

= Stonyhurst College =

Stonyhurst College is a coeducational Roman Catholic independent school, adhering to the Jesuit tradition, on the Stonyhurst Estate, Lancashire, England. It occupies a Grade I listed building. The school has been fully co-educational since 1999.

The college was founded in 1593 by Father Robert Persons SJ at St Omer, at a time when penal laws prohibited Catholic education in England. After moving to Bruges in 1762 and Liège in 1773, the college moved to Stonyhurst in 1794. It provides boarding and day education to approximately 450 boys and girls aged 13 to 18. On an adjacent site, its preparatory school, St Mary's Hall, provides education for boys and girls aged 3 to 13.

The school combines an academic curriculum with extra-curricular pursuits. Roman Catholicism plays a central role in college life, with emphasis on both prayer and service, according to the Jesuit philosophy.

The school's alumni include three Saints, twelve Beati, seven archbishops, seven Victoria Cross winners, a Peruvian president, a Bolivian president, a New Zealand prime minister, a signatory of the American Declaration of Independence and several writers, sportsmen, and politicians.

= = History = =

= = = Stonyhurst Hall = = =

The earliest deed concerning the "Stanihurst" is held in the college's Arundell Library; it dates from approximately 1200. In 1372, a licence was granted to John de Bayley for an oratory on the site. His descendants, the Shireburn family, completed the oldest portion of the extant buildings. Richard Shireburn began building the hall, which was enlarged by his grandson Nicholas who also constructed the ponds, avenue and gardens. Following his death, the estate passed to his wife and then to their sole heir, Mary, the Duchess of Norfolk. In 1754, it was inherited by her cousin Thomas Weld of Lulworth. A former pupil of the school from its years in Liège, he donated the buildings, with 30 acres (120,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of land, in 1794 to the Society of Jesus.

= = = The college = = =

The story of the school starts at St Omer in what was then the Spanish Netherlands in 1593, where a college, under the Royal Patronage of Philip II of Spain, was founded by Fr Robert Persons SJ for English boys unable to receive a Catholic education in Elizabethan England. As such it was one of several expatriate English schools operating on the European mainland. In 1762, the Jesuits were forced to flee and re-established their school at Bruges. The school was moved in 1773 to Liège, where it operated for two decades before moving to Stonyhurst on 29 August 1794. Schooling resumed on 22 October that year.

The college flourished during the 19th century: the Society of Jesus was re-established in Britain at Stonyhurst in 1803, and over the century, student numbers rose from the original twelve migrants from Liège. By the turn of the following century, it had become England's largest Catholic college. Stonyhurst Hall underwent extensive alterations and additions to accommodate these numbers; the Old South Front was constructed in 1810, only to be demolished and replaced with much grander buildings in the 1880s. A seminary was constructed on the estate, and an observatory and meteorological station erected in the gardens. The 20th century saw the gradual hiring of a mostly lay staff, as the number of Jesuits declined. The seminary at St Mary's Hall was closed, and the school discontinued its education of university-aged philosophers. With the closure of Beaumont College in 1967 and the transfer away from the Society of Jesus of Mount St Mary's College, Spinkhill, Derbyshire, in 2006, Stonyhurst became the sole Jesuit public school in England.

Since the Second World War, the buildings have been refurbished or developed. Additions include

new science buildings in the 1950s and 1960s , a new boarding wing in the 1960s , a new swimming pool in the 1980s and Weld House in 2010 . The school became fully co @-@ educational in 1999 .

= = Hodder Place , St Mary 's Hall and Hodder House = =

The original preparatory school to Stonyhurst , Hodder Place , came into the hands of the Jesuits as part of the estate donated by alumnus Thomas Weld . Originally used as a novitiate , it became a preparatory school to the college in 1807 .

