



School and sports complex just months from opening

By Diana Cormack



Almost ready: Academy headteacher Mick Quigley, second right, with a construction manager, Councillors Arjun Mittra and Alison Moore, Chair of Governors Avis Johns and MP Mike Freer

Two dreams will come true simultaneously in East Finchley when the Archer Academy's Stanley Road campus opens in September, with all its sports facilities being available to the community out of school hours. The desire for a mixed non-religious secondary school and the demand for locals to continue to use Stanley Fields will then both be realised.

Setting up for September

One hundred days before hand-over headteacher Mick Quigley gave a group of guests including local councillors and reporters a tour of the building. Everything is on schedule for mid-June, when furniture and fittings will be installed along with

IT services and equipment, prior to the pupils now based at the Beaumont Close site moving in.

This will be in September when the 450 students of Years 7, 8 and 9 will occupy the lower school campus, with Beaumont Close behind East Finchley station being used for enrichment

activities until it eventually becomes occupied by Years 10 and 11.

Facilities for learning and sport

The new school has been designed to offer flexible zones for teaching and learning, with large science labs, music rooms, a recording studio and 24



classrooms. Disabled access is provided not only in the school building but also in the huge sports hall, where there is an inclusive climbing wall specifically designed to suit climbers across a wide range of abilities.

Grants from the London Marathon Charitable Trust helped with this and with the floodlit all-weather pitch outside, where there will also be two multi-use games areas. Among the variety of activities

available will be football, basketball, netball, tennis, badminton, cricket and trampolining.

Chair of Governors Avis Johns told THE ARCHER how proud she is of the people who have given freely of their skills and time to bring all this about. It certainly doesn't seem that long since we were reporting on attempts to keep Stanley Field for East Finchley and now it is poised to become an important part of community activity.

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What's happening to the pavilion?



The Cherry Tree Wood pavilion March 2015. Photo: Mike Coles

Upset by the present state of the building, readers have been asking what is happening to the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood.

It is virtually 30 years since the place closed down, save for some football teams using the changing rooms when matches used to be played on the field. Various redevelopment schemes have come and gone over that time, but last

year hopes were raised when a notice went up announcing that a coffee bar would be opening in the spring of 2014.

Work started on the building and the surrounding area was

cleared. However, this did not last for long, with the theft of expensive equipment from the site last autumn not helping the situation. Expense seems to be the main problem. In view of the increased cost of repairing the existing structure, the lessee is still waiting to receive a new funding proposal from Barnet Council.

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