George Heriot's School Finding Aid

With the end of the Hospital school system in 1886, Heriots became a day school. Foundationers (orphaned pupils) and bursary pupils continued to be educated at the school but were now housed either at home or in boarding houses. The school underwent a period of extensive building work in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, converting dormitories into classrooms, building an examination hall, science block, swimming pool and sports ground, firstly at Warriston and then Goldenacre.

The house system and prefects were introduced in the early 1900s, closely followed by Ministry of Defence granting permission for an Officer Training Corp (now the Combined Cadet Force). The school magazine (The Herioter) was launched in 1907.

With the outbreak of World War I, the headmaster appointed female teaching staff for the first time in Heriot's history. In World War II, many pupils spent their summers on timber camps or on fire watch in the old building. More than 700 staff and former pupils died in WWI and WWII. Those who served are recorded in the school's roll of honour (1914-1919 and 1939-1945).

With the UK Government's decision to abolish grant-aided schools in the 1970s, George Heriot's Trust made the decision to become a fully independent coeducational school. The first female pupils entered Heriots in the 1979-80 session.

In the 1980s, George Heriot's Trust deposited records with the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The following lists show which collections are held in George Heriot's School. Information on our collections held at NRS and HES can be found at:

NRS catalogue The records of George Heriot's Trust GD421

HES (Trove) catalogue Records of George Heriot's Trust, Edinburgh, Scotland

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Reference	GHS
Title	Records of George Heriot's School
Dates	1886-present
Access status	1886-1926 open. [1926-present, closed]
Description	This collection is divided into the following series: GHS 1 Staff and Pupil records GHS 2 Correspondence GHS 3 Audio visual GHS 4 Publications GHS 5 Curriculum GHS 6 School life GHS 7 Sport
Level	Fonds
Extent	30 linear metres
Copies	No known copies
Originals	This material is original
Physical Description	Some records are born digital
Publication note	Bedford, F. (1872) History of George Heriot's Hospital. (3rd ed.) Edinburgh; Bell & Bradfute Lockhart, B. (2003) Jinglin Georgie's Legacy: A history of George Heriot's Hospital and School. East Linton: Tuckwell Press George Heriot's School Roll of Honour 1914-1919 (1921). Edinburgh; George Heriot's School. (Available online via The National Library of Scotland) George Heriot's School Roll of Honour 1939-1945 (1950). Edinburgh; George Heriot's School
Language	English
Related Material	At the National Records of Scotland: Hospital Minute Books available on microfilm: RH4/152/1-15 Indexes available on microfilm: RH4/152/20-21 Chronological register of boys educated at Heriots 1659-1902 (digital GD421/10/7)

Series & Sub-Series information

GHS 1	Staff and pupil records
	GHS 1/1 Pupil entry records, 1886-present GHS 1/2 Class registers, 1886-2010 GHS 2/3 GHS 2/4 Alumni, 1886-present GHS 2/6 Staff records, 1886-present [incomplete] GHS 2/7 Headmasters' records, 1890-1985 [incomplete]
GHS 2	Correspondence
GHS 3	Audio visual
	GHS 3/1 Photographs & slides, 1886-present GHS 3/2 Glass plate slides, 1890-1918 GHS 3/3 Photogravure, 1886-1959 GHS 3/4 Stereoscopes, 1900-1959 GHS 3/5 Film & audio, 1959-present
GHS 4	Publications
	GHS 4/1 Prospectuses, 1886-present [incomplete] GHS 4/2 The Herioter, 1907-present GHS 4/3 Heriot Herald, 1987-2005 GHS 4/4 S6 yearbooks, 2002-present GHS 4/5 Quadrangle, 2003-present [incomplete] GHS 4/6 Media articles, 1886-1979
GHS 5	Curriculum
	GHS 5/1 Examinations, 1886-1986 [incomplete] GHS 5/2 Report cards, 1886-1986 [incomplete]

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GHS 6	School Life

GHS 6/1 Uniform, 1700-present [incomplete]
GHS 6/2 Unofficial school magazines, 1914-1985 [incomplete]
GHS 6/3 Awards, prizes etc., 1886-present
GHS 6/4 Clubs and groups, 1886-present
GHS 6/5 School trips, 1886-present [incomplete]
GHS 6/6 OTC/CCF, 1909-present
GHS 6/7 Shows, events, concerts etc., 1886-present
GHS 6/8 World War I, 1914-1919
GHS 6/9 World War II, 1939-1945
GHS 6/10 Covid-19 Pandemic, 2020-2023

GHS 7	Sport

GHS 7/1 Rugby, 1886-present
GHS 7/2 Cricket, 1886-present
GHS 7/3 Hockey, 1979-present
GHS 7/4 Athletics & cross county running, 1886-present
GHS 7/5 Football, 1886-1893, 2001-present
GHS 7/6 Swimming, 1886-present
GHS 7/7 Rowing, 1950-present
GHS 7/8 Miscellaneous, 1886-present

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