



THE MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL OF ART formerly known as the Secondary School of Art, began life in Byrom Street central Manchester in the early 1950s.

The school quickly outgrew its premises and very soon moved to a new location in an old Victorian ex-magistrates building on Southall Street opposite Strangeways Jail.



From there the school rapidly established itself, and by the mid-1950s offered pupils who had passed the national 11-plus exam a unique and progressive form of secondary education. This consisted of a standard academic curriculum coupled with a strong emphasis placed on the visual and applied arts. Further entrance opportunities were offered to pupils who had failed the 11-plus exam, but had successfully passed the later two-stage 13-plus examination.

Pupil intake initially centred on primary and secondary inner-city schools which was later extended to include schools and talented individuals from Greater Manchester and beyond.

The school continued to grow and pursue its unique educational agenda throughout the late 1950s, 60s, and 70s. However, in the early 1980s, following changes to council education policy and the high cost of maintaining an old and run-down building, a decision was taken to close the school. This created a storm of controversy with protest groups of parents, teachers, pupils and supporters lobbying the council to keep the school open, but to no avail. The school finally closed in 1984 and the buildings were later demolished.

‘PUTTING ON THIS EXHIBITION IS A WAY OF SHOWING OUR FONDNESS FOR THE SCHOOL WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE ROLE IT PLAYED IN SHAPING OUR VARIOUS CAREERS.’

Existing High School of Art pupils and the new intake was moved to Nicholls High School in Ardwick to continue their secondary education.

THE HEADMASTER



Central to the school's success in developing and implementing this arts-led approach was its charismatic headmaster, Ernest Goodman. Affectionately known as 'Benny' - after the American jazz musician - Ernest Goodman was the Manchester High School of Art. He and his inspirational teaching staff inspired generations of students who passed through the school, and to this day speak with great affection for a head whose visionary approach provided pupils with a very unique form of secondary education - the like of which we are unlikely to see again.

In 1969, Ernest Goodman was awarded the MBE for services to secondary education. For ten-years he was chairman of the arts committee of the Schools Council, and wrote and lectured extensively on art education. A friend to artists LS Lowry and Harold Riley, he also founded Salford Art Club.

Following a distinguished career and lengthy retirement, Ernest Goodman passed away in September 2007 aged 89 years.



THE TEN OF

TED BATES
REG CALVERT
STEVE CAPPER
NEIL COCHRANE
DAVID EDWARDS
PHIL HUGHES
JOHN MCCOMBS
RON MCSWEENEY
DAVID RALSTON
HARRY ROBERTSON
EXPLORAMUS