

Introduction from Dr Paul Owen

Birkdale is a highly successful and friendly school providing an outstanding education for boys aged 4-18 and for girls aged 16-18 of all backgrounds. We pay close attention to the needs of each individual student, developing their abilities, character and confidence to provide the best foundation for a happy and fruitful life.

An exceptionally high standard of pastoral care creates a warm, caring and supportive environment, producing excellent relationships between students and with their teachers. A strong Christian ethos permeates the school: students are clear about Birkdale's expectations of them and develop positive values and a sense of responsibility to others.

Small classes and outstanding teaching, by motivated and gifted staff, produces students with independent and curious minds, able to work together, to challenge ideas and to take the initiative in their learning. Students enjoy their lessons,

gain excellent examination results and are well-prepared for future study.

An enormous range of extra-curricular opportunities in sport, music, drama, academic societies and outdoor pursuits nurture the talents of individual students, help to produce well-rounded young people and enrich the life of the community. Birkdale has a strong track record in winning regional and national competitions in many disciplines.

As you will see from this history, Birkdale has continuously adapted its facilities and practices, innovating to meet the changing educational needs of its pupils without eroding its core ethos, a process that will surely continue in the future.

Dr Paul Owen
Head Master



Birkdale School - Actions Not Words



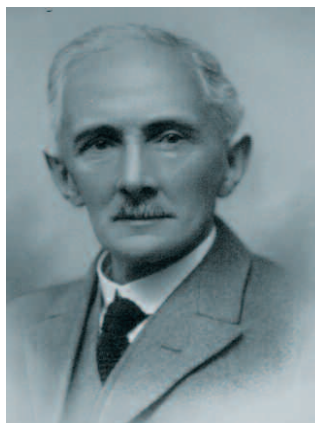
'Res Non Verba' - Actions not words' is the motto of Birkdale School, founded over a century ago and now located in Oakholme Road. Throughout its history, and today, Birkdale has certainly lived up to its motto.

The school takes its name from its first home, a house called Birkdale in Newbould Lane, Broomhill. Today Birkdale is an independent day school of around 800 pupils between the ages of 4 and 18, with a co-educational Sixth Form of nearly 200. The Prep School occupies its own purpose-designed site nearby, including a separate wing for the Pre-Prep department. Transfer to the Senior School is at 11.

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Since its foundation in 1904 by Mr Maurice Asterley, the school's first Head Master, at the turn of the 20th century, Birkdale has continued to grow and develop, with expansion most marked in the last twenty years. The school's development and success were acknowledged by the Headmaster's election as a member of the Headmasters' Conference in 1996.

Top left: Birkdale School's crest and motto 'Res Non Verba'. Above: Mr Maurice Asterley, the school's first Head Master. Below: Birkdale School photograph of 1918. 4th from the left on the 3rd row from the front and also circled inset is a former pupil who went on to become one of this country's most famous actors, Rex Harrison.





The school moved from its first building in Newbould Lane in 1915 to the Oakholme Building on Oakholme Road under the second Head Master, Mr Griffith's leadership (1909-1939).

At the start of the second world war in 1939, the school evacuated to Derbyshire at which time Mr John G Roberts, had become the new Head Master. After the war, Mr Roberts moved his pupils again, this time to Uttoxeter, creating Brocksford Hall School. Twenty boys returned to Oakholme Road under Mr Howard Heeley in 1942 who later became Head Master in 1943.

The Westbury Building was purchased in 1946 from Thomas Cole of Cole Brothers (John Lewis) to allow for the continued expansion of the school. Mr Heeley was followed by Mr John Hall in 1963.

Under Mr Heeley and Mr Hall the school developed to become one of the leading Prep schools in the north for boys aged 5-13, with some 350 pupils and a three-acre campus.

The great majority of boys left for boarding school at the age of 13.



In the 1970s there was a growing demand for an independent secondary day school for boys in South Yorkshire; indeed there were two unsuccessful attempts to establish a Sheffield Grammar School. It was surprising that no such school existed; Sheffield was alone in not having an independent boys' day school of the kind available in Nottingham, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield, and virtually every other English town and city of size.

The Endcliffe Building on Endcliffe Crescent was acquired in 1975, it now houses the History and Government and Politics Department.

Now, in response to parental demand, the school expanded to provide education through to age 16 in 1978. Mr Michael Hepworth was appointed Head Master in 1983. Mr Hepworth himself had been a pupil at the school from the age of five.



Numbers at the school now rose to over 450, and an increasing demand emerged to develop a Sixth Form as parents looked for a school which prepared boys for entrance to university on the basis of a first-class academic education from the pre-prep stage and where a concern for development of the whole person was evident.

Those parents found what they were looking for in September 1988 when the Sixth Form was launched allowing education through to 18.