St Mary 's Hall , on an adjoining site to Stonyhurst , was built as a Jesuit seminary in 1828 ( extended in the 1850s ) and functioned until 1926 , when the seminarians moved to Heythrop Hall . The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins , and John Tolkien , son of J. R. R. Tolkien , trained as priests there . During World War II , the English College left Benito Mussolini 's Italy and occupied the hall . After their return to Rome , St Mary 's Hall opened as a middle school in 1946 . At the same time , Hodder Place continued to educate those aged eight to eleven , until its closure and conversion into flats in 1970 . Hodder Place pupils moved up to St Mary 's Hall to form Hodder Playroom . As successor to Hodder Place , St Mary 's Hall has a claim to being the oldest surviving preparatory school in Britain .

In 2004 , the old gymnasium at St Mary 's Hall was converted into new nursery and infant facilities named Hodder House , for those aged three to seven .

= = Religious life = =

The college is Catholic and has had a significant place in English Catholic history for many centuries ( including controversial events such as the Popish Plot and Gunpowder Plot conspiracies ) . It was founded initially to educate English Catholics on the continent in the hope that , through them , Catholicism might be restored in England .

Finally , the school settled in England in 1794 and the Society of Jesus was officially re @-@ established in Britain in 1803 . Stonyhurst remained the headquarters of the English Province until the middle of the century ; by 1851 , a third of the Province 's Jesuits were based there . Until the 1920s , Jesuit priests were trained on site in what is today the preparatory school . There was a drop in vocations after World War I and the seminary was closed . The number of Jesuits teaching at Stonyhurst fell to a third of the staff within a decade . Since then , the Jesuit presence has been in decline , but the school continues to place Catholicism and Jesuit philosophy at its core under the guidance of a Jesuit @-@ led chaplaincy team and the involvement of the Jesuits in its governance .

= = = Jesuit ethos = = =

The Jesuit educational ethos consists chiefly of seven strands :

Finding God in All Things ;  
Caring for the individual ;  
Showing love in deeds ;  
Building Christian community ;  
Engaging with the wider world ;  
Encouraging excellence ; and  
Co @-@ operating in Jesuit mission .

Under these guiding principles , the college strives for the formation of well @-@ rounded individuals , influenced by Ignatian reasoning and spirituality , and concern for humankind : the development of " Men and Women for Others " .

= = = Chapels = = =

The school has one main church , St Peter 's , and five chapels : the Boys ' Chapel , the Chapel of

the Angels , the Sodality Chapel , the St Francis Chapel and the St Ignatius Chapel . The last two are both within the towers of St Peter 's Church , and are not normally used by pupils . The Sodality Chapel is the home of the relics of the 3rd @-@ century Roman convert St Gordianus . The Jesuits brought his remains from the College of St Omer and held them beneath the altar since 1859 . His bones were temporarily removed in 2006 whilst the chapel underwent restoration , but they have since been returned . The chapel is again used by the re @-@ established Sodality . Adjacent to the Old Infirmary is the Rosary Garden , a place for spiritual contemplation , at the centre of which is a stone statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary .

St Peter 's Church underwent extensive repair and refurbishment in 2010 ? 11 . Most of the Victorian stencilling was not restored , although the whitewash was removed from the stencilling above the altar .

= = = Traditions = = =

It is a long @-@ standing practice , as with many Jesuit schools around the world , that pupils write A.M.D.G. in the top left hand corner of any piece of work they do . It stands for the Latin phrase Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam which means For the Greater Glory of God . At the end of a piece of work they write L.D.S. in the centre of the page . It stands for Laus Deo Semper which means Praise to God Always . These are both traditional Jesuit mottoes .

= = Charitable status = =

As a registered charity , Stonyhurst is obliged to provide benefits to the wider community under the terms of the Charities Act 2006 . As such , the College is home to the local Catholic parish church , which receives worshippers from Hurst Green on a daily basis . Its sports facilities , including the swimming pool and all @-@ weather pitch are available for public use ; the latter was used for competitors training for the London 2012 Olympic Games . Much of the estate has public access ; in particular the gardens and tea house are visited during the summer months , whilst the college plays host to tours , antiques fairs , food festivals , music concerts , conferences and weddings . The school has relationships with several state schools , arranging shared activities with their pupils , in particular those serving special needs children . In addition , the school makes available some places to pupils offered on scholarship , bursaries or free of charge ; almost a third of current pupils receive financial support for their places .

