

My Memories of Sydenham School

Your Name	Alison
When were you at Sydenham?	1969 - 76
Can you remember any of your teachers' name?	Mrs Stammers, Mrs Kingston, Mrs Webber, Mr. Persad, Mrs Bapshaw, Mrs Whitaker, Mr Maine, Mrs Pipe, Miss Hotham, Miss Yiannagi
Who were your fellow students?	Yvonne L, Susan D, Christine I, Sarah S.
What events can you remember?	<p>6th Year Rag week – Having “superstars” coming to the school and the whole school screaming!!</p> <p>April fools – being told we were going to be joining with Forest Hill and everyone believing it</p> <p>Beryl Kingston (a fantastic teacher).</p> <p>Day trip to Calais – leaving really early- I helped in the nursery as part of my child care course (the very first) and went in to give extra time but my childcare was taking place, I forgot oops! (Been a nursery nurse for 10 years now!)</p>

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Your Name	Theresa (Tess)
When were you at Sydenham?	1952 -1958
Can you remember any of your teachers' names?	Miss Lyall, Mrs Bridges, Miss Butler, Miss Whitehead, Mrs Sharp
Who were your fellow students?	Diana W, Pat W, Carol P, Judith D, Maureen F, Toni H.
What events can you remember?	No Girl was allowed to walk across the balcony in the 'old' school hall until they were in the 6 th form. There were plots of land near the "Dining Unit" for girls to garden. The Dining Unit housed the original kitchens. There was a hockey field right across the back of the school, now built on. After the field went we were trusted to go to Anerley to play hockey. Very cold there!

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Your Name	Sheryl
When were you at Sydenham?	1975 - 1979
Can you remember any of your teachers' names?	Miss Roberts (Maths) best teacher ever. Miss Keleen (Head of 6 th form) Miss Friend (Chemistry) Mr Shaw (Physics a level) Mr Holbrook (History) Colm Dean (coached hockey)
Who were your fellow students?	Penelope J, Tracey P, Marion T-R, Melanie D, Ellen R, Maria T, Adrianna B Teresa T, Anita C, Amanda B, Jo C, Lee M, Anne M, Sarah C.
What events can you remember?	<p>Sydenham took very good care of me when I arrived there mid term in Oct/Nov 1975, having come from Jamaica, to join the family in London. They arranged for a lovely group of girls to look after me, some of whom I am still in touch with now. Miss Roberts, Maths teacher for O and A Level was just about the best teacher ever – but I don't know how she fares now in these days of parental choice and smoking bans. The room she shared with Mr Persaud (Head of Maths) was a smoke filled den and she didn't exactly suffer fools. It was such a big school, bigger than it is now, especially for me – My school in Jamaica was less than a quarter of the size and very traditional. Soon after arriving at Sydenham there was a vote on whether or not to keep the school uniform! I couldn't believe it, I was the only one my friends to vote for the uniform – such a square. I have very fond memories of the place and of the teachers. It was a time of punk and marches – rock against racism etc and we were very political. Most of my friends were active communist or young socialist. The 6th form was great and it is still a mystery to me how Tracey Payne and I managed to go to a week long Forest Hill school</p>

Geography Field trip to Wales when neither were even studying those subjects. The less positive things were: Lack of space/places to meet up with friends in the winter and the very small number of black girls who were in the top classes. I was the only one (or one of them) who did all O Levels and there were only two girls, me and a mixed race girl called Michelle, Who did O level Maths? It was a time of much debate and concern about the underachievement of black children in London schools, and I remember reading an article about it in the new society magazine in the library. I was in the Hockey and netball teams, and we won the S London league twice in Hockey. I couldn't believe how easy it was to get into the teams. At my small Jamaican School we had trials to get in - at Sydenham so long as you waited to play you could probably get into the team. Sydenham served me well as I went on to Oxford to study for a Biochemistry Degree and I've moved to send my daughter there. She's there now!

My Memories of Sydenham School

Your Name	Sheelah
When were you at Sydenham?	1949 - 1955
Can you remember any of your teachers' names?	Mrs Bridges, Miss Walker, Miss Skitt, Mrs Rivett, Miss Hartley, Mrs Mallett
Who were your fellow students?	Muriel C , Margaret F, Jean R, Dorothy J, Sandra S, Thelma L, Jane E, Pamela P, Irene B, Joan C, Sheila H, Joy P
What events can you remember?	Having to file into the hall in silence to be told the King had died on 6 th February 1952. Rehearsals for Speech Days at Lewisham Town Hall – very well drilled! Annual carol services in the local church – usually very impressive with a good choir. Being chased around the grounds by Prefects at lunchtime to fill up any spaces on the first sitting, when you wanted to be with your mates at the second sitting!

