



Double blow for Archer Academy

By Neil McNaughton

The Archer Academy has had to absorb two setbacks to its plans in recent weeks. Its proposal to create a sixth-form was rejected and this followed hard on the heels of an adverse judgment by the Schools Administrator concerning its new admissions criteria.

No sixth-form provision yet

Headteacher Lucy Harrison expressed her disappointment at the news that the sixth-form will not be opening as planned.

She said, "We are, of course, bitterly disappointed. Our proposal was both robust and achievable; we believed it would provide a real opportunity for our students, and others, to undertake their post-16 studies with the support of the Archer Academy team. We remain ambitious about sixth-form provision, but clearly this is a set-back."

Ms Harrison added that the school remained committed to ensuring that the aspirations of their pupils should be met post-16, but this provision will, for the time being, have to be elsewhere. Sixth-form places will indeed be available elsewhere but this will come as a blow to pupils and parents who had hoped to remain at the popular free school throughout their secondary education.

Feeder schools controversy

Earlier this year, THE ARCHER reported on local concerns over the Academy's latest admissions policy in relation to the

naming of five primary schools whose pupils would be given a number of guaranteed feeder places.

Only one N2 school, Martin Primary, was originally named as a feeder school, with 15 places reserved for it. The principal objections came from parents of children at Holy Trinity School, which neighbours the Academy but which was excluded from the criteria.

Following a public consultation, the school changed this admissions procedure at the start of this year, leaving feeder places for only Brookland, Garden Suburb, Manorside and Tudor primary schools.

Admissions appeal and ruling

Five sets of parents in East Finchley decided to challenge this policy on the grounds that many children who live close to the Academy would be denied access to the school.

The Schools Adjudicator considered the appeal and partially upheld the objections. While it was agreed that the consultation process had been thorough and that the school had genuinely tried to be fair to parents of children living in N2, N3 and NW11, it had failed to take full account of the interests of families in N2. The Academy will therefore have to review its admissions policy again.

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Warm welcome: Nick Allan speaks at the N2United launch event. Photo by Olivia Rennie

Face to face for fast-growing business network

By Olivia Rennie

A new network created to bolster small businesses and traders in East Finchley is up and running after a successful launch party. N2 United already has members ranging from a local estate agent to a tennis coach and a home working school tutor.

Organisers say it is a network for everyone, designed to share knowledge and experience amongst the established business community in N2, and to give people who work from home the chance to meet face to face.

Friendly atmosphere

Hilary Townley, one of the team behind the East Finchley Community Festival each summer, spoke at the launch event at The Clissold Arms in Fortis Green on Thursday 13 October and told everyone that she'd often heard local business people asking for a network to help each other prosper.

Fellow organiser Nick Allan said it was not only a chance for people to grow their business through the various networking opportunities but a great way for people to come together and create a strong community spirit.

Those who attended agreed The Clissold Arms were great

hosts, greeting everyone on arrival with a glass of wine and introducing them to one of the hosts of the event, making for a warm and friendly atmosphere.

If you are interested in joining the network the next meeting will be a breakfast event

on Thursday 17 November at 8.30am. The joining fee, which can be paid after attending the meeting, is £50 per annum and includes advertisement on the N2 United website. For further details please go to: www.n2united.co.uk.



New beginnings: MP Mike Freer with Bishop Douglass students

Newest academy gets the nod

Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer visited Bishop Douglass School in Hamilton Road to congratulate staff and pupils on their recent conversion to academy status (THE ARCHER, October 2016).

He was met by head boy Tisloh Danboyi and head girl Charlotte Moore and their deputies Rewayda Abdulahi and John Marulanda-Beltran. Mr Freer discussed with the students the benefits of academy status and spent time discussing UCAS applications and the universities students were applying to.

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