



Academy makes changes to its admissions rules

Early in 2016 consternation about the rules for admission to The Archer Academy made headlines in this newspaper and filled the 'Letters to the Editor' pages. There were strong objections to the decision to name four 'feeder' primary schools, chosen because they were in the academy's priority postcodes and within 1.5 miles of the school.

Brookland Junior and Garden Suburb Junior in NW11, along with Manorside Primary and Tudor Primary in N3 fitted with the academy Trust's founding commitment to serve families from those areas, as well as N2.

The secondary school had been heavily oversubscribed in its first three years and, after public consultation and weeks of debate, this was regarded as the fairest way to give all three postcodes fair access. At the time, East Finchley parents were upset that the choice of feeder schools seemed to overlook N2 primaries Holy Trinity and Martin Primary.

Adjudicator decides

Following complaints by three objectors in May this year, the Office of the Schools Adjudicator issued a detailed judgment in August. It stated that the aim to serve all three postcodes was lawful but the use of feeder schools had in fact proved ineffective in promoting the admission of children from N3 and NW11, and produced unfair results. Final admissions in 2018, for example, were 68% from N2, 16% from N3 and 16% from NW11.

The adjudication directed the academy to make changes for 2019. The school states: "We are therefore complying with the adjudicator's determination by removing the feeder schools mechanism from our oversubscription criteria, and replacing it with a quota-based allocation of places to each of the three priority postcodes."

Future arrangements

From 2019, once siblings of existing pupils and a number of other priority groups have been offered places, 45% of places will be offered to children whose home address is within N2, 35% to children whose home address is within N3 and 20% of places to children whose home address is within NW11. Any places that remain after that will be allocated to applicants in the N2 postcode.

Places will be offered to those children who live closest to the school, based on a straight line from the front gate of the Lower School Stanley Road campus to their front door. Fuller details on the admissions criteria are available at www.thearcheracademy.org.uk.



Page turner: Almar Hafliðason with Emilia, left, and Lilja, engrossed in their reading at Laufás in Iceland.

Love (of The Archer) in a cold climate

Hot on the heels of Paulina and Edwin Spencer-Lugtenberg taking *The Archer* to the Arctic in last month's edition, Almar Hafliðason has sent us a photo of himself and daughters Emilia and Lilja reading their copy 60 miles from the Arctic Circle in the north of Iceland.

Almar and his family were escaping the ferocious heat of East Finchley's summer by visiting Laufás, outstanding examples of traditional turf farmhouses from the 1840s, near Akureyri.

He told us: "I love Iceland but then my parents are from there, although I was born in London and raised in Scotland. I'm settled in London now but the summer heat is not for me."

"Akureyri is a little town

up north, well away from the hordes down south in the country and is a lovely escape. I can let the kids run free, sit in

a coffee shop and they can go out and play outside well out of my sight. Those two weeks keep us all sane."

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Girls start Y7 at Christ's College for first time

By David Melsome

After 160 years of educating boys, Christ's College Finchley welcomed girls into year 7 for the first time in September as part of its largest ever cohort of new students.

The new intake of 11 and 12-year-olds will move up year by year until the school in East End Road, N2, is fully co-educational. Until now, girls have only been admitted to the sixth form.

Many parents facing a shortage of local places, particularly for girls, have welcomed the new Christ's College admissions policy. Staff say the term has started positively with talented and enthusiastic year 7 students looking smart in their new and distinctive uniform.

Headteacher Samson

Olusanya said: "The girls and boys have settled in straightaway which is testament to our detailed transition and induction programme. We look forward to growing into a school where boys and girls work, study and collaborate to develop their talents and interests and achieve excellence as they transition into adulthood."

Christ's College Finchley is now accepting applications for its September 2019 cohort. More information can be found on its website www.christscollegefinchley.org.uk.

Back to school: Isobella Scott-Goulding, left, and Deborah Ugochukwu on the way to their first day at Christ's College Finchley as part of the new intake of year 7 girls. Photo Karen Pierce-Goulding.