

Shiplake College



Official opening of

Burr House

by

The Rt. Hon Sir Keith Joseph Bart. M.P.

Secretary of State for Education & Science

on

Saturday, 19th October 1985

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 16.55 Guests are asked to gather OUTSIDE Burr at the foot of the water tower.
- 17.00 The official opening.
Platform party: Sir Keith Joseph,
The Chairman of the Governors,
The Headmaster.
- 17.30 (approx) Refreshments in the Sports Hall
- 18.00 Burr House open for inspection.

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We would be grateful if guests would go to the Sports Hall before inspecting Burr House. This will allow Sir Keith time to talk to the boys in Burr.

Please remember that smoking is not permitted in the Sports Hall.

BURR HOUSE: The Architect writes:

"The new Burr House provides accommodation for 68 boarders, a Housemaster and House Tutor, along with two classrooms used by the whole school.

The original Burr House was an 18th and 19th century farmhouse but this now provides only one third of the total accommodation. To make such a large extension fit into its surroundings, it was made to look like a number of smaller buildings wrapping around a courtyard. These were built in brick and flint and dark-stained weatherboarding just like the original farmhouse and surviving farm buildings. Second-hand plain clay tiles were used throughout to give a feeling of maturity.

Inside, the Housemaster occupies the old frontage of Burr House looking south over his private garden.

At the other end of the new House the House Tutor has a lofty split-level bachelor pad with good all round vision of the House and School.

The senior boys sleep and work in one- and two-bed studies at the top of the House with four-bed studies in the middle floor. The most junior boys sleep in two seven-bed dormitories.

On the ground floor there are two classrooms built behind the more civilised brick and flint facades while the changing rooms are accommodated in the part which is reminiscent of local farm buildings. There are two common rooms and one of these, which is split-level and arcaded, may lend itself to school plays although for the moment it lends itself mainly to enthusiastic pool players.

The construction and refurbishment of Burr House was carried out by Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Limited to a very tight 11-month programme. Architects for the scheme were the Hutton Nichols Partnership (Job Architect Ian Brown).

The Architects are grateful to the School for providing a very clear brief and especially to the Headmaster's wife, Mrs Diana Lapping, for sharing her considerable expertise in built-in furniture design."

THE FINANCING OF BURR HOUSE

The new Burr House cost £587,000.

Some of this figure will be met by increased income because the new Burr houses eighteen more boys than the old Burr. In addition, the Housemaster will live in school as opposed to rented property.

However, to meet the cost, the Governors in October 1984 launched an Appeal for £400,000.

At the time of writing, (October 1985) £250,000 has been raised.