

Caroline Nicklinson - Class of 1979

What were your favourite and least favourite subjects at SVC?

I liked most subjects, especially Biology. My least favourite subject was 'games/Physical Education', more specifically cross country running.

What is your current job?

I retired in August 2017 following a wonderfully rewarding career in Health Care.

What pathway did you take to get where you are now?

Qualified as a Registered General Nurse at The West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds in 1984. I went on to complete an Operating Theatre Course at Guys Hospital. After a short break travelling round Australia, I joined The Cambridge Lea Hospital as a Theatre Staff Nurse and worked my way through to be The Hospital Manager. During these years I completed a Diploma in Professional Studies in Nursing and a Diploma in Management Studies. I was offered and took redundancy, and then went to work for another Hospital Group, BMI, where I eventually became Hospital Manager at The Sandringham in Kings Lynn. After 3 years, I was approached by the Chief Executive of The London Clinic on Harley Street and asked if I would join his team as The Director of Theatre Services. The thought of travelling into London from Ely 4 days a week was initially daunting, but it was such a great opportunity that I grabbed it with both hands.

I spent my final 5 years in Healthcare at The London Clinic and felt my career had come full circle and I left the profession doing what I loved most.

What did you want to do/what were your plans when you left SVC?

It is difficult to know what you want to do when you are just 16 and I don't think I saw myself as a Hospital Manager, especially as Maths was never my strong point. I just knew I wanted to be a nurse.

What advice would you give SVC students when they are deciding what to do when they leave SVC?

Follow your heart, listen to advice but find your own path.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you were 15 or 16 yrs old?

It is difficult to think back to myself at the age of 15/16 and to reflect on what I wish I had known. But I guess I wish I had known to sometimes rely on 'gut instinct' and that common sense gets you along way.

What is your one big memory of your time at SVC (good or bad, or both!)?

I have many memories of Soham Village College, some good and some bad but I guess my one big memory is of one English teacher, I was in her form for 3 years. At the time I thought her harsh but now I am thankful she taught me as some of the discipline she installed in us has stayed with me and has helped me though my career.

