



School to admit girls from 2018

Christ's College Finchley will increase the pool of available school places after confirming that it will welcome girls as well as boys from September 2018. The decision follows a consultation exercise with parents (*The Archer*, June 2017) which had more than 600 responses.

Nine out of 10 respondents backed the school's proposal to go co-educational. Christ's College is currently under-subscribed so it is expected the admission of girls will widen choice for parents without affecting chances for boys to find a place too.

The move will come too late for pupils looking for school places this September. Entry to Year 7 this year will be boys only and all students currently in Years 7-10 will remain in boys-only classes up to Year 11, at which stage the school already admits girls to study for A-levels.

Parents and governors agree

Headteacher Samson Olu-sanya, who has pioneered the reforms, said: "The school will retain its determination to provide world class education

for all students attending. The Governing Board and I are convinced that this decision will allow us to serve our local community most effectively and deliver the excellent education our current students deserve and which parents rightly expect."

The final decision as to whether the school's admissions can change will be taken by the Regional Schools Commissioner for London and the south east. Given the support of the Governing Board and parents, it is unlikely to be blocked.

The chronic shortage of secondary places in N2, N3 and NW10 has been highlighted in the last two years by the huge demand for admissions at the new Archer Academy in Eagans Place, East Finchley, and the response of Fortismere School in Muswell Hill, which last year expanded the size of its intake in years 7, 8 and 9.



Stretch, balance and have fun!

By Diana Cormack

The London Academy of Gymnastics and Dance is a Muswell Hill-based gymnastics club which lists Martin, Eden and Tetherdown amongst the north London primary schools where it holds classes.

In April, instructors began running sessions suitable for children in the five to 11 age group with disabilities after a parent approached them looking for a class for her eight-year-old son with Downs Syndrome.

At the time of writing the class has nine members with a range of disabilities which includes Downs, cerebral palsy and autism. The biggest hits with them so far are the bouncy air track, the gymnastics beam and the asymmetrical bars, helping to develop their balance, co-ordination,

agility and strength.

The three coaches are all fully qualified, enhanced DBS (formerly Criminal Records Bureau) checked, insured and first aid trained. Their classes can accommodate up to 16 children and aim to be safe, fun and inspiring for the children as well as giving parents the bonus of a short break.

They are held at Heartlands High School, Station Road, Alexandra Palace, N22 7ST on Saturday afternoons for one hour during term time. Trial lessons are avail-

able. For more information visit www.lagad.co.uk, email info@lagad.co.uk or call 07887 367 171.

Mike Bassett

It is with sadness that we report the death of one of *The Archer's* longest-standing distributors.

Mike Bassett, of Neale Close, died at the Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead on 21 June after a lengthy period of ill health.

Mike joined our team of volunteer distributors from the very first issue of *The Archer* in 1993 and, for 10 years, delivered a huge 400-paper round, centred around Brim Hill and Ossulton Way.



Victim: Seyyed Rasta Mir-Feyzi

Two charged with murder at leisure park

By Janet Maitland

Two men, both aged 21, have been charged with murdering 23-year-old Seyyed Rasta Mir-Feyzi in the Great North Leisure Park off the High Road. Seyyed was allegedly assaulted in the car park during a fight involving a number of people at about 8.15pm on 31 May and shortly afterwards two men allegedly drove their car into him.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident, or the events leading up to it, as it is believed that some people may have filmed it on their phones.

Detective Inspector John Marriott said, "I implore them to come forward. You could be holding the key to establishing the full circumstances of this young man's death."

The two men charged with his murder appeared at

the Old Bailey on 8 June and were remanded in custody. A provisional trial date has been set for 20 November. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the incident room on 020 8345 1570 or to ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if they want to remain anonymous. Anyone with footage can provide this to the investigation team via Twitter @MetCC.

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