

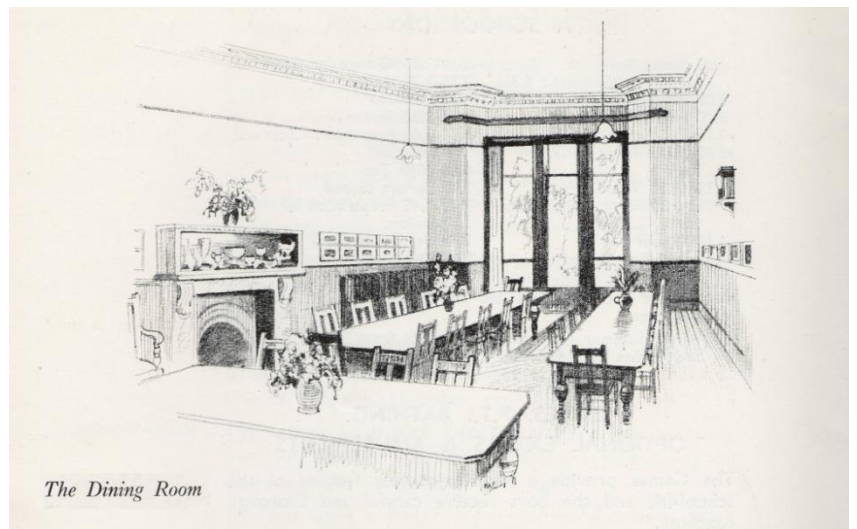
## Interior Photographs of Walton Lodge Preparatory School, Clevedon (undated)

### Dining Room



The Dining Room was still pictured in the 1950s School Prospectus (as shown right), but by 1958 had become the Form 3 classroom.

Subsequent changes are described in the document 'Walton Lodge School Classrooms'<sup>1</sup>.

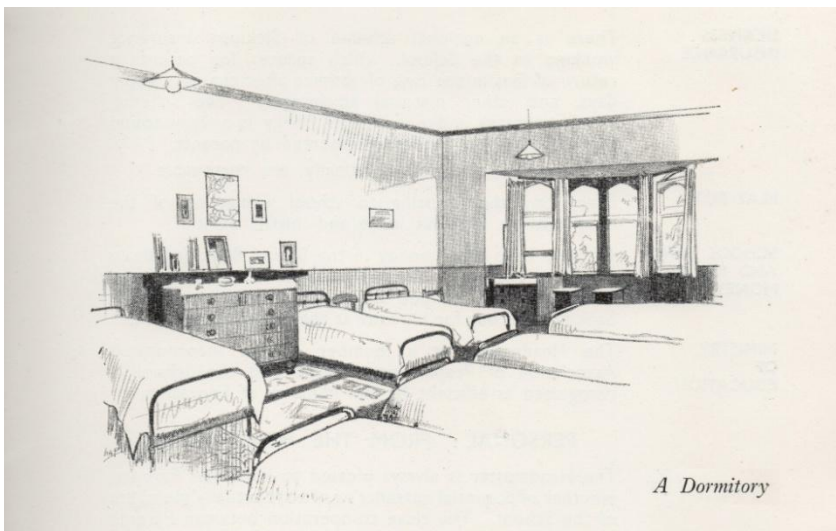


<sup>1</sup> Available from <https://laurencevlatham.wordpress.com>.

## Dormitory



It is likely that this is the dormitory which became known as Grayburn, located on the first floor of Walton Lodge (also portrayed in the 1950s School Prospectus as shown below).



## Hall



The main hall of Walton Lodge viewed from alongside the main staircase. The vestibule and main front door lie out of sight on the left. Behind the camera is the entranceway leading to the kitchen, the staff room and the rear staircase, along with the access to the cellar.

Ex-pupils will be well aware that the open door directly ahead led to the Headmaster's study. The doorway visible on the left was to his private sitting room, and that on the right opened into what by Autumn 1962 had become the library.

