

The newspaper report of the sad passing of **Heather Ford** at the end of 1994. Fellow staff member **Patricia Blunt** commented: "She was such fun. I missed her terribly. Can still hear her asking if I was " going gallopy, gallopy " when I was going riding" Another staff member, **Catherine Hicks** remembered Heather fondly. "Lovely lady and a great colleague, such a dedicated teacher."

Lucy Marie Dinning remembered her as a brilliant teacher as did **Ru Kotecha**, adding "At the time I didn't appreciate her, but years on I see she was a brilliant teacher with a great sense of humour. Remember clearly her shouting at me in the pool." Betty Ho recalled that "She helped me to overcome my fear of swimming."

Lucy Haverty (Ellison) said " She was amazing. I remember that she had been really excited that we were going to start learning hockey because she would be able to teach us that as she didn't teach lax. It made the thought of not having lax lessons a bit more bearable. I was totally devastated when she died - I remember it so clearly. A few of us had been swimming with her at the pool after school only hours before she collapsed. I couldn't believe it when we were told the next day what had happened. I went to her funeral with a few other children and teachers. I cried so much. When Jack Williamson died a couple of years later our year group was equally upset as he was an awesome teacher too."

"I often think of her now - I used to think the biggest star in the sky was her looking down", said **Fi McCarthy**

Heather Lucie Goddard went to Ms Ford's funeral and remembered it as "such a sad day...and as for Mr Williamson, well the only time I was an A grade student was when he taught me. He used to give us stickers when we did well- we all loved them despite being seniors. Very sad and both gone too soon."

Georgie Salvage (Deighton) I have very fond memories of Mrs Ford and Mr Williamson. I remember the local radio had a best teacher competition and we put Mr Williamson forward. He was so kind. Mrs Ford was so encouraging with sport, along with Mrs Corris. We were so lucky to have such nice teachers. Can't believe she was only 40!

Trish Glasspool (Ireland): "I remember when we were told she'd passed away. We were all gathered into the chapel. She was a lovely woman. Mr Williamson was by far one of my favourite teachers. I was a form captain at the time of his death so was honoured to have represented our class at his funeral."

Hannah Toms (Gale) also thinks of her often too. "The last thing she taught us was synchronised swimming. Very sad."

Image shared by **Rima Warrell (Shuman)**

School's sadness

THE funeral was held today of a popular Brighton teacher who died suddenly earlier this month.

Heather Ford, head of PE at St Mary's Hall School, collapsed after suffering a brain haemorrhage while out with friends.

She died a few days later at Brighton's Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Miss Ford, 40, had been at the school for 15 years and passed on her enthusiasm for sport to hundreds of girls she taught.

David Thompson, school bursar, said: "She was well-liked and a very popular, kind and courteous member of staff. She will be greatly missed."

A memorial service will be held at St Mary's Church, Rock Gardens, on January 20 at 3pm.