

Frequently asked questions about the new secondary school in Haringey Heartlands.

Why do we need another secondary school?

Pupil numbers in our primary schools have risen in the past ten years. Pupil projections indicate that this trend will continue. Also pupil numbers in our secondary schools have increased to the point where all of the schools are nearly full. Projections show that we will need to open a new school by 2010.

What kind of school will the new school be?

The school will be a mixed, multi-faith community comprehensive school serving the Wood Green, Hornsey and Haringey Heartlands communities with an opportunity to become part of a hard federation of successful schools.

When will the new school open?

September 2010.

Where will the new school be situated?

The site is close to Alexandra Palace Station and 600 metres from Wood Green tube and bus station, making travel to and from the school convenient.

Are there good transport links to the new school?

The location of the new school should encourage the use of greener alternatives for the school run, for example walking, using bicycle or public transport. Young people will be encouraged to use buses, including school buses, to cycle (there will be places for cycle parking at the school), and walk if they could do so with friends. Transport arrangements for students with a statement of educational need will be in accordance with the assessment of each individual's need as detailed in their statement.

What is the budget for the new school?

The budget is £27 million.

What about access to sports facilities?

The intention is to locate as many of the sports facilities on the site as possible. We are also negotiating with Alexandra Park Sports Club about use of its sports facilities.

How many pupils will go to the new school?

Initially the school will admit 162 boys and girls (six form entry). The school will expand to admit 216 boys and girls (eight form entry) when there is sufficient demand. The school will also have additional places in a special unit for students with autism.

How can I get my child into the school? What are the admission arrangements?

The admission arrangements will be the same as for all other community

secondary schools in Haringey. The admission criteria for community secondary schools give priority to applicants in the following order:

- those children with a statement of special educational needs (SEN);
- children who have an exceptional medical, social or educational need for a place at the school;
- children with a brother or sister already attending the school and who will still be attending on the date of admission; and
- children living closest to the preferred school.

If the school is over-subscribed, a waiting list will be established and places offered on the basis of the above admissions criteria.

What are the school's specialisms?

The school will specialise in the visual arts and media which will enable it to benefit from its unique location in the cultural quarter of Haringey. It will also have an additional specialism in supporting students with autistic spectrum disorder.

Why Visual Arts and Media?

The location of the school within the Haringey Cultural Quarter will provide synergies for both the cultural industries nearby to use the school's facilities and for the school to enrich its students' experiences through using the resources of local arts and media enterprises. We are negotiating the co-funding for parts of the construction scheme to provide efficiencies through joint usage of specialist facilities for the arts, media and sport. The Mountview Theatre School and Collage Arts, both key partners in the local arts and business community, support the Haringey proposals for a new school.

What provision will there be for students with autistic spectrum disorder?

The school will have a specialist facility with specialist staff for 25 young people with autism. Children with autistic spectrum disorder will be recommended for places by the SEN Panel, taking into account parental preferences, in accordance with SEN Code of Practice.

Will Information and Communications Technology (ICT) be an important part of the new school?

Yes. ICT and specialist facilities are a key element in our education vision. Building Schools for the Future provides the opportunity, through funding, to achieve an ICT vision of state of the art managed ICT facilities appropriate to 21st century schools.

What extended school facilities will the new school offer?

The school will provide a range of extended services for young people, their families and other members of the community to include sport, leisure, cultural/arts activities and social events. At the core will be the extended provision for students to use the facilities beyond the normal school day, at evenings, weekends and during holidays, especially given the substantial ICT infrastructure that will be part of the new build. Not only

will this lead to higher standards, but it will contribute to community cohesion with students taking responsibility for using their school's resource effectively for their wider learning, physical, personal and social development. The school will provide facilities for, and make strong links to, Haringey's wide range of community groups and supplementary and language schools.

What is the policy towards children with Special Educational Needs?

The school will be an inclusive school, ensuring that all students have access to the full curriculum, with additional support for those with special educational needs. Learning pathways will be guided by individualised plans developed and agreed by the individual student, their parents, staff and key agencies to best meet the needs of the individual. The student will be encouraged to engage fully both in the establishment of learning plans, ensuring that those plans are implemented and in evaluating the progress that they are making.

What are the Sixth Form arrangements?

Students and parents can make an open choice about where to study post 16. But because this is an 11-16 school, students at the school will have priority places at the new Haringey Sixth Form Centre where there is a wide range of academic and vocational study pathways to follow and will also work closely with College of North East London (CONEL), a strong partner in the delivery of vocational provision in Haringey. The school will be able to make full use of Haringey's response to the Government's 14-19 reforms. It will be included within the 14-19 partnership, so that young people will have an opportunity to study specialist diplomas from the age of 14 as part of a broad curriculum, which will also provide them with a range of opportunities for post 16 study. A broad range of demand-led collaborative academic and vocational courses at levels 1, 2 and 3 are being introduced across the borough. The school will be well placed to benefit from the connections made by the Local Authority and its partners, who have responded well to meet the diversity of needs at 14-19 and are open to further innovation.

What are the plans for the staffing structure at the school?

We want to create a school in which the best staff will want to work because of the educational opportunities for young people, the working environment and excellent professional development opportunities for all staff. The specific staffing structure of the school will be a matter to be determined by the governing body and in partnership with the federation.

What will be the school's curriculum?

The school will meet the general requirements as set out in legislation to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. Drawing from best practice in Haringey and elsewhere, the school will develop students' skills and confidence in understanding how they best learn. Recognising different learning styles and promoting learning opportunities that match these will be an essential starting point for planning the curriculum. A project board has been set up to help develop a framework for the school curriculum.