

DEAN CLOSE SCHOOLS
CHELTENHAM

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DEAN CLOSE SCHOOLS

- 1884 Foundation Stone laid on 11th November 1884
- 1886 The School, named after Francis Close, incumbent of Cheltenham 1826 – 1881, officially opened on 7th May with 9 boarders. The Revd W. H. Flecker appointed its first Headmaster.
- 1888 ‘Cora Linn’ in Church Road serves as a hostel/House for some Boarding boys.
- 1891 The Old Decanian Society formed.
- 1892 Further building now completed including the School Hall (1888), original Swimming Bath (1889), Science Rooms (1892)
- 1894 Cora Linn’ closed.
- 1898/9 Senior boys house- now Tower – opened.
- 1908 TH Clark Laboratories opened.
- 1909 The first chapel dedicated on 23rd January. School OTC formed
- 1914 School numbers 220, its physical limit.
- 1923 Present Chapel, a memorial to Old Decanians who fell in the Great War, dedicated on 1st November, All Saints Day.
- 1924 Mr P. Bolton appointed Headmaster
The House system starts with Ellam’s, War’s and Neill’s Houses, the names of the three Housemasters.
Junior boys accommodated in Hostel and Walton Court (the name of the Prep. School building now known as Caldecote)
- 1925 A Junior House opened at Fortfield.
- 1926 The Houses mentioned above now become Brook, Gate and Tower. Walton Court added as a fourth senior House.
- 1930 Changing Room Block built and opened
- 1937 The Open Air Theatre, now Tuckwell Theatre, completed and opened.
- 1938 Mr H. Elder appointed Headmaster.
Day Boys admitted to the Junior School at Fortfield.
- 1939 DCS evacuated to Monkton Combe School, Bath.

- Junior School evacuated to Glyngarth, Christchurch Road, Cheltenham.
- 1940 DCS returns to Cheltenham (numbers only 90)
Junior School returns (approx 40+)
- 1946 Mr. A. N. Gilkes appointed Headmaster. (Numbers about 190)
- 1949 The Junior School now officially recognized as a member of IAPS with its own Headmaster, Mr. EJB Langhorne.
- 1951 Fawley Lodge acquired
- 1953 Metal Workshop Block opened.
- 1954 Hardy House acquired.
The Revd D. L. Graham appointed Headmaster.
- 1955 Shelburne Hall acquired.
- 1956 Dean Close House acquired
- 1957 Field House, a separate Dayboy House, opened.
- 1958 Industrial Fund laboratories built.
Also two new changing rooms.
- 1960 The Beaufort Block (which included the Library and the Cloister) completed. School numbers 260
- 1961 Hard Hockey pitch (now Carnill's) opened
Wilton House acquired and adapted for the Junior School.
Yearlings' House opened.
- 1964 New Gymnasium and Swimming bath completed.
Brook House moved.
Tower House move into old Brook House area.
Court House moved to northern end of Tower and Gate dormitories.
Court dormitories become classrooms.
Chapel Gallery and staircase built.
- 1965 Central block studies and bathrooms for Gate and Court built.
- 1966 Junior School new classrooms built on former Hardy House vegetable garden.
- 1967 Junior School Hall (now Langhorne Hall) built.
- 1968 Mr C. G. Turner appointed Headmaster of DCS
Junior School laboratories built.
Probably one girl in DCS and another at DCJS
- 1969 Co-education proper started.
Mead House (first girls' House - for Daygirls – opened)

- New organ installed in Chapel.
- 1970 School numbers 340.
Extension to Mead House
- 1972 Natural History room (now Tanner Room) built.
Junior School Dining Hall built.
Mr. C. A. W. Sanders appointed Headmaster of DCJS
- 1973 First girls' boarding accommodation opened at Fawley Lodge
Yearlings' House disbanded.
Court House move to Yearlings' House
Dale House (second day boy House) formed in previous Court House Dormitories.
Mead House takes over Court study bedrooms as studies.
- 1974 New Art School and Administrative blocks completed
- 1975 Shelburne House (second girls' boarding House) opened
- 1976 Mr. T. M. Thornton appointed Headmaster of DCJS
- 1979 Mr C. J. Bacon appointed Headmaster of DCS
- 1980 Two squash courts completed
School numbers at DCS 435
- 1981 Computer room equipped at DCS
Mr. I. F. M. Ferguson appointed Headmaster of DCJS
- 1983 Bayley House built
- 1984 Court & Fawley Houses swop premises.
- 1986 Centenary Year**
Visit of HRH The Princess Alexandra
Seven hard Tennis courts completed replacing grass courts.
- 1987 New DCS Dining Hall and kitchens built with complete new Language Centre (Edwards Building). Junior School Centenary block opened on the site of the old Fortfield stables, in large part destroyed by a bomb in the Second World War.
Old Dining Room converted to Day Room for out houses.
- 1988 Old DCS kitchens converted to Craft Design Technology Centre.
First astro – turf pitch laid.
- 1990 Rickerby Building DCJS completed and opened by Most Hon. The Marquis of Reading (President). It houses classrooms, Common Room plus Oaksey and Yeaman Houses
- 1991 Dean Close School Services Ltd., incorporated.
New Theatre opened by Sir Martin Gibbs, Lord Lieutenant.

