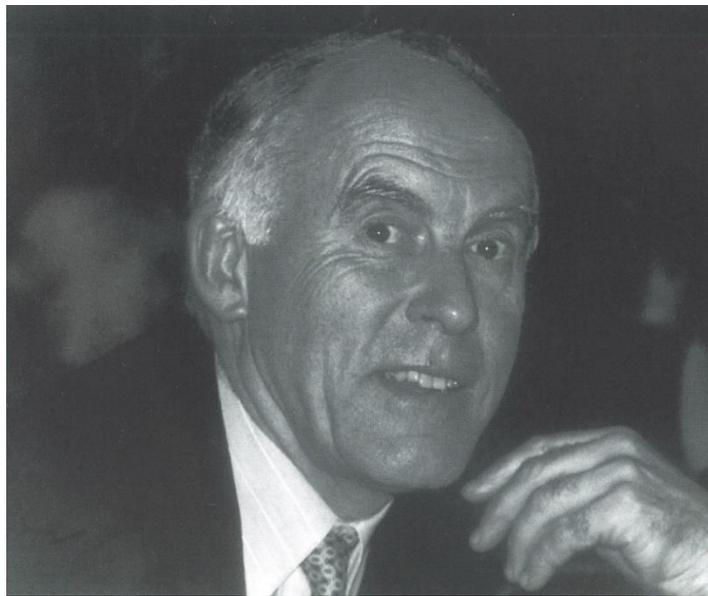


## Tribute to Geoffrey Fallows

Geoffrey Fallows, 28th September 1941 - 11th June 2019

Colleague and leader at The Camden School for Girls 1975 - 2000

It is with great sadness that I am writing this tribute to Geoffrey Fallows, who died on 11th June 2019. Geoffrey became headteacher at The Camden School for Girls in 1989, having been appointed to the post of Deputy Headteacher in 1975, after teaching classics at Latymer and Crown Woods schools. Geoffrey appointed me as Deputy Headteacher in 1994, and I thoroughly enjoyed the six years I spent working with him in the school's leadership team.



Geoffrey was a kind, courteous, enthusiastic and knowledgeable leader. He was deeply committed to state education, arriving at the school at the time it was making a transition from being a grammar into a comprehensive. Geoffrey steered many other changes through the school; the integration of boys into the sixth form and its significant expansion, establishing a suite of workshops to provide technology subjects and the first of many attempts to remove asbestos from the school's mid-century building. He led these changes with his customary optimism, insight and good humour, and he always prioritised long-term benefit over shorter term inconvenience and worry about the impact of change.

The years of Geoffrey's headship saw many challenges; industrial action in relation to Key Stage Three SATs, reductions in funding, the implementation of GCSEs, which were introduced in 1989, the move to Local Management of Schools and the first few Ofsted inspections. Geoffrey

took all of this in his stride, maintaining his focus on the school's core values and its drive to provide a first-class education for all its students.



*James Paice M.P., Minister of State at the DFEE, presents the OFSTED citation to Camden School.*

But there was also much to celebrate during these years; the wonderful fund-raising drive 'A Hell of a Hall', designed to give us the excellent hall which still acts as a focal point for all school community activities, brilliantly and generously supported by Emma Thompson; the continuation of exceptional music and art provision within the school and great success in the school's classics department.



*Emma Thompson & Linda Robson supported the school through its Hell of a Hall campaign*