The Prep School moved to a new campus in Clarke House next to the Botanical Gardens in 1988 and now caters for up to 300 boys. The buildings have been totally refurbished to offer up-to-date facilities for teaching.

Top left: An early pre-prep classroom in Westbury. **Inset left and left:** The old swimming pool which was sited under the current Sports Hall and boxing on the Oakholme lawn in the 1930s. **Above:** Sports day presentations, 1930s.



Clarke House had been the home of the Osborne family until it had been acquired to become the Junior School of King Edward VII School from 1933-1942.

It was then used as a school for nurses until taken over by Birkdale and extensively rebuilt and modernised to provide a marvellous home for boys aged 4-11.



In 1994, the Oakholme campus at the Senior School increased in size by 25% when the Grayson Building was purchased to house a new Sixth Form centre. This building also contains the Language and Classics departments, and new Science Laboratories. The Sixth Form became co-educational in 1995. Further major developments in 1994 included a new School Library and 30 metre Sports Hall. Mr Robert Court took over from Mr Hepworth in 1998 and more developments took place



under his leadership until he retired in July 2010.

The Johnson Building was opened in 1999 to provide new facilities for the English, Maths and Religious Education departments and a base for the Lower School.

The Design and Technology Department underwent total refurbishment in 2000 and a new Art Centre was created in the Westbury Building and a Music School developed in Oakholme.

Birkdale has its own playing fields a short distance away. These have been the focus of more recent developments to improve facilities, with a £2 million investment in the recently acquired 125 year lease for the 30 acre Castle Dyke playing fields and the construction of a new state-of-the-art Sports Pavilion, which opened in 2006. In 2012 an ECB approved 10-lane retractable netting system was installed to promote cricket throughout the school. The synthetic surface allows many other sports to use the area outside of the cricket season.



Top left: Former Head Masters John Hall and Michael Hepworth with ex-pupil Michael Palin in 1992. Famous for his travel writing, Michael Palin credited John Hall's Geography lessons for giving him his taste for travel. **Left:** The new entrance of the Prep School on Clarke Drive. **Top:** Oakholme, part of the origins of the school. **Above right:** Pupils pictured below the Johnson building. **Below:** Birkdale's state-of-the-art Sports Pavilion.





Not only in Sheffield is the school providing excellent education. Since 2000, Birkdale School has helped raise funds for deprived and needy Nepalese children living in circumstances where education is not an option; in spite of its natural beauty, Nepal remains one of the poorest of countries. These funds have helped to build the Peace Garden English School, in Kathmandu, which has nearly 300 pupils. Every year pupils from

The School has established a firm reputation for academic excellence; virtually all members of the Sixth Form go on to university, with up to 10% every year entering Oxford or Cambridge. Academic standards are high, and the school provides the best possible environment and facilities for teaching and learning for all its pupils. The school's Christian ethos underpins a commitment to pastoral care for each child, a commitment that remains as strong today as in the first year of Birkdale's foundation.

Birkdale attracts pupils from an area bounded by Wakefield, Rotherham, Retford and Matlock. Transport, shared with a nearby girls' school, is available from outlying areas.

All the boys follow a wide range of academically challenging subjects which extend well beyond the National Curriculum requirements. Intellectual curiosity is encouraged at all ages. In the Sixth Form pupils are offered a broad range of subjects to choose from, which is supported by General Studies and Critical Thinking. Small class sizes at GCSE of 20 pupils maximum and in the Sixth Form of 15 pupils, ensure that each pupil has the guidance and encouragement needed to help them achieve their personal best academically. Exam results are amongst the best in the region. In 2011, 71% of all GCSE entries achieved A* or A grade - the best in South Yorkshire. At A Level, 76% of all entries were A* to B grade and nearly a 37% of all entries achieved the new A* Grade. More than half of all the A Level entries were A* or A Grade.

Throughout the history of the school Birkdale has continued to expand, purchasing new buildings and developing its facilities. Indeed, the Prep School is currently increasing its buildings having undergone a refurbishment. For over a hundred years Birkdale has provided an excellent education for boys in Sheffield in the independent sector, and is now the only such school in the area providing such an education for boys aged 4-18 and girls aged 16-18.

Birkdale have visited the community of Kokhana, a village in the Kathmandu valley. Their pupils spend time teaching; it has proved to be a life changing experience for many. About 10 minutes walk from Kokhana is a leprosy colony, home to about 500 families, there Birkdale has also helped build a church and a health centre.

For more than a century 'Actions not words' has been the school motto. Today, under Head Master Dr Paul Owen, turning words into action remains the school's continuing goal.



Top left: The Sixth Form Grayson building. **Above:** Head Master, Dr Paul Owen. **Left:** A member of the Sixth Form working with children at Mt Carmel School in Kathmandu, Nepal. **Below:** Dr Paul Owen and Milan Adhakari with eight of the nine Nepalese orphans that Birkdale School support by funding their food, accommodation and education.



