

REV DR OLIVER DIGBY INSKIP (HON OF)

I'm indebted to Norman Mayhew for the majority of the following piece.

By any measure the impact of Dr. Inskip upon the fortunes of Framlingham College was immense. Headmaster for twenty-six years from 1887-1913, he arrived one year after the Governors had appealed to the people of Suffolk to rescue the school from £3000 of debt, when the total number of pupils was 72. By 1899 the school was full with over 300 in attendance. Dr. Inskip was the instigator of the publication of the school magazine "The Framlinghamian", the first edition appearing in April 1899.

In 1912 the Old Framlinghamians celebrated 25 years of his headship by presenting him with a cheque and an address engrossed on vellum which contained the following tribute.

'We are not able, and we shall not attempt, to express all that your Headmastership has meant to Framlingham and Framlinghamians. It is enough to say that as soon as this commemoration was suggested, subscriptions flowed so spontaneously from old boys in every quarter of the world, and the messages of affectionate regard which accompanied those subscriptions were eloquent proof of how warm a place you occupy in the hearts and minds of your former pupils. Certain it is that there is no one amongst them but recalls with gratitude some lesson learnt from you in classroom, playing field, or chapel, and we rejoice that Framlingham still flourishes under your wise and kindly rule.'

He retired in 1913 and died on 28 May 1934 at the age of 81. In 1953 the SOF placed a tablet in the College Chapel in memory of him – see below.



A bust of his sits in the dining room at the College and can be seen below together with the accompanying write up.

Revd. Dr. O.D. Inskip, Headmaster, 1887-1913

This bronze bust of the ‘widely esteemed’ headmaster, Reverend Dr O.D. Inskip, by E. Whitney Smith was commissioned by the S.O.F. and unveiled in 1936. It stands as a fitting tribute, along with Myra Luxmore’s magnificent oil painting above the main Dining Hall entrance, to his inspirational leadership. Looking back on his appointment, Lord Rendlesham used to say, “that what was wanted for the School was not only a man of scholarly attainments, but also one who could sympathise with and take part in the pastimes of the boys”. Inskip delivered in spades. From an alarmingly low base in 1887 when the College’s future hung in the balance, he significantly improved exam results and facilities, increased numbers and developed the idea of a school that catered for the whole man, making the College “one of the best and cheapest schools in England...” (Lambert’s Framlingham, 1901).

