

HISTORY OF THE HOUSES

The Board of Governors took the decision that the school should acknowledge the rich history of the College and light upon the founding or early House names of Campbell for the start of next academic year.

Once this logic is applied we arrive at the following House names:

School House (*est. 1995, the College's boarding House remains in its present form*)

1908: Allison's, Alden's, Price's, Yates's, Davis's

1921: Dobbin's

1958: Chase's

Below is a brief sketch, and commentary, on the figures who have contributed significantly to the development of our College.



Alden's

Lewis Alden (c.1870 - 1941) was the fifth son of an Oxford 'gentleman', educated entirely in his home town. Short-sighted and irascible, he arrived at Campbell in 1898 to teach English. He encouraged his pupils to read modern as well as more traditional literature, and no less than four future professors, including C S Lewis and E R Dodds, were to acknowledge their academic debt to his teaching. He was also noted for his elegant ice-skating whilst smoking a cigar! Alden was appointed one of the four original boarding Housemasters in 1908. He retired in 1930 and died on 22 October 1941. The name of Alden's House disappeared in 1995 with the creation of a single boarding School House. Alden's restaurant at Ballyhackamore bears his name.



Allison's

William Mitchell Baird Allison (died 1923) was an Irishman who joined the Staff in 1896, and quickly became Senior Mathematics Master. He was respected as a teacher of outstanding fairness and integrity, and was one of the few who was able to maintain discipline without resorting to the cane. He was a natural choice as a Housemaster in 1908. Allison became Second Master, and was asked to deputise in April 1922 when the Headmaster died suddenly. He declined because of recurrent ill-health, which included a digestive disorder and persistent insomnia, and he died soon after on 2 March 1923. The immense regard in which he was held was demonstrated by the installation of the clock in his honour in the main tower.



Chase's

Corrie Denew Chase (1878 - 1965) was born at Weston-super-Mare into a dynasty of clergymen, which provided two Bishops in the Church of England. He was educated at Blundell's School in Devon and Cambridge University. After a brief period teaching Classics in Suffolk, he studied modern languages in Heidelberg and Paris, and arrived at Campbell in 1905. He officially retired in 1938, but stayed on teaching at the school in an informal capacity until incapacitated by a stroke in 1959. Chase was re-employed full-time during the Second World War at Portrush. The first officer in charge of the Officer Training Corps (1909), he served in the First World War, winning the Military Cross. He was a respected and acknowledged botanist, became President of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club in 1930, and is the subject of a recent biography: *'Chevy' Chase ... a real Mr Chips*. The House was named in his honour in 1958, and he died in Strandtown on 15 October 1965.



Davis's

Robert Furley Davis (1866 - 1937) was born in Nottingham, the son of a lace warehouseman. He was educated at Nottingham High School and Cambridge University, where he studied Classics. An organised, modest, incisive and witty individual, he arrived at Campbell in 1902 from Leamington College, and retired in 1931. Although of diminutive stature, he was a highly-respected Classics teacher, who conveyed a passion for his subject. Although photographs do not show it, he had lost an eye, but he proved another able ice-skater! He was in charge of the first Day-boy House, founded in 1908. He died at his home in Wandsworth Road on 14 February 1937, and was honoured with an obituary in *The Times*.



Dobbin's

Thomas Ringland Dobbin was a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He joined the school office staff in 1898, but became Bursar and Commercial Master in 1911. He retired twenty years later. Known as 'Toby', little is known about him, although the day after the murder by the IRA of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson in 1922, he wrote from his home in Earlswood Road to Sir James Craig: 'Ulster is poorer; the British nation is poorer; and there is no language to express the feelings of the people of this Imperial province ... we are dumb'. Dobbin's was instituted in 1921 as a junior Day-boy House. He retired in 1931.



Price's

George Fetherston Price (c.1867 - 1940) was an Irishman, a Classicist who had been a Scholar and Gold Medallist at Trinity College Dublin. Blessed with 'a sense of humour and a pungent wit', he was also a passionate angler, a pastime which he encouraged amongst his pupils. It was claimed that 'a day in his company was a joy forever'. One of the original 1908 boarding Housemasters, he retired in 1927 to Stoke Trister in Dorset, where he died after a long illness on 3 April 1940.



Yates's

John William Yates (1864 - 1939) was born in Birmingham, the son of a doctor, and educated in his home town and at Oxford University, where he displayed a passion for drama and rowing. An uncomplicated and unassuming man, he arrived at Campbell to teach Classics in 1898. He was a capable musician, blessed with a good tenor voice; he also composed the school song - *Ne Obliviscaris* - in 1910, and one of his tunes graced the Irish Church Hymnal. He produced many of the plays performed at Speech Day, and was regarded as something of an inventor - patenting a gadget that made Double Dummy bridge possible! He was one of the original boarding Housemasters in 1908, and in 1925 retired to St Albans, where he died on 1 January 1939.

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