

Our Heritage



An Educational Institution for young girls will be established in the Kingdom and erected in Milano. It will be called “Royal College for Young Girls”, as a donation from our Imperial Palace of St Cloud, the 19th September 1808.

Napoleon and, for the Emperor and King, the Minister Secretary of State Mr. A. Aldini.

This is how our more than bicentenary history starts. The Napoleonic foundation established a school that had to teach “religious and moral values, the principles of domestic economy, Italian and French, arithmetics, geometry, history, music, drawing, dance, embroidering”, and anything that could complete a useful and refined education” (2nd article of the Royal Decree). In memory of the Foundation, a bronze statue of Napoleon dressed as Roman Emperor was sculpted by Angelo Pizzi, a follower of Antonio Canova’s neoclassical style. The statue is located in the central court of our school.

The Royal Decree of 1861 by King Vittorio Emanuele II introduced a four year elementary course followed by three (four since 1875) years of studies. The traditional subjects that were considered necessary for the proper education of young girls (as described in the 1854 Milano Guidelines) were preserved, together with the teaching of German and French. In 1865, the Institute moved to our school’s current location, the historical Palace Archinto, located in via Passione. The Government had acquired it from Count Giuseppe Archinto, who had dilapidated his wealth entrusting the French architect Nicholas Auguste Thumeloup to build and decorate the building.

In the early XIX century, with the Italian national reform of State Education, five years of elementary school, followed by three years of primary and four years of secondary school were introduced. Our school was at first a “Scuola Magistrale”, for the formation and training of school teachers. After the Second World War, it was replaced by the current Liceo Classico and Liceo Linguistico, which focus on humanities, the former with more emphasis on classic (Greek and Latin) and the latter on modern languages and cultures (English, French and Spanish). The primary and junior high school have been preserved, together with an optional boarding accommodation for girls.

On the 10th of march 1986, under official request of our Board of Directors, a Presidential Decree dedicated the school to the memory of Emanuela Setti Carraro dalla Chiesa: an inspirational young woman from Milano, very active as a volunteer nurse and involved in humanitarian causes. She was killed by the Mafia on September 3rd 1982, together with her husband, the Prefect of Palermo, General Alberto Dalla Chiesa.

In 1993-94 our school was selected to introduce a new course of studies, the “European Liceo Classico”, which since then has been offered together with the Liceo Classico and Liceo Linguistico. Meanwhile, the traditionally all girl institution has opened also to boys, who now attend both primary and secondary levels. Professor Giorgio Ragusa has been our Headmaster since 2014.