



RGS Principal (1961 – 1976) – the late Miss Noel Evelyn Norris



For Rafflesians who studied in RGS in the sixties and seventies, their memory of the late Miss N.E. Norris would be of a dynamic, firm and hands-on leader who made an impact in every area of school life, especially in its extra-curricular and programmes.

Staff and pupils used to marvel at the way she handled the school with efficiency and a willingness to work unceasingly. Her tremendous foresight also marked her as ahead of her time. She was the first Principal to recruit male staff to support her sports programme. She made it compulsory for all pupils to do both Science and Art subjects.

The school continued to produce good academic results, but Miss Norris also believed strongly in an all-round education and leadership for students. Hence, she avidly promoted ECAs, be they sports and games, uniformed groups or clubs and societies.

She started the second Singapore Guide Company which was later expanded and split up to become the National Police Cadet Corp (NPCC) and the National Cadet Corp (NCC). Other groups and clubs that came into being under initiative were softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis and chess, as well as musical groups such as the orchestra, school band, violin club and Angklung group. The Red Cross Unit was also given a new lease of life.

Miss Norris made herself accessible to staff and pupils, retaining their respect while staying informal. She imparted her moral values to students by example. For instance, she encouraged pupils who were financially disadvantaged to attend school, and helped transform the attitudes of better-off pupils towards their less-privileged classmates.

“What amazed me most about Miss Norris was her powerful memory of people and things! She had an eye for detail and knew her staff and pupils very well. She would always listen to their problems and help resolve them. Credit must be given to her for building up our strong ECA network and spirit.” ---- Mr K. S. Goh, teacher who served under Miss Norris from 1966