

## **Proposed closure of Shene School (to be re-opened as an academy)**

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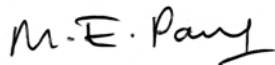
Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Regal House, London Road, Twickenham, TW1 3QB, intends to discontinue Shene School, Park Avenue, London, SW14 8RG, on 31 August 2010.

It is planned that the school will re-open as an academy (sponsored by Academies Enterprise Trust and co-sponsored by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames) on 1 September 2010. The pupils in Years 7-10 inclusive as at 31 August 2010 will automatically transfer to the academy on 1 September 2010.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Matthew Paul, Children's Services and Culture, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Regal House, London Road, Twickenham, TW1 3QB, or [m.paul@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:m.paul@richmond.gov.uk), or from [www.richmond.gov.uk/academies](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/academies).

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Matthew Paul, at the postal or email address given above. The closing-date for responses is 19 February 2010.

Signed:



Matthew Paul  
Deputy Head of Commissioning, Delivery and Service Improvement

Publication Date: 8 January 2010.

## PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE SHENE SCHOOL (AND RE-OPEN IT AS AN ACADEMY)

### Contact details

1.

Matthew Paul, Children's Services and Culture, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Regal House (first floor), London Road, Twickenham, TW1 3QB.

The school to be discontinued is: Shene School, Park Avenue, London, SW14 8RG.

### Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is proposed that Shene School will be discontinued on 31 August 2010 and will re-open as an academy (sponsored by Academies Enterprise Trust and co-sponsored by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames) on 1 September 2010.

### Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

Full statutory consultation regarding the proposal is being undertaken, following previous informal consultation.

Consultation was undertaken with local people in 2008, when a proposal was put forward for Shene to become an academy sponsored by a different organisation from the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET). At that stage, the principle of the school becoming an academy was informally consulted upon and the results of a survey undertaken in June 2008 showed that a majority of respondents would be more likely to send their children to Shene if it became an academy. The results are summarised at:

[http://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/Published/C00000438/M00002064/AI00016525/\\$AcademiesProgrammeA.docA.ps.pdf](http://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/Published/C00000438/M00002064/AI00016525/$AcademiesProgrammeA.docA.ps.pdf).

In June 2009, the Director of Children's Services and Culture held meetings with the headteachers and parent-governors of nine local primary schools to find out what they would like to see in an improved local secondary school. The notes of those meetings are appended to this document, and the conclusions of those meetings informed the selection of new sponsors for the proposed academy.

The draft Expression of Interest for the AET-sponsored academy was sent to all five neighbouring local authorities for comments, but none were received. The Learning and Skills Council stated:

We would support the plan that it is 11-16, particularly in view of:

- the proposals that the other two Academies are 11-16,
- outcomes of the Academies consultations,
- evidence related to the deficiencies and viability of small SSF, and
- the poor success of the 16-19 franchise arrangement undertaken at Shene a couple of years ago.

We would strongly recommend that Shene Academy (indeed all of the Academies) play an active role in the borough's 14-19 Partnership and encourage joint collaboration of all the borough's 14-19 institutions to ensure that the borough's 14-19 strategy best meets the needs of the learners.

**4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—**

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

- (a) The following groups were, and/ or are being, consulted: the school and its Governing Body, and parents of current and prospective pupils; all in-borough primary schools linked to the school; all five neighbouring local authorities (Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Kingston, Surrey, and Wandsworth); Richmond Adult Community College; Richmond upon Thames College; the four diocesan boards of education whose areas include Richmond Borough (the Anglican Dioceses of London and Southwark, and the Catholic Archdioceses of Southwark and Westminster); the Council's Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
- (b) Minutes of all meetings are retained by Matthew Paul and can be inspected upon request (telephone 020 8891 7588; email [m.paul@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:m.paul@richmond.gov.uk)).
- (c) A summary of views of the persons consulted is attached to this document.
- (d) Copies of all consultation documents are retained by Matthew Paul and can be inspected upon request (telephone 020 8891 7588; email [m.paul@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:m.paul@richmond.gov.uk)).

## **Objectives**

**5. The objectives of the proposal.**

The main objective of the proposal is to discontinue Shene School and re-open it as an academy. This proposed 11-16 Academy at Shene is part of the Authority's new

strategic vision for secondary education in Richmond and is designed to ensure further improvement in standards to the point where it becomes and remains 'outstanding'.

