





1970



Rodney Collins Toot Hill Headteacher
1969-1970

Toot Hill School's Beginnings

Toot Hill School first opened as a comprehensive in 1969 under the leadership of Headmaster Rodney Collins. Rodney stated the following in 1969! - "Having presided over Toot Hill School at its humble beginnings- a secondary modern with some 200 pupils and 6 teachers, accommodated in 3 classrooms, 2 craft rooms and a large Nissen hut set in a muddy field – having survived the trauma of working for years amid building operations to finally burst into the glory of the Comprehensive School I feel fully qualified to accept the honour of celebrating this great school."





Ministry of Education Report

“Finally it can be said that this school has completed its main formative phase with a good deal of success. Under wise and devoted leadership of the Head Master, the staff can now move forward towards their future objectives with confidence. They will be helped by the industry, friendliness, and spirit of co-operation they have already established in the school.”

H.M Inspectors 1959

Roy Hopwood Headteacher 1970-1978

“My appointment as head of Toot Hill Comprehensive School was from the 1st January, 1971. During this time everything seemed possible in education, especially in this lovely building, winner of an architects’ design award! After 1974 the shadows began to fall over education, though we at Toot Hill continued to support our own educational philosophy – to help young people to gain life-chances and rounded personality – to give them their own voice. I left Toot Hill in 1978 when I felt it was time for someone new to build on the foundations I had laid. Toot Hill School is still a beacon shining through the prevailing educational gloom.”

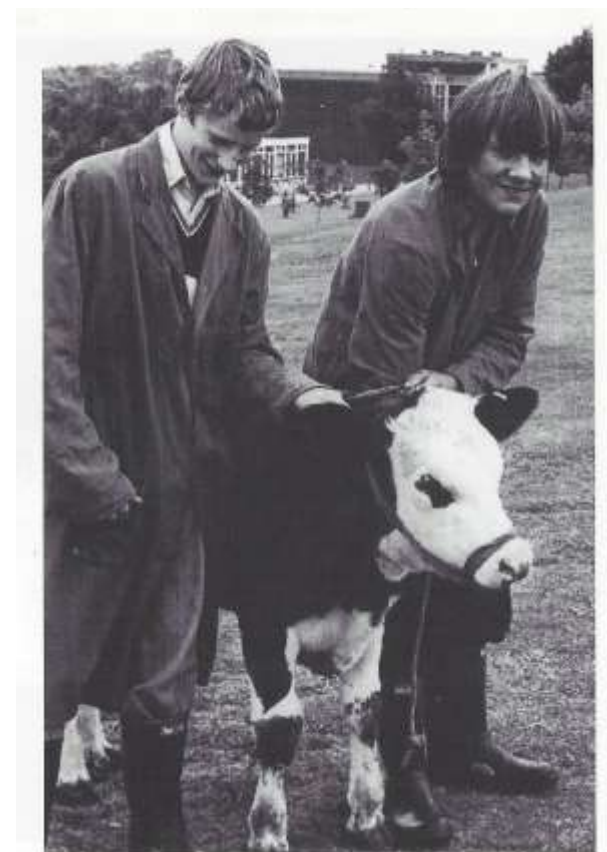


Lenny and Graham

50 years ago, in 1970, Lenny and Graham started Toot Hill School on September 10th and had their first lesson in M1 at 11am. Now they help maintain the site as part of its wonderful team.



The Toot Hill Dance Band.



Cattle at school – rural studies in the good old days.

Rural Studies 1973

“We always reared turkeys for Christmas. They were nervous creatures so the pupils had to be extra careful when looking after them. The birds were plucked and dressed in the classroom, feathers floating about all over the place! The resulting birds were sold to staff and pupils and I can vouch for their quality.”

Wallace Smith Rural Studies Teacher.



Collared! Community policing at work.



To sum up – A happy school, a caring school.



Dog Display Team – Symbol of a long and happy association with RAF Newton.



John Eagles Headteacher 1978-1996

Quotes:

“To the parents that comment that their youngsters never behaved badly until they came to Toot Hill, the proper reply is that their children were never adolescent before.”