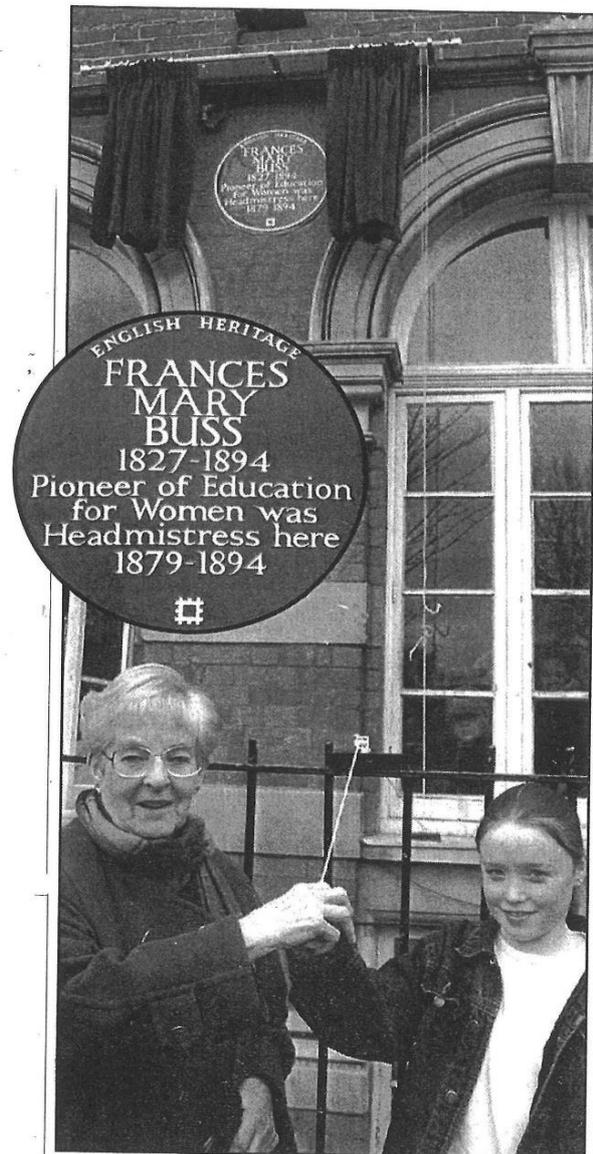
And no tribute to Geoffrey would be complete without a reference to his love of the outdoors, which manifested itself in school as a passionate drive to improve the quality of the school grounds. Geoffrey called out to parents, governors and friends through the Friday News to come along and do gardening every month, and the result was a calming and beautifully planted environment for the school, much enhanced by Penny Wild's superb gardening knowledge and skills.



*Penny Wild, Chair of Governors, was always on hand to assist Geoffrey with gardening*

The school's traditions were important to Geoffrey, as was its foundation by Frances Mary Buss, in 1871. Geoffrey captured this sense of connection with the past in his Founder's Day addresses, and was delighted to celebrate the unveiling of a blue plaque in honour of Miss Buss in March 2000. Geoffrey was able to look forwards and backwards on behalf of the school respecting its traditions while securing its future.

*Connie Hurren, a former senior prefect at the North London Collegiate School and Harriet aged 11, the youngest pupil at Camden School for Girls unveiling the blue plaque*



**A blue plaque in honour of Britain's first headmistress, Frances Mary Buss, the founder of modern girls' high schools, has been unveiled at Camden School for Girls.**

