

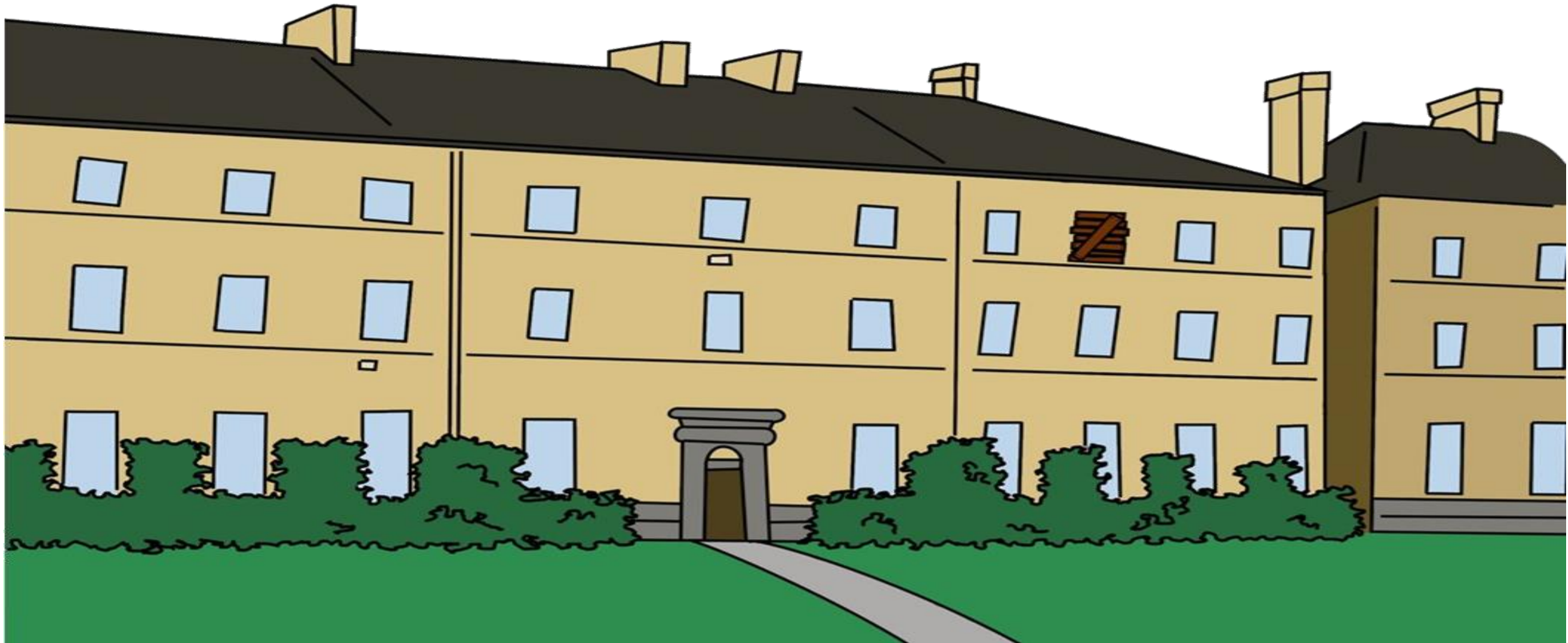
# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# A052 -- THE PLAYING FIELDS OF ETON -- FEBRUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC # 052... TODAY, WATSON AND I  
WILL DISCUSS THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF OUR TIME.*





IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE GREEK INTERPRETER,'  
I NOTED MY COUNTRY SQUIRE ANCESTRY, AND IN  
'THE ADVENTURE OF THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL' I  
ATTENDED UNIVERSITY FOR TWO YEARS.





