



Anniversary Pin

400 YEARS OF EDUCATION AND 70 YEARS OF COBHAM SCHOOL



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NOTRE Dame School in Cobham was buzzing with great excitement on Monday.

Not only was it the school Feast Day but also celebrations commenced to mark the 400 Years Anniversary of the Company of Mary, Our Lady the oldest recognised educational order devoted to the teaching of girls, to which this school belongs.

Double celebrations are taking place at Notre Dame in Cobham over the next 12 months as the school enters its 70th year. The Sisters who bought Burwood House in Convent Lane after seeing an estate agent's advertisement then opened the school in 1937.

Bridget Williams, head-teacher of the senior school, said: "Our Mass on Monday, concelebrated by Bishop Kieran Conry and Bishop Bernard Longley together with Canon Tony Clarke, Parish Priest, and priests from the diocese marked the beginning of a number of exciting events to celebrate both of these special anniversaries – 400 years and 70 years.

"Each girl has received a commemorative gold pin, a new stained glass window has been commissioned for the school Chapel and a special prayer book will be presented to each girl.

"A new wine from the grapes of Landiras, a vineyard in

Bordeaux that St Jeanne's family owned and tended has been laying down and a bottle of this will be given to each family.

"Notre Dame has plans for our various choirs, orchestra and concert band from the Prep and Senior areas of the school together with parents and staff to go to Bordeaux to perform in the Cathedral there.

"This is where St Jeanne established the first school in 1607.

"Some students will be going to Rome to perform next year. However, before that, a group of sixth form students are going to teach, work and help children in the most recently established Company

of Mary, Our Lady School in Albania – The Rainbow School – a school that has been built to educate Christian and Muslim children alongside each other.

"St Jeanne was certainly forward-thinking and visionary when she realised that girls needed a quality education to become accomplished young women able to take their place in the world of work, business and academia and still enjoy family life.

"This is a wonderfully exciting time for all concerned with Notre Dame in Cobham and the Company of Mary, Our Lady institutions all over the world as we celebrate 400 years of female education."