## Significant Damage to the School during World War II (April 1942)

The layout of the hall shown in the photograph on the previous page is of interest when related to the following recollections by Mr R F Gwinn (Headmaster, 1921-1948)<sup>2</sup> regarding the period of World War II:

*"During the early part of the 2nd War, when instructions were to take cover directly the Air Raid warning sounded, the whole school went down to the cellars. Sometimes all the boarders were taken down there two or three times during one night and I can remember Prayers, Lessons & Breakfast taking place down there. This could not go on and after the first term of war the boarders slept on the ground floor and were not moved for Alerts.*

*... In April 1942 a parachute mine, intended for the Bristol Channel, fell on the Golf Links, not far from the school, and over one hundred window panes were broken at Walton Lodge and ten ceilings were brought down. Many slates were torn off the roof and the front door was blown through the hall into the Big School.*

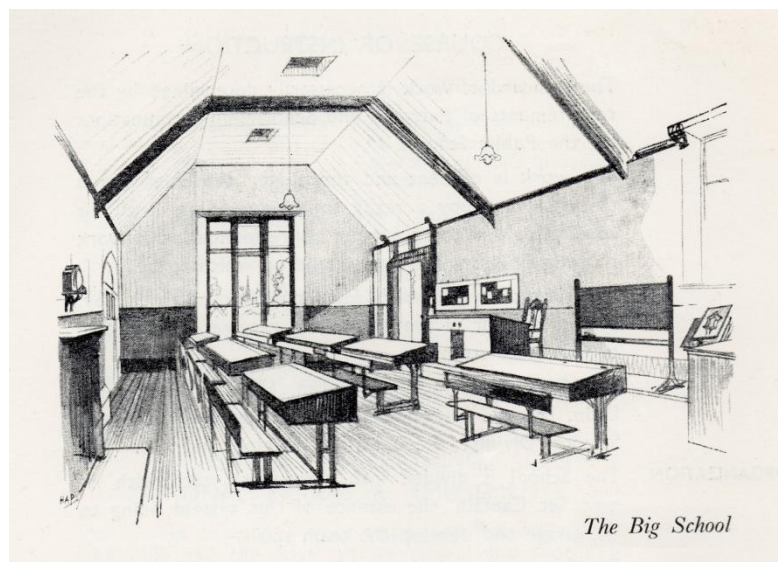
*Thanks to the hard work of 21 men, supplied by two Clevedon firms who worked in co-operation to help us, things were largely put right within three weeks and the opening of the Summer Term was only delayed for ten days."*

It would appear that the timing of this potentially disastrous event was in fact fortuitous. As described by Mr Gwinn, had it occurred during term time the boarders would have been sleeping on the ground floor, but because it coincided with the Easter holidays the school was empty of pupils.

Mr Gwinn further describes the front door as being "blown through the hall into the Big School".

The Big School (which later served as the dining room), was so named because it was originally a large classroom. It is shown as such on the right as portrayed in a subsequent School Prospectus<sup>3</sup>.

