

PhD Pioneers: The Living Experiences of The Open University's First PhD Graduates

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Dr Joan Whitehead**

Interviewed by: **Elizabeth Currie**

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Clip 1

[00:01:42-00:03:02]

So you mentioned your school days, what was that like then for you?

Well it was very significant, because I went to one of the first comprehensive schools. The West Riding of Yorkshire was very advanced, and felt that comprehensive education was the answer. And so they built comprehensive schools, and I went to one of the first, Colne Valley High School. I was I think one of the second complete cohort to go through the school, and why it was important is because they were very much a school with a mission, and the mission was taking what were very largely working class children into the school, and to encourage them to go onto higher education and things like that. And it was in my view a wonderful place, I enjoyed it very much, and I think it really did encourage a lot of people, particularly of my generation who probably would not have thought of university as being for them, to actually go to university. So that was why it was actually important.