

Nottingham High School



NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

1513-2013

BALLS, BOOTS AND PLAYERS

‘... evermore to endure in the Parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Town of Nottingham... for the education, teaching and instruction of boys in good manners and literature.’

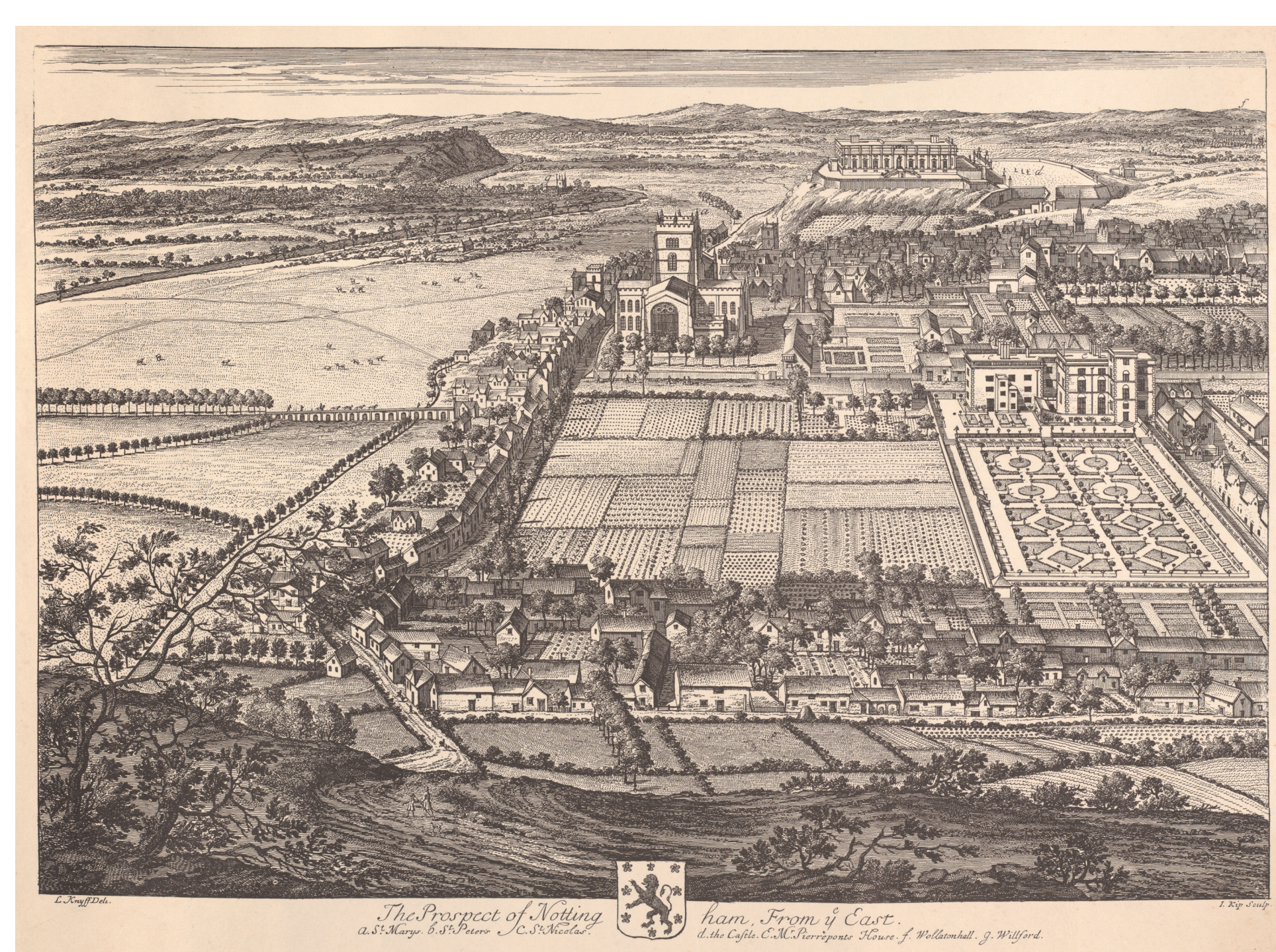
From the Foundation Charter, 1512

Five hundred years ago Dame Agnes Mellers, with the help of Sir Thomas Lovell, Governor of Nottingham Castle, gained permission from a young Henry VIII to establish a new ‘free school’.



St Mary's Church. ©Eleri Tunstall Photography

Her donation of land and property, together with similar gifts from some eighty six other benefactors in the town, including a baker, a fletcher, shoe-maker and tanner, connected the School with the town trustees. This union created stability and enabled her legacy to prevail. From the first, the School was the concern and pride of the inhabitants of Nottingham.



Kip and Knyff, Nottingham c.1709. School on far right

At first boys were taught in the porch of St Mary's Church. The School was built in Stoney Street c.1550, in what became the Lace Market. By 1867 success required the larger premises now occupied on Arboretum Street. The Town Council managed the School until the late nineteenth century.

