



The photograph above shows the Preparatory and Kindergarten Department at Lincoln Christ's Hospital Girls' High School (LHS) in 1913. The Department opened in May 1903, and the Editorial in the Easter 1903 edition of the LHS magazine wished '...all success to our new Preparatory and Kindergarten Department...May our new branch flourish, and be the means of furnishing the parent School with recruits for Form VI in days to come.' The magazine also recorded that the branch opened in St Catherine's, which would '...save the down-town little ones the long journey up to School.' In 1904 the 'Branch Kindergarten', as it was called, consisted of 18 children, all of whom took part in a pre-Christmas programme of marching, songs, games, recitations, drill and a piano solo by Nora Foster.

In the Easter 1913 edition of the LHS magazine, Headmistress Lucie Savill's report included a reference to Miss Welch, who had left the School to study methods of teaching young children in London, and that she would return to take charge of the Kindergarten in the following January. Without knowing the exact date of the photograph, it is possible that Miss Welch is the teacher in centre stage, although Miss Savill also makes reference to a Miss Bradley who, by inference, might have taken over in Miss Welch's absence. There are also several references to the Fröebel methods of teaching young children, and it seems that the work of the Kindergarten was heavily influenced by his philosophy and methodology. It was Fröebel who coined the term 'Kindergarten', and his methods are still widely practised in Germany and elsewhere.

The Kindergarten and 'Prep' Department at LHS later moved from its St Catherine's site to the main School, where it thrived for some 40 years before the 1944 Education Act signalled its demise, and it suffered a staged closure in the late 1940s. Its final location was at Greestone House (see photograph below). For more information please see 'Item of Interest 9' from the Garton Archive, on the Prep at Lincoln Girls' High School.



IN GREESTONE HOUSE GARDEN.