*IN A STUDY IN SCARLET, I WAS PURSUING  
INDEPENDENT STUDIES AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S  
WHEN YOU AND I MET.*



*GIVEN YOUR GENTRY BACKGROUND AND ACCEPTED PRACTICES OF THE TIMES, YOU MOST LIKELY ATTENDED EITHER OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE...*



**...FOR THOSE TWO UNIVERSITY YEARS, AND TO PREPARE YOU FOR SUCH STUDIES, WOULD HAVE ATTENDED ETON PRIOR TO THAT TIME.**



*WHILE BOYS AND GIRLS MIGHT BOTH BE EDUCATED AT HOME FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS, PRIMARILY THROUGH GOVERNESSES OR VISITING TUTORS...*





**...MOST MIDDLE- AND UPPER-CLASS FAMILIES SENT  
THEIR BOYS TO COMPLETE THEIR PREPARATORY  
WORK AT A 'PUBLIC SCHOOL.'**



**THESE SCHOOLS WERE 'PUBLIC' IN THE SENSE THAT THEY WERE OPEN TO BOYS REGARDLESS OF RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND, PROVIDED THEY PASSED ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS AND COULD PAY THE TUITION AND BOARDING FEES.**



*IN THE VICTORIAN ERA, THERE WERE SEVEN BOARDING SCHOOLS: ETON, HARROW, WESTMINSTER, RUGBY, WINCHESTER, CHARTERHOUSE, AND SHREWSBURY.*





**TWO ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS IN LONDON  
EDUCATED BOYS DURING THE DAY: ST.  
PAUL'S AND MERCHANT TAYLORS'S.**



**BY THE BEGINNING OF THE 1800s, MANY OF THESE SCHOOLS HAD DETERIORATED TO TEACHING LESS-THAN-IDEAL SUBJECTS USING POOR METHODS, AND OVERLOOKING SEVERE BULLYING OF YOUNGER BOYS BY THE OLDER ONES.**



**THEIR MAIN FOCUS HAD BECOME TO TRAIN YOUNG BOYS TO BE GENTLEMEN WITH PROPER MANNERS AND DICTION, AND THOSE IN THE UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS USED THEM AS A MEANS OF UPWARD MOBILITY FOR THEIR SONS THROUGH THE CONNECTIONS THEY MADE WITH THE COUNTRY'S ELITE.**



*SHIFTS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN  
THESE SCHOOLS WERE EPITOMIZED BY  
THOMAS ARNOLD, HEADMASTER OF THE RUGBY  
SCHOOL FROM 1828 TO 1842.*



*HIS BELIEF IN MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE AND THE ADDITION OF MORE MODERN PRACTICES, SUCH AS ART EDUCATION TURNED THAT SCHOOL'S LAGGING REPUTATION AROUND.*





**OTHER SCHOOLS FOLLOWED THIS EXAMPLE... EMPHASIS WAS ALSO PLACED ON SPORTS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A BOYS' DISCIPLINE AS WELL AS LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK, CRICKET AND 'FOOTBALL' (SOCCER), BEING THE MOST POPULAR.**



**THE QUOTATION (DISAVOWED BY THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON) THAT 'THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO WAS WON ON THE PLAYING FIELDS OF ETON' REFERRED TO THIS SENSE OF LOYALTY AND MAINTAINING COMPOSURE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.**



The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.

(Arthur Wellesley)



THE 'STIFF UPPER LIP' OF THE VICTORIAN GENTLEMAN WAS TAUGHT THROUGH SUCH LESSONS IN DISCIPLINE.



*DESPITE SUCH EFFORTS, REFORMS CAME SLOWLY TO  
THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD.*



**WHILE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS HAD CREATED SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE RUDIMENTARY INSTRUCTION TO THOSE IN THE LOWER- AND WORKING-CLASSES...**

