

When you join Watford Girls, you will be joining a school steeped in over 300 years of history, with a passionate commitment to providing girls with the best education possible.



The Watford Free School, as it was originally called, was founded by Elizabeth Fuller of Watford Place.

DAME ELIZABETH FULLER'S STORY

She was a forward-thinking, ambitious woman who was passionate about giving poor children – who couldn't afford to go to school otherwise – the chance for an education.

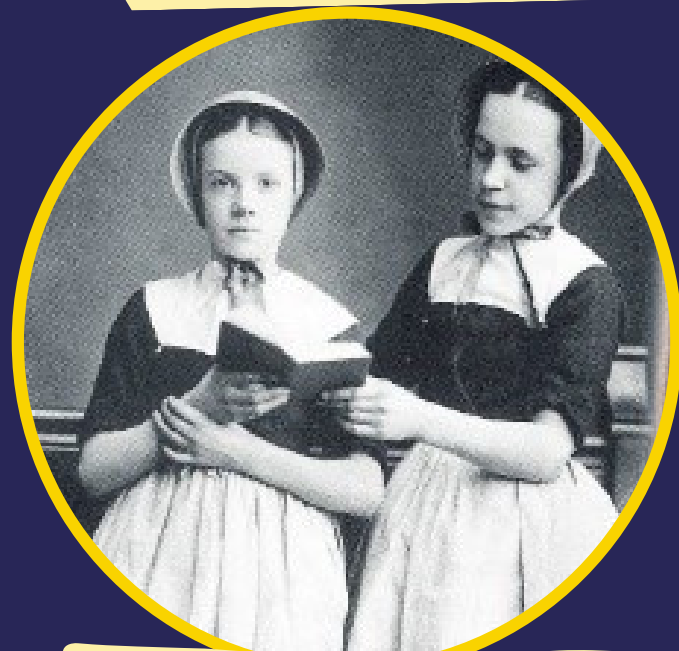
In 1704 she oversaw the opening of The Free School next to St Mary's church in Watford. The purpose of the Free School was to educate 40 boys and 14 girls aged 7-14.

Dame Elizabeth Fuller died in 1709 but in her will she left instructions and money to provide for the ongoing funding of the Watford Free School. This included the grand sum of £8 (£840 in today's money) for the girls' mistress's annual salary and £20 (£2,100 in today's money) for the boy's master.



Despite being on separate sites, the boys' and girls' schools maintained their close ties and still share some teaching and extra-curricular opportunities.

Today we have over 1,200 pupils on our roll. Many aspects of our school are unrecognisable from Dame Fuller's time, but some things remain the same, including our commitment to providing every girl who walks through our doors with the best education to allow her to achieve her potential.



This Victorian photograph shows girls wearing the original school uniform designed by Elizabeth Fuller. We've updated it a bit since then!

An ambitious, independent-thinker ahead of her time, Dame Elizabeth Fuller typified our maxim:
"I can do it and I will do it."

DID YOU KNOW?

St Mary's Church is still standing near our school. You will have a chance to visit during your time here.



As the school continued to flourish and grow, a decision was made to separate the girls school. In 1906, the Governors bought a site in Watford Crescent including two houses called Ashby House and Lady's Close. Lady's Close is still used today by the English department.