

# St Angela's

URSULINE SCHOOL



2009-2012



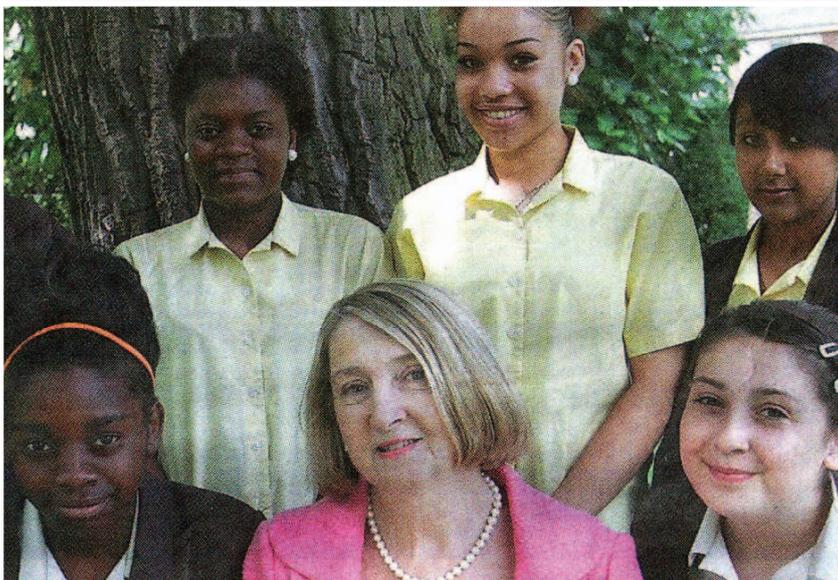
## Delia Smith OBE

Having served the school from 1993 to 2009 as St Angela's first lay Headteacher, Delia Smith not only led the school through an exceptional era in the school's history but also deservedly earned a reputation as one of the country's leading Headteachers resulting in her award of the OBE in 2008. A remarkable leader and charismatic personality, Delia Smith brought her characteristic rigour to the school in one of the most interesting times in education in England.

With the change of government, for whom education was a high priority, through the introduction of Beacon Schools, Leading Edge and Specialist School status, St Angela's under Delia's leadership remained at the vanguard of change. During that era a new generation of staff joined St Angela's, many of whom are now the senior and middle leadership of the school. In her 16 years as Headteacher the GCSE results of the school went from strength to strength and by 2009 the golden standard of 80% pass rates had become a reality, the school had achieved three successive outstanding Ofsted Inspections and the sixth form with St Bonaventure's had grown to 800 students - the vast majority of whom go on to university life each year.

In looking back through Delia's time in the school St Angela's had once again changed through the vision, drive, ambition and spirit of an exceptional leader who, not only, won national acclaim in receiving the OBE but who transformed the lives of a generation of young women with her own indomitable spirit and that of the Ursulines.

Delia Smith went on to join ARK and is currently the Principal of the ARK Academy in Wembley.



