

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

1. REPORTS, DIGESTS OF INFORMATION, &c.

AMERSHAM FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

MR. GREEN'S REPORT.

There is not much to be said about this school. The present master had been there three years at the time of my visit, and in that time the number in the school had risen from three to seventeen. About half a dozen were sons of neighbouring farmers, two coming from a distance of five miles. There are a National and a British school in the place; some boys pass to the grammar school from the former, but none, as I was told, from the latter, though the master readily exempts from the Catechism at the desire of parents. There is no private academy at Amersham.

All the boys learn Latin, except one who is peculiarly stupid. Greek is optional. I found four boys learning it, but they had only just begun. One of these was the son of a lawyer, another of a medical man, another of a farmer. The master expected that most of the younger boys would learn Greek in time. Five or six were learning French, which, at the time of my visit, was taught by the master himself. English grammar is also taught, but neither it nor French till after a boy is supposed to know the Latin grammar. One boy had done six books of Euclid. Several who had left a few months before my visit had done as much.

The residence of the master, which belongs to the school, is very small. He rents the next house as well, and thus is able to take five boarders. There is no sufficient playground, but the master rents a field for the purpose, and the boys are allowed to wander in Mr. Drake's park. The schoolroom is very small, but apparently in good repair. Owing to a re-letting of the farm from which the income of the school is derived, an increase to about 150*l.* a year was expected. The situation is excellently adapted for a school, if accommodation were forthcoming.

I heard the first class of six boys (aged respectively 16, 13, 14, 10, 13, 10) in *Cæsar*. They were slow, but did fairly. One boy of 10 years old seemed very promising. The next lot of six (aged respectively 9, 10, 13, 12, 11, 8), I tried in writing from dictation, in which they were not good, and in geography, in which they did fairly. Four of them were just beginning Henry's first book in Latin, in which they did as other boys in the same stage do. One boy wrote out a proposition from the third book of *Euclid*, and four others one from the first, very well. The arithmetic of the remaining boys was scarcely satisfactory. The hope of the school lies in the boys of 10 and under.

ENDOWED
GRAMMAR
SCHOOLS.

176 VOL. XII. SOUTH MIDLAND DIVISION: Buckinghamshire.

ENDOWED
GRAMMAR
SCHOOLS

DIGEST OF INFORMATION.

(Ch. Com. Rep. xxv. 8, A.D. 1832.)

Foundation and Endowment.—By will of Dr. Robert Challoner, dated 20 June 1620, bequeathing 20*l.* yearly out of lands in Warendon for erection of a free grammar school, the town and parish allotting a school house, and his successors a dwelling house for master. School and house conveyed by deeds in 1624. Confirmed by decree of commissioners of charitable uses 16 Sept. 1624. Lands charged (with an exception not now traceable) bought by trustees in 1676. Portions exchanged in 1766. An allotment made to school by Inclosure Commissioners in 1788.

School Property.—Total average 125*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* Average annual income 190*l.* gross, 155*l.* net, all applied to school. Buildings good. Master's house not adapted for boarders.

Objects of Trust.—The instruction of children and youth, within the age of 18 years, as well poor as rich, of any parish.

Subjects of Instruction prescribed.—School founded as a grammar school. Latin, Greek, if required (Rules of trustees A.D. 1826).

Government and Masters.—Decree of 1624. Rules of trustees 1826. Trustees: rector, and four others, of whom two Resident in Amersham. Full number of trustees is 10 or 12 including rector; rest nominated by him. They make rules, appoint and dismiss master. No restriction as to other employment of master except school hours. No qualification required. The head boy aids in maintaining discipline.

State of School in Second Half-year of 1854.

General Character.—Classical.

Master.—Head master takes five boarders. Total income from endowment 67*l.*, from fees 68*l.*, from boarders 37*l.* to 42*l.* each, besides residence.

