

New school in Balmoral Avenue

Trust behind new academy buys site in Beckenham...

By Tom Pyman
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A PERMANENT site for a new secondary free school in Beckenham has been purchased.

The site for The Beckenham Academy (TBA) has been confirmed as Balmoral Avenue, following the purchase by Education for the 21st Century (E21C), the multi-academy trust of which the school is a member.

Located near to Elmers End and Eden Park train stations in Beckenham, the location will be easily accessible for students living in and around the north of Beckenham.

Although planning permission is yet to be sought for the new building - which is expected to be completed by 2018 - the Beckenham Academy will take in 180 Year 7 students from September next year, at its temporary base, The Ravensbourne School.

While students are based there, free transport will be provided both before and after school for those living in the area.

The new academy will be a mixed secondary school and is being built to help cope with the extra demand for

schooling in the borough by 2020.

Head teacher Emily Codling said: "It's fantastic news that we can now inform all our students and their parents about the proposed permanent location for our school in Beckenham."

"The deadline for applications for next year's intake has passed and we've been overwhelmed by the number of applicants we've had."

"All the teaching staff at TBA are really excited about meeting our first intake of students."

Paul Murphy, of E21C, added: "Parents and students have had to be very patient in waiting for the location to be confirmed while the legal processes were dealt with, which we really appreciate it. The location offers a fantastic space for a new school and we cannot wait to begin building it."

Bromley council's chairman of education policy development Cllr Nicholas Bennett said: "We welcome a new secondary school because with growing numbers of pupils we need more places. It's subject to a planning application but currently, from an education view, this looks like it will help meet the growing demand, which is only good news."



■ Head teacher Emily Codling says the purchase of land in Balmoral Avenue is 'fantastic news' for pupils and parents

IN BRIEF

Asher-Smith at Extravaganza

ORPINGTON kicked off its seasonal festivities last week with a Christmas Extravaganza event on Thursday.

An extended road closure was in force to make space for a range of free activities, including face painting and lantern making, while record-breaking sprinter Dina Asher-Smith led the count down to the fireworks.

SPARKS winner

A BROMLEY woman has won a range of prizes following the launch of a new members' club.

Amba Golding, from Orpington, has received among other goodies, a luxury stay in London for two and a £250 gift card, courtesy of Marks and Spencer's SPARKS scheme.

Salon awards

A NUMBER of salon employees have received awards at a special ceremony as Graham Webb International (GWI) celebrated the talent of its juniors, creative stylists and managers last week.



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