

SCHOOL PERSONALITIES

Evan Evans (1867-1942)

Kilburn Grammar School's first headmaster, born in 1867, was the oldest of the four sons and three daughters of a small farmer in Wales. Evan Evans was educated at the National School, Borth, Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn Grammar School and at the University College of Wales, in Aberystwyth, 1884-1888. At the latter institution he gained the BA degree of London University.

For a short time after leaving the university he taught in Aberystwyth, but obtained an appointment at Tottenham Grammar School in 1890. He did not stay there for long, however, and until he came to Kilburn in 1898, he held the post of Lecturer first in a college at Lincoln and then at Culham Training College for Elementary Schoolmasters, Oxford.

Dr H G Bonavia-Hunt was very fortunate in finding such a man as Evan Evans for the headmastership of his newly-founded Kilburn Grammar School. Starting from premises consisting of only one room in Willesden Lane, the school rapidly increased in size under the guidance of Evan Evans. After travelling all over Kilburn for two years, in 1900 the school at last became settled in Salusbury Road. It was mainly due to the sound leadership of Evan Evans that during this period the school roll had twice doubled itself. In both commercial and academic fields the examination results were such as any school might have been proud of.

As was, of course, essential in a small school, Evan Evans took a wide range of subjects, the chief of them being English, Modern and Classical Languages, Mathematics and various Commercial subjects. When the school became larger and more time had to be devoted to his duties as Headmaster, Evan Evans still succeeded in taking every form in the school once a week, for such subjects as French, Latin, English and Arithmetic.

As regards Modern Languages, Evan Evans was always careful to emphasize the oral side, and every year at Play Night his sixth form put on sketches in French and German. He himself spent most of

his holidays on the Continent in order to perfect his French and German.

The School was grieved when it was announced that December 23rd, 1909 would be his last day at Kilburn. Nevertheless, although no longer Headmaster, Evan Evans occasionally visited the school at such functions as Speech Days, and he even continued to show the fiery nature of a true Celt.

He died in 1942 and was buried in London.

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