851–1936), Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire and Senior President of the Orphanage, opened the Diamond Jubilee Extension. Some 500 freemasons took part in a ceremony which included a presentation of prizes by the Countess of Dartmouth.



A group of senior boys and senior girls (from the 1908 Red Book)

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The “Long Dorm”, seen here in 1901, was the longest dormitory in the country with around 100 beds.

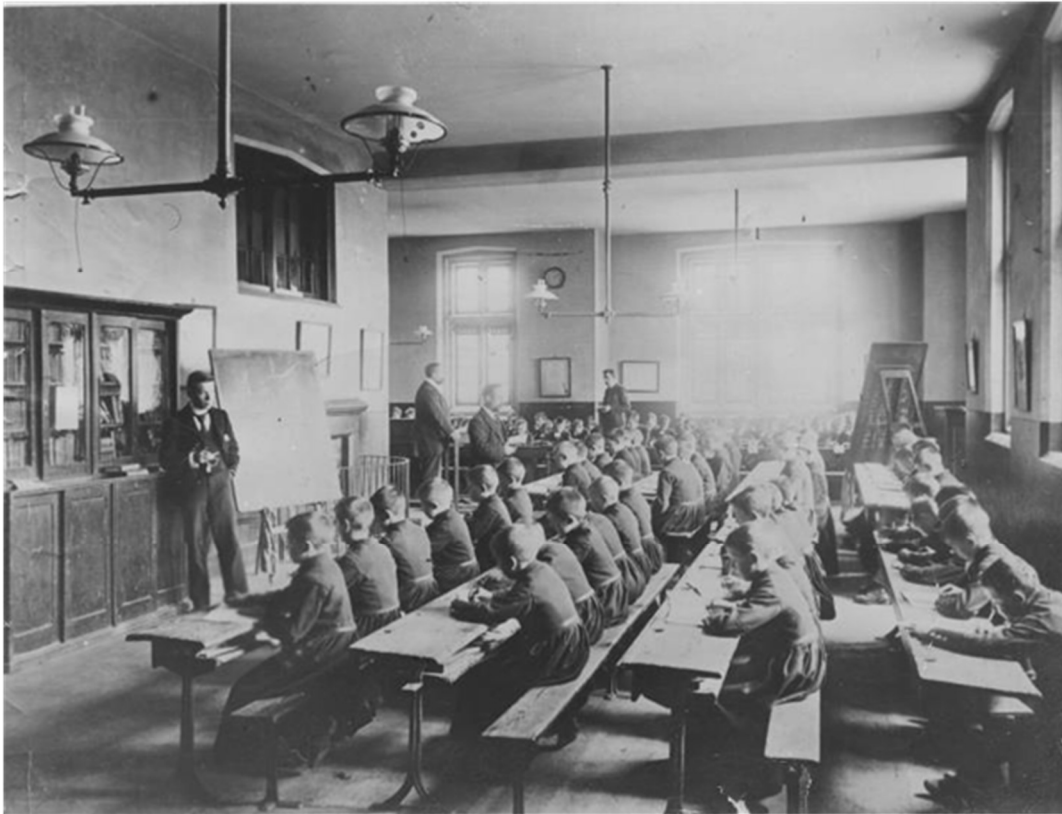
Many beds were donated in perpetuity by individuals and organisations, acknowledged by a plaque at the end of each bed. Many of these plaques can be seen in Queen Victoria Hall.

A new dining room was built in the new boy's wing. In the background boys are busy laying tables.



The teaching of girls and boys differed: Girls were trained for occupations such as being “In Service”. Boys were taught with an aim of their being in a clerical or professional position on leaving.

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Boys at their writing desks.



A laundry class. The girls are using flat irons, drying racks and mangles. This image also shows mechanical line shafts and pulleys, and empty overhead clothes drying racks.

In 1911 another 70 children were admitted bringing the total to 330.

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