

# Then & Now...

NOTRE  
DAME  
SCHOOL



## Celebrating 80 years in Cobham and 410 years in the world

November 2017



### A message from the current Heads

■ Notre Dame School is delighted to share this commemorative newsletter to celebrate 80 years in Cobham. Following a strong tradition of providing education across the world over the last 400 years, the school in Cobham opened its doors in 1937 and continues to strive for excellence as we reach 2017 80 years later.

There have been many changes over the last eight decades but our passion for education, community, Catholic values and experience remains the same. We are dedicated to providing our pupils with the best possible start in life from Nursery to Sixth Form.

Here's to the next 80 - may we continue to thrive and enjoy each and every day.



'In our 80th year, we are excited to be growing as a community. Our nomination for 'Senior

School of the Year' in the *Times Educational Supplement* Awards is the start of a very exciting year ahead for us.

*Anna King*

Anna King, Senior Headmistress



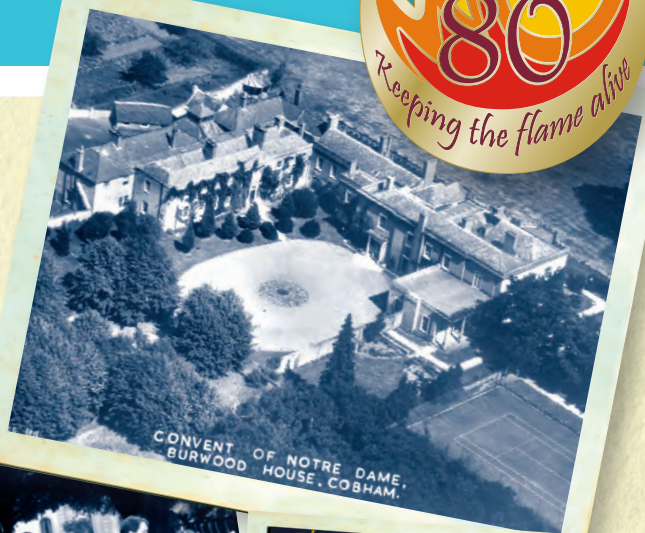
'As we celebrate 80 years of Notre Dame School in Cobham, we continue to ring the changes.

Welcoming boys into Reception, our continued growth in the Prep School and a thrilling *TES* nomination all point to a fantastic 2018.'

*Merinda D'Aprano*

Merinda D'Aprano, Prep Headteacher

*Notre Dame has been in Cobham since 1937*



CONVENT OF NOTRE DAME, BURWOOD HOUSE, COBHAM.



### Oak tree marks 80 years of Notre Dame

■ Accompanied by Sisters of the Company of Mary Our Lady, staff and pupils, Prep School Head Merinda D'Aprano planted a commemorative Oak tree on Friday 17th November to mark the school's 80th anniversary. It is of course not a coincidence that oak is the symbol which signifies 80 years.







May procession with Sister Mary Agnes Kerr, circa 1960

"I have never forgotten the teachers who helped me. The headmistress, Sister Faith Ede, was my stalwart and my form tutor, Sister Maria, was a sweet, lovely lady I could always rely on."

**Fi Tillman (1987-1991)**  
Team GB Wheelchair Basketball athlete



May procession with Mr David Plummer, 2006

Now I look back and I can see how valuable the time I spent here really was. If only I could go back and do it again.  
Linda Townsend

I adored school here & had some great times! Very fond memories!  
With love,  
Alexandra Bradwell  
1981 - 1994



School Choir, 1952

"I have a huge amount of love and respect for the school and Sister Mary Agnes, who encouraged me to take the career path I really longed for."

**Linda Timothy, (1977-1983)**  
Advisor to Petroleum Industry



School Choir, 2017



Boys - so what's new?

"The school taught me to grab every opportunity and try things outside my comfort zone."

**Francesca Edwards (1999-2013)**  
Acting Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force

Fond memories of Notre Dame, 1944-53. On this day of the fete 20/6/69  
Mike Glynn



Mike Glynn, aged 10



Boys are back in town!

"The competition for an apprenticeship was fierce, but thanks to the skills I learned at Notre Dame, I think they could see that I was independent, self-motivated and passionate about fashion."

**Anna Forbes (2003-2016)**  
Assistant Garment Technologist, New Look



Prep Prize Giving, 2017

Fondest memories of all the Sisters from all the years! The last of your boarders! Especially Sister Patricia Kelly.  
Fondest love  
Cecilia Flores  
Denny & Vini Brettilson  
Luisia & Theresa Swart  
Caroline Williams  
& Kim Deane Davis  
Dey.



Prep Prize Giving, 1968





## WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE SCHOOL?

### Reception

'I like playing with the dinosaurs.'  
'I like writing in my book.'

### 3B

'I like my friends.'  
'Everyone is kind to one another.'  
'All the teachers are so nice.'  
'Everyone has someone to help them.'

### 6C

'Because it's fun and you get to learn lots of new things.'  
'It's challenging, exciting and fun.'  
'There's never a dull lesson.'

### Year 7

'I love all the facilities.'  
'The teachers focus on you and how you can improve every day.'  
'Each day is exciting and I look forward to every week.'

### Year 9

'It's very family orientated.'  
'My friends and teachers made me feel very welcome from the start.'

### Year 13

'I love the amount of support and individual attention we receive from teachers.'



Leavers, 1956

"Notre Dame prepares us well for the workplace and I know how to listen, be interested and take feedback."

