



3. Modern Educational Evolution

Council Acquisition: Kent County Council (KCC) purchased the site in 1957 for £12,000. It served as a home for the elderly until 1975 before becoming Portal House School in 1977.

Major Redevelopment (2014–2016): Facing closure or relocation to Thanet due to aging facilities, the school was instead rebuilt on its original site after local pressure to preserve its history.

Architecture: The current modern building designed by KSS Group includes a new three-storey teaching block and a sports hall.

Heritage Preservation: The project involved the sensitive refurbishment of the original 1840s building to integrate it into the contemporary campus.

The school now operates as an 11–16 secondary facility specifically for boys with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, serving approximately 80 pupils.

By MT 9H

