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## Back to the Future at Framlingham College

There was a palpable sense of excitement as Framlingham College students returned to school in September. They were returning to a year of celebration for the College's 150th anniversary and to a school where the heart of the College had been transformed with the completion of the new Sixth Form Centre and whole-school café that had been built to mark this sesquicentenary.

The £2.7m project, which included the expansion of the College's boarding facilities in the space freed up by the new building, was the brainchild of the Headmaster, Paul Taylor. The College has long been a very popular destination for those seeking to move to new pastures for the Sixth Form, regularly recruiting 30-40 new students each year to supplement those already coming through the College, and Taylor believes that the new Sixth Form Centre will provide them with unparalleled facilities and resources. 'The 16-year-old of today is a very different beast from those of even ten years ago. They have a great sense of self and many feel ready for a more independent, 'adult' working environment. However, we believe firmly that they still require the pastoral and academic structures and support mechanisms that are offered by a school such as ours, and this building is about meeting them half way.' The Sixth Form Centre occupies the first floor of the stunning two floor, glass-fronted extension to the main building, enjoying outstanding views of the surrounding countryside. There are expansive and varied working areas and enhanced careers and Further Education resources, including a Seminar Room that is fully equipped with state of the art conference facilities so that the College's impressive Careers programme can access the national and global network of careers specialists that the school uses regularly to infuse the College with an awareness of the world that their students will enter beyond school. Taylor was very keen that such a building remained in the heart of the school: 'We did not want to build a separate Sixth Form House or Centre that is at a tangent to the school; we want our Sixth Formers right in the heart of the College as we want them to be the ones who are providing the leadership and inspiration for the younger members of the school. It is they who set the tone for what is - and what is not - acceptable behaviour, values and standards for the younger ones to follow.'

The new building is not just about the Sixth Form. There are four new classrooms, and the ground floor sees an impressive café that has become a social hub for the whole school and, increasingly, the wider Framlingham community. The new building sits as an extension to the original school, and while it is strikingly modern, Taylor also likes the fact that there is much exposed original brickwork in the interior of the building. 'This blend of the old with the new represents so much of what this school is about: change and continuity. The glass fronted façade reflects that this school is a forward-thinking, outward-looking and dynamic environment; while the exposed brickwork of the original building inside reminds us of our heritage and of the traditional values that have underpinned the school since its foundation. In our anniversary year it is important to ensure that we remain true our founding principles, but also that we continue to reinterpret those principles and apply them to the students of today and the world into which they will be graduating. In many ways, therefore, it is a case of Back to the Future.'

## 'On an eminence...' Celebrating 150 years of Framlingham College

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Framlingham College - founded as a memorial to Prince Albert, one of the most visionary and progressive educational thinkers of his time - comes a book that

charts the school's history as told by those who lived, studied and worked there.

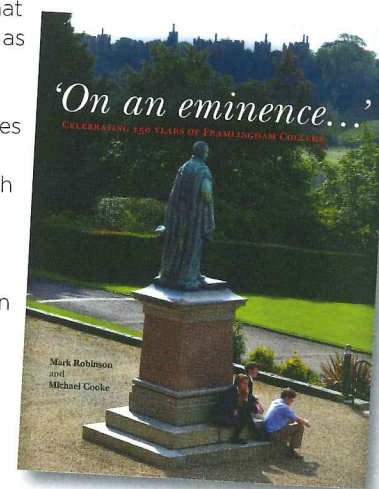
For some reason, histories of Framlingham have come out at 60-year intervals, with John Booth's definitive record of the first 60 years, and Bob Gillett's characteristically dry take on the second 60. However, somewhere between the 120th and the 180th anniversaries it seemed fitting to produce a book of a slightly different kind, more along the lines of Sellar and Yeatman's 1066 and All That - a history of what current generations of Framlinghamians can remember about their time at the College.

This vividly illustrated volume will engage interest, prompt happy memories and provide an insight into how the College has developed throughout its history. Framlingham is a very different school in 2014 from the one that was founded in 1864, and is preparing its pupils for a very different world, but its Victorian founders would no doubt approve of the values and standards still maintained at the College today. *On an Eminence* portrays the wonderful strength and diversity of the Framlingham community - a fitting celebration of the College's 150th anniversary.

"A thoroughly researched and well written book that gives a fascinating insight into this Suffolk landmark." Kevin Davis.

So far *On an Eminence*, the book written by Mark Robinson and Michael Cooke to celebrate 150 years of Framlingham College, has been very well received indeed. The large format and high quality of the illustrations from all periods of the College's history, along with the whole presentation, is most impressive. Readers have found the text lively and accessible. People from various walks of life have expressed their appreciation of the book. Former pupil Gerald Garnett has written that '*On an Eminence...* may well grace many coffee tables (and) is beautifully put together with outstanding photographs and cartoons which complement the written history of the College, its characters and other associates over many years'. Professor Neville Marsh particularly appreciated the cover photograph taken in 2013, with its echoes of the iconic image of three boys sitting on Albert fifty years earlier.

Copies of *On an Eminence* are available at £35.00 (plus postage and packaging, if required) from Framlingham College Reception Tel. 01728 723789 or email [reception@framcollege.co.uk](mailto:reception@framcollege.co.uk). Alternatively they may be purchased from the Book Shop in Framlingham Market Square. ISBN 978-1-906507-92-3.



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