### **Standards and Diversity**

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

Our vision is to ensure that excellent performance is achieved and maximised in all our schools and in LA services. We will do this by:

- Fostering a healthy safe enjoyable and sustainable environment in which children will thrive – both academically and as members of our community – with a stimulating curriculum delivered in an innovative manner;
- Focusing resources on closing gaps between the achievement of different groups;
- Providing services that support children and their families/carers in local geographical areas;
- Using high quality ICT to ensure the needs of learners are met, personalising their learning and making sure they are able to access their learning materials at school, in their home and in local libraries and children's centres;
- Minimising the issues that are caused at transition by good partnership working;
- Ensuring that there are sufficient places available for parents at all phases of education and
- Aligning funding streams so that all phases and types of schools gain a maximum benefit from a joined up approach to funding.

As part of its commissioning role, the Authority sees the need to expand the level of choice and quality offered to parents and students. These improvements are part of a wider strategy to reverse the trend of some parents choosing secondary education outside the borough. The Authority is committed to supporting the introduction of three new academies, including the proposed Academy at Shene, since it believes the Academy route will offer the best chance of sustained long term improvements in student achievement and success. This improved achievement and success for students will sit alongside improved take up of post-16 provision, stronger provision for special needs across the borough and a strengthening of the *Every Child Matters* agenda on all school sites. The Authority is pleased to be working alongside Academies Enterprise Trust in developing the new Academy as a full part of the local family of schools, since the sponsors' educational model, and the emphasis on high standards for all students, fits well with our vision.

### **Provision for 16 -19 year olds**

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

N/A.

### Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

No pupils will be displaced, as all the existing Yrs 7-11 pupils will automatically transfer to the Academy.

School place planning projections for the secondary phase are largely made on a whole-borough, rather than school-by-school basis, and are based on demographic and admissions trends, but also take into account external factors such as the popularity of, and changes to, out-borough schools.

The Authority has experienced a large growth in applications for primary school places in recent years, due in part to a 20% increase in the number of live births between 2002 and 2007 and, in the last year, due to the economic situation. The take-up rate from birth of places in state schools within the borough has historically been c.30%, but this year that figure has fallen to 22%.

In our [Primary Strategy for Change](#) (which was one of only 40 in England that was unconditionally approved by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and [Consultation on Primary Expansions Strategy](#) documents, we set out plans to provide five additional forms of entry on a permanent basis. In recognition of our large growth in reception class numbers, in 2008 we were one of only two local authorities in London to whom the DCSF allocated 'Basic Need Safety Valve' funding to help with the costs of additional primary school places. There had been no opportunity to bid for Safety Valve funding since 2005. The DCSF also allocated some Targeted Capital Fund money to us last year and we are required to spend this money and the Safety Valve allocation by 2011. Those allocations have been supplemented by other funding streams and from the Council's own money to create a total pot of £32million to pay for the five planned forms of entry.

With even larger birth cohorts for the 2010, 2011 and 2012 intakes, the need for additional places will be even greater.

So it follows that we will require increased capacity in the secondary sector in the medium term. It also follows that the academies are an opportunity to build some of that capacity, rather than through Building Schools for the Future (BSF), which we are due to enter after every other local authority in England. Although the effect of this growth on our secondary sector will not start to be felt in full until 2014, we feel that we should be looking now to add capacity to our secondary schools. There are eight secondary schools in the borough, of which five are now oversubscribed. The recession has meant that more preferences were expressed this year than in any year since the pan-London co-ordinated secondary admissions scheme started in 2004. The transfer rate from Richmond Borough primary schools to our secondary schools increased from 66% in 2000 to 70% in 2008 and is expected to have increased to c.74/75% in 2009. The effects of the recession, improved standards and the school's increased attractiveness if it becomes an academy, with new and refurbished facilities and new ways of curriculum delivery, is likely to result in the school being full in Year 7 in future years also.

We therefore feel that the school's admissions number should be increased from 215 to 220.

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

N/A.

### **Current School Information**

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

As at October 2009, there are 611 pupils on roll, of whom 376 are boys and 235 are girls. The age-range is 11 to 16. There are 13 pupils with statements of special educational needs, 37 on 'school action plus' and 123 on 'school action'.

### **Displaced Pupils**

11. Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

- (a) No pupils will be displaced.
- (b) N/A.
- (c) N/A.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

It is proposed that the capacity of the Academy will be 220 in Year 7 in 2010/2011 and subsequent years. (Please see 8.)

### **Impact on the Community**

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

It is expected that the closure of the school and its re-opening as an academy would make it more attractive to parents of children transferring into secondary education. Through increased standards and popularity, and rebuilding and refurbishment of facilities, the academy would have a beneficial impact, increasing its role at the heart of the local community.