Day Scholars.—17, chiefly sons of farmers and tradesmen between 10 and 14 years old, from distance up to four miles. Foundationers pay 4*l.* 4*s.* for general work. Non-foundationers 10 guineas. French, extra for all 3*l.* Drilling 1*l.* Fuel 5*s.*

Boarders.—5, all in head master's house. Four meals a day. Board according to age 37*l.* to 42*l.* Hours 7 a.m., 8 p.m.

Instructions, Discipline, &c.—Boys on admission must be under 18 years of age, and be able to read and write.

School variously classified. School course not modified. Religious instruction to all. School opened and closed by prayers from the Common Prayer Book.

Promotions by examination, and marks. Promotion in one subject affects a boy's position in others.

Examination quarterly, by head master, or some one appointed by him.

Good conduct prizes are given.

Punishments: impositions, detention, and caning publicly.

Playground, 300 yards from the school, open to all boys for cricket and football. Boarders, with master's leave, can walk into the country by themselves.

School time 30 hours in summer. 26 hours in winter. Play time 25 hours per week.

Amersham Free Grammar School.

177

TABLE A.—PROFESSION, &c. OF PARENTS.

N.B.—The ten highest and ten lowest boys in the School order are taken as samples of the whole.

ENDOWED
GRAMMAR
SCHOOLS.

DAY SCHOLARS.	Profession or Occupation of Parent.	Residence of Parent or Guardian.	Distance of Parents' or Guardians' Residence from School House.
Boys highest in School - 1	Farmer - -	Quarrendon, Amersham.	About 2 miles.
" " - 2	Innkeeper - -	Amersham - -	Do. 50 yards.
" " - 3	Farmer - -	Do. - -	Do. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
" " - 4	Do. - -	Weedon Hill, Amersham.	Do. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
" " - 5	Do. - -	Mantles, do. - -	Do. 4 do.
" " - 6	Do. - -	Woodrow, do. - -	Do. 2 do.
" " - 7	- - - -	Amersham - -	Do. 150 yards.
" " - 8	Miller - -	Do. - -	Do. 200 do.
" " - 9	Farmer - -	Woodrow, Amersham,	Do. 2 miles.
" " - 10	Butcher - -	Amersham - -	Do. 200 yards.
Boys lowest in School - 1	Miller - -	Chesham - -	About 3 miles.
" " - 2	Do. - -	Do. - -	Do. 3 do.
" " - 3	Butcher - -	Amersham - -	Do. 200 yards.
" " - 4	Surgeon - -	Do. - -	Do. 300 do.
" " - 5	Farmer - -	Little Missenden - -	Do. 2 miles.
" " - 6	Surgeon - -	Amersham - -	Do. 150 yards.
" " - 7	Farmer - -	Do. - -	Do. 50 do.

TABLE B.—SCHOOL INSTRUCTION.

Subject.	Number of Boys learning each Subject.	Subject.	Number of Boys learning each Subject.
Religious Knowledge - -	22	Physics - - - -	8
Greek - - - -	8	History - - - -	22
Latin - - - -	22	Geography - - - -	22
French - - - -	7	English Grammar - -	10
Arithmetic - - - -	22	English Composition - -	22
Book-keeping - - - -	4	Reading - - - -	22
Measurement and Surveying	4	Writing - - - -	20
Mathematics, pure or applied, beside preceding.	14		

LIST OF TRUSTEES, &c. (1867.)

Trustees :

Thos. Tyrwhitt Drake, Shardeloes, Amersham.
Moses Lovett, Aylesbury.
Joseph Benson, Amersham.
The Rev. Edward Tyrwhitt Drake, Rectory, Amersham.

Clerk to Trustees :

Isaacson and Bedford, Amersham.

Head Master :

Rev. W. H. Williams, B.A., Oxon.

VOL. XII.

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id=LDQIAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA177&dq=amersham+free+grammar+school&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwisqtK26LbkAhUUXMAKHV8TDgAQ6AEILjAB#v=onepage&q=aylesbury&f=true

The 1864 report formed part of the Schools Enquiry Commission (also known as the Taunton Commission) and was published in Vol XII, 1868, pp 175-176