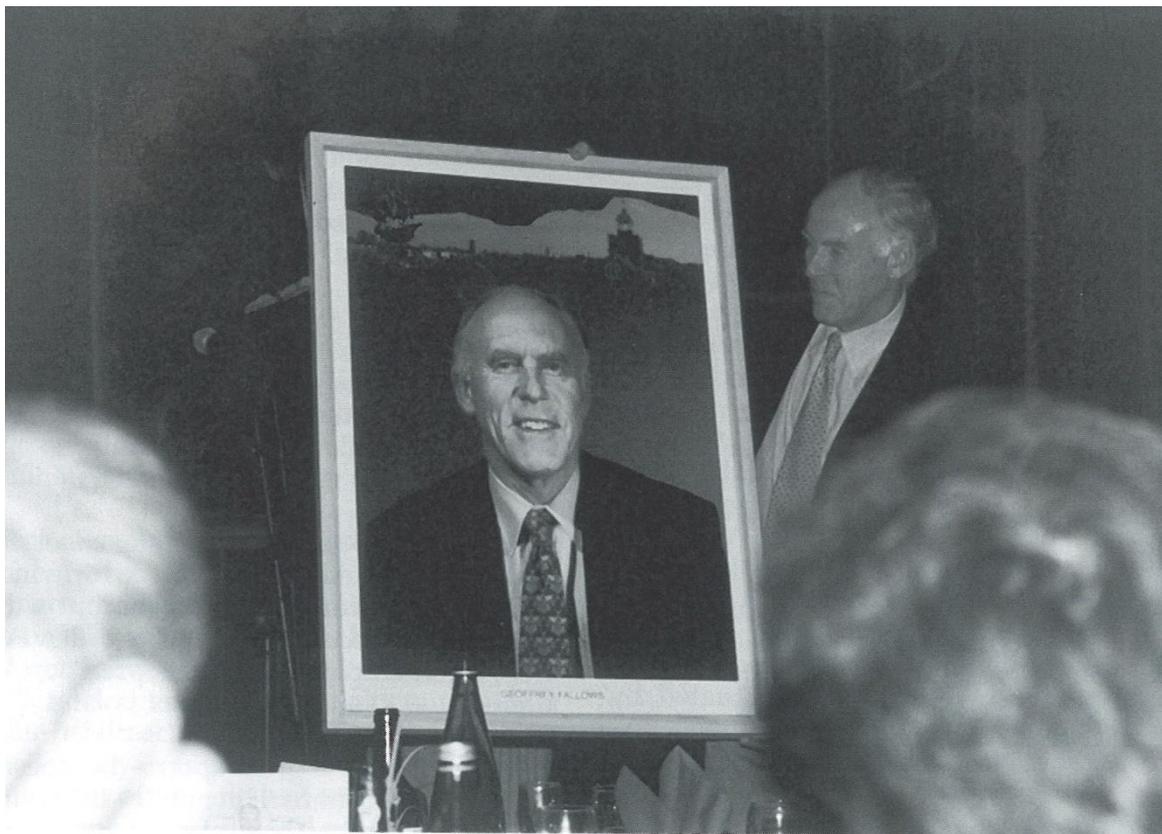
The school in Sandall Road, Camden Town, was the second founded by Miss Buss and the English Heritage plaque was unveiled last Friday by 89-year-old Connie Hurren, a former senior prefect at the North London Collegiate School, and Harriet Bennett, 11, the youngest pupil at Camden School for Girls.

In 1850 Miss Buss opened the North London Collegiate School, the first day school to offer girls the kind of education previously available only to boys, and was the first woman to describe herself as a headmistress. Camden School for Girls followed in 1871.

Geoffrey's wife, Carolyn, was a frequent visitor to the school, and many of us knew her well. It was therefore terribly sad to learn of her illness, and to hear that Geoffrey would leave Camden in August 2000 to spend precious time with her, which, very sadly, turned out to be all too short a period. After Carolyn's death and during his very happy time with Jo, Geoffrey remained a true friend of the school, and visited often, with Jo accompanying him to many of our Founder's Day celebrations.

During this time Geoffrey's legacy continued to be important; he had left his imprint on the school in terms of its ethos, its strong connections with very loyal alumnae and staff and the rich curriculum enjoyed by students. He enjoyed keeping in touch with many Camden girls and staff for years after they had left, having created the Friends network and annual magazine. Geoffrey was a person with a strong sense of history as well as an ability to adapt wholeheartedly when the times demanded change.

Geoffrey was extremely sociable, and our sadness when he left in 2000 was eased by the series of celebrations that were held in school to wish him farewell. These last few photos capture Geoffrey's enjoyment of his final weeks at Camden School for Girls.



*One for the library and one to take home?*



*The last assembly and gifts galore!*



*Staff Party*

Geoffrey will be remembered as a leader who embodied the heart and soul of Camden. For him, the school was about far more than academic achievement, important though this undoubtedly was to him. His values were those of the school; alongside intellectual curiosity he treasured friendship, generosity, community and laughter. He will be sorely missed.