Heritage

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

Born in Holt in about 1485, 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 grants of property and funds to help the end of his life, he started to hand over various companies to trade with Russia. 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 homes and schools 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.