

The History of the School

The Dover County School, as it was originally known, was established in 1905 as part of the development of state secondary education initiated by the Education Act 1902 (the 'Balfour Act'). It operated from premises in Ladywell under its first headteacher, Mr Fred Whitehouse. He also had oversight of what was initially the Girls' Department of the school at nearby premises on Priory Hill. His aspiration was to create a co-educational school but the Kent Education Committee (KEC) insisted on separate County Schools for Girls and Boys and the last girl left the co-educational sixth form in 1912. The County School for Boys moved into new buildings on Frith Road in October 1916 but soon outgrew the site, so junior boys had to be educated at Priory Hill. The inconvenience of operating over split sites persuaded KEC to agree to building new premises on an elevated site with plenty of land for playing fields at Astor Avenue. The first sod was cut in March 1924 and the school moved to the new buildings on 17 September 1931. The Duke of Kent formally opened the buildings on 9 December that year.

2005, New Millennium

In the first 98 years of the school it had had five headteachers. In the following 15, serving in relatively quick succession. The present head, Phil Horstrup, took up post in September 2018.

2022, DGSB Today

In July 2022, DGSB moved to a brand new school building, built on what was the old top field. Designed by Lee Evans and built by Kier, the new building boasts excellent facilities, more space and lots of light. After 90 years of serving Dover, the old building was demolished and made into landscaped gardens for the students to learn in and enjoy

Why so much information you ask?

For many years the only remaining link to the School was the annual donation made by the Lodge. This changed several years ago when Phil Horstrup became the Head. It is thanks to his continued support that the Business Meeting and Lodge Meeting will be held in this superb new building.



Founders Jewel



The Pharos Lodge
Welcomes you to
the 77th Federation
of School Lodge's
Festival on the 16th
August 2025

The Pharos Lodge

The Pharos in Dover Castle dates from the second Roman Invasion of Britain and was erected about A. D. 43, which establishes it as the oldest existing building in the country. It served as a beacon or lighthouse for Roman shipping entering Dover from the Continent as Dover was then, as now, the most convenient port in Britain for that purpose.

Two of these structures were built by the Romans to mark the entrance to the harbour at Dover, which was at the mouth of the River Dour, situated roughly where the Market Square now stands and where the public house known as The Roman Quay is situated.

The Pharos in Dover Castle was the eastern beacon and the other was situated on the Western Heights to the west of the harbour. This latter building no longer exists but traces of it remain and are known as the Bredenstone.

All the Founders of the Lodge were either Old Boys or past and present members of the staff of Dover Grammar School for Boys. For many years The Pharos has been the name used for the School magazine and an artist's impression of the building has been incorporated on the front cover since 1913. The Old Boy's Association has been known for many years as the "Old Pharosians".

The original function of the Pharos and the School motto Fiat Lux and all that both imply have a significant Masonic meaning and the Founders of the Lodge felt justified in adopting both for the Lodge.

The membership of the Lodge was restricted to former pupils or staff of the Dover Grammar for Boys until 1993 when it was decided that in order to safeguard the future of the Lodge membership would be opened to everyone who met the high standards of moral conduct laid down by the Founders.



The Roman Pharos Lighthouse at Dover Castle

The Pharos Lodge, celebrating its 75th anniversary, is proud to host this, the 77th Federation Festival in Dover. The first time the Province of East Kent has had the honour.

To celebrate this milestone a special masonic and partners programme is planned.

For further details please contact;
WBro. Arthur Hornby, PPDepGReg
Email; arthur.fsl@outlook.com
More information is available on the following websites;
<https://www.schoollodges.org.uk>
<https://pharoslodge.org.uk>

The first Festival of the Federation of School Lodges was held in January 1949 at the Masonic Hall, Staines, organised by Old Hamptonian Lodge No. 5730. At this meeting 33 elected representatives as well as many other brethren from 21 Federation Lodges attended to receive the committee's report and to elect the officers. Following the Business Meeting, a regular meeting of the Lodge was held, followed by dinner at the Masonic Hall.

And so the Federation was launched.

In the 74 years and 74 Festivals since that formative Festival, the Federation has pursued a successful course and now numbers 173 Craft and Mark Lodges and Chapters from all over the country, including Lodges associated with colleges and universities.

Festivals have been held the length and breadth of the country enabling "old school" masons to meet, share common interest and, just as importantly, proudly show off the schools that helped develop them into the people they are today.

The Festival has also developed into not just a masonic meeting, but a social event, with our ladies meeting together and enjoying the local sights and joining the "old school" masons for a "Banquet".