

Charles Windsor's Schooldays

UK TV documentary : 19 : dir. : ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
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Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5391	1½	1	3	386	-	-	3	-	-	No	Unseen



Schooldays are the best days of your life – six of the best, in this case
Source: The Corporal Punishment Archive

The Corporal Punishment Archive note:

“This British TV programme marking the Prince of Wales’ fiftieth birthday took a look back at his (in the main unhappy) schooldays. Corporal punishment was commonplace at Prince Charles’ preparatory school, Cheam in Berkshire, and contemporaries remembered

whackings with the cane and a bat-shaped paddle. One ex-Cheam pupil recalled that boys invariably had to drop their thick flannel short trousers if a paddling was ordered, ensuring that the standard dose of three whacks would really sting, and one such punishment was recreated in the programme.”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "How Sweet It Was", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. It would have been nice to know what else the programme touched upon, beyond the public school sport of buttock-blazing, especially in light of the fact it seems improbable the future Prince of Wales would have been subjected to such indignities. But since we're on the subject – royal-watching achieved new levels of frenzied obsession in the tabloids following Charles' marriage, and the birth of his two sons, so that when Princess Diana famously gave the small Prince William a light smack on the bottom following a school football match, the photograph made front pages around the world. It was of course that frenzied tabloid interest which directly caused the violent death of the selfsame Princess Diana, but they would prefer us to forget that. Even the staunchest of republicans cannot but have some sympathy for the royal family, perpetually under the glare of that ravenous and unscrupulous horde.

The vagaries and foibles of private schooling – especially, but not exclusively, for boys – has been the meat and drink of numerous TV documentaries, to such an extent that Jonathan Miller pointed to it as illustrating a persisting class snobbery at the BBC. See subject index under **ARISTOCRACY / ROYALTY, BOARDING SCHOOL / PUBLIC SCHOOL, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** and **DOCUMENTARIES**.