My Memories of Sydenham School

Your Name	Rita
When were you at Sydenham?	1947 - 1952
Can you remember any of your teachers' names?	Head – Miss Kinsey, Miss Butler (Maths) Miss Preedy (PE) Mrs Bridges (Science)
Who were your fellow students?	June C, Margaret B, Marina C, Joan W, Hilary G, Barbara G
What events can you remember?	School dinners- Lumpy rice and grisly meat – wouldn't eat either for years! Lovely little "garden" shared with a friend. My father made a wooden sign post with our names on. Bad eyesight but wouldn't admit it. Sat at the back of class so couldn't see blackboard – A wonder I learned anything!!

My Memories of Sydenham School

Your Name	Patricia
When were you at Sydenham?	1953 - 1959
Can you remember any of your teachers' names?	Miss Kimsey (Head) Miss Pomphrey (Eng) Mrs Mallet, Miss Butler (Maths) Miss Platt (Eng) Mrs Hosland, Miss Walker(Maths) Miss Phipps (History) Miss Whitehead, Mrs Evans (Dom Science) Mrs Bridges (Science) Miss Smail (PE) Miss Sharpe(French) Miss Thomas (PE) Miss Valentine (German) Miss Eveson (PE) Mrs Patis (Shorthand)
Who were your fellow students?	Hilary C, Jacqueline B, Diana D, Jacqueline P, Suzanne E, Janet P, Corrine S, Janice S, Eileen L, Janice J, Susan S, Gillian F, Susan A, Susanne M, Sheila G, Lesley G
What events can you remember?	My time at Sydenham was very happy. I was very keen on Games and probably devoted too much energy in that direction! One thing we had to do and something I still do today – was change from 'outdoor' shoes into 'indoor shoes' which had to have white tapes attached (I don't have the white tapes attached these days I may add). In the 1950s it was a very austere time but we still enjoyed ourselves.

My Memories of Sydenham School

Your Name	Marion
When were you at Sydenham?	1969 - 1981
Can you remember any of your teachers' name?	Sheila Bryan, Miss Kelly, Grace Weston, Mrs Zackerwich

My Memories of Sydenham School

Your Name	Jacqueline
When were you at Sydenham?	1969 -1974
Can you remember any of your teachers' names?	Ms Carter, Ms Thomas, Ms Double, Ms Farrington, Ms Able, V Kelly(D Head) Ms Wallman, Ms Eldridge, Ms Fletcher, Mr Wong, Ms Hotham, Ms Duncliffe(Geog) Miss Morley-smith, Miss Phipps. Miss Ove, Ms Clark (Dep Head) Miss Hart, Mrs Zacorwich, Mr Packer (Science) Ms Webster, Ms Page, Miss Jones (French) Mr Leech, Mr Gray (Art) D. Knox, Mrs Disney, Miss McLachlan (PE) Mrs Bryant(HE)
Who were your fellow students?	Patricia B, Deb J, Sue H, Suzette W, Sara S, Deb G, Josephine H, Anne C, Jackie C, Ruth S, Chris E-H, Helen B, Elaine C, Naomi J, Barbara L Kim S, Deb
What events can you remember?	Starting 1 st year with Felt Hat and satchel! Windy and cold in the undercroft. Long skirts, stripey blue/pink/yellow blouses. Making green gingham summer dresses. Trip to Bologne and everyone smuggling back cigarettes. Cubby hole shelves on walkway corridors to hand in homework. Leaving belongings in desk in tutor room safely. Waxy toilet paper. Smokers in toilets. Skating lessons by coach to Streatham. Cold days playing hockey at Anerley. Status Quo coming to visit. Mr Gray, Art teacher smoking in class. "Going Decimal "

Very strange to writing about "Sydenham County Girls" in 2012 when I left so long ago.

I can remember vividly the day I started, with brown satchel, felt hat, blazer with long sleeves and nerves! Going into the Old Building to be told where our form rooms would be then into the new, modern building, amazing at the time.

In 1969 I lived in a 3 bedroomed house with no bathroom or indoor w.c, 7 children and no heating so to come into a warm modern place was fantastic. I had a free bus pass, a brown card from Brockley to school on the 122. You had to behave all the way or "the school" would know if you hadn't and were not allowed to be seen eating or drinking in uniform. The uniform was brought with a grant in the small shop almost opposite Forest Hill Baths.

Lessons included swimming at the baths, old even those days. In later years skating at Streatham was a lesson and you achieved grades and certificates.

I got the impression not much was expected other than an office job or "marriage and children" unless you did well and went to Polytechnic or even College. I did just go into an office job; I now have 3 well educated children and run my own business and have been married for 36 years.

My Memories of Sydenham School

Your Name	Valerie
When were you at Sydenham?	1956-1962
Can you remember any of your teachers' names?	Miss Durno (Music) Mrs Sharp (English) Miss Bakeg (Geography)
Who were your fellow students?	Gillian H, Anne H, Marica V
What events can you remember?	Unfortunately my experiences were not happy. Miss Kimsey being my main reason.