

Proposed Drapers' Academy

Your new Academy due to open in September 2010

Newsletter

Autumn 2009



Welcome from the Sponsors



The Drapers' Company



Queen Mary
University of London

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest newsletter about the Drapers' Academy. We have made a lot of progress over the summer and the shape of the Academy is taking form fast. As the Chair of the Academy project I have been very impressed with the way in which all those involved with the project are working together so positively to make it happen. Drapers' Academy will bring about a lot of changes but we are certain that they will be changes for the better. If, after reading this

newsletter, you have any questions, comments or suggestions please do get in touch. Drapers' Academy will be a Harold Hill school for Harold Hill families and your input is vital to help us get it right.

Adrian Lyons
Chair, Drapers' Academy Project

Your questions answered

When will the Academy open? King's Wood School will close on 31 August 2010 and the new Academy will open on 1 September 2010.

Will there be new buildings? Yes, work will start on an entirely new building shortly before the Academy opens. It will be ready by September 2012.

What will happen before the new buildings are open? Until the new buildings are ready the Academy will use the South Building of King's Wood, with extra temporary accommodation for science labs and girls' changing rooms. The North Building will be demolished to make way for the new buildings.

Who can apply? Preference will be given to anyone who is at King's Wood now and anyone living in Harold Hill. There will be no restrictions based on ability.

What subjects will be taught? Students will have the chance to choose from a full range of subjects. There will be an emphasis on the Academy's specialisms, maths and science.

Will there be a Sixth Form? Yes, it will start when the new building is opened in 2012.

Who will the governors be? A number, including the chair will be nominated by the Sponsors and there will be others to represent parents, staff, the local authority (Havering) and the local community.

Apart from lessons, what else will the Academy offer? Music, drama, different sports, clubs, cadets and more. The Academy will also run a variety of courses for adults.

Academy Open Event

We warmly invite all prospective parents and students to come along to our open evening.

When: Thursday 1 October 2009

There will be two presentations - at 5pm and at 7pm

Where: King's Wood School
Settle Hill, Harold Hill
RM3 9XR

Meet Sponsors' representatives who will be able to tell you a lot more about the Academy and answer your questions. There will also be science displays and demonstrations from Queen Mary, University of London that will be both fun and an example of the sort of work that the university does.

Please note that the Drapers' Academy remains 'proposed' until the signing of Funding Agreement. Please see 'What happens next?' on the back page of this newsletter for further details on this



Your new Academy

Academy students

If you join Drapers' Academy you will be valued as an individual. Staff will work with you to ensure you achieve the very best you are capable of. You will be asked to work hard and to behave well, but you will also discover that learning is fun. We are very ambitious for what Academy students will achieve and every student will play a key role in helping make these ambitions real.

The Academy day

Many successful schools have reviewed their teaching day. The Academy day will be a little longer than usual to allow us to support students fully. Students will be given additional support in any subjects they find difficult, and will also be given the opportunity to spend more time on the subjects they really enjoy and are good at. Academy students will also have many opportunities to get involved in sport, music, drama and other activities.

"Students will be given additional support in any subjects they find difficult"

Learning new skills

Drapers' Academy will specialise in maths and science. Students will experience excellent teaching in these subjects. They will also find out about the newest and most exciting discoveries in science and maths through the Academy's links with Queen Mary, University of London.

The Sixth Form

Drapers' Academy will have a Sixth Form from 2012, so students will be able to stay at the Academy until they are eighteen. We hope that many will go on to university, and that all our students will leave the Academy well prepared for success in their future lives.

About the Sponsors



The Drapers' Company

The Drapers' Company is proud to be the lead sponsor of the proposed Drapers' Academy and is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London.

From its origins in the thirteenth century, the Company has developed an involvement with a wide range of charitable activities in general, and education and the relief of need, in particular. Over the last five hundred years, the Company has been involved in the foundation of numerous schools and places of learning across Britain and continues to provide financial and governor support to over twenty schools, colleges and universities. Its involvement in school governance contributes to strong educational performance in these establishments.

There are approximately 700 members of the Drapers' Company from all walks of life and, as in the case of Drapers' Academy, individuals volunteer to help with the governance of schools and colleges.