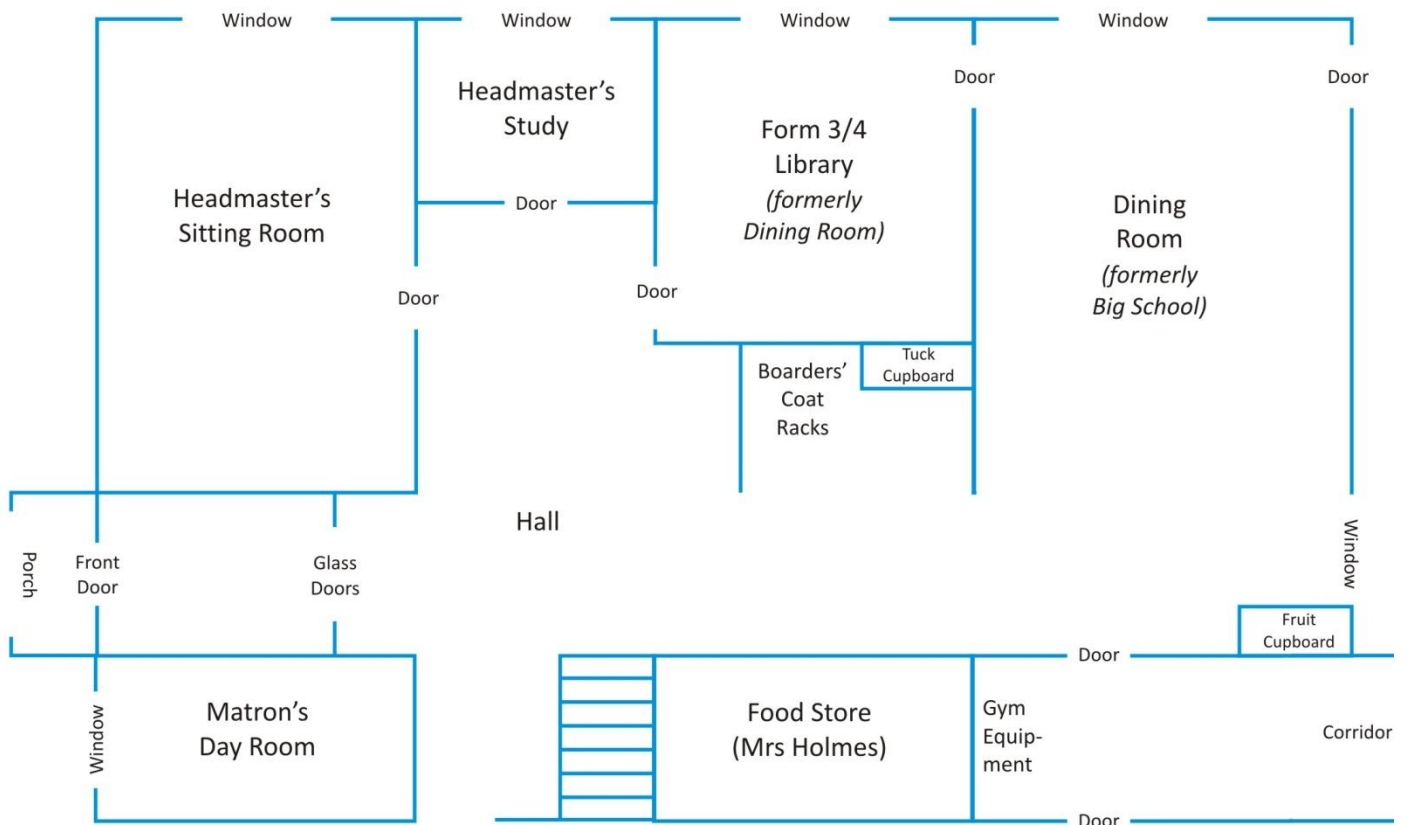
Laurence Latham, a pupil at the school from 1958 to 1964, anecdotally recalls his class being told by Mr G T Humby that despite the general extent of the destruction, the glass doors that stood between the front door and the hall were forced open by the blast and remarkably remained undamaged despite the door ending up by the far wall of the Big School.



<sup>2</sup> This quote is taken from the document "Letter and Notes by Mr R F Gwinn re Walton Lodge Preparatory School, Clevedon" available via the 'Walton Lodge and OWLS' page on <https://laurencevlatham.wordpress.com>.

<sup>3</sup> The prospectus in question is undated, but was produced during Mr L G Holmes' tenure as Headmaster, presumably fairly soon after his assumption of the role in 1949. See 'Walton Lodge Prospectus', available via 'Walton Lodge and OWLS' on <https://laurencevlatham.wordpress.com>.

This diagram (*drawn from memory in 2023 and not to scale*) shows the 1960s layout of the hall and its surrounding rooms, and is designed to indicate the distance over which the front door was carried.



Walton Lodge Porch  
(photograph by John Pilkington)

With grateful thanks to Jane Lilly for providing the scans of the original photographs.