



Fortismere's music places

Fortismere School is asking parents and students what they think about the school's policy of admitting pupils by musical aptitude.

When admission by musical aptitude was first introduced in 2010, the school's governors promised to review the scheme in 2012/13 to help them decide whether to continue with the scheme.

The current policy is that a maximum of 24 students per year can be admitted for their musical skills, regardless of where they live. So far, a total of 48 pupils have met the criteria. Siblings of these children are also entitled to places at Fortismere.

In the consultation document, the school says it wants to know if the scheme has helped build Fortismere's specialist

status in music and adds: "We will also examine whether admission by musical aptitude has had a significant impact on Fortismere's catchment area and, if so, whether that is a matter of real concern."

Groups being consulted include parents, carers, students, staff, local councillors and teaching unions. Responses are invited before the closing date of 15 February.

The consultation document is available from the school or online at www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk. A public consultation meeting will be held at the school's North Wing Hall on 14 January from 7-8pm.



Finchley Jazz Club rides again, at least for one night. Photo by John Dearing.

Stay on your guard at supermarkets

By Janet Maitland

Reporting that thieves have been keeping watch in supermarket car parks waiting for an opportunity to steal groceries or money from your car, police have issued some crime prevention tips.

You could be a victim of theft if you push your trolley to your car, unlock it, stow away your shopping and then take the trolley back while leaving your car unlocked. Some shoppers who have been caught this way have also left their handbag behind. Always lock your car, even if you're only taking your trolley back. And never leave your handbag in the car, locked or unlocked.

Thieves are also on the look-out for unguarded handbags inside the supermarket. Never leave your handbag in the trolley while you search the shelves. Make sure it's always securely fastened and on your person.

You should also be alert around banks. Criminals, often working in pairs, watch for people who've drawn out money at the counter that's been given to them in an envelope. If the envelope is not safely tucked away, it is much easier to steal once the victim leaves the bank.

Distraction is a common method. In two recent cases the thief stepped in front of the victim and pointed to some money on the ground

which they said they'd seen the victim drop. But the money had been planted in advance. As soon as the victim looked down at the pavement, their envelope full of money was snatched.

In another case, thieves had already let down a tyre on a victim's car to distract them when they came out of the bank. So, always put money away before leaving the bank and watch out for anyone trying to distract you.

Head-teacher's vision

More than 250 people crammed into Brookland Junior School hall at the end of last year to get a first glimpse of Mick Quigley, headteacher of the Archer Academy, and hear about his plans for the new school.

Mick talked about his experience, set out his vision and plans for the curriculum, and answered a series of questions from prospective parents. The school, to be based at the Arts Institute close to East Finchley tube station, welcomes its first 150 pupils in September.

You can find out more about the school, and apply for a September 2013 place, at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk.

Foot-tappin' jazz night

By Betti Blatman

On Monday 19 November, over 80 people attended a special live jazz night at Hall School Sports Ground in East End Road, organised by John Bayne. Former Finchley Jazz Club secretary and ARCHER team member Pamela Kent is a cancer sufferer and the event raised over £1,500 for Macmillan Nurses and Cancer Research UK with proceeds from many generous donations, raffles and an auction of a violin, amethyst earrings and a lady's watch.

Starting off with a seven-piece band, led by Peter Rutherford, the packed audience was treated to fabulous jazz with many top class musicians 'sitting in' throughout the evening and the finale consisting of 16 musicians who played together as a band, ensuring the sound of jazz was heard

throughout Finchley that night.

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