= = Motto = =

The French motto Quant Je Puis ( As Much as I Can ) is central to the ethos of the school , which focuses upon the all @-@ round development of the individual . It is inherited from the Shireburn family who once owned the original mansion on the site ; the family emblem is emblazoned , in stone , with the motto , above the fireplace in the Top Refectory . At the far end of the same room , once the dining room of the Shireburns , the motto can be seen again , carved into the minstrel 's gallery : Quant Je Puis . Hugo Sherburn armig. me fieri fecit . Anno Domini 1523 . Et sicut fuit sic fiat .

= = Academic = =

Academic standards are high : 93 % of GCSE students attain A \* -C grades ; there is a 100 % pass rate at A @-@ Level ; and 100 % of A @-@ Level leavers take up places at universities ( 10 % to Oxbridge ) or on gap year schemes . The school 's most recent inspection rated much of the education and pastoral provision as ' outstanding ' .

Ten GCSEs are usually taken by each pupil , consisting of five compulsory subjects ( Religious Studies , Mathematics , English Language and Literature , and a modern language ( French , German or Spanish ) plus Information Technology and Personal , Social Education , with five other

options from humanities , sciences , or arts subjects . In Poetry ( lower sixth ) , four or five AS @-@ Levels are taken from a choice of 25 subjects , with a weekly Theology class . One of these may be dropped and the remainder , or all , taken on to A @-@ Level . Six A \* ? C grades are the requirement for Sixth Form entry . Each academic department has dedicated teaching rooms around the school , in addition to the general classrooms and playroom study places .

Education during the college 's early history was based on St Ignatius ' Ratio Studiorum , with emphasis upon theology , classics and science , all of which still feature prominently in the curriculum . The educational practice , observed at the College of St Omer , of dividing a class into Romans and Carthaginians continued long after the migration to Stonyhurst but is not employed today ; each pupil would be pitched against an opponent with the task of picking up on the other 's mistakes in an attempt to score points .

Until Roman Catholics were admitted to Oxbridge in 1854 , Stonyhurst was also home to " philosopher gentlemen " studying BA courses under the London Matriculation Examination system . Their numbers began to fall after 1894 and the department was closed in 1916 .

= = Libraries and collections = =

= = = Libraries = = =

Stonyhurst College has four main libraries : the Arundell , the Bay , the Square and the More ( dedicated to Saint Thomas More ) .

The More Library is the main library for students whilst the ' House Libraries ' ( the Arundell , the Bay , and the Square ) contain many artefacts from the Society of Jesus and English Catholicism . The Arundell Library , presented in 1837 by Everard , 11th Baron Arundell of Wardour , is the most significant ; it is not only a country @-@ house library from Wardour Castle but also has a notable collection of 250 incunabula , medieval manuscripts and volumes of Jacobite interest , signal among which is Mary Tudor 's Book of Hours , which it is believed was given by Mary , Queen of Scots to her chaplain on the scaffold . The manuscript *Le Livre de Seyntz Medicines* was written in 1354 by Henry , Duke of Lancaster . To these were added the archives of the English Province of the Society of Jesus , which include 16th @-@ century manuscript verses by St Robert Southwell SJ , the letters of St Edmund Campion SJ ( 1540 ? 81 ) and holographs of the 19th @-@ century poet Gerard Manley Hopkins . The Arundell Library has a copy of the *Chronicles of Jean Froissart* , captured at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 , and held the 7th @-@ century Stonyhurst Gospel of St John before it was loaned to the British Library , as well as a First Folio of Shakespeare .

= = = Collections = = =

Among those collections kept away from public view are the numerous blood @-@ soaked garments from Jesuits martyred in Japan , the skull of Cardinal Morton , the ropes used to quarter St Edmund Campion SJ , the hairs of St Francis Xavier SJ , an enormous solid silver jewel @-@ encrusted monstrance , the Wintour vestments , a cope made for Henry VII , and a thorn said to be from the crown of thorns placed upon Jesus ' head at the crucifixion .

