

September opening for school

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A site in Teddington will be the temporary home for Turing House School after a long-lease agreement was secured on behalf of the Department for Education.

Livingston House, in Queens Road, will house the school when it opens in September, although there is still speculation about a more permanent site.

Cabinet member for education, Councillor Paul Hodgins, said confirmation the school was guaranteed to open in September was great news for parents.

He said: "Richmond Council

is committed to work with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to help get Turing House established in the borough, and we continue to work with them now to help secure a permanent site."

Turing House headteacher Colin Mackinlay confirmed EFA was pursuing two possible locations for the school's permanent home, thought to be a site on Whitton's border with Hounslow and Teddington's Udney Park playing fields.

The Whitton site, which is thought to be favoured by Richmond Council, is a large field between Heathfield recreation ground and Sempervirens Nursey, near



Temporary home: The school site

Twickenham Academy.

Turing House is part of a group of schools and sports clubs that has made a formal declaration of interest in acquiring the Imperial College playing fields in Udney Park Road, after the

university put the site up for sale last year.

Leader of the opposition and councillor for Teddington Stephen Knight was sure the Livingston House location could be made to work in the short-term but worried

a permanent site was yet to be secured for the school, because it was not an ideal location in the longer term.

He said: "My concern is around access and traffic as well as air pollution, but I understand there are a limited number of sites around that are available and it is clearly critical the school can open in September."

"From my understanding they will use it for up to three years and they believe it will be a suitable building until a long-term solution can be put in place."

Turing House School received 285 applications for its first intake of students and made its firm offers to parents before Easter.

Mum spared prison after baby 'snatch'

A woman who tried to kidnap a baby has been given a suspended prison sentence.

Rebecca Nightingale, 28, of Wheatfield Way, Kingston, received a six-month sentence, suspended for two years, for attempting to snatch the six-month-old girl from the Reebok shop in Richmond and assaulting the girl's mother on February 10, 2014.

At Kingston Crown Court on Wednesday, Judge Paul Dodgson acknowledged that Nightingale "was clearly in a state of severe distress" when she committed the offence.

Her fifth child was being taken into care earlier that same day, the court heard.

He said: "People in Miss Nightingale's position are vulnerable to the forces of the world. However, it must be acknowledged that some of the misfortune she has suffered has been a result of her own actions."

"Your actions caused a great deal of upset to the mother and it must have been extremely frightening."

During her trial, Nightingale said she believed social services were against her and tried to interrupt the judge during her sentencing to complain about the service.

Mr Dodgson said: "I know your anxiety about social services, but what we are all hoping is with a bit of help you may come to realise social services are not as bad as you currently think."

Nightingale will be subject to a supervision order for 18 months and will have 16 sessions in a structured supervision programme.

A peace of the action

The Parliamentary candidates for Richmond Park turned up for a hustings event that focused on peace in the Middle East on Wednesday evening.

Conservative Zac Goldsmith, Liberal Democrat Robin Meltzer, Labour's Sachin Patel and Andrée Frieze of the Green Party all participated at the Old Deer Park event.

Organised jointly by Richmond and Kingston PSC, Kingston Peace Group and Stop the War, only UKIP's Sam Naz failed to attend.

The hustings was divided into three sections - Palestine and Israel, the war on terror and human rights and peace and nuclear weapons.

Organiser Ben Jamal said the event went well, although the UKIP candidate



Hustings: The candidates take questions from the audience

told him she was "too busy" to attend.

He said: "We had a good turnout of about 85 people there and all the candidates said they were very pleased

the hustings had taken place.

"There was plenty of agreement and also plenty of disagreement in the room between candidates and

the audience over the issues that were discussed

"There is a long way to go and all party policy reflects what is required to achieve justice in the Middle East."

Grill him: Zac Goldsmith will be put through his paces



Chance to quiz constituency candidates

Voters have the chance to grill Richmond Park and Twickenham constituency candidates for this year's general election at a hustings event tonight. The Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Labour, Green Party and

UKIP candidates will be put through their paces as they answer questions from business owners and the public at Richmond Adult Community College.

The event, hosted by Richmond Chamber of Commerce, begins with welcome drinks

and canapes before the candidates step into the spotlight.

The evening, which runs in the college's theatre from 5.30pm to 9.30pm, is chaired by radio and television presenter Paddy O'Connell.

For tickets, visit richmondchamberofcommerce.co.uk.

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