

The School

S. Thomas' Preparatory School was founded by Mr. William Thomas Keble on Tuesday May 17, 1938 at 8:45 a.m. at "Fortrose", 98, Steuart Place, Kollupitiya. more than Sixty years ago the birth of 'Prep' took place when 10 helpers from S. Thomas' College arriving to scrub out an empty Fortrose bungalow; and to order ninety-eight desks and chairs, eighteen beds and mattresses and the same number of cups, plates, knives, forks, spoons glasses and bowls; two long teak wood tables and four long benches; pots and pans: office equipment and cupboards: cricket bats and footballs: and all the paraphernalia of a school.

For almost seventy years S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya has sought to uphold the cause of true education, and done all it can to make a worthy contribution to enrich the life of our land. The founder's memory is enshrined in a lasting manner in the standing of the school, it's influence for good, its moral tone, its unwritten code of conduct and its scholarship.

History

S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Kollupitiya was founded on 17th May, 1938 by the late William Thomas Keble M. A. (Oxon) eminent educationist, scholar, author and lover of Sri Lanka. He arrived in the island in 1928 to join the staff of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia during the tenure of Warden Kenneth McPherson. The late W. T. Keble received his tertiary education at Keble College, Oxford which bears the name of his great grand uncle the noted hymn~writer and poet John Keble. His two books 'Ceylon Beaten Track' and the novel on Sigiriya reveal W. T. Keble's appreciation and love of Sri Lanka and its history.

The School is an Anglican (Church of Ceylon) educational institution and was founded during the episcopate of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Mark Carpenter-Gamier M A. (Oxon) D. D. who was the 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo. The School owes much to him for his vision, wisdom and generosity in having rendered every assistance possible to Mr. W. T. Keble's venture to found it.

This institution which commenced in 1938 with a mere 95 boys on roll and a staff of 7 teachers, including the Headmaster the late Mr. Keble, has the enviable honour of being the first Preparatory School modelled on English Public School lines in Sri Lanka. This marked a truly pioneering venture in the history of education in the island, as Mr. Keble sought to remedy a conceptual void in the educational system by placing a new emphasis on the requirements and aspirations of the child of tender years between the ages of 5-11. The conceptual rationale underpinning Mr. Keble's vision for the establishment of such a school was the provision made for boys in their formative years to fully express their creative talents and faculties unfettered, unhampered and uncircumscribed by older and more mature students in their midst.

The School has over the years shed its preparatory school character due to the pressures of parents and the clamour for schools with the burgeoning population. In its present form, the institution provides education exclusively in the Sinhala and Tamil media up to the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) in conformity with the educational policy of the State.

However, it is a private fee levying institution which is financially independent of all State control and is managed by a board of governors established by law as contained in the S. Thomas' College Board of Governors Ordinance No.7 of 1930. The Bishop of Colombo is the Chairman of the Board and thus retains the connection between the Church of Ceylon and the school.

Presently, the student population numbers over 1850 pupils on roll with a staff of over 80. As the institution approaches its seventieth year of providing a sound education to boys of all ethnic and religious backgrounds, it is certainly a far cry from the little school which began with less than a 100 students and 10 teachers. The school continues to nurture, train and equip students to face the multitude of challenges which confront them in a society which has altered radically from its relatively halcyon past. It thus plays a vibrant and meaningful part in the nation's progress, as it has always done during its brief but illustrious history.

Head Masters

Our Founder



W. T. Keble
May 1938 ~ 1942

First Headmaster



N. G. Abeynaike
May 1943 ~ 1950

Second Headmaster



J. T. R. Perinpanayagam
June 1951 ~ August 1966

Third Headmaster

Fourth Headmaster



John Shelton Leslie Fernando
September 1966 ~ 1994



N. Y. Casie Chetty
January 1995 ~ Todate