

RICHMOND UPON THAMES ADMISSIONS FORUM

10 February 2010, 6.00pm-7.00pm, Teddington Room,
Curriculum and Training Centre, Clifden Road, Twickenham

Chair of meeting: Cllr David Marlow

Present: Richard Burke, Andrew Cole, Ian Dickinson, Janet Hilton, Sabi Hothi, Charles Hoseason, Carol Jerwood, Cllr Bob King, Cllr Stephen Knight, Cllr David Marlow, and Anne-Marie True.

Officers: Matthew Paul (Secretary to the Forum) and Kim Stanford-Smith.

Guest: David Fuller (Managing Director, Academies Enterprise Trust (AET)).

Apologies received from: Prehlad Dhall, Lesley Kirby and Cllr Brian Miller.

	Minutes	Action
1.	<p>Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.</p> <p>The Forum elected Cllr David Marlow as Chair and Andrew Cole as Vice-Chair.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2009 were agreed as a correct record, except that the date of the next meeting needed to be amended. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Update on Academies Programme.</p> <p>David Fuller gave a presentation on the proposal for an AET-sponsored academy at Shene and the background of AET. Among points that Mr Fuller made were that the proposed academy would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have the same admission arrangements, including priority for children attending linked primary schools; ▪ Stay firmly within the local family of schools and serve its immediate community; and ▪ Seek to make the school one that many more local parents than at present would have full confidence in. <p>Members of the Forum then asked the following questions:</p> <p>Q: How confident was Mr Fuller of the academy opening in September 2010? A: The timetable for agreement, should it be given, from the Council's Cabinet, and then the Secretary of State, was tight but do-able, and AET were undertaking preparatory work on the basis that the go-ahead would be given in time.</p>	

	<p>Q: What would happen to the funding if the proposed academy didn't open in September 2010? A: The project support costs are paid by the DCSF and if the project did not succeed then any such costs would effectively be written off.</p> <p>Q: What will the admission number of the proposed academy be? A: It will rise from the current 215 to 220.</p> <p>Q: Is there enough time to make significant changes to the school before September? A: AET are undertaking due diligence regarding the profiles of the staff, current pupils and structures and will seek, in conjunction with the Leadership Team and other staff, to make some changes in time for September. The school would be renamed, there would be a new uniform and some environmental improvements would be made. The architects will start to work on outline design for the anticipated 50% rebuild and 30% refurbishment, which will be funded by a Government grant through Partnership for Schools.</p> <p>The Forum thanked Mr Fuller for his presentation.</p> <p>The Forum noted that the Funding Agreement between the Secretary of State and Kunskapsskolan for the Hampton and Twickenham Academies was due to be signed in the week commencing 15 February 2010.</p>	
4	<p>Consultation on proposed admissions arrangements for 2011/2012.</p> <p>The Forum noted the proposed arrangements and recommended them to the Council's Cabinet, subject to the following suggested amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nursery admissions: the 'sibling' criterion would be amended to say "Children who have siblings (by which is meant full, step-, half- and adopted siblings living in the same household) at the attached infant or primary school at the point of <i>admission</i>" rather than application, since offers for nursery places are likely to be made before the offers for entry to Reception class. ▪ Primary admissions: parents would be able to express up to six preferences, rather than the three that had been proposed, because every other LA in London had agreed to allow up to six. (However, the Forum noted that the benefits for parents of moving to this would statistically be highly unlikely to outweigh the disadvantage to the LA's Admissions team in having to process far more preferences than would otherwise have been the case.) <p>The Forum requested that the LA hold briefing sessions with school staff, with representation from the Dioceses and schools' representatives on the Forum.</p>	
5.	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>The Forum noted that the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames were consulting upon their proposal to build an eight-form entry secondary school in North Kingston and that the Council would be submitting a response by the deadline of 26 February.</p>	
6.	<p>Date, time and venue of next meeting.</p> <p>Thursday 10 June 2010, at 5.45pm for 6pm start, in the Teddington Room, First Floor, Curriculum & Training Centre, Clifden Road, Twickenham.</p>	