John travelled alone from Kensington, London to study at HAC in 1913. His student card records he was 17 years old when he entered HAC, and that he "Arrived by S.S. Orana This boy has no Father". He studied on the Piggery for 6 months then enrolled in the Diploma Course. John was 19 years old when, on 18 August 1914, he enlisted as an infantryman in the 3rd Battalion. He served on Gallipoli and was killed there on 19 May and buried on the 20th in the Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, Turkey, where he still lies today. One of John’s elder brothers, Alfred Copplestone Walden Vincent, a Captain in the 5th Dorsetshire Regiment, was killed 26 September 1916.