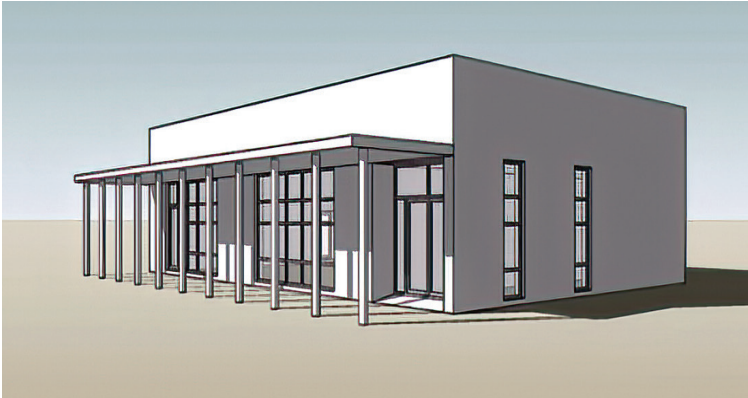




Final push for performing arts studio fundraiser



Purpose built: How Archer Academy hopes its new performing arts studio will look

Actors Matt Lucas and Nicola Stephenson, and comedian Ian Stone, who all live locally, are backing Archer Academy's push to build a new performing arts studio, with construction set to begin this June.

The aim is to raise £150,000 through an online crowdfunding campaign running from 21-23 March. A generous donor has pledged to match every £1 raised, bringing the total fundraising goal in this final stage of the Raise the Roof project to £300,000.

The new performing arts studio will provide essential rehearsal space for students and will be available for community use outside of school hours. The project comes at a time when many schools are cutting performing arts from the curriculum.

Transformational Matt Lucas, who first visited

the school in 2022 (The Archer, March 2022), has been a strong advocate for the project. He spoke movingly about how performing arts transformed his own school experience and expressed his desire to help future generations benefit from similar opportunities.

To date, Archer Academy has raised £320,000 through a grant from the Wolfson Foundation and various fundraising events, including sponsored school walks, its own Archella Festival, and a comedy night in 2023 hosted by Ian Stone.

The school has enlisted a group of 'Champions' to share the campaign link, enabling donors to contribute in just seconds and track the campaign's progress in real time.

To donate or learn more, contact Katie Ruback at kruback@thearcheracademy.org.uk or visit the school's fundraising page <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/archer-raisetherooft>.

Romantic concert

Finchley Symphony Orchestra's next concert includes two great Romantic masterpieces and a rarity. Scriabin's rarely performed *Rêverie* is a short, languid evocation of dreaming, while Dvorak's well-loved concerto for the cello is typically packed with melodies and punchy rhythms. The soloist will be Peteris Sokolovskis, a winner of the Royal College of Music Cello Competition.

Another favourite to be performed is Brahms' Third Symphony. The concert takes place at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, on Saturday 15 March, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £18, £15 for those under 26 and over 60, £2 for those under 18 and you can save £1 per ticket by booking online at www.finchleysymphony.org.

Gardeners wanted

The Grange Big Local team is looking for volunteers to help plant vegetables and grow flowers at the Tarling Road Community Hub in East Finchley. Find out more at any of the Warm Spaces mornings that run at the hub on Thursdays from 9.30am to 12pm (except Thursday 13 March).

Car boot

The monthly Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale will take place on Saturday 29 March from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For information, call 020 8368 8180.



High standards: Headteacher Lucy Harrison and Archer Academy students celebrate the school's Ofsted rating

Hard work pays off at secondary school

The Archer Academy in East Finchley has again been awarded the status of Outstanding following an Ofsted inspection in January, a judgement initially given to the secondary school in 2019.

Among the strengths highlighted in the inspectors' report are "Leaders are highly ambitious for all pupils", "Pupils

receive an exceptional education at the Archer Academy", "The school fosters a happy, welcoming, and inclusive environment where academic excellence and personal development hold equal importance" and "Behaviour is highly positive. The school fosters a calm and productive atmosphere."

Lucy Harrison, the school's headteacher, said: "I am absolutely delighted that Ofsted

have recognised that the Archer Academy continues to be an Outstanding school. My thanks go to my fantastic staff for their incredible hard work and dedication, and also to our students, governors and parents who demonstrate such ongoing pride and passion for their school."

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: March 2015

A mass 'read-in' took place at East Finchley library as part of the campaign to save it from closure. It was organised by the East Finchley Library Users Group. Library manager Sim Branaghan was impressed by the turnout, but emphasised the importance of using the library regularly as the best way to ensure its future.

15 years ago: March 2010

Local residents faced 18 months of severe disruption on the Northern line, with services shut down at weekends and early on weekday evenings. The closures were necessary in order to install a new computerised signalling system, which would eventually increase capacity by 20 per cent.

23 years ago: March 2002

After only five weeks of playing the National Lottery, 20 members of a local syndicate struck lucky. They won a total of £74,000, which gave them about £3,650 each. They were all members of the East Finchley Constitutional Club in the Walks where, no doubt, much celebration of their good fortune took place.

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