“The school fields have seen strange sights: Hot air balloons landing, parascending, hovercraft practice, chariot racing and the Head chasing loose cattle and sheep from the paddocks. I’m not a successful cowboy!”

“As I reflect, I have a strong feeling of a good, happy and friendly school which despite all sorts of new and changing difficulties, seeks to do its best for everyone. A school at its best when everyone pulls together – in the same direction!”



German Exchange 1979

The first German exchange trip took place in 1979. It cost £35 which was cheap for the time. However, it did consist of catching many trains and thus the journey to Germany took a staggering 18 hours. Today, the time is considerably less but the price has raised significantly.



BP Challenge to Youth

National Schools Hovercraft Competition

1982 – 34th

1983 – 3rd

1984- 85 – 2nd

1986-87 – 1st

1988-89 – 3rd

1990-1992 – 1st



Upper Sixth – Anyone you Know?
1985 – 1986

Hundreds return for reunion

South Notts
Advertiser, July 14, 1995—Page 5+

ABOUT 500 people attended the Bingham Toot Hill School 25th anniversary reunion evening on Saturday, including former headmasters Mr Rod Collins and Mr Roy Hopwood.

The event was hailed a major success and drew together former pupils and staffs who had, in some instances, not seen each other for more than ten years.

Mr Collins, now aged 82, was head at Toot Hill from 1954 to 1970 when it was a secondary modern school, and he was paying his first visit there in a number of years.

He was warmly greeted by many ex-pupils and staffs and told the Advertiser he was thrilled to be able to attend the event.

"I don't get this way very much now but it is good to be able to return to school and see so many old faces I recognise," he said.

Mr Collins, who lives at Ravenshead, said he was amazed at the number of people who had turned out for the reunion.

Thrilled

Mr Hopwood was equally pleased to be back at school and said he found it fascinating so many people had turned out for the event.

Present headmaster Mr John Eagles told the Advertiser they had not really been able to guess how many people would attend but he was thrilled there had been such a marvellous response.

During the evening there was an exhibition of photographs and news cuttings — many from the Advertiser — of 25 years of Toot Hill life.

On the previous evening a fashion show at the school also proved to be a major attraction, with consecutive shows completely sold out.

More than 170 pupils were involved in the show and teachers said they were relieved that things had gone so well.

Celebrations

Mrs Carol Dunn said: "We only had that day to prepare things because there was so much else going on that week, and some of the students learnt their routines on the day. But we were really pleased with it — it was a great team effort."

The event was part of the school's 25th birthday celebrations and money raised will go towards the fund to improve school buildings.

Two shows were presented on the night, with some guests enjoying the first so much that they returned with cameras for the second.



REUNITED for Toot Hill School's 25th anniversary were, left to right, Cherine Honey who was a pupil at the school from 1962-65, Susan Honey 1965-70, Lynne Danby 1965-71; Mr Les Dolby, teacher from 1955-90, former headmaster Mr Rod Collins, Avril Honey 1962-67 and Jeanette Coaten 1962-65.



PUPILS Hannah Lane (17) and Lynne James (17) model outfits they made themselves for the fashion show.



1995 — Toot Hill School celebrates 25 years of teaching.

Pictured above is Rodney Collins (Headteacher 1969-1970) with Joyce Johnson (Senior Mistress 1969—1985).

Pictured on the right is John Eagles (Headteacher 1979—1995) and Roy Hopwood (Headteacher 1970—1978).

On the left page is an article written about the celebrations where 500 ex staff and ex students returned to celebrate.



Joyce Johnson on her time at Toot Hill School: "My overall impression was that Toot Hill is a happy school. When you walk in there is a nice atmosphere. I go a lot by atmosphere!"

