



HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

CROFTON ACADEMY, previously Crofton High School, has been a focal part of Crofton Village for nearly half a century. After a ten year period in 'temporary' accommodation in Old Hall the new *secondary* school was built on the site in 1963/64. At that time there were 378 pupils and 17 teaching staff. The new buildings were hailed as a major advance in the educational facilities in the area - not surprising since they had cost over £250,000!

In September 1974, after local reorganisation, the school became Crofton High School. Now with over 700 pupils on roll and a teaching staff in excess of 40. Throughout the second half of the late 1970's the numbers continued to rise and by 1980 over 1,000 pupils attended the school.

To meet the increased numbers new buildings were added; in 1974, Mangnall Block; 1979, Waterton Block; and in 1984 Harrison Block; all made their appearance extending the facilities available to pupils. Throughout the late 1980's and early 1990's the school roll fluctuated with a clear and sustained resurgence in 1993 when an annual intake of about 200 become an established norm.

Sadly, in August 1995 the main school building which had stood since 1963, was razed to the ground by a major fire. Although the outlying buildings were saved the fire left the school community facing almost three years in temporary accommodation. Crofton Old Hall was again pressed into service and twenty one mobile classrooms were constructed on site. It is worth mentioning that although there were only four weeks between the fire and term starting the following September, not a day of pupil learning was lost. Subsequent re-building and modernisation followed and today the school has state of the art, purpose built facilities for all areas. The most recent major changes have been addition of a fourth ICT suite in Old Hall, and the refurbishment of Mangnall, the Technology Block.

The old *Triton* logo was replaced with the launch of the new Academy. Triton was first introduced in the 1960's. At that time the three main feeder schools for the High School were based in the three villages of *Crofton*, *Sharlston* and *Walton*, hence the three '*tons*' or '*Triton*'. The *Arc* has replaced Triton as we now arc/bridge across a much wider community taking pupils from across the Wakefield District. We feel as we move forward this is a much more fitting symbol of what the Academy is about.

The Academy is looking to start work with pupils, local history groups and local museums to compile a "Crofton Archive". We hope this will result in an exhibition of photographs and written accounts of the School across the years. If you can remember being at Crofton High School, either as a pupil or a member of staff, and maybe have photos or would like submit your memories, please contact andrea.hewson@croftonhigh.wakefield.sch.uk. You can also be added to our mailing list to keep up to date with progress on this project.