

Message from Laurie Pate in August 2020:

I came across the Trinity Grammar School website by accident, having previously input to both TOSA and Friends Reunited, which no longer exist. Any chance the original folks there might have some stuff?

I used to have some school magazines from the late '50s to early '60s, plus a GCE Prize award book, but they seem to be somewhere "safe". I also have some photos.

For the record, I was a 1st year for 1956-7, 2nd year in 1957-8, 3rd year in 1958-9, 4th year in 1959-60, 5th year in 1960-61, lower 6th in 1961-62, upper 6th in 1962 to Xmas 1962 when I left to join the big wide world - a very good decision looking back.

I can add a bit to a couple of points. When I started in 1956, I was in Form 1c, and located at the White Hart Lane annex together with Form 1d, as there was insufficient room at the main school. For the first term, our classroom was also used for evening classes, and fitted out with typist desks and stow-away typewriters. These were great as every now and then a bored pupil would be pushing the typewriter space bar and get found out when it "tinged" at the end of the line. (Well not always found out - as owning up was frowned upon). This was great until I found out my cousin was attending the evening classes and found my exercise books, leading to lots of teasing.

I can also add a bit to the joining with Glendale and the creation of the comprehensive. This started with my father being annoyed at the possible disruption to my education caused by the merger, and he wrote a letter to this effect that was published in the local Wood Green newspaper, (1960-61). The then headmaster Mr Dalrymple was very sympathetic and called my father to the school. The result was a second letter to the newspaper with much criticism of the local education system. This was almost certainly written by Mr Dalrymple though signed by my father. It stirred up quite a bit of to and fro in the newspaper, but no change in the outcome of course. The event probably had an effect on my confidence at the combined school, as I left after one term. At the time, the new building wasn't finished, so this was still at the Trinity building. The new headmaster, Dr. Fishlock was a very different character to Mr Dalrymple.

I will take a longer look at the detail on the website as I can provide some names, I think. There could be some picture captions that I might query.

Laurie Pate (Buckinghamshire)