

## **1912**

Letter Received in 1986 from Mrs Ada F. E. Newman (nee HOWE)  
Mrs Newman (1912 – 1920):

I am 83 years old, and still look back to my school days at the old Secondary School as some of the happiest days of my life. And I still have two friends from those days. While staying with one of them recently, and talking of “the old days”, it came to me that I might be the scholar who spent the most years at the school.

I went there at the age of 9 years in September 1912, and was placed in the Preparatory Form, with seven boys! There being no spare room, most of our lessons were held in the Hall.

In 1919 I passed the Oxford Certificate Exam. Then I stayed on in Form VI to take Matriculation Exam – here we were 4 girls and 1 boy. I was cricket captain one year, and later on hockey captain.

July 30th, 1920, Speech Day, and my farewell to Mr. Webb and Miss Bowden (surely two of the finest teachers possible!) and to the dear old school.

My three brothers also spent several years at the school.

I have the School Prospectus which my parents had before sending my brother Ronald and me to the school. I also have the golden Jubilee Magazine, and note that it is just 30 years since the new Grammar School was opened.

I thought you might be interested in hearing of my long stay at the school. I wonder if there is any record of past pupils?

*(Ada Florence Ellen Howe was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1903. She entered the school on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1912 and left the school on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1920. Her father was Mr E. A. Howe and they lived in Stoke-by-Nayland, Colchester. Her father was a grocer and draper. She gained the Senior Oxford Local Exam with 2<sup>nd</sup> class honours in July 1919. After she finished studying at the school she went on to study at a private boarding school in Colchester.*

*Her brother Ronald Edgar Howe was also at the school. He arrived at the school on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1912 and left on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1916. After leaving school he trained in London as a wireless operator and saw service in the Merchant Navy. He then went into the grocery trade and in 1926 took over the family business in Stoke-by-Nayland. There he was a member of the parish council and the Parochial Church Council and served in the Home Guard during the last war. He retired from business in 1960 and went to live in Erwarton. He died at the Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1965.)*