

RICHMOND UPON THAMES ADMISSIONS FORUM

9 February 2011, 6.00pm-7.10pm, Teddington Room,
Curriculum and Training Centre, Clifden Road, Twickenham
Chair of meeting: Cllr David Marlow

Present: Ravi Arora, Cllr Susan Chappell, Andrew Cole, Ian Dickinson, Cllr Malcolm Eady, Janet Foster, Janet Hilton, Lesley Kirby and Cllr David Marlow.

Officer: Matthew Paul (Secretary to the Forum).

Apologies received from: Hatija Bhatia, Richard Burke, Prehlad Dhall and Carol Jerwood.

	Minutes	Action
1.	<p>Introductions.</p> <p>One new member – Ravi Arora – was welcomed to the Forum as a replacement for Prehlad Dhall.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2010 were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>There was one matter arising: the secondary school/academy headteachers and principals had agreed that Lesley Kirby who had hitherto been a community secondary headteacher representative on the Forum should continue, with Richard Burke, to represent the eight headteachers/principals and that it was not necessary to have a separate academy principal representative. The Forum agreed with that view.</p>	
3.	<p>Update on admissions for 2011/2012 – oral report.</p> <p><u>Secondary:</u> It was reported that, after initial software difficulties in the majority of pan-London LAs, including Richmond, the iterations of offer-swapping between LAs appeared to be going well, with all LAs participating. The five non-academies in the borough were all heavily oversubscribed, although the 'catchments' for both Orleans Park and Teddington had moved further out than in previous years. Each of the three academies looked set to have more children on roll than in 2010/2011 and in the preceding years when they were the predecessor schools. Offers were due to be made on 1 March, as usual.</p> <p><u>Primary:</u> As the 2011/2012 admissions round was the first year of inter-authority coordination, it was felt that the benefits of the pan-London scheme – one offer per child and all offers made on the same day – should help Richmond, it being a net importer (mainly from Hounslow), by enabling more Richmond children to obtain places in Richmond schools at the initial offer stage than in previous</p>	

	years. Offers were due to be made on 4 April.	
4.	<p>Consideration of proposed admission arrangements for 2012/2013.</p> <p>It was reported that there had been no responses to the consultation, probably because no changes had been proposed to the admission arrangements.</p> <p><u>Oversubscription criteria for Grey Court, Orleans Park and Teddington:</u> The Forum discussed the history and pros and cons of the 'linked schools' criterion, and considered the possible skewing of current admission patterns were it to be removed. It was agreed that the Secretary to the Forum would model in time for the Forum's September meeting how the 2011/2012 admission patterns would have looked without the linked schools criterion.</p> <p><u>Waldegrave:</u> The Forum discussed the rationale for the catchment areas and speculated as to the possible effects that removal of them would cause. The Forum requested the Secretary to investigate the possibility of putting online the map of the catchment areas and offers made.</p> <p>The Forum achieved consensus to recommend to the Cabinet that the proposed arrangements should be adopted for 2012/2013 entry.</p> <p>The Forum noted that the percentages of online applications for primary (93%) and secondary (86%) in the borough were now by some distance the highest in London and that there had been no known issues regarding restricted 'paper' application.</p> <p>The Forum also noted that after initial difficulties, when processing times were variable, the scheme for administering in-year applications had bedded down and was deemed to be working well.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>MP</p>
5.	<p>Future of Admissions Forum.</p> <p>As the Education Bill was proposing to abolish the statutory duty for local authorities to convene an admissions forum, the Forum agreed that it should continue to meet, at least termly, on a non-statutory basis, as there was, potentially, a lot of change imminent, with schools considering whether or not to become academies, and new academies and free schools being established in neighbouring authorities' areas.</p>	
6.	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>A member of the Forum raised the matter of the Authority's aspiration to establish a Catholic secondary school within the borough. It was noted that discussions involving officers of the authority and the Dioceses of Southwark and Westminster were ongoing.</p>	
6.	<p>Date, time and venue of next meetings.</p> <p>Wednesday 15 June 2011; and Wednesday 21 September 2011, both at 6pm, in the Teddington Room, First Floor, Curriculum & Training Centre, Clifden Road, Twickenham.</p>	