

Vera Gysin

We were sorry to learn of the death of Vera Gysin who taught Russian at KES from the late 1950s until the early 1973. Vera passed away on 30 October 2009, shortly before her 84th birthday. Her funeral took place on Friday 27 November 2009 at St John the Evangelist Church, Hills Road, Cambridge, with the wake at 28a Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge.

After leaving King Edward's, Vera taught Russian in Cambridge, mainly at the Perse School for Girls, but also the University's Russian for Scientists summer courses. A combination of teaching, family responsibilities and distance meant that she could visit Witley only very occasionally - nothing like as often as she would have wished. We are indebted to the Perse School's alumnae newsletter for the following obituary and linked extract from one of Vera's pupils (and fans):

During her time she worked tirelessly promoting Russian culture to her pupils in the language classroom and beyond its boundaries. Over her thirty years at the school she must have taken hundreds of girls to visit her native land. Other teachers also joined in the trips, along with sisters of Perseans and countless other associates. She encouraged anyone to come and see Leningrad (later St Petersburg) and Moscow, not only those who actually studied Russian with her.

These excursions have left indelible memories with everyone who went. After the Gorbachev era, Mrs Gysin managed to transform these trips into the first ever official school exchange between the UK and Russia, an astonishing achievement. Vera Gysin was also a form teacher, and took an active interest in all her girls, whether or not they studied her language. Mrs Gysin's enthusiasm and commitment could be felt by all. She will be sorely missed by many who were helped by her humanity and who shared in her joy of life.

Please follow [this link](#) to see this and a further article by a former pupil in the Perse alumnae newsletter of April 2010.