

Lilian Brake

This is a year of double commemoration – it is 100 years since Miss Brake joined the staff, and 50 years since she died.

In 1910, the young Lilian Brake joined Mrs Edwards when she purchased the school in the High Street, Ashford, known as the Modern High School for Girls. To accommodate the growing number of pupils, the school moved to Alfred House on East Hill in 1913, and Miss Brake was invited to join Mrs Edwards as Vice Principal. After Mrs Edwards' retirement in 1928, Miss Brake led the school for another 27 years until her retirement in 1955, and she died 25 January 1960, in her 76th year.

In addition to seeing the vast growth of the school, she was a prominent and much-loved figure in and around Ashford – she was the first woman chair of Ashford Urban Council, a Justice of the Peace, and she served on many other local committees, and for these services she was awarded O.B.E. in 1952. But above all she was 'Cherub' to hundreds of girls and small boys (in Kingergarten and Transition) - from 5 continents, who were pupils at Ashford School, and for her boundless energy and generosity of spirit, the school owes her much.

The School Prospectus of 1910 reads: 'The School affords a sound education on High School lines with the advantages of a Private School, and aims to give, under Christian influence, as complete and useful an education as possible. Careful attention is paid to the training and development of character.' These words are a tribute to the co-founder of a great educational institution, which continues to offer high standards to this day.

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