

Anne Piper

Wimbledon High School Headmistress 1962-1982

Mrs Piper was the first married Headmistress of Wimbledon High School, the first with children of her own. Born Anne Alethea Crawford in 1920 in Wandsworth, she attended St Paul's Girls' School, where she was good friends with Rosalind Franklin (later to make a crucial contribution in the discovery of DNA) and continued to be so until Franklin's death in 1958. Anne studied Mathematics at Girton College Cambridge 1939-1942, then worked as a flight test observer for the Bristol Aircraft Company. For two years after the end of the War she was an Assistant Lecturer in Mathematics at Bristol University. She married the artist Michael Piper in 1947, and by 1952 had four children, her husband leaving her to work in Greece. She taught Maths part time at St Paul's, her own school, and Elliott Comprehensive in Putney from 1958-1962.

Mrs Piper was appointed Head of Wimbledon High School in 1962, on Miss Burke's retirement. She saw the school through a very difficult time, with the school moving from direct grant status to independence. Mrs Piper retired in 1982 and died in Putney in 2006. Her obituary in the Guardian said, 'she was admired for her intellect, knowledge of education and forceful personality'.

Further Reading

Link to WHS 1983 magazine p12 on Miss Piper's retirement

http://wimbledonhighschool.daisy.websds.net/Filename.ashx?tableName=ta_publications&columnName=filename&recordId=102