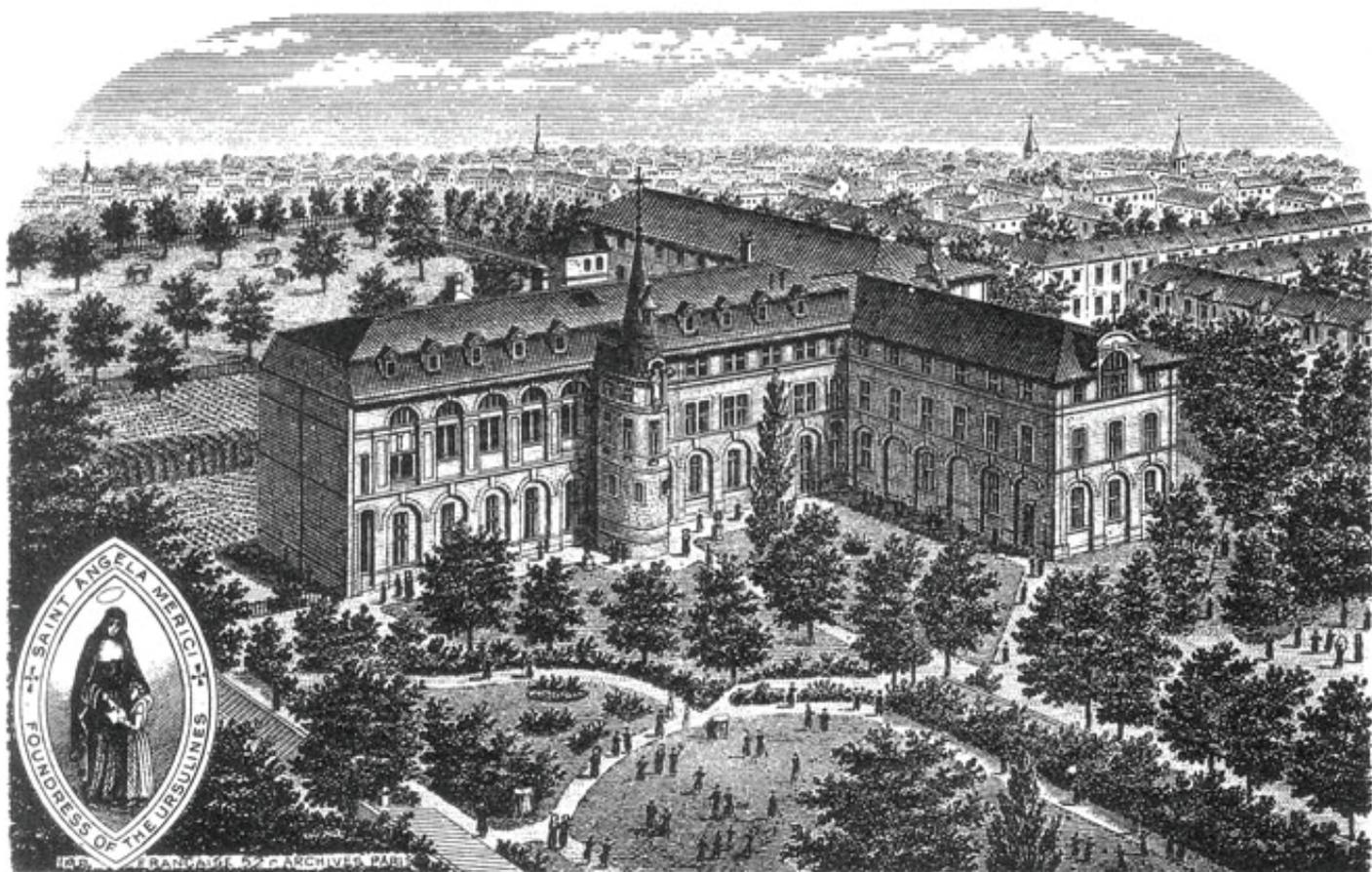
## Monica Miller Retires

Looking back at the recent history of the school you will notice a young teacher by the name of Mrs Miller (see picture page 56 from 1987) who went on to be yet another teacher who dedicated her working life to the school. Monica completed 40 years of service at St Angela's, retiring in 2011 as the long standing Deputy Headteacher in charge of pastoral care. Having supported many of the most vulnerable students over so many years, she is fondly remembered for her spirit of Serviam.

## First male Headteacher

The appointment of a lay Headteacher in 1993 was a huge change in the then 131 year history of the school. In September 2009, the governors of St Angela's made another ground breaking change with the appointment of the school's first male Headteacher, Mark Johnson. Mr Johnson has worked in the school since 1998 when he became the Head of Mathematics. At that time Maths was not a particular favourite of the girls in the school, but in a few short years, under Delia Smith's headship and with new staff, Mathematics was once again not only a favourite but also one of the highest achieving departments in the school. Mr Johnson went on to become an Assistant Headteacher and then Deputy Headteacher leading the school's use of effective data.

By 2009 with the departure of Delia Smith to ARK, even Mr Johnson was unsure about a male leading the school but when he raised this point with a then year 11 student the reply he got was 'Sir, for the past 5 years in this school you have been telling us we can achieve anything, are you now saying that there is a job you can't do?' From that point on he has never had a doubt and has been privileged to serve the school, especially in its sesquicentennial year.



## 475th year of the Ursuline Order

This year we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year at St Angela's and also celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Ursuline Education in the UK, as Forest Gate was the first Ursuline school in the country. Of course, the Ursuline order itself has been in existence far longer than the school and in November 2010 the Ursulines celebrated their 475<sup>th</sup> year with a mass in the parish of St Antony's and celebration party at St Angela's.

The mass, celebrated by Bishop Thomas McMahon (Bishop of Brentwood), included the staff and students of the other Ursuline schools of Greenwich, Wimbledon, Ilford, Westgate-on-sea and Brentwood.

The school continues a strong link with the Ursuline order and in July 2010, along with the other Ursuline schools, hosted guests from Poland, France, Germany and Spain as part of the global Ursuline conference which was held at Aylesford (a religious retreat in Kent).



# Preparing for the Olympics

As we celebrate in 2012, the school is just a very short journey away from the spectacular games of the London 2012 Olympics. The girls of the school and our sixth formers have been busy preparing for the games and all their hard work has won 193 Olympic tickets for students of the school to enjoy the international competition.



## Our involvement in the games

- Sixth form students have been selected to perform at the opening ceremony
- Shannon Belvin (Year 9) designed and won the competition for London Mandeville mascot design (see left)
- Sixth Form successful work placement applications at the Olympics
- The YGM (Young Games Makers) interview process for the paralympic volunteering opportunities in the Paralympics
- Trips and competitions entered; major impact on teaching and learning in the past year.
- Wrestling Flag Bearers at the Olympics - Caroline Charles, PE Teacher, has now had her interview with LOCOG and Year 12 students Noelle Sapon and Megan Rouse will be involved.
- Involvement in 'Let's Get the Party Started' will be from March - July 2012 and our school dance show on the 14 & 15th March was also part of this.
- Members of the Junior Swim team attended the opening of the Aquatics Centre as part of the "one year to go" celebrations.
- Test events attended: Handball, Boxing and Diving. We have also made various visits to the Olympic Park.
- On 9th May students will be going to the Aquatics Centre and Olympic Stadium to watch the Schools' Games 2012 finals.



## Founders' Day

As we reach the 150th Founders' Day, it is a time to look back over the traditions of this day. As you have read from the centenary section of this book, Founders Day which also included Fayre Day, has a special place in the hearts of all Ursuline Sisters and Old Brownies, as you can see from the very first page of this commemorative book.

Life has become much busier over the years and with the school population now above 1300 students including the sixth form, Founders' Day is now a very different affair. As you can see we still celebrate the day and mark another year in the history of this amazing school (including the new tradition of the aerial photograph of the students shaping out the year celebrated) with the ever present banging of the school gong, and of course, time dedicated in prayer for the continued success of St Angela's.



### 150th Celebrations

- Friday May 4th: Student Celebration
- Saturday May 5th: Old Brownie Celebration
- Tuesday May 8th: Ursulines, Guests & Staff Celebration
- September 2012: Opening & dedication of the new school reception