By the late nineteenth century, the compact market town had become a sprawling and populous industrial city. Many former pupils were the engineers, businessmen and educationalists behind the establishment of the free libraries, societies, museums and the University College that formed the economic, intellectual and social basis for Nottingham's urban progress.



Boys at lessons, 1901



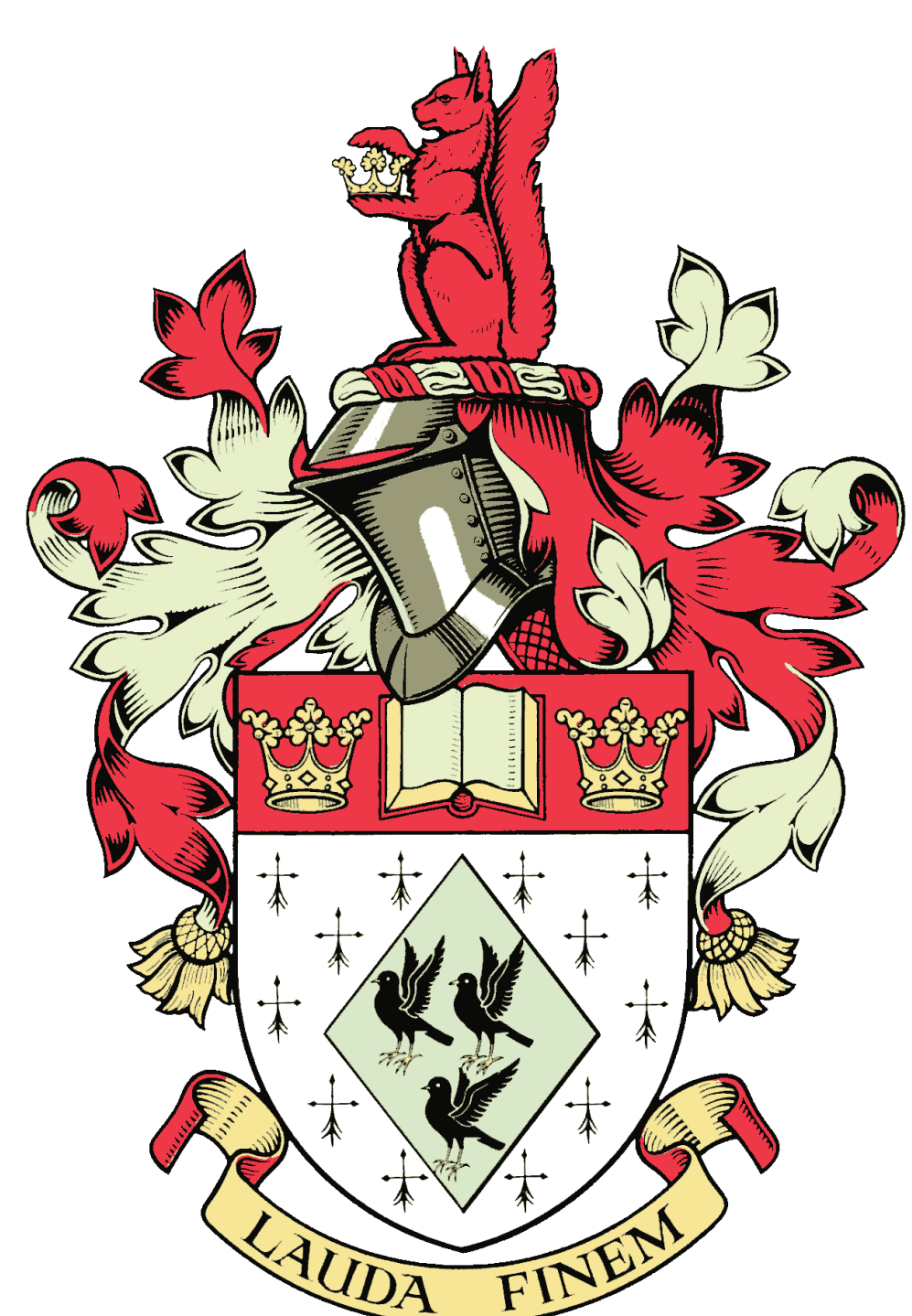
School's out! Late 1950s

This exhibition explores the relationship between Nottingham High School and its community illustrated through the lives of the people who belong to it. From lace to Lawrence, from public service to sporting prowess, from groats to government grants, the history of the High School is inexorably intertwined with that of the city which founded it.



Nottingham High School, 2012

The display has been curated by Nottingham High School working in collaboration with Manuscripts and Special Collections at The University of Nottingham.



Nottingham High School Coat of Arms

These arms incorporate those of the School's founder - three blackbirds (merles) for the Mellers family. The squirrel is from the crest of Sir Thomas Lovell. The ermine shield indicates royal favour. The motto 'LAUDA FINEM' translates as 'Praise the end' or 'Praise her intention' and can also be found on the School blazer badge.

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