



AKS

INTERVIEW

with
Mr Rudd

Quotes Ruddy lives by:

“Enjoy yourself, it’s later than you think”.

*“Specials AKA” and “Sublimis Ab Unda”
(Risen from the Waves)*

KES Motto



When did you start working at KES?

I started work at KES in 1986. I started as a PE teacher for 2/3 of the timetable and Mathematics 1/3 and as I got older and infirm this gradually became more and more Maths until eventually it was all Maths. I do have a Joint Honours Degree in Maths and PE and so am qualified to do both I hasten to add.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

My PE teachers Bob Dudley Jones and Steve Williams who played rugby for Cardiff and Neath respectively inspired me to become a teacher. I would have run through a brick wall for them both. They turned a troubled soul into someone who actually did well in school in the end. Steve Williams still works at my old school and I keep in touch with him. Also my Year 10 and 11 set 2 Maths teacher Mrs Burgess who picked me up from my disappointment at not being good enough for set 1 and got me an A at O level (there was no A* then).

What are your favourite school memories?

My favourite memories of KES and KEQMS were every victory over Arnold at 1st XV level, every victory over Kirkham in the Fylde 7s even when their teams were full of County and international players. My Under 15 run in the Daily Mail all the way to the final at Twickenham, every round was close and started with yet another victory over Arnold at Arnold. An unbeaten season with the U12's in 1988, an amazing 2nd X1 season beating Kings Macc, Manchester GS and drawing with Sedbergh and starting games with 8 or 9 at times I wonder why? (certain individuals would be able to expand why?). Every trip away with the lads on Rugby, Cricket tours and outdoor Ed all over Britain and further afield. In particular trips with Andy Weston when all we did was laugh and enjoy the company of the students. “What goes on tour stays on tour” was possible as there were no mobile so any misdemeanors were dealt with on tour and so never mentioned on our return. The lads knew that this was the rule and as a result they were given freedom and trust that would never be possible now due to health and

safety. I cast my mind back to Jonesy's camp site in France, the Gaol in Canada and the BBQ at the beach, Mines in Wales, Tossio at the Eiger Bike Challenge, gorge walking in the Dales, final night in Auckland and Christchurch (Johnny you've rung the wrong room), the boat trip in Malta swimming to the Island, the Coast to Coasts, Wet and Wild Newcastle, fireworks in Scotland and the McDonalds Girlfriend, the poor hamster in Cardiff, Frank and his mash potato, every Rosslyn Park National 7s trip, the cricket festivals in London and the sing song in Italy. I need not expand any more.

The long haul tours to Canada in 1989, New Zealand in 1999, 2005 and 2008, Sri Lanka in 2001 and 2015, were experiences that I will treasure particularly coming back unbeaten in 2008. Although each will have their own fantastic memories, particularly the times away from the sports field, with the humour and the company of such wonderful young men and also women when we merged and did joint tours. I loved every minute of their company and really missed them when they were hosted. I took my wife on two of the tours once in 1999 and then in 2001 and she had a ball as well. She actually got quite depressed on our return as she missed the lads so much. The lads looked after her especially when she was unwell in Sri Lanka and she did the same when they were all sun burnt after too much time by the pool in Galle. I have wonderful memories of visits to hospitals in New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Malta, Italy, Ireland, North Wales, Newcastle, and the Lakes, NOT!

Academically I took pride in all of the passes at GCSE that my sets got both at PE and Maths and also the same at A level, starting with Sport Studies and moving eventually to Maths.

Can you share with us any funny or embarrassing moments?

One of the first embarrassing moments was in my first year when marking the Year 9 Maths exam. I managed to mark one question with the answers that were wrong, right, and those that were

correct marked wrong. As it was Year 9 they were then setted using the scores. The staff then went through the papers and found my error and as a result I was moved sets both up and down. Not one of my best times I hasten to add. Needless to say I always got someone more senior to check my solutions from then on.

I had to beg officials not to eject me out of a waterpark in Canada in 1989 after some of the 1st XV persuaded me to join their snake down the slide (I didn't know that they had been warned only to go down on their own previously). As we crashed down at the bottom they held me under the water so that they could get away without being caught.

I don't know if this is embarrassing or something I should be proud of but in my last season at Fylde I got picked in the 1st XV in a team where I had recently coached over half of the players. During the game (that we won) I eventually got replaced near the end by Matthew Wilkinson who had been my 1st XV scrum half just the season before. This had also happened earlier in my career at Fylde. I was dropped for the old Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay who I had coached at Year 9, Year 10 and 2nd XV level at school.

Another one that springs to mind was when driving the school minibus with a trailer for the first time I was escorted by the police from the motorway into the services and asked to sit in the police car. The students all thought that this was hilarious, and I didn't know what was going on. Once in the car I recognised the other policemen as a parent who was killing himself laughing. He then proceeded to video me before sending me on my way.

Another was driving the school minibus out of Kings Macclesfield and relying on the students to guide me only to get too close to the wall and rip the bumper off the bus. Again, the students thought that this was hilarious. Mr Liggett did not!