The school owns paintings , including a portrait of Tsar Nicholas I of Russia and another of the Jesuit Henry Garnet . In the Stuart Parlour are portraits of Jacobites including James Francis Edward Stuart , and his sons Charles Edward Stuart and Henry Benedict Stuart . There are also several original engravings by Rembrandt and Dürer , such as the ' Greater Passion ' and the ' Car of Maximillian ' .

= = Observatory = =

The school has a functioning observatory which was built in 1866 . An older observatory , built in 1838 , is now the *Typographia Collegii* , but was once one of seven important stations in the country

when the Meteorological Office came under the auspices of the Royal Society . The records of temperature taken there start from 1846 and are the oldest continuous daily records in the world . During the nineteenth century , the observatory was maintained by the astronomer priests , Fr Weld , Fr Perry and Fr Sidgreaves whose research included astronomy , geomagnetrometry and seismology . Astrophysicist Pietro Angelo Secchi , director of the Vatican Observatory , also taught astronomy at the College during the period . Sir Edward Sabine chose the observatory as one of his main stations when conducting a magnetic survey of Britain in 1858 . Five years later Fr Sidgreaves began the first series of monthly geometric observations , which continued until May 1919 . During the course of the twentieth century , the observatory fell out of use and its telescope , parts of which dated to the 1860s , was sold after the Second World War . When its private owner came to sell it , the college was able to buy it back and restore it to its original home . The observatory is today used for astronomical purposes again , whilst also functioning as one of four weather stations used by the Met Office to provide central England temperature data ( CET ) .

= = Arts = =

= = = Music , drama and art = = =

Music plays a prominent rôle in school life . All those entering the school in Lower Grammar ( year nine ) are obliged to learn to play an orchestral instrument . There are two choirs : the Chapel Choir , which sings regularly at mass , and the Schola Cantorum , composed of teachers and pupils , which sings at concerts and public events such as the May celebration in the college amphitheatre . Pupils participate in the school orchestra and various bands , whilst the staff band is a feature of the Poetry Banquet and Rhetoric Ball .

Drama is equally important , with plays staged throughout the school year , the main performance being at Great Academies , whilst some students take Theatre Studies as an additional AS Level subject . The college has a traditional theatre , the Academy Room , and a high @-@ tech theatre built at St Mary 's Hall as part of the Centenaries Appeal in 1993 . The latter plays host to the annual Ribble Valley International Piano Week . Several former pupils have gone on to achieve success upon the stage , including OSCAR @-@ winning actor and director Charles Laughton and BAFTA @-@ winning director and producer Peter Glenville .

Art is an important part of the curriculum , and is compulsory for those in Lower Grammar ( year nine ) . There is a dedicated art studio in addition to a separate design and technology centre . Student artwork is displayed on the walls of the Lower Gallery , including a portrait of the Queen painted by Isobel Bidwell during the Golden Jubilee year ; upon receipt of a copy , the Queen 's lady @-@ in @-@ waiting said that " The Queen was delighted to see the painting and know that it is on display in the school " .

= = = Literary associations = = =

Stonyhurst has provided inspiration for poets and authors who include former classics teacher Gerard Manley Hopkins , whose poems feature details of the local countryside , and former pupil Sir Arthur Conan Doyle whose " Baskerville Hall " was modelled on Stonyhurst Hall , and who named Sherlock Holmes ' nemesis , Moriarty , after a fellow pupil . J. R. R. Tolkien wrote part of The Lord of the Rings in a classroom on the Upper Gallery during his stay at the college where his son taught Classics ; his " Middle @-@ earth " is said to resemble the local area , whilst there are specific resonances in names such as " Shire Lane " , ( the name of a road in Hurst Green ) and the " River Shirebourn " ( the Shireburns built Stonyhurst ) . Poet Laureate Alfred Austin , and the poet Oliver St John Gogarty ( " Stately plump Buck Mulligan " in James Joyce 's Ulysses ) were educated at the school , ( as were the sons of Oscar Wilde and Evelyn Waugh ) . George Archer @-@ Shee , at the centre of Terence Rattigan 's play The Winslow Boy , is an alumnus .