**14.** Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Shene School currently provides sports and other facilities for use by the local community. It is the intention of the sponsor that the proposed academy would offer existing and improved facilities for community use.

### **Travel**

**15.** Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

N/A.

**16.** The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

N/A.

### **Related Proposals.**

**17.** A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

N/A.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

**18.** Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;
- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

N/A.

### **Maintained nursery schools**

**19.** Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children's centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education authority's assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

N/A.

### **Special educational provision**

**20.** Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

N/A.

## PROPOSED ACADEMY AT SHENE – MEETINGS WITH LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

11, 15 and 16 June 2009, 5.30pm-6.30pm, IAS Room,  
First floor, Regal House, London, Road, Twickenham

Chair of meetings: Nick Whitfield

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**Present:** 11 June: **Barnes Primary:** Jonathan Chapman, Parent-Governor; Mark Hartley, Headteacher; Jenny Wright, Parent-Governor; **Darell Primary:** Brian Glover, Acting Headteacher; Celia Hodges, Chair of Governors; Mark Williams, Parent-Governor; **Lowther Primary:** Louise Duthart, Parent-Governor; **Shene School:** Julie Johnston, Deputy Headteacher; Tina Jones, Chair of Governors.

15 June: **Holy Trinity Church of England Primary:** Penny Cox, Headteacher; Robert Hawker, Parent-Governor; Harry James, Chair of Governors; **Lowther Primary:** Mark Tuffney, Deputy Headteacher; Pat Henchie, Headteacher; Stuart Thorne, Chair of Governors; **Marshgate Primary:** Helen Cox, PA to Headteacher and local parent; Liz Jackson, Headteacher; **Shene School:** Tina Jones, Chair of Governors.

16 June: **East Sheen Primary:** Simon Danciger, Chair of Governors; Susannah Hart, Parent-Governor; **Kew Riverside Primary:** Peter Berg, Parent-Governor; Sarah Kennedy, Acting Headteacher; Jane Spencer, Chair of Governors; **Sheen Mount Primary:** Niki Dow, Parent-Governor; Elaine England, Headteacher; Polly Fraley, Parent-Governor; **Shene School:** Melissa Cliff, Vice-Chair of Governors (and also a parent of a pupil at Sheen Mount); **The Vineyard Primary:** Claire O'Donnell, Chair of Governors; Judy Pearse, Headteacher, Penny Vegting, Parent-Governor.

At all three meetings: **Local Authority:** Nick Whitfield, Director of Children's Services and Culture; Matthew Paul, Deputy Head of Commissioning, Delivery and Service Improvement; **Shene School:** Lesley Kirby, Headteacher.

### Format of meetings

At each of the three meetings, Nick Whitfield outlined the background regarding the academy development process to date and that the purpose of the meeting was to establish views as to what would be ideal in an academy at Shene. The primary school representatives were then each given the opportunity to give their views as to what they felt parents wanted from an ideal local secondary school/academy. Lesley Kirby then updated attendees on some of the improvement and good work that had

been, and was continuing to be, made at Shene.

**Summary of views expressed.**

The primary school representatives said that the proposed academy should be:

- At the heart of the community, providing outreach work into local schools and with facilities used by local people;
- Full of local, well-behaved children;
- Actively and enthusiastically supported by parents;
- Safe for its pupils, both inside school and on their journeys to and from school;
- Inclusive and fully comprehensive, and therefore able to meet the needs of children of all abilities;
- Traditional; but daring and aspirational;
- Consistently academically successful and adding value;
- Providing high-quality teaching and learning to build upon children's achievement at primary school and stretch them;
- Offering a wide curriculum, with excellent, all-round opportunities for sport, drama, arts and other extracurricular activities;
- Working in a formal, scheduled way with local primary schools so that it becomes the natural progression for local children;
- Rebuilt/refurbished with high-quality 21<sup>st</sup> century design, so as to provide excellent, spacious and flexible facilities; and
- Rebranded, with a uniform that gives an image that helps to change hearts and minds and which should be worn well, and possibly renamed.

There were mixed views as to the desirability of sixth form provision, with some attendees feeling that the ability for young people to stay in the same educational institution from 11-18 would provide an added attraction for local parents; whereas others considered the borough's current provision to be more than adequate and felt that most young people wanted a change of institution at 16.

The primary school representatives said the proposed sponsors and academic partners should be:

- Credible; and
- Able to demonstrate an excellent track record of academic achievement and working within a community.