



CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL

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Chatham High's Emblem – The Griffin – installed in front garden – 5/10/12

Our emblem is the griffin. In fact many elite colleges, universities and schools around the world also use the griffin as their emblem.

History

Chatham High School's first Principal, Kel Kelsey decided that the griffin would make an excellent school emblem as it **displayed the qualities that represent our school. Soldiers from the local area are reputed to have carried an emblem of a griffin into battle during the First and Second World Wars as a symbol of courage and strength.**

Ron Mellen, a retired art teacher drew the original griffin design that was used in our school emblem. The griffin is a mythical creature with the face, beak, talons and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. Its body is blessed with the speed, flight, and penetrating vision of the eagle and the strength, courage, and majesty of the lion.

In some traditions, only the female has wings. A griffin's nest is reputed to be made of gold while its eggs resemble agates. There are also reports that griffins came from a variety of places including Northern Russia, Ethiopia, India and Nepal.

Our new griffin is unique

It was donated by Year 12 2012 with help from staff and huge backing from Edstein Creative Stone. In fact, Nigel Ferguson CEO of Edstein Creative Stone deserves huge thanks. Nigel and Edsteins have backed the project from the beginning and have been extremely generous in their support of our school. They have given us an amazing discount and have been involved in all aspects of the project.

The griffin was carved in China from white granite by artist Jian Zhikun. It took him a full week to create our griffin. The town where it was carved is called Chongwu Town and the factory is Hongxing Stone.

Crane operator, Les Page from Coastal Crane Services used his crane to lower the griffin into place at no cost, and noted that the griffin and its pedestal weighed 1600 kilos. The dimensions of the actual griffin are 800x800x700W. Overall, with the pedestal included, the griffin stands at over 1.7 metres.

OUR MOTTO

"SEMPER INTREPIDI" roughly translated from the Latin means "ever undaunted". "It is to be hoped that we at Chatham can give those words real meaning in a spirit (though not necessarily manner) similar to the soldiers that originally took the griffin into battle." (Quote from Kel Kelso, 1st Principal)

Neil Locker