



Academy places filling up

By Nick Young

Four months remain before the Archer Academy opens, most of its places for the first intake have now been filled. At the time of writing, 125 Academy places have been accepted, a figure that will no doubt have changed by the time you read this.

The new free school received 310 applications, mostly from the N2, N3 and NW11 postcodes, for 150 places. The first offers went out in early March, followed by second-round offers later that month. There is a substantial waiting list.

Recruitment for the first intake of teachers is also under way. Headteacher Mick Quigley has been joined by the deputy headteacher, Lucy Harrison, previously the assistant headteacher at Hertswood School in Borehamwood.

Preparing to be secondary pupils

The transition from primary to secondary school can be dif-

ficult for pupils, and Mr Quigley and his team have met with many local primary school pupils to help prepare them. Alasdair Addison, a Year 6 pupil at Holy Trinity who has been offered a place at the Academy, told *THE ARCHER* that he is "more excited now" about starting at the new school, where he will be "looking forward to the sports focus".

The Academy's uniform of light grey shirts and charcoal-grey jumpers with the distinctive badge has also been revealed. Mr Quigley has emphasised that there will be no ties, as these are often a source of minor conflict between staff and students in secondary schools.



An unlikely encounter LR: Roy Satterthwaite, Diana Cormack, Ian Cormack and Margaret Satterthwaite.

N2 meeting in Oz

By Diana Cormack

Scanning the sea front restaurants in St Kilda, Melbourne, for a suitable place to have breakfast, my husband and I were surprised to hear someone saying, "Look at her T-shirt". Whilst I think my N2 shirt is rather special (when I wear it in the summer to deliver *THE ARCHER*, people often ask where they can get one) it isn't that remarkable.

However, the person who noticed it and made the comment to her husband wasn't expecting to see a reference to their local area when they were over 10,000 miles from home! Margaret and Roy Satterthwaite of Brighton Road were spending a few months travelling around that part of the world to visit the various places where Margaret had once worked as a community nurse.

The Academy's plans for Stanley Field

So what will The Archer Academy look like and how will it make sports facilities on the Stanley Field site available to everyone in the community? John Lawrence spoke to chair of governors Avis Johns to find out.



If all goes well, the Academy team will be submitting detailed building plans for Stanley Field in July with a view to construction work starting on the site in the autumn. Building work would then be finished by September 2014.

When I meet her, Avis Johns, chair of governors, has just come from a five-hour planning meeting where changes and improvements were being made to the team's blueprints and dozens of other issues were tackled to help them meet this ambitious timetable.

The single school building will be constructed in such a way that members of the community will be able to use some of the indoor facilities, such as the sports hall, while all classrooms are kept separate and secure. Outside, there will be an all-weather pitch, several hard courts and space for organised games, together occupying a significant majority of the field. Again, these will be available for public use outside school hours.

Avis said: "We want to make sure we have got excellent facilities for children at the school and for the wider community. Our first priority is to keep the children safe; then to make sure that other people in East Finchley can enjoy what we have to offer."

Consultation

The finer details of the Academy's building plans will be available to the public from July, when a number of public consultation events are planned. In advance, the team will be meeting local

residents in the roads neighbouring Stanley Field, to hear their questions and concerns.

An example might be the extra traffic generated by the new school and the availability of parking spaces. Avis said: "We have been very clear from the start that this will be a local school and they should be coming on foot, by bike or by bus rather than by car."

That also applies to the Academy's other site at The Institute's Arts Centre in Beaumont Close, behind the tube station, where teaching of the school's first year intake begins in September, and

where parking space is already limited.

During this preparation period, Avis said the Academy has been consulting with Tim Bowden, headteacher of Holy Trinity Primary School, next to the Stanley Field site, to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum during the construction phase, and also to consider ways in which the two schools might work together closely in the future.

As soon as we hear the Academy's public consultation dates, we will publish them in *THE ARCHER*. Also look out for details on Facebook and Twitter (*TheArcherN2*).

Sale of Stanley Field

Daphne Chamberlain reports on the conditions of sale and the proposed extent of community use of Stanley Field.

Barnet Council has defined the terms of the proposed sale of the Stanley Field site as follows: "The Department of Education is buying the Stanley Road site for the free school for £3.55 million on the basis that the Archer Academy will enter into a deed of dedication, or similar agreement, to ensure no less than 60 per cent of the playing field remains available for sports and recreation use by the local community in perpetuity, outside school hours.

"Before completing the transfer, the deed of dedication will be sealed on behalf of the council and approved by council members. The purchase price is one of the terms which will need to be met to transfer the land as approved at public committee. Any changes to this agreement will need public approval."

A Barnet spokesperson told *THE ARCHER* that "outside school hours" meant just that: i.e. including weekends, Bank Holidays, evenings (until a

reasonable time). They also confirmed that 60% of the playing field meant 60% of the total area of the existing field.

Matters for negotiation

Sport East Finchley's Roger Chapman told us that the extent of land to be covered by a deed of dedication was one of the issues to be resolved, but he wanted to ensure that at a minimum it includes the field plus indoor sports facilities.

Whether it will include any teaching space is one of the matters to be negotiated.

He said that a meeting with Fields in Trust about a deed of dedication had been "very productive", and although further discussions are necessary he hadn't come across anything else that seemed to fit the bill.

At the moment he understands that London Marathon Trust will support the site financially where a significant amount of it remains in sports use. Other backers are being approached, but none is firmed up yet.

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