

From Twyford CE High School and London Diocesan Board for Schools

## FREE SCHOOL PROPOSAL APPROVED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL IN GREENFORD



The joint proposal by Twyford CE High School and the London Diocesan Board for Schools for a new secondary school in Greenford opening in 2013 has been approved by the Department for Education. Alice Hudson, head teacher of Twyford, said, "We are tremendously excited that our plans have met with such a vote of confidence from the government. There is much work to be done to turn the plans into reality in just two years, but we are looking forward to working with the local community to provide the school they need".

Inigo Woolf, from the LDBS, said, "I am sure that the 500 parents who signed up to make the new school one of their six choices of secondary schools, played a key role in getting the go ahead from the government. This will be our fourth new school since 2007 and our second with a completely open admissions policy."

The proposers will now continue to work with the local council and the Academy Reference Group to plan every last detail of the new school.

Polly Buhariwala, leader of the parents' group from Horsenden Primary School said, "It's great news that the LDBS and Twyford have now received government support to open a new high school in North Greenford. Parents have waited a long time for an excellent local school for local children. We are extremely pleased for our children and our community."

Councillor Patricia Walker, cabinet member for Children and Young People, said: "This is great news for parents in this part of the borough who have been waiting for a new high school for a long time. We originally planned a school for this site as part of our Building Schools for the Future programme. Ever since the government cut BSF, we have been working hard to find other ways to create the much needed school places. We have worked with Twyford and the LDBS on this proposal and are very supportive of their plan."

### **Free Schools and Academies**

The proposers will make use of the coalition government's legislation on Free Schools to open the school. Technically, Free Schools are all Academies, that is, independent schools funded by central government and operated by a Charitable Trust.

### **Twyford Church of England High School.**

Twyford is one of the most popular schools in the area and is heavily oversubscribed. Its most recent inspection by OFSTED resulted in a second consecutive grading of "Outstanding". It will have a close relationship with the new school to ensure that the excellent management and leadership at Twyford is replicated at the new school.

### **London Diocesan Board for Schools**

The LDBS operates in 149 schools in London in both primary and secondary age groups. It has successfully opened three new academies since 2007. Its schools are Christian in character but welcome those of all faiths and none.

## **Admissions Policy**

The LDBS schools are moving towards having fewer faith-based places in their admissions criteria. Its recent new schools have had 50% open places requiring no faith commitment. The proposed new school will be the second LDBS school this year to open having 100% open places. The proposed school will be a Church of England school open to all faiths and none and will have an open admissions policy.

## **What support is there for the school?**

The petition of 2053 signatures was collected in just three weeks in January 2011. Signatories included over 1000 parents and nearly 600 local residents, as well as a number of local teachers. A Reference Group has been formed to plan the school and to represent the views of local people. Currently the Group contains representatives of the local primary schools' teachers and governors, Ealing Council, local Ward Councillors and local churches. More than 500 signatures were obtained from parents in local primary schools through a parental survey in April/May 2011. Parents were given information about the proposed school, its character, admissions policy etc. Parents agreed to make the school one of their six secondary school choices when their child reaches Year 6.

## **What will the school be like?**

The proposal is for an 11-18 high school taking 240 pupils per year. The school is likely to be an academy and will be set up as one of the government's new Free Schools. Like Twyford, the school will set the highest standards and aspirations for its students. This will apply to academic achievement; sport and the arts; discipline; and community involvement.

Special Features. The education plans, developed by Twyford School, will aim to replicate the success of Twyford in providing a high standard of achievement and excellent standards of behaviour. Its specialism will be in science and it will also benefit from Twyford's expertise in Music and Modern Foreign Languages. A key feature will be the 'transition curriculum' to ensure pupils make smooth progress between primary and secondary education with no dip in standards.

## **The Location**

The proposed school will be located on the former Glaxo Sports and Social Club site in Oldfield Lane North putting it at the heart of Greenford and in an area not currently served by a local high school.

## **What will the school be called?**

We don't know. We will be collecting suggestions and including the most popular ideas in our consultation over the next few months. The working title of *North Ealing Church of England Academy*, is only temporary.

## **What is the next step?**

Now we have the support of the government for our proposal, the timescale is:

- Formal consultation with the community – Autumn 2011
- Signing of formal contract, Funding Agreement – Spring 2012
- Opening of new school by September 2013

## **Planning for the new school**

The plans as they develop will be made available on the LDBS website – see below.

## **Contacts**

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Visit <http://schools.london.anglican.org/> and follow the Free Schools links.