More information about the Drapers' Company can be found on our website - www.thedrapers.co.uk



The co-sponsor, Queen Mary, University of London, is one of the leading Colleges of the University of London, with 15,000 students studying for University of London degrees in Science and Engineering; Humanities and Social Sciences; Medicine and Dentistry. Queen Mary has a strong track-record of contributing to the development of education in London through innovative partnerships. Queen Mary will provide enrichment and extension of maths and science through the development of additional and innovative learning materials, and collaborative teaching and learning activities and events. Alongside its high standards of academic excellence, Queen Mary is known for its friendly culture and is the only university in London to have its teaching, leisure and accommodation facilities all on a campus, making life and study much easier for its 15,000 students.

For more information about Queen Mary, University of London, please visit www.qmul.ac.uk

Temporary accommodation arrangements

While the new buildings are being constructed, the Academy will operate from the existing King's Wood South Building. It will be a bit of a squeeze, but is a temporary measure, until the new buildings are ready.

There are no science laboratories or girls' changing rooms in the current South Building.

We are, therefore, delighted that the new Academy will benefit from new, fully fitted-out temporary accommodation. This will be set up during the summer holidays in 2010 on a site between the two existing King's Wood buildings, giving the Academy modern and up to date facilities from the outset.

The new buildings

In August, Partnerships for Schools gave their agreement to our proposals for the new buildings. These are being bought by Havering Local Authority on our behalf. In another important development, outline planning permission was granted in the middle of September and building firms have been invited to bid for the contract to build the new Academy facilities.

We are not quite sure what the new buildings will look like yet because, as part of the tendering process, the contractors will give us their ideas on how best to achieve our vision for the new Academy. However there are a number of certainties:

- The new Academy will be built on the North Building site.
- The buildings will be large, around 10,000 square metres (the floor space of the existing King's Wood buildings).
- The layout of the buildings will reflect a journey through the Academy, starting with a special area for students in Years 7 and 8, to help them make a successful transition into secondary education.
- There will be a self-contained area for the Sixth Form where students can take on more responsibility for their final two years at the Academy.

The site is very attractive and we are confident that the bidders will reflect this in their designs. We are also working on plans to upgrade the grounds around the Academy to provide an attractive setting for buildings which, we believe, will be a source of local pride.

We hope that work will start on demolishing the North Building immediately after the summer term ends in 2010. The new buildings will take just under two years to complete and plans are in place to do this in a way that minimises disruption to students, as their education and achievement is paramount.

"The new buildings will take just under two years to complete"



When the new Drapers' Academy opens it will have an entirely new look. This will mean a new logo, new signs and new uniforms.

New look for the new Academy

New logo

We have already started work on this and have held discussions with students and staff to decide on the logo and the colours for the Academy. Due to the name and the close links the Academy will have with the Drapers' Company, the logo will include the centre of the Drapers' Company coat of arms. It so happens that this is also part of Queen Mary's logo. The main colours will be blue and yellow which are the colours of both the Drapers' Company and Queen Mary, University of London.

When we were thinking about the logo and colours we visited King's Wood to talk to some of the students and were pleased to find they agreed with our ideas. They were also glad that the present school's three crowns would live on in the new Academy logo. Logo designs are currently being developed and the new Academy logo will be launched later in the Autumn term.... watch this space.

New uniforms

We want to hear from as many people as possible before making a decision on what the new Academy uniform should include. We welcome any suggestions or ideas which you might have. We will be arranging to meet students and parents of King's Wood but anyone can email us their views at academy@thedrapers.co.uk or write to:

James Devereux,
The Drapers' Company,
Drapers' Hall,
London
EC2N 2DQ



What happens next?

Funding Agreement is expected imminently, this is a major milestone in the development of the Academy. Once this is signed by the Sponsors and the Secretary of State all elements of developing the Academy can move ahead ready for opening in September 2010.

Sponsors are committed to continuing to work with staff and students to ensure that the Academy that is developed is a Harold Hill school for Harold Hill families. The key milestones over the next few months include:

October 1 2009

- First Academy Open Evening.

Autumn Term 2009

- Funding agreement signed.
- Recruitment of new Academy Principal Designate.

December 2009

- Before the end of the year we hope to have detailed plans available on what the design of the new buildings will look like.

Summer Holidays 2010

- Some refurbishment work taking place in preparation for the opening of the Academy.
- New Academy uniforms to be available for distribution to parents.

September 2010

- Academy opens in South Building of current school.

School year 2012/2013

- New Academy buildings complete and open for students.



For more information visit the proposed Drapers' Academy website:
www.drapersacademyproject.org or email info@drapersacademyproject.org