



Principal: Emma Smith

Friday, 5th October 2018

Dear Parent/ carer,

You may have seen an article published in the News Shopper this week regarding the deferral of the planning application for our permanent build at Old Dover Road. I know the contents of the article may have raised some concerns, so I wanted to write this letter to say please do not worry about the decision; it is a deferral, not a refusal.

We will be responding to the points raised by the planning committee and, following their visit to the site, the application will be presented again at their next meeting. If we are successful then, our planned schedule will not be affected nor the building work delayed. There is no reason why all points made by the committee at the recent meeting cannot be overcome.

We are extremely proud of the design for our new school as it provides the maximum learning and recreational space for our students at Old Dover Road.

Our partnership with Blackheath Rugby Club means that we can supplement the excellent sports facilities onsite with grass playing fields nearby; the same facilities were used in this way by the predecessor school some years ago. It is common for schools to use offsite playing fields, parks or common land in the Royal Borough of Greenwich due to size constraints of school campuses. We see the use of Hervey Road as a very positive use of local community sports facilities, and a great way for our students to benefit from the expertise and skills of Blackheath Rugby Club.

The design of the school supports our schools within schools model, with classrooms arranged in college areas. These areas are complimented by specialist facilities: including Design and Technology workshops, Science Laboratories, a Drama Studio, a Theatre and Music room, a Sports Hall and Fitness Studio; all providing great community facilities for use by local groups, societies and associations. Colleges will use the restaurant and recreational spaces at different times, with our rolling lunch break, as part of our carefully planned student management procedures.

We are aware that the roads around the site can become congested and, as you know, the safety of our students is at the heart of everything we do. The management of students at the start and the end of the day will be of the same standard at Old Dover Road as it is here

Where tradition meets innovation and potential is realised within a nurturing community

Leigh Academy Blackheath,
Victoria House, Shooters Hill Road, London SE18 4LX
Telephone: 020 8104 0888 or 07738 230 306



Leigh Academy Blackheath is part of Leigh Academies Trust



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at Victoria House, with key points supervised by experienced staff wearing high visibility vests.

As you know, all students will be encouraged to travel on foot, by bicycle or public transport; and parents and carers encouraged not to drop students at the front gate or in nearby roads. We have had so much positive feedback from parents, carers and the local community regarding the arrival and departure of our students at Victoria House, and we are confident that our current practices will prove effective and sustainable as the school grows.

We would like to thank those of you who have sent such positive emails and letters of support over the last few weeks; it is always good to know how we are doing. We are particularly grateful for the offers of support since the planning deferral on Tuesday. We do not wish to enter the realms of petitions or campaigns, but your support through our social media sites - via emails and of course word of mouth with all members of the local community - is very welcome and appreciated.

School notices

Extra curricular clubs and societies: Please visit our website for an updated programme and details regarding transport for off site sports clubs.

Social media: Please support the work we are doing at school regarding the use of social media by talking to your children at home about appropriate usage. WhatsApp, Instagram and SnapChat are popular apps and we are aware some of our students have access to these on their phones, and communicate with each other using these. For more information on how to support your child to use these suitably, please visit the e-safety page on our school website.

Best wishes

Emma Smith
Principal

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