The doors opened wide in 1889 when fifty-seven new students enrolled at the School. Among those enrolling were W.S. Boyd from Ripple Creek, [Herbert River] who went on to achieve a first class honours degree at the University of Sydney as well as winning the University Medal for General Proficiency; E.C. Earl from Cooktown who later became a long standing mayor of Cairns with the suburb of Earlville named after him; and R.L. Henderson [Ingham] who studied medicine in Edinburgh and Dunedin before winning the Military Cross in World War One.

Over the next few years the School opened the doors to many students who went on to make their mark in society. J.D. Henry enrolled in 1890 and has the distinction of enrolling more times than any other student in Grammar's history. He enrolled again in 1894 and after failing his Junior Examination enrolled again in 1896, again without success. After serving in the Boer War, before becoming an opera singer, he enlisted in World War One winning the DSO and OBE [Military] and being MId on three occasions. F.T. Perkins [Mackay] enrolled in 1891 and has the distinction of being Head Boy for four years. After graduating from the University of Sydney he was appointed Head of the Armidale School and in 1915. He was later appointed the Founding Head of Cranbrook School in Sydney. Two further prominent enrolments in the early years were John McKelvey [Ravenswood] and Fred Timbury [Charters Towers]. Both McKelvey and Timbury were Dux of the School in their final years and both went on to study at the University of Sydney. McKelvey became a well-renowned surgeon in Sydney.