The school runs its own publication company , St Omer 's Press , which publishes religious

literature , and first began when the college was located at St Omer in Flanders .

= = Sport = =

Pupils are required to participate in games on a regular basis . The school plays rugby union and other sporting activities are on offer , and since turning fully co @-@ educational , hockey and rounders have widened the sports programme .

= = = Stonyhurst College Rugby Union Football Club ( SCRUF ) = = =

Rugby has played a big part in the life of the school , despite only supplanting football as the school 's primary sport in 1921 . All boys are encouraged to play when they enter Lower Grammar but are not required to play throughout their time at the school . Stonyhurst has a successful rugby season , with games well supported by pupils , staff and parents . Sporting rivalry is particularly prominent against fellow Catholic independent schools Ampleforth College and Mount St Mary 's College and Sedbergh School in Cumbria . The Stonyhurst Sevens take place annually , attracting large crowds and teams from all over the country .

The school has produced sixteen international rugby players ( England ( 5 ) , Ireland ( 6 ) , Scotland ( 1 ) Italy ( 1 ) , the USA ( 1 ) Bermuda ( 1 ) and the Bahamas ( 1 ) ) , as well as players for the Barbarians and the British and Irish Lions . Most recently they include Iain Balshaw and Kyran Bracken , who both played for England when they won the 2003 Rugby World Cup , whilst another member of that team , Will Greenwood , went to Stonyhurst Saint Mary 's Hall , where his mother taught maths until 2007 . Current pupils of the school have won places to represent Spain , the Irish Exiles and the Welsh Exiles ( under 19s ) . Old boys have also played at varsity level and have won blues for Oxford or Cambridge .

Stonyhurst has had well @-@ known coaches , including former England coaches Ben Sanders , Dick Greenwood and Brian Ashton who coached the first XV .

Many pupils have represented Stonyhurst in the England Schools U16 and U18 Rugby teams . These include Daniel Mckenzie and Andy Fuller who both received an U18 England cap in 2000 .

= = = Stonyhurst Football = = =

Stonyhurst Football , inherited from the College of St Omer ( along with Stonyhurst Cricket ) , was played between the handball walls on the Playground . The game was discontinued with the advent of association football but was re @-@ established in 1988 when a " Grand Match " was played at Great Academies ; traditionally a " Grand Match " was played on Shrove Tuesday and was the primary Stonyhurst Football match of the season . The teams were England vs France ( although during the Crimean War England vs Russia was played and more recently England vs Ireland was played in the 1980s ) . The last game took place in 1995 .

= = = Rhetoric vs. Hodder cricket and rounders = = =

Towards the end of the Summer Term each year , Rhetoric boys issue a challenge , written in Latin , to the boys in preparatory at Stonyhurst Saint Mary 's Hall , inviting them to compete in a cricket match . Preparatory respond in turn , also in Latin . The Rhetoricians take part wearing fancy dress , and are traditionally defeated by preparatory . In 2003 , the tradition was adopted by the girls who issued a Latin challenge to preparatory girls inviting them to compete at rounders .

= = Military = =

= = = Officer Training Corps ( OTC ) = = =

The Stonyhurst Officer Training Corps assembled for the first time on 16 October 1900 , in the Ambulacrum , overseen by The First Volunteer Battalion , the East Lancashire Regiment who gave instruction in drill and musketry . The original uniform was scarlet with a white piping and slouch hat , which was changed to khaki before the First World War . The Corps was granted the honour of representation at the Coronation of 1910 and sent members to the Royal Review at Windsor in 1911 . It also appeared on parade annually for the spectacle of the Corpus Christi celebrations until the practice became obsolete after Vatican II .

