

My time at Trinity Grammar School 1944 – 49 by Joy Riley (nee Thompson)

I took the 11+ examination and duly passed and was given a place in Trinity Grammar School.

Trinity Grammar School was situated at the beginning of Bounds Green Road, at the top of Jolly Butchers Hill and behind St. Michael's Church. The headmaster all the time I was there was Dr Emrys Jones. He was an enormous imposing man in height as well as girth. As he swept through the corridors with his gown billowing out behind he fill all the available space. He could silence a class with one look but he was very fair and well respected. His nickname was Doccer.

The building was in the middle of the site with a playground either side, one for boys and one for girls. There were two staircases in the building, again one each for boys and girls. In class we were seated each side of the room and the dining room was also similarly divided. We did meet occasionally though!

In September 1944 I started in Form 1c. The form mistress was Miss Shaw but she was not there very long as I remember. She taught French and after she left I was deputed to write a letter to her telling how we were getting along. So far so good but then I found out that I had to write it in French as she had gone to France to teach English!

The settling in period included finding my way about the school which appeared vast after the junior school, getting used to the seemingly huge numbers of very large boys and girls; there were 600 pupils and learning to call all the staff Sir or Madam. Assembly was held every day in the hall and you were allocated your place to stand according to your form. Assembly always started with a hymn, followed by the Lord's Prayer and then a talk by Dr. Jones on whatever subject he chose. Often it was a stern reminder of what was allowed and what was not in the way of behaviour in and out of the school especially when in uniform. Once he was so incensed about the slovenliness of some of the boys that he stood up and thundered "all boys will wear black collars and white ties and nothing else!" Fortunately he realised what he had said and he and the whole school dissolved in to gales of helpless laughter.

The first year was fairly uneventful. There was no streaming at this stage. We were given a couple of years to settle before the classes were rearranged. However life became hectic in the second year as form 2C was based in the Music Room. That meant that we had to go to the form room of whichever class was taking music at the time. This resulted in having to carry all the books required for the morning or afternoon around with us. I believe this is quite usual these days but then we each had our own large desk in which we kept all our books etc. We did get used to it after a while but to add insult to injury we were allocated the Biology Lab as our form room for the third year. Perhaps they thought that as we were used to traipsing round the school we should carry on! It was a marginal improvement as most Biology classes were double periods, which meant that we didn't have to trek around quite so much but it was still a hassle.

By this time we had been assessed and the third year pupils had been allocated to 3 Science, 3 Arts, 3A and 3B. For some reason that I have never fathomed to this day I was put in the science form. We had extra chemistry and physics that meant nothing to me and in retrospect I think I would have done better in the Arts class. In those days the teacher was supposed to know everything and one did not query these decisions. Despite this I did quite well and held my own in the form, generally being in the top half dozen at the end of each term.

My time at Trinity Grammar School 1944 – 49 by Joy Riley (nee Thompson)



Form 4sc Trinity Grammar School

When we came to discussing careers I said I really wanted to be a teacher and that I loved English. To achieve this I needed to take Latin which was, of course, not included in the Science course. There were half a dozen of us who would need Latin to pursue our career objectives. We were given Latin textbooks, an empty classroom and a few minutes guidance and were then expected to teach ourselves! A couple of them did mainly, I think, by working at home and having older siblings to help. Mainly though we messed around and I must have had a minus mark for my exam! Of course I would have also had to go to university to fulfil this dream but that was out of the question

There was very limited sport at school at that time. Our playing fields were situated in White Hart Lane and were about a 10-minute walk away. During the war the tennis courts and most of the field had been dug up for allotments. By the time I reached the fifth form things were beginning to get back to normal and tennis and hockey were being re-introduced. The main sports that we girls could play though were netball and rounders.

Netball was played in the playground. There was a pitch marked out in the girls' playground but it was surrounded closely on three sides by the school buildings so all matches were played in the boys' playground. I was in the school team and played Centre Attack. Playing in the boys' playground was a definite advantage especially when against a girls school. They were so unnerved by the presence of boys watching them that we nearly always won!

There was just about enough of the playing field left for the rounder's pitch. It did not matter too much that the surface was not perfectly flat. I was the bowler in the team and was quite effective. I am left-handed and it seemed to put the opposition off their stride. I had a nasty accident playing against Latymer School. The batsman had put up a high catch and Helen Grint and I ran for it. She caught me in the eye with her forehead and there were fears that I had broken my cheekbone. Fortunately this was not the case although my eye was completely closed for several days and I had a real shiner for a long time. Needless to say we dropped the catch!

My time at Trinity Grammar School 1944 – 49 by Joy Riley (nee Thompson)



The Rounders Team



1948 Netball Team

Back Row – Miss Parsons, Irene Briers ?, Stella Nurthern ?, Joyce Thompson, Pat Hudson.
Front Row – Shirley Powell, Sheila Wilson, Helen Grint, Betty Green.



Under 14s Netball team

Back Row - Shirley Powell, Irene Briers ?, Mrs Brandon, Sheila Wilson, Betty Green.
Front Row - Helen Grint, Pat Hudson, Joyce Thompson, Stella Nurthern ?.

My time at Trinity Grammar School 1944 – 49 by Joy Riley (nee Thompson)

There were no school trips then, as travel was limited at the end of the war. I believe there was a visit arranged to France towards the end of the fifth year but it would have been too expensive for my parents.

I left school at the end of the fifth year when I was sixteen after Matriculating. I was very sad to leave but my parents were not well off and could not really afford for me to stay on for another two years in the sixth form. Possibly if I had passed the Latin exam they might have struggled to manage.

FINAL REPORT.	
FORM: 5 ^{SC}	Date of Exam: July 1949
STANDARD ATTAINED:	Matriculation
SUBJECTS	STANDARD ATTAINED
ENGLISH	credit
ENGLISH LITERATURE	credit
HISTORY	Credit
GEOGRAPHY	Pass
FRENCH WRITTEN	credit
" ORAL	Pass
ELEMENTARY MATHS	credit
BIOLOGY	credit
 Ernest E. Jones Head Master	

This was the last year of Matriculation – it then became the School Certificate. The headmaster, Dr Jones, saw each pupil individually to tell them their results. He commented that I was only a couple of marks short of getting a Distinction in Biology.