

George Gascoigne School - Linking the old with the new

By Bill Bayliss ([email](#))

A number of your correspondents mention both *Walthamstow Central* and *George Gascoigne* schools. These are actually the same building at different points in time. I have an interest in **George Gascoigne/South Walthamsow Central School**, because my mother in law was a pupil there from 1935 until 1939. She had actually passed the examination to go to the local Grammar School (**Walthamstow County High** – the Green School), but her parents said that they couldn't afford to provide her with the school uniform etc. In truth, they probably could have struggled to afford it, but she was a girl and at that time many working class people didn't think that 'higher' education was as important for a girl as it was for a boy.



Walthamstow Central/George Gascoigne school in Queen's Road. (2007).

Queens Road Board school opened in 1900 with accommodation for 1,434 children. In 1920 a central school, late re-named as **George Gascoigne school**, was formed from the Boys and Girls departments. The infants department closed in 1936. In 1920 the senior departments of **Queen's Road elementary school** were reorganized to form the **South Walthamstow Central school**. It was renamed as **George Gascoigne** in 1933 and took over the infants building in 1937. By 1948 it had become a mixed school and was finally closed in 1966.

Sometime later, the various school premises were used for many years as an Educational Resource Centre for Waltham Forest (Known locally as the **Teacher's Training Centre**) and in the last few years the building has been demolished and a new purpose built Primary School & Adult Centre has been built. This provides places for 630 pupils (This is to replace the smaller nearby **Edinburgh Road Primary School**) and a refurbished nursery block. The upper floor of the building is to be used as to provide a 200 place adult **Community Learning & Skills** facility for the Borough and there is also a **Sports and Main Hall** facility for all users. The Primary School is in use and the picture below shows the new **Edinburgh Road Primary School**

building complex. If you would like to see some pictures of the interior etc visit the school website at <http://www.edinburghschool.moonfruit.com/>



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