

Mick Ashton, Chemistry, My Time at Trinity and What Followed

I was a pupil at Trinity Grammar School from 1957 to 1962, at which time it became Wood Green Grammar School. I enjoyed my time at Trinity but it was not a happy time at Wood Green Grammar. Mrs Cooper was a fantastic Maths teacher and our class did very well at O level. Mr Stevenson was a nice chap but chemistry was not his strength, fortunately my grandfather was a graduate chemist and helped me. My painful moment was when I was justifiably caned by headmaster Dalrymple for smoking inside the bike sheds. My glory moment was when Mr Gunn, who was a great sports teacher, sent me on a weeks football course during the summer at the Bank of England ground at Roehampton. We were all boys from London and were coached by Billy Wright, Walter Winterbottom, Gordon Jago and Jimmy Hill. Unfortunately Mr Gunn left in 1962 as did nearly all the good teachers, and my sixth form was a disaster. I left and got a job as a lab technician. Interestingly Fred Howson, who was also a very good teacher, said I might if I worked hard become a technician. Well after one year in Industry I went to Hatfield Poly and gained a first class degree in Chemistry. I was then offered a place at Oxford University to undertake a D. Phil in chemistry working under the supervision of Sir Ewart Jones, who was the professor of chemistry. I went back to industry as a research scientist in drug research, which was a very challenging and satisfying career. I pursued my career in France and the USA and finished my career as Vice President of Worldwide Medicinal Chemistry.

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