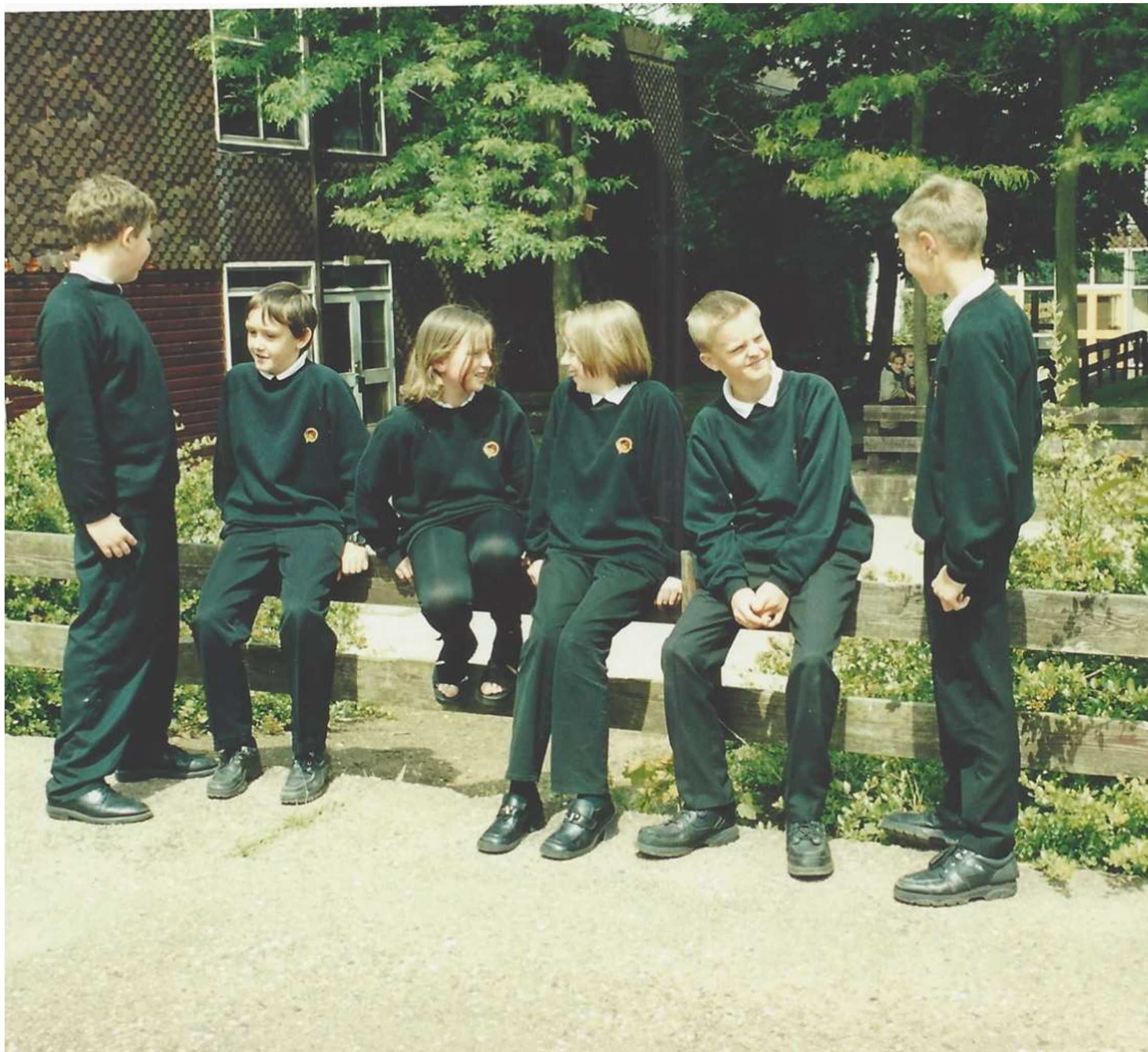


Chris Williams Headteacher 1995– 2001

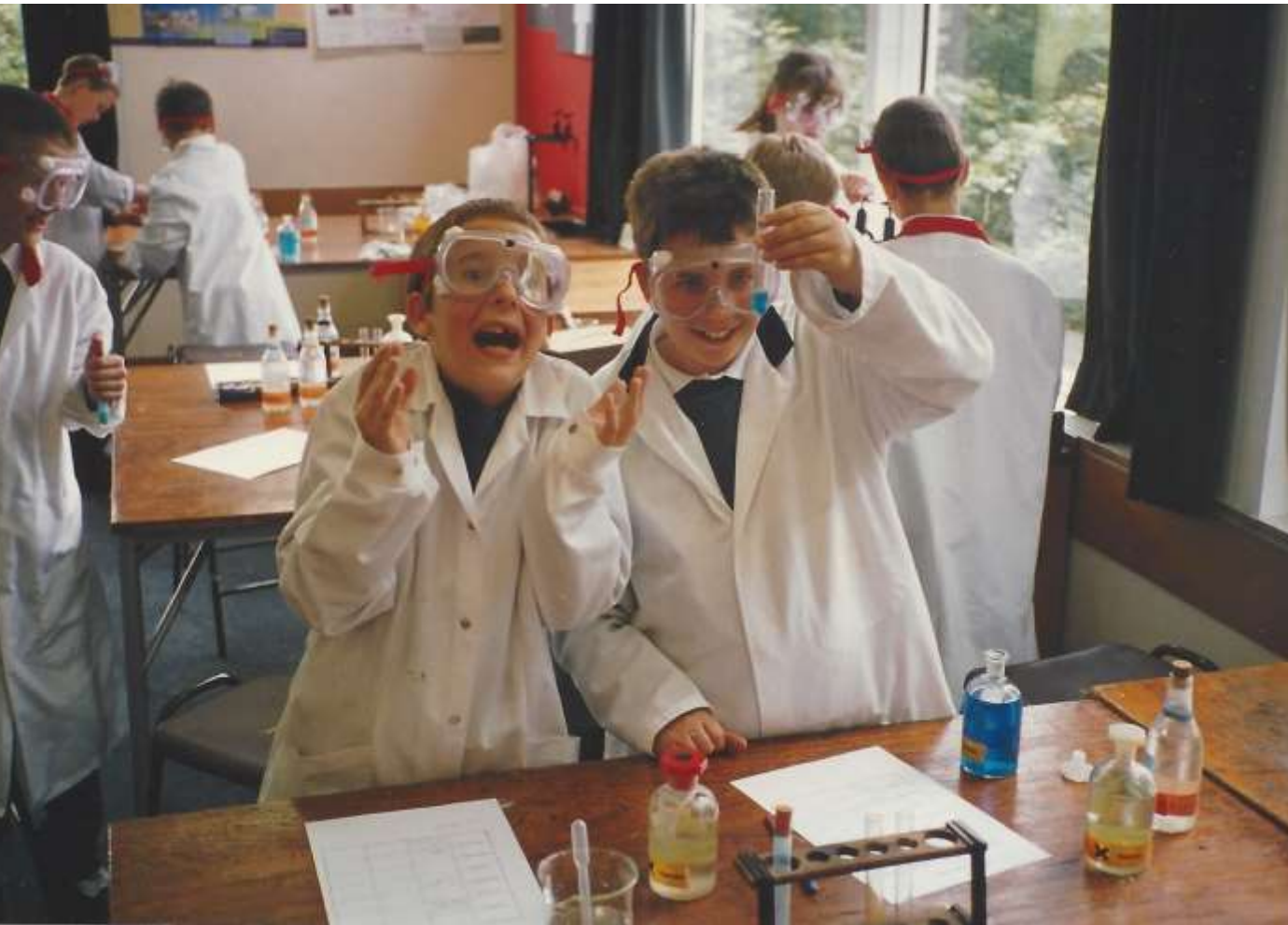
“When so much is changing, education helps you to understand what is important, gives you the skills to live your life well, to value others and do what is right.

School gives you friendship, challenge and support. It gives you the self-belief to achieve more than you ever thought you could. It teaches you resilience and the skills to keep learning and growing.

If you are fortunate, school will also give you one teacher - more if you are lucky – you will always remember, because they spent time with you, recognised your strengths and helped you to grow and take your place in the adult world.”







Toot Hill School became the founder school of Nova Education Trust in 2012. John became the CEO of the trust.



Awards Evening held at the University of Nottingham 2009



John raising money for children in need 2006



John Tomasevic Headteacher 2001-2011

Quotes:

“We collectively commit to reshaping our schools from our current starting points, to becoming truly amazing places for learning and working.”