**Alicia Cox (1998-2011)**  
Assistant Private Secretary to Baroness Shields, OBE,  
Minister for Internet Safety and Security



Senior Prize Giving, 1969



Senior Prize Giving, 2017

To all the Sisters,  
Congratulations on this momentous anniversary.  
It is wonderful to come back and see the school looking splendid and you all unchanged.  
Love Victoria Combe  
+ I bring greetings from my sister Rachel now in Portland, Oregon + Natalie Meddings + Lisa Say.

Had such a wonderful education and childhood at Notre Dame.  
I am very lucky to be able to send my two daughters to have a fantastic education also.  
Thank you for all the happy memories.  
Tracey Lehmann (Wright)  
16-81



Leavers, 2006

"Notre Dame gave us the confidence to mix with all kinds of people, to put others before ourselves and always work hard, be reliable and achieve success."

**Trish Winter (1963-1966)**

What a lot of lovely happy memories and I'm so glad my daughters Kate & Rose & Octavia were able to follow me here and now I live in the home! Thank you so much Love Theresa (Terry Vicary)



1955 intake

Although not long since we left, so wonderful to be welcomed back again. Such a special school and such amazing memories. Forever a Notre Dame girl!  
Rory Blingstone  
1999-2006



2015 intake



Infant Nativity, 1950

"I'll always be grateful to Mrs Heathcote-Yorke for helping me get a place at Oxford to study languages. We still stay in touch."

**Michele Farmer (1985-1990)**  
French and Spanish Teacher



Netball, 1960

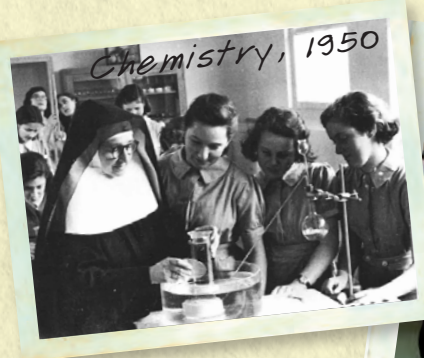


Netball, 2017



Senior Production, 2017





Notre Dame gave me so much & gave me some of my most happiest memories. I am so grateful to the staff - for all their hard work.  
Emily Muggall



"I am so grateful for all the encouragement of the sports staff at Notre Dame. I am still pinching myself that I made it to Loughborough University and have just been elected Captain of the netball team for one of the strongest halls on campus."  
Catherine Harrison, (2007-2017)

Brilliant to be back at the school to see all that has happened. Many memories from the years I was here.  
Alex Inwood (formerly Tennison) 1996 - 2002



"The most valuable thing I have taken away from my time at Notre Dame is the 'can do' attitude every girl is taught."  
Ellie Keighley Elstub (2006-2013)  
Training as a lawyer at Linklaters



Such happy memories... I'll never forget Notre Dame.  
Hanna Hassan X 1998 - 2005



Brilliant memories from a brilliant school! Great to be back!  
Love Danielle Ladley. 1998 - 2005.





# A Timeline of the Heads, from 1937 to the present day...



1937-1946



Rev Mother Marie  
Madeleine Jary ODN

1937-1959



Sister Mary Josephine  
Kearney ODN

1959-1987



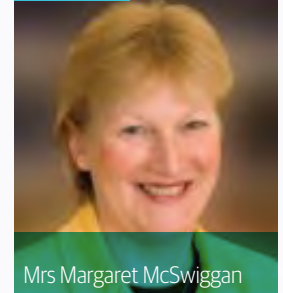
Sister Mary Agnes Kerr ODN

1987-1999



Sister Faith Ede ODN

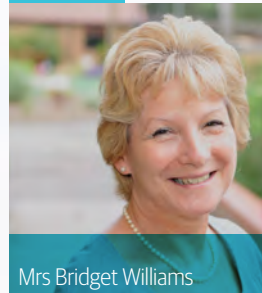
1999-2003



Mrs Margaret McSwiggan

## Senior School Head Teachers

2003-2013



Mrs Bridget Williams

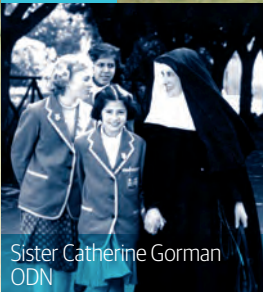
2013-



Mrs Anna King



1960-1966



Sister Catherine Gorman  
ODN

1966-1969



Sister Majorie Hughes ODN

1969-1977



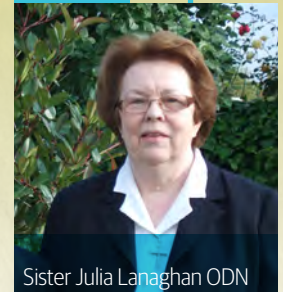
Sister Faith Ede ODN

1977-1986



Sister Anne Bayley ODN

1986-1998



Sister Julia Lanaghan ODN

## Preparatory School Head Teachers

1998-2001



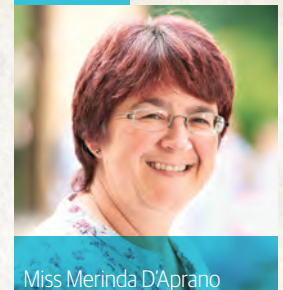
Mrs Elaine Brook

2001-2013



Mr David Plummer  
(Principal from 2013 to 2015)

2013-



Miss Merinda D'Aprano