= = = Combined Cadet Corps ( CCF ) = = =

After the Second World War , school OTCs were succeeded by the Combined Cadet Force . Stonyhurst 's is run from the College Armoury adjoining the Ambulacrum and Shooting Range , led by a team of officers under a Major assigned to the school . It meets weekly on a Thursday afternoon and comprises the following platoons named after Stonyhurst 's seven Victoria Cross winners :

= = = Junior company = = =

Costello Platoon ( Lieutenant Edmund William COSTELLO V.C. , Matakand , India 1897 )  
Corry Platoon ( Second Lieutenant George Gabriel CORY V.C. , Guillemont , Somme 1916 )  
Liddell Platoon ( Captain John Aiden LIDDELL V.C , Ostend , Belgium 1915 )  
Kenna Platoon ( Captain Paul Aloysius KENNA V.C. , Khartoum , Sudan 1898 )

= = = Senior company = = =

Dease Platoon ( Lieutenant Maurice James DEASE V.C. , Mons , Belgium 1914 )  
Jackman Platoon ( Captain James Joseph Bernard JACKMAN V.C. , Ed Duda , Tobruk , 1941 )  
Andrews Platoon ( Captain Harold Marcus ERVINE @-@ ANDREWS V.C. , Dunkirk 1940 )  
Support Platoon

Those in Grammar Playroom ( year ten ) are automatically enrolled in the CCF and are given the option of continuing at the end of the year , following a summer camp which takes place at a local barracks . Training involves a range of activities such as drill ( marching and related manoeuvres ) , shooting , learning how to assemble and clean weapons , tactical planning and team work . The school supplies pupils with uniform , the orderliness of which is rigorously enforced and inspected each week . Each platoon is led by a Junior Under Officer , his sergeant and corporals who are sixth form students .

= = = Military careers = = =

In recent years , some pupils have gone on to receive places at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst . This follows a long tradition of service from Stonyhurst pupils : many Old Stonyhurst ( O.S. ) were killed in the two World Wars and are commemorated on the war memorial at the end of the Upper Gallery .

The Stonyhurst War Records were published in their honour . A memorial at the top of the main staircase records the names of the six O.S. killed in the Boer War .

= = School organisation = =

= = = Playroom system = = =

Unlike most English public schools , Stonyhurst is organised horizontally by year groups ( known as playrooms ) rather than vertically by houses , although the girls are also split into junior and senior

houses . Each playroom has an assigned playroom master , with each cohort moving through the playrooms , having a sequence of playroom masters ( rather than a single housemaster ) .

The college has the following playrooms , following the Roman order of learning :

Lower Grammar Playroom ( ' LG ' 13 ? 14 )

Grammar Playroom ( 14 ? 15 )

Syntax Playroom ( 15 ? 16 , GCSE Year )

Poetry Playroom ( 16 ? 17 )

Rhetoric Playroom ( 17 ? 18 )

During the school 's history the following playrooms or years have also existed :

Philosophy

Upper Syntax

Humanities

Upper Grammar

Middle Grammar

= = = Lines = = =

In addition to the horizontal division of the school into playrooms , there is also a vertical grouping which cuts through the year groups , the " lines " , and is used mostly for competitive purposes in sport and music . The Lines and colours are as follows :

Campion ( Red ) ( named after St Edmund Campion )

St Omers ( Yellow , though Brown for sporting attire ) ( named after St Omer , the town the school was founded in )

Shireburn ( Green ) ( named after the Shireburn family which built Stonyhurst )

Weld ( Blue ) ( named after Thomas Weld who donated Stonyhurst to the Jesuits )

= = Notable events in the school year = =

The Ascensio Scholarum , inherited from the College of St Omer , in its present form , is the opening address of the headmaster at the beginning of the year to the entire school gathered in the Academy Room . Previously , it was a formal transition for pupils from one playroom to the next at the beginning of the year , which involved a pupil from each year announcing to the playroom of the year below them that the next playroom had been vacated by the senior pupils . The students and their belongings would then move up to their next playroom .

