Basic facts & figures

Origins: Old Swinford Hospital School was founded in 1667 by Thomas Foley to provide free education for sixty boys from Worcestershire and certain parishes in Staffordshire and Shropshire. The word 'hospital' denotes the charitable foundation of the school and has nothing to do with the modern concept of an establishment which cares for the sick.

Status: Old Swinford is a 'voluntary aided school'. As well as being funded independently from a charitable foundation, it receives local authority financial support to cover teaching and other educational costs.

Pupils: There are 370 pupils aged between 11 and 18. Boarders come from within and outside Dudley Metropolitan Borough. The School also admits a number of day boys from a fixed local authority catchment area in Stourbridge.

Curriculum: Pupils are educated in a wide variety of courses up to 'O' and 'A' level standard. Subjects which may be taken include English, Mathematics, the Sciences, French, Geography, History, Economics, Religious Knowledge, Art, Technical Drawing, Woodwork and Metalwork. In an average year about 25 pupils gain admission to universities and other establishments of higher education.

Sports: Games form an integral part of the curriculum. Besides playing fields for athletics, cricket, rugby football, and soccer, the school has its own heated swimming pool, tennis courts and gymnasium.

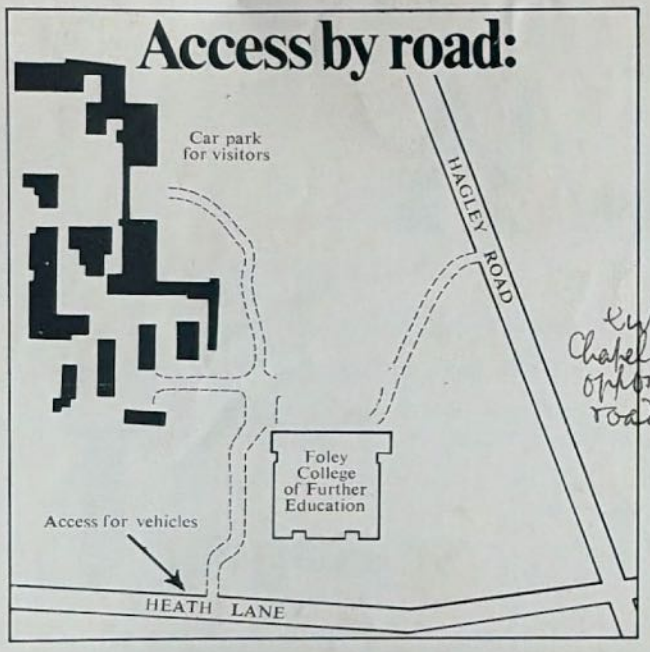
Other Activities: Boys are encouraged to take part in constructive hobbies and other activities outside the formal curriculum. A number of flourishing school societies provide an outlet for their interests.

Headmaster: Mr. L. W. Sheppard, M.B.E., M.A.

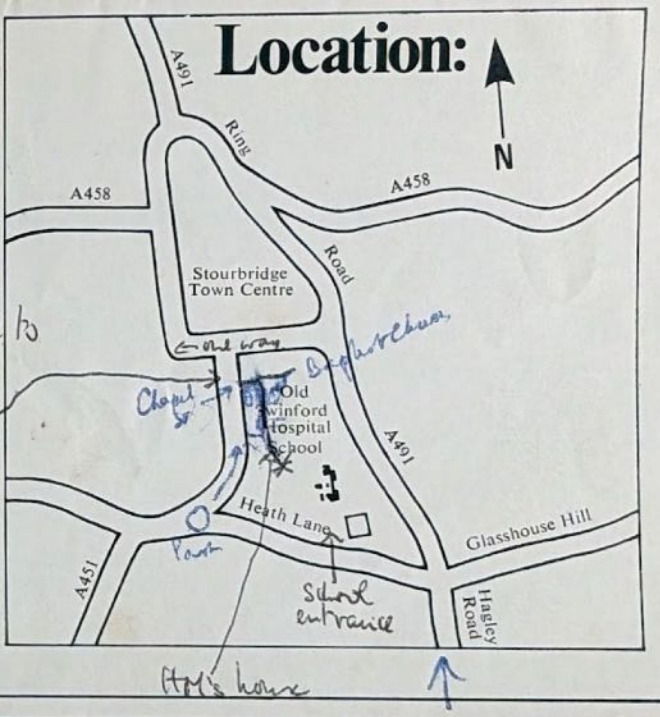
School Address: Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 1QX.

