

Heritage

Sir John Gresham founded Gresham's School in 1555 in the reign of Mary Tudor.

Born in Holt in about 1495, he came from a north Norfolk family. He was a prominent member of the Worshipful Company of Mercers and traded in textiles and grain across the North Sea. He also imported

goods from France, Crete, Portugal and the Levant.

Much of his fortune derived from money-lending and, towards the end of his life, he helped start the Muscovy

Company to trade with Russia. Sheriff of London in 1537, he was knighted by King Henry VIII. During his career he worked with both Cardinal

Wolsey and Thomas Cromwell.

The year before he died he started to hand over various grants of property and funds to establish a free grammar school in Holt.

It was to be governed by the 'Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Fishmongers'. The Fishmongers' Company still plays a vital role.