- 1992 Pre - Prep opened as a department of DCJS
New CCF HQ opened (Brigadier Starling Building)
- 1993 New Art and Design Centre built near the Chapel, replacing centre near astro – turf pitch. Old centre demolished and a rose garden in memory of Stanley Hoare OD established.
Miss M. Lehane appointed first Head of Pre – Prep.
- 1995 Mrs S.E. Bennett appointed Head of Pre – Prep. Numbers approx. 25
- 1997 Mr S. W. Baird appointed Headmaster of DCJS
New Music School (DCS) opened by Prince Michael of Kent, who also renamed the Centenary block (DCJS) the Ferguson Building.
Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, opens Flecker Library.
- 1998 The Revd. T. M. Hastie – Smith becomes Headmaster of DCS
The New Theatre renamed the Bacon Theatre
- 1999 The Junior School renamed Preparatory School
DCPS Millennium Building with the Library, a Craft, Design and Technology Centre, an Art, Pottery and Craft Centre and the Iris Long Learning Support Suite completed.
- 2000 DCS Brook Court boys' boarding house opened by the Earl and Countess of Wessex, replacing Brook and Court Houses.
Expansion of Pre-prep to two classes per year completed
DCPS Millennium Building opened by Professor Gervase Phinn.
- 2001 Baroness Cox of Queensbury becomes President of Dean Close School.
New Shelburne House built; dedicated by Baroness Young and the Rt Revd Jim Thompson OD, Bishop of Bath and Wells.
Overhaul of School Constitution: Governors become Trustees
DCPS Deacon House begins life as a day House in the lower part of Wilton; Fortfield becomes a girls' boarding House
- 2002 DCPPS purpose built Hall completed on part of Caldecote playground.
Trustees' Finance Committee and Property Development Committee combined to form an F&GP.
- 2003 (New) Shelburne officially opened by Estelle Morris MP
Turner Hall (Old Shelburne) opened by Baroness Cox (President) accompanied by the Revd and Mrs C. G. Turner
Mrs S. E. Bennett appointed Headmistress of the Pre – Preparatory School (The Squirrels)
The Revd L. J. Browne appointed Headmaster of DCPS as from 1st January 2004, having been Acting Headmaster since September 2003.

- 2004 DCPPS move into their new School, built round their Hall on the old tuckshop/ part Caldecote playground site. The DCPPS School building, officially opened by Professor Lord (Robert) Winston.
- 2005 DCS Tower House total redesign and refurbishment completed
DCPS boarding reorganize: Caldecote senior boys; Fortfield senior girls; and a 'new' House, Wilton, for children up to the end of Year 5
Michaelmas Term numbers: DCS 473, DCPS 263, DCPPS 127, total 863
- 2006 Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum transfer from the Abbey School, which closes, to DCPS, the latter now becoming a Choir School.
New Sports Centre opens, partly on the old Ellam/ Shelburne tennis courts.(It is officially opened the following year)
DCS New Drama Centre created next door to the gym, in part using the old trampolining studio and former PE classroom(s)
DCPS Deacon House transfers from Wilton to take over part of the Harper Library in New Rickerby.
DCPS Hardy House. Admissions & Marketing plus meeting room in old HM study now on ground floor; Music Dept & Schola Cantorum practice rooms upstairs. Music Dept also have classroom by CPA.
Fires: the first was on Tuesday, 6 June, Gate Common Room in the old building on fire, possibly caused by a hot light bulb being too close to flammable material about 6.00 pm. Fire brigade attended, dealt with the blaze within 20 minutes.
The second fire was on Friday 29th December and gutted the Kenyon Pavilion on Big Field, known to earlier generations as the Ellam Pavilion. The cause was thought to be arson. The alarm was raised at 9.30 pm. Notwithstanding the rain pouring down; it took the Fire Brigade some time to get the blaze out. The new sports centre that was close by was unaffected.
Numbers: DCS 479, DCPS 288; DCPPS 133, total 900 (complete roll at beginning of academic year)
- 2007 Numbers: DCS 495, DCPS 285; DCPPS 133, total 912 (complete roll at beginning of academic year)
- 2008 Honorary Drama Scholars created for the first time to recognise outstanding and talented performers who have made an excellent contribution to Drama in the School.
Numbers: DCS 488, DCPS 282, DCPPS 156 TOTAL 926
HM Tim Hastie-Smith leaves October half-term. Jonathan Lancashire becomes Acting- Headmaster for the rest of 2008.
- 2009 Jonathan Lancashire becomes HM from 1st January.
Trinity term - U18 Boys Hockey X1 become National Champions.
CCF celebrate centenary.
Numbers: DCS 487; DCPS 253; DCPPS 120 at the beginning of the academic year.

Recession bites in UK. From DCPS (TASC) Laurence Kilsby wins BBC2 National Chorister of the Year
Influenza hits DCS in early November. The senior school just avoids closing with a peak number of 207 cases.
Technical abolition of the post of Second Master after 92 years (Post vested in Deputy Head).

- 2010 Trinity holidays – Close Up Theatre: sixth consecutive sell out year at the Edinburgh Fringe.
Floodlighting of the Hockey pitches introduced. School Pavilion completed. Numbers: DCS 508, DCPS 267, DCPPS 135 at the beginning of the academic year. (900 total)
- 2011 The New Kenyon Pavilion officially opened 30th April 2011 by Tom Graveney.
Recognition of James Elroy Flecker OD by Cheltenham Civic Society and Old Decanian Society with the unveiling of a blue plaque by the Mayor of Cheltenham on the 7th October beside the traditional entrance to the school.
Carducci Quartet become the first Quartet in Residence after the departure of Robert Bishop Head of Strings.
Hatherley House, second day House for girls, opens in DCS: Housemistress: Miss Kate Miller; Assistant Housemistress: Miss A. Y. Webb; First Head of House: Emily Pearce. 38 in House when it opened. Mostly housed in temporary building at the Gate House/ Flecker Library end of Upper/ Hooper Quad.
Numbers: DCS 510, DCPS 265, DCPPS 150 at the beginning of Lent Term 2011. At 925 pupils, this is a record for DCS at 510 and close to 2008's site record.
Numbers Michaelmas 2011: DCS 496; DCPS 263; DCPPS 35