“The maxim ‘success breeds success’ is never more true as when it applies to schools. Toot Hill School over the years has carefully developed and nurtured a success culture. This means that we expect every student to achieve success, no matter how difficult they find the learning journey. Equally we expect every student to secure achievement commensurate with their abilities and talents. Our track record provides ample evidence that this goal is securely realised each year.”



John introduced many new things during his time at Toot Hill School including the green blazer, Toot Hill’s signature look.



Teachers from India visit Toot Hill School
2010

Little Flower School Project 2002 - 2006

Toot Hill School made a thriving friendship with The Little Flower School in South Africa. The school was visited by Toot Hill students and money was raised for the Little Flower School as students brought back their local beaded goods and sent profits made in England back to South Africa. Sister Gabriel was then able to buy new sewing machines for the Little Flower School.



British Champion 2006

School record holder, Callum Jones achieved the outstanding result of the day by winning the Under 12 British Championship. In a dramatic finish, Callum came from behind, to win his event in the last few strokes by 3 metres. Four other Toot Hill pupils achieved top 10 finishes. Sam Clifford (5th Year 7), Joe Palthorpe (10th Year 7), Adam Bow (5th Year 9)



Student thoughts on trips abroad...

"At the end of last year we went to Paris during activities week, this was a 'très amusant' trip to end a school year. We spent four nights in a very good hotel, room-sharing with our friends and getting locked out when we lost our key cards, on numerous occasions!!!"

"The bus journeys weren't the most fun, but, with plenty of films and several much needed service station toilet stops, everyone was happy, including the sleeping teachers!"

"However, the highlight has to have been going up the Eiffel Tower and standing on a glass floor, which definitely tested our nerves!"







Pictured above — Harriet Aram, Rosie Gunn (Year 10) and Stephanie Gunn (Year 12) were winners of the National Senior Schools Show Jumping Championship at Hickstead. The girls proudly returned with a silver plate (2011).



Design and Technology

As the school grew in numbers a new Design and Technology block was commissioned and building began in 2009.



Holland 2010 football tour

31 year 8 and 9 boys from Toot Hill set their sights on defeating Dutch football opposition during a 5 day tour of Holland during the Easter holidays. The trip proved a great success with the year 8s defeating all 3 of their opposition. Meanwhile the year 9 team won 2 of their 3 fixtures. Members of staff on the trip included Mr Robertson, Mr Clark, Mr Lynas and Mr Wade.



Ash Rahman Head of School 2012 - 2016

Quotes

“Throughout the year, we have had numerous visitors (local, national, international) to Toot Hill and their feedback regarding the students, staff and school as a whole has always been extremely positive. I’d like to share some of their remarks with you: welcoming, warm, positive, calm, vibrant, purposeful, friendly, on-task, sensible, independent, respectful, full of drive and energy. This is purely down to every single individual within the Toot Hill community doing their bit to make their school environment a better place for everyone; for that I thank you all.”

“Over the last few years Toot Hill School has consistently delivered the best results in the county and I would like to thank parents, the governing body and local community for their continued support which is so critical to the success of our students.”



Ash Rahman with David Dein (Vice-Chairman of Arsenal and the Football Association) and Toot Hill School students. 2015.



In 2014 Ash introduced the black blazer. The black blazer was to be worn by Toot Hill prefects. These students would represent their year group.



During his time as Head of School, Toot Hill was successful in its bid to become a SCITT (A School Centre for Initial Teacher Training). In 2015, 26 new teachers were trained in this programme. Nottinghamshire Torch SCITT has since grown, with over 60 secondary and primary trainee teachers every year, and is now recognised nationally for its innovative practice.

Ash Rahman on announcing SCITT in 2015, “We will now be able to find the best and most talented teachers and also retain our outstanding staff because of the additional opportunities this will provide for them; a very exciting prospect for all involved.”





The ACF Detachment was launched in early 2014 and quickly became fully operational under the leadership of Staff Sergeant Middlebrook.



College

In 2013 the college had grown and thus construction on a new building began. It was named The Suthers Building after Toot Hill governor Martin Suthers.



Pictured above - In 2013 a group of Year 13 students, accompanied by Mr Tinsley and Ms Taylor, embarked on the World Challenge. They partook in a project which involved renovating a local school.