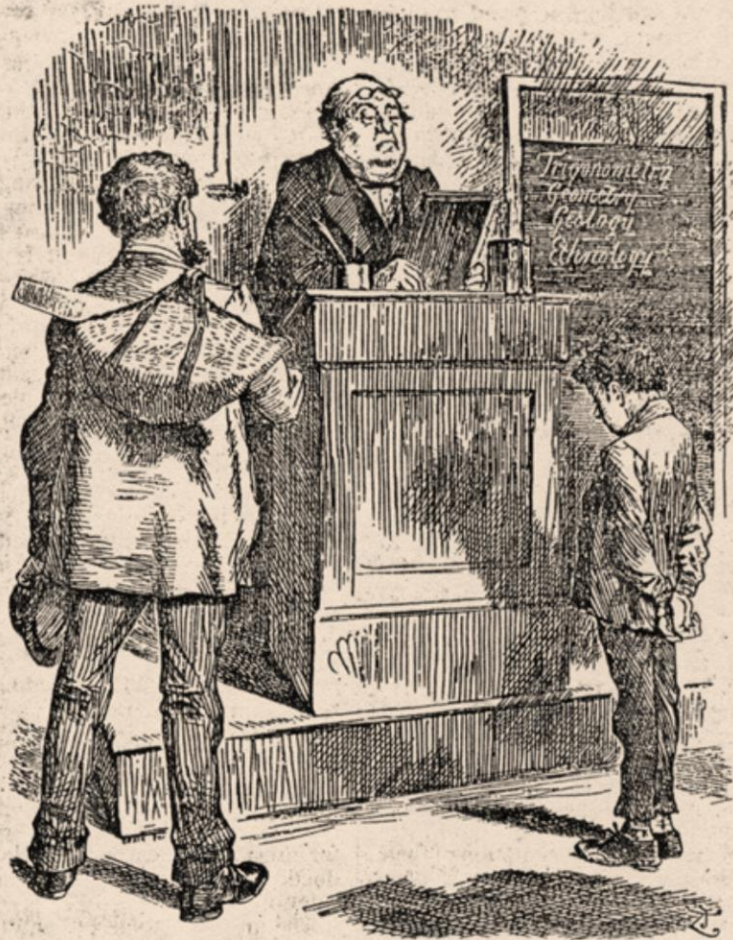


*...OFTEN THROUGH SUNDAY SCHOOLS OR RAGGED SCHOOLS—AND PRESSURE ON THE STATE GREW TO CREATE A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.*



**THE TAUNTON COMMISSION (1864-1868) DEVELOPED A PLAN FOR A SERIES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH INSTRUCTION DEPENDING ON THE GOAL (TERMINAL STUDIES, TECHNICAL STUDIES, OR ENTRANCE INTO A UNIVERSITY).**





THE SCHOOLMASTER OF THE FUTURE.

(And the sooner we get him the better.)

BATMAN WORKMAN. "BOTHER YOUR 'OLOGIES AND 'OMETRIES, LET ME TEACH HIM SOMETHING USEFUL!"

THE EDUCATION ACT OF 1870 LED THE WAY TO FREE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.





LATER EFFORTS SUPPORTED AN INCREASE IN SCIENCE, RAISING THE AGE FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION, AND ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL STUDIES BUT AN EMPHASIS CONTINUED TO STRESS THE TRADITIONAL ACADEMICS THAT INCLUDED LATIN AND GREEK.



*YOU COULD HAVE ENTERED ETON, OR ANOTHER  
PUBLIC SCHOOL, AT ABOUT AGE 13 (OR 1867).*



AFTER AN EXAMINATION BY THE HEADMASTER,  
YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO A FORM  
(GRADE) AND PERHAPS BEEN SELECTED BY AN OLDER  
BOY TO DO ERRANDS...



*...AND CHORES WITH THE GOAL OF BEING GIVEN  
GUIDANCE AND FRIENDSHIP... AT ETON, TWO OF THE  
SIX-FORM BOYS WOULD BE SELECTED AS PRAEPOSTOR.*



*THESE AND OTHER OLDER BOYS IN SUCH  
POSITIONS RECEIVED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN  
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT.*



**BY THE TIME YOU LEFT, YOU WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED A MORAL CODE, EMPHASIZING TEAMWORK, LOYALTY, OBEDIENCE, AND COMMAND.**



*SUCH TRAINING APPEARED IN MY CONDUCT  
TOWARD MY CLIENTS, BUT PERHAPS MOST  
IMPORTANTLY IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU.*





WHAT BETTER WAY TO DESCRIBE OUR FRIENDSHIP  
THAN BOTH TEAMWORK AND LOYALTY?





SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 052 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 053, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT MY TIME AT UNIVERSITY.



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

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