



New Archer Academy proves a popular choice with Suburb parents

The Archer Academy in East Finchley, which has only been open for just over a year, is already a firm favourite with parents at the Suburb's two main primary schools.

The school received over 850 applications for the 150 places available for the current academic year and is still running a substantial waiting list. Around a third of last year's Year 6 students from Garden Suburb school have gone on to the Archer Academy and a similar number transferred from Brookland Juniors, with the result that just under 40% of this year's intake comes from these two primary schools.

And Suburb parents who chose the school for their children this year are delighted with the choice they have made. As Karen Wilkins explains: "We looked at a number of potential schools for our son and, although

he passed the entrance exam to a prestigious grammar school in the borough, there was no question that the Archer Academy would be our first choice. We were very much in support of a new community secondary school from the start and consistently impressed with the approach and dedication of those involved in making it a reality.

One of things we suspected would be a strong feature of the school is the enthusiasm and passion of the teachers, which is something our son has confirmed; just a few weeks into his first term he is enjoying himself immensely. Taking the short bus ride to school has boosted his confidence and independence; he has joined the orchestra as a violinist, has started guitar lessons and is loving the sports and enrichment programmes. He says he feels proud to be an Archer student,

and we feel very happy and fortunate to be part of such an exciting and thriving school."

And her view is shared by another Suburb parent, Tapashi Nadarajah: "We originally moved to the Suburb to feel part of a community, and were keen to send our children to a local secondary school, but when we first started looking some years ago there seemed to be little or no choice nearby. As the Archer Academy developed from a campaign into a reality, we were excited and enthralled to see that this school really did seem to offer us what we wanted – to be part of a community, walking to school, keeping the friendships and bonds already made and looking forward to new ones.

The commitment, energy, direction and focus for excellence was clear and inspiring and meeting the headteacher and his deputy reinforced that further. The transition programme was excellent, engaging the children long before they stepped into the school on the first day. The proof is in my daughter's words after just a few weeks: "I can't believe it, but I feel like I've been there for years."

The school's determination to give children an excellent, high-achieving education with a solid foundation to develop and progress, to be supported, and to gain the skills they will need as adults is already evident and I have no doubt that my daughter will thrive."

The parents' views are echoed by the Good Schools Guide, who have identified the Archer Academy as one of ten 'Schools

to watch' in London. The report noted, "The excitement was almost tangible in East Finchley. One parent told us, 'We've waited so long for a school around here. You wait, people will be moving into the area soon to get in.'" It also described Mick Quigley as, "a head through and through. He looks and sounds like a head should look and sound – authoritative but approachable," and remarked that, "we were particularly struck by very well behaved students, thoroughly engaged in the subjects they were learning, who barely gave us even a cursory glance when we walked in, so engrossed were they in their literature books."

And Mick Quigley is thrilled with the support that local parents have shown the school. "When the parent group behind the Archer Academy set out to create a new school for the area, they called their campaign 'Local Schools for Local Children.' We're really proud that, in just two short years, we've been taken to the hearts of the community and become the school of choice for local parents that we set out to be.

"The students who joined us in September have got off to a flying start, settling in very quickly and throwing themselves into all the opportunities we offer them both in and outside the classroom. Some of them acted as tour guides at our recent open evening and were fantastic advocates for their school. We're looking forward to seeing them grow and develop along with the school in the years ahead."

Christmas at Abbeyfield?

Abbeyfield is a national charity that provides care, support and accommodation for people over the age of 55. Their services benefit over 7,000 people across eight countries. Abbeyfield is preparing to launch a national initiative called 'Coping at Christmas'. The aim of this programme is to strive to ensure that no elderly person spends the Christmas period alone. Our local Abbeyfield, off Erskine Hill, will be participating in this initiative by opening up their home to local residents who may need company over the holiday season. Abbeyfield House provides sheltered accommodation to ten residents in a house conversion, providing two cooked meals a day. Residents benefit from a

caring and supportive staff, daily coffee mornings, and regular outings that are organised by our committee of local volunteers. Local residents are invited to come to a coffee morning or a meal over the Christmas Period. If you, a neighbour, or loved one would benefit from participating in 'Coping at Christmas' or would like to find out more about the services that Abbeyfield provides, please do not hesitate to contact Bobby Brooks, Senior Housing Manager North London, 8455 2607 alternatively you can email r.brooks@abbeyfield.com.



Water Mains Renewals starts November 3

Short sections of the water mains network in the Suburb are being upgraded by slipping in the familiar yellow sleeves. This will start on, or soon after, November 3 in Linden Lea and Lytton Close and continue through to May 2015. Affinity Water say they expect the pipes to be under the footway or kerb, rather than the street, but on site things may be different in places. The work will continue into Holne Chase and Spencer Drive and the

north end of Winnington Road and at some point a stretch at the south end of Winnington Road and the top of Ingram Avenue. It will also include a short stretch of Fallden Way and Ossulton Way, near the Market Place, while TfL are upgrading the pavement. Streets will be leafleted before work begins, and additional information while work is taking place will be available at www.affinitywater.co.uk/customerzone.

Successful launch

FunTech launched Tech Classes & Camps for Suburb children this summer. "We are off to a flying start with the support of Suburb News. I simply love the people and the area; it has such a marvellous mix of a village feel

and so close to central London. I am really looking forward to meeting all your children and developing our computer classes, especially our coding academy which seems to be a real popular hit," said Shen Barber of FunTech.



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