Telephone: Stourbridge 4144.

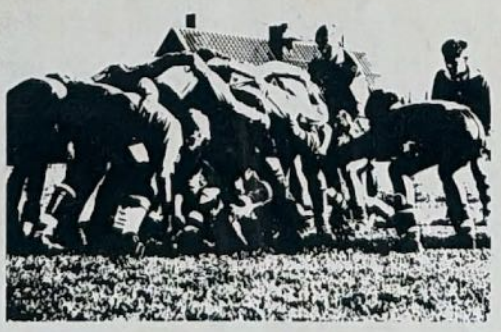
Access by road:



Location:













Old Swinford Hospital School...

an all-round boarding education for boys.

Old Swinford Hospital School.

Secondary Education and your child.

If you have a son aged between about eight and eleven, you are probably beginning to consider what kind of secondary education he should receive.

Local authority day schools can normally meet parents' requirements very well. However, you may be among those parents who, either from personal choice or necessity, are interested in boarding education.

Boarding Education and the family.

Children may benefit particularly from boarding education in any of the following situations:

*where the parents work and live abroad for most of the time;

*where, for career reasons, parents are liable to frequent moves, such as in the armed services;

*where a single parent is trying to bring up children on his or her own;

*where domestic conditions are such that an adolescent is likely to develop more freely in a school environment.

Of course, there does not always have to be such a specific reason for boarding. Some parents, whilst free from any of these pressures, are attracted to the style of education and personal development associated with this type of schooling.

The Benefits.

Whatever the family background of an individual child, the benefits he can derive from a boarding education are considerable:

***time for learning** . . . . . without outside distractions and daily travelling, a pupil has more available time for concentration on improving his knowledge and his mind;

***participation** . . . . . growing up in a community where there has to be 'give and take', he quickly learns how to get on with other people;

***self-reliance** . . . . . by having to stand on his own two feet, he develops a spirit of self-reliance and confidence.

***balanced experience** . . . . . increased time spent on academic pursuits is aptly balanced by full involvement in sports and other social activities designed to give all round experience.

What Old Swinford offers.

Old Swinford Hospital School offers a number of particular advantages:

***no charges for tuition** . . . . . because we are an 'aided' school, with all tuition and educational facilities financed by the local authority, fees are substantially lower than for many independent boarding schools;

***charitable foundation** . . . . . because of our charitable 'foundation' origins, funds are available to help to keep boarding fees down to reasonable levels;

***local authority aid** . . . . . in cases where a proven need for boarding education exists, local authority help with boarding fees is available;

***personal approach** . . . . . since we are a relatively small school — 370 pupils in all — we are able to offer a more personal approach to the individual child, but without sacrificing flexibility of curriculum.

***all-through age range** . . . . . we educate boys from 11 to 18, thus providing a valuable continutity which is reflected in our impressive examination record.

How to find out more.

In this letter, I have only been able to tell you a little about Old Swinford Hospital School. Indeed, if you live in the northern part of the Metropolitan Borough, you may not previously have been aware of our existence.

Deciding on boarding education is obviously a big step for any family and I am sure you would require very much more information about the school, its boarding conditions and schemes for financial assistance with costs.

If you would like to know more about us, please return the enclosed reply-paid card. I shall then arrange for more details to be sent to you by post, or for you to make a personal visit to the school.

L. W. Sheppard M.B.E., M.A., Headmaster.