" Great Academies " takes place annually at the end of the first half of the summer term . Although different in its present form , it is a continuation of a tradition begun at St Omers , with the first taking place at Stonyhurst on 6 August 1795 . Today , it is an occasion when the school is on display ? there are exhibitions , musical performances , the school play , sporting events , as well as prize @-@ giving and the headmaster 's speech , culminating with the Rhetoric Ball and Rhetoric Mass the following morning .

= = Stonyhurst Association = =

After less formal arrangements had been made for many years , the Association was formed in 1879 . Its primary objective is to foster a strong spirit of union amongst past pupils and friends of Stonyhurst , which has been achieved in a variety of ways reflecting the spirit of succeeding generations . Recently , there has been a strong charitable emphasis , embedded with similar developments at the College . This was formalised in 1985 , when the Association was granted charitable status by the Charity Commission . It also supports charities connected to the school including Eagle Aid .

= = = Alumni = = =



Stonyhurst has educated prominent individuals in every area , from statesmen to sportsmen , and actors to archbishops . Seven alumni have been awarded the Victoria Cross , the highest award for gallantry ; paintings of them adorn the walls of the Top Refectory in the school .

Notable alumni include :

Charles Carroll of Carrollton , signatory of the U.S. Declaration of Independence

Arthur Conan Doyle , author of Sherlock Holmes

St Thomas Garnet SJ , canonised saint and protomartyr of St Omers , one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales

Joseph Mary Plunkett , Irish signatory of the Irish Proclamation of Independence who played a leading part in the Easter Rising , for which he was executed

John Francis Moriarty , Attorney General for Ireland

Sir Frederick Weld , a New Zealand prime minister

Eduardo Lopez de Romaña , a president of Peru

Lieutenant Maurice James Dease , was the first posthumous recipient of the Victoria Cross during WWI , fought and died at the Battle of Mons

Alumni currently in the public eye include :

Joe Ansbro , Scottish rugby international

Crispian Hollis , Bishop of Portsmouth

Professor Gabriel Leung , GBS , JP , Dean of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine , University of Hong Kong

Mark Thompson , former Director General of the BBC

Chris Morris , satirist , BAFTA winner

Tom Morris , theatre director , producer and writer , and Tony Award winner

Matt Greenhalgh , screenwriter , BAFTA winner

Tim Hetherington , photographer , Oscar nominee

Patrick Rock former government deputy director of policy for Prime Minister David Cameron and convicted sex offender

= = Notable masters = =

Brian Ashton , history master and England rugby coach .

Dick Greenwood , Assistant bursar and England rugby coach .

Christopher Hollis , assistant master , history master ( 1925 ? 1935 ) , author , politician and president of the Oxford Union .

Gerard Manley Hopkins , classics master and poet .

Stephen Joseph Perry , astronomy master .

Pietro Angelo Secchi , astronomy master , astrophysicist , and director of the Vatican Observatory .

George Tyrrell , philosophy master and Roman Catholic modernist .

= = = Headmasters = = =

Since the college 's foundation in Flanders in 1593 , there have been 78 headmasters , ( variably known as presidents , rectors , superiors and directors ) . Until the appointment of Giles Mercer in 1985 , the headmaster had always been a member of the Society of Jesus . There have been three lay headmasters .

= = Scandal = =

A former priest who taught at the school was jailed for sexually assaulting pupils between 1987 and 1995 . The youngest victim was a boy of 12 . In 1999 , the Lancashire Constabulary conducted " Operation Whiting " , which looked into allegations of abuse at the school dating back to the 1970s . This resulted in two convictions , one of which was quashed on appeal . On 14 May 2002 , a parliamentary committee member described the operation as " a scandal in itself " and an "

expensive ... fiasco " .

Another priest at Stonyhurst between 1972 ? 79 was arrested in November 2009 for having allegedly abused a 13 @-@ year @-@ old boy for three years . The case was dropped by the CPS Lancashire , a year later and was revealed in March 2014 .