School Memories Lisa Thomas (nee Gregory)

Infant School 1964-1967, Junior School 1967-1972

Attended Shirley Infant School from Autumn 1964 until Summer 1967.

Attended Shirley Middle School from Autumn 1967 until Summer 1972.

We were the first group of girls to join the boys junior school in 1967 when Mr. Wheeler was Head Master. Consequently most of our teachers were male including Mr. Wiffin, Mr. Deadman, Mr. Shuker, Mr. Spratley.

I recall being in a wonderful choir with Mr. Spratley and winning the schools choir prize at Central Hall.

In the last few years at Shirley Middle School Mr. Wheeler retired and Mr. Barrett took over. I recall being in Mr. Gavin's class during my last year at the school. I particularly remember the encouragement and support I received from both Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Barrett which I found very motivational.

I later studied at Southampton Girls College and Southampton University where I gained an M.Sc. I went on to study Personnel Management at Southampton Institute of Higher Education and am a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

My roles have included Head of HR, UK and Ireland Operations - B.A.T., Lecturer at Southampton Solent University and HR Director at I.C.M.

Over the last few years I have trained as a psychodynamic counsellor becoming a member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists. I work as a volunteer counsellor at a charity-based counselling organisation.

I have been married for 20 years to Professor Richard Thomas and we have two beautiful daughters, Louisa Margaret and Georgina Elizabeth.

I remember my time at Shirley School with great fondness and believe that the school culture encouraged an appetite for learning and success.





