

Fred William Farr Jones School Reports

CR3087/8/1-8

Document of the Month for July is a series of school reports belonging to Fred William Farr Jones. The school reports run from 1910 to 1913 and give us an insight into subjects that would have been studied around this time.

50 THE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL, STRATFORD-ON-AVON. Established 1881. CR 3087/8/1

Report for the "MICHAELMAS" TERM, 1910

Name Jones Fred W. Form. III

SUBJECT.	NUMBER IN FORM.	AVERAGE AGE.	POSITION IN FORM.	REMARKS.
Divinity	XV	12	2	Good. J.A.P.
a. Grammar	XV	"	1	1/2 Good. J.A.P.
b. Composition	XV	"	2	1/2 Good. J.A.P.
c. History	XV	"	2	1/2 Good. J.A.P.
d. Literature				
Geography	XVI	"	1	1/2 Good indeed. W.S.H.
French	XXII	13	7	Much progress made. J.A.P.
Latin				
Arithmetic	XV	12	3	Good. J.A.P.
Mensuration				
Algebra				
Euclid				
Science				
Shorthand				Position in form 1st. J.A.P.
Spelling	XV	12	1	1/2 Good. J.A.P.
a. Freehand	XII	"	3	Good
b. Geometry	XII	"	6	Good & Much improved W.S.H.
c. Perspective				Is an intelligent boy & a good worker. Will no doubt make his mark in the school. J.A.P.
d. Machine				
Building Construction				
Conduct				1/2 Good.

John A. Fresh Principal.

Fred William Farr Jones report for the Michaelmas term, 1910, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR3087/8/1

The Commercial School, Stratford-upon-Avon

Frederick William Farr Jones attended The Commercial School, Stratford-Upon-Avon, which was established in 1881¹. The school was advertised as a one that “provides a sound commercial and modern education”.² A ‘commercial school’ is one that has been set up to teach and train in a specific trade or skill which can be used in the future for financial gain of the pupil³, more commonly known now as a ‘business school’.

An extract from the Leamington Courier in 1906 indicates that the school had vast recreational grounds measuring 16 acres, including football and cricket fields and tennis courts⁴.

The Commercial School in Stratford-upon-Avon was known as the Choir School, due to the subsidisation by the vicar of fees for choir boys attending the school⁵. Although this sounds like a kind and generous act from the vicar, he was very strict with the choir boys and was quick to expel them from offer if they became troublesome. The school also offered boarding, and those who took this on stayed with the headmaster, John Priest, at his property on Guild Street. The school was closed down in 1891 after the headmaster and the vicar had a disagreement, and the boys who were attending the school were given a scholarship to attend the grammar school instead. Priest then transferred his renamed commercial school to premises in Greenhill Street.

Fred William Farr Jones

¹ Leamington Spa Courier, Friday 11th May 1906 accessed via British Newspaper Archives [Accessed 23/06/2022]

² Leamington Spa Courier Friday 11th May 1906 accessed vis British Newspaper Archives [Accessed 23/06/2022]

³ Information gathered from <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/commercial-schools> [Accessed 23/06/2022]

⁴ Leamington Courier Friday 11th May 1906 accessed via British Newspaper Archives [Accessed 23/06/2022]

⁵ Information gathered from Stratford-upon-Avon, Portrait of a Town written by Nicholas Fogg, page 180

Fred William Farr Jones was born in 1898 in Bidford to William and Eliza Gwinnette Jones. He was baptised in the Parish of Bidford on 23rd October 1898⁶. He had two sisters named Brenda Gwinnette and Edna Kathleen. Brenda went on to have a successful career in teaching after attending Alcester Grammar school between 1914 and 1919.

In 1899, the school leaving age was raised from 11 to 12⁷, meaning that during the time of the school reports shown, Frederick William Farr Jones was not actually required to be in education at all, as he would have been over the age of 12. As well as this rise in the leaving age, there was also an increase in the age at which children were allowed to go out to work. In 1903, the Employment of Children Act was passed, which allowed local authorities to create restrictions on sending children to work until the age of 16⁸, allowing them the opportunity to gain a more thorough and proper education.

⁶ Information gathered from <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=S2%2FGBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FPR-NONEXC2%2FBIDFORD-ON-AVON%2FDR0602-01-00224&parentid=GBPRS%2FWARWICKSHIRE%2FBAP%2F001814223> [Accessed 23/06/2022]

⁷ Information gathered from <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/history/timeline.html> [Accessed 23/06/2022]

⁸ Information gathered from <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/history/timeline.html> [Accessed 23/06/2022]