

# Secondary school prepares for 2016

The Beckenham Academy will open for Year 7 pupils in September next year

By Tom Pyman

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APPLICATIONS are now being invited from parents for the latest secondary free school to open in the borough.

The Beckenham Academy (TBA) was officially launched at its open evening earlier this month but whilst the new school premises are under construction, TBA will be based at The Ravensbourne School in Bromley.

To help make the transition from primary to secondary smooth for children, the school will provide a free transport link, for both before and after school, from key points around the catchment area.

In order to help meet the extra demand for schooling the local authority needs by 2020, Multi-Academy Trust E21C has launched the school, which is set to open independently in September 2016 for Year 7 students.

The Ravensbourne School has also been providing an open week every day this week from 9am-10am for an opportunity to see the school and how it runs.

Head teacher of The Beckenham Academy Emily Codling said: "I'm very excited about being able to offer this new choice for Year 7

students in the Beckenham area.

"We want our students to be the best they can be and the only way we can do this is by investing in them and striving to put them first.

"We will offer our children a well-rounded experience to their school life, nurturing them through an extended school day and giving them the edge as they take the next step."

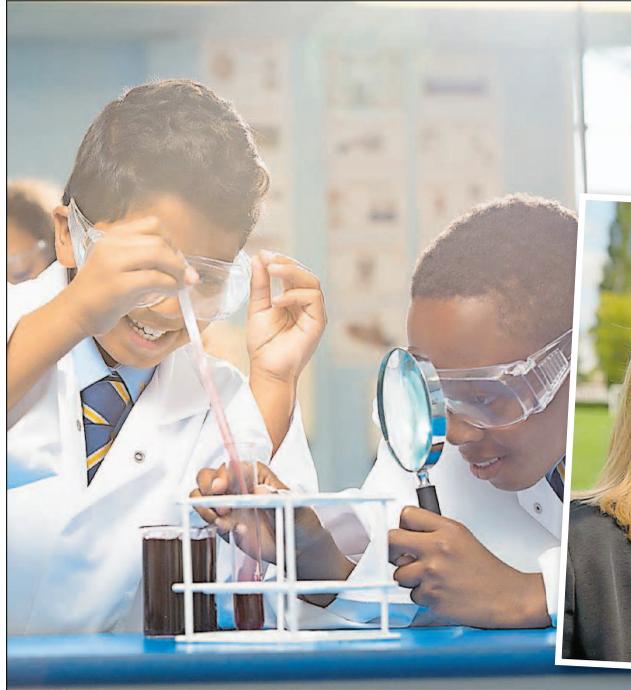
CEO of E21C, Paul Murphy added: "It was great to see so many people interested in our new secondary school.

"Opening within Ravensbourne means we can provide students with fantastic facilities and it allows the children to work within an established school environment from the outset."

To apply for places, parents must complete their local authority common application form expressing a further six preferences.

There are 180 places available at TBA and all applications need to be received by Mrs K Lee on KLee@ravensbourne.info by October 31.

Councillor for Copers Cope ward, Russell Mellor, said: "I think it's a good idea because the pressure we have in Beckenham to meet the extra demand for schooling is going to be immense. We've not solved all the problems but this will help."



■ Head teacher Emily Codling says TBA will offer 'children a well-rounded experience to their school life, nurturing them through an extended school day and giving them the edge as they take the next step'



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