

Class of 1973

50th Anniversary School Reunion at Purbrook Park School

On Saturday 29th October 2016, 52 former Purbrook Park School pupils arrived at the school to celebrate the 50th anniversary of starting at PPS. Cass Castello, former pupil and one of the event organisers reflects on the day:



'We had been planning and looking forward to the day for months. It was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our starting as Year 7s in September 1966 - just after England last won the World Cup - though we called ourselves 'first years' then. We came from far and wide: from Italy, Germany, Malta, Spain and the Netherlands, as well as various parts of the UK.'

'Although we were excited, some of us were also nervous about the day because we hadn't returned to the school, or seen others in our year, for more than forty years. How would we feel about being back in those buildings where we'd spent so many days, weeks, years? Would we recognise anyone else? Would we even have anything to say to them?'



'Well, we needn't have worried. It was great to see the familiar places again. It was also fantastic to meet old friends, once it had dawned on us that they had got older, like us – and once we had recognised who they were! There was plenty to talk about too. We were surprised by how much of the school itself was recognisable - especially in the oldest part, which includes the Headmaster's office. I'm sure that the door on my Year 7 classroom is exactly the one which was there when I was a student! We were impressed by all the new buildings and rooms the school has - with more on the way. We had no Dance Studio and no Sports Hall and I was amazed by the contrast between the library we had and yours. You must get a lot of your information online but we had no computers so our library needed to be twice the size.'

'We all had a fantastic afternoon together at the reunion - even those who hadn't particularly enjoyed their school days. After a while we realised that our time at Purbrook Park School had left us all with quite a lot in common, in terms of our outlook and our approach to other people. We had taken more on board, while we were pupils here, than we had realised before.'

'So, thank you, Purbrook Park School, for having us to visit you once more.'



Thank you to Mr Foxley, Mrs Gulliver, Mr Thomas and his site team for supporting the reunion. A fabulous and very happy afternoon was had by all.