

1) INTRODUCTION TO JOHN JENNINGS'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS ACADEMY

This unsigned document was written by John Jennings to a parent of a prospective student. It describes the subjects studied at the academy, gives information about other activities and details the financial cost of attending. This information matches accounts of Jennings's academy by Doddridge. The document is not dated but internal evidence dates it to during or after 1719. His remarks about the Trinity and subscription refer to debates at Salters' Hall in 1719 (Wykes, 'Subscribers and Non-subscribers at the Salters' Hall Debate'). References to his *Miscellanea* (1721) 'Now printing' indicate a terminal date of 1721. The item – a folio-sized single leaf – forms part of the collection of documents gathered by the Blackmore family from the 1880s onwards and now held by Dr. Williams's Library. It is therefore assumed to be an account written by Jennings and sent to John Blackmore, whose son Francis Blackmore (b. 1700 or 1703) actually attended Findern academy and the university of Glasgow. Writing fills one side, and the sheet has been turned over, inverted and inscribed for approximately one quarter of the available space on the verso. The paper is slightly ripped where it has been glued onto the page of the guard book. The paper is folded in the manner of a letter, indicating that it was enclosed with a letter which is now lost. The hand resembles that of the notebook NCL MS L. 185, which belonged to John Jennings. A later hand has written in the guard book above the sheet 'An account of Mr Jennings method of education'.

This document, which is the earliest known source of information on the teaching at John Jennings's academy, can be compared to Doddridge's 'Account of Mr Jennings's Method'. The two accounts agree in most of the details they share, and should be read together. This is the first time the letter has been published, and it has not previously been analysed.