



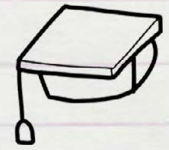
DEBRETT'S EDUCATION

IN A CLASS OF OUR OWN



Old School Ties - Francie Healy

★ **Short bio** - Please tell us a little bit about yourself. Who you are and what do you do now? How long have you been in this role?



★ Head at Bethany School in Kent since 2010 my favourite quotation is ... ★

'It is nice to be important but it is more important to be nice.'

1/ Where did you go to school? Junior / Senior?



★ My primary school was called St Enda's National School and my secondary school was called Mary Immaculate Secondary school. Both schools are in a village in the West of Ireland called Lisdoonvarna.

2/ Have you ever been back to your old schools

- How did you feel?

★ When I returned to my primary school I thought it was very small as I had grown a lot since I had been there previously. It is much changed now and it is a lot bigger. I have never returned to my secondary school because the right opportunities have never arisen.



3/ Do you keep in touch with any of your school friends?

5/x I normally return to Ireland once a year and see three or four of my classmates on each visit.

4/ Do you see them regularly?



★ On average about once a year.

5/ What did you enjoy most about being at school, and what kind of pupil were you?

★ I loved the Maths classes as I was and remain really good at Maths and used to regularly get 100% in tests.

6/ Who/which teacher/s made the most impact on you and why?

I loved my math teacher as she was wonderfully sarcastic to those who were not as quick or as good at mathematics as I was and her dry sense of humour was great to listen to. I'm not so sure I would have the same opinion of it if it had been directed at me! In addition my History teacher was a really nice lady who was also a great teacher and I found History very interesting as a result.

7/ How/ in what ways do you think your school shaped you?

I loved school. School taught me that a good education will open doors in your life and that the sky is the limit to anyone's aspirations. School helped me to become more confident and articulate.



8/ Did you always want to work in education?

If yes – what was it that helped you make that decision,

If no – what else did you want to do – and did you ever do it?

Initially I worked in the construction industry because the money was good and I wanted the freedom that having your own money gave you. After two years I then went to University and I was better prepared than most other pupils due to my two years of hard graft in the construction business.

9/ Did you always want to work in Education? - If yes - what was it that helped make that decision? If no - what else did you want to do? ... and did you ever do it?

The only thing I was certain about when I left school was that I never wanted to set foot in school again as I had enough of education even though I loved school! When I went to university I thought that I might like to be a chemical engineer and I spent some time doing work experience in a chemical engineering factory. I did not like the smell of fumes when the machines broke down and therefore decided that if I wanted a more healthy lifestyle that I should work in a different industry.

Some teaching opportunities then arose and that is what got me involved in teaching initially. I then went on and got some teaching qualifications and I've been teaching ever since.

10/ If you could go back to your 'school pupil self' at any age, what would advice would you give yourself?

I would listen to my parents because they knew what is best for me in the longer term. They always had my back and just because they disagreed with what I might want to do that did not mean that they were not listening to me - they were just not agreeing with me. Therefore the advice is trust your parents when deciding on the next steps in your life.



Thank you