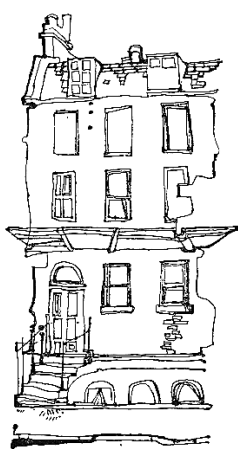


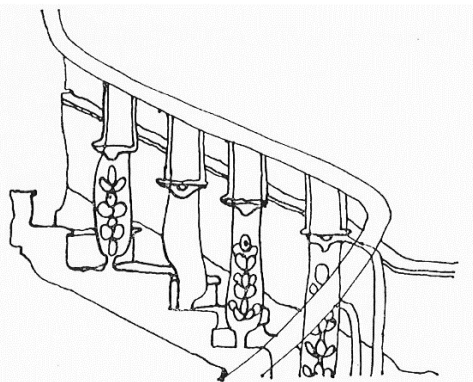
Camden School for Girls

Founder's Day

Frances Mary Buss founded **Camden School for Girls** in January 1871. It was her second school after founding North London Collegiate School in 1850. The school began in the family home on Camden Street near Mornington Crescent and started with just 40 girls. It cost 4 guineas to attend.



Founder's Day evolved from the **prize days** which were held annually by both schools during the lifetime of Frances Mary Buss. On the 4 April 1879 the Princess of Wales (later to become Queen Alexandra) who was a patron of both schools officially opened North London Collegiate School at Sandall Road to present prizes and at this point the ceremony became known as Foundation Day. On this important occasion Miss Buss said *'I want in future Foundation Day to be always a day of importance in the year'*.



After the death of Frances Mary Buss in 1894, Foundation Day became Founder's Day in remembrance of Frances Mary Buss as well as the school's many benefactors.

The ceremony resembled the format we still celebrate today with music, hymns and psalms and an address by the headteacher. The daffodil has long featured in our floral arrangements and posies as it was Miss Buss's favourite flower. The posy that we wear is composed of a daffodil as well as flowers that are purple, green and white to represent the Suffragette colours. Purple stood for loyalty and dignity, white for purity and green for hope.



During the 1930s the swimming pool at Kentish Town was used for Founder's Day celebrations as the school site at that time on Prince of Wales Road was too small. According to student Vera Crocker: -

"The school was too small to hold the parents as well, so we held it in the Prince of Wales Road swimming baths - sitting precariously on planks stretched across the pool. We secretly hoped that one day a plank would give way and someone would fall in the water - but it never happened. Miss Wright's eagle eye was on us throughout - pain of death if you moved your head during one of the speeches"

On the **23 March 1956** Camden School for Girls celebrated its first Founder's Day at the Sandall Road site and later that year in October an official opening of the school by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester (pictured below) took place.



Some fifteen years later on **15 January 1971** the school marked its 100 years anniversary with a service of thanksgiving that took place at Westminster Abbey. Students were driven down from Sandall Road in coaches to this ceremony.



In 2020 the school celebrated Founder's Day virtually due to the pandemic and again in 2021 in the year when the school

reached its milestone anniversary of 150 years since founding. Celebrations still took place against all odds in separate zones around the school with a pre-recorded service that echoed through the school's corridors.

Our 2022 Founder's Day celebration is therefore the first time since 2019 when we be able to celebrate in person and promises to be a joyous occasion.



Doris Burchell, past headteacher at CSG, writes in her book 'Miss Buss' Second School' that Frances Mary Buss spent her life in preparing a pitch on which she knew, right from the beginning, she would never play and who when encountering opposition was heard to say: -

"We may not get there, but others will"