STEM 2016 Success

Toot Hill Students won the national BP Ultimate STEM Challenge. The team won £500 to spend on science equipment or field trips as well as Science Museum goodies. Mary Sowter, part of the winning team, said: “I’ve learnt so much from seeing the other schools’ projects, and today has really inspired me to take part in more STEM challenges in the future.”



Toot Hill School’s STEM team then went on to win the East Midland regional prize in 2018. The team had to find a way to deal with the energy shortage crisis!





Sandy and Peter Waterland. Peter served Toot Hill School as a Governor for 25 years and as the Chair of Governors for 5 years. He retired in January 2019.



Toot Hill secures the NCS Gold Standard for the second consecutive year in 2018.



Student Union Recycling Project, 2019



In 2018 the GCSE grading system changed from letters to numbers and students from Toot Hill School achieved amazing results, with the highly coveted new grade 9s (equivalent to the top 3% of the old A*) awarded in every subject!



Sandy pictured with our Chinese visitor from Cixi School, Shanghai and Bingham's Mayor, Cllr John Stockwood. 2019.

In the stocks at T-Fest! Being sponged to help raise money for Dementia UK. 2019.



A highlight of Sandy's week is 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' every Friday morning, when she spends time with students who inspire others through their hard work and kindness. Pictured above are the students from 'Reading Classics Club'.



Sandy Paley Head of School 2016 - 2020

Quotes:

'50 years on and our school continues to have traditional values at the core of all that we do, as represented so well in our motto 'Work Hard; Be Kind; Take Pride!'

'The balance of ambition and camaraderie that permeates our ethos is palpable amongst our school community and our complete commitment to bringing the best out of everyone makes Toot Hill School a great place to work and learn.'



2019 Headteacher award winners





World War I Memorial

To pay homage to the fallen of Bingham, students at Toot Hill School helped celebrate the unveiling of 2 large poppy wreaths at the entrance of a new housing development in Bingham. They laid down their own wreaths and the Big Band played at the ceremony.



Art Exhibit at Beauvale Care Home

Maria Cassidy and her GCSE art students put on an art exhibit of their work at Beauvale Care Home in Bingham. The residents loved perusing the work and were very impressed by the standard.



Action Day 2019

“Dedicated teenagers from Toot Hill School in Bingham collected second-hand coats and food supplies to give to their local drop-in centre as their contribution to a nationwide day of community volunteering.”

*Nottingham Local
News by Digital
Media*



Three generations of Toot Hill School's Big Band playing in Bingham Butter Cross.



Year 8s teaching French to primary students.



Robert Miles Infant School creating stories with Toot Hill School's Student Librarians.



As part of their NCS, these students created a sensory garden at Carnarvon Primary School.



Big Band Timeline

Music has always been a huge part of Toot Hill's spirit. From hosting tea dances to Christmas concerts the Dance Band and Big Band has always been around.

Many of our talented musicians have gone on to forge a career in the music industry.

To many more years of brilliant music!

Toot Hill Big Band Alumni

Many of the Toot Hill members have carried on their musical adventures long after leaving school in Big Bands, jazz bands and many other groups. Playing an instrument is something that you can enjoy for the rest of your life.

A stalwart of the Toot Hill fraternity, "Ness" has been supporting the band ever since he joined all those years ago (1970's) and still helps out when he can. He also plays regularly with local band 12 to the bar.

A seasoned professional, Nick has played alongside Bobby Shew, Alan Barnes, and Bruce Adams. Jimmy James and the Vagabonds and the Soul Foundation in the Soul world and many Big Bands including John Miller's.

A virtuoso pianist, Kevin delights audiences all over the world as part of the duo sensation Worbely and Farrell.

Clare still plays in a big band and a saxophone quartet. "Music has set me up with a lifelong hobby that has helped me make friends where ever I have moved to".

Hannah still loves playing trombone and can regularly be seen performing with the Newark and Sherwood Concert Band.

Since leaving school, Geoff has played in many bands including Manteca with Spencer Cozens, The Dickie Baker Trio, The Pulse, Soul Station, the Risley Big Band and he currently runs local band 12 to the bar.

Rebecca continued to play tenor saxophone in a band once she left school, mainly playing pop covers and always playing to a packed house.

Rob has been touring the country non-stop for the last 10 years with West End touring shows that include Jersey Boys, The Commitments and The Bodyguard.

Highly acclaimed pianist and record producer, Spen has toured the world with a variety of artists - John Martyn, Pentangle and Joan Armatrading. He also runs a studio business.

Nathan spends much of his time working in London in recording studios, jazz clubs and the West End. He has worked with Robbie Williams, Tom Jones Paloma Faith, Barry Manilow and many more.

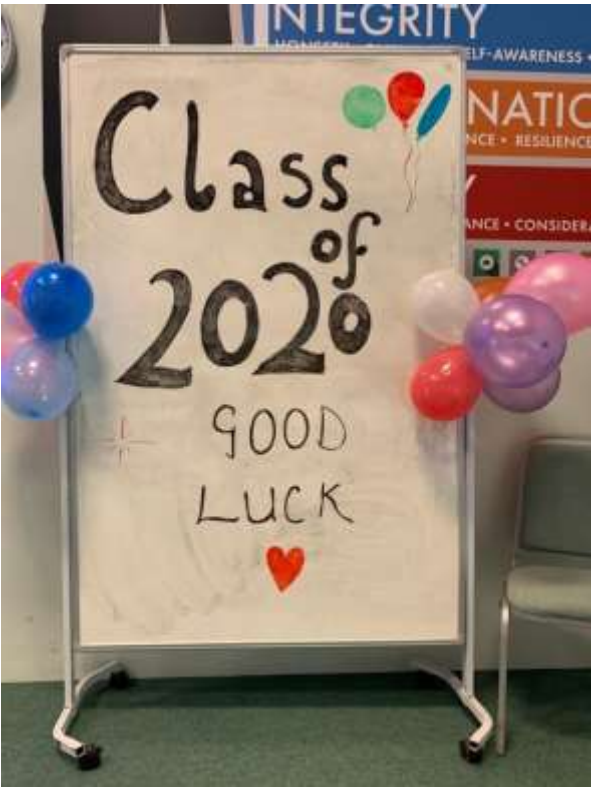
Background photo - the outdoor pool in Wallenfels

Toot Hill School Alumni

We keep in touch with many of our students after they leave us. Over the decades our students have gone on to do many things from professional dancers to managing their own business.



A few of our Alumni: Emma Baker, Mike Sparkes and Oscar Izard.



Toot Hill School’s Future?

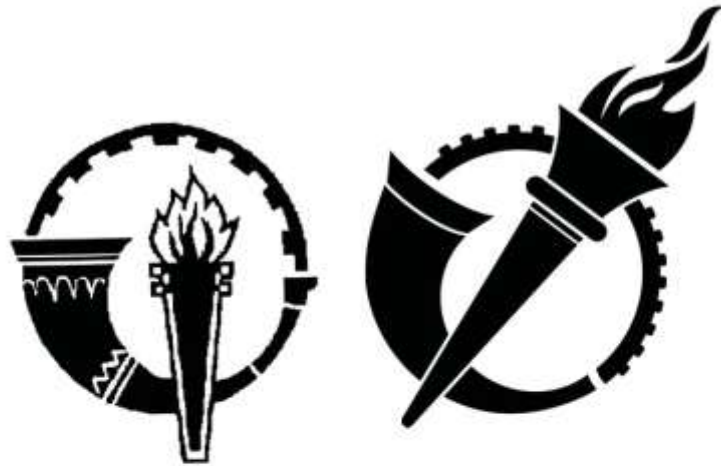
Whilst the future may be unknown, Toot Hill School’s values are not and it will continue to follow its ethos: ‘Work Hard; Be Kind; Take Pride’.



Class of 2020

Spring 2020 was a unique term, cut short by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, when schools closed on March 20th and examinations were cancelled. With just a few days’ notice we managed to organise leaving events to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 and 13 students. Pictured below are some Year 11s who did not want to leave!





Toot Hill School

50 years of service

1969–2019

