



An aerial view of The Archer Academy's plans for Stanley Field

How the academy will look

By John Lawrence

The Archer Academy unveiled the design for its school building and for the community sports facilities planned for Stanley Field at a public event in early July.

A single three-storey, L-shaped school building will occupy the area of the field closest to the railway line and the path alongside Holy Trinity Primary School. The rest of the field will be occupied by a full-size grass sports pitch, two games courts, a grass playground and a hard playground.

Visitors to the consultation event at Holy Trinity were able to view a model of the proposed development and a computer-generated walk-through of the classrooms, corridors and sports hall. Subject to planning approval, building work is scheduled to begin this autumn with completion in winter 2014-15. The first pupils will be taught on the site from September 2015.

Local reactions

Feedback was invited from everyone who attended. Visitors

we spoke to were impressed by the efficient use of the available space but also had a number of questions and concerns.

One resident of New Ash Close, which borders the field, was anxious to discover where the classroom block would be placed. "I live next door so I didn't want it looking over my flat but I'm pleased to see it's at the furthest point of the field away from nearby houses," he said.

One mother of children at Holy Trinity School was concerned at the number of cars that would be coming into the area at drop-off and pick-up times, and the congestion that could be created by hundreds of secondary school children arriving and leaving at the same time as the primary school children who already attend Holy Trinity.

Cars discouraged

Andrew Dmoch, the academy's transport consultant, told *THE ARCHER* that parking was being deliberately restricted at the school to deter car use and that staff, parents and pupils would be directly asked to travel by public transport or on bike or foot. In addition, the academy would operate staggered open-

ing hours to avoid the start and end of the school day clashing with Holy Trinity's.

"Two of the challenges we face are having another school next door and needing to fit into an area that is already busy at the end of the school day," said Andrew. "We've thought long and hard about ideas to avoid problems and built them into our plans."

Project manager Sean Harries said it was also hoped that members of the public using the field's sports facilities after school hours and at weekends would leave their cars at home.

Ben Marston, from architects Jestico + Whiles, said the school building had been positioned to minimise impact on surrounding homes, new fencing would border the sports pitches and paths, and pedestrian access routes would be widened and improved to avoid congestion. The former site of the Herbert Wilmot centre will become an entrance path and a staff car park with 20 or so spaces.

Editor's note: The Archer newspaper is not associated with The Archer Academy.

Archers on target for a smooth September

With the opening of East Finchley's new secondary school just a month away, incoming students Georgina, Mia, Eoin, Zahra, Devina, Kerri, Mikaela and Jamie report on preparations for life at the Archer Academy.

Moving to a new school is like moving to a new home. It's not easy to leave the family of your primary school but it feels to the Archer Academy students as if they are joining a new family.

During the past seven weeks there has been a great transition from primary school to the academy. The most helpful part was the VIP Zone on the school website. Every child was given a username and password so they could log in and take part in weekly challenges, as well learning about some of the wonderful teachers.

Instead of just an induction day, the academy had a full induction week with events for parents and children. They met their teachers and new classmates,

saw what lessons were like and took part in fun and exciting workshops.

Secondary transition is extremely important in a Year 6 student's school life and it can be daunting. But the academy's system is one of the most delightful options available, and will really help Year 6 children feel happy and safe in advance of September. It was well organised, fun and no stress: all a child could want.

As one future student said: "The Archer Academy is a seed that was planted only recently but it has already grown leaves." With the pioneer students arriving next month, the Archer Academy team has pulled it off completely.



Future academy students Georgina from King Alfred's School; Mia from St Mary's, Finchley; Eoin from Moss Hall; Zahra from Frith Manor; Devina and Mikaela from Manorside; Keri from The Swaminarayan School and Jamie from Tetherdown.

Swim for the hospice

Cool off after a hot summer by taking part in a sponsored swim in aid of the North London Hospice. Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome to join the event at Queen Elizabeth Boys' School in Queen's Road, Barnet, on Sunday 22 September. Qualified lifeguards will be in attendance at this large pool and registration is free. Places are limited so register in advance by 14 September by contacting Vivienne Bentley on 020 8203 5131 or events_nwsg@aol.co.uk

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