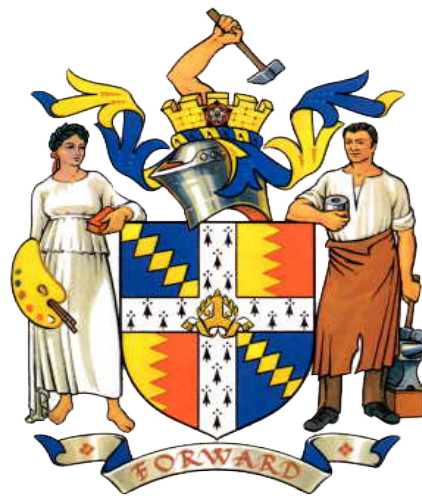


SCHOOL FIGHT AGAINST CLOSURE



Following surprise proposals to reorganise Secondary Education in Birmingham and close the school, in 1968 parents formed Friends of Moseley Association to argue for its preservation. Increased public awareness doubled applications for the entrance exam from prospective pupils, but the Education Committee continued with their planned changes.

In 1972 The Friends of Moseley Art School Association was formed

Students, teachers and parents protested together by all available means. Increasingly militant methods raised public awareness in the city. 99% of the school's parents signed forms of protest.

In December, the Pupil's Action Committee and 50% of the school aged 11-18 marched on BBC Pebble Mill Studios and drowned out the live television broadcast in the morning. Direct action caused their views to be widely reported.

The next month a Paint-In was organised at the Bull Ring where 4000 leaflets were circulated explaining objections to the planned amalgamation to a comprehensive school four times the size. Public identification of the school was helped by 'Keep Moseley Art School' badges and car stickers made by 6th form students.

Promotional cavalcades and Public Meetings were arranged

Finally, a booklet 'The Truth About 492' was produced to give to every councillor at the fateful City Council meeting on 10th June 1975, that enclosed letters of support from Henry Moore to Mary Quant.

Parental choice and a proven educational value were insufficient reasons to prevent the annihilation of a school that did not fit the political dogma.

In 1975 under the pressure of comprehensive education and political dogma, the school was effectively closed. What followed was a difficult final year. The Pupil's Action Committee prepared a lock-